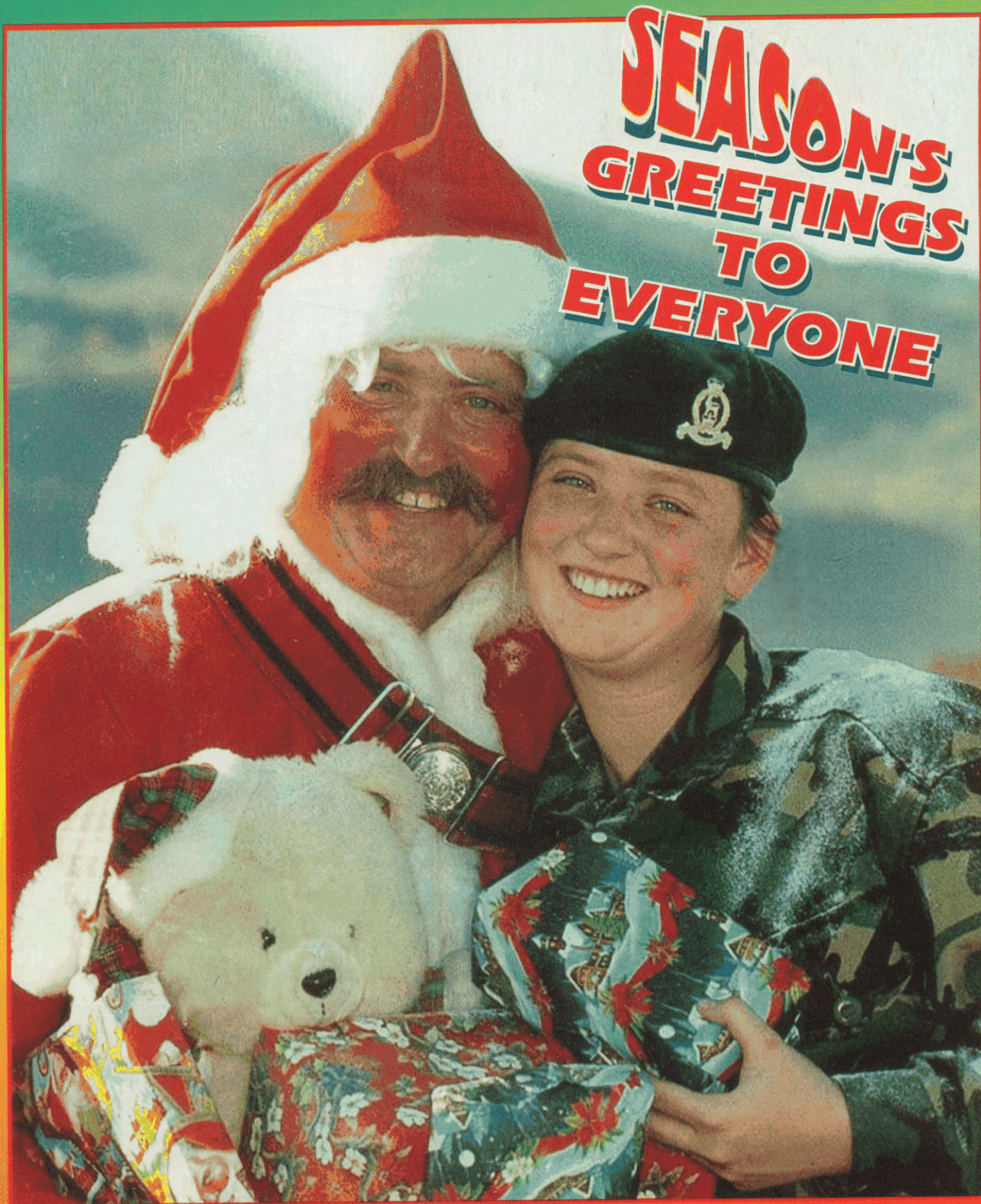


# SOLDIER

FORTNIGHTLY MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY

DECEMBER 9 1996

60p



And a 聖誕快樂 from the Hong Kong Garrison



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( SOLDIER 11/96 )

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Dec 9, 1996 Vol 52/25

## CONTENTS

- 11 Felix thrives**  
321 EOD's 25 years
- 12 People**
- 14 Lifestyle**  
A sympathetic voice for veterans?
- 16 ARRC sappers**  
Royal Engineers help to reconstruct Bosnia
- 18 Humour**  
Chip's selection box
- 19 Tiger patrol**  
6/7 PWRR exercise in Northumberland
- 20 Write stuff**  
In the front line with Media Ops Group
- 22 Hong Kong**



Picture: Terry Champion

Cpl Cheung Hing Cheung, Hong Kong Log Sp Regt, leads the unit's lion dance musicians. Garrison special feature – see Pages 22-27

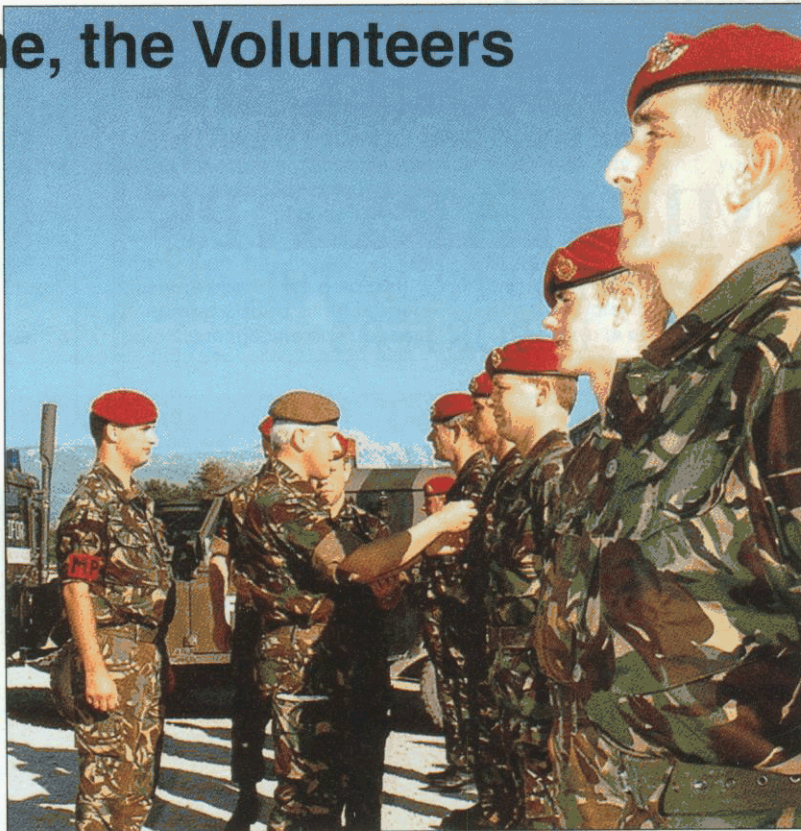
- 28 Christmas tale**
- 30 Caring Army**  
Big-hearted Belize
- 32 Diary**
- 35 Letters**  
Soldier's honours plea
- 36 Postcard: No 4**  
King's Royal Hussars
- 37 Reviews**  
Christmas books
- 49 Sport**  
Winter sports festival

## Well done, the Volunteers

Maj Gen John Kiszely, commander of British Forces in Bosnia, presents IFOR medals to Territorial Army and reserve members of 3 Company, Royal Military Police attached to the 1st (UK) Armoured Division in former Yugoslavia.

All 52 part-time soldiers who received the medal had served full six-month tours with the Peace Implementation Force (IFOR), carrying out the full range of RMP duties. Their numbers reflect the scale of TA and reserve manpower used on Operation Resolute.

Several of the military policemen have signed on for a further six-month tour of duty.



Picture: Capt Peter Clarke

# Celebrations all round . . .

**RETURN** of the Allied Command Europe Rapid Reaction Corps (ARRC) headquarters from Bosnia to Germany late last month left the 1,800 home-coming troops looking forward to a particularly happy Christmas with their families and friends.

But many others on duty around the world, especially in operational theatres, are also determined to mark Christmas Day traditionally.

For example, in common with other units in Bosnia, The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards, as in the Gulf in 1990, will make sure they celebrate Christmas and Hogmanay in time-honoured fashion.

And even before Headquarters 20 Armoured Brigade moved from Sipovo to replace 1 (UK) Division at Banja Luka, staff were rehearsing for a hilarious Christmas panto.

As the festive season got under way the Band of the

Corps of Royal Engineers spread cheer in a series of concerts for soldiers and civilians. Celebrity chef Brian Turner visited military cookhouses throughout Bosnia and a

Christmas cake competition gave Army chefs an additional incentive to make their mark.

In Hong Kong, the 1st Battalion, The Staffordshire Regiment, spending its third successive Christmas away from home, is determined to celebrate the last festive season in the Territory in style (see feature, Pages 22-27).

In Canada, the permanent staff of the British Army Training Unit, Suffield, will follow their own custom at this time of the year – and take to the ski slopes.

For the Defence Postal and Courier Agency, based at Mill Hill, London, the rush started in early November.

With normal business doubling, this year the 75 military and 130 civilian staff have had tri-Service support, including members of the Territorial Army, to cope with the vast number of parcels and cards.

● Service personnel provide a presence from Ascension Island to Turkey. See Page 9.



## Front cover

**Father Christmas:** Pte Colette Gallagher was surprised with some early presents in Bosnia when her dad, Capt Tom Gallagher, delivered them in person. Colette, an AGC clerk with 1 RGJ at Gornji Vakuf, was leaving Bosnia as her father began a tour as quartermaster with 39 Engr Regt. (And you've guessed it: the Chinese greeting at the foot of the page translates into *Sing Tang Fai Lok* – Merry Christmas.)

Picture: Capt Jim Gallagher





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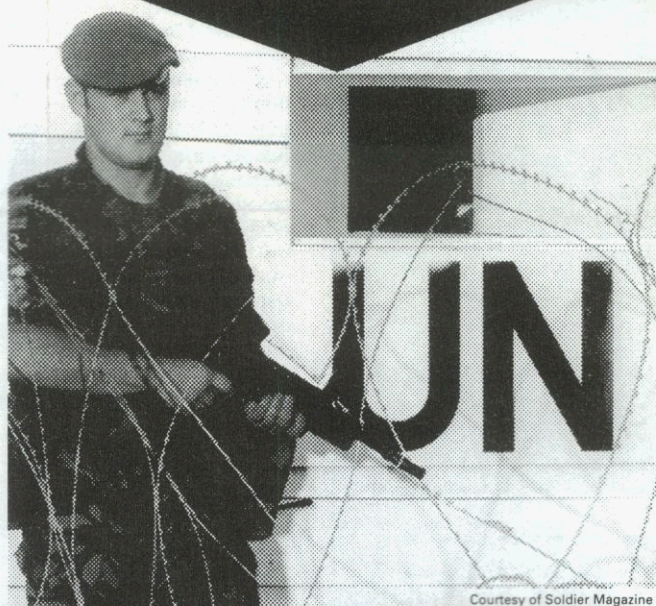
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## Save money . . . take out a Christmas subscription

NEW YEAR means good news for *Soldier* readers who buy their magazine on subscription.

For although higher costs mean the cover price will increase to 80p – the first rise for nearly three years – sub-

scription rates will stay the same until further notice.

This edition of the magazine is the last of 1996, although the next, dated January 6, 1997, will be printed before Christmas.

Readers gave *Soldier* a

value-for-money “thumbs up” in the survey conducted earlier this year (by 82 per cent of respondents, to be exact) and since then the magazine has become even more colourful.

Almost a third of all readers take the magazine on subscrip-

tion, so why don't you? It couldn't be simpler – and you'll save money.

And if you're looking for a Christmas gift idea for someone else, why not a subscription to *Soldier*?

The form is on Page 41.

# Stone goes home

## Army on guard as Scottish national symbol returns



A Land Rover carrying the Stone of Destiny, also known as the Stone of Scone, arrives in Scotland with an escort of Coldstream Guards and King's Own Scottish Borderers

THE STONE of Destiny, on which Scots, English and British monarchs have been crowned since the Dark Ages, was ceremonially returned to Scotland at Coldstream 700 years after it was looted from Scone, Perthshire by Edward I.

A 40-strong guard of honour from the 1st Battalion, The King's Own Scottish Borderers lined the bridge from England into Scotland at Coldstream.

An escort of seven members from 7 Company, Coldstream Guards was joined by two soldiers from the 1st Battalion, The Royal Scots and five from 1 KOSB while Capt Gavin Stoddart, Director of Army Bagpipe Music, played *The Return of the Stone*, which he had composed for the occasion.

The strains were then picked up by the Pipe Band of the 1st Battalion, The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders and the Lowland Band of The Scottish Division.

In 1296 the Stone forded the Tweed at Coldstream in a cart; it returned in a Land Rover to

be welcomed by Scottish Secretary Michael Forsyth, Shadow Scottish Secretary George Robertson and Maj Gen Sir John Swinton, Lord Lieutenant of Berwick.

The Stone was to be installed beside the Honours of Scotland (the Scottish crown jewels) in Edinburgh Castle on St Andrew's Day, November 30, in the largest ceremony seen in Edinburgh for years.

More than 1,000 Servicemen and women were due to participate, with 300 Regular and TA soldiers lining the route.

Soldiers from 1 KOSB, 1 A and SH, the Lowland Volunteers, 3rd (V) Bn, The Black Watch and 3rd (V) Bn, The Highlanders were to be on post as three mounted escorts from the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards accompanied a bearer

party of ten KOSB soldiers who carried the Stone into St Giles' Cathedral.

The Duke of York and the Governor of Edinburgh Castle Maj Gen Jonathan Hall, GOC Scotland, was due to inspect a contingent of 105 Regiment,

RA (V) before a 21-gun salute was fired, echoed by HMS *Newcastle* in nearby Leith.

It is expected that the Stone will return to the Coronation Chair in Westminster Abbey for the crowning of future British monarchs.

## Minister sees the light in Kupres

KUPRES-based 1 General Support Regiment, RLC received a visit from Overseas Development Minister Lady Chalker, who was keen to see the results of projects funded by her department and overseen by the British soldiers.

The regiment's recent projects have included the refurbishment of a kindergarten and an old people's home and the restoration of street lighting in the town.

While in Kupres, Lady Chalker presented a fire engine and a school bus to the mayor, Ivan Ivic, and opened a restored secondary school.

The minister also visited a veterinary project in Mrkonjic Grad run by Capt Gavin MacGregor-Skinner.

As the only British Army vet in Bosnia, he has been involved in health programmes for hundreds of cattle, horses and sheep.



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Flanked by RSM Peter Ross, 1 WFR, and RSM Mark Rees, 1 Green Howards, Lt Col Patrick Mercer and Lt Col Lamont Kirkland mark the handover of responsibility with a handshake

## Howards 'charged up' for mission to Sipovo

A HANDSHAKE between commanding officers marked the handover of responsibility around Sipovo, central Bosnia, as the 1st Battalion, The Green Howards took over from the 1st Battalion, The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment.

The Green Howards, led by Lt Col Lamont Kirkland, deployed from Paderborn, Germany to start a six-month tour of duty with the NATO Peace Implementation Force

(IFOR) in Multi-National Division South West.

Battalion headquarters is at Sipovo, with rifle companies located across the sector.

Col Kirkland said his battalion was delighted to have the chance to serve in Bosnia.

"I am surprised the snow hasn't arrived yet, but I have already been struck by the beauty of the country. The regiment is very charged up and we feel we have a mission to accomplish," he said.

Before the war the area was inhabited mainly by Bosnian Serbs who fled from the invading Croat army.

With the arrival of IFOR, the original inhabitants have begun to return. Schools,

roads, bridges and public buildings have been restored with British money and help from the soldiers.

Before returning to Tidworth with 1 WFR, Lt Col Patrick Mercer said: "I feel immensely satisfied. We have completed six months in an operational setting and it has been exciting and fairly challenging."

### Moscow visit

Defence Secretary Michael Portillo held talks with Gen Igor Rodionov, his defence counterpart, on a two-day visit to Moscow during which he made a keynote speech at the General Staff Academy.

### It's a fact . . .

**BRITISH Army personnel stationed in Northern Ireland on April 1, 1996 totalled 15,490, compared with 22,446 in 1976.**  
— Parliamentary reply.

## Operational fatalities in former Yugoslavia

IN the last issue of *Soldier*, it was reported that LCpl Steven Thirlwell, who was killed in former Yugoslavia on November 5 when his APC crashed over a cliff, was the 38th British soldier to die since LCpl Wayne Edwards in 1993.

We have been asked to make clear that the figure we used, though reported in good faith, was mistaken and that LCpl Thirlwell was in fact the 26th operational fatality. MoD figures up to and including Nov 12 show there were 18 operational

fatalities in former Yugoslavia under UNPROFOR (including four helicopter fatalities near Ploce, Croatia) and there have been a further eight deaths under IFOR. Non-operational fatalities are not conventionally included in reported statistics.

## Around the Houses

A summary of Defence topics from Westminster

## Veterans' unit would add extra red tape

A DEPARTMENT of veterans' affairs would add unnecessary extra bureaucracy to present satisfactory procedures, Defence Minister Earl Howe said in the Lords.

Answering questions about Gulf War health matters on November 14 he said such a department would not be able to improve the current situation.

"What matters is that the message that they should come forward for medical assessment should reach those who feel they may be ill as a result of their service in the Gulf. I believe that that message has been well publicised."

Lord Ashley of Stoke had suggested an organisation similar to that in America which could help locate personnel after it was claimed by the Countess of Mar that 10,000 medical records had been "wiped off the MoD computer". (See Lifestyle, Pages 14-15.)

□ Part of the Army vehicle depot at Ludgershall is to be retained after its closure in March 1997 to provide a rail-head facility close to the Salisbury Plain training area for Land Command units.

Armed Forces Minister Nicholas Soames said in a written answer that the railhead would help operational deployments and training and would significantly reduce the need to use heavy equipment transport vehicles on public roads.

□ Although 4,300 landmines have been cleared from the Falkland Islands since the 1982 war, about 26,000 remain, Defence Minister Earl Howe said in the Lords on November 13.

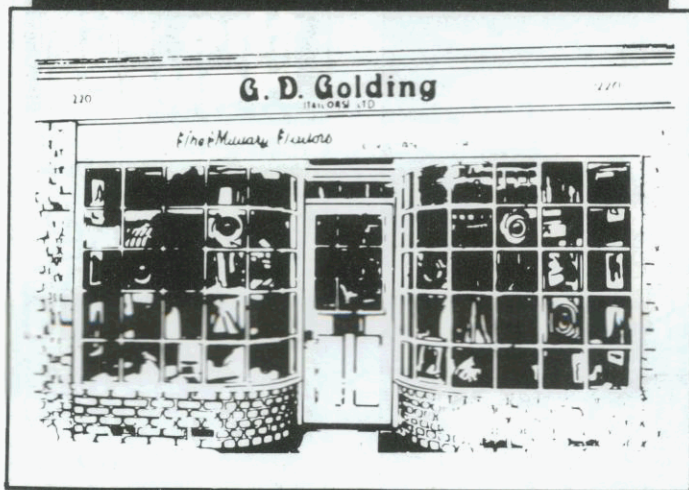
The devices lie in nearly 120 minefields covering 20 square kilometres of ground.

Although the Argentine authorities have been helpful, "the problem has been a distinct lack of records", the minister said.



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Picture: Chris Fletcher

Soldiers of the Zaire reconnaissance party board a VC10 at RAF Brize Norton on November 15. The 43-strong group, made up of members of 5 Airborne Brigade, the Royal Marines and the RAF, travelled to the Zaire-Rwandan border to assess the military assistance needed to protect refugees in the region. Units of Britain's Joint Rapid Deployment Force had had their notice to move reduced to 72 hours but in late November both Zaire and Rwanda indicated that international help was no longer required.

