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ARMED SOLDIER

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**THE FORCE IN
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Incorporating the Territorial Army magazine

November 14, 1994

Vol 50/23

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FRONT COVER: Cpl Matthew Ray of the 9th/12th Royal Lancers concentrates on the job - driving a Challenger 1 on the all-weather circuit at Bovington's Royal Armoured Corps Centre. See also Page 11 and back cover. (Picture: Mike Perring.)

● **SAS STORY:** Interview with Gulf leader and SAS soldier Gen Sir Peter de la Billière on his new autobiography. *Page 15*.

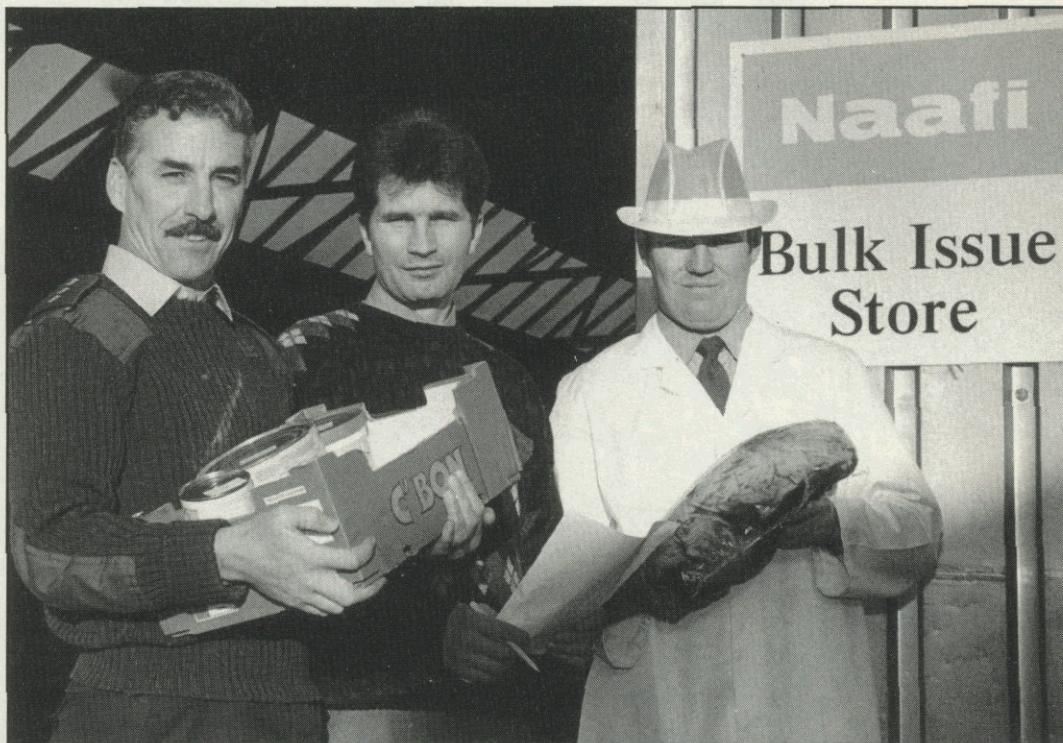
● **BOSNIA:** Royal Engineers are working hard to build suitable accommodation for troops based at Gornji Vakuf. *Pages 17-19*.

● **IRON COMPASS:** 3 (UK) Division goes out and about to test its operational readiness. *Pages 22-23*.

● **RWANDA:** How young British soldiers are coping with the trauma of a nation torn apart by civil war. *Pages 25-29*.

● **JOCKS ON ROCK:** Part-time soldiers of Black Watch Company, 1/51 Highland have been exercising on Gibraltar. *Pages 16-17*.

● **ADVENTURE:** TA soldiers from Wales and Western District found snow and ice on the equator. *Pages 18-19*.



Making sure the troops are fed at Aldershot. From left, Capt Mike Bell, Area Catering Officer; Derek Matthews, manager of the Bulk Issue Store; and SSgt Kevin Tibble, Master Chef at 27 Regiment RLC

Picture: Mike Perring

Computer causes chaos in kitchen

CATERING officers and chefs in the three Services are struggling to cope with the chaos caused when a Naafi computer dealing with a new centralised food ordering system crashed.

The telesales system, introduced on October 1, was linked to a central storage warehouse to speed up dispatch following the award of an MoD contract to Naafi to take over jointly with the tri-Service Directorate of Services Food Management the purchase, storage and delivery of food to MoD establishments.

Parts of the system had worked well, but disaster struck when it was linked to bases in Germany and Northern Ireland.

One catering officer described the situation as "pandemonium" as produce from bulging warehouses

could not be retrieved electronically. Food turned up a day late or not at all and one caterer received 10lb of pork instead of 100, another 50 chickens instead of five.

Desperate chefs, used to ordering directly from their local Naafi branches, stripped nearby supermarkets of meat to ensure Servicemen were fed. They are still trying to account for food which arrived wrongly invoiced or with no invoice.

It is unlikely that the full supply, accounting and bill payment arrangements will be in place until the beginning of next year.

Local purchases had to be made by Naafi at high street prices and Naafi has agreed to absorb the extra cost. Price Waterhouse has been called in to solve the problem.

Under the new arrange-

ment, everything except most frozen meats and groceries has been sub-contracted. Naafi was already coping with two other major problems. Its main refrigeration depot at Amesbury broke down, and a giant warehouse in Grantham was discovered to have an uneven floor which had to be replaced.

Local Naafi shops "played a blinder" to deal with the emergency, as did Army caterers, according to the Directorate of Services Food Management.

At some units there was less choice, but thanks to the caterers' efforts, soldiers did not go hungry.

The Falkland Islands, Germany and Cyprus have not been as badly affected as mainland Britain, where sub contractors are being used until the computer mainframe can be brought on line.

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DESIGNED TO BE DRIVEN

Two British sappers injured in Rwandan mine blast

A 23-YEAR-OLD sapper from 9 Parachute Squadron RE, Spr Robert Copsey, lost part of his right foot when he stepped on an anti-personnel mine south of Kigali in Rwanda on October 25.

Another soldier, Cpl Antho-

ny Hill (29), also from 9 Para Sqn, was slightly injured by shrapnel and blast in the same incident as the two men were repairing a bridge at Kanzenze destroyed during the civil war.

They are the first British sol-

diers injured by mines or other munitions since the start of Operation Gabriel on August 17.

The force of 575 British soldiers serving with the United Nations Assistance Mission to

Rwanda is due to return on November 17. Aldershot-based 9 Para Sqn RE has 144 men deployed throughout Rwanda in Byumba, Kitabi, Runyombi and Kigali.

● See Pages 25-29

ARRC 'ready' for Bosnia

ALLIED Command Europe's Rapid Reaction Corps (ARRC) deployed its headquarters outside Germany for the first time when it took part in the first major exercise in Denmark since the NATO re-organisation.

ARRC Commander Lt Gen Sir Jeremy Mackenzie said he expected his force to be ready for full operational deployment by the end of Exercise Chinese Eye.

More than 1,000 British personnel were among the 7,000 NATO troops from 12 nations taking part in Jutland in the command post exercise which simulated the deployment of a 100,000-strong ARRC force of British, German and Italian divisions and the Multinational Division Central (MND(C)) comprising 24 Airmobile Brigade and Belgian, Dutch and German brigades.

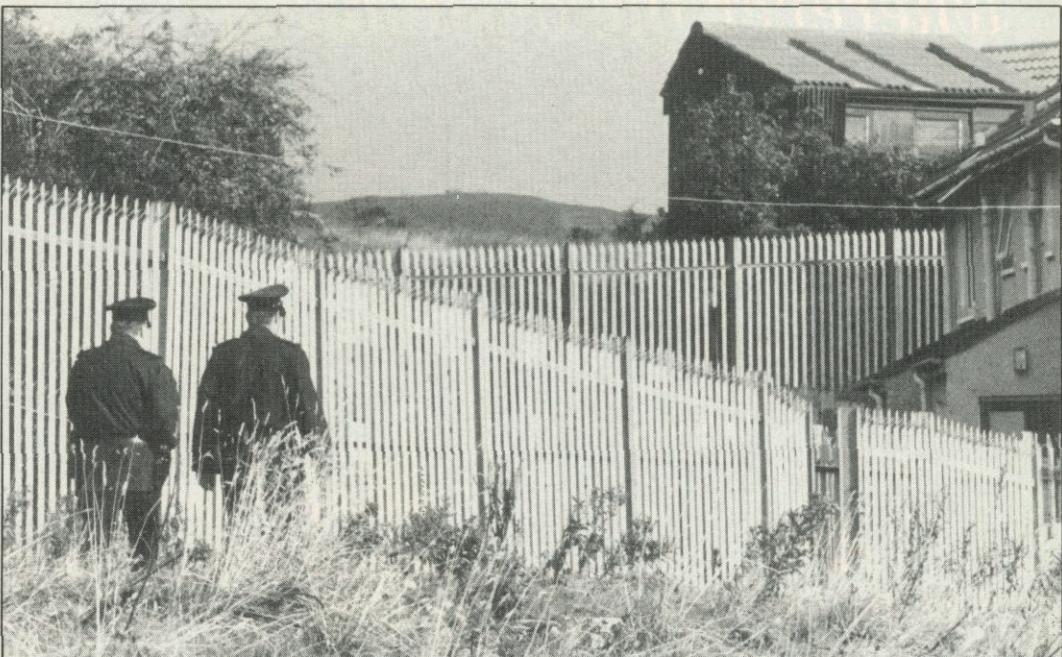
British personnel make up more than half the 1,000-strong multinational ARRC headquarters.

Gen Mackenzie said he had been told by the Supreme Allied Commander Europe (SACEUR) to have his headquarters ready for possible operations in Bosnia.

Smith to lead UN Bosnia force

MAJ GEN Rupert Smith, Assistant Chief of the Defence Staff (Operations and Security) at MoD and commander of the 1st Armoured Division during the Gulf War, will replace Lt Gen Sir Michael Rose as commander of the United Nations forces in Bosnia Hercegovina in January.

Lt Gen Rose is the first holder of the post to have completed the full 12-month appointment and was widely praised for his tough stance which led to a cease-fire in Sarajevo in February.



History in the making as two RUC constables begin their patrol through a nationalist estate in west Belfast without the support of British troops

Patrols relaxed in Londonderry

FOR THE first time since the troubles began in Londonderry 25 years ago, British troops are not patrolling the city streets.

Patrols in Strabane and Omagh have also been wound down and soldiers withdrawn from checkpoints on the Londonderry-Donegal border.

Four checkpoints have been removed at border crossing points to County Donegal and another to County Leitrim.

In both Londonderry and Omagh, the Royal Ulster Con-

stabulary has been operating without the support of The King's Own Royal Border Regiment and The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment respectively.

Until recently, the Army supported two-man police patrols with 16 soldiers. Now RUC constables are patrolling unsupported and without flak jackets.

Elsewhere in Northern Ireland, military operations have been scaled down in response to the reduced threat since the IRA declared a complete cessation of military operations at the end of August.

In west Belfast where the level of terrorist activity had been high, Army mobile patrols have been halted, the exception being a continuing commitment to support RUC mobile patrols, but, as a further sign of increased confidence, top cover sentries no longer

stand up in the back of the armoured patrol vehicles with weapons raised.

Soldiers in the city, including the 1st Battalion, The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders and The King's Royal Hussars' now wear their respective regimental head-dress, Glengarries and berets, instead of helmets.

During a visit to Northern Ireland last month, Prime Minister John Major said: "We shall keep as many policemen and troops as we need for as long as we need to protect the population. The need for soldiers to patrol the streets will continue to be reviewed in relation to the threat and it is our firm objective to return to exclusively civilian policing."

At present 19,000 troops are stationed in Northern Ireland, including six resident and six roulement battalions and six Royal Irish Regiment Home Service battalions.

Picture: Mike Weston

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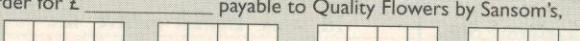


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IN BRIEF

Trucks and trailers hired

THE ARMY School of Mechanical Transport at Leconfield, North Humberside has hired 140 Leyland Daf trucks and trailers from Ryder under a five-year contract.

The company has already supplied 250 items of equipment including trucks, Mercedes vans and Suzuki motor cycles to Leconfield, where nearly every driver of an Army truck is trained.

• • •

Malcolm Rifkind became the first British Secretary of State for Defence to visit Israel when he began a four-day tour on October 20.

• • •

Air Chief Marshal Sir William Wratten, Commander Allied Air Forces Northwestern Europe, was briefed by Gen Sir John Wilsey, Commander-in-Chief, UKLF, and Brig Andrew Cumming, Director of Operations, when he visited the joint headquarters at Wilton, where nearly 100 Army, Royal Naval and Royal Air Force staff control operations in Bosnia and Rwanda.

• • •

The Princess Royal visited 16 Signal Regiment on deployment north of Munster and presented Capt Carol Rankin with the Whistler Trophy for outstanding devotion to duty and professional competence.

• • •

Col "Mac" McLelland, Deputy Lieutenant for the London Borough of Croydon, opened the newly-refurbished Territorial Army Centre at Coulsdon, home of 41 (Princess Louise's of Kensington) Signal Squadron (Volunteers) and 31 Signal Regiment (Volunteers).



Days after arriving at Church Crookham, the newly-formed 3rd Battalion, The Royal Gurkha Rifles stormed to victory in the Army's biannual Milan anti-tank missile platoon competition.

Led by Lt Peter Hill, the 3 RGR platoon beat 36 others at Otterburn in a series of tests from weapon-firing to battle proce-

Last of Sikhs disband

THE LAST Sikh detachment serving in the British Army disbanded in Hong Kong when the 37-strong Army Depot Police held its final parade.

For the past 45 years the detachment has guarded the ammunition depot on Stonecutter's Island.

Maj Gen Bryan Dutton, Commander British Forces Hong Kong, told the Sikhs of Britain's deep gratitude for their outstanding service to the Crown and praised their loyalty and trustworthiness.

The war-like Sikhs, from India's North-West Frontier, allied with the British after the 2nd Sikh War in 1849 and, though only two per cent of the population, provided 20 per cent of the British Indian Army's personnel. During the Second World War 300,000 served, almost always in combat roles, and always wearing their sacred turbans.

Gurkha Milans on mark

dures. The deceptively tricky Armoured Fighting Vehicle recognition test involved identifying 15 types of foreign military vehicle, each heavily obscured by smoke, undergrowth or camouflage.

Lt Luxmi Bantau Limbu (front left), 3 RGR, accepts the Milan Platoon Trophy from Maj Chris Finch, Infantry Support Weapons Wing at Netheravon, and Sgt David Kerr, who run the competition at Otterburn.



Col John Cook (right), commanding officer of 8 Signal Regiment, presents its flag to Brig John Griffin, Commander of the Royal School of Signals. The flag will be laid up in the Corps Museum at Blandford.

The Princess Royal, Colonel-in-Chief of the Royal Corps of Signals, reviewed the final parade of trainees at Catterick before a team of nine relay runners set off to Blandford via other Royal Signals units at

Signals flag to be laid up

Harrogate, Sheffield, Derby and Nuneaton.

