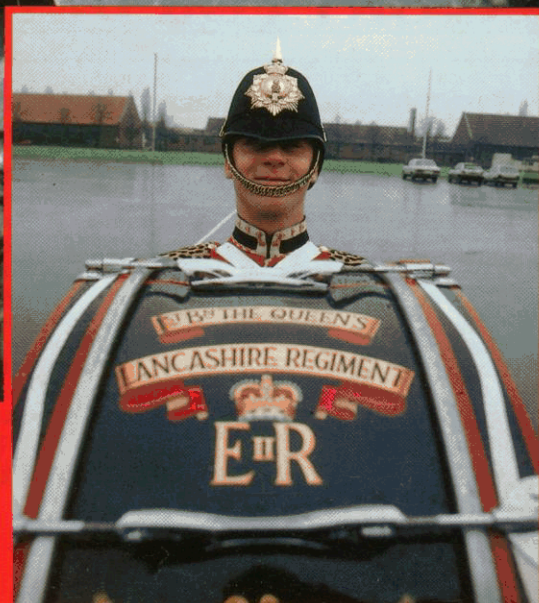


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Incorporating the Territorial Army magazine

May 16, 1994
Vol 50/10

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Managing Editor

Chris Horrocks Ext 2355

Editor

John Elliott 2356

Assistant Editors

Laurie Manton 2362
Gordon Skilling 2360
Phil Wilcox 2362

Picture Editor

Terry Champion 2357

Photographers

Mike Weston 2357
Mike Perring

Art Editor

Les Gwyer 2169

Librarian

Gerard Sutton 2351

Advertising

Lindsey Champion 2352

Accounts/Distribution

Janice Follwell 2353

Fax

2358

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FRONT COVER: Main picture – As the drawdown from Berlin gathers pace, 1 QLR, the last British infantry battalion in the city, is handing back its Fox armoured cars. From left to right are Pte Dave Phoenix, LCpl Ian Holden, Pte Wayne Uren and Cpl Brent Wilcox. (Inset) Bass drummer Pte Simon Weston, a member of the drum section of 1 QLR's Corps of Drums, has been taking part in the World Percussion Festival. See also Pages 22-25. (Pictures: Terry Champion.)

● **WITH THE Hong Kong** mandate running down, the men of the 1st Battalion, The Black Watch are coming to the end of their tour of duty, the last by a British infantry battalion. Pages 12-13.

● **MONTE Cassino** veterans are returning after 50 years to the scene of one of the most bitter battles of the Second World War. Pages 14-15.

● **FINAL** public appearance by the 2nd Battalion, Grenadier Guards before it goes into suspended animation will be on the Queen's Birthday Parade on June 11. Meanwhile, the battalion has been exercising in America. Pages 18-19.

● **A ROYAL** day for the Yeomanry, this year celebrating 200 years of service to the crown. Pages 26-27.

Princess meets her men in Fermanagh



The Princess of Wales meets members of the 2nd Battalion, The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment during a private visit in her capacity as Colonel-in-Chief. The soldiers were about to go on patrol in Enniskillen, Co Fermanagh when she made her unannounced trip to Northern Ireland

Yorkie NCO is first to win MC

ONE DSO and four MCs have been awarded to British Servicemen for gallantry while on duty with the United Nations in former Yugoslavia and Cambodia.

Cpl Paul Dobson, 1 PWO, is the first junior NCO to receive the Military Cross, previously awarded exclusively to officers and warrant officers. Last June, while his Warrior was supporting an aid convoy near Maglaj, Bosnian Serbs shelled trucks leaving a tunnel, killing four civilians. Ignoring mortar bombs exploding all around and direct fire from anti-aircraft guns, Cpl Dobson made sure no casualties had been left and recovered two trucks abandoned outside the tunnel.

In a separate incident, he found six frightened civilians

trapped by heavy firing in a blazing apartment at Novi Travnik. An elderly Croat woman he was shielding panicked and ran into the open. He ran after her as gunmen opened fire, returning fire as he led the woman to safety.

Maj Graham Binns earned an MC while commanding B Company, 1 PWO. He found himself under intense and sus-

FULL LIST – Page 9

tained pressure because of threats to his men and the aid convoys they were supporting. Once, at Gornji Vakuf, he placed his Warrior between two opposing forces to try and broker peace.

Lt Col Alastair Duncan, who commanded the 1 PWO

Battalion Group in Bosnia from May to November 1993, receives the Distinguished Service Order.

