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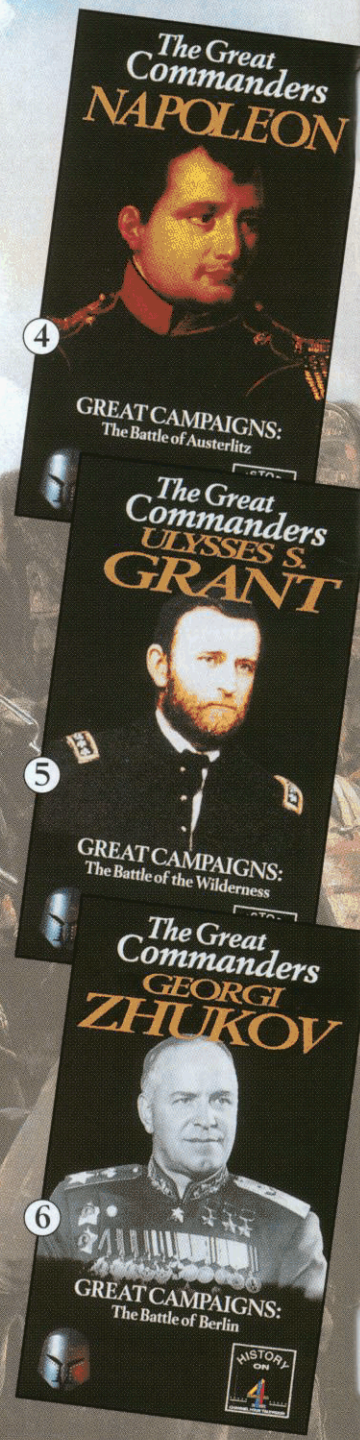
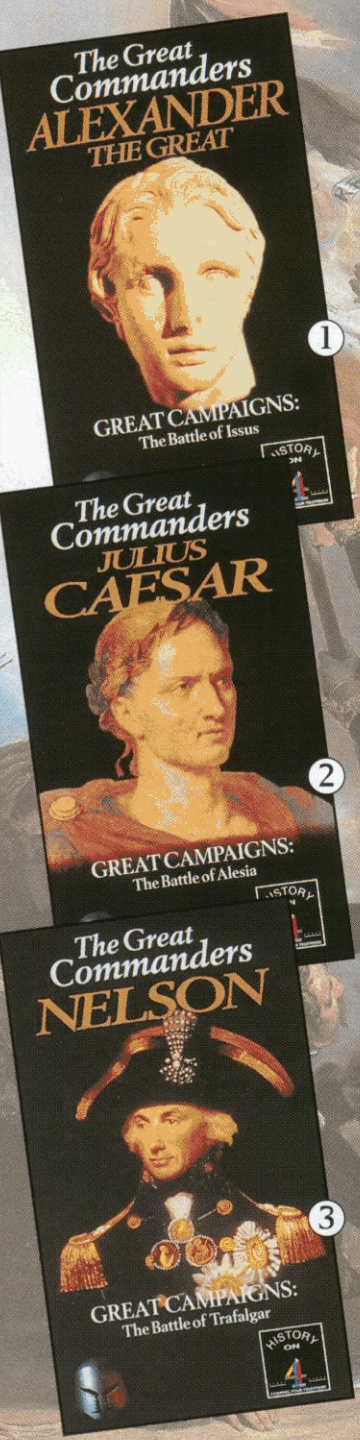
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Incorporating the Territorial Army magazine

**February 7, 1994**  
**Vol 50/3**

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Prime Minister John Major surrounded by D-Day veterans at the Imperial War Museum after announcing the massive programme of events to mark the 50th anniversary of the Normandy landings

## PM'S PLEDGE TO NORMANDY VETERANS

# You'll have pride of place

BRITISH soldiers will join thousands of veterans of the 1944 Normandy landings in France to support the official commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the largest amphibious operation in history, **writes Laurie Manton.**

Prime Minister

John Major praised the achievements of D-Day veterans at the official launch of the 50th anniversary commemorative programme at the Imperial War Museum, London.

"Victory, in what was the largest combined land, sea and air operation of the Second World War, could not have been achieved without their extraordinary determination and courage," he said.

The anniversary will remember the sacrifice made by 10,000 British, Canadian and American troops killed or wounded on June 6, 1944. By September, Allied casualties had risen to 210,000 with 37,000 dead, but, by then, most of France had been liberated.

Outlining the programme of Government-supported events, Mr Major said they would give "pride of place – as they should and must – to the men who suffered the fire and endured the fear of that remarkable day".

The Queen and heads of

attend the British commemorations. They include King Harald of Norway and Presidents Clinton, Mitterrand and Lech Walesa.

Events in England will have a particular focus on Portsmouth, an important embarkation point for departing D-Day forces.

● On June 4, 1,000 veterans of the landings will be entertained at Southwick House, from where Gen Eisenhower issued the final order to launch the invasion.

That evening, the Queen will hold a dinner in Portsmouth Guildhall for 500 people, including heads of state and government.

Other guests will include members of the armed and civilian services, voluntary organisations and those who designed and built specialised

### Dame Vera launches D-Day coin – Page 34

state and governments of countries which provided military units to Operation Overlord have been invited to

**FRONT COVER:** Cpl Mark Tout (RTR) and former Royal Anglian sergeant Lenny Paul slow down at the foot of the La Plagne bobsleigh course on clinching the British two-man championship and gaining selection to represent Great Britain at the Lillehammer Winter Olympics. Four other serving soldiers have also been selected for the Norway Games this month. Details in the sports pages. (Picture: Action Plus Photographic.)

● Turn to Page 5



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## Queen to lead D-Day armada

● From Page 3

equipment such as the Mulberry harbours.

● It is hoped that a commemorative service on Southsea Common on Sunday, June 5, will be attended by thousands of veterans. Many others plan to make the journey to France where a series of similar services are planned to take place in British war cemeteries.

Later that day, a flotilla of ships escorted by an armada of small craft and led by the Royal Yacht with the Queen embarked will cross the Channel. The flotilla will be overflown by aircraft which took part in the Battle of Britain or supported D-Day.

Approximately 1,000 paratroops will parachute into the area of Pegasus Bridge.

● On D-Day itself, an international ceremony at Omaha Beach will be followed by national events, with thousands of British veterans expected to attend services in Normandy's war cemeteries before assembling at Arromanches for a parade on the beach.

Said Mr Major: "The 50th Anniversary is a huge national event and I intend it to be celebrated on a national scale. Many towns and villages across the United Kingdom are already organising their own commemorative events. We expect many more to do so.

"D-Day was not just about those who took part on the day. It was made possible by the efforts and sacrifice of men and women throughout the Forces, industry and the nation."

The General Officer Commanding and more than 1,500 soldiers from the 3rd (United Kingdom) Division will be supporting events in France. A divisional co-ordination team headed by Commander Royal Artillery, Brig Mike Raworth, supported by Lt Col Charles Milner-Williams RLC(V) and Maj Lindsay Wilson, has been established at Bulford.

"Tasks for the 1,500 troops taking part will include the provision of ceremonial contingents and bands. Others will act as wheelchair-pushers, interpreters and escorts," said Col Milner-Williams.



Warriors of 1 Coldm Gds arrive at "bon-bon" corner, where aid vehicles have been ransacked by women and children from nearby villages

Picture: Mike Weston

## Women, children threaten convoys

From Gordon Skilling in Bosnia-Herzegovina

DESPERATE women and children present a new hazard for aid convoys travelling north to Vitez. They block the road and ransack lorries.

On one occasion 600 women and children attacked a convoy after forcing it to halt. In 15 minutes they had unloaded

two vehicles, stripping off anything moveable, and formed a chain to pass booty up a hillside to their village.

Civil police fired warning shots over their heads, but were ignored. When police tried to remonstrate the women produced large kitchen knives and chased them off.

The incidents happened on

route Diamond between Gornji Vakuf and Vitez, near the notorious "bon-bon" corner, just north of where one Coldstream company hands over responsibility for escorting convoys to the Vitez companies.

It is a tight hairpin bend on which aid lorries have to slow to a crawl. Within minutes, the road is lined by hundreds of children who beg aggressively for sweets and cigarettes.

British soldiers are warned against throwing sweets because of the danger of children falling under other vehicles in the ensuing scramble.

On January 13, children dug four shallow trenches across the road and filled them with rubble. Vehicles could cross only slowly, giving the youngsters more chances to steal.

The next day, the two lorries were ransacked by women, and the day after they used fires and boulders to block the road at several points.

At 4am the next morning a company from Vitez embarked in Warriors and a platoon from Gornji Vakuf arrived at the trouble spot from both directions. A combat engineer tracked

● Turn to Page 9

## Detour ahead

Op Grapple reports - see Pages 16-17

BRITISH sappers are urgently considering an alternative route from Vitez to the UN headquarters at Kiseljak after a concerted Bosnian Government Army (BiH) attack closed the road.

A day after the attack convoys were back on the road, using a tortuous mountain route - a journey of five-and-a-half hours instead of the 45 minutes before hostilities broke out between the Bosnian Government and Bosnian Croats.

But the 25km stretch from Travnik to Zenica is not capable of sustaining large numbers of heavy lorries and sappers fear the road will break up.

SSgt Si Garner of 11 Field

Squadron Group North carried out a route recce the day after the first convoys passed over the route and identified serious concerns. The route could be made workable, he felt, but it might take several months.

In places it is little more than a country dirt track, twisting between towns high in the mountains.

"We can get through with light convoys of small trucks escorted by Scimitar, but the 30-ton Warrior and heavy trucks with aid would soon wreck it," said SSgt Garner.



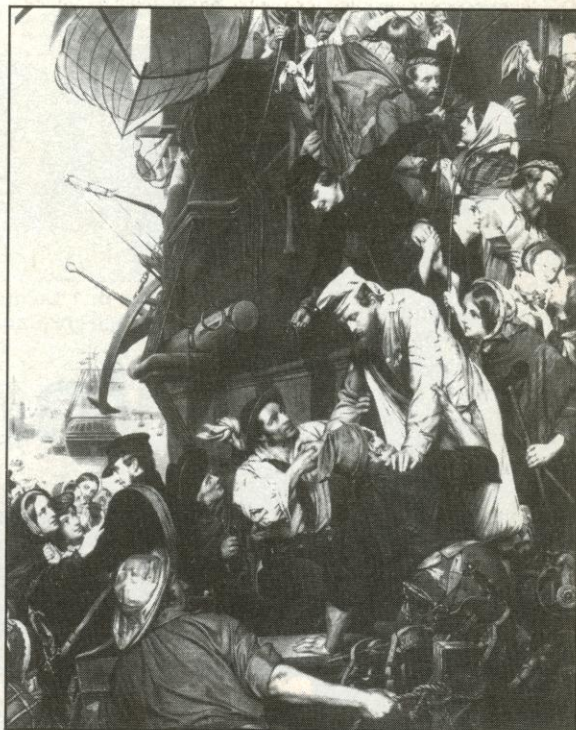
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## Terriers jump to it with Harriers

SCREAMING jets brought the battle front to life for East Midlands Territorials on unprecedented weekend exercises in Cambridgeshire.

It was the first time that part-time sappers had prepared tactical landing sites for simultaneous use by four of the RAF's latest GR7 jump-jets.

And an entire Harrier flight plus support crew from RAF Wittering gave up their free time to make it happen.

For the soldiers it was proof positive of their unit's worthiness as the only Territorial engineer regiment assigned to supporting Britain's front-line RAF squadrons overseas in times of emergency.

The exercise at Waterbeach also demonstrated the determination of 73 Engineer Regiment (V) to get its job done.

After leaving work and travelling from north England and the Midlands, the volunteers worked all night constructing the sectional alloy landing strips.

At midday on the Saturday, 1 (F) Squadron RAF put the sappers' work to the ultimate test. Flying in low after battle practice, the jets inched in to hover over the landing site.

Any error on the engineers' part could have proved catastrophic for both the pilots and their £20m machines. Just one flaw in a landing mat would allow a Harrier's 12-ton downwash to lift it up.

Lt Col Bill Bailey, CO 73 Eng Regt, said: "The exercise was a great success. It tested our capabilities as no amount of simulated practice can. It was also an enormous morale booster for the soldiers."

Constructing the two, two-aircraft tactical landing sites were men and women from the Nottingham-based 350 (Nottinghamshire) Field Support Squadron (Air Support) (V), and the Sheffield-based 106 (West Riding) Field Squadron (Air Support) (V).

About 900 people serve with 73 Engineer Regiment.



On guard: Sapper-sentry and Harrier GR7 at Waterbeach

## Soldiers hurt in attacks

TWO SEPARATE incidents in Northern Ireland last month left three soldiers injured – one a woman.

Following a mortar attack on an RUC station at Crossmaglen, a van used as a launching platform was recovered by EOD operators. As the vehicle was being taken inside the station yard, a secondary explosion injured two soldiers. One soldier remains seriously ill. The other is recovering.

In the New Lodge area of Belfast, a female Royal Military Police lance corporal was shot and wounded in a terrorist attack. She was unarmed and was accompanying the foot patrol as a female searcher.

During a follow-up operation, a bomb went off in an adjoining house, but there were no injuries. Three arrests were made and weapons recovered.

Although four UDR Greenfinches have been killed previously, the junior NCO was the first non-UDR female soldier to have been attacked in this way. But she is not the first Regular woman soldier to be injured in the Province. A number of others have been hurt in bomb, mortar and grenade attacks on vehicles.



Two Harrier GR7s ready for refuelling on the tactical landing site prepared by 73 Engr Regt





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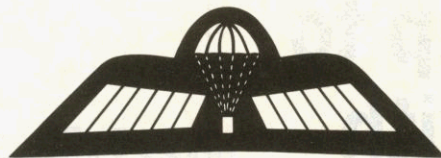
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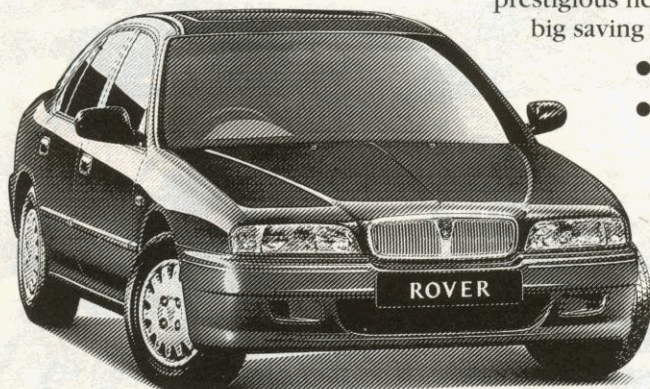
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## Paras forge Five Powers links in Malaysia

PARAS from Aldershot-based 1st Battalion, The Parachute Regiment joined forces with troops from Singapore, Malaysia, Australia and New Zealand to exercise the Five Powers Defence Agreement in Malaysia.

Exercise Suman Warrior was designed to demonstrate the continued political and military cohesiveness of the agreement and promote greater awareness of each countries' military capabilities.

It began with cultural and

capability briefs, followed by a demonstration of equipment, and culminated in a four-day command post exercise intended to practise command and control procedures at brigade and battalion levels.

The Malaysians, as host

nation, provided an infantry brigade and troops. Four battle groups used in the operation were provided by 1 Para, 4 Singapore Infantry Regiment, 8 Royal Australian Regiment and 2/1 Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment.

## Return of the Wessex Wyvern

AFTER an absence of 27 years, soldiers in the south west are once again bearing the Wyvern, the Golden Dragon of Wessex, on their combat uniforms.

The symbol of the Wessex Kings was last seen on the uniforms of soldiers in 43rd (Wessex) Division in 1967. Now, Territorial Army soldiers of 43 (Wessex) Brigade, whose headquarters are in Wyvern Barracks, Exeter, proudly wear the blue and gold flash on the left arm of their combat jackets.

TA soldiers from the 4th Battalion, The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment; the 6th (Somerset and Cornwall) Battalion, The Light Infantry; 211 and 219 (Wessex) Field Hospitals; Exeter and Bristol University Officer Training Corps; 43 (Wessex) Brigade Provost Unit; and Royal Military Police (Volunteers) are entitled to wear the Wyvern badge.

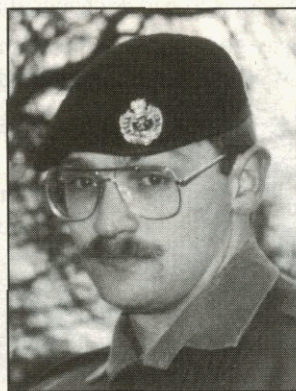
The Wyvern symbol traces its history back to the battle standard of King Alfred the Great, and King Harold at the Battle of Hastings. In 1915 the Wyvern was chosen as the sign of 43rd (Wessex) Division of the Territorial Army then serving in India.

In 1935 it became the badge of 43rd (Wessex) Division and during the Second World War soldiers wearing the Wyvern flash fought in France during the D-Day landings, through the Low Countries and into Germany. The Wyvern continued to be worn by the Division until its disbandment in 1967.



Wearing the Wyvern flash are Pte Jim Hawkins, Cpl Iain Jeffrey and Pte Andy Glyn, from 4 D and D

## Brave Phil



Spr Phillip Poole (above) of the Depot Regiment RE, Chatham, has been commended for chasing, disarming and apprehending an armed robber in Gillingham.

He was shopping with his family when the robbery took place at the post office in the town centre last year. His actions led to a conviction.

Now he has received the C-in-C UKLF's Commendation for Brave Conduct.

## Coldstream clear blocked aid route

● From Page 5

tor was deployed and the route was cleared.

Coldstream Guardsmen supervised the movement of a blocked Canadian convoy and BiH police were asked to deploy a substantial presence to ensure the road remained open.

A day later convoys were again threatened by 200 women and the route was closed until adequate security arrangements could be made.

Convoys, which are normally unescorted, were given a direct escort at the height of the confrontation, but it was hoped to revert to the normal "tunnel" of security with APCs at checkpoints.

On this stretch of Diamond, checkpoints are usually on the outskirts of Gornji Vakuf; at

the boundary between No 1 Company, Coldm Gds, and the companies at Vitez; and outside Prozor. "Bon-bon" corner itself is at the village of Lisac, about 15km north of Gornji Vakuf.

The commander of the British Force in Bosnia, Brig John Reith, pointed out that women and children have been blocking the route because they have had no aid for several months.

"We wouldn't dream of shooting anybody," he said. "Muslims are stopping aid getting to other Muslims and it is their problem to sort out."

"We have been getting aid to the primary distribution centre and we understand it is because of corruption that the secondary distribution has not worked properly."