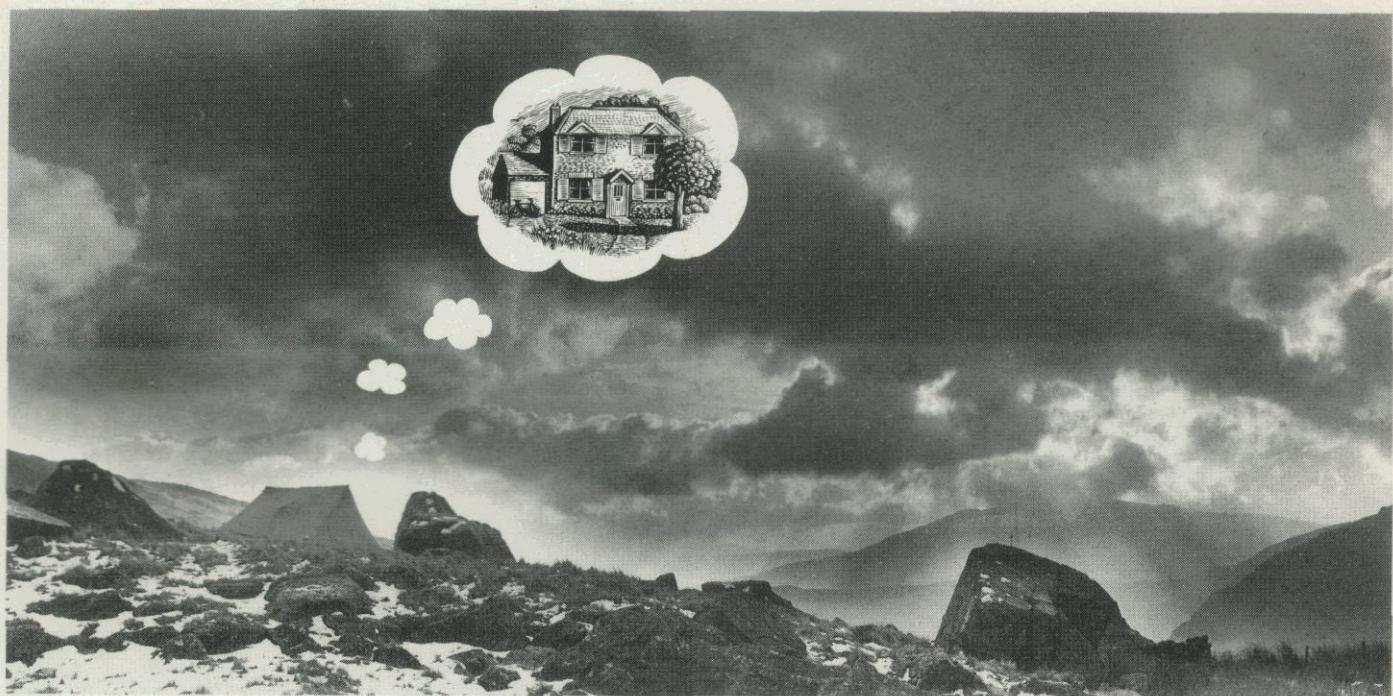
They delivered the flag of 8 Signal Regiment, which is to disband next year, and two cheques of £5,000 each for the Royal Signals Benevolent Fund and the corps' New Museum Appeal Fund.

Coldstream in Holland

EXPERTISE from Bosnia was applied during a joint exercise by soldiers of No 1 Company, Coldstream Guards when they took part in the third Partnership for Peace exercise with Eastern European countries at the Dutch Harskamp training area from October 21-27.

The Coldstreamers joined 900 soldiers from 12 nations including the Czech Republic, Estonia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia and Ukraine.

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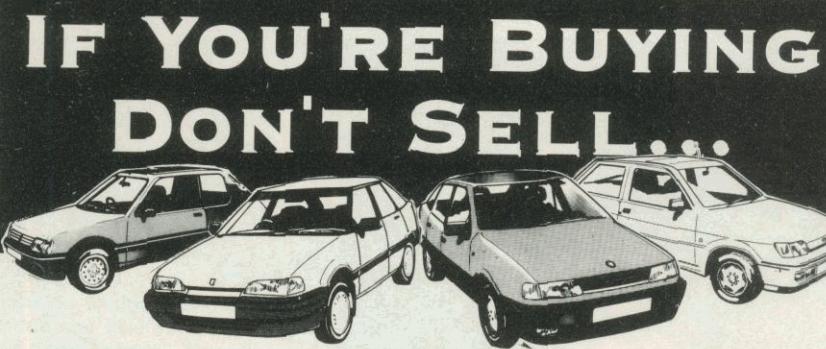
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NI solution 'would reduce overstretch'

IF AND when troops were withdrawn from Northern Ireland, the overall size of the Armed Forces would not be affected, Defence Procurement Minister Roger Freeman said on the second day of the House of Commons debate on the Defence Estimates.

"Any benefits will come not in redundancies, but in a partial reduction of the overstretch..."

In his opening speech on the first day of the debate, Defence Secretary Malcolm Rifkind said the Government's aim was to remove soldiers from the streets of Northern Ireland "when it is safe to do so". It could never be normal for soldiers to be deployed on the streets of the United Kingdom.

He announced that up to £60m is to be spent on enhanced communications for Britain's Joint Rapid Deployment Force (JRDF). Major element of that would start to arrive with units from 1996, and most would be in place by 1997.

Headquarters staff of 3 (UK)

Division and 3 Commando Brigade were already working together on joint planning of training and exercises, and in future would co-ordinate training wherever possible. The JRDF concept was announced in July in the Defence White Paper.

Mr Rifkind said there was no intention to further reduce the number of British troops stationed in Germany, currently about 23,000. NATO's integrated military structure required troops to train and work together, and that required physical collocation.

The United States were maintaining 100,000 troops in Europe for that reason.

In answer to a question from Mr Julian Brazier, he said that Ministers did not have before them a proposal to reduce by almost half the strength of the SAS Reserve.

Around the House

A summary of Defence topics from Westminster

In a House of Commons written answer, Armed Forces Minister Nicholas Soames said up to October 4, 121 payments totalling £3,300,000 had

been made to seven officers (average £43,665) and 114 other ranks (average £25,577) as a result of industrial tribunal decisions on compensation for pregnancy dismissals.

Tribunal awards, however, represented only a small proportion of the 2,745 pregnancy claims so far settled at an overall average of about £10,000 for all ranks. Indications were that tribunals were now making lower levels of award.

Bicester (part of RAF Bicester) with the loss of 117 posts, are the subject of consultation with interested parties, Mr Soames said in another written answer.

• • •

Other topics covered in written answers were:

- The Government intends to amend the Sex Discrimination Act 1975 in relation to its application to the Armed Forces;

- The MoD has received an offer from Greenwich Healthcare Trust for the purchase of Queen Elizabeth Military Hospital. An expression of interest from a private consortium has also been received.

• • •

Government measures taken in response to the IRA ceasefire included the opening of border crossing posts and soldiers wearing berets instead of helmets, Viscount Cranborne said in a House of Lords debate on recent developments in Northern Ireland.

RGBW all fired up in Bosnia

SOLDIERS of The Royal Gloucestershire, Berkshire and Wiltshire Regiment found themselves in a "hot spot" when they faced groups of Bosnian Muslims in Bugojno.

Under Lt Simon Stilwell, seven members of C Company battled with local fire-fighters in a good natured contest to mark the centenary of the town's fire brigade.

With the help of a portable generator cum water pump, the 1 RGBW firemen came a creditable fifth against 12 teams, including visitors from Tuzla, Maglaj and Travnik.

The battalion was second in a football competition and last in a chess tournament.

The fire brigade leader is also the head of the local civil brigade and works closely with C Company in other matters. The UN troops have fostered an excellent relationship with the people of Bugojno.



Maj Mark Whelan, OC A Coy, 5 PWRR, and Lt Julian Ladd, OC 3 Platoon, during the live attack

TIERS IN THE FOREST

ARDUOUS training was the order of the day for more than 300 "Tigers" of the 5th Battalion, The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment on their annual camp at Otterburn in Northumberland.

Field-firing throughout the first week started with individual skills and progressed through pairs, section then platoon fire and manoeuvre. Orienteering and watermanship skills training gave added spice.

A series of company level

field-firing exercises included the use of 51mm mortars, 94mm LAW, GPMG(SF) and sniper rifles.

After a joint sports afternoon with 103 ES Battalion REME, crowned by an outstanding barbecue produced by chefs under WO2 Paul Marson, the Tigers deployed into Kielder Forest for a five-day field training exercise.

An enemy force of 70 was provided by the 7th Battalion, The Light Infantry and 103 ES

Bn REME with elements of HQ 2 Infantry Brigade also deployed to test the battalion.

After two days in pouring rain and little sleep the battalion had to paddle assault boats across Kielder Water at night before a move by Puma helicopters and a battalion attack on RAF Spadeadam.

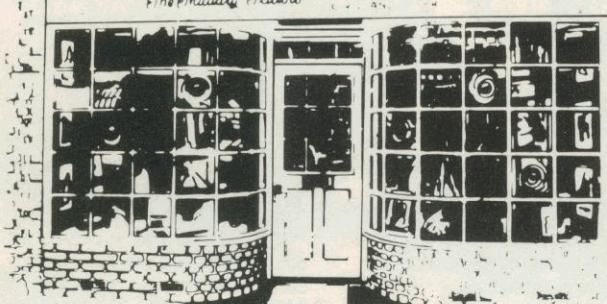
Commanding officer Lt Col Bob Russell was delighted with the performance of the battalion and grateful for the support of other units.

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Tank school opens up for learner drivers

INITIAL driver training for all soldiers in the British Army's armoured regiments will be carried out at the Royal Armoured Corps Centre at Bovington.

With an annual budget of £40m, it is now equipped to put 3,100 soldiers a year through their paces.

Trainee tank drivers are required to complete 100 to 125 miles on the road before they qualify.

A new all-weather driving circuit at Bovington enables recruits to drive well away from public roads until they have gained their tracked vehicle



Above - A Challenger training tank goes off road as part of the course at the all-weather driving circuit recently constructed at the RAC Centre. Inset - Brig Andrew Gadsby, Commander of the RAC Centre

licences. Learners are easily identified, and not just because of the mandatory "L" signs on their tanks.

Much of the initial tuition is carried out in the distinctive turretless Challenger training tank which has neither 120mm main gun nor machine-guns,

but plenty of windscreens to aid instructors.

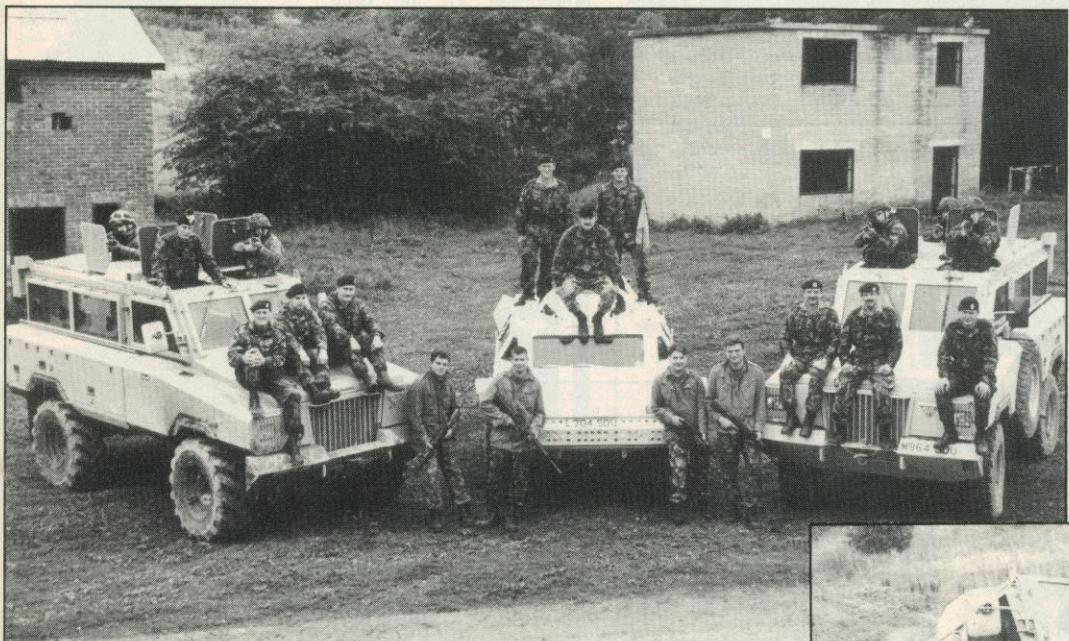
The RAC Centre is supported by the RAC Centre regiment, currently the 9th/12th Royal Lancers (Prince of Wales's), and employs 600 soldiers and 300 civilians.

As well as all initial driver



training, the centre is the focus for all RAC phase 2 and 3 training. The garrison includes HQ RAC, the training regiment, the RAC's gunnery, signals and driving and maintenance schools, its trials and development unit, and Army Base Repair Organisation Bovington, as well as a host of smaller units including the Tank Museum, which attracts 160,000 visitors each year.

Three-quarters of the centre's training area at Lulworth ranges are designated sites of special scientific interest. The ranges are closed for firing on only six weekends in any one year.



Picture: Mike Perring

Alvis 8 goes on trial

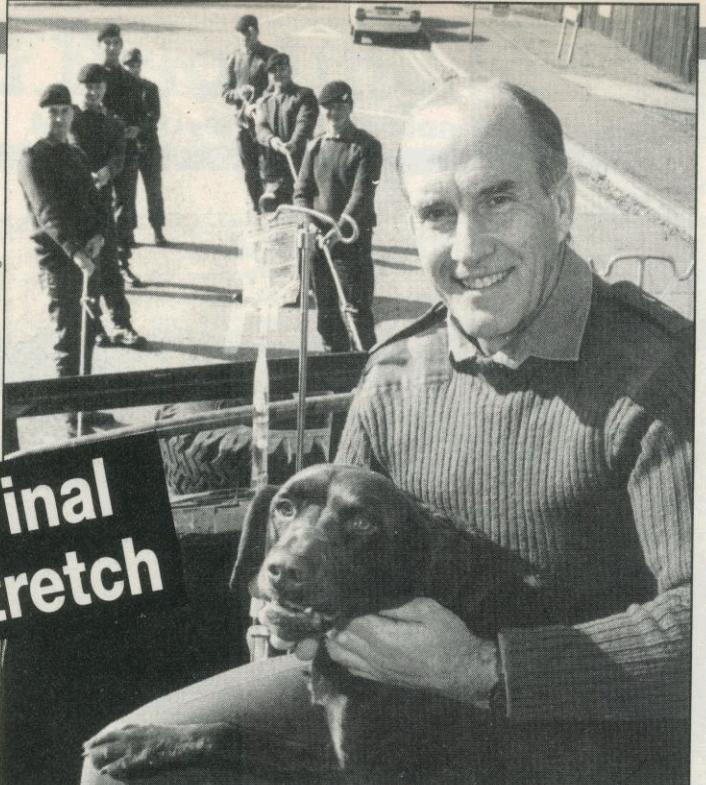
Members of the Defence Export Services Organisation's Infantry Sales Demonstration Team supported by sappers and the RAC sales team are pictured above with the family of mine-protected, high off-road mobility utility vehicles introduced by Coventry manufacturer Alvis Vehicles Ltd. The team put on a demon-

stration involving exploding mines and a shoot-out.

Vehicles similar to the Alvis 8 (pictured right) have been studied in two British Army-supported evaluation trials for the United Nations in Croatia. Developed in South Africa, its mine protection technology is claimed to be unmatched.



Final stretch



Lt Col Ray Turner, outgoing commanding officer of 22 Field Hospital RAMC, is pulled out of Thornhill Barracks, Aldershot on the back of a Land Rover complete with stretcher and saline drip. He was leaving to take up a new post in Chester. His successor is Lt Col Brooke Bayley.



London Jocks go Dutch

Territorials from the London Scottish were "pathfinders" for a commercial parachute course in the Netherlands.

Organised by their Gordon Highlanders (now Highlander) Senior Permanent Staff Instructor, CSgt Pete Newman, 11 Jocks attended the first five-day course run by Paracentrum Texel and brought back Dutch parachute wings – and Recce Sgt Simmy Simpson with a broken ankle.

"It is the basic course run for the Dutch Army," said CSgt Newman. "It is short, sharp and adventurous and provides excellent leadership training for TA soldiers who do not have much time to devote to extra training."

Pictured at Texel are (from left) Pte James Clarke, LCpl Jason Horwood, CSgt Pete Newman and Sgt Mick Shephard.



