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ATR flag on parade at Lichfield



The new Army Training Regiment flag is displayed to troops on parade at Lichfield during the last passing-out ceremony held at Whittington Barracks in its role as the Depot, Prince of Wales's Division. One of five new training regiments, ATR Lichfield will continue to train recruits from the Division, but its scope has been widened to include The Parachute Regiment, RAMC, RADC, RAVC and QARANC

Minister outlines new training proposals

Infantry role for Catterick?

AS A RESULT of major proposals announced by Armed Forces Minister Archie Hamilton, and on which consultations are still taking place, Catterick is set to become the home of training for the Infantry, with Royal Signals' training assets concentrated at Blandford in Dorset. The Army may no longer take in junior leaders.

The restructuring process will lead to all adult and young soldier basic training (Phase 1), with the exception of apprentices, taking place in five new Army Training Regiments located at Glencorse, Lichfield, Bassingbourn, Pirbright and Winchester.

By April 1993 all these regiments will have formed under a new regime, the Initial Training Group, which is commanded by a brigadier who answers directly to the Inspector General Doctrine and Training.

Recruits of all ages, male and

female, will train together while still retaining their capbadges identity and integrity.

On completion of the ten-week Common Military Syllabus they will all move on to their respective Phase 2 centres for specialist-to-arm training. In the case of the Infantry this takes place at either Ouston or Strensall.

Under the proposals Parachute Regiment recruits will report to Lichfield in April for their initial ten-week basic training, then go to Catterick for specialist infantry combat training. Recruits to the Foot Guards will train initially at Pirbright before going to Catterick.

Recruit training will end at Woolwich, Guildford and Bramcote and apprentice training at Chepstow, as a result of which the Guildford establishment is likely to close.

It is proposed that apprentices will do Phase 2 military

leadership and technical training at their respective arm and service centres.

Although Chepstow's training role is to end in 1994, the barracks is to be converted for an infantry battalion returning from BAOR in 1996.

A summary of the main proposals is:

- Specialist infantry training moves in the short term to Ouston and Strensall, and will do so to Catterick before eventually being concentrated in a single infantry centre at Catterick.

By 1995 up to 2,000 infantry recruits will be in training at the Catterick centre based on Vimy and Helles Barracks.

(Colchester-based 19 Infantry Brigade is to "swap" with Catterick-based 24 Airmobile Brigade and be given a mechanised role, including an armoured regiment, a Warrior battalion and two Saxon battalions. The Royal Armoured Corps Training Regiment - currently The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards - will move from Catterick to Bovington.)

- Royal Signals training to
- Turn to Page 7

FRONT COVER: Showing the flags - United Nations and Union - at the British Army's National Support Headquarters at Tomislavgrad in Bosnia are Cpl Billy Kirkland, LCpl Fiona MacKie and LCpl Taff Rix from the clothing store at "Bash Street Barracks". More Op Grapple coverage in Pages 18-25. (Picture: Mike Weston)

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Picture: Ssgt Pete Bristol

Prime Minister John Major, flanked by Fd Marshal Sir Richard Vincent and Douglas Hogg MP, meets soldiers at Redoubt Camp

More Op Grapple reports and pictures in Pages 18-25

Scimitars return fire

SCIMITAR armoured vehicles returned fire when they came under attack while escorting a Danish convoy near Kladanj on January 10. It was the first time British troops had fired back using vehicle main armament in Bosnia.

The four vehicles from 3 Troop, 9th/12th Lancers, commanded by Lt Monty Woolley, came under mortar and small arms fire on the Tuzla road. They returned with 17 30mm and 125 machinegun rounds.

No one in the convoy was hurt and it was not possible to claim any hits, due to darkness.

Two days earlier, an office complex and working area of a REME workshop attached to the sappers at a warehouse in Tomislavgrad was destroyed when it took a direct hit as 130 rounds bombarded the town.

More than 300 British soldiers of all units were in Tomislavgrad at the time but there were no injuries. All personnel at the National Support Element (NSE) logistics locations and at the Royal Engineers base took cover in bunkers or in armoured vehicles.

● Earlier, while on his way to escort a Belgian aid convoy from Belgrade to Tuzla, Lt Justin Freeland of 9/12 L was wounded by shrapnel from

three 80mm mortar bombs. He was leading four APVs through Serb lines in his Scimitar.

Lt Freeland sustained a deep gash in his right arm, but brought forward a month's "R and R" for recovery as well as rest and recuperation, and hopes to be back on duty in February.

● A detachment of British soldiers has been deployed out of the 1 Cheshire battalion group area in Bosnia to help French, Egyptian and Ukrainian soldiers in Sarajevo.

It comprises two FV 432s, one Sultan command vehicle and a FV 434 recovery vehicle and since December 28 has been escorting relief convoys and providing a "taxi service" for UN personnel in the besieged capital.



Lt Freeland

PM delivers the goodies

PRIME Minister John Major flew to Split on December 22 to make a surprise Christmas visit to British troops deployed on Operation Grapple.

He was accompanied by the Chief of the Defence Staff, Field Marshal Sir Richard Vincent, and met at Split by Brig Andrew Cumming, the senior British commander.

They travelled by helicopter to the border with Bosnia and on by armoured Land Rover to Redoubt camp, a high-altitude forward post 50 miles from Tomislavgrad. The Prime Minister told Royal Engineers working at the base and soldiers of 1 Cheshire: "Without you a lot of men, women and children simply would not survive this winter. There will be a lot more people who will see a lot more Christmases because you are sacrificing your Christmas here."

Mr Major, who handed out pop music tapes to soldiers and

drove a mechanical digger, also visited troops at the National Supply Element base at Tomislavgrad.

On his return to Split, the Prime Minister visited Brig Cumming's HQ BRITFOR and spoke to staff working in the headquarters.

A mortar round landed 15 yards from a Warrior carrying Liberal Democrat leader Paddy Ashdown near the village of Turbe. Mr Ashdown was on a five-day fact finding tour to British troops in Bosnia.

Mr Ashdown, once an officer in the Royal Marines' Special Boat Section, described British troops in Bosnia as doing "a stunning job, some of the best soldiering I have ever seen".

● The Duke of York visited the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Irish Regiment at Lemgo before Christmas to meet families of the 150 men deployed on Operation Grapple.

Seven soldiers on a two-week R and R break from Bosnia arrived in time to attend the reception for their Colonel-in-Chief, who spoke to a number of wives after attending the battalion's annual carol service.

It was expected to be Prince Andrew's last visit to the battalion before it merges with 1 R Irish in Cyprus in August.

Lost... and found!

A LAND ROVER was lost and found in Bosnia after a road traffic accident. One of two Defenders was involved in the accident and while the crew of the second were attending to the injured, thieves made off with their vehicle.

It was spotted a few days later by men of 2 Troop, B Squadron 9/12 L, despite a new coating of camouflage paint and military markings. They managed to hem it in, and a check of serial numbers soon proved British ownership.

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Patrol ID cards to be issued

THE ARMY is bringing in measures, in line with the spirit of the Citizen's Charter for Northern Ireland, to improve public understanding of military complaints procedures.

The measures will assist members of the public seeking to make genuine complaints against members of the Armed Forces in Northern Ireland.

New leaflets, approved by GOC Lt Gen Sir John Wilsey and available to the public at police stations, Army bases and the offices of elected representatives, will advise on how to make complaints.

Other measures include the issuing of patrol identification cards to be carried by units and the appointment shortly of an independent assessor of complaints, who will have the authority to recommend changes in procedures and will report annually to the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland.

Defence Secretary Malcolm Rifkind visited soldiers serving in Northern Ireland over the Christmas period. Regiments on his itinerary included 8 R Irish, the Royal Scots, The Green Howards, 1 Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, 7 R Irish and the Queen's Own Highlanders. Mr Rifkind also met members of The Royal Military Police.

Quick thinking by two soldiers of The King's Own Royal Border Regiment saved the life of a man knocked down by a car in the Creggan area of Londonderry. A lance corporal gave first aid by clearing the unconscious victim's airway and dressing a head wound, while his colleague, a corporal, arranged for a local household to call an ambulance.

The Duke of York, Colonel-in-Chief of The Royal Irish Regiment, took the salute at a recruits' passing-out parade at St Patrick's Barracks, Ballymena. Prince Andrew inspected the 30 recruits.



THE DUKE of York presents Gulf War medals to men of the 1st Battalion, The Staffordshire Regiment at Colchester during their annual Ferozehah Day parade at Dale Barracks. Later the Duke, Colonel-in-Chief of the regiment, praised the work of the battalion both in the Gulf and during its recent six-month tour in Northern Ireland.



Derby, the 25th ram mascot of The Worcester and Sherwood Foresters Regiment and handler LCpl John Shorney are about to be parted. Derby is retiring to the flock of the Duke of Devonshire at Chatsworth and his successor will come from the same flock when 1 WFR returns from Cyprus to the United Kingdom after its current tour of duty.

Belize tragedy

FOUR soldiers died and 12 were injured when a truck overturned on a jungle road in Belize on December 19. Those who died were Fus Tony McAnally and Fus Bruce Luker of The Royal Highland Fusiliers, and Tpr Shaun Mulroe and Tpr Neville John McConnell of the Royal Dragoon Guards.

As part of the ceremony, the battalion's Colours were handed over to two representatives of the Sergeants' Mess for 24 hours, in line with a historic annual tradition which commemorates the daring exploits of CSgt Matthew Kirkland, who captured the enemy's standard during the Battle of Ferozeshah in 1845.

Catterick plan

From Page 3

be concentrated at Blandford, with the Royal Signals Training Group (11 and 8 Signal Regiments) relocating from Catterick to Dorset. The Royal Signals' training establishment for junior soldiers at Harrogate is already in the process of closing.

• Crickhowell no longer required for infantry training but retained for the present as a Territorial Army facility and training camp.

• Infantry training at Brecon to be expanded with the formation of new tactics and skill-at-arms wing.

• Junior Leaders training to cease on the introduction of the single school-leaving point in 1995. To retain access to the school-leaver market the Army will introduce a single-entry to include all who would previously have been recruited as juniors, young soldiers and adults. Their basic training will be undertaken at one of the five Army Training Regiments.

• Bramcote and Harrogate will not now be re-roled as junior leader centres. Alternative defence uses for these establishments are sought.

A further consequence of the new school leaving age is that the concept of a single Army Technical College with wings at Arborfield (Princess Marina College) and Aldershot (Apprentices' College ACC) has been axed. REME and ACC apprentices will remain at

Arborfield and Aldershot.

Mr Hamilton said in his written parliamentary answer on December 16 that he was also examining the content of specialist and career training "to identify the potential for market testing and contractorisation, areas of commonality, and the scope for savings between arms and services, as well as between the Army and other Services".

As a result of the establishment of the Army Training Regiments, recruit training will cease at a number of locations, including:

Aldershot: Training Battalion ACC (St Omer Barracks); Depot and Training Regiment RCT (Buller Barracks); The Parachute Regiment Depot (Browning Barracks), due to close in April; and 1 Training Regiment RE (Minley).

Guildford: Army Women's Training Centre, due to close in April. Recruit training to cease in January.

Woolwich: Phase 1 training by 17 Training Regiment RA to end in February, Phase 2 training at Larkhill.

Ashford: Intelligence Corps Centre, Ashford. Phase 1 training ceased at the end of December, Phase 2 training to continue.

Chichester: Royal Military Police Training Centre. Phase 1 training due to end in March, Phase 2 training to continue.

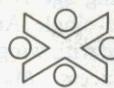
Bovington: RAC Centre, Phase 1 training to end in June.

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Weather beats Everest attempt

A VIOLENT change in the weather and a combination of hypothermia, a dislocated shoulder, frostbite and exhaustion brought the Darc Star Everest expedition – led by Falklands veteran Lt Col Phil Neame, a former commanding officer of 10 Para – to a premature end last month.

His Territorial Army team had hoped to achieve the first successful British attempt on the mountain in winter, but on Christmas Day, once the weather had abated, and following “long and painful assessments” of the climbers’ condition, equipment state and chances, the expedition was aborted.

“It was an agonising decision,” said Lt Col Neame.

Two years of effort and hopes had been flattened by a 36-hour storm.

• • •

Gibraltar Barracks, Minley said farewell to its final pass off parade of recruits in December. In future, sapper basic training

Princess inspects new cavalry regiment



The Princess Royal attended the amalgamation parade of The King's Royal Hussars at Munster in Germany on December 4. The new regiment was formed from 14th/20th King's Hussars and The Royal Hussars (Prince of Wales's Own) and will be based in barracks used by the 14th/20th. Princess Anne, Colonel-in-Chief of the new regiment, was accompanied by Maj Gen John Friedberger, Colonel of the regiment, who succeeded Maj Gen Sir Michael Palmer, former Colonel of the 14/20th. The regiment is equipped with Challenger main battle tanks.

will be carried out at Bassingbourn Barracks, Royston, one of the five new Army Training Regiments. The parade was inspected by the Engineer-in-Chief, Maj Gen John Barr.

• • •

A Territorial Army team won the expert rifleman match and the fire team assault match

(falling plates) at the 1992 Armed Forces Small Arms Meeting organised by the US National Guard at Little Rock, Arkansas.

• • •

The current Army Careers Information Office in Birmingham celebrated its 20th anniversary with the presentation by the city's Lord Mayor

of a flag and coat of arms. Councillor Peter Barwell also inaugurated a permanent display of 20 flags representing the regiments and corps for which the ACIO recruits.

• • •

A diving team from 39 Engineer Regiment recovered an SA 80 rifle dropped during a platoon river crossing exercise at Thetford Training Camp.

A week earlier the Water-beach-based diving team had successfully recovered an SLR dropped in the Wye during the Cambrian Patrol.

Field ambulance quit Münster



Lt Ian Johnson RAMC leads a guard composed of RCT, REME, RE, AGC, QARANC, RADC and RAOC soldiers during a farewell parade at Oxford Barracks, Münster on November 28 to mark the departure of 5 Armoured Field Ambulance to Fulwood Barracks, Preston. The parade was commanded by Lt Col Mike von Bertele RAMC, CO 5 Armd Fd Amb, and inspected by Brig John Reith, Commander 4 Armoured Brigade and Münster Garrison. The unit's links with the German city will be perpetuated when one of its squadrons assumes the title Münster Squadron on arrival in the United Kingdom.

Always a Tiger

OFFICIAL nickname of the new Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment (Queen's and Royal Hampshire) is to be The Tigers, the regiment has confirmed.

Soldiers in the 2,500-strong organisation – formed last year from an amalgamation of The Queen's Regiment and The Royal Hampshire Regiment – will wear the Royal Tiger badge on their left sleeve.

● See “Smile on face of Tiger”, Page 36.

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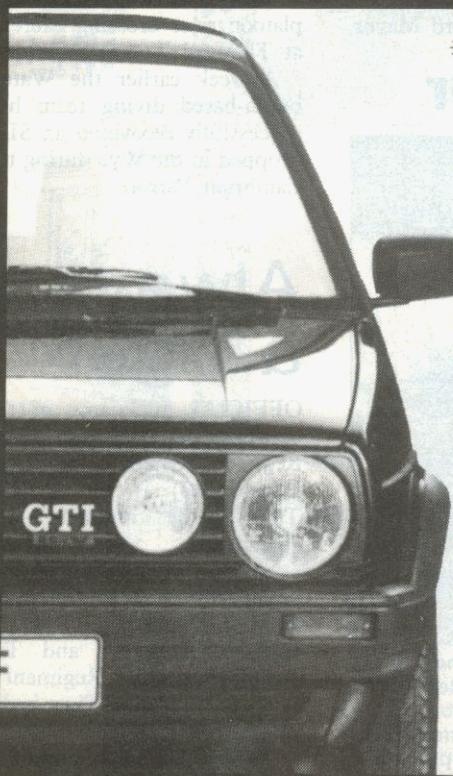


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Medic saved trapped woman soldier's life

PTE SIMON Patterson RAMC was awarded an immediate commendation by Commander British Forces Cyprus after giving life-saving assistance to a woman soldier trapped in a crashed car.

Pte Patterson, a combat medical technician, was the first person on the scene and found colleague LCpl Rachel

Cosgrove, who worked in the Ayios Nikolaos Dental Centre, trapped beneath an overturned car.

Despite a complete lack of experience at crash scenes, and the fact that he knew the victim, Pte Patterson (pictured right) administered pain-killing gas, encouraged LCpl Cosgrove and directed the efforts of the

rescue services. The citation says his prompt action "was possibly life-saving and certainly influenced the recovery of the casualty".

LCpl Cosgrove was evacuated to the Princess Mary's Hospital, Akrotiri, and later to the Queen Elizabeth Military Hospital, Woolwich, where she is making a good recovery.



ARRC on trial

A WEEK-long command post exercise in Northrhein Westfalia and Lower Saxony in December provided a trial concept for both the Allied Command Europe Rapid Reaction Corps (ARRC) and the new 1st (UK) Armoured Division, and provided an exercise swansong for the 1st Armoured Division in northern Germany.

Exercise Rhino Quadrille from December 5-10 involved 1,650 soldiers, 440 wheeled and 130 tracked vehicles. ARRC forces were represented by 4 Armed Div commanded by Maj Gen Dennison Smith while the "enemy" was controlled by Maj Gen Iain Mackay-Dick, GOC 1 Armed Div, from a headquarters set up in the gymnasium at Caithness Barracks, Verden.

General heads joint PS body

FIRST head of the new tri-Service Personal Services organisation is Maj Gen Brian Pennicott, until January 1 the Defence Services Secretary.

His appointment as Assistant Chief of the Defence Staff (Personnel and Reserves) and Defence Services Secretary puts into effect the decision to centralise the single-Service PS staffs.

Gen Pennicott will have Army, Royal Navy and Royal Air Force Directors of Personnel working to him.



