

SOLDIER

MAGAZINE
OF THE
BRITISH
ARMY



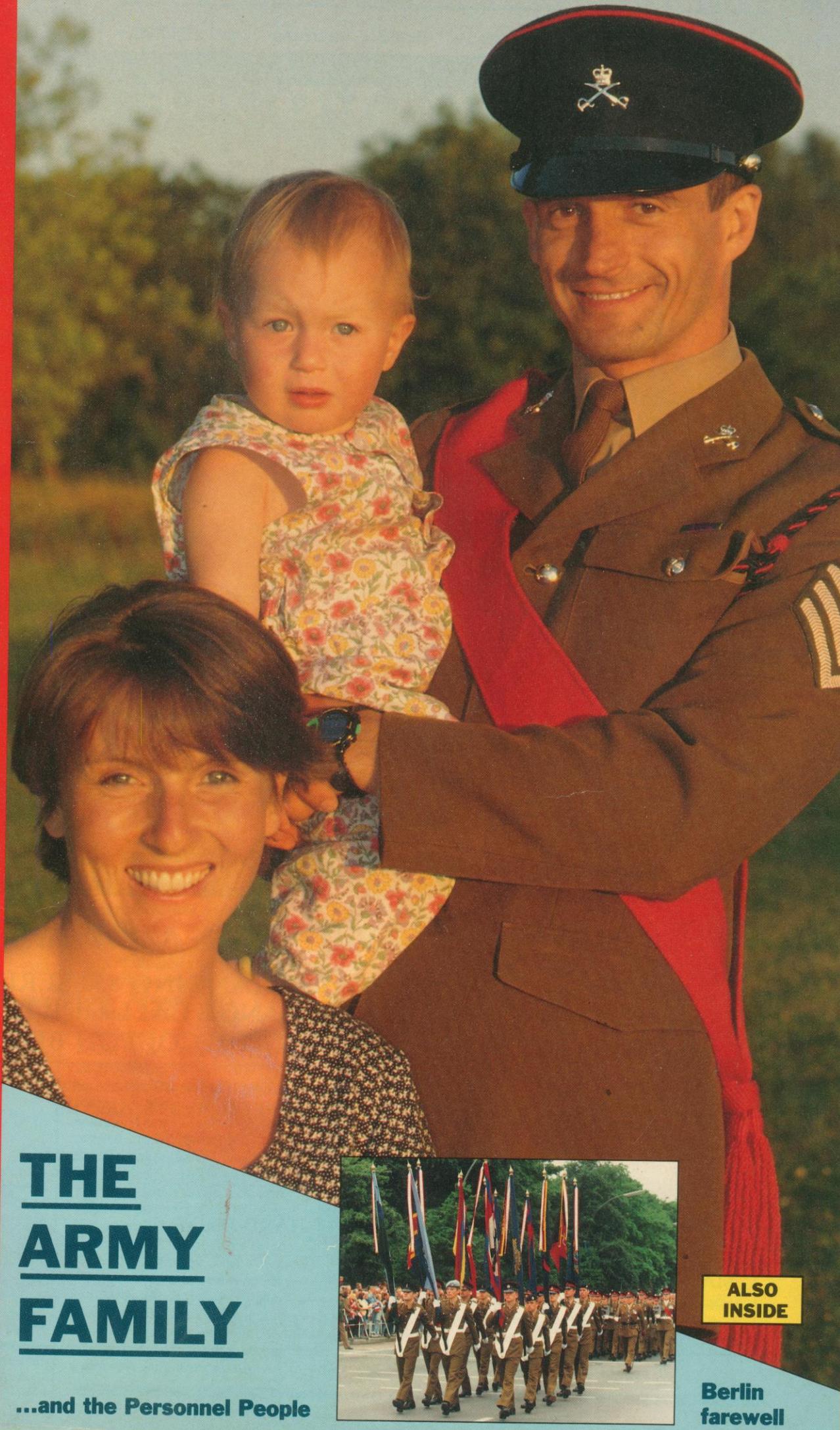
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THE ARMY FAMILY

...and the Personnel People

JULY 25
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Incorporating the Territorial Army magazine

July 25, 1994
Vol 50/15

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FRONT COVER: (Main picture) This issue contains several pages of particular interest to Army families, which is why we asked SSgt Michael and Mrs Caroline Revell and daughter Hope to help us illustrate the theme. Michael is serving with the APTC in Aldershot. (Picture: Mike Perring). Inset: The flags of units which make up the Berlin Infantry Brigade parade through the city as the Allies bid a formal farewell to Berlin. See Page 5.

FAMILIES: Pay... pensions... conditions of service... welfare support... all issues of primary importance to Army families. In this issue *Soldier* takes a look at the work of the department known as "DPers" - the Directorate of Personnel (Army). - Pages 14-17.

● There is also an interview with Michael Bett, who is heading an independent review of Army pay and conditions. Pages 18-19.

● Plus our regular feature for families, in which Cari Roberts makes

a case for ex-Service men and women having their own department and their own minister. Pages 20-21.

CHINDITS: Fifty years ago the courage of Ord Wingate's extraordinary unit stiffened British morale. Veterans of that campaign have commemorated their fallen colleagues in the presence of royalty. Pages 26-27.

NEXT ISSUE: The long-awaited Defence Costs Study was due to be announced on July 14. A summary will appear in *Soldier*.

Royal Gurkha Rifles formed

A SMALL but poignant ceremony at Church Crookham near Aldershot marked an historic turning point for the British Army's Gurkhas, as the 7th Duke of Edinburgh's Own Gurkha Rifles welcomed their new commandant, Lt Col David Hayes, and were officially renamed the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Gurkha Rifles.

The Vesting Day parade on July 1 was marked with a Guard of Honour and the rebadging of company commanders who then distributed badges to the Gurkha soldiers. As the Royal Gurkha Rifles flag was raised outside Battalion Headquarters for the first time, Gurkhas shouted a traditional "Jai (Victory) Royal Gurkha Rifles" salute to symbolise the birth of the new regiment.

On the same day, the 2nd King Edward VII's Own Gurkha Rifles (The Sirmoor Rifles) and 6th Queen Elizabeth's Own Gurkha Rifles amalgamated to become 1st Battalion, The Royal Gurkha Rifles, while 10th Princess Mary's Own Gurkha Rifles retitled as 3rd Battalion, The Royal Gurkha Rifles.

The new 2 RGR has now taken up duties in Brunei, and will be replaced in the UK later this month by 3 RGR. The Gurkhas will move from their Church Crookham base later this year to take up residence at Elizabeth Barracks, Pirbright. The barracks with its original 1942 wooden accommodation blocks will be demolished to make way for a housing estate.



Picture: Terry Champion
The commandant of 2 RGR, Lt Col David Hayes, presents new badges to Queen's Gurkha Officers at Church Crookham

Initially the 1st Battalion will be stationed in Hong Kong, the 2nd Battalion in Brunei and 3 RGR in the UK. After the withdrawal of Gurkha

troops from Hong Kong in 1996, 2 RGR and 3 RGR will merge to form the 2nd Battalion in Brunei, while 1 RGR will move to the UK.

Howards compete in Italy

AMONG more than 100 teams from countries including Russia, Slovenia, America and Canada which competed in the Reserve Force Association competition at Valmalenco, Northern Italy, was a quartet from the 4th/5th Battalion, The Green Howards based at Guisborough.

The volunteers, from Recce Platoon, had to mount combat patrols in a mountain environment by navigating a 40km route, as well as completing a dinghy race, AFV and aircraft recognition stands, shooting, an assault course and abseiling.



Capt Hilary Andrews at the head of No 4 Guard formed from the Berlin Brigade's support units

ALLIES BID FAREWELL TO BERLIN

BRITISH troops from the Berlin Infantry Brigade marched through the city in company with French and American soldiers to mark the Allied farewell to Berlin.

The parade was held on Strasse des 17 Juni and involved more than 2,000 soldiers and airmen.

A 13-gun salute was fired as a formation of Huey, Gazelle and Alouette helicopters trailing red, white and blue smoke flew overhead.

The British contingent was led by Massed Bands found from 2 RTR, Irish Guards, 1 RHF, 1 QLR and 3 R Irish. Headed by six assault pioneers dressed in full ceremonial uniform and carrying silver axes, the first three guards were provided by 1st Battalion, The Queen's Lancashire Regiment commanded by Lt Col Gerald Flood.

Behind came Number 4 and 5 Guards made up from Berlin Brigade minor units and the Royal Corps of Signals respectively.

There were also a number of guards from the Royal Air Force.

The Mayor of Berlin, Eberhard Diepgen told the parade he felt a certain sadness associ-

ated with this final military ceremony.

"For almost 50 years, the forces of the Allied Protecting Powers have been part of the life of Berlin. First as occupation powers and, since the blockade of our city and the Berlin Airlift, as allies and friends.

"An era is coming to its irrevocable end. You – our friends – are leaving our city. Farewell and thank you," he said.

The Commander Berlin Infantry Brigade, Brig David Bromhead, told the 100,000 spectators that it was his sincere hope that the strong friendships built up over the years would continue into the future.

As the last soldier marched past the dais, a lone wartime Dakota aircraft, symbolising the Berlin Airlift, flew over the Siegessäule monument. Almost clipping the trees as it went by, the aircraft climbed into the clouds over the Charlottenburger Bridge.

By the end of September the last British units will have departed, leaving only a small organisation behind to tie up any loose ends following the withdrawal of Allied units.

IN BRIEF

ROYAL Ordnance has been awarded a £40m contract to produce small arms ammunition for the British Army.

• • •
Two soldiers were injured – one very seriously – in Belfast when a mortar bomb hit their patrol vehicle earlier this month.

• • •
The MoD has appointed an advisory group to make recommendations on the management, adaptation for new uses and disposal of its historic buildings.

Sappers' chief in Germany

THE Engineer-in-Chief, Maj Gen Geoff Field, has been on a tour of major sapper units stationed in Germany. He visited 21, 28, 32 and 35 Engineer Regiments and the Combat Engineering Training Centre.

Otterburn plan

REVISED proposals for development of Otterburn Training Area to cater for AS 90 and MLRS training have been drawn up in consultation with the Northumberland National Park Authority.

British farewell to Soltau-Lüneberg

THE LAST remaining tract of the famous Soltau-Lüneburg training area has been returned to the Germans.

British troops first went to the Lüneberger Heide in 1945 and it was there that Gen Montgomery took the Wehrmacht surrender.

The land, agriculturally under-utilised, was made available to British and Canadian forces in 1959 and the £388,000 annual rents were important for the farmers.

Although inhabited by several thousand civilians and holidaymakers, the 345 sq km training area could accommo-

date formations up to battle group strength and played a significant part in keeping British troops at a high state of military preparedness during the years of the Cold War.

Even before the collapse of communism and the reduction in Nato forces there was a strong movement to restrict military activity in the area. Training on the Lüneberg extension ceased in summer 1992 and, with the final lowering of the British flag two months earlier than agreed, an area familiar to generations of Regular and Territorial soldiers returned to civilian use.

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IT HAS taken 52 years for an impartial assessment of Britain's first Second World War commander-in-chief in the Middle East to appear. It was an infantryman in



in 1940-41, a resounding success.

It seems disputable that the seeds of Sir Archibald Percival Wavell's "fall from grace" as the British Commander in the Middle East were sown

CENOTAPH CEREMONY

DETACHMENTS of the Hou Foot Guards, Royal Artillery and the Territorial

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Black Watch on the move

LOCATIONS for units displaced by drawdown have been announced by the Minister of State for the Armed Forces, Jeremy Hanley.

Elizabeth Barracks, Pirbright, will house the 1st Battalion, The Black Watch on return from Hong Kong this month.

The 2nd Battalion, The Royal Gurkha Rifles (formerly 7 GR) will leave Church Crookham and move to Elizabeth Barracks after it has been

vacated by The Black Watch.

Oakington, currently home of the 1st Battalion, The Cheshire Regiment, will be retained as a permanent infantry barracks.

The Army Apprentices College, Chepstow, will be converted into a permanent infantry barracks and house from December 1995 the 1st Battalion, The Royal Welch Fusiliers, currently in temporary accommodation at RAF Brawdy.

On return from Osnabrück, 14 Signal Regiment will be permanently housed in RAF Brawdy in December 1995, while by November 1995, 16 Regiment, Royal Artillery from Dortmund will occupy the Royal Artillery barracks, Woolwich.

Also from November 1995, 39 Regiment, Royal Artillery will be located at Albermarle Barracks, Ouston, when it returns from Dempsey Barracks, Sennelager, which will

be taken over by 26 Regiment, Royal Artillery from Gütersloh.

Gütersloh's Mansergh barracks will then be free for 12 Regiment, Royal Artillery when it leaves Dortmund, which will be handed back to the Germans in March 1996.

RAF Hullavington will be retained for the time being for 9 Supply Regiment, Royal Logistic Corps, which will not move to Aldershot as previously planned.

Truncheon in safe keeping

WHEN 2nd King Edward VII's Own Gurkha Rifles (The Sirmoor Rifles) was amalgamated with 6th Queen Elizabeth's Own Gurkha Rifles to form 1st Battalion, The Royal Gurkha Rifles, the regiment had to surrender not only its unique link with Queen Victoria, but the last remaining Indian Army rank in the British Army.

The Queen's Truncheon of the 2nd Goorkhas replaced an extra or honorary Colour awarded for distinguished service by the battalion during the Indian Mutiny in 1857.

As the then Sirmoor Battalion, it was the first regiment of the East India Company's Army to march against the mutineers. The battalion repulsed 26 attacks and took part in the assault on Delhi, where its force of 490 all ranks suffered 327 killed or wounded.

Since its award, a "Truncheon Jemadar" (lieutenant) has always carried the 6ft bronze and silver truncheon on parade. It is held in great reverence by Gurkha soldiers, and is accorded the honours due to a Queen's Colour. New recruits have sworn allegiance to the Queen by touching it.

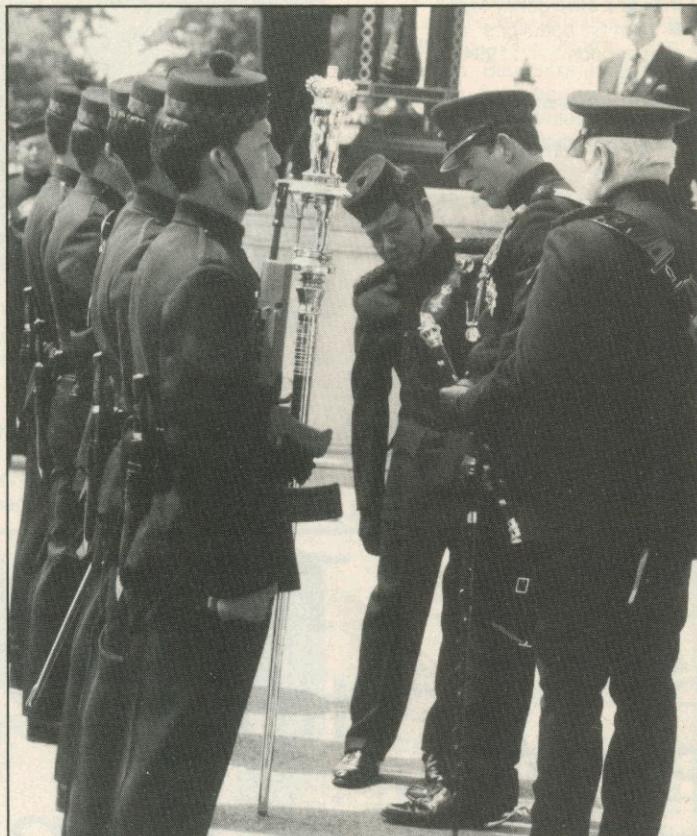
It has been presented to the monarch on several occasions and each time an inscribed silver band has been welded round the truncheon to commemorate the event.

At a farewell parade led by Lt Col William Shuttlewood at

the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, the Queen's Truncheon was placed, as a "Living Colour", into the care of the National Army Museum in the Indian Army Memorial Room, where it will remain until a decision is made on its future.

It was inspected by the Prince of Wales, who was accompanied by Fd Marshal Sir John Chapple and Fd Marshal Lord Bramall.

"It is our hope that the Queen's Truncheon will find a place in the new regiment," said Lord Bramall. It represents the spirit and soul of our regiment. It is important to realise that it is remaining in service. It is not being laid up. No enemy has laid a hand on it and none will."



Queen's Gurkha Major Maj Laibahadur Gurung (centre), and the Prince of Wales inspect the Queen's Truncheon



The Duke of York chats to Royal Irish Regiment soldiers at the passing-out parade held at St Patrick's Barracks, Ballymena last month. The Duke also visited the 1st Battalion, The Staffordshire Regiment, the resident battalion at Ballykinler, where he presented a commendation and medals

'Short' tour intervals to increase

ASSUMING the current level of commitments in Bosnia and Northern Ireland, there will be more emergency tour intervals of less than 24 months next year for some infantry battalions, RAC regiments and engineer squadrons.

Figures for 1994-95 and 1995-96 were sought by Mr Winston Churchill in a written question.

Armed Forces Minister Jeremy Hanley replied that on current plans the following number of units will deploy in each of the two years on emergency tours within 24 months of their last emergency tour:

- Infantry battalions and RM commandos - 1994-95, 6; 1995-96, 7.
- Royal Artillery regiments - 1.
- Royal Armoured Corps regiments - 1; 2.
- Engineer squadrons - 4; 8.

● ● ●

Adventurous training is to be the subject of an efficiency study, the Armed Forces Minister told MPs.

With particular reference to the Joint Service Mountain Training Centre at Tywyn, Mr Elfyn Llwyd asked what reductions were planned in "military outward-bound type training

centres". Mr Hanley said: "Separately from the Defence Costs Study, my department is planning to study the scope for maximum efficiency and rationalisation of adventurous training as part of a wider review of how and where Army-sponsored training is conducted."

Mentioning that he was a "graduate" of Morfa Camp, Tywyn, Mr Hanley said the decision on the exact provision of camps for the future would be made in the summer or early autumn.

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There is no evidence that British Servicemen and women were exposed to chemical warfare agents as a result of bombing Iraqi targets during Operation Granby, according to the Chemical and Biological Defence Establishment.

This assurance was given to Mr Llew Smith in answer to a written question.

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Service redundancies cost a total of £741 million for the finan-

cial years 1992-93 and 1993-94, including special capital payments, terminal grants, and pensions.

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It costs about £16,000 a year to train an Army bandsman at the Royal Military School of Music, Kneller Hall, as against £72,000 for a Royal Marine bandsman at Deal, MPs were told.

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Asked what plans there were to disband R Squadron of the Special Air Service, the Armed Forces Minister said: "There are no plans to reduce the current strength of the SAS reserve although some restructuring will be necessary to enable more flexible use of the numbers available."

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Military establishments being marketed by MoD for disposal include Old Park Barracks, Dover; Peninsula Barracks, Winchester; 324 Engineering Park, Lathalmond, Fife; Royal Arsenal East and West, Woolwich; Winston Barracks, Lanark;

Following a review of the organisation and grouping of the Army's technical branches and authorities, it is being proposed that the vehicle spares division at Chilwell and technical equipments division at Donnington be collocated at Telford, near Donnington.

The move, subject to consultation with the trades unions and other interested parties, would save £6m a year.

Pebble Island cairn

A MEMORIAL to Argentine pilots shot down over Pebble Island during the Falklands War was built by sappers from 69 Gurkha Field Squadron QGE during their four-month tour in the South Atlantic.

The troop, now back at Chatham, was deployed to the Falklands to provide an airfield damage repair capability for the British garrison.

Cpl Purnachandra Limbu and Spr Mirendra Mall spent three days recovering wreckage with an RAF unit and confirmed the human remains of two pilots.

