

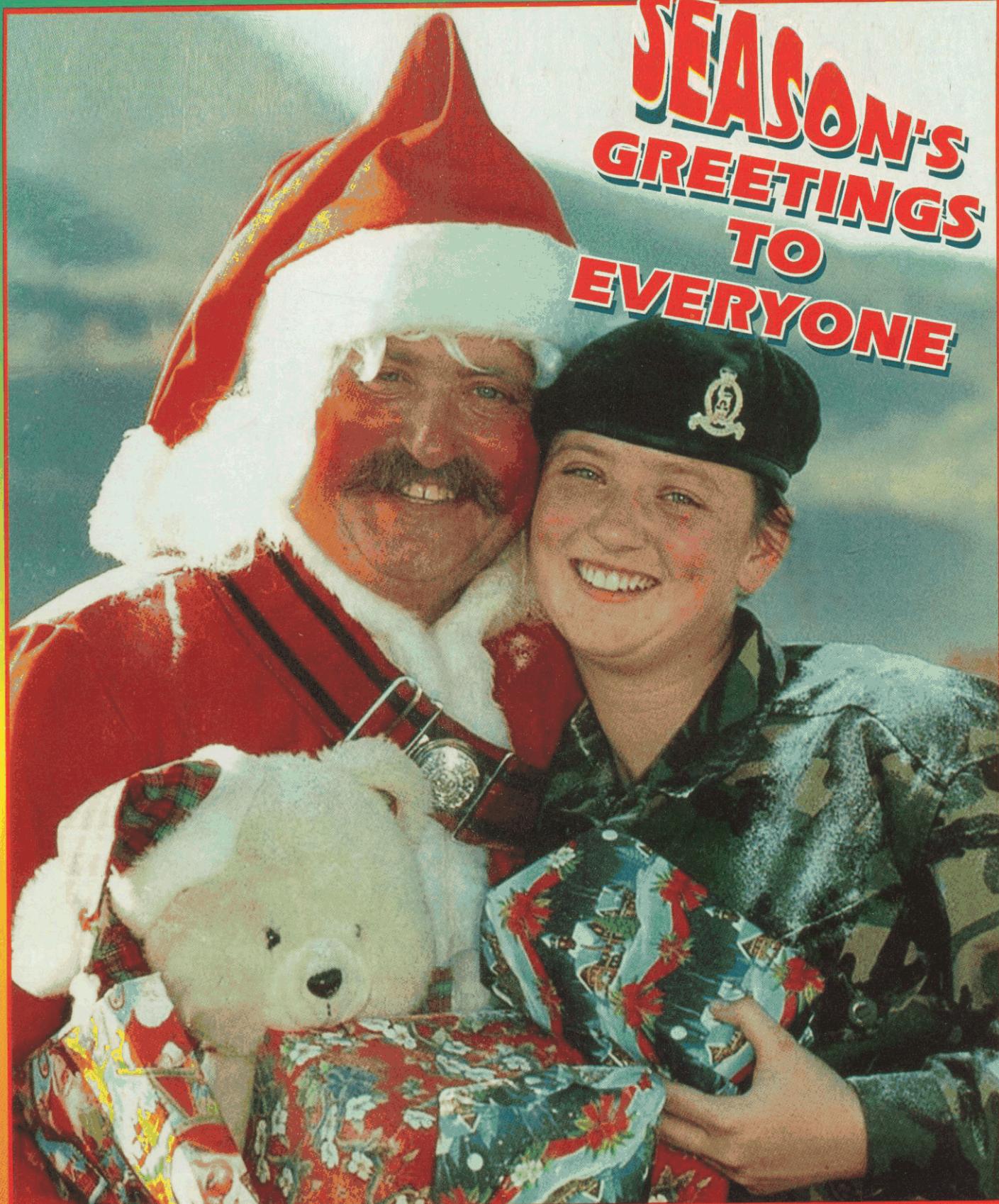
SOLDIER

FORTNIGHTLY MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY

DECEMBER 9 1996

60p

SEASON'S
GREETINGS
TO
EVERYONE



And a 聖誕快樂 from the Hong Kong Garrison

The Best Things in Life are TAX FREE !

Details on the TAX-FREE Volvo S40/V40 range, including
the all new Turbo-Diesel variant, available NOW



Call for a full information pack giving details of our Special Military Tax Free Prices,
Finance and Part Exchange, or complete and return the coupon below.

UK 01707 262388

Title/Rank: Initials: SURNAME:

Address:

Post Code: Tel No.:

Models : VolvoS40/V40 series Volvo 800 series Volvo 900 series RHD / LHD*

Country of Ultimate Use: Approx. Delivery Date:

Finance Details Required: Yes / No* Part Exchange Quote Required: Yes / No*

(SOLDIER 11/96)

VOLVO
TOURIST & DIPLOMAT SALES

Volvo Car UK Ltd Tourist & Diplomat Sales

PO Box 200 Hatfield, Herts AL9 7AR



Incorporating the Territorial Army magazine

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

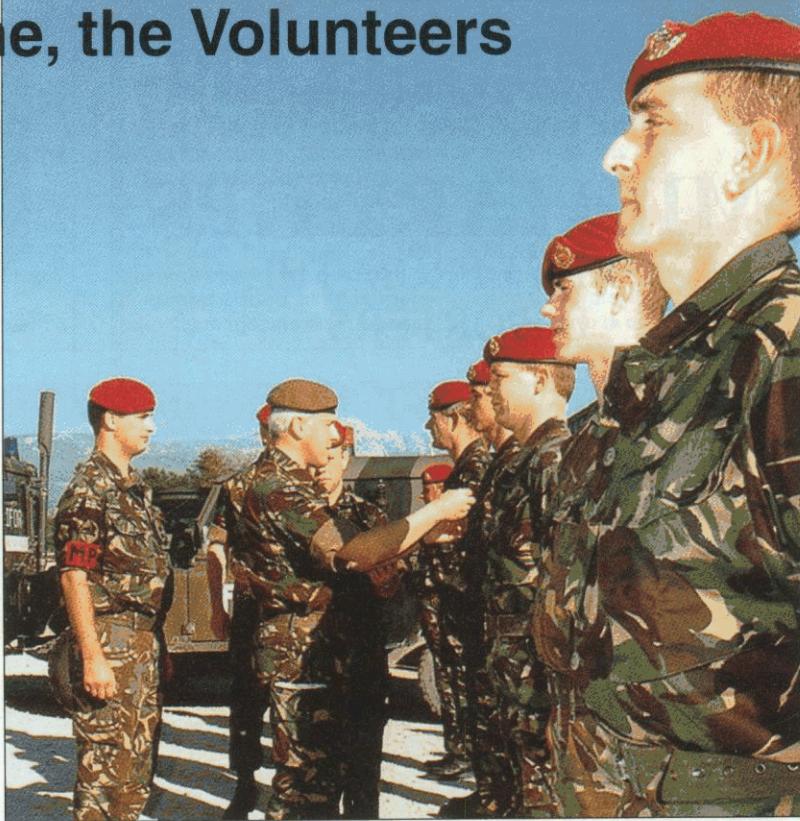
Winter sports festival

Well done, the Volunteers

Maj Gen John Kisze-ly, 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



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

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.

MAGELLAN
WE BRING GPS DOWN TO EARTH.™

MILITARY GPS DIRECT FROM THE IMPORTERS



NEW MODELS NEW PRICES For 1997

GPS 2000 new spec	£150
GPS 4000 c/w Worldwide Grid	£185
Trailblazer XL	£225
Patriot	£580
Pioneer with Arabic	£350
Nav 1000M5	poa
Eagle	poa
Hawk	poa

Prices inclusive of VAT. P&P £7.00 inc Insurance.

Spec Prices for
Unit & Overseas Orders

MAGELLAN
TRAILBLAZER UK
Smeaton House, Inveresk
East Lothian EH21 8PR

Tel: 0131 665 1186
Fax: 0131 665 1187

D10

**Soldiers are
there when you
need them...**



Courtesy of Soldier Magazine

**...please be there when
they need you**

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

Our overall aim is to bring help to the many cases where state assistance is inapplicable, inadequate or unable to meet the immediate need.

Your donation, covenant or legacy will provide invaluable assistance for those who served their country.

Please help them in their hour of need.



To: The Army Benevolent Fund, Dept. SDR, 41 Queen's Gate, London SW7 5HR

We owe a lot to the soldiers who fought so hard for our freedom and our future and continue to protect us. I would like to make this contribution to help those of them who are in need.

I enclose a donation of £10 £15 £25 Other £ _____

Please charge my Access/Visa/Charity Card No. _____

Expiry Date _____

Please send me details on making a legacy or how I could donate through Payroll Giving.

Please send me _____ A2 colour posters showing cap badges of Today's Army. I enclose £ _____ (£2 per copy inc. p&p).

Signature _____ Name _____

Address _____ Postcode _____

Data Protection Act: We may occasionally wish to contact you about our work. If you would prefer that we do not, please tick the box

Registered Charity No 211645

THE ARMY BENEVOLENT FUND



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

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



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

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.

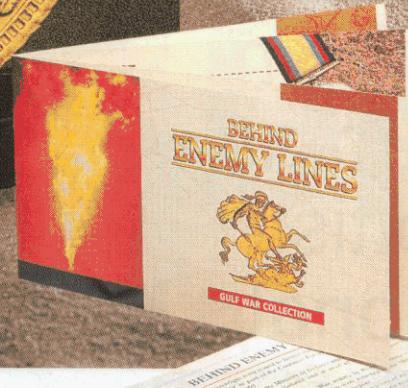


SOLDIER, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU. Civil tel: 01252 347 plus last three digits of Aldershot Military extension given below

Managing Editor Chris Horrocks 2355 **Editor** John Elliott 2356 **Assistant Editors** Laurie Manton 2362 Gordon Skilling 2360
Phil Wilcox 2362 **Picture Editor** Terry Champion 2357 **Photographer** Mike Weston 2357 **Art Editor** Les Gwyer 2169 **Librarian**
Gerard Sutton 2351 **Advertising** 2352 **Accounts / Distribution** Janice Heal 2353 **Fax** 2358 **E-mail** solmag@mail.army.mod.uk

Soldier is published by the Ministry of Defence and printed in the UK for The Stationery Office. Crown Copyright 1996. Views expressed in this magazine are not necessarily those of the Army or the MoD.

YOUR CHANCE TO OWN
A UNIQUE PIECE OF
TWENTIETH CENTURY HISTORY



BEHIND ENEMY LINES

THE GULF WAR COLLECTION - A ONE-TIME-ONLY OFFER

During the Gulf War in 1991, twenty gold sovereigns were issued as part of a survival kit to every British serviceman participating in Operation GRANBY. These were to be used as bargaining power in the event of becoming trapped behind enemy lines.

**ONLY 16,289 GOLD SOVEREIGNS WERE RETURNED FROM THE WAR -
THIS IS YOUR CHANCE TO OWN A PIECE OF THE ACTION!**

The Gulf War Collection is presented in a brown faux leather case with a gold embossed slip cover. It contains a genuine bullion sovereign, 2 dress miniature medals, which are replicas of the Gulf Medal 1990-91 and the Kuwait Liberation Medal, an 8-page colour booklet, and a Certificate of Authenticity signed by General Sir Peter De La Billiere.

Only 16,289 Gulf War Collections are available, at a cost of £195 each - making this a rare opportunity to own a superb memento. Gold sovereign dimensions - Diameter 22.05mm, Weight 7.98g, Alloy 22 carat gold.



**ROYAL
MINT**

APPLICATION FOR THE GULF WAR COLLECTION

Gold Investments
LIMITED

Title _____

Name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

I should like to receive news of
future commemorative coin issues

Quantity _____
Please send me [] Gulf War Collection(s)
@ £195.00 including VAT.

I enclose a cheque for the sum of £ _____
made payable to *Gold Investments Limited*.
(Name and address on the back please).

Send your application and payment to:
GOLD INVESTMENTS LIMITED
3 Gracechurch Street, London, EC3V 0AT.

All orders are subject to availability.
Any cheques received after the Collection is sold out will be
returned promptly.



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 railhead 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.

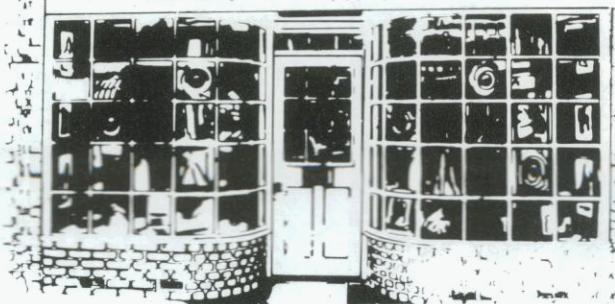
Although the Argentine authorities have been helpful, "the problem has been a distinct lack of records", the minister said.