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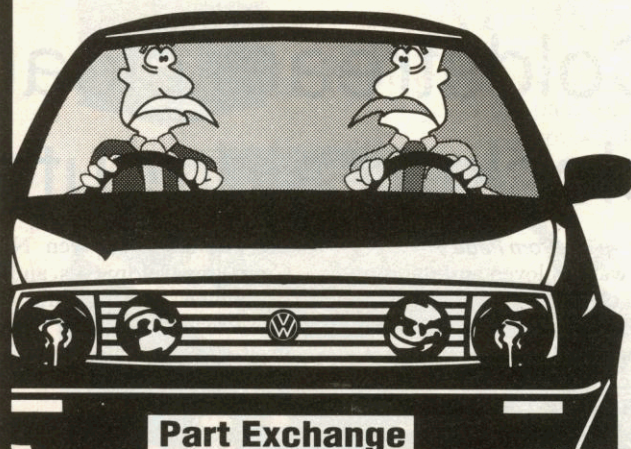
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## Argylls' rescue merits tribute

SOLDIERS of the 1st Battalion, The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders have received a certificate of merit from Tunbridge Wells police for rescuing an 84-year-old man.

Mr Derek Miller went missing for two days from a local nursing home, and the police appealed to the Argylls for help in finding him.

Within two hours of the request, 100 soldiers from the 1st Battalion based at Sir John Moore Barracks, Folkestone had arrived at Tunbridge Wells where they formed three search teams.

Within 90 minutes of setting out, 18-year-old Pte Stephen Hannah found Mr Miller on the edge of woodland in Southborough. LCpl Alex Mackinnon radioed in the good news and the missing man was taken to hospital where he made a full recovery.

The police certificate was presented by Kent's Assistant Chief Constable, Paul Scott-Lee, to Pte Hannah, who accepted it on behalf of the A and SH.



Picture: Gareth Griffiths

**Taking the ram by the horns is Ram Major Pte Gerald Sanderson. The animal in question is Pte 29364595 Derby XXVI, a one-year-old Swaledale, and the 26th ram to serve as mascot to The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment.**

He was presented to Pte Sanderson, of the 1st Battalion, at Chatsworth by the

## Pte Derby signs on with Woofers

Duke of Devonshire and is the 25th ram mascot to be bred on the Derbyshire estate. The WFR's mascots have come from the Duke's estate since the death of the regiment's first ram in 1863.



Apprentices from Princess Marina College load supplies for Bosnia and Croatia donated by soldiers and families within Arborfield Garrison. Looking on (right of picture) are organisers (from left) Capt Neil Lewis, Lt Dale Lodge (both AGC(ETS)), Lambourn policeman PC Gerry Parsons who delivered the aid, and Maj Ian Waller AGC(ETS). The garrison church donated £150, and the REME Corps Sergeants' Mess, Arborfield Old Boys Association and Bailleul Sergeants' Mess each gave £50

## IN BRIEF

### Cavalry tribute

SERVING soldiers will join veterans of the Combined Cavalry Old Comrades in a march past at the Cavalry Memorial in Hyde Park on May 8. The Duke of Kent will lay a wreath. It will be the 70th anniversary of the dedication of the memorial.

The Royal Naval Sailing Association is to stand down as the organising authority of the Whitbread Round the World Race when the current race finishes in June. The RNSA has staged all six Whitbread races since the first in 1973.

The Queen is to attend a parade by the pupils of the Royal Hospital School, Holbrook, at the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, on May 10 to mark Greenwich Hospital's tercentenary.

A road leading to new Army Headquarters being built behind the old Mons Barracks in Aldershot is to be named after Anne Armstrong, campaigner for Service families and SOLDIER columnist, who died last year.

Collecting boxes placed beside Bailey bridges constructed by Royal Engineers at Chichester (see Pages 14-15) have produced £4,500 for the Army Benevolent Fund from grateful residents and drivers.

## Garrison adds horse power

COLCHESTER Garrison's military police, 156 Provost Company Royal Military Police, got some extra horsepower last month when the RMP Mounted Troop from Aldershot carried out joint patrols in the town with the Essex Police mounted section.

The RMP and Essex Police regularly patrol together on foot and in vehicles, but it was the first time mounted patrols have operated jointly.

The Mounted Troop upholds military by-laws by patrolling in towns and less accessible areas of the Army's estate.





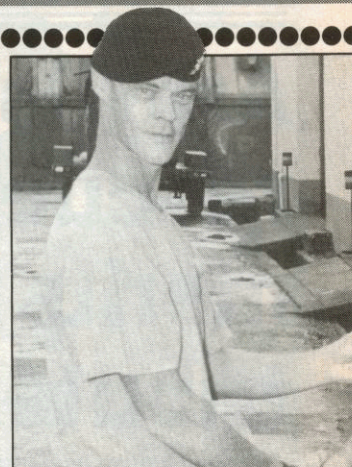
## Dame Vera trumpets R Sigs museum appeal

Dame **Vera Lynn**, flanked by LCpl **John Bilby** (left) and Musc **John Bailey** of the Band of the Royal Corps of Signals, arrives at the Museum of Army Communications at Blandford College to support an appeal for funds to extend the museum.

Dame Vera, greeted by a trumpet fanfare as she arrived to sign an appeal letter, was shown around by curator Maj (retd) **Roger Pickard** and entertained to lunch in the Headquarters officers' mess.

The Royal Signals' museum has raised £400,000 towards the extension but needs a further £600,000 by July.

● **Dame Vera unveils D-Day coins** – Page 34



## THAT'S HANDY, ANDY!

SSgt **Andy Twyman** saw more of Belize than he bargained on. Posted in from 26 Regiment RA, Gütersloh, for a six-month tour with 16 Field Workshop REME, he eventually served 8½ months. But there were compensations – his dedication to duty, enthusiasm, and leadership earned him a commendation from Commander British Forces, Brig **Iain Johnstone** (right), pictured making the presentation before Andy returned to Germany.



## Catterick Commander

New commander of Catterick Garrison is Brig **Peter Lyddon** (pictured), until recently Divisional Colonel at the Army Staff College in Camberley. He has succeeded Brig **John Almonds**, who is retiring from the Army.

The son of a naval officer, Brig Lyddon joined the Army in 1963 as a trooper in the 10th Royal Hussars and commissioned into the King's Royal Rifle Corps – later The Royal Green Jackets – two years later.

In 1989 he was Chief of Staff (British Sector) in Berlin when the Wall came down.

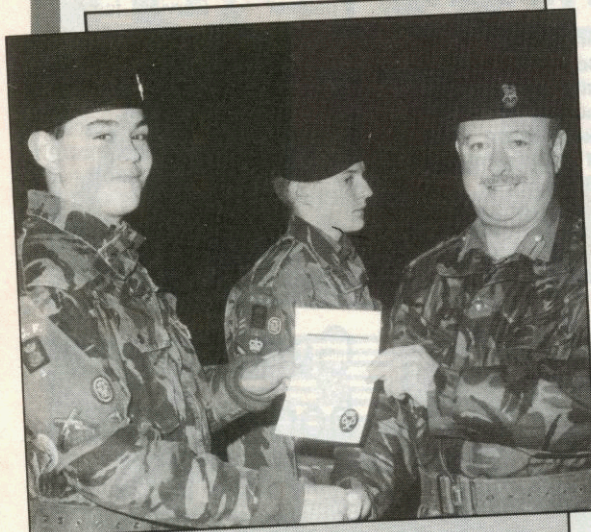


## I'M HONoured

Former brigadier **Neville Pughe** has received the German equivalent of the CBE for services to Anglo-German relations.

Now Surrey Heath's chief executive, Mr Pughe founded the Anglo-German Officers' Association while serving as defence attaché at the British Embassy in Berlin in one of his last appointments before leaving the Army.

He was presented with the honour at the German Embassy in London.



## Caps off to Kevin

Col **Tony Meagher**, Commander Bordon Garrison, presents 15-year-old **Kevin Rosewarne** of Liss with a Duke of Edinburgh's Award after attending a parade at which Liphook Army Cadet Platoon changed its capbadge from Royal Army Ordnance Corps to the Corps of Electrical and Mechanical Engineers



## Now a-Para-ing on television...

When TV farming "soap" *Emmerdale Farm* featured a 'plane crash storyline recently, ten Territorial Army paratroopers from the 4th Battalion, The Parachute Regiment swapped camouflage cream for makeup. The part-time soldiers from Bradford and Leeds were filmed helping emergency services to the scene and scouring the crash site for survivors.

Pictured with (front, from left) cast members **Leah Bracknell** (who plays Zoe Tate), **Norman Bowler** (Frank Tate) and **Claire King** (Kim Tate) are (back) Pte **Jay Burt**, Cpl **Ian Smith** and Pte **Marc Holmes**, and Cpl **Peter Sutcliffe** and Pte **David Phillips** (right).

● Former farmer Sgt **David Wilde**, now serving at 4 Para's Pudsey HQ, was the ploughman who appeared in the *Emmerdale Farm* opening credits from 1975 to 1982.

## John puts in a lorra TV time

Who's that standing next to Cpl **John Burton** from BAD Kinton? Oh, it's **Cilla Black**!

John, a television "regular", had just appeared on her *Blind Date* programme, which he managed to fit in after appearances on *Runway* with Richard Madeley, *Catchphrase* with Roy Walker and *One of the Family* with Marti Caine.

John (26), whose ambition is to attend drama school when he leaves the Army, was the *Blind Date* "suitor" chosen by lovely ski rep **Lisa Brennan**.

Their "prize" was a holiday in the Mediterranean island of Malta.



Pte **Lesley Frear** (left), WRO **Marina Payne** and SACW **Jo Ferris** picked the winning tickets in SSAFA's annual three-car lottery – but didn't win a thing for themselves.

Representing the three Services, they made the draw which resulted in new Volkswagen cars supplied by Natocars of Bridgwater and VAG (UK) Ltd being won by an Isle of Man resident, a Nottingham woman and Sgt **Graeme Masterman** of Royal Air Force Halton.

With the lottery making a record £85,744, the Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmen's Families Association was the real winner.

## Winning ways



## Admirable appointment

Meet SSAFA's new chairman, Vice Admiral Sir **Barry Wilson**.

A former Deputy Chief of the Defence Staff, he succeeds another admiral, Sir **Peter Herbert**, as head of the Service families' welfare organisation.

# PEOPLE



# BALED OUT!

## Flood city turns to Army bridgers

WHEN Lt Col Robbie Burns received an early morning call, he quickly realised he would have to move fast if he was to assess how the Army could help the flood-stricken civil authorities in Chichester, where the River Lavant had burst its banks and cut major roads.

A police helicopter ferried Col Burns from his Maidstone base to West Sussex County Council's emergency planning centre at County Hall in Chichester.

Following consultations with the county planning team and highways department, 36 Engineer Regiment, Royal Engineers was tasked to build four Bailey bridges to the east of the city to reopen arterial routes along the south coast.

Operation Aquaplane involved sappers of Aldershot-based 9 Parachute Squadron RE and Maidstone-based 50

**Words: Laurie Manton  
Pictures: Terry Champion**

Headquarters Squadron and 61 Field Support Squadron. All are sub-units of 36 Engineer Regiment commanded by Col Burns at Maidstone.

Working through the night, often waist-deep in swirling flood water, the soldiers erected bridges over the A259 at Merston and at a roundabout at Westhampnett. They also banked up more than 50,000 sandbags to hold back flood waters.

Additional flood prevention work was carried out by Maj Bob Cooper and dozens of Territorial Army volunteers from 127 (Sussex Yeomanry) Field Squadron, Royal Engineers from Brighton and Tunbridge Wells.

It was tiring work for the TA soldiers who, despite holding down full-time day jobs, worked all night for several days to assist the council's relief operations.

They provided extra muscle-power for 9 Parachute Squadron when one of the Bailey bridges had to be realigned, and took a hand in filling sandbags. One Sussex Yeomanry section, led by SSgt Peter Boylam, packed more than 18 tons of sand.

Previously part of 5 Airborne Brigade, 36 Engineer Regiment was increased in size, following Options for Change, and now provides general engineering support to the 3rd (UK) Division.

The regiment prides itself on its versatility in deployment and has a reputation for being one of the most-travelled of regiments. It is not uncommon for its soldiers to be abroad for nine months in any year.

The pressure

was certainly on the men of 9 Parachute Squadron, who were due to deploy on tour to the Falkland Islands 48 hours after completing their bridging task.

The efforts of the soldiers earned not only the praise of the County Council, but that of the General Officer Com-

manding Southern District, Lt Gen Sir Richard Swinburn, who was on hand to witness the first vehicles to cross over the bridges.

Soldiers from 36 Engineer Regiment continued to man an operations cell at County Hall during the emergency, with

127 Squadron providing men for essential maintenance at night.

Capt Wallace Donald said employers in the district had been particularly helpful in allowing Territorial Army soldiers to leave work early so that they could assist.



An Army truck is the first vehicle over the bridge as two sappers use a water pump to drain flood water



Above: Spr Jack Straw of 9 Parachute Squadron concentrates for a moment on the flooding in his own wellies



Right: Spr Matthew Stokes tightens up bolts on a Bailey bridge erected over the A259 at Merston. Several feet of water covered the road



Flanked by the commanding officer of 36 Engineer Regiment, Lt Col Robbie Burns (right), the GOC Southern District, Lt Gen Sir Richard Swinburn, was happy with the sappers' efforts. "It is a job well done", he told SOLDIER



Combat engineers of 1 Troop, 9 Parachute Squadron RE who worked on the Westhampnett bridges





CQMS Sapstead

## SECOND TO NONE

COMPANY Quarter Master Sergeant Gary Sapstead was chosen by the 1st Battalion, Coldstream Guards to travel to the city of Oviedo in Spain to take part in the presentation of the 1993 Prince of Asturias Prize for International Co-operation.

He was one of six smartly uniformed soldiers from various UN contingents in the former Yugoslavia to accompany Joseph Reed, the UN Secretary General's Special Representative. The award was in tribute to the efforts of the international force to alleviate suffering in the conflict-filled Balkan region.

The 6ft 6in Coldstream SNCO, with 17 years of Public Duties behind him, travelled via Sarajevo, Zagreb and Madrid to the northern Spanish city, where the blue-bereted troops had a private meeting with Queen Sofia and Don Felipe, heir to the Spanish throne and holder of the title Prince of Asturias.

The awards were created in 1980 by the Spanish Royal Family. Previous winners have included Mr F W de Klerk, President of South Africa, and Nelson Mandela of the African National Congress, Mikhail Gorbachev, Elizabeth Taylor and Sebastian Coe.

CQMS Sapstead found the event a remarkable experience. "I felt quite honoured to represent the United Nations Protection Force," he said. "People came up to me and offered congratulations as though I had won the award myself."

The modern carved statuette, symbol of the award, now goes to the United Nations Headquarters building in New York where it will be displayed.

# British troops rescue civilians as battle rages

MEN OF the 1st Battalion, Coldstream Guards rescued about 40 terrified civilians on January 8 as a battle for control of the Lasva valley raged between Croat and Muslim forces.

As intense shell, mortar and small-arms fire rang out around them the men, based just three kilometres from the scene of the fighting, monitored the situation.

Crews of four armoured personnel carriers kept an eye on a UN facility manned by Dutch and Belgian soldiers. When it became clear that a number of civilians were in danger they moved in to help.

Maj Mike James, the Public Information officer in Vitez, who was there with a group of international media, used his armoured Land Rover to help the evacuation. "The confrontation was just around the corner. The Muslim BiH troops renewed their offensive aimed at splitting the Croat-held pocket in two," said Maj James on his return to Vitez. "And families of the HVO were in the area."

The troops crowded the women, children and elderly into the carriers and drove them to the relative safety of the Croat community in Vitez.

The fighting in the area just before Christmas claimed the lives of about 80 Croats and brought allegations from Croat authorities of a massacre by

Muslim forces. Ironically, the burnt-out houses in the Lasva valley bear stark testimony to a massacre of Muslims by Croats last year.



Coldstream Guards liaison officer Capt Robert York (right) cheers up children in an orphanage at Zenici. He negotiated with opposing warlords to get a quantity of medical supplies to three hospitals in central Bosnia.

Men of the Coldstream have been trying to help in other ways. Long-distance runners WO Boyd Forbes and Sgt Michael Donohue raised more than £600 for the people of Bosnia by completing the 44-mile Westfalsche marathon in Germany before their Op Grapple deployment.

And Capt "Magoo" Giles used his sketching talents to produce a Christmas card which was bought by the Coldm Gds Regimental Association and men of The Cheshire Regiment who had been in Bosnia the previous Christmas. In all, more than £1,200 was presented to the Feed the Children charity working in Bosnia.

## YORKIES' GIFT IS FIT FOR THE COLDSTREAM



All together now! From left to right are CSgt Richard Sellars; Cpl Kevin Horton; Dr Annette Hudson, Weider Europe; Gary Thornton; Cpl Lorraine Jackson; WO Martin Doyle; and Paul Sutton, Weider UK



Toast to a British sapper-built well – in clean water!



Maj Tom Wye (left) formally hands over the well to Capt Paul van der Heul

# DUTCH AND BELGIAN TROOPS DRINK TO CHILWELL SAPPERS

SOLDIERS of a joint Dutch and Belgian battalion are drinking safe water these days, thanks to British sappers from Chilwell.

Men of 521 Specialist Team Royal Engineers – the Well Drillers – have completed a well for their blue-bereted colleagues, providing them with a

plentiful supply of pure drinking water entirely independent of the local mains.

Dutch Capt Paul van der Heul said: "This means we are self-sufficient in water for drinking, cooking, bathing and for the work of our battalion. It is a supply that has been very much needed by our camp."

The Dutch and Belgian soldiers, members of a transport unit which frequently works with the armoured escort vehicles of the Coldstream, is based at Busovaca about 15km from the British base at Vitez. For the past year they have had to depend on an unreliable local supply.

The Chilwell specialists have been in central Bosnia for three months, successfully drilling nine wells for British troops based at Vitez and Gornji Vakuf.

Continental troops were fortunate to be able to take advantage of the only expertise of its kind to remain in a European army.

The unit now moves on to the British logistics base at Tomislavgrad where they have plans for two more wells. Later in the year a new team will begin work in Sarajevo and for the Russian troops in the eastern sector of former Yugoslavia.

"The one for the Dutch-Bel-

gian camp was a very straightforward well," said the officer commanding 521, Maj Tom Wye.

They actually found pure, fresh water just 22 metres below ground level and, in a task that lasted two weeks, have now installed a pump which supplies 20 cubic metres an hour.