The wreckage unit was replaced by the rest of the QGE section who endured 17 freezing days in ISO containers on Pebble Island while they prepared graves and constructed a memorial cairn.

TA sappers' timely action in Denmark

TRANSPORT problems caused serious concern for Territorials from 73 Engineer Regiment as the first part-time sapper unit to support Harrier aircraft on field deployment in Denmark.

But they worked round the clock to set up camouflaged tactical landing sites and, in a race against time, were hammering home the last 3ft-long pins into the landing pads as the 20 aircraft were approaching.

The sappers proved they were up to the task and won praise for developing radical new types of Harrier hide which offered RAF crews greater security and improved defences against bomb blasts.

As Britain is the only country to use fixed balloons for

Commanded by Lt Col Bill Bailey, the regiment deployed squadrons from Sheffield, Nottingham, Chesterfield and Bradford along with the Jersey Field Squadron (Militia) taking part in its first major exercise as part of the regiment.

Jumping from fixed balloons costs £3 million and from April next year the jumps will be from Skyvan aircraft.

A HERO of the Soviet Union and four other senior officers from Russia's Airborne Forces went back to basics at Aldershot to go through initial training before parachute jumping from a balloon.

Gordons celebrate

training, Lt Gen Albert Slyusar, Commander of the Ryazan Higher Airborne Academy, and his colleagues saw part of airborne history.

8

Earlier, Capt Richard Gaffney, Welsh Guards, Lt Sandy Carrick-Buchanan, Scots Guards and Sgt Taff O'Malley, Welsh Guards had reached the summit in the second phase of the expedition, which started in January and lasts until March next year.

They put him in a sleeping bag and kept him conscious until he could be evacuated.

Sappers receive UN medals



Tanks blown

THIRTY SEVEN main battle tanks and 12 other armoured vehicles have been destroyed at Castlemartin range under the Treaty on Conventional Arms in Europe.

The mayor of Ripon, Cllr Harold presented 60 sappers from Ripon-based 38 Engineer Regiment with medals for service with the UN in Bosnia. They were among 400 members of the regiment to qualify for the UNPROFOR medal. Squadrons involved were 11 and 32 Field Squadrons and 15 Field Park Squadron. The regiment supported the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) by keeping roads open so that food and medical supplies could be distributed. It also constructed accommodation for 1,200 personnel, maintained 126km of main supply routes and cleared snow.



Prince Charles, as heir to the Scottish throne, is known as the Duke of Rothesay by The Gordon Highlanders, who welcomed him to Aberdeen as their Colonel-in-Chief for their bi-centenary celebrations. He is accompanied by the Colonel of the Regiment, Lt Gen Sir Peter Graham, and the commanding officer of the 1st Battalion, Lt Col The Hon Ian Chant-Sempill, on one of their last functions before amalgamating with the 1st Battalion, The Queen's Own Highlanders

Roof of Americas rescue

TWO British soldiers taking part in the Household Division's Roof of the Americas expedition saved the life of a US Navy lieutenant who had fallen with his girlfriend 700ft down Mt McKinley in Alaska.

Capt Craig Offless, Parachute Regiment, was preparing

to climb the mountain with Lt Charlie Morgan, Welsh Guards, when they found the semi-conscious Lt Rick Taylor, with broken ribs and bad frostbite, near his dead companion.

They put him in a sleeping bag and kept him conscious until he could be evacuated.

IN BRIEF

EXERCISE Lightning Strike involved 17 teams in the annual Royal Signals' University Officer Training Corps competition on Salisbury Plain. The officer cadets carried out mine and casualty clearance, drove armoured vehicles through an obstacle course and completed a testing "electronic warfare" exercise. Outright winner was Liverpool UOTC which beat off stiff competition from Cambridge, Southampton and Aberdeen UOTCs.

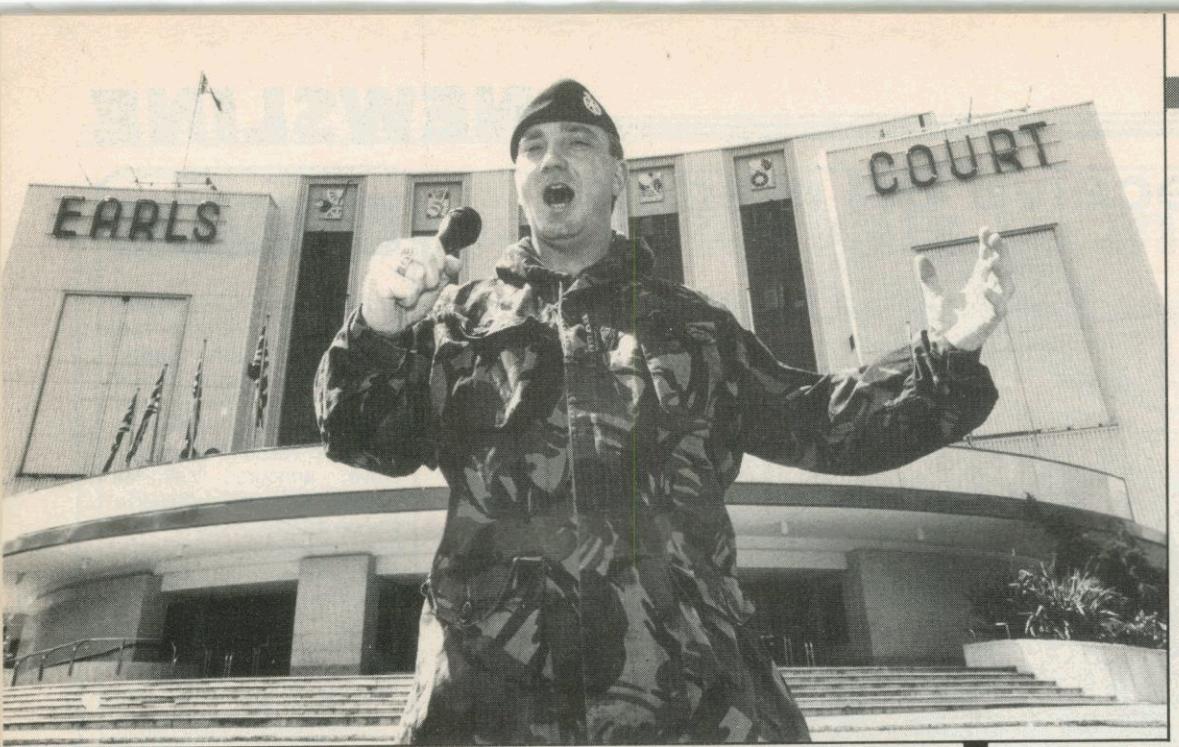
United Distillers have donated a ten-seater minibus to 1st Battalion, The King's Own Scottish Borderers based at Preston. It will be used by unit winter sports teams and for adventurous training pursuits.

A British Army shooting team waltzed off with two major trophies during an international skill-at-arms meeting in Australia. The 16-man team, led by Maj David Elsam WFR, won the Vickers Trophy and the International Service Rifle Team Match against teams from Australia, New Zealand, USA, Brunei, Singapore and Papua New Guinea. The British team included four Queen's Medallists.

A sharpshooting company - A (Salerno) Company - from 6/7th Battalion, The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment, chalked up an impressive performance at the Southern District Territorial Army skill-at-arms meeting. The company won all seven of the major district shooting titles and Pte Graham Warner carried off the individual district rifle championship.

Overall winners of the London District Rifle Association meeting was 4th (Volunteer) Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets. The GOC London District, Maj Gen Robert Corbett, presented prizes to the team who will be taking part in TASAM at Bisley this month.

The Wales skill-at-arms meeting, 160 (Wales) Brigade's premier shooting competition, involved units from all over the principality. The TA Championship Cup was won by 3rd Battalion, The Royal Welch Fusiliers. Overall winners were the Gurkha Demonstration Company based at Dering Lines, Brecon.



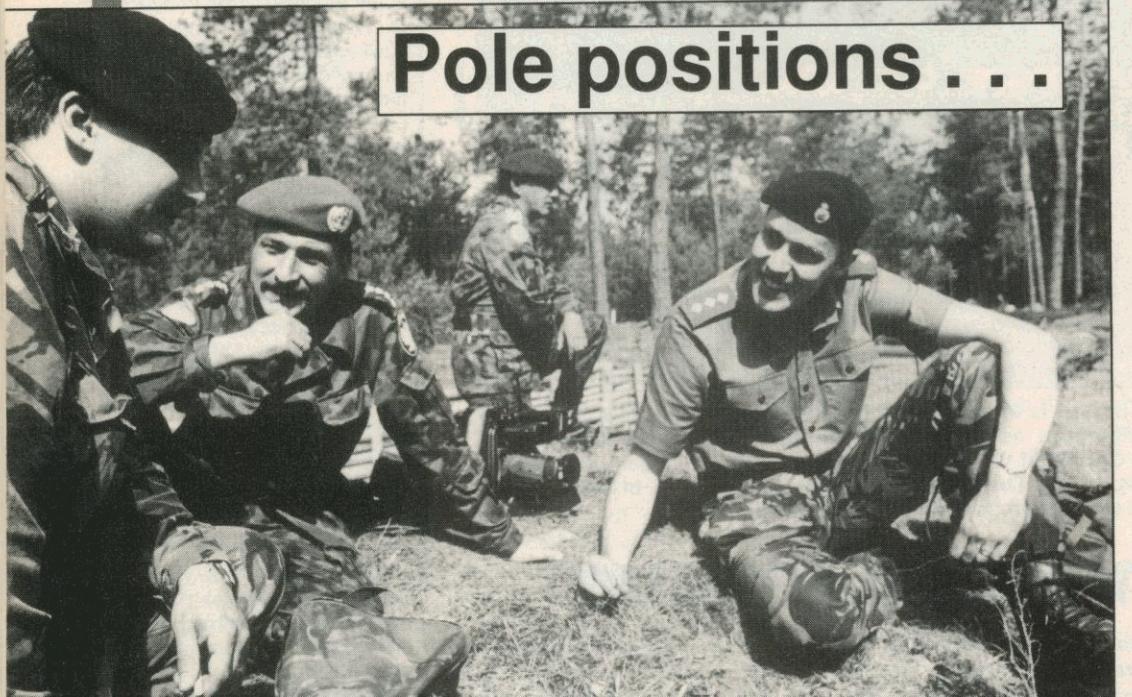
Bright Dawn

Meet Cpl Dawn McFarlane, the first female in the Regular Army to complete an Armourer Initial Course at the School of Electrical and Mechanical Engineering in Bordon. Seen receiving her certificate from Chief Instructor Maj Jim Willcoxson, Dawn, posted to 24 Air Mobile Brigade Close Support Battalion in Colchester, hopes to become an artificer.



PEOPLE
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PEOPLE

Pole positions ...



Pause for reflection on the training ground as battalion padre Rev Simon Farmer (right) talks to Pte Graham Crane (left) and Capt Mariusz Lewicki during a trip to Poland by A Company, 1st Battalion, The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment. The British soldiers took part in a peace-support exercise during a week with the UN Polish Armed Forces Peace-keeping Training Centre at Kielce.

A matter of Lythe and Death ...

Life Guards Trooper Phil Lythe (right) swaps the plumed helmet and cuirass of the Household Cavalry Regiment for something a trifle more dramatic this month when, as part of the latest Royal Tournament's theme of War and Peace, he makes a startling entrance as one of the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse - in his case, Death. Don't frighten the horses, Phil!

Court in the act!

Royal Green Jacket Sgt Gary Driscoll (above left) warms up for his big break into "show business" on the BFBS stand at this year's Royal Tournament at Earls Court, London, when he sings to the audience as part of the Army's contribution to the event. Gary, who was a hit with television audiences when he sang to spectators during a rain-interrupted match at Wimbledon two years ago, is releasing a compact disc soon.

Roland's medal plea



Meeting Liberal Democrat leader Paddy Ashdown (who himself saw active service with the Special Boat Squadron) in Normandy helped take REME LCpl Roland Lyon's mind off the disappointment of losing one of his hard-earned medals. Attached to 36 Engineer Regiment, Roland had dashed to assist a veteran who had fallen over. Unfortunately, their medals clashed as he helped the man up, and his United Nations medal for service in Bosnia was ripped from its ribbon. If one of our readers found the medal at Bayeux war cemetery, let *Soldier* know and we'll return it.

Hare today,
gone tomorrow!



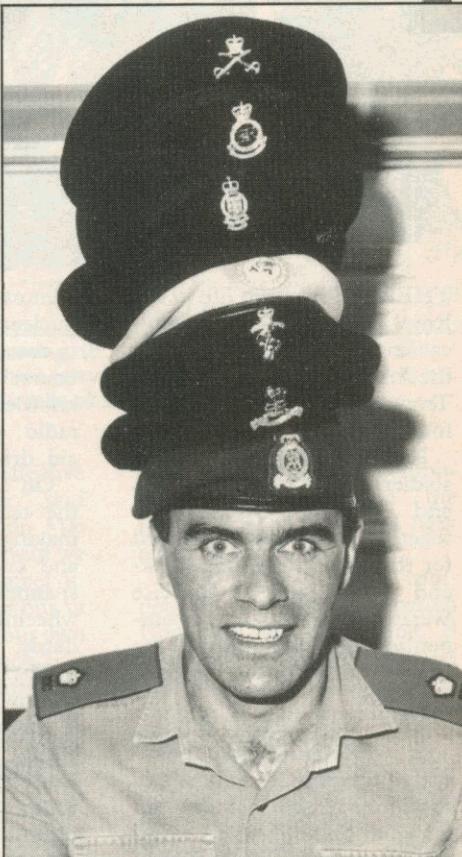
Picture: Sgt Ian Liprott, Gran Gds

Easy stretch for Pearl



Fifteen tough tests proved no problem for technologist Pearl Black when she took part with 50 business people in Exercise Executive Stretch, organised by the East Midlands TAVRA to gain support for members of their companies in the Reserve Forces. Brig David Biggart, CO of 49 (East Midlands) Brigade, seen presenting Pearl with the award, said her performance had been "absolutely astonishing".

Heading for a record?



Not BAD going



The name Inkerman has a ring to it for WO2 (RQMS) Bill "Dusty" Hare. He began his long Military Police career at the barracks of that name in Woking and is completing it at Inkerman Lines, Rheindahlen. With a total of 34 years' distinguished service, WO2 Hare - pictured with outgoing Provost Marshal Col John Hodges - is the most senior warrant officer currently serving in an operational appointment with the RMP.

The 3 Base Ammunition Depot (BAD) in Germany has an unusual claim to fame. Its 210-strong unit contains no fewer than eight married serving couples, all immortalised here. Pictured from left to right and front to rear are Cpl and LCpl Syrett, Sgt and Cpl Mumford, LCpl and Cpl McKinney, LCpl and Sgt Jones, Pte and Cpl Brown, LCpl and LCpl Mularkey, Pte and Cpl Hammick and Cpl and Cpl Briggs.

Maj Ken Smith thinks he may have achieved an unprecedented feat for a serving officer. So far in his career, he has been the wearer of no fewer than seven different cap badges. They have ranged from his initial REME beret at the tender age of 17½ to the APTC, RAOC, RAFC, 5 Airborne Brigade, the UNFICYP Support Regiment in Cyprus and his current headgear as SO2 Pers/Fin (A) and Manning and Record Officer to the Gibraltar Regiment. Next stop Hatterick?



REME mechanics cross and secure a disused bridge



Cfn Douglas Marshall makes a spanner



Members of 126 Company negotiate an aerial ropeway during an NBC phase

How REME TA recovered from wee Willie.

THERE IS more to life in the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers than just keeping the Army's vehicles running, as Territorial Army mechanics found out.

Eighteen teams of part-time soldiers from all over Wales and Western District got together just outside Stafford for their most gruelling weekend of the year - Exercise Western Approaches - a competition intended to test to the full their military and mechanical skills.

The Swynnerton training area evolved from a huge abandoned wartime munitions factory, now almost derelict, but with a self-contained road system flanked by buildings almost reclaimed by nature. Crumbling walls, old bunkers and swamp-like terrain made it the ideal place to test the mechanics on recovering heavy vehicles from a bog, assessment and repair of vehicles, and dealing with mines and booby traps in pitch darkness.

During a military skills stand, they had to negotiate a realistic battle run in full NBC kit, and deal with a road acci-

dent casualty contaminated by nuclear fall-out. Then they had to complete an arduous assault course and demonstrate their knowledge of map reading, radio communications, first aid, driving and watermanship.

On each of the two nights, the teams were kept awake, making first a combined bottle and can opener, and then a spanner for a Bedford truck wheelnut - to exacting standards.

The final morning saw the by now exhausted soldiers run a three-mile obstacle course while carrying a stretcher loaded with 80lb of water canisters, navigate around an orienteering course, before demonstrating their trade skills once again by manufacturing from nothing a catapult capable of throwing a brick.

"This trade test looks like a lot of fun and it is," said exercise controller Maj Brian Williams, of Headquarters Wales and Western District.

"We like to use this as the grand finale, and it gives teams the chance to unwind at the end of a very tough competition. But there is

a serious side to it.

"Some of our mechanics come into the TA and learn the trade, but a lot more work in garages in civilian life, where there is a tendency to expect that everything will be provided.

"On a battlefield, you would be very lucky to have

all the tools and spares that you want and often you will be required to scrounge or make do, or even make parts from lumps of metal.

"We are trying to demonstrate that with a little thought things can be made to happen."

The organisers nearly had to scrap one of the stands after the might of the REME's recovery section quailed in the face of a four-day-old waterfowl chick called Willie.

The requirement was for teams to shackle a heavy recov-



ery vehicle and pull an armoured personnel carrier out of a knee-deep muddy bog. And that's when Willie swam on to the scene.

"The first task for the directing staff was to lay out tapes showing the edges of the test area," said Capt Bain Boulton from 119 Recovery Company.

"While they were doing this, a tiny black scrap of fluff with an orange beak swam towards them. He showed no fear at all. When the boys looked closer, they found a nest lying on the mud with more chicks inside.

Above - LCpl Andrew Lord struggles to get a log over an obstacle on the assault course

Left - Willie, the wildfowl chick who held up an exercise

controlled, it is a haven for small wild life. Conservation and propagation of animal and plant life is a serious consideration for range staff who have identified areas in which troops may not train so that the wilderness can prevail.

For a particular REME unit, the past few months have seen a complete change of role. 101 Battalion, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (V) was formed in the North West with its headquarters in Chorley, Lancashire.

"And all the time we were rearranging things Willie kept swimming out to see what was going on. When the teams came through we had to point out to them the extra hazard, but the bird did not seem to mind at all."

Because the numbers of people entering the training area are limited and strictly

"Our operationally effective date is April next year," said battalion training major Maj John White, "and at present we are working hard to meet it. We are still waiting for bits of equipment, but within our own resources, we are on track."

Four REME TA battalions have been formed. In time of war, 101 Battalion is assigned to Nato's Rapid Reaction Corps (ARRC). One of its prime assets is the 1st (UK) Armoured Division, and the unit would come under its direct command. As a result, at least one of the companies will train in Germany each year.

While 119 Company is tasked to recover wheeled vehicles or lighter tracked vehicles that have broken down or been damaged, 126 Company will salvage goods assemblies and usable items from otherwise non-operational vehicles, and 127 Company will be capable

of in-depth and more complicated repairs beyond the resources of the forward light aid detachments.

Overall winner of the competition was 126 Reclamation Company whose A and B teams took first and second places. Lt Piers Ashdown from Droitwich won the Fitzgerald Award for leadership.

Awards for defence, radio communications, and military and trade skills went to 157 Transport Regiment Workshops, while 119 Recovery Company won the shooting and recovery competitions.