Women cadets on parade with rifles at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst

History made at Sandhurst parade

THE DUCHESS of Kent, representing the Queen at the 110th Sovereign's Parade at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, saw at first hand how rapidly the modern Army is changing.

Women cadets carrying weapons created British military history when they took part in arms drills on parade.

A total of 519 cadets from the

UK and overseas took part in the parade, at which guests included Gen Sir Peter Inge, Chief of the General Staff, and Col-Gen Vladimir Semyonov, Commander-in-Chief of the Russian Federation Ground Forces.

Among those receiving awards on the day were Senior Under Officer Simon Huggins, who was presented with the

Sword of Honour as best of his course (Standard Military Course 921) and will serve with the Royal Engineers, and Cdt Cpl David Hall, recipient of the Queen's Medal as the officer cadet achieving the best overall results in the military and practical tests. He will serve with REME.

• An advertising campaign to recruit 150 new officers for Sandhurst in May has been running throughout the month of January.

Director of Army Recruiting, Brig Jack Deverell, said: "We still need high-quality young men and women for the new Army structure. As officers, they will receive a training for life in leadership and management skills.

"We are advertising now because May is always a difficult recruiting period as it does not coincide with the end of the academic year."

RAF rescues AAC pilots

ARMY Air Corps pilots SSgt Geoff Sutcliffe and Sgt Colin Withey had a lucky escape when their United Nations Flight Gazelle helicopter developed engine problems over rugged mountain terrain north of the Germasogeia Dam in Cyprus.

They found a track wide enough to take their aircraft and were rescued by a Wessex from 84 Squadron at RAF Akrotiri.

Two days later Artificer Quartermaster Sgt Dick Paine and Sgt Peter Hurry of 16 Flight AAC Light Air Detachment from Dhekelia dismantled the stricken Gazelle in a nine-hour operation and returned it down the mountain to RAF Akrotiri.



Another Worthy occasion

Exercise reunites brother and sister

WO2 (SQMS) **John Hill** ACC has been reunited with his sister in New Zealand – thanks to an exercise with the 1st Battalion, The Gloucestershire Regiment.

John, based in Catterick with the Glosters, last saw sister **Dorothy** 27 years ago, so when he heard the regiment was sending 50 men to New Zealand on exercise, he asked to be included.

CO Lt Col **Martin Vine** was only too happy to oblige and John was able to spend his four days of R and R with his sister and her family in Hamilton near Auckland.



Christmas cheer for a hundred senior citizens from the Winchester area was provided by staff at the Adjutant General's Corps Centre at Worthy Down. The Advent lunch has become a popular event over the past 20 years.

Pte **Elizabeth Folcik** pours a glass of sherry for Mr **Eddie Payne**, with Ptes **Lisa McAlpine**, **Sarah Mather-Pearse** and **Ann Love** in attendance. Maj **Dan Graham** appeared as Santa, and Lt Col **Don Chappell** directed the station choir.

First and last?

Thirty years of exemplary service by WO1 **Ivan Beatty** ACC has resulted in the award of the Meritorious Service Medal. His is thought to be the first awarded to an Army Catering Corps soldier for some years, and probably the last before the ACC becomes part of the Royal Logistic Corps. Ivan, is the Area Catering Warrant Officer for Wales and Western District.



Didn't he manage well . . .

If proof was necessary, Army master driver WO1 **Malcolm Polhill** from HQ Wales and Western District has demonstrated just how well Servicemen compare with their civilian counterparts. He came sixth out of more than 1,000 civilian entries in the 1992 Transport and Distribution Manager of the Year award. Malcolm received his certificate from the Minister for Roads and Traffic, **Kenneth Carlisle**.



Picture: Mike Weston

Cpls **Emma** and **David O'Loughlin** RAOC have improved their lot since they were both in the Gulf War. They were in separate locations then, but in Croatia today they are together in the huge warehouse at the port in Split as part of 360 Supply Company's support for Operation Grapple. David works in the Rations Platoon, while Emma is the airhead NCO supervising the safe arrival of stores from the twice-weekly resupply flights.

PEOPLE

Andy forges ahead

Family honour

An Army couple are thought to be the first to attend an investiture together to receive honours from the Queen. Maj **Marian Lauder** AGC was awarded the MBE for her work on Options for Change, while husband Maj **Mike Lauder** RE got the same award for his work in command of a sapper bomb disposal squadron.



SLICE OF HISTORY

There is not a lot LCpl **David Hardware** ACC doesn't know about cakes – he just can't stop making them! According to wife **Theresa**: "Even the wardrobes are full of cake decorations and he's in the process of making another eight."

David makes cakes for charities, associations, birthdays and weddings. He is pictured handing one over to SSAFA's chairman, Admiral Sir **Peter Herbert** to mark SSAFA's Nursing and Welfare centenary.

Airborne tribute

Three shells retrieved from Iraqi positions after the liberation of Kuwait have been presented to the Airborne Museum at Hartenstein in Holland. Mounted on a presentation board, they were engraved and converted by WO1 (ASM) **Andy Byers** and Sgt **Billy Spiers** in recognition of Airborne Forces worldwide. The presentation, which took place after the annual Arnhem pilgrimage, was made by WO1 Byers and WO2 (SQMS) **Tony Lord**. Pictured (left to right) are WO2 Lord, REME veteran **Don Jacobs**, Museum Vice-Director **Adrian Groeneweg** and WO1 Byers.

IN UNIFORM . . .

Col **Ivan Vail**, who has retired as County Commandant of Greater Manchester's Army Cadet Force, has had an association with the ACF extending back to 1944 when he joined the Gainsborough Detachment of the 5th (Cadet) Battalion, The Lincolnshire Regiment.

After joining the RAOC to do his National Service he volunteered for Airborne Forces and served with the trials and development unit, jumping up to six times a day to test new equipment and techniques.



FOR 48 YEARS



Plain and pike staff? Pikemen from the Honourable Artillery Company give a display at the corps day on which the last firing of a 25-pounder gun on Salisbury Plain took place

Recruits to the Honourable Artillery Company soon discover they are joining... A special sort of regiment

THERE are two commonly-held misconceptions about The Honourable Artillery Company which the current commanding officer, Lt Col Orde Wingate, is anxious to put right.

First, they do not spend their entire time dressed as medieval pikemen, carrying out their ceremonial role as bodyguard to the Lord Mayor of London.

That side of things is done more than justice by former members of the company.

Secondly, the HAC's "Hooray Henry" surface image belies the tough and unenviable role which its officers and men carry out in the field.

As Col Wingate (yes, he is the son of the famous Second World War Chindit) says: "We select people fairly rigorously. Anyone can walk in off the street, but they are then put through a year's severe testing, including a battle selection course.

"To get into the HAC as a soldier is a great deal more difficult than for any other Territorial Army regiment. One could say Regular Army as well. Any thoughts which a potential recruit may have about it being the 'gin and tonic brigade' soon go out of the window. They are damned lucky to get any tonic, never mind gin!"

Capt Bruce Clitherow,

battery commander of HAC's gun troop, agrees.

"We find that those types of person are not willing to commit themselves, and do not last the course," he says.

"It takes someone especially capable and dedicated to take on the responsibility of being a member of one of our small Sabre groups, who act as forward observation officers - in effect, directing fire for the artillery."

The HAC, whose headquarters, Armoury House, are situated within a cheque book's distance of the City of London's financial square mile, has an illustrious history.

Officially established by charter in 1537 as a company of bowmen to King Henry VIII - but thought to date back to predecessors as early as 1296 - it can boast Samuel Pepys, Sir Christopher Wren and Sir Edward Heath among its former luminaries.

Most of the present royal family, in common with all new members of the company, have



Lt Col Orde Wingate, HAC commanding officer

been marched in to stand before the Court of Assessments - the company's annually-elected governors - to declare their sovereignty to the HAC's captain-general.

The Duke of York was the most recent to do so: an unusual experience, since the captain-general happens to be his mother...

Three squadrons are based at the company's HQ, which covers seven acres and is mainly owned, partly leased, not by the Army but by the HAC itself.

On the evening when SOLDIER dropped in, they were being drilled for the imminent State visit of the world's richest man, the Sultan of Brunei.

"We also have a gun troop and a full band and drum corps. Not many TA regiments can boast that," said Capt Clitherow.

The HAC trains its own recruits, with courses lasting for six months, including six weekends, attendance for one night each week and a one-week camp.

"Once potential recruits have passed their courses they are eligible to be members of the HAC club," the captain said.

"There is an 'all ranks' mess here, which is very democratic: it makes everyone approachable. Privates can be on first name terms there with the CO - though woe betide them if they were to do so on the parade square..."

Because of its high profile as far as drill is concerned, the HAC has a Regular sergeant major and two Regular CSMs. The company's drill sergeant, Jamie Willis, is a Terrier.

"There are probably about 20 Regulars here," Capt Clitherow explained. "The CO is from the TA, but he is assisted, for example, by a senior Regular adjutant, usually from the Royal Horse Artillery.

"Our uniform is the Guards uniform, but with silver trimmings instead of gold: it dates to William IV. Also, when members have completed 12 years as an NCO or officer, they become eligible for a Territorial medal or decoration.

"In the HAC's case, the ribbon is unique. Its vivid scarlet and navy blue, edged with narrow gold stripe, just happen to be King Edward VII's racing colours..."

All part of the colourful

history of "the only military body to have its own coat of arms (it was incorporated as a guild) instead of just a badge", where officers who protected the English coast against the Spanish Armada were trained, and whose only major disagreement over the centuries was during the Civil War.

"The main part of the unit stayed loyal to King Charles - the captain-general," explained Bruce Clitherow, "but members from the City, where we are based, were strong supporters of Cromwell."

So what had been the main changes in the company in the intervening years?

"The main contrast is in how very much more professional and well-organised a body it is today," said the colonel.

"In those days we were amateurs. We were carrying out a home defence role - but we were not really frightfully good at it. Times have changed dramatically since then: we now undertake a very demanding role, for which most of the Regular Army is not trained."

It was, however, the Honourable Artillery Company's more recent history which Col Wingate had in mind when he spoke to SOLDIER in his small office in the Armoury.

"The up-to-date HAC started in 1973, when it was given the role of target acquisition, and its batteries became squadrons. Prior to that, it had been a mixture of infantry and gunners.

"Information reporting also became part of the company's responsibilities - a fairly demanding task, to say the least, because it involves small bodies of highly-trained guys, operating independently under

the command of a junior officer or senior NCO, going forward of the front line and relaying to companies what is going on."

A former Regular with the RHA, it is a case of second time around with the HAC for Col Wingate. He was adjutant there from 1971 to 1974.

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In the modern, non-linear battlefield, he continued, the HAC's position was more than sharp: it was the wrong side of the front line.

Recruits were, on the whole, young professionals who wanted to get away from their desks and do something much more physically and mentally demanding - and the turnover was high.

Of the people taken on for the recruits' course (currently 50), Col Wingate expected over the six months to lose 15 to 20,

The Company of Pikemen and Musketeers, with the Light Cavalry and Special Constabulary, is one of the HAC's fringe activities. Re-formed in 1925 and granted a Royal Warrant 30 years later, it is NOT, company 2iC Harry Watson (inset) stresses, a re-enactment society.

A pikeman for 18 years, Harry - a publisher - joined the HAC in 1952, and admits that if it were not for the active unit the company would not exist.

"Our official job is to act as the Lord Mayor's bodyguard," former HAC Quartermaster Sgt Watson says, "and, in order to become a pikeman, one normally has had to serve with the HAC for an average of 20 years. This means that most of us have known each other for an average of 30 years."

Totaling 63, and taken from all ranks, the company is broken down into two thirds pikemen, one third musketeers.

Drill is carried out according to 17th century drill books. It costs £1,500 to equip a pikeman, whose 4lb pikes are 12ft long. Recently issued with new kit, company members now use the original armour - made in a west London garage in 1925 - for drill purposes...



Pikeman's breastplate, complete with medals and unique ribbons

another ten from the battle selection course, and for 18 to 20 to be passed off at the end of the year.

"People fall by the wayside for all sorts of reasons - but the main reason is sheer hard work. Once they have got over the hurdle of the first year, our wastage rate is about ten per cent, and then it is likely to be for business or family reasons - but very seldom because they don't like it," Col Wingate said.

Potential officers for the company were not taken from other regiments on transfer. If they wanted to join, they had to resign their commission and start at the bottom.

If anyone were to need their will sorting out, or some tax advice, there were experts all around them...

So former Regular officers were happy to be sergeants or Sabre commanders.

"I make no apologies for calling us the élite," said Col Wingate, whose two-and-a-half year tenure as commanding officer is due to come to an end in September.

"We are the best TA regiment, not for some obscure reason, but because not only do we take on highly-intelligent, well-qualified people, but they do not come in half-way up the system."

There were some beneficial offshoots also, as Capt Clitherow said.

If anyone were to need their will sorting out, or some tax advice, there were experts all around them...

Words: Phil Wilcox
Pictures: Mike Weston



Rolls-Royce engines fall silent as the UN disbands Green Line Ferret squadron

CYPRUS SCOUTS CALL IT A DAY

FOR ALMOST 20 years, troops of Ferret scout cars manned by British soldiers have patrolled the Green Line as part of the United Nations Force in Cyprus. Now the Rolls-Royce engines of the veteran vehicles have been switched off for the last time.

UNFICYP is in a state of flux following the announcement of a series of withdrawals and reductions by contributing countries.

Danish troops have already left and Canada has announced it will pull out all its soldiers by September 1993.

Quite where this will leave the British contingent is uncertain, but the soldiers of The Queen's Royal Irish Hussars who recently took over as Britain's UNFICYP regiment will find themselves very thinly spread.

They would normally have assumed responsibility for one of the four UN sectors, but have now been tasked to take over the former Danish sector as well.

Another major change affecting the peacekeepers was the disbandment just before Christ-



Maj Julian Snell, last commander and Beirut veteran



These REME vehicle mechanics ensured the Ferrets maintained 100 per cent availability

mas of the British Scout Car Squadron which provided the bulk of the Force Commander's Reserve.

It was perhaps fitting that the last unit to fill that role was 16th/5th Lancers.

Based at Prince William Camp in the United Nations Protected Area (UNPA), A Squadron 16/5 L had a remit to patrol the entire length of the Buffer Zone. The regiment completed six tours with UNFICYP, twice in 1974, 1983, 1984 and twice in 1992.

Several members of A Squadron were involved in peacekeeping operations in Beirut in 1984. Among them was the current squadron leader, Maj Julian Snell, who said ten of the scout cars had been used in the Lebanon.

"Ferret scout cars have been

in service since the 1950s. It's a great little vehicle," he said.

The fate of the Ferrets is undecided, but they could end up on ranges as hard targets.

Ferrets currently employed in Cyprus's Western Sovereign Base Area, at BATUS in Canada, and elsewhere by the Regular and Territorial Army, are due to be phased out by about 1996.

2nd Lt Richard Sutton AAC was attached to 16/5 L as a troop leader for several months



Cpl John Ringer (left) and 2nd Lt Richard Sutton command two Ferret scout cars crossing a bridge in sector two

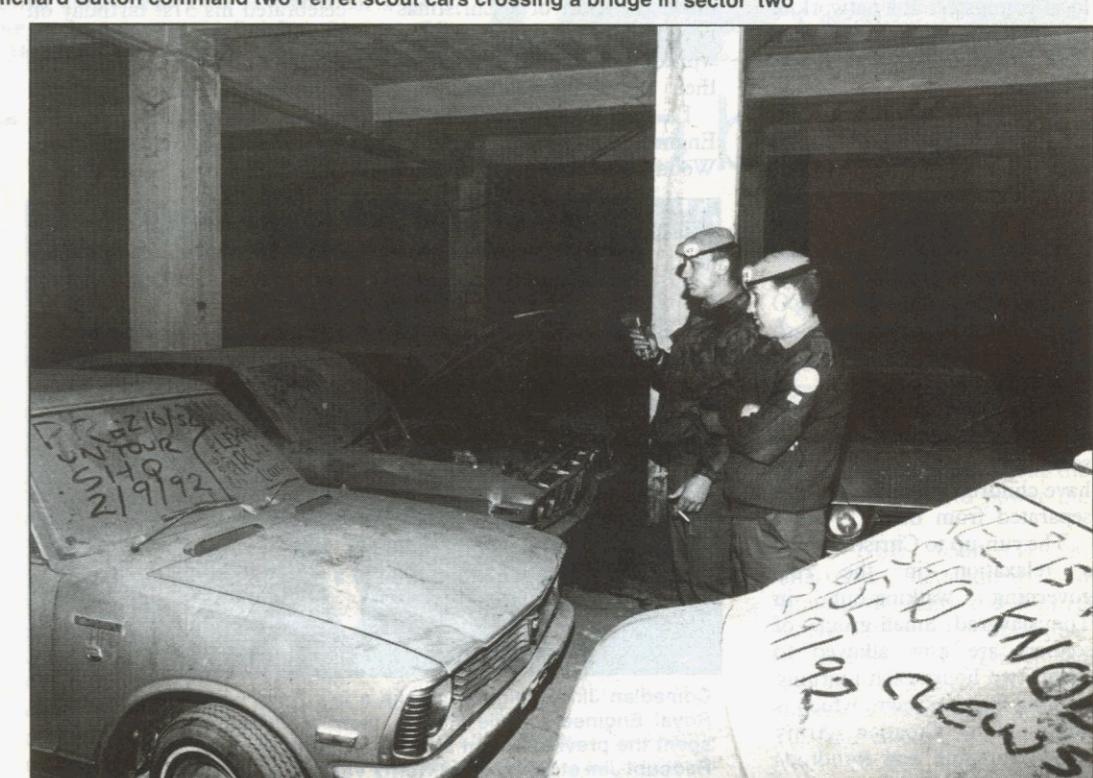
before starting flying training. He and his soldiers patrolled a track along the ceasefire line in the Danish sector.

