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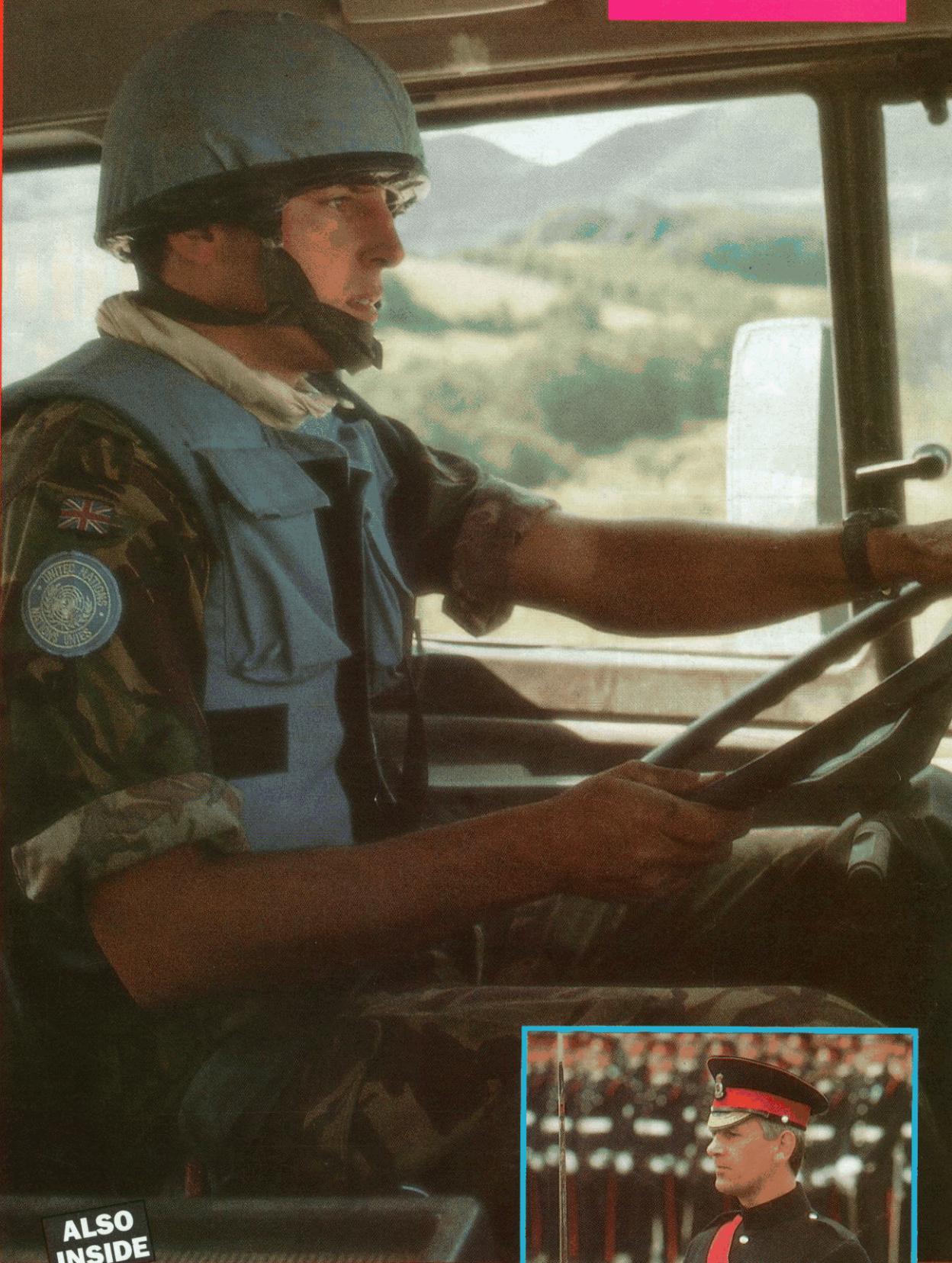
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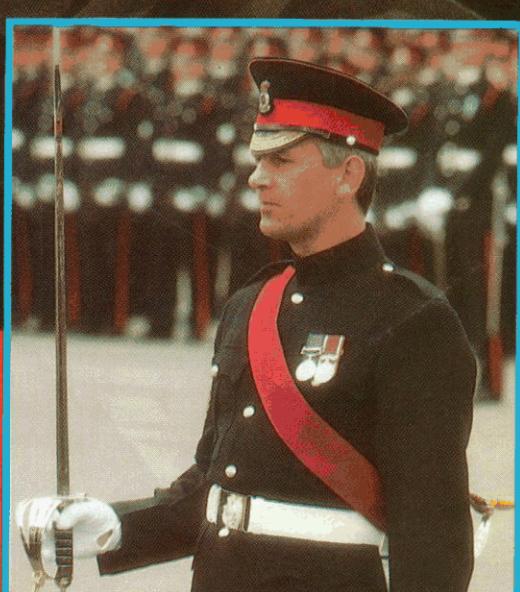
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Managing Editor

Chris Horrocks Ext 2355

Editor

John Elliott 2356

Assistant Editors

Laurie Manton 2362

Gordon Skilling 2360

Phil Wilcox 2362

Picture Editor 2357

Terry Champion 2357

Photographers

Mike Weston 2357

Mike Perring 2357

Art Editor 2357

Les Gwyer 2356

Librarian

Gerard Sutton 2351

Advertising

Lindsey Champion 2352

Accounts/Distribution

Janice Follwell 2353

Fax 2358

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Gurkha and Royal Nepal Army engineers line the new bridge at Malekhu as the first vehicle crosses

Gurkhas bridge troubled waters

Men of The Queen's Gurkha Engineers based in Hong Kong have been carrying out relief work in flood-devastated Nepal following the country's worst disaster for 100 years. **Maj Paddy Hartigan** of JSPRS Hong Kong tells the story of Op Rivers. Pictures by **PO Matt Wellings RN**

THE MONSOON that struck northern India and Nepal this year was the worst in living memory.

Torrential rains brought extensive flooding and landslides in the Central and Eastern districts of Nepal, particularly in the Terai.

The disaster left 2,000 reported dead or missing with tens of thousands homeless.

The UK immediately promised a large donation of aid through the ODA and agreed to fund the deployment of an engineer squadron.

The day after the announce-



Maj John White, OC 68 Gurkha Field Squadron

ment, the Queen's Gurkha Engineers were placed on standby and on July 23 the recce party arrived in Nepal.

A recce by Royal Nepal Air Force Puma the next day was followed up on July 26 and 27 by another, this time using bicycles.

The subsequent report led to the MoD ordering the deployment of one squadron of QGE the following day and the advance party arrived in the country on July 29.

On July 31 the main body, 68 Gurkha Field Squadron, arrived with the squadron freight.

On August 4 an Antonov 146 (Condor) delivered an extra wide Bailey Bridge (EWBB) from Hong Kong, together with essential engineering materials.

Just three days later the vital river crossing at Malekhu was bridged.

This outline is just the bare bones describing an operation that involved all three Services in Hong Kong and the British Gurkhas in Nepal.

Once Op Rivers was declared, a Bailey Bridge with all its ancillaries, plus other vital equipment, had to be assembled and moved to Kai Tak airport.

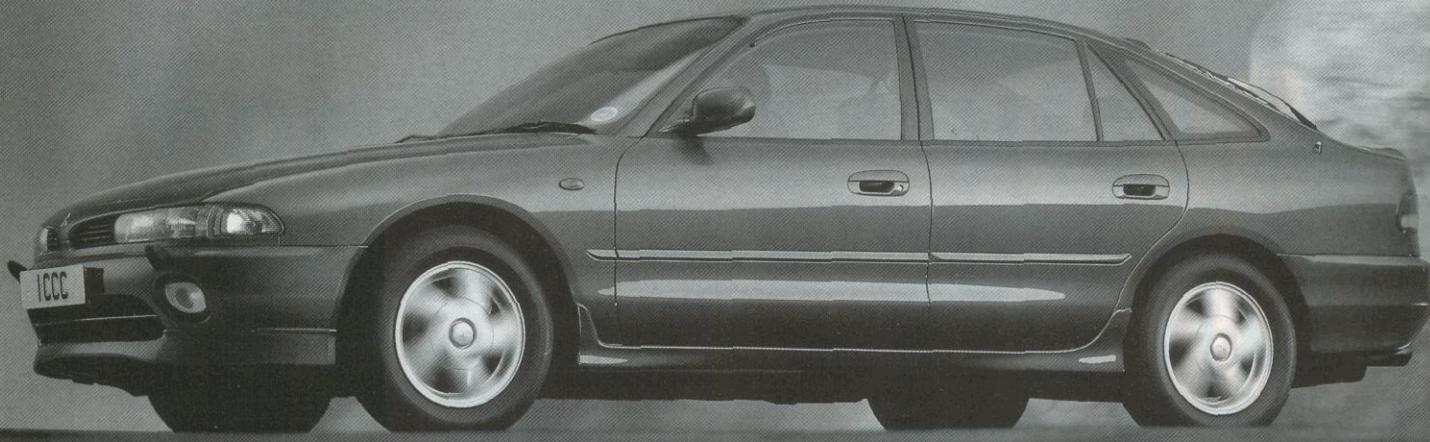
This resulted in one of the largest convoys ever assembled in Hong Kong – an 84-vehicle outload carried out by the Queen's Own Gurkha Transport Regiment, the Hong Kong Military Service Corps and the Royal Air Force.

All this was to be moved to Nepal in one lift and the only aircraft capable of such a feat was the giant Antonov 124.

● Turn to Page 5

FRONT COVER – Main picture: LCpl Roy Parker is just one of dozens of Royal Logistic Corps drivers negotiating difficult mountain tracks during thrice-weekly convoy supply runs from Split to Vitez. Story and more pictures on the work of the National Support Element in Pages 13-15. (Picture: Mike Weston) **Inset:** WO1 Mike Nesbitt, Gren Gds, has been Academy Sergeant Major at Sandhurst for the past six years. At the end of last month's Sovereign's Parade, he followed the Senior Division up the steps of Old College and with them became an officer at midnight that day. He is the first Academy Sergeant Major to be commissioned. (Picture: Terry Champion.) See also Page 7

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DESIGNED TO BE DRIVEN

Troops see positions reinforced



Above - The effects of undercutting on the vital Prithvi Highway between Kathmandu and Nepal's second city, Pokara. Right - Lt (QGO) Bibakumar Rai, Lt Iain Stewart (Tp Comd) and SSgt Krishnadhaj Shahi pictured after the successful bridging of the Malekhu gap



Gurkha rescue mission

● From Page 3

This monster, the largest aircraft ever to land at Kai Tak, was escorted in by two Scout helicopters from 660 Squadron Army Air Corps and the handling and loading was the job of the tri-Services manned Airport Unit.

"All in a day's work," said WO Tony Dunphy. "There were no problems once we had got rid of the press, the media and hundreds of others standing around gaping at the huge airplane."

The QGE Squadron was an amalgamation of troops within the regiment, Gurkha soldiers anxious to do what they could to alleviate the suffering in their country.

The squadron which was formed retained the name and command and control elements of 68 Gurkha Field Squadron under Maj John White RE, a veteran of three tours with Gurkha Engineers.

The cash raised by Willis was originally intended to provide an annual subsistence allowance for 270 ex-Gurkhas and their families. Further funds are now required to compensate those who have been affected by the monsoon.

Michael Willis, an ex-Gurkha in his 50s, raised £27,250 for the Gurkha Welfare Trust by running in the London Marathon.

He had the normal support of an independent squadron, including elements of Queen's Gurkha Signals, and medical cover from the British Military Hospital. Headquarters British Gurkhas Nepal provided additional support.

Planning and co-ordination was by the tri-Service staff at British Forces HQ.

The QGE task was to open the vital Prithvi Highway which linked Kathmandu with Nepal's second city, Pokora.

The highway was the main supply route to and from India and without it the capital was effectively cut off.

The engineers, after a helicopter recce followed by one on bicycles, found three major bridges had been washed away and would need replacing.

They decided that the furthest gap, at Malekhu, 60 kilometres from Kathmandu would be the priority. The other two sites, at Belkhu and

Mahadev Besi, were fordable and also each required three 22 metre Bailey Bridge spans. These were not yet available.

A single span, flown in by the Antonov, would be sufficient for the gap at Malekhu provided it could reach the site along the partially-destroyed road.

It could and did - and Lt Iain Stewart's troop had the bridge up within hours of its arrival. He and Maj White handed the bridge over to the Chief District Officer, Mr Druba Prasad Ghimire, as soon as it was ready.

Work was meanwhile proceeding at the other sites, where the causeways were being strengthened and footings were being dug to hold the span bridges which were to be delivered by the US Air Force Galaxy from England.

Maj White was justifiably proud of his troops. "I have waited 17 years to do this for real," he said. "It is a great feeling."

Marathon effort for Nepal

AS the full horror of the Nepal flood disaster becomes apparent it has been announced that an ex-soldier has collected more than £27,000 for a Gurkha charity.

Michael Willis, an ex-Gurkha in his 50s, raised £27,250 for the Gurkha Welfare Trust by running in the London Marathon.

The cash raised by Willis was originally intended to provide an annual subsistence allowance for 270 ex-Gurkhas and their families. Further funds are now required to compensate those who have been affected by the monsoon.

Charles Newton Dunn, of the Gurkha Welfare Trust, said: "We are already aware of

more than 400 cases that will need immediate help and have heard of one ex-soldier losing five members of his family, including both sons."

Gurkhas in the British Army moved by the extent of the damage to help their fellow countrymen have organised a voluntary collection in each unit.

BRITISH soldiers in Bosnia noticed a slackening in fighting during the Geneva peace talks, though renewed conflict round Gornji Vakuf had disrupted relief traffic on the route to Vitez and all sides were reported to be reinforcing their positions.

Engineers have continued to clear mines from roads used by convoys - often only after delicate negotiations.

A deep crater near Zenica was filled and preparations are being made for rebridging at Bilela, north of Mostar.

The possibility of drilling wells for water has been investigated and a reconnaissance carried out by 521 Specialist Team RE to establish whether bore holes can be provided.

The British Medical Battalion (BRITMEDBATT) based on 5 Armoured Field Ambulance from Preston will return at the end of September. Force Medical Officer Col Ronnie Brown and his staff of five may, however, remain.

A team of 11 QARANC personnel from BRITMEDBATT sent to Fojnica, east of Kiseljak, to run a hospital abandoned by medical staff, have returned to Zagreb. Commanded by Lt Ashley Williams, they trained civilians to care for more than 200 patients, most of them mentally-handicapped children.

Brig Gordon Ferguson, Deputy Commander, Southern District has been appointed Chief of Staff at the United Nations Protection Force overall HQ at Zagreb.

Brig Vere Hayes, British Chief of Staff at UNPROFOR HQ at Kiseljak, monitored Bosnian Serb withdrawals from high ground south of Sarajevo, which had been captured from Bosnian Muslim forces three weeks previously.

Sgt Andrew Williamson, the 1 PWO Warrior commander shot in the neck on August 6, has been sent home on sick leave after recovering at Queen Elizabeth Military Hospital, Woolwich.

● See Pages 13-15

THE MEDAL SERVICE

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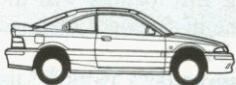
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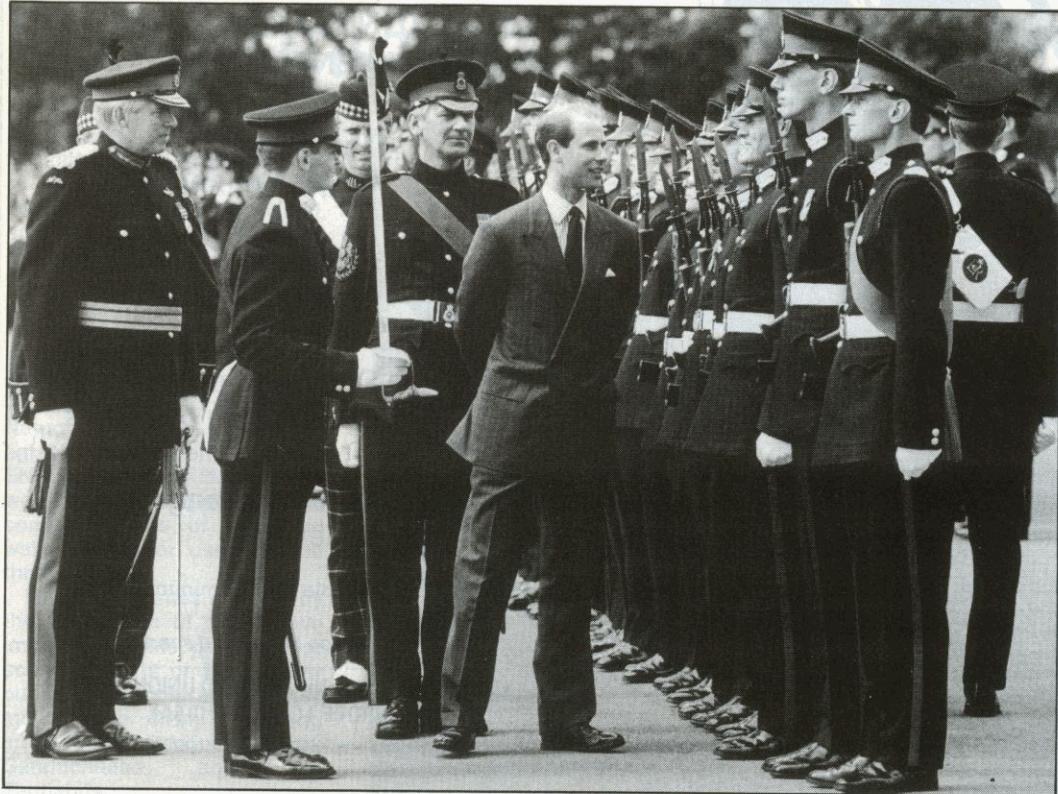
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Overstretch eye-opener for minister



Picture: Terry Champion

Prince on duty

Prince Edward, on behalf of the Queen, inspects officer cadets at the summer Sovereign's Parade at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst. Of 652 officer cadets on parade, 219 received their commissions in the British Army or had their commissions confirmed. Nineteen overseas cadets also passed out. The Sword of Honour was awarded to 2nd Lt Roland Walker, who is to join the Irish Guards, and the Queen's Medal to 2nd Lt Gerald Strickland, 6 GR

Stansted to get trooping flights

STANSTED Airport in Essex is to replace Luton as the main United Kingdom base for trooping flights to and from Germany.

Operations will move to Stansted following the award of the Germany air trooping contract to British World Airlines, which will take over from Britannia Airways on April 1.

The importance of relocating to an airport with a direct rail link into the air terminal complex was a major consideration behind the decision to quit Luton Airport.

An express rail shuttle service operates between Stansted and London's Liverpool Street station. The airport is also served by coach from Victoria, has good internal air links and ample, relatively inexpensive parking for those travelling by road - M25/M11 from the south, A1/A604/M11 from the north.

Stansted is also less congest-

ed than most other airports in the UK.

British World Airways (previously British Air Ferries) intends to meet the MoD's core requirement of eight flights a week to RAF Bruggen, Münster, Paderborn, Hannover and RAF Gatow through use of its 110-seat BAe-146 and 99 seat BAC 1-11 aircraft.

Service passengers will have more leg room than at present, as well as hot catering on all flights. An attractive duty-free service is expected to be available, as are entertainment

packs for children and a free selection of newspapers on UK inbound flights.

Flights outside the schedule will be met mainly by British World's BAC 1-11 fleet.

Timings of the core schedule, to be announced in the autumn, are expected to allow passengers to depart the UK around midday and arrive in the UK in late afternoon, connecting with internal schedules to minimise the need for overnight stops.

A comprehensive child escort service is to be provided.

Governor installed

WHEN Maj Gen Mike Scott, GOC Scotland, was installed as Governor of Edinburgh Castle he was accompanied by senior NCOs from the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards, Scots Guards, the seven Scottish infantry battalions plus the Cameronians - and a schoolboy. Derek Denholm (14) of Queen Victoria School escorted the governor at the personal request of Gen Scott, who commanded Derek's father when he was killed serving with the 2nd Battalion, Scots Guards in the Falklands.