G.D. Golding Tailors Ltd.

Military Livery and Civilian Tailors

G. D. Golding
TAILORS LTD.

Finet-Murray Tailors



Our Representative will call at your request. Ring (01727) 841321 –

Fax (01727) 831462 or write for details to:
220 Hatfield Road, St Albans, Herts AL1 4LW

Name

Address

..... Tel

Please state your particular requirements below:

LEARN TO FLY

Wing

& Rotor

International

AEROPLANE TRAINING

You can obtain your pilot's licence for as little as £2,200 in sunny Florida, two miles from the beach, at any time of the year. For this price you will receive:

- * 28.5 hours dual instruction
- * 20 hours solo practice
- * all necessary books
- * ground instruction
- * medical
- * written test fees
- * checkride
- * transport to and from Orlando airport
- * free accommodation

All you need to pay is the air fare to Florida

HELICOPTER TRAINING

Call us for the cheapest helicopter training in the USA!!!

**FIXED WING AND HELICOPTER
PRIVATE LICENCE THROUGH TO COMMERCIAL**

SPECIAL RATES FOR RESETTLEMENT COURSES

Phone Paula or Harry for more information on
001 904 437 8359 or fax on 001 904 437 6000

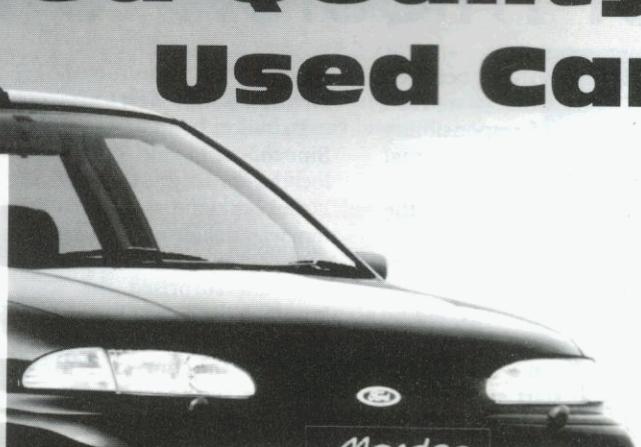
Wing & Rotor International, Flagler County Airport, SR100,
Box 18T, No 12 Bunnell, Florida, USA Zip 32110

A Guaranteed Quality Used Car

Natocars will provide you with the safest route to your next quality used car, with these advantages:

- Low mileage, mostly one owner vehicles
- Free RAC inspection and report
- Free warranty and breakdown membership
- 12 months MOT
- Lower monthly payment finance scheme
- Special offers
- Discounted insurance premium
- Re-establishment of lapsed no claims bonus
- Dedicated sales contact
- Complete list and photo service
- Reservation for up to 3 months before delivery
- Delivery to the destination of your choice
- 30 year reputation for fair dealing

Now, like the majority of our customers, you can order your car unseen with total confidence by post, phone, fax or personal visit - *We Guarantee it!*



Please send me details of your used cars.

Rank: _____ Initials: _____

Surname: _____

Address: _____

Tel. - work: _____ extn: _____
home: _____

Delivery date (Required): _____

For use in (Country): _____

I would like to consider
(please tick)

Part Exchange

Savings Plan

Finance

Insurance

NATOCARS
A Rewarding Experience

WYLODS RD, BRIDGWATER,
SOMERSET TA6 4DG.
Tel. 01278 455555
Fax 01278 450396

SOL
USD3

N
NATOCARS
A Rewarding Experience

WYLODS RD, BRIDGWATER,
SOMERSET TA6 4DG.
Tel. 01278 455555
Fax 01278 450396



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 shown 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

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.

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 Paine 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.



What the papers have been saying

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*

● 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 Lt.



If you're over five you can save £30

As a member of Britain's armed forces BT think you deserve every opportunity to keep in touch with friends and relations.

So if BT can connect 6 or more service personnel, at the same location, each individual customer gets £30 off the normal connection charge.

It's good to talk so get in touch with BT on **0800 400471** and a telephone can be installed for just £69 plus vat.

This offer is exclusive to service personnel in service accommodation.
Following installation of your telephone normal rental and call charges then apply.
Offer subject to normal BT terms and conditions.



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 callsign – "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

grips which allow the team to examine, attack or otherwise deal with the device from a safe distance. No 2 takes over if anything goes wrong.

A signaller is the No 3 in the team, while the No 4 is an infantry soldier who acts as the bodyguard.

Their sophisticated equipment is a far cry from the cavalier days of the early 70s when disposal teams went in armed only with a flak jacket and a pair of running shoes. Wire cutters and a knife were standard kit.

Not surprisingly, the squadron suffered its worst casualties during that period, with 14 men killed. Modern 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.



IT'S AN HONOUR



Lt Col Marjorie Bandy

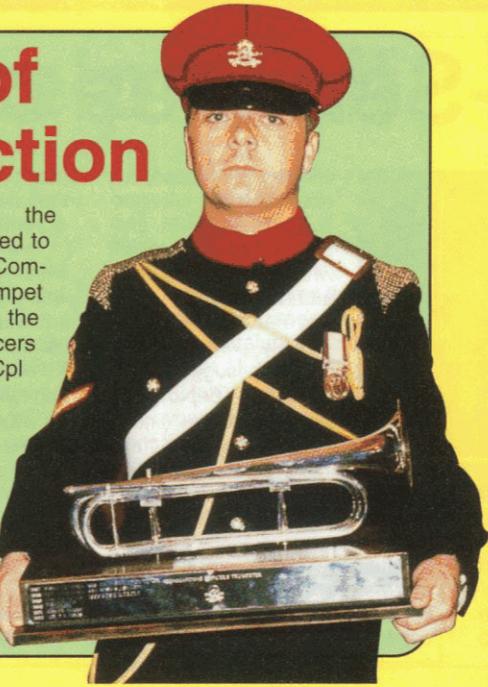
Recognition in their various fields has been given to Lt Col Marjorie Bandy, Anne Fagan and Cpl Martin Andrews.

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 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 Heathcote 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.**

Clerical error?



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.

**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.

A Registered Charity funded by voluntary donations.

<http://www.compulink.uk/~careware/samaritans/>

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.

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 shoyukan 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



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 Ardbrecknish.

"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



Contented couple: two Housing 21 tenants relax in their flat

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.



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



Cpl Paul Goble at work



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

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

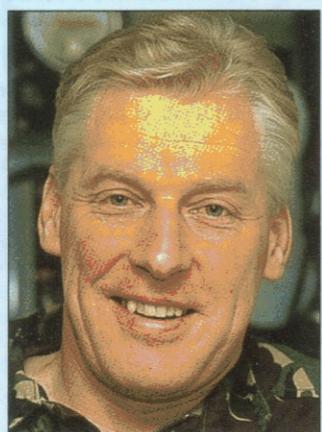
64 CRE (Works) includes 519 Specialist Team RE supplying the engineering design for projects, described by Brig Moore-Bick as the cement of engineer operations.

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



Brig John Moore-Bick, Chief Engineer

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 Kisseljak, the OC, Maj Mark Burrows, said that every nation had its own map and grid system, and coordination 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-

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 Mil-

itary 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

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 . . ."

Chuckle with Chip



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



"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 compon 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



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



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



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

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."



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

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

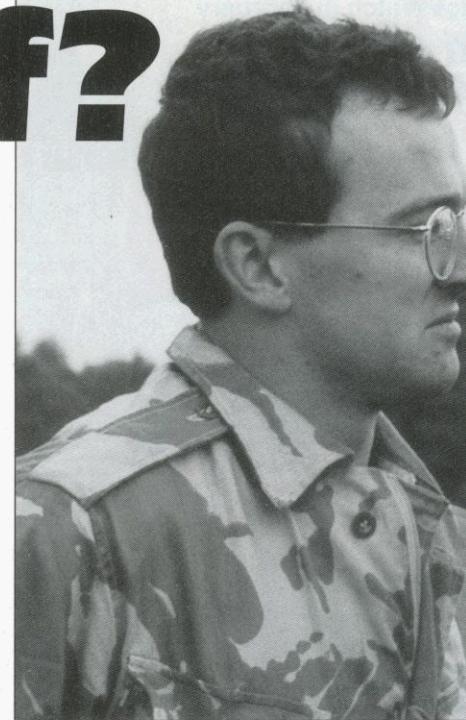
writing, television or broadcasting journalists from national, regional or local media outlets, photographers, public relations officers, Government Information Service staff, linguists or people in the marketing world.

"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."



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

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



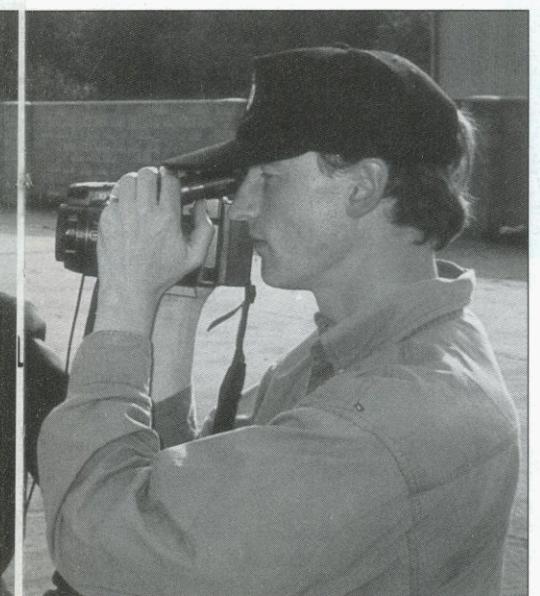
Capt Robert Partridge, L1 remains cheerful despite the heavy load of film he is carrying to resupply his comrades. Out of uniform he works in special effects and as military adviser to the popular television series about a TA unit – Preston Front

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 marketeers 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.



Capt Sean Holding (Meridian) and Maj Alastair Bruce (Sky Television) carry out an interview



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.

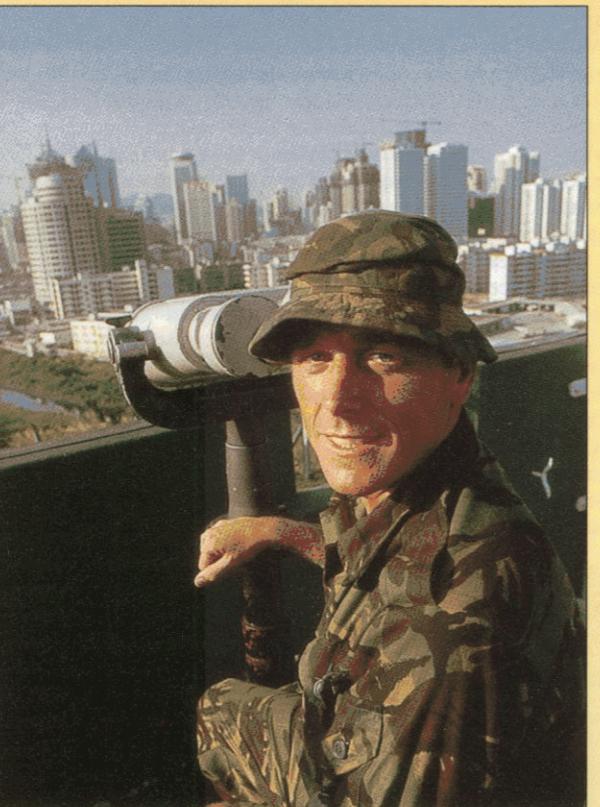
He re-enlisted in the 1st Battalion, The Staffordshire Regiment (The Prince of Wales's) on September 2, just in time to go to Hong Kong for five months.

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



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

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

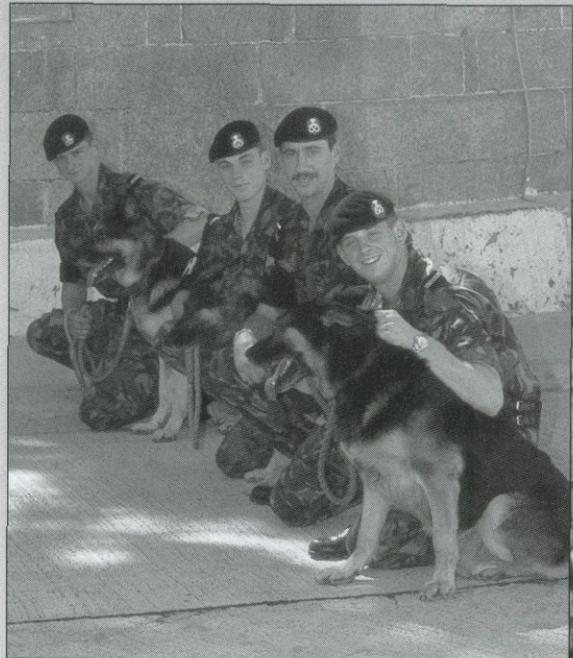


Head man: Dvr Sue Chi Wai wears this magnificent outfit as the Hong Kong Logistic Support Regiment's colourful lion dancers swing into action



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

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



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



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

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.