"We enjoyed working with the Dutch and Belgians," said Wye, "and made some good friends."

The new water source, to be known as "Marrice's Well" after Sgt Les Marrice of 521, was handed over to its owners at a short ceremony during which Capt van der Heul was presented with a small bottle containing the first, certified pure, sample of water to be taken from it.

In return the Dutch and Belgians presented the British with a larger bottle of clear liquid which originated in Holland, equally pure but definitely not water!

SOLDIERS from The Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire have taken delivery of a set of gym equipment destined for the troops in Bosnia.

The Weider fitness firm, based in Yorkshire, agreed to hand over £2,000 worth of equipment after a Yorkshire soldier serving in Bosnia wrote asking for help in keeping fit.

The soldiers were presented with the bench presses and weights at the firm's headquarters in Keighley. They will now pass them on to the Cold-

stream Guards, who took over from 1 PWO in Bosnia.

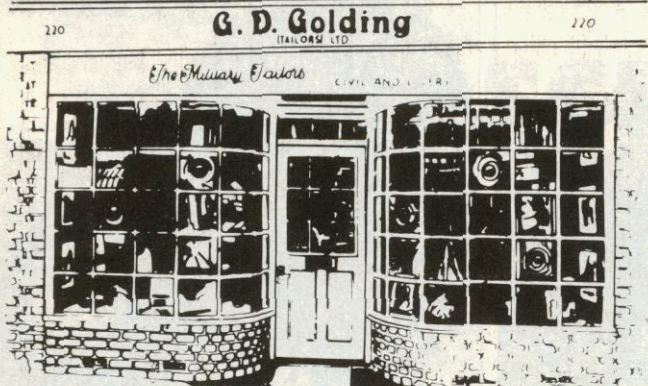
There was one disappointment for the soldiers – they were due to have a demonstration of the equipment by body-builder Kimberley-Anne, currently flexing her muscles on the Volkswagen Vento advert.

But proving that even body-builders can go down with 'flu, Kimberley-Anne was unable to make the appointment, and her place was taken by Weider employee Gary Thornton.



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- The Duke of Wellington's Regiment.
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Mike Moore / TODAY Newspaper

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**1 RTR ON  
EXERCISE**



A Chieftain assumes an odd angle as it crests a rise on Salisbury Plain

# FIRST FOR THE FIRST

SALISBURY Plain vibrated with the combined roar of an entire regiment of Chieftain main battle tanks being put through their paces on Exercise First Footing.

The occasion was the first exercise of the new 1st Royal

Tank Regiment, formed through the amalgamation of the old 1st and 4th Royal Tank Regiments last July.

Primary aim of the exercise was to practise the training of tanks and infantry within 1st Mechanised Brigade in pre-

paration for the brigade's field training exercise next month.

Said the 2iC, Maj David Eccles: "It also provided the regiment with an opportunity to conduct night operations on Salisbury Plain which we had not done before at battle group level, and to complete troop tests."

The training coincided with some of the worst weather seen on the training area in recent years, but the tank crews were undaunted by the torrential rain, high winds and muddy conditions.

Supporting 1 RTR was a company of mechanised infantry from The Royal Welch Fusiliers equipped with Saxon, and sappers from 22 Engineer Regiment.

The Royal Engineers provided a number of Chieftain armoured bridgelayers (AVLB) and Assault Vehicles Royal Engineers (AVRE). The latter carried two fascines each and a roll of trackway.



In Imber village, Fus Keith Harding, A Company 1 RWF, tries out a general purpose machine gun mounted on a Saxon

Capt Phil Colquhoun and the crew of callsign "22 Alpha" had a lucky escape when their Spartan CVR(T) ran over a 500lb wartime bomb uncovered by heavy rain.

The soldiers cordoned off an area around the piece of ordnance, and around another found nearby. Despite their rusty appearance, both devices still had their original impact fuses fitted.

Commanded by Lt Col Peter Gilchrist, 1 RTR, based at Tidworth, is currently the only Chieftain-equipped armoured regiment. A second UK-based Chieftain armoured regiment is planned.

Two traditions among those retained for posterity in the new regiment are the red lanyard of the old 1st and the Chinese eyes of the old 4th, which are painted on all "A" vehicles.



They can smile about it now. Spr John Rowntree (driver) and Capt Phil Colquhoun (commander) of CVR(T) 22 Alpha with the bomb they drove over. The pair, from 1 Troop, 3 Armoured Engineer Squadron RE, were providing engineer support to Ex First Footing



In the second of a series of spotlights on the three brigades based in Germany which make up the 1st (United Kingdom) Armoured Division, SOLDIER

concentrates on units of the 4th Armoured Brigade, whose headquarters is at Osnabrück. Words by Phil Wilcox, pictures by Mike Weston.

# At full stretch

## Fourth spreads its main assets far and wide

ONE OF the chief differences between 4 Armoured Brigade and its counterparts in Germany, 7 and 20 Brigades – the major components in the 1st (United Kingdom) Armoured Division – is the sheer geographical extent of its constituent units.

Brigade headquarters, based at Osnabrück, is responsible for an area stretching 200km from end to end, explained deputy chief of staff Maj Mark Dobson.

The HQ has two roles, he said: commanding 4 Armoured Brigade and serving as the Osnabrück Garrison.

In the former guise, it directly controls units of the Queen's Royal Lancers, The King's Royal Hussars, the Coldstream Guards and The Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire, and has assigned to it 4 Regiment, Royal Artillery and 21 Engineer Regiment.

As Osnabrück Garrison, the headquarters at Quebec Barracks covers all the units based locally, in the Münster area and one in Nienburg.

Normally supporting the HQ at Quebec is 204 Signal Squadron – currently deployed on Op Grapple 3 – and 14 Signal Regiment (EW).

Also based at Osnabrück at present are 1 PWO, 4 Regt RA, 115 Provost Coy (a divisional unit, elements of which would support the brigade in a wartime scenario), 2 Armoured Field Ambulance (serv-

ing in a similar capacity), and 1 Battalion REME. "The draw-down in Osnabrück is now finished," said Maj Dobson.

"Over a period of 18 months, the garrison was reduced by 2,000 people."

There are about 6,000 troops in the garrison, plus six or seven thousand dependants, he added.

Münster has been particularly hard-hit: until January 1993, it was a garrison in its own right with 10,000 people, but that number will eventually be reduced to 2,000.

Now, with 85 per cent of its

troops leaving, it is left with just two regiments: the Coldstream Guards and The King's Royal Hussars, and one or two units, such as the military police and the accommodation stores unit (ASU), which will service the brigade.

"Drawdown in Münster will be completed in mid-1995," Maj Dobson said, "but the largest part will be carried out by the end of 1994."

The scale of the operation is immense, with 1,500 hirings having to be handed over in the Münster area alone, together with seven barracks.

"All the equipment has to be shipped back – it's an enormous task for the units and their staff."

In the meantime, among the units which form part of 4 Brigade, 1 PWO – recently replaced in Bosnia by the Coldstream – is building up for a stint on Exercise Medicine Man 1 at BATUS, Canada before returning to the UK to become the demonstration battalion at the Combined Arms Training Centre at Warminster. They will be replaced by the Green Howards in the summer.

The Queen's Royal Lancers, who arrived from the UK comparatively recently on amalgamation, have undergone conversion training for Challenger tanks and are due to take part in Medicine Man II in Canada later in the year.

In contrast, 1 Battalion REME (housed in



LCpl Guy Horne, Spr Adam Durlucia and Spr Viv Richards of 21 Engr's 7 Fd Sqn – prepare for some fine tuning at Nienburg vehicle lines

Nienburg's Assaye Barracks) currently has a company involved in Grapple 3, while 2 Armoured Field Ambulance had a number of personnel involved in re-inforcing Grapple 2.

A Northern Ireland tour was the destination for 4 Regiment RA earlier this month, while Münster-based 8 Artillery Support Regiment RLC (set to return to Catterick this year) already has a large squadron there.

Other facilities currently on 4 Brigade's "patch" include 71 Transport Squadron which, with 605 Mobile Civilian

Transport Group, provide civilian transport, Maj Dobson told SOLDIER.

"Osnabrück and Münster also both have small Forces' Post Offices as well as an RMP presence, and there is a new forward medical centre based here, so families can travel from Münster to receive treatment."

Two junior schools and a middle school (Osnabrück) and a primary and secondary school (Münster), plus the normal range of welfare and help agencies such as SSAFA and FAW ensure that Army families are catered for.

However, in contrast to, say, 7 Brigade, whose bases at Hohne and Fallingbommel lie conveniently on either side of the Hohne training centre, the 200km gap is clearly an inconvenient obstacle.

And, for the time being at least, with just a small rear party to help keep the inevitable problems of day-to-day administration of this busy HQ – where Gulf War booty displayed in the corridors is a reminder of a previous conflict – at arm's length, it is arguable that manpower resources at Osnabrück are somewhat stretched.

## 4 ARMD BDE



Lt Hugo Willis KRH with trumpeters from the regiment who were rehearsing at the Münsterland Hall for a prestigious three-day British military music show organised by the KRH



Storing up the smiles: Maj Brian Draper, QM KRH, and members of the regiment go through the stocks at York Barracks, Munster

## They don't come bigger than the Nienburg sappers

WITH 950 all ranks, 21 Engineer Regiment is the largest sapper regiment in Germany.

Based at Assaye Barracks in Nienburg, in addition to having squadrons posted to Bosnia and Belize last year, the regiment is heavily involved in the "Bridging for the 90s" trials.

Apart from an HQ Squadron, 21 Engineer currently has three field squadrons (1, 4 and 7), a field support squadron (45) and a workshop.

Post-1994, 7 Field (historically known as "The Shiny 7th" because of the number of medals they won during the

First World War) is due to amalgamate with HQ Squadron.

"Nienburg is a single regiment station, with 1,200 dependants. We are part of Osnabrück Garrison, but are self-contained and isolated," said 21 Engineer's Capt Nick Elliott.

"We are not a part of 4 Brigade, but support it and are affiliated to it. In war-time, we would become a close support regiment, with 4 Field becoming a support squadron."

The regiment's trials of the ABLE (automatic bridge-

● Turn to next page



On yer bike! Cfn Jane Davies 1 Bn REME gets ready to "do the rounds" at the regiment's sprawling Mercer Barracks in Osnabrück, egged on by Sgt Steve Gibson



# Major change for former workshop

"YOU ARE looking at one of the few units in the British Army which is actually increasing in size, changing from a minor unit into a major one," said an officer from Osnabrück-based 1 Battalion REME.

Formed from 12 Armoured Workshop in September, the battalion – first of its kind in Germany – has a strength of 320.

Of those, 140 soldiers are currently engaged on Grapple 3 support.

One of three new REME battalions (formerly called workshops) based in Germany, its troops are divisional, but have a strong supporting role within 4 Brigade.

A garrison workshop is attached to the battalion, commanded by a REME major and a civilian head foreman, who provide support to the battalion's Mercer Barracks base.

"The main difference is getting used to the command structure," a member of the battalion commented.

"Under the new organisation, a workshop is equivalent to one company, and there are three separate companies under

three sergeant majors," he explained.

The three companies do not mirror each other.

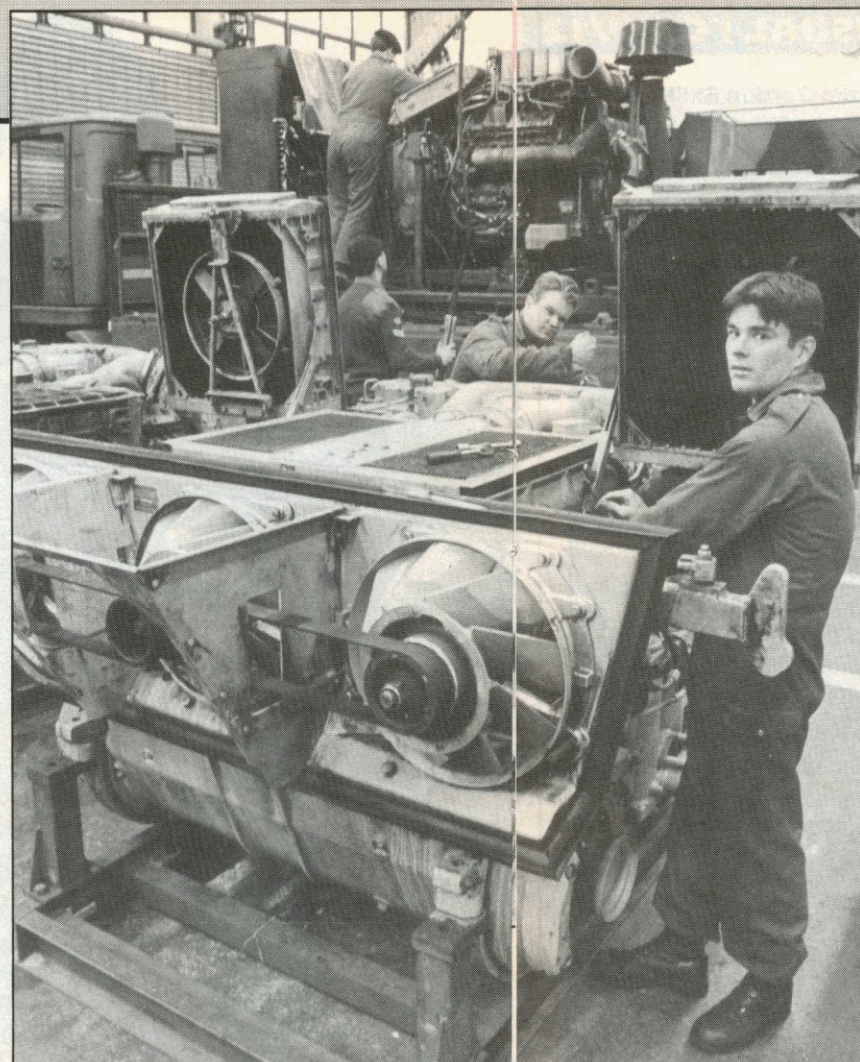
It is a question nowadays of building up loyalty to a company instead of to a unit as a whole.

Running hand-in-hand with the increase in workload and manpower at 1 Battalion will be a strong emphasis on a policy of total quality management.

Feedback from regiments which the battalion supplies will be all-important.

Also at Mercer are the general support company, served by two platoons which deal with all aspects of the vital power packs for Challenger, and a unit repair platoon, under the command of Lt Fiona Hancock.

"It is all very well repairing everybody else's vehicles, but if you cannot get your own unit's vehicles out on the road then that defeats the object," said Lt Hancock, who, while also being kept busy as assistant families officer to the regiment, has been known to organise cross-country championships.



Cfn Kev O'Connell (foreground) and Cfn Ian Davie (facing camera) of General Support Platoon, 1 Bn REME, working on a CV 12 Challenger power pack at Mercer Barracks

## SAPPERS

● From Page 21

laying equipment) system have constituted a major part of 7 Squadron's recent schedule, with the time for launching a bridge being reduced from four hours to 30 minutes.

Trials of another kind have also been undertaken by the squadron over the past few months: its members have been testing new combat gear, including a new type of glove, to see how it performs in the sometimes hostile conditions on the freezing MT lines.

Now the squadron is preparing for a Belize drawdown tour next month – the last one to do so – before re-rolling as 7 HQ Squadron.

HQ Squadron, formed only last year, has a new designated recce troop which is part of the HQ echelon, providing main recce support to the regiment, said WO2 (SSM) John McMillan.

"With four CVRTs they are our eyes and ears."

During Grapple 2, he explained, HQ Squadron ran the support while other

squadrons such as 1 Field Squadron were in Bosnia and Belize.

"It was very frustrating for the rear party, who went full circle from having no commitment to Bosnia to gradually being recalled, with, successively, seven, five and three days' stand-by notice and finally 24 hours – and back to square one."

All the vehicles were painted white in three days . . .

For 4 Field Squadron, which supports 32 Armoured Regiment and, together with the Queen's Own Highlanders and The Royal Highland Fusiliers, will support Exercise Medicine Man 2 this year, it is a question of endeavouring to get back into mechanised warfare.

"We have been used to infantry tactics and construction work; it will be a bit of a culture shock for many people to be working out of APCs,"



Three members of Liebenau-based 45 Fd Spt Sqn, WO2 Spence Bridewell, Spr Barry Howarth and Cpl Stewart Horsburgh. With the encouragement of WO2 Bridewell, the squadron raised £3,700 to buy and train a guide dog by dint of 18 men and nine motor cycles completing 24 hours around a 5km circuit on a training area

one member of the squadron commented.

"We are looking forward to another cracking year. Morale is high, and we came out of Belize with excellent all-round reports."

The 80-plus-strong 21

Engineer Workshops at Nienburg, with its mixture of cap badges, supported 1 Field Squadron when it went to Bosnia, both in Germany and in theatre.

"It was hard work for those in the rear party," said ASM Don MacKinnon.

"This year, we are sending a field squadron to support 7 Squadron in Belize, and also elements of 1 and 4 Squadrons will be going out on BATUS support."

Based separately from Assaye Barracks, at Liebenau, is 45 Field Support Squadron, whose heavier vehicles and heavy plant equipment supports the division and engineers across BAOR. "We supply tractors, 'dozers, loaders, DROPs vehicles and cranes as well as field defence stores and mine stores, in fact everything the regiment needs to do its job," said WO2 Spence Bridewell.



Award-winners: Lt Richard Udy and members of 3 Troop, B Sqn, KRH, who were named as best troop in the regiment

## AFFAIRS OF ESTATE

YORK Barracks – home of The King's Royal Hussars – used to be the biggest of several barracks in Münster, according to KRH quartermaster Maj Brian Draper.

Now, with Portsmouth Barracks and other accommodation disappearing, only York and Oxford Barracks (where 1 Coldm Gds are based) remain. "There are several problems with drawdown which directly

affect the regiment," he said.

"With people leaving, there is so much extra responsibility, and of course the tanks still need maintaining, so the units left in 4 Brigade have a hell of a lot on their plate."

On top of that, compared with others, the brigade is rather isolated – and there are inevitable financial constraints.

"Apart from being a tank regiment, with 40 tanks, we

have more than 30 other real estate responsibilities here.

"They range from a station HQ to a dog detachment, not to mention Naafi, kindergartens and schools."

This year is going to be a very busy one for the KRH.

Apart from firing exercises on a local range and a stint as an opposing force at BATUS, a Northern Ireland tour is due to start in the summer.