Listed among several incidents contributing to his award were the rescue of 200 Croats from fighting in Guca Gore, and the way he personally cleared a way out when his Warrior hit a mine in Zepce.

Capt Richard Williams, Welsh Guards, earned the Military Cross for gallant and distinguished service while acting as a United Nations Military Observer in Cambodia.

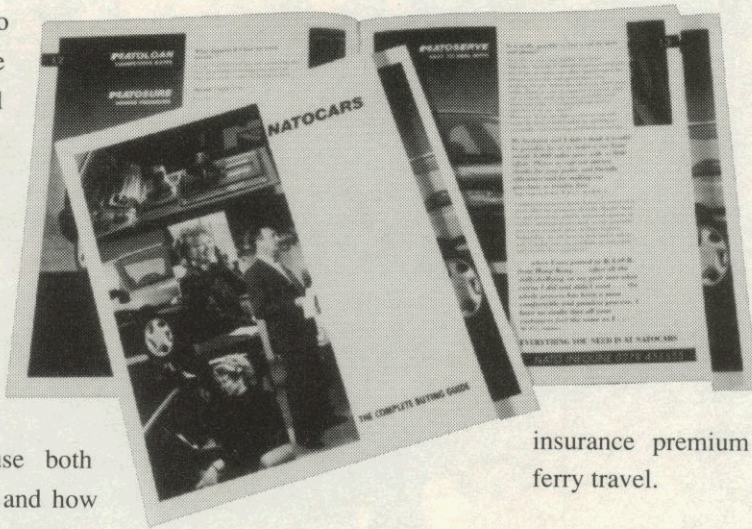
He was held hostage by the Khmer Rouge for four days, gave first aid to nine villagers injured in a mortar attack, and led an Indonesian UN platoon counter-attacking the Khmer

● Turn to Page 9

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D-DAY 50

THE NEXT issue of **SOLDIER** will be a special double edition to commemorate the 50th anniversary of D-Day. It will carry a special message from HRH The Duke of Edinburgh.

This two-in-one edition will also include:

- **The story of June 6, 1944** – specially written for **SOLDIER** by a historian who landed on Gold Beach as an 18-year-old sapper.

PLUS: D-Day memories – from the 15-year-old boy soldier to the lieutenant who cheated death and went on to become Chief of the Defence Staff. And from . . .

- **The cameraman**, later to join **SOLDIER** and now a leading society photographer, who scooped the world with his D-Day pictures.

- **The para** who was "first in order of appearance" on D-Day – then, as a postwar *matinée* idol, played a major role in the film version.

- **The nurse** who slept with her helmet over her head "so if I was wounded anywhere else, I would still be able to think".

- **The piper** who was told: "You are going to lead the biggest invasion in the history of the world."

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- A guide to the Normandy cemeteries, produced in association with the Royal British Legion.
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Subscribers will automatically receive the commemorative issue, which will contain regular **SOLDIER** features as well as a 44-page D-Day section. It will incorporate the issues of May 30 and June 13 and will cost £1.20 from newsagents and other sales outlets.

Non-subscribers should see Page 20.

The subsequent issue, dated June 27, will be published in mid-June.

BE SURE NOT TO MISS THE SPECIAL 84-PAGE D-DAY DOUBLE ISSUE PRODUCED BY **SOLDIER**, MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY FOR ALMOST HALF A CENTURY

NEWSLINE



Lt Gurung Navindra and his Royal Signals team which won the Combined Corps Skill-at-Arms meeting at Ash Ranges near Aldershot

Picture: Mike Perring

TA women step back

WOMEN in Territorial Army rifle sections are being eased out of the trenches and into support jobs as the Army considers new guidelines as to how it employs women. They may now only work in headquarters.

Since April 1993, when women transferred from the WRAC to other cap badges, the general policy has been that Regulars have not been allowed forward of A2 echelon vehicles at the rear of the battlefield. Platoons of women were established to help ease

the workload of units serving in Northern Ireland.

But women in the TA were unlikely ever to be confronted by combat and a latitude was accepted which allowed them to serve in rifle sections.

The position is now being rationalised as the practical and legal implications are reassessed.

Graves grant cut

THE Government is to cut its grant to the Commonwealth War Graves Commission by nearly £1m.

R Irish first to Falklands

THE FIRST formed Territorial Army unit to be sent to the Falkland Islands will leave in mid-June as part of a pilot scheme to test the wider use of volunteers in circumstances short of war.

A reinforced platoon of 40 soldiers from the 4th/5th Battalion, The Royal Irish Regiment (Volunteers) based at Portadown and commanded by a lieutenant will support A

Company Group, 1st Battalion, The Royal Irish Regiment.