Best University Officer Training Corps team was Birmingham UOTC, who also won the Serco Pursuit Trophy for orienteering, watermanship and the endurance race. The Bennett Trophy for endeavour went to Liverpool UOTC.

Pictures: Pete Griffiths

Wives' Bosnia booklet was penned in day

WHEN Maj Robin Wolfenden became the staff officer dealing with Service Conditions in the Directorate of Personnel (Army) he felt that wives might need help while their husbands were in Bosnia.

So the next bank holiday Monday he wrote a booklet about it. His intention was not to give comprehensive advice but to point out potential pitfalls and suggest where help might be sought if wives could not cope.

Single soldier welfare is essentially an operational matter and when units are deployed they tend to produce their own guides, he said.

Small, independent units did not have the resources or experience of an infantry battalion, but even when individuals were pulled out and posted as reinforcements from large units, their families might not necessarily be given any assistance.

Maj Wolfenden's booklet - *Families Guide for Soldiers deployed on UN operations* - is not directed at wives who know the ropes, but at young wives, who may feel isolated if they are new to a regiment.

"For everything I have mentioned there is probably something they can draw on from another organisation. It is a prompter, and may spark something off if, say, car insurance has been forgotten."

Topics include telling the children about their father's absence, precautions and security when alone, dealing with finances, compassionate problems and welfare, and coping with the return of the husband.

In the soldiers' corner

HOW MUCH should we pay a soldier who puts his life on the line?

Along with food, questions of pay, allowances and conditions are among the most emotive of subjects.

Squaddies do not easily understand why they are paid more in Germany than in Bosnia where they escort United Nations convoys under fire. They also resent the fact that other countries pay their soldiers in Bosnia much greater allowances.

The complexity of British Army pay sometimes baffles soldiers. It is a mystery to them why a band three corporal may be paid more than a band five sergeant.

These problems and many in the "personnel" area fall to the Director of Personnel (Army), Brig David Webb-Carter.

He and a staff of 27 are dedicated to fighting the soldiers' corner and brokering the best possible deal over a range of thorny issues.

D Pers (A) is the Army's personnel brick in the tri-Service department created last year when the department of the Director General of Personal Services (Army) was split up.

All pay, charges, pensions and allowances are administered by Col Tom Blyth, DD Pers 1/2(A); conditions of service, welfare, and housing come under Col Bill Allen, DD Pers 3(A). Ceremonial

matters, new regimental titles, medals, uniforms and battle honours are a separate part of the remit in Pers 12.

Service pay is determined by the Armed Forces Pay Review Body (AFPRB), a diverse body of civilians drawn from industry, trade unions, commerce and the academic world.

It always includes a senior retired Service officer - currently Air Chief Marshal Sir Roger Palin - and advises the Prime Minister on what soldiers should earn. It relies on a Joint Services Job Evaluation Team to analyse soldiers' skills and compare them with the civilian market. Pay settlements of more than 4,500 jobs are monitored to ensure the military wage is consistent with civilian wages.

It is a complex equation, and one which does not necessarily balance. Civilians are not required to fight wars, and most do not leave their families for months on end or move to a new job every couple of years.

Many benefits of Service life have withered away while the pressures on soldiers have dramatically increased.

An "X factor" of 11.5 per cent of pay is paid to compensate for the danger, turbulence, separation, and conditions under which soldiers often operate. A basic private receives about £1,500 while an RSM gets nearly £2,700.

Britain is unique in this payment, and exceptional in many other areas.

Few countries expect their soldiers to be ready to move anywhere at short notice. Britain is also rare in having a professional army which does not rely on conscripts. Many other nations have difficulty offering soldiers for UN service because they rely on conscripts, reserves or ex-Servicemen under special contract.

A local overseas allowance (LOA) acknowledges the cost of British Service personnel living abroad. A survey of 8,000 UK-based captains and corporals establishes their cost of life style. A team which includes a Service representative and MoD and Treasury delegates then travels abroad to conduct a detailed pricing exercise in all shops and outlets used by Service personnel.

Members of the team visit about 29 countries each year to make comparisons and recommend compensation for the

Words: Gordon Skilling
Pictures: Mike Perring



Brig David Webb-Carter, Director of Personnel (Army), flanked by his staff: (front, from left) Maj Eileen Cunningham, Col Tom Blyth, Col Bill Noble and Sgt Alan Sailes, Chief Clerk

extra cost of living overseas. LOA is reviewed every three years and updated every year.

D Pers (A) sees a major "trade union" element of his job as fighting for better conditions for soldiers.

"We do not want to sound big-headed, but we like to think of ourselves as the soldiers' champion," said Col Tom Blyth. "We have to protect them from a lot of people."

A caring attitude characterises the directorate's approach. Helping soldiers through the maze of allowances are a number of booklets, and a separate, unofficial, brochure was produced by Maj Eileen Cunningham to enable them to take full advantage of special offers available to the Forces, including cheaper travel, motoring, insurance and shopping.

Col Allen is keen that the department's literature is sensitive in dealing with problems, particularly those involving the loss of a loved one.

"It is a bit unfeeling when a legal document informs a recent widow that she will get a benefit as long as she does not marry within six months," he said.

An enormous amount of effort went into contacting Gulf War widows to include their experience in an "after-care guide".

"The War Widows' Association of Great Britain and the Federation of Army Wives are very much on side and have helped us try to humanise the advice we give," said Col Allen.

With 142 regimental secretaries to deal with, the Army is a much more disparate organisation than the other Services and great efforts have been made to produce guidelines for all units.

"The guide is to prevent a nonsense occurring and to prevent us giving anything but the best possible support even in the far flung outposts of the country," he said.

Col Allen was particularly anxious that minor units should have continuity when a families' officer was posted. Guidance in the medium-to-long term was necessary to identify problems and requirements and to suggest sources of help.

Where no official channels are available, that little extra which makes life more enjoyable is often provided by the Nuffield Trust, whose Army input is administered by Miss Sarah Ferry from Pers 3d(A).

● Turn to Page 17

WRITE ON . . .

NOT enough service personnel and their spouses are telling the Army what they think of it, says the Director of Personnel (Army), Brig David Webb-Carter.

Even if the response is "rubbish!", the brigadier wants to hear why. Regular attitude surveys carried out by his department used to elicit returns of 70 per cent. Now only 60 per cent make the effort.

"It is a chore to fill in forms, but they are a very useful way of getting round red tape and finding out what people on the ground are thinking," said Brig Webb-Carter.

One soldier phoned to complain about being sent a form three weeks before his compulsory redundancy took effect. D Pers(A) says he was delighted to listen to the man's outrage. "These comments

help identify trends which we can take into account to make life better and keep soldiers in longer," said the brigadier.

Because surveys are anonymous they are an excellent measure of satisfaction . . . and dissatisfaction. The results are seen by many senior officers including the Adjutant General and Chief of the General Staff.

A random selection of personnel are targeted: soldiers four times a year, officers twice and wives once. Everyone should have an opportunity to comment every three or four years.

It is a very powerful method of righting wrongs, as the points raised are brought up at a high level. When someone with four stars says: "Get that channel of information sorted out" it tends to get sorted!

Pension promise

FORMER soldiers who are members of the Armed Forces Pension Scheme will be protected if current reviews of conditions result in changes to the present system.

The MoD department dealing with Army pensions, the Directorate of Personnel (Army), has stated that the rights of serving and ex-serving members will be fully protected.

No one need fear that the pensions they now expect will be diminished in any way.

The Armed Forces Pension Review Team is examining the existing scheme and looking at pensions practice in other Forces and civilian bodies to identify the best provisions to help recruit, motivate and retain high-quality personnel.

It is concerned with the principles of a pension scheme rather than the administrative arrangements for paying pensions

and its work will gradually be taken over by the Independent Review of Armed Forces Manpower, Careers and Remuneration Structure (see Pages 18-19).

If a new pension scheme is recommended, the revised arrangements would apply only to new entrants, though existing members of the present scheme will be given the option to transfer.

The directorate knows how important the pension element is in any pay package, and is anxious to take account of the views of Servicemen and women.

● Readers with views on the existing scheme or suggestions for alternative features in any new scheme are invited to write in confidence to the Pensions Desk, Directorate of Personnel (Army), Metropole Building, Northumberland Avenue, London WC2N 5BL.

D-DAY

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WERE THERE
WHEN WE
NEEDED
THEM...

Daily News
TUESDAY 6TH JUNE 1944

D-DAY LANDINGS



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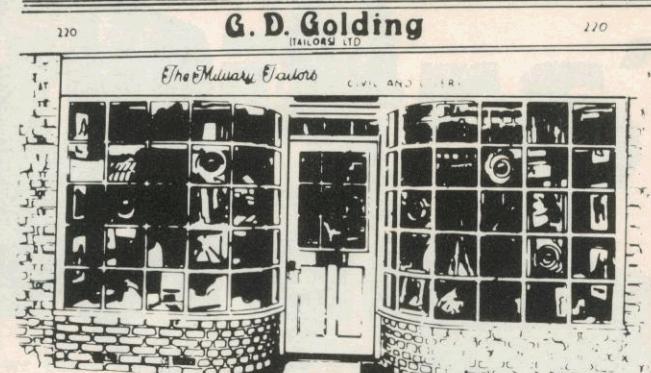
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If it's not in QRs, Pers will sort it out

A THICK book of regulations covers the allowances which compensate soldiers for upheaval in the course of their Service lives.

While 90 per cent of the Army fits comfortably into the system and receives its allowances at unit level there is a small group left in the margins.

Interpreting the grey areas of those who do not fall quite within the regulations is a task of Personnel 2 (Army).

Although not a major part of the section's work, it is vital for the 2,000 cases a year where circumstances merit special consideration.

Lt Col Nigel Noble heads the section and acts as a second-line review for difficult cases, so the individual gets a double deal.

Extenuating, emotional, financial and extraordinary circumstances are considered within the overall aim of the regulations.

"They are written for the average situation but this does not always fit individual circumstances and we must try to sort out the resulting problems. These are often complex and I may take several days over a case," said Col Noble.

In formulating policy on allowances the section attempts to look three to five years ahead, though recently it has been difficult to look a week ahead, said Col Noble.

Policy is determined by several factors. Indications of policy needs come from casework and the effect current policy is having at the margins.

Reaction to major shifts involving the law or social change is dictated by factors such as Options for Change, tax changes or governmental emphasis on post-16 education.

Making certain that the needs of the Army in the future will be met depends on a lot of staff ground work at Pers 2.

• From Page 15

A special fund has provided more than £55,000 to benefit personnel in former Yugoslavia, including TV and video players, telephone, post and sports facilities.

Founded in 1939, the trust makes four categories of grant.

"Supergrants" of £250,000 are made in rotation to the three Services, the current



Lt Col Nigel Noble, Pers 2a (A) (seated right) and members of the Local Overseas Allowance Team meet wives and warrant officers and sergeants at Sennelager to discuss family budgets

New appreciation of spouses' value

THE ARMY is changing its attitude to one of the most significant factors in the well-being of the soldier - his wife.

The privations of wives and families while soldiers were campaigning have not been well documented, and their silent sufferings were afforded scant sympathy.

Although "camp followers" were often an essential element of the logistics chain, officialdom focused exclusively on the soldier.

The modern Army has, however, recognised changes in society which it is now reflecting.

"Previously the Army was only worried about the individual and looked after families as an adjunct," said Maj Don

McLaren, staff officer within the Directorate of Personnel (Army) dealing with family welfare.

"The family is now recognised as equally important, and that now affects all our social and personnel services planning," he said. This is reflected in the first participation of wives in an attitude survey. Soldiers had been consulted for ten years and officers for five.

In essence, wives feel very comfortable with Army quarters, schools and medical care, but resented the "wife of" attitude.

Not being regarded as a person in her own right was seen as a lack of respect and could be so annoying as to make an otherwise happy soldier leave the Army.

Army grant being for a sports hall opened at Bulford on July 1.

Special grants of £15,000 to £45,000 and major grants between £2,000 and £15,000 are applied for in November and announced in March, while minor grants up to £2,000 may be applied for throughout the year.

Special Army grants for 1994 include

£45,000 for the Army School of Mechanical Transport's Leconfield Leisure Centre, and £35,000 for a state-of-the art indoor centre for the Army Lawn Tennis Association at Aldershot. Major grants totalled £179,982 for 1994 and include an outboard engine for The Royal Irish Regiment, tentage and sleeping bags for the SAS, and minibuses for various units.

Home savings bonus rates cut with tax relief change

A NUMBER of changes have occurred recently to the Services Home Savings Scheme (SHSS) which was set up last year to help Servicemen save for their own houses.

Under the scheme, Servicemen who saved a minimum of £50 a month for a minimum of five years in a special SHSS savings account and who used the proceeds as a down-payment on a house would receive a special bonus.

Known as the Homes Savings Allowance (HSA), the bonus is equivalent to the MIRAS tax relief that he or she would have obtained as a mortgaged house-owner throughout the period.

For SHSS savers who had accounts with the Bank of Scotland, Gartmore Building Society, Norwich and Peterborough Building Society, or Skipton Building Society before March 31, the HSA on savings up to that point would be £1 for every £3 saved.

All other conditions remain the same.

Despite the changes in the HSA rate, the scheme continues to offer personnel future home-seeking advantages which are not available to people outside the Services.

And despite the reduced benefits now available, personnel planning to start saving for a home should not be deterred from joining.

The HSA rate will reduce again with effect from April

1, 1995 when the MIRAS rate drops to 15 per cent and will then pay £15 for every £85 of savings and interest.

The changes are not retrospective. Savings (plus interest earned before each change takes effect) will attract the HSA at the previous rate up to the date of change.

In another change, the eligibility criteria for joining the SHSS have been relaxed to enable more people to take advantage of the scheme.

Before April 1, Servicemen had to have served for at least three years before they could join, and had to save a minimum of £50 a month.

With effect from April 1, all Servicemen aged 18 or over may join the scheme (although, in addition to the requirement to save for at least five years, they must now be at least 25 before they can claim their HSA), and the minimum monthly contribution has been lowered to £30.

In a letter to senior officers, Gen Sir Michael Wilkes acknowledges widespread cynicism at the assertion that the review is unconnected with the Defence Costs Studies, or is not designed to reduce conditions of service in an attempt to cut the cost of uniformed manpower.

In a letter to senior officers, Gen Sir Michael Wilkes acknowledges widespread cynicism at the assertion that the review is unconnected with the Defence Costs Studies, or is not designed to reduce conditions of service in an attempt to cut the cost of uniformed manpower.

He reassures sceptics that the review will be thorough and comprehensive. With his senior staff, he has been at pains to emphasise the vulnerability of the Services to precipitate change.

Gen Wilkes says the review will be more complex than the Sheehy Enquiry on the Police because of the nature of the Services and their world-wide role.

Initial work has established the outline of how to structure the Armed Forces to fit their task in the next decades. They must be flexible, have high morale and motivation, the right skills and a career structure appropriate to wider social and economic realities.

The new structure has to be simple to understand and must

RADICAL initiatives to help the Armed Forces meet the challenge of the future will be considered by the Independent Review of Armed Forces Manpower, Career and Remuneration Structures.

Its chairman, Mr Michael Bett, told *Soldier* he had to envisage a time when the Army and Royal Air Force were largely confined to Britain and project a structure appropriate for the year 2015.

As a member of the Armed Forces Pay Review Body from

1983-87, he had been frustrated by the tremendous dissatisfaction expressed not at pay levels, but at the complexity of allowances and how they were implemented, writes **Gordon Skilling**.

A major task was to simplify pay and allowances to make them understandable. Recommendations for structural improvements could not be altered every time circumstances changed.

"No one has told me that the rank, pay and manpower struc-

tures of the Services are perfect, so they can be improved," said Mr Bett, a former deputy chairman of British Telecom.

He insists that his review is not a cost-cutting exercise run by the Treasury. Nor is it linked to the Defence Costs Studies, although it will use information from that exercise.

The review will look at:

- Practices in industry, commerce and other armed forces to apply them to Britain's forces.

- Buying in expertise.

- Flexible careers. No pay policy will prevent civvy street poaching the Services' technical experts, but the Forces could attract them back.

- The impact of high technology on management structures.

- The X factor. It is a crucial aspect of Service pay, but is it the best way to compensate the Forces for the problems they deal with?

- Tailoring the Forces to the needs of society in 20 years time. The Forces exist within a rapidly changing society and should reflect its developments, recognising for example, the right of wives to have jobs.

Mr Bett believes that if the Forces were largely based in the UK, there would be less turmoil for families, and less need to carry support services with them.

The quality of families' lives would be improved by a second income and the relative stability of UK locations, already found at Royal Navy bases.

Cost-cutting is not the object of the review. The aim is to establish a simplified career, pay and allowances package appropriate to the start of the next century.

Changes in career patterns could, however, result in fewer moves of Servicemen and their families, which would mean reduced spending.

The review will take about a year to complete and will be implemented over at least 12 months.

Gen Wilkes was keen that the review would help company and platoon officers by producing a simple structure for pay and allowances which could easily be explained to soldiers.

The review, he said, would not be doing its duty if it did not look at levels of manning, rank and trade structures, and deployment patterns.

"One cannot help noticing there are two (officers and other ranks) management structures.

"Industry has sharpened up its communications by cut-

ting layers of management."

Mr Bett saw the real growth area being the white-collared technician with his briefcase full of everything from a screwdriver to a manual on the state-of-the-art equipment he maintains.

● Recruiting fully-trained people. It is not economic for the Services to set up special training when this can be done more cheaply elsewhere.

● Service as a module of life. Mr Bett sees no reason for thinking of the Forces as a total career when the average Service life is only six years. Experts could be recruited for short stints.

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● Tailoring the Forces to the needs of society in 20 years time. The Forces exist within a rapidly changing society and should reflect its developments, recognising for example, the right of wives to have jobs.

Mr Bett's four years as a member of the Armed Forces Pay Review Body were marked by stability and comparability with civilian sector salaries.

He is also chairman of the Nurses Pay Review Body, the Social Security Advisory Committee, and the Central England Training and Enterprise Council.

Way forward to high morale and motivation



Gen Sir Michael Wilkes

be seen to be fair and to reward what is important.

The review is not part of the Defence Costs Study but will take full account of its conclusions, particularly on MoD headquarters, the command structure, training requirements, recruiting and manning arrangements and the support area.

Recruiting and maintaining a disciplined, highly-trained, well-motivated and cost-effective force is a priority. The particular requirements of Service life are a major consideration. So, too, are the questions of accompanied service and flexibility in an uncertain future.

Length of service, career and deployment patterns, rank and trade structures will be examined, and financial aspects simplified in consultation with the

new structure has to be simple to understand and must

Job project hits jackpot

EX-SERVICE personnel taking part in an Oxford-based career development programme have been so successful at finding jobs they have created vacant places on the scheme.

The programme, funded by the European Union, is run by Westminster College, Oxford, and is open to ex-Service personnel, their partners and civilians affected by Options for Change. Participants spend one day a week at the college, three days in an in-company project placement close to home, and one day a week studying at home.

Candidates have to buy an Open University personal career development course folder costing £41.70, but most of the initial registration fee of £100 will be refunded.

Elaine Cox in the Educational Services Department at Westminster College on 0865 247644 (ext 3292) has details.

Changes in career patterns could, however, result in fewer moves of Servicemen and their families, which would mean reduced spending.

The review will take about a year to complete and will be implemented over at least 12 months.

Gen Wilkes was keen that the review would help company and platoon officers by producing a simple structure for pay and allowances which could easily be explained to soldiers.

The review, he said, would not be doing its duty if it did not look at levels of manning, rank and trade structures, and deployment patterns.

"One cannot help noticing there are two (officers and other ranks) management structures.

"Industry has sharpened up its communications by cut-

ting layers of management."