DURING a two-day fact-finding visit to Rheindahlen, Soltau and Gutersloh, new Armed Forces Minister Jeremy Hanley was briefed at some length on the effects of Drawdown in British Forces Germany.

Among other issues, he also discussed overstretch and later, on the subject of emergency tour intervals, said: "I have seen here in Germany that the overstretch I imagined to be 17 months can be as low as seven months for certain skills."

At Soltau he watched Exercise Prairie Rat 2, in which 1st Battalion, the Coldstream Guards Battle Group completed Warrior conversion training, supported by A Squadron, The King's Royal Hussars and elements of the Royal Engineers.

It was the last battle group training to be carried out east of the A7 autobahn before BFG hands back the training area next year.

During the exercise he saw the culmination of a combined-arms obstacle crossing in which tanks, infantry, Warriors, fast jets, helicopters and RE bridging equipment were all used.

• **Interview - Pages 26-27**

Cavalry returns

THE cavalry is back in Belfast in an infantry role after a break of 11 years, with men of 9th/12th Royal Lancers (Prince of Wales's) carrying out the tasks of the Girdwood Roulement Battalion.

Because B Squadron was heavily involved with supporting the Cheshire Battalion Group in Bosnia, only A and D Squadrons moved to Girdwood from their normal base in Herford.

Accompanying them was 11 (Sphinx) Battery of 16 Air Defence Regiment, Royal Artillery from Dortmund, which is under operational control of the 7th Battalion, The Royal Irish Regiment.

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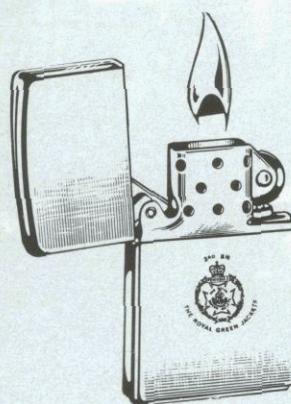
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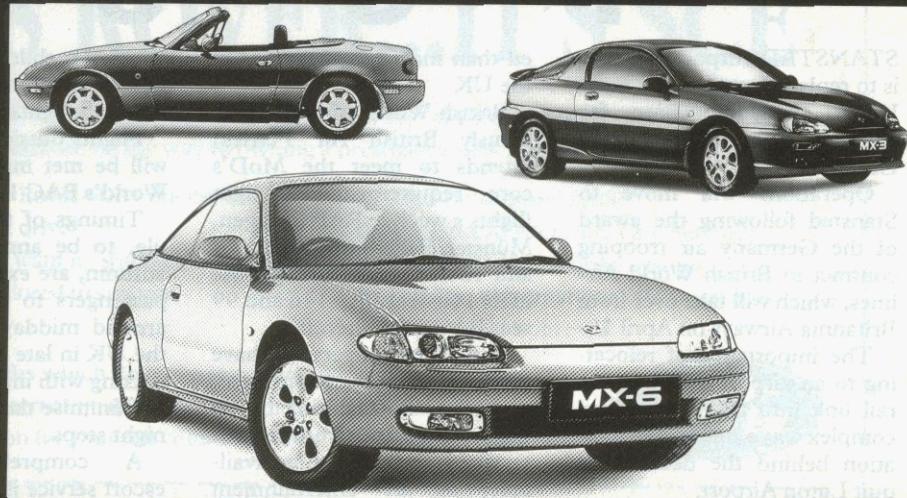
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Masterminding Scottish conservation

NOT a leather chair or spotlight in sight as Magnus Magnusson, of TV's *Mastermind*, and Maj Gen Mike Scott, GOC Scotland, survey part of the Pentland Hills Training Area south of Edinburgh.

Later at Dreghorn Mains Farm, Maj Gen Scott, on behalf of Defence Secretary Malcolm Rifkind, and Mr Magnusson, who is chairman of Scottish Natural Heritage, signed an agreement between MoD and SNH to formalise their close working arrangement to conserve areas of land and water owned or used by the three Services.

Many of the sites covered by the declaration of intent have important wildlife, geological or scenic aspects or are popular public recreation areas. They include the Army's training areas at Barry Buddon, Garelochhead and the Pentlands.

Rare flowers such as the coral root orchid can be found at Barry Buddon and the machair on the Royal Artillery range on Benbecula is home to



Picture: Mark Owens

the endangered corncrake.

Maj Gen Scott said that while the areas had to be used primarily for training, the MoD relied heavily on SNH for its

conservation management advice.

Said Mr Magnusson: "Forces personnel have been immensely helpful in building

paths and bridges on difficult sites in sensitive natural heritage areas. I welcome this declaration as building even stronger bridges for the future."



Target date for DROPS order

DELIVERY to the Army of the first of 400 DROPS vehicles ordered from Foden Trucks will start in the first quarter of 1994.

The £75m order, one of the largest single contracts ever received by the company, was announced in July's Defence White Paper.

Designed and built in the UK, the DROPS (Demountable Rack Off-loading and Pick-up System) vehicles will be operated by the Royal Artillery mainly to re-supply ammunition for the new AS 90 self-propelled field howitzer.

Deployment of the improved medium mobility load carriers (see picture) will be mainly in the UK, Germany and Canada. The vehicles will be supplied by Foden over a four-year period.

IN BRIEF

DURING 24 Airmobile Brigade's major exercise from September 1 to 14, 4,500 men and 1,400 vehicles, plus 12 support and 40 light helicopters are exercising over Salisbury Plain, Lulworth, Hankley Common, Longmoor and Surrey Common.

• • •

The only joint Army/RAF unit in Germany has been established to administer the many British and NATO HQs and units which will be located at Rheindahlen when the HQ ARRC moves there from Bielefeld.

The Rheindahlen Support Unit of 200 personnel is commanded by Col Martin Gibson and flies a new flag of Army red and RAF blue, with crossed swords superimposed by an RAF eagle.

• • •

For the first time since being granted the honour in 1982, 219 (Wessex) Field Hospital RAMC(V) exercised its freedom of Keynsham by marching through the town after a service taken by the Rt Rev David Kirkham, Bishop to the Armed Forces. Commanded by Col Peter Baskett, the unit

Brigade on move

had personnel involved in the Gulf conflict.

• • •

Warriors with an American turret and gun are to be supplied to Kuwait by GKN Defence in a contract worth about £500 million. It is hoped that this will be the first of a number of significant purchases which will reinforce the Kuwaiti military capability.

• • •

Siemens Plessey Electronic Systems has been awarded a £22 million contract to modify the Ptarmigan mobile communications system to allow networks to be deployed over long distances through satellite links.

• • •

A £10 million contract to modernise the administrative telecommunications system for British Forces Germany by 1998 has been awarded to Integrated Networks, of Basildon, a division of Northern Telecom Europe Ltd.

REUNION IN VITEZ

"Fancy seeing you here," says LCpl Paul Eaton, PTI and driver with Aldershot-based 27 Transport Regiment RLC as he is reunited with dad, WO2 Ron, in somewhat unexpected circumstances. Both are based in the former Yugoslavia, Paul on the Adriatic coast and Ron, a Light Dragoon, 200 miles away at British Army HQ in Vitez.

"As I was coming up on the convoy from Omis, all my mates knew about the surprise, but no one would tell me what it was," said Paul. His father added: "Obviously, as a parent, I worry for him a bit, and he probably worries for me, especially as he knows I am coming to the end of my service. The last thing I expected was to go to Bosnia, let alone see him here as well." The two of them made the most of Paul's week-long attachment at Vitez.



Service with a smile

Cpl Karen Kilburn, who has deployed to Croatia as part of the Royal Logistic Corps-Expeditionary Force Institutes, is, we are told, the first Naafi woman to serve in an operational area since 1948. Karen, married to a sapper, normally pulls pints as manager of the Junior Ranks Club at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst. On Operation Grapple she will be helping to run an EFI shop at the port of Split.



Picture: Terry Champion

Top-dog Zammo

LCpl Paul Hammond of the 2nd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, and **Zammo**, a German Shepherd, successfully combined to defend their United Kingdom canine biathlon title at the Defence Animal Centre, Melton Mowbray, on July 17. Fifty-eight teams, including one from the Hong Kong Military Service Corps, took part in the eighth annual competition, sponsored by Pedigree Petfoods.

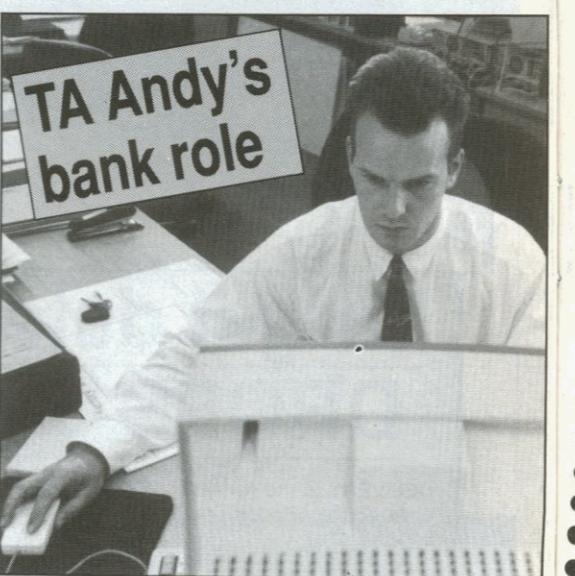
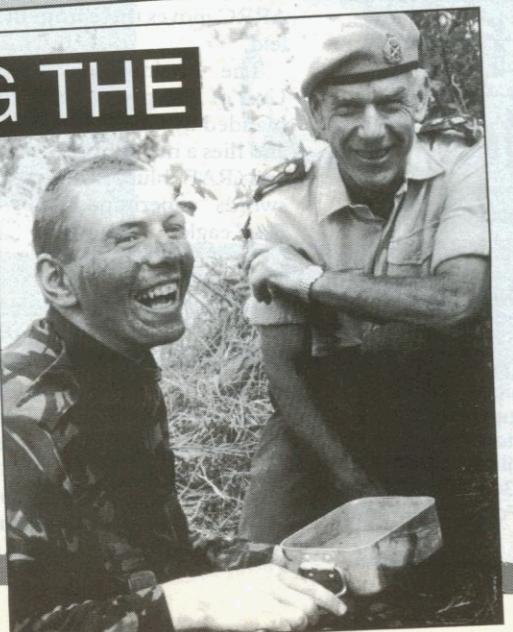


Münster attraction

The British stand was the centre of attraction for Maj Gen Anthony Denison-Smith, Commander 1 (UK) Armoured Division, as he was shown around the Münster Garrison's exhibition by Obersleutnant Arendt (left) and Hauptmann Kottman of the Bundeswehr. The exhibition, where the lively British section included photographs of the Gulf War, recent operations and exercises, Freedom of the City parade and family life in the British Garrison, was part of Münster's 1,200-year jubilee celebrations.

BRIDGING THE GULF

Gulf Commander and cadet share a laugh as Gen Sir Peter de la Billière drops in at the West Lowland Army Cadet Force's camp at Swynnerton, Staffordshire. The 350-strong ACF's annual camp, where he met Glaswegian Cdt Thomas McCullagh, was the general's first official visit as president of the Army Cadet Force Association.



Banking on success in the Territorial Army is 2nd Lt Andy Croft, commander of 7 Platoon of Northampton's TA infantry company, "The Steelbacks", part of 7th Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment.

A manager in Barclays Bank's personal sector marketing department in Coventry, he was one of the subjects of a 12-month study of the company carried out by photo journalism student Hugh Hamilton, himself a former TA officer with the Gunners in Newcastle.

Royal recce

Cammed up and suitably kitted out, Prince Harry was in his element as he was taken for a spin in a Scimitar armoured recce vehicle during a visit to The Light Dragoons at Hohne with his mother, the Princess of Wales, who is the regiment's Colonel-in-Chief.



Range rover's bonus

A routine visit to Cyprus to check ranges brought Col (Retd) David Maitland-Titterton, a former CO of the 9th/12th Lancers, a bonus barbecue dinner with his son – and the Duke of York.

His son, Rupert, followed him into the regiment and was also on the island, as an equerry to the Duke, who was visiting the 1st Battalion, The Royal Irish Regiment, as its Colonel-in-Chief.

Col Maitland-Titterton joined the North Irish Horse as a TA trooper in 1951 and is now chief of the safety inspectorate responsible for ensuring that British Army ranges throughout the world are safely managed. His work has come full circle; while in Cyprus during the EOKA troubles from 1958-59, he laid out Pyla Range for use by armoured cars.



PEOPLE

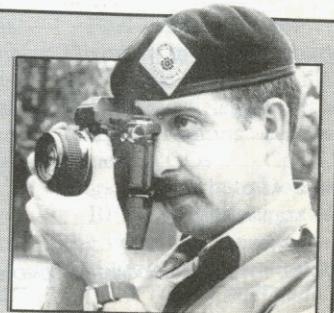


Warhorse memorial

A Saladin armoured car is dedicated as Episkopi Garrison's first gate guard in 38 years. The old warhorse, on a plinth just inside the main gates, marks the final departure from Cyprus of the armoured reconnaissance squadron and establishes a memorial to LCpl Nick Stokes of B Squadron, The Queen's Own Hussars, who was killed in a training accident last year. The service was conducted by the Rev Tony Cumberland, squadron padre, in the presence of Maj Gen Alex Harley, Commander British Forces Cyprus, Col John Ludlum, Garrison Commander, and those members of B Sqn, including its commander, Maj Simon Jackson, still on the island.

Referee's new post

"Pictured" in his latest role is LCpl John Malley of 1st Battalion, The Queen's Lancashire Regiment in Spandau, who has been appointed official lensman for the unit, based at Wavell Barracks. When he isn't snapping pictures, versatile John uses his skills as a fully-registered soccer referee and, until recently, was the battalion's postman...





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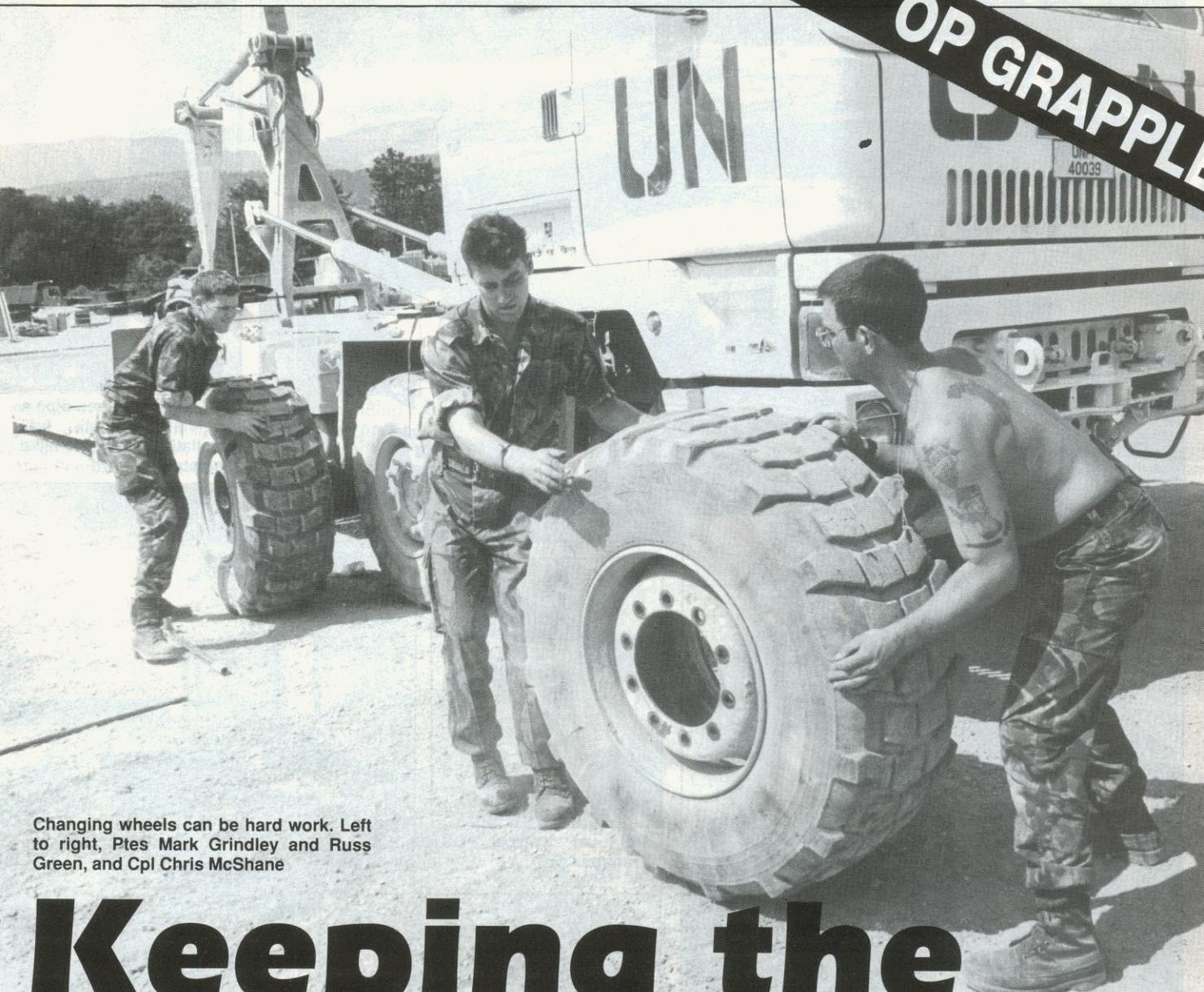
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Changing wheels can be hard work. Left to right, Ptes Mark Grindley and Russ Green, and Cpl Chris McShane

Keeping the wheels turning

SUPPORT troops have played a vital role in every operational deployment of the British Army, especially during the Gulf War. Now under a different title and corps, they continue the good work in Operation Grapple in the former Yugoslavia.

The National Support Element, commanded by Lt Col Jim Morrison, makes up one-third of the British Forces in theatre, covering every location from Split to Tuzla.

More than 600 soldiers form its component parts of transport, supply and medical squadrons, a force military police unit, pioneer labour support unit and an armoured workshop.

Mobile laundry units at Tomislavgrad and Vitez keep

the uniforms of the front-line soldiers clean and tidy.

The NSE provides combat service and equipment support along a difficult and extended line of communication.

A field surgical team under the command of consultant surgeon, Lt Col Roger Brookstein, is accommodated in a containerised hospital unit - MST Bravo - at Vitez, with medical facilities available at each location.

Medical staff have been drawn from military hospitals at Woolwich and Catterick, 22 Field Hospital RAMC and 23 Parachute Field Ambulance.

Additional combat medical technicians providing front-line medical cover have been

**Words: Laurie Manton
Pictures: Mike Weston**

drawn from 22 Field Hospital and Osnabrück-based 2 Armoured

Field Ambulance.

"More than 100 surgical cases and 300 patients have been treated at the hospital, as well as a number of local civilians hit by sniper fire," said the hospital's resuscitation officer, Maj Gordon Diack.

A five-man Pioneer Labour Support Unit (PLSU) based at Tomislavgrad, commanded by Maj Bob Stapley RLC, is responsible for employment of civil labour throughout the whole of the Operation Grapple theatre of operations.