Right – Rare distinction for Cfn Richard Southgate REME LAD, based with 1 PWO at Belfast Barracks. For completing two separate tours of duty with the UN protection force in the former Yugoslavia, he was awarded the UN-PROFOR medal and a silver numeral to be worn on the ribbon to denote his additional tour. It is thought that Richard, whose brother Andrew is a bandsman in 1 PWO, is one of only two soldiers to have achieved the accolade

Left – Back to routine but no less important duties at Belfast Barracks, Osnabrück, after six months in Bosnia were Ptes Ian Skill (foreground) and Danny Hughes, 1 PWO

## Yorkies get back to normality

FOR THE members of the 1st Battalion, The Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire, recently returned from their six-month tour escorting UN aid convoys through central Bosnia, it is back to leadership cadres and re-training, prior to an exercise at BATUS in Canada.

At the time of SOLDIER's visit to their Belfast Barracks base in Osnabrück, the Yorkies were getting back to normality –

with a fair smattering of sympathy from WO1 (RSM) Andy Adair.

"The experience has matured them a lot," he said. "They were asked to do a job, and they set about it. I am very proud of what they have achieved."

On return from Bosnia, in common with PWO practice, the soldiers of the 1st Battalion did not go on block leave immediately but spent a short period re-accli-

matizing themselves to barracks life.

"It works much better that way," said WO1 Adair. "It means one gets the continuity. They are still a team, living in a community, but in a completely different environment."

Now one of his priorities, when he can find the spare time, is to compile what promises to be a well-filled Bosnian scrapbook on the battalion's experiences.



# Bosnia to Belfast: out of the frying pan, into the fire

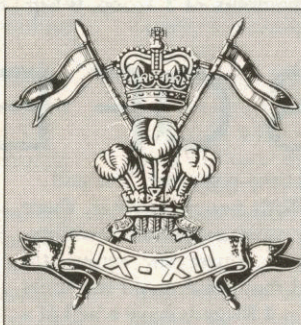
WITH operational tours in Bosnia and Belfast behind them, The 9th/12th Royal Lancers (Prince of Wales's) have noted interesting similarities and differences in their way of operating.

Although the problems of being caught in crossfire in Bosnia have been highlighted since Grapple 3 started, there is little comparison in the level of danger.

Generally, soldiers in Bosnia are not being deliberately targeted, though such incidents are increasing throughout the UN Protection Force.

In Northern Ireland, however, there was a great deal of danger.

"In Belfast we were acutely aware that eyes and even gun sights were trained on us, whereas in Bosnia there was a certain amount of perceived protection with a blue helmet and white vehicles with UN written on them," said Capt David Bennett, who was



operations officer in both theatres. "In Bosnia we were not directly under threat, but in Belfast the workload was much heavier and with a more general level of work stress," he said.

Soldiers in Northern Ireland have to be neutral between Loyalist and Nationalist communities, protecting the police going about their duties; in Bosnia they have to be equally cautious not to be seen to be taking sides in case one side takes advantage of it.

In both locations, soldiers

have to be careful to be polite. In Bosnia, the Lancers often had to talk their way through a situation or a checkpoint. In Belfast it was they who were setting up the checkpoints, but they were scrupulously courteous to everyone.

"You have to be polite – or every time you went out you would have a riot situation," said Capt Bennett.

The soldiers have to be versatile and adaptable and respond instantly to any threatening incident.

In Bosnia the greater evidence of human suffering can be a harrowing experience for soldiers.

In both theatres the individual soldiers are given a high degree of responsibility and there is an opportunity for them to gain in confidence. Although they can be operating in very frightening situations, they return from both as stronger characters – and better all-round soldiers.

Words: Gordon Skilling  
Pictures: Mike Perring

WHILE the British and Irish prime ministers were making their historic joint declaration on the future of Ireland in December, it was business as usual for a multiple from The 9th/12th Royal Lancers (Prince of Wales's) as it picked its way through Belfast's New Lodge Estate.

Until a policeman was able to patrol without a military escort, the Lancers were ready to support the police in carrying out their duties.

Foot patrols were at first an unusual experience for Tpr Spud Payne of A Sqn, on his second operational tour in the year. Infantry work was not what he had expected when he joined a reconnaissance regiment.

But a Lancer's life in the Army was a mixed bag now, he said. He had not expected to serve with B Sqn in Bosnia the previous January.

At least he had the psychological protection of a Scimitar and Rarden cannon in Bosnia but as he eyed the high-rise flats, he was aware not only of the elements, but watchful for coffee-jar bombs, and the sniper's rifle. In Bosnia he didn't have to walk everywhere, either.

During a quick stop in the North Queen Street Royal Ulster Constabulary station, the Lancers heard the joint statement begin on the television, but were soon back on the move again. Only time would tell if what they witnessed at 11 o'clock would bring as effective an armistice as in 1918. It did not. Just after Christmas a Mark 16 fired at a vehicle slightly injured a trooper.

Normally based in BAOR, 9/12 L had all but said goodbye to its Scimitars when A and D squadrons plus regimental headquarters provided the Girdwood roulement battalion, its first operational tour in Northern Ireland as a regiment since 1977.

After some operations using Saxon, the regiment is now converting to Challenger.

A Sqn covered Girdwood East, mainly the New Lodge



A Sqn's canine mascot watches the rear as the soldiers return from patrol. It is common for stray dogs to "adopt" a squadron or troop

## No tanks, we're infantry (with a cavalry perspective)

Estate, while D Sqn operated largely in the Ardoyne as the Girdwood West squadron. Facilities at Girdwood were better than for many. Spectators looking north over the playing field could see three church spires and one church tower.

The number of churches seemed in inverse proportion to the Christian love exhibited by the divided community. People wanting to live together were forced apart by circumstances and gunmen, just as the Lancers had seen in Bosnia.

Capt David Bennett, operations officer in Belfast as well as in Bosnia, said quite a few who had served in the Balkans had also gone to Belfast. All were volunteers and single men happy to gain valuable experience.

"The job has changed for the cavalry whether we are in reconnaissance or main battle tanks. As part of the Rapid Reaction Corps we have to be ready to dismount from our wagons and do infantry work," he said.

There was a big difference between driving through a war

where you were not targeted, and knowing that people were directly trying to kill you.

Tpr Hughey Hinde has known little else during his short service. After 17 weeks basic training at Catterick he joined his regiment in Germany and immediately started Northern Ireland training.

He now knows more about infantry work than about tanks, and quickly became streetwise.

News of the tour was greeted with a certain apprehension by some of the younger soldiers. Although 150 men of C Sqn

manned the Maze in 1992, the regiment did not have the same residue of experience as the infantry after its many tours.

But even though it was not a normal cavalry task, RSM Bob Hartwell was confident that the regiment would adapt to any situation as well as it had to Northern Ireland.

The regiment's training as the eyes and ears of a division gave it a familiarity with scanning and observation techniques.

"We like to think we approached the tour with a

● Turn to next page



Capt David Bennett, Operations Officer, marks his map. Behind him are Sgt Stephen Cunningham and Cpl Andrew Machin. In Belfast and Bosnia, individual soldiers have to be adaptable





Tpr Spud Payne, who last year patrolled Bosnia in a Scimitar, finds quite a difference patrolling Belfast on foot



Lt Col James Short (right) with RSM Bob Hartwell

## Lancers in Northern Ireland

● From Page 25

cavalry perspective, but in reality we approached it as professionally as any British Army unit," said Maj Jamie Mackaness, OC D Sqn and a troop commander when the regiment was in Omagh in 1976-77.

Patrols then were completely different, half the size of those today and moving round the countryside in a Ferret and Land Rover with commanders deciding their own programmes. Police did not have primacy.

Maj Mackaness's Squadron Sergeant Major, WO2 Charles Brennan, was a young lance corporal then, and felt that the fresh eye was useful.

"Returning after 17 years, many started by knowing noth-

ing, so everything was taken in and we did not re-learn bad habits," he said.

The job today was more of a challenge for the young trooper than when WO2 Fred Reid of A Sqn was in Omagh.

"You are dealing with people close on, and some can be very aggressive and abusive, so the trooper has to talk to them differently than on rural patrols," he said.

Soldiers went to great lengths to turn the other cheek in the face of provocation, but several stray dogs lacked the same training. This did not always help community relations.

"The dogs adopt a troop for the entire six months," said Tpr Hinde. "One lived in our room, went on patrol and even

accompanied us on duty in the Crumlin Road Gaol. They are very protective. If other dogs bark at us, they will go for them."

It was a very busy tour, particularly after the Shankill Road bombing, which killed ten people. The regiment then suffered more attacks per day than in the previous three months as sectarian violence flared.

More than 200 incidents included 25 serious attacks, mainly Loyalist against Nationalist, as well as 15 against the Security Forces. Several Lancers were injured, fortunately none seriously.

There were numerous finds of weapons, bomb-making equipment and petrol bombs but the commanding officer, Lt Col James Short, found it difficult to understand the terrorists' callous disregard of people.

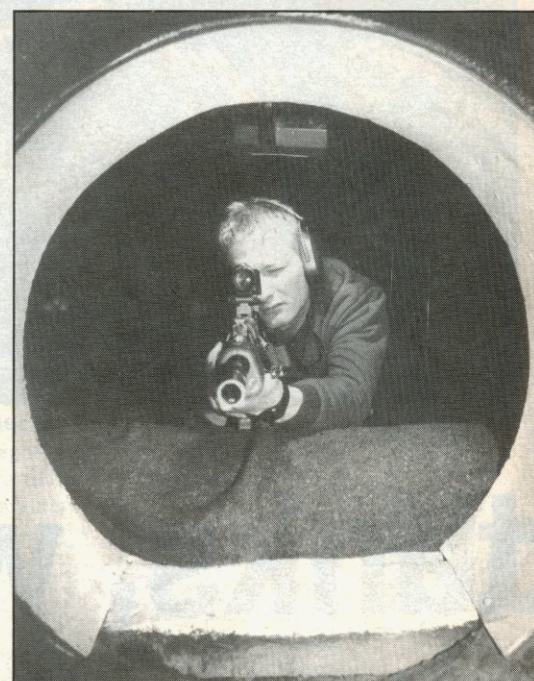
"One bomb which failed to go off properly would have killed a soldier as well as a child playing on her pink tricycle and probably two women," he said.

"There were absolutely no combat indicators, which puts

a tremendous pressure on guys who go out every day knowing there is a sporting chance they will be shot at or bombed."

In one 30-hour operation, three people were arrested for having a shotgun in their possession, and a 50kg bomb was found in the tower block. Very early the next morning, an observant soldier noticed seven petrol bombs ready to be detonated.

"A lot of the time you do not know what you have foiled, but some incidents did not happen because we were patrolling in depth," said Lt Col Short. Constant thought went into unpredictable patrolling; a coffee-jar bomb could well be a



LCpl Rob Miller zeroing his weapon on the pipe range

"come-on" for a secondary attack.

Returning to camp one night, a patrol member shone his torch down an alley. He did not see the terrorist lurking in the shadows waiting to attack the patrol, but it was enough to frighten him into bungling his attack by setting his bomb off early.

The cavalymen acquitted themselves well – particularly one Lancer who was thrown in the air by the blast. "I don't know how he cocked his weapon," said Lt Col Short. "He must have done it in mid-air."

The soldiers had to be polite, professional and impartial in their dealings with the terrorists and community alike. Visitors to the headquarters saw a significant reminder of times past when the 12th Light Dragoons were called in to protect the Vatican from the young Napoleon.

It is a print of officers being blessed by Pope Pius VI and being presented with gold medals in 1794. One was made a Prince of the Roman Empire.

There are different versions as to their conduct and whether three hymns were given to them as a privilege or a penance, but they still regularly feature on the regimental band's repertoire.

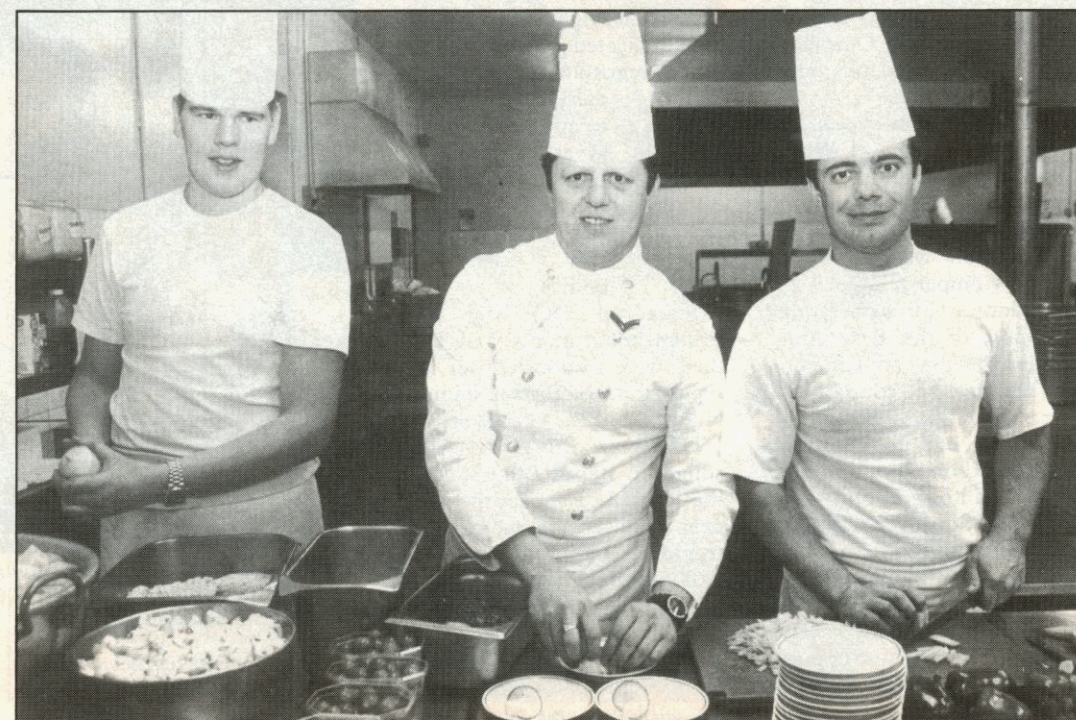
The tour was a challenge, but 9/12 L readily picked up the gauntlet and provided the iron hand and velvet glove as required.



Ready for instant action are members of the Quick Reaction Force. From D Squadron are (back, left to right) Tpr Mark Anderson and Tpr Paul Nicholas; (middle) Cpl Steve Buckley and Pte Jason Whyte; (front) Pte Ian Dawson, Sgt Gez Henderson, Tpr Andy Heath and Tpr Craig Rowe



WO2s Fred Reid and Charles Brennan were lance corporals during the regiment's last tour in Omagh 17 years ago



Cpl John "Luigi" Taylor, flanked by Pte John Metcalfe (left) and Cpl Ray McDermott, is a great hit with the messes. He put on 25 different theme nights during the tour





Above – Cpl Edmund Blundell heaves to the beam, watched by PTI LCpl Phil Maddox

Right – Maj Nic Pratchek with just a few of the trophies won by his squadron over the past year



A Pioneer faces a long climb up a scrambling net at Stanford Training Area in Norfolk

# Kineton squadron maintains the . . . **Pioneering spirit**

IF YOU are looking for an overseas tour of duty, then 522 Squadron, Royal Logistic Corps is for you.

The Kineton-based unit currently has soldiers serving in Bosnia, Canada, Belize, Cyprus, Norway, Germany and the Falkland Islands, and has recently sent an enlarged section to Botswana on an infantry training exercise.

Until April 1993, the squadron was 522 Company, Royal Pioneer Corps operating in support of the Base Ammunition Depot at Kineton and Engineer Resources at Long Marston, Stratford-upon-Avon, but its title and role changed on the formation of the Royal Logistic Corps.

Now 522 Squadron is one of three field force squadrons making up 23 Pioneer Regiment RLC. On operations, it will support the Army's new Combat Service Support Group (CSSG).

It will provide men to guard key installations such as bulk fuel depots and the CSSG

headquarters, and staff a mobile quick-reaction force. In addition, its soldiers will assist with unloading and movement of stores in theatre.

In times of war, two of the squadron's eight troops would be dedicated to providing graves registration teams. Soldiers involved have to attend an autopsy as part of their training to prepare themselves for the role of recovering and identifying bodies.

Squadron OC- Maj Nic Pratchek and many of his soldiers were responsible for the repatriation of British soldiers killed during the Gulf War.

On the sporting front, the squadron stands alone among the Royal Logistic Corps' pioneer services. It won every trophy at this year's pioneer Skill-at-Arms meeting and Pte Lee Mosley won the young soldiers' trophy at Bisley. The squadron also won the pioneer services football, cross-country, athletics and tug of war competitions.

Much of the squadron's



Not doing his press ups correctly and about to be counted out by PTI LCpl Shaun Paddison (left) is Cpl Gary Thompson. Recording totals is Cpl Edmund Blundell

sporting success has been credited to a new physical training test introduced last year. The Tobolski Test is named after the Polish regiment command-

ed by Maj Pratchek's grandfather at the start of the First World War. A former physical education teacher, Maj Pratchek received a good deal

of advice from the British Sports Medicine Institute.

Soldiers progress through a series of adapted heaves and press-ups before taking part in a multi-stage fitness test, involving running between two lines 20 metres apart, while keeping pace with an ever-faster beat from a cassette tape.

Through his remarkable Tobolski Test, subsequently adopted by the parent 23 Pioneer Regiment RLC, a soldier's fitness can be determined in terms of his aerobic (full body) endurance, anaerobic power and strength, and local muscular endurance.

Pioneers are infantry-trained soldiers who have many artisan skills. They are in great demand and the MoD sets the priorities. Operational tasks are given the first priority, and the regiment currently supports two operations and eight other tasks worldwide.

Later this year 522 Squadron is scheduled to co-locate with the other two field squadrons – 187, 518 – and 144 Headquarters and Training Squadron at Graven Hill Barracks, Bicester.



Pictured by a Thunderbird surface to air missile at BAD Kineton are 522 Squadron personnel (L to R): Sgt Mick McGarthy, LCpl Jim Abercrombie, WO2 (SSM) Scoobi Roberts, Sgt Steve Savage, Maj Nic Pratchek, LCpl Jason Faulkner and Sgt Paddy Connolly



# Cynthia set to take Salisbury by Force

FORMER QA major Cynthia Pettit's curriculum vitae makes formidable reading, writes Phil Wilcox.

Among her skills and abilities she lists excellent communication, man-management and organisational skills, dedication, and a determination to succeed.

All of these attributes have proved vital in her role as an employment officer for the Regular Forces Employment Association (RFEA), whose large Salisbury branch she takes over this month.