Ribbon development

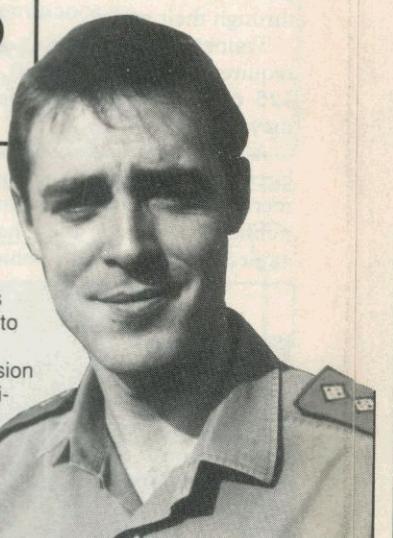
Recruiters from ACIOs at Bournemouth, Salisbury and Swindon celebrate their awards of two Meritorious Service Medals, two Long Service and Good Conduct Medals and a Mention-in-Dispatches. From left to right are Cpl Maj Barry Jones HCR (MSM); WO1 Trevor Edge RLC (MSM); Sgt Dean Coupland RGBW (MID); SSgt Colin Brown, R Signals (LSGC); and Sgt Di Lawton, R Signals (LSGC).

Back to Africa

Capt Simon Gregory, Royal Signals, has a degree in French and Classics and is working as an interpreter for the British Forces in Rwanda. It is his second humanitarian tour to Africa.

He served with the UN mission to the Western Desert in Mauritania, where he regularly did 1,200-mile patrols and where refugee camps, unlike Rwanda, are established with schools, hospitals and sanitation.

After Op Gabriel he was due to become adjutant of 30 Signal Regiment but will now fill the same appointment with 15 Signal Regiment at Lisburn.



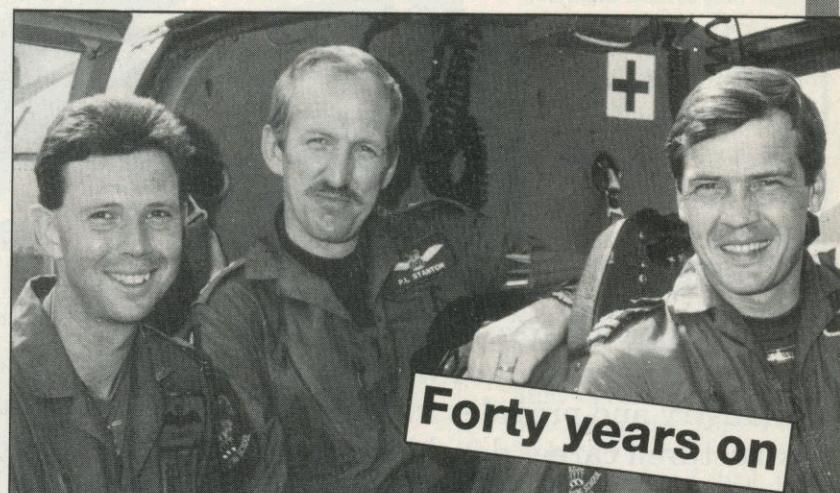
PEOPLE PEOPLE PEOPLE



First female into what was an all-male preserve is 2nd Lt Alison Home AGC, the new AGC detachment commander with Osnabrück-based The Queen's Royal Lancers. Alison was most impressed with the regiment's Challenger 1 tanks, which she reckons are easier to drive than her car.

Imp- portant vehicle

Giving these Lincolnshire lads from the Vitez-based 1st Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment a reminder of home is the Imp of Lincoln Cathedral which has magically appeared on the APV behind (left to right) Ptes Darren Winter, Simon Franklin, Karl Boucher and Andy Woods. Reputed to have turned to stone when the cathedral was built, the image of the goblin was proudly worn on the shoulders of local TA troops in both World Wars.



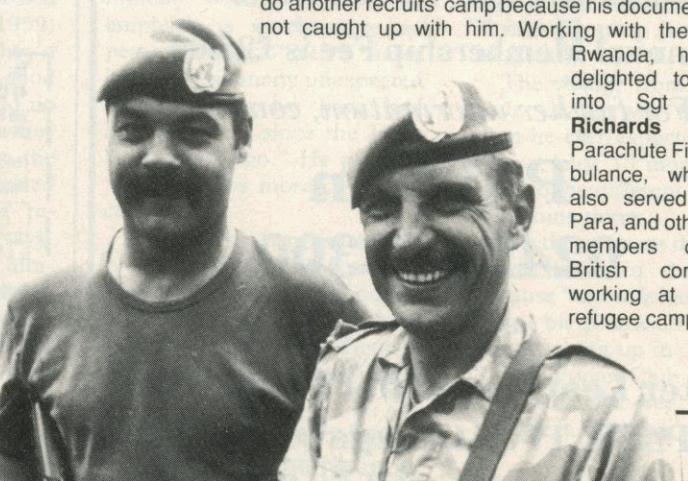
Capt Paul Stanton, Army Air Corps (centre), pictured with fellow serving qualified helicopter flying instructors Ft Lt "Bunny" James (RAF) and Lt Al Read (Royal Navy). The three, based at RAF Shawbury, Shropshire, attended a celebration to mark the 40th anniversary of the Central Flying School (Helicopters).

It brings tears to yer eyes, sport

When the beer ran out at Kitabi in Rwanda on the anniversary of Arnhem it nearly broke an adopted Digger's heart.

SSgt Jess Nowicki (right) spent ten years with The Parachute Regiment before emigrating to Australia and joining the Australian Army – where he had to do another recruits' camp because his documents had not caught up with him. Working with the UN in

Rwanda, he was delighted to bump into Sgt Richie Richards of 23 Parachute Field Ambulance, who had also served in 1 Para, and other para members of the British contingent working at Kibeho refugee camp.



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Mike Moore / TODAY Newspaper

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THE ARMY BENEVOLENT FUND

Remembering & Supporting the Brave



Life and times of a brush fire war soldier



A CITY banker has just had his autobiography published. But he is no ordinary Square Mile slicker. The deals he made had a certain finality for his "clients".

Until recently he was the British Army's most highly decorated serving officer, his name inseparably linked with the Iranian Embassy siege, the Gulf War and the SAS.

The man who went *Looking for Trouble* – and found it – is Gen Sir Peter de la Billière. He has compressed a thousand lifetimes into 439 pages.

Gen de la Billière admits he "had to cut out one complete chapter, by agreement" with the MoD editors, "but I wasn't into defying the MoD in any way at all. At the same time I had a book to publish."

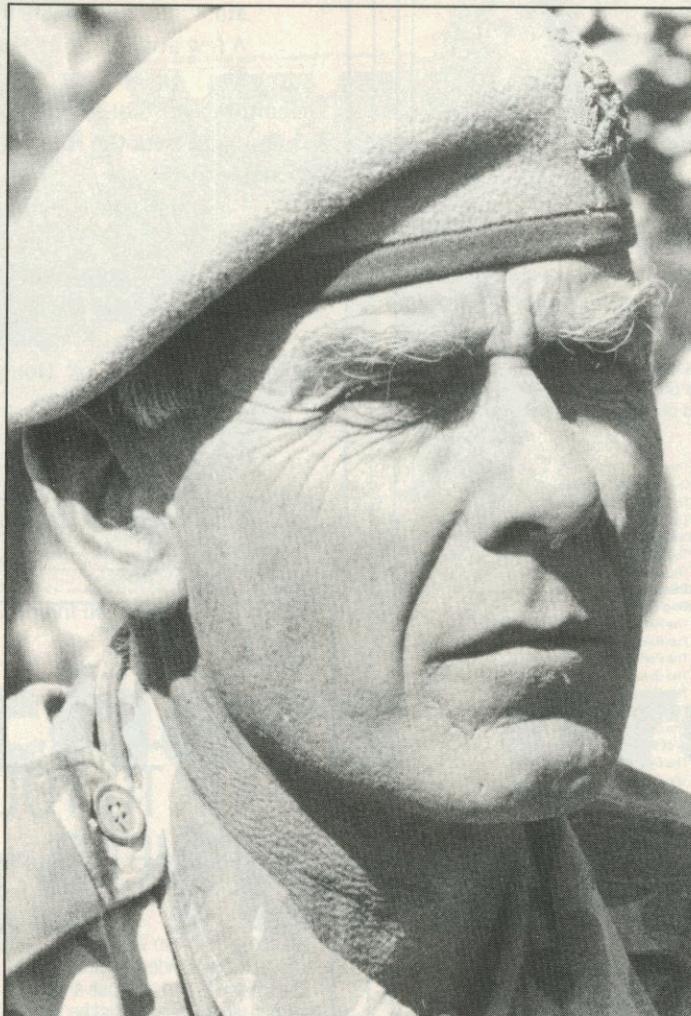
He gives no clue to what we have missed.

Peter de la Billière began his military career in the Durham Light Infantry. His first posting was to Korea, "where you learnt lessons very quickly or you got killed".

Maj Reggie Atkinson MC, his first company commander, "had stringently high standards, and anybody fortunate enough to have in his first company commander a really demanding man who expects and sets high standards is going to set those standards for himself thereafter," said Sir Peter.

John Woodhouse, who commanded the SAS when the general was himself a squadron commander, "had the same sort of standards. I had more rockets from him than any other person in the whole of my life put together."

The SAS has played an enormous part in the general's life. When he joined the regiment in 1956 "it was considered to be the end of your career". At that time the future of the SAS was by no means assured as it had been re-formed, only temporarily, after the Second World War to fight in the Malayan campaign.



Gen Sir Peter de la Billière

"It was when we performed at Jebel Akhdar (Oman 1959) that they realised that they'd got some outstandingly good men in the SAS who could do just as well in the desert as they could in the jungle, that the MoD was finally persuaded that the SAS should be re-formed permanently," he says.

The general, who calls himself "a product of the brush fire war era", says that today's young Army officer faces different problems from his own

military youth. Though the emphasis is much more on peace-keeping, "we've never had quite so many unexpected operations as we have had including and since the Falklands campaign." He predicts "there will be more of that to come".

The British Army is currently commanded by quite a "mafia" of SAS generals, including Gen Sir Charles Guthrie, Chief of the General Staff; Gen Sir Michael Wilkes,

Interview by Capt Tim Purbrick, UKLF Mobile News Team, who spoke to Gen Sir Peter de la Billière at the National Army Museum when he opened "A Soldier's Sketchbook", an exhibition of Gulf War drawings by Maj Robin Watt

the Adjutant General; and Lt Gen Sir Michael Rose, the UN commander in Bosnia.

"I was very fortunate to have them under my command and that certainly was what helped me to get to wherever I got to," Gen de la Billière said with his usual modesty.

And the reason they are all generals? "First, the SAS have got bloody good people to work with. Secondly, it develops them in a way which prepares them much better for higher command."

This continues to be borne out by the number of high-flying Army officers who zip from Hereford to Staff College with comforting regularity.

As the man in charge of the Army Cadet Force, Gen de la Billière's greatest hope is "that the book will be read by young people, because I think there are an awful lot of lessons I learnt as a young person there for other teenagers to pick up".

At the same time he wants to "encourage the older generation to create opportunities and lead youngsters into them rather than sit back and criticise them because they don't meet up to some standard that they happen to have set".

Sir Peter is now back in civvy street for the first time in nearly 40 years. He is Middle East adviser to merchant bankers Robert Fleming, for whom he frequently visits the region.

The change from the Army to 1st Civ Div was "far greater" than he ever expected. It took him at least 18 months to get used to the different way of life and doing things.

For the moment there are no more books in the pipeline because "my wife has insisted I have a bit of time off". But he's not propping up the bar at the Special Forces Club just yet. In fact, he's not free for lunch until next February . . .

Looking for Trouble by Gen Sir Peter de la Billière. Published by HarperCollins, price £19.99.

READER OFFER

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(circa 1991)



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Once again, SOLDIER Magazine and Military Caricature Publishing are offering readers the opportunity to purchase these superb limited edition prints featuring officers of the British Army (circa 1991) at a special discounted price.

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8. The Queen's Royal Irish Hussars
9. 9th/12th Royal Lancers (PoW's)
10. The Royal Hussars (PoW's Own)
11. 13th/18th Royal Hussars (Qn Mary's Own)
12. 14th/20th King's Hussars
13. 15th/19th The King's Royal Hussars
14. 16th/5th The Queen's Royal Lancers
15. 17th/21st Lancers
16. Royal Tank Regiment

The Corps

17. Royal Regiment of Artillery
18. King's Troop RHA
19. Corps of Royal Engineers
20. Royal Corps of Signals

The Guards Division

21. Grenadier Guards
22. Coldstream Guards
23. Scots Guards
24. Irish Guards
25. Welsh Guards
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Royal Engineers and the heavy equipment they are using to rebuild the UN base at Gornji Vakuf

Poachers' group looks forward to des res at Gornji

LIFE AT the British Army's company base at Gornji Vakuf has been a little quieter lately. Instead of the crump of mortar fire and the burp of machine-guns, the camp has operated to a background noise of hammering, humping and heavy plant.

A major rebuild is under way. Begun by 32 Field Squadron RE, it will be finished by others. It involves the erection of 250 flat-pack accommodation cabins and 50 toilet, shower and laundry units.

The sappers, working with

United Nations civil engineers, will upgrade existing plumbing, sewerage and electricity services, and create hard-standing parking areas for vehicles.

By the time the work is completed in January, troop accommodation will be of an unexpectedly luxurious standard, at least by Bosnian standards.

The commander of B Company, 2nd Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment, Maj Alasdair Wild, and his men

have been trying to keep the February 23 peace agreement on line.

"Our mission is to conduct operations in support of it to create conditions for a lasting peace in central Bosnia," he said.

The Poachers' Company Group consists of a standard armoured infantry company – B Company – with a mortar platoon from 1 DWR.

There are also three liaison teams and attached support staff, such as REME fit-

ters and Royal Logistic Corps chefs, and a number of collated Force units including a repair and recovery group and medical centre.

While one of Gornji Vakuf's two troops of Royal Engineers is rebuilding the camp, the other is responsible for maintaining Route Diamond between Gornji and Vitez.

The Poachers are responsible for two UN-sponsored checkpoints and an HVO weapons collection point.

Soldiers sometimes escort aid convoys into the more

● Turn to next page

Report: Laurie Manton
Pictures: Mike Perring



Tprs Scott Banford and Elton Nutton LD, make friends at Prozor



Above - Members of the mobile bath and laundry unit play their part in keeping morale up at Gornji Vakuf. From left to right are LCpl Jason Swift, Sgt Norman Foster and Pte Martin Burley



The Light Dragoons' operations room at Gornji Vakuf, manned by Capts Rob Bulloch and Harvey Ogden, Pte Adrian Walsh (R Anglian) and LCpl Brian Bastol

Des res

• From Page 17

remote areas of their "patch", giving them an opportunity to identify communities in need of assistance and to notify aid agencies. Five schools and a health centre are being refurbished as a result of their vigilance.

Despite the cease-fire, there is still much tension in the area.

"The fighting in Gornji Vakuf was some of the first to start and some of the worst," explained Maj Wild. "The Croats here were displaced from 34 villages and 5,000 Muslims remain cut off in two valleys to which the Croats control entry and exit."

The Croats are keen to get back to their villages to tend graves and repair homes, but the Muslims are resisting swift change.

"The presence of our patrols has defused some very tense

confrontations. My soldiers have also helped keep the lid on a banditry problem which was creating pressure."

Collocated in the camp is a Squadron, The Light Dragoons, which spent the first part of its tour at Tomislavgrad before moving to Gornji Vakuf.

There was excitement in store for the Dragoons when they were tasked to provide security for Royal Engineers working on Route Triangle, then the only road into central Bosnia.

To ensure they were not interrupted by traffic, the sappers constructed a series of earth walls and ditches to deny access to the route, an action which upset HVO forces wanting to move combat supplies up-country.

They retaliated by threatening to force a way through.

On at least six occasions, bus loads of civilians moved tons of rock and earth with their bare

hands so they could escape from what they believed to be a very dangerous area.

When it became clear the HVO was preparing to force the passage south of 150 trucks, the sappers used explosives to destroy the road between Fort Resort and the Vavara quarry in what was thought to be the first operational route-denial by the Army since the Korean War.

There was a real danger of the HVO launching an attack on the British position, so that night soldiers built a defensive position around Fort Resort (by then dubbed The Last Resort!).