# Self-propelled M3 in tune for service

MINDEN Band of the Queen's Division performed in mid-stream at an international ceremony at Minden, Germany to mark the delivery of the first M3 amphibious bridges to enter service with the British and German armies.

Strains of *Rule Britannia* rang out as the musicians were ferried up and down the River Weser on one of the new rigs which will replace M2 bridges in service since the early 1970s.

The self-propelled M3 has a

crew of three and can be linked to form a floating bridge across a gap of 100 metres. It can also be deployed individually or in groups of up to six rigs to ferry military vehicles and equipment. Two rigs are needed to ferry a 70-tonne main battle tank, instead of five M2s.

M3 has demonstrated a good cross-country capability and can be driven directly into water without preparation.

Faster and more manoeuvrable than its predecessor, the new bridge is being delivered to Hameln-based 28 Engineer Regiment, which has completed weeks of training with the German Army's 130 Heavy Engineer Battalion, the only

other unit to receive the equipment.

In all, 38 M3 bridges have been bought at a cost, including development, of £50 million. The order will be completed by 1999.

Many innovative techniques were employed in the Anglo-German project, notably the seam-welding process used in the all-aluminium construction.

Other countries have showed interest in the M3, which was accepted into service by the Director General Land Systems and Master General of the Ordnance, Lt Gen Sir Robert Hayman-Joyce.

● See picture on back cover

# Army disables huge NI bomb

BRITISH Army bomb disposal experts defused a massive terrorist bomb left outside the Royal Ulster Constabulary's Londonderry divisional headquarters.

The 400lb device was hidden in a car and a team from 321 EOD Squadron RLC used a controlled explosion to disable it.

Thirteen sacks of fertiliser-based explosive were recovered from the scene.

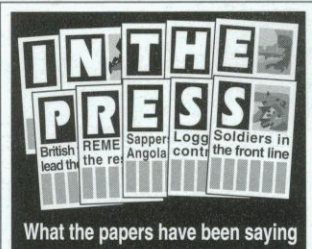
Supt Derek Browne of the Royal Ulster Constabulary said: "The soldiers certainly saved much life

and property by their very swift actions."

321 EOD feature - Page 11

● Education and Employment Minister James Paice met apprentice chefs during a visit to the Army School of Catering at Aldershot.

The school was the first to launch the Modern Apprenticeship Scheme earlier this year. More than 90 trainee chefs have so far begun training courses that will lead to NVQ Level 2 and, in due course, Level 3 qualifications.



# Pay bonus idea is one of several on table

SOLDIERS might be offered bigger bonuses as an incentive to stay in the Forces. The idea is one of several being considered by the Army Board to resolve the drastic manpower shortage in many infantry and armoured regiments.

Defence Secretary Michael Portillo said in an interview that he has given his full backing to any Army Board initiative to boost numbers and has supported the cash bonuses idea. - Times

□ Senior board members of Annington Homes, a consortium led by a Japanese bank which won the competition to buy 57,000 married quarters for £1.7 billion, were questioned as part of an investigation into the sale. - Daily Telegraph

□ Many British Servicemen have been served poor or unhygienically prepared food, says a report from the National Audit Office. - Daily Mail

□ Long-awaited reforms of the structure of NATO are likely to be delayed until next year after deadlock between France and the United States over the future of its southern command. - Daily Telegraph

□ China has told British officials it intends to march 6,000 troops into Hong Kong as soon as it resumes control of the territory at midnight on June 30, 1997. - Financial Times.

## It's a fact . . .

British Service personnel are providing a UK military presence either on operations or at permanent bases in the following countries:

Ascension Island, Belize, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Brunei, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Diego Garcia, Falkland Islands, Georgia, Germany, Gibraltar, Hong Kong, Italy, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, South Georgia, Turkey, and the UK.

This list does not include countries where loan service personnel and training teams are based, where short-term training exercises are being conducted and where there are minor commitments involving individual Servicemen and women. - Parliamentary reply.

● Ten sappers from 61 Field Support Squadron RE raised more than £10,000 for the Army Benevolent Fund and a hospital by running more than 2,000km from Tomislavgrad in Bosnia, through Croatia, Slovenia, Italy, Austria, Germany and France to their home base in Maidstone, Kent. Full report in the next issue.

● Brig Robin Brims has handed over command of 24 Airmobile Brigade and Colchester Garrison to Brig Mark Elcomb, late LI.





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# Felix thrives on years of mayhem



For the past 25 years the men and women of 321 EOD Squadron RLC have gone about their dangerous and lonely work of foiling the terrorist bombers in Northern Ireland. In doing so they have saved countless lives and property of inestimable value. Ken Johnston reflects on their anniversary.

FELIX needs nine lives in Northern Ireland. Over the past 25 years he has made safe nearly 5,500 bombs and recovered more than 200 tons of unstable explosives.

"Felix" is the nickname for the bomb disposal heroes of 321 Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Squadron, Royal Logistic Corps.

When it was formed in November 1971, the then Royal Army Ordnance Corps squadron felt its radio call sign – "Rickshaw" – was not appropriate, so it adopted the name of a Hollywood feline cartoon character with an amazing ability to survive mayhem.

Radio operators in Northern Ireland were soon calling for "Felix" when there was a suspected bomb to be examined.

By 1974 Felix had taken on a fresh personality at the hands of SSgt Bryan Shepherd, now a retired major, while he was doodling during the Ulster Workers' Council strike.

A slightly scruffy and surprised Felix, complete with helmet, emerged from SSgt Shepherd's scrap of paper and seemed to capture the good humour, morale and professional modesty of the brave soldiers who deal with terrorist devices.

## High price of courage

Never more than about 100 strong, the squadron's Ammunition Technical Officers (ATOs) have saved countless lives and prevented damage to property worth untold millions of pounds, but at a cost of 20 killed and 24 seriously injured.

Having received nearly 300 awards for gallantry including two George Crosses, 29 George Medals and 67 Queen's Gallantry Medals, the squadron is the most decorated unit in the British Army for actions undertaken in peacetime.

During the Troubles, the Army's bomb disposal experts dealt with 47,000 emergency calls – an average of about 40 a week – of which almost 5,000 turned out to be genuine terrorist devices.

All finds involving weapons, ammunition, explosives and suspicious objects are "cleared" by ATOs before they can be removed for forensic examination.

The squadron, the only agency in the Province permitted to investigate and make safe suspect improvised explosive devices, is ruthlessly targeted by terrorists.

ATOs have to be constantly alert to the threat of booby traps. Sometimes an explo-



Remote control: A 321 Sqn team sends Wheelbarrow to investigate

sion or incident is used to lure soldiers into an area where other devices have been planted. Terrorists have had no compunction about siting them near a hospital.

Today's EOD teams comprise four highly-trained specialists whose skills are completely integrated.

No 1 operator, the team leader, has to make all the decisions, and face the lonely walk forward into the "Valley of Death", while his No 2 operator guides the unit's sophisticated robot Mark 8B Wheelbarrow, equipped with TV cameras, weapons and

armoured EOD suits and the versatile and remotely-controlled Wheelbarrow give much more protection.

Bonds of friendship within 321 EOD and the support of families give strength to those injured in the line of duty.

Personal protection and other equipment may have changed dramatically over the past quarter of a century, but Felix's primary purpose of safeguarding lives and property remains unaltered... as does the courage of the men and women who regularly put their lives on the line.



An ATO prepares to investigate a suspicious device in a Belfast residential area in 1978



# Pipers at the Park

The pipers and drummers of **The Royal Irish Regiment** are pictured taking part in the Longs Peak Highland Festival held at Estes Park, Colorado – known as the Gateway to the Rockies.

Now firmly back to reality after their six-day tour, the bugles, pipes and drums are due to complete their pre-Bosnia training in the New Year, prior to their deployment in February.



Picture: Chris Fletcher

## Rich relations!

Sharing some of the goodies served up in the kitchen of the 6/7 Battalion Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment Officers' Mess were Cpl **Leslie Rich** and his wife **Teresa**, a lance corporal. Both chefs, the couple, who met at a TA training weekend on Salisbury Plain and were engaged and married within ten months, were taking part in the battalion's Exercise Border Tiger at Otterburn.



Cpl Martin Andrews

## IT'S AN HONOUR



Lt Col Marjorie Bandy

Recognition in their various fields has been given to Lt Col **Marjorie Bandy**, **Anne Fagan** and **Cpl Martin Andrews**. A former Regular, during which time she was the matron of the British Military Hospital on the Falkland Islands, Lt Col Bandy – now matron of 243 (The Wessex) Field Hospital (V) – has been afforded the rare honour of being appointed as

## Mark of distinction

Proudly displaying the Hughes Trophy awarded to him as winner of the Commanding Officer's Trumpet competition held by the Band of the Royal Lancers at Bovington is LCpl **Mark Holt**.

Garrison Commander Col **William Hurrell** adjudicated on behalf of the QRL and presented the trophy, donated by **Colin Hughes**, who attended the ceremony.



## PEOPLE



Anne Fagan

one of only two Queen's Honorary Nursing Sisters in the British Army. Thirty-three years of dedication to the Ministry of Defence and the Territorial Army – where she reached the rank of sergeant – met with reward when Anne Fagan received the Imperial Service Medal from **Alan Waterworth**, the Lord Lieutenant of Merseyside, in a ceremony at 33

Signal Regiment (V) in Huyton. Also with her is Brig **David Wills**, commander 11 Signal Brigade. In Hong Kong, Royal Military Policeman Cpl **Martin Andrews** is seen (above, left) receiving the Queen's Commendation for Bravery from Maj Gen **Bryan Dutton**, Commander British Forces, for single-handedly capturing three armed criminals.



## Toby's steps to success

When **Toby Edwards** wanted to join the infantry, he sailed through the medical and other tests but, owing to a "foolishly heavy" intake of lager the night before his ten-minute, one-and-a-half-mile run, he failed that part of his physical test.

Given another chance because he was only 20 seconds outside the time limit, Toby turned to his local fitness club at the Marriott Tudor Park hotel to set up a personal fitness programme.

Timed sessions on the treadmill, supervised by fitness adviser **Nicola Penfold**, paid off. When Toby returned to Pirbright – this time having stayed off the alcohol – he completed the run with more than a minute to spare, and is due to join the Army after Christmas . . .



## Last of the line

Maj **Peter Eydes**, of 1st Battalion, The King's Own Scottish Borderers, creates a small piece of history as, with a handshake from Lt Col **Andrew Jackson**, the battalion's commanding officer, he bids farewell to the Army.

Peter, whose last post was as OC Edinburgh Army Careers Information Office, joined the Cameronians in 1961 before their disbandment, and is the last of the original regiment to retire from the Army.

His son, **David**, has just started officer training at RMA Sandhurst and will join the KOSBs when he graduates.

## Bosnian birdman



Commanding the reconnaissance platoon of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets in Bosnia gave experienced paraglider Capt **Tim Chapman** an ideal opportunity to find an appropriate mountain as a launch site.

Opting for a magnificent ridge overlooking Prozor, south of Gornji Vakuf, he obtained clearance and took to the air – his longest flight lasting 90 minutes.

Having conquered the Dinaric Alps, he hopes to take a 1 RGJ expedition to tackle the Austrian Alps next year.



# Helping the ex-Services community to help itself

SIX years ago, I suggested to a senior member of an ex-Service charity that a department in MoD dealing with ex-Service people's needs would be a good idea. I received a gentle smile and a put-down.

It was, I was told, a silly idea. Now, it seems, The Royal British Legion has come up with the same thought, and, with 300 MPs from all parties having signed a Commons motion calling for a veterans' department, the notion does not sound so far-fetched.

In a letter to a national newspaper, a correspondent pointed out that, until 1954, there WAS a Minister for the Services. He named Heathcot Amory, the Minister of

Pensions. Herein lies the problem.

When people first hear calls for a separate department for veterans they think of pensions, benefits and financial help. If this were all it comprised, the concept would be superfluous. Departments which already deal with such matters are well-versed in the needs of the ex-Service community.

What I saw originally, and still see, is a need for one point of contact within a familiar Ministry – the MoD – where ex-Service people



Cari's column

can get information, for example, on charities such as the RBL and SSAFA, as well as on which Government departments deal with specific areas of concern.

Those who oppose the idea suggest that another department would create more bureaucracy. In my interpretation of the concept it would provide a way through the existing maze.

I propose a department within the MoD which would neither be interacting with other departments nor trying to solve problems, find

jobs or campaign for changes in the law. Many organisations have expertise in these areas.

The unit would be staffed by a small team of ex-Service people who would construct a database of information and build up personal contacts within other departments. It would offer a friendly first point of contact for ex-Service folk looking for sources of help.

This has the advantage of giving assistance in the same context as Service life. Since the proposed unit would not be doing the actual case work, merely passing on information about sources of help, I can't see that there would be more bureaucracy.

Originally I thought we ought to

have a Minister for Ex-Service Affairs but concluded that this would be unduly cumbersome. A department in MoD, however – apart from being good public relations – is a simpler proposal and more easily achieved.

Such a department, easily identified as dealing exclusively with ex-Service people, would be a public demonstration by MoD of the debt we owe those who serve their country.

It might also encourage recruits to believe their efforts count for something. Letting this chance to do something positive go by would be missing a trick.

The RBL has influence, but it cannot force this issue on its own.

It has created a momentum in ex-Service welfare matters. For proof, look at the success of its campaign to restore the two-minute silence on Armistice Day.

If it means dropping the idea of a Minister in exchange for the setting up of a straightforward unit or department, I would like those involved to think about it. I wish the RBL every success in its campaign. Considering what it has achieved in the past 75 years, there can be little doubt that if anyone can pull it off, the Legion can.

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

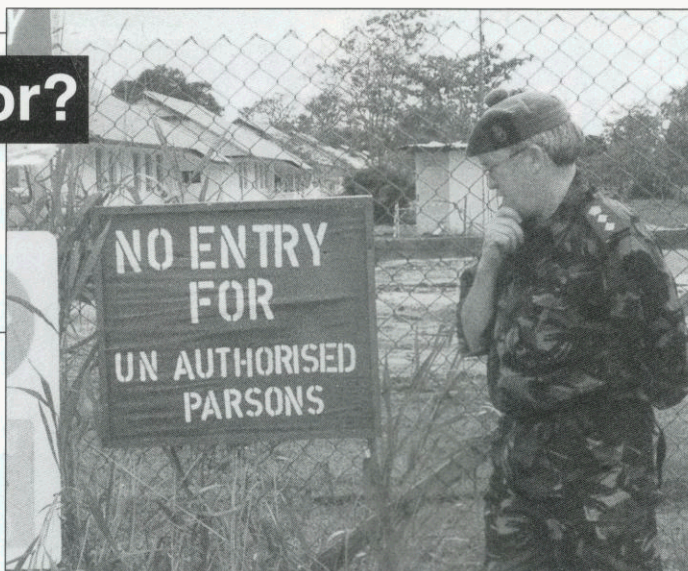


Contented couple: two Housing 21 tenants relax in their flat

Despite encountering this rather puzzling sign, The Rev John Shields, Assistant Chaplain General, was not deterred from performing a Remembrance Day Service at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month for students attending the long range patrol course 96/2 run by Training Team Brunei...

He and Maj Neal Peckham, the team's OC, had been flown into the Labi area of the Brunei jungle by 7 Flt AAC to conduct the service, which was attended by patrols from 2RGR, 3RGR, 1 Para, 1 PWRR and Bde Patrol Troop RM.

## Clerical error?



## Gulf War and stress factor

STUDIES have so far failed to show any link between Gulf War service and subsequent birth defects or pregnancy problems, a leading British physician says in a report.

But he adds that though there is no clear-cut indication of any single disease among veterans, stress is a recurring factor and there is no doubt more research is needed into reported symptoms.

Dr Norman Jones's report follows a fact-finding visit to the USA funded by the Royal British Legion (RBL), the Ex-Services Mental Welfare Society (Combat Stress) and the Army Benevolent Fund.

He says members of two American Gulf War medical groups he met felt a high priority should be given to future research on the occurrence of stress in war situations and its long-term effects, as

well as its interactions with other factors.

However, the findings of another doctor who gave the stress factor lower priority may well, said Dr Jones, "stimulate further interest in the possibility of neurological dysfunction in some Gulf War veterans".

Former QA captain Beverley Green, who served in the Gulf with 22 Field Hospital and is now with the RBL, also took part in the American tour.

Terry English, RBL's head of welfare, urged Gulf veterans who were seeking early compensation for health problems and disabilities to apply for a war pension. He said that of 569 who had applied, 388 had so far been successful.

● The National Gulf Veterans' and Families' Association now has 1,800 people on its books, reported families representative Carole Hill.

## Top of the chops!

AFTER months of hard training, 14 adult and junior members of the Rheindahlen Garrison Karate Club set off for Bournemouth in high spirits to compete in the fourth Gichin Funakoshi world shoyokan karate championships.

It soon became clear, however, that, with 19 countries and more than 200 competitors taking part, winning anything was going to be a difficult task.

As the competition continued, with more and more of the team's members falling by the wayside, it seemed that the club would be returning with nothing to show for their efforts.

They reckoned without 13-year-old Katherine Whitehead, whose father, Alan, is a staff sergeant at HQ UK Support Command.

She ensured that the journey was not a fruitless one by being crowned world champion in the girls' kumite section.

Having assured herself of gaining at least a silver medal by reaching the final, she reported



Just champion: a delighted Katherine displays her trophy

for the fight to be told that her opponent did not want to take part because she had received a broken nose in the semi-final.

Not, perhaps, the ideal way to win a championship, but in the eyes of her fellow team members, her efforts to reach the final against higher grades and far more experienced opponents were more than enough to merit the accolade.

### IN BRIEF

● PENSION scheme 'architects' have been challenged to make pensions easier to understand by Social Security Minister Lord Mackay of Ardsbreknish.

"Keep it simple. Look at what you can do within your own scheme. If you cut out some of your complexity we may find it possible to prune regulations," he told a London conference.

● IT is not too late to take advantage of the latest fund-raising idea from SSAFA's German branch: ordering a Christmas bouquet,

with £2.50 from each purchase going to the charity. Details on Flying Flowers from SSAFA Information Office on JHQ Mil 2272 or civil 02161 472272.

● A HELICOPTER supplied by the Army Air Corps and vehicles, Army families' children for the use of, courtesy of The King's Royal Hussars, were among the highlights of a successful KRH Fun Day at Münster supervised by Lt Dave Ashton.

● AS at October 1, a total of 335

## Home, safe home

"A HOME for life" is the boast of Housing 21, an association set up by the Royal British Legion in 1964.

Most of the accommodation – a high percentage of whose tenants come from a Service background – is for rent, with single and two-person flats arranged on "courts".

Housing 21 recently asked its tenants, who have the benefit of an on-site resident manager and communal facilities such as a lounge, laundry room and guest room,

what appealed to them about sheltered housing.

Top of the list was a feeling of safety and security, with no loss of independence.

Older people, the association says, like their freedom and do not want to move into residential accommodation – but they do worry about how they are going to manage on their own.

Living in sheltered accommodation removes that anxiety, with the housing association attending to all property repairs and maintenance, and the resident manager helping with day-to-day problems.

Also, a central control alarm system means that immediate help is available round the clock in any emergency.

As tenants become older and more frail, the association – which in the last year has introduced its own domiciliary and home care services, working in contract social services – aims to provide the care and support necessary to enable them to remain in their flat.

Applications for accommodation should be sent to Housing 21, PO Box 32, St John's Road, High Wycombe, Bucks HP10 8JF or by telephone on 01494 813771.

24 hours.  
1 phone  
number.

0345 90 90 90

From Germany 0130-810771/2 From Cyprus 0809 1122

From Holland 0602-22288 or Military 2345

The Samaritans

The Samaritans. We'll go through it with you.