"We were watching for violations in the Buffer Zone. I found the work fascinating and it was good to be able to work with soldiers from other contingents," he said.

Artificer SSgt Ron Ford and Sgt Gordon Tuffley headed a REME light aid detachment which kept the cars on the road.

"They may have been old and obsolete, but Ferret proved very reliable," said Sgt Tuffley.

It is perhaps ironic that in the final days of the Scout Car Squadron's existence, bad weather led to rural patrols being halted because of the treacherous conditions. The Nicosia city patrol could not proceed along the Green Line because floods destroyed a bridge on the patrol track.



Two Lancers view the contents of a basement garage in no man's land. The pristine Toyota cars have remained untouched and as new since the 1974 Turkish invasion



Cpl John Ringer leads a Ferret patrol through the UN Buffer Zone which divides Cyprus

Sarajevo 'lumberjacks' risk sniper alley

BRITISH troops escorting the first firewood convoy into Sarajevo on January 2 were shot at along the infamous "sniper alley" near the city's airport.

Small-arms fire was aimed at the convoy as it departed the city but no vehicles were hit and there were no injuries.

Three armoured vehicles of the Vitez-based British battalion group manned by the 1st Battalion, The Cheshire Regi-

ment, and the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Irish Regiment were on the convoy.

The British escort vehicles – belonging to the mortar platoon – were commanded by Sgt Steven Hempsey and Sgt Martin Gibson, both R Irish.

Their job was to ensure the safe passage of 15 trucks of the Busovaca-based Dutch Army Transport Battalion carrying vital supplies of firewood on the

first day of an ongoing winter operation dubbed Operation Lumberjack.

Shellfire was heard on the approach to Sarajevo, but the city was quiet as they arrived. They were met at the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) depot in the city by French Gen Philippe Morillon, the UN two-star commander at Kisiljak.

Like a science fiction film set

of a nuclear winter landscape, Sarajevo was an awesome sight. Sub-zero temperatures, snow, wrecked trams strewn across the gloomy streets, every building damaged or destroyed, blocks of flats collapsed in on themselves, cars riddled with bullets and burnt out on road junctions, tanks up-ended in ditches, and frightened people competing with dogs for scraps from mounds of rubbish.

Troops book in to help the children

YOUNG refugee children can look forward to a better education in war-torn Bosnia after a Christmas cash donation from British troops for new school books.

A carol service collection at the National Support Element (NSE) HQ in Tomislavgrad raised DM800 after a call for help from the town's Red Cross representative.

All schools in the town have closed and refugee children join local youngsters at a network of elementary teaching sessions in cellars and basements. Books are scarce.

More than 3,000 children are among the estimated 14,000 refugees in Tomislavgrad. Teaching is done in small groups – and below ground level where possible – because of the fear of artillery attack.

Lt Col Malcolm Wood, CO NSE, handing over the cash and dozens of pallets of food aid and chocolate donated by British food manufacturers, said: "We wanted to help out in some way because many of us have children ourselves and are separated from them."

The run-up to Christmas saw a relaxation in the rule governing walking-out in Tomislavgrad. Small groups of soldiers are now allowed to spend two hours each morning walking into the town, which is home to a Croatian Army (HVO) brigade and hundreds of local troops.

The line of conflict is about ten miles to the north and the

town – with many buildings surrounded by blast walls of tree trunks and sandbags – has a front-line feel to it. A makeshift armoured car – a truck with sheets of metal welded to it – is often seen, and soldiers gather in groups with their weapons awaiting transport to the front.

Watching political developments with keen interest, British troops nevertheless made the most of a Christmas two-day break after having worked almost non-stop since their arrival in theatre.

Lt Col John Field, CO 35 Engineer Regiment, and Lt Col Wood both woke their soldiers

Words: Mervyn Wynne Jones
Pictures: SSgt Pete Bristo

with "gunfire" – a potent brew of tea and rum – on Christmas morning, and the officers and senior ranks of both units served their men lunch.

Lt Col Field handed over to Lt Col John Durance in mid-January. He is to become Deputy Commandant of the Staff College in Zimbabwe.

Capt Scott Derben, adjutant of 35 Engineer Regiment, celebrated his 31st birthday on Christmas Day by watching – along with the rest of the regiment – several of the men acting a variety of humorous sketches. The two-beers-a-day rule was also relaxed.



Comedian Jim Davidson cracks a few gags with soldiers of the Royal Engineers while visiting them at Redoubt Camp. He had spent the previous night at Vitez to put on a show. On his way to Redoubt Jim stopped off at Gornji Vakuf to do a 40-minute spot. He also visited Happy Eater Camp and the National Support Element at Tomislavgrad and did another show for the sappers of 35 Engr Regt at Tomislavgrad before returning home via Split

Several of the so-called "mountain men" of the Royal Engineers at the three snow-bound, mountain-top route maintenance team locations known as Happy Eater, Redoubt and Little Chef were persuaded – despite some reluctance – to join the rest of the regiment at Tomislavgrad for Christmas, their places taken temporarily by soldiers just about to leave the theatre on R and R.

Several of the men based at Redoubt insisted on staying at their lonely post, however, waiting for the arrival of the very busy Padre Charlie McCartney at 1700 hours before starting their Christmas dinner.

The school gymnasium at HQ NSE was packed on Boxing Day when 17 Squadron RCT put on their own version of Cinderella called "It Ain't Half Cold Mum".

Gale force winds just after Christmas meant sub-zero temperatures plummeting to minus 20 and below. Temperatures of almost minus 40 have been recorded with wind-chill.

The Army Catering Corps staff at HQ NSE, already battling against the elements in their outdoors kitchen tent, woke up on the morning of December 28 to find that the tent had blown down. They moved into the gymnasium later that day.

WO2 Alex Thomson, Master Chef, said: "I'm glad it didn't happen on Christmas Day."



Capt Bill Ould RAOC, QM at HQ NSE, Tomislavgrad, with local children at a Red Cross distribution centre after handing over a lorry load of toys, chocolates and biscuits donated by British firms



Above – A group of 2 R Irish soldiers pose with a pile of logs they had escorted into Sarajevo on day one of Operation Lumberjack



Cpl Jim McNair (left) and WO2 (CSM) John Cusik of 2 R Irish meet a Serb Chetnik at Turbe on Christmas Eve while escorting Lt Col Bob Stewart, CO 1 Cheshire in the Serb front line. He was negotiating a Christmas ceasefire



Below – LCpl Jason Stuart (left) and Cpl Dave Newbitt are pictured testing satellite equipment at Vitez supplied by British Telecom which allowed troops serving in Bosnia to make free Christmas and New Year phone calls. Both soldiers, from Blandford-based 30 Signal Regiment, volunteered to take the equipment to Bosnia for Christmas.

Weather 'window' was a blessing

A LONGER than expected fair weather window allowed the logistics and engineering elements of the British force to press further ahead than anticipated with all aspects of their mission in Bosnia.

Despite bitterly cold temperatures, the snow did not start falling in any quantity until the end of December. Making the most of largely ice-free roads, the force worked long hours to maximise the good weather conditions.

"We have been working to a projected weather window and have therefore been pushing 100 per cent to complete in the time available," said Capt Scott Derben, adjutant of 35 Engineer Regiment.

In the first two months of the operation, they improved more

than 50km of the northern and southern tracks across the mountain range north of Tomislavgrad straddling the main supply route (MSR) between Split and Vitez.

The MSR runs through a salient bounded on all sides by ground held by the Bosnian Serb Army and, in parts, is within artillery range of the line of conflict dividing Serb and Moslem or Croat positions.

Supplying the force with a full-range of stores, fuel, rations and water, the National Support Element (NSE) found its task becoming gradually easier with the huge improvements to cross-country routes made by the sappers of 35 Engineer Regiment.

In the first eight weeks of Op Grapple, 17 Squadron RCT

Group – tailor-made for the operation from a variety of specialist units within its corps, like its NSE parent unit – had logged some impressive figures in terms of mileage and tonnage.

Its transport vehicles travelled more than 500,000km carrying nearly a million cubic metres of fuel, 300 Battalion Group and Royal Engineer vehicles, and about 350 containers up country.

Working hand-in-glove with 360 Supply Company RAOC, they unloaded more than 500 containers from ships arriving at Split port.

The urgent move of accommodation units and stores to troops in Bosnia preoccupied the squadron throughout December and into the New Year,

the race against the full fury of a Balkan winter of pressing concern.

It is likely that the NSE will become involved with the regular delivery of fuel into Sarajevo to provide energy for, among other vital installations, the city's bakery. Flour is arriving on aid flights, but the fuel has run out to power the ovens.

An NSE team is on long-term detachment to Sarajevo to help the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) aid organisation review its warehouse and distribution system. The team consists of Capt Peter Jones RCT, WO2 Donald Hodgson REME, SSgt Alan Knight RAOC and LCpl Caroline Cove AGC.

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Words:
Gordon Skilling
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Mike Weston

Loading up with fresh rations are 17 Sqn Dvrs Jennifer Keay and James Garvie of 17 Sqn RCT with members of the Rations Platoon

Loggies just get on with the job

LOGGIES of 360 Supply Company RAOC at the Croatian port of Split could be excused for enjoying some quiet satisfaction of a job well done.

Arriving in Croatia one Saturday evening two weeks before the main escort assets arrived in theatre, some of them set out the next morning on the first humanitarian aid convoy to Travnik over mountain tracks.

Others worked solidly for 72 hours, moving 10,000 tonnes of sugar and flour from a warehouse the size of Wembley to establish the first link in the main supply route. Many of the pallets in the warehouse were heavily overladen, and 50kg sacks had to be manhandled before the place could be swept out and cleared of rats.

By the time their Cheshire group escorts arrived from Germany, the loggies had ensured a smooth move to the

National Support Element at Tomislavgrad and on to Vitez. The logistic infrastructure was firmly in place, with very little of the original plan altered.

The spotlight of publicity has long since moved north from the port area, but 360 Supply Company continues the essential work without which Operation Grapple would grind to a halt. But there is no time for them to sit on their laurels... they are too busy conducting a massive good housekeeping exercise.

Unlike operations in the Gulf, Grapple is subject to peacetime accounting. Control of stock and avoidance of large



**Maj Graeme Morrison,
OC 360 Supply Company**

write-offs of "lost" items is important.

"We mustn't lose sight of the fact that there is an auditing process, and everybody needs a financially aware attitude to keep track of all rations, fuel and materiel," said Maj Graeme Morrison, OC 360 Supply Company.

The company draws its central spine of OC, 2iC, CSM, MT Staff Sergeant, Chief Clerk and about 60 men from 31 Ordnance Company in Münster. The balance is made up by many units, including 3, 5 and 6 Ordnance Battalions and 5 Armoured Workshop Stores Platoon from Germany, and

some personnel from UK.

Separate platoons deal with the headquarters, materiel, rations, petroleum and ammunition, and local resources. There are also vehicle replacement sections and a Naafi Expeditionary Forces Institute.

With headquarters at Split, most platoons have sections working at the National Support Element at Tomislavgrad, and in the battalion group headquarters at Vitez.

The main duties of Capt Guy Cornwell's Ammunition Platoon sections have been completed.

His platoon was as hard-worked as any in the initial phase of the deployment, organising bombing-up positions at Tomislavgrad for the Cheshire Lancers and Royal Engineers. Fourteen ammunition technicians were involved

● Turn to next page

Loggies

● From page 21

in this process, and most have now been assigned to other duties.

Empty containers were dried out and stored, ready to repack unused ammunition after the operation, something which was not well handled in the Gulf, said Maj Morrison.

The Vehicle Replacement Section, commanded by Maj Dave Sharman RDG, had to work hard to bring up to standard the 29 A vehicles and 22 B vehicles it holds. Units seldom "lend" their most reliable vehicles for use as replacements.

The Petroleum Platoon under Capt Peter Edwards has ensured that bulk fuel installations at Vitez and Tomislavgrad can satisfy the group's requirements. Two sections look after bulk and packed fuel, oils, lubricants and industrial gasses.

A determined effort by the Rations Platoon, commanded by Capt Melissa Dean, provided a balanced load of all foods for early arrivals and soon had everybody on 100 per cent fresh victuals, thanks to the 4,000 tons brought in by the Royal Fleet Auxiliary Resource.

Every unit now holds at least a month's supply of operational ration packs in case the system breaks down, said Capt Dean.

Her platoon also ensures that locally-purchased food is up to standard. Fresh milk is not available because pasteurising standards are not sufficient to guarantee purity. Forward

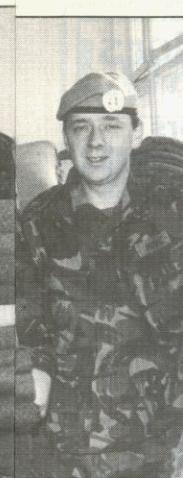


Pte Nigel Pinheiro, Pte Goz Thorburn and Cpl Jeff Lowe of the Materiel Platoon

Right - Blanket coverage from the Royal Pioneers Laundry Service in Divulje Barracks, Split, from Pte Darryl Harwood, LCpl Ian Shepherd and Pte Stephen Smalley from 4 Armd Div and 211 Sig Sqn



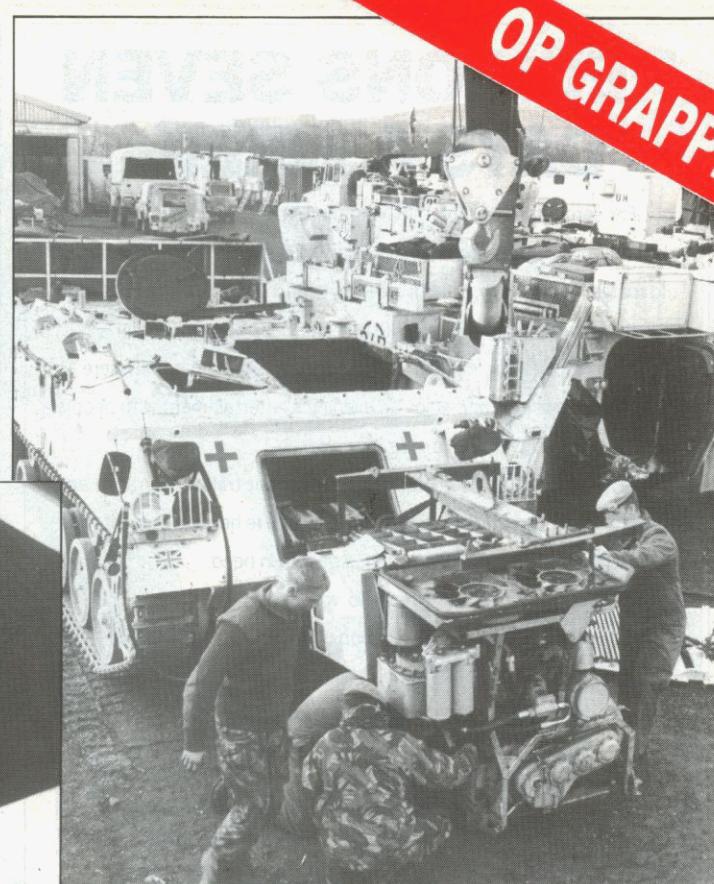
Providing "Meals on Wheels" from the Army Catering Corps mobile cookhouse at the port in Split are LCpl Mark Gardener, Pte Scott Lee and Sgt "Bing" Crosbie



Right - Spr Jaime Zarzabell is a useful asset for the headquarters of the British Forces at Split, co-located with a Spanish unit at Divulje Helipad. Jaime, whose father is Spanish, works with Engineer Resources and can double as interpreter

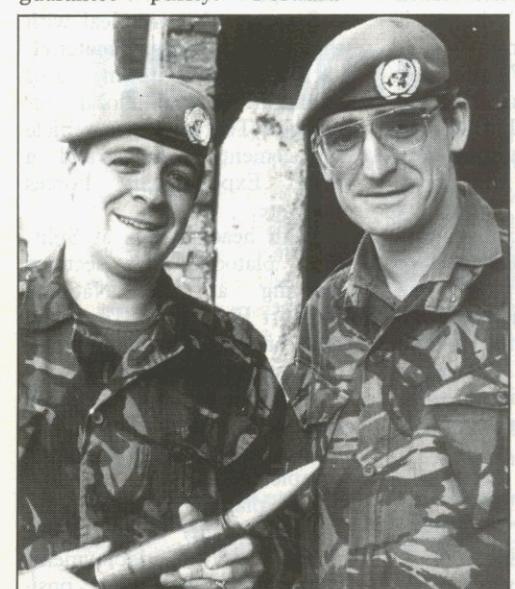
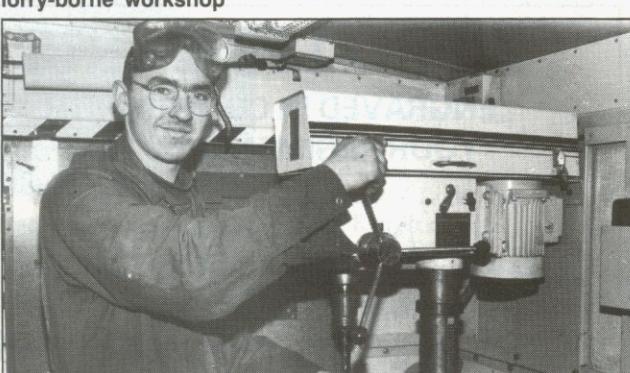


Below - WO1 Bob Skinner supervises Pte Mike Griffiths of A Company as the new towing hook is fitted

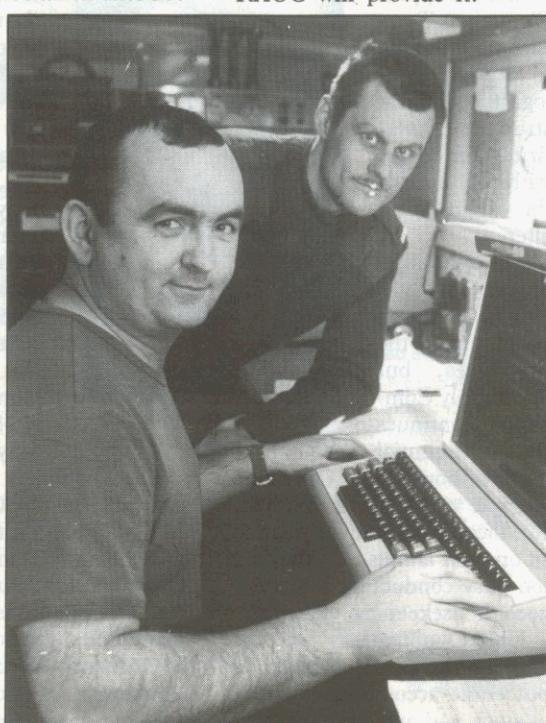


Above - Having a Forward Repair Group at Vitez greatly speeds up engine changes. Here a 432 pack is removed by LCpl Jim Nicholls, LCpl Eric Wilson, Pte Mark Manwarring and Cpl Alan Welch using a Warrior Maintenance Repair Vehicle

Below - Cfn Steve Boyd of C Company fitter section in his lorry-borne workshop



Above - Capt Guy Cornwell and Sgt Frank Dooley of the Ammunition Platoon inspect a damaged round



Right - LCpl Sammie Samson (front) and LCpl Chris Bramwell keep tabs on stock

ordnance teams of the Materiel Platoon deal with everything from widgets to blankets. Stock control is carried out in a computer section at Split, where a new system of transferable stores containers operates.