More than 200 civilians have been taken on at British bases from Split in the south to the Army's northernmost outpost

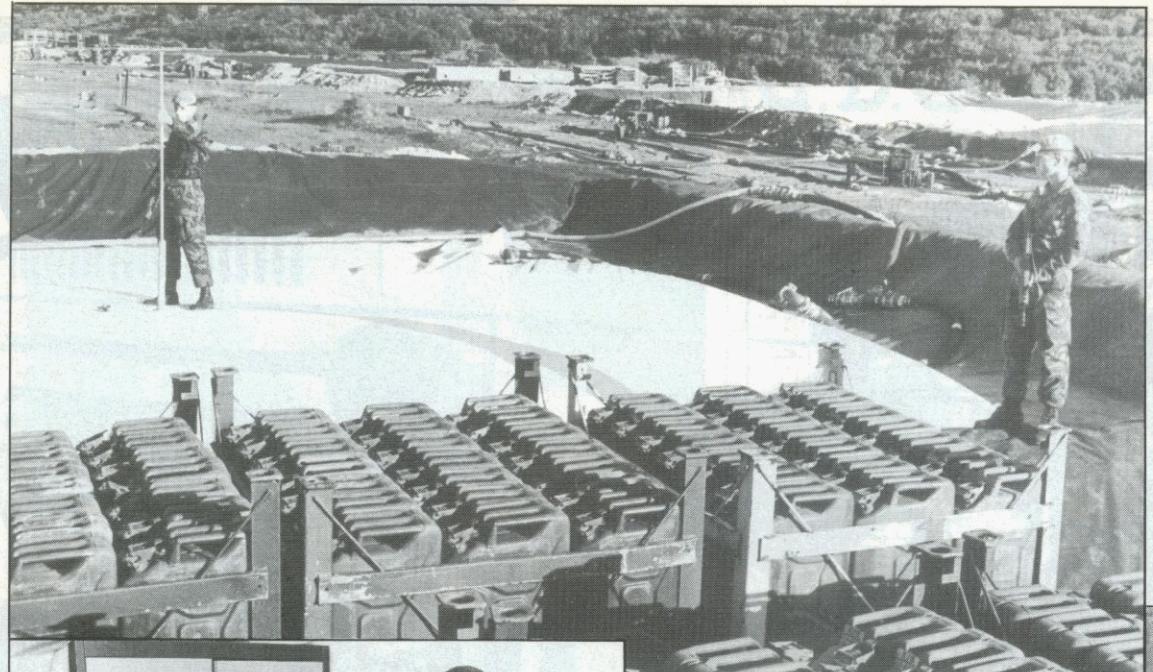
at Tuzla. The civilians work in a variety of jobs which range from interpreters through to kitchen staff and labourers.

They are paid fortnightly in Deutschmarks," said Maj Stapley. "One week, my deputy, WO2 (ORQMS) Ray House and I drive south to issue pay. The next we travel to bases north of TSG to make payments."

Fuel expert Capt Andy Dixon is in overall charge of two bulk fuel installations (BFIs), but delegates responsibility for running them to two junior NCOs - Cpls Dave Cork and Graham Donaldson.

BFI 1 at Tomislavgrad holds the Force reserve of petrol, oil and lubricants. Around half-a-

● Turn to next page



908 Pioneer Labour Support Unit. Left to right, Sgt Steve Savage, LCpl Richard Montana, WO2 (QRMS) Ray House and (seated) Maj Bob Stapley

Support

From Page 13

million litres of fuel have been stored in a number of large TXE pillow tanks.

The TXEs are, basically, large rubber bladders, each holding 130,000 litres of fuel, which have been confined in a banded area designed to contain leaking fuel should any of the tanks rupture.

Operators at the installation have had to overcome the problem of the bunds flooding when it rains.

"Unfortunately, fuel being lighter than water, the tanks tend to float and drag away the

pipeline connecting them. It has been a constant battle to keep the bunds empty of water," said Capt Dixon.

One of the hardest jobs in theatre is the thrice-weekly convoy carrying essential supplies from Split to the British Battalion Group at Vitez.

This task is the responsibility of the National Support Element (UK) Transport Squadron, commanded by Maj Ian Lawrie, whose drivers have to negotiate the rough mountain track constructed by sappers from TSG to Prozor.

The 175-strong unit is equipped with a diverse fleet of

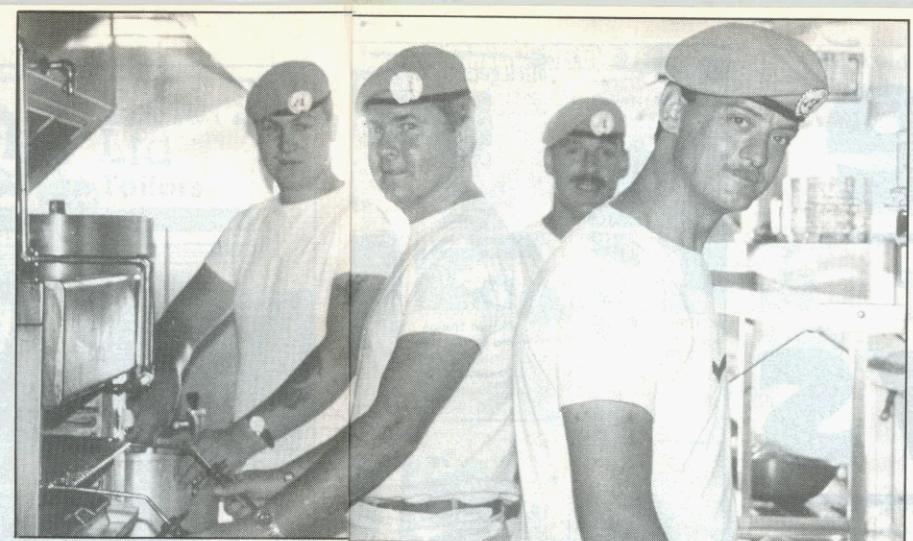
Lt Col Jim Morrison commands the National Support Element

vehicles including the battle-tested DROPS supply system, 20,000 litre fuel tankers and 14- and 8-tonne general cargo trucks.

The squadron has been formed around Aldershot-based 27 Regiment RLC and includes Mercedes-Benz towed low-loaders from 7 Regiment RLC in Germany.

Main difficulties for the squadron have been driver fatigue and vehicles being worn down by the battering received negotiating the bumpy route.

"My REME Light Aid



Left - Pte Oz Hynes dips a tank at a bulk fuel installation, while Pte Mike King stands guard



Above - Royal Logistic Corps chefs providing good food at Tomislavgrad are: Pte Andy Height, Master Chef, WO2 David Regan, Cpl Alan Penrose and Cpl Pete Jamieson



Above - Cpl Andy Gadsby operates the Forces Post Office at Vitez. Unlike most posties, he has to have an armoured escort to get him and his bag of mail to the United Nations headquarters at Kiseljak

Left - Capt Gary Vale RMP



An RLC driver secures a load during a compulsory halt near Prozor

Detachment has worked wonders in keeping our trucks on the road," said Maj Lawrie.

Capt Gary Vale RMP com-

mand the Royal Military Police

detachment making up the Force military police unit. Eighteen-strong, the FMPU has established police stations at Split and TSG, with a further police post attached to the British Battalion group at Vitez.

From Tomislavgrad, Sgt Jock Adam's detachment controls the "trafficability" of the main supply route by conducting route patrols and signing the roads.

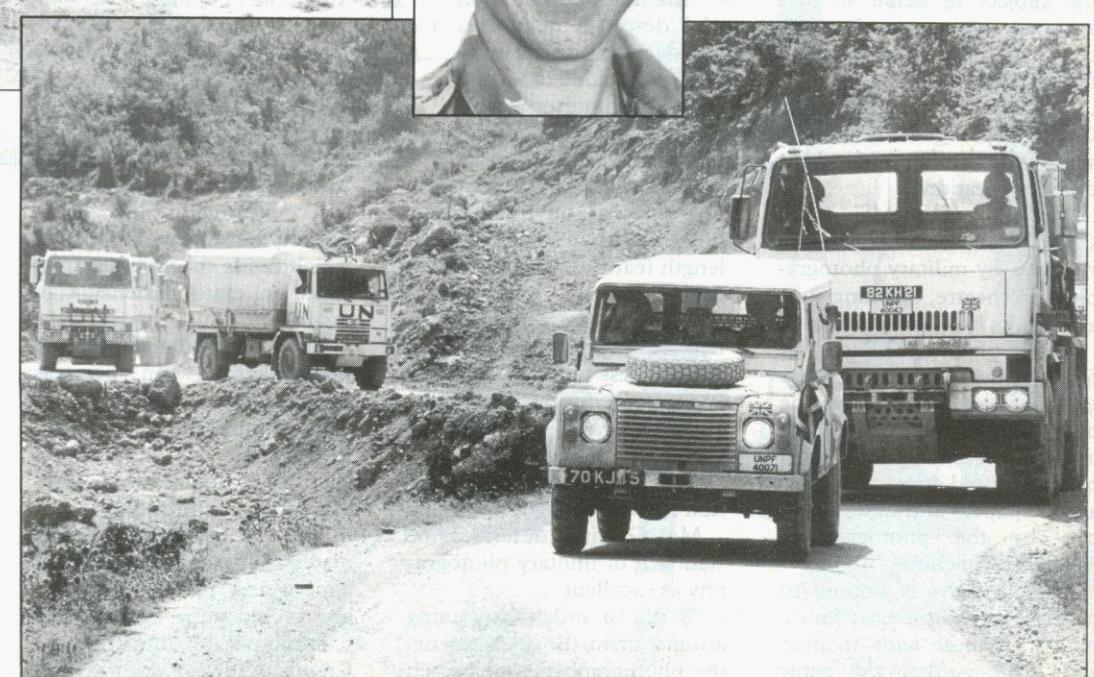
Sgt Dave Cook and his staff at Split also have responsibility

for police matters in the United Nations protection areas in Croatia where a British medical battalion has been deployed on Op Hanwood.

Said Capt Vale: "Because the operation involves assisting the UN humanitarian efforts, attacks on British troops are considered a criminal act.

"When LCpl Wayne Edwards was shot and killed at Gornji Vakuf, we treated his death as a murder enquiry. An inquest in the UK stresses that he was not killed in action, but murdered."

● A report on the NSE's armoured workshop will appear in the next issue.



An NSE Transport Squadron convoy sets out to deliver essential supplies

Have we got news for you!

FROM A small room in the Headquarters United Kingdom Land Forces near Salisbury, two Territorial Army officers are co-ordinating the Army's most productive public relations effort since the demise of the British Army News Service almost 25 years ago, writes Laurie Manton.

Three Service photographers – a Royal Navy photographer at Split, an RAF photographer at Zagreb who covers Operation Hanwood, and SSgt Andy Mason RLC based at the British Army's press centre with the British Battalion Group at Vitez – provide the raw material for the United Kingdom Media Production Centre (UKMPC).

Each photographer compiles a "shot" sheet which describes the subject in detail so that accurate captions can be written. The bulk of the pictures feature individual soldiers for use in home town newspapers. Others depict general views of soldiers and their equipment during operations.

Picture editor Maj Peter Griffiths LI deals with all material filed by military photographers in theatre, selecting suitable prints from contact sheets.

He explained: "Three or four separate shots might be taken of a soldier. I select the best shot for publication. Particularly dramatic pictures can be transmitted direct to national newspapers and news agencies by the photographers using wire machines."

Maj Griffiths is hoping to take delivery in the near future of a computer with modem and scanners that will allow him to receive pictures direct

from former Yugoslavia.

Scanned in Bosnia and transmitted over a satellite telephone link to an electronic picture editing desk at Wilton, photographs can then be sent to newspapers and agencies worldwide using electronic media.

Maj Griffiths was appointed picture editor because of his photographic background. He spent 22 years as an RAOC photographer before joining the Territorial Army's pool of public information officers.

The TAPIO pool consists of about 50 TA officers who have a solid background of media and public relations skills.

Members of the pool, who describe themselves as 'poachers turned game-keepers' include radio and television reporters, cameramen and photographers and national and regional newspaper reporters who can write anything from a home town news story to a full-length feature," said Maj Griffiths.

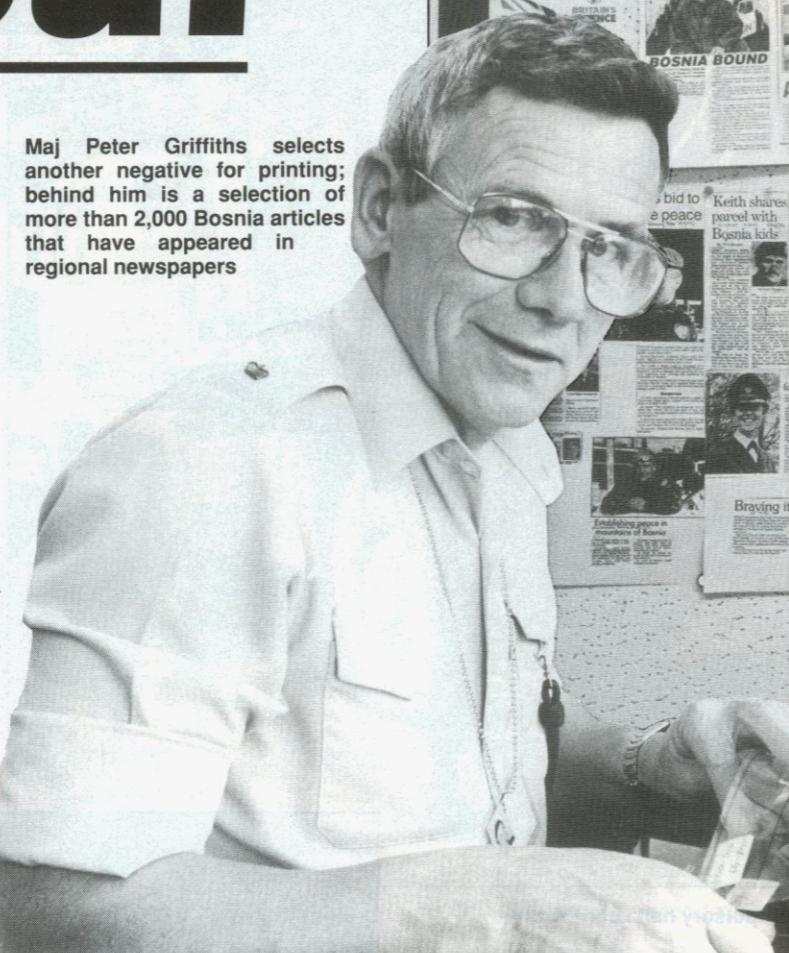
Others organise media facilities and are used to establish Army press centres at home and abroad during major exercises. Several TAPIOs served as Army press officers in the Gulf and afterwards on Operation Haven in northern Iraq.

Maj Griffiths describes the standard of military photography as excellent.

"With so much happening around them, Bosnia presents the photographers with a rich tapestry of pictorial subjects. It

Maj Peter Griffiths selects another negative for printing; behind him is a selection of more than 2,000 Bosnia articles that have appeared in regional newspapers

Picture: Terry Champion



couldn't afford to send journalists is very exciting for them. There is a very real element of danger which tends to give their pictures an extra dimension of quality."

Just how dangerous an assignment it can be was graphically demonstrated when Army photographer SSgt Pete Bristo was shot in the head by a sniper while photographing an operation.

The centre also supplies material to national newspapers and picture agencies, and provides the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Central Office of Information with photographs for display in



136 embassies and consulates worldwide.

An Op Grapple photographic exhibition currently on display at the National Army Museum is expected to be seen by up to 200,000 people during its six-month run.

Maj Jim Campbell RRW is news editor. He planned the media production centre last year under the direction of the then acting Chief Public Information Officer UKLF, Mr Roger Goodwin.

"We looked at the aims and how we could achieve them. It turned out the best idea was to target the regional media who couldn't afford to send journalists and photographers to Bosnia on grounds of cost."

Stories are offered to the large regional daily and evening newspapers and more than 1,600 weeklies nationwide.

"We target areas individually and often try for a more in-depth feature spotlighting the work of five or six soldiers from the same area, accompanied by a selection of photographs illustrating the Army's part in the humanitarian operation," said Maj Campbell.

The production centre offers radio tapes to more than 180 radio stations in the UK. Professional radio tape recording



Most popular photograph provided by UKMPC (above) shows LCpl Karen Manzie AGC helping refugees in Bosnia. Taken by SSgt Pete Bristo (right), it has appeared in more than 300 regional newspaper articles

journalist. He can also script television work and the UKLF mobile news team has been filming soldiers for local television consumption.

He dismissed suggestions that the centre was a propaganda machine.

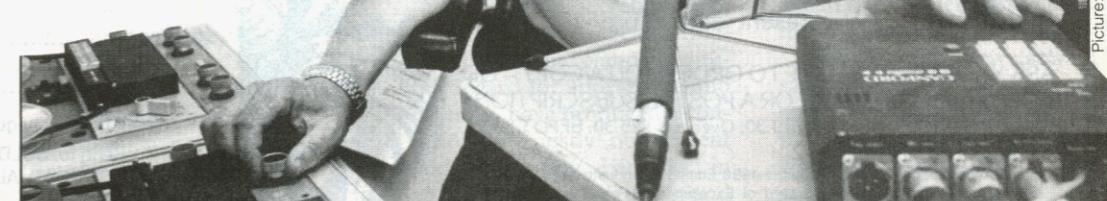
"It's not propaganda. Articles and photos simply show the Army and its soldiers working in a humanitarian role with the United Nations protection force. Newspapers are free to make their own editorial judgement. They can edit whatever they like and put their own links in. There's nothing hidden. What you see is what you get."

More than 2,000 newspaper articles have been published, worth more than £1.2m in advertising

equipment held at UKLF was retrieved from storage and matched up to a new sound balancing system. This enables the centre to line up six soldiers at a time in Bosnia at the end of a telephone link for down-the-line interviews of broadcast quality.

These interviews are edited down to eight or ten minute packages and sent to local radio stations.

Maj Campbell has worked as a journalist on Welsh and Scottish newspapers and more recently as a freelance radio



Maj Jim Campbell prepares to tape another series of interviews with soldiers serving in Bosnia

terms. But, despite their success, the two officers are keen to point out they are just part of a team.

The TAPIO pool has bridged the gap in professional journalistic and marketing skills and provided the productive cutting edge of the operation, but the success of the production centre is down to team work.

Without the support of Government Information Service civilian press officers, Army public relations staff and Service photographers providing the raw material from Bosnia, the centre could not function.

Through its success, the United Kingdom Media Production Centre has provided a template for future operations which require positive news coverage.

Picture: Terry Champion

Trip aids Chernobyl victims

TWO VANS driven by an off-duty Army team and packed with medicine, clothes and toys for victims of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster left Wales last month for the Ukraine.

Brainchild of Maj Richard Gash and his wife, Hayley, of Brecon, the project was triggered by a harrowing TV documentary earlier this year about the thousands of youngsters suffering after-effects of the radiation leak.

The couple were joined for the ten-day, 1,700-mile trip by WO2 "Blue" Harding, Cpl Simon Brookes and LCpl William Morris of the Army's Tactical Wing at Dering Lines, Brecon.

They were heading, via the Netherlands, Germany and Poland for the small town of Chernigov to distribute their £3,000 cargo to the families of children stricken by nuclear-related stomach and glandular problems.

The goods were bought with cash raised by local businesses and schools and the Mayor of Brecon's Fund.



Heading for the Ukraine: Left to right, WO2 "Blue" Harding, Maj Richard Gash, Mrs Hayley Gash, Cpl Simon Brookes and LCpl William Morris, with goods for victims of Chernobyl

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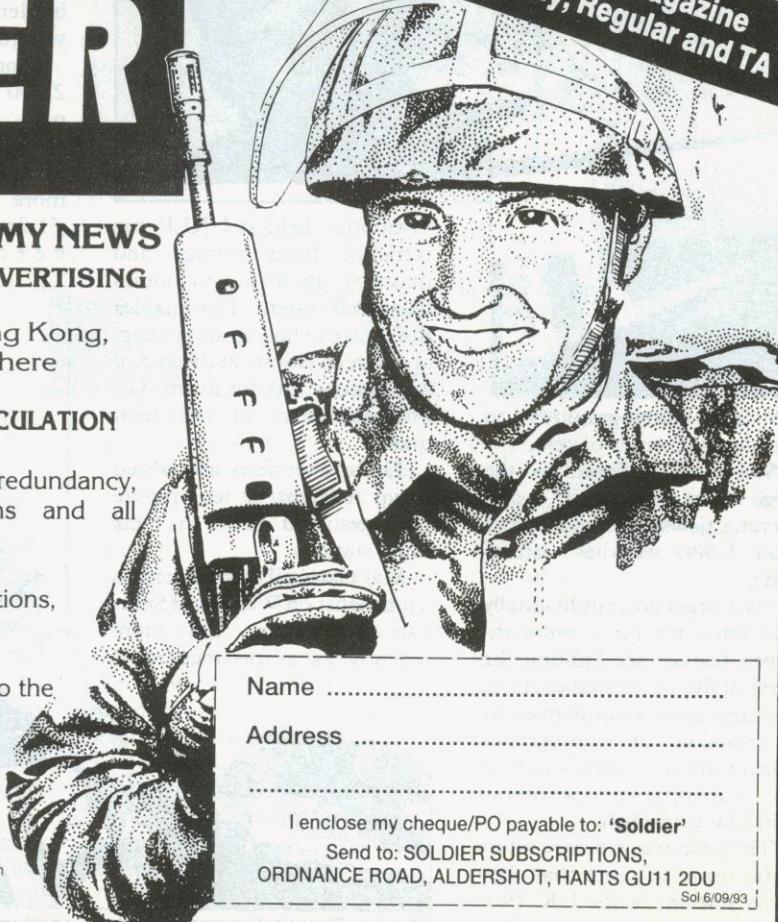
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Home of Army is subject to major changes

ON THE odd occasion when a helicopter landing in Aldershot has the temerity to stray a yard or two off its carefully designated course, at the top of whose "In" tray do the letters from concerned residents end up?