A full company drawn from Territorial Army units in Wales and Western District will be deployed for four months from March next year.

In peacetime, TA soldiers are only allowed to train, so volunteers will enlist as Regular soldiers or officers for six months before rejoining their TA units.

Signals win corps shooting

THE ROYAL Signals won the Combined Corps Skill-at-Arms meeting held at Ash Ranges near Aldershot. Led by Lt Gurung Navindra, the six-man team included four Gurkhas. The Royal Logistic Corps was second.

Winner of the falling plate competition was the 2nd Battalion REME from Fallingbommel, with the Army School of Catering in Aldershot second. Six corps and more than 400 marksmen took part in 80 teams.

The Military Corrective Training Centre (MCTC) won an impressive seven first prizes at the AGC skills-at-arms meeting held at the same time as the corps competition.

Airborne volunteers

THREE liaison officers and 13 watchkeepers from the Territorial Army are continuing the tradition of airborne staff officers, a custom feared lost with the demise of 44 Parachute Brigade (TA).

The volunteers are back within the airborne culture of 24 Airmobile Brigade and took part in the joint UK-French Exercise Northern Crusade.

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(1) OPERATION OVERLORD

These feature a painting by top military artist, Malcolm Greensmith. This painting was specially commissioned for this cover and as such is **unavailable in any other format**. The covers will be franked with a special Portsmouth postmark depicting General Dwight D. Eisenhower, C-in-C Allied Forces in Europe. The covers incorporate the SHAEF (Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Force) badge.

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- (b) as above but personally signed by Winston Churchill MP£12.50 ☐
- (c) or personally signed by the artist, Malcolm Greensmith£10.00 ☐

(2) THE SPIRIT OF BRITAIN

These covers feature the front page of the Evening Standard from 6th June 1944. Winston Churchill's speech to the House is reproduced in great detail – in spite of its size the text is legible. The remainder of the page is continued on the reverse of the envelope. The covers will bear the full set of D-Day Landings stamps together with the pair of 1965 stamps issued to commemorate the death of Churchill and the 1974 stamp issued to mark the centenary of his birth.

- (a) covers as shown with London SW1 postmark (depicting Churchill)£10.00 ☐
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Seven in 'Gulf sickness' plea

SEVEN cases in which it is alleged there may be a link between Gulf service and later medical problems among spouses or children of forces personnel have been brought to the attention of the MoD.

This was reported by Armed Forces Minister Jeremy Hanley on April 18 in a written reply to a question from Mr Paul Flynn.

On April 19, in answer to a question by Mr Llew Smith, Mr Hanley said the United Nations Compensation Commission (UNCC) would consider, against established criteria, claims from UK citizens suffering from "deleterious health effects" directly caused by Iraq's unlawful invasion and occupation of Kuwait between August 2, 1990 and March 2, 1991.

"It will require evidence to show that there is a direct causative link between the symptoms of the claimant and the Gulf conflict," he said.

Their right to claim extended to Allied prisoners of war, he added, and claims had been put in by most British PoWs as well as British liaison team members and their dependants who were in Kuwait at the time of the invasion.

Commemorations of the 50th anniversary of the end of the Second World War were outlined by the Prime Minister in a



A summary of Defence topics from Westminster

written answer.

They will include a service in St Paul's Cathedral, a parade in central London, a lunch or dinner for visiting heads of state and various other anniversary events throughout the country.

"Peace and reconciliation will feature strongly in the themes for these events," he said.

The MoD, which is leading the planning, would consult "a variety of appropriate organisations" including veterans' associations in the UK, over the content of the commemorations before final decisions were taken. There were no plans,

said the Prime Minister, for veterans' representatives from former Axis powers to take part.

Total trained strength of the infantry on February 1 this year was about 29,400, compared with 35,900 on April 1, 1990.

These figures, given on April 12, exclude 3,460 Gurkhas, 6,800 Royal Marines and about 1,280 soldiers from other arms deployed in the infantry role.

More than 12,000 people have applied to the MoD for tickets to D-Day ceremonies in Normandy, said Armed Forces Minister Jeremy Hanley.

No reduction in front line

CHANGES resulting from the Defence Costs Study would not affect the front-line capability of British Armed Forces, said Defence Secretary Malcolm Rifkind.

Presenting the Statement on the Defence Estimates on April 26, Mr Rifkind said there was no intention of making further reductions in fighting strength.