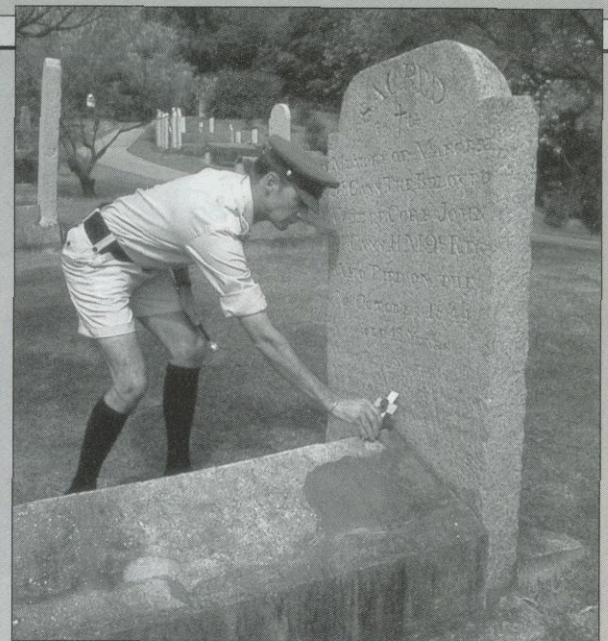
Col Tanner is proud that his regiment will play its part in preserving the memory of the British Army's Chinese soldiers. At his suggestion it has been agreed that 1

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.



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 disbanded 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.

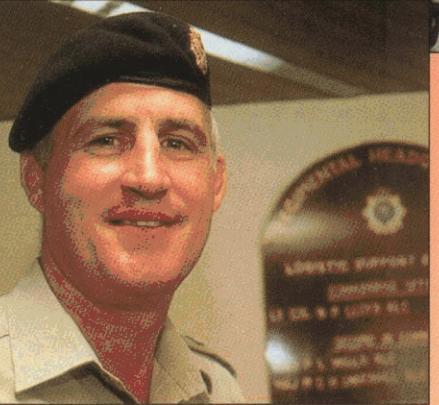
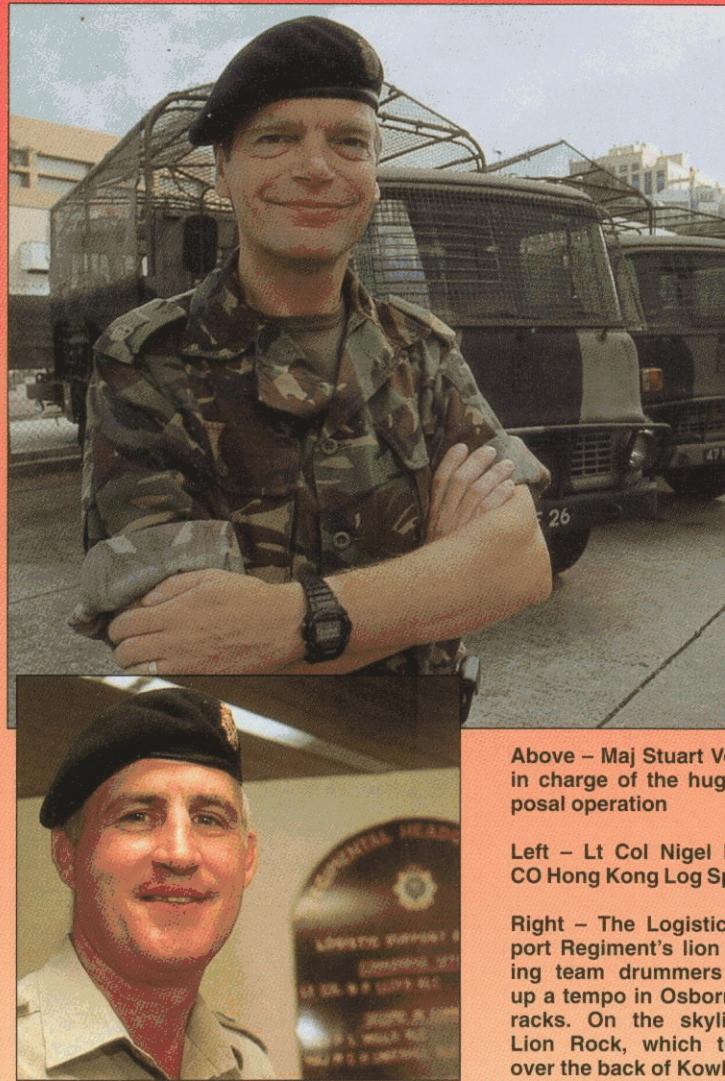
"The British Army's loss is Hong Kong's gain," said Col Southward.

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.



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 drawdowns 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 combat (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 Brian Jewell

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

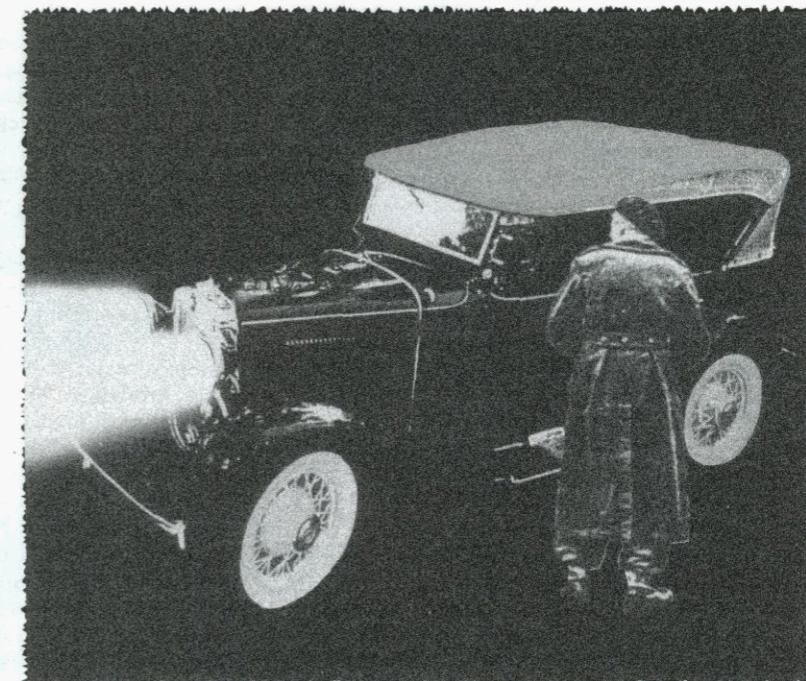
The lights and sounds from the cafés were more inviting than the cold square. I sampled the nearest and ordered a beer. By this time hope of reaching St Niklaas that night was fading fast. A youth of about 17 came over and started to talk. "I can take you to the Belgian frontier," he declared, "and you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

THE FINEST CAR PURCHASE PLAN AT HOME AND OVERSEAS



Benefit from dealing direct with the leading Rover International Supply Specialists.

- Big savings from Rover/SCE concessions - Tax Free + Tax Paid
- Fast friendly and efficient telephone enquiry and mail order service
- Flexible finance tailored to suit you (subject to status), now including Rover Select Optional Purchase Scheme for qualifying buyers

If it's Rover...it's SCE
Hundreds of customers return over...
and over again...

Name: _____ Initials: _____ SOL 9/12

Address: _____ Postcode: _____ Day Tel: _____

Eve Tel: _____ Title/Rank: _____

Car for use in (country): _____ Date required: _____

I am interested in:

800 Series 600 Series New 400 Series Rover Tourer
 New 200 Series Rover Coupe Rover Cabriolet 100 Series
 Mini MGF

TAX FREE FOR EXPORT TAX PAID FOR UK USE

Please post to SCE Ltd, FREEPOST, Faringdon, Oxon SN7 5BR UK (No stamp required if mailed in UK or BFPO)

SCE
INTERNATIONAL

SUPPLY
s p e c i a l i s t
A B O V E A L L , W E ' R E R O V E R S P E C I A L I S T S

UK HOTLINE 01367 241225

(ALWAYS PLEASED TO CALL BACK TO SAVE YOUR CHARGES)

SCE Ltd, FREEPOST, Faringdon Oxon SN7 5BR UK



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 BATSUB and the Canadian Forces Base Suffield took part in the 16th annual Terry Fox Charity Run in Alberta, Canada. BATSUB 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 Commoisoung, SSgt Jeff Baker, Sgt John Rose, SSgt Bruce Hobday, SSgt Phil Robinson, and PTI Dean Marshall from ATR Bassingbourn, who stood in when international athlete Sgt Kelly Holmes had to withdraw



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



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



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

Convert your experience into qualifications . . .

Vocational Education Training Programme

The following NCs / NDs / HNCs / HNDs are available under the above programme

- Plant Engineering
- Mechanical Engineering
- Electrical Engineering
- Electronics
- Telecommunications
- Building Studies
- Business Administration
- Legal Studies
- Motor Vehicle
- Building Services
- Computing

The programme is an initiative by Blackburn College to assist members of HM Forces to attain recognised qualifications using the Accreditation of Prior Learning (APL) process for a portion of the award.

Interested? Then contact Barbara Clarkson, Faculty of Technology, Blackburn College, Feilden Street, Blackburn, Lancashire BB2 1LH. Telephone : 01254 292357 Fax : 01254 681755

BLACKBURN COLLEGE

An Associate College of Lancaster University
Feilden Street, Blackburn, Lancs BB2 1LH. Telephone (Student Services) : 01254 292929 Fax : 01254 678903 • BS EN ISO 9002 Registered
Blackburn College exists to serve the educational and cultural needs of the local community



MANAGEMENT CHARTER INITIATIVE





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

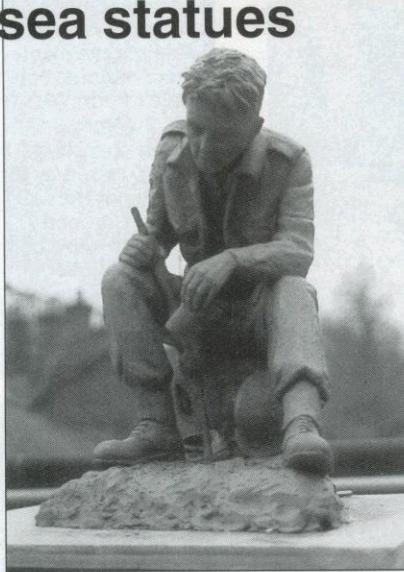
A NEW offensive in its £40,000 public appeal to pay for a statue of Field Marshal Bernard Montgomery has been launched by the city of Portsmouth.

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 weary 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, master-minded 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.

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 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.

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.

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

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

50 YEARS AGO

From *Soldier*, December 1946

CAR CARRY-ON

Having read that married families in BAOR 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 BAOR 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.

25 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 rundown.

Dragoon's Nile grave escaped the flood

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 sas.

They are the first phase of a staggered release of documents which historians believe will add enormously to knowledge of the Great War.

■ A VC won by 18-year-old Pte George Peachment, King's Royal Rifle Corps, at Loos in 1915 has been sold at auction for £31,050. Pte Peachment was wounded and died while kneeling in the open to bandage the wounds of his commander.

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 Mil (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.

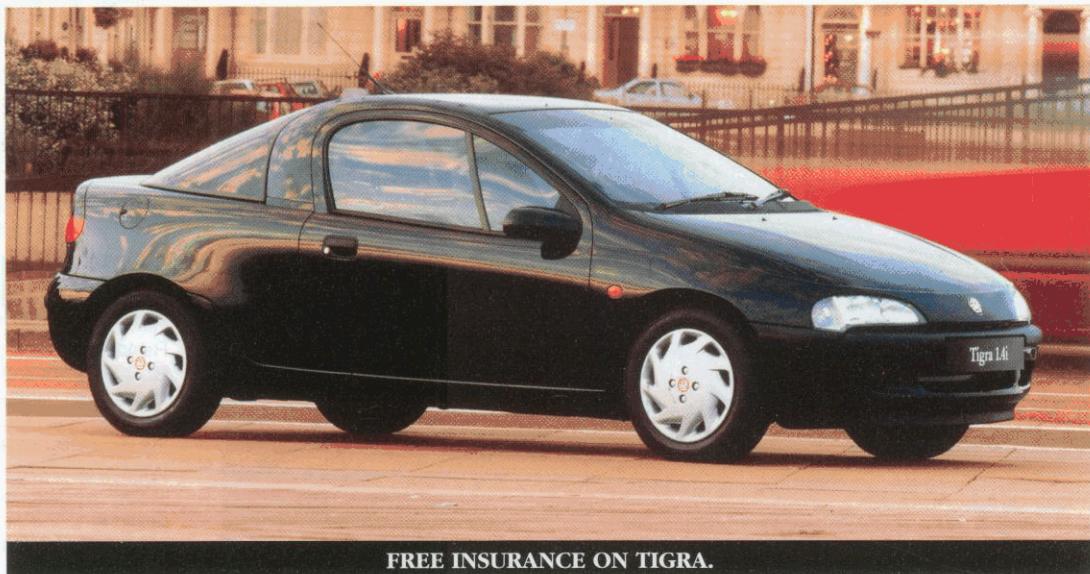
Ground Road, Sprowston, Norwich, at 3.30pm. Normandy veterans, widows and families are welcome. Details from Neil R Storey, Secretary, 17 Stacy Road, Norwich, Norfolk NR3 1JN (tel 01603 664564).