Extra ammunition and rations were issued to prepare for the siege and the sappers laid improvised claymore mines around the base. In the event, the HVO held off, but it was a nerve-jangling start.

A few days later, eight HVO T55 tanks left Tomislavgrad to attack BiH positions to the



south. With all his armoured vehicles committed on patrol, squadron leader Maj Alex MacKenzie commandeered an RMP Land Rover and set off in hot pursuit.

He found the tanks several



kilometres inside a heavy weapons exclusion zone.

"They were very hostile when we arrived, but after drinking a few beers, as local custom dictated, they became friendlier and agreed to turn



5th Troop impressed the local police by apprehending two bandits who had been holding up cars on the main supply route. Following further successes on Op Spider, an anti-bandit operation, the squadron



Sappers from 1 Tp, 32 Fd Sqn who have been rebuilding the company base at Gornji Vakuf



Above - Commanded by SSgt Dave Collett, the REME forward recovery group at Gornji Vakuf helps a Scimitar crew put their vehicle back on the road. Cpl Gilly Gilmore is in the front. Behind him are (left to right) Tpr Stephen Barclay, Cpl Alan Marshall, Cfn Gavin Godfrey, Cpl Gavin Ball and Tpr John Johnson



Left - Pte Stuart Clarke and LCpl Bob Perry, R Anglian

established strong links with HVO special forces operating in the area and was able to make use of their range facilities.

The Light Dragoons have been relieved by B Squadron, The Household Cavalry Regiment, commanded by Maj David Amos LD.



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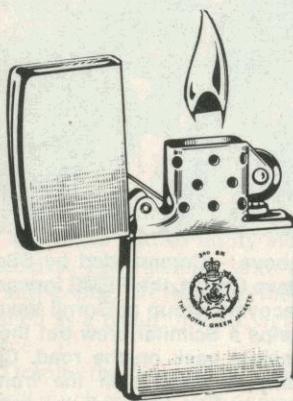
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Michael 'steaks' his claim to a new career

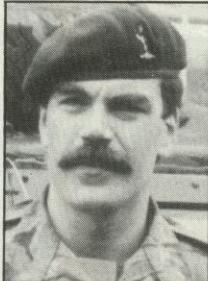
UNTIL recently, former Royal Corps of Signals warrant officer Michael Wood was roaming the prairies in the Netherlands as a member of AFCENT's mobile signals squadron, writes Phil Wilcox.

All that changed dramatically overnight when, having taken redundancy after 22 years, he swapped his radio truck for... a horse.

Now, with a suitably authentic Texas drawl to replace his customary Yorkshire accent, he has taken on the new identity of Black Bart.

Appropriately attired from head to toe in the shade which bears his character's name, Michael's new career will involve him travelling throughout the country to promote a new, Western-theme, nibble for adults and children.

Hoping to net a share of the UK's vast snack food market with the airflow-dried, marinated and spiced steak flakes is Pecos Pete, alias Paul Olsen, who is introducing the Derbyshire-made product this side of the Atlantic.



Army days:
Michael Wood,
Royal Signals

A veteran of Hollywood extravaganzas such as *Star Wars* and *Terminator 2*, he launched a nationwide search for a "pardner" to help launch his brainchild.

"I was looking through the situations vacant pages in the newspaper and, tucked in between the usual ads for security guards, I came across one which said something along the lines of 'Calling all cowboys'. I was intrigued," said Michael.

Far from being the "wind-up" he suspected it to be, the advertisement was quite genuine, and Michael found himself auditioning against 150 other would-be cowboys from all over the UK.

"I knew I fitted Black Bart's description — dark, aged 30 to 45-ish with a sense of humour and a confident personality — but it's another thing remembering lines, drinking real bourbon and acting all at the same time," he said.

Not to mention learning how to ride a horse (courtesy of stables based at Leatherhead, Surrey) and handle a Colt 45.

Putting the full gear on is a

Picture: Mike Weston

Mean hombre: Black Bart, aka Michael Wood, hits the trail

command task in itself, Michael, who has been given a five-year contract, claimed.

"In all my years wearing combat boots in the Army I never had one blister," he said, "but these chisel toes are another matter."

His new career does have its advantages, however.

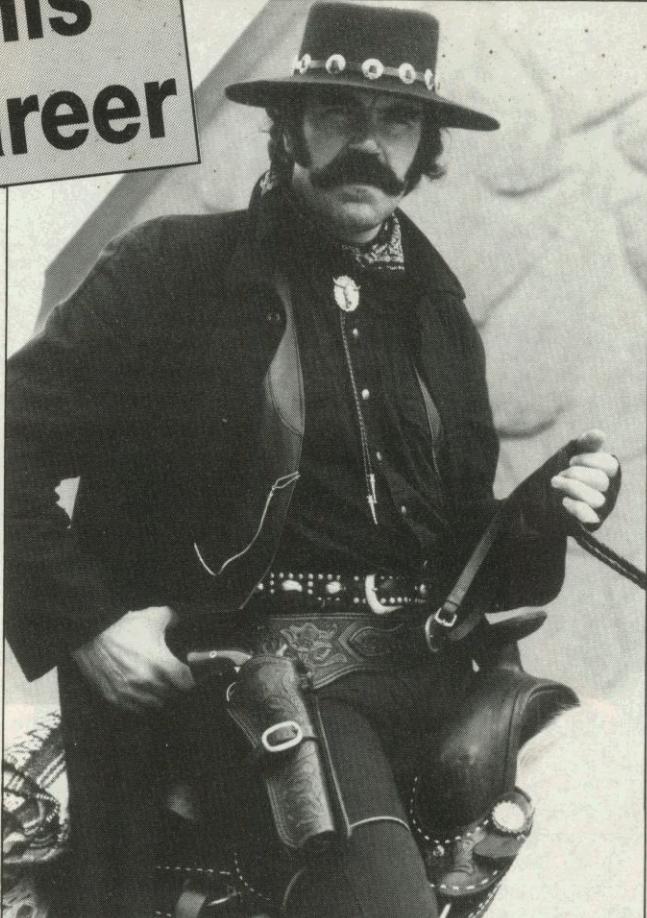
"It must be the only job where you get told off if you come in clean-shaven," the 6ft 2in Hull cowpuncher added.

More seriously, the disci-

pline and confidence instilled in him in the Army had been crucial to him in securing the post, he felt.

"Putting the character across is very similar to making a presentation: if you don't believe in it, you don't come over."

Now he is due to do the rounds of charity and children's events, delighted to be "on the wrong side of the law" instead of one option he might have taken: store detective in a large retail chain.



Another picture for the scrapbooks? Bert displays one of his hefty, wood-bound volumes

Bert is 'booked' for posterity

BERT Henshaw's father served as a gunner throughout the Second World War and brought back just two photographs as a reminder of his time at El Alamein and Tobruk.

When Bert enlisted in The Royal Green Jackets years later, he was determined that he would have more to show for it.

True to his word, he has amassed 15 huge scrapbooks of militaria — four of them on the Greenjackets — dating back to the last century.

"They show the happy times and the bad times, covering

anywhere from Northern Ireland to Cyprus, and include pictures of pass-out parades throughout the years," said Bert, an ex-corporal who spent 22 years with the 1st Battalion.

His favourite picture is of the fire exactly 100 years ago on the site of what is today Peninsular Barracks, Winchester.

He is now asking RGJ battalions for any photographs and memorabilia they may have to add to the material which started off at the bottom of a suitcase and is now smartly bound in wood.

"If I end up with 50 volumes, so be it," Bert said.

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ACROSS ENGLAND - BY IRON COMPASS

FLAVOUR of the moment in military terms is peace-keeping. Operations are under way in the former Yugoslavia, Rwanda and Haiti, to name but three simmering cauldrons.

So the question is inevitably being asked, if the British Army's role is now to be a sort of universal policeman in a blue beret, why do we need main battle tanks?

It is worth remembering that the Gulf War erupted only three years ago and that even now there is uncertainty on Kuwait's border with Iraq.

One consequence of the peace dividend is that tanks no longer enjoy the wide open spaces of Germany. So if 3rd (UK) Division is to maintain operational readiness, it has to train in the United Kingdom.

Which is why the once-familiar sight of convoys trundling down the German autobahns is going to become more commonplace in Britain if the Division's tracks are not to become rusty.

Exercise Iron Compass was 3 Div's major command post exercise of the year, involving 2,500 personnel, 700 wheeled vehicles and 75 tracks.

Although most activity was confined to training areas, the Division did make a night move from one side of the country to the other - a major exercise in co-operation between headquarters staff, Royal Logistic Corps, the Military Police and civilian police of several counties.

It involved three of the four formations that make up the Division - Divisional HQ and Signals at Bulford, 1st Mechanised Brigade at Tidworth and 5 Airborne Brigade from Aldershot.

Under normal circumstances, 19 Brigade at Catterick would be taking part, but it was carrying out pre-Op Grapple training before deploying to Bosnia. The headquarters of 3 Commando Brigade also took part in the first stages of the exercise, as did the Italian Ariete (Armoured) Brigade.



The command post exercise (CPX) was designed to test the Division's role as part of NATO's Allied Rapid Reaction Corps - its ability to swing into action, whenever, wherever and wherever the crisis might come.

"We have a wide variety of potential tasks," said Maj Gen Mike Jackson, the GOC. "Obviously at the moment, the hot news is peace-keeping operations, but we have to be ready for anything else that might get thrown at us. That means that flexibility must be the watchword."

Col Andrew Figgures, Deputy Chief of Staff, explained: "The general could be sitting at home watching the Nine O'Clock News. At 2115 he becomes involved in something which has just broken on the news. At 2120 he gets a phone call from the Secretary of State."

"By 2130 he is catching a plane to recce the situation, without being encumbered by a joint force headquarters."

Exercise Iron Compass

sought to simulate exactly that situation. It started out as a peace-keeping mission and developed into a more conventional operation.

When the call came, the Divisional Support Group at Marchwood, which forms the fly-forward headquarters, deployed by landing craft around Land's End in a force eight gale and landed at Avonmouth.

After a short bus journey the group flew by low-level Chinook to Nesscliffe, near Shrewsbury in Shropshire. Unlike the main headquarters, the Support Group has to make and break its own camp every time it moves.

This process has been speeded up considerably by the introduction of The Bubble - a blow-up headquarters that can be fully operational within one hour.

Putting up tentage could take up to eight hours in normal conditions.

Maj Mark Dunn, SO2 G1/G4 Ops/Plans, explained why it was so important for the Support Group to be quick off the mark.

"It co-ordinates the actions



A lighter moment in the Civil Affairs Cell as everyone tries to communicate by mobile phone at the same time - a nightmare in a metal-clad aircraft hangar. From left to right are Maj Eddie Foy RMP, Emma Dolman, Defence Lands, Sgt Dave Cox RMP and Sgt Tony Hooper, 29



Above - At the map table inside the 1st Mechanised Brigade HQ are Capt Mark Mangham (left) and Capt Brendan Shaw, QLR

Left - Inside The Bubble: left, Capt Toby Bridge, Maj Sarah Cash, watchkeeper and Col Andrew Figgures

"It can be taken down in 45 minutes from change of command to moving. And unlike our usual tentage, you can't see the stars through the gaps. It costs about £21,000, but if you cost out the amount of tentage normally required, it's a bargain."

"It is also dry and heated because the compressor that puts it up can be reversed to provide heat."

Brig Iain McNeill of 1st Mechanised Brigade was determined not to let track skills be forgotten.

"There are many things to practise in this exercise. You have the humane and medical aspects - such as the involvement of the Red Cross - with a high profile for the military in an almost reassuring role."

"And then there is a harden-

ing of the role as the scenario develops into more conventional operations.

"It's not like a war with graduated responses. It is fluid and we have to tailor our responses and equipment to meet these needs - and that is a test in itself."

"In real time we are concentrating on peace-keeping, but who knows what else is just around the corner? During our years in Germany where we were constantly training to face the threat from the East, we built up a huge expertise in armoured warfare."

"If this is not maintained it will be easily lost, and once lost, very, very difficult to reassert."

Despite being lighter in capacity than its sister division in Germany, 3 (UK) Division is confident of its contribution to ARRC.

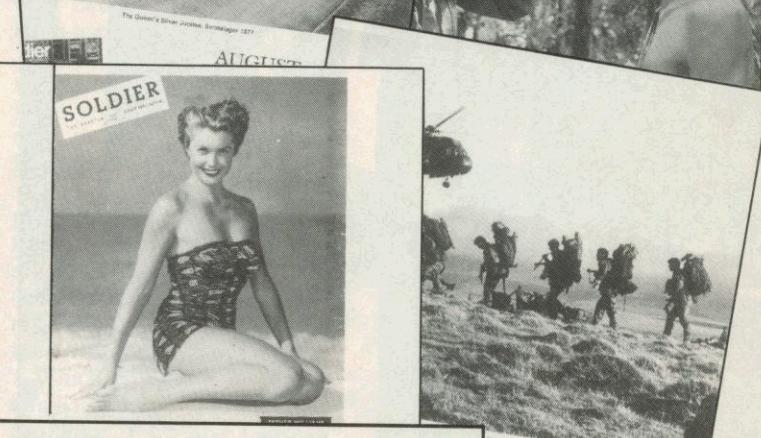
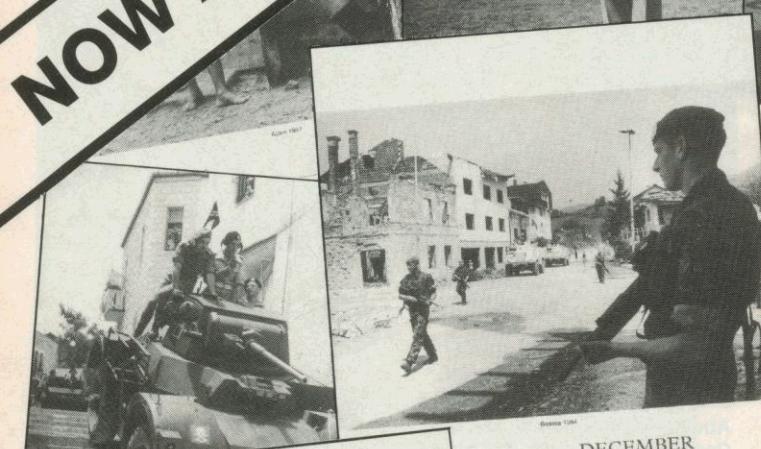
Col Tresham Gregg, Divisional Chief of Staff, added: "We may be lighter, but we have a similar breadth and deployability."

"Our sister division doesn't have the ability to deploy lighter forces by air and across beaches with a heavy follow-up of forces if the situation demanded it."

"We can also generate both a light fly-forward headquarters and a wheeled main headquarters, which can be deployed early with 5 Airborne and 3 Commando Brigades."

"When the time comes, this division will be found to be well trained and ready for any eventuality across a wide spectrum of conflict."

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Refugee children gather around Pte Barry South in the hope that he might have some sweets for them

Savage truths

PTE BARRY South had some difficulty making friends with the gaily dressed children in a village near Mt Karisimbi volcano in Rwanda.

He was obviously a soldier, and they had good reason to be suspicious of men with guns.

Pte South handed over his SA80 to another member of the 2nd Battalion, The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment and his fooling around gradually won over the youngsters.

Adults also shrank from Pte Arnie Lopez when he poked his head into the dingy shack which was their church. It was Sunday, and they were at their devotions.

They had no need to fear him. Pte Lopez only wanted to place a dollar bill in the collection. When he made the sign of the cross they became as enthusiastic as the children outside.

Another local church, in which

Neutrality can be so hard to bear for British soldiers

No services are held in the church at Ntarama, south of Kigali. Four hundred people took sanctuary there and were butchered.

Five months later, their decomposing corpses still lie in the pews and around the church where they were blown up and hacked to pieces.

When Pte South went to Ntarama to confirm the atrocity, he thought he was looking at discarded pots. Then he realised the "pots" had teeth.

"Seeing dead children really angered me because they hadn't had a chance to live," he said.

A n o t h e r

Reports: Gordon Skilling
Pictures: Terry Champion

people were slaughtered, has been cleared. Other churches were similarly defiled. Where 8,000 people once lived, only 3,000 survive.