Above – Maj David Pardy RE and 1st Lt Gregory Kehler, 52 Engr Bn, US Army mastermind mine awareness

Left – SSgt Will Campbell, LCpl Steve Turner, Cpl Tom McNamara and Sgt Stu Newport in the Military Works Force design office

Right – LCpl Stu Lowes, LCpl Paddy Coleman, Spr Andy Sargent, WO1 Des Easingwood and Cpl Paul Goble at the Kisseljak Brick Factory



# International rescue

PROFESSIONAL expertise of British sappers is the glue which has held together the reconstruction of Bosnia for the past year.

Many nations pooled their resources, but as the driving force behind the Allied Command Europe Rapid Reaction Corps (ARRC) headquarters, it fell to the Royal Engineers to bind the operation together.

In each of the three divisions, engineer resources were largely devoted to "survival" projects, establishing base camps and ensuring mobility.

Political considerations meant that American, British and French divisional resources could not easily move out of their own areas. Hungarian, Romanian, German, Swedish and Finnish engineers were among those called in to provide corps assets, backed by a powerful Austrian transport company.

Within Bosnia there have been 7,000 military engineers from 23 countries, but at ARRC level, a force of eight nations has dealt with the large-scale tasks of long duration, such as rebuilding railway lines or constructing a new route to Gorazde avoiding Serb territory.

Professionally, the engineers have had an unrivalled opportunity to work with a wide variety of equipment. Much was of Russian origin and was known only through recognition manuals.

Along with civil affairs and the information campaign, engineering work has been

one of the principal active components in stabilising the peace.

As well as Brig John Moore-Bick, British Chief Engineer, the ARRC staff of 40 included seven British engineers and acted as the engineering consultancy. A British detachment from the Military Works Force provided by

64 CRE (Works) includes 519 Specialist Team RE supplying the engineering design for projects, described by Brig Moore-Bick as the cement of engineer operations.

They have a wealth of experience and knowledge as well as being qualified civil engineers, and provided the initial professional input across the corps as they examined bridge sites, and electrical or water supply problems.

"It is a terrific environment where you can see the results of what you are doing straight away," said Maj Mitch Mitchell.

"Engineering is now a lot more enjoyable than it was. At the start it was all pressure to get our soldiers into somewhere warm and dry with proper toilets."

Working with so many different nations was hard graft but good fun, said Capt Steve Simonini. "It could be frustrating

and maddening, but at the end of the day most engineers speak the same language."

Dealing with the war's vast legacy of mines was the first priority of Maj David Pardy. Between three and six million mines are thought to be in country, and it fell to the mines cell to collate all the information and pass it to an action centre in Sarajevo.

"When we first got into the country, we took over a UN mine database but there was limited knowledge in them. Everybody was working on a different system, and we had to pull people together to use a common format."

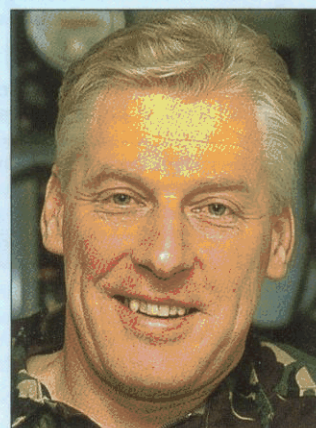
"It sounds easy, but it has been very difficult to get everybody singing from the same song-sheet."

Different methods were also a problem for the Geographic Support Group, a new concept based on 13 (UK) Topographical Squadron.

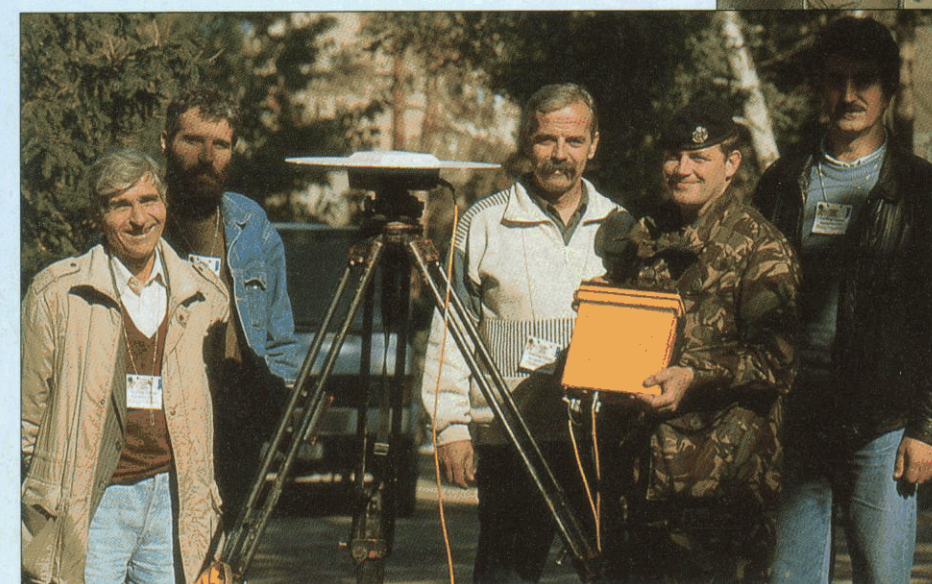
With headquarters in a brick factory outside Kiseljak, the OC, Maj Mark Burrows, said that every nation had its own map and grid system, and co-ordination just did not happen.

"Some nations gave grid references with northings first and eastings second, which was totally confusing, and systems were up to 300 metres out," he said.

Establishing and correcting the inter-



Brig John Moore-Bick, Chief Engineer



Sgt Andy Gray instructs former warring factions students on a geodetic survey receiver

entity boundary line of orange markers required much hard work and since September this has been passed over to members of the former warring factions.

A five-man team from the School of Military Survey at Hermitage under WO1 Michael James ran a 12-day course for eight Serbs, five Muslims and four Croats to learn how to operate the Global Positioning Systems which have been given to them.

Maps from the Map Supply Troop were overlaid with extra information such as

details of mines, polling stations or helicopter landing sites. By collating information from different sources and providing mine overlays the troop has greatly contributed to saving lives.

"Sometimes we surprised people by showing them that places chosen as polling stations during the elections were actually in minefields," said Maj Burrows, "and outside IFOR the black-market rate for a map of landing sites is a crate of beer."

Since January, seven million maps have



Cpl Paul Goble at work

been issued via three sections based with the three divisions.

Cpl Robert Meekings's section with the Americans in Tuzla has doubtless made the greatest number of friends. The Americans are allowed no alcohol so the Brits, with their two-can allocation, had plenty of visitors.

Cpl Al Beeton's section is based with the French at Mostar.

With 25 tons of paper being used by Sgt Gary Pocock's production troop – that is six full C130 Hercules aircraft loads – even out-of-date maps could be put to good use.

Local schools are desperate for paper and welcomed old maps the squadron had recycled into books.

The squadron also produced an atlas with a print run of 30,000, both in Cyrillic and Roman script, as well as hymn books.

Back at home, soldiers' wives sent winter clothing out for people in need by using it as packing material.

Despite seemingly insurmountable problems, international engineers guided by British sappers have forced a solution and opened up Bosnia again.



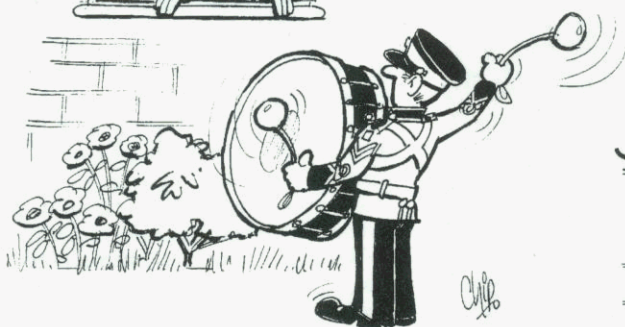
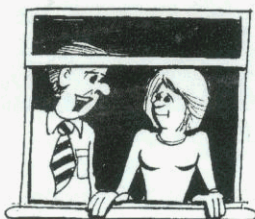


"Oh, and a box of toy civilians, and ..."



"Hello tower ... reference that reported UFO over the plain ..."

# Chuckle with Chip



"On reflection, the Italian waiter was the lesser of the two evils!"



"I don't care who it is ...  
if he hasn't got an ID card, chuck him out!"

**CHUCKLE WITH CHIP IN 1997**  
More cartoon features by Chip  
will appear in *Soldier* in  
1997. Make sure you don't  
miss them - turn to Page 41  
and take out a subscription



# Tigers on border patrol

**TERRITORIAL** Army soldiers from the 6th/7th Battalion, The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment completed a two-week annual camp in the "wilds" of Northumberland.

For the many new recruits in the battalion, Exercise Border Tiger was their first real experience of life with the Army.

The fortnight was split into two phases: during the first week the part-time soldiers honed skills including live firing and map-reading. There was also an adventurous training package of rock climbing, canoeing and sailing on the nearby Kielder reservoir.

In the second week the troops put into practice all they had learned as the camp culminated in a battalion battle manoeuvre codenamed Border Tiger because the regimental emblem is the tiger and the exercise took place in the Scottish Borders.

For Steve Evans, an 18-year-old petrol kiosk attendant who had joined the TA only three weeks before, it was his first taste of life in the field. He was introduced to compo field rations, learned the tricks of the trade for preparing and cooking the contents of the individually-packaged meals, and later had to make his own lunch, a feast of bacon burgers in tomato sauce.

## Adventurous training

Many of the soldiers chose dinghy sailing for their adventurous training day, and for many, such as Sgt Dave Foyle from the Isle of Wight, it was their first attempt. Exposed to severe gusts of wind, he and his colleagues found themselves literally thrown in at the deep end.

The camp took on something of an international flavour when the battalion was joined by four members of the American National Guard, the USA's equivalent of the Territorials, who were on an exchange visit from Pennsylvania and Indiana, and several German Army reservists.

The Americans coped with the sporadic downpours, but found the relentless biting wind very hard going.

"It was encouraging to see how well the new recruits integrated with the rest of the soldiers," said Lt Col Rory Steevenson, the commanding officer. "The logistics of moving the battalion 400 miles up the A1 were very complex. The job was achieved effectively and efficiently; it was a great effort all round."

Pictures: Chris Fletcher



**Above** – Five new Territorial Army recruits, all from the Isle of Wight, at Otterburn. From left are Bryn Jones, Colette Hamoniaux, Kev Trickett and Jason Fitzpatrick, and, standing, Dean Hayward



**Left** – Pte Phil Negus, a member of the assault pioneer section, prepares to detonate a small explosion during training

**Right** – Sgt Dave Foyle takes drastic action to avoid a dunking in Kielder Reservoir during adventurous training. It was the first time he had attempted the sport





# Have you got the write stuff?

Blitzed . . . and grateful for it

IT MUST be rare for a senior British Army commander actually to invite members of the media to "blitz" his entire brigade, but that is precisely what Brig David Shaw did when he asked the Territorial Army's Media Operations Group to join him on Exercise Western Warrior.

The ground-breaking manoeuvres involved more than 2,000 TA troops from 42 (North West) Brigade training as a general reserve for the Regular Army's peace support operations. It



Brig David Shaw is a big supporter of the Media Ops Gp

was the first time that such a large TA formation had trained collectively for such a role.

"It was a great success," said Brig Shaw. "I have been trying to push a positive public relations image in the north-west since I arrived, particularly in improving

the public image of the soldier. It has always been pretty good, but I wanted to sharpen the focus of that image in order to attract more recruits.

"It was fundamental that, within a peace support exercise scenario, I had to have media present and, fortunately, I was able to obtain the services of Land Command's Media Operations Group.

Brig Shaw described obtaining the services of the group as a marvellous coup.

"For the whole two weeks we had combat news teams and some very experienced print journalists, stills photographers and television news presenters and cameramen deployed with us," he said.

"What that produced was quite superb media training. The group produced daily video footage, photographs, and newspaper articles which ranged from the supportive "Back our boys in Jiros" to the sniping "Beleaguered brigadier backs down", and everything between those two extremes.

"The coverage was outstanding. I now have 2,000 soldiers who, from a pretty shaky start, are dealing with the media in a pretty confident manner. I am delighted with the outcome."

ARE YOU a journalist, public relations officer or marketing specialist? Are you looking for a little part-time adventure and travel to liven up those humdrum off-duty hours?

Then the Territorial Army might just be able to offer you the role you are searching for, because, for the first time in its history, the Media Operations Group (Volunteers) is publicly seeking new recruits to help it cope with the growing Army demands for its time.

The all-officer specialist TA unit promotes the British Army and improves its public profile, and briefs and assists the media in peace and war, wherever British troops might be serving. It also briefs senior commanders and trains all ranks of the Army in media awareness.

Throwing down the gauntlet, the group's senior officer, Col Mike Peters, British Aerospace Communications Executive, said: "It is a tough high-profile unit to get into and one that people must fight to enter. We want the best media professionals available, and our standards are high.

"But those with the interest, talent and determination to become a Media Operations Officer will, I assure you, enjoy great job satisfaction, professional fulfilment, wonderful comradeship – and have a lot of fun into the bargain."

Col Peters said that he is looking for "talented, practising, professional communicators" aged 25 to 37. These could be

writing, television or broadcasting journalists from national, regional or local media outlets, photographers, public relations officers, Government Information Service staff, linguists or people in the marketing world.

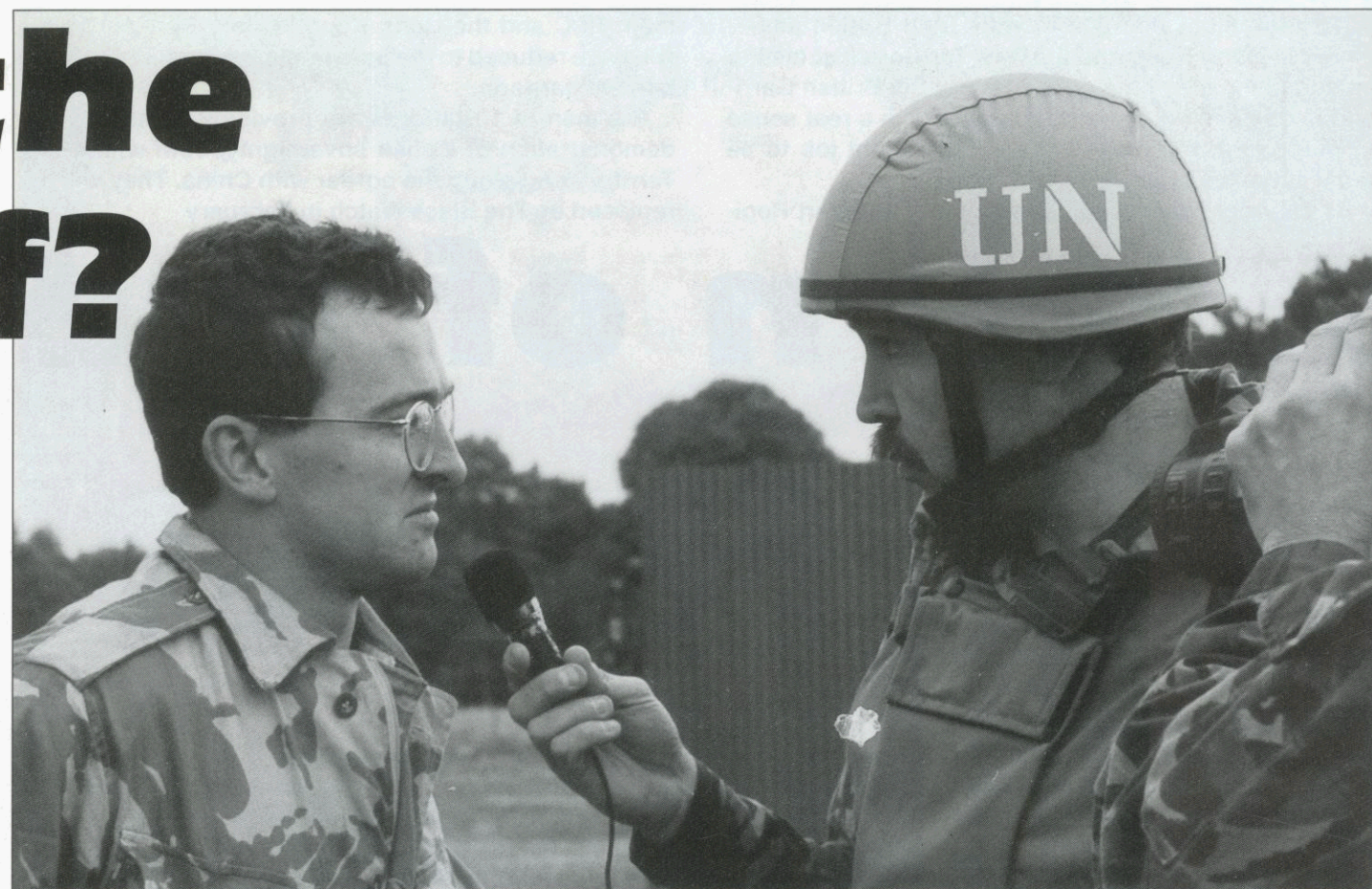
"Our priority is to find professional communicators – male or female – capable of working in and under the stress of, say, a typical United Nations peacekeeping operation. We would be very happy to take on serving Territorials, and I am particularly interested in people who are parachute-trained."

Media Operations Officers are expected to be educated to at least A level standard, but a good degree would be an advantage. The minimum annual commitment to unit duty is 27 days. Rates of pay are good, and a tax-free annual bounty of up to £900 is on offer.

Some unit officers have served in Bosnia – two as Chief of Media Operations there – and in the Gulf War and Northern Iraq. One unit major who served in a press officer role with 24 Airmobile Brigade in the former Yugoslavia received a Commander British Forces award.

The unit's commanding officer, Lt Col Donald Campbell, a former commander of the Parachute Regiment and Airborne Forces Depot, said: "Our officers are given the opportunity to serve on operations all over the world, and practically every regiment and corps is represented in our ranks."

Report: Laurie Manton



Capt Dave Reynolds records the views of a warring faction commander during Exercise Western Warrior. He runs a photo-agency in civil life

In time of war, many of the group's officers will mobilise to form front-line combat news teams writing stories, filming and taking pictures for the media in operational areas into which civilian journalists would not be allowed.

Equipped with the latest technology, they will be able to transmit words and pictures to news outlets worldwide.

"It is relatively unusual to have an all-officer unit, but my officers need the rank to be able to reach the men who make the decisions – the commanders," said Col Campbell.

Multi-skilling is a particular asset of the group, with journalists, photographers and

cameramen learning each other's trade. "We are all involved in a continuous learning process to get the balance right. It's a happy mix," he said.

"Journalists are often viewed as 'the enemy within'. My Media Operations Officers, as they are designated, occasionally encounter suspicion from other soldiers when they see strange coves like us coming into their headquarters to run the media operations cell.

"However, Media Operations is a valuable exercise and operational tool. It is a fact of life. The media exist and you cannot run away from them."

The Combat News Teams (CNT) will consist of four- or five-strong bodies of uniformed journalists. First and foremost, they are soldiers and are armed – not only with personal weapons, but also with video and stills cameras, notebooks and tape recorders.

Col Campbell said their job was to deploy with units into the front line, look for the action and film, photograph and write about the incidents and events they witness.

"This material can then be provided to other journalists who couldn't get to the front line for a variety of reasons.

"They may have been working somewhere else, or the environment may have

been deemed too hazardous for civilians to enter."

The group is anxious to stress that the material provided to the world's media would be genuine film and photographs of what actually happened on the battlefield. It is not intended as a propaganda weapon, as it has been described by one or two major news organisations which are reluctant to accept the pictures.

A direct descendant of the Second World War Army Film and Photographic Unit (AFPU), whose journalists and photographers recorded the action in the Western Desert, on D-Day and at Arnhem and elsewhere, the unit changed its name from the TA Public Information Officers' (TAPIO) Pool to Media Operations Group (Volunteers) in September.