"Quite the contrary," he said. "Any savings identified in the 33 current studies will be used to enhance fighting capability yet further."

"Our Armed Forces have a very important contribution to make towards solving the problems of a very unstable world and it would not be right to make any further reduction in fighting capability."

Mr Rifkind acknowledged there was substantial uncertainty among support services. The tail was crucial to the teeth, and any recommendations affecting the tail would be judged against the test of the effect it would have on the front line if practices were changed.

The Defence Costs Study had gone far better than many had predicted because of splendid co-operation from uniformed personnel and civil

DEFENCE WHITE PAPER

servants, who had made more than 3,000 proposals.

"This is unprecedented," said Mr Rifkind. "In the past, studies of potential savings

were carried out without the involvement of uniformed personnel and civil servants."

There were 5,500 recommendations to be considered and Mr Rifkind hoped to announce the conclusions of the various studies in July.

Hereford ceremony

Cpl Fergus Rennie of The Parachute Regiment, who was killed during a Serb attack while acting as a forward air controller at Gorazde in Bosnia, was buried in the garden of rest at Hereford.

The grey beret of the SAS with its famous winged dagger badge lay on top of the coffin as it was carried by eight comrades to the grave.

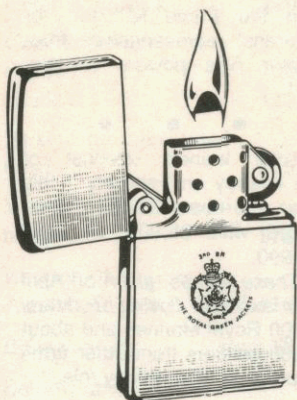
Tasty team



Chefs of 71 (Scottish) Engineer Regiment from Glasgow broke the recent RCT monopoly when they won the Scottish Combat Caterer competition at Barry Buddon near Dundee. Pictured (from left) are Sgt Joseph McCue, Cpl David Van Hegan, LCpl Alan McLeod and LCpl David Denham who were entering for the first time. They also took the craft prize and LCpl Denham the best novice shield.

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NEWSLINE

HONOURS AND AWARDS

● From Page 3

Rouge after an ambush. Four guerrillas were killed, as a result of which, a bounty was placed on his head.

In the first combined honours list since changes to the system were announced last October, Mentions in Despatches have now been reserved for gallantry during active operations. The list also includes the first of the new Queen's Commendations for Valuable Service (QCVS), replacing the MID for activities which fall short of actual gallantry in battle.

Those mentioned or commended receive a certificate signed by the Secretary of State for Defence and the award is marked by an emblem usually worn on the ribbon of the appropriate campaign medal. Where, as in former Yugoslavia, a British medal has not been awarded, the emblem is worn directly on the tunic.

Changes to the system of mentions and commendations will mean revised emblems and certificates, details of which will be announced shortly.



Lt Col Alastair Duncan, DSO

Lt Col Duncan's DSO is the first of the new-style awards for "highly successful command and leadership".

The new Conspicuous Gallantry Cross (CGC), which ranks second to the Victoria Cross, has yet to be awarded.

All ranks are now eligible for the third level of awards, the DSC for operations at sea, the MC for land operations and the DFC for operations in the air.

As a result, WO2 Shaun Wyatt RA has been awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for gallant service in Northern Ireland.

Army nursing centre closes

THE Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps Training Centre at Aldershot has closed nearly 31 years after the foundation stone was laid by Princess Margaret on the site of the Royal Pavilion.

Recruit training moved to the Army Training Regiment, Lichfield, in October 1992. Other courses moved to the RAMC Training Group at Keogh Barracks, near Aldershot, in October 1992 with the remaining student, junior and senior officer courses moving in November 1993.

The QARANC Training Centre amalgamated with the RAMC Training Group to form the Army Medical Services Training Centre and its commandant, Col Jane Arigho, became Deputy Commander, Army Medical Services Training Centre.

The original Royal Pavilion was the residence of Queen Victoria when she reviewed her troops at Aldershot. The grounds, designed by Prince Albert, contain all known species of rhododendron and trees from every part of the Empire.

Commanders at Colchester

BRITISH, Belgian, Dutch and German commanders of the Multi National Division Central (Airmobile) met for the first time in Britain when 24 Airmobile Brigade hosted the commanders' conference at Goojerat Barracks, Colchester.

Also attending was Lt Gen Sir Jeremy Mackenzie, Commander Allied Command Europe Rapid Reaction Corps.

The British brigade was formally assigned to the division and its Dutch commander on April 1.