Or, when, as part of the essential security arrangements which go hand in hand with life in a military town, road blocks are set up, with their resultant traffic jams, whose headache, ultimately, is it?

The answer to both questions, and to a third query of far greater significance to the Army – namely who is in more of a position than most to steer the destiny of Aldershot as a military town – is the garrison commander.

SOLDIER interviewed Col Paul Pettigrew, the outgoing commander (and deputy commander Aldershot area) shortly before Col Tony Holt took over the reins this month.

"I describe myself as chief executive of Aldershot Garrison," said Col Pettigrew. "I command few of the soldiers but I do actually manage all of the property."

Some property!

Spread over 7,000 acres, the colonel's "estate" currently covers 86 units and 2,600 quarters.

But, as Bob Dylan once put it, the times they are a-changing.

"Back in 1961, Aldershot had quarters and barracks mixed in the town," Col Pettigrew explained.

"The place consisted almost entirely of training establishments – in fact the badge of Aldershot at the time consisted of a torch (representing knowledge) and crossed searchlights."

Aldershot Camp itself came into being in 1854 at the out-

break of the Crimean War, when a large area of land to the north and south of the Basingstoke Canal was purchased to build a hatted camp for 20,000 troops.

Exactly 100 years ago, permanent buildings were completed, on a gridiron layout, replacing the huts.

But, as the introduction to a proposed plan for the new mil-



Col Paul Pettigrew, until recently Aldershot Garrison commander

THE COLONEL'S ESTATE

Phil Wilcox met Col Paul Pettigrew shortly before he relinquished his post as Aldershot Garrison's "chief executive"

One new barracks, Lille, had been built regardless of its relationship to the units with which it was chiefly associated, the introduction continued.

The aim in the new camp, it said, would be "to create a sense of location and purpose by well defined living and working areas, with clear grouping and a strong environment".

● Turn to next page



Above - Accommodation blocks at Lille Barracks - each named after past COs of 7RHA, currently housed there

Inset - More in the 90s style: single junior NCO's room at Lille

Aldershot

• From Page 19

mental character in the main military, industrial and domestic areas."

Thirty years on, not a lot has changed, said Col Pettigrew.

"The aim was to put all the quarters round the edge of the town, with Hospital Hill being designated as a green area. The old hospital, built in 1877, was going to move to the north camp, where the Connaught Hospital was."

As it has transpired, with the recent announcement that the Army's main hospital will be based in Aldershot, the middle of the Connaught, listed as a historical monument, will now be incorporated as the officers' mess in the new Tournai Barracks currently being constructed.

Otherwise, the basic concept of quarters sited round the edge of the green area, with barracks in the middle, is much as envisaged.

The crucial changes, with the disappearance of The Parachute Regiment Training Depot to other locations and the RCT's similar vanishing act to become part of the Royal Logistic Corps at Deepcut, involve Montgomery Lines which is currently occupied by the bulk of 5 Airborne Brigade and the future use to be made

of Browning, Mons and Buller Barracks.

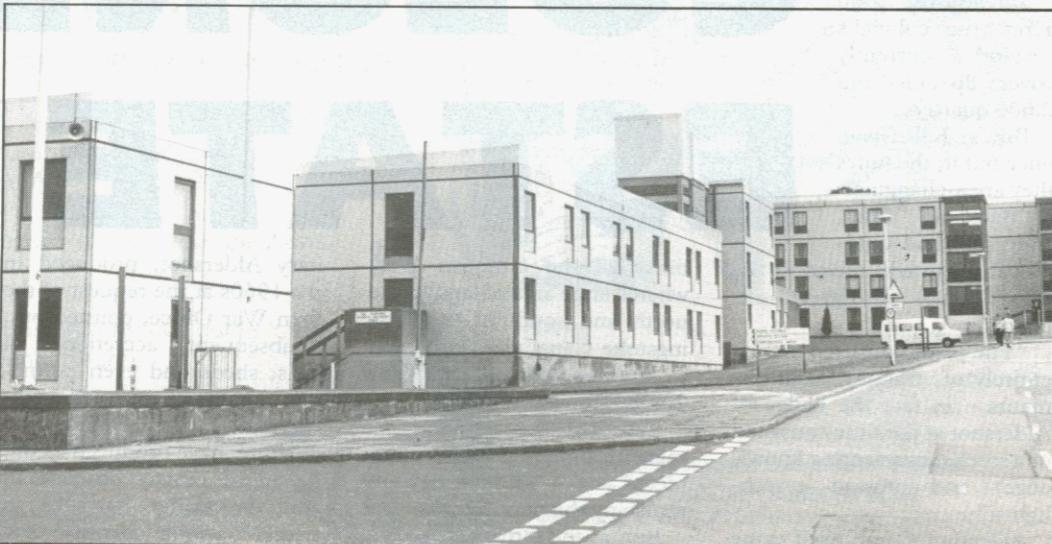
"In the 1960s when Montgomery Lines was built, you could fit three units into a 15 acre site. Nowadays the same site is allocated to one unit," said Col Pettigrew.

This means that the two Parachute Battalions will move into brand new purpose-built barracks: Tournai will be ready by 1994 or 1995, the colonel said.

"There are many decisions to be made about the future of the town and its accommodation, now that, with the exception of the RLC's Army Catering Division, training organisations have largely moved on."

Browning and Buller Barracks will have to be modified for trained soldiers as fieldforce

As the colonel pointed out:



Buller Barracks: older-style blocks, where RCT (now Royal Logistic Corps) are accommodated

"Any graduate of Mons Officer Cadet School wishing to see his old barracks had better do it rather quickly."

The headquarters of 5 Airborne Brigade, plus its logistics battalion, will eventually be housed in Tournai Barracks when the building opens in 1994 or 1995, the colonel said.

"What we are trying to do is drag everyone into the confines of the military town," said Col Pettigrew.

"This is a decision which has been taken for various reasons apart from cost."

The moves will have knock-on effects on some outposts "to the left of the A325": the Officers' Club, for example, has

units move in. Also, pending the report of the Review of Army Command Structures, HQ Aldershot area will move from Wavell House to Buller Barracks. The only other major move mooted, now that Mons is on its way out, is that the local Clayton Barracks will become the transit camp.

Current projects range from £1.2m for the refurbishment of the indoor riding school, where Winston Churchill learnt to ride, to £5m for a completely new water supply, £25m for the new barracks and between £40m and £50m for the new hospital.

Finance comes from the top level budget holders in the Army.

Apart from keeping a rein on the considerable purse-strings involved in this transitional period for the garrison, Col Pettigrew's chief concern has been security.

Because Aldershot was built as an open camp, this is number one priority for the garrison commander.

Unfortunately, it can sometimes leave him with a delicate balancing act.

When, for example, extra security was introduced at the town's Cambridge Military Hospital as a result of the Musgrave Park bomb, he isolated civilian cars from military cars.

"They had to park their cars separately and walk to the hospital, so I then had complaints from people who couldn't walk."

On another occasion, a "concerned resident" com-

plained to him that he had not been checked when visiting someone at the Cambridge, so Col Pettigrew instigated a system of checks for civilians.

He then had complaints that people were being denied free access...

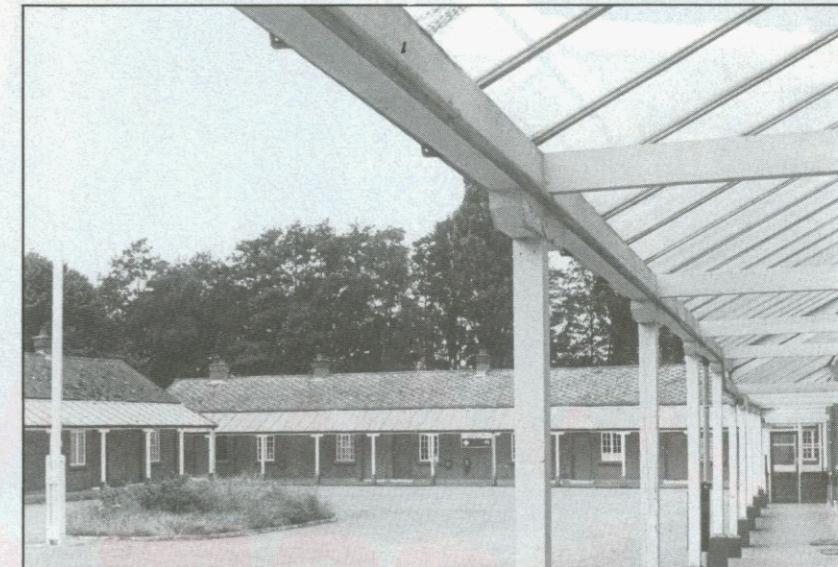
A less controversial aspect of the garrison commander's round are his many and varied representational tasks, such as the Princess Royal's recent visit to the Army School of Physical Training, or taking parades with, for example, the Dunkirk Veterans' Association.

Sport, of course, plays a large part in Aldershot's Army routine, with most of the major finals being held on the colonel's "patch".

And sometimes, he admitted, he has had to act as unofficial referee to some off-the-field wranglings.

"All the training areas

Above - Browning Barracks, where only part of the Parachute Regiment still remains. The buildings' future use is under consideration



In with the new: Tournai Barracks, currently under construction



Above - Due for a move before long? Army Rifle Association HQ at Mons Barracks

Inset - Out with the old: part of Mons Barracks is demolished...

and some

sadly ignored benches

in "no man's land".

Col Pettigrew's reaction was to sort the problem out on the spot, meeting both club and property representatives, and, almost overnight, the work had been done and the contract amended.

Now, more than 35 years after signing on, he is switching careers this month to take up a position as a school bursar.

As Aldershot Garrison prepares itself for a future as a much reduced version of its former self - but still with an undisputed claim to be the traditional and original "home of the British Army" - Col Pettigrew had one pressing task before leaving the Army.

This was to help Rushmoor Borough Council recover a goodly proportion of poll tax outstanding from the local Army residents who are currently overseas...

End of the road at Felix as vehicle bomb extractor – designed primarily to remove devices from car boots – goes into action

A boom town called Felix

BUSINESS is quite literally booming at the Felix training area in Warwickshire.

Opened last September, the £4m facility at Kineton – described as being “the most advanced anywhere in the world” – is used by the Army School of Ammunition (AS of A) to train Explosives Ordnance Disposal (EOD) operators from all three Services.

Over the period of a hectic 45-week training year, about 24 courses of varying length, some running side by side, and all culminating in a practical exercise, will be held.

For a number of years, there has been a growing interest from the armed services of other countries, including the United States, where EOD training and the exchange of technical information have been “stepping up a gear” since the explosion at the World Trade Center in New York earlier this year.

were monitoring the electronic equipment.

“The first week of the four-week course is essentially theoretical, where the students ‘shake off the cobwebs’ and are given up-to-date information on terrorist activities and current techniques for dealing with them,” said one of the centre’s instruc-

tors.

Weeks two and three consist of practical training, working together “hands-on” as a team.

During the final week, the

Northern Ireland aspirants undertake four lengthy scenarios, their actions and reactions being assessed by one AS of A representative and another from an outside unit – both with recent experience of the Province.

“The students are all under a great deal of pressure when they are under assessment con-

ditions,” the instructor added.

“There is a lot of personal pride involved, so they certainly don’t like to be seen not to be able to do it. With the fear of failure always present, they are already tense, so, unless the scenario itself dictates it, we try not to put them under any extra stress.”

One contributory factor to the school’s success rate may very well be the added realism which the Felix training area offers, unlike other locations which the AS of A has previously had to borrow.

Scenarios are based on incidents that have occurred in Northern Ireland, the only difference being geographical.

Apart from that, according to the school, the devices which have been constructed at the facility make it as near as possible to representing “the real thing”.

As another instructor put it: “We are very pleased with the

way the Felix training facility has progressed. There have been lots of ideas suggested about ways to enhance it even more, and I can see it growing in the future.”

With each new incident in Northern Ireland, EOD techniques have to be adapted appropriately and incorporated rapidly into the AS of A’s courses.

Even so, the instructors find that, since word spreads fast among students, they keep having to ring the changes among approximately 150 scenarios...

The final week’s exercises are long, hard days for all concerned and the instructors are at great pains to ensure that there is no fall in standards or lapses of concentration on the part of their protégés.

Operators, who were dealing with anything from booby-trapped buildings to Mk 12 mortars concealed in the most

A suspicious package blown up in Felix’s “Post Office” is checked: it turned out to be a hoax



Above – Students, backed up by armed MoD police, take part in a siege exercise at one of the training area's houses

Left – Operator under training prepares to blow up a suspected object: different people approach tasks in different ways, says the Army School of Ammunition

on a well-executed final task.

However, most who fail get an opportunity to return to the School of Ammunition, usually after six months, having gained a little more experience.

For the present, though, as one of the teams tackled a suspect beer keg in a “rural area” down the road from “George’s Garage”, it would probably be fair to say that all involved, instructors and students alike, were looking forward to the evening.

Course completed, they could then afford to relax, at least for a short time.

The participants would say amen to that.

At the critical final stage, based on the assessments made throughout the week, some had passed, some already failed – and others were relying

innocent domestic objects, range from sergeants to captains.

Number Twos generally return on promotion at a later date to further their EOD training.

“It’s a very intense four weeks,” one instructor pointed out. “They certainly know at



Above: Royal horse-powered Artillery? RHA batteries drive past their Captain General, the Queen

Right – Pikemen of the Honourable Artillery Company pay tribute to their monarch

Below – The King's Troop take their turn on parade



WITH ONE exception (and that only because they were on duty in Cyprus), all 22 of the batteries in the Regular and Territorial Armies with Royal Horse Artillery connections turned out on August 3 for a very special occasion.

Names redolent of a glorious past – Hondeghem, Sanna's Post, Tombs's Troop – joined other batteries at Government House, Woolwich as the RHA celebrated its bicentenary in front of the Queen, Captain-General of the Royal Regiment of Artillery.

From the Peninsular Campaign under Wellington to more current involvements such as Northern Ireland and Bosnia, the RHA has played a leading role.

As Second World War commander Lt Gen Sir Brian Horrocks said: "The Royal Horse

Artillery can justifiably claim to have proved themselves an élite throughout their long history.

"Many regiments lay claim to this title for social reasons, but not the RHA. They have earned it by sheer professional efficiency."

Drawn from all over the country and overseas, the participants on the day certainly lived up to that reputation as, joined by Old Comrades – including one VC holder – who had served in both world wars, they laid on a spectacle worthy of a monarch.

A fanfare from the magnificent building's south arch signified the Queen's arrival on the scene, followed by a 21-gun royal salute and guard of honour.

Then it was time for a parade – arguably one of the largest to be held in post-war years.

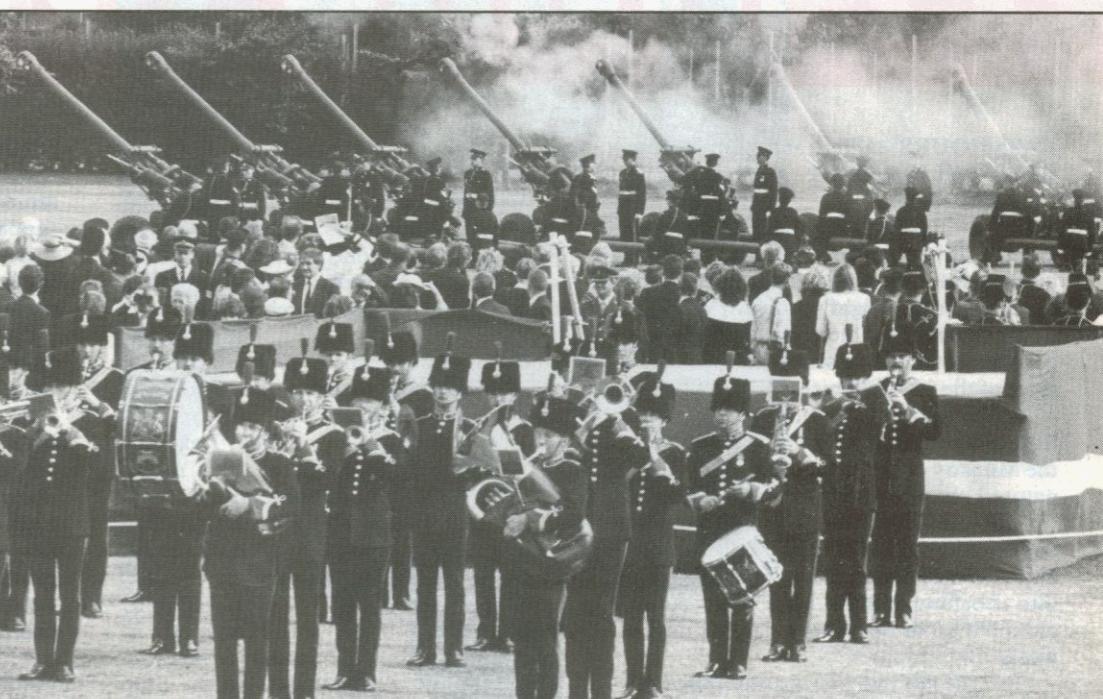
Row upon row of loyal soldiers was reviewed, speeches made, prayers said, and the Old Comrades – neat as a pin and every bit as disciplined as their more youthful modern counterparts – marched past their sovereign, led by Gen Sir Harry Toto, the Standard party of the RHA Association and the Colour party of the Royal Artillery Association.

In their wake, in an impressive display of horsepower both mechanically and literally, followed a drive-past by RHA batteries and The King's Troop Royal Horse Artillery.

As each rank of huge, wheeled guns passed particular sections of the large assembled crowd, those in uniform gave a proud salute, as befits the regimental Colours represented by the weapons themselves.

The Queen, escorted by the Master Gunner, Gen Sir Martin Farndale, proceeded to the family garden party which had been prepared by the regiment.

Following a route punctuated by pikemen of the Honourable Artillery Company, she, to use the modern parlance, "went walkabout", meeting guests, together with soldiers who had participated



Above – Rarely seen spectacle: the rafale, a combination of music and gunfire which marked the end of the RHA's royal visit

Left – The Queen, accompanied by the Master Gunner, Gen Sir Martin Farndale (left) and Maj Gen Michael Tennant, Director Royal Artillery, inspects the parade at Woolwich



in the parade.

Then, as the time approached five o'clock, the guard of honour presented a royal salute and, as the National Anthem sounded, a final surprise was in store.

A rafale – a rarely-seen combination of music and gunfire – echoed round the parade ground to mark the end of the royal visit.

The RHA, which has become steadily smaller since the end of the Second World War, today consists of 1st Regiment in Tidworth, Hamp-

shire, 3rd Regiment in Topcliffe, north Yorkshire and 7th Parachute Regiment, based at Aldershot.

But, for the first time in almost 50 years, the Horse Artillery is about to reverse the process of contraction as L and O Batteries join 1st Regiment (O as Headquarters Battery) and N Battery joins 3rd Regiment.

H and M Batteries have been resurrected from suspended animation to become the HQ Batteries of 3rd and 7th Parachute Regiments respectively,

while 266 Battery (the Gloucester Volunteer Artillery) is already under the command of 7th Parachute Regiment.

So there are distinct signs that the RHA, which was granted the honour by Queen Victoria in 1868 of "holding the Right of the Line" when on parade with its guns, and zealously maintains its position as senior regiment of the British Army, is gaining in strength.