Mr Bett saw the real growth area being the white-collared technician with his briefcase full of everything from a screwdriver to a manual on the state-of-the-art equipment he maintains.

● Recruiting fully-trained people. It is not economic for the Services to set up special training when this can be done more cheaply elsewhere.

● Service as a module of life. Mr Bett sees no reason for thinking of the Forces as a total career when the average Service life is only six years. Experts could be recruited for short stints.

● Buying in expertise.

● Flexible careers. No pay policy will prevent civvy street poaching the Services' technical experts, but the Forces could attract them back.

● The impact of high technology on management structures.

● The X factor. It is a crucial aspect of Service pay, but is it the best way to compensate the Forces for the problems they deal with?

● Tailoring the Forces to the needs of society in 20 years time. The Forces exist within a rapidly changing society and should reflect its developments, recognising for example, the right of wives to have jobs.

Mr Bett's four years as a member of the Armed Forces Pay Review Body were marked by stability and comparability with civilian sector salaries.

He is also chairman of the Nurses Pay Review Body, the Social Security Advisory Committee, and the Central England Training and Enterprise Council.

Among his many appointments, he has been honorary colonel of 81 Signal Squadron (Volunteers), Royal Corps of Signals since 1990.

Michael Bett has the interests of soldiers close to his heart – particularly the Territorial Army.

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After National Service with the Essex Regiment, he went on to the Emergency Reserve.

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Pension boost for 'Kiwi' widows

Cari Roberts

→ COUNTERPOINT ←

Veterans' ministry: case for a rethink

EX-SERVICEMEN and women should have their own department, their own Minister, perhaps, to deal exclusively with their affairs. So says Andrew MacKinlay, MP for Thurrock.

I agree with him. In fact, on *Counterpoint* on BFBS, it's an idea that we've mooted more than once.

The major charities that help serving and ex-Service people, such as SSAFA and the Royal British Legion, do an excellent job. There are many other, smaller organisations that work together to look after the welfare of those who serve and who have served.

There's also a lot of co-operation among them. They share ideas and, sometimes, they share a platform.

But the creation of a small department to consolidate information about their work, and field enquiries about ex-Service matters would show that the Government takes "Veterans' Affairs", as they call them in America and Australia, very seriously.

However, the Government feels such a department is not necessary.

When Options for Change first saw the light of day I was moved to wonder if a Veterans' Affairs department might not be a bad idea. I envisaged a small office, staffed by an experienced team of ex-Service people and led by a

senior officer with good social and professional contacts.

The department wouldn't be policy-forming or campaigning. Nor would it embark on case work. It would maintain a computerised information base as a first point of contact for anyone leaving the Services or anyone seeking information about welfare services available.

Once set up, it would also be well-placed to be part of any consultative process when major changes in Service life are envisaged.

Properly run, it could also help in any research undertaken by MoD which looked at how ex-Service people were faring in the civilian world. The right person in charge might also be well-positioned to "have a word" at the right time in the right places if specific issues

needed to be aired.

Well, I mentioned the idea to anyone who would listen but my words fell upon stony ground. When it got to the point where one rather senior interviewee on *Counterpoint* sighed and said, "I know what you're going to say, Cari, and, as I've said before, it won't work and there's no need for it anyway", I threw in the towel.

Over the past year or so there has been an upsurge of interest in the media about what happens to Ser-

vice people once they leave. There have been some high-profile issues to fuel the fires, of course, and journalists have seized on what they see as "human interest" stories.

But I do believe that there needs to be some kind of official recognition that the people who serve the country aren't just sent out into the cold after they are no longer required.

There's no doubt that resettlement, whether voluntary or enforced, can be a difficult process. Some fall through the many nets provided for them. But MoD needs to be more proactive in promoting the fact that those safety nets are there.

They need to blow their own trumpets – and loudly. Of course, this could put them in a dangerous posi-

tion. As soon as you start promoting positive sides of your work there will be legions of people waiting to attack you.

There is also a tradition for the military to regard themselves as rather exclusive and not in need of interference from the outside.

I suspect there's a fair amount of empire-building, too.

The creation of a small department for Veterans' Affairs would be a relatively safe way of confirming to the outside world that those who have given part of their life to serve their country are honoured and cherished... that they aren't just dropped as soon as the figures don't add up.

The creation of a special department would do nothing to interfere with the charities. On the contrary, it might give them a central point of contact, too, when they are promoting and co-ordinating their campaigns and events.

I've been in touch with Mr MacKinlay and await his reply. I'll let you know what he says.

In the meantime, if you have any views on the idea do write and let me know. If Mr MacKinlay intends to pursue his idea it would be good to have a sheaf of letters to put into his hands.

• • •

You can contact Cari at BFBS, BFPO 786 or c/o Soldier.

● The matter of the donation of organs of the body after death is a difficult one to talk about.

The Department of Health has a sensible leaflet which answers every question you might have about the process. Attached is a donor card to carry if you wish to make it clear that you approve of organ donation and wish, as it says, someone to live after your death.

Serving the servers

OVER the past few weeks I've been dashing about meeting a variety of people concerned with Service and ex-Service welfare.

I attended a conference of the Council of Voluntary Welfare Workers where I met an extraordinary group of people dedicated to helping those who serve and who have served.

I also attended the annual meeting of Mutual

Support – the organisation dedicated to helping Service people who have been diagnosed as having Multiple Sclerosis.

Two years ago a small group of people from all three Services and all diagnosed as having MS, got together to form a group to compare notes and help each other carry on their life with the Services. At this year's AGM they celebrated

a membership of more than 70 and funds exceeding £7,000.

They want to set up a world-wide network of welfare officers who will be on hand should anyone wish to contact them.

Mutual Support have asked SSAFA to help them train their welfare officers and it looks as though it will all go ahead according to plan.

Much of what it has achieved is due to Roz's outstanding contribution.

BRITISH war widows of New Zealand Servicemen killed in the Second World War are to have their war widows' pensions substantially increased.

The increases of up to £100 a week, announced by Viscount Astor on June 23 and effective from Octo-

ber, follow a campaign by the War Widows' Association of Great Britain.

Until now 38 "New Zealand" war widows, whose British husbands were working in New Zealand at the outbreak of the Second World War, and who had never visited the

country, have received the substantially lower New Zealand pension of less than £40 a week. From October a widow from this group aged 70 or over could expect to receive a total war widow's pension of around £140 a week.

Widows of members of the Ulster Defence Regiment killed in service between April 1, 1974 and March 31, 1980, and whose attributable pension from the MoD is not as much as the special payments made to pre-1973 war widows, will also be "topped up".

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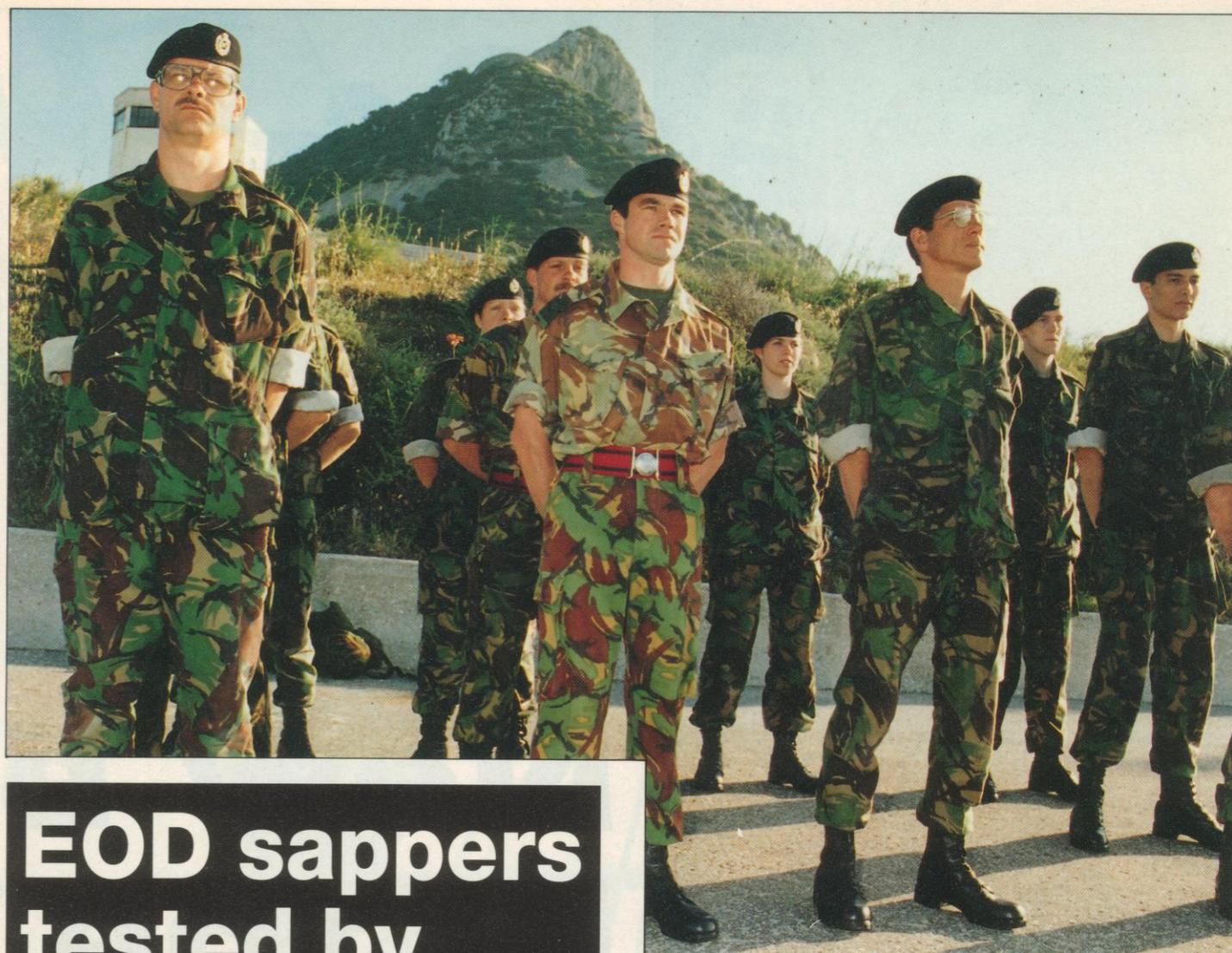
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Above: A tunnel warfare exercise challenged 222 Fd Sqn in ways they had never experienced. Potential dangers lurked in every corner as the part-time soldiers scurried along the labyrinth of tunnels and passages to seek out intruders

Left: On top of the Rock are (front, from left) LCpl Jerry Walker, Spr Sue Cook, Spr Paul O'Neil and Cpl Andy Abbot. Behind them are Spr Darryl Lobo and Cpl Dave Cotton

Pictures: Chris Fletcher



EOD sappers tested by tunnel vision

SOLDIERS from 222 Field Squadron (EOD) at Greenhithe have been getting to know the inside story of Gibraltar's famous Rock as part of Exercise Marble Tor, designed to provide arduous TA training in a rugged environment, **writes Paul Beard**.

Most of the 33 miles of tunnel which honeycomb the Rock are not open to the general public. But members of the unit got to know the subterranean world well while taking part in mock tunnel warfare.

Gunfire echoed eerily around the limestone caverns as the soldiers battled it out against "intruders".

"Facilities for our squadron to train in tunnel warfare are unique to Gibraltar," said Maj Steve Squibb, officer commanding.

"The experience we gained on the Mediterranean coast was totally different from anything we had done previously."

Besides training inside the Rock, the men and women of 222 Field Squadron also took

part in adventurous training activities outdoors.

At the southerly end of the 400-metre high Rock there was an opportunity for abseiling, despite continual "bombing" attacks from Gibraltar's seagulls, worried that their nesting sights might be disturbed. And the blue waters of the Mediterranean were ideal for windsurfing, canoeing and dinghy racing.

The Royal Engineers also had ample opportunity to pursue their more normal work involving demolition techniques and weapon training. In addition the Territorial Army soldiers carried out various tasks for the Gibraltarians, including restoration work on a women's refuge.

Since it was first fortified by the Moors in 711 AD, Gibraltar has survived 14 sieges. Members of 222 Field Squadron were proud to follow in the footsteps of their sapper predecessors who first tunneled out the Rock during the Great Siege of 1779.



Spr Naomi Pegler from Brighton enjoys the view from the Rock



Lt Col Charles Jackman, CO of 5 Territorial Army Training Regiment RLC (centre) with RSM "Taff" Barrie and the adjutant, Capt Alex St Matthew-Daniel



Cpl Ken Chapman, 531 EOD Sqn, and Lt Stephen Newman, 265 Port Maritime, show off the regiment's command and control trainer. Initiated by the Royal Corps of Transport, the portable system uses exercises written by trainers for incoming units. Its aim is for them to develop and practise RLC battle drills and operational procedures for command drills at regimental, squadron and troop levels in a realistic environment



Dealing with the finer points of communications at the radio training wing are (left to right) Cpl Paul Wagstaff, LCpl Paul Harp and, amazingly, a third Paul, Pte Paul Driscoll

For RLC volunteers at Grantham, there's . . .

New life in the old devil

A RATHER special wooden plaque adorns the office wall of Lt Col Charles Jackman, Royal Logistic Corps.

It shows a demon-like character inside a large V-shape.

"The little fellow represents the Lincolnshire Imp," he explained.

And the V?

"That signifies the five constituent parts of the corps – and it also stands for Volunteer," said Lt Col Jackman, commanding officer of Grantham-based 5 Territorial Army Training Regiment RLC.

The regiment's role is to organise and carry out recruit, regimental and technical training for the RLC TA, and provide complete administrative support for all of its specialist units.

Eighteen different trades, ranging from drivers to air despatch and chefs, covering 20 per cent of

the TA and 65 per cent of the specialist TA, come under the Lincolnshire organisation's umbrella.

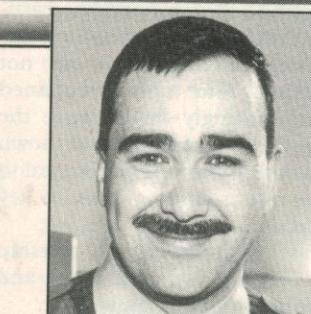
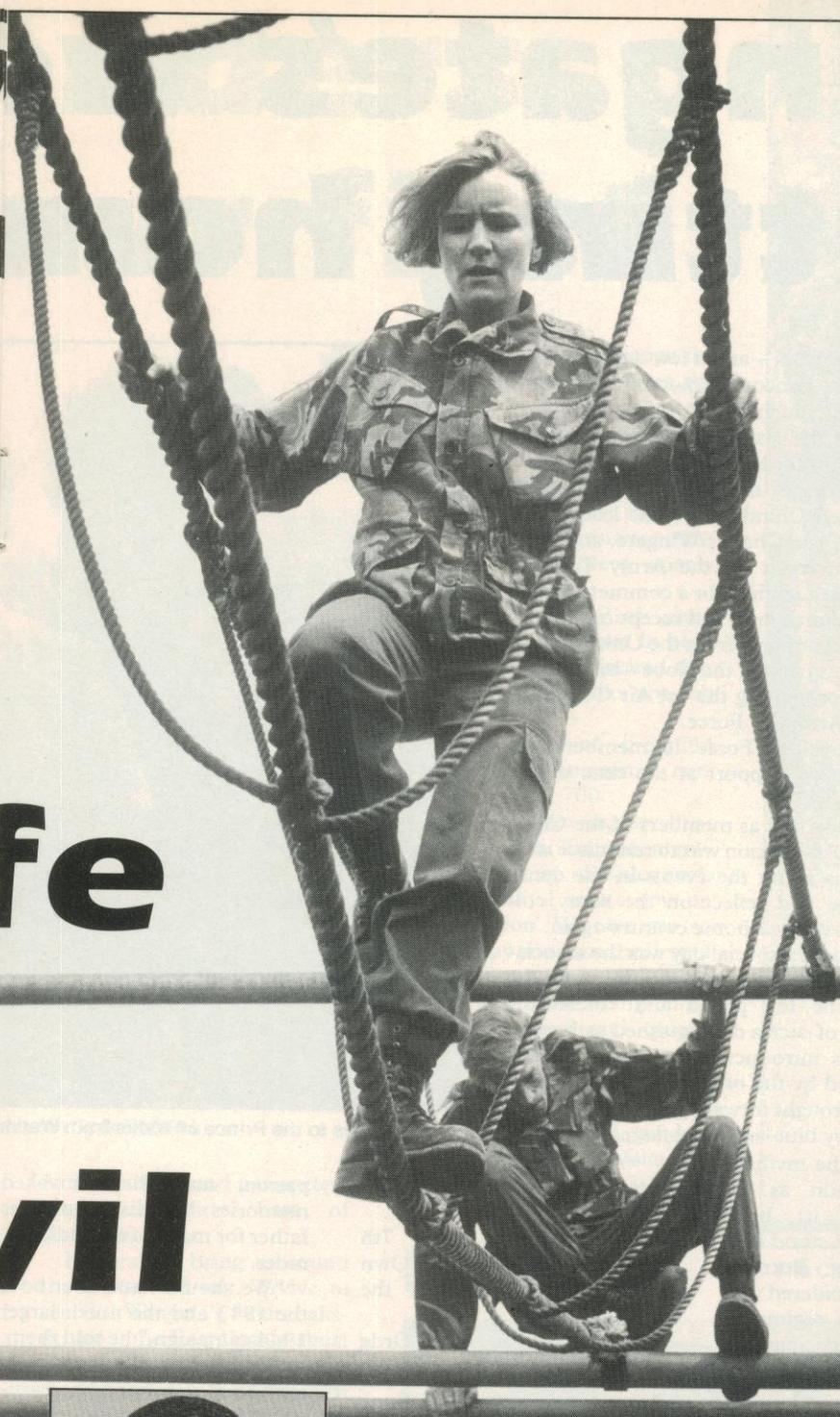
"The beauty of Grantham is that the volunteers are the priority here and they know it," said the CO.

"Facilities are reasonably good, and we are working hard to improve them. The regiment has now been running for just over a year, so we are over the initial teething problems."

Apart from 5 TA Training Regiment, there is also a Catering Support Regiment, which, like the former, has a permanent Regular staff.

For the hard-pressed trainers it is a seven-days-a-week job, with TA courses taking up weekends.

And more and more Regulars from the corps – such as the "posties" from Mill Hill – are taking advantage of the facilities at



"An awful lot of the skill of movements is common sense," says SSgt Mick Thompson, who runs movement operator and basic instructional technique courses with colleagues at the regiment's movements training wing. "Our aim, if possible, is to train our students so well that it is hard to distinguish between a Regular mover and a TA mover."

the former Royal Flying Corps and RAF training station.

Lt Col Jackman is delighted with the quality of the staff which the new corps has given to him, he says.

"I can give you no better testimony to that than to say that seven of our 39 senior ranks have recently been selected for promotion, and a further four recent 'leavers' were also selected."

The regiment is truly repre-

sentative of the RLC in that it has individuals from most of the trades, he added.

"Our TA have come together marvellously, and are an example to all in these difficult times."

Now Lt Col Jackman – the regiment's first CO and proud of it – firmly believes, the days of the "old and bold" spending their last few years looking after the Territorial Army are a thing of the past.



Above – Tried and tested: guidance for a would-be driver from driving instructor and testing officer WO2 Mick Smith

Left – Members of the RLC's Postal and Courier Depot, Mill Hill concentrate on Grantham's testing assault course during a week of military training

Below: Doing his bit to let people know just what the specialist units of the TA are is former Regular WO2 "Geordie" Robinson, who spent five of his 23 years with the Army as TQMS at Grantham. During the summer, he and his team will be on the road, complete with new recruiting video





Wingate's wonders: putting honour first

HALF A CENTURY ON – and a few days after the excitement created by the commemoration of another tumultuous event much nearer home had died down – veterans of the last Chindits campaign in Burma gathered in Staffordshire.