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).



FREE INSURANCE ON TIGRA.

OUTLOOK: NIPPY WITH A COVERING OF FREE INSURANCE.



FREE INSURANCE ON CORSA.

The cheeky charm of the Corsa or the concept car good looks of the Tigra?

Whichever you go for you're guaranteed bags of style, fun, and lively performance.

And there's never been a better moment to make your choice.

As well as the obvious attraction of a tax free price, we're offering 12 months comprehensive insurance when you order or register a Corsa or Tigra* before January 31st 1997. The policy is through Norwich Union, one of the UK's leading insurers.

What else would you expect from Vauxhall - brilliant design, great performance and the complete peace of mind of comprehensive cover?

For full details return the coupon to Vauxhall Tax Free Sales or contact your nearest Vauxhall dealer, or phone Vauxhall Tax Free Sales on **00 44 1582 864410**.

STC 9/12

Name: _____

Rank/title: _____

Address: _____

Post code/BFPO no: _____

Vauxhall Tax Free Sales, Carlton House, 62-64 High Street,
Houghton Regis, Bedfordshire LU5 5BJ, U.K.



VAUXHALL
Tax Free Sales

*Excludes Tigra Blue Special Edition models. Eligible drivers must be aged between 18 and 80 for Corsa models and 21 and 80 for Tigra models. Subject to normal terms and conditions. An excess of at least £100 applies (£150 in Northern Ireland). Offer applies to British Forces in Germany only.

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 irrespective of rank.

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

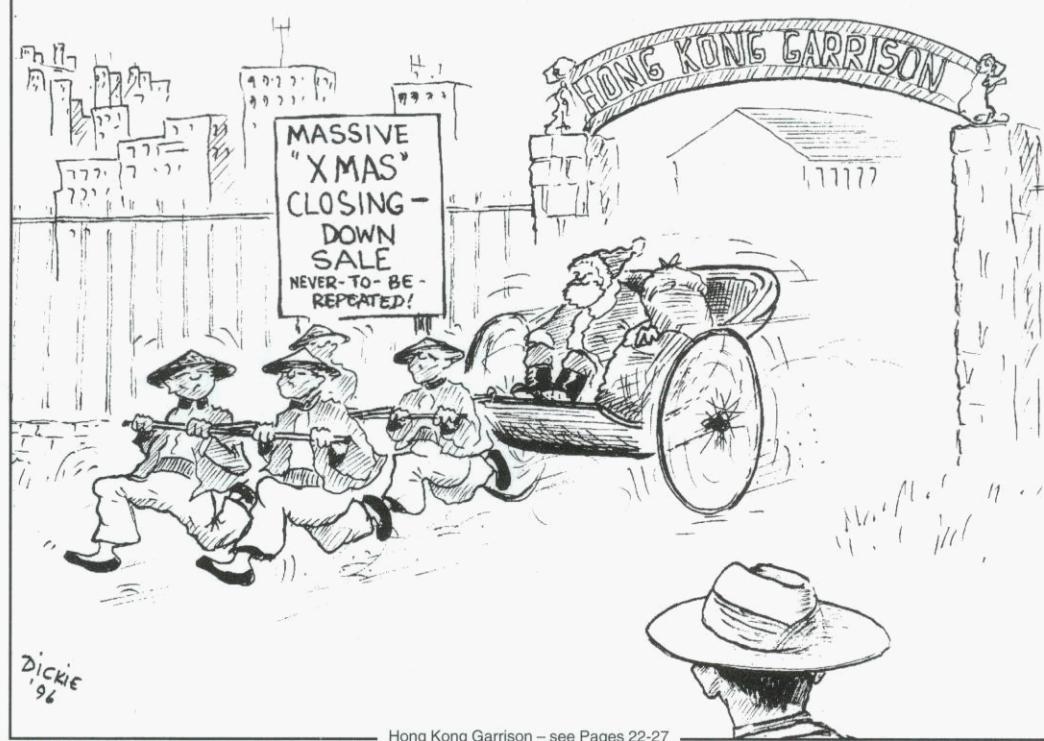
I welcome further comments on this subject. – WO2 J Hurst, MG Pl, HQ Coy, 3 RWF (address supplied).

Badge for war wounded

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

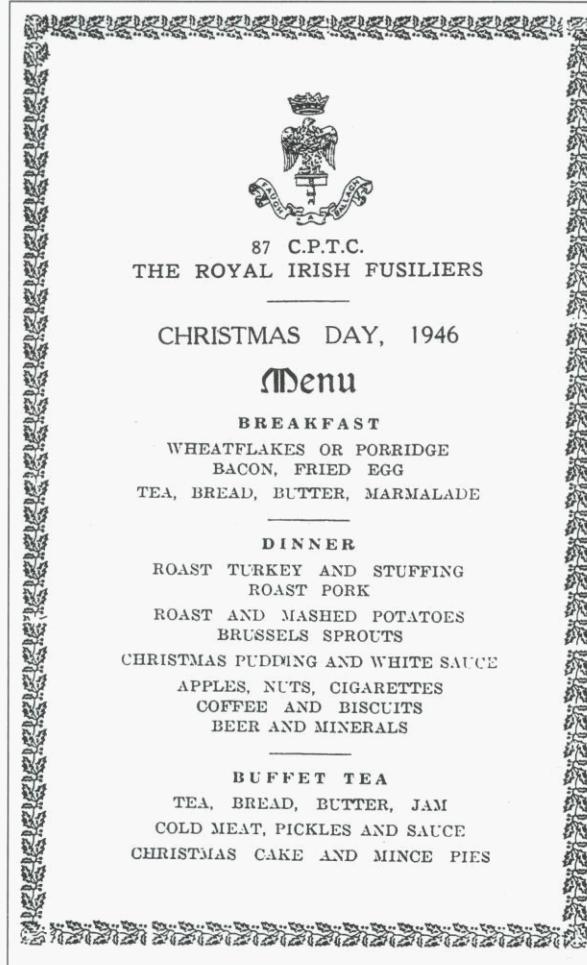
Being war wounded, I was given the King's Badge and, of course, you can wear this with your medals, on the lapel of a blazer or suit. A lot of us ex-RN personnel read *Soldier*. – Harry (name and address supplied).

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 Medicina 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

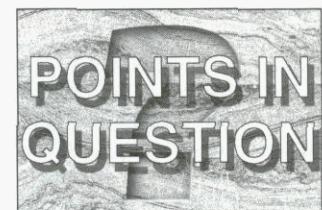
REFERENCE a photograph (Page 16, July 22) which includes a REME staff band drum major, he is shown wearing the drum above the crown of his insignia. Surely as a staff sergeant he should not be wearing the crown as this is only worn by WO2 rank, indicating this rank. I feel the man in your photograph 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.

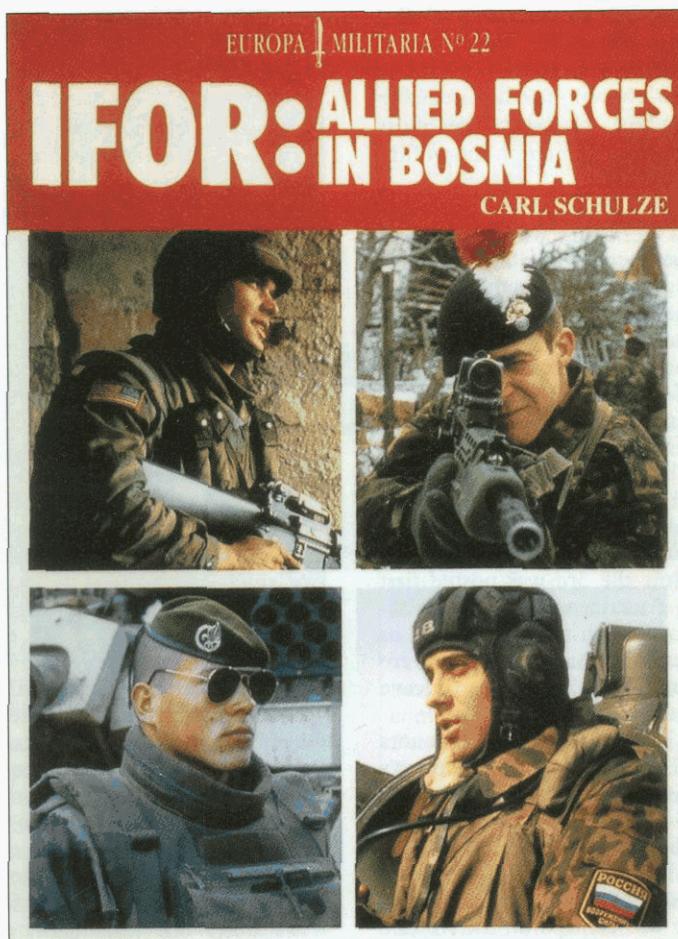
EVERY day politicians and media report and assess the situation in Northern Ireland. To many it appears a hopeless task as they see no end to it: others are determined that a solution must and will be found.

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 Verhülsdonk 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 Louden. 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 Gileasburg 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 grins 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

Leaving the Service?

Have you thought about becoming a full-time fire fighter?

Send for the information pack that could help you gain entrance to this rewarding and exciting career.

Each pack contains:

- * Entry criteria
- * Interview preparation
- * Sample interview questions
- Plus * A complete list of addresses & telephone numbers for all fire brigades in the UK.

Send a cheque for £4.95 (inc p&p) payable to: Weston Publishing, PO Box 411, Cheltenham GL50 2ZE. Please allow 28 days for delivery.

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.

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

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.

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

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

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



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

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

Napoleonic Wars. Arms & Armour, hardback, £16.99.

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. Airlife Publishing, paperback, £11.95.

Pierre Laland: Special Agent by Guido Zembsch-Schreve. Autobiography of an SOE agent who survived the Gestapo, Buchenwald, Camp Dora and Ravensbrück. Pen & Sword, hardback, £18.95.

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

For Fuhrer and Fatherland by Roderick de Normann. True story of a mass break-out planned by Germans in a Devizes PoW camp.

Napoleon and his Marshals by A G Macdonell. Paperback reissue

The Fab Four and not too many bugles

A Living Tradition

Band and Bugles of the Light Division. Conductor: Capt R Owen. Bandleader CD BNA5123, cassette BND 65123, £12 and £7.60.

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 *Triomphale*, 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 racketty *Sabre Dance*.

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

Europe 1944-45. Sutton Publishing, hardback, £16.99.

Quarter Ton: Ford and Willys Jeep, Austin Champ, Land Rover Series 1 by Pat Ware. Warehouse Publications, Croydon, hardback, £28.50.

Volkswagen Beetle: The Rise from the Ashes of War by Simon Parkinson. Britain's role in its production development. Veloce Publishing, hardback, £14.99.

War Correspondents: The Anglo Zulu War by Prof John Laband and Ian Knight. Military v Media – same story, different war. Sutton, hardback, £18.99.

People's Century (Volume Two) by Godfrey Hodgson. Companion to TV series covers nuclear age to close of century. BBC Books, large-format hardback, £20.

Naafi

get a loan from Naafi



Typical example(s) of Personal Loan Interest Rates including Payment Protection Cover

		12 months		24 months		36 months		48 months		60 months	
Loan Amount	APR	Total to Repay	Monthly Payment								
£2,000	21.5%	2250.00	187.50	2507.04	104.46	2782.44	77.29	3081.60	64.20	3411.00	56.85
£4,000	20.0%	4470.24	372.52	4951.68	206.32	5464.44	151.79	6019.20	125.40	6627.60	110.46
£6,000	18.5%	6660.36	555.03	7333.44	305.56	8046.36	223.51	8813.28	183.61	9651.60	160.86
£8,000	17.0%	8820.24	735.02	9652.32	402.18	10527.84	292.44	11465.76	238.87	12486.00	208.10

Sterling Loans up to £2,000 - 21.5%APR, £2,001 - £5,000 - 20.0%APR, £5,001 - £7000 - 18.5%APR, £7001 and over - 17%APR.