The pool was formed in the early '70s by the former Deputy Director General of the BBC, Col Alan Protheroe, in a

determined move to prove that Britain's journalists, PROs and marketers could be first-class allies rather than "enemies" of the British Army.

Application forms are available from Maj Doreen Cadwallader, SO2 Co-Ord, Media Operations Group (V), HQ Land Command, Wilton, Salisbury, Wilts SP2 0AG.



Combat news team link man, Capt Robert Partridge, LI remains cheerful despite the heavy load of film he is carrying to resupply his comrades. Out of uniform he works in special effects and as military adviser to the popular television series about a TA unit – Preston Front



Media Ops Officers sometimes work in mufti. Capt Sean Holding (Meridian) and Maj Alastair Bruce (Sky Television) carry out an interview



WITH little more than six months until British sovereignty in Hong Kong and the New Territories comes to an end, the pace of the drawdown by the British Garrison is quickening. Nevertheless, there is a real sense of purpose in the theatre and an important job to be done in the time that remains.

By January 1 the Hong Kong Logistic Support Regi-

ment RLC and the Hong Kong Military Service Corps will have reduced to the bare minimum required to sustain the garrison.

The men of 1 Staffords are providing a very visible demonstration of British sovereignty, both within the Territory and along the border with China. They will be replaced by The Black Watch in February.

# Return of the Dragon

PTE Skip Bennett adjusted the big binoculars to get a better view of Chinese soldiers drilling less than half a mile from his observation post and reckoned he was a lucky man.

He re-enlisted in the 1st Battalion, The Staffordshire Regiment (The Prince of Wales's) on September 2, just in time to go to Hong Kong for five months.

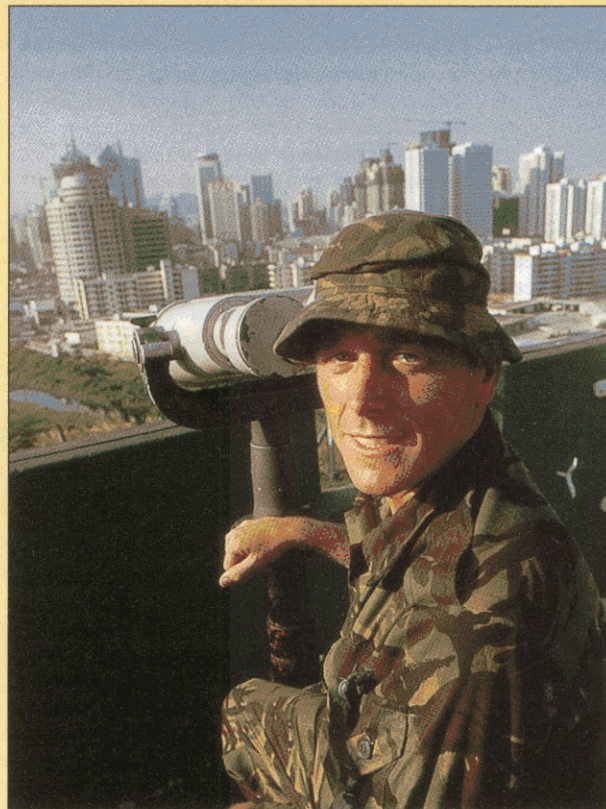
Pte Bennett left after six years with the regiment, but quickly realised he preferred soldiering to civvy street and immediately tried to rejoin. Three years later he finally made it. In fact, he is so pleased to be back with the battalion that his sergeant major, WO2 (CSM) Eddie Styles, tells any of his D Company soldiers thinking of quitting the Army to "go and talk to Bennett".

At Nam Hang OP, as close as you can get to the city of Shen Zhen without actually stepping into China, the Staffords log anything of interest. A few kilometres to the east Capt Mike Ross, acting OC D Coy, called on a section watching for military movements on the National Defence Highway that runs along the border.

Manning OPs in the New Territories is one of several tasks 1 Staffords has assumed following the return to the United Kingdom of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Gurkha Rifles. With the hand-over to China less than seven months away, there is an understandable lack of tension along the border... but the Territory still offers a wonderful opportunity for training which the battalion is grasping enthusiastically.

Its four rifle companies rotate tasks. One provides security at Stonecutters Island, where RHQ is based, and at Sek Kong in the New Territories; another guards Osborne Barracks in Kowloon and sends platoons out to man the border OPs and support civil police on anti-smuggling and

**Reports: John Elliott**  
**Pictures: Terry Champion**



Pte Skip Bennett in the OP at Nam Hang. Behind him is the Chinese city of Shen Zhen

anti-illegal immigrant watches; a third is deployed at Highland Camp in the New Territories, exercising and providing a reserve for Commander British Forces; and the fourth has a programme of adventurous training and R and R - some have been to Thailand and the Philippines.

Commanding officer Lt Col Jim Tanner summed up the five-month tour as "part of what the British Army has been doing in Hong Kong for the past 140 years, a

demonstration of sovereignty and commitment." Even though he and his men will fly home to Ternhill Barracks in Shropshire when the 1st Battalion, The Black Watch arrives in February, they are keenly aware that they are party to an historic withdrawal.

The evidence is all around them as the pace of the garrison rundown quickens.

It may be a relatively short tour in an exotic location, but it is unaccompanied. This will be the third consecutive Christmas away from home for many of the 560-strong battalion, which not long ago completed a two-year tour in Ballykinler, Northern Ireland. It will return to Ternhill as UK Standby Battalion, and faces the prospect of another unaccompanied tour which will take in next Christmas.

"Some of the lads haven't been with their families for a long time," said Col Tanner. "Telephone calls home are expensive, and the separation is a strain not easy to accept." He identifies the strain on marriages and relationships as one of the main reasons for soldiers leaving the Army.

"Having said that, the majority know this is the experience of a lifetime which will never be repeated. It is also a great opportunity for training, especially at company level in our normal light infantry role."

Their time in the Territory has been well spent. The Staffords have the garrison's abundant training and leisure facilities virtually to themselves, and the chance to train with Royal Navy and Royal Air Force units. Consequently the battalion is working, and playing, hard.

There is not the slightest impression that the garrison is in limbo as June 30 approaches. The Staffords, in common

● Turn to Page 24



Head man: Dvr Sue Chi Wai wears this magnificent outfit as the Hong Kong Logistic Support Regiment's colourful lion dancers swing into action





Above left – Running team: Lt Andy Hetherington (front), commander of 9 Platoon, C Coy, leads the battalion's Trailwalker squad. They trained every day for the gruelling 100km, two-day course which takes in the mountain just visible in the background. Clockwise from left are LCpl Tommy Nokes, Pte Lee Harris, Pte Andy Watt, Cpl Dave Bond, Cpl Tom Dunn, Pte Nick McKee and Pte Danny Williams



Dog patrol: Regimental policeman LCpl Keith Bennett (second from front) has trained his team to handle three guard dogs offered to the battalion by the Hong Kong Military Service Corps. From front to back are Pte Tony Rowland with Drax, Pte Craig Ramsell with Prince, and Pte Mark MacCabe with Duke

## Return of the Dragon

● From Page 22

with every other unit in theatre, have a real job to do.

WO2 Styles sees the five-month deployment as an opportunity for the battalion to draw together.

Watching a C Company section led by Cpl Michael Kemp build a hide for *Soldier's* benefit back on Stonecutters, WO2 (CSM) Neil Pinnock described how teams support the anti-smuggling task force. Operating in four-man groups, they conceal themselves on Hong Kong's outer islands for up to five days at a time, radioing back suspicious sightings to the civil police.

"There is great training value here," he

said. "And with the chance to learn about the Chinese army on the border, the lads get a much bigger picture than we see in the UK."

"Hong Kong was one of the places in the world I most wanted to see," added CSM Pinnock, 18 years in the Army.

In fact, few members of the battalion have been to Hong Kong before. An exception is Maj Glyn Ireland, OC HQ Coy, who lived there from 1950-52 as a schoolboy when his father, Quartermaster of the South Staffords, was posted to the long-gone Hong Kong Battle School.

When Pte Bennett and his colleagues return to Shropshire, they will do so with more than just memories of an unusual deployment.

Col Tanner is proud that his regiment will play its part in preserving the memory of the British Army's Chinese soldiers. At his suggestion it has been agreed that 1

Staffords' D Company will be renamed Dragon Company in honour of the soon-to-disband Hong Kong Military Service Corps' Dragon Company.

"We will hold the Dragon Company banner and the corps flag, and will be privileged to cherish the spirit of the HKMSC," said the commanding officer.

The link is particularly appropriate because the Staffords have a dragon battle honour in their regimental Colour, testimony to the role of the 98th of Foot during the Opium War of 1842.

On November 11 the Staffords paraded in Stanley Fort cemetery to lay poppy wreaths on the graves of men of the 98th, to whom they have a direct line through the North Staffordshire Regiment. It is a little quirk of history that the 98th was the second British regiment to serve in Hong Kong. The Staffordshire Regiment will be the second last to do so.



Above right – Lt Col Jim Tanner, CO 1 Staffords, lays a poppy on the Stanley Fort grave of a soldier of the 98th of Foot



Pte Robert Lainton (left) and Pte Paul Nuttall, members of an Anti-Smuggling Task Force (ASTF) team, went under cover in Hong Kong's outer islands for several days

# Golden thread that binds the garrison

CAPT Albert Lam, senior resettlement officer of the Hong Kong Military Service Corps, has a record of success for which his counterparts in the United Kingdom would happily slay dragons.

His unique corps, a Regular unit of the British Army made up of locally-enlisted Hong Kong Chinese soldiers, effectively disbands at Christmas when most of what is left of its personnel will be made redundant.

The first 503 have already gone, absorbed back into the community from where they came. Capt Lam's records show his team managed a 100 per cent placement.

More than half went into security work or, helped by generous settlements, started their own businesses. Nearly 70 with driver trade training went into the transport industry, and 27 found posts in the police, customs or prison services.

Most of the remaining 462 leave at the end of December, 43 more on March 31 – officially the HKMSC's last day in existence – and the final 35 on June 30. The resettlement team is planning a "jobs fair" on December 17, three days after a disbandment parade, and anticipates that Hong Kong employers will not be slow to snap up more men trained by the British Army.

Commanded by Lt Col Nick Southward LD, the HKMSC is a training and administrative unit for locally enlisted personnel (LEP). Its soldiers have been described as "the golden thread" that runs through the garrison.

Col Southward says they might equally be remembered as the golden chain that linked the garrison to the local Chinese community. The esteem in which they are held was reflected by the 50,000 people who attended the two unit open days on Stonecutters last year.

Chinese soldiers have served with and for British Forces in the Territory for more than a century. The HKMSC was formed in September 1962, offering LEPs a full 22-

year career structure.

In 1984 it moved from Lye Mun Barracks to a base on Stonecutters Island, now no longer an island and soon to be taken over by the Chinese navy. At one time 1,200-strong, the corps provided personnel for a range of duties in the garrison and to units such as the Hong Kong Logistic Support Regiment.

Their skills encompassed a huge slice of garrison assets: military police, medics, drivers, intelligence, security, telecommunications, a maritime troop, guard dogs, workshops...

Self-discipline, motivation, confidence, skills in 20 trades, management training and an ability to speak English are among the attributes which have attracted employers approached by Capt Lam.

During the Gulf War a transport squadron manned by HKMSC personnel served in Cyprus, releasing other troops for active service on Operation Granby. Last year the corps exercised in New Zealand.

Col Southward had hoped that because of their allegiance to the Crown, all his men would be granted British passports before the Territory reverts to China.

That did not happen, although he believes the corps did quite well to receive 250, a ratio of about one in five and sufficient to cover everyone down to at least the rank of sergeant and some corporals.

Recruitment to the Regular Army to alleviate current shortfalls was not considered a viable option because of passport problems – which meant only older, long-serving soldiers would be eligible – and the trauma of

Capt Charlie Ball QRL, who is writing a history of the HKMSC, in front of a watch tower on Stonecutters Island. The tower, one of the oldest buildings in Hong Kong, was finished in 1864

transplanting corps personnel to a completely different environment.

"The British Army's loss is Hong Kong's gain," said Col Southward.

The HKMSC will not be forgotten. The name of its Dragon Company will live on through The Staffordshire Regiment, and its history is being written by a cavalry officer seconded specifically to research the archives.

Capt Charlie Ball QRL, 2iC of a tank squadron based in Germany, reckons he is at risk of becoming a "dinner party bore" so immersed is he in the history of the British Army's Hong Kong Chinese soldiers, right back to their roots in the second Opium War of 1857. The National Army Museum in Chelsea is preparing a display to mark the distinguished contribution of the corps.

In recent years its reputation has spread far and wide, exported to international audiences by its colourful, dynamic dragon dancers, the excellence of its marksmen, and the brilliance of its motor-cycle display team – dashing daredevils on two wheels who, some might say, owe their split-second timing to an easy familiarity with Hong Kong's chaotic rush hour traffic.

Unique soldiers from a far-off garrison, their golden thread will add another lustrous strand to the evolving tapestry of the British Army.



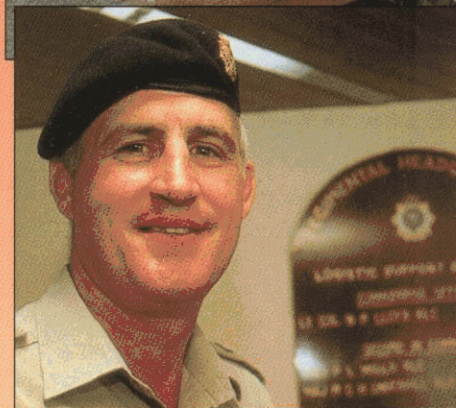
Lt Col Nick Southward (left), who commands the HKMSC, and Capt Albert Lam, senior resettlement officer





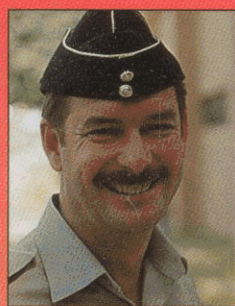


Above – Maj Stuart Veazey, in charge of the huge disposal operation



Left – Lt Col Nigel Lloyd, CO Hong Kong Log Sp Regt

Right – The Logistic Support Regiment's lion dancing team drummers work up a tempo in Osborn Barracks. On the skyline is Lion Rock, which towers over the back of Kowloon



Maj Mark Underhill, 2iC of the regiment



Left – Mail office sorts: Robert Ng, Cpl David Cleaver and Sgt Mandy Preira check a bag bound for the United Kingdom



Above – Cpl Mark McAleese (left) and Cpl Dave Sunderland with vacuum-packed SA80s to be crated for return to the UK



Left – Everything must go: Sgt Mark Hardway with a pallet of surplus desert boots about to be sold locally as a job lot

HONG KONG Logistic Support Regiment RLC has 10,001 things on its collective mind. It has to dispose of an entire garrison . . . lock, stock and gun barrel.

And it has to do so to an historic deadline. Soon after midnight on June 30 next year two 747s will climb away from Kai Tak international airport carrying the few remaining British Forces personnel and civil servants.

Before that defining moment every vestige of 140-odd years of military presence will have been sold, given away or dumped. And every last bit of it – every nut and every bolt, every teaspoon, every boot, and every gismo Mk 2 for the use of – will have been accounted for.

"We have learned the lessons of the draw-downs in Belize and Germany," said Maj Mark Underhill, 2iC of the Thousand Day Regiment. "There will be an audit trail to every piece of equipment that leaves this place."

When the Hong Kong Logistic Support Regiment was created on April 8, 1994, commanding officer Lt Col Nigel Lloyd was given a specific brief: form it, run it, disband it.

Instantly nicknamed the 1,000 Day Regiment by the *South China Morning Post*, it was said to be the shortest-living regiment in British history. The *Post* miscalculated, however, and the regiment, albeit in reduced form, will actually manage about 1,180 days.

# A going concern

Col Lloyd is, nevertheless, enormously proud of what his cosmopolitan command – a unique blend of British, Hong Kong Chinese and Gurkha personnel – has achieved in so short a time.

As the garrison dwindled from 9,000-plus souls in 1994 to its current strength of 2,600, so the loggies reduced in number. What has made their task so exacting is the fact that they have had to sustain the garrison – providing food, accommodation, transport, mail services and so on – while it, and they, have shrunk to meet the 1997 deadline.

Since 1994 the Hong Kong Logistic Support Regiment has fulfilled its primary role while at the same time getting rid of everything that was not needed, including substantial reinforcement stocks.

"The regiment provides a 24-hour, seven-day-a-week service," said Capt Andy Docherty at Regimental Headquarters in Osborn Barracks, Kowloon.

It offers comprehensive transport support through 29 Transport Squadron. This, its largest sub-unit, is manned by 116 Chi-

nese soldiers of the Hong Kong Military Service Corps and 66 men from the Queen's Gurkha Transport Regiment, the last Gurkhas to serve in a station synonymous with the soldiers from Nepal.

In common with most of the regiment's sub-units, it will cease to function as a formed squadron at Christmas.

Among its duties, the regiment's Supply Squadron is responsible for procuring food (Army inspectors regularly attend markets at 0430 to check that produce bought through local contracts is fresh and correctly priced), storage of RLC materiel and disposals. Closing Stanley Fort following the Black Watch's departure in August 1994 took the loggies an estimated 10,000 man-hours.

Since April that year the Disposals and Vehicle Group, split between Sek Kong in the New Territories and Osborn Barracks, has got rid of 3,300 pallets of assorted stores and 600 vehicles.

Heading the gigantic "Steptoe and Son" operation is Maj Stuart Veazey. WO2 Nick Magor oversees operations in the cavernous

old food store in Osborn. Floors are covered with pallets, each for sale as a job lot of assorted boots, TV sets, fans, sheets, blankets, used desert combats (very popular as fashion accessories), typewriters, traffic cones, even spent shell cases from Hong Kong's Noon Day Gun.

A British company, JCM Disposals, won the contract to run the sale of the century; in the vehicle compound outside, Chinese entrepreneurs haggle over the cost of aged Land Rovers, fire engines and bulldozers. Shipping them back to the UK would be an expensive option. Because the Hong Kong Government meets 65 per cent of the cost of the garrison, it will receive the lion's share of the proceeds.

Virtually everything has to go locally; only exceptions are a few specialist signals and sapper vehicles.

SSgt Charles Stanley's Stores Group minds thousands of items. It also has the responsibility of returning the garrison's personal weapons to the UK. Racks of SA80s are drowned in oil, drained, vacuum-packed in plastic, crated and sent under

armed escort to nearby Kai Tak airport.

In the Postal and Courier Troop's offices, WO1 Trevor Lawrence is preparing to say goodbye to the British Forces' most famous postal address: BFPO 1 will disappear for ever on June 30.

Capt Alan Dale REME made the immaculate premises of the regimental workshop available for the scrutinising of cars entered in the recent Hong Kong to Beijing rally. People's Liberation Army of China officers have already inspected the workshops, as they have done the rest of the barracks.

Osborn is one of 14 British Forces sites that will be occupied by the PLA after June 30. The rest have been, or will be, given to the Hong Kong Government, a multi, multi-billion dollar legacy in a city in which property fetches a mind-boggling HK\$100,000 a square metre.

The regiment's Accommodation Services Unit has been intimately involved in the process of closing the military estate, including the British Military Hospital, Blackdown Barracks and Gun Club Hill Barracks, all returned to Hong Kong last

year. More than 2,000 married quarters will be handed over.

Families will be gone by the end of March, and the regiment formally disbands on May 31. However, it will start the final process of dismantling itself soon after Christmas, when it pares down to a composite logistic support squadron under Maj Russell Sowden, vacating Osborn and operating from the Prince of Wales Building. By then there will be no British soldiers north of Lion Rock, the mountain which rises over the back of Kowloon.