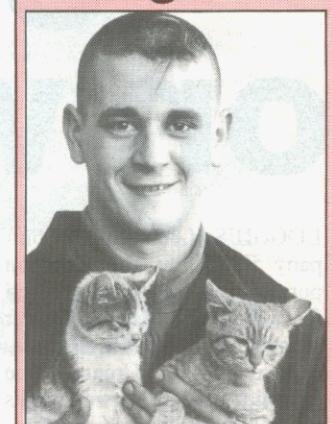
Some stores arriving at the port have been ordered by individual units and they are passed on as quickly as possible. But most incoming stores have to be taken onto 360

The loggies do not disguise their role behind technical jargon.

Everything is "de-stuffed" from the containers, "sorted out", and "re-stuffed" into other containers to be transported north.

If somebody wants something, 360 Supply Company RAOC will provide it.

Paws for thought . . .



Soldiers on night duty with the Rations Platoon in Split have to check their sleeping bags before turning in - or risk being savaged!

Two kittens adopted by the section have been known to forsake their cardboard "cat-tery" - well away from the rations - to make themselves at home in an unoccupied sleeping bag.

And they resent any intrusion.

Pte Richie Richardson is pictured with the feline furies, named Bob and Malcolm after Lt Col Bob Stewart, CO 1 Cheshire and Lt Col Malcolm Wood, CO of the National Support Element at Tomislavgrad.



REME Warrior 'refit' is a real eye-opener

A NEW front towing eye has been fitted to Warrior to help recovery on Bosnia's narrow tracks.

"Up-armoured Warriors adapted to carry a UN nose cone had to sacrifice one of the towing eyes on the front of the vehicle, making it impossible to use the A frame towbar for frontal recovery, so 16 Maintenance and Support Group's Vehicles and Weapons Branch at Chertsey, Surrey quickly

designed a front tow hitch and flew WO1 Bob Skinner to Bosnia to supervise the conversion.

"A metal prototype was produced in three days," said WO1 Skinner, who works on the Warrior project at GKN Defence's Telford factory. "We trialled it on the fourth day at SEME Bordon, and by day five we were producing them at 27 District Workshop in Aldershot. In eight days we turned

out 70." WO1 Skinner believes such an operation would normally take more than two years.

Cheshire Electrical and Mechanical Engineering Officer Capt Bill Irving felt an eye was needed because there might be little working space on Bosnia's mountain roads available to recovery crews.

Their vehicles might not be able to approach a broken-down Warrior from the rear.

OP GRAPPLE

Artificer Sgt Maj Martin Craig drew on fitter sections at Vitez to give him a hand with the task, each vehicle taking about four hours to modify.

REME has long experience of solving such problems.

Most members of the LAD were in the Gulf with the 1st Battalion, The Staffordshire Regiment, and learned there how to deal with sand ingestion and dust fouling up machinery.

● Turn to Page 25

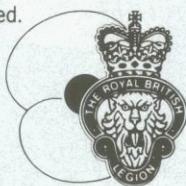
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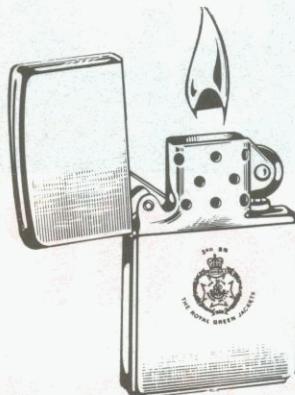
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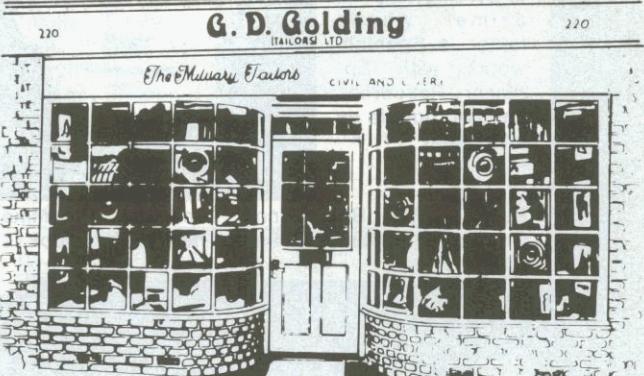
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Loads of laughs when Irishman meets Scouser

FIVE officers and 139 soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Irish Regiment, are spread throughout the 1st Battalion, The 22nd (Cheshire) Regiment . . . and they are not just filling up places in the back of the group's Warrior armoured vehicles.

Every Cheshire company has a Royal Irishman as operations officer. Lt Gareth Bellis, 9 Platoon commander, is delighted with his quota of Irishmen.

"They are a great bunch to work with as well as being a very professional unit," he said.

"A lot of their boys are Liverpool Irish and many of ours are Liverpudlians, so there is an immediate bond. Scousers have their own sense of humour and the Royal Irish with their own brand of humour have really boosted morale."

Pte John James Skillen, himself a 1 Cheshire Liverpudlian, remembers some of the Royal Irish from his tour in Cookstown, while WO2 John

REME

● From page 23

WO1 Craig said: "We go on exercise and can plan for most eventualities, but there are always unknowns, as we saw on Op Granby. You learn to overcome new problems, work round them and eventually come out on top."

Most of REME's assets at Vitez have been put in one garage, a few kilometres from the main camp. Unlike the Gulf, where REME units were spread from the front line back to brigade, both A1 and A2 echelons in Bosnia have been concentrated in the garage. The B Company fitter section is at



Above - Royal Irish members of the 1 Cheshire battalion group



Cusick, 2 R Irish, points out that Liverpool is the "other capital" of Northern Ireland.

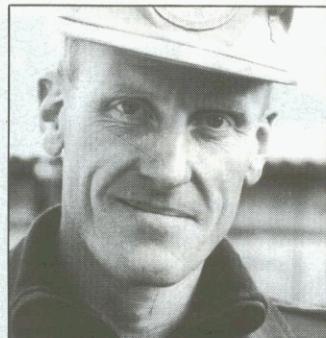
WO2 Cusick added that the Rangers had appreciated a visit by Lt Col Bob Stewart, CO of 1 Cheshire, before the joint deployment. "We all took to

him right away," he said.

Operation Grapple was particularly valuable to the Irish as young Rangers do not normally get much opportunity to work with other battalions. Only when they become JNCOs can they go on courses and broaden

their horizons.

"Everybody has pulled together," said WO2 Percy Percival, 1 Cheshire, of HQ Company. "Right from day one the Rangers got into the Warriors with our boys as if they had been friends for years. After all, we were raised to help the Irish in 1689 and were at Carrickfergus at the beginning, so it's nice to renew the connection."



Artificer Sergeant Major WO1 Martin Craig

Gorni Vakuf, along with 7 Armoured Workshop. Almost everything else is located at Vitez.

As well as A, C and Support Company fitter sections, there is 42 Field Squadron RE's fitter

section and the battalion unit repair stores, plus the 9th/12th Royal Lancers' assets.

Most fitter sections have a Maintenance Repair Vehicle and a Maintenance, Repair and Recovery Vehicle with its extra spade and winch, along with the artificer's 432. As Support Company's section supports a more diverse range of equipment, it has a 434 variant with crane, and a Samson to support the recce troop with CVRT.

At the same location is a Forward Repair Group with 7 Armoured Workshop, so that if engines break down there is some second line support actually on site.

The Cheshire B vehicles were hard pressed during the initial

convoy until the Dutch transport battalion became operational, and it is the Land Rovers which have been taking most punishment on the rough tracks. MT's 35 drivers also worked hard on convoy duties.

Before the bulk fuel installation was operational at Vitez, MT had to rely on Unit Bulk Fuelling Equipment vehicles bringing loads of 4,200 litres over the mountains from Tomislavgrad. All this support is now at the same location, along with the local ordnance of the battalion QM, RQMS and CQMSs and both battalion and LAD G1098 stores.

"With only 200 here we are the most underpopulated location," said ASM Craig.

How BATUS
got its new
Challengers

The Great Tank Train

BRITISH Army Training Unit Suffield, Canada, better known as BATUS, has received 30 Challenger tanks to replace its ageing Chieftain fleet, writes **Maj Andrew Taylor RCT**. The armoured fleet at BATUS already includes Warrior AFV and the addition of Challenger enables troops at Suffield to undertake full and realistic training.

The 30 Challengers arrived on November 24 after a 20-day road, sea and rail move of more than 4,200 miles. Throughout the journey the tanks were accompanied by a 12-man escort led by WO1 John Bradshaw of 2 RTR.

Challenger had proved itself in the Gulf and some of those shipped to Alberta saw service during that war and still boasted their desert camouflage and the Desert Rat emblem of 7 Armoured Brigade.

The move from BAOR started on a damp, misty morning at 2 ADS in Sennelager. The tanks were loaded on to transporters of 7 Tank Transporter Regiment RCT and started their journey by road, travelling north to Bremerhaven, where they were loaded on to the cavernous ro-ro ship *Atlantic Cartier*, a sister ship to the *Atlantic Conveyor* tragically lost during the Falklands campaign.

Members of the escort were pleasantly surprised by the onboard life style. Each crewman had his own fully-equipped bunk, there was a swimming pool and gymnasium and the cuisine prepared by the French crew was excellent. WO2 Bradshaw's team soon settled into a regular shipboard routine, of regular hold inspections and routine survival and evacuation drills.

After an eight-day voyage



Above - Challenger train en route to Ontario

Right - Suffield at last! From left to right are LCpl Barclay, Tpr Eason, Sgt Dorling, Cpl Pollock, WO Bradshaw, Cpl Homes, Cpl Jones, Tpr Booth, Tpr Western, LCpl Clegg and LCpl Smith

across the north Atlantic, battered and delayed by autumn storms, the ship arrived at Halifax, Nova Scotia, where part three of the journey began.

The 30 Challengers, 40 other vehicles and an allotment of palletised stores including more than 400 tons of Challenger tank track, had to be loaded on to a train for the last leg across Canada. A team from BATUS under the command of Capt Richard Male RCT and consisting of RCT Movements staff under WO2 Mick Cooper, RAOC vehicle specialists under



WO2 Ady Hayes, and REME recovery mechanics under Sgt John Jaggs, met the ship and carried out the transfer from ship to rail. Despite five inches of snow

driven horizontally from the sea, vehicles were loaded, secured and ready to go, and the escort moved into new quarters on board a Canadian National train. The 2,400-mile trip from Halifax to BATUS

took seven days, a unique opportunity for the British soldiers, as the famed trans-Canadian passenger trains stopped some years ago and there are now no passenger trains undertaking the coast-to-coast journey.

By dawn on November 24 the 30 Challengers were positioned in the Suffield rail sidings, silhouetted against the cold blue sky and frost white grass. The unloading went like clockwork and despite temperatures falling to minus 30C on the journey, all the tanks were driven to their new home without mechanical difficulties.

The work did not end there, however. As all the tanks require air filtration modifications in Canada, their first stop was at the unit's REME Workshop.



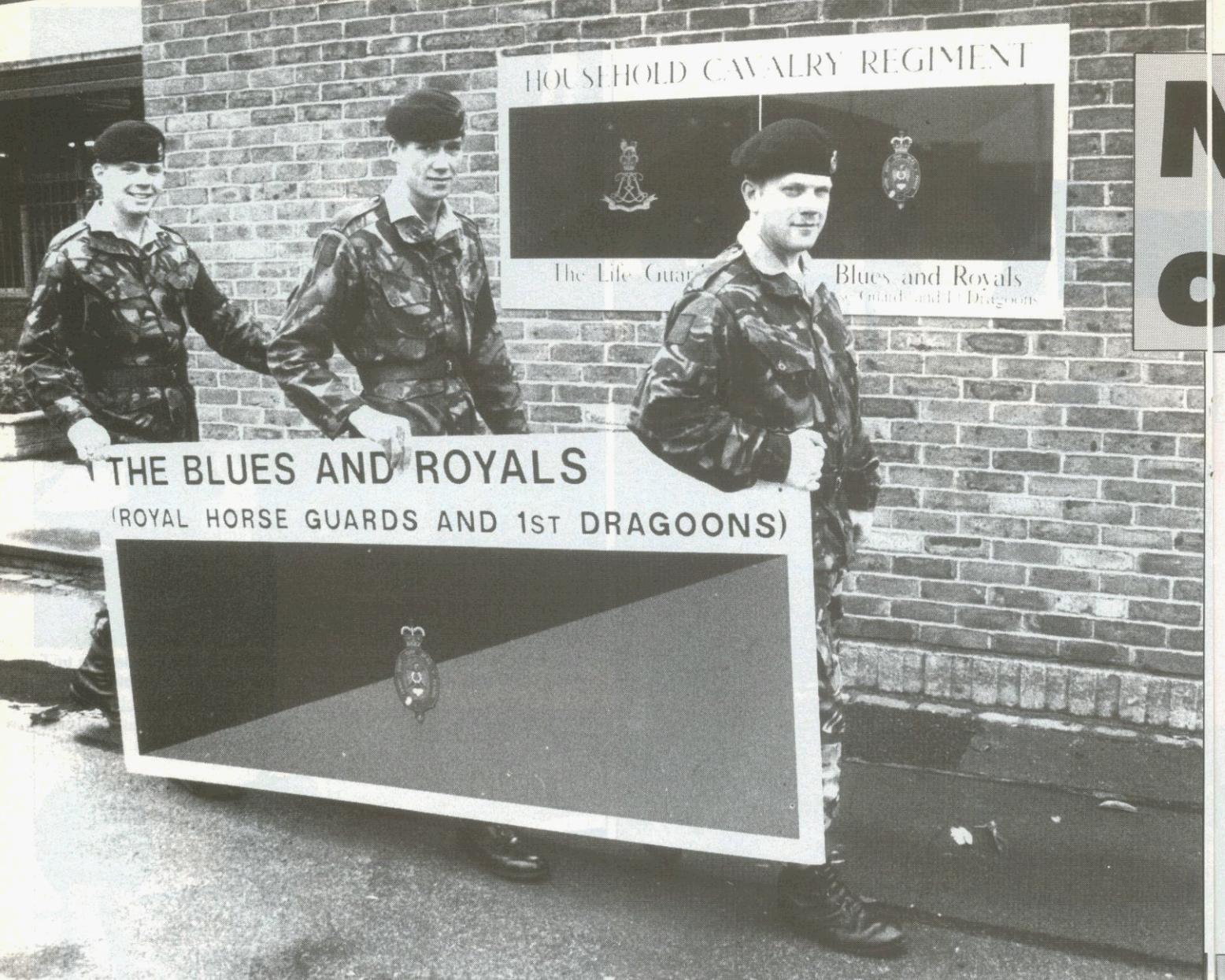
Sgt Howells REME makes an initial inspection of a Challenger in the workshops at the British Army Training Unit Suffield



Outside the BATUS Inspections Department, the first Challenger awaits its initial inspection by (from left), WO1 (ASM) Penny REME, Capt Williamson REME and LCpl Wooff 14/20 H

Household Cavalry Regiment merger proves an easy option

New link forged out of old union



In with the new... Tprs Martin Clark, Simon Wass and Philip Vost dispatch the old sign into history at Combermere Barracks



Above - A lesson in loading a Simkar gun for Tpr Richard Brown from CoH John Dickens
Right - LCoH Andy Panter (in beret) points out the intricacies of a Saracen vehicle to a group of newly-arrived Life Guards



ONE OF the least painful amalgamations brought about by Options for Change must be the union of The Life Guards and The Blues and Royals - known since October as the Household Cavalry Regiment.

"There has been a Household Cavalry barracks here in Windsor for a long time, so it is our home, and the two regiments have very strong links - irrespective of cap badges," said Capt Edward Goodchild, Assistant Adjutant, Blues and Royals.

Indeed, the history books show that a precedent was set during the Second World War, when Lifeguards and Blues fought alongside each other as members of the First and Second Household Cavalry regiments.

Based at the town's Combermere Barracks and equipped with tracked Scimitar, the

Practically all that was

needed for the Life Guards to

HCR has an armoured reconnaissance role with 3 (UK) Division.

Commanded by Lt Col Simon Falkner of The Life Guards, the new regiment is made up of two squadrons of Life Guards, two squadrons of Blues and Royals and a composite Regimental Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron.