Founded more than a century ago, the asso-

ciation's main aim is to find work for non-commissioned ex-Regulars who have either completed three years and have a good record or who have been discharged on medical grounds – regardless of length of service.

"It doesn't matter how long they have been out of the Forces," said Cynthia – the RFEA's first female employment officer (EO) among its 40 regional branches – as she sat in her office in the association's Acton branch. (Before her move to Wiltshire she was responsible for the north west London and west Middlesex area.)

"For example, I recently found work for someone who had left the Army 40 years ago."

A registered charity, the RFEA receives 80 per cent of its finance as an annual grant from the MoD and the balance from Service benevolent funds.

"It costs nothing for soldiers to join the association, and they receive a great deal of help," said Cynthia, who enlisted in the QAs as a pupil nurse

at 18, progressing through the ranks and becoming an RSM at the age of 26.

About 11,000 Servicemen and women are helped and advised by the association each year, and its EOs – all ex-Regulars – are successful in placing approximately half of them in employment.

"We pick up where the resettlement service leaves off," said Cynthia.

"Persons leaving the Forces are encouraged to register with us no sooner than two months in advance of their discharge date: employers usually want someone quickly."

The EOs give advice on aspects such as housing, preparation of CVs and, if necessary, the best use of transferable skills.

However, Cynthia warned, it cannot be emphasised enough that job-seekers must initially be realistic about their expectations.

"I advise people not to be 'picky'. What many tend to think is that they will hold out for the right job at the right pay.

"In reality, I have found

that, after about three months, they hit a psychological wall: the head starts to droop and the enthusiasm starts to go."

Far better, she said, to lower one's sights temporarily and get a job.

"We keep the records of everybody registered for the past 20 years," she pointed out.

"If they re-locate, they re-register with another branch.

"Also, provided they retain their good character, ex-Regulars are entitled to return to the association at any time during

their working life."

Cynthia can speak from experience.

"I feel this work is a fitting end to my military career, and I can put all my experience in the Forces (she left in 1989) and outside into use.

"I care very much about people having a job, having known unemployment myself. There were two pretty lean periods of six months each – with a call-up to the Gulf (where she was OC administrative division of a 600-bed army hospital in Riyadh) in between."

It is no disgrace to be

Sifting through the latest batch of job vacancies: RFEA's Cynthia Pettit



Picture: Mike Parrington

Cari Roberts

## COUNTERPOINT

### Kennels death broke a family's heart

I HAVE been approached by a family who have had the distressing experience of having to put their dog down shortly after release from quarantine.

It's a sad story and they say it's one that's affected a number of families. If it has affected you, please let me know.

It started when Capt C was made redundant and had to make arrangements for his family – and two dogs – to be sent back to the UK. As many other families were being posted back there was a long search for a kennel for the quarantine period.

Eventually one was found, many miles from where the family was to settle.

On admission, the dog in question was said to be overweight and in good health. Mrs C telephoned the kennels at least once a month asking about the health of the dogs. On no occasion was she given cause for concern.

The day before the dogs were due to be released, the kennels' vet telephoned the family to report that one of the dogs had a large

growth on the foreleg, severe hair loss and burns on her body caused by the other dog repeatedly urinating on her.

When the family collected the dogs they say they were dirty and unkempt. The growth on the leg of one of the dogs had reached the point at which nothing could be done. Surgery was attempted but the dog did not recover.

Apart from the heart-break, the whole experience has cost the family in the region of £2,000. The matter is under discussion between the two parties, but Capt C isn't going to let it drop.

He also says that many other families undergoing "compulsory repatriation" should know what to expect.

He obviously feels very bitter but is he right that there are a great many other families being affected in the same way?

If something similar has happened to you let me know. I'm also planning a report on the whole business of bringing pets back to the UK, so if you have an experience that might help others please do let me know.

An agency which deserves a mention is the Army Families Advice Bureau.

Operating from a busy office at Old Sarum, a team of workers trained by the Citizen's Advice Bureau sort out all the various problems of serving people and their families.

They claim that no problem is too big or too small and they are as good as their word.

They also devise and distribute factsheets which are sent to every office that

deals with advice-giving, and collect and distribute helpful leaflets and booklets from UK sources. The bureau has links with many organisations in the UK and if they can't answer a question off the cuff they certainly know who to ask.

You can find the Army Family Advice Bureau at HQ UKLF (Old Sarum), Old Sarum, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP4 6BN. Staff stress that the service is confidential.

Around one in ten people each year seek advice or help from a solicitor, many of them for the first time.

Whatever the legal problem, it helps to know what to expect.

What will the solicitor need to know about you and your case? What kind of information should the solicitor give you? How do you find out about costs? And what should you do if you have a complaint?

The National Consumer Council has produced a small leaflet called *Getting the Best from your Solicitor*. It's a brief but helpful starting point. It should be available at your local advice office, but drop me a line if you can't get one.

News from the Benefits Agency. You can now choose how you get paid if you get a Social Security benefit such as Unemployment Benefit or Retirement Pension.

All benefits can be paid by Girocheque or order-book and most can be paid directly into your bank or building society account.

This system is called Automated Credit Transfer or ACT for short.

If you're interested and would like to know more you can contact the local Social Security office or call Freephone Social Security on 0800 666 555 in the UK.

If you would like to know how much Social Security benefit you might be entitled to or want to check the amount of payments due, there's a new guide out called *Benefit Rates* (booklet NI 196).

You can write to Cari Roberts at Counterpoint, BFBS, BFPO 786 or c/o SOLDIER.

### Widows to meet

THE inaugural meeting of the Federation of Army Widows is to be held on February 11-13 at 5/8 Kings, Warrington, Cheshire. For details, contact Mrs Jane Burrows, The Federation of Army Widows, Eclipse House, 2 School Road, Winsford, Cheshire.

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## HOME AND ABROAD

DON'T MISS the updated guide for Service personnel and their families just published by the DSS.

Service families abroad (and at home) (leaflet FB 5 and effective from December) replaces the April 1993 edition and is available

from DSS offices or through HIVES.

The pocket diary-sized 56-page leaflet contains a mass of information on benefit entitlements and the many organisations to which Service families can turn for help.

She estimates that, as the second-largest of the RFEA's branches, the number of people looking for work will increase sevenfold compared to Acton.

"With Phase 3 redundancies imminent, we are all anticipating an increased demand for the association's services in the next year, and we are equipping ourselves to meet the need."

On the wall of her office, a glossy postcard is testimony to the relationship she has built up with her registrants.

"See you next week" is the short message, signed simply No 77/93.

Cynthia is a formidable woman, dedicated to her job, who before now has been known to eke out a living by selling insurance. So watch out, Salisbury. Hurricane Cynthia is about to hit you...

Further information on the Regular Forces Employment Association is available from its head office at 25 Bloomsbury Square, London WC1A 2LN (tel: 071-637 3918).

Salisbury, she realises, will be a totally different kettle of fish from the Acton branch where, because of its proximity to Uxbridge and West Drayton, the "clientele" is predominantly from the RAF.

With its proximity to Wilton and Dorset, the Army will dominate the register at her new branch.



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## Why judo is on the mat

YOUR article on judo (Sport, January 10) highlighted problems faced in reviving the sport in BAOR. I have encountered some others, which I will describe here.

● The Army is not interested in the martial arts, which I find amazing because they promote the highest standards of cleanliness, self-discipline, fitness, respect and controlled aggression.

● Lack of mat area: the Army accounting system does not allow for the longevity of judo mats and so regiments will not invest.

● Publicity: how much page area is given over to the martial arts as compared to golf and skiing? In Great Britain we have ten world champions in martial arts.

● The split between the various martial arts associations is so vast that we have no unified voice to speak for us, no single banner to promote the understanding of all the martial arts.

There are many qualified judo teachers in BAOR. They just happen to belong to or teach other styles of judo. Until the associations, in particular the Army Judo Association, decides to recognise other styles and grades, the problem of grading will remain. For example, I could enter an AJA competition as a novice veteran, while my true rank is 2nd Dan.

Other views would be welcome. - Clive P Greenhalgh (3rd Dan Akemi-Jutsu; 2nd Dan Judo; 1st Dan Karate; 1st Dan Aikido), Hohne Martial Arts Club, BFPO 30.

## HE WANTS HELP WITH HIS ABC!

I AM trying to complete the phonetic alphabets used by the Services prior to 1942 - Ack, Beer, Charlie and so on - Second World War after 1942 - Able, Baker, Charlie (US influence) - and the present day - Alpha, Bravo, Charlie.

While, naturally, the last one poses no problem I have come to a dead end with the other two of which I have the majority but several gaps which I cannot fill.

Recently on a visit to Canberra I called in at the Research Department of the National War Memorial and though I spent a couple of hours there with one of the staff we were unable to find any reference to phonetic alphabets. They did promise to continue the search but so far have not come up with any information.

I hope there is someone, somewhere, with a better memory than mine, who could supply me with the answer - G C Hogben (ex-RAC 1941-47), Unit 2, 6-10 Levuka Street, Seaford, Victoria 3198, Australia.

## IN DEFENCE OF GLENCORSE

HAVING read Maj (Retd) A S Robertson's letter (January 10) I would leap to the defence of ATR Glencorse in general and the King's Division in particular.

ATR Glencorse is not the Scottish Division Depot with the King's Division tacked on. It is one of five ATRs of the Initial Training Group, an all arms organisation responsible for Phase 1 (CMS(R)) recruit training.

Phase 2 infantry training

## Why recruits pass off in trews

IT WAS good of you to find space (January 10) to print my letter about Glencorse, and almost unaltered at that!

I was, as you doubtless gathered, more than a little concerned to learn that recruits to the Highland regiments were apparently being turned out in trews, rather than the kilt, for their passing-out parade.

I wrote in similar terms to HQ Scottish Division.

I had a swift and detailed response from the latter, a

now takes place at Infantry Training Battalions, Ouston and Strensall.

Maj Robertson took exception to the order of dress worn at the week ten passing-out parade. In depot days this point of training was marked by a drill display, the order of dress being trews and pullover.

It is entirely due to a King's Company initiative that this parade now takes place in Service Dress - albeit trews. Standards have thus been raised.

Maj Robertson can also be reassured that Scottish soldiers pass out of Phase 2 training wearing full No 2 Dress Ceremonial at ITB Ouston.

Finally, surely it is the King's Division who have "bent over backwards" to accommodate these changes. They have had to move north behind the Tartan Curtain from their former depot at Strensall, which itself is to close in April 1995.

Let us be quite clear - with-

response which has set my mind at rest on this score.

According to HQ Scottish Division, the parade pictured on Page 26 of the November 15 issue, which attracted my attention, is no more than what is customarily styled "Passing Off the Square", taking place as it does less than half-way through the 22-week training, after ten weeks.

The remaining 12 weeks are completed at Catterick, and I am assured that, as always,

recruits of the Highland regiments are kilted on the passing-out parade which marks the end of their time at Infantry Training Battalion.

HQ Scottish Division adds that, for reasons of tailoring if for no other, recruits to Highland regiments have always been turned out in trews for "Passing Off the Square", and this accords with my recollection of what I experienced. - Maj (Retd) Alan Robertson, London SW1V 4DB.

## LETTERS

Write to:  
SOLDIER,  
Ordnance Road,  
Aldershot,  
Hants GU11 2DU.

## Real role for these medals

AS A SOLDIER subscriber and a member of the Royal British Legion, I have watched with interest the number of "unofficial" commemorative medals currently being advertised - the Arctic, Normandy, Ex-PoW, Bomber Command, D-Day Dodgers, Foreign Service and National Service Medals, along with the General Service Cross and Malta Medal.

I also note growing support for an unofficial Suez medal in recent issues.

The objections to these unofficial medals is that they may cheapen the British award system and that they are not earned. However, there is obviously a demand, with the sale of the National Service Medal alone raising more than £100,000 for the Poppy Appeal.

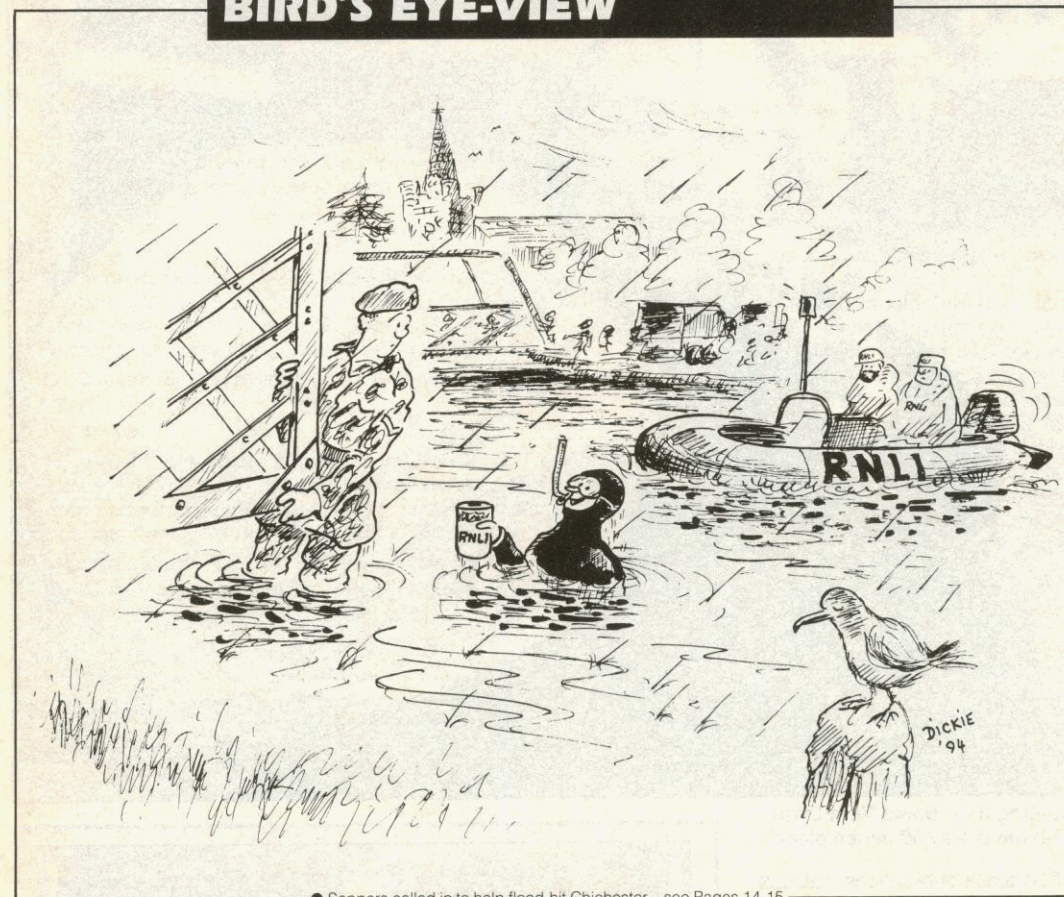
Cheapen our system? Just the opposite, I would say.

Commemorative medals are not struck to decorate or deceive, but are a material reward when no official medal is issued.

As an ex-Regular soldier I have both official and unofficial medals. During a six-year period when my battalion was UK- and Germany-based, I saw soldiers join, serve and leave with no medal as reward for their service to Queen and country, and no medal to wear on Remembrance Sunday.

As a direct result of this a number of ex-Servicemen and women, myself included, after making initial enquiries, have contacted a UK-based firm of medalists and proposed a Volunteers' medal. The idea has been accepted in principle and will probably be the last commemorative medal to be produced for some time.

It is expected to be much sought-after as a memento of service to the Crown. Details will be forwarded to all interested upon request. - PC533 Ken Fowler, Nuneaton Police Station, Nuneaton, Warks CV11 4DW.



● Sappers called in to help flood-hit Chichester - see Pages 14-15

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## SOLDIER to Soldier

### D-Day coin to help RBL make a mint

SALES of the D-Day 50 pence coin unveiled by forces sweetheart Dame Vera Lynn will benefit the Royal British Legion's Poppy Appeal.

Three collector versions – gold, silver, and brilliant uncirculated – have been produced by the Royal Mint, and a circulated version (one you can spend in the shops!) will become available in May.

Depending on which version, between ten and 25 per cent of the purchase price will be given to the Poppy Appeal.

Designed by the sculptor John Mills, the coin depicts the Allied invasion force heading for Normandy, filling sea and sky. The obverse bears the Raphael Makluf portrait of the Queen.

Only 2,500 gold D-Day 50 pence pieces will be issued at a cost of £375 each; the silver version will cost £23.95 each (50,000 issued); and there is no limit on the brilliant uncirculated D-Day coin which will cost £1.95 and be housed in an illustrated presentation folder.

They can be purchased by contacting the Royal Mint on 0443 223366 or writing to Freepost, PO Box 500, Cardiff CF1 1YY.

### Brummies' conflict

BIRMINGHAM's war heroes and the impact of the First World War on the city are the subject of two

Picture: Terry Champion



Coining it in: Dame Vera Lynn with the D-Day 50 pence piece

A5 softback publications, sales of which will boost Service benevolent funds.

Written by J P Lethbridge and published by Newgate Press, 245 St Margaret's Road, Ward End, Birmingham B8 2DY, *Birmingham Heroes* (£3.60) contains 46 pages dedicated to the city's 20 Victoria Cross and eight George Cross winners, and other heroes.

*Birmingham in the First World War* (£3.95) is lengthier at 59 pages and details the part Birmingham's fighting men played in the war and at life in the city.

The author will be donating a quarter of profits from sales to military charities.

### Zulu society flourishes

THE SIGNIFICANCE of January 22, 1994 will not have escaped those taking more than a passing interest in the history of the British Army.

It was on that day 115 years ago that a small garrison of the 24th Regiment – now the Royal Regiment of Wales – held off 4,000 of King Cetshwayo's Zulus at Rorke's Drift in the British Army's greatest defensive action, resulting in 11 VCs.

Among those remembering the day were members of the Anglo-Zulu Research Society.

Formed by eight enthusiasts in 1992 to study the 1879 Zulu War, the society already has 80 members in Britain, South Africa, America and Australia.



It's all in the name...

It's competition time, folks! A reader sent us this photograph of a PWRR platoon sign and asks if it is the longest title in the British Army. Well, is it?

Their ages range from 12 to 85 and many are involved in book and film projects.

One of its meeting places is the South Wales Borderers and Monmouthshire Regimental Museum of the Royal Regiment of Wales in Brecon, which houses one of the most comprehensive collections of Zulu War artefacts in the world.

The society's patrons include Dr Mangosuthu G Buthelezi, Chief Minister of KwaZulu and a descendant of Cetshwayo; Viscount Chelmsford, descendant of the British military commander of the Anglo-Zulu War; and the actor and author, Kenneth Griffith.