The imposing POW tower on Hong Kong's waterfront, landmark headquarters of Commander British Forces, is another site which will be taken over by the People's Liberation Army.

Meanwhile, the vast ordnance depot at Blackdown Barracks near Kai Tak airport is empty, and Sek Kong (home to the RAF and the recently-departed 1 RGR) is rapidly getting that way in preparation for its new military occupants.

When the Chinese Army moves into Osborn Barracks, now home to the 1,000 Day Regiment, its soldiers will surely be as impressed with the workshops, vehicle parks and storage facilities as they are with its spacious offices and high-rise accommodation blocks.

But of its previous inhabitants they will find little trace. By then the Hong Kong Logistic Support Regiment RLC will have completed its final assignment.



# The Christmas Chevrolet

IT WAS December 24, 1945 and that morning an instruction had been received to deliver one of our battle-tired cars, a Ford WOA2 Utility, to a vehicle park near Antwerp.

This was a heaven-sent opportunity, as Maria lived with her parents in St Niklaas, a few kilometres from Antwerp. I had dearly wanted to spend Christmas there but, up to that moment, it had seemed impossible as only a week before I had returned from a 14-day leave.

It was a most agreeable surprise when the CO, a man of somewhat unromantic disposition, told me that a Divisional Order such as this should be carried out with the minimum of delay.

So, at 1300 hrs a tatty Ford left Osnabrück and headed west.

The Ford, although Class IV – the Army's designation for an unserviceable vehicle – was still a fair runner. It was warm and comfortable, and had been unofficially fitted with a radio set of German make. Just how was obscure and nobody had felt inclined to pry too deeply.

I took things easy, enjoying the anticipation. I wanted to arrive at St Niklaas at about 8pm, spring the surprise on Maria,

perhaps attend midnight Mass, have a couple of drinks and then retire.

Maria's parents' house in the Spoorweglaan was now more of a home to me than my parents' Kentish bungalow – I had spent a great deal more time there over the past year-and-a-half, and the spare room was always ready. Looking out of the window from my bed a street lamp could be seen through the trees. I liked that – it seemed symbolic that lights were starting to burn again in Europe.

By 6 o'clock I was approaching Breda, and from the Canadian Forces' Broadcasting Station at Hilversum came a Christmas record programme. For the umpteenth time that day Bing Crosby's *White Christmas* came to an end.

Then I saw it, but too late. A black mountain slid out from the right into the tree-lined road. The Ford's headlamps were hardly brilliant. Even so, they were better than the non-existing lights on the thing in front. I tried to push the brake and clutch pedals through the floor, braced hard and gave up to fate. The sound of tortured metal and shattered glass gave way to an eiderdown of post-crash silence.

I went through the drill of a quick stock

check: apart from a slight pain in the right knee and somewhat sore shoulders, there seemed to be no physical damage.

What I had hit was a massive Ward Le France wrecker, bearing the markings of the Canadian Army. The front of the Ford was a mess. A voice came out of the darkness: "Are you OK? Is there anyone else in the car?"

After some exchange of scarcely polite comment, the Ford was hoisted up behind the wrecker and we made our way to my assailant's unit, a Canadian REME detachment in the centre of Breda.

Accident forms were made out and I was promised that temporary repairs, at least good enough to get the car to Antwerp – probably its final destination – would be made immediately after Christmas.

I started to think of my predicament. The last train for Antwerp, I was told, had left and there would not be another until 9.30 the following morning. This left the choice of either staying the night in Breda and missing most of the Christmas I had planned, or trying to hitch a lift.

Relief eventually arrived in the form of a Bedford QL 3-tonner. It stopped, and I

asked the driver where he was headed. His answer, in a Birmingham accent, sounded like, "Audenarde, mate". Such a destination would involve going past St Niklaas and I thankfully climbed into the warmth of the cab.

The QL was never the most silent of vehicles and conversation within the cab was not easy, so the destination was not mentioned again.

I did make a mental note that the road was unfamiliar but the driver seemed confident and I concluded that he was probably taking a short cut, rejoining the main Breda-Antwerp road later on. This was not to be and when we came to a small town and stopped in the square the truth dawned as the driver said, "Here we are mate, Roosendaal".

Acting as stoically as possible under the circumstances, I thanked him, jumped down and looked around. From memory I judged that Roosendaal was about the same distance from Antwerp as Breda, but with one big difference – no main road.

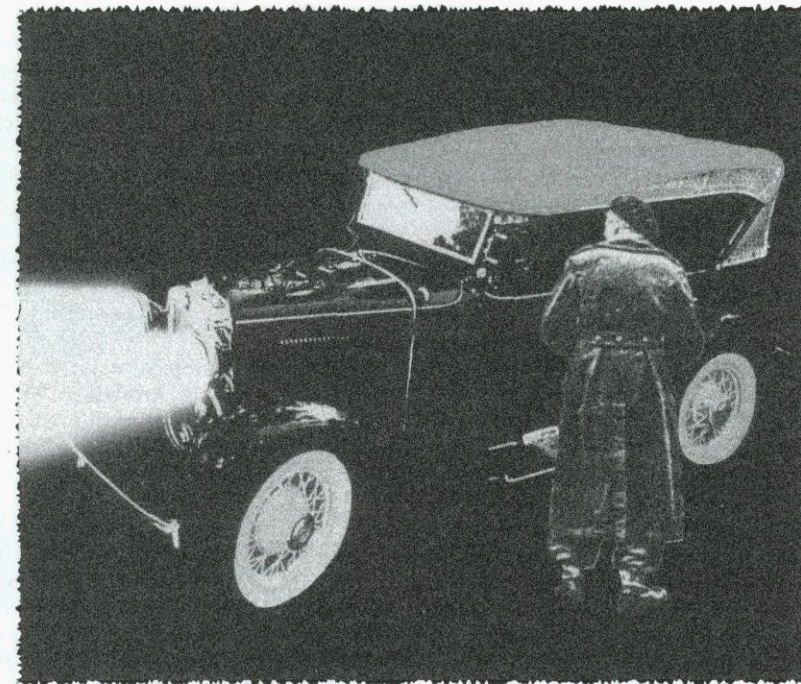
The lights and sounds from the cafés were more inviting than the cold square. I sampled the nearest and ordered a beer. By this time hope of reaching St Niklaas that night was fading fast. A youth of about 17 came over and started to talk. "I can take you to the Belgian frontier," he declared, "and you may get a car going some of the way from there."

What was there to lose? Even if there was no lift at the frontier, there would be houses and who could refuse shelter to a soldier on a cold Christmas Eve? It would be no worse than the present situation.

His vehicle turned out to be an ancient Pontiac and I was informed that this was the only hire car for miles, and owned by the boy's father who had been running a taxi business for the past 20 years. A fare, which seemed ridiculously low, was agreed and we were away.

The frontier village of Esschen is a quiet place and on this Christmas Eve it was still indeed. The only sign of life was at the customs post where lights showed up the raised red-and-white barrier. I alighted from the Pontiac, paid the fare and thanked the boy. A guard came out of the customs post, looked me over, nodded and returned to his stove. Well, at least I was on Belgian soil before Christmas Day!

Lights shone through the curtains in some of the houses but all was silent. Then I heard it: the sound of a car coming towards the barrier from the Dutch side.



And what about the failure to stop at the frontier?

"Are you over here on holiday?" I asked, in an attempt to make polite small talk.

"No, I've been here since the end of the war," he replied, "Liked it so I stayed. Married a Dutch girl. Got a little business."

"I might do the same when I get out," I smiled. The thought pleased me. I remembered when we came into Belgium from France some 16 months earlier. I had fallen in love with the country then – and with one of her daughters.

We were travelling fast, very fast. My benefactor must have sensed that I had no real desire for conversation and little was said.

The Schelde Tunnel's yellow lights reflected off the black paint and chrome of the Chevrolet's bonnet. Then we were past the sprawling American Army's "Top Hat" transit camp. Next Zwijndrecht, through Beveren and into St Niklaas. It was 11.15.

We pulled up just over the level crossing at the end of the Spoorweglaan and I poured out my thanks. Merry Christmases were exchanged and, as I turned to walk off, the Yorkshireman called, "Would you like an English paper? I've got this morning's *Express*." I took it and thanked him again. Gears were engaged and the car was away.

I took my time to walk the short distance from the street corner to the house, taking in the ring of bells heralding this first Christmas of peace for five years. Under the street lamp, the one which could be seen from my bed, I looked at the newspaper. It was, as my friend had said, the *Daily Express*. The date on it was December 24, all right. But it was December 24, 1935 – not 1945!

It was puzzling and it was some months before I could make an effort to find an answer.

At last there came a chance to visit Hulst. There, just by the bus stop was a shoe-shop with a headboard displaying the sign "B. HOLMES" – a good English name! I entered and was greeted by a middle-aged lady who said: "Good Morning" in near perfect English. I asked if, by chance, she was English.

"No," she replied, "but I was married to an Englishman until he was killed in a car crash just over ten years ago. It was on Christmas Eve."

Do I believe in ghosts? Honestly I don't know. It could all have been a set of remarkable coincidences.

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# BATSUB put their hearts into it

TWENTY-ONE members of the **British Army Training Support Unit Belize (BATSUB)** sweated out a gruelling 70-mile cycle ride from the British High Commission in Belmopan to Airport Camp in Ladyville.

Reason for their huge physical effort in soaring temperatures was to raise money for the British Heart Foundation, which they did in style. The small British contingent collected a grand total of £1,300.

Soldiers from **101 HQ Squadron (Militia), R Mon RE (M)** presented a £500 cheque to St Briavels' Centre for Child Development at Monmouth after five squadron members had completed a sponsored parachute jump.

Lt Col Paul Lodge RE, CO of the Militia, presented a cheque for £305 to Gwent Young People's Theatre after the group performed *Henry V* in the ruins of the original Monmouth Castle as part of

the regiment's "double royal" celebrations. Nearly £600 was given to local good causes and the regimental museum.

More than 100 runners from **BATUS** and the **Canadian Forces Base Suffield** took part in the 16th annual Terry Fox Charity Run in Alberta, Canada. BATUS entered 66 runners in seven teams and raised thousands of dollars for the Terry Fox Foundation for Cancer Research.

Civil aid projects carried out in Bosnia by **1 General Support Regiment RLC** have included refurbishing a school science workshop, the street lighting in Kupres, an old people's home and a kindergarten in the same town, rebuilding a minor bridge and

restoring the classrooms in a secondary school. Other work carried out by the regiment and funded by the Overseas Development Agency included getting a school bus back on the road, repairing Kupres medical centre and providing a fire tender for the town.

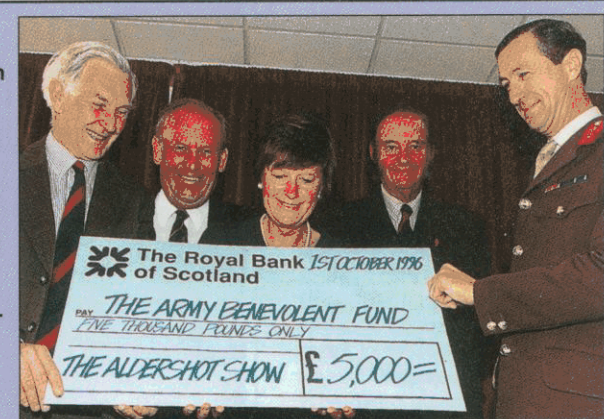
A sponsored trek through the Welsh mountains involving 21 soldiers and civilians from **2 (SE) Brigade HQ** at Shorncliffe raised about £3,500 for multiple sclerosis sufferers.

Officer cadets and staff from **University of London Officers' Training Corps** ran the 146-mile length of the Grand Union Canal to make more than £1,650 for the Army Benevolent Fund and the Save the Children Fund.



Giant cheque meets tiny baby as men of Catterick Garrison's bomb disposal squad present £600 to the special baby-care unit at Friarage Hospital, Northallerton, in North Yorkshire. Staff Nurse Joanne Holt held baby Francis Dalton as the soldiers from 521 EOD Squadron used a Wheelbarrow device to deliver the cheque

Maj Gen Nigel Richards (right), commanding the 4th Division, presents Army Benevolent Fund regional controller Lt Col (Retd) Bill Stanford (left) with a cheque for £5,000 raised by the Aldershot Horse Show. Between them are show committee members Sam Eyres, Jenny Hopkins and Hugh Winter



Army Careers Office staff in Cambridge and Peterborough took part in a relay around the colleges of Cambridge University to raise money for the Peter Wilson Sports Injury Clinic and finished fifth out of 97 teams. From left are Sgt Del Commosioug, SSgt Jeff Baker, Sgt John Rose, SSgt Bruce Hobday, SSgt Phil Robinson, and PTI Dean Marshall from ATR Basingstoke, who stood in when international athlete Sgt Kelly Holmes had to withdraw



Sgt Bobby Donor and Capt Brian McAneny of 31 Signal Regiment team up with a couple of Chelsea Pensioners during the TA unit's Freedom parade in Chelsea. Enjoying the day were Stanley Burrell (in wheelchair) of the Royal Norfolk Regiment, and Peter Beatty, who joined the Royal Artillery in 1939 and later served with the RAOC and REME. Both veterans are 73. Sgt Donor bumped into them while making a street collection for the Army Benevolent Fund



Soldiers from 1 Armoured Field Ambulance push a bed along the road from Sipovo to Jezero in Bosnia to raise money for charity. Led by Cpl Derek Blackburn, they will be sending cheques to Cancer Research, the Freemans Hospital in Newcastle, and Jezero Ambulanta



Army Benevolent Fund organiser Lt Col Ian Shepherd (left) and SSgt Tam "The Gun" McKay, District Gunner of 52 Lowland Brigade based at Edinburgh Castle, receive a cheque from the Scottish Claymores American Football team collected during their summer season. Also in the picture are Scott Cooper, Ben Torriero, publicity director Dawn Fletcher and Yo Murphy

Maj Stu Slade (left) and WO2 Chris Hearn, both AAC, draw cheques for £450 from their rucksacks for presentation to Mrs Julie Biddle of the Hope House Hospice, and Mr Vince Charnley from the Shropshire and Mid-Wales Hospice. The money for the two Shropshire charities was raised by pilots at RAF Shawbury's Central Flying School (Helicopter) Squadron after Maj Slade, who is serving at the school, persuaded them to complete a six-day walk along the 178-mile Offa's Dyke.



Col Andy Mantell, Chief Royal Engineer, meets local children after the re-opening of their school in the village of Bukve, near Vitez in Bosnia. Badly damaged by an anti-tank rocket, the school project was started by New Zealand troops and finished off by 30 members of 20 Field Squadron RE. Also present at the re-opening was Maj Gen John Kiszley, who commands NATO's Multi-National Division (South West) in Bosnia

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# WORLD WATCH

An occasional look at what the journals of other armies are saying:

From *Army* newspaper, Australia (in an edition devoted solely to details of the new-look Army): "The 21st Century Army will be highly-mobile [and] capable of conducting operations in any area where Australia's national security is threatened. Soldiers would become part of an ever-growing global society that relies on strong technological skills."

From *Green Book*, annual professional journal of the US Army: If I had to give a one-sentence report on how I view the Army and its NCO Corps, I would say that [it] is in the midst of change, and that change necessitates redefining who and what we are. — *SMA Gene C McKinney, Sergeant Major of the Army.*

From *Army Reserve* magazine, USA: Spouses of Army reservists who have contributed significantly to the quality of life of soldiers can receive an award named after Dr Mary E Walker, who cared voluntarily for the sick and wounded in the American Civil War.

## There's only one Hong Kong . . .

THE disappearance of BFPO 1 at midnight on June 30 next year will be a significant addition to the "lost" postal numbers which mark the passing of British military bases abroad.

BFPO 1, the British Forces Post Office address for Hong Kong, will become redundant when the People's Liberation Army of China replaces our garrison.

It will join Korea (BFPO 3) and Bangkok (BFPO 5) in the archives of military postal history. None are re-allocated.

Hong Kong's passing lets in Washington (BFPO 2) as the new holder of the lowest number. The trend is towards higher and higher numerals as fresh crises break.

With operational areas and large-scale exercises attracting 500 and 600 BFPO postal addresses, many of the most recent issues by the Forces' postmen denote troop movements to former Yugoslavia or Africa.

## Veterans' support sought for Southsea statues

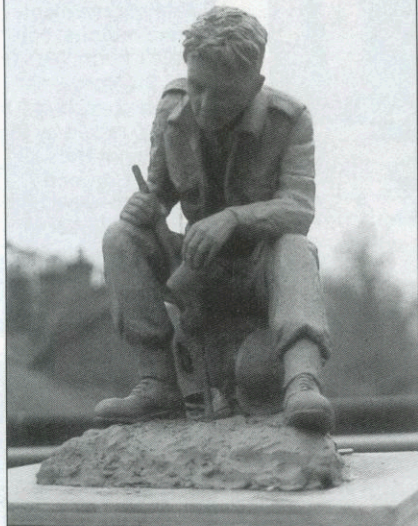
A NEW offensive in its £40,000 public appeal to pay for a statue of Fd Marshal Bernard Montgomery has been launched by the city of Portsmouth.

A team of volunteers is writing to every veteran who took part in the city's D-Day and VJ-Day 50th anniversary commemorative events.

Volunteers under Col (Retd) Bill Stevens, the city council's chief administration officer, are working through a huge data-base of names.

Appeal money will go towards two statues in the grounds of the D-Day Museum on Southsea seafront. One depicts Monty, the other (pictured above) a Second World War soldier resting wearily during a lull in the fighting.

Names of every contributor will



be recorded in a special book.

Donations should be sent to the Monty Statue Appeal, c/o Col Bill Stevens, Portsmouth City Council, Guildhall Square, Portsmouth PO1 2AL.

## Engineers blast out dragonfly fortress

ROYAL Engineers set explosive charges and blew two large holes in the heart of a Surrey nature reserve.

Were the owners hopping mad? Not a bit of it. English Nature, which advises the Government on nature conservation, had asked the Army to do it.

Aim of the operation, masterminded by Southampton-based 78 (Fortress) Engineer Regiment, was to blast two craters, 6ft deep and 18ft across, to create artificial ponds which will serve as breeding areas for one of Britain's rarest dragonflies, the white-faced darter.

The insect, found in only a handful of counties, has been endangered because many of its breeding sites have dried up.

"We chose the explosives option because it caused less damage than mechanical diggers," explained English Nature's Steve Berry.

"It worked brilliantly. The soil was blown up into the air and distributed evenly around the site and the craters flooded within five hours. It was perfect."

Thursley nature reserve, near Elstead, Surrey, is the only site in southern Britain where the dragonfly can be found.

MoD takes its environmental responsibilities very seriously and has had a dedicated conservation officer for military land since 1974.

● Pupils from Merseyside schools met the Adjutant General, Gen Sir Michael Rose, during a one-day Army Look at Life course at Altcar training camp near Formby, Merseyside.

Gen Rose, who later called on Merseyside ACF headquarters, was briefed by Maj Tony Hollingsworth on the Look at Life and five-day residential work experience courses, both of which are conducted by 143 Army Youth Team.

## Brave men of Berks

AMONG three volunteer battalions of the Royal Berkshire Regiment, 818 men died in the battles of the Somme, which ended just over 80 years ago.

This is the poignant focal point of *On the Somme*, the second in a series of four books published by a group of Reading University researchers led by Colin Fox and recording the experiences of the Kitchener Battalions, the 5th, 6th and 8th.

In his foreword Col (Retd) John Hill, who served with the Royal Berks in Burma in the Second World War, writes: "The picture that emerges is of endurance, bravery

## Dragoon's Nile grave escaped the flood

POWYS reader Brian Stephens has "closed the loop" on a series of letters published in *Soldier* 32 years ago. They concerned the grave of Maj Benjamin Tidswell RD, which was about to be consumed by the waters of the newly constructed Aswan High Dam.