The Royal Netherlands Horse Artillery, also celebrating its bicentenary this year, and represented at the parade, would no doubt wish its British equivalent – whose batteries fired the last artillery round at the Battle of Waterloo and the first of the Great War on August 22, 1914 – a long and healthy existence for at least another couple of centuries.

JEREMY HANLEY has no obvious affinity with the military.

Alongside a love of the theatre, this 47-year-old father of three, son of the actress Dinah Sheridan and the late Jimmy Hanley, lists cookery, chess and music among his recreations.

He entered Parliament after a distin-

guished career in accountancy, lecturing and broadcasting. But since succeeding Archie Hamilton as Minister of State for the Armed Forces (after 2½ years as a Northern Ireland minister) and becoming involved in some tough post-Options decisions, he has left no one in any doubt about his admiration for the Services, and

for the civil servants who support them.

"What has already etched itself on my mind," he said shortly after taking office, "is their professionalism, their sheer ability, their remarkably high morale and their great sense of humour. I intend to be a champion for the Armed Forces and I hope to gain their trust."

It was a theme to which he returned more than once during an interview with **Chris Horrocks**, **SOLDIER** Managing Editor.

Topics included peacekeeping, overstretch, the social consequences of drawdown, politics, finance and sexual and racial discrimination.

Fighting for the Forces

TWO HOURS earlier, at 8 am, Jeremy Hanley had been in the Commons for a Defence debate.

It was typical of a busy couple of months, in parliamentary and ministerial terms, and he was looking forward to squeezing a fortnight's holiday with his wife and family somewhere between the governmental duties which would occupy most of the 12-week recess.

As he eased his 6ft 4in frame into the leather armchair in his sixth-floor office in the Ministry of Defence, there was a good-natured mixture of sigh and chuckle.

"The public just don't realise that you have to do that sort of thing at that time of day, and the amount of work that has to go into it beforehand. So it's a pretty funny old job – 16 to 18 hours a day, six days a week.

"But the last two months have been the most remarkable experience – after 2½ years in Northern Ireland you end up by having a very firm belief in the professionalism of the troops, particularly in their peacekeeping role, which is not an easy role to play for a soldier – you have to be very specially trained.

"One thing I have learned in the last two months in going around meeting people from many other countries is how much they reckon they can learn from us about peacekeeping. They can see that that is the role for the United Nations in the future."

SOLDIER: *We seem to lead the world in the business of peacekeeping...*

"Well, I am afraid we have more people than anyone else doing it. I wish we didn't."

"But our Northern Ireland role is certainly recognised as peacekeeping... and many countries want to come and train with us to learn how to do it."

The Russians seemed to be among those wanting to learn from our experience...

"That is absolutely right. I sat at Lancaster House with a Russian marshal, something like eight Russian generals and about 15 Russian colonels.

"The marshal was in tears of emotion, sitting here in London – a place he admitted he had been targeting only a few years before – being so warmly welcomed and being offered an amazing amount of co-operation which he regarded as being very important for the future of his country.

"Co-operation not only on reducing arms, both nuclear and conventional, but

with advice on how to reduce the size of their Army. When we say we have difficulties when we are reducing our Army by 40,000 over five years, he says 'We are reducing ours by one million' – and the serious social problems which can come from that are just incomprehensible."

What were the social problems Britain faced by reducing its Army, and how were they being dealt with?



"Well, I expected to find much worse morale than I have found. It's always difficult for a minister because you are never quite sure if anybody is actually telling you the truth or whether they are just showing the admirable stiff upper lip when they are talking to you.

"But you can get around, and there is a way, I think, of finding out what people really feel. And many people, more than I would have thought, actually do take the opportunity to voice their insecurities.

"But they are all members of a highly professional, very efficient, very effective and highly-regarded group of forces and that professionalism means that whatever the problems might be, they don't let them overwhelm them.

"Of course, they are there. But I think it's my job and that of Robert Cranborne [Viscount Cranborne, Defence Under-Secretary] to try to make sure that the considerations of an individual's career, of his family, his housing, education for the children – in other words, their future – are properly considered."

Among the most difficult decisions he had had to take involved identifying the accommodation needed for the battalions being withdrawn from Berlin, Hong Kong and Belize in order to reduce overstretch.

"The Army, for instance, will have its preferences but that doesn't mean we would necessarily be putting the defence estate to its best use.

"I am very conscious, too, of the impact on communities of the reduction in Armed Forces in many areas with a long tradition of serving and living with them.

"I get a constant stream of MPs coming to me and saying you can't close this, you can't close that, because it's so crucial to their environment.

"If we're going to have the teeth sharp enough to bite, with the reduction in our armed forces we've got to make sure that support reduces proportionately and therefore there are bound to be collocations of various services around the country in all three of the Forces."

Needs of each of the Services had to be balanced against making the best use of the defence estate.

"I can assure people that we agonise over these decisions and only make what we believe to be the right decision, taking all the circumstances into account, including the provision of money, making sure we maximise resources to help keep those teeth sharp.

"... Of course, politics and the House of Commons comes into it as well and you very quickly get to

learn here that if ever there was a time when you make decisions based purely on party politics – you know, 'Let's give everything to the marginal seats in my party' – then it certainly doesn't exist now.

"Decisions are based on the pure benefit to the defence of the country and effective use of finance is a very important part of the job. I have had to upset a number of MPs in marginal seats in my own party and give great benefit to safe Labour constituencies.

"I am happy to say the political aspect does not come into it – and nor should it – and the Permanent Secretary as an individual has a job to make sure that any money is totally justified."

The next question concerned measures being taken to reduce overstretch.

"We are down to about 17 months as an emergency tour interval at the moment because of reorganisation of regiments and because of the various pressures caused by drawdown.

"But with the withdrawal from Belize, for instance, that goes up to 20 months next year, to 24 months within 18 months and I think you will find that when we've

got the two battalions back from Berlin we're talking about 29 months.

"The target is 24 months – but I think you'll find that there'll be a time when we're actually up to 29 months, as the regiments have amalgamated and re-roled and then are available.

"So this is a temporary phenomenon and I am full of admiration for those who are going through the pressures at this moment."

The minister continued his upbeat theme with a tribute to the humanitarian work being carried out by British forces in Bosnia.

"It's always difficult for a minister because you are never quite sure if anybody is actually telling you the truth or whether they are just showing the admirable stiff upper lip when they are talking to you."

our troops as the most professional.

"I've even had one defence minister ring me to say that his country would be prepared to send more troops as long as they worked alongside ours.

"I merely give that as an indication of the way in which our troops are regarded as being the most fully professional troops on the ground.

"We certainly should still be very proud of what we can do. We fight above our weight – we still have bigger forces than any other nation our size – and I believe we should continue to do so.

"But times change. There will be places where we do not need to have forces and there will be new places where we might feel there is a need to contribute. That flexibility is something for which we are famous."

In answer to a question about women being deployed in combat, Mr Hanley touched on a subject close to his heart – discrimination.

Post-Options, will we have the Army to cope with all the world problems with which we are called on to assist?

"The simple answer is yes, because I think we have shown, post-Options, that when the need for two more battalions was proven, we got them. That assessment continues on a day-to-day basis."

On the equipment front, debates were going on over extremely expensive programmes, such as whether to buy more Challenger 2 tanks or upgrade the Challenger 1.

"The fact that we are prepared to consider these matters and many others seri-



Jeremy Hanley

The **SOLDIER** Interview

"It is very difficult for the Forces, of course, to come to terms with changing reality but I believe that the efforts are being made.

"The same goes on race. There was a comment from an MP in the House of Commons recently that if Colin Powell had turned right instead of left he would have become a sergeant in the British Army instead of Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff in the

American Forces...

"I am mindful, however, that we must tread very carefully with our Forces. They are going through times of difficulties post-Options and there are a number of issues where I am not persuaded by MPs that radical changes should be made in our Forces other than cautiously – for example, as on the question of homosexuality.

"There are some important issues such as women in the Armed Forces where the time is right now for us to push forward. You must be cautious and determined, but the important thing is to take the Forces with you as you go.

"If you try too hard on all fronts at once then, as any military strategist would say, you can dissipate your impact."

As the interview ended the minister stood, paused and made a final point.

"I will repeat what I said before about the professionalism that I've found here – the professionalism of the Armed Forces and of the civil service within the Ministry of Defence.

"And I'm not one to give credit where I don't believe it's due.

"I think the existence in the MoD of both military and civil actually has brought out the best of both. If you take the ministers, the civil servants and the military side we are all fighting for the same thing – and that is efficient and effective forces for the future.

"I am just very proud indeed to be given the opportunity to be part of this team."

Our article on the Scottish Action and Support Team (SOLDIER, June 28) sparked off the following exchange of correspondence. It illustrates graphically problems faced by those leaving the Army, and the help that is NOW available. Both the original letter and the Action and Support Team response have been edited for space reasons.

That warm Scottish welcome

I READ with interest your article headlined "There's a warm welcome to be had in Scotland". The first thing that struck me is that it refers only to redundants and not soldiers like myself on regular release. I found your article to be the exact opposite to my own experience, which has been far from warm and welcoming.

I enlisted in the Royal Scots Greys (now Scots DG) in Peebles in 1971. It was always my intention to return to this area regardless of my length of service, therefore when I married in 1979 I applied and was placed on the Tweeddale District Housing list.

With reference to your message "Think about it now", I first thought about it in April 1991, two years before my termination date, and duly applied for housing in Peebles. We wanted our eldest son in the Scottish education system for two years at primary level before starting high school.

During this period I would

Far from it, says Army leaver...

live in the mess at Leconfield while my family set up home in Peebles. Our request was refused by the housing department on the ground that my wife was from Perth originally and was not entitled to housing in Peebles, if, during this period, our marriage failed for any reason and my wife and I separated. The council would only consider any application when I had entered my last six months of service.

I then applied through the FHWS in Leconfield for a surplus quarter in Edinburgh. This would get our son into a Scottish school and I could start applying for work in the area in which I planned to settle on my termination in April 1993. My request was turned down by HQ UKLF due to Options for Change. UKLF did not know how many quarters they would require in the Edinburgh area for families returning from overseas.

Resigned to the fact that

married (to the same woman!) I again applied to Tweeddale District Council for accommodation. The council never replied to me but wrote to FHWS Leconfield and said it would be unlikely that I would have a house before the end of April of this year.

On June 30 we received our first offer of accommodation in Peebles and my wife and I travelled to Scotland to view the property. It was in a dreadful condition, and, judging by the mountain of junk mail piled behind the door, had been empty for a very long time.

We informed the council that we could not accept it; it wasn't the right environment to raise our two boys.

The council replied, saying that we should have accepted the accommodation offered – then applied to be placed on the Transfer List. I refused on the grounds that I was not prepared to spend a small fortune bringing council accommodation up to a

liveable standard and then move on again.

The council pointed out we were unlikely to be offered a house far removed from the one already offered, as the policy of the District Council is to give priority to Transfer List applications.

In practice this means that any vacancy that arises is first offered to someone who is already a council tenant.

At the time of writing we have had notification from a firm of solicitors in Hull that eviction procedures are now in motion and the authorities have raised our rent to £67.72 a week. This now stands at £792.94 and rising.

They can charge what they like because I have no choice but to pay and I have nowhere else to go.

In fairness to the Army, apart from the solicitor's letter, no one has applied any pressure as yet to have us evicted from our quarter. At these prices I am not

surprised. After 22 years' exemplary service I find the prospect of being taken to court and evicted intolerable and offensive.

I have applied for various jobs, from driving instructor with Lothians and Borders Police to shop work at a supermarket, all without success.

To make myself more employable I enrolled on a five-day City and Guilds Training of Drivers of Vehicles Carrying Dangerous Goods course at a cost of £341.44 and enquired at the Job Centre if I qualified for a grant to help.

I wasn't, but they were quite pleased I had asked because they then had my unemployment benefit stopped for the time I was on the course!

I have since applied, and been accepted, as a part-time driver with Manpower Services in Hull. The supervisor should have rejected my application because I did not have the two years' minimum experience required by Manpower. She accepted me because her husband is ex-Forces and she knew how difficult it can be to get started.

I am also working on a project to train a number of driving instructors for an organisation in Ethiopia. It does mean nine weeks' separation but at least I am assured "a warm welcome", if only meteorologically...

At the moment the prospect of my being offered housing in Scotland is very slim and I am certainly not getting any help from Tweeddale District Council. This may explain why your article says: "On average between 1,500 and 2,000 Scots are recruited annually into the Army, but only 1,000 return."

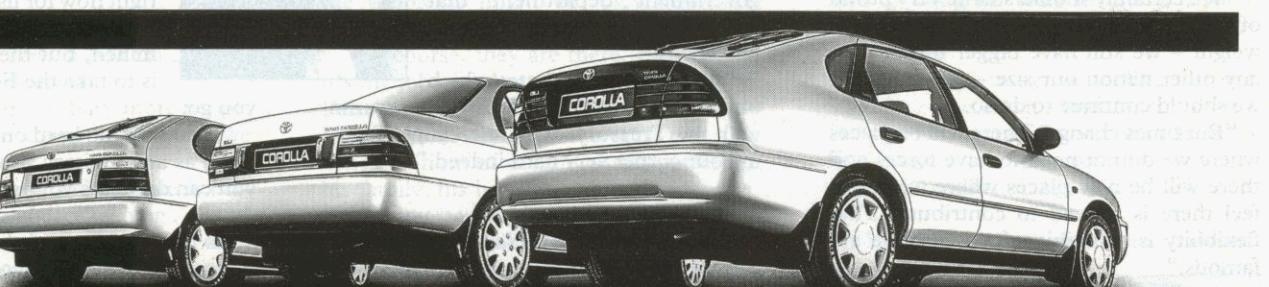
Maybe like me, they have no choice. – Name and address supplied.

Let us look at employment:

- You must be flexible – even more than you think you are already. It would appear that you are an MT man. This area of employment is heavily oversubscribed. Why not try something else?
- You must ensure that you have the right attitude of mind. I bet you underrate yourself as to how a potential civilian employer might see you. You will have a wealth of skills that probably do not occur to you. Please therefore read the enclosed workbook "So How Good Are You? – Prove It".
- Each council operates its own system in allocating council accommodation. It is important therefore to register early with as many councils as you like. It is often a case of asking the right question to the right person which produces satisfactory results.
- You must be even more determined and dogged in your search. The civilian world does not have a postings branch.
- Grampian area (NE Scotland), Dunbartonshire (Helensburgh, Loch Lomondside) and Livingston (New Town) for example are very keen to attract ex-Service personnel to their areas for employment.

I sympathise that:

- You could not spend your last six months in Scotland like somebody from overseas. Hull is no better than Fallingbostel if you are looking for a job in Scotland. You are, however, better off than somebody in Dorset.
- You will have to pay for your final removals (unless you applied for a Final Tour of Duty Package).
- You are an Irregular Occupant paying a higher level of rent, but the Army is duty-bound to find MQs for



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THE NEW COROLLA. THE CAR IN FRONT IS A TOYOTA

FOR FAMILIES

There's a warm welcome to be had in Scotland

NOT every husband bothers to tell his other half he has been made redundant. Lt Col Philip Halliday, 42, of Edinburgh, is one of the few who do. "The men that Scotland has to be dispensed with," he said. "On average, between 1,500 and 2,000 Scots are recruited annually into the Army, but only 1,000 return."

He has been told he is redundant by the Action and Support Team, which has been set up to help families of redundant service personnel.

NOT every husband bothers to tell his other half he has been made redundant. Lt Col Philip Halliday, 42, of Edinburgh, is one of the few who do. "The men that Scotland has to be dispensed with," he said. "On average, between 1,500 and 2,000 Scots are recruited annually into the Army, but only 1,000 return."

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How are you coping, asks Princess



During her visit to Hohne to see The Light Dragoons, of which she is Colonel-in-Chief, the Princess of Wales was particularly keen to find out how wives were coping while their husbands were serving in Bosnia and whether there was a regular flow of mail. She is pictured (left) chatting with B Squadron wives

Come and see us, say team

From the Scottish Action and Support Team, Edinburgh

CLEARLY you are less than happy with things North of the Border. However, I hope to answer most of your points although I doubt if I will alleviate all your concerns.

You suggest that the article infers favouritism towards the redundant. We in fact look after anybody who expresses a wish to return to Scotland. This includes members from all three Services, last six months personnel, compassionate postings and normal outflow; and officers and soldiers who are completing their engagements.

You did not say in your letter who counselled you on resettlement or housing. I just wish that you had been in contact with us. Let us start with housing:

- We might have been able to get you a MQ in the Edinburgh area if we had known.
- Have you considered housing other than Local Authority? There are other schemes – Scottish Homes, Housing Associations, renting and, of course, buying.
- We would have advised you to think even harder

serving personnel.

All these points are, however, being addressed by the MoD.

Why don't you come and visit us. A problem shared is a problem halved. – Scottish Action and Support Team, Army HQ Scotland, PO Box 85, Edinburgh EH1 2YX (tel: 031-310 2353/2361).

£2,500 to become an RGN

PROBLEMS encountered by Army-wife nurses in seeking jobs and improving their qualifications, described by Mrs Sally Moran in the August 9 issue of SOLDIER, were an eye-opener for readers.

An extra obstacle, we now learn, is the cost entailed for an enrolled nurse to upgrade to registered general nurse (RGN).

"A conversion course costs about £2,500 – and that does not take into account loss of earnings," said Mrs Moran, who has studied the effects of a mobile lifestyle on the career prospects of nurses married to soldiers.

Mrs Moran stressed that it is NOT compulsory to take the RGN course, although it is encouraged because conversion results in better employment prospects.

The Last Road Show

Words:
Phil Wilcox
Pictures:
Terry Champion

SPIKE Milligan, Kenneth Williams, Frankie Vaughan, Benny Hill, Morecambe and Wise...

A stellar roll call of which any show business agent could be proud.

But Combined Services Entertainment (CSE) can boast that, not only have all of them appeared in its shows in the past, but some of their number cut their teeth as entertainers among its ranks.

Established in 1946 to entertain the thousands of Servicemen stationed overseas after the Second World War, CSE successfully weathered the changes which came in the wake of the pop and television revolution in the 1960s.

Adapting to the needs of its client – the Services – for up-to-date and relevant entertainment to be provided on a regular basis both to established locations and to the latest areas of conflict, for the organisation it is very much a case of “the show goes on”.

The names of the entertainers, of course, have changed and Service personnel currently in theatres (of whichever meaning) from Bosnia to Northern Ireland are more likely to find themselves at the receiving end of gags from up-and-coming comedians such as Joe Pasquale, Shane Richie and Bradley Walsh.

Or admiring the talent of versatile juggler Steve Rawlings, singers like Clare Cattini and Dee Jacobee and female dance troop X-Directory.

All were in evidence at a CSE showcase, held at Wellington Barracks in central London, featuring several artistes who have worked for CSE over the years.

As the invitation sent to SOLDIER said: “Combined with the high standard of musical and staging presentation currently enjoyed by our overseas audience, the show will offer a glimpse of the live entertainment division of SSVC (the Services Sound and Vision

Corporation) which, working within strict financial limits, successfully achieves set objectives while maintaining high standards of entertainment.”

Representatives, uniformed and otherwise, from the likes of SSVC and the MoD’s finance division – which provides funds for CSE – formed part of the audience in the evening in the barracks’ gymnasium.

Soldiers from the Grenadier Guards relaxed as the stage lights went up to reveal a fast-moving routine by a group of energetic, PVC-clad dancers.

“The hospitality we are shown all over the world is marvellous, and the units can’t do enough for you,” said another.

And were they ever afraid?

“There’s no point in going if you don’t like the danger element: that’s half the appeal. And there’s not much danger – or international travel – in a panto.”

Les Austen, who took over as CSE manager three years ago, also enthused about his post.

To a background of deafening sound-level tests, he said: “It’s fun, a unique job, working in effect for a government department, but one is in show business.”

CSE, he added, had a major role to play in the welfare of Army forces, bringing new faces to many areas where they were serving abroad.

“For a group of guys in the mountains in Bosnia to say: ‘Has he or she come all this way here to see us?’ is really what it is all about.”