This dark strand in humanity is something with which Lt Col Alan Hawley, commanding officer of 23 Parachute Field Ambulance, had difficulty coming to terms. He was struck by the Rwandans' stoicism while being treated and their incredibly high pain threshold, but recoiled from their lack of humanity.

"There is the enigma of tolerant, passive patients and nice people, yet under the surface is this potential for

the most extreme violence," he said.

Thuggery is common in the south west of the country even though the Tutsi government has largely established its authority.

Security for the British contingent is provided by two platoons of A Coy, 2 PWRR, whose mandate does not include protecting civilians.

A convoy of refugees escorted by Lt John Baynham was stopped by Rwandan Patriotic Army troops who discovered three former Hutu soldiers hiding among the refugees.

One tried to escape and was shot.

"We are not here to keep the peace," said Lt Baynham. "We are allowed to protect ourselves, but not the refugees."

It is a policy designed to protect neutral soldiers from becoming embroiled in a war

● Turn to next page

OP GABRIEL

Reverse role for Infantry

MAJ Geoff Cross, OC A Company, 2nd Battalion, The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment, has never had so much support in his life.

With two platoons and his company headquarters totalling 45 infantrymen, his are the only "teeth" arms deployed with the British contingent in Rwanda.

Supporting his company group - he says with a straight face - are contingents from 5 Airborne Brigade's headquarters, logistic battalion, field ambulance, signal squadron, workshop and other ancillary units.

In fact, the boot is on the other foot and his infantrymen are in the unusual role of supporting the support arms and services.

The three-month tour had all the makings of a routine guards and duties stint, but Maj Cross was pleasantly surprised.

He was prepared for mundane close protection, gate guards and prowlers at night but reckons his company had

Savage truths

• From Page 25

which is not theirs, but it can put them in an invidious position.

British soldiers could choose to put themselves in the firing line, and react if attacked. It would, however, be a dangerous strategy for soldiers whose mandate is to provide medical aid, engineering resources and transport.

Subsequently, when government troops wished to check refugee convoys, they did so only when no British soldiers were present.

When two men who had been seen committing murders were pointed out to Cpl Dave Dawson and his section, the PWRR soldiers had to be careful not to become involved. The men were handed over to an African UN battalion, which tried and shot them.

The Rwanda Patriotic Army

probably the best job on Op Gabriel in that they managed to go almost everywhere the contingent was employed.

Simple guard duties at the headquarters and main logistics element in and around Kigali Stadium were shared with the Canadian 1st Division HQ until it was deployed elsewhere to the disappointment of the PWRR. When the Canadians departed the British were no longer allowed to follow UN practice of sitting on duty at the main gate. They had to stand.

Their tasks included escorting convoys, moving aid to and from camps in Zaire, returning refugees, transporting large caches of weapons and protecting medics at work in refugee camps.

When it became clear there was no great threat to convoys, the infantrymen took on other tasks.

"The lads have been very lucky to get into all sorts of weird and wonderful stuff," said Maj Cross. "They have got stuck into hands-on med-



Ptes Barry South and Arnie Lopez try out Rwandan scooters

trained in Uganda and is generally well disciplined, but there have been times when drunken soldiers have pulled convoys off the road and harassed and arrested British troops.

"It is just a case of biting your lip and reporting it when



Maj Geoff Cross, OC A Coy, 2 PWRR, meets a representative from an aid agency

ical work and have learned how to give injections, put in drips, dress wounds and give oral rehydration."

Soldiers rarely have such an opportunity to practise the basic medical skills they need for a battlefield.

A Coy had to be careful with other skills, however. Arriving in theatre not long after a six-month roulement tour in Fermanagh, it was second nature for them to raise their weapons when they wanted to inspect features through their magnified sights.

"I have been to Canada twice and trained in Kenya 18 months ago, but to go to an orphanage and see the smiles as we gave out T-shirts, sweets and toys was just brilliant," said Pte Paul Winn.

ical

alarm

remove

sights

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alarm

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Nerve centre of the British Force in Rwanda was at Kigali Stadium, where 216 Parachute Signal Squadron (shown here) and 30 Signal Regiment have 24 personnel. Aldershot-based 216 Sqn also deployed three signallers to Byumba and Kitabi



Above - Ptes Andy Liddicott and Barry South on guard duty at Kigali Stadium

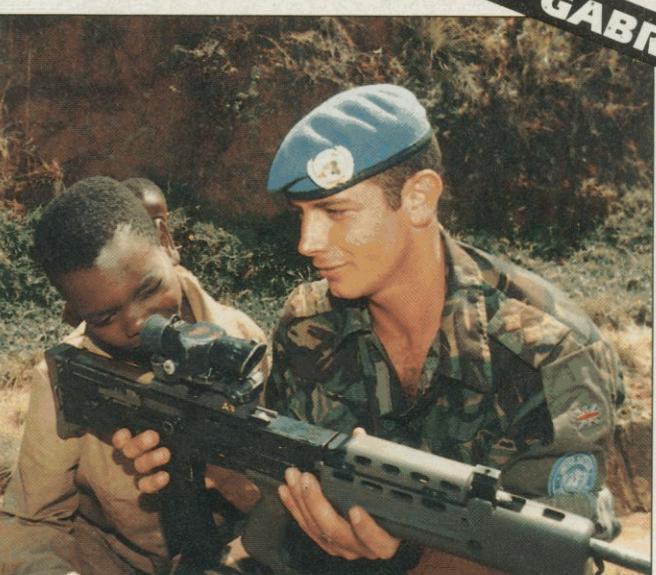
Right - Sgt Mark Smith and Pte Paul Winn of 2 PWRR assist British Army medics at Kibeo refugee camp by giving injections



Soldiers of 2 PWRR distribute toys at an orphanage in Kigali



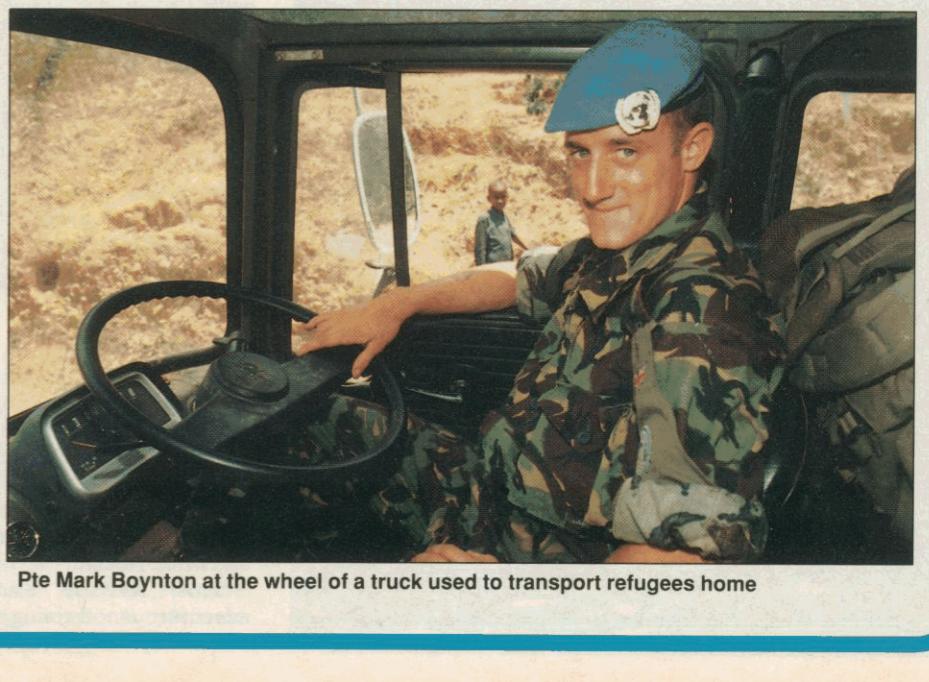
Capt Tim Muir (second left) explains the route for returning refugees to their homes



Lt John Baynham lets a refugee boy see his SA80 sight



Capt Tim Muir (second left) explains the route for returning refugees to their homes



Pte Mark Boynton at the wheel of a truck used to transport refugees home

Jocks on the Rock

JOCKS returned to the Rock when Territorial Army soldiers from B (Black Watch) Company, 1st Battalion, 51st Highland Volunteers took part in an exercise there.

It was the first time The Black Watch had been back in Gibraltar for almost 25 years.

The Watch's association with the Rock dates back to 1794 and the Napoleonic Wars. During the Second World War the regiment played an important part in protecting British interests in the Mediterranean by preparing fortified positions on and inside the fortress island.

It was last in Gibraltar in 1969 to reinforce the garrison during a time of border tension with Spain.



On the range. Live-firing practice in the shadow of the Rock

Inset - Second World War veteran Mr Robert Manzie beside the memorial refurbished and rededicated in honour of 4 BW

Black Watch Coy of 1/51 Highland Volunteers was there for altogether less strained purposes - to take part in Exercise Marble Tor, one of a series of

two-week Territorial Army camps designed to train and test soldiers at individual, section and platoon levels.

Everything from live-firing to ambush drills, house and street clearance operations to first aid and field craft was on the programme, with the additional highlight of a tactical tunnel clearance operation in the labyrinth inside the rock.

In addition to a demanding exercise schedule, the company was tasked with cleaning up an overgrown Black Watch memorial standing at the foot of the north face of the rock.

The company held a rededication service at which the guest of honour was Mr Robert Manzie, a Second World War veteran stationed there during the war. He posed for the engraving of a soldier which appears on the memorial.

Raised in Forfar in July 1992, B (Black Watch) Coy was recommended for Marble Tor by former 1/51 Highland commanding officer Lt Col David Thorncroft because of its progress.

Marble Tor culminated in a platoon level march-and-shoot followed by a beach landing and house and street clearance operations, with soldiers from The Gibraltar Regiment acting as enemy.

Maj Donald Lamont, OC B Coy, said the exercise had given the Jocks an opportunity to train in an environment unlike anything at home. "The rugged terrain of the Rock and the searing heat tested them to the full and they ended up fitter and more robust."

Time was set aside for adventurous training, described by 2iC Capt Andy

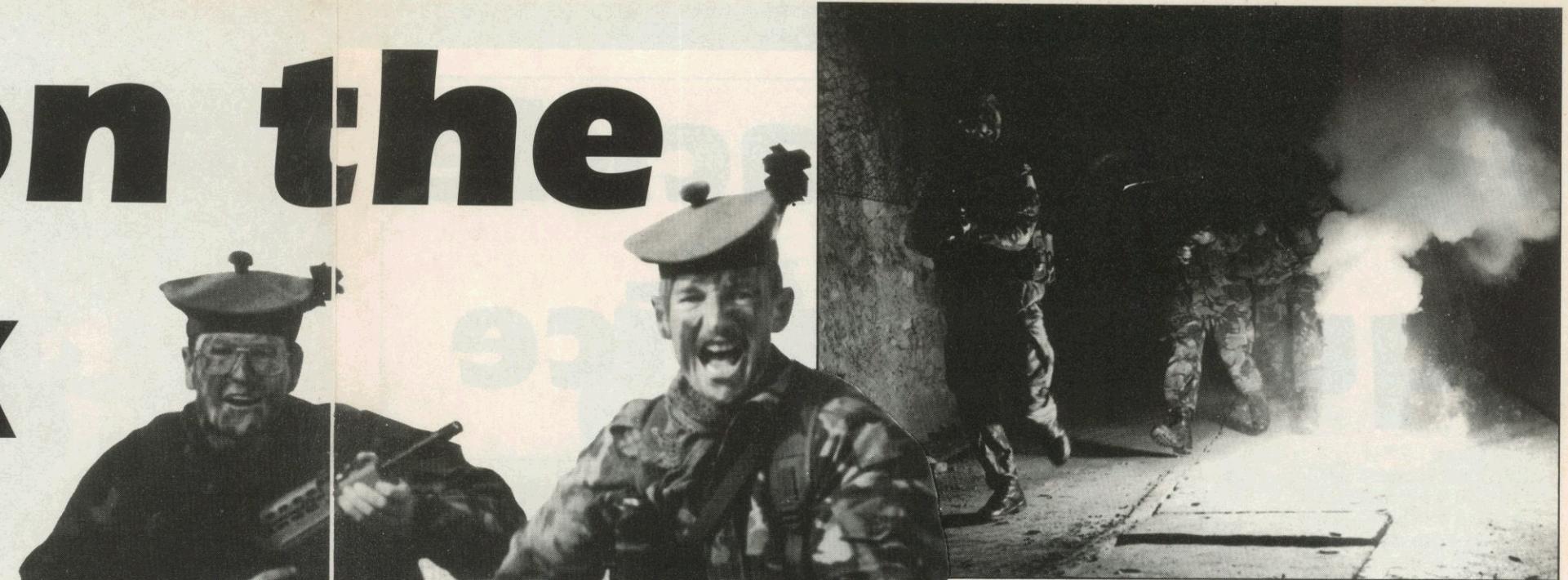
Report:
Lesley Edgar
Pictures:
Mark Owens

Sayers as "essentially a confidence-building exercise which enhanced the soldiers' self-esteem at the end of the day."

This part of the programme included abseiling, canoeing,

windsurfing and scuba diving. The Jocks also found time to entertain at St Bernadette's occupational therapy centre. LCpl Alan Jack, the company piper, played a medley of tunes

for the patients. Next major event for B Company is unlikely to be as hot. It is Exercise Bonnie Dundee, a home defence exercise.

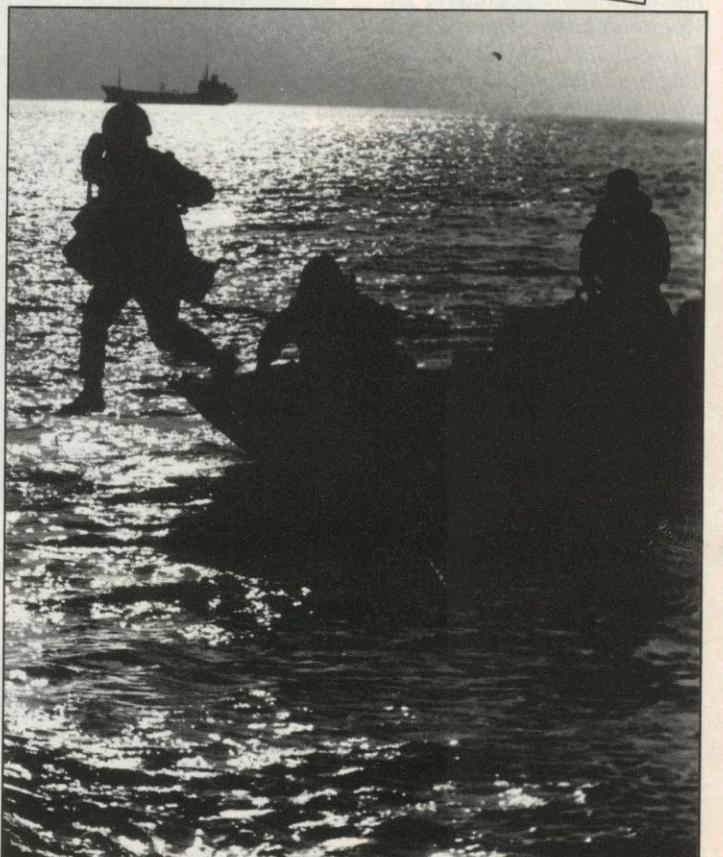


Above - Tunnel clearance operations inside the miles of tunnels which honeycomb the Rock of Gibraltar

Left - On the attack during the house and street clearance phase of Exercise Marble Tor

Right - LCpl Eck Maddin tries his hand at windsurfing

Below - All ashore! B Coy lands on Governor's Beach on the east coast



Terriers tackle equatorial ice

ELEPHANT, cape buffalo and leopard were some of the more obvious natural hazards facing Army climbers as they began the long trek up Mount Kenya in September.

Heat exhaustion, altitude sickness and dehydration were the potentially greater dangers as the 39-strong party of mostly Territorial Army soldiers clambered their way to the roof of Africa. All reached the main objective of Point Lenana, while eight went on to conquer the technically demanding Batian summit 700ft above.