Some 300 survivors of the 18,000-strong international force named Chindits by their leader and founder, Maj Gen Orde Charles Wingate, and their proud families, converged on the Army Training Regiment barracks in Lichfield for a commemorative drumhead service, march-past and reception.

They had travelled not only from the United Kingdom but from various parts of the globe – including a small contingent representing the 1st Air Commandos, United States Army Air Force.

Alongside the Royal Air Force, its members had provided invaluable air support at the time of the campaign.

Now their common aim as members of the Chindits Old Comrades Association was to reminisce with their fellow veterans about the events in the dense jungles so long ago and reflect on the many colleagues who never saw their home country again.

Joining them on a very special day was the association's royal patron, the Prince of Wales, who told the old soldiers that he felt proud and "incredibly humble" to be part of such a distinguished gathering.

A short religious introduction to the drumhead service was followed by the order: "Let the Chindit Standard now be brought forward."

On cue, the heavy blue-and-gold flag, bearing the

familiar image of the mythical chinthe (or Chindit as the troops re-named it) beast which traditionally stood as a guardian outside Burmese temples, and embroidered with the names of the regiments, corps and other participants in the Burma campaign, was

marched on to the square in slow time.

A single piper from 7th Duke of Edinburgh's Own Gurkha Rifles preceded the standard bearer.

A little later Col Orde Wingate, the association's



A few words to the Prince of Wales from Welsh veteran Jack Roberts

patron, must have invoked memories of his illustrious father for many of the old comrades.

"We should remember both the 1943 and the much larger 1944 campaign," he told them.

"Both physically and mentally, they were hard, the casualties high, the surroundings hazardous. But you did not break. Your morale remained astonishingly high, and the quality of the leadership shown by every man – from general to private soldier – was a key factor."

The qualities of leadership were courage, initiative and will-power, he pointed out.

But the other, essential, quality was self-sacrifice: putting the honour of King and country above one's own interest, safety and comfort.

"In this materialistic age, when that last quality seems to have been forgotten, every Chindit has it in abundance," the colonel said, as the Royal

Artillery Band and trumpeters began the first bars of *Jerusalem*.

Prayers to bring to mind those who did not survive to see Col Wingate's "materialistic age", the Last Post, a short silence, a mournful lament on the pipes were followed in turn by Reveille, the Lord's Prayer, the National Anthem and a blessing by ATR Lichfield's chaplain.

Then, marshalled by ageing, bowler-hatted officers, brollies crooked smartly under armpits, the veterans left their seats in the stands and formed up for the parade.

The American contingent marched on and took the salute from the Prince of Wales.

A brace of mules, loaned for the day by the British Mule Society, represented the vital role the breed played in carrying supplies in the difficult territory.

Finally it was the turn of the jungle veterans themselves – no strangers to using their feet for any distances – to march past their royal patron.

They marched in single file, as a symbol of how they had

moved in columns through the jungle. This time, however, the terrain was a parade ground used these days by recruits a quarter of their age.

As briskly as possible they filed past, these brave survivors of two long, arduous campaigns. A few were openly weeping.

Out of a total of some 20,000 who took part in both campaigns, it is estimated that about 1,000 Chindits are still alive.

Membership of the Old Comrades Association currently stands at 700.

A widow, wearing her husband's medals, listened intently as the Prince of Wales said: "Gentlemen, I salute you on this occasion. We owe you so much; may you have the best of good fortune and the best of good health for many more years to come," and quietly raised her glass in salute.

● **Return via Rangoon**, an account of his time as a prisoner of the Japanese by Burma veteran Philip Stibbe, was published on July 1. Tel: 071-836 3131 for details.

Words: Phil Wilcox
Pictures: Terry Champion



The Chindit Standard is marched on to parade



Veteran Chindits form up in single file for their 50th anniversary parade



Medal men: Lichfield reunion for (left to right) Bill Ogden, Harry Simpson and Jack Needham



The 1994 Ten Tors expedition was staffed this year by Territorial Army personnel aided by computer technology. The annual event is organised by Headquarters 43 (Wessex) Brigade

Ten Tors is a TA techno triumph

SOLDIERS from 43 (Wessex) Brigade in Exeter used the latest computer equipment to monitor and control the annual Ten Tors event in May, improving the high standards of safety and public awareness expected of this 35-year-old event, writes Paul Sykes.

Ten Tors is a timed navigational march across Dartmoor in which more than 2,400 youngsters, ages ranging from 14 to 18, trek up to 55 miles in two days covering ten manned checkpoints. A shorter event, run concurrently, is organised by Exeter UOTC for 200 disabled children.

Since Ten Tors began in 1961 the Army has been heavily involved in running the event – with all the safety problems that Dartmoor poses.

With six TA units under command, 43 (Wessex) Brigade has now assumed total responsibility for the planning, control and administration of Ten Tors and, as operational commitments bite elsewhere, has used TA soldiers to carry out the roles previously filled by Regular soldiers.

This year, 289 TA members and 74 Regulars ran the event.

To compensate, the brigade brought into play the latest in computer technology to revolutionise the monitoring and tracking system. A computerised data base was established, recording every detail of every participant – name, team number, medical details and so on – and specially-trained operators manned the new-look Ops Room at Okehampton Camp.

From the moment the teams crossed the start, organised by Bristol UOTC, at 0700, their every movement was tracked

and the computer records updated.

As teams passed through each checkpoint, the information was passed by radio operators of 4 D and D and 6 LI to the Ops Room, enabling the controller to monitor their progress and allocate resources for recovery or search-and-rescue if appropriate.

Display screens gave constant updates on every team, giving early warning if any were overdue at a checkpoint.

Brigade Chief of Staff Maj Russ Wardle RGBW, the event controller, said: "We were faced with a daunting task of running a huge event where the majority of the staff were available only the night before."

"Thanks to the excellent response from the TA, however, we had all our personnel in place in time for the start. My biggest headaches – safety and rescue procedures – were made much easier by instant access to the information required."

Brig Christopher Wolverson, Brigade Commander, was more than satisfied by the outcome. "I have always had confidence in the ability of the TA to rise to any challenge," he declared, "and Ten Tors is no exception."

"We have the required expertise to hand in our TA units; their personnel are all local and appreciate just how important Ten Tors is to the people of the West Country. It is also an excellent way to demonstrate the versatility, flexibility and usefulness of the Territorial Army – and first-class training for any task we may be called upon to undertake."

Minor casualties were recovered safely and treated by 211 (Wessex) Fd Hosp, adding to the reputation of Ten Tors.

READY TO GO!

FROM TIME to time most of us have found the terms Yeomanry, Militia, Volunteers and Territorials to be confusing.

In his book *Forward Everywhere: Her Majesty's Territorials*, Stanley Simm Baldwin has made the concept of non-regular soldiering much easier to understand even when there have been overlapping roles.

He tells us the origins of the Yeomanry were in the troops of horse militia and horse volunteers that appeared in the Civil War.

However, the Yeomanry, as we understand the term today, was not raised until 1794 when there were other mounted soldiers outside the cavalry of the standing army: the troops of light horse which were part of the Volunteers, and the Fencibles which were full-time regiments raised for the duration of national emergency.

The Militia was, throughout its long history going back to Anglo-Saxon times, a compulsory organisation, whereas the Volunteers were what their title implies, corps of men freely giving their service and usually paying for the privilege.

But it is not quite as easy as that; complications arose when Volunteers joined Militia units and "for a number of years there were tangled relationships between the two types of part-time soldiers".

Although junior to the Militia in historical terms, there is evidence that a Volunteer movement was developing as far back as 1537. London and other cities had groups of military enthusiasts, known as train companies, who volunteered to defend their home localities.

The Honourable Artillery Company has a lineage going back to that period and naturally this unit frequently appears in the book. We read that during the Civil War the HAC was part of the Parliamentary Army and on one occasion drove off the Royalist cavalry of Prince Rupert. Interestingly, Rupert was to join the HAC after the Restoration.

Volunteers had to pay to join their corps, which meant that members were men who could afford to join the "club". It was the threat of invasion during the Napoleonic Wars that widened the social class within the volunteer movement, and it was also this period of conflict that gave unpaid soldiers their first taste of fighting a foreign enemy.

"The Castle Martin Troop, a sub-unit of the Pembrokeshire Yeomanry, helped to make history when it went into action against a French invasion force . . . of about 1,200 who had landed at Fishguard on 23 February 1797", thus giving the Yeomanry its first battle honour.

Victory over Napoleon brought an end to fears of invasion, and most volunteer

foot corps were disbanded. Some survived, however, notably the HAC and the Duke of Cumberland's Sharpshooters. Others got round the order to disband by becoming rifle clubs.

The Victorian era saw a rebirth of the volunteers and the military enthusiast could join a Civil Service Corps, Bankers' Corps, Railway Corps, Freemasons' Corps, Artisans' Corps or even an Artists' Corps, the latter having among its membership John Millais, Frederick Leighton, Edward Burne-Jones and G W Watts.

The author's preference would have been the Working Men's College Corps of Rifle Volunteers, "studying and training (each as a spare-time pursuit) under the enthusiastic command in both activities of His Honour Thomas Hughes QC, author of *Tom Brown's Schooldays*, paying by weekly mite towards a uniform, economising to go to the Easter training . . ."

When we think of the Volunteers' first overseas service, it is the Boer War that immediately comes to mind. In fact, the breakthrough was 18 years earlier when a group from the Post Office Volunteers were accepted to serve in Egypt during the Mahdi campaign.

At the end of the century the compulsory part-time service, the Militia, was disintegrating despite the fact it had provided more than 45,000 officers and men to serve in South Africa, and more were manning garrisons in the Middle East and with their parent line regiments in the war zone.

There followed a period while the General Staff and Royal Commissions pondered over the position and attempted to put part-time soldiers on a sounder footing, culminating in 1908 with the establishment of the Territorial Force of both Yeomanry and Volunteers. At the same time the Militia was converted to the Special Reserve.



Welcome to camp! A Territorial Army soldier arrives for his annual training in the 1950s

served with distinction. Bringing the picture up to date, the author offers a note of optimism tinged with caution.

"The fragmentation of the Soviet Union is a Pandora's Box of colossal proportions. There are troubles in Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan and the northern Caucasus.

"And who dares predict what could develop in South Africa . . . ?

"However, let us be positive. Here stands Her Majesty's Territorial Army: at 67,812 strong (and soon to be smaller still) it is tiny when set against the TA of 1939 and microscopic compared with the Militia, Yeomanry and Volunteers of old. Nevertheless, it is efficient, enthusiastic and ready to go . . ."

Stanley Simm Baldwin has contributed a timely and useful study of part-time military forces. – BJ



C Coy, 11 Bn, The Seaforth Highlanders leave Wick Airport for their annual TA camp at Fort George in May 1949

Forward Everywhere: Her Majesty's Territorials by Stanley Simm Baldwin. Brassey's hardback, £29.95.

Adventurous training

Sardinia

PERMANENT staff at the Army Training Regiment Bassingbourn got a chance to take part in an adventurous training expedition when Lt Eddie Reynolds led Exercise Deci-Ukelele to sea canoe, climb and trek on the Mediterranean island of Sardinia.

After a period of acclimatisation spent trekking around the coast, the soldiers climbed at Capo Caralnara and Arbutus, before putting their freshwater canoeing skills against the wave-swept open sea.

A cancelled flight left the expedition with time to spare, which was spent caving at Su Palu.

Pakistan

Exercise Gasherbrum Gunner got under way this month when a team of seven gunners and an RAMC doctor flew to Pakistan to climb the 26,090ft Gasherbrum 3 in the Karakoram mountains.

Team leader Capt Paul Hickie of the Royal School of Artillery at Larkhill says the peak is the 15th highest in the world and has not been climbed since it was first ascended by a Polish expedition in 1975.

Norway

Norway's highest mountain defeated a bid by soldiers of the 1st Battalion, The King's Own Royal Border Regiment to conquer it. The men, now back with the battalion in Northern Ireland, struck out for the summit of Galhoppigan (2,470m), but bad weather and equipment failure forced them to turn back 270m short.

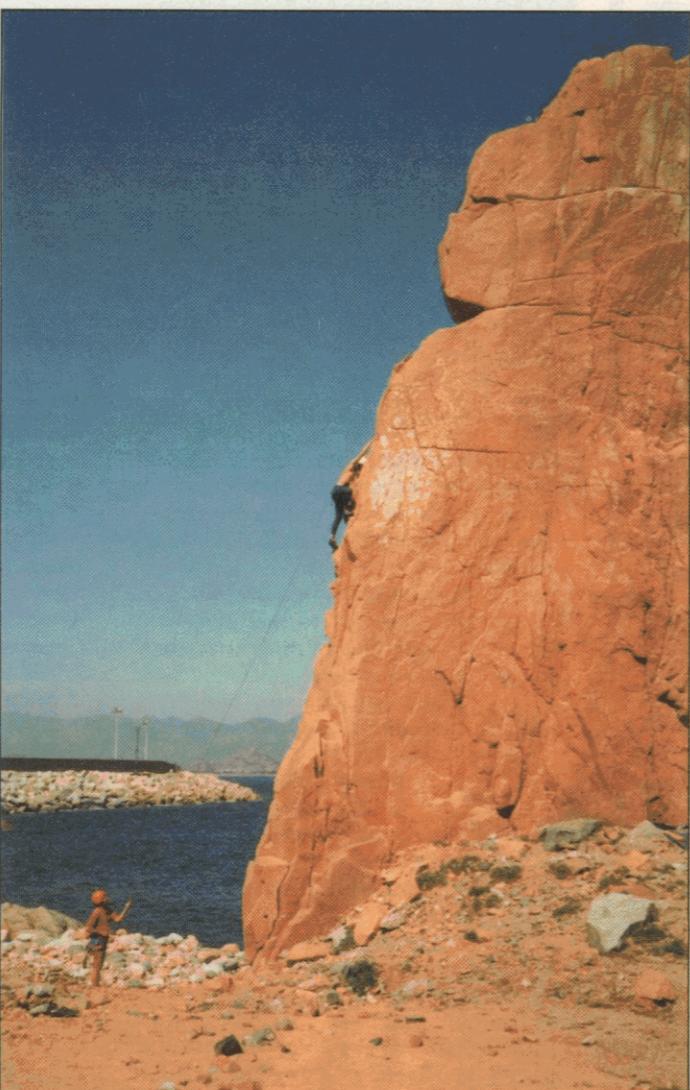
French Alps

Sappers from 59 Independent Commando Squadron, Royal Engineers volunteering for Exercise Chamonix Ascent found themselves ski-mountaineering in the French Alps.

After being eased into the mood by a day of climbing on grade 6 overhanging glacier ice, the expedition members bivouacked on a snow ledge before ascending the Milliou Glacier on skis and climbing the last 400m on foot.



Exercise Saharanpur Diamond culminated in a long trek through the Indian hills for these soldiers of 3 Tk Tptr Sqn RLC



Staff from Army Training Regiment Bassingbourn climb the Red Rock at Arbatax in eastern Sardinia as part of Exercise Deci-Ukelele. See "Sardinia" in panel for details

Trekkers fly RLC banner in India

THE INDIAN Himalayas were the setting for a six-week trekking expedition undertaken by 3 Tank Transporter Squadron RLC.

Exercise Saharanpur Diamond also provided an opportunity for the soldiers taking part to visit the Indian Army Service Corps School at Bareilly, where they were given a tour of the establishment which is run along similar lines to the Army School of Mechanical Training and the School of Logistics.

"The Indian Army is a virtual mirror image of the British Army so many of the customs and traditions and working practices were familiar to us," said Lt Jo Wardman.

The expedition leader Capt Chris Rose presented the Indian Army with a Royal Logistic Corps banner, before the soldiers took part in a battlefield tour around the British Residency in Lucknow where the Indian Mutiny began in 1857.

The trekkers were among the last Westerners to visit the town of Tehri, which is being abandoned and will be flooded when a new reservoir fills up.

Quartet defy icy McKinley

FOUR British soldiers attempted to reach the summit of Mount McKinley during Exercise Alaskan Dragon.

At 20,320 feet, McKinley is North America's highest summit and because of its latitude - 62 degrees north of the Equator - the range is one of the coldest areas in the world. With daily temperatures above 14,000ft normally down to minus 20 to 30C, the coldest day endured by the climbers was minus 45C.

Team leader Capt Paul Fish, of 23 Pioneer Regiment RLC, Capt Steve Berry, 15 Signal Regiment, and The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment's Lt Justin Featherstone and Cpl Chris Holcombe, were landed at base camp by an Alaskan bush pilot.

Carrying 60lb rucksacks and pulling sleds weighed down with fuel and food, the climbers ran into bad weather. It took them 11 days to reach high camp at 17,200ft. Three of those days were spent snow-bound in blizzard conditions.

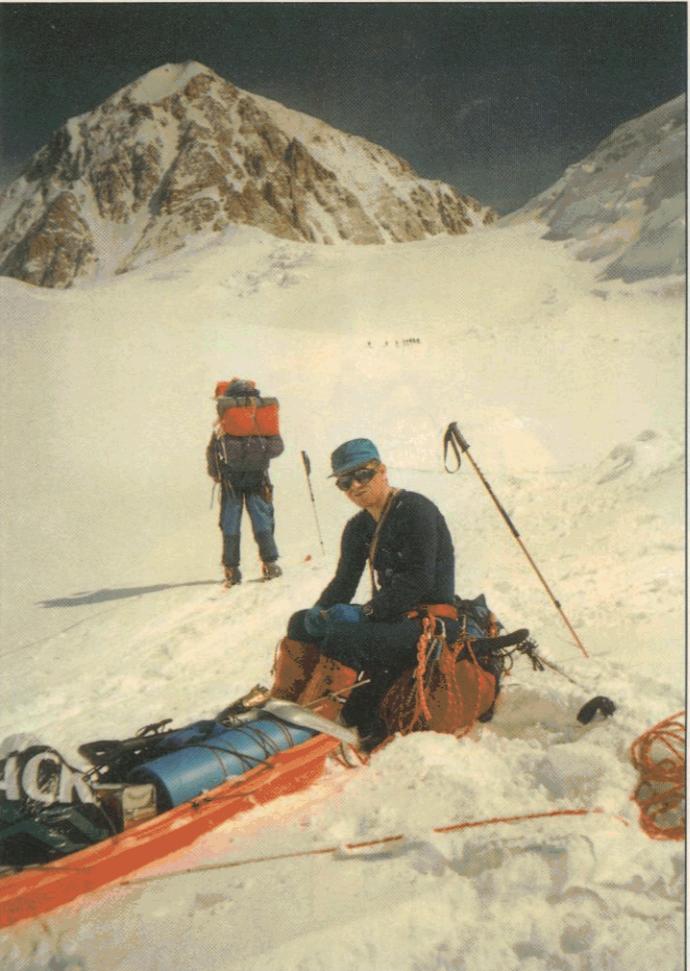
After an eight-hour climb, a jubilant Cpl Chris Holcombe reached the summit, but the weather deteriorated rapidly and the remaining climbers had to abandon any hope of reaching the top.

Capt Fish said: "The climb proved extremely demanding and we have all earned a deep respect for the mountain and the conditions it could create."

Tiger plea...

THE 1st Battalion, The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment is trying to raise sponsorship, equipment and photographic material for a 300-mile trek through desert and mountain in the Lake Turkana and Samburu regions of northern Kenya later this year.

Points of contact are Maj Ken Haymes, 2iC, 1 PWRR, Lisanelly Barracks, BFPO 804, or Cpl Richard Kendall-Tobias, c/o the photographic cell at the same address.