Mr Austen and his five other team members – an assistant manager, senior production assistant, production assistant, live entertainment assistant and secretary – put on between them an average of 28 shows a year, one every 12½ days.

That evening’s production was in the hands of assistant manager Chris Wright.

No stranger to the London theatre scene himself, having acted in many productions, he changed careers ten years ago when he heard about a technical job with a CSE show going to the Falklands.

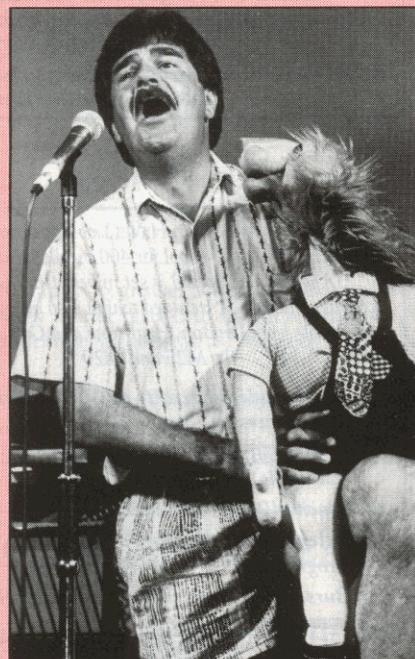
Bored with long runs, he was



Above – Assistant manager Chris Wright has a talk on the finer points of choreography

Right – TV personality Bob Caroigees – another CSE discovery – with “Plonky”

Below – rising star Joe Pasquale in mid-Robert Mitchum impression



Popular CSE “protégé” Jim Davidson, a “British Bob Hope”

looking for a bit of activity.

“I certainly found it,” he told SOLDIER during a break in rehearsals. “Bosnia bears no comparison to the West End.”

He and Les Austen hold occasional auditions for new talent.

“We take the business of finding artistes very seriously,” Chris Wright said.

“Agents ring us up, and I find the artistes’ grapevine is good, with people recommending us to go and see a certain person.

“You have to be very aware of trends, reflecting what is going on in the UK – especially for productions in Germany and Cyprus, where families spend more time in a posting.”

For the two hours of the show, the entertainers have “taken the audience home to the UK”, he smiled.

The big difference was that, in the UK, audiences see the performers on stage, jump in their cars and drive home.

On a CSE tour, socialising was 30 per cent of the job, Chris Wright explained.

“There is no point in taking

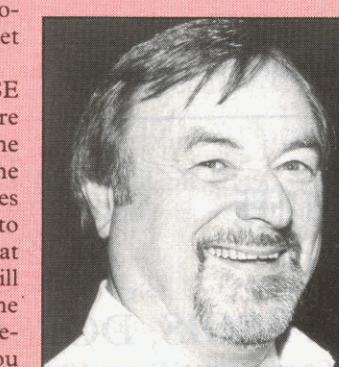
Vocalist Clare Cattini socks it to ‘em

acts all the way to the Falklands or Belize if they are not interested in talking to the people.

“We are the last road show: there is nobody else who does it. For performers doing gigs on the established theatre circuit, they will go to their separate accommodation and meet up that night.

“On a CSE tour, we are together all the time, sharing the adventure. Les and I try to arrange it so that there is a bill where someone will know somebody else. If you go to the Falklands for two weeks, living together and working together, it is important that people get on with each other and enjoy themselves: it shows on stage.”

The worlds of the Services and entertainment are chalk and cheese in most respects, he said, but on a mountainside in



Les Austen, CSE manager

“That is precisely what CSE is: a commodity,” he said.

“My personal view is that if we were to be privatised it would be extremely difficult to maintain quality control and the costs would soar.”

“At the moment, a rig can be put up in a day by me and a

small team of freelances.”

For the moment, though, he and senior production assistant Tom Spencer – who between them “try to make the tours as easy and enjoyable as possible” for the artistes – were looking forward to showing a largely untested audience just what a CSE show can offer.

A few hours later, checking his props “backstage”, Joe Pasquale, one of the new breed of young comics, said: “There is nothing else like touring with CSE: it’s a great life.”

Said by some to be the new Tommy Cooper, he was approached during a summer season in Jersey to join the organisation.

“I’ve now done eight or nine shows, including Belize and the Falklands, and I am booked for Cyprus in November,” he said.

“I like to think it is a morale-booster for the troops. I found Northern Ireland one of the more challenging areas, where it is a lot more intimate – working with anything from 100 blokes down to six.”

Making a surprise, uproari-

ously acclaimed, appearance at the end of the evening was comedian Jim Davidson.

Another CSE “find”, who, with his countless appearances in war zones and other far-flung outposts occupied by the Services, can perhaps claim to be the British Bob Hope, he paid tribute to his “patrons” from the stage.

“I’d like to thank the people at CSE who have given me great help and support since I started with them in 1974. They are a terrific organisation.”

The show itself was proof of the fact that, as one of the old troopers, in both senses of the word – one-time squaddie Les Dawson – took his last bow, there was plenty of talent to take up his mantle.

A notice “backstage” gave a running order for the show, and urged: “As a courtesy to your fellow artistes, please do not over-run.”

In contrast, while there is a British Army serving somewhere in the world, the CSE show, to coin a showbusiness phrase, will run and run . . .

Which School?

Sir Roger Manwood's School

Sandwich, Kent CT13 9JX
Telephone: Sandwich (0304) 613286
Fax: (0304) 615336



Founded 1563 Grant Maintained

Mixed Grammar School 11-18 (650 Pupils)
(6th form 170 pupils)

102 Girl and Boy boarders and 550 day pupils - Majority of boarding pupils from Service families - boarding fees currently £4,350 per annum

No tuition fees - High academic standards - Team games 1992 A-level pass rate 90%

APPLICATIONS FOR BOARDING PLACES
PARTICULARLY WELCOME FOR ENTRY AT AGE 11
Pleasant school grounds - friendly caring atmosphere
Close to Sandwich station for trains to London and Dover
for cross channel Ferry services.

Full details and prospectus may be obtained by writing or telephoning the Headmaster.

THE Service Children's Education Authority provides excellent primary and comprehensive schools and children who accompany Service parents on overseas postings may experience several SCEA and UK maintained schools.

However, it could also be a reflection on the standard of education provided, lack of resources and facilities, and a poor standard of boarding accommodation and pastoral care.

It is therefore important that before placing your child in a school you meet the head teacher and visit the school during term time so that you can make your own assessment.

Range of choice

The range of choice can be perplexing, depending on whether the child follows the traditional path of preparatory school to 13 (girls often 11/12) followed by secondary/public school from 13-18.

Preparatory school fees range from approximately £1,800 to £2,600 per term; the current junior BSA rate is £1,732 per term.

Senior schools, including public schools, range from £2,300 to £4,000; the senior rate of BSA is £2,114 per term.

Some parents decide on boarding only at sixth-form level.

Differences between school fees and the BSA rate have to be met by the parents, and it is therefore important to ensure that you have the financial resources to maintain the fees over the required period of time, since lack of funds is not sufficient reason for withdrawing or changing schools.

There are, of course, many schools whose fees do not exceed the BSA rate by very much - this may be through good housekeeping, good business acumen, or the possession

of substantial endowments and investments.

facilities available and the curriculum offered, recreational provision and accommodation and pastoral care.

BSA regulations

The BSA is provided to assist parents who wish to provide continuity of education: it is not intended to cover the full cost.

There is a compulsory parental contribution of ten per cent, which applies even when the fees are less than the BSA rate. The three levels of BSA are:

● **Junior Rate:** Payable up to 13 plus in junior school, currently £1,732 per term. Where there is a significant increase in fees at 11 or 12 the senior rate may then apply.

● **Senior Rate:** Payable at any time from 11 plus when a child is attending senior school, and also in appropriate cases as above. Current rate £2,114 per term.

● **Special Educational Needs Allowance (SENA):** For children who require specialist teaching for learning difficulties (including dyslexia) -

but special authorisation has to be obtained. Advice is available from SCEA Special Needs Section. Current rate £2,819.

Eligibility

Children between the ages of 5 and 18 qualify for BSA.

A school for which BSA is claimed must be registered with the Department for Education, and provide suitable boarding facilities.

It must also appear on the List of Admissible Schools held by pay offices, although this is not necessarily an endorsement.

BSA is available for weekly boarding, but you should ensure that adequate arrangements are made for weekends should you be posted overseas - you would not be able to make a case for changing schools in such circumstances.

● **Importance of advice**
Most Service Education Centres will have a least one officer whom you can consult for advice, but who cannot be expected to have knowledge of every UK school.

● **The continuity principle**
BSA is provided solely to assist Service parents to provide continuity of education. It is a basic condition that a child should not be moved except at

● Turn to next page

"The most popular boarding school for Service children"

(Sunday Telegraph, 25 Feb 88)

- 520 boys and girls - 8 to 18
- A high standard of education in a happy stable and caring environment
- Set in 250 acres of Surrey parkland with easy access to M25/M23
- Fees (including uniform) within BSA

Enquiries to the Admissions Secretary (07374) 2576
Patron: Her Majesty, the Queen

Royal Alexandra & Albert School
Gatton Park, Reigate, Surrey RH2 0TW.

Sutton Valence is an H.M.C. co-educational boarding and day school for 400 pupils aged 11 to 18 years. The School is set in beautiful Kent countryside and is secluded whilst also being easily accessible from London, Heathrow and Gatwick via the M25 and M20

- ★ Good academic results at GCSE A Level and university entrance.
- ★ Scholarships and Assisted Places available.
- ★ Teacher/Pupil ratio 1:10.
- ★ Extensive sporting and activities programme.
- ★ Bursaries to Service families available even after redundancy.

For full details of entrance procedures and scholarships contact Diane Neeves, Admissions Secretary

Learning for life at ...



Sutton Valence School Kent

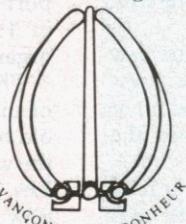
SUTTON VALENCE
MAIDSTONE
KENT ME17 3HL
telephone: (0622) 842281
facsimile: (0622) 844093

D4

Wilton House School
Battle, Hastings
East Sussex TN33 9BS
0424 830234

Co-educational boarding and day school

Head office and senior school:
Catsfield Place
Battle



GCSE and 'A' Levels
13-18 years

Small classes. Remedial and individual tuition arranged when required. Computer workshop, swimming pools, tennis courts, games fields and horseriding. Escort services to and from airports. Special terms for Service children additional to Service grants.

Established since 1954

Apply: The Principal at head office

THE WOODROFFE SCHOOL
LYME REGIS, DORSET
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Grant Maintained Comprehensive School



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High standards of academic achievement.
Stable, secure and disciplined environment.

Accommodation: £1,350 per term. Tuition: FREE

For further details contact:

The Headteacher

Tel: 0297 442232 Fax: 0297 444762

D4

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- Exclusively for the sons and daughters of members and retired members of Her Majesty's Armed Forces.
- 475 pupils 11+ to 18 all boarders, 110 Sixth Formers.
- Pupil: Teacher ratio 10:1. Average class size 16.
- Excellent record in GCSE, BTEC National Diploma, GCE A Level and in the number entering university.
- Surprisingly low cost, not dependent on Service allowances, representing exceptionally high value.

Further enquiries to:

Headmaster
The Duke of York's School
Dover CT15 5EQ
Phone: (0304) 245024

THE ROYAL SCHOOL, HAMPSTEAD

Founded 1855

INDEPENDENT BOARDING AND DAY SCHOOL GIRLS AGED 4 TO 18 YEARS

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- * High teacher to pupil ratio.
- * Continuity of education to 18 years.
- * Small, friendly school in pleasant surroundings and with ample parking.
- * Flourishing activities include Physical Education, Drama, Dance, Music and Speech.
- * Frequent educational and cultural visits.
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- * Fees closely related to Service Boarding School Allowance.
- * Bursaries available for daughters of ex-Servicemen in need.

A Charity founded originally for the education of Servicemen's daughters

For prospectus write or telephone:

**THE PRINCIPAL
THE ROYAL SCHOOL, HAMPSTEAD**
65 ROSSLYN HILL
HAMPSTEAD
LONDON NW3 5UD
071-794 7708

Which School?

● From Page 33

a recognised stage of education.

A parent who moves a child at any other time may forfeit future BSA entitlement. There are special circumstances which may justify a move which are:

- Ill health, unhappiness or expulsion;
- A substantial and unanticipated increase in fees;
- A substantial change in curriculum/standards;
- Closure of the school, or closure/radical changes of the boarding facilities.

Before moving a child other than at a recognised stage a

case must be put through staff channels to the appropriate Service personnel branch for approval.

Independent Education '93

Independent Education '93 will bring together more than 250 day and boarding schools from all over the country, providing parents with an enjoyable and informative way of meeting head teachers and doing the preparation work before selecting a school.

Free seminars are running throughout the exhibition on various aspects of Independent Education.

The exhibition will be held

at the Business Design Centre in London on October 8, 9 and 10. Opening hours are 3pm-7pm on the Friday, 10am-6pm on Saturday, and 10am-5pm on Sunday.

Kelly College

Kelly College provides a high-quality, well-balanced education, and welcomes both full and weekly boarders, as well as day pupils.

It is a co-educational school for 11-18 year olds, and offers all the facilities of a large school while retaining the individual care and class size of a smaller school.

Entry is by examination and/or interview at 11 plus, 13 plus and at sixth-form level.

Academic, music and art scholarships are offered annually. Music plays an important part in school life, as do art and design and information technology.

Kelly College has an excellent record in swimming and games, and provides a variety of activities of all kinds.

The Junior School, St Michael's, is a day school for

boys and girls aged 4-11, and shares many of the facilities of the main school.

Duke of Kent School

The Duke of Kent School is a co-educational boarding and day school for 4-13 year olds.

First-class sporting and academic facilities are provided, and the children are taught in small groups by fully-qualified staff.

Academic standards are high and the school has an excellent success rate in entrance examinations to senior schools.

Facilities at the school include a well-equipped science department, a computer room, library, CDT workshop, extensive art room and a comprehensive music suite which includes a rehearsal room for choirs and band, and nine individual practice rooms.

The school offers a high level of pastoral care, and this is reflected in the happy, relaxed and secure atmosphere.

Reductions are available for young boarders from Service families.

MOFFATS SCHOOL

BEWDLEY, WORCESTERSHIRE

A caring family school for boys and girls 7 to 13+. Moffats has close, longstanding ties with Service parents.

- Small classes, sensible discipline, high standards
- All games, and riding on our 100-acre Home Farm
- Our own escorts to and from airports and stations
- Hospitality and fun for children in at half-terms or exams

Priority entry for under-nines

Prospectus from the Headmaster

Telephone: Kinlet (029924) 230 Fax: (029924) 444



KELLY COLLEGE

TAVISTOCK DEVON

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QUALITY EDUCATION WITHIN YOUR REACH

350 Boys & Girls 11-18

CO-EDUCATIONAL HMC SCHOOL

Boarding, Weekly boarding and Day

As a leading school in the South West, Kelly offers unrivalled opportunities and the full facilities of a boarding school to all its pupils.

For further details apply: The Headmaster, Kelly College 0822 613005



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PARKWOOD ROAD, TAVISTOCK PL19 0J8

Day school for BOYS AND GIRLS aged 4-11 years.

For further details apply: Head of Junior School. Tel: 0822 612919



Duke of Kent School

IAPS Boarding/Day School For Boys and Girls 4-13+

- *Caring atmosphere with sensible discipline
- *Small classes with high academic standards
- *Fee reduction for young Service boarders
- *Academic scholarships available

Day Pre-Prep Dept. opened September 1993

For further information contact
The Headmaster, Duke of Kent School,
Ewhurst, Cranleigh, Surrey GU6 7NS.

Tel: 0483 277313

NEWLANDS SCHOOL(S)

Seaford, East Sussex



The Preparatory (7-13+)

The Manor (13-18)

Boarding, weekly boarding and day

Some things we're very proud of that we'd like you to consider:

- ★ Traditions that go back over 100 years and modern developments (including co-education) which enhance the quality of life.
- ★ A family atmosphere of care and concern in our boarding communities.
- ★ A style of discipline which is firm but friendly.
- ★ A wide and challenging curriculum.
- ★ Our very good academic and sporting records.
- ★ Our wealth of extra-curricular activities in sport, music, drama, art, computing, Scouting and hobbies.
- ★ Our Support Learning Unit which has a distinguished record of success in assisting dyslexic boys and girls and those for whom English is their second language.
- ★ The partnership and links between the Senior and Junior Schools (ensuring academic continuity and facilitating regular contact between brothers and sisters attending both Schools).
- ★ Our large Services connection to whom we give generous fees discounts.
- ★ Our TRAVEL and ESCORT arrangements which include coaches to Southsea and Aldershot, minibuses to Kent, and escorts to Luton, Heathrow and Gatwick Airports and London Victoria Station.

FURTHER INFORMATION FROM:

Preparatory: Tel: (0323) 892334

Headmaster: Roger C Clark BA, MA(Ed)

The Manor: Tel (0323) 890309

Headmaster: Brian F Underwood MA, Dip Ed (Oxon)
Fax: (0323) 851599

The Newlands Schools aim to provide education for boys and girls.

Registered Charity No 297606

Ex-Service drivers in aid convoys

MAY I draw your attention to the work of the Overseas Development Administration's aid convoy drivers in the former Yugoslavia, run under the banner of the UNHCR.

Ninety per cent of us are ex-Servicemen, mostly senior NCOs, and some of us left the Forces only recently. I was a lance corporal in an anti-tank platoon in the Glosters, in which I served for six years.

If you totalled the combined number of years served by the team it would amount to several thousand!

It has been reported that the Army has moved more than 40,000 tons. While it may have escorted that figure, the civilian drivers from the ODA actually drive the trucks.

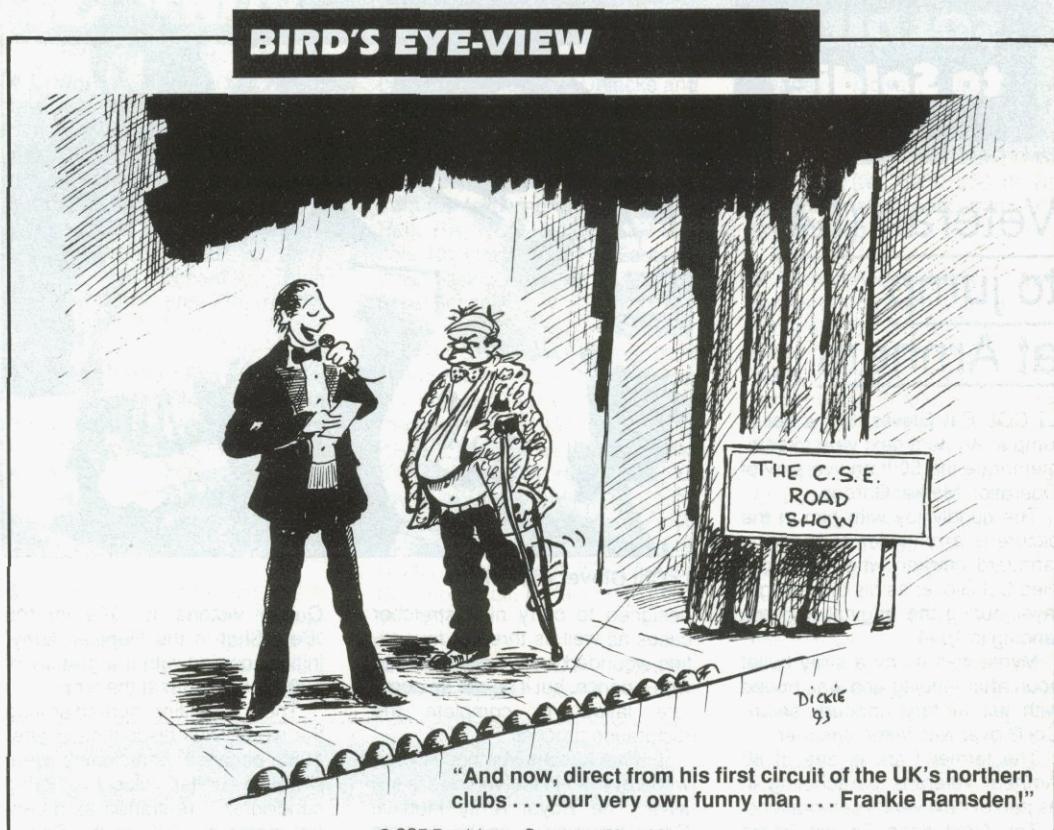
We also come under fire occasionally. One former SNCO of the Household Cavalry had a very lucky escape when a mortar round landed in the road directly in front of his truck. He received shrapnel wounds to his face, stomach and legs. A second later and it would have hit the cab.