Known regionally as Kirinyaga - Mountain of Whiteness - and once revered by the local Kikuyu tribe as home of the great god Ngai, Mount Kenya lies astride the equator in the heart of the great continent.

First seen by a European - the German missionary Dr Krapf - in 1849, Mount Kenya (17,058ft) is five times the height of Snowdon and the second highest peak in Africa after neighbouring Kiliman-

jar. Krapf was ridiculed for his claims that there was ice on the equator.

The mountain was chosen by the Army's Wales and Western District headquarters in Shrewsbury as a fresh challenge for its TA units following the success of a similar expedition last year to the summit of Mont Blanc, Europe's highest peak.

Planned and overseen by a team of Regular Army personnel led by Maj Terry Goulding of the District's physical and adventurous training staff, Exercise Territorial Dragon II attracted part-time soldiers - both male and female - from across Wales, the Midlands and the North West.

Split into three teams, the climbers were hosted on arrival in Nairobi by the British Army's permanent training liaison staff at Kahawa Barracks, home to a large garrison of the Kenyan army. The teams planned to tackle the peak via the three most often used routes, Chogoria, Naro

lower slopes after frequent encounters with apes, baboons and buffalo, the teams found themselves on drier, higher slopes and marvelled at the scale of the peaks towering above and beyond them.

Progress up the mountain was steady to assist altitude acclimatisation, overnight camping halts dictated by the requirement for a water source.

Among the group was LCpl Russell Ross, of 237 Squadron RLC based at West Bromwich. A chef in civvy street, he is of Jamaican background and had always wanted to visit Africa.

"This is a dream come true for me," he said. "I have always wanted to learn more about my roots, and I have been given a marvellous welcome everywhere. I seem to have stirred a lot of curiosity among local people as well. They have been giving me all sorts of little gifts and carvings."

Bitterly cold after dark and yet intensely hot by mid-morning, the climate of Mount Kenya has been described as being that of summer every day and winter every night.

Each team spent 24 hours at high altitude location before



Above - Members of Exercise Territorial Dragon on the summit of Mount Kenya

the final ascent on the fifth day of the walk-in.

Team leader Maj David Matthias, OC Swansea-based 223 Artillery Support Squadron RLC and a former Royal Navy and Army regular before joining the TA three years ago, said: "There is a tremendous feeling of satisfaction and achievement in climbing a well-known peak like this."

The rendezvous destination for all three teams was the Austrian Hut refuge on the snowline at 15,720ft. In the shadow of Batian and beneath the aptly titled Gate of the Mists - a name given to the summit col by Sir Halford Mackinder in 1899 after his first epic ascent - the hut provided cramped but welcome accommodation in near white-out conditions.

Waking at dawn, several of the group were witness to a breath-taking sunrise as daylight spread across a dense bank of cloud over the African plains far below.

All ascended Point Lenana before replenishing water bottles at the Lewis Glacier and beginning the long scramble down, leaving eight climbers to



LCpl Russell Ross, a chef attached to 237 Sqn RLC in West Bromwich, with two Maasai youths - "This expedition is a dream come true for me," he said

make their Batian summit attempt the following day.

Led by WO1 Kevin Edwards, chief instructor at the UKLF School of Adventurous Training and a mountaineer with extensive experience of peaks in the Alps, Alaska, Yosemite and Canada, the climbers tackled Batian by its north face.

Classed as a Grade 4 - very difficult to severe - climb, the sheer 550m north face was every bit as complicated and

sustained as anticipated.

WO1 Edwards said: "Conditions were generally good, mostly dry with relatively little ice, but it was a challenging route up and took us longer than expected. The exposure was greater the higher we climbed and the route became steadily more difficult to negotiate."

The group spent the night in basic bivouac tentage high up the peak before making for the summit the following morning.

Report and pictures:
Mervyn Wynne Jones



Overnight halt at Hall Tarns at an altitude of some 15,000 feet

Abseiling down later, they arrived at the bivouac site as darkness was closing in before spending a second cold night on the mountain.

It was LCpl Sue Evans's 35th birthday, and the rest of the group produced a miniature cake and candles on the cliff face.

"I was chuffed to bits," said LCpl Evans, of Manchester-based 156 Regiment RLC, a science teacher at the Stockport College of Further Education.

A member of last year's Mont Blanc expedition, LCpl Evans described the descent as "interesting, to say the least".

After coming off the mountain, members of Expedition Territorial Dragon had the chance to experience something of Africa's legendary wildlife, most spending a day at the Amboseli National Park in the lee of Kilimanjaro on the border with Tanzania.

Maj Goulding, organiser of the expedition and one of the eight who reached the summit of Batian, said: "The ethos of Army adventurous training was adhered to completely. It was a considerable challenge in terms of leadership and fitness and I am delighted that everyone made it to the top, no mean achievement."

Let's dig out those hidden files about Suez

REFERENCE the letter from the Prime Minister to Col Newton (*Soldier*, September 19), it is hard for me to believe the committee which turned down the Suez Medal left no record to explain their unusual decision.

There must be a letter or minute somewhere. On the very next page in that issue of *Soldier* there was a story about

the recently announced Accumulated Campaign Service Medal for action going back as far as 1969.

Why can't we get the filing clerk who found this informa-

tion to dig a bit deeper for the Suez stuff, then we will all know why our medal was turned down - and be able to do something about it. - Len Oliver, Colchester, Essex.

Oh, Rats!

IN YOUR Berlin historical piece (September 19) you say in a caption that a *Soldier* photographer was studying direction signs for the Desert Rats' route to Berlin.

However, the signboard shows "Elmshorn 26 km". Elmshorn is in Schleswig-Holstein, north of Hamburg. Sgt O'Neill was in fact en route from Hamburg to the new 7 Armed HQ at Itzehoe.

Sorry to correct you, but I was there! - G H Lewis, Llanstadwell, Dyfed.

Barred by the facts

M P COCKER suggests (*Soldier*, October 3) a revival of the Africa GSM with the bar "Rwanda" for the current humanitarian operations there. However, Operation Gabriel is part of the multinational UN Assistance Mission in Rwanda (UNAMIR), and as such will merit a distinct UNAMIR medal in the same manner as UNPROFOR in former Yugoslavia and UNFICYP in Cyprus.

As we no longer have any colonies in Africa, it seems unlikely we would have any national interests to defend unilaterally, and therefore any cause to revive the Africa GSM. - Christopher Holmes, London SE6.

The disbandment of The

TELEVISION BOOBS ON GONGS

IN YOUR September 19 article on the television series *Soldier*, *Soldier* appears the statement: "Central's adherence to realism is meticulous."

I regret I must refute that!

In the first few minutes of the episode shown on September 20 I noticed the following errors:

• Personnel on parade for the award of the UNPROFOR medal were wearing medals previously awarded.

• The CO's first medal was the Africa GSM. This was last awarded for service in Kenya in 1956, so he cannot possibly have qualified for it.

• When the CO was seen after the parade, having removed his medals, the ribbon of his first medal had changed from that of the Africa

LIKE MANY readers, I was extremely pleased to read of the belated awards for both gallantry and meritorious service (*Soldier*, September 19).

However, the award of the British Empire Medal to both WO2 Lee and SSgt Thubron must provoke mixed feelings since it was phased out 18 months ago!

The announcement of the BEM being discontinued came shortly after the honours list was gazetted but before any of

the recipients were presented with their obsolete medals.

Why could not they and the two belated BEM awards have been replaced with MBEs?

The BEM was instituted by King George V in 1917 and given a Military division in 1918. The Empire Gallantry

Medal was abolished in 1940 with the institution of the George Cross, and the British Empire Medal for Gallantry was abolished in 1973 with the institution of the Queen's Gallantry Medal.

Now, after three quarters of a century, and following last year's honours list overhaul, future BEM nominees are to receive the MBE.

While this is very gratifying for future candidates, it proves to be of little consolation to past British Empire Medallists. - Gaz Gallagher BEM, Nottingham.

RASC or sappers?

ON THE subject of the 50th anniversary of Arnhem I have been reading a paper on 437 Squadron, Royal Canadian Air Force, which flew in 46 Group of Transport Command.

The author, specifically referring to air supply in Europe, makes the following statement which I find surprising: "The despatchers were Army engineers who also loaded the aircraft at the ADRU."

As the son of a Canadian whose fond boast was that during the First World War he had helped to win the prefix Royal for the Royal Army Service Corps, I have long had an interest in the corps.

I understood that air despatch was a responsibility of RASC from pre-invasion and throughout the balance of the Second World War. If I am wrong would any of your sapper readers correct me, please? - Frank Smith, Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada.

Keep Edinburgh Tattoo pure

BANDS of the Royal Air Force are of a very high standard but I was surprised at their appearance at the 1994 Edinburgh Tattoo.

The words military and tattoo equate in the dictionary with Army and soldiers, so RAF bands at a military tattoo are out of context and break with tradition.

Perhaps we can still gather enough Army bands to keep the purism in future tattoos and Army events. - D J Macleod, Lancing, Sussex.

Gordon Highlanders made the 1994 Edinburgh Tattoo a special occasion for them; it would therefore have been more appropriate to have had the massed bands of the British Army taking part.

As the son of a Canadian whose fond boast was that during the First World War he had helped to win the prefix Royal for the Royal Army Service Corps, I have long had an interest in the corps.

Thousands of us gave years of service to the Crown but were not in the right place at the right time. I and my three sons have a total of 37 years'

GSM to something else. I caught only a glimpse, but it looked like the ribbon of the Army LSGC.

If indeed it was, then the ribbon would have been worn **after** any campaign ribbons and it is unlikely that a lieutenant colonel of the character's apparent youth would have received it, because of the requirement to have served at least 12 years in the ranks to qualify. Promotion to lieutenant colonel after commissioning would have had to have been meteoric!

There are plenty of people who notice these things and it seems to me that it is just as easy to get it right as to get it wrong. - C J Allen, Wakefield, W Yorks.

BIRD'S EYE-VIEW



Jocks on the Rock - Pages 30-31

Time's right for all-in-one medal

I HAVE read with interest the many letters on the award or purchase of a "Service Medal" to wear on remembrance parades and acknowledge service to the Crown.

Specific commemorative medals, volunteer medals, foreign service medals, general service crosses and the commendable Royal British Legion National Service medal have been produced, but none seems to be "all embracing".

Profits from its sale could go to Service charities, an ongoing income if time-expired personnel were offered the medal on finishing their Regular Service engagements. - A W Tibbins, Birmingham.

Belgium: No holiday for 43rd Division

IT IRKS me when reading of Op Market Garden that XXX Corps, it seems, consisted of the Guards Armoured Division and no one else.

Even your own account (*Soldier*, October 17) of the Dorsets repeating their suicidal crossing of the Rhine does not mention the Division, the 43rd (Wessex), who had fought and suffered horrendous casualties in Normandy before taking part in Market Garden.

Colourful career . . .

I TOOK part in four presentation of Colours parades. Is this a record? They were:

• The 1st, 2nd and 3rd Bns, The Parachute Regiment by the King at Aldershot on July 19, 1950 (I was Drill Sergeant, 1 Para);

• 10th Bn (County of London), The Parachute Regiment by Fd Marshal Viscount Alanbrooke at the Tower of London on July 27, 1952 (WO1 RSM);

• The 1st, 2nd and 4th Bns, The Royal Welch Fusiliers by the Queen on July 23, 1954 at Wroughton (RSM 2 RWF);

• The 6/7th Bn, The Royal Welch Fusiliers (V) by the Lord Lieutenant of Caernarfon on July 5, 1958 at Caernarfon Castle (lieutenant quartermaster).

Has anyone got a spare copy of the programme of events for the 10 Para ceremony? I have lost mine. - J C Meredith, 33 Trem Elider, Bangor, Gwynedd LL57 2UF.

It's the words that count . . .

FURTHER to the debate on the Royal Warrant, it seems to me that a number of our warrant officers are suffering from inferiority complexes. If rank badges, canes, sticks, door and desk signs are not enough to let people know who you are, then there is something wrong.

If your biggest worry is the sheet showing the date you received your warrant, then you are very lucky (or underworked). It's not the paper, it is what's written on it that counts. - WO2 (CSM) P Moran, Delta Coy, 1 LI, BFPO 813.

SOLDIER to Soldier

Scottish paras remembered

TWENTY years ago tragedy descended on the village of Sehestedt, north Germany, when Territorial Army paras from Scotland carried out a night jump near the Kiel Canal.

The Exercise Bold Guard insertion went badly wrong and a number of the volunteer soldiers landed in the water on the night of September 11, 1974. Despite the efforts of the villagers and the local fire brigade, an officer and five other ranks drowned.

A memorial was erected by the villagers a year later.

Thirty-eight comrades from 15 (Scottish) Battalion, The Parachute Regiment (V), led by Col Simon Hill, returned to Sehestedt to pay their respects at the memorial on the 20th anniversary of the accident.

Phantom Yeomen in spirited display

A "PHANTOM" regiment caused a stir in deepest Dorset when, as its contribution to the Year of the Yeomanry, it held a loud and spectacular display in Dorchester.

The regiment – the Queen's Own Dorset Yeomanry – was formed, like its other Yeomanry contemporaries, in 1794 and was stood down in 1967.

Undaunted, a number of its former members arranged a celebration, "QODY and 200 years of Voluntary Military Service in Dorset", aided and abetted by a myriad related supporters.

So it was that C Company, the 4th Battalion, The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment, a section of the



Picture: Pinto Scottland

Scots DG on the march

Home again: Part of the mounted troop from the Catterick-based Royal Scots Dragoon Guards who completed an historic 693-mile mounted march around Scotland on their famous grey horses, with drum horse Ramillies taking pride of place centre stage.

The epic journey, which involved 16 horses and 30 soldiers – many of whom only previous riding experience was a six-week course at the

Defence Animal Centre at Melton Mowbray – re-enacted the 1934 recruiting ride completed by The Royal Scots Greys, when more than 350 soldiers and horses completed a marathon 500-mile trip around Scotland.

During the modern-day march, the troop escorted the Queen at Braemar, swam the River Dee and charged down Ayr racecourse for the television cameras.

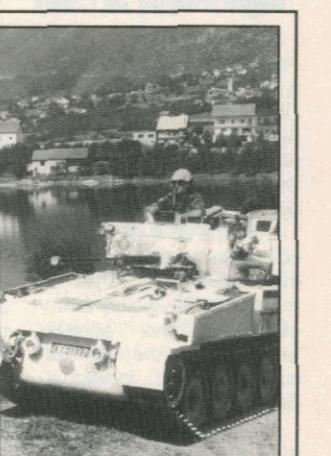
Household Cavalry (the Royals) were the first regiment to occupy the Cavalry Barracks in 1795, a section of RHA(V) with their light guns from Bristol, a 5.5 medium gun from Larkhill, a section of 25-pounders (complete with crews in battle dress) from Fort Nelson, a Matador, a bren carrier, and old comrades from the war-time 94th Field Regiment, the West Somerset Yeomanry (with which the regiment was at one time amalgamated) all turned out to support the day.

Welsh Cavalry go by Jag

SOLDIERS of the 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards, used to 1,200-horsepower Challenger tanks, enjoyed the chance to drive an entirely more elegant marquise when the Pre-War Jaguar Owners' Club visited them at Athlone Barracks, Sennelager.

Most of the 30 Jaguars were pre-war SS 100 models – and their owners became just as enthusiastic when they were shown over the QDG's Scimitar, Sultan, Spartan and Challenger vehicles.

The band and corps of drums, with a display of music and march-



The Light Dragoons were a little surprised to read on the back cover (*Soldier*, October 17) that the Royal Anglians now include troopers among their ranks. Our wires from Bosnia had become crossed, and the picture (above) actually showed LCpl Darren Siny of 1 R Anglian and Tpr Colin Crompton, D Sqn, LD, in a Scimitar belonging to A Squadron, The Light Dragoons.

were lit by LCpl Andrew Cheshire in memory of those who died while the names of Lt Cols Richard Gregory-Smith, George Williams and John Tobias, Maj Roy Pugh and Maj (Retd) John Haynes were read out by 2nd Lt Nick Tuppen, the most recently commissioned officer in the corps.