Deutschmark loans are also available - ask for details. Minimum loan available is £500. A deposit may be required. Please note that the maximum repayment period allowed in each individual case depends on the value of the loan and the amount you can realistically afford to repay each month. Written quotations for all loans are available on request. All loans subject to status. All details effective from 1st October 1996 but subject to alteration without notice. The above interest rates do not apply to consolidation loans, details on request.

UK NAAFI LOAN LINE

Number only available in the UK

0345 697527

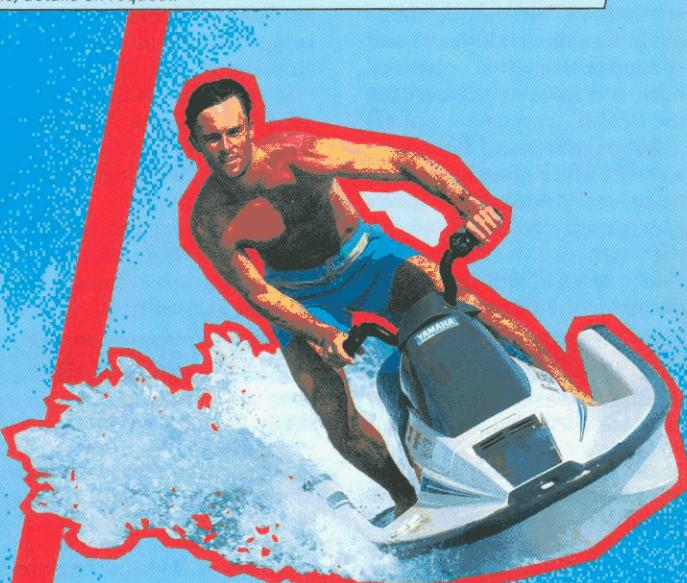
All calls are charged at local rates

GERMANY NAAFI LOAN LINE

Number only available in Germany

0130 819223

This is a FREECALL number



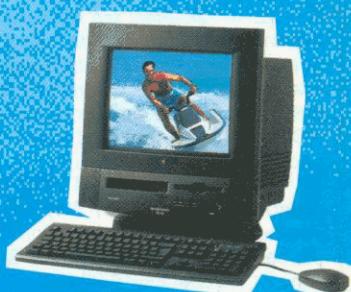
Monday to Friday: 0800 - 1700

Saturday: 0800 - 1600 'UK Time'

We'll make sure we don't keep you waiting



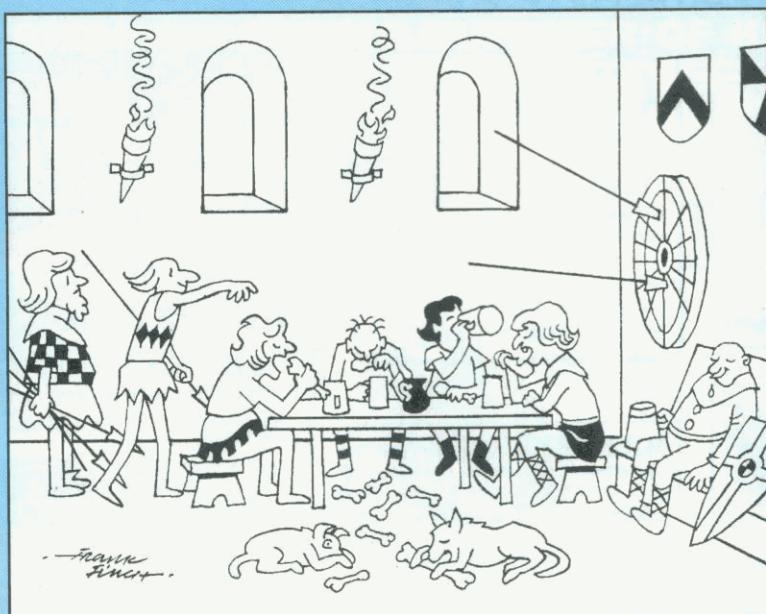
Written quotations available on request. All loans subject to status. A deposit may be required. Naafi Financial Services, College House, Upper College Street, Nottingham NG1 5EU. The Navy, Army and Air Force Institutes. The official Trading Organisation of HM Forces. Registered in England No. 171912 Registered Office: London Road, Amesbury, Wilts, SP4 7EN.



COMPETITION 651

WIN
£50

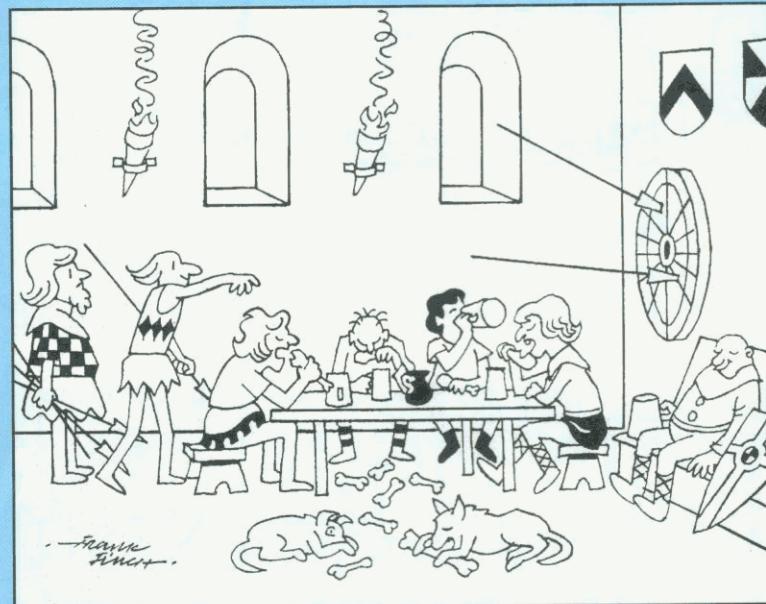
HOW OBSERVANT ARE YOU?



These pictures are from our Frank Finch cartoon archives. Find ten differences in detail and you could be £50 richer or win a new book. Circle the differences in the bottom picture, cut out the whole panel, add your name and address and send to HOAY 651, *Soldier*, Ordnance Road, Aldershot GU11 2DU by January 10. Do not include anything

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

The names of the winner of the £50 first prize and two runners-up (awarded book prizes) will be announced in the February 3 issue.



Competition No 648 (Oct 28 issue): First correct entry drawn was from Sgt King, MT Troop, 1Bn REME, Split, BFPO 544, who wins £50. Book prizes go to Miss Claire Edmonson-Jones, of Guildford, and Mr L R Newport, of Oxford, whose entries were drawn second and third.



Subscribe to **SOLDIER**

The official magazine of the British Army



UK

One year £23.00
Two years £40.00

OVERSEAS

One year £32.20
Two years £60.00

Send your cheque/PO (made payable to "SOLDIER") to:

SOLDIER, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

POSTCODE: _____ TEL: _____

(PLEASE USE BLOCK CAPITALS)

9/12

MOFFATS SCHOOL

Kinlet Hall Bewdley Worcestershire

A happy family-run school for boys and girls 7 to 13+
Moffats has close, longstanding ties with Service families

- ★ Over 90% of our pupils are full boarders
- ★ High standards, with small classes and sensible discipline
- ★ All games and riding taught in our 100-acre grounds
- ★ Our own escorts to and from airports and stations
- ★ Hospitality and fun for children in at half-term and exams.

Prospectus from the joint Heads, Mark and Alexandra Daborn.

Telephone: Kinlet (01299) 841230. Fax: (01299) 841444

CVS - for Military personnel

Professionally prepared. Compelling styles.
Quality content. Impeccable presentation.
Competitive price. Nation/WORLD-wide service.

Laser printing. Free client CV storage.

CVs for Military/Civilian jobs, Resumes,
Updates, Application Letters, etc.

SERVICE - CV

Dept (A), 2 TERN GARDENS,
PLYMPTON, PLYMOUTH. PL7 3HZ

Tel / Fax 01752 - 344842 (24 hrs)

MESS DRESS

Made to Measure Mess Dress for Officers & NCO's

The finest quality uniforms from the specialist Military tailor



Interest Free Credit



Full Medal Service



Our representatives are in regular attendance at most units and will call on request



Call the specialist Military tailor on

Germany, 0171 526 1340

Ansaphone, 05751 15087

UK, +44 (0)113 282 6102

UNIFORMAL

Uniformal Ltd., Meynell Avenue, Rothwell, Yorkshire LS26 0NU.

CENTRAL VOLUNTEER



HEADQUARTERS RA

RA SPECIALIST POOL (V)

BETTER JOB - LOWER COMMITMENT

CVHQ RA seeks ex-Regular and TA personnel, male and female, for employment as SSGT WATCHKEEPERS, TA OPERATOR ARTILLERY INTELLIGENCE, METEOROLOGICAL OPERATOR, RAPIER AIR DEFENCE OPERATOR and COMMAND POST ASSISTANT (BATES) in the expanding RA Specialist Pool (V). Minimum commitment (19 days), good pay and tax free annual bounty (current maximum £900).

For further information contact:

Capt M I Weston RA (V), RA Barracks, Woolwich, London SE18 4BB.
Tel: 0181-781 3422/3429.

MILITARY CV SERVICES

*The original CV service for HM Forces:
established in 1984*

A world-wide CV firm run by a former Army officer and current full-time career consultant. Past clients include men and women of all ranks from every part of the Army.

Full details from:

Anthony Jacques,
66 High View Road,
Guildford, Surrey GU2 5RU
Tel: 01483 823766

D9

Regimental Blazer Badges,
Plaques, Car Badges,
Ties & Key Fobs

Send s.a.e. for price list

D J Parkinson (S)
186b Lewes Road, Brighton
Sussex BN2 3LD

Tel: 01273 686877 (a.m. only)

NEED A CV?

For free details contact the specialists in FORCES' CVs (Established 1981)

GV SERVICES

Forces Dept.
PO Box 573,
Sutton Coldfield,
West Midlands
B73 6PA
0121-355 2187

GET PROMOTION!

T-Shirts, Sweatshirts,
Polos, Rugby Shirts,
Hooded Tops,
Singlets,
Baseball Hats, Ties,
Embroidered Badges & Jumpers, Pennants,
Mugs, Sports Bags & Holdalls,
Jog/Track Suits & Shell Suits.



A S PROMOTIONS

12 Avenue Industrial Estate
Justin Road, London E4 8SU
Telephone: 0181-523 3283
Fax: 0181-531 7298

CARICATURES

by Rick

Singles, doubles groups or the whole Mess.

Ask for samples and prices



Over 40 Mess Cartoons to date
GET THE BEST
0181-441 6607

EMBROIDERED & PRINTED SPORTS & LEISUREWEAR

FOR THE PROFESSIONALS FROM THE PROFESSIONALS

Sweaters - Sweatshirts

T Shirts - Sports shirts

Rugby & Hockey Jerseys

Shorts Socks & Ties

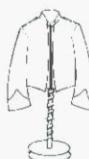
FULL DESIGN & PERSONALISED SERVICE
NO MINIMUM ORDER

JENKINS KNITWEAR

5 VERNON PLACE NORTHERN COURT
BASFORD NOTTINGHAM NG6 0DE

Tel: (Nottm) 0115 9274469

Regal Military Tailors



The Hallmark of fine military tailoring

A personal handcut tailoring service for Officers and Senior NCOs.

All uniforms, Mess Dress, suit and blazer requirements are made to measure and fitted by our craftsmen.

Only regimentally approved materials are used and all work is carried out on our own premises.

A full range of complementary accessories is offered.

Discount is given on all bulk orders.

Interest free credit.

Contact your personal military tailor:

Germany - Tel: (0541) 2021058
UK - Tel/Fax: 0113 236 1091

Regal Military Tailoring
3c Westfield House, Broad Lane, Leeds LS1 3HA



*Husbands & Boyfriends
Say it with flowers
I love you*

*Ideal Christmas Gift
Order Early*

Please use this as an order form

Fresh flowers sent daily from the nursery to an address in the U.K. or N.Ireland
Include your own special message to show that you have your loved one in mind

12 ROSES	Red/Pink (large)	£13.85
24 ROSES	Red/Pink (large)	£16.50
12 CARNATIONS	Red/Pink/Mixed	£12.50
40 FREESIA	Mixed with fern	£14.75

JOY'S SPECIAL BOUQUETS

Bouquet special mixed	- 50 flowers	£22.50
Bouquets/Pink Carnations/Freesia/Fern	- 30 flowers	£16.50
Roses/Carnations/Freesia/Fern	- 30 flowers	£17.50
Iris (Blue) Carnations/Freesia/Fern	- 30 flowers	£14.60
Spray Carnations/Freesia/Fern	- 20 flowers	£11.50

MUCH REQUESTED CUDDIES

SAMMY SEAL	(Pure White) (Silver Beige)	£22.65
PINKY MOTHER PIG + 3 PIGLETS	(Pale Pink)	£24.75
BERTIE BADGER	(Black & White)	£22.60

THE PERSONALISED LOVING BEARS

EMBROIDERED WITH YOUR GIFT OF LOVE MESSAGE FOR EXAMPLE
MARY'S TEDDY/RACHEL'S BEAR WITH LOVE/ALL MY LOVE/

LOVE DADDY/LOVE PHIL/LOVE TOM/LOVE MUM/LOVE MUMMY

No more than 12 letters per line (3 lines only). A space counts as a letter.