Capt Steve Berry takes a welcome break beneath the 16,000ft West Buttress of Mount McKinley

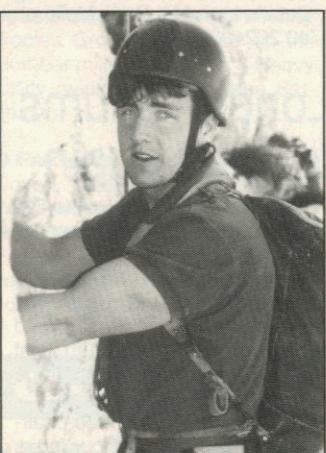
Spain offers Army climbers high life

A JOINT Service adventurous training expedition to Spain introduced members of the Army Mountaineering Association members to multi-pitch climbing on long mountainous routes.

Exercise Tartan Rock 94 was based at Calpe, next to the largest rock formation in Europe, the Penon de Ifach, a 1,000ft rock pinnacle which rises from the sea like a giant titan.

The 16-strong team led by Col Chris Field RLC, began by attacking the pinnacle along different routes. REME's SSgt Stu Simpson and LCpl Carol McDonald tackled Valencia, an 800ft route graded "hard severe" which took a meandering line up the vertical east face of Penon de Ifach.

WO2 Dave Neely and an RAF climber were successful



Cpl Jason Felts on Exercise Tartan Rock

in following a crack line for 600ft to a large cave. From there, once the two climbers decided who was going first, an exposed tensioned traverse was required to reach a small ledge

Signallers help in Alaska

SSgt Neil Allamby, R Signals, and retired Capt Ted Tombling are using their Army experience on a Raleigh International expedition to Alaska.

Their experience in mountaineering and outdoor survival is proving invaluable to the three-month project on the Kenai Peninsula south of Anchorage.

SSgt Allamby, until recently based in Germany, is giving climbing instructions to groups of young people aged 17 to 25. He is having his work cut out in the wilderness of the "last frontier" where the terrain is providing a challenge to the novice climbers.

As project manager, Ted Tombling guides the youngsters in a number of projects, including construction of a longhouse for the Kenaitze Indian tribe.

This year is the tenth anniversary of the charity, formerly Operation Raleigh.

allowing access to the summit.

Not every route attempted was successful, as Capt Cathy Davies AGC and SAC Andy Fowler found out when they were forced back from Manfred 3 on the Penon due to loose rock and serious rockfalls.

It was not long before the lure of the Puig Campana, the highest mountain in the area, tempted a team led by Col Field to try this 1,500ft limestone tower. The sheer size of the face made route-finding difficult and several attempts were begun before the correct route led them to the summit.

For more information on the Army Mountaineering Association, write to the membership secretary, c/o the Army Sports Control Board, Clayton Barracks, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2BG.

SOLDIER to Soldier

Love's labour bears fruit

LABOURING under the handicap of a severe eye complaint, a 78-year-old widow of a former Life Guard has painstakingly completed and published the memoirs of their life.

To achieve her ambition, Mrs Connie Peach, of Reading, edited the manuscript four times – involving some 700 pages – despite eye surgery which prohibited her from wearing spectacles.

The result of her "long toil" as she calls it is the aptly-titled *O Valiant Heart*, which tells a fascinating tale of military life.

Her husband, Capt (QM) Frederick Peach, who died in 1991, enlisted in The Life Guards (Household Cavalry) in 1931 and took part in many Sovereign's Escorts, starting with the reign of King George V and Queen Mary.

During the Second World War, in which the couple were separated for almost five years, he was on active service in Palestine, Egypt, Syria, Iraq, Iran (with the Eighth Army), Italy, Germany and Holland. He fought alongside the Gurkhas, the Glubb Pasha Army and the Polish Carpathian Lancers.

During the latter part of his career he was seconded to The Inns of Court Regiment, now known as the Inns of Court and City Yeomanry.

O Valiant Heart is available at £5 plus 70p postage per copy from Mrs Peach at 4 Watermill Court, Bath Road, Woolhampton, Reading RG7 5RD (tel: 0734 714176).

Vlad's flight of freedom

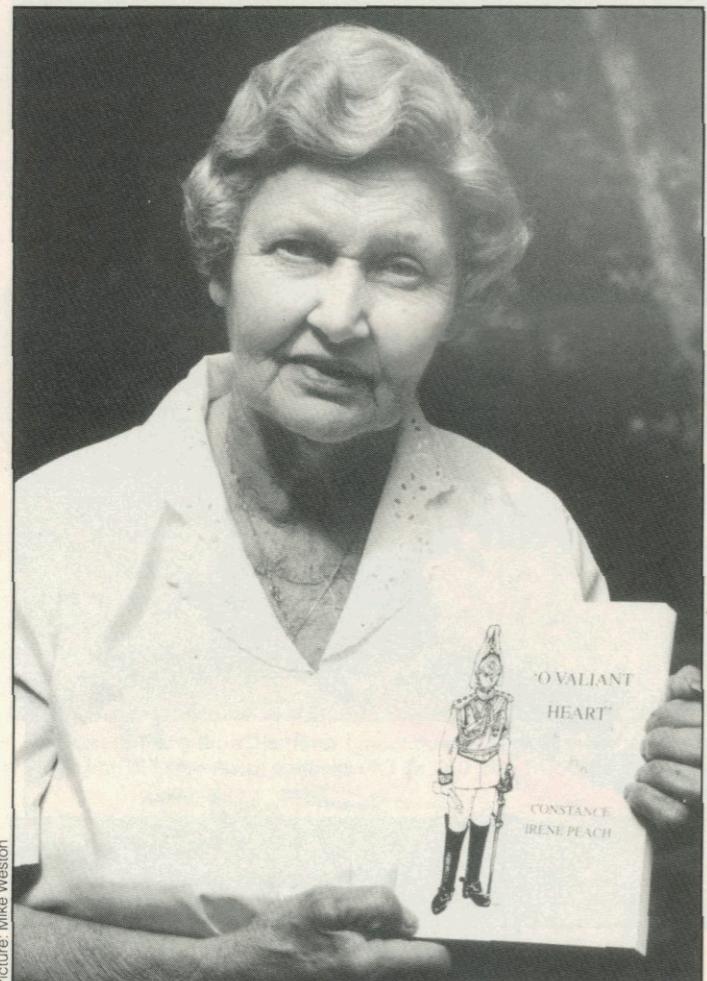
VLADIMIR, the Griffon vulture restored to health by the Cyprus Defence Animal Support Unit, has been released into the wild.

With a bit of help from vet Maj Richard Norris RAVC, his wife Nancy, and Sgt Ted Harris, Vladimir (whose story was told in *Soldier*, January 10) soared away from the east face of the Kensington cliffs in Episkopi.

He had been found last October starving and close to death.

Yeomanry exhibition

A FREE exhibition, Liberty Loyalty Property, commemorating the



Picture: Mike Weston

Mrs Constance Peach, widow of Capt Frederick Peach, with the memoirs that became a labour of love

Nursing museum to move

UNDER Options for Change, the Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps Training Centre is moving from the Royal Pavilion at Aldershot to the Army Medical Services Training Centre at Keogh Barracks, Ash Vale.

The switch is almost complete, but the long-established QARANC Museum must also relocate by next March.

The intention is to create an ambitious new museum in a building adjoining the RAMC Museum at Ash Vale. To meet the cost of packing, removal, redesign and installation of exhibits and displays, the QAs reckon they will need to raise at least £250,000.

Museum curator Maj Ethel McCombe said the museum would tell the story of Army nursing from the Crimea to the present day.

"It will be a story of caring, dedication, bravery and love."

Admission is by ticket only, available from her at Argonnen, 29 St Peter's Way, Ellington, Huntingdonshire PE18 0AX (tel: 0480 890966).

SEARCHLINE

● **Italy Star Association:** Newly-formed Leicester branch welcomes new members. Contact Hon Sec Frank Kerr, 131 Hungarten Boulevard, Netherhall Estate, Leics LE5 1DF (tel: 0533 742459) or Chairman S Newham, 44 Vernon Road, Aylestone Park, Leics LE2 8GA (tel: 0533 837579).

● **71st HAA Regt RA (1949-54)** has just held its first reunion after 40 years and plans another in June 1995. Contact former Sgt Nobby Clarkson, 10 Heights Way, Leeds LS12 3SN for details of old comrades' association.

● Anyone who remembers the late Gunner **Bert Davies MM**, who enlisted in 1942 at Anglesey, trained at Auchteradar, Scotland, and served as a signaller with 359 Bty, 128 Fd Regt RA in North Africa, Sicily and Italy, is asked to contact his son, Mr H Davies, 5 Bodnant Crescent, Llandudno, Gwynedd LL30 1LL.

● Mrs Jane Clarke wishes to contact her father, **Terence Alfred Ashton** (known as Tom or Alf), who served in India and whose last-known location was Newhaven-Seaforth, E Sussex, where he was a member of the Crawley and Newhaven branch of the Royal British Legion. Replies to 24750851 LCpl M J D Clarke RLC, 3 Armd Fd Amb RAMC, MT Sqn, Talbot Bks, BFPO 16 (tel: 010 49 5254 64360).

● Ex **RCT/RASC** musicians formed their own old comrades' association in June and so far have 120 names. Contact is S T Wright, 13 Benett Gardens, Norbury, London SW16 4QE.

● Mlle Jennifer Clark (Impasse Des Roseaux, 30200 Venejan, France) seeks news of her grandfather, **Thomas Joseph Clark**, born February 18, 1923 in Glasgow, who was a captain in the RASC (graves) in 1947.

● I M Steigman wishes to hear from anyone who knew his father, **14362267 Pte Myer Steigman RAMC**, enlisted December 1942 and possibly attached to Long Range Desert Group, North Africa, May-June 1944. Replies to 68a Stanley Road, Lower Edmonton, London N9 9AB.

● Rose Conway (previously Havlin) wishes to re-establish contact with Mrs **Serena Johnson**, wife of Royal Signals officer Peter, last heard from at Blandford. Replies to 18 Princess Close, West End, Southampton SO30 3JU (tel: 0703 470033).

● **Sgt John Stone:** Old comrade seeks information on Sgt John

Rodney Stone, who enlisted in the Royal Artillery at Houndsome Barracks, Yeovil, on March 15, 1940. Contact Mr S H Lane, 3 Birch Side, Edgcumbe Park, Crowthorne, Berks RG11 6HP (tel: 0344 774437).

● Does anyone remember **Sgt Harold Brown**, Kings, who lived in Market Drayton before the war, was drafted to Isle of Man after Dunkirk, and later commissioned at Octu in India? Replies to Mrs E Wood (48 Hawarden Avenue, Douglas, Isle of Man IM1 4BG), widow of his friend, the late Capt Wood, Green Howards.

● Mrs P Harris, 30 Kenwood Road, Portchester, Fareham, Hants PO16 9LR wishes to trace her son **Michael Norman Harris** (48), with whom she lost contact 20 years ago.

● **JLR RA, Ramsay Troop, Hereford and Bramcote (1958-61):** With a view to a reunion, anyone

who remembers Peter (Trig) Cole is asked to contact him at 1 Rosewood Close, Westborough Way, Anlaby Common, Hull HU4 7SQ (tel: 0482 507321).

● **IJLB, Crownhill Barracks, Plymouth (Jan 1956-Dec 1957):** If you served at the Infantry Junior Leaders Battalion in Crownhill Barracks, especially in 9 Pl, C Coy, including permanent staff, contact Howard Johnson, 35 Maes-y-Satn, Pentyrch, Cardiff CF4 8QQ (tel: 0222 891274) with a view to a reunion next year.

● **Soldier Bob:** Photograph sought of Soldier Bob, a labrador-border collie with the signals platoon of a KOSB battalion in NW Europe during the Second World War. Replies to *Soldier*, Ordnance Road, Aldershot GU11 2DU.

DIARY

JULY

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

AUGUST

14-15: Army Careers/ESCA U-15 county cricket championship finals, Officers Club and Buller Barracks, Aldershot.

SEPTEMBER

5-11: Farnborough International Airshow.

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

REUNIONS

● **1 Tp, 3 Fd Sqn RE (1989-93):** Anyone who served with 1 Tp between 1989 and 1993, especially in the Gulf War and Bosnia, is asked to contact Sgt Jason Till for details of a proposed reunion. ACIO Cambridge (tel: Camb Mil 765 5030 or 0223 301673).

● **East Midland Universities OTC Association:** First reunion takes place on October 7 at the Tower of London. Former members of EMU and Nottingham University OTCs are asked to contact the Secretary, TA Centre, Broadgate Beeston, Notts NG9 2HF (tel: 0602 255932).

● **Artillery Clerks:** 61st reunion dinner at Woolwich on October 29. Serving and former artillery clerks and all SNCO military clerks serving with RA establishments, regiments or units welcome. Details from WO2 (SQMS) C A Knaggs on 081-781 3710.

● **South Notts Hussars Association:** Reunion dinner, Nottingham, November 12. Details from Col A J Haines, 54 Rivergreen Crescent, Bramcote, Notts NG9 3ET (tel: 0602 285371).

● **43rd Recce Regt RAC (The Gloucestershire Regiment):** Derryliny survivors and others are invited to attend a Service of Remembrance on November 13 at the Merchant Navy War Memorial, Tower Hill, London EC3. Wreaths will be laid for crewmen and members of the regiment lost on June 24, 1944. Details from M McEwen Charlsh, 132 Park Lane, Carshalton, Surrey SM5 3DT (tel: 081-647 4270).

MILITARIA

● **3rd British Division (1944-45)** veterans are asked to contact Patrick Delaforce, 2 Hamilton Road, Brighton BN1 5DL (tel: 0273 564372), author of *Black Bull, Churchill's Desert Rats and Fighting Wessex Wyverns* (Sept 1994), now writing a new history of the famous 3rd British (Iron) Division in NW Europe.

● Any reader living in the Stirling area in the 1960s who recalls seeing an unusual motor car, the Humber Cross Country Saloon, is asked to contact Brian Jewell, The War Room, 30 Park Parade, Harrogate HG1 5AG. Only two or three prototypes were built by the Rootes Group and based on the Humber military FWD 4 x 4 Heavy Utility (widely known as the Battlaxe).

● **Falklands War 1982:** C R Coxon, Westway, Rectory Lane, Winchelsea, E Sussex TN36 4EY seeks unpublished material on the Falklands War, including reminiscences and photographs of the conflict and clean-up.

CLOSURES

● **British Forces Belize** are drawing down by September. Units or individuals who made presentations to any mess and who require their return are asked to contact units concerned. Packaging and postage to be paid for by unit/individual. Items not claimed by July 31 will be transferred to British Army Training Support Unit, Belize, which is setting up.

PILGRIMAGES

● A memorial to **RASC Air Despatchers** who lost their lives while attempting to re-supply Airborne Forces at Arnhem in September 1944 will be unveiled and dedicated by Gen Sir John Hackett on Sunday, November 18. Location of the memorial is 200m from the entrance to Oosterbeek Cemetery. Details from Maj W M Carlisle RLC on RAF Lyneham 6515 or 0249 890381 ext 6515.

● **Japanese Labour Camp Survivors' Association of Great Britain** is arranging three two-week pilgrimages to Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia and Burma to mark the 50th anniversary of the end of the Second World War. Onward travel also possible. Pilgrimages not restricted to JLCSA members. Enquiries to Three Pagodas VJ50, Rayner House, 23 Higher Hillgate, Stockport, Cheshire SK1 3ER.

MERITORIOUS SERVICE

MERITORIOUS Service Medals have been awarded to:

RAC: SSgt J T C Campbell, Scots DG.

RE: WO2 F A Davies and SSgt C G Bellhouse.

R Signals: WO1 R H Iredale, WO2 K Thompson, SSgt J F Bailey, SSgt M Gass.

Infantry: WO2 G Perkins, Green Howards; WO2 A C Evans RWF; SSgt R T R Maskelyne RRW.

SAS: WO2 J B P Owen MBE.

RLC: WO1 A J B Bourne BEM; WO2 A J M Cooper; WO2 A D Wrotford; SSgt M Noble.

REME: WO1 I S Proctor.

ACG (SPS): SSgt D J Payne.

RETIREMENTS

Brigadiers – C A G Wells, late

15/19 H, June 26; D V Erskine

Crum, late SG, July 1; D P D C

Morgan, late 7 GR, July 2.

Colonel – G A Holt, late RA,

July 4.

Fowler action detailed

WITH reference to Brian Jewell's letter headed "Langue-doc mystery action" which appeared in *Soldier* earlier this year, I have been kindly given, by the Mayor of Fontes, an explanation of the action that took place in this village which caused the deaths of Capt Fowler and two gendarmes on August 21, 1944.

Briefly, Capt Fowler was parachuted into the area to contact the Maquis. It was unfortunate that a company of German soldiers stopped to pick grapes in a vineyard just as Capt Fowler and the gendarmes came along on a motor cycle and sidecar. The three were shot dead.

I am ex-RAF (1941-46) MEF Iraq and BNAF Radio Intelligence and married to the daughter of Capt Jean de la Rocca, killed in action shortly before Dunkirk with members of the Royal Engineers. — V W J Baker, Orpington, Kent.

• Another correspondent on the subject was Mr R S Kidd, of Wantage, Oxon, who writes that local villagers buried all three near the spot where they fell. On May 19, 1945 a monument to them was unveiled at a ceremony attended by more than 3,000 people. — Editor

YOU reported (May 16) on the return to America of one of the earliest known Stars and Stripes, captured on the Canadian border 181 years ago.

Among the British troops involved in the capture of Fort Niagara on December 19, 1813, were the flank companies of the 41st Foot (later to become the Welch Regiment), commanded by Capt Richard Bullock.

In The Welch Regiment Museum (RRW) in Cardiff Castle are preserved the recognisable remnants of the Regimental Colour remains and in far too delicate a state to put on show.

Canadian medal – after 30 years

AS A long-time reader of *SOLDIER* I have found your correspondence about a medal for the Suez Canal Zone particularly interesting.

I was out there from 1951-53 with 2 Para on internal security duties during the emergency. One notable action

on January 21, 1952 through the Muslim Cemetery in Ismailia resulted in the capture of 12 terrorists and the death of one, as well as that of a regimental officer.

We gave little thought to medals at the time. Recently,

however, I received the Canadian Special Service Medal for time spent in Nato more than 30 years ago – one of at least two retrospective awards introduced by the Canadian government for service as far back

as the Korean conflict. An indicator, maybe, that we should never give up hope of justice for thankless service in Suez. — D Atkinson, Half Moon Bay, British Columbia, Canada.

Why no BAOR medal?

AS AN ex-soldier I am holder of a number of official medals.

I also collect commemorative medals and would like a BAOR commemorative to show for it. — J A Singh, Slough.

am told it does not exist. Why not? BAOR will soon be history and many ex-soldiers who served there will have nothing to show for it. — J A Singh, Slough.

THE TAX-FREE CARS IN FRONT.

How would you like your Toyota? As a mid-engined two-seater, as a 4 x 4 off-roader, a whispering saloon or estate, or an eight seater people carrier?

Toyota have a wider range of vehicles than any other manufacturer in the UK.

And with a bigger research and development budget than anybody else, every Toyota is the car in front.

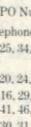
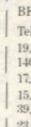
Class-leading specifications. Multi-valve engines are standard

equipment on Toyotas, as is power steering (except Starlet). But then Toyotas have always taken standard equipment to new standards. And while they've taken value to a new high, they've taken depreciation to a new low.

They've also taken reliability way ahead. That's why everyone has a 3-year/60,000-mile manufacturer's warranty.

Send us the coupon or call your local agent for full details of the Toyota range and tax-free deals.

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THE CAR IN FRONT IS A TOYOTA

US Colour remnants in Cardiff

Infantry (USA) which were surrendered to Capt Bullock at Fort Detroit on August 16, 1812.