Readers interested in joining the society should contact the treasurer, Peter Renny, 69 Coronation Drive, Elm Park,

Hornchurch, Essex RM12 5BT. The £10 annual membership fee entitles members to the society's journal three times a year.

### APPOINTMENTS

**Brigadier** – J J Gaskell – To be Comd HQ 42 (NW) Bde, Dec 20.

**Colonels** – E D Lettington, late RADC – To 3 Dent Gp, Dec 16; K A C Watt, late RADC – To 5 Dent Gp, Jan 12.

**Lt Cols** – F E Holloway RADC – To 11 Dent Gp, Dec 9; E J Duggan RADC – To BMH Rintel, Dec 13; K A Galbraith RADC – To CBDE, Dec 14; M J Walker AGC(PS) – To MoD, Dec 20; W F de Mellow RADC – To CMH, Jan 3; L Henderson RADC – To BMH Rintel,

### DIARY

#### MAY

**14-15:** International Air Show, Middle Wallop.

**21-23:** Rhine Army Summer Show, Paderborn.

**28-30:** Military Vehicle Trust D-Day 50th anniversary commemoration rally, Southsea Common, Portsmouth. Details from Chris Pearce, 2 Locks Road, Locks Heath, Southampton SO3 6NT (tel: 0489 572582).

#### JUNE

**1-2:** Floodlit Beating Retreat by Massed Bands of the Household Division, Horse Guards, 2130 hours. Tickets £12, £10 and £3 (unreserved) from Household Division Funds Office, Wellington Barracks, Birdcage Walk, London SW1 (enclose sae).

**11:** Queen's Birthday Parade on Horse Guards, Colour trooped by 1 LG.

#### JULY

**11-12:** Guild of Aviation Artists annual exhibition, The Carisbrooke Gallery, 63 Seymour Street (behind Marble Arch), London W1. Entry forms and schedules from the Guild of Aviation Artists, The Bondway Business Centre, 71 Bondway, London SW8 1SQ.

**16-23:** Nijmegen Marches, the Netherlands.

**19-30:** Royal Tournament, Earls Court (tickets available January 4 onwards from box office on 071-373 8141).

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

### REUNIONS

#### ● Yorkshire Universities Air Squadron:

Annual dinner on March 17 at Officers' Mess, RAF Finningley will mark the 25th anniversary of the squadron's formation. Details from Squadron Adjutant, Yorkshire Universities Air Squadron, RAF Finningley, Doncaster, S Yorks DN9 3LQ (tel: 0302 770771 ext 7421).

#### ● R Signals TA, Eastbourne:

All ranks 25th anniversary reunion dinner, March 26. All past members of 858/859 Tps and 56 Sig Sqn (V) welcome. Details from PSAO, 56 Sig Sqn (V), TA Centre, Seaside, Eastbourne, E Sussex BN2 7NL.

#### ● 4 QORWK (50th anniversary of Kohima):

Reunion to take place on April 9 at Boxley Road TA Centre, Maidstone. Contact Capt J Brown on 0634 850573.

#### ● RAOC/REME Middle Easters Association:

Annual reunion lunch on April 9 at Oval Banqueting Suite, Kennington, SE11. Contact Charles Baxter, Secretary, 129 Benhill Road, London SE5 7LZ (tel: 071-703 5365).

Jan 3; N M M Buchanan RAMC – To Def Svcs Med Rehab Unit, Jan 19.

#### RETIREMENT

**Brigadier** – A G Harwood, late RAMC, Dec 16.

**Colonels** – B J Foster, late RAMC, Jan 11; T R Austin, late RAMC, Jan 23.

**Lt Cols** – C E Lowes RRC QARANC, Dec 12; T H L Bryson RAMC, Dec 6; J M Bridges RAMC, Jan 21.

#### ● 1151-1157 Boys Battery:

Reunion to take place at Royal School of Artillery on April 15-17. Details from T C Holden, 3 Kilburn Street, Watersheddings, Oldham, Lancs OL1 4JF (tel: 061-633 8194).

#### ● RASC Jersey Boys:

Gathering at Doncaster, April 22-24. Arrangements are being made for a reunion in Jersey in 1995 (May 6-13). Contact T/88196 Joe Gutteridge, "New Horizon", 6 Tudor Way, Bridgwater, Somerset TA6 6UE (tel: 0278 422806).

#### ● 138th (City of London) Fd Regt RA Association:

Reunion on April 25 at Victory Services Club, London. Details from Frank Flack, 2 Camborne Way, Hounslow TW5 0PW (tel: 081-570 5267). News from ex-members welcomed.

#### ● RAMC/RADC WOs and Sgts Past and Present Dinner Club:

The 1994 dinner and reunion is to be held on May 7 at the RAMC Trg Gp and RHQ RAMC, Keogh Barracks, Ash Vale. Details from WO1 (RSM) P Fowler RAMC, RAMC Trg Gp and RHQ RAMC, Keogh Barracks, Ash Vale, Aldershot, Hants GU12 5RQ.

#### ● 74 Medium Regt RA:

Annual reunion, May 14. Details from Ron Somers, 104a Lee Road, Blackheath, London SE3 9DE (tel: 081-852 6716).

#### ● Second World War Air Forces RADAR reunion:

Blackpool, May 20-22. Details from Harry W G Jord, 9 Chelmer Court, Basingstoke RG21 2DT (tel: 0256 25980).

#### ● 1 RWF (1942-45):

### SEARCHLINE

● **Nigel and Robert Wall:** Jayne Williams, 13 Pennycroft Road, Uttoxeter, Staffs ST14 7ER, is searching for her brothers, Nigel and Robert Wall, both in their 20s. Jayne was adopted at birth and is unknown to them. She believes they were from the Shrewsbury area and are serving in the Army.

#### ● 6th Bn Lincolnshire Regiment

**1943:** Isabel T Marklew seeks anyone who landed with the 6th Battalion in North Africa on January 17, 1943 and knew her uncle, Pte Anthony Marklew, killed on March 6, 1943, on patrol with C Coy near Sedjenane, Tunisia, and buried in Tabarka War Cemetery. Also anyone who knows if RSM Terry is still alive. Replies to Flat 3, "Teralta", 16 Church Walk, East Worthing, West Sussex BN11 2LS.

● **Sgt Ann Grant** from Banff,

Scotland, served 40 Sqn RCT, Catterick in 1973., Rheindahlen 1976, and godmother to Richard Sewell, please contact Jean Hill (formerly Sewell), 1 Sudbury Close, Holme Hall, Chesterfield, Derbyshire S40 4RS.

#### ● Battle of Crete 1941:

Those who took part are invited to join the Crete Veterans Association which has branches in many parts of the UK. Opportunities to take part in the annual pilgrimage to Crete in May and the reunion in October. Enquiries with sae to National Secretary, Vincent Williams, 41 Cole Bank Road, Birmingham B28 8EZ.

#### ● C Coy, 1 JLB Oswestry (Sept 1964-Dec 1966):

Ex-Members wishing to attend a 30th anniversary reunion are asked to contact P W D Curtis, 1 Vernon Road, York YO3 6UY (tel: 0904 634426).

### MILITARIA

#### ● Irrawaddy River:

P Ogle (63 Carnforth Crescent, Grange Estate, Grimsby, South Humberside DN34 5JB) wants to know why soldiers in his father's RASC amphibious company in India were allowed to wear Australian bush hats, and if any veterans of the Irrawaddy crossing meet for reunions.

#### ● 651 AOP Squadron, Fayid, Egypt (1950-52):

Researcher Sara Stanton wishes to contact squadron members who served in the Canal Zone. Replies to PO Box 694, Burtonsville, MD20866, USA (tel/fax: 301 890 7213).

### CLOSURES

#### 38 (Berlin) Field Squadron

Anyone who donated or presented to 38 (Berlin) Fd Sqn RE items which they wish returned on the unit's disbandment in June should contact WO2 (SSM) G W Bell on Berlin 01049 030 309 ext 3610 (or c/o 38 (Berlin) Fd Sqn RE, BFPO 45). Pieces not claimed will be given to another mess.

### QGE mess

ANY ex-members of the Queen's Gurkha Engineers who donated items to the British WOs' and Sergeants' Mess are requested to contact the president regarding disposal of property on closure of the mess. Correspondence to WO2 (BRQMS) G Holtham, The Queen's Gurkha Engineers, Perowne Barracks, BFPO 1.

### Tell us your D-Day story

CALLING all D-Day veterans ... what are your special memories of the great invasion?

SOLDIER invites recollections of June 6, 1944 to be considered for publication in a special anniversary feature this summer.

Contributions should be restricted to no more than 175 words, and should include your rank at the time and name of unit.



## Facts of war: the complete mega-book

LEN DEIGHTON says on the cover of *The World War II Databook*: "For anyone who wants to study the Second World War this truly astonishing book is essential reading."

"Astonishing" is hardly the word. It is a mega-production of facts, figures, tables, maps, notes to maps, dates, locations and more.

It is likely to achieve Bible status among those who want to know all about the war.

Take the section on the British Army. At the start of the war its strength was 402,000 and at the end nearly three million. Compared with Germany, with 2.7 million at the start and six million plus at the end, the UK was, in the current idiom, numerically disadvantaged with men and weapons in a mighty big way.

Eventually, of course, the UK put together seven armoured divisions, 25 infantry divisions, two airborne divisions and 16 armoured brigades.

Did you also know, for example, that in July 1945 the US had nearly 22,000 aircraft in the Pacific zone against Japan's 4,600; that the Allies in 1944 dropped more than half a million tons of bombs on Europe; that the UK built 14 aircraft carriers between 1939 and 1945; that the USSR fielded 534 infantry divisions over the same period; and that the UK built more than three million military trucks during the war – even more than the USA?

This book even lists how many Blackshirt Divisions the Italians formed and what happened to them and gives the name of the finance minister of the Yugoslavs in 1945.

Assuming all the facts are correct – and author Jon Ellis admits there could be some mistakes – this book will go down well with historians, military experts and enthusiasts who might like to play "Ask Me Another" during dull winter moments. – JM

*The World War Databook* by John Ellis. Aurum Press, £40.

## An insider's tank history

IN HIS sequel to *The Great Tank Scandal*, David Fletcher takes the story of British armour from El Alamein to the end of the Second World War.

*The Universal Tank: British Armour in the Second World War Part 2* covers, in more ways than one, a lot of ground. Several new designs came along during the period and existing ones were improved or adapted.

As in previous books – this is only the latest in a series covering the whole history of British armour – the author knows his subject. As librarian at the Tank Museum, he has access to much original material, but more importantly he is a great enthusiast.

So much of what has been written before is based on generalisations but here we have the subject researched from the original records.

These include reports into production and development which allow a fascinating insight into not only what was produced, but also in many cases why or even why not. Some designs never made it past the drawing board, while others trod a long and tortuous

route before finally seeing service.

Much of the background will be of interest to those who used the vehicles, and many will now see reason behind what seems to be a very strange story.

Development and production alone is only one part of the tale. While the book cannot cover the full story of the use of the many types covered, references to unit war diaries helps to see how things were in the field. Here again we see some past misconceptions, if not cleared up, at least covered in some detail.

The views of those actually fighting appear in several places, and what effect they had on those producing and designing.

Overall this is an account of those vehicles produced in the UK, Canada, India, South Africa, New Zealand and Australia. While tanks themselves were almost but not entirely British in design and production, other nations produced their own armoured cars and various designs classed as carriers.

American production also



Worth the effort: Churchill tanks prepare for action in Germany, 1945

played a large part in equipping British armoured units, and the influences on design across the Atlantic, in both directions, will show a side of things not too well related elsewhere.

Many designs will be remembered as good, sound ones, others were condemned at the time and later, while at the end we had perhaps one of the world's most successful designs, regardless of any views on what "best" means when

applied to AFVs, which shows that, after much trial and much error, things became right.

There is certainly a British way to do things. Much of this can be found here, where designs which showed little promise were worked on to become a success.

The Churchill was at one stage almost taken out of production – yet in the right place, with the right crews and the right improvements, it was a

winner and proved worth all the effort.

Once again, we have an author doing what he does best – taking a subject he loves, adding sound research from original sources, and putting the results down in a readable and organised style.

The account is enhanced by a well-chosen selection of photographs and drawings, most of which are not the hackneyed ones so well known.

Covering tanks, armoured cars, scout cars, carriers, specialist armour and bridgelayers, with many insights into guns, engines and other parts which make them up, here is a great account which will be the standard work.

Read it, learn from it, above all enjoy it. – PB

*The Universal Tank: British Armour in the Second World War, Part 2* by David Fletcher. HMSO, softback, £14.95.

## Diary of a horse gunner

He and his unit were not alone in this, of course, as just about the whole of the Army at that time was in disarray.

In time the situation switched and Seton-Watson and 1 Battery RHA, which he commanded, were in the thick of the action and winning back lost ground.

Incidentally, this account should tie in nicely with the official war diary of 2 RHA which the author wrote and which can be found in the Public Record Office. – JM

*Dunkirk – Alamein – Bologna* by Christopher Seton-Watson. Buckland Publications, £14.95.

THINK of Switzerland and you think of tax-exiles, neutrality, skiing, cuckoo clocks, wristwatches, chocolate, discreet medical clinics and numbered bank accounts.

It is unlikely that mercenary soldiers would come to mind.

According to John McCormack in *One Million Mercenaries – Swiss Soldiers in the Armies of the World*, soldiers of fortune have contributed hugely to the country's exports and subsequent wealth.

Over a period of about 500 years, Swiss mercenaries sold their services to just about every country in Europe.

They even helped out the British Army with Clive in India when the British East India Company signed up four Swiss companies of 139 men each.

The British called on the Swiss again when the Royal American Regiment was formed in 1754 consisting of two Swiss battalions, one Scot-

## A serious business to Swiss

tish and one Dutch. They were ready, willing and very able, being well trained and disciplined troops. But if there was no cash, then it was a case of: "No money, no Swiss."

When the French Foreign Legion was born in 1831 Swiss soldiers played a large part in its formation and it is thought that in a little more than 100 years at least 250,000 of their countrymen have served in the regiment.

Who would have guessed? – JM

*One Million Mercenaries* by John McCormack. Pen & Sword Books, £18.50.

AS YOUNG men flocked to the recruiting stations in the autumn of 1914 the general feeling was that "it would be all over by Christmas".

Eventually came the awful realisation that they were in for a long, hard slog to defeat the Germans.

In 1915: *The Death of Innocence*, Lyn Macdonald tells passionately and graphically what the first full year of the war was like and of the horrifying cost in lives.

She tells it as it was, for her story comes from the men who were there; those who did the fighting, the burying, the waiting and the killing.

This book is a mass of memories of old soldiers who recall the countless dead, the dreadful conditions of trench warfare and, at times, the crass stupidity of some commanders. One even tipped his men's rum ration away: if his men were going to meet their maker, they would meet him sober.

## Recorded – in nick of time

Ms Macdonald has done a tremendous job in tracing and speaking to all these old soldiers and recording their memories.

Unfortunately, many of those whose stories appear in this book died before publication, but this book will ensure their names live on.

As Lyn Macdonald points out, time is running out... we should listen carefully before the curtain falls on the generation who experienced the Great War. – JM

*1915: The Death of Innocence* by Lyn Macdonald. Headline, £19.99.

## No-frills guide to the Army

ONE PROBLEM with any publication covering modern subjects is that they can easily become obsolete.

The fourth edition of *The British Army – A Pocket Guide*, however, brings the reader up to date.

This little book (literally – it is designed to go into a combat dress pocket and does) is a mine of information and an object lesson in producing a straightforward guide without any waffle or frills.

It has facts and figures on all aspects of the Army, from statistics of UK population and current manpower for all three Services, defence spending in the UK and Nato, and organisation charts for all units from the Defence Council down to the combat team. Just where the current British Army fits into various international forces is illuminating in itself.

Each arm of service is described with recognition outlines and details of major equipment and vehicles, right down to radio frequency bands. All units, both regular and TA, and including the Royal Marines and RAF Regiment, are listed, with their current titles and abbreviations.

Options for Change details are included up to publication date, and some amalgamations are heralded which will have happened by the time you read this.

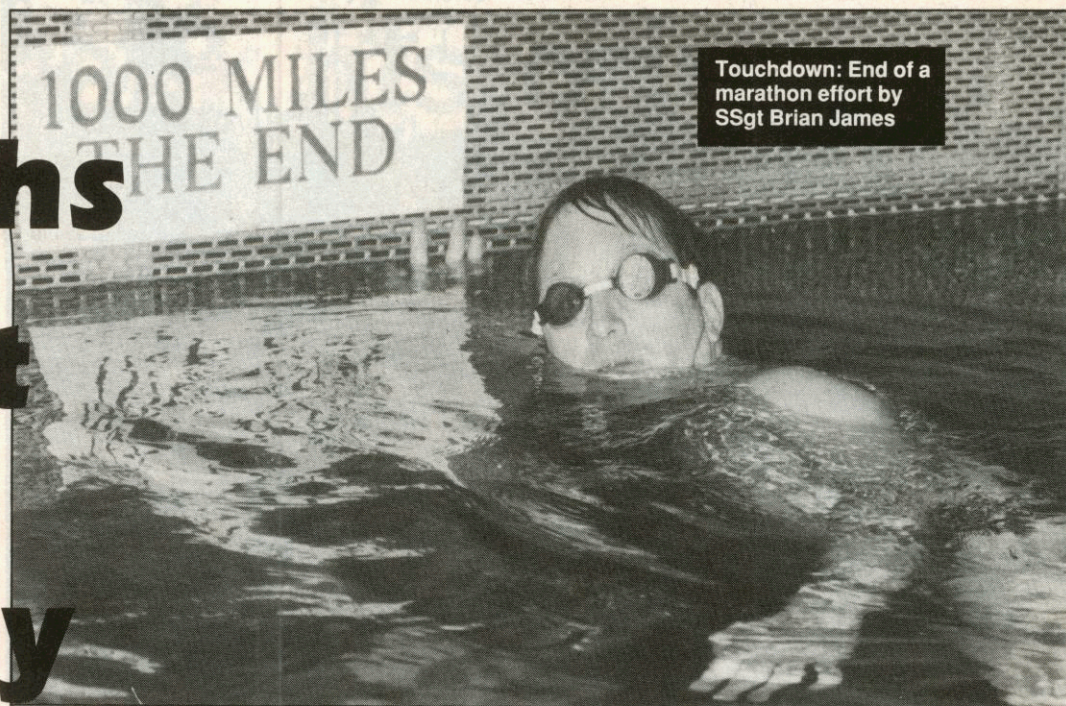
Those seeking small faults may find them, but they will have to look hard, I would wager.