Choice of Coloured Jumpers: Dark Blue/Light Blue/Red

WINSTON BEAR (Gold, Jointed) D/Blue 19" high £27.80

WINSTON BEAR (Gold, Jointed) D/B-LB-Red 14" high £22.75

Prices and order forms available upon request.

Prices include P&P + VAT

N.B. Peak periods - flowers may be used from other sources

VISA, ACCESS, and AMEX ACCEPTED - INCLUDE EXPIRY DATE

Please make cheque or P.O. payable to:

'Joy's Roses and Toys', Flamingo, St Sampsons, Guernsey C. I. GY2 4WB

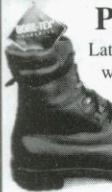
Telephone: (01481) 46708

Fax: (01481) 43406

D9

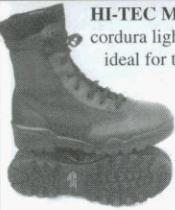
BRITAIN'S LEADING SUPPLIER OF KIT TO THE PROFESSIONALS

PRO-BOOTS



Latest issue Goretex severe weather boots. Speed lace. Waterproof. Durable. Breathable. Special once only offer. RRP £150.00

Bargain £80.00



HI-TEC Magnum leather / cordura lightweight combat boots, ideal for tactical use.

Magnum Boots £39.99

Magnum Sympatex 100% w/proof £70.00

Magnum All Leather £50.00



1) Army Issue Assault Boots New £39.99

2) Goretex Army Issue Boot Liners. (Mid calf length) New £16.99

3) Army Issue 80% wool socks. £2.99



Danner & Matterhorn Boots
Severe weather. Thinsulate. Goretex. Vibram soles.



CWC G10
NON DATED £55.00
DATED £68.00
STRAPS £6.99

Military Issue Watches. CWC are genuine issue.

Beware of copies with similar sounding names.
Only available from Silverman's.
CWC CHRONO QUARTZ £220.00
MECHANICAL £299.00



Soldier '95 PLCE DPM Tactical Ops. Assault vest. 8 assorted pouches plus 2 large map/storage pockets. Holster attached inside. 1 size fully adjustable mesh vest, quick release fastening front. Built to last. **NEW £125.00**

Only available from Silverman's

PLCE Chest Rig



Genuine Issue. 3 ammo, 2 utility Pouches. Main body of rig is a large storage area. Built to last. DPM or Green £44.99



The Merlin SnugPak Softie 3

sleeping bag. Insulates down to zero degrees. Packs very small. £55.99

Full range of SnugPak and Military Issue sleeping bags available. Goretex Military Issue Bivvy Bags also in stock.



Stay Warm and comfortable.

Buffalo Sp6 Shirts: £79.99

Olive or Black



Original Mountain Shirts £72.99: Olive

All other Buffalo kit stocked

Genuine SAS, PARA and GORETEX smocks. All sizes. **Genuine DPM Light-weight Tropical jackets & trousers in stock**

Latest Issue 50 litre DPM Patrol Pack
Genuine British Military Bergen. Heavy duty, cordura material. Waterproof; with two side pouches. Excellent kit. **NEW £65.00**



PLCE Bergen 125 litre.

Side pouches make a 35 litre day patrol pack. Cordura outer, lightweight and durable.

Only £145.00
Berghaus Vulcan £175

Full range of Berghaus and Military issue rucksacks in stock.

SILVERMAN'S LTD(s) **TEL: 0171 7 900 900** **FAX: 0171 791 0008**
2 HARFORD STREET **PHONE FOR FREE CATALOGUE**
MILE END . LONDON E1 4PS



A striking collection of photographs of the British Army

The 1997 SOLDIER/ British Army Calendar

TO ORDER

Fill in the order details and send them, with your cheque/PO in £ sterling only, to the address below. If you do not wish to cut your magazine please photocopy this coupon, or send your details on a separate sheet of paper.

Name (block capitals please)

Address

Postcode

Please send me copies of The Soldier Calendar @ £6.50 (UK and BFPO)

..... copies of The Soldier Calendar @ £7.80 (Europe airmail)

..... copies of The Soldier Calendar @ £9.60 (overseas airmail)

Total payment enclosed £ (£ sterling only)

Return to: Soldier Calendar 1997, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU, England.

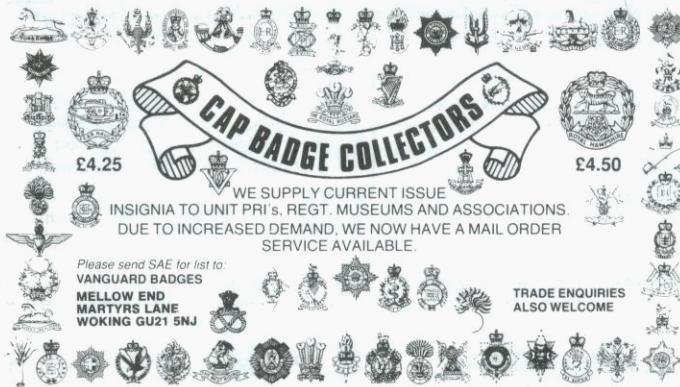
Please allow 14 days for delivery, up to six weeks overseas (land). Orders received after Dec 1 cannot be guaranteed for delivery before Christmas.



SOLDIER
Calendar
1997

ARMY BE THE BEST
The British Army or Service are used purely by license and with thanks for permission.





WE SUPPLY CURRENT ISSUE
INSIGNIA TO UNIT PRI'S, REGT. MUSEUMS AND ASSOCIATIONS.
DUE TO INCREASED DEMAND, WE NOW HAVE A MAIL ORDER
SERVICE AVAILABLE.

Please send SAE for list to:

VANGUARD BADGES

MELLOW END MARTYRS LANE

WOKING GU21 5NJ

TRADE ENQUIRIES
ALSO WELCOME

THE GOLD WIRE BADGE COMPANY

GOLD WIRE BLAZER BADGES £9.00
FRAMED GOLD WIRE BADGES £11.00 6"x6"
WHITE COTTON GLOVES £3.50
FAIRBAIRN-SYKES COMMANDO KNIVES
(Black) £21.50
BLACK BERETS £7.00
REGIMENTAL TIES & BOWS £8.30
WHITE LEATHER GAUNTLETS £19.00
ONE-OFFS, A SPECIALITY
11 Dalehead Drive, Shaw,
Oldham, Lancs OL2 8TJ.
Fax/Telephone 01706 846648

D9

DRAB

NAME TAPES

(IN SETS OF SIX TAPES)

ANY QUANTITY SUPPLIED
S.A.E. FOR PRICE LIST.

Lancashire Embroidery &
Insignia Ltd.,
Knowsley Industrial Park North,
Kirkby, Liverpool L33 7SA.
Phone: 0151-546 5161/2

D4

COSTELLO

CIVIL & MILITARY BESPOKE TAILORS

LADIES & GENTS

**MESS DRESS
SPECIALISTS**

**INTEREST
FREE CREDIT.**

All Accessories
Supplied.

For All Your Uniform.

Suit & Blazer
Requirements
Contact.

284-294 Ley St.
Ilford Essex. IG1 4BS
UK 0181 478 2780
GERMANY 05252 4631



FREE SAMPLE SHIRT

U.K. MADE OLIVE
GREEN T-SHIRTS
HUNDREDS OF
EMBROIDERED
STOCK DESIGNS
AVAILABLE.

CREDIT TERMS AVAILABLE
TO H.M. FORCES

PRINTED OR *Embroidered* TO YOUR OWN DESIGN

- * T-SHIRTS
- * SWEATSHIRTS
- * POLOSHIRTS
- * RUGBY SHIRTS
- * DRILL TOPS
- * SWEATERS * CAPS

For FREE colour brochure from
the U.K.'s leading supplier to
H.M. Forces contact:

TEES TOTAL

High Street, Wootton Bassett,
Swindon, Wilts SN4 7AB
TEL: (01793) 849888
FAX: (01793) 849890



MILITARY INSIGNIA

32 page illustrated catalogue lists hundreds and hundreds of British insignia - anodised, bullion, hackles, DZ flashes, s/titles, Para wings, officers' badges, arm bands etc. Also 20 page illustrated French Foreign Legion catalogue listing ALL legion insignia.

Send £2 (British) and £1 (French)

MIKE LAPWORTH
26 SOUTHDOWN ROAD
BRISTOL BS9 3NL



VISTA TIES

Over 300 individual Regimental designs held in stock in Silk and Polyester.

TIES

For your own design we offer a free coloured visual by return.
Printed or woven designs.
Polyester, Silk/Polyester or Silk Cloth.
Minimum order 25 printed ties.

VISTA TIES, 28 HIGH STREET,
MERSTHAM, SURREY RH1 3EA.
TEL: 01737 645113
FAX: 01737 645892

Please mention
SOLDIER when
replying to
advertisements

EMBROIDERED
SWEATERS SWEATSHIRTS
POLO SHIRTS BADGES

PRINTED
TEESHIRTS SWEATSHIRTS
BADGES COFFEE MUGS
AND LOTS MORE!

ALL FROM ONE SUPPLIER
No artwork or setting up costs on the majority of our goods. High quality, competitive prices and prompt delivery. BFPO tax-free service.

Send for our new price list:

REYNOLDS SPORTS

51/52 HIGHSTREET, LINCOLN LN5 8AP
Tel: 01522 513333 Fax: 01522 530383

WORCESTERSHIRE MEDAL SERVICE

Full size and miniature medals supplied and mounted for wear or display. Send for full list of miniature medals, emblems, clasps, etc.

25 Golden Cross Lane, Catshill
Bromsgrove, Worcs B61 0LG
Telephone (01527) 835375
Access/Visa welcome

D5

VISTA SPORTS

- English-made sweat shirts
- T-shirts single & multi-coloured designs
- Embroidered V-neck jumpers also many other items

VISTA SPORTS LTD.
Vista House, 28 High Street, Merstham, Surrey RH1 3EA.
Tel: 01737 645113 Fax: 01737 645892

Able-WOVEN Name Tapes

72
£3.50

Up to 30 letters/spaces - Black, Red or Navy Blue lettering on White 100% Polyester

Able-LABELS

1000 self-stick labels	Black on White
Name, Address, etc or any words up to 6 lines	£4.30
Black on Gold	Black on Yellow
£4.80	Orange, Red
Black on Clear	Blue, Green
£5.95	£5.80

STATIONERY 50 8" x 6" Printed Sheets + 20 plain + 50 Envelopes £8.95 DOUBLE PACK £12.50

UK prices include Post/VAT. Delivery Payment with order please. 14 days STEEPLEPRINT Ltd - Dept SO - Earls Barton NORTHAMPTON NN6 0LS - 01604 810781



LOST MEDALS

REPLACED IN RECORD TIME

FULL SIZE & MINIATURE

3 DAY MOUNTING SERVICE

WRITE OR PHONE FOR QUOTATION

RAYMOND D HOLDICH

Trafalgar Square Collectors Centre

7 Whitcomb Street

London WC2H 7HA

Tel: 0171-930 1979

Fax: 0171-930 1152

MICHAEL JAY

Exclusive HAND CUT
TAILORING

For your
MADE TO MEASURE
Uniforms Suits etc
we offer

- 14 day Make or
- 48 hr EXPRESS
- Keen prices
- First class fit
- High quality
- Excellent payment terms

Local agent to measure in most areas

Tel: 01379 783736

Fax: 01379 783898

As our customers say:
The service is simply unbeatable

5 TOMO BUSINESS PARK, STOWMARKET, SUFFOLK IP14 5AY

YOUR OWN DESIGN

PRINTED + EMBROIDERED

T-SHIRTS
SWEATSHIRTS
POLO SHIRTS
+ LOTS MORE

PLUS
PRICE GUARANTEE
If you find the same garment cheaper
we will refund the
difference.