Two former fighting units have been replaced to comprise the HCR: The Life Guards, equipped with Challenger tanks, was an armoured regiment based in Sennelager immediately before returning to Windsor, where the Blues and Royals were in situ in their armoured reconnaissance role.

Other tests for the latest arrivals at Combermere cover simulated target practice indoors - using lasers - and ammunition recognition, gun stripping and assembly.

As one youthful trooper put it: "If we had to come back from Germany, I can think of worse places to be based."

Capt Goodchild said: "Unlike Sennelager, where everybody was spread out, the squadron officers in the command structure are literally opposite each other on either side of the corridor."

Despite their close connections, are there teething troubles as the two regiments start working side by side?

"The average soldier and the rest of the Army probably will not notice a great deal of difference: our uniform has not changed. It is a matter of looking forward and making it work," said Capt Goodchild.

"It is probably in the area of regimental traditions where the greatest differences will be found. For example, in the Blues and Royals, the custom of being allowed to salute officers when not wearing a head-dress dates back a very long time, and it will take a little time for the new men to



Among their souvenirs... Regimental Corporal Major John Lodge (left) and CoH Mark Kingston with a priceless cigar box donated to The Life Guards in 1874 by Viscount Hemsley when he left the regiment. The Warrant Officer and NCOs' mess is full of such trophies.

get used to that."

Regimental Cpl Maj John Lodge, a Life Guard who finds himself in the position of being a part of Army history - the first RCM of the union - hopes to redress the balance...

"Everything we do now is technically a first," he said.

"If I let a Blues and Royals soldier off on something, I get the Life Guards having a go at me - and vice-versa.

"But on my door, it says 'Household Cavalry Regiment'. You have to take the middle course: if you have a bad soldier, he's got to be dealt with, no matter which 'side of the house' he is from."

It can fairly be said that it is a case of "business as usual" for the two component parts of the new regiment. The only minor difference of opinion would seem to be about just whose pictures should hang where...

• The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment, responsible for carrying out State ceremonial duties, remains unaffected by the union.

Words: Phil Wilcox
Pictures: Mike Weston

do once they had arrived at their new home was to upgrade their technical knowledge of tracked vehicles, such as the Scimitar, in a short course at the driving and maintenance wing at the barracks.

"The majority of them have already qualified as drivers," said instructor Lance Corporal of Horse Andy Panter, Blues and Royals. "They have a week here, which includes a written exam, then a week on the road trying the vehicles out."

Other tests for the latest arrivals at Combermere cover simulated target practice indoors - using lasers - and ammunition recognition, gun stripping and assembly.



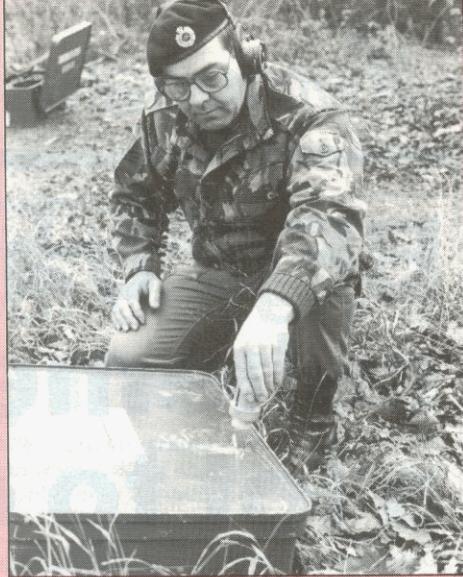
A TA sapper uses a sensitive electronic locator to pinpoint unexploded mines



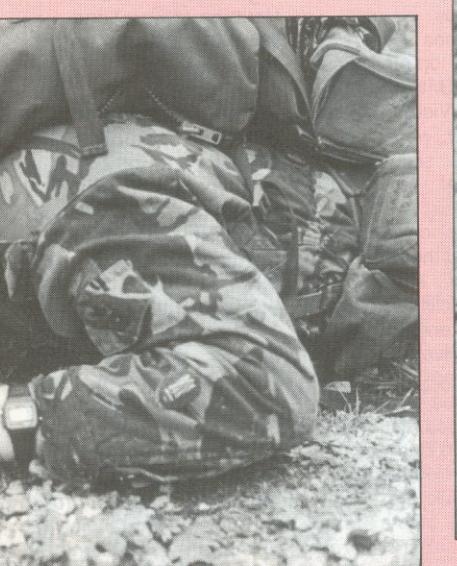
Above - The sort of task being carried out by sappers in Yugoslavia. Cpl Andy Willicombe prepares to pull a cord attached to a suspect device during a road clearance operation

Right - In a job where the slightest mistake can prove fatal, EOD instructor Lt Chris Smith finds every soldier pays the strictest attention to detail.

Below - LCpl Owen Williams prods for buried land mines



Sgt Paul Mayle uses a microphone stethoscope to listen to a suspect device. The sensitive mike can pick up sounds like the ticking of clockwork, mechanisms and even the hiss of escaping rocket fuels



Spr Janice Peachey uses a Swiftscope to inspect a "body" lying alongside a convoy route

TA's searchlight sappers focus on EOD role

OPTIONS for Change has had as big a restructuring impact on Acton-based 220 Field Squadron (EOD) (Volunteers) as any Territorial Army unit.

Known as 873 Movement Light Squadron Royal Engineers (Volunteers), it was, until 1991, the Army's only searchlight unit with a war role providing battlefield illumination for 1 (BR) Corps in Germany.

Its truck-mounted lights – one billion candlepower and a range of 10km – have now been handed over to another unit,

and its personnel have re-trained as bomb disposal operators.

They include five women, among them Sprs Janice Peachey and Celia Quigley.

Spr Peachey joined the squadron shortly before it gave up its searchlights, and, like all her colleagues, has been involved in a concentrated learning process for the past year.

She has now qualified as a B2 EOD operator, having undergone a progressive set of

examinations and practical tests, and is undaunted by the prospect of having to defuse bombs.

"It is really interesting. Not only is it physically demanding, but you have to use your brain as well," she said.

The TA sapper bomb disposal teams could find themselves operating against a variety of threats in time of war.

About ten per cent of air-dropped weapons and ground-

to-ground missiles fail to explode on impact and have to be defused. Many modern delivery systems scatter small bomblets over a wide area and these would have to be cleared.

The sappers must also know how to defuse chemical bombs and improvised explosive devices (IEDs) laid by enemy agents and special forces.

EOD operatives also train as combat engineers and must become expert at dealing with mines, providing water supplies, and in the demolition and construction of roads.

During Exercise Hands-On at a training area in Kent, 220 Squadron practised a variety of techniques, including the use of a microphone stethoscope to listen to the ticking of clockwork mechanisms such as the fuses in Second World War bombs.

On the disarms' and rocket range, Lt Chris Smith demonstrated explosive methods of removing fuses from bombs, while LCpl Owen Williams used a locator to detect unexploded bombs buried on impact.

Capt Mark Griffin showed how to immunise fuses with an unlikely array of equipment including a bicycle pump, drill and a length of plastic hose. It was part of a kit designed during the Second World War by a Wing Commander Stevens, RAF, explained training officer Lt Jhalmar Singh.

"The basic principle involves the use of a vacuum to introduce a neutralising agent into a particular type of fuse. For example, a salt-solution is used to gum-up a clockwork fuse," he said.

Elsewhere, sappers were taking part in training for the sort of problems that might be faced by British troops in Bosnia. Cpl Andy Willicombe and his EOD section were checking roads and verges for booby traps and mines.

They found themselves clearing a formidable array of culvert bombs, booby-trapped bodies and mines.

Soon to move from Acton to Heston, 220 Sqn is part of 101 (London) Engineer Regiment (EOD) (Volunteers), formed from Territorial Army squad-

rons which were part of 33 Engineer Regiment (EOD). The regiment has been tasked with providing virtually all the Royal Engineers' bomb disposal support to national defence in wartime.

Commanded by Lt Col Dai Lewis, 101 has its headquarters in Catford. Its field squadrons are based in Holloway (217 Sqn), Rochester (221 Sqn) and Greenhithe (222 Sqn).

An additional support squadron, 198, will be administered by Central Volunteer Headquarters RE at Minley.

BFG training scheme has a lot to offer

JOBS are hard to come by in both BFG and UK and competition is always fierce. Perhaps you feel that you need more or better qualifications, or you are considering returning to work after a break in the only real 24-hour-a-day job, that of wife and mother! On the other hand, perhaps a posting to UK beckons and you would like to update your skills.

Training initiatives exist in BFG for a variety of dependants. First, a Youth Training Scheme is run for those between 16 and 24 years of age (16 to 19-year-olds are guaranteed a place) and is modelled on the best of such schemes operating in the UK.

Courses, which last for approximately 18 months, are geared towards National Vocational Qualifications and involve experience and training in a work-placement and further training in a local training centre.

Courses in life skills, such as the search for a job at the end of your training and what to expect on return to the UK, are also included. Training centres are provided with modern computer equipment and qualified instructors whose aim is to set you on the right path for a career rather than just a job.

Training is available in a wide range of occupations from business administration through hairdressing, catering, information technology, warehousing, storage and distribution, vehicle services, engineering, dental surgery assistants, community care and equitation. While in train-

ing, you are entitled to an allowance (equivalent to that in the UK) and to 30 days' paid leave per year. A new programme has recently been introduced for dependants over the age of 25 who wish to gain recognised UK qualifications or retrain in those fields where most vacancies exist. The programme offers an opportunity to gain experience while also receiving training in a realistic work environment towards the qualifications which count in the UK, National Vocational Qualifications (NVQs).

Don't be put off by the thought of having to start learning after a long gap: NVQs are designed to be assessed on what you achieve day-by-day, not on the result of an end-of-course test. The programmes are designed to last approximately one year, but if you have at least six months remaining in BFG, you can apply.

NVQs are designed so that even if there is insufficient time to complete the qualification, a certificate showing the elements completed will be issued and the full qualification can be continued at a later date.

The training for those over 25 is available in two main areas: business administration and catering. With the first, training will be geared towards the Royal Society of Arts Diploma in Business Administration (NVQ Level II). This qualification is available in three variants depending on the individual's career direction: administration, financial or secretarial. It includes train-

Cyprus meeting draws welfare agencies together

SERVICE personnel, welfare agencies, voluntary organisations and dependants met in the Sovereign Club at Episkopi for the second welfare symposium to be organised by British Forces Cyprus.

The themes of the conference, opened by Commander British Forces Cyprus, Air Vice Marshal Sandy Hunter, were "Recognising the signs" and "Aspects of confidentiality".

Emergency cover was laid on all over the island as welfare staff shut their offices and facilities so that they could attend, resulting in an impressive turnout of delegates from Troodos, Ayios Nikolaos, Dhekelia, Akrotiri, Larnaca, Limassol, Pergamos and Berengaria.

Among the bodies represented were Relate, SSAFA, the HIVEs, Home Start, schools, medical centres, the WRVS, youth workers and St John Ambulance and the Red Cross.

Debt, a problem that affects so many of all ranks, was given a good airing by Richard Avens, a welfare adviser from SSAFA HQ in London.

Three forms of abuse – drug, alcohol and child – were broached by three speakers, bringing home to all present that Cyprus is not immune to these problems. Constructive ways to combat the problems were available. Wing Commander Roger Lindley told delegates: "If the signs are there, help is on hand."

Discussion on the importance of confidentiality was led by a panel. Delegates learned that Samaritan and Childline telephones would be instal-



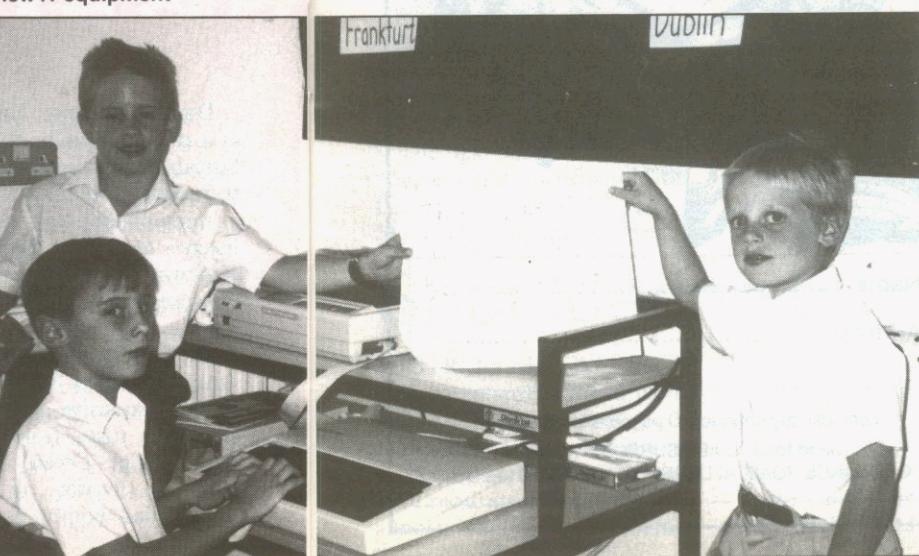
Above – Relate's Mrs Wilmar Hunter with Cyprus symposium organisers Col Ivar Hellberg (centre) and Wing Commander Roger Lindley



Right – Husband and wife team: Sgt John and Mrs Grace Kay discuss the Cyprus symposium. He is a community police officer, she is Larnaca's HIVE co-ordinator



Below – Children at a Services school in Cyprus are expecting new IT equipment



Troodos to keep medical, welfare centre

PROGRESS has been made in a number of areas affecting the welfare of dependants in Cyprus. Here is an update of issues brought to my attention during a recent visit to the island.

● Troodos will not lose its new medical and dental centre, and the DLA has been asked to look for a replacement for the dilapidated Cat's Eye Club. A fax machine has been installed at Troodos.

● Larnaca Community Centre has overcome its problem in attracting families to its social functions.

● Dhekelia Home Start now has an answerphone and the HIVE co-ordinator has been asked to compile a "shopping list" of equipment needed by HIVEs on the island.

● The problems related to Service wives claiming Unemployment Benefit persist.

● Sixteen standard packs of playground equipment were purchased in 1989 but remained in store until funds became available last year to put them on safe sites. The whole issue of better playgrounds was thoroughly reviewed in a 1992 Defence Works Services' publication, which has not yet reached Cyprus. In future, parents should be included in the planning stages.

● New IT equipment and software is being sought to replace or supplement the 1984-vintage BBC computers in the island's primary schools. The installation of fans in classrooms is being delayed by lack of funds.

● Parents being posted away from Cyprus are advised to make sure they have new SCEA transfer report forms if their children are going on to another SCEA or LEA school. Information on transferring to UK schools is to be published in *The Lion*.

IN MY...

Not covered by the Act!

DIVORCED and separated Army wives may well find that they are not covered for maintenance by the Children's Support Act due to come into force in April.

Even if they win a court order for maintenance against the estranged husband, it can still be overturned at the discretion of the Ministry of Defence under the Army Act, which gives the MoD the option of deciding whether or not the court order should be enforced.

If the MoD says the soldier cannot pay, the matter has to go back to court.

That could mean the wife having to return to court – at her expense – to sue the husband for non-payment of maintenance.

I am told Service personnel, even those stationed overseas, will not be able to escape responsibility under the new Act. But how will this be if such discretions are allowed?

...VIEW

Coping with divorce

Rules and regulations of individual Services are clearly laid out, and draft examples of the various forms that need to be completed are included.

Coping With Breakdown in Marriage is an invaluable book, prepared by a group of wives from all three Services, MoD, SSAFA, FHWS and Peter Murphy, who was responsible for the section on housing.

● Sixteen standard packs of playground equipment were purchased in 1989 but remained in store until funds became available last year to put them on safe sites. The whole issue of better playgrounds was thoroughly reviewed in a 1992 Defence Works Services' publication, which has not yet reached Cyprus. In future, parents should be included in the planning stages.

● New IT equipment and software is being sought to replace or supplement the 1984-vintage BBC computers in the island's primary schools. The installation of fans in classrooms is being delayed by lack of funds.

● Parents being posted away from Cyprus are advised to make sure they have new SCEA transfer report forms if their children are going on to another SCEA or LEA school. Information on transferring to UK schools is to be published in *The Lion*.

A FEW years ago I revealed that 100,000 Service wives' records and 20,000 Service children's records remained unclaimed at the Service Dependents' Section in Smedley Hydro, Southport.

That number has been reduced to 60,000, thanks to much hard work by the section staff and the installation of a new computerised system.