For distinguished service in Northern Ireland

CBE

Brig D V Erskine Crum OBE, late SG; Col (now Acting Brig) M G R Hodson OBE, late RCT.

OBE

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MBE

Maj O P Bartrum, Gren Gds; Maj S J Baston, Int Corps; SSgt M Campbell, Para; Maj R S Combe KOSB; WO2 D Cotterill RLC; Maj A Flavell, Para; Maj S D Holborow, Coldm Gds; WO2 S J Jones PWRR (now retired); Maj R J Kemp, R Anglian; WO2 A J Mullen, R Signals; Maj J L Murray-Playfair RRF; Cpl M G Newby RLC.

Maj M S Perkin, Kings Own Border; Maj J I S Plastow RGJ; Capt T B Radford LI; Maj P R Saddleton RLC; Maj P C Tomlinson DERR; SSgt A T Toner, R Signals (now retired); Maj T P Watton AGC (RMP); Maj S E Woodburn, Kings Own Border (now retired); WO2 S Young, R Signals.

QGM

WO2 J Lybert BEM, Int Corps; Maj A R Wallace RLC.

DFC

SSgt (now WO2) S A Wyatt RA.

MID

Maj R H W St G Bodington WG; Maj A J A Brown-Hovelt RA (now retired); Maj W H Buckley, Para; Sgt S P Cahill AAC; Capt S W Carver, R Anglian; Sgt D B Coupland DERR; Cpl M E Downard RGJ; Maj P A W Edwards AAC; Fus P Gardner RRF; Lt M A Hughes RGJ; SSgt M J Jones RWF; Pte A Moore, QO Hldrs; LBdr (now Bdr) L A Moore RA.

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QCBC

Cpl J Bennett RRF; Sgt I Haigs, Int Corps; SSgt K M Otter RE; Cpl P Plowman PWRR; Capt H C McG Shapland IG (since deceased); Sgt R M Taylor, Para; Capt M W Watson RGJ (now retired); Fus J P Weaver RRF; Capt J C Westbrook, Kings Own Border.

QCVS

Sgt D Bowman, Int Corps; Maj R Calder BEM, AGC (RMP); Cpl P Edwards RWF; Cpl D A E Guildford RE; Maj R J S Hermon RA; WO1 J P Jacobs BEM, Int Corps; WO2 D S Johnson, Para; Lt Col J

Kazocins OBE, RA; Maj W J Kintrea, QO Hldrs; Lt Col (now Acting Col) G C M Lamb MBE, QO Hldrs; Lt (now Acting Capt) R F L Lyne, R Anglian; WO2 A B McIntyre DERR; Cpl D J Palmer RE; Lt C S H Parry RA (now retired); Col S W J Saunders, late DERR; Capt N J Sealy-Thompson RE; Capt (now Maj) M R Snook RRF; Capt A P Williams, Glosters; Col J C W Williams MC, late RWF; SSgt G Wilson AGC (RMP).

For distinguished service in the former republic of Yugoslavia

CBE

Brig G de V W Hayes, late RGJ.

OBE

Lt Col R J Morrison RLC; Lt Col M J Von Bertele RAMC.

MBE

Sgt R Anderson RE; Cpl H McC Clark RE; Maj N P Gallier, Green Howards; Maj D A Hill PWO; Capt D A C Ibbotson LD; Maj P T Roberts LD; Capt M R V Stankovic, Para.

QGM

Capt M W Bower PWO; Sgt I R Thornton, Green Howards; Capt L K Whitworth PWO (now retired).

DSO

Lt Col (now Acting Col) A D A Duncan OBE, PWO.

MC

Maj G J Binns MBE, PWO; Cpl P S Dobson PWO.

AFC

Capt A Icceton AAC.

ARRC

Lt A R Williams QARANC.

MID

SSgt K J Burton PWO; LCpl (now Cpl) D I Gillett PWO; Capt A G P Hay, Gordons; Lt C R S Hay, QO Hldrs; Lt R Lockwood PWO; 2nd Lt G Payne PWO; Cpl J B Winder RE.

QCBC

Cpl A D Donlon, Gordons; Lt J C Medley AGC (SPS).

QCVS

Maj C Brundle RA; Maj G C W Dodds MBE, RE; Capt K I McCambridge RE; Brig R V Searby, late 9/12 L.

For distinguished service in Cambodia

OBE

Lt Col N F Mulliner RE.

MBE

Maj A Duncan, R Signals; Capt I A Gordon RLC; Lt (Acting Capt) S J Lake RE.