T.G.I. COTTONRIDGE
LEISUREWEAR
A5 & B6 Guy Motors Industrial Park
Park Lane, Wolverhampton WV10 9QF
Telephone: (01902) 724421



MemoFile

Military Accounting Systems
Printers to HM Forces

Catalogue and Price List
free on request

MILITARY

MemoFile Military Systems
CHURCH HOUSE
CHURCH STREET
LONDON E15 3JA

Systems

Telephone: 0181-534 3851
Fax: 0181-555 7567

REGIMENTAL WATCHES

BADGE/CREST IN FULL COLOUR
IN THIS DESIGN AND MANY OTHERS

£32.50 post free

(UK & BFPO addresses)

MessKit Products

P. O. BOX 20

EVESHAM, WORCS., WR11 4YY

Tel: 01386 443852

PRI enquiries welcomed

D7

Wentworth the Pewterers

FORMERLY PRIORY PEWTER

High quality pewter tankards, hip flasks, goblets, plates and much more. Engraved with Regimental Badges, Crests and Logos to your own designs.

Competitive prices.

Full colour brochure.

A R WENTWORTH (SHEFFIELD) LTD

Tankard House, 25 Leadmill Road, Sheffield S1 3JA
Tel: 0114 272 5676 & 0114 275 4168 Fax: 0114 272 6651



EMBROIDERED LEISUREWEAR & BADGES Plus PRINTED T-SHIRTS & SWEATSHIRTS

Embroidered garments - Free original 24+ printed sweats and T-shirts, min. qty. 36

BADGES-EMBROIDERED - min. qty. 25

ENAMELLED - min. 100

BLAZER BADGES - min. 5

TIES - Woven - min. 50

Printed - min. 36

Also - BASEBALL CAPS - min. 50

SPORTS BAGS - min. 50

GOLF UMBRELLAS - min. 25



WRITE, PHONE or FAX for colour brochure
to Kilcreggan, Dunbartonshire G84 0JN
Ensign MOTIFS
TEL: 0143684 2581/2716; FAX: 0143684 2854

UNIFORMS

MADE TO MEASURE

Mess Dress	P.O.A.
Officers No. 2 Dress	£395.00
OR's No.1 Dress	£295.00
Officers No.1 Dress	£325.00
S.B. Blazer	£150.00
D.B. Blazer	£175.00
Dinner Suit T/Wool	£220.00
Dinner Suit Wool	£250.00
Civilian Suits from	£180.00

All prices subject to V.A.T. where applicable

48hr or 2 week make up

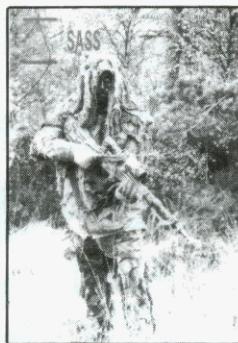
Michael Jay Tailoring

5 TOMO BUSINESS PARK
STOWMARKET, SUFFOLK IP14 5AY
TEL: 01379783736 FAX: 01379 783898

D8

BE BATTLE READY!

You can be better prepared and equipped with SASS UNIQUE military clothing and equipment.



FOR THOSE WHO DEMAND THE BEST AND KNOW THE DIFFERENCE.

For your FREE 36 page colour catalogue write or telephone

SPECIAL AIR-SEA SERVICES

St. George's Works, St. George's Quay, Lancaster, Lancashire LA1 5QJ
Telephone (01524) 64204

D7

We offer you the **LOWEST PRICES** on a wide range of

NEW CARS
*Advanced Car Exports***Official PEUGEOT Agents**

Please contact: Stan Bateman, Advanced Car Exports,
53A High Road, Bushey Heath, Herts, WD2 1EE
Tel: 0181-950 0500 (or fax 0181-950 8511)

D8

SOVEREIGN
UNBEATABLE
SERVICE

UK (01980) 843333

**TAX FREE CAR SALES****ROVER****PEUGEOT****CITROEN****RENAULT****VAUXHALL****MAZDA****VOLVO****VW AUDI****FORD****BMW**

SOVEREIGN FREEPOST, Station Road, Tidworth, Wilts SP9 7BR

NAME AND RANK
ADDRESS

TEL:
UNIT DEL REQ BY:

I am interested in
Part exchange details
Country of use

FREEPHONE
INSTANT ACTION
HOTLINE

Germany 0130-8544-96

mazda

Tax Free Sales

- * Immediate delivery on most models
- * Full UK spec * Low/no deposit finance
- * Part exchange * Continental delivery
- * 323 from £9,149 * 626 from £9,999

MX5 from £10,099

**EXCLUSIVE EXPORT AGENT FOR
BFG AND BENELUX**

POOL AUTOS

7020 Mons, Belgium

Tel: (65) 728836 Fax: (65) 724467

Serving the Services since 1968

Please forward details on:

323 626 MX3 MX5 MX6 Xedos

Other makes LHD/RHD

Name Rank

Address

..... Tel No.

RANGERS 

**PEUGEOT MAIN DEALER
BETWEEN BULFORD CAMP AND LARKHILL**

- Forces discounts on full Peugeot Range*
- Finance at competitive rates
- A convenient and generous trade-in facility

WHEN YOU'VE TRIED THE REST
THEN COME TO THE BEST
BUY DIRECT FROM THE U.K.'s No. 1
EXPORT DEALER

Ring Rick Barton 01980 653434, from Germany 0044 1980 653434 or write to: Rangers TMs, Rangers Garage, FREEPOST, Durrington, Salisbury, Wilts SP4 8BR, England (no stamp required).

POST THIS COUPON FOR OUR FREE INFORMATION PACK

NAME AND RANK

ADDRESS

TEL:
UNIT DEL. REQ BY:

I am interested in

Part exchange details

Country of use

**AMAZING NEW PEN
THAT WRITES IN THE DARK!!
YOU NEED THE 'RITE LIGHT PEN'**

Shed some light on reading & writing in the dark!! No shadow with this High Quality LED ball point pen. Eye saving green light. LED life of approx 300,000 hrs!! Ideal tool for military personnel.

INTRODUCTORY PRICE only £5.99 inc p&p

Rush cheque/PO to:
Crime Watch South West Limited
Crime Watch House,
106 Soundwell Road, Bristol BS16 4RE
Tel: 0117 956 8100
Allow 28 days for delivery

D10

Pen Pals

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

TO ADVERTISE FOR A PEN PAL. Please send for details enclosing a stamped self-addressed envelope to: *Soldier Magazine, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU*.

Louise, 34, 5', slim build with mousey long hair and green eyes. Enjoys swimming, walking, badminton and reading. Seeking pen pals aged 28-35. P867

25/96

Fliss, 23, 5'5", an attractive blonde single mum who enjoys pubs, keeping fit, travel and the cinema. Seeking male pen pals aged 23-32 with a GSOH. P868

25/96

Kim, 27, 5'5", with brown eyes and dark hair. Enjoys music, writing, the cinema, clubbing and having fun. Seeking male pen pals aged 27-35 with VGSOH. P869

25/96

Pamela, 47, 5'5", slim, short blonde hair and easy going personality. Enjoys gardening, music, TV, countryside, model car racing, watching motor sports. Seeking male pen pals aged 40-50. P870

25/96

Pearl, 34, 5'10", an independent, adventurous lady who enjoys country walks, dogs, evenings out, music, football (Chelsea!) and swimming. Seeking pen pals of any age. P871

25/96

Rosemary, 5'4", with brown hair and blue eyes. Enjoys bowling, pubs, dancing, travelling and the gym. Seeking pen pals aged 40-55. P872

25/96

Jill, 29, 5'3", blonde and cuddly. Enjoys entering competitions, computers, driving, and letter writing. Seeking male pen pals aged 25-35, photo appreciated. P873

25/96

Ruth, 27, with GSOH, a medical officer in cardiac unit (civilian hospital), seeks letters from anyone in the forces, especially medical workers, who would like to write. P874

25/96

35-year old female, 5'3", slim with fair hair. Enjoys socialising, eating out and reading. Seeking sincere and honest male pen pals, 35+. P875

25/96

Katey, 26, 5'10", attractive with dark hair and blue eyes enjoys socialising, the cinema, aerobics and just generally enjoying life to the full. Seeking pen pals, 27-34. P876

25/96

Sarah, 25, 6', a dog owner who enjoys the countryside, sunny days, music and friends. Seeking sincere male pen pals aged 23-30. P877

25/96

Jane, 29, 5'6", with dark blonde hair and blue eyes. Enjoys going to the gym, watching movies and dining out. Also has a daughter. Seeking pen pals aged 29-36. P878

25/96

Rebecca and Sara, 26 & 29. A blonde and a brunette who enjoy going to the cinema, travelling, music and pubs. Seeking pen pals aged 25-33 with a GSOH. P879

25/96

Kirsten, 19, 5'6", a pretty nurse with long brown hair. Enjoys clubbing and writing letters! Seeking male pen pals aged 19-28. P880

25/96

Sofia, 16, 5'5", half Italian. Enjoys cooking, dancing and walking. Seeking male pen pals aged 17-21, photo appreciated. P881

25/96

Sarah, 24, 5'8", a slim and attractive single mum with blue eyes. Enjoys having fun, keeping fit, walking her dog, decorating and pasta! Seeking male pen pals aged 23-30. P882

25/96

Sharon, 28, 5'6", with blue eyes. A fun loving nurse who enjoys reading, listening to music and going to pubs with friends. Seeking pen pals aged 25-35. P883

25/96

Alison, 30, 5'1", blonde with blue eyes. Enjoys socialising, outdoor pursuits, travelling and music. Seeking an 'Officer and A Gentleman' aged 26-38 to write to. P884

25/96

Books

Second hand bookshop requires books on all subjects, especially military history and politics. We collect! **TYLON BOOKS**, Merton Abbey Mills, Merantum Way, London SW19 2RD. Tel: 0181 540 371.

EO1



"Head-dress Badges of the British Army"

by Kipling and King. The collectors' Bible.

"The Ultimate Christmas Gift"

Volume One (1800-1920)

Volume Two (1920-1995)

£10.50 the set, posted. Only 25 sets left in stock. Vol Two £42.50 posted.

H L & P King, 3 Saxon Croft,

Farnham GU9 7QB.

(Tel: 01252 716303).

Jeep

The American Legend.

SCE

JEEPLINE DIRECT

UK: 01367 244344

Cars Wanted

Left-hand drive vehicles urgently wanted. Any condition. Cash buyer. Tel: 0181-534 4016 or 0181-555 0823. Fax: 0181-534 0033 (10am to 10.30pm) seven days.

T/C

Entertainment

Connexions

Entertainment

Function Bands,
Disco & Karaoke

Comedians, Cabaret

Dance Shows

For all ranks,

Sgt/Officers' Mess

Wedding & Private functions

Tel: 0181-789 7227 / 6645

Fax: 0181-785 3533

**Connexions The Name
You Can Trust!**

DB

Cars

Absolutely urgent. Wanted - LHD vehicles. Any condition. Cash buyer. Tel: 0181-534 4016 or 0181-555 0823. Fax: 0181-534 0033 (10am to 10.30pm seven days).

T/C

For Sale

AUCTION OF MILITARIA

Saturday, January 25
Okehampton, Devon

Consisting of badges, s/titles, c/badges, cloth buttons, reference books plus many other interesting items.

Over 3750 items compiled into 320 auction lots, all with very low estimates and no buyer's premium.

An ideal opportunity to obtain items at low prices, so this is an auction not to be missed.

For a copy of the auction list please send £1 plus a **large** S.A.E. to: OKE Militaria Auctions, Ryans Court, Okehampton, Devon EX20 1ED

John Bull military clothing, Catterick Garrison DL9 4DH. Full list, SAE 36p. BFPO, FOC. Shemagh £6.90, insulated mugs, large, £1.99. Helly Hansen-Buffalo. 01748 833614

LHD Ford Sierra 1989(G), grey, S/R, R/C 5 door. 42,000 miles. In excellent condition £2,950 ono. Tel: 01276 34349.

25/96

SIR, THERE IS A SMALL DRINKING CLAUS' IN OUR CHRISTMAS ORDER!