If you seek facts – what corps' total manpower alone equals that of armoured units – typical career profiles, costs, beret colours or any of the thousands of items a serving soldier should know or a former soldier would like to know, keep one of these volumes in your pocket for easy reference. It will be no bigger than your wallet and certainly will not break it! – PB

*The British Army – A Pocket Guide*, edited by Charles Heyman. R&F Publishing. Price £3.95 or £4.50 inc postage direct from Pen & Sword Books, 47 Church Street, Barnsley S70 2AS. Special discount for ten or more copies.



# This man will go to any lengths (well, 64,000 . . .) to get your money



Touchdown: End of a marathon effort by SSgt Brian James

SSGT Brian James, currently serving with 14 Berlin Field Workshop REME, is back on dry land.

Having completed 64,000 lengths of the Berlin Brigade swimming pool since January 1 last year, he has so far raised DM11,592.54 (£4,546) to be divided between the Royal Star and Garter Homes and the Royal British Legion.

His mammoth swim ended on December 14.

Brian was in the pool virtually every day throughout the year to log up 1,000 miles (Luton to Aberdeen and back!). And to make sure he did it, SSgt Trevor and Mrs Sue Dougherty counted every-

one of those 64,000 lengths.

Any mess or individual who wants to make a contribution may do so by sending a cheque, made out to Welfare Account, 14 Berlin Fd Wksp, to Swimming Charity, 14 Berlin Fd Wksp, BFPO 45.

★ ★ ★

**Army Command and Staff Course 27** at the Staff College, Camberley, rallied round when they heard 15-year-old Alexandra Bailey, a schoolgirl with muscular dystrophy, had outgrown her motorised wheelchair.

Their fund-raising events throughout 1993 were so suc-

cessful that Alexandra – whose father works at the College – is now the proud owner of a £13,500 high-tech Permobil Max 90.

The Staff College also raised £5,000 to maintain and insure the wheelchair for the next five years.

★ ★ ★

Staff at Copthorne Barracks, **HQ Wales and Western District**, donated 80 cans of dog food and biscuits for a local kennels which had 140 dogs in its care over Christmas.

Proceeds were added to a collection of loose change given by people leaving the country.

## Pay, up, Len!



Here's a soldier with a good vocal range. Tpr Len Bucket carried out a little sponsored singing on the ranges at Hohne to raise money for charity. And he promises to double the money if we print the photograph. Empty your pockets, Len!

★ ★ ★

The Children's Hospice South West started 1994 better off by £3,150 thanks to the TA soldiers of 43 (Wessex) Brigade.

Part-timers from 6 LI, 4 D and D, 211 Fd Hosp and 219 Fd Hosp collected money for the charity, and students from Exeter and Bristol UOTCs also helped.

Last year the hospice received £1,000 from the brigade through money collected during the Ten Tors expedition.



Brig Christopher Wolverson, commanding 43 (Wessex) Brigade, presents Dr Beryl Munn of the Children's Hospice South West with a cheque for £2,365. Watching (from left to right) are Mr Douglas Munn, Lt Col Tony Thornburn, Lt Col Philip West, Maj Rupert Prince and Mrs June Rice



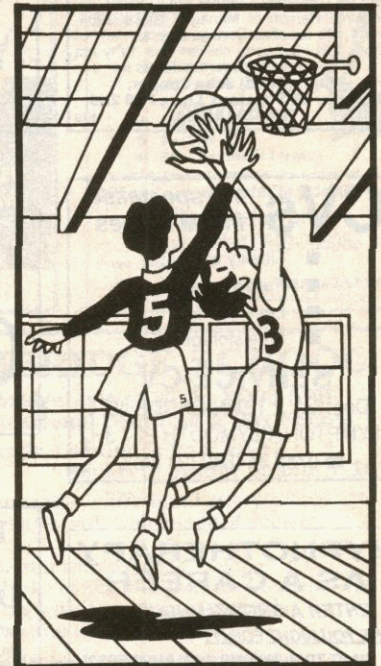
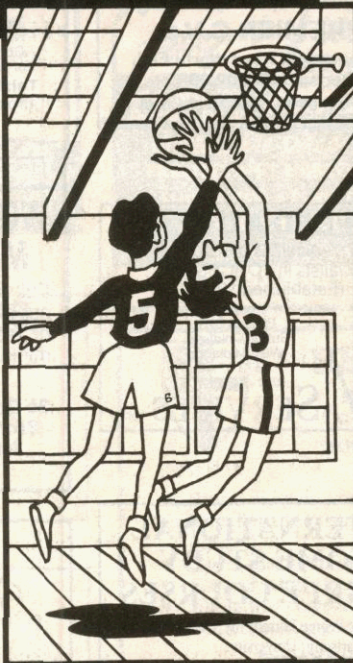
# HOW OBSERVANT ARE YOU? COMPETITION 580

# WIN £50

The pictures on the right, from our Frank Finch cartoon archives, differ in ten details. Find them and you could be £50 richer or win a new book. Just circle the differences in the right-hand picture, cut out the whole panel, add your name and address and send to HOAY 580, SOLDIER, Ordnance Road, Aldershot GU11 2DU by February 25. Do not include anything else in your envelope.

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

The names of the winner of the £50 first prize and two runners-up will be announced in the March 21, 1994 issue.

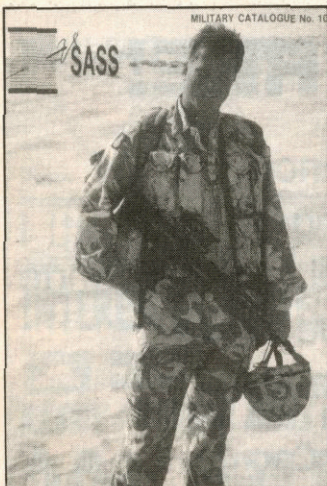


Competition No 577: Congratulations to Mr Peter Lattey, who wins £50. Book prizes go to runners-up Mr J Spencer, of Caversham, Reading, and Mr Gbesenyi, of Newquay, Cornwall.

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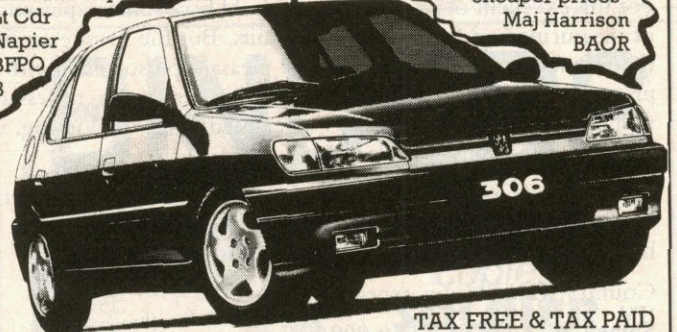
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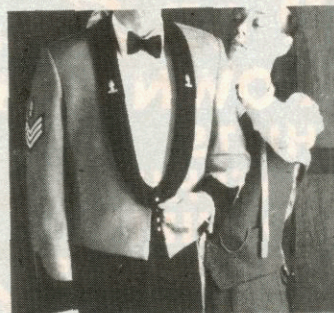
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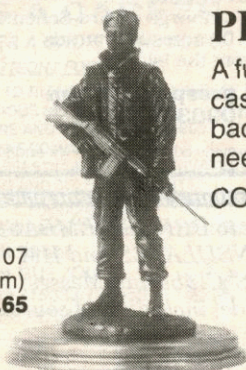
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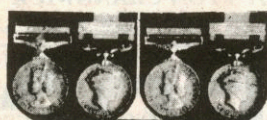
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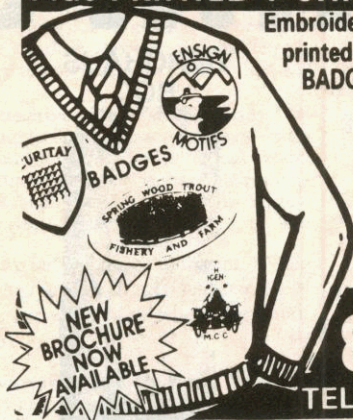
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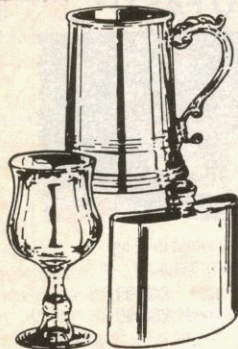
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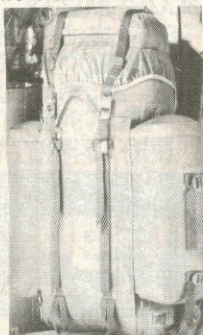
New NATO ref 84-65-99-978-5360/62



CAPACITY: 125 litres  
FRAME: Internal  
WATERPROOF: Yes  
COLOUR: Green or DPM  
FEATURES: Side pouches + Yoke (makes day patrol pack)  
PRICE: £139.99 + £2.99 p&p

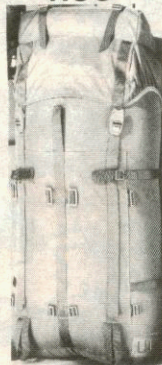
## BERGHAUS CRUSADER

NATO ref 84-65-99-775-3039/40



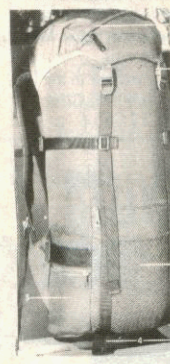
CAPACITY: 100 litres  
FRAME: Internal  
WATERPROOF: Yes  
COLOUR: Green  
FEATURES: Side pouches make day pack (straps incl.)  
PRICE: £134.99 + £2.99 p&p

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CAPACITY: 70 litres  
FRAME: Internal  
WATERPROOF: Yes  
COLOUR: Green  
EXTRAS: Side pouches £24.99 pr  
PRICE: Phone

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COLOUR: Green  
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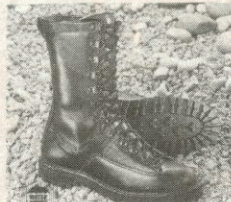
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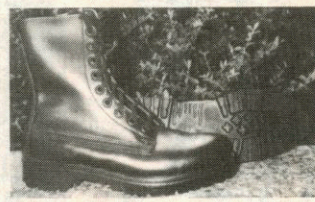
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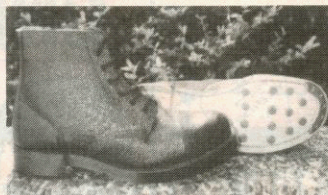
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**Anyone like to correspond with an intelligent, witty, caring, long-haired, blonde thirty-something (looks twenty something)?** I've got lots of pets and like reading, horses, writing letters, keep fit and laughing. **P829** 03/94

**Attractive, slim, working lady, 44.** Would enjoy correspondence with unattached man with forces background. I enjoy living, have many interests and reside North Hants/Surrey. It's worth a stamp! **P830** 03/94

**Zany lady, decent, intelligent.** Would love to hear from men and women of any nationality. All letters answered. **P831** 03/94

**Divorced lady, 31.** Seeks pen pals anywhere. I'm deaf but can lipread well. I'm 5'3" with blonde hair and blue eyes. I enjoy writing and socialising. **P832** 03/94

**Prince Charming, 31.** Handsome sergeant, fit, athletic, lovely caste, own coach. Sadly pumpkin deflated. Seeks attractive Cinderella to fill glass slipper abandoned at ball. Long letter and photo please. **P833** 03/94

**Distressed spacemaiden, 20.** Seeks replacement Luke Skywalker/Han Solo type for mega intergalactic journey. Darth Vader types need not apply. **P834** 03/94

**Female looking for a pen pal.** Male or female, aged 30-45. My hobbies include books, art, travel and swimming. Please write. **P835** 03/94

**Hi, I'm Lisa, 24** and waiting to write to all you unattached soldiers out there. Drop me a line and I promise to answer all your replies. **P836** 03/94

**Forget the rest,** if you want the best, write to me and see. If you want a laugh, and think this is daft, then you're the soldier for me. Sue. **P837** 03/94

**Attractive feminine single mother, 33yrs.** Slim, fair hair, blue eyes, n/s, vegetarian, honest and caring. Community nurse. Interests: occult, clairvoyance etc. Seeks pen friends 21-38, similar qualities, for friendship. **ALA. P838** 03/94

**Attractive, slim lady, 29 years.** Seeks male pen pal 29-36. Interests include walking, swimming, cycling, music and nights out having fun. Photo appreciated. **P839** 03/94

**Bev, 31, 5'8", blonde hair, blue eyes, slim, divorced, 3-year-old daughter.** Likes music, films, keep fit. Would like to hear from soldiers 28+. Genuine replies only. **P840** 03/94

**Sue, 32, divorced, nine-month-old baby girl, living in Milton Keynes.** Seeking unattached soldier 30+ as a pen pal. Must be genuine with good sense of humour. **P841** 03/94

**I'm Rosemary, in my forties, divorced, 5'5", slim, ex-soldier's wife.** Many interests, including: cooking, gardening, arts, decorating and sewing. I'm a romantic Scorpio and love animals. Seeking a genuine male. **P842** 03/94

## More Pen Pals in next issue

Please mention SOLDIER when replying to advertisements

**REPLIES.** To reply to a pen pal, write a letter and send it to Soldier Magazine at the address below. The Box number must be **CLEARLY** written in the **TOP LEFT CORNER** of the envelope. Your envelope must be no larger than 8" x 4" and should only contain a letter, and photograph if requested. Replies received more than three months after the cover date and **large, heavy, or poorly addressed** envelopes will not be forwarded.

All correspondence to: Pen Pals, Soldier Magazine, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU.

**Wiltshire Rose** waiting to be picked. Pretty feminine lady, 32, 5'4", slim, light brown hair, blue eyes, n/s, romantic, old fashioned standards. Seeks officer. Please write wherever you are. **P802** 03/94

**21-year-old female,** hopefully recruiting in April. Would like to write to anyone in RAVC. Write soon. **P817** 03/94

**Christine** - blondish hair, blue/grey eyes and 'Lilliputian' build. Would like to write to someone 30+. Main interests: sport, animals, going to the cinema and pubs, music and reading. **P818** 03/94

**Single mum, 35,** is looking for friendly pen pal home or abroad. Preferably over 30 and exceedingly handsome - only joking! So go on, put pen to paper. All letters answered. **P819** 03/94

**Attention!** Sporty male aged 20. Needs some pen pals. Photo appreciated, all replies answered. **P820** 03/94

**Wanted** - outgoing guys who enjoy the good things in life, sense of humour a must, age unimportant. My interests are music, travelling, clubs, bars and enjoying life to the full. **P821** 03/94

**Hello!** Anyone interested in writing to a would-be future "LA Law" lawyer? 31-year-old female, undergraduate, ex-nurse, single, 5'6", slim. All letters answered. **P822** 03/94

**Hiya, my name is Helen and I'm a staff nurse.** I have loads of hobbies and love all kinds of music. I would love to hear from anyone out there. **P824** 03/94

**Dawn, aged 44,** looking for a soldier for friendship. I am Scottish but now live in London. I'm divorced with no ties. **P825** 03/94

**My name is Julie.** I'm 31, 5'8" with brown hair and green eyes. I like keeping fit, travelling, listening to music, old films and all animals - especially dogs. All letters answered. **P826** 03/94

**Attractive single mum, 37,** with one dependent child. I'm 5'8" with chestnut hair, gosh, young in outlook with varied interests including sport, socialising and music. I'd like to hear from single soldiers anywhere. **P827** 03/94

**I would like to correspond with a Scottish soldier in the forces, between 21 and 29.** I'm Helene, aged 19 and I work in Birmingham as a legal secretary. **P828** 03/94

## Business Opportunities

**Convenience store, Yorkshire.** Air conditioned with excellent 4 bedroom accommodation and superbly fitted sales area. £420,000 sales. Freehold £185,000 plus stock at value. Details: Box 239, Soldier Magazine, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU. 24-03

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**Military Clothing, Equipment** - John Bull. Mail order 0765 604071. Retail Hildyard Way, Catterick Garrison, N Yorks 0748 833614. Full list on request. PRIs. Visa/Access. J B Military Clothing (S), 12 Littlethorpe Park, Ripon HG4 1UQ. 36p SAE. 0765 604071. 01/94

**Medals. Full/miniature** medal mounting service. Loose or court style. Comprehensive range of miniatures always available. Write or phone for quotation. Firmin & Sons Plc, 82/86 New Town Row, Birmingham B6 4HU. Tel: 021-359 6666. Established 1677. 01/94

**Military Insignia, 1994** 54 page illustrated catalogue £2, refundable on first order, lists hundreds of current British insignia including officers' badges, DZ flashes, anodised, plus worldwide elite insignia. Lapworth (S), 15 Woodside Grove, Bristol, BS10 7RF. 01-06

**Silverman's** have available the following new PTI kit: Old Pattern PTI Tops £32.99, PTI Vests £7.99, PTI Belts £9.99, PTI Cloth Badges £2.99, Ron Hill Tracksters £14.99, New Rugby Shirts all cotton £15.99, Timex Sports Watches from £16.99. Free catalogue 0717 900 900 Info 0717 905 257, Order 0717 905 585. Silverman's, 2 Harford Street, Mile End, London E1 4PS. 7/0

**Regimental cufflink, tiegrip** sets £12.50. Blazer button sets £24. Telephone 0480 212843 for availability. SAE to: Martin Duchemin, 6 Knights Close, Eaton Socon, Cambs PE19 3DP. 01-04

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**Condor Supplies, now open at 5a** The Arcade, Bovington Camp, Wareham BH20 6JQ. Para smocks, windproof smocks, Soffie sleeping bags, bivvy bags, survival kits, Rucsacs, Mag-Lites, Petzl headtorches etc. SAE for price list. Tel: Robbo on 0929 405662. 23-07

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Ref: DM-248487-SC

The Charity Commissioners propose to make a Scheme for this Charity. Copies of the draft Scheme may be obtained from them (ref: DM-248487-SC) at Woodfield House, Tangier, Taunton, Somerset TA1 4BL. Objections and suggestions may be sent to them within one month from today. 04

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## Property for Sale

**Ripon, North Yorkshire.** Four bedroom detached house in quiet location. GCH. Garage. Potting shed. Offers in the region of £82,500. Send SAE for full details to Box No 240, Soldier Magazine, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU, England. 01-04

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## Wanted

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**Locations of graves** of VC, Light Brigade and other "important" military figures required by researcher. Also wishes to buy miniature VCs. Details to Box 244, Soldier Magazine, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU. 02-06



# ARMY SPORTS LOTTERY RESULTS

JANUARY 8, 1994

First prize (16 goals, £2,000): Pte S A Hazzard, 35 Engr Regt, BFPO 31.