Now the Dependents' Section has circulated a newsletter explaining some of the problems its staff encounter. It asks units to confirm their correct titles and BFPO numbers, and to keep the section informed



Anne Armstrong

Home telephone: 0276 29653

Job club opens in Colchester Garrison

A NEW facility to help soldiers leaving the Army to find jobs was opened at Colchester on December 7 by Armed Forces Minister

Archie Hamilton. The "job club", located in the old Garrison HQ at Victoria House, has brought the Employment Service reset-

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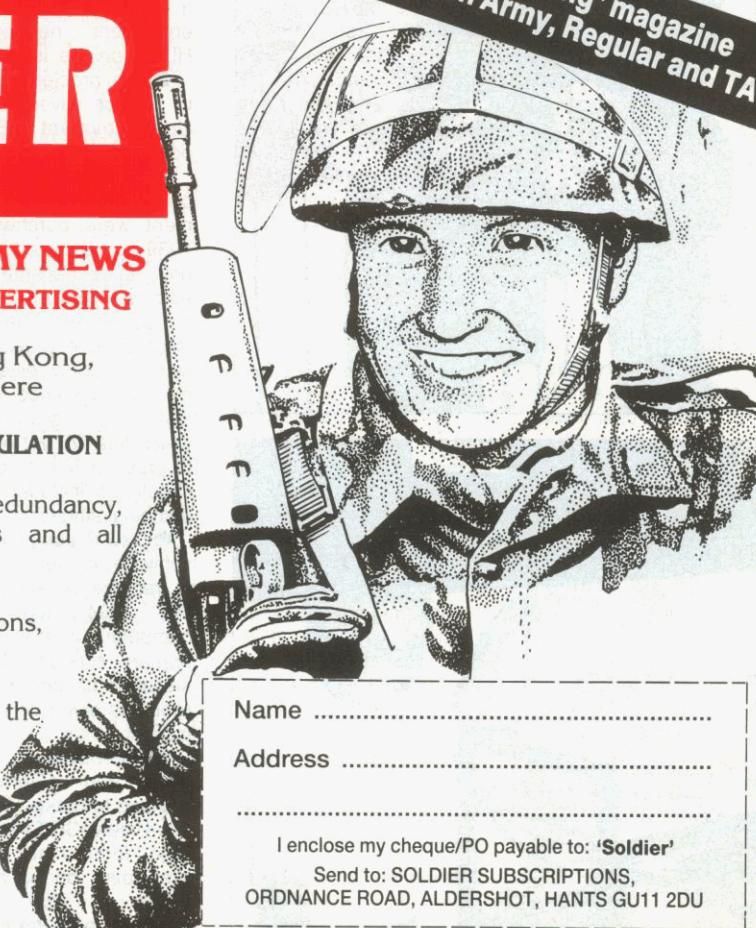
The **SOLDIER** CALENDAR 1993

The new **SOLDIER CALENDAR 1993** is available from **SOLDIER** Magazine. The calendar contains 13 full colour photographs of today's Army in action, taken by **SOLDIER** photographers over the past year. It includes REME at The Tower of London, The Household Cavalry, The Royal Engineers and The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters in Cyprus, The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment in Seattle, The Army Air Corps in Northern Ireland, The King's Troop RHA, The Scots Guards at Holyrood Palace, and Army musicians at the Royal Military School of Music.

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Sherman's role in Normandy campaign

IN BRIEFINGS (December 14) you carried a picture and story about a Sherman tank being moved from the entrance to San Sebastian Barracks in Korbekke to Bulford, headquarters of the new 3rd (UK) Division.

The restored tank, which had stood at the barracks' entrance since 1977, is reported to have seen service with the 3rd Armoured Division in Normandy in 1944.

At that time the 3rd Armoured was in fact the 3rd British Infantry Division. The Sherman in your photograph would have been part of the 27th Independent Armoured Brigade, which was married up with the 3rd Infantry Division to give support during the campaign.

I think I am correct as I served with the Royal Warwickshire Regiment, which was part of 185 Infantry Brigade in the 3rd Infantry Division. — W J Palmer, Bedford.

What about the buglers?

IN YOUR feature "The Last Tattoo" the text under the picture of the Light Division is wrong.

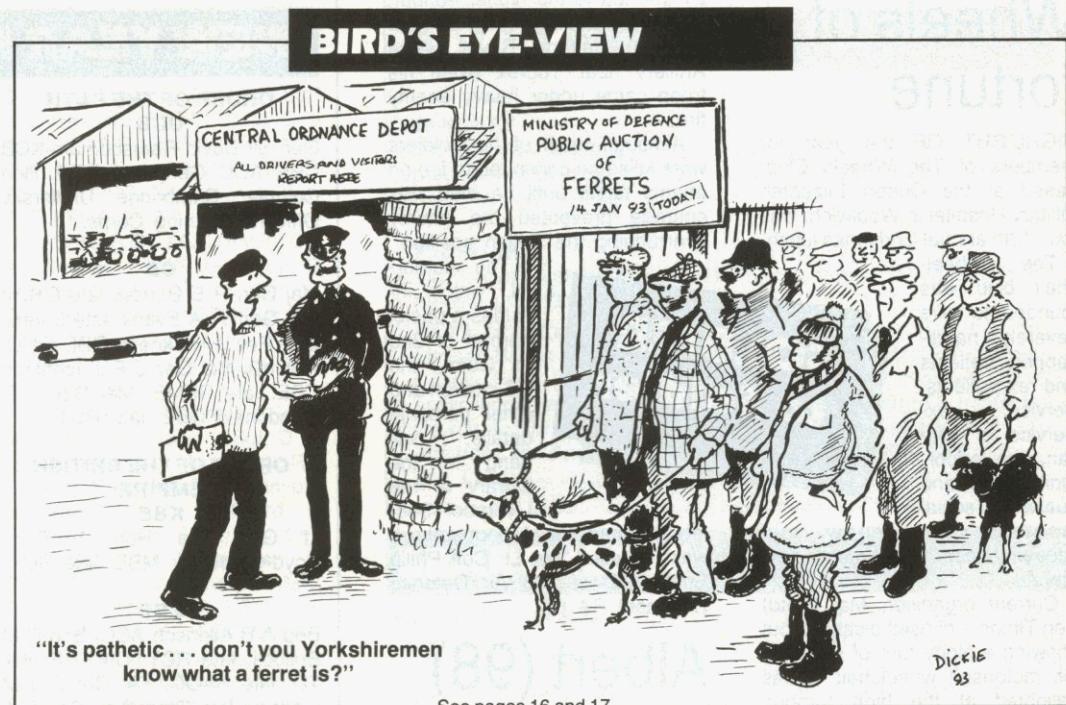
It refers to the buglers in the picture as "musicians". Their jobs in the Light Infantry and Royal Green Jackets are as privates and riflemen.

The text should have read "buglers and musicians of the Light Division". — D J Macleod, Lancing, Sussex.

Shouldering burden

SO STREETLINERS are to be nine paces apart instead of six (SOLDIER, November 16).

For King George V's Jubilee procession in 1935, when I was 12, I recall streetliners standing almost shoulder-to-shoulder



See pages 16 and 17

Eagle of Barrosa cleared the way

I WAS very surprised to read in SOLDIER (December 14) that the Salamanca Eagle of 3 R Anglian was "the first of four French eagles to be captured during the Napoleonic wars", being "seized" by Lt Pearce of the 16th Foot at Salamanca in 1812.

My surprise was due to the fact that I had always believed that the eagle captured by Sgt Masterson of the 2nd/87th (Prince of Wales's Irish) Regiment was the first ever taken in battle.

Masterson took the eagle of the 8th French Regiment at the Battle of Barrosa on March 5, 1811 after Ensign Keogh had been killed while wresting the eagle from its guardians.

Charging into battle the Irish soldiers used a Gaelic warcry, "Faugh a Ballagh" or "clear the way", which became the regimental motto and gave the

regiment its sobriquet "The Faughs".

I was also under the impression that it was the 44th Foot, The Essex, who recruited largely in Ireland, and not the 16th Foot who took the Salamanca Eagle; the 16th were not even at Salamanca!

The Barrosa Eagle was adopted as a regimental badge by the 87th, later The Royal Irish Fusiliers and adorned buttons, collar badges and shoulder titles as well as

appearing on colours and drums.

Today the Eagle can be seen on the crossbelt pouches of officers of The Royal Irish Regiment. The original eagle was stolen in London but a replica can be seen in the National Army Museum.

Barrosa certainly happened before Salamanca: so, sorry Royal Anglians, but the Irish were first, as usual. Faugh a Ballagh. — Richard Doherty, Londonderry.

TWO-WAY RESPECT

THE SALUTE dates back to the time when all-over body armour was worn. It represents the raising of the helmet visor when among friends.

Thus it is a sign of trust and comradeship. It is also a gesture of respect — which operates both ways — and of politeness, as when raising a hat to a lady.

It should always be acknowledged.

It is to be regretted, therefore, that politicians and dignitaries attending many official conferences these days in the UK fail to acknowledge the salutes by their military

attendants, who are usually women members of the Royal Military Police and whose smartness and salutes are exemplary. By those wearing mufti a nod or a smile to their escort would be appropriate.

A film recently re-run on TV about Fd Marshal Montgomery showed that he was meticulous in acknowledging salutes, even to commissionaires, who were not strictly entitled to one.

In a society aiming to be more equal, courtesies offered should always be properly acknowledged. — M McEwen Charlish, Carshalton, Surrey.

Wheels of fortune

HIGHLIGHT OF the year for members of The Wheels Club, based at the Queen Elizabeth Military Hospital in Woolwich, was their 12th annual Christmas lunch.

The wheelchair club was founded to give severely-handicapped patients and ex-patients, Service, ex-Service or civilian, the opportunity to attend quarterly social meetings to renew old acquaintances and meet new friends.

Current organiser, Maj (Retd) Ben Tinton – himself disabled, but showing a nippy turn of speed in his motorised wheelchair – was delighted at the high turnout, which included local dignitaries.

His only regret, he said, was that the club's 1992 summer outing had had to be postponed, owing to his ill health. He is aiming to rectify that this year.

Further details on the club may be obtained from him at the Queen Elizabeth Military Hospital, Stadium Road, Woolwich, London SE18.

Back on the Burma road

ANNIVERSARY pilgrimages to Mons, Cassino and Burma are among those being organised during 1993 by The Pilgrimage Department of The Royal British Legion.

Now in its ninth year, the department specialises in commemorative visits to war cemeteries, war memorials and certain campaign areas in the Far East, north Africa and Europe.

Anyone – Legion member or not – is eligible to travel on a pilgrimage, details of which are obtainable from The Pilgrimage Department, The Royal British Legion Village, Aylesford, Kent ME20 7NQ.

Liverpool memorial

A MEMORIAL has been unveiled in Liverpool to 2nd Lt George Ward Gunn, the former accountant who was awarded a posthumous VC for his supreme bravery during the North Africa Campaign of 1941.

In January of that year he was awarded the MC for his gallantry but it was his actions of November

21 that led to the higher honour. He was serving with J (Sidi Rezegh) Battery, Royal Horse Artillery near Tobruk when his troop came under heavy enemy fire.

Although most of his soldiers were killed he continued to fire on enemy tanks until he died. His courage prevented the enemy overrunning the British position.

The memorial, which includes a pastel portrait of 2nd Lt Gunn, the VC citation and other personal details, will hang in the Library of the Liverpool Society of Chartered Accountants. It was unveiled by Lt Col Philip Smith, CO of 103 Air Defence Regiment RA (V).

Albert (98) and his wartime memories

EARLIER this month, Albert Kirk celebrated his 98th birthday.

But before he notches up his century, he tells SOLDIER, he has one chief ambition.

He would like to stand once again on the spot in Carr Vale, Derbyshire, where his cousin hoisted him up on the crossing gates as, in a jet of steam, a train materialised and he witnessed the "impressive sight" of volunteers returning from the Boer War.

A man of strong principles, Albert – who now lives with his daughter near Whitstable, Kent – was a member of the 2nd Company, Northern Non-Combatant Corps during the First World War and was based in France.

On being discharged in 1918, he picked up the threads of his printing career, completing the last three of his seven years' interrupted apprenticeship and eventually ending up as a veteran of more than 50 British Standards Institution committees.

When the Second World War broke out, just as he had done 25 years previously, Albert volunteered to do his bit for King and Country by making a compromise.

"I had a team of fellow-pacifists and we did duty as wardens during the air raids around Croydon. On one occasion, we led 93 victims to safety during the night," he says.

Albert feels that his views are still being borne out by the current troubles in the former Yugoslavia and it is ironical, he says, that the incident which sparked off the 1914-18 War took place in

SOLDIER to Soldier

NEW YEAR HONOURS

ORDER OF THE BATH GCB

Gen Sir David Ramsbotham KCB CBE ADC Gen, late RGJ, Hon Colonel, Cambridge University Officers' Training Corps.

CB

Maj Gen R E Barron, late QRIH; Maj Gen W A Evans, late 5 Innis DG; Rev J Harkness OBE QHC, RACD; Maj Gen J F J Johnston CBE, late REME; Maj Gen J D Macdonald CBE, late RCT.

ORDER OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE KBE

Lt Gen The Hon T P J Boyd-Carpenter MBE, late SG.

CBE

Brig A B Atkinson ACC; Brig R M Bullock, late RCT; Col D S Hall TD, late RAOC, TA; Col O J M Lindsay, late Gren Gds; Brig P A Little, late 2 GR; Col A J Pinion, late RA; Col D C N Shaw MBE, late D and D; Brig C B Telfer ADC, RCT.

OBE

Lt Col E B L Armitstead, Coldm Gds; Col S C H Ashworth, late WFR; Lt Col T M Brown RE; Lt Col A S Craig RE; Actg Lt Col M F Forey CCF, TA; Lt Col M A Grant-Haworth, Kings; Lt Col R E Haes, R Anglian; Lt Col D P

Hughes, R Signals; Maj B A Kay TD, HAC, TA; Lt Col S C Kirkwood TD, RE, TA; Lt Col A R Lyon REME; Lt Col D J Martindale APTC; Lt Col A C Mieville PWRR; Actg Col W R Porteous TD, ACF, TA; Lt Col S E Reynolds AGC (SPS); Lt Col M E A Syms MBE, RCT; Lt Col J P O Webster MBE, Glos.

MBE

Capt R R Axup AGC (RMP); Maj I Beck SG; Capt R C Blewitt RWF, TA; WO1 R C Broadbent RRF; Capt E G Browning, Para, TA; Maj R A M Christmas PWRR; Maj B P Clesham, 2 GR; Maj D C Coe, R Anglian; Maj J A Collett RA; Maj S P Cowlam RCT; Maj B R N Davidson, R Irish; Capt S P Davies LD; Maj J S M Edwards RHF; WO1 M J Emery REME; Capt M W Everton RCT; Maj K R Gillies RS; Maj A J N Graham, A and SH; Maj C O Hodges, Kings; Maj P C James RWR; Capt J J Jobes, Kings, TA; Maj A J B Johnston, Coldm Gds; WO2 K C Jones, R Anglian; WO1 A T Kennedy RHF; Maj (Actg Lt Col) H F M Killip RE; Lt Col D A Kyd AGC (RMP), TA; Maj M Lithgow, R Signals; WO2 (Actg WO1) G D Lloyd REME; Actg Capt F J M Mair ACF, TA; WO2 J A McGowan SG; Capt G D McMeeken, D and D, TA; WO2 (Local WO1) M V Moore, Green

Howards; Capt M W Neville, Yorks, TA; WO1 C Northridge RA; Maj R W H Purdy RA; WO1 G B Routledge RTR; WO2 P A Sanderson RE; Maj L Smith RA; WO1 M Smith, R Signals; WO1 M j smith RA; Lt Col O D A Smith, Cheshire; WO2 T Taylor RPC, TA; Maj M R Toms RCT; Maj J H Varley WFR; Maj A A Wood RHG/D; Maj D R Yorke, Coldm Gds.

ROYAL RED CROSS

As Members – First Class – Lt Col M O M Keating TD, QARANC TA; Lt Col M M Mumford-George QARANC; Col M M Slattery QARANC.

As Associates – Second Class – Maj F G Bottig QARANC; Capt M Eldridge QARANC; Capt T L McManan QARANC; Capt (Actg Maj) P J Sokolow QARANC.

BEM

Bar to BEM: Capt R H Hasnip BEM, ACC.

BEM: SSgt M P R Ball RWF; Cpl M L Bland RAOC; Sgt N D Carr RA; Sgt P A Cassidy AGC (RMP); Cpl P R Chesters, R Signals; SSgt M F Tetlow SG; Cpl M J Tout RTR; Cpl M C Tsang, HKMSC; SSgt (Local WO2) R G Watkins QOH; Sgt M Watts REME; Cpl G J Wesley RPC; Sgt R C Yates RA; SSgt J W Younger RCT; Maj M I P Wing-hung RHKR (The Volunteers).

DIARY

JANUARY

30: Victorian Military Society "British India" fair, Victory Services Club, Seymour Street, London W2 (1030 to 1630). Details from Dan Allen, tel: 0635 48628.

FEBRUARY

12: Forces Sweethearts Exhibition opens at Imperial War Museum, running until October 15.

17-19: Mountbatten Festival of Music, Royal Albert Hall, featuring Massed Bands of the Royal Marines. Proceeds to Malcolm Sargent Cancer Fund for Children and selected Service charities. Ticket applications (enclose SAE) for balcony area £8 and £3 (restricted view) from RM Concert Office, Room 112, Archway Block South, Old Admiralty Building, Spring Gardens, London SW1A 2BE.

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

SEARCHLINE

Animal mascots: Cpl D Blackburn RAMC, researching for an article on mascots, from regimental variety to unusual examples adopted on operations abroad, seeks information and photographs. Please contact him at Block 5, Oliver Barracks, Dalkeith Road, Dundee DD4 7OL.

LCT Ardennes, 1960: Anyone who sailed to Singapore with 76 Water Transport Squadron RASC, January-April 1960, is asked to contact Gordon Northcott, 8 Minden Crescent, Helensvale, Queensland 4210, Australia.

Lt W T Lang: Mr E L Vine, of 7 Horsham Road, Bedford, Middlesex TW14 8LN, has a wooden carving by a Second World War British prisoner-of-war in North Africa which he wishes to hand over to surviving relatives. It bears the engraving "Lt L W Lang, Camp 4 Egypt 1941".

Maritime Royal Artillery: Regular branch meetings held in London area, Bournemouth, Stockton-on-Tees, Washington and Swansea. Details from the

REUNIONS

PMT Military Ball: Including parade of ex-Service Association banners, Crewe, April 3. Proceeds to RBL Welfare and SSAFA. Details from J G Davies, 6 Mayor Court, Flag Lane, Crewe, Cheshire CW1 3BL (tel: 0270 257092).

REME Association: Annual reunion at Pontin's Seacroft Holiday Village, Hembsby-on-Sea, Norfolk, over bank holiday April 30 to May 3. Cost £71 per person. Booking forms from Secretary, REME Association, Isaac Road, Arborfield, Reading, Berks RG2 9LN (tel: 0734 763219 or Arborfield Mil 2219).