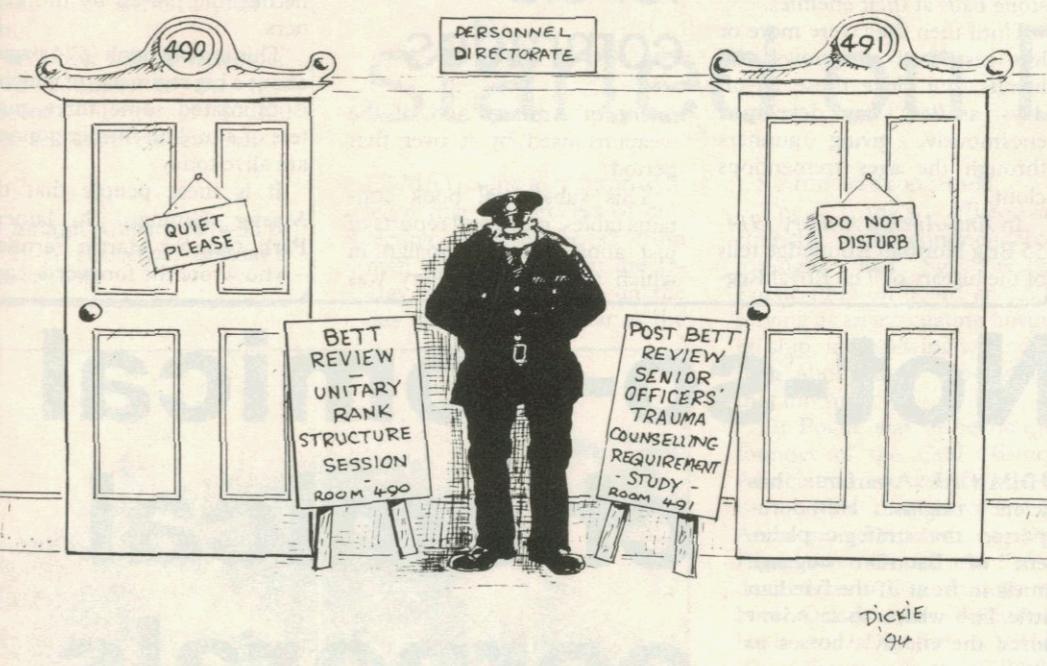
The centrepiece of the National Colour is on public display. Only the title scroll of the Regimental Colour remains and in far too delicate a state to put on show.

The frail condition of the National Colour allows the design on the reverse to be seen.

Other American military Colours known to have passed into British hands during the war of 1812-14 were those of the 2nd Regiment of Infantry (Regimental Colour), 1st Harford Light Dragoons and the New York Regiment of Militia.

It would be interesting to know whether any of them survive in recognisable condition today. — Bryn Owen, Curator, The Welch Regiment Museum, Cardiff Castle, Cardiff CF1 2RB.

BIRD'S EYE-VIEW



'Missing' regiment

MAY I draw your attention to the Order of Battle in your D-Day Commemorative Issue.

I was serving with the 86th Regiment (HAC) when elements landed on Mike Green sector of Juno beach at 8.28 am – two minutes before our designated time on D-Day.

All guns were ashore by D+2 and we were the first heavy AA regiment to land on the Normandy beaches. At the same time as part of the regiment was landing, so were the French Canadian *Régiment de la Chaudière*.

As well as from your Orbat, my regiment has been omitted from the Portsmouth D-Day Museum's map of the landings. When I raised the question with Stephen Brookes, the curator, he replied that the information was provided by the Ministry of Defence. Someone, somewhere, has not got his facts right. — H E G Wallace, Chairman, Southern (Portsmouth) Branch, Normandy Veterans Association.

IN YOUR D-Day map you refer to the "Br 27 Armd Bde" attacking Sword beach.

Our full name was the 27th Independent Armoured Brigade, under the command of a grand soldier, Brig Prior Palmer.

We were singled out to do a certain job and, by golly, we did it. — J Brown (Recovery Section), Ellesmere Port, Wirral.

I TOO have noticed how the Army Catering Corps is often left out of reports of actions in foreign parts (Letters, June 27).

In 1957 I lived in the same house as Bill Gowlett and his good lady in Taunton. During that time he was making Princess Margaret's wedding cake.

Bill was typical of the good catering corps SNCOs who had gone through the war. Thank you Bruce Dyson for the reminder, I wonder where Bill is today. — Ken Wilson (Cook Sgt 1950-72), Leicestershire.

DETAILS PLEASE

IN 1943, with a LAA Regt RA, I took part in the British-American pre-invasion Exercise Eagle in Yorkshire. Due to tanks running over troops sleeping under tarpaulins against the hedgerows, there were a number of casualties. Can anyone enlighten me further? — Ex-Bdr Jack Pasfield, RX11, Erskine Hospital, Bishopston, Renfrewshire PA7 5PU.

YOUR many readers interested in gallantry awards would have realised that, through recent rationalisation, the Distinguished Conduct Medal and the Conspicuous Gallantry Medal, both RN and

RAF, have been replaced by the Conspicuous Gallantry Cross, eligible to all ranks of the three Services. To mark this occasion, members of the Distinguished Conduct Medal League have invited holders of the CGM(RN) and CGM(RAF Flying) to join forces in the spirit of Service brotherhood under the title of the Distinguished Conduct Medal and Conspicuous Gallantry Medal Association (DCM and CGM Assn).

All three medals are in the same category as level two gallantry awards.

The league's patron, the Duke of Kent, has agreed to continue as the patron of the association and its motto, "United We Stand", will be perpetuated.

Outside afterwards the usual escort with fixed bayonets escorted the Colours in the march past the Colonel of the Regiment (acting for the Colonel-in-Chief, the Queen). — Capt (Retd) W A Ewbank RE, Taylor University, Upland, Indiana.

BAYONETS IN CHURCH

IT HAS always been the custom for Colours or Standard to be escorted, jealously guarded and if necessary fought for in battle.

But I was startled to see that when the Colours of the Glorious Glosters were marched up the aisle in Gloucester Cathedral (*Soldier*, May 2) they were accompanied by the escort, with fixed bayonets.

I was under the impression that when entering the portals of Holy Church, weapons were left outside. Is this the usual custom for British regiments? Recently I attended the

Sweet life for this Monty

MONTY GREEN started life in London's East End helping in the family business of selling sweets and cigarettes.

He went on to become quartermaster general of the Israeli Army and tells in his autobiography, *Dual Allegiance*, of this amazing switch of fortunes.

"I only wrote my story because my grandchildren wanted a record of my life," he explains in the preface, which seems a good enough reason.

Before going to Israel to help lay the foundations of the Jewish Army, he served with a Sikh regiment in India, Italy and the Middle East.

Other wartime appointments included a brief one in an intelligence outfit called MI4 controlling arms dumps in Palestine.

But he lasted just two days before being sacked because he was a Jew. The "brass" considered him a security risk in that he might be pressured into helping Jewish underground groups.

Memories and little cameos are what life is all about and Monty Green's are extremely readable if only because as an English Jew – the eighth child of a Russian refugee – he overcame prejudice to serve in a crack Indian regiment, become a staff officer in the British Army and a top administrator in the Israeli Army.

Not bad for a lad from a sweet shop in the East End of London. – JM

Dual Allegiance by Monty Green. Parapress Ltd, hardback, £15.95

THE BRITISH have been using artillery since Crecy in 1346 – or possibly even earlier – when they slung lead, iron or stone balls at their enemies.

Until then they were more or less restricted to arrows and insults, but since those far-off days artillery has developed enormously, giving gunners through the ages tremendous clout.

In *Anti-Aircraft Artillery 1914-55* Brig Norman Routledge tells of the history of The Royal Reg-

'Gunning' for old comrades

iment of Artillery and of the weapons used by it over that period.

This substantial book contains tables, maps and reports of just about every campaign in which the Royal Artillery was

involved in the years in question.

In it Brig Routledge relates a fascinating account of the heroic role played by the gunners.

This is a big book (474 pages) about a big regiment, of which it is estimated some three-quarters of a million former gunners are alive today.

It is these people that the Master Gunner, St James's Park, Gen Sir Martin Farndale – who wrote the foreword – and

Gen Sir Richard Trant, seek to persuade to subscribe to a new RA museum at Woolwich. They have already raised £2m, but have in their sights a total of £10m.

This book will be welcomed as an addition to the new museum's library of 30,000 books and archive documents. – JM

Anti-Aircraft Artillery 1914-55 by Brig N W Routledge. Brassey's, hardback, £40.

Not-so-comical chemical corporals

CHEMICAL warfare has ancient origins: Herodotus reported the strategic placement of Bactrian baggage camels in front of the Median battle line where their odour caused the enemy's horses to bolt!

However, it is, of course, the Great War which first comes to mind when we think of poison gas as a weapon.

To the Poor Bloody Infantry in France the men who handled the gas cylinders were known as the "comical Chemical corporals" – that being the lowest rank in the specialised units. Officially, they were the British Special Brigade and their purpose was to retaliate against the German use of gas that caught the Allies unprepared on April 22, 1915.

In it he examines the reality of chemical weapons, the morality of their use and the role of the Special Brigade by drawing from official records and personal anecdotes from diaries, letters and memoirs.

Unfortunately for the Allies, the withdrawing Germans opposite escaped the push-pipe surprise by less than 48 hours.

"In reality," writes the author, "gas warfare was anything but reliable or effective, except in the most unusual circumstances, and a defensive capability developed very rapidly. Proponents and detractors both tended to overstate gas casualties. Gas was never decisive."

The author then goes on to give an excellent account of the preparations, the strain of waiting, and of the battle itself.

The Army's first use of gas was in reality a dismal failure. Valves leaked or stuck and there seems to have been more casualties among the British than the Germans: "... the second wave met gasping soldiers of the Black Watch stumbling back, having run into their own gas and apparently not having kept their gas masks on... the Special Companies lost 14 per cent of their forces, including twenty-two killed, though not all by gas."

Professor Richter's book is a tribute to a band of unsung heroes. – BJ

oped some diabolical means of discharging gas, such as the Livens Projector which doused large areas with heavy concentrations, and the Reid-Kellet Push Pipe which wormed its way underground far into no man's land.

Unfortunately for the Allies, the withdrawing Germans opposite escaped the push-pipe surprise by less than 48 hours.

"In reality," writes the author, "gas warfare was anything but reliable or effective, except in the most unusual circumstances, and a defensive capability developed very rapidly. Proponents and detractors both tended to overstate gas casualties. Gas was never decisive."

There have been many so-called "forgotten" elements of the Army but few more so than the Special Brigade, which can count among its members James Lennox Dawson, awarded the Victoria Cross for hauling leaking gas cylinders from a trench, rolling them over the parapet and releasing the contents by firing bullets into them.

The Special Brigade developed

Gen Sir Richard Trant, seek to persuade to subscribe to a new RA museum at Woolwich. They have already raised £2m, but have in their sights a total of £10m.

This book will be welcomed as an addition to the new museum's library of 30,000 books and archive documents. – JM

Oral history that started on D-Day

IT MAY come as a surprise to learn that the process of collecting "oral histories" from men who took part in the D-Day operations began on the day itself, at least as far as the

US Army was concerned.

The Army's Historical Branch, with commendable foresight, had Sgt Forrest Pogue PhD on board an LST serving as an evacuating hospital ship, interviewing wounded men about their experiences that morning.

Dr Pogue was to become a founder of the Oral History Association in America and it is to him that Stephen E Ambrose, Director of the Eisenhower Center and President of the D-Day Museum in New Orleans, has dedicated his book *D-Day June 6, 1944: The Climactic Battle of World War II*.

Fifty years after the event it is interesting and sometimes amusing to note how writers in different countries perceive the value of national contributions to the outcome of the D-Day operations.

In France there is a tendency to give the impression that it was the incomparable bravery of the French Army and the Resistance, aided somewhat by the Americans, that set the Allies on the road to victory.

The British, it must be said, are inclined to emphasise the successes on Gold and Sword beaches and the 6th Airborne Division landings that, with a little help from Canadian friends on Juno, achieved most gains on D-Day.

For the Americans it was on Omaha beach that the climactic battle of the war was fought. It may not have been the author's full intention, but it is

the latter impression that is gained from this book.

Out of 656 pages, only 53 cover in any sort of detail the actions fought on the British and Canadian beaches.

Criticism of the British fighting performance occurs spasmodically through the book but, to be fair, the author sometimes levels less than full approval at the US forces.

"They [the British] would soon regret not pushing on into Caen while the Germans were still in a state of shock and disorganisation. They have been strongly criticized by the Americans for losing their momentum.

"But the fact is that with the exception of some paratroopers and units of the US 4th Division at Utah, none of the Americans reached their D-Day objectives either."

In a volume of such size some typesetting errors are inevitable; two that stand out are references to the "Lord Mares Show" and the "Oran Canal". However, these are minor defects in an excellent oral history, particularly one of the US Airborne Divisions and the forces that landed on Pointe du Hoc, Utah and Omaha beaches. There are also some very good and clear maps which, regrettably, do not cover Gold, Juno and Sword landings. – BJ

D-Day June 6, 1944: The Climactic Battle of World War II by Stephen E Ambrose. Simon and Schuster, hardback, £20.



Gunners under chemical attack, 1916... detail from a painting by Fortunino Matania

GORDON Williamson's *The SS: Hitler's Instrument of Terror* is "the full story from street fighters to the Waffen-SS".

No light reading this, but the story of how the SS (Schutz Staffel – protection squad), originally formed to protect Hitler in the mid-twenties, became the élite corps of the Nazis.

Towards the end of the decade Heinrich Himmler took command of the SS and set about creating a racially pure group who could be

Hitler's terror squad

relied upon to carry out any order, however brutal.

Young Germans flocked to join in preference to the Sturmabteilung (the Nazi stormtroopers who were considered street louts), to swear allegiance to the Führer and

to wear the smart uniform with the death's head badge.

Under Himmler's command the SS developed a terrifying reputation for fanatical loyalty and ruthless efficiency.

The Waffen SS – "armed SS" – who fought in the war and numbered around 900,000, according to this book, were well trained, well armed and dedicated to the destruction of Hitler's enemies.

Others carried out police

duties and became infamous for the persecution of the Jews, the brutalities of the concentration camps, and the administration of occupied territories.

This book is well illustrated with some fine photographs, many from private collections and previously unpublished. – JM

The SS: Hitler's Instrument of Terror by Gordon Williamson. Sidgwick & Jackson, hardback, £25.



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Jack does a runner

Making strides as he trained in Happy Valley, Cyprus, for the London marathon was WO1 Jake Baker from HQ British Forces Cyprus, Episkopi. In the rather different climate on the day (cold, with a north easterly wind), Jake, taking part in the event for the third time, was pleased with his performance of 3hr 31min, which should bring in a goodly amount for charity and garrison facilities.



The Vitez to Split running team (left to right): WO2 (SQMS) Boyd Forbes, WO2 (QMSI) Jack Goodwin, LCpl Wayne Bell and Sgt Mick Donahue

Bosnia marathon for Barney's baby

THE SIGNING of a peace agreement between the Bosnian Muslims and the Croats and the stabilisation of the situation in central Bosnia prompted four members of the 1st Battalion, Coldstream Guards into action.

They decided to round off their six-month UNPROFOR tour by completing the 263-mile central Bosnian main supply route on foot.

Organised by WO2 (SQMS) Boyd Forbes AGC (SPS) and WO2 (QMSI) Jack Goodwin APTC, the charity run was from Vitez to HQ BRITFOR at Divulje Barracks in Split, via routes Diamond, Triangle and Circle.

Backed up by drivers Sgt Tim Hopkins, R Signals and LCpl Simon Gray, 1 Coldm Gds, as well as Pte Louise Searle (RAMC) and Pte Catrin Davis (QARANC), the four runners completed 10km legs in rotation.

All of them (the other team members were WO2 (QMSI) Jack Goodwin, APTC and Sgt Mick Donahue, 1 Coldm Gds)

WHEEL DO IT!

THE trend for money-raising causes seems to have taken a two-wheeled form, with several units getting into the saddle to raise money for their chosen charities.

Eight soldiers from 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards completed a 700-mile cycle ride, organised by Cpl John Cottrell, from Sennelager to Newport, South Wales, to raise money for Velindre Hospital and Cancer Research, Wales.

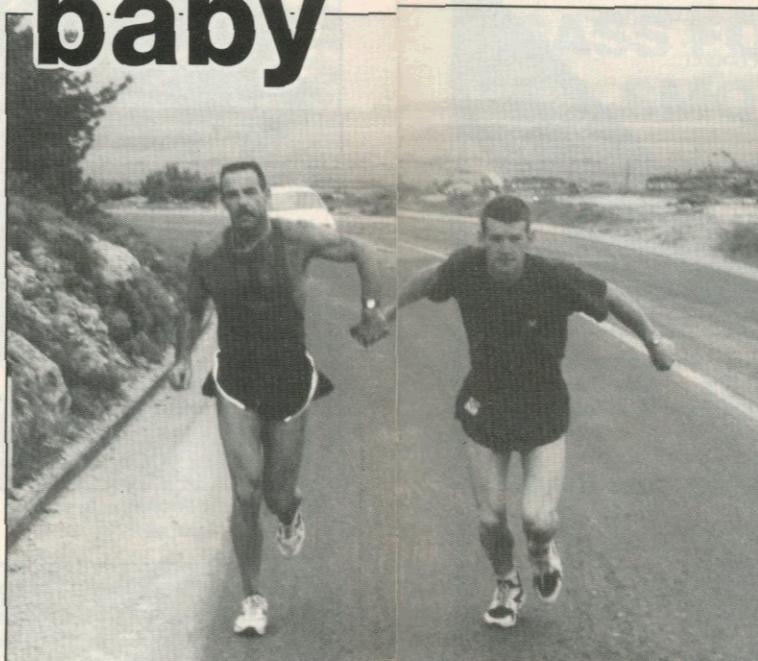
Meanwhile, eight "signallers" from HQ Hereford Garrison motor-cycled around the UK and Germany,

visiting Signals units and raising funds to be donated to various charities.

The Hodgkins Run event came into being after two members of the Hereford unit were treated at QEMH Hospital Woolwich for Hodgkins disease.

And members of 142 Vehicle Squadron RLC(V) rode more than 300 miles in relays by bicycle from Edinburgh Castle to Grantham, raising more than £3,000 for the children's leukaemia ward in London's St Bartholomew's Hospital.

Half of the total distance was



WO2 (QMSI) Jack Goodwin (left) hands over

to LCpl Wayne Bell completed by night – avoiding the dust and danger of passing convoys – and the intrepid quartet "crossed the line" in 21hr 15min, just over five hours ahead of the estimated finishing time.