During the service, five candles

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APPOINTMENTS

Brigadiers – A R E Hutchinson – To HQ AFNORTHWEST, Oct 30; S H P Sanderson RRF – To SHAPE Staff (BAE), Oct 17; A R E Singer KRH – To HQ AFSOUTH (BAE), Oct 19; N A Sutherland RE – To RMCS, Oct 17; P R West RA – To Paderborn Gar, Oct 17; R J Turford RAMC – To MSAGC MRO, Oct 17.

Colonels – M W H Day – To HQ BF Gibraltar, Oct 17; P T Hirst – To MoD, Oct 17; C R Langton – To HQ Foot Guards, Oct 17; C P Lavender – To be DA/MA Kathmandu, Oct 21.

Lt Cols – C M St G Kirke RA – To RMCS, Oct 17; H L A MacDonald QDG – To be CO QDG, Oct 17.

RETIREMENTS
Brigadier – P A Little, late 2 GR, Oct 24.

DIARY

Now open: The Right to Serve exhibition, history of women in the Army, National Army Museum, Chelsea.

NOVEMBER

12-13: Salisbury Militaria Society 23rd annual exhibition, Red Lion Hotel.

17-19: Army Arts Society Festival, Rheindahlen (entry forms from HIVEs).

20: QARANC Museum Open Day and Christmas Fayre, Royal Pavilion, Farnborough Road, Aldershot, 1100-1500.

1995

FEBRUARY

15, 16, 17: Mountbatten Festival of Music featuring Massed Bands, Corps of Drums and Fanfare Trumpets of Royal Marines, Royal Albert Hall, in aid of Malcolm Sargent Cancer Fund for Children and Service charities. Ticket enquiries on 0705 547205.

To include public events in this diary contact the Editor.

MILITARIA

History of 143rd Infantry Brigade: Author commissioned to write history of the brigade wishes to hear from former members or relatives from First and Second World Wars or the period 1918-39. It was known as the Warwickshire Infantry Brigade on formation in 1908 until renamed and numbered in 1915. Contact Peter Caddick-Adams, Hurcott Manor Cottage, Hurcott Hall Farm, Hurcott, nr Kidderminster DY10 3PH (tel: 0562 863235).

22nd Dragoons: Brian Lacey, 30 Sentry Corner, Bideford, Devon EX39 4BP, is collating information on the 22nd Dragoons, part of the 79th Armd Div 1943-45, and wishes to hear from anyone with details or photographs.

who served abroad, including India, Pakistan at independence, Palestine in the Mandate, Kenya during the Mau Mau troubles, Malaya, Cyprus, Aden, Borneo, Kuwait, Oman, Northern Ireland, the Falklands, Hong Kong. Replies to 48 Beltran Road, London SW6 3AJ (tel: 071-371 7031).

British Empire history: Author Robin Neillands, commissioned to write history of the past 50 years of the British Empire, wishes to hear tales from British Army personnel

CLOSURES

ITB Ouston, formerly JIB Ouston, will draw down by April 1995. Units or individuals who have made presentations to the WOs' and Sgts' Mess and would like them returned are asked to contact the PMC, WOs' and Sgts' Mess, ITB Ouston, Albermarle Barracks, nr Harlow Hill, Newcastle-upon-Tyne NE15 0RF. All claims are to be made in writing by January 10. Postage, packing and insurance to be paid for by those requesting return. On closure, ITB Ouston will move to ITC Catterick.

Trucial Oman Scouts: Launch of the official history of The Levies/Scouts takes place in the National Army Museum, Chelsea, on November 18. Former members urged to attend. To book buffet at £10 a head contact Officers' Association (tel: 0985 842603) or All Ranks Association (tel: 0634 404528).

Royal Artillery Association, Exeter Branch: Annual dinner-dance, November 26 at St Loye's Centre, Millbrook Lane, Exeter. Tickets from D A Goodheart, 20a Burnhouse Lane, Exeter EX2 6BH.

1995

4 Coy Coldstream Guards 1950-55: Third reunion dinner, Birmingham, April 8. Contact Harry Westgarth, 49 Rokeye Park, Hull HU4 7QE (tel: 0482 503649).

Old Cottonians: 1995 London reunion planned for former pupils of Bishops Cotton School, St Mark's Road, Bangalore, South India. Details from Mrs Pat Mamprin, 27 Osborne Court, Cowes, Isle of Wight PO31 7QS (tel: 0983 292328).

Combined Services Association drumhead thanksgiving service: Crewe, Cheshire, August 20. Organising secretary J G Davies, 6 Mavor Court, Flag Lane, Crewe CW1 3BL.



Joe Bracciale wants to contact these members of the cookhouse brigade which served with the 14th Air Formation Signals and were pictured at Caserne Major Sabbe, Mons, Belgium, 1944-45. Replies to him at 228 St Pauls Road (Side Door), Canonbury, London N1 2LJ.

SEARCHLINE

SHAFF 1944-45: If you wore the Flaming Sword flash of Supreme Headquarters, the British SHAFF Association wants you to make contact, particularly if you were at Reims on May 7, 1945. Contact Alan E Foot, 96 Chiltern Crescent, Earley, Reading RG6 1AN.

Int Corps and related units: R Holmes, 125 Prestbury Road, Cheltenham, Glos GL52 4TL (tel: 0242 673484) wishes to hear from anyone who served during the Second World War with her late father, **Sig later Capt Sydney Coombs** from Birmingham. He served 1940-42 in the Royal Signals, and trained as an officer in the RAOC (35th Course, January-March 1943 under Capt A S Davidson, Lt K A Naylor and CSM J E Hall). Landed soon after D-Day with 17 AOD and served in Brussels.

Family seek news of Michael Turley KOYLI: who served in Burma campaign. Believed to have enlisted at Hull or Grimsby and to have been an Army boxing champion. Replies to Fred Turley, Flat 1, 12 Selden Road, Worthing, Sussex.

The family of the late WO1 Thomas Dryland 2048050 RAOC: seek information about him, in particular details relating to his death on November 7, 1949 on the Tel el Kebir road in the Canal Zone, Egypt while on security duties. Replies to Mr B Pullen, 42 Shackleton Road, Gosport, Hants PO13 9SG.

REVIEWS

Return to Normandy

ALTHOUGH there were many hours of TV coverage of the D-Day 50th anniversary events it is important to emphasise there are no extracts from any of that on the video tape, *D-Day: The Veterans of Normandy Return*, which is unique footage commissioned by the Normandy Veterans' Association.

The tape lasts 1hr 50min and, apart from some very interesting archival film and a brief view of the service at Southsea and the Spithead review, the emphasis is on remembrance of the dead and of the veterans who took part in the pilgrimage to Normandy on June 5 and 6.

The parachute drop at Ranville and cemetery and march-past are adequately covered, but Pegasus Bridge gets a brief two minutes. The service at Bayeux cemetery, however, gets 12 minutes and there are plenty of shots of veterans and VIPs although the service is truncated, with only the opening benediction and the wreath-laying.

There are, however, visits to two lesser-known cemeteries and interviews with survivors at Jerusalem cemetery at Tilly-sur-Seulles and the 43 (Wessex) Division cemetery at Saint Manvieux, accompanied by some archival film of Operations Epsom and Jupiter.

There is, however, no coverage of the services at Hermanville and on the *Canberra*.

All the veterans were presented with a commemorative medal by the French authorities and there is film of one of these ceremonies on the bank of the River Orne near Caen.

'Bolshie' went to Burma

PHILIP Stibbe's revised story *Return Via Rangoon*, written in 1945 and first published two years later, is of his time as a junior officer with the Chindits and as a prisoner of the Japanese.

Had he been too "bolshie" in complaining about muddled training in Suffolk with the Royal Sussex Regiment, so giving his CO the chance to off-load him? He has no idea.

What he does know and remembers with great clarity are the numerous experiences and events which led to his time in Burma and the guerrilla war in the jungle; how a heroic Burmese soldier was

A student at Oxford in 1941,



Normandy veterans march past the Queen on the beach at Arromanches

ALTHOUGH there were many hours of TV coverage of the D-Day 50th anniversary events it is important to emphasise there are no extracts from any of that on the video tape, *D-Day: The Veterans of Normandy Return*, which is unique footage commissioned by the Normandy Veterans' Association.

The pictures here are from our Frank Finch cartoon archives. Find ten differences in detail and you could be £50 richer or win a new book. In red ink, circle the differences in the right-hand picture, cut out the whole panel, add your name and address and send to HOAY 599, Soldier, Ordnance Road, Aldershot GU11 2DU by December 2. Do not include anything

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

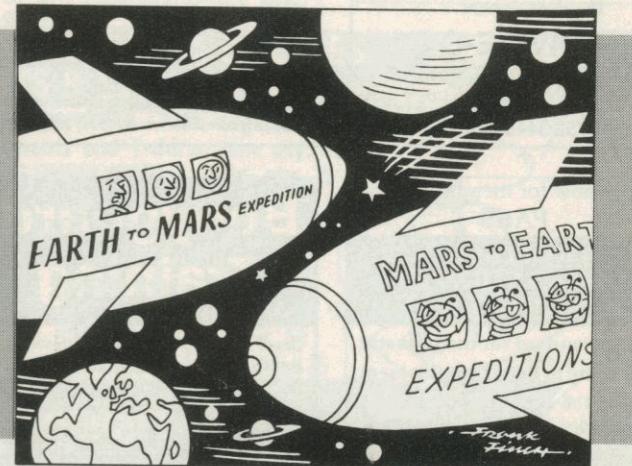
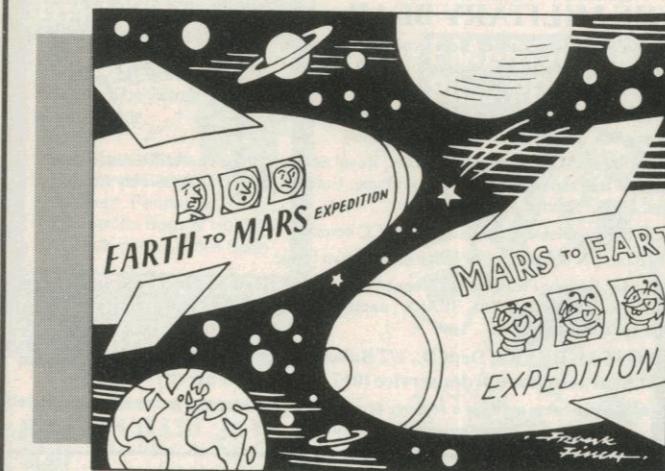
The names of the winner of the £50 first prize and two runners-up will be announced in the January 9, 1995 issue.

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HOW OBSERVANT ARE YOU? COMPETITION 599



Competition No 596 (October 3 issue): Congratulations to Mr M M Flinton, of Sevenoaks, Kent, who wins £50. Book prizes go to runners-up Mr D Ashcroft, Vehicle Depot, Ludgershall, Hants, and Mr D C Harvey, of Walton-on-Thames, Surrey.

IN BRIEF

Poltava 1709 by Angus Konstam, **Plassey 1757** by Peter Harrington and **Cannae 216 BC** by Mark Healy. Nos 34, 35 and 36 in the Osprey Campaign series. Also **Normandy 1944** by Stephen Badsey, No 1 in the series. Price £9.99 each.

Hitler's Greatest Defeat: The collapse of Army Group Centre, June 1944 by Paul Adair. Arms and Armour Press, hardback, £14.99.

Nine Lives Through Laughing Eyes by Lt Col Robert Butler MBE MC. A life story illustrated with the author's own paintings. Invicta Publishing, hardback.

The Life of an ECO in India by Robert Sharp. Account of the author's time as a supply depot officer in the Indian Army during the Second World War. The Pentland Press, £7.50.

Walking the Line: Scenes from an Army Childhood by Kevin T Brophy. Formative years in a married quarter in Galway on Ireland's west coast. Mainstream Publishing, hardback, £12.99.

Giap: The Victor in Vietnam by Peter Macdonald. Paperback version. Warner Books, £6.99.

Test of Greatness: Britain's Struggle for the Atom Bomb by Brian Cathcart. The story of William Penney's work to produce The Bomb. John Murray Publishers, hardback, £19.99.

Fearful Hard Times: The Siege and Relief of Eshowe, 1879 by Ian Castle and Ian Knight. Account of the 72-day siege of Pearson's Column by a Zulu army fresh from victory at Isandlwana. Greenhill Books, hardback, £17.95.

Victorian Military Campaigns edited by Prof Brian Bond. Detailed studies by contributors including David Chandler and John Keegan. First published in 1967. Tom Donovan Publishing, hardback, £14.95, paperback, £7.95.

Code of Honour by Harold Coyle. Military thriller set against peacekeeping mission in Colombia, written by former Army officer. Simon and Schuster, hardback, £15.99.

Tank: 40 hours of battle, August 1944 by Ken Tout. Story of a young crew in action. First published 1985. Robert Hale, paperback, £6.99.

The Explosive Years: Exploits of a Royal Navy Bomb and Mine Disposal Officer, 1940-46 by Bert Blackmore. Tom Donovan Publishing, hardback, £14.95.

Guy Gibson by Richard Morris. Biography of the man who led the Dambusters. Viking, hardback, £18.

Dad's War by Don Mogg. War experiences and letters of an RAF officer. The Pentland Press, hardback, £14.50.

Chika the Serb by Patrick Raymond. Novel concerning British involvement in Yugoslavia during the Second World War. Rampant Horse Books, hardback, £14.95, paperback, £7.95.

Codename Perseus by Stephen Filkin. Novel set in Northern Ireland. Bullfinch Publications, paperback, £5.99.

Stark images of wartime

IF THE passing of time lends enhancement, a close perusal of a book such as *The Worst Ordeal - Britons at Home and Abroad 1914-1918* brings the reader uncomfortably close to what life was really like for civilians and those engaged in the fighting.

Few people are alive today who can recall conditions for working-class people before 1914.

With nearly 400 stark black-and-white photographs, the book starts with a very readable introduction by author Peter Liddle, who sets the scene for the pictorial feast which follows.

Under the heading Early Days, the book's first pictures show the lifestyle of poor people in Manchester, Derby and Liverpool in 1912, with women and children scrabbling for coal during the coal strike and families living in mean and shocking conditions.

His pictorial collection shows the progress up to and throughout the First World War and how people responded and reacted with letters indicating a mixture of bitterness and approbation.

When peace came so did major social problems - unemployment, homelessness and men crippled and disfigured by wounds.

The book ends as it starts with another sad photograph - this time of a soldier whose terribly damaged face was patched up by sewing the ends of his wounds together without regard to the amount of tissue loss.

He is yet another visible reminder of the way some things were in the "good old days". - JM

The Worst Ordeal - Britons at Home and Abroad 1914-1918 by Peter Liddle. Leo Cooper, hardback, £18.99.