We get on very well with the Regular soldiers and on occasions meet old Army friends now serving in the area. — **Jonathan Jones, British Convoy Team, Op Hanwood, BFPO 545.**

Suez medal solution?

SHOULD an ungrateful Government not see fit to issue a medal in recognition of the active service undertaken by the Service personnel stationed in the Suez Canal Zone 1950-53, then an alternative solution could be put forward for consideration.

Recently a commemorative medal has been issued for National Service 1939-60 — not



● CSE Roadshow — See pages 30 and 31

SOLVE THE RIDDLE OF THE SPHINX

IN MY capacity as the custodian of the Lancashire Fusiliers Regimental Museum, I have been researching the origination of our cap badge and those of related regiments which also incorporate the Egyptian Sphinx.

According to *Regimental Cap Badges*, by Maj T J Edwards (1951), the badge of the Sphinx superscribed "Egypt" was granted to the regiments that took part in that campaign in 1801, some of whom have since incorporated them into

their regimental badges.

Maj Edwards wrote: "As to the type of Sphinx that would be appropriate to commemorate a campaign in Egypt, one would have thought that an Egyptian Sphinx would be used.

"In this case it is not so. The distinctive points of an Egyptian Sphinx are that it is exclusively male, has a beard, and its tail lies on its back, as opposed to pointing up over its back.

"The Sphinx of Thothmes III at Cairo is a correct Egyptian type: it had a beard originally but that has been worn away. The Sphinxes flanking Cleopatra's Needle on the Thames Embankment, London, are practically identical with that of Thothmes III, except that they have no beard.



Detail of the pre-1958 Lancashire Fusiliers regimental cap badge

... In view of the above, none of the Sphinxes borne on the Colours or in the badges of British regiments is correct, for none has a beard, a number are obviously female as shown by their breasts, and have the tail pointing up over the back."

What this fails to state is the reason for the adoption of a female, rather than the correct male Egyptian Sphinx, which would be in keeping with the character of the red-blooded British Tommy of the time.

Maybe one of your readers will provide the answer to the riddle. — **A C Sprason (ex-Royal Anglian), The Lancashire Headquarters, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, Wellington Barracks, Bury, Lancs.**

SOLDIER to Soldier

Veteran (84) to jump at Arnhem

LT COL Pat Glover, 84, is set to jump at Arnhem next year to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Operation Market Garden.

The cuddly toy with him in the picture is a reminder of Myrtle, a farmyard chicken who accompanied Col Glover as his official egg-layer during the original airborne landing in 1944.

Myrtle was hit by a stray bullet soon after landing and was buried with full military honours before Col Glover was taken prisoner.

The former Para is one of 80 Arnhem veterans parachuting in as part of next year's celebrations.

The Gelderland Tourist Board has released details of events concerned with the 50th anniversary which are scheduled to run from September 15 to 20, 1994.

These include a parachute drop, a flypast of wartime aircraft and a reunion of veterans on September 17. A number of other memorial services at monuments in the area will also take place.

A leaflet listing the events is available from Mr Jetse Bos, Gelderland Tourist Board, PO Box 142, NL-6860 AC Oosterbeek, Netherlands.

Galina International Battlefield Tours will be running a series of tours in the area next year. Further details of visits to Arnhem and other First and Second World War battles can be obtained from Mr Barry Matthews, Galina Tours, 711 Beverley High Road, Hull HU6 7JN.

Van puzzle for Trust

PRESERVATIONISTS restoring a group of First World War railway vehicles have hit a snag which SOLDIER readers may be able to solve.

They have so far failed to find out exactly how the wounded were loaded into ambulance trains as they were taken away from the battle lines.

A 1917 ambulance van is one of the vehicles owned by the Lincolnshire Coast Light Railway Historical Vehicles Trust and displayed in the Museum of Army Transport at Beverley in North Humberside.

The trust knows the van was



Picture: Terry Champion

Lt Col Glover with friend

designed to carry nine stretcher cases as well as three or four sitting wounded, who were provided with a bench, but it needs an accurate layout to complete the restoration process.

The competition, spread around the world, was discontinued after 1882 because participants were shooting under widely differing conditions. It re-started as a central match in 1923 as the Sovereign's Medal.

One fascinating feature of the book is its facsimile reproduction of the Army Rifle Association's Rules and programme for 1893. Sponsored by the Army Target Shooting Club, *ARA Centenary 1893-1993*, which retails at £7, is available from the ARA, c/o Headquarters Southern District, Steele's Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DP.

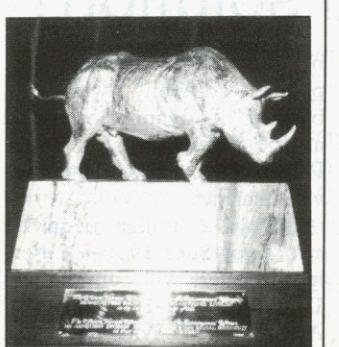
ARA book on target

The Light Fantastic!

WHILE reflecting on the excellent results from the Regular Army Skill-at-Arms Meeting, as reported in a recent issue of SOLDIER, it is perhaps worth remembering that the Army Rifle Association still runs many non-central matches.

These provide competitions for soldiers wherever they may be – and not just those fortunate enough to be near Bisley.

The point is made in an informative softback book, published to coincide with the ARA's centenary, which recalls that the Queen's Medal, instituted by



Officers, Warrant Officers and Senior Non-Commissioned Officers of HQ Lower Saxony District and Signals Regiment who were keen to ensure that the new 1st (UK) Armoured Division in Herford would continue to spirit and heritage of the former 4th Armoured Division, commissioned a silver rhinoceros on a marble base which was presented to the new headquarters at the final dinner night of the old division in Verden.

organists and pipes and drums. All musical tastes are catered for in the programme, which ranges from Glenn Miller's *In the Mood* and other big band hits, through stirring marches, classical pieces, jazz, show tunes and pop hits. The 6 pm performance is preceded by a matinee including free mini-concerts by young organists, starting at 2 pm.

Evening tickets are £10 and £8 and bookings can be made by contacting Sue Lowe on 0734 834377 or writing with sae to Pincent's Organ Club, 7 Myrtle Close, Burghfield Common, Reading, Berks RG7 3DQ (cheques payable to Pincent's Organ Club).

D-Day tanks in sea trip

SHERMAN and Churchill tanks and armoured cars are among Second World War vehicles scheduled to travel to Normandy for the D-Day 50th anniversary celebrations next June.

The logistics of the operation will be almost as much of a headache for the Tank Museum at Bovington, Dorset, which is sending the hardware across the Channel, as they were for the Operation Overlord planners in 1944.

"The vehicles are now rare and must be carefully looked after, and we can no longer claim military priority for transport" says a publicity leaflet issued by the Friends of the Tank Museum.

More than £3,000 has been contributed so far by the Friends

towards the £7,000 needed to finance the operation.

The charity is asking for further support. The address is: The Treasurer, Friends of the Tank Museum, Tank Museum, RAC Centre, Bovington, Wareham, Dorset BH20 6JG. Cheques should be made payable to the Friends of the Tank Museum.

Commander looks back

MAJ GEN Hew Pike, Commander 3 (UK) Division, is among contributors to a prestigious television series on history's great military leaders being broadcast by Channel 4 this autumn.

Scheduled for transmission on Sunday evenings from September 26, *The Great Commanders*

examines the nature of leadership with separate programmes on Alexander the Great, Julius Caesar, Nelson, Napoleon, Ulysses S Grant and Marshal Zhukov.

Interviews with Maj Gen Pike are included in the first four programmes. Dr David Chandler, Head of War Studies at RMA Sandhurst, and the world's leading expert on Napoleon, appears in all episodes as consultant. Sandhurst senior lecturer Dr Christopher Duffy joins him in the programme on Bonaparte.

The series has been produced by Seventh Art Productions in association with TV networks in the United States, Australia and Russia.

APPOINTMENTS

Maj Gen I C Mackay-Dick MBE – To be Commander British Forces Falkland Islands from Aug 7, in succession to Rear Admiral N E Rankin CBE.

Brig G O Cowan OBE QHP – To be Commandant and Post Graduate Dean Royal Army Medical College in the rank of major general, July 30, in succession to Maj Gen I P Crawford GM QHP.

Honorary appointment – Lt Gen Sir Jeremy Blacker KCB CBE – To be Colonel Commandant RAC from July 12, in succession to Gen Sir Brian Kenny GCB CBE.

Brigadiers – J A McGregor – To be Comd British Liaison Team Kuwait, Aug 6; C L Elliott – To MoD, Aug 10; A P Ridgway – To be Comd 7 Armd Bde, Aug 9.

Colonels – J J Holliman – To be Asst Chaplain General HQ BAOR, Aug 5; D P Belcher – To SHAPE, Aug 13; W H Leach late RAMC – To QEMH Woolwich, Aug 21; C M Mayers late QARANC – To RHQ QARANC, Aug 23.

Lt Cols – M F Bowman REME – To BDLS Ottawa Aug 2; A Brown RE – To HQ ARRC, Aug 2; T P Clarke RA – To be CO 104 AD Regt, Aug 2; R N Coleman REME

– To be CO 6 Bn REME, Aug 2; A F Foster RA – To MoD, Aug 2; R A Hills RE – To RE Diving Est RSM, Aug 10; M W D Oldnall REME – To be Comd Equip Sup HQ BFHK, Aug 3; R B Paddison DERR – To be CO 2 Wessex, Aug 3; R E P Spencer AGC(ALS) – To HQ BAOR, Aug 2; G A Young RA – To HQ AFCENT (Staff), Aug 4; A P Harris RE – To HQ RSM, Aug 2; A G Chalmers REME – To SEME, Aug 9; D W Dobson, R Signals – To Royal Vict Hosp Netley, Aug 9; D Maddison REME – To BLO Post USA, Aug 13; T J B Sinclair RA – To be CO Glasgow and Strathclyde UOTC, Aug 13; J E Thomas, R Signals – To be CO 30 Sig Regt, Aug 9; J B Kennedy QARANC – To HQ Wales and W Dist, Aug 23; P M Watson QARANC – To QEMH, Aug 23; G J Attard RAMC to Princess Mary Hosp, Aug 17; B A Price RAMC to RAM Coll, Aug 18; J M Wells RAMC RAM Coll, Sept 1.

Retirements

Colonels – M T Cook, late 10 GR, Aug 14; J A N Croft late RE(SVY), Aug 12; W M Robinson late RAMC, Aug 31.

SEARCHLINE

● **Bridging Troop, 17 RSME Sqn, 12 RSME Regt**: Pete and Sue Mayall of 2 Great Brooms Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN4 9DE (tel: 0892 544376) are hoping to organise a reunion of Bridging Troop, based at Chattenden Barracks, Kent 1975-76, in early October. Also involved are Brian (Scouse) Kelly and Ken (Andy) Anderson.

● **Peter Cole** wants to hear from anyone he served with with a view to a reunion – Junior Leaders RA, Ramsey Troop 1958-61; 26 Regt RA Svy Tp 1961-64 (Malaya), and Shoeburyness/Cyprus 1964-66. Especially Paddy Miller, B Collis, C Hughes, Hobo Turner and Floyd Pattison. Replies to 1 Rosewood Close, Westborough Way, Anlaby Common, Hull, E Yorks (tel: 0482 507321).

● **14817167 WO2 Charles McKay**: Would relatives of the late

Charles McKay, last known address Larkhill, please contact K Henderson, 3 Douglas Brown's Walk, Larkhill, Salisbury, Wilts SP4 8PL (tel: 0980 53658) who has information concerning relatives abroad.

● **Arnhem/Oosterbeek AMS**: Author of proposed publication on Army Medical Services during the battle of Arnhem/Oosterbeek seeks members of AMS present during battle. Publication planned to coincide with 50th anniversary. Replies to Capt P H Starling RAMC, 225 (Highland) Field Ambulance RAMC(V), Block 5, Oliver Barracks, Dalkeith Road, Dundee, Tayside DD4 7DL (tel: 0382 456602 ext 4766).

● **Ex-Dvr C T Miles** wishes to contact any RASC National Servicemen who served with 112 Coy RASC, Verden and 12 Coy RASC, Liebenau 1960-62 for reunion. Replies to 97 Sundridge Drive, Walderslade, Chatham, Kent ME5 8JE.

● **Geordie and Sue Strachan (RCT)**: Best friends of Geordie (lan) and Sue Strachan wish to re-establish contact. Write to Julie Hagerty (née Long), 4074 Larchview Drive, Cincinnati, Ohio 45236 USA.

● **Stuart "Tommo" Tomkins** would like to hear from any member, particularly Roger Lam, Tich Johnson and Steve Fisher, of B Sqn, The Queen's Own Hussars, late 1960s to 1970s who served in Cyprus, Belfast, Germany, Canada and Mares Field, Sussex. Replies to 40 Tasley Close, Bridgnorth, Shropshire WV16 4PF.

DIARY

UNTIL October 15: Forces Sweethearts exhibition, Imperial War Museum.

SEPTEMBER

5: AAC Wallop Challenge and Air Display, AAC Centre, Middle Wallop, Hants

NOVEMBER

4-6: BAOR Arts and Crafts Society exhibition, Ripon Hall, Bielefeld. 13-14: Salisbury Military Society annual exhibition, Red Lion Hotel, Milford Street, Salisbury.

14: Remembrance Day service and parade at the Cenotaph.

DECEMBER

8: First SSABA Central London Christmas carol concert at Royal Military Chapel (The Guards' Chapel), Wellington Barracks, Birdcage Walk, London, 7.30pm. Tickets: 081-673 7280, 081-539 4114 or 071-735 1597.

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

REUNIONS

● **Duke of Wellington's Regiment Old Comrades**: Annual dinner and dance takes place at Pennine Hilton, Huddersfield on October 9. Details from Headquarters, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment (West Riding), Wellesley Park, Halifax, W Yorks HX2 0BA.

● **1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards**: Annual Cardiff dinner at the Angel Hotel, Cardiff on October 22. Details from Regimental Secretary, Home HQ, QDG, Maindy Barracks, Whitchurch Road, Cardiff CF4 3YE (tel: 0222 227611 ext 8213).

● **5 Kings/No 2 T Force Unit**:

AGM to be held in Stoke-on-Trent on October 30. Details from Hon Treasurer, 15 Wedgwood Road, Barlaston Park, Stoke-on-Trent ST12 9BB.

1994

● **Coldstream Guards Drummers**: A reunion is being held in London on February 25, 1994 for past and present drummers of the regiment. Details from Maj (Retd) P F Horsfall MBE, Staff Superintendent, House of Lords, London SW1A 0PW (tel: 071-219 3213).

● **Combined Ex-Services Associations of Bridlington**: Annual conference and reunion weekend, Bridlington, June 17-19, 1994. Details from Mags Whittlesea, 6 Springfield Ave, Bridlington YO15 3AA.

● **Frontline Britain 94 reunion and commemorative medal**: 50th anniversary reunion for those who served in East Kent District, South East Kent Command area 1939-45. A commemorative medal is to be struck for these veterans and application form and further details will be sent on receipt of sae. Send to Frontline Britain 94, 107 Mongeham Road, Deal, Kent CT16 9LJ.

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Italy Star Association members parade in Portsmouth in July to mark the 50th anniversary of the Sicily landings

Italy veterans on the march

AS preparations gain momentum for next year's D-Day anniversary celebrations, Italian Campaign veterans gather on the Kent coast this month to remember a 50th anniversary of their own – Salerno.

The commemorations in Margate on September 4 and 5 are being held by members of the fast-growing Italy Star Association, who feel that events of 1943 are receiving scant public attention.

National chairman Maurice Cheadle launched the association on November 20, 1987, anniversary of the River Sangro battle, with just three ex-participants. There are now more than 1,500 members all over the world, all of whom hold the Italy Star.

Mr Cheadle acknowledges that next year's 50th anniversary of D-Day deserves the notice it is getting because of the great sacrifices made in that historic event.

But he says the focus on Normandy tends to overshadow the fact that the initial landings in Europe were actually in 1943 – in July in Sicily, September 3-4 in Calabria, and September 9 at Taranto and Salerno.

In a statement headed "First in Europe" ("no one-upmanship intended") he says: "It would be gratifying to see and hear due coverage in the press and other media to record the debt owed to the approximately 333,000 casualties of the Italian Campaign.

"When Gen Alexander, the commander of all the Allied Forces in Italy, was ordered to provide five divisions to the south of France, and two more divisions were recalled for the invasion of North West Europe, it left in Italy 22 Allied divisions opposing 27 German divisions of very high calibre."

In a historical résumé of the campaign circulated to members, National Secretary Graham Swain writes: "Salerno was the first large-scale **opposed** landing on mainland Europe since the fall of Dunkirk.

"Allied forces successfully fought off determined efforts to throw them back into the sea but they were never dislodged.

"They gained a toe hold in what Winston Churchill called 'the soft underbelly of Europe' and this signified the start of the defeat of the German armies.

"Many other famous battles followed – Anzio, Cassino, Sangro, The Gothic Line, Argenta, Po Valley – none of which would have been successful if the Salerno veterans had been defeated."

Referring to a lack of interest shown by the media, Mr Cheadle told SOLDIER: "Apparently the Italian Campaign is still on the back burner, despite this year being the 50th anniversary of the initial landings in Europe.

"You can understand our frustration at being so ignored."