His family had written to the Egyptian Government to ask that

## 50 YEARS AGO

From *Soldier*, December 1946

CAR CARRY-ON  
Having read that married families in BAOOR are allowed private cars, I would like to know if this is permissible for single soldiers? Could surplus stocks of motor cycles be sold off for personal use and Volkswagens produced for sale to BAOOR men? — Sjt H Eames, 48 Movement Control. (Letter to Editor)

● Both families and individual soldiers are permitted to ship private cars from UK. Arrangements are being made to permit members of the British Forces to buy cars from Germans. To prevent black market transactions, payment will be by sterling cheque. Volkswagens will be available for purchase in limited numbers, and bids have been called for. — Editor.

## 23 YEARS AGO

From *Soldier*, December 1971

FAR EAST CLOSE-DOWN  
Quietly, but with lavish use of the well-worn cliché "end of a chapter", Far East Land Forces closed down on November 1. On the same day, Far East Command, Far East Fleet and Far East Air Force also went out of business.

For Far East Land Forces it has been a three-year run-down.

and exceptional resilience by the officers and men, many with no more than one year's military training."

The book, which includes a comprehensive list of casualties and where they are commemorated, is available at £5.95 (or £6.75 inc p&p) from the Department of Extended Education, University of Reading, London Road, Reading, Berks RG1 5AQ.

□ A first-hand account of Lord Kitchener's defeat of the Dervishes at Omdurman in 1898 has surfaced. The pencilled diary by Lt Hubbard of the 10th Lincolnshire Regiment is to be auctioned.

the grave be moved to higher ground.

Mr Stephens visited the area recently and tells us Maj Tidswell's last resting place, originally sited in front of the temple at Abu Simbel, is well cared for beside a busy path half a mile down river.

He says local guidebooks invariably mention the grave as



Maj Gen Bryan Dutton presents the Kothimora kukri to Lady Kadoorie to mark a 28-year resettlement training link between the family farm in the New Territories and Gurkhas serving with the Hong Kong Garrison

## Last of the Kadoorie Gurkhas graduate from farm

A 28-YEAR association between Hong Kong's Kadoorie family and the Gurkhas ended when the final group of soldiers from the 1st Battalion, The Royal Gurkha Rifles graduated from Kadoorie Farm in the New Territories.

Since 1968 Gurkhas leaving the Army have attended four-week resettlement courses on the farm in Sek Kong, brushing up agricultural skills in preparation for a second career in Nepal.

Lessons included crop hus-

bandry, poultry-keeping, livestock and bee-keeping. But the departure of the remaining soldiers of 1 RGR at the end of November means the battalion will no longer require the farm's facilities.

To mark the association, the final class of 29 Gurkhas was present when Commander British Forces Hong Kong, Maj Gen Bryan Dutton, gave Lady Kadoorie a Kothimora kukri in appreciation of the family's valuable support over the years.

## SEARCHLINE

National Malaya and Borneo Veterans Association is forming a southern area branch based in Southampton. To join the branch, contact David Smith (ex-2 RGR), Woodglade, Beaulieu Road, Dibden Purlieu, Southampton, Hants SO45 4JF with name, address, telephone number, unit, date served and sae.

Personnel involved in the **Dhofar campaign**, 1968-75, southern Oman, sought by author researching for a book about the campaign. Richard Bowyer, 84 Hartwell Drive, Kempston, Bedford (tel 01234 843218) wishes to hear about personal experiences.

United States Army officer whose platoon evacuated 16 British wounded just south of the **Imjin River, Korea on April 23, 1951**, seeks news of the men he rescued 45 years ago. He has been told they may have been **Northumberland Fusiliers** or **Royal Ulster Rifles**. Replies to Edmund A Krekorian MD FACS, Col (Retd), 17702 East Berry Place, Aurora, Colorado 80015 (tel 303-690-6419).

W I Reeves, P O Box 893, Scott-

burgh 4180, Republic of South Africa, is trying to re-establish contact with a long-lost branch of the family and wishes to contact his cousin, Maj **Nigel (possibly N P) Notley**, at one time believed to be an officer in the Devonshire Regiment and ADC to the Governor of Gibraltar. His service number may have been P43030398.

Rita M Gayford wishes to hear from anyone who served with her late father, **Sgt Harold (Harry) Gayford**, RAOC, who was stationed in Malines, Belgium from the end of 1944 to October 1945, then posted to Egypt until 1947. Replies to 6 Berkeley Road, Crouch End, London N8 8RY.

News sought of **Robert (Jock) McGann**, last heard of in Stephenson, Ayrshire. He served with AA Command School of Technical Instruction REME 1949-51 in Lydd, Kent. Call Sid (Taffy) Drake on 01873 855667.

**1st Battalion, Royal Norfolk Regiment D-Day Veterans Association** has an annual dinner and meets on the second Sunday of every month at the Senior Citizens Club, Recreation

## DATES

July  
15-27: The 107th Royal Tournament, Earls Court, London. Tickets from box office: 0171 244-0244 from Jan 6.

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

## CLOSURES

Re-location of **REME MRO, RLC(S) MRO** and **RPO Leicester** to the APC Glasgow in March will result in the closure of the Glen Parva Officers' Mess at South Wigston on March 31.

Anyone who donated an item of property to the mess is requested to state their wishes regarding its return or disposal.

Where no instructions are received by January 31, items will be disposed of in an appropriate manner.

Contact Maj J Coleman REME, REME MRO, 51 Saffron Road, South Wigston, Leicester LE18 4US (Tel Leicester Mill (745) 3586 or civ 0116 2759586).

## REUNIONS

**Army Physical Training Corps Association (South West Branch)** plans a reunion at Falfield, Gloucestershire on February 7. Details from Bob Marshall on 01747 860207.

**RASC Jersey Boys:** Enlisted apprentices, Army Technical School, St Peter's Barracks, 1938-39, sought for reunion, April 11-13, Reading Moat House. Details from Joe Gutteridge (Bridgwater) on 01278 422806.

Ground Road, Sprowston, Norwich, at 3.30pm. Normandy veterans, widows and families are welcome. Details from Neil R Storey, Secretary, 17 Stacy Road, Norwich, Norfolk NR3 1JN (tel 01603 664564).

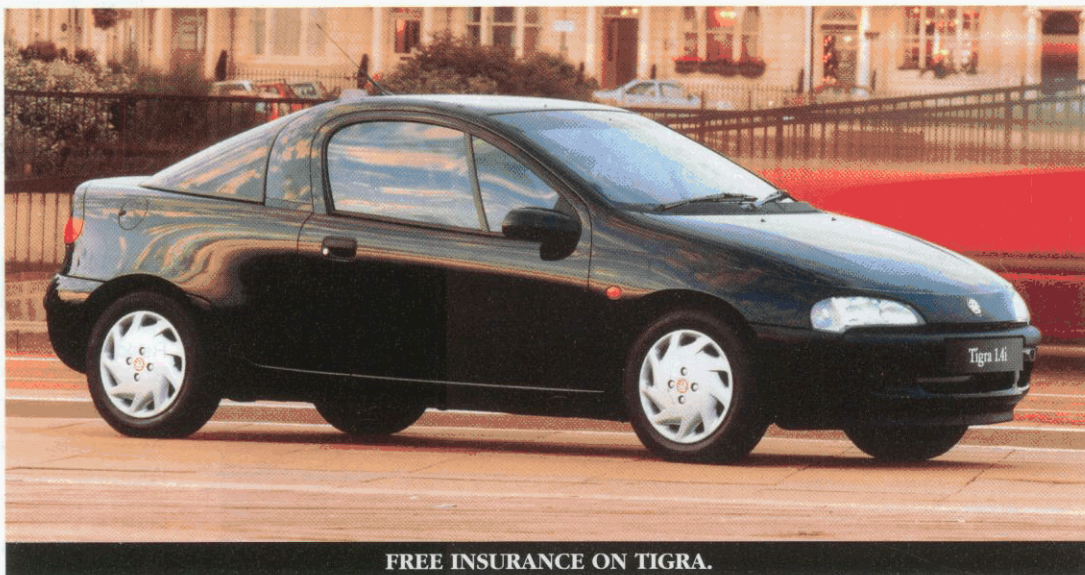
**The National Ex-Prisoner-of-War Association** is a registered charity which exists to help those in need. Details from L Allan, Honorary Secretary, 99 Parlaunt Road, Slough SL3 8BE (tel 01753 818308).

Members sought for new **Royal Marines Association** branch at Clacton-on-Sea. Details from P Wye on 01255 434784.

News sought of Tpr **David Gilmour**, who served at Münster from 1970-72 then at Tidworth. Please contact R Need, tel 01270 252070.

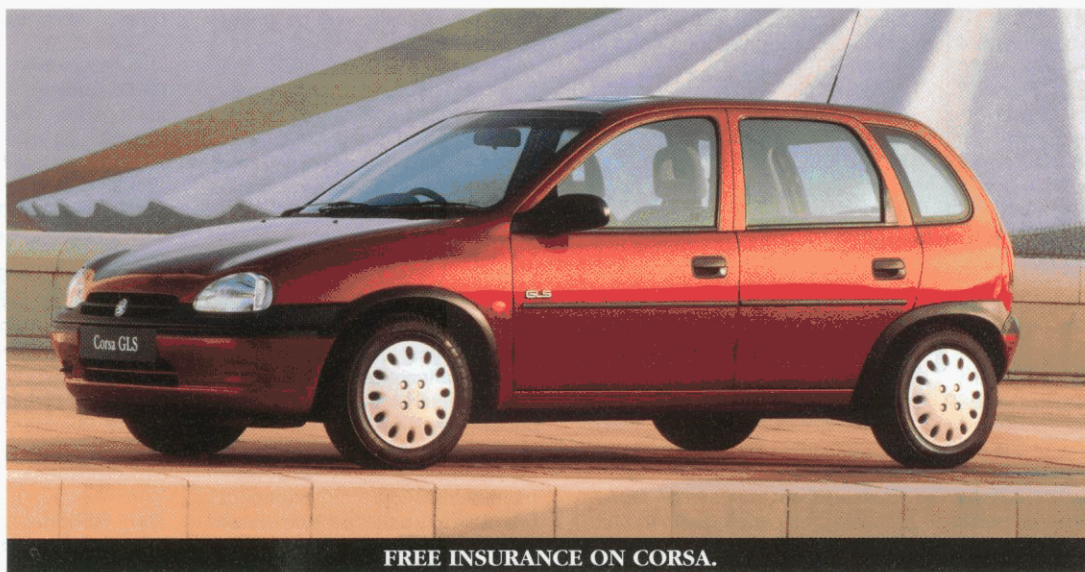
Lads who remember any of the girls at **Bovington Camp, Aug 1965-Sept 1967** are sought for a reunion at Bovington next year. Details from Mrs J V Burchett-Vass, 78 Lodge Hill Road, Lower Bourne, Farnham, Surrey GU10 3RF (tel 01252 715273).





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# Honours shake-up missed a chance

IN Prime Minister John Major's review of the honours and awards system I believe an opportunity was missed to correct the out-of-date class distinctions and the differing qualification periods for awards for long service to the volunteer reserve forces.

For example:

- RNR-RMR, 15 years – officers, Reserve Officers Decoration; ratings, LS and GC Medal;

- TA, 12 years – officers, Efficiency Decoration (TA); soldiers, Efficiency Medal (TA);

- RAuxAF, ten years – officers and airmen, Air Efficiency award.

Officers of the RNR-RMR and Territorial Army are allowed to place RD and TD respectively after their names while officers of the RAuxAF receive the same medal as airmen but place the letters AE after their names.

I put it to the RDs, TDs and AEs – just what is so special about your service in comparison to that of your men, and why is there five years' difference between the RNR and RAuxAF?

The Reserve Forces, in common with the Regular Forces over the years, have been reduced and it is now time to introduce a Reserve Forces Decoration on the lines of the Canadian Forces Decoration, a tri-Service award issued irrespective of rank.

And if letters are put behind names, let's make it them and us ... not just them.

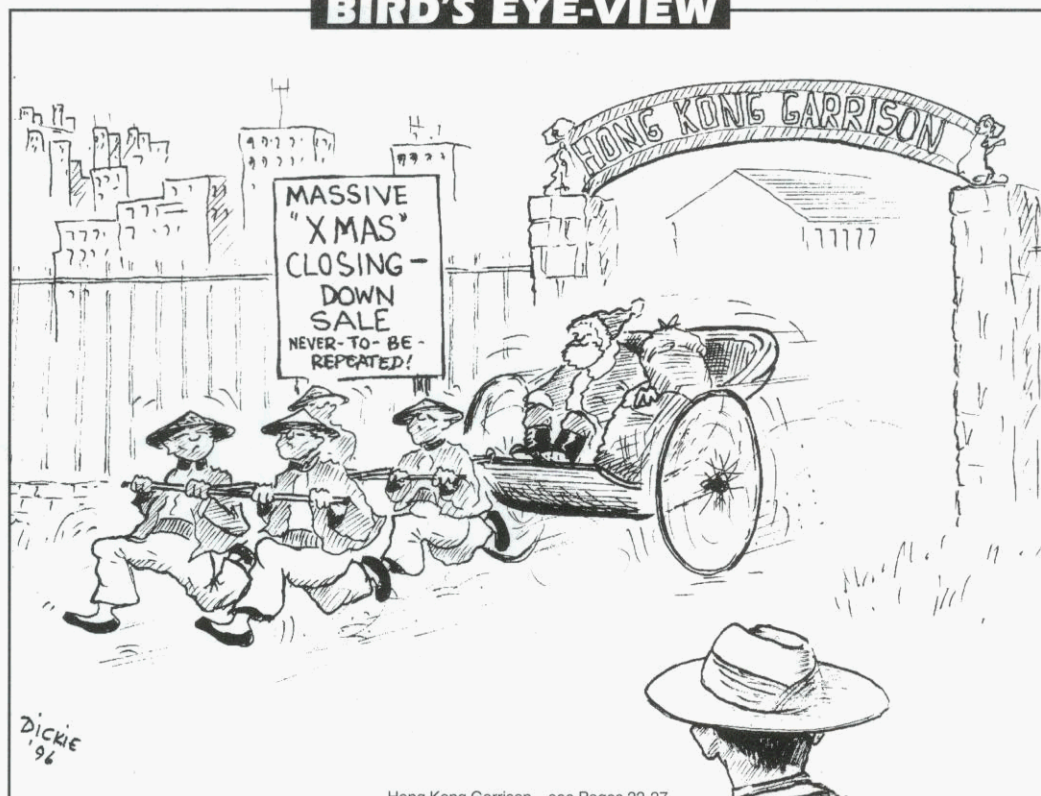
I welcome further comments on this subject. – **WO2 J Hurst, MG Pl, HQ Coy, 3 RWF (address supplied).**

# Badge for war wounded

I DO not understand Cpl W Hibbert's letter (Nov 11) about a discharge button.

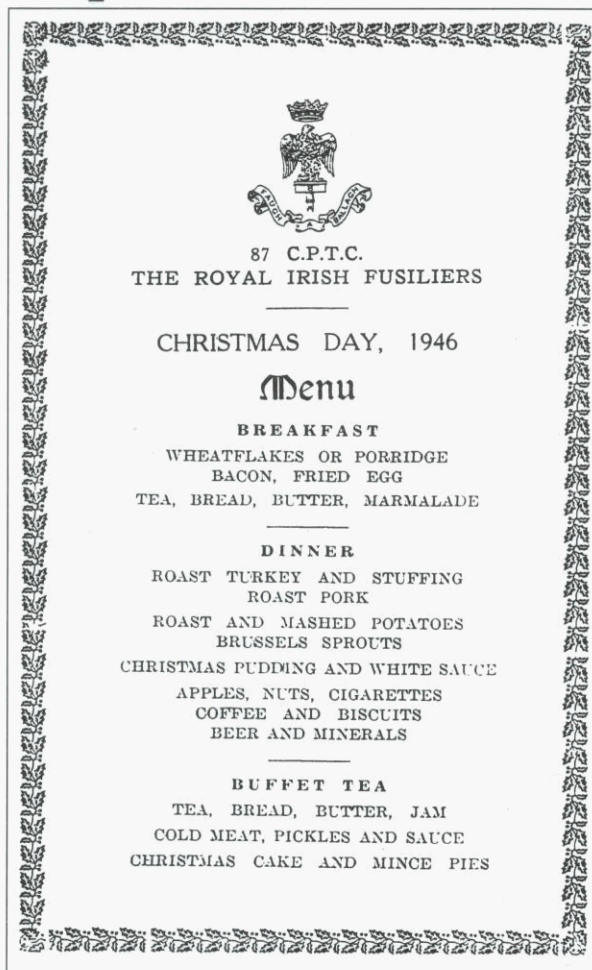
Being war wounded, I was given the King's Badge and, of course, you can wear this with your medals, on the lapel of a blazer or suit. A lot of us ex-RN personnel read *Soldier*. – **Harry (name and address supplied).**

## BIRD'S EYE-VIEW



Hong Kong Garrison – see Pages 22-27

# Spot the difference!



*Soldier* welcomes letters for publication from all readers, whatever their status. Letters must be brief, typed or written clearly and include the correspondent's name and address in block capitals, not necessarily for publication. Anonymous letters will not be considered. Acceptance or rejection of letters is the decision of the Editor, who reserves the right to edit for length, clarity or style.

I WAS going through my old Army bits and pieces the other day and came across a 50-year-old menu card [left] for the The Royal Irish Fusiliers at Ballykinler, Northern Ireland.

I wondered if the lads over there now will have the same as we did in 1946? I later left the RIF and went to the Royal Artillery at Bulford Garrison, finishing as a sergeant in 96th HAA Regiment.

As a regular subscriber to the magazine, I've never seen a reference to "Sandy's Home", a Naafi-type establishment we had on camp. Is it still there? – **J White, Lancaster.**

● For the Record and Points in Question – Page 36

## All change for next century

WITH reference to the letters from readers who want a return to No 1 dress blues – even one suggesting a return to red jackets – I think the present khaki No 2 dress is both smart and soldier-like, and copies the uniform worn in the First World War when, I would suggest, soldiers were soldiers, and saw more action and combat in a day than all the post-1945 campaigns put together.

It is time the British Army started preparing for the 21st century, which means more time spent on parade dress and bull, the abolition of officers' and sergeants' messes, and the formation of a Corps of Infantry. – **S Iceton, Hartlepool.**



A 13-part postcard series on the new regiments and corps of the British Army of the 1990s

## THE KING'S ROYAL HUSSARS

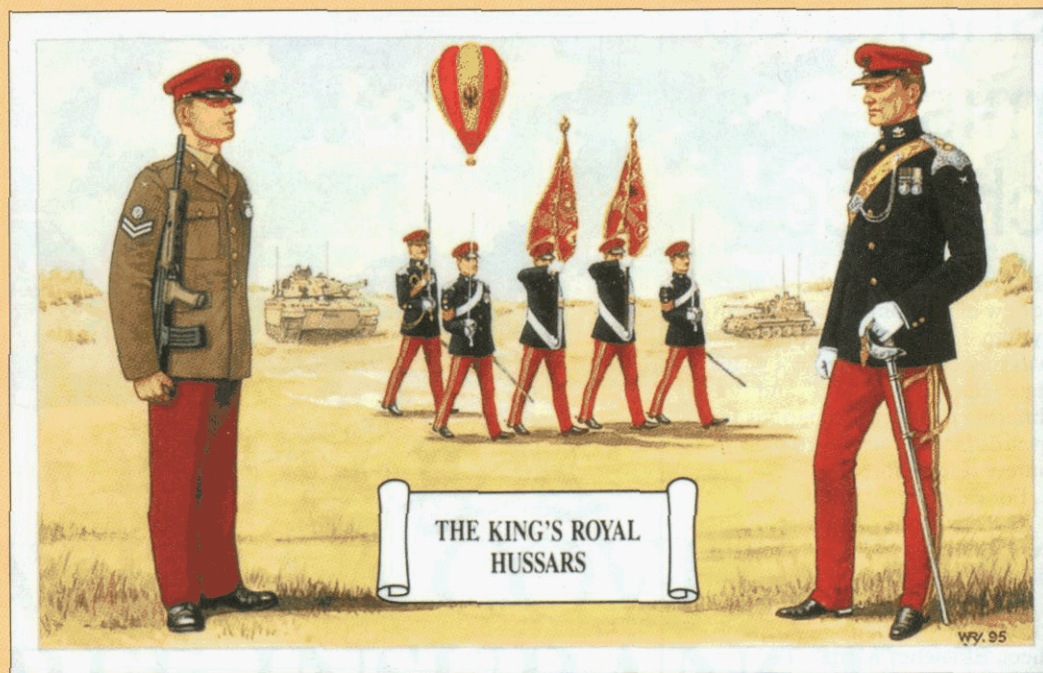
CREATION of the King's Royal Hussars took place on December 1, 1992 on the amalgamation of The Royal Hussars (Prince of Wales's Own) and the 14th/20th King's Hussars.