5 Kings/No 2 T Force Unit: The Association is organising a reunion trip to Germany, May

president, Morrison L James, Summerhill Cottage, Drabbles Lane, Sandown, Isle of Wight PO36 9ER (tel: 0983 405474).

Oxford University OTC: Past members sought to join the newly formed old members' association. Details from the Secretary, The Blue Contemptibles, Oxford University OTC, Yeomanry House, Manor Road, Oxford OX1 3UQ.

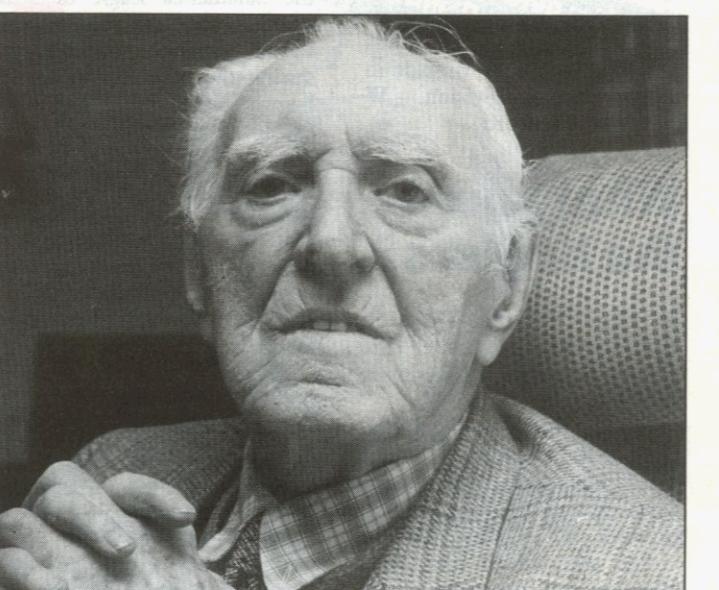
164 Railway Operating Coy RE (1939-45): Ex-MT Driver L R Swindale (6 Yew Tree Crescent, Stapenhill, Burton-on-Trent DE15 9QL) wishes to hear from former MT personnel who served with him, including Sgt Shaw, Capt Tyrell, Cpl Furmer, Frank Shepard, Jock Lythgoe and Frank Jennings.

Kenneth Henry Winn: brother of Leonard Charles Winn and who served with 2 Gren Gds in Hong Kong in 1978, is sought by his natural sister Evelyn, who was adopted in infancy. Please contact Mrs E Woodward, 103 Olive Avenue, Leigh-on-Sea, Essex SS9 3PX.

3-10, to visit old locations. Details from K V G Moore, Chairman, No 2 T Force Unit Association, Quellingburer Weg 8d, 3000 Hannover 21, Germany.

50th Missile Club RA: Fifth annual reunion planned for May 22 in Southport, Lancs. Details from Mr A J Todd, 9 The Grove, Heathhall, Dumfries DG1 1TN (tel: 0387 62378 evenings only).

Regimental Band, 17/21 L: The Regimental Band of the 17th/21st Lancers is planning a reunion in June. For details contact Band Sergeant Major, 17/21 L, Aliwal Barracks, Tidworth, Hants SP9 7AS (tel: 0980 841659).



Albert Kirk: lithographer, organist – and pacifist.

Smile on face of the Tiger

TYPICAL of the spirit surrounding the formation of The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment are the philosophical thoughts expressed in the final issue of the *Journal of*

APPOINTMENTS

LT GEN Sir John Wilsey to be C-in-C UK Land Forces in the rank of General, March 1, in succession to Gen Sir John Waters.

Brig W J P Robins to be Asst Chief of the Defence Staff (Command Control, Communications and Information Systems) in the rank of Major General, January 8, in succession to Rear Admiral R Walmsley.

Brig M A Willcocks to be Dir Gen Land Warfare in the rank of Major General, March 27.

Brigadiers – R H T Kirby – To be Dir DCT, Dec 14; G De V W Hayes – To be Comd 2 Inf Bde and Dover/Shorncliffe Gar, Dec 17; A R E Hutchinson – To be

The Royal Hampshire Regiment. An editorial in the 104-page valedictory issue of the magazine, which in its lifetime reached 82 volumes, tells of "a wealth of good feeling" in the new regiment. It reports that "the desire to succeed is clearly apparent". Amalgamation with The Queen's Regiment brought problems but there were inherent strengths, such as fully-manned battalions and the larger pool of talent, especially sporting.

"There is in fact much to applaud and relish, provided that neither the dead hand of the past constrains our regimental thoughts, nor that we, the former small regiment, become swamped by our much larger partner. So far the signs are propitious..." First issue of The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment's twice-yearly journal will come out in June.

All the world's security equipment

ALL YOU ever needed to know about security and counter-insurgency kit, and probably more, can be found in *Jane's Security and Co-In Equipment 1992-93*.

It starts with semi-automatic safe action pistols with adjustable sights and ends 547 pages later with details of the Microplex MP-2200 Monitor Control Unit, which sounds like something from a spaceship saga.

In between nothing is overlooked to illustrate and describe the weapons available to wage war against terrorism.

It is the bible of police forces and anti-terrorist units throughout the world.

The average reader flicking through this tome – which costs £135, so he or she won't be buying it – will be amazed at the variety of weapons available and the countries of manufacture, some of which seemingly have trouble feeding themselves according to news bulletins, let alone producing such hi-tech armaments.

But they are all there with full descriptions of each weapon's killing power. Only the prices are missing from this list.

Included in the vehicles section are bullet-proof cars to rival anything from a James Bond story.

The blurb on CCS (a US company) cars lists: bullet-proof windows, gun ports for defensive fire, a facility to repel the blast of land mines, tyres that don't deflate even though bullet-ridden, a defensive tear-gas system, 20 gallons of oil to deter pursuers, emergency oxygen, ram bumpers, smoke cloud facility, a 6,000 volt

system to make "live" the outside of the car, one million candela lights front and rear, a remote start in case of booby traps, a bomb sniffer and a built-in tracking device in case of kidnapping.

It didn't say whether it could fly. – JM

Jane's Security and Co-In Equipment 1992-93 edited by Ian V Hogg, £135.

New focus on the reality of the Somme

THERE have been numerous books on British military leadership in the Great War, and on unit or individual experience in the fateful year of 1916.

It therefore comes as something of a shock to see that *The 1916 Battle of the Somme* by Peter H Liddle is claimed to be the first book to examine the concept and planning of the battle and its conduct over the four-and-a-half months of its duration. It is a work that draws heavily on letters, diaries and personal reminiscences from The Liddle Collection, founded by the author and now part of the Library of the University of Leeds.

It is also profusely illustrated with trench maps, soldiers' sketches, and photographs, both British and German, most of which are drawn from the collection.

It is difficult now, three-quarters of a century after the event, to reconcile what can be seen as the submissiveness of those who took part in this battle, scorched into the national memories of the combatants, with today's attitudes to war and death.

One is overwhelmed by sheer numbers of casualties which make the wars in the second half of the 20th century seem like skirmishes by comparison.

In the words of a corporal in the 15th West Yorks (Leeds Pals): "I have to confess ... that quite an effort was required to keep my head since everyone seemed to melt away around me as if in a nightmare" – the Leeds Pals lost 24 officers and 504 other ranks that day.

Peter Liddle expands on this in his introduction: "As the nation loses the last of its Somme veterans on parade at war memorials in November or remembering their experiences each July, it is all the more important that their part in our heritage should continue to be recognised ... It is the dual aim of this book to make a contribution to the debate on the Somme in its wider context,

"While a range of reasons impelled enlistment in 1914, for most men the bedrock of the decision to enlist was a belief in a cause presented by poster and newspaper and from within, that King and Country had need of him ...".

Perhaps men acclimatised to unemployment, hardship and poverty, feeling that at last they were needed, were willingly prepared to offer their lives in gratitude.

For the rest, it must have been nothing less than pure patriotism. To quote a subaltern of the York and Lancaster Regiment: "If I do go out (am killed) it's a good thing to have given one's life for one's country."

The British losses in killed, wounded and missing have been variously estimated at between 400,000 to 424,000, the French at around 190,000, and the German casualties may have been as high as 680,000.

At the book's launch in the Liddle Collection's library, where a bugler of the Duke of Wellington's Regiment blew the Last Post, the author was asked by this reviewer why he was publishing so long after the Great War.

He explained that it was important the battle should be recorded before it is too late to base the account of what actually happened as expressed at the time by those who experienced it, rather than on judgments too often rooted in legend or in values different from those which prevailed in 1916.

Peter Liddle expands on this in his introduction: "As the nation loses the last of its Somme veterans on parade at war memorials in November or remembering their experiences each July, it is all the more important that their part in our heritage should continue to be recognised ... It is the dual aim of this book to make a contribution to the debate on the Somme in its wider context,

BALKAN BRIGADIER: STORY OF A REMARKABLE MAN

FITZROY Hew Royle Maclean has sometimes been identified as Ian Fleming's model for James Bond – an error corrected in Frank McLynn's biography of Maclean.

The real-life James Bond, we are told, was Cdr Wilfred Dunderdale, who joined the Secret Intelligence Service from Naval Intelligence in 1924.

There are, however, resemblances to the fictional Bond in the life story of Fitzroy Maclean in that he has been involved in many dangerous adventures.

Born in Egypt in 1911, he went through the Establishment processing of Eton, Cambridge and the Diplomatic Service, and we are treated to some fascinating accounts of Embassy life in pre-war Paris and Moscow.

It was while in the Soviet capital that his superiors marked him as "one of note", first because of a friendship struck up with a non-Nazi in the German Embassy; this contact helped him to supply London with useful intelligence. Secondly, being blessed with linguistic abilities, Maclean was able to make far-ranging lone journeys into the Soviet Union.

Back in wartime England of 1941, Maclean was determined to get into action, so he resigned from the Foreign Service and enlisted in the Cameron Highlanders, at the same time becoming a Con-

and to focus sharply on the reality of the experience of the regimental officers, NCOs and men who were there."

It is inconceivable that the world could ever be faced with or could afford another Somme. But it is important that we know how it was, if only to understand what moulded the social aftermath of the Great War, the effects of which can still be detected in our society. – BJ

The 1916 Battle of the Somme: A Reappraisal by Peter H Liddle. Leo Cooper/Pen and Sword Books, hardback, £17.95.

servative MP. In the Middle East he joined David Stirling's Special Air Service, in which he served with distinction.

In 1943 he was selected by Churchill to head a British Mission to the Yugoslav Partisans, with the rank of brigadier, at the age of 32.

To the author's great credit, he describes concisely the complex situation that prevailed in the nation-state that had been created in 1919 by the Treaty of Versailles from a mismatch of territories whose populations had little or nothing in common.

This background makes the present-day Yugoslav conflicts far easier to comprehend. There were various factions, each with their own objectives: a fascist movement called the Ustase, and two resistance groups – the extreme Serb Cetniks led by Gen Draza Mihailovic, and the Communist Partisans under Josip Broz, known to history as Tito.

"In effect there were now three wars in Yugoslavia: resistance against the Axis which was almost entirely a Partisan affair; the struggle of Serbs against Croats and Muslims; and a civil war between the Serb Cetniks and Serb Partisans."

It was against this background that Fitzroy Maclean was parachuted in by the Special Operations Executive, an organisation for which he had little affection and trusted



Fitzroy Maclean, a brigadier at 32 and head of Churchill's mission to Yugoslavia: a "kilted Pimpernel" who had his critics

even less; as he has said: "I can assure you, I did not take the first parachute that was offered me. Because one of the things SOE did to people they wanted to get rid of was to put a blanket in their parachute".

The 18 months Maclean

spent with Tito and the post-war aftermath form the centrepiece of his biography. We read how his "blockbuster" reports to Churchill resulted in Allied material support for Tito's Partisans, leaving Mihailovic in the cold.

Although by 1945 Maclean was being generally feted as the "kilted Pimpernel", he was not without his critics, some even now holding the view that "Britain backed the wrong horse: London should have continued to support Mihailovic ... and failed to do so because of the advice of Fitzroy Maclean".

The post-war career of this remarkable man is not neglected: his missions to vet Yugoslav Displaced Persons, sorting out those to be sent back and those to be allowed to settle in other countries; his work as an MP and Junior Minister; his books and film-making for the BBC.

His reputation has come under scrutiny during the break-up of the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia, and the author investigates the controversies attached to Maclean's name.

What is now happening in Yugoslavia fills him with gloom, believing as he does that the unification forged by Tito was an achievement of great statesmanship. He deplores the double standards of those in the West who encourage separatism in Eastern Europe.

This is an important, timely and balanced biography of the "Balkan Brigadier" which certainly helps clarify current events in Yugoslavia. – BJ

Fitzroy Maclean by Frank McLynn, published by John Murray, hardback £25.

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As this magazine knows only too well, to describe anything

as "the first", the "largest" and so on is asking for trouble. Obviously the author is aware of this pitfall and cautiously claims that "the first fabricated weapon was probably the club".

It's an even money wager that someone will write and tell him something different. – JM

The Guinness Encyclopedia of Weaponry by Ian V Hogg, £19.95.

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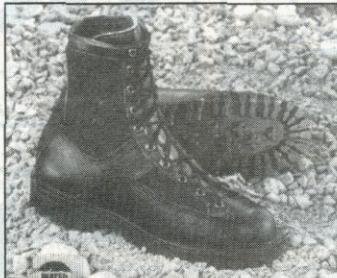
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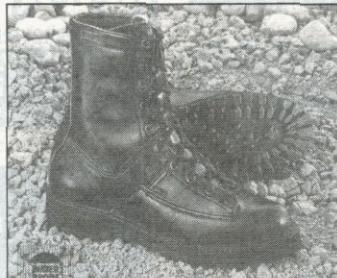
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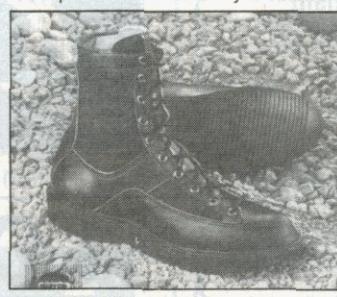
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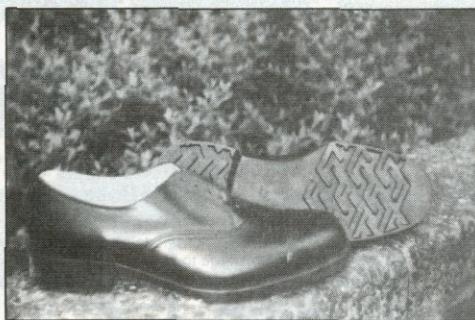
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Hi Guys. I'm Kath, a fun loving 27-year-old who is looking for any soldiers to brighten my days, must enjoy the good life, i.e. clubs, pubs, drinking - just basically making a fool of yourself! P397

Model, beautiful looking. Sick of guys on civvy street. Seeks relationship with guy in the forces, tall, slim and good looking. Write soon, send photo. You won't be disappointed, promise! P398

Three single, well tanned guys, Paul (30), Chris (25), Keith (21) require loads and loads of letters from single girls. Must have sense of adventure/humour, looks and age not important. Photo if possible, ALA. P399

To lonely hearts far and near, I hope to bring you some cheer, Tracy's my name, so if you feel blue, send me your name and I'll write to you. I'm 25, ALA. P400

I'm Eliza, 26, I work as a welfare officer. Interests: walking, literature, writing (haven't produced a best seller yet!), theatre, winemaking and current affairs. Love to hear from anyone with similar interests. P401

A young 37-year-old female would like a single gentleman around 40 as a pen pal. Must have a sense of humour and be honest and sincere. Photo if possible. P402

I'm a 19-year-old girl who's bored with the locals. I would like somebody to write to with a good sense of humour. I love scooters and everything associated. P403

Hi, well built single female, 24 years old, 5'10", brown hair and blue eyes, enjoys music cinema, travel, reading, writing, animals and spending. Seeks pen pals from anywhere. Guarantee a reply, thank you. P404

Hello, I'm Paddy, 20. I'm a soldier currently serving with the UN in Bosnia. I'm quite thin, with funny ears - but undeniably cute and cuddly. Love to hear from humorous ladies anywhere, a photo would be nice. P405

Very attractive single brunette, 36, 5'7". Seeks single officer for pen pal. Interests are world travel, sport, health and beauty. Career minded and home loving. Please write to Sandra. P406

Young woman seeks correspondence with unattached male 25-35. Interests include riding, reading, travel, eating out. P407

Help needed to find a tall dark handsome man, uniform a definite plus. Can you fit the bill? If so please write, my name is Teresa and I'm awaiting your replies. P408

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Charities for the benefit of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets.
Scheme for the amalgamation of the Charities.

The Charity Commissioners propose to make a scheme for this Charity. Copies of the draft Scheme may be obtained from them [ref: RLB-153344 XI-(28)-(RB108)] at Woodfield House, Tangier, Taunton, Somerset TA1 4BL. Objections and suggestions may be sent to them within 18/24 one month of today. 02-03

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Army hits four in county opener

**Army 4,
Dorset 1**

TWO GOALS in the last minute gave the Army a convincing win over Dorset in their opening match of the 1992-93 South West Counties Championship at Aldershot Military Stadium, writes Pat Massey.