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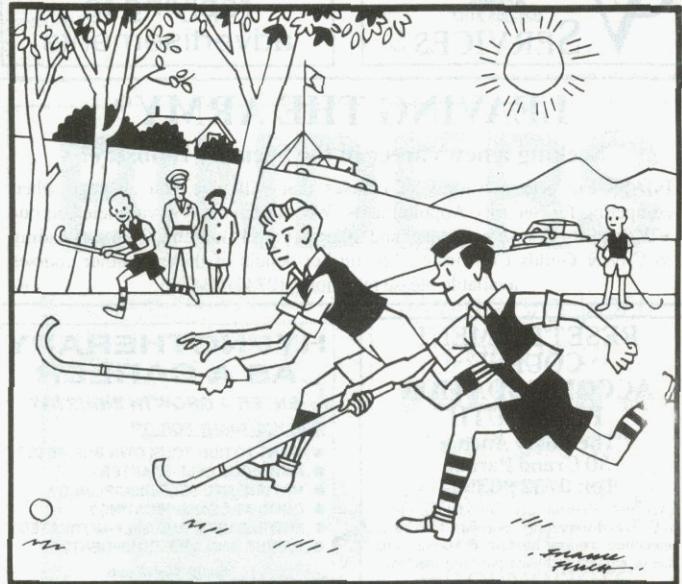
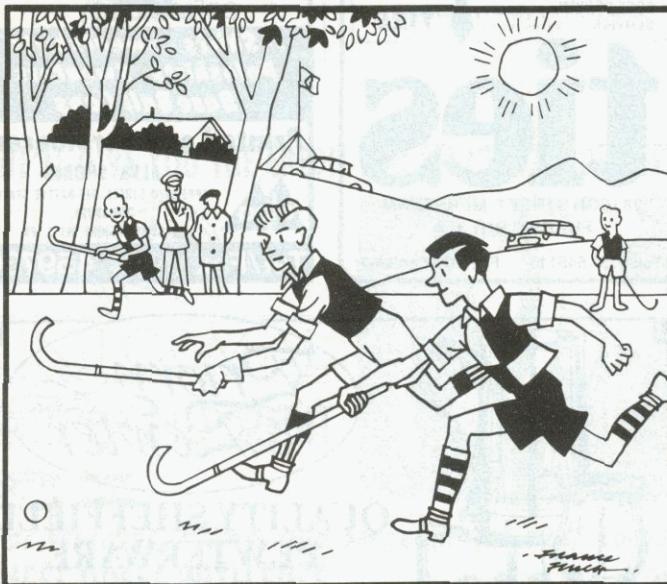
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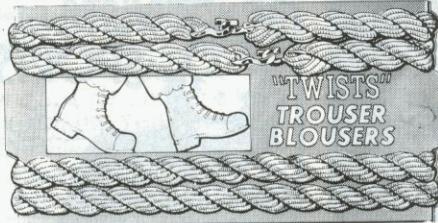
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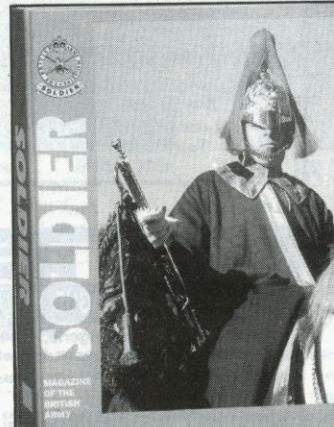
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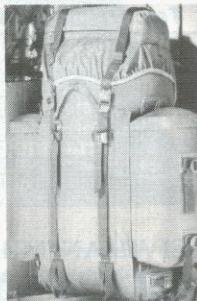
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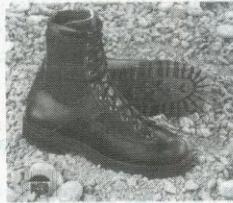
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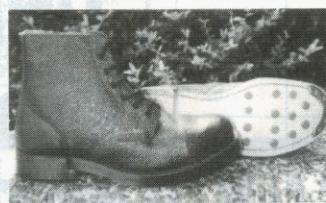
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REPLIES. To reply to a pen pal, write a letter and send it to Soldier Magazine at the address below. The Box number must be **CLEARLY written in the TOP LEFT CORNER** of the envelope. Your envelope must be no larger than 8" x 4" and should only contain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

I'm a 28-year-old Scottish female looking for a friendly pen pal. I have a good sense of humour and enjoy long walks. If you are 28 or over get writing. Photo if possible. P597

18/93

Lonely, divorced lady, young 46, petite and lives in Hampshire. I like wining, dining, theatre and travel. I would like to hear from a genuine male of similar age. P598

18/93

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18/93

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18/93

Any Officers? Wanting to write to a green eyed monster!! Lady who fancies having fun writing to some dashing young blades (wishful thinking)!! P588

18/93

Jill, 31, 5'4", single, black hair, green eyes, medium build. Enjoys most things, would like to write to and become friends with a soldier any age. All replies answered. P589

18/93

Single female, 26, from Hampshire. I enjoy most things in life, especially country walks, the theatre and travel. Hoping to hear from a kind hearted, genuine, single soldier. P590

18/93

Happy and cheerful 25-year-old female who enjoys dancing and the outdoor life. Seeking tall, slim, unattached male, six feet tall and over, for friendship. Must have a sense of humour. P591

18/93

Male, 29, 5'4", ex-soldier. Seeks caring, understanding, loyal n/s lady 25-40, attractive, slim, possible army nurse or serving female who wishes romance and friendship, leading to possible relationship I hope. P592

18/93

Divorced lady, 31, two children. Attractive, slim, fun-loving, wacky but sensitive and genuine. Enjoys socialising, discos, sports, horse riding, hunting and countryside. Seeks soldier/officer for correspondence/relationship. Photo appreciated, write soon. P593

18/93

Hello, my name is Debbie, aged 22 from Liverpool. I have brown hair, blue eyes and a crazy personality. I'd love to hear from a British soldier. P594

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28-year-old nurse, definitely scatty. I've just moved to Suffolk and need to make some new friends. I have many varied interests and love horses. So if you want someone to write to, try my letters - they're better than bills. P595

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Sapper anglers win away

AN AWAY-from-home triumph, against the odds, was chalked up by UK Royal Engineers anglers in the inaugural challenge match against their counterparts in BAOR.

Venue for the first match in the two-day event was the River Maas, which suited the BAOR squad, who use it regularly.

From the outset, they opted to fish the feeder at distances up to 40 metres, while the UK anglers adopted feeder, pole and waggler tactics.

After six hours hard fishing, however, it was apparent that the BAOR anglers' experience had put them on top.

Their overnight lead was 13 points, with SSgt Stuart Crossland and Capt Ernie Heseltine taking the top two places for BAOR and UK's SSgt Kevin Hatley finishing well for third place.

The second day's match was held on the picturesque, narrow River Raan, similar to many normally fished by the UK anglers.

Unfortunately the weather, and the reluctance of the fish to feed in many areas, conspired to make for a somewhat disappointing event.

The upshot was that, despite Capt Heseltine winning individually over the two days, the UK team had beaten their rivals to take home the newly-commissioned UK/BAOR Challenge Shield by two points.

Strensall in top gear

THE INFANTRY Training Battalion Strensall mountain bike team dominated the inaugural Army mountain bike championships on Salisbury Plain.

The team won by a large margin with riders finishing in first, second, third and ninth positions.

Winner was SSgt (SSI) Tom Scarr, the battalion's Army Physical Training Corps remedial instructor.

Organised by 94 Regiment Royal Artillery, the race – on a cross-country course using tracks and paths on the southern side of the plain – took place as part of the Salisbury Plain Challenge, a popular civilian race.

Two finish Solent race

MORE than 40 yachts started this year's Tri-Service Offshore Yacht race between the Solent and Guernsey in early July. Two Army yachts accompanied the winning Royal Navy team in completing the 30 hour race which was marred by poor wind conditions.

Along with AT LCpl Joyce, AT Tate also won the Army junior inter-Units final, beating Harrogate's AT LCpl Dick and AT Miller.

In the veterans' events, the arrival of former Welsh Guardsman Paul Weaver, who defeated Col John Edwards in the open singles in that category, augurs well for the future.

Then, with the old warrior, Lt Col John Woodliffe, he overcame Brig Reeves and Maj Miles in the open event.

However, Reeves, fresh from the Lincolnshire county tennis scene, proved too strong for

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Watts wins as juniors make mark

RAIN AND blustery conditions meant that the three indoor courts had to be used on a number of occasions in the 83rd Army tennis championships at Aldershot, writes Richard Nouch.

But this disappointment was more than compensated for by the impact of the juniors who were participating.

With a junior entry in the singles almost as large as the senior event, and with pressure to get some of the apprentices back to important training on the Monday, 137 matches were played over the first weekend of the tournament.

Apprentice Colleges Aldershot, Arborfield, Chepstow and Harrogate all contributed players, with AT Tate (Arborfield) winning the Army Junior singles over AT Nelson (Chepstow).

Without the dominant Maj Julie Dixon, the ladies' singles was wide open and Lt Lorna Hambley narrowly defeated LCpl Claire Whitney, who was not fully fit.

The men's events went as expected, providing spectators with the match they had all been waiting for: Capt Nigel Watts v Spr David Ingham.

Despite having a touch of food poisoning, Ingham – who had surprisingly beaten Watts in the February indoor event – took the match to a cracking three-setter, and as close a battle Watts has had for a number of years.

The final score of 6-2 4-6 7-5 to Watts says it all.



Capt Nigel Watts

Woodliffe in the final of the veterans' handicap final.

It was good to see a new lady player arrive on the scene: 2nd Lt Croft, serving in Cyprus, was voted most promising player for 1993, having won the ladies' plate and ending up as beaten finalist in both the ladies' open doubles and mixed doubles.

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Kibble leads triathlon challenge

AFTER winning the Inter-Service duathlon earlier in the season the Army team completed the double by winning the Inter-Services triathlon race.

Facing some high-class opposition from both RAF and Navy, it was fortunate that the Army team was at full strength, writes Eric Heritage.

As a result, the Army packed

well with eight finishers in the top 15, ensuring victory over a very strong Royal Navy team.

LCpl Phil Kibble finished as Inter-Services champion once again. After the first phase of the men's open competition – the 1,500m swim held at a water centre near Kings Lynn – he was just four seconds down on the lead, held by Flt Lt Doe (RAF).

Facing some high-class opposition from both RAF and Navy, it was fortunate that the Army team was at full strength, writes Eric Heritage.

As a result, the Army packed



Lt Lorna Hambley in action during the ladies' final

Army batsmen let in the RAF at Vine Lane

ONE OF the most successful Army cricket seasons for years ended in intense disappointment at the Inter-Services tournament at Vine Lane when the team ended up with the wooden spoon.

Penetrative bowling has been a problem for the Army all season, but their batsmen have been in such vintage form that the cracks have been papered over.

But the wheels fell off at Vine Lane against the Royal Navy and hosts Royal Air Force who won both their matches to claim the championship.

In the opening match Capt Richard Greatorex asked the Royal Navy to bat first. The Army, set a modest target of 172 for eight in a match reduced by 11 overs to 44, were bowled out for 140 in 38.1 overs.

Worse was to follow in the Air Force game, from which the Army plucked defeat from the jaws of victory.

A superb 112 by 2nd Lt Chris St George reduced a big RAF total of 280 for three to manageable proportions, and with three overs left and three wickets in hand the Army needed just seven runs to win.

But they blew it, losing by a single run off the final ball of the 55th over.

The airmen went on to complete their triumph by beating the Navy by ten runs on the third day of the tournament.

ROYAL NAVY
Sub Lt P Snelling run out 0
Capt R E C Hollingdon b Harvey 19
Maj C W P Hobson b Willis 49
Lt A J Falconer c Greatorex b Cotterill 23
Lt P N Moore c O'Kelly b Cotterill 14
AEM J Mann c O'Kelly b Willis 8
LS R Learmouth c O'Kelly b Bush 7
Maj A Proctor not out 21
Lt C A Slocum c O'Kelly b Cotterill 11
MEA App D Garbutt, Maj G S Robison did not bat
Extras 20
Total (8 wkt, 44 overs) 172

FOOTBALL
FOW: 1-15; 2-48; 3-77; 4-83; 5-96; 6-99; 7-103; 8-115; 9-140.
Bowling: Garbutt 7-1-24-1; Learmouth 11-0-45-1; Proctor 8-1-28-1; Moore 5-2-7-1; Mann 7-1-0-21-5.
Royal Navy won by 32 runs.

ARMY
Capt R J Greatorex c Learmouth b Moore 26
Capt J W S Cotterill b Garbutt 5
Capt D R E O'Kelly b Mann 20
2nd Lt C St George run out 11
Sgt N Palmer b Mann 5
Capt I Fielding b Learmouth 5
Capt A R Wilby lbw b Mann 2
Pte D Matthews c Hollingdon b Proctor 18
Capt R Harvey b Mann 3
Capt D J Bush b Mann 13
WO2 N A Willis not out 0
Extras 32
Total (38.1 overs) 140.

FOW: 1-15; 2-48; 3-77; 4-83; 5-96; 6-99; 7-103; 8-115; 9-140.

Bowling: Garbutt 7-1-24-1; Learmouth 11-0-45-1; Proctor 8-1-28-1; Moore 5-2-7-1; Mann 7-1-0-21-5.

Royal Navy won by 32 runs.

ROYAL AIR FORCE
Cpl J W Riddell b Cotterill 59
Sgt G S Lumb c Greatorex b Harvey 107
SAC M Turner c Wilby b Harvey 48
Cpl A Elks not out 30
FS B Phillips not out 16
Cpl A Jones, SAC J Bibby, Flt Lt A W J Spiller, Flt Lt D J Aunger, Fg Off P R Stapleton, Cpl C Whybourn did not bat
Extras 20
Total (3 wkt, 55 overs) 280.

FOW: 1-129, 2-211, 3-238.

Bowling: Bush 11-1-56-0; Matthews 11-3-28-0; Harvey 10-0-63-2; Willis 11-1-52-0; Cotterill 11-1-51-1; Palmer 1-0-12-0.

ARMY

Capt R J Greatorex c Aunger b Whybourn 24
Capt J W S Cotterill run out 24
Capt D R E O'Kelly c Riddell b Whybourn 18
2nd Lt C St George run out 112
Sgt N Palmer c & Elks 41
Capt I Fielding b Singleton 1
Capt A R Wilby b Spiller 35
Pte D Matthews run out 8
Capt R Harvey b Fielding b Spiller 3
Capt D J Bush run out 0
WO2 N A Willis not out 1
Extras 33
Total (55 overs) 279.

FOW: 1-6; 2-47; 3-92; 4-176; 5-183; 6-253; 7-274; 8-274; 9-276.

Bowling: Singleton 11-0-51-1; Whybourn 11-0-35-2; Spiller 11-0-51-2; Turner 9-0-53-0; Phillips 3-0-20-0; Elks 10-0-48-1.

Royal Air Force won by one run.

RAF 235-8. RN 225. Royal Air Force won by 10 runs.

Greatorex (57), O'Kelly (17), St George (34), Palmer (10), Fielding (32) and Matthews (6) were in the Combined Services' side which lost to the MCC by eight runs at Vine Lane on August 12.

Perversely, the Army had beaten the MCC by 28 runs at Aldershot on August 4, with Greatorex (44), Cotterill (24), O'Kelly (58) and Wilby (49) contributing to the home side's total of 212-9 in 49 overs.

WO2 Neil Willis took five MCC wickets for 23 off 9.4 overs.



Picture: Mike Perring

The Army's successful divers, sitting with ASA chairman Brig Stephen Gilbert in the front row of the Inter-Services team at HMS Temeraire, display their trophies

Divers' delight

ARMY DIVERS were in a class of their own at the Inter-Services swimming, diving and water polo championships hosted by the Royal Navy at HMS Temeraire, Portsmouth, on August 3-4.

They took first and second in both men's 3m springboard and 5m highboard events to win the title for the sixth consecutive year, while the women, led by Cpl Amanda Davies (9 Sigs), made it a divers' double by taking the women's championship for the first time in eight years.

The Army women finished second to the powerful Royal Air Force team in the swimming competition, but the RAF dominated the men's event and the water polo, with the Army men finishing third in both.

Amanda Davies, soon to join 14 Fd Regt RA at Larkhill, easily won the springboard, 37 points ahead of her nearest rival. She also won the high-

board, beating Lt Susie Griffin (3 AEC) by 13 points.

Davies also won the Tina Childs Trophy for amassing the most number of points from both boards.

The men's springboard event was won by Lt Christiaan Munro (2 RTR) with newcomer ATpr Neil Wilson collecting the runners-up medal. Wilson, representing the Army for the first time, achieved the highest points for a dive - 45.1 for his inward 1½ piked - a dive he had progressed from tuck after

the Army championships.

He finished just eight points behind Munro whose inward 2½ tucked was the dive with the highest degree of difficulty.

Sgt Amos Greenfield (Comms and Sy) won the highboard, averaging 6.5 on all his dives. Team coach WO2 (QMSI) Mike Kempson (APTC att 5 TA Trg Regt RLC) was placed second and attributed the team's success to their commitment during the past four years.

Army divers fill seven out of

Surfing signallers

PORTRLAND Harbour in Dorset proved to be a good choice for the Army windsurfing championships, with conditions varied enough to suit all sailors.

Sixty-one competitors entered as individuals and 53 took part in the team event. The championships were sponsored by Surf Connection and Windtek.

The Inter-Corps team event was won by the Royal Signals, despite stiff competition, and Army heavyweight and lightweight raceboard champions were Sgt Dave Tindall (REME) and Sgt Dave Maw (Royal Signals) respectively.

eight places in the Combined Services team to compete against the British Police and Civil Service on October 13 before they concentrate on the UK open districts and county championships.

Mike Kempson and Amanda Davies are due to represent Britain in the European Masters at Sindelfingen, Germany, on September 9-11.

Army individual successes were few and far between in the men's swimming events, although a highlight in the pool was the record set by Spr S Smith (22 Engr Regt) in the 800m freestyle. He won the race in 8min 52.70sec.

In the women's championship, Sig T Wheatley won the 100m and 200m breaststroke, Sig L Boddy was first in the 200m freestyle and OCdt K Scothorn first in the 100m butterfly.

The Army water polo team lost narrowly to both Navy (7-9) and RAF (11-13).

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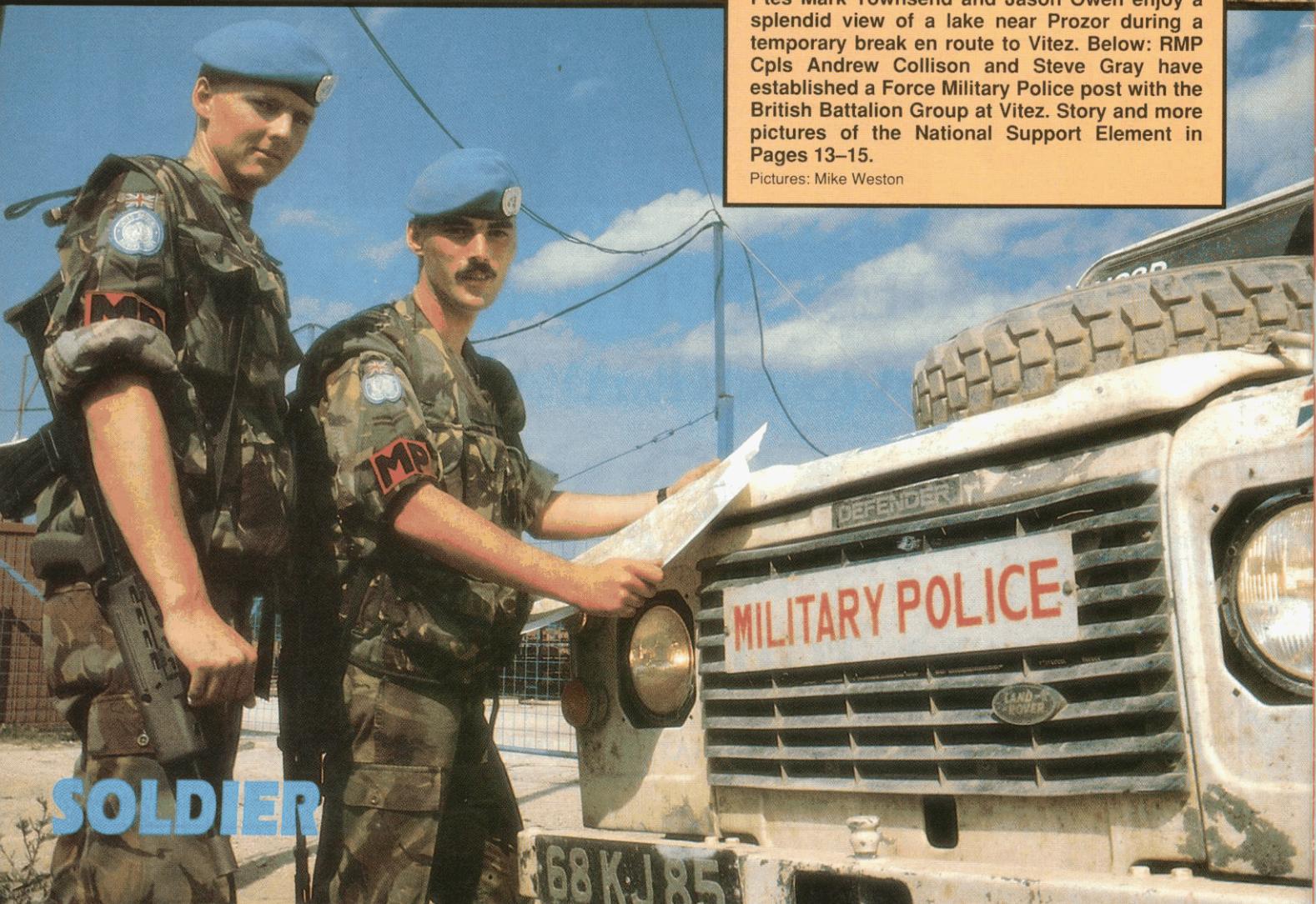
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Above: DROPS vehicles park nose to tail as Ptes Mark Townsend and Jason Owen enjoy a splendid view of a lake near Prozor during a temporary break en route to Vitez. Below: RMP Cpl Andrew Collison and Steve Gray have established a Force Military Police post with the British Battalion Group at Vitez. Story and more pictures of the National Support Element in Pages 13-15.

Pictures: Mike Weston



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