Of its predecessors, The Royal Hussars originally formed in October 1969 on the amalgamation of the 10th Royal Hussars (Prince of Wales's Own) with the 11th Hussars (Prince Albert's Own), while the 14th/20th King's Hussars dated back to 1922 when the 14th King's Hussars and the 20th Hussars were united.

Crossed kukris are worn as a sleeve badge to commemorate the battle of Medina when the 14th/20th fought shoulder to shoulder with the 6th Queen Elizabeth's Own Gurkha Rifles.

Two items of dress unique to the regiment are the wearing of crimson trousers and crimson overalls, the latter with a double primrose yellow stripe.

Equipped with Challenger



main battle tanks, the regiment is currently serving with NATO's Allied Command Europe Rapid Reaction Corps (ARRC) in Germany.

The postcard illustrated above was reproduced from a watercolour painting by William R Younghusband. It shows:

- Corporal: No 2 dress.

- Regimental guidon party.
- Officer: No 1 dress (ceremonial).
- Background: Challenger, Scimitar and regimental hot air balloon.

For details of this and other postcards depicting regiments and corps of the British Army, send SAE to: Geoff White Ltd., 19, Rushmoor Lane, Backwell, Bristol, BS19 3JA.

## For the record . . .

### Collectors' series

THE Household Cavalry Regiment (Oct 28) was formed long before 1992. At the start of the Second World War 1 HCR and 2 HCR were formed when both Life Guards and Royal Horse Artillery served together but kept their own badges.

While 2 HCR remained in the UK until just after D-Day, 1 HCR went to the Middle East. I served in 1 HCR from 1943 until the two regiments regained their independence in 1945 and went on to serve in the Blues until 1967.

The postcard is a little inaccurate regarding the Horse Guards buildings in the background . . . the mounted sentries are on the other side of the building, the Whitehall side.

### Royal Military Police

AS a regular reader of your excellent magazine for many years I have noticed that on several occasions you have referred to the Royal Military Police as "RMPs".

They are not Royal Military Policemen, just Policemen, so the abbreviation should be RMP. — **Len Gillard (ex-Sgt, RMP), Bexhill-on-Sea, E Sussex.**

● It's a fair cop. — **Editor.**

### Early invasion

Your feature on Desert Challenger stated that a member of the trials team serving in Kuwait when the Iraqis invaded in 1989 was held hostage. The invasion took place in 1990. **Pte P Deering, 10 Tpt Regt RLC, Colchester.**

### Rorke's Drift VC

E KELLY'S letter regarding the award of the VC at Rorke's Drift is correct in that only two recipients were Welshmen. Two points of debate are that the defenders were from B Coy, 2nd Bn, the 24th (2nd Warwickshire) Regiment of Foot, not 2/24 Warwickshire Regiment (there existed at the time the 6th (Royal 1st Warwickshire) Regiment of Foot); secondly, in 1881 (not 1884), the 24th became the South Wales Borderers until 1969. — **Howard Johnson, Cardiff.**

E KELLY said (Nov 11) that the South Wales Borderers were formed in 1884. To put the record straight, on July 1, 1881 the name of the regiment was changed from 24th Foot to the South Wales Borderers and the colour of their grass green facings was changed to white. — **M T Nash, Acton, London.**

### Drum major

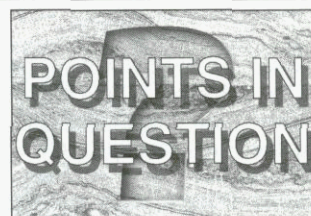
REFERENCE a photograph (Page 16, July 22) which includes a REME staff band drum major, he is shown wearing the drum above the crown of his insignia. Surely as a staff sergeant he should not be wearing the crown as this is only worn by WO2 rank, indicating this rank. I feel the man in your photograph is either a pipe major (with a drum above his insignia) or perhaps a squadron QM corporal of the Household Cavalry (with a drum above his badge of rank). — **Alec Coleman, Bury, Lancs.**

### Foreign VCs

THE subject of Victoria Crosses awarded to non-British or Irish soldiers has been well covered in this column. A letter on the topic from **Thierry Laroche** of Neufchateau, Belgium, makes the point that two Germans, five Americans, one Swiss, one Swedish, one Belgian, one Russian and three Danes were among the winners of the medal.

### Military numbers

I volunteered in March 1945 and my number was 14482386. Others I met whose numbers started with the numerals 144 were either volunteers or Regu-



lars, never conscripts. Years later the secretary of my regimental association noticed my number and remarked that I was a volunteer. Asking around, I found that "1447" men were Regulars, while "1448" men were volunteers for the duration. Can anyone shed light on this? — **Bob Lambert, Newcastle-on-Tyne.**

### Evacuation vessels

I AM anxious to know the names of the two vessels involved in the evacuation of my regiment, the 1st Kensingtons, from Cherbourg on June 17, 1940. One was a coal carrier. I have consulted numerous books on the British Expeditionary Force, alas without success. We were part of Ark Force which was part of 51st Highland Division. — **C Harris, chairman Henley-on-Thames branch, Dunkirk Veterans Association, Tilehurst, Reading.**



# And still there is hope for Province

**The British Army in Northern Ireland** by Michael Dewar. Arms & Armour. £20.

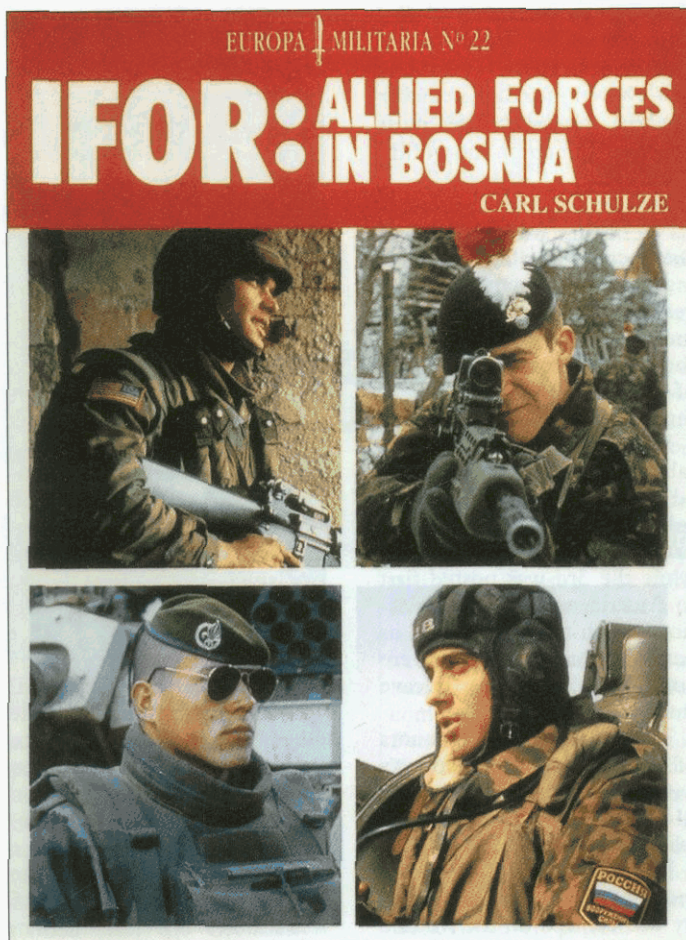
EVERY day politicians and media report and assess the situation in Northern Ireland. To many it appears a hopeless task as they see no end to it: others are determined that a solution must and will be found.

Listing the troubles of Ulster and the Army's role there over the past 28 years, Col Mike Dewar, in his book *The British Army in Northern Ireland*, does not offer a solution, but after 250 pages or so, holds out hope for the future of the province.

First published in 1985 this second, enlarged and updated edition catalogues the whole sorry saga.

Well-known for his TV appearances to comment on the world's trouble-spots, Col Dewar led a Greenjacket battalion in NI and later served as Colonel, Defence Studies for the Army and Deputy Director of the International Institute for Strategic Studies.

With this experience and his expertise as a military commentator, he is as well qualified as anyone to suggest that the message from the "hardline Republican and Loyalist ghettos is clear - we have tasted peace and we do not want a return to conflict". - JM



More than 100 photographs by photo-journalist Carl Schulze tell the story of the international troop operation in Bosnia in early 1996 in *IFOR: Allied Forces in Bosnia*, 22nd in the *Europa Militaria* paperback series published by Windrow and Greene at £10.95. Schulze has also collaborated with Torsten Verhulsdonk to produce *German Napoleonic Armies*, another photographically colourful publication in the *Europa Militaria* Special series from the same publisher (£12.95)

## Choose your weapon

IF you had to select six weapons which in your opinion turned the tide of a war, and therefore history, which would you go for?

Perhaps you would choose the atom bomb... or the Spitfire. Both played decisive roles during the Second World War.

No doubt co-authors Martin Davidson and Adam Levy, in their BBC book *Decisive Weapons*, considered these, but they rejected them in favour of the longbow (Agincourt 1415), the bayonet (Culloden 1746), the

**Decisive Weapons** by Martin Davidson and Adam Levy. BBC Books, hardback, £14.99.

German Panzer and the Russian T-34 tank (France 1940, Kursk 1943), the P-51 Mustang fighter (air war over Berlin 1944), the Bell "Huey" UH-1 helicopter (Vietnam 1965) and the Harrier jump-jet (Falklands 1982).

This book is nicely illustrated with full-colour plates and drawings and was produced to accompany the six half-hour BBC2 TV series of the same title, of which the authors were also the producers. - JM

## IN BRIEF IN BRIEF IN BRIEF IN BRIEF IN BRIEF IN BRIEF

Among books recently published are the following, some of which will be reviewed more fully in forthcoming issues.

**Air War Bosnia: UN and NATO Airpower** by Tim Ripley. More than 100 pages of colour photography depicting British and foreign aircraft and airmen between summer 1992 and December 1995. Airlife Publishing, large format paperback, £16.95.

**With Spanners Descending** by Joe Roberts. History of the REME with 1st Airborne Division, 1942-45. The Bluecoat Press, Liverpool, paperback, £9.99.

**The Hertfordshire Batteries, Royal Field Artillery. An Illustrated History 1908-1920** by Lt Col J D Sainsbury. Second of four-

volume series of immense appeal to gunners and military historians. Hart Books (Welwyn), 2 New Place, Welwyn, Herts AL6 9QA, £14.95.

**With Churchills to War** by Peter Gudgin. Former assistant military attaché in Bonn and The Hague tells the story of the 48th Battalion Royal Tank Regiment in the Second World War. Sutton Publishing, hardback, £18.99.

**To the Last Round** by Peter Hart. South Notts Hussars from mobilisation in 1939 to disaster in the Western Desert in June, 1942. Pen & Sword, hardback, £17.95.

**Amphibious Assault Falklands** by Michael Clapp and Ewen Southby-Tailyour. Sub-titled *The Battle of San Carlos Water*, a candid, controversial and revela-

tory account of the landings by two who were closely involved. Pen & Sword, hardback, £18.95.

**Chaplains in Conflict** by Stephen H Loudon. The role of Army chaplains since 1914, written by the Principal Roman Catholic Chaplain of the British Army. Avon Books, London SW11, paperback, £9.95.

**SAS: The Illustrated History** by Barry Davies BEM. Remarkable photo album compiled by a former Welsh Guardsman who won his decoration at Mogadishu, 1977. Virgin Publishing, large-format hardback, £20.

**Wartime Wanderers** by Tim Purcell and Mike Gething. Story of the football team (Bolton Wanderers) that went to war as TA gunners in

the 53rd Field Regiment of the Bolton Artillery. Mainstream Publishing, Edinburgh, hardback, £14.99.

**Serre: Somme** by Jack Horsfall and Nigel Cave. Latest in the *Battleground Europe* series of pocket guides. Pen & Sword, paperback, £9.95.

**Arms and Equipment of Special Forces** by Will Fowler, illustrated by Ray Hutchins. Yet another guide, with excellent photographs. Greenhill Books, hardback, £12.99.

**The Long, Long Years** by Gillesbuig MacLean. Sapper's story of war and four years of captivity. The Pentland Press, hardback, £15.50.

● More in next page



## Was this an SAS failure?

**Operation Bulbasket** by Paul McCue. Leo Cooper, £18.95.

CONTROVERSY over recent books about the SAS is unlikely to be repeated with Paul McCue's *Operation Bulbasket*.

It might cause a few wry grimaces among survivors of the D-Day para-drop mission, since the author admits some of their accounts of the eight-week operation more than 50 years ago are "contradictory".

In June, 1944 a 55-strong team of special forces was parachuted behind enemy lines in France. Their mission was to pinpoint and radio back the location of targets and generally disrupt enemy movements.

Within a few weeks 35 had been captured and executed – and, according to this book, officialdom was somewhat dismissive: "In comparison with the achievements of the other SAS groups, *Bulbasket* has not, on the evidence available, been so successful as a source of information..."

This is difficult to accept when reading of the mission's considerable achievements.

Time has evidently clouded the facts. Was the location of their forest hideout betrayed to the Germans, or did carelessness prove fatal?

Whatever the reason they were brave men who, according to the author, carried out a successful operation of sabotage which slowed down enemy movements towards the D-Day battle areas.

As the author says, their sacrifice was not in vain. – JM

# Always a Grenadier ...

AFTER the Battle of Worcester in 1651, Charles II fled to the continent, followed by loyal supporters. From these a body of Cavaliers was formed into the Royal Regiment of Guards at Bruges.

It evolved into the Grenadier Guards, probably the most famous regiment in the world.

In *Once a Grenadier*... Oliver Lindsay has documented its history from the end of the Second World War, drawing on his own memories of 35 years as an officer in the regiment as well as the experiences of others, serving and retired.

When all battalions of the regiment reverted from armour to an infantry role in 1945 the 1st, 2nd and 4th remained in Germany while the 3rd was posted first to Austria and then to Palestine, which the Grenadiers, as part of 1 Guards Brigade, were among the last troops to leave three years later.

There are graphic accounts of this tour and of encounters with the communists in the Malaya, for which the 3rd Battalion mobilised in August, 1948.

For the next eight years much of the Grenadiers' activity was centred on the Middle East. In the Suez operation of 1956 a stick of men from the Guards Independent Parachute Company was dropped as a fighting patrol in support of French forces to the south of

Port Said. But what were the Guards doing with airborne forces?

"After the war, to help recruiting in 6 Airborne Division, each of its nine parachute battalions was affiliated to infantry groups," Lindsay says. "The 1st Battalion of The Parachute Regiment became the Guards Battalion." As the 1 Guards Independent Parachute Company it held its last parade on October 24, 1975.

The book tells also of the Guards' role as part of 22 SAS

**Once a Grenadier ... The Grenadier Guards 1945-1995** by Oliver Lindsay. Leo Cooper Pen & Sword Books, hardback, £21.

on active service in Borneo in 1964. Cyprus in the emergency was to be

the last tour for the 3rd Battalion before it was placed in "suspended animation", leaving in its wake a single company which went to the 2nd Battalion.

In early August 1969, that battalion was unexpectedly placed on "Spearhead" and, 72 hours after dismounting the Queen's Guard at Buckingham Palace, the Grenadiers deployed for the first time on the streets of Northern Ireland.

Over the next 25 years the Grenadiers were to serve 15 tours there. As well as the first, the book concentrates on that of 1974, when the shooting was at its height in Londonderry, and on South Armagh, 1993-94.

A special tribute is paid to



The Duke of Edinburgh talks to soldiers of the 1st Battalion at Bessbrook, Northern Ireland, in 1994. Prince Philip, who is Colonel of the regiment, launched the new history of the Grenadier Guards at a party in London last month

Capt Robert Nairac, who, on his fourth tour, was murdered by the IRA when acting as a liaison officer with HQ 3 Infantry Brigade. He was posthumously awarded the George Cross.

Of the 11 tours in Germany the last, in 1986-1991, provided the biggest challenges. The 1st Battalion was the first to receive Warrior; then came the Gulf War, in which Grenadier companies served on detach-

ment to other units. There was an operational tour in Northern Ireland, battlegroup training in Canada, and, finally, the sudden collapse of communism and its consequences for the British Army.

Public duties and ceremonials with which the Guards are traditionally linked are given appropriate coverage, laced with humour.

In common with the rest of the Army the Grenadiers have

seen great changes over the past 50 years. The 2nd Battalion has now joined the 3rd by being placed in "suspended animation", its Colours currently carried by the independent Nijmegen Company, named after the Grenadiers' capture of the bridge there in September, 1944.

This book is a fine tribute to the regiment's dutiful service and proud achievements over the past half-century. – BJ

## The Fab Four and not too many bugles

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FOR those not too keen on bugles, don't be put off this one.

They are used very sparingly, in almost fugitive fashion, only in Paul Neville's *Silver Bugles*, McElligot's *Sir John Moore*, *Auld Lang Syne* and *Last Post*, and the *Light Division Marches*.

Otherwise the programme is on band alone, with one further march in Sousa's *The Rifle Regiment*, at normal pace and without bugles.

Cy Payne is well known as band arranger, and he was commissioned to arrange *Let's Face the Music and Dance* for Torvill and Dean's gold medal attempt at the Olympics. Very effective on band, as is of course Greg Pascuzzi's *Triumphale*, written especially for band, and quite a challenging work effectively played.

Lighter music is Jimmy van Heusen's *Here's That Rainy Day* on saxophone, Artie Shaw's famous *Clarinet Concerto* skilfully played here by

Sgt Wolfendale, and *Symphonic Beatles*, a collection of five of the best arranged in quasi "serious" fashion.

Amazing how well they stand up to this treatment. This should convince original doubters (and who wasn't?) that the Fab Four (well, three anyway) were tunesmiths after all, and are only now being appreciated by the late-middle aged.

A *Gavorkna Fanfare* by Jack Stamp, a well known band composer from America, provides a nicely brittle burst of sound for brass before probably the greatest contrast imaginable, Drigo's lavender-and-old-lace *Serenade* beloved of spa ladies' string quartets.

All sweetness and nostalgia before a most awful version of P G Wodehouse's wistful love song *My Bill*, written for Jerome Kern's great musical *Show Boat*.

Here it receives unacceptable treatment from a misguided trumpeter, well drowned out, not a moment too soon, by the rickety *Sabre Dance*.

You may even approve of *My Bill* in this pleasant programme.

### IN BRIEF IN BRIEF IN BRIEF IN BRIEF IN BRIEF IN BRIEF IN BRIEF IN BRIEF IN BRIEF IN BRIEF

● From Page 37

**Roof of the Americas** by Maj John Warburton-Lee of the Welsh Guards. Story of a 15-month

expedition which took a Services team of 92 in relays from Alaska to Cape Horn. Spectacular photography, mostly by the author. Swan Hill Press, Shrewsbury; hardback, £19.95.