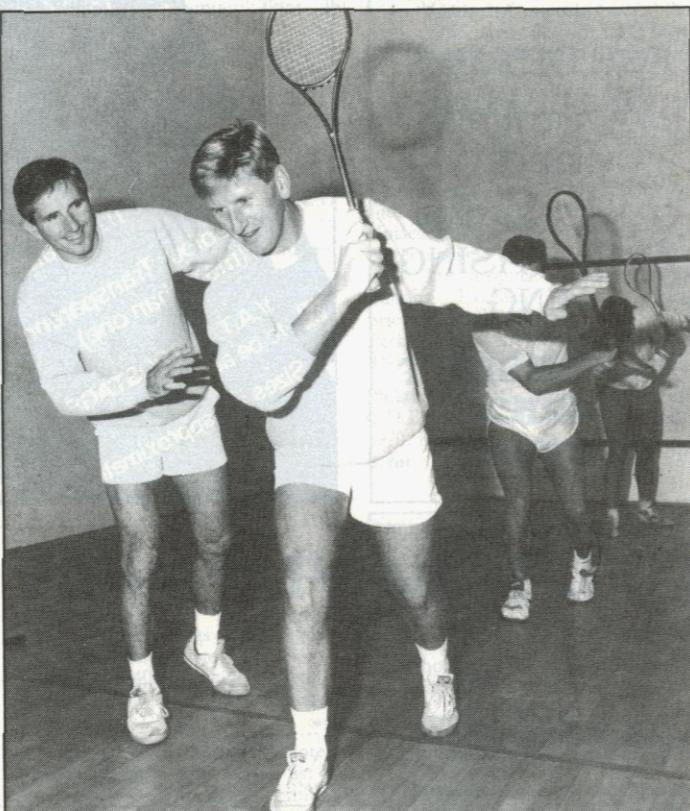
Until then, however, although the home side enjoyed the best of the exchanges, their slender 2-1 lead was always vulnerable to a breakaway goal and the spectators were kept on the edge of their seats as both sides played some good attacking football.

The Army created several chances before they took the lead through a goal by Sig Paul Brown (R Signals). Just after the half hour, however, they conceded a bad goal when a free kick was headed over advancing keeper Cfn Mike Taylor (REME) and Aylott (Dorchester Town) shot into an empty net.

Fifteen minutes from time, a long clearance out to the right saw Cpl Dave Maynard (DERR) race to the goal-line before rolling the ball into the path of Cpl Shane Smith (REME), who shot into the roof of the net.

In the last minute, a clever switch left Sgt Kevin Parkins (RCT) clear on the right flank. His cross on the near post seemed to be covered by

Blandford United 'keeper Joyce, but the ball bobbed in his arms and substitute Cpl Jason Smith (AAC) got the crucial touch to score from close in.



Getting into the swing of things in Gibraltar are QMSI Tony Quinn and SSgt Rab Black of the Army Physical Training Corps. The duo were enjoying the benefits of a week-long Army unit squash coaching course organised by QMSI Quinn, who persuaded his APTC colleague SMI Chris Evans – a top Army squash coach – to fly in from Berlin to qualify coaches from Army, Royal Navy and RAF units based on the Rock

London, West beaten

AN ARMY select boxing team beat London ABA by seven bouts to one at Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent on November 27. There were wins for Fus T Marsden (2 RRF), Spr J Bhujel (QGE), Pte J Mills (3 Para), Spr T Winspear (36 Engr Regt), LCpl L Innes (3 Trg Regt RE), Fus D Duncan (1 RRF) and LCpl C Whittaker (38 Engr Regt). LCpl J Ollerhead (1 Kings) was stopped in the second round of his light middleweight contest.

• Winners of 2 Signal Regiment's inter-squadron boxing

competition – which marked the beginning and end of an era – were members of 1 Squadron.

Due to the re-organisation of 2 Infantry Division Headquarters and Signal Regiment, and re-titling as 2 Signal Regiment, the competition – held at Imphal Barracks, York – was the last to involve members of 210 (24 Airmobile Brigade) Signal Squadron.

It also marked the involvement for the first time of the regiment's newest squadron, 2 Squadron, based in Colerne.

Young guns go out with more titles

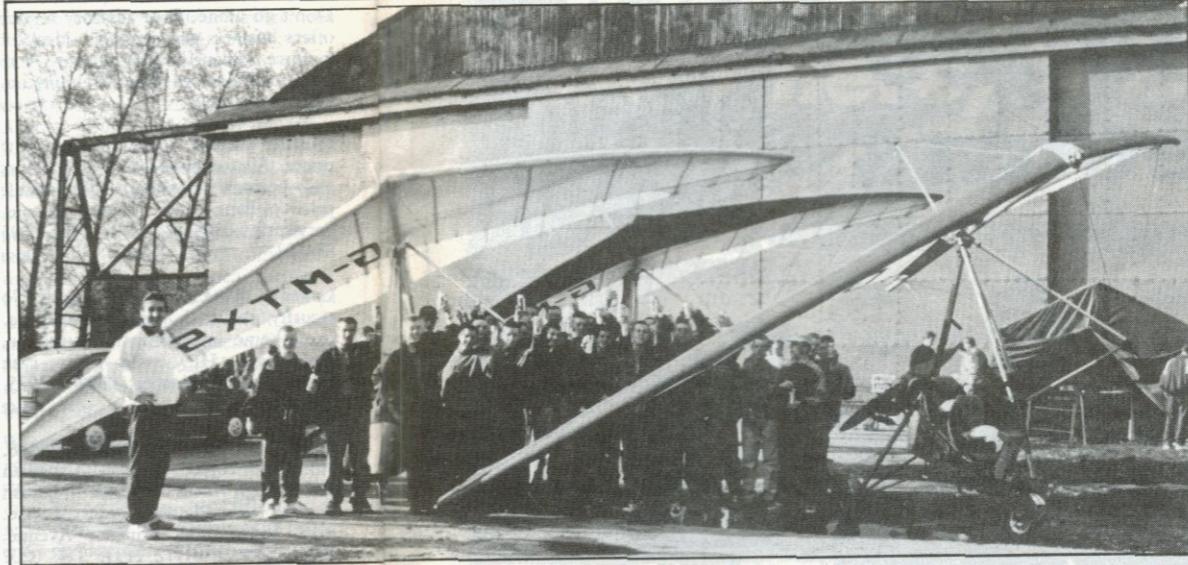
THE ARMY indoor tug of war championships were hosted by the Army School of Physical Training at Aldershot in the superbly renovated Wand Tett Gym.

The championships got off to a good start, with the 600kg competition having an entry of nine teams. In the semi-finals 40 Regt RA overcame 19 Regt RA, two ends to nil, but the tie of the weight was a tremendous three-ender between JLR RA and 4 R Irish, with the junior gunners clinching the match in the final pull. In the final, 40 Regt RA were too strong for the young gunners.

In the 680kg competition, 40 Regt RA were again victorious, with 4 R Irish gaining the silver medal. The 560kg saw JLR RA gain revenge over 40 Regt RA in the semi-finals, then go on to beat 19 Regt RA in the final.

It was fitting that the junior gunners should win yet another Army indoor title. This was probably their last competition, after years of representing the Royal Artillery, the Army and, indeed, their country. In fact, JLR RA went on to the national youth championships and won the 420kg and 560kg titles.

At 640kg, 4 R Irish retained their Army title, despite surprisingly losing to 21 Engr Regt in their second pull. This was a tremendous competition with the result in doubt up to the end.



They fly through the air ... microlight flying lessons in progress for the Prince of Wales's Company from Bramcote



Flight of freedom

MICROLIGHT aircraft have come a long way in the 15 years or so since those first intrepid souls started experimenting in their back gardens by mating a hang glider to a lawn mower engine, and Maj Jeremy Witcher WFR is an unashamed enthusiast.

From those early, unregulated and somewhat risky days, he says, microlights have developed into rugged, safe, sophisticated little aircraft capable of flying to Australia or across the Atlantic. The record height achieved by a microlight

is more than 20,000ft.

However, nothing quite so demanding was in mind when the Prince of Wales's Company of the newly-formed Army Junior Leaders Regiment at Bramcote – of which Maj Witcher is officer commanding – decided to take to the air.

Getting 75 Juniors, permanent staff and their families airborne for a 40-minute flying lesson was no mean endeavour, says Maj Witcher, but with the assistance of the experienced instructors of Ultraflight Aviation, based at Fradley Aerodrome, Lichfield, the aim was achieved.

"I have been much impressed by these small aircraft and the remarkable freedom they afford to operate from field sites," he enthuses.

"While they may be too weather-dependent to warrant serious consideration for a military role, they certainly bring powered flight into the realms of an affordable and sustainable sport for the average person."

With this in mind, Maj Witcher – himself a qualified

pilot – is investigating the possibility of setting up an association for Service personnel interested in taking up the sport.

Cost price pilot courses have already been negotiated with Ultraflight Aviation, the largest training school in the country, and future plans include courses for instructor rating and the purchase of aircraft for hire by association members.

Anyone interested in further details or a free trial flight should contact Maj Witcher on Bramcote Mil 2532 or 2512.

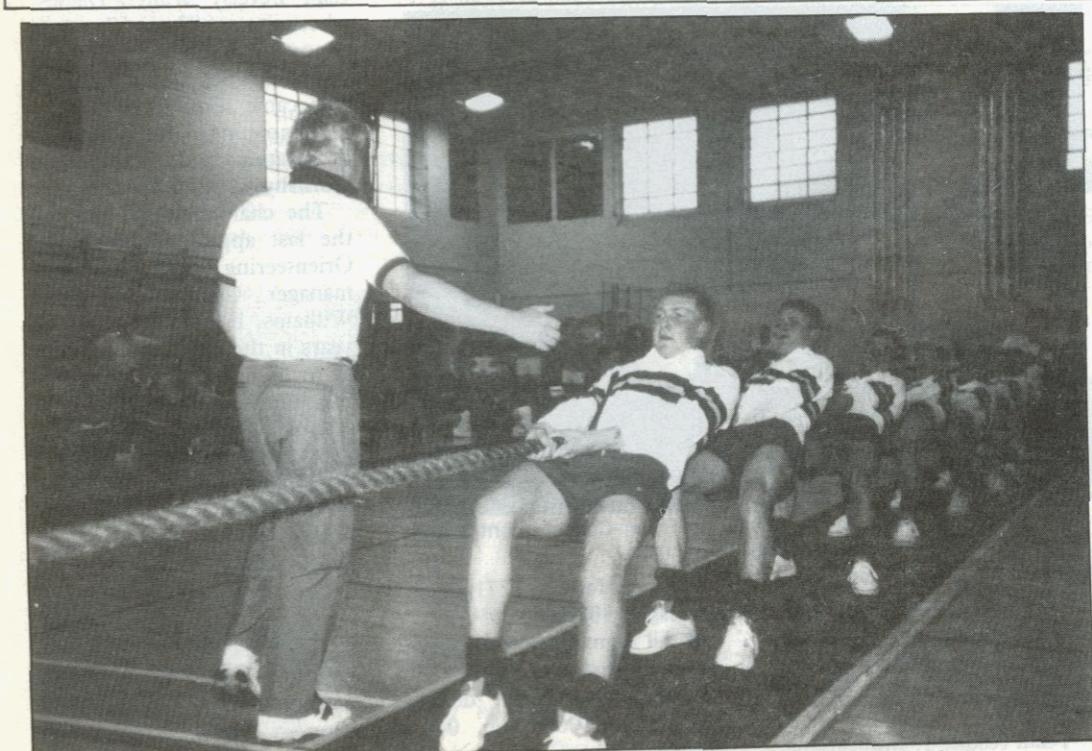
Bowled over by grandma!

PARTICIPANTS in the singles section of 1 Armoured Division's ten pin bowling championships have been beaten – by a grandmother.

Glynnis Bowdler, also reported to be the first woman to win the section in the history of the championships, and described by husband Alan of the Queen's Own Hussars in Hohne as being "quite a young granny", won with a total of 882: nine pins ahead of nearest rival Tom (Shakey) O'Donnell.

More than 100 bowlers took part in the highly competitive event, held at the Soltau Bowling Centre.

Victors in the unit team event were the QOH, with new arrivals The Light Dragoons in second place.



JLR RA on their way to winning the Army 560kg tug of war title at ASPT in Aldershot

Rod's run nudges national selectors

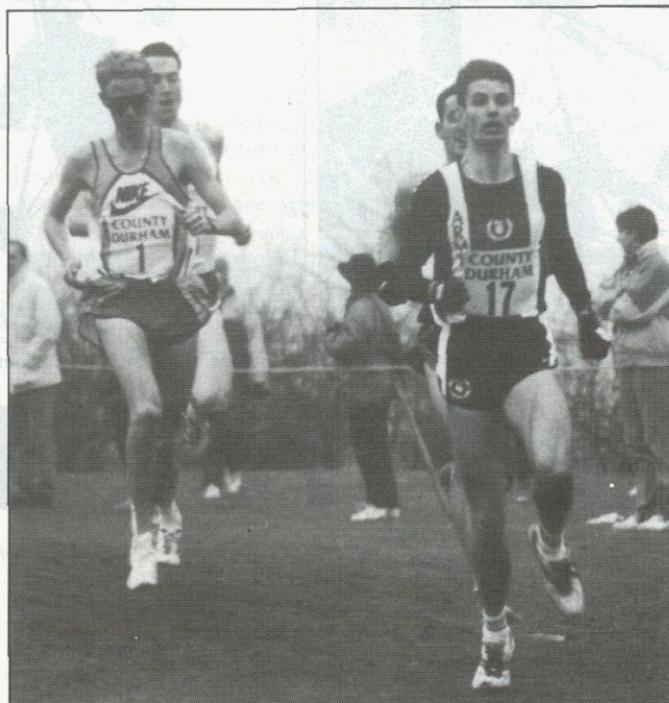
SGT ROD Finch (3 Para) took another step closer to international selection with a superb performance in the men's 2km event at the County Durham international cross country races on January 2.

Rod, who was in contention throughout, finished ninth in a blanket finish, where just five seconds covered 12 runners. LBdr Steve Overton (94 Loc Regt), who also made the long journey north, had a fine run, finishing 29th.

The Army team did very well and finished fourth in the 8km senior men's open race.

Cpl Dean Marshall (1 R Anglian), fresh from his success in the Eastern District championships, started steadily and worked his way through the field over this six-lap course to finish in a very creditable 17th position, just ahead of team mates Pte Alan Shepherd (23 PFA) 23rd, LCpl John Porter (94 Loc Regt) 24th, and Pte Darren Stephenson (1 PWO) 25th.

Cpl Craig McBurney (JIB Ouston), making his return to the Army team following a tour of duty in Northern Ireland, finished 27th, while LCpl Steve Thomas (1 R Anglian), Cpl



Sgt Rod Finch (right) leads European indoor champion Matthew Yates (dark glasses) during the 2km international race at Durham

John Castle and LCpl Lee Boston (2 Sig Regt), all finished in the top 50.

The second Inter-Corps cross country championships will take place at the Trg Bn and Depot RAOC, Blackdown, on March 10. It will include a

women's race (six runners, four to score). Race instructions have been circulated to corps secretaries. Further information on the event can be obtained by contacting Capt Peter Marsh on Ludgershall Mil (732) 8654.

Milocarian AC wins Ellis Trophy

THE TRI-SERVICE Milocarian AC cross-country team are now the proud holders of the prestigious Ellis Trophy.

Hosted by Ranelagh AC and run over 5.5 miles of Surrey's Richmond Park, the event attracted 150 runners representing ten clubs.

The winner, from Croydon AC, clocked 28min 56sec and first Milocarian over the line was the RAF's Alan Turnbull, in fourth place.

Against strong opposition which included the Metropolitan Police and Hercules Wimbledon as well as Croydon AC, Army runners Nick Wood (Bristol University OTC),



Maj Duncan Francis RA receives the Inter-Corps orienteering trophy from Col Stephen Abate

Mark Greenwood (27 Regt RCT) and Peter Johnson (RMA Sandhurst) packed well, to the delight of the club's watching president, Gen Sir Charles Harington.

Team result: 1. Milocarians,

260pts; 2. Hercules, 271pts; 3. Ranelagh, 305pts.

● All Army personnel, serving or retired, are eligible to join the Milocarians: details from Neil Wood on 0483 574944.

Army's clean sweep

ARMY competitors gleaned an armful of prizes at the Inter-Service orienteering competition held at Wharncliffe Woods, Sheffield.

The Army team won not only the Inter-Service trophies in both the men's and ladies' competitions, but filled the first three individual placings in both categories.

Weather conditions were appalling, with wet areas in the forest frozen with ice, and mist and driving rain affecting visibility on the moorland.

All the more credit, then, to the men's team, who took the opposition apart with accurate navigation and fast times over the 12.7km course.

Current Army champion WO1 (TSM) Colin Dickson was Inter-Service winner by more than four minutes in a time of 94min 21sec, with Maj Duncan Francis the runner-up in 98min 35sec. Third place went to Sgt Calvin Routledge (100min 41sec).

On a slightly shorter but nevertheless equally demanding course, the Army women's team left the other two Services standing.

Inter-Service champion was Capt Beverly Walters-Davies, whose time of 87min 57sec was almost 18 minutes faster than teammate Sgt Julie Wilson, who came second.

Completing the Army's domination was Capt Jane Hornsby in third place.

The championships marked the last appearance of Army Orienteering Association team manager Capt (Retd) Ken Williams, bowing out after 11 years in the post and a veteran of Army orienteering for more than 20 years.

● After two years as runners-up to REME, the Royal Artillery stormed through to a comfortable win in the 1992 Inter-Corps orienteering championship held in Sussex.

The two-day event was well supported: the men's competition contained a strong field of 20 teams, including the police and the Civil Service, and there were six women's teams and three junior teams.

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Lancers in support of United Nations operations in Cyprus and Bosnia. The top picture shows two UN Scout Car Squadron Ferrets manned by 16th/5th The Queen's Royal Lancers driving through long-abandoned streets along the Buffer Zone in Nicosia. Story in Pages 16-17. Pictured below is a Scimitar of the 9th/12th Royal Lancers facing the front line at Jelah, Bosnia as night falls. The Lancers had just escorted the first aid convoy into the town.

Pictures: Terry Champion (Cyprus), Mike Weston (Bosnia)



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