A total of more than DM21,000 (about £8,790)

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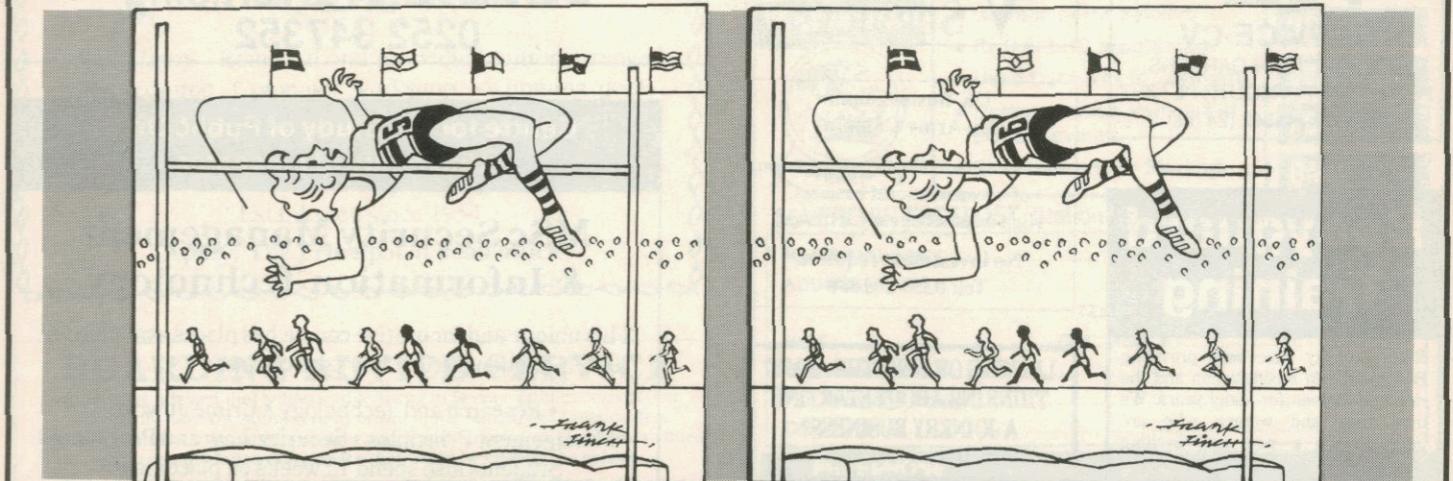
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else in your envelope. More than one entry can be submitted but photocopies cannot be accepted. The first correct entries drawn will be the winners. No correspondence of any kind can be entered into.

The names of the winner of the £50 first prize and two runners-up will be announced in the September 5 issue.



D-DAY ISSUE PRIZEWINNERS

Congratulations to Mr W J A Robinson, of Salisbury, Wilts, who wins the £100 first prize in Competition No 588, which appeared in our D-Day issue. Special runners-up prizes of £25 each go to Mrs J Ross, of Benson, Oxon, and Mr A Young, of Mill Hill, London.

Andrew's chain gang



It's a long way from Aldersgate, Northern Ireland, to deepest Hampshire, but SSgt Andrew Corne (right) and four Army Air Corps colleagues cycled to Middle Wallop to raise funds for the Birth Defects Foundation. Travelling over six days by way of the north of England and the Midlands, the intrepid airmen (who would welcome any contributions), rode what is described as the world's fastest production bike. WO2 Mike Cook (left), who, like Andrew, pilots Islanders with 1 Flight, 5 Regiment AAC, has a son who was born with defects in the heart and legs.

Picture: Terry Champion

was raised, with all the monies being placed in a trust fund set up by the Royal Engineers for the baby of Cpl Barney Warburton, a member of the EOD team who was killed while clearing a minefield in Stari Vitez in March.

★ ★ ★

Four members of Germany-

based 015 Troop, 7 Signal Regiment, attempted a 24-hour basic fitness test within the confines of Bradbury Barracks, Krefeld, aiming to run a total distance by each troop member of 34 miles, in aid of the Royal Corps of Signals Museum, Blandford.

★ ★ ★

HQ Company, 1st Battalion, The King's Own Scottish Borderers, helped the Spastics Society in the North West to put 45 four-man/woman teams over the Krypton Factor assault course – realising more than £7,500.

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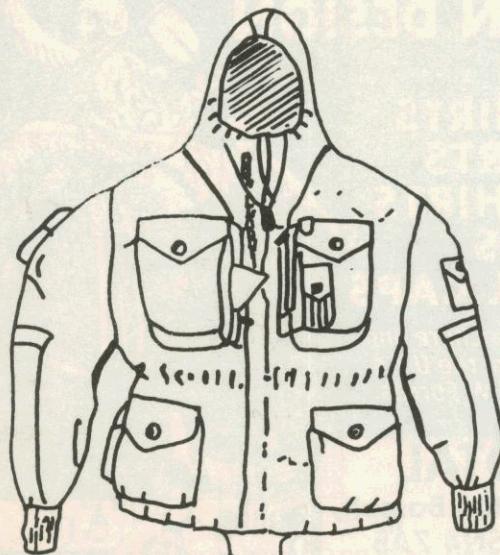
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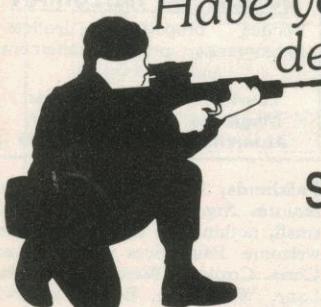
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Karina, 30, 5' 3", green/grey eyes, fair hair and slim. I'm divorced with one child and my hobbies include photography, music and holidays. If you are 25-40 write today. **P975**

Sheila, 38, divorced, 5' tall, slim with brown hair and hazel eyes. I'm a bit shy and like travelling, keep fit, all music and most sports - especially football. I'd like a pen pal 36-45. **P976**

Attractive, fun-loving brunette, 43, good sense of humour. I like sports, wining and dining, music, holidays in the sun and the countryside. I'd like to hear from anyone with similar tastes. **P977**

Alison, 32, 5' 11", slim, brown eyes and auburn hair. I'm separated with two children. My hobbies include swimming, reading, music, writing and keep fit. I'd like pen pals 25-40. **P978**

Dawn, 23, 5' 5", blonde hair and blue eyes. I like socialising, travelling, cooking, sports and music. I'd like to hear from pen friends aged 23-28 with similar interests. Photo appreciated. **P979**

Tanya, 24, 5' 7", I'm a brunette and have blue eyes. I like meeting people, travelling and most sports - especially motor racing. I'd like to hear from pen friends aged 25-30. Please send photo if possible. **P980**

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D7

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Ref: BWG-1004208A/1-SC

The Charity Commissioners have made a Scheme for this Charity. Copies can be obtained from them at Woodfield House, Tangier, Taunton, Somerset TA1 4BL (ref: BWG-1004208A/1-SC).

D6

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D4

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Second (526 runs, £1,000): Cpl C D Dodds, ATR Lichfield.
Third (521 runs, £500): LCpl A J Rhymer, QDG, BFPO 16.
Fourth (520 runs, £400): Sgt D Robinson, 3 (UK) Div HQ & Signal Regt, Bulford.
Fifth (515 runs, £300): Capt W I M Jones, HQ GLT (UK), RAF Benson.
Sixth (511 runs, £200): LCpl A D Young, 22 Engr Regt, Perham Down.
Seventh (501 runs, £100): WO2 F A Quinn, ASPT (G), BFPO 16.

JULY 2, 1994

First (436 runs, £2,000): SSgt C L Bartram, 4 GS Regt RLC, Abingdon.
Second (434 runs, £1,000): WO2 M W Panther, SEME, Bordon.
Third (428 runs, £500): SSgt R W Campbell, RA Display Troop, Woolwich.
Fourth (427 runs, £400): Sgt G Pedder, 24 Regt RLC, BFPO 39.
Fifth (405 runs, £300): WO1 G Madine, 101 Regt RA (V), Newcastle upon Tyne.
Sixth (402 runs, £200): LCpl P I Parsonage, BFPO 825.
Seventh (401 runs, £100): SSgt M K Meek, 19 Regt RA, Colchester.

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D3

Infantry too hot for Hong Kong teams

EIGHTEEN goals in three games ensured a successful Hong Kong tour for the Infantry.

The 16-man squad adapted well to the heat to beat the 1st Battalion, The Black Watch, 4-1 in the opening game. Pte Lee Bradbury (1 PWRR), Cpl

John Greechan (1 QO Hldrs), Fus Kevin Jones (1 RWF) and Pte Simon Yeo (1 Cheshire) scored for the tourists, Pte Charles Greig for 1 BW.

A 5-1 victory slightly flattened the Infantry in their next match, against a BFHK Combined Services team on the

hard and bumpy So Kun Po pitch.

Greechan, Cpl Tosh Williams (1 Cheshire), Yeo (2) and Bradbury were on target for the Infantry, WO2 Pat Russell fired in BFHK's goal.

The match against First Division side Happy Valley had

to be cancelled because of a local cup tie, so 10 GR stepped in at the last minute. The Infantry won 9-2, with Greechan (2), Bradbury (3), Yeo (3) and WO1 Steve Wilson scoring. Sgt Nigel Williams and LCpl Chandrabahadur Gurung netted for 10 GR.

BAOR football takes on best

BAOR has completed its most successful football season for many years, including the winning of the Army Challenge Cup by Hameln-based 28 Engineer Regiment for a record fifth consecutive time.

Seven of that team have each won five Army Cup medals.

At representative level the BAOR side reached new levels, taking on sides from the Hungarian, Czech and Polish armies, a powerful Bundeswehr side containing three German internationals and eight players with Bundesliga experience, Bristol Rovers and Borussia Monchengladbach.

Its representative record was six wins and five defeats.

Unexpectedly, the touring TA (UK) representative side beat BAOR for the first time in six years, but BAOR did win the annual match against the Royal Air Force.

On the inter-corps scene, Royal Signals beat the Royal Engineers in the final of the knockout cup, while the sappers headed the merit table fractionally ahead of REME.

Leading scorer with 15 goals was LCpl Eugenie Shannon (BAOR and RE). He and Sgt Paul Murgatroyd earned trials with Bristol Rovers and Ptes Justin Whittle and Gary Holt signed one-year contracts with Glasgow Celtic. Holt, in fact, played the last 20 minutes of the Celtic-Manchester United testimonial match for Mark Hughes in front of 42,000 spectators at Old Trafford.

He and Whittle both went on tour with Celtic to Canada.

Several BAOR administrators were able to leave on a high note, including Maj John Nixon (team manager), who is



Goalkeeper AT Ian Elliott (Princess Marina College, Arborfield) receives his Army Youth Player of the Year trophy from Col Cliff Walters, chairman of Army youth football.

The Army youth team won the Inter-Services championships for the third successive season, but won only one of their three South West Counties Championship matches.

Squandered chances resulted in defeats by Berks and Bucks (0-2) and Dorset (3-4) before the side easily beat Wiltshire 3-1.

retiring, and Maj Kevin Reardon, the secretary, who has been posted to the UK.

Sgt Scouse Munro, BAOR coach and the driving force

Keeper of the trophy

In other representative games the youth team beat the Association of British Colleges, drew with the Federation of Welsh Boys Clubs and lost to Scottish Schools and the Scottish Youth Association.

The Army supplied nine of the Combined Services youth squad and Elliott, AT Woodall (PMC) and AT Martin (PMC) represented the SW Counties.

Army youth football was supported throughout the season by Mr Brian McCulloch and Atlas Hydraulic Loaders Ltd.

behind 28 Engineer Regiment's remarkable achievement, is also quitting the Army scene for the present but will run courses for BAOR football.

Jesse hooks third boat angling title

EIGHTY anglers from BAOR and the United Kingdom took part in the Army Angling Association boat championships based at Brownsea training camp, Gosport, Hants.

Biggest catch of the first day was a 31lb conger taken by SSgt Paul Jess (REME). Smoothhound to 14lb and black bream were also in abundance. Only six of the 80 competitors failed to hook anything.

Although the wind got up on the second day, wrasse and garfish provided good angling and SSgt Jess went on to win his third Army title in four years.

CSgt Colin Roll (1 RRF) was second and WO2 Brian Etteridge (47 Regt RA) third. Roll also took the complete angler trophy with seven species. Jess and WO2 Micky Reeson (22 Engr Regt) won the pairs competition.

Champion Chepstow

CHEPSTOW beat PMC Arborfield 4-3 in the final of the Army FA Youth Challenge Cup competition staged at Arborfield.

In the semi-finals the Chepstow apprentices beat Harrogate 7-2, and Princess Marina College defeated Aldershot apprentices 7-0.

The play-off for the third and fourth places saw Harrogate beat Aldershot 7-1.

AT Nelson scored a tremendous opportunist goal in the 85th minute of the final to reverse the result of the Apprentice Cup final which PMC won 9-0.



LCpl Stacey Robinson with his trophies. He urgently needs sponsorship for the world triathlon championships in New Zealand in November and can be contacted through Army Modern Pentathlon Association secretary Capt Stuart Mason on 0734 763277

Picture: Mike Weston

Robbo to take on the world in New Zealand

LCPL Stacy Robinson smashed the course record by more than a minute and a half while winning the Army Olympic-distance triathlon championships at South Cerney.

Robinson, who has been released by Hameln-based 28 Engineer Regiment for full-time training at the Army Modern Pentathlon training centre at Arborfield, has already qualified for the world championships in New Zealand in November.

Under the guidance of

coaches SSgt Peter Whiteside, an Olympian in 1980, and SSgt Bernie Moss, GB Olympic coach in 1984 and 1988, Robinson's performances have improved dramatically, and he is now set on breaking into the world's top 100 triathletes.

At the 30km mark Robinson pulled away, stretching his lead to well over three minutes, a massive margin at this level, with the fastest run of the day, completed in 31min 58sec.

In the women's race over the same distances, Capt Cathy Fearn (PMC) was first out of the water in 25min 56 sec and maintained her lead in the cycle section, clocking in four minutes ahead of Capt Karen Metcalfe (63 Sig Sqn).

Nearly 200 male and female competitors entered Cotswold Water Park lake for the first

event at the GKN Defence-sponsored Army championships.

LCpl Des Hutton (28 Engr Regt) led out of the water in 20min 25sec but was rapidly overtaken by the following five. CSgt Jim Cousen (2 RRF) was quickest in the cycle phase, recording 61min 43sec, but the

race at the front of the field was between Robinson, Spr Dave Larcombe (3 RSME Regt), LCpl Russ Clash (ATR Bassingbourn) and LCpl Philip Jenkins (63 Sig Sqn), the leading TA entrant.

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However, the performance of the day came from Pte Sonia Fearn who completed the run

NICE WORK PETER

MAJ PETER McMANNERS represented Great Britain in the world long distance triathlon championships at Nice in the South of France last month. He produced a blistering performance to come 191st overall out of 2,000 competitors and tenth in the GB team.

McManners, a senior instructor in terrain analysis at the School of Military Survey, Hermitage, battled through a rough sea for the 4km swim followed by 120km cycle ride on rain-lashed roads before finishing with a 30km run along the coast.

McManners's finishing time was 7hr and 11min, which was just over an hour behind the overall winner.

Threesome make up lost time

Despite being a man short, the three Army cyclists pictured below did well for Combined Services in the Kiveton Park Cycling Club four-up time trial at Worksop, Notts.

From left to right are LCpl Alan Fotheringham (REME, 3 RHA Wksp), WO2 Paul Dean (AGC(RMP), 158 Pro Coy RMP) and LCpl Alex Tinniswood (REME, 10 AB Wksp) who finished 13th out of 21 in the event which drew teams from all over the country.

Tinniswood stepped in at short notice when injury prevented the RAF riders from taking part.



SSGT Neil Killen (2 Sig Regt) led from first event to last to win the Army decathlon title for the eleventh time at Aldershot Military Stadium with a tally of 5,451 points.

LCpl Tom Mulloy (1 UK ADSR), 5,102 points, and Lt Matt Hollas (16 Regt RA), 4,754, were closest to him.

Killen, despite nursing injuries, set the standard in the 100m which he won in 11.39sec. And although he did not complete the final event, the 1,500m, his lead was such

Why Bill Bailey set off for home

VETERAN Sgt Bill Bailey (2 Sig Regt) put the cat among the pigeons when he sprinted away from the pack in the Army 10,000m championship.

His injection of pace was so startling that he quickly built up an enormous lead and the others settled for second.

But Bill thought he was on his final lap when he actually had two to go.

Gradually the chasing runners got closer, WO2 Geoff Wade (3 RHA) and Capt Rolf Zimmerman of the Australian Army catching the rapidly tiring Bailey in the final 200m.

Wade's winning time was 31min 50sec, with Zimmerman nine seconds behind him. Bailey finished in 32min 9sec.

Top two

LCPL ALAN Shepherd (23 PFA) and Cpl Sarah Bradbury (CMETS Beaconsfield) won the men's and women's Army cross country runner of the year awards for the 1993-94 winter season.

Shepherd picked up consistent points in all the six qualifying races.

Sarah Bradbury, best placed Army woman in the national championships, finished ahead of Cpl Kelly Holmes (251 Sig Sqn) and Ssgt Betty Gash. Holmes picked up maximum points in the four events in which she competed.

NEIL'S ELEVEN HEAVEN

that Mulloy was able to close the gap but not overtake him.

The team competition was won by RMA Sandhurst (Simmons, Gover, Caesar) on 12,010 points, ahead of 16 Regiment RA (Hollas, Clarke, Brown), 11,522.

The single events team competition, revived after two years to encourage units with only a

few athletes, attracted only two entries, from 2 Sig Regt and BAD Kineton, both units with strong athletic traditions.

The signallers won the 4 x 100m relay (44.5sec), the 800m relay (8min 9.8sec), the 1,500m two-man relay (8min 44.3sec) and the 10,000m two-man relay (64min 38sec). BAD Kineton took the 4 x 200m title

in 1min 32 sec and the 4 x 400m in 3min 29.5sec.

Kineton also won the high, long and triple jumps and the javelin, 2 Signals the discus, and Depot REME the pole vault.

Lack of interest in the single events competition will inevitably call into question again its viability.



Pictures: Mike Weston

Decathlete OCdt Julius Caesar (RMA Sandhurst) in action. Inset: Ssgt Neil Killen

Services make Cambridge blue

COMBINED Services scored over 300 runs in their second innings to record an excellent win against Cambridge University at Aldershot.

The full Blues' side made a slow start against accurate bowling and superb fielding, only 100 runs coming off the first 50 overs.

But it was not difficult to see why Russell Cade has been signed by Surrey, his powerful and fluent 103 lifting Cambridge to 285 for seven.

Only Richard Beeston (53) and Capt Peter Germain (RMAS) with 41 really contributed in a disappointing Services' reply, mainly due to an unbroken spell of 20 overs by Andy Whittall (5-68), the Cambridge skipper.

Ahead by 106, the Cam-

bridge second innings started badly when they lost two quick wickets before Ratledge (97) and Hodgson (32) allowed Whittall to declare 30 minutes into the third morning.

Set to chase 306, Capt Richard Greatorex (17 Port and Maritime Regt RLC), the Army captain, and Lt Christopher St George (Coldm Gds) with 34 attacked from the start, putting on 119 for the first wicket in 32 overs.

Greatorex looked set for a big score when he was unnecessarily run out on 75.

Looking for four runs an over, Capt David O'Kelly (RMCS) scored 39 and Sgt Nick Palmer (HQ Sqn AAC) 48 to keep the chase going before Germain (55 not out) and Lt Piers Moore RN (33

not out) won the match in style with 4.4 overs to spare.

Cambridge University 285-7 dec and 199-4 dec. Combined Services 179 and 308-5. Combined Services won by 5 wickets.

A strong Club Cricket Conference side beat the Army by 47 runs at Aldershot after scoring 250 for eight in a 55-over match.

The strength of the Army's batting should have made a win possible, but Greatorex's retirement hurt on 16 did not help and the rest failed to achieve the required run rate. Christopher St George scored 76 and surprised himself by taking 4-34 in 11 overs. Not bad for a player who is not a "recognised" bowler.

CCC 250-8. Army 203-5. CCC won by 47 runs.



The pace hots up in the Army 10,000m championship at Aldershot. From left to right are WO2 Geoff Wade (180), who went on to win the race, Sgt Ian Atkinson, Capt Rolf Zimmerman (68) of the Australian Army, and Sgt Bill Bailey. Atkinson was second and Bailey third.

SOLDIER



Soldiers of 126 Reclamation Company REME(V) evacuate a casualty from a simulated road crash during a nuclear, biological and chemical strike. They were on Exercise Western Approaches. Full story in Pages 12-13.

Picture: Pete Griffiths