**Phoenix** by Simon Weston and Patrick Hill. Popular Falklands veteran and newspaperman team up to produce a thriller set in the unpleasant world of neo-Nazis and soccer thugs. Bloomsbury, hardback, £14.99.

**Army Wives** by Catherine Jones. Novel, sub-titled "A Force to be Reckoned With", about life on the patch – by a former Army wife who was herself dismissed from the Army when she became pregnant. Piatkus Books, hardback £16.99, paperback £5.99.

**Lucy Kemp-Welch 1869-1958: The Spirit of the Horse** by Laura

Wortley. Gorgeously-illustrated life story of a painter who became fascinated by cavalry horses during the Boer and First World Wars. Antique Collectors' Club, Woodbridge, Suffolk; large-format hardback; £25.

**Pedal for your Life** by Christopher Portway. Not just the story of the 70-year-old author's ride between the Baltic and the Black Sea; also a pilgrimage down memory lane, with recollections of his experiences as a wartime escape expert. Lutterworth, hardback, £17.50.

**From Triumph to Disaster** by Kenneth Macksey. The fatal flaws of German generalship, from Moltke to Guderian. Greenhill, hardback, £18.99.

**Die Hard!** by Philip Haythornthwaite. Dramatic actions from the

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**To the Last Cartridge** by Robert Barr Smith. Glory, honour and impossible odds from the Siege of Constantinople to the Falklands War, as told by a retired US Army colonel. Robinson Publishing, paperback, £7.99.

**To Be a Soldier** by Richard O'Connor. Warts-and-all recruiting guide written with MoD blessing and based partly on interviews with anonymous officers and NCOs. Airline Publishing, paperback, £11.95.

**Samurai Warfare** by Dr Stephen Turnbull. Many illustrations complement an expert's text. Arms & Armour, hardback, £18.99.

**Napoleon and his Marshals** by A G Macdonell. Paperback reissue

of 1934 classic in *Lost Treasures* series. Prion, £8.99.

**The Last Days of Hitler** by Anton Joachimsthaler, translated by Helmut Bogler. "The legends, the evidence, the truth" says the subtitle. Arms & Armour, hardback, £25.

**Untold Story** by David Anthony Hughes. Retired major's memories, 1921-50. Minerva Books, paperback, £7.99.

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**Marching to the Sound of Gunfire** by Patrick Delaforce. Memories of the battle for north-west

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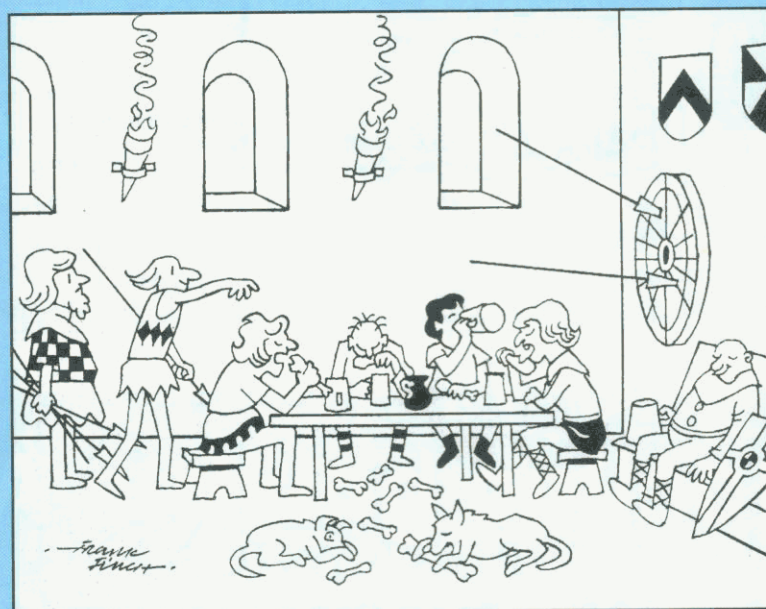
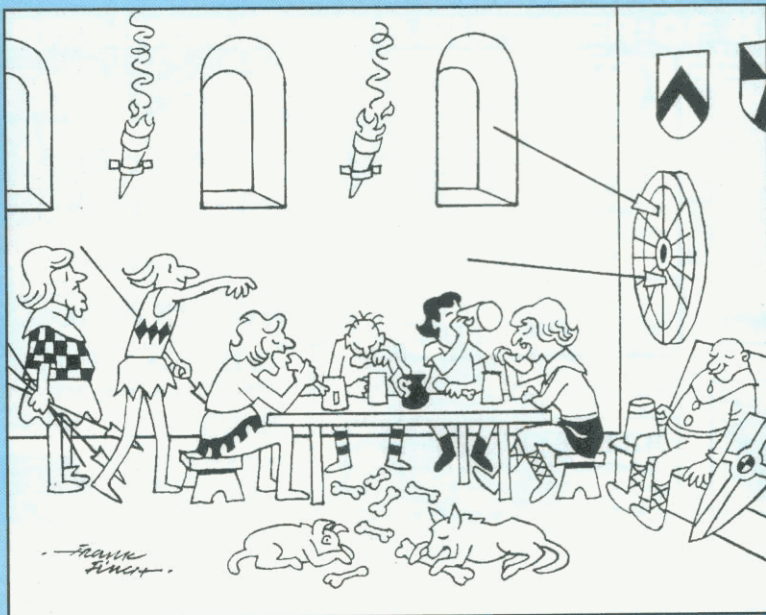
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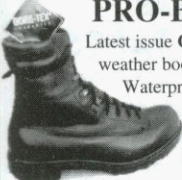
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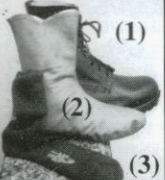
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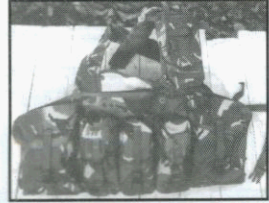
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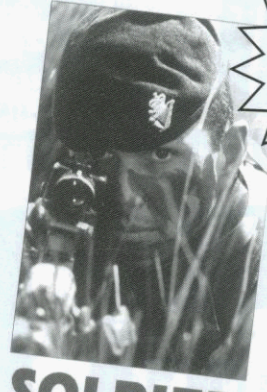
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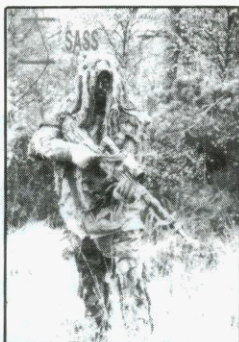
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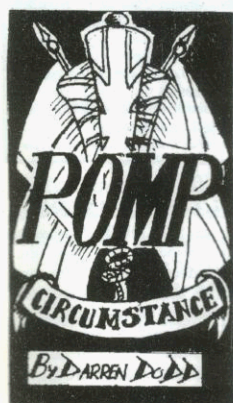
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**11-way tie for fifth prize (18 goals, £90.91 each):** Sgt CR Allan, 24 Airmob Bde CSS Bn, Colchester; SSgt (name withheld), HQ Hereford Garrison; OCdt JE Bracey, RMA, Sandhurst; Sgt R Jefferies, King's Troop RHA, London; Cpl JA Jennings, RGD, Tidworth; Sgt JL Monaghan, 62 Cyprus Sp Sqn RE, BFPO 58; WO2 D Mulvey, 14 Regt RA, Larkhill; Capt GVI Riordan, 4/5 GH (V), Middlesbrough; Cpl TG White, 19 Tk Tptr Sqn RLC, Bulford; WO1 DL Wilson, 5 Fd Arm RAMC, Preston; SSgt EA Yule, 4 GS Regt RLC, Abingdon.

November 16, 1996

**FOUR-way tie for first prize (22 goals, £1,250 each):** Cpl DP Joyce, RAF Mount

Pleasant, BFPO 655; WO2 KJ Roberts, CVHQ RE, Minley; SSgt DB Spick, 46 NI Wksp REME, BFPO 806; LCpl S Walters, 1 Bn REME, BFPO 36.

**Fifth prize (21 goals, £400):** WO2 CW Knight, MOD.

**15-way tie for sixth prize (20 goals, £40 each):** Maj RA Attard, HQ CSSG (UK), Aldershot; Sgt D Bentley, 4 Regt AAC, Wattisham; Sgt D Cornhill, 1 PWRR, Canterbury; Cpl PJ Davies, Royal School of Signals, Blandford; WO1 KJ Fitzgerald, 4 D and D(V), Exeter; LCpl MJ Green, 2CS Regt RLC, BFPO 47; Cpl CJ Harvey, 1 Kings Own Border, Catterick; Maj AT Jones, HQ ARRC, BFPO 40; Sgt R McEwan, 2RTR, BFPO 38; Cpl CS McSherry, Cdo Log Regt RM, Barnstaple; LCpl AJ Mears, 3 Armcd Fd Amb, BFPO 16; WO1 PN Mercer, HQ Mil Works Force, Chilwell; WO2 JR Phillips, PCD RLC, London; Maj SJ Russell, London District Pro Coy RMP; Lt Col AJN Simkins, HQ 2 Div, York.

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# Mighty Steve gives GB a lift in world rankings

ARMY sport has another hero since Sgt Steve Grey APTC snatched the world powerlifting title in Durban, South Africa less than four months after taking up the sport.

The 28-year-old physical training instructor broke three British records during his powerlifting debut and was invited

to take part in the national championships. There, he broke three more records on his way to becoming a triple British champion.

Grey was immediately asked to represent Great Britain at the world championships in the 56kg category, where he struck individual gold and

helped the British team to second place behind South Africa.

A member of the gymnasium staff at 14 Regiment RA, Larkhill, he is looking for sponsorship so he can compete in the European championships in Austria next April.

"Powerlifting is not a well-

established sport in Britain, but the Army takes it seriously. If it hadn't been for all the help the Army has given me, I couldn't have afforded to go to South Africa," he said.

"The Army Sports Lottery provided much of the funding I needed and my own unit has been very supportive."

## Late, late penalty lets Essex off hook

Army 1, Essex 1

DESPITE strong winds, the Army and Essex treated a small crowd at the Aldershot Military Stadium to an entertaining match which the county side levelled in injury time from the penalty spot, **writes Derrick Bly.**

The Army broke the deadlock on 70 minutes when Cpl Alfie Alford, wide on the left, let fly a superb right-foot drive which found the far corner of the net.

But the visitors equalised from the penalty spot in injury time when LSgt Paul Fagin, who had had a good game in defence, was adjudged to have brought down an Essex attacker heading for goal.

Army 3, Wiltshire 1

The Army opened their South West Counties Championship campaign with a convincing 3-1 home win against Wiltshire at Aldershot.

Army coach QMSI Duncan Russell introduced Pte Simon Bird (Cheshires) into the back four and Sgt Tash Williams replaced the absent WO2 Alan Higgins in midfield.

Alford put the Army ahead on 17 minutes when he hammered the ball home from fully 30 yards, and on the half-hour Sig Joe Collins squared the ball for Cpl Lee Innes to score.

Army goalkeeper Cpl Ian Elliott brought off a blinding save early in the second half, and with 15 minutes remaining the Servicemen went three up when Innes and Alford let in Shannon for his first senior goal of the season.

Coomes scored a late consolation goal for Wiltshire.



LBdr Dave Lomax makes a determined bid to avoid being blocked by Royal Logistic Corps players during the Inter-Corps rugby league double header at Aldershot. The gunners beat the loggies 26-20 in the first closely-fought match and the Royal Engineers triumphed 36-0 against the Infantry in the other

Picture: Mike Weston

## Signals bowl APTC over

THE Royal Signals won one of three trophies at the inaugural Inter-Corps ten-a-side rugby competition, hosted by the Hampshire national league club Havant, **writes Ian Neil.**

Organised by the AGC, the invitation event attracted 18

Service teams and was run on a pool basis, with teams qualifying for the Vosper Thornycroft Cup or Shield competitions or the Bowl tournament.

In one-sided bowl semi-finals, the signallers overwhelmed AGC A 22-0, while

in the other, the APTC easily beat RLC B 19-0. R Signals beat APTC 14-7 in the final.

RAF Lyneham won the Vosper Thornycroft Shield, pipping RLC A 7-5 in the final.

The standard of play in the Vosper Thornycroft Cup semi-finals was rugby tens at its best. REME, led by WO1 Steve Powlie, beat the Infantry 12-5, while the Royal Marines overcame the RLC 21-0.

In the final the only two unbeaten teams in the competition played some tremendous rugby.

The Marines sent their try-scoring machine into motion in a hard-fought and fast game, soundly beating REME by 47 points to five.

SSgt "Sledge" McLennan of the RAC was nominated as the Player of the Tournament award.

## Scrum down with this

**Band of Brothers: a year in the life of the England rugby team** by Frank Keating. Penguin, hardback, £20.

IF YOU are considering buying only one sports book this Christmas, then it has to be *Band of Brothers - a year in the life of the England rugby team*, which was shadowed by *Guardian* sports writer Frank Keating and photographer Jon Nicholson.

From an Army standpoint, it could have been subtitled "Four

Musketeers" as there are exceptional insights into former Army officer Will Carling's leadership; the newly-capped Sig Garath Archer, R Sigs; the relegation to the replacements bench of Capt Tim Rodber, Green Howards; and the Murrayfield battle royal against championship hopes Scotland, skippered by Capt Rob Wainwright of the RAMC.

Strong stuff, quietly-controlled emotion and disciplined aggression - this is the England team you never knew. - RT



# Winter sports join in 50th birthday festival

HUNDREDS of British soldiers will be competing in the Army snow and ice championships at St Moritz next month.

The championships will be the largest multi-disciplined winter sports event outside the Olympics and mark the 50th anniversary of the Army Winter Sports Association (AWSA).

Guest competitors from other armies have been entered in the Inter-Service Alpine races which are being held at the same time.

The association is looking forward to welcoming some of the 100 former Army Olympians invited to see how the younger generation is shaping up.

"The AWSA was set up by Montgomery to provide a break from training and operations. This reason is still valued today," said Gen Sir Charles Guthrie, Chief of the General Staff.

Fifty years ago troops competed only in Nordic and Alpine events. Now they can take part in ski-bike, skeleton, bobsleigh, luge, cresta and snowboarding.

Since the AWSA was formed, many soldiers have represented Great Britain.

Robin Dixon, brakeman in the two-man bobsleigh team that won a gold medal in the 1964 Winter Olympics, was a Grenadier Guardsman.

Last season 2,000 soldiers learned to ski and 300 took part in various Army and international races.

"In the Armed Forces, physical fitness, determination, teamwork, and leadership are key factors when on operations," said Gen Sir John Wilsey, president of the AWSA.

"That is why winter sports are encouraged as part of the cycle of training; it brings out all those qualities."



All smiles at Aldershot are (left to right) Nordic skiers LCpls Vicky Grey and Kirsty Evans, Capt Rachel Grimes and Ptes Liz Harvey, Kirsty Stevens and Jackie Hodgson. Missing from the group is Pte Zita Hays

Picture: Mike Weston

## Good cheer on the piste

IF there was a prize for the most cheerful sports team, the Army's women's Nordic skiers would probably win it.

The girls were smiling even after completing a gruelling 26-mile roller-ski, marathon-length training session on the Eelmoor Plain driver training circuit at Aldershot.

Their leader, Capt Rachel Grimes, told *Soldier* that the team, drawn from the RLC, RAMC and QARANC,

had entered seven events this winter, including the prestigious Infantry Military Patrol Race.

"We are the first female team to enter the patrol race. It involves navigating ourselves across a 20km cross-country course and being tested at a number of stands *en route*," she said.

"These include first aid, grenade-throwing and completing a slalom run. The race culminates in a falling plate shooting competition."

## On course for some very rapid promotion

THE first adrenalin-pumping run down an ice-packed bobsleigh track can be terrifying, but one group of soldiers has taken that first unsteady step towards possible international selection.

Army novices tested for the bobsleigh squad at Winterburg in Germany and tried their hands at the more esoteric disciplines of luge, natural luge and skeleton racing on the World Cup track at the Austrian resort of Igls.

Luge competitors lie on their backs on a toboggan and travel down the track feet first, while natural luge racing takes place on roads closed to the public

and iced with running water. Skeleton racers lie on what is, effectively, a refined tin tray – in the case of the Army "tray", one designed by British Aerospace. Competitors race head-first with their chins an inch above the ice.

Cpl Cec Mason, R Signals, interrupted her tour of duty in Bosnia to encourage those taking part in the skeleton trials at Igls.

A year ago the 20-year-old was banned from racing in the men's World Cup after she beat nine male competitors in the first event of the season.

Now the international body which governs the sport has

agreed to classify four women's races as World Cup events and Mason is on course to establish herself as one of the UK's top skeleton stars.

She was accompanied by another experienced skeleton racer, Cpl Sarah Smith RLC, whose normal job is driving a 100-ton tank transporter.

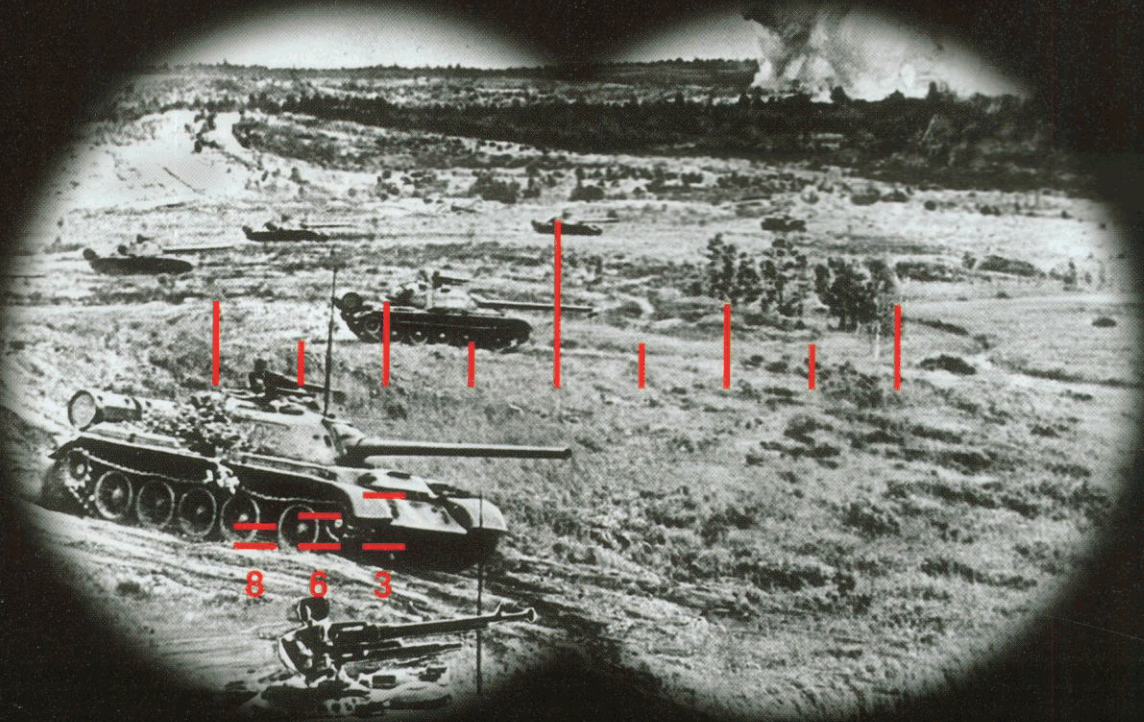
Sgt Keith Yandell kept Britain's hopes alive in the world of luge last year, and still has a chance of qualifying for the 1998 Winter Olympics at Nagano in Japan.

Athletes selected for the Army team will also take part in the Army championships at St Moritz in January.



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# SOLDIER

Water-borne bandstand: The Minden Band of the Queen's Division marches off the first M3 amphibious bridge to enter service with the British and German armies. Story in news pages.