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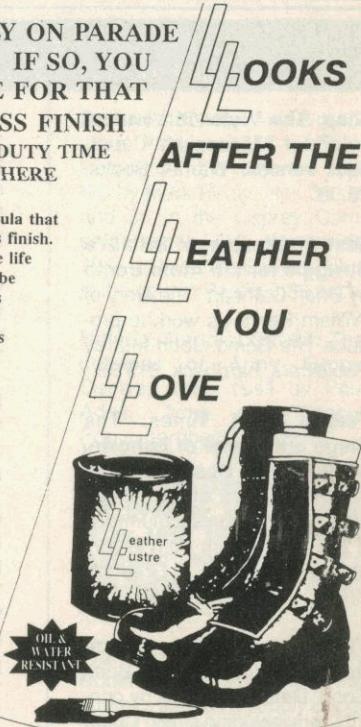
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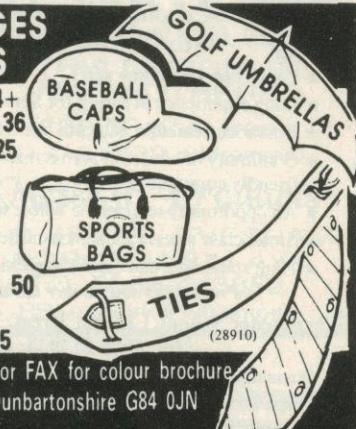
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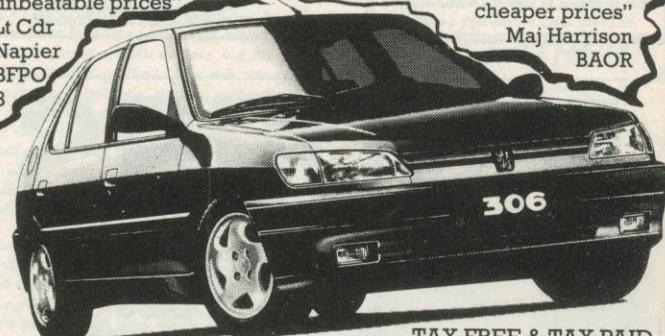
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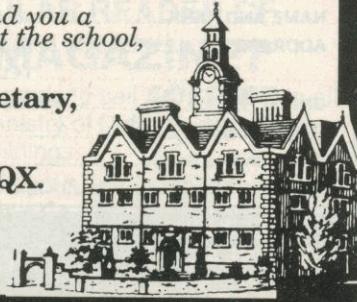
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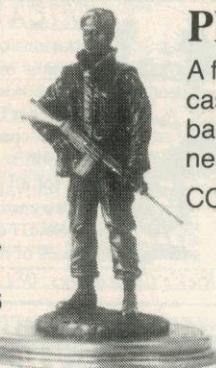
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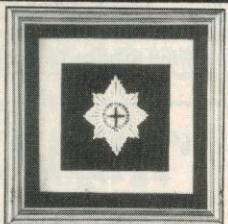
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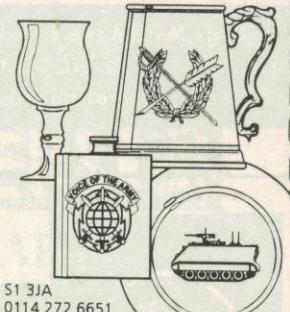
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23/94

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23/94

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Maria, 23. Auxiliary Nurse. Likes pubs, clubs and enjoying life. Wishes to correspond with squaddies 22-30, must be single, honest and have gsoh. Photo if possible, but not essential, ALA. P109

23/94

Dear Santa, please would you find me a friendly pen pal who would like to swap fun, lively, letters with a warm-hearted, voluptuous thirtysomething lady. Love Marie. P110

23/94

Jane, 30s, 5'7", long red hair and blue eyes. Happy, bubbly personality. Enjoys: swimming, writing letters, visiting animal parks/sanctuaries and English seaside villages. Would like a pen pal, 25+, home or abroad. P111

23/94

Single female of 25 wants to write to soldiers from all over. I love pubs, clubs and having fun. I shall tell you more when I hear from you. P112

23/94

Female, 19, looking for crazy, fun-loving lads in the forces to write to. Any age, anywhere. All letters answered. Interested? Get scribbling! Good sense of humour essential. Emma. P114

23/94

Susan, 25, 5'5". Interests include: music, beer festivals, fishing, meeting people and enjoying myself. I'd like to hear from any unattached soldiers aged 24-30. P115

23/94

Female, 30, slim, gsoh, optimistic outlook on life. I'm a divorced mum and would like to hear from any sincere, unattached, soldiers with gsoh. Serving home or abroad. P116

23/94

Jacqueline, large and cuddly, blue eyes and fair hair, gsoh. I enjoy music, good company, walks in the country, animals and writing long letters. I'd like to hear from soldiers, 27-38, single or separated with gsoh. P117

23/94

Dawn, 23, 5'5", blonde with green eyes, slim. Self-employed hairdresser, gsoh, interests include: aerobics, socialising, clubs, cinema, eating out and swimming. Would like to hear from someone aged 24-30. P118

23/94

Trish, 30s, divorced, light brown hair and blue eyes. Gsoh, vivacious, very fit. Interests: badminton, netball, music, pubs and clubs. Would like a pen pal 25-40, home or abroad, photo appreciated. P119

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October 22, 1994

Two-way tie for first prize (19 goals, £1,500 each) Capt P C Bawden, 249 Signal Sqn

(AMF(L)), Bulford; WO2 S, Hereford.
 16-way tie for third prize (18 goals, £93.75 each) Sgt M J Barrett, HQ UKSC(G), BFPO 140; Maj R R Cockburn, RA Range, Hebrides; Cpl J De Rouffignac, 3 Regt AAC, Wattisham; Capt R Dunne, 17 Port & Maritime Regt RLC, Marchwood; WO2 J M Fairclough, SEE, Arborfield; WO2 D M Forteath, Cambridge University OTC; Sgt M P Haylock, 99 PC Sqn RLC, BFPO 40; Capt T Johnson, 4 Regt AAC, BFPO 41; WO2 A J McStravick, ATDU, Bovington; Capt G C Porter, 19 Regt RA, Colchester; WO2 C N Richardson, 1 D and D, BFPO 16; Cpl G Shaw, 216 Sqn RLC(V), Tynemouth; Sgt C P Waldren, 1 R Anglian, Colchester; Cpl K Whitehouse, 39 Regt RA, BFPO 16; Capt N C B Wilkes, HQ ARRC, BFPO 40; Sgt C J Woodcock, 24 Airmob Bde CSS Bn, Colchester.

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D3

Police pay penalty as Army nick the trophy

A CLOSE Grenadier guards Challenge Cup match between the Metropolitan Police and the Army at Imber Court ended with a repeat of last year's result, the Army winning in a penalty shoot-out, writes **Derrick Bly**.

After 90 minutes the sides were deadlocked at 1-1, the Army scoring through WO2 Pat Russell just before the interval, the police replying in the last minute of normal time.

Russell, Sgt John Scott and Sig Joe Collins returned to strengthen the Army, with Scott pulling the strings in midfield and Cpl Dave Maynard leading the attack.

In the penalty decider, SSgt Alan Higgins, LCpl Lee Innes Scott and Pte John Wills scored while the police missed two of their first three attempts.

• The Highlanders were not the first Scottish regiment to win the Army sixes football competition as reported in the last issue. That honour belongs to the 1st Battalion, The Black Watch, who won the 1976 final.

Black Watch skipper on that day, WO1 David Stacey, is still in uniform and serving at ACIO Glasgow.

APTC 0, Infantry 3

The Infantry scored twice in the middle of the first half through Pte Lee Bradbury (PWRR) and Cpl John Greechan (Hldrs), and might have scored more but for some fine goalkeeping by SSgt Nigel Wiscombe.

The second half was much more even although Bradbury scored another goal to ensure victory in a good, competitive game well controlled by Maj Peter Pittaway.



Lion-hearted: Back row – (from left) Cpl Paul Jones (30 Sig Regt), Cpl Mark Airey (15 Tpt Regt RLC), Cpl Wayne Braddock (216 Para Sig Sqn), Cpl Tim White (1 Kings LAD), Cpl Richard Rasa-Phillips (1 RSME Regt), LCpl Daryl Cooper (1 RSME Regt) and ARLA secretary Martin Cloyd; Front – LCpl Mick Hughes (1 RSME Regt), Cpl Andy Sanger (1 RSME Regt), WO2 (CSM) Sean Knott (ATR Lichfield, captain), Cpl Tony Thornhill (5 Fd Amb RAMC) and LCpl Chris Brown (38 Engr Regt)

Rugby League in good heart

ARMY Rugby League made its mark in civilian competition by winning the Heart of England nines tournament at Birmingham Welsh RUFC in Solihull, West Midlands.

LD takes on the HVO



Capt Robin Matthews, the adjutant of The Light Dragoons, and WO1 (RSM) Melvin Tagey present a regimental plaque to the manager of the HVO football team before a recent football match in Bosnia. The Bosnian Croat army side won by two goals to one

The Army team beat Nottingham 38-14, Swindon Bulldogs 40-6 and Birmingham in their pool before overcoming favourites Leicester in the semi-finals. In the final they

produced some superb ball-handling to run in 11 tries and crush Nottingham 58-16.

Cpl Mark Airey (REME) scored two tries in the first game, Cpl Andy Sanger (RE) a hat-trick in the second, and fullback LCpl Mick Hughes (RE) three tries and seven conversions in the third.

Ferocious tackling by Cpl Wayne Braddock (RS) and Cpl Richard Rasa-Phillips (RE) subdued Leicester in the semi, with LCpl Daryl Cooper (RE) scoring a hat-trick of tries and Cpl Tony Thornhill (RAMC) kicking five goals.

In the final, LCpl Paul Jones (RS), LCpl Chris Brown (RE) and Cpl Tim White (REME) made major contributions. The side was led by WO2 Sean Knott (RAMC).

Tries by Spr Justin Thorpe, White, Airey and Hughes gave the Army a 26-6 victory over the experienced Prison Service team at Newbold Revel, Rugby after superb defence by Braddock and Rasa-Phillips had wrestled the initiative away from the prison officers.



Lt Dan Hughes incurs penalty points during the show jumping. He was preparing to depart for Bosnia



SCpl Richard Waygood, who led the British challenge, in action during the cross country phase

Hussar for the ladies . . .

IN BRIEF

WITH most of the regiment on a six-month tour in Northern Ireland, the Münster-based King's Royal Hussars fielded a mixed team for the Anglo-German Cup sevens football competition in Münster, and surprised everyone by reaching the final.

With not enough male players to choose from, four women – Lorraine Blundell, Cindy Halliday, Nichole Binge and Shellia Walters – made up the numbers. So effective were

they that the Hawks won both their pool games to reach the semi-finals which they won 2-0, Cindy Halliday scoring one of the goals.

Two down in the final, the Hawks fought back to 2-2 but lost their way when the result was decided on penalties.

• • •
The Inter-Corps basketball

Cavalry wins at Windsor despite odds

A BRITISH team representing the Combined Services Equitation Association found they had a battle on their hands when they took part in the International Military Event in Windsor Great Park, writes **Mary Hudson**.

Competing against military riders from Sweden, France, Portugal and Italy, the British team scraped into first place, beating the French by two points and the Italians by

three. In doing so, they notched the first British Combined Services victory since 1989 and only the fourth since the IME was founded.

Despite home ground, the team of Lt Dan Hughes, WO2 Chris Haywood, SCpl Richard Waygood (of the Household Cavalry) and Sgt Corke Corfield (The King's Troop RHA) had their work cut out against international, Olympic and World Championship riders.

All the competitors rode British military horses provided by King's Troop, Household Cavalry and the Defence Animal Centre, Melton Mowbray.

In a true test of horsemanship, horses were allocated by draw and riders were allowed just 30 minutes to get to know their mounts.

Waygood was recovering from a broken shoulder following a fall at the end of July while Hughes was preparing to depart for service in Bosnia. There were further problems when Haywood's horse inexplicably ran out of energy during the cross country phase. Only sympathetic riding ensured it completed the event.

Despite that, the British quartet led after the dressage and tackled the cross country with confidence.

Time allowed was tight and Waygood was the only rider not to incur penalties.

At the start of the show-jumping, the British led the team event and Waygood was the leading individual. He had a fence in hand over Mareschal des Logis Didier Courreges, but a mistake at the first let the Frenchman in and Waygood had to settle for second and a saddle for finishing as the highest-placed British rider.

Corfield was third in the individual standings to ensure a home victory by the narrowest of margins.

Waygood was subsequently selected for the British national squad to compete in France.

REME orienteers hold off the QRH

DEFENDING champions Queen's Royal Hussars, last year's top BAOR orienteering team, were edged out by 7 Battalion REME in the major units competition of the first UKSC(G) three-man team

championships. Staged in Dusere Kopfe forest, Detmold, the event attracted 25 different units, including UK Mov and Liaison staff from Emblem in Belgium.

Less than three minutes split

the first three places in the Major Units competition, 7 Battalion REME finishing 58 seconds ahead of the QRH.

HQ ARRC were third and 16 Regiment RA fourth.

The Minor Units result was

more clear-cut, 669 Sqn AAC beating 1 Battalion REME into second place by nearly 15 minutes. The squadron B team was third.

First female unit was 24 Tpt and Mov Regt RLC.

Bailey's world showing earns England call-up

THREE Army veterans have been selected for the Home Counties cross country international at Silkworth, Sunderland on November 12.

Sgt Bill Bailey (2 Sig Regt) will turn out for England, Lt Col Glen Grant (MCTC, Colchester) will run for Wales, and Capt Alex Rodgers (40 Cadet Trg Team, Preston) is in the Northern Ireland line-up.

LCpl Malone (BAD Kinneir) is waiting to hear if the Republic of Ireland will require his services.

A strong Army team took part in the world veterans road racing championships on the northern shore of Lake Ontario in Toronto.

Bailey, who has produced some outstanding results in his



Sgt Bill Bailey (left) and Maj Dave Gibson with medals at the world veterans road race championships in Canada

first season in the veteran ranks, finished strongly in the 10km race to take the bronze medal in 32min 16sec. His big effort also led GB to second place in the international team event.

Further down the field, Maj Dave Gibson (28 Engr Regt) ran strongly in the M50 category, finishing in 34min 52sec to take 20th place overall and the M50 silver medal.

As first British M50 runner, he also led Great Britain to

team victory, giving the Army runners a fine haul of four medals.

Gibson, a former international steeplechaser and cross country runner, missed out on a GB vest at the 1964 Tokyo Olympics when he fell at the final water jump in Aldershot and finished half a second behind Ernie Pomfret. Pomfret's time of 8min 47.8sec in that race stands as an Army record to this day and earned him the trip to Japan.

Moscow marathon

A four-man team from Nienburg-based 21 Engineer Regiment competed in the 14th international peace marathon in Moscow in September after cutting through miles of red tape to reach the start line.

LCpl Bob Brown, LCpl Jason Bull, WO2 Paul Nottingham and Cpl Scotty Scott-Mance completed a 35-hour train journey from Berlin to Moscow to be told they were the first British Army athletes to compete. They also raised about £1,500 for a German charity in Nienburg.

Hot work in Death Valley

SSgt Primus Lambert completed the 300-mile Hi-Tech 1994 Badwater-Mt Whitney ultra marathon across Death Valley, California in one of the fastest times ever achieved.

The course included five mountain ranges.

Lambert, serving with the Fallbostel-based Queen's Royal Hussars, was supported by Lt Willie Barnes-Yallowley, LCpl Rob Greeves and Tpr Wayne Kennan.

The run also raised funds for the Army Benevolent Fund.

Aussies not here for the scenery

AUSTRALIAN Combined Services take on the Army rugby team under the Military Stadium floodlights at Aldershot on November 23, writes Roger Thompson.

They have a very strong 30-man squad for the seven match series which opens against Somerset on November 19.

Many of the Aussies have been involved in the hard-fought Inter-State competition. They won't be here for the sight-seeing and couldn't

give a XXXX about anything but the rugby.

Coach Lt Col Gerry Jones says his team will adopt the same style as the Australian national side - "wave after wave of fiercely competitive forwards linking to high speed backs who are renowned for their simple method".

"Why go round the opposition when you can motor straight through the middle," said Col Jones. We have seen what he means.

On the domestic front, the early rounds of the Army Cup competition have been completed, and the colts have played their first representative match, against Kent.

There has been a heartening response to the ARU's search for sponsors, with Mansfield agreeing to provide kit for all representative sides and Touche-Ross (Army sevens), Willis Corroon (Inter-Services) and Schweppes (Army Challenge Cups) renewing

their much-valued support.

The ARU breaks new ground with its first seminar at Blackdown on November 24, the day after the Australian game. It is aimed at commanding officers, rugby officers, coaches, and players and internationals Tim Rodber and Rob Wainwright are due to speak.

Combined Services are due to take on Canada at Devonport on December 3, just seven days before England meet the tourists at Twickenham.

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A Challenger 1 main battle tank makes a splash on the all-weather driving circuit at the Royal Armoured Corps Centre at Bovington, now the Army's centre of excellence for armoured vehicle driver training. See Page 11.

Picture: Mike Perring



SOLDIER