Fifteen-way tie for second prize (15 goals, £166.67 each): LCpl D Barlow, 1 Cheshire, BFPO 38; Cpl S J Baston, ATR Basingstoke; LCpl A J Clark, 3 (UK) Div HQ & Sig Regt, Bulford; Bdr K G Gale, 39 Regt RA, BFPO 16; Cpl J P Griffiths, 1 DERR, Catterick; Cpl G M Hartshorn, QDG, BFPO 16; Sgt D G Hendrie, 2 Bn REME, BFPO 38; Lt Col R R Holmes, ACISA, Blandford; Cfn S W Irvine, Household Cavalry Regt, Windsor; Maj C P G Martin, HQ Prince of Wales's Div, Lichfield; Sgt M McGrath, 26 Engr Regt, BFPO 24; Pte D Parkes, 21 Sig Regt (AS), Colerne; Maj K Stafford, HQ MND (C), AFCENT, BFPO 28; Capt M J S Urch, COD Bicester; SSgt G P Wilson, APDO, BFPO 801.

JANUARY 15, 1994

Four-way tie for first prize (17 goals, £975 each): WO1 R B Bayston, Depot REME, Arborfield; Sgt S J Goodall, COD Bicester; Capt B McKay, 1 KOSB, Preston; Sgt E J Raine, 19 Mech Bde HQ & Sig Sqn, Catterick.

Seven-way tie for fifth prize (16 goals, £85.71 each): SSgt P E Ainsworth, Cdo Log Regt RM, Plymouth; WO1 M K Batty, 39 Engr Regt, Cambridge; Sgt B W L Causi, 72 Engr Regt (V), Gateshead; LCpl K Cooper, 1 Gordons, BFPO 45; Sgt I B Duncan, New Territories Group Practice, BFPO 1; SSgt G Lewis, 660 Sqn AAC, BFPO 1; Maj S R Lyon, RPO Leicester.

NB: Sgt Causi becomes the first Non-Regular Permanent Staff (NRPS) punter to win a prize. NRPS became eligible on January 1, 1994.

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## Howards claim Nordic honours

ELEVEN teams – the most for several seasons – and a higher level of instruction resulted in the best Infantry Nordic skiing championships for many years.

Staged at Nordseter, Norway, not far from Lillehammer, the Olympic venue, and sponsored by Stena Line, the championships attracted more than 100 skiers.

Standards of both instruction and racing were also raised by the participation of infantry members of the British Junior biathlon team, whose manager, Lt Martin Kelleway (2 R Anglian) was both course-setter and in charge of the training camp.

The 4×10km relay was raced in temperatures down to minus 12C, but 1 Kings Own Border (2nd Lt Wood, SSgt Higgins, Pte Hayton, Pte Tancrell) warmed up sufficiently to win the novice event ahead of 2 R Anglian with 1 Glosters third.

Open winners were 2 RGJ (Cpl Brooks, Rfn Caton, Rfn Hedges, Rfn Murphy), followed by 1 Green Howards and 1 QO Hldrs.

Two days later 2 R Anglian (Lt Woodisse, Cpl Gadsden, Pte Robb, Pte Mayall) won the inaugural Royal Anglian Cup for the novice 15km, and 2 RGJ's Pte Murphy took the individual gold medal for the fastest time, comfortably ahead of Sgt Johnston (1 Green Howards).

The Green Howards (Lt Harrison, Pte Allen, Pte Brass, Pte Cooper) won the open

15km event, with Cooper fastest individual, closely followed by Kelleway (2 R Anglian).

Temperatures of minus 22C, low enough to damage lung tissue in racing conditions, forced the cancellation of the 4×7.5km biathlon relay, due to have been staged in the Lillehammer Olympic biathlon centre.

But the teams put in several days of training at this superb

facility and raised their credibility with local girls who mistook them for the British Olympic squad.

The final event, the prestigious patrol race, was skied in deep powder snow. Novice honours were taken by 2 R Anglian, followed by 1 Kings Own Border and 2 PWRR, and the Green Howards took the open title with 2 RGJ second.

There was a gutsy performance from 1 Gordons who finished ahead of LCpl Steve Page, another newcomer.

Capt Liz Hyde and Lt Annabel Basker dominated the women's races, the former claiming the combination title.

No unit dominated the team races, 7 Sig Regt winning the giant slalom, 3 (UK) Div Sig Regt the team slalom. But 14

Sig Regt (EW), runners-up in both, claimed the combination prize and the champion unit title.

Sig Will O'Leary and Sig Adam Baker, both of 215 Sig Sqn, shared the novice honours, winning a race apiece and finishing runner up in the other.

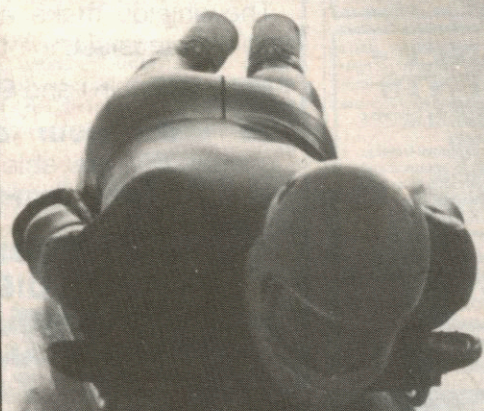
finished third, just two minutes behind the winners.

Overall results gave 2 R Anglian the Queen's Own Highlanders Cup (novice combination), followed by 1 Kings Own Border and 2 PWRR, while the Howards, appropriately, took the Green Howards Cup (open combination) ahead of 2 RGJ and 1 Gordons.

Nine teams contested the Infantry Alpine championships at Tignes, France, after a three-week training camp in preparation for the 1 (UK) Armd Div and UKLF meeting.

Capt Tim Lai (R Irish) won the individual Alpine combination, followed by Cpl John McClelland and Capt Chris Suss-Francksen (1 QLR).

The team combination was won by 1 Coldm Gds, with 1 QLR second and 1 Gren Gds third. Other combination positions were: 4, 1 Gordons; 5, 1 D and D; 6, 1 QO Hldrs; 7, 3 Para; 8, 1 DERR; 9, 1 LI.



Cpl Mark Wood (inset) and pictured in action at the British championships at Altenberg

## Mark is best of British

CPL Mark Wood (1 ADSR) won the Peugeot-Dujardin British skeleton bobsleigh championships at Altenberg in Germany, finishing a second ahead of Cpl Tim Hathaway (REME).

Several other British Army riders did well, including Cpl Rob Watson who finished fourth. Cpl Paul George (1 ADSR) was eighth, Cfn Steve Roy (REME) ninth, SSgt Dave Swinscoe (DLSA) 12th and Lt Ben Hughes (35 Engr Regt) 15th.

Altenberg, on the border south of Dresden, was a former East German centre of excellence, and the 1,500m-long, artificially frozen bob track regularly produces speeds up to 155kmph.

The oldest form of competitive tobogganing, skeleton involves its pilots diving headlong on to a narrow steel and fibre glass sled, descending with their chins almost scraping the ice.

Although the Austrians, Swiss and Germans still dominate the sport at world level, British pilots have started to force their way into the top ten in the past few seasons.

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Military policeman Cpl Dave Hall prepares to repulse a challenge during the Army's rugby match against the Civil Service at the Military Stadium, Aldershot. Behind him is Lt Adam Griffiths REME. The Civil Service won by 13 points to 11.

The Army failed to turn territorial advantage into points and were beaten by a goal and two penalties to two penalties by Cpl Gareth Thomas RWF and a last-minute try by winger Capt John

## Uncivil standoff

Fenn RLC. The Civil Service had beaten the Royal Air Force, Inter-Service champions, the previous week.

The following day 7 (Para) RHA won the Army (UK) Major Units Cup for the fifth time in succession, beating 2 Signal Regiment. Report and photograph in next issue.

## Cyclist's ASPT fitness regime pays off

Irish Guardsman LCpl Peter Rice powers his way through clinging mud at Oxford to win his tenth cyclo-cross race of the season.

In doing so he has beaten some of the country's best amateur and professional riders.

At Oxford he led from the start, had a lead of 30 seconds by the end of the first lap, and was four minutes clear by the finish. His winning time of 1hr 10min made light work of a very muddy course and three steep run-ups.

Rice has also competed regularly for Great Britain in Belgium and Holland.

Cyclo-cross is one of the most physically demanding sports, and to help him reach and maintain the exceptionally high standard of fitness he requires, Rice is currently serving at the Army School of Physical Training at Aldershot.



## Another flying Underwood

Army U-21 22,  
RAF U-21 3

THE ROYAL Air Force drew first blood against the Army at Aldershot in the first of this season's Inter-Services Under-21 rugby matches, but their hosts had the last laugh.

A crowd of about 200 saw RAF scrumhalf Wakfer open the scoring with a long-range penalty, but it was the Army who took control.

After several kickable penalties had been squandered, the soldiers took the lead from an excellent move by the three-quarters culminating in a strong run for the line by Pte Underwood RLC (the RAF obviously has no monopoly on flying wingers of that name!).

Another break by Underwood let in skipper Tpr Owen (LG) to score in the corner.

With the wind behind them in the second half the Army took complete control, scoring further tries through No 8 Sig Denham from a five-metre scrum (Pte Wright RLC added the conversion) and Owen.

## FA held at Spennymoor

Football Association 2,  
Combined Services 2

COMBINED Services and the Football Association shared four goals in an entertaining draw at Spennymoor United AFC, writes Derrick Bly.

On a pitch made soft by rain, the FA settled first and scored in the 21st minute. Three minutes later they were 2-0 ahead.

SAC Scot Taylor (RAF) reduced the deficit with a fine left foot shot soon after the break, and the equaliser arrived in the 68th when skipper SSgt Alan Higgins blasted a free kick over the defensive wall and into the net.

Earlier Sgt Steve Bates and Cpl Dave Maynard had shots blocked.

Combined Services are away to Belgium Services on February 22 in their Kentish Cup opener, and entertain Holland at Aldershot on March 1.

## Paul signals his arrival

SIG PAUL Mason won the individual giant slalom and slalom to clinch the Royal Signals combination and corps championships on windswept Kitzsteinhorn Glacier in Austria.

It was Mason's first appearance at the corps championships, and in both races he



# Eleven soldiers in Olympic team

ELEVEN soldiers and a former Serviceman will compete for Britain in the Winter Olympics at Lillehammer in Norway later this month.

Five are in the bobsleigh team and six are skiers.

British No 1 Cpl Mark Tout (RTR) confirmed his selection when he and former Royal Anglian Regiment NCO Lenny Paul won the British

two-man bobsleigh title at La Plagne.

Second place went to Cpl Sean Olsson of The Parachute Regiment, who will drive the GB2 bob, while fellow para LCpl Eric Sekwalor crewed Rob Pope's third-placed bob, a result that earned them the GB3 ride.

All three will also be involved in the four-man com-

petition at Lillehammer. Tout drives GB1, a crew which includes Sgt George Farrell (16 Sig Regt), Olsson's GB2 bob has LCpl Dean Ward (Para) on board, and Eric Sekwalor is in Pope's GB3 crew.

All four British biathlon skiers are soldiers. Led by Sgt Michael Dixon (35 Engr Regt), competing in his fourth Olympics, are Cpl Ian Woods

(26 Engr Regt), LBdr Kenneth Rudd (12 Regt RA) and LCpl Mark Gee (2 RTR).

Bdr Dave Belam (3 RHA) will ski in the cross-country and Capt Hugh Hutchison (3 RSME) in the freestyle.

● Tout drove GB1 to Britain's first ever European Championship silver medal at La Plagne. Olsson, in GB2, was ninth

## Bessey boys blast Navy

WITH just one winner on the night, the Royal Navy suffered a heavy defeat by the Army in the opening round of this year's Inter-Services team boxing championships at the Army Boxing Centre, Aldershot, writes John Elliott.

But the 9-3 scoreline (the Navy's other two points were from walk-overs), was deceptive because there was never that much between the teams.

When veteran Cpl Joe Rajcoomer, now a member of the coaching staff, lost to hit-and-run counter-puncher Mne Charlie Baird - winner of Lonsdale's £100 voucher for the night's best boxer - in the first contested championship bout, the matelots actually took a 3-2 overall lead.

Surprisingly, that was the one and only Navy success.

ABA finalist LCpl Vinny Powell was always in charge against LPT Dale Randle to level the match score, while Pte Phil Helliker, one of three new faces in the Army team, was relieved to get a majority verdict in a desperately close battle with Mne Brian Horner.

Army team captain LCpl Chris Bessey, the ABA champion, was fully extended by old adversary Mne Trevor French but appeared to have won more comfortably than the split decision suggested.

Debut-making LCpl Sven Hamer's dynamic punching,



Royal Marine Cpl Steve Fulthorpe (left) buckles as Cpl Steve Burford takes charge

much appreciated by a good crowd, forced a retirement from Marine loggy LCpl Nick Harvey; Pte Paul Treslove, a Para very much on home territory, was too strong for Mne Paul Murphy; and Pte Mark Quirey, another newcomer, came close to stopping Rct Dean Martin in the third round of a ferocious contest.

The night's second retirement came when Cpl Steve Burford, another ABA finalist, took Cpl Steve Fulthorpe apart after absorbing the big Marine's first round onslaught.

New coach Sgt Norman Phillips was remarkably contained about a performance which puts his squad well on course for an 11th successive championship.

"There are so many good lads in the team that I wasn't nervous about the result. I felt they had a good team so it was a solid performance from us," he said.

**Light-flyweight** - AB Lee Hower (HMS Herald), w-o; **fly** - Fus D Duncan (1 RRF), w-o; **bantam** - Pte Darren Dugan (2 PWRR), w-o; **feather** - Cpl J Rajcoomar (1 DERR) lost to Mne C

Baird (45 Cdo RM), pts, u; **light** - LCpl V Powell (3 RSME) bt LPT D Randle (HMS Osprey), pts, u; **light-welter** - Pte P Helliker (1 LI) bt Mne B Horner (Comacchio Gp RM), pts, m; **welter** - LCpl C Bessey (27 Regt RLC) bt Mne T French (CTCRM), pts, m.

**Light-middle** - Pte S Hamer (2 PWRR) bt LCpl N Harvey (Cdo Log Regt RM), ret'd 3; **middle** - Pte P Treslove (1 Para) bt Mne P Murphy (45 Cdo RM), rsc 2; **light-heavy** - Pte M Quirey (2 PWRR) bt Rct D Edwards (CTCRM), pts, u; **heavy** - Cpl S Burford (REME att QRIH) bt Cpl S Fulthorpe (RM Poole), ret'd 3; **super-heavy** - Mne K McCormack (45 Cdo RM), w-o.

**Special light-middle** - Gdsm K Short (1 WG) bt LPT D Machin (HMS Sultan) pts, u; **special heavy** - Dvr V Bessey (27 Regt RLC) lost to Mne L Kerry (45 Cdo RM), pts, u.

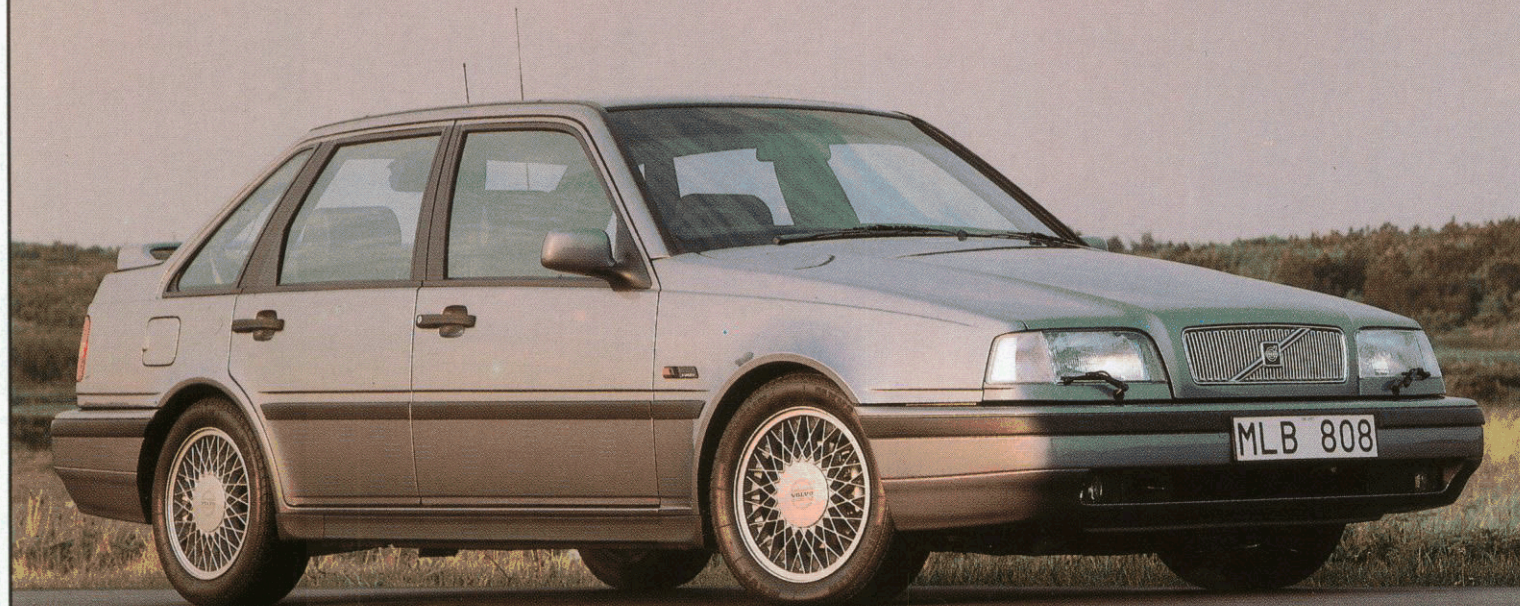
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**VOLVO EXPORT**





LCpl Carl Stone of the 9th/12th Royal Lancers gives "top cover" during a patrol in Belfast. A feature on the Lancers' tour of duty as Girdwood roulement battalion appears on Pages 24–27.



Sappers of 9 Parachute Squadron RE waded through flood waters in the West Sussex city of Chichester during Operation Aquaplane. They and other Army engineers built Bailey bridges across flooded roads and filled thousands of sandbags in the fight to hold back the deluge. Full story in Pages 14–15.