47

"A SOLDIER'S POCKET BOOK"

384 pages include: Basic Battle Skills, Fieldcraft, Orders. SOPs: Scouts, Emergency Alarms, Routines in the Field, Tank Target Indication, Working with Helicopters, Map Reading & Orienteering, First Aid, NBC, Adventure Trg, Skill at Arms. Full info on SA80/LSW, Tests and APWTs, GPMG Light Roll, Signals, Mines, MT Driver, Tank and Aircraft Recognition. ISBN 1-874528-02-0. Price £7.50 (inc p&p UK/BFPO). Trade terms on application. Available from selected Naafi Branches, Bookshops or direct from publishers: **MILITARY POCKET BOOKS**, PO Box 28, Leven, Beverley, East Yorks HU17 5LA. Tel/fax: 01964 542878. TC

NATO (IFOR) medals now available. Full size £15.00, miniatures £7.50 + VAT (UK) + postage (75p). Send SAE for catalogue to: Miniature Medals (SM), 30 Coventry Road, Burbage, Leics LE10 2HP. 25/96

Regimental Shields, Plaques and Shieldclocks. In good company with most regiments and corps of the British Army we made your shields for the Falklands, the Gulf and now Bosnia and Croatia and most other UN locations. Let us design your regimental and operational shields. Write for a full colour brochure to: Military Marketing International, 74-77 Steward Street, Ladywood, Birmingham BA18 7AF. Tel/fax: 0121-455393. Minimum order 25 Shields. £9.95, no VAT outside the UK. Shieldclocks £17.50. TC

Fieldcraft, life skills, shooting skills, outdoor survival, self-defence and much more. Free. The Outdoorsman's Bookstore, PO Box 15, Brecon, Powys LD3 7XZ or phone 01874 658660. 25/96

Pro boots. Latest issue Gore-Tex, thinsoilane lined sizes 6-12. Suppliers to Police, TAVRA, UOTCs. Contact Martin Leonard (evenings), Military Mart, 01874 730762. 25/96

Christmas presents sorted. Beautifully gift-wrapped and boxed Champagne with hand-written card with your personal message - only £29.99. Offer available for UK deliveries only. Simply send your name and address, with your message and details of recipient along with cheque to: 'Hannah de Angelis', 309 Main Road, Broomfield, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 7AX. 25/96

Military, sports, coronation, police, school, masonic and miscellaneous medals and badges. Send 2x26p stamps for list: 18 Hollybank Road, Birkenhead, Merseyside L41 2SY. 24/96

Army Cap Badges. Send SAE plus 80p for lists to: Clans and Regiments, 14 Elm Grove, Aldbrough, East Yorkshire HU11 4RQ. Guarantee and generous discounts. TC

Peter Hicks Associates, comprehensive range of military figurines available in resin bronze and silver. Commissions always considered. Ring for information/brochure. Tel/fax: 01380 828382. 25/96

Largest manufacturers and exporters of hand-embroidered bullion badges for Army, Navy, Air Force, Police, schools, colleges, clubs, etc. Flags, banners, sashes, coats-of-arms, family crests and all military accoutrements. Also leather gloves, footballs, track suits. Contact: J Arthur (PVT) Ltd, PO Box 301, Sialkot 51310, Pakistan. Fax: 92 432 588605. 25/96

Don't make any 'snap' decisions this Christmas until you have contacted SOLDIER.

You can purchase high quality reprints of photographs taken by **SOLDIER** photographers

7" x 5" £5.60
8" x 6" £7.50
12" x 8" £12.00

Digital prints (up to A4) £7.00

Other sizes available on request.
(All prices are inclusive of VAT and p&p)

All enquiries to:

**The Photographic Department
SOLDIER, Ordnance Road,
Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU**

Tel: 01252 347357

Ties, badges, plaques, standard designs or custom-made. Blazer buttons, medals, accoutrements. SAE appreciated for lists. The Heraldic Co, Overbriar, Beechwell Lane, Edge End, Coleford, Glos GL16 7HA. Tel/fax: 01594 832200. AS

Cap badges, medals. Many collectable items. Medal mounting service, framing. Large selection of military and aviation videos available from Military and Aviation Shop, 162 High Street, Watford, Hertfordshire WD1 2EG. Tel: 01923 222446. 25/96

The Day the War Ended or A Sap Amongst The Sappers. An amusing two-hour audio cassette of army life in 1944-1948. Price £9.99. Leaflet on request. Proceeds to St Dunstan's White Star Publications, Westbury, Wiltshire BA13 3NY. Tel: 01373 823271. 25/96

Action At Mirbat," 115/500 and 116 Princess Gate, 5 May 1980' 94/850, signed by David Shepherd and SAS soldiers involved. Offers please - Box No 275, Soldier Magazine, Ordnance Rd, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU 25/96

Pageantry postcards. Set of ten. Household Division. 7"x5" full colour. £4 inc p&p. Cheque to: Pageantry Postcards, SS0 9XP Essex. 25/96

Military Insignia. British and colonial, Victorian to date. No re-strikes. 50p for 32-page listing. Shotton, 7 Peak Road, Clanfield, Hants. AS96

Holidays

DELIGHTFUL BLACKPOOL HOTEL in Prime Location

Run by Ex-Serviceman

Special discount rates for members of HM Forces and their families for holidays, breaks and functions. Prices include full English breakfast and five course evening meal.

Holmhurst Hotel

14 Reads Avenue,

Blackpool Central

Telephone: 01253 25977

Proprietor: Tony Salvin

Cyprus, Paphos (Choraka Village). Fully furnished house, sleeps 4/5 in hilltop village, overlooking sea towards Coral Bay. Car hire available. Bookings for 1997 available. Phone Mike Cross on 01622 730236. 01/97

ARMY SPORTS LOTTERY RESULTS

NOVEMBER 9, 1996

FOUR-way tie for first prize (19 goals, £1,250 each): Maj C Dowie, Comms & Sy Gp (UK), Loughborough; WO2 AW Evans, QDG, BFPO 16; WO1 C Prentice, HQ Land, Wilton; Sgt J Richmond, Royal School of Signals, Blandford.

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 Amd 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; Cpl 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; Cpl 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, Cdr Log Regt RM, Barnstaple; Cpl AJ Mears, 3 Armd 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.

CONDITIONS OF ACCEPTANCE – CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

All classified advertisements are accepted on a prepaid basis only, and are subject to the following conditions.

The Publishers reserve the right to decline any copy material of which they may not approve whether an order shall have been accepted or not. All advertisements are accepted subject to approval and conditionally upon space being available. The Publishers reserve the right to make any alteration they consider necessary or desirable in an advertisement to meet their approval. The Publishers also reserve the right to cancel or suspend any advertisement without stating a reason.

While every endeavour will be made to meet the wishes of advertisers, the Publishers do not guarantee the insertions of any particular advertisement.

The Publishers shall not be liable for any loss or damage occasioned by any total or partial failure (however caused) of publication or distribution of any edition in which any advertisement is scheduled to appear.

The Publishers shall not be liable for errors occurring after the first insertion of an advertisement in a series. It is the responsibility of the advertiser to inform the Publishers of any such error in sufficient time to allow amendment. A voucher copy will not be supplied.

Advertisements will be placed under the following headings:

Accommodation, Business Opportunities, Cars, Cars Wanted, Entertainment, Exhibitions, For Sale, Gift Services, Holidays, Houselets, Notices, Property for Sale, Reunions, Services, Situations Vacant, Situations Wanted, Training, Wanted. Other headings will be applied if deemed acceptable by the Publishers.

The placing of an order for the insertion of an advertisement shall amount to an acceptance of the above conditions and any conditions stipulated by an agency or advertiser shall be void insofar as they are in conflict with them.

Houselets

HAMLETS

Property Letting & Management

HOMEOWNERS –

Moving in UK or abroad?

Let us make your property work for you. Our small but professional company finds suitable tenants, manages your property and ensures its return to you as and when required. With an office base in Loughborough we cover most East Midlands areas.

For further information please tel/fax:

01509 266151

or write to:

134 KNIGHTTHORPE ROAD,

LOUGHBOROUGH, LEICS LE11 5JU

D7

Wanted

The City of Canterbury Pipe Band

urgently requires pipers and drummers, male or females. The band is non-competitive and would be ideal for those who have recently left the Forces and who wish to continue playing without pressure to compete. Contact Band Secretary, Colin Boughton. Tel/fax: 01843 291258. 09/97

Services

LOANS

No security required £1,000-£10,000

CARS, FURNITURE, HOLIDAYS. CLEAR EXISTING UP TO DATE LOANS, HP, CREDIT CARDS, CASH SPARE.

FORCES, TENANTS & HOMEOWNERS

– No interviews, confidential service by post – Good benefits if you settle your loan early

For quotes, written details and free advice

Tel: 01929 423925 9am-9pm 7 days

(from overseas 0044-1929 423925).

NORSTAR FINANCE

Licensed by Office of Fair Trading as Lenders & Brokers

NOTICE TO READERS

The publishers of **SOLDIER** Magazine cannot accept responsibility for the accuracy of any advertisement or for any losses suffered as a result. Readers are strongly recommended to make their own enquiries and seek appropriate commercial, legal and financial advice before sending any money or entering into any legally binding agreement.

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 (Cheshire) 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 Powrie, 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

AWSA PREPARES TO CELEBRATE ANNIVERSARY

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 Haye

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 Elmwood 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 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 Winterberg 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 headfirst 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.

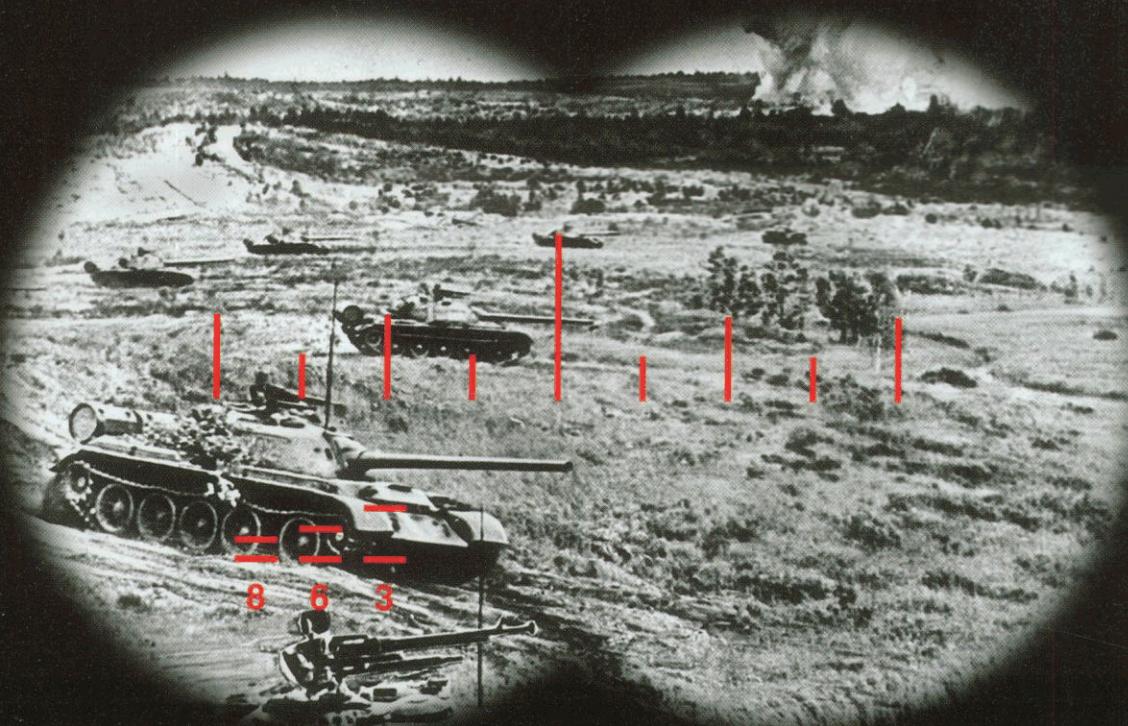
She was accompanied by another experienced skeleton racer, Cpl Sarah Smith RLC, whose normal job is driving a 100-ton tank transporter.

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.

MINI BINOS WITH GRATS

FBG 821



Special offer

RRP £85.90 (excl. VAT)

£59.98 (excl. VAT)

- NEW for 1997
- Accurately adjust artillery and mortar fire
- Stadiametric rangefinder for section weapon ranges
- Judge distance and give precise target indication to your enemy
- Made to British Military specifications

FBG, with its extensive military experience, has designed the first mini binoculars with NATO graticule pattern and section weapon stadiametric rangefinder. No need to carry the cumbersome G.S. bino's any longer. Light, robust and simple to use with high quality optics manufactured by a premier European optics manufacturer. Available in black.

As an introductory Christmas offer the FBG 821 mini binos have been reduced from £85.90 (excluding VAT) to £59.98 (excluding VAT) plus £3.50 P&P, while stocks last.

Send cheque or postal order payable to :

Huntingtower Trading Limited, P.O. Box 7306, Perth PH1 5WN.

Orders must arrive by 5 December to ensure delivery before Christmas.

Trade/wholesale enquiries, please fax 01738 474 304

Offer ends 31st December 1996

Please send me urgently _____ pair(s) of FBG 821 mini binos

I enclose a cheque/postal order to the value of £ _____

MAKE	MODEL	QUANTITY	UNIT PRICE	VAT	P&P (per unit)	TOTAL (per unit)	TOTAL
FBG	821 (G)		£59.98	£11.11	£3.50	74.59	

Name: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Daytime Telephone: _____

Send to: Huntingtower Trading Limited, P.O. Box 7306, Perth PH1 5WN.

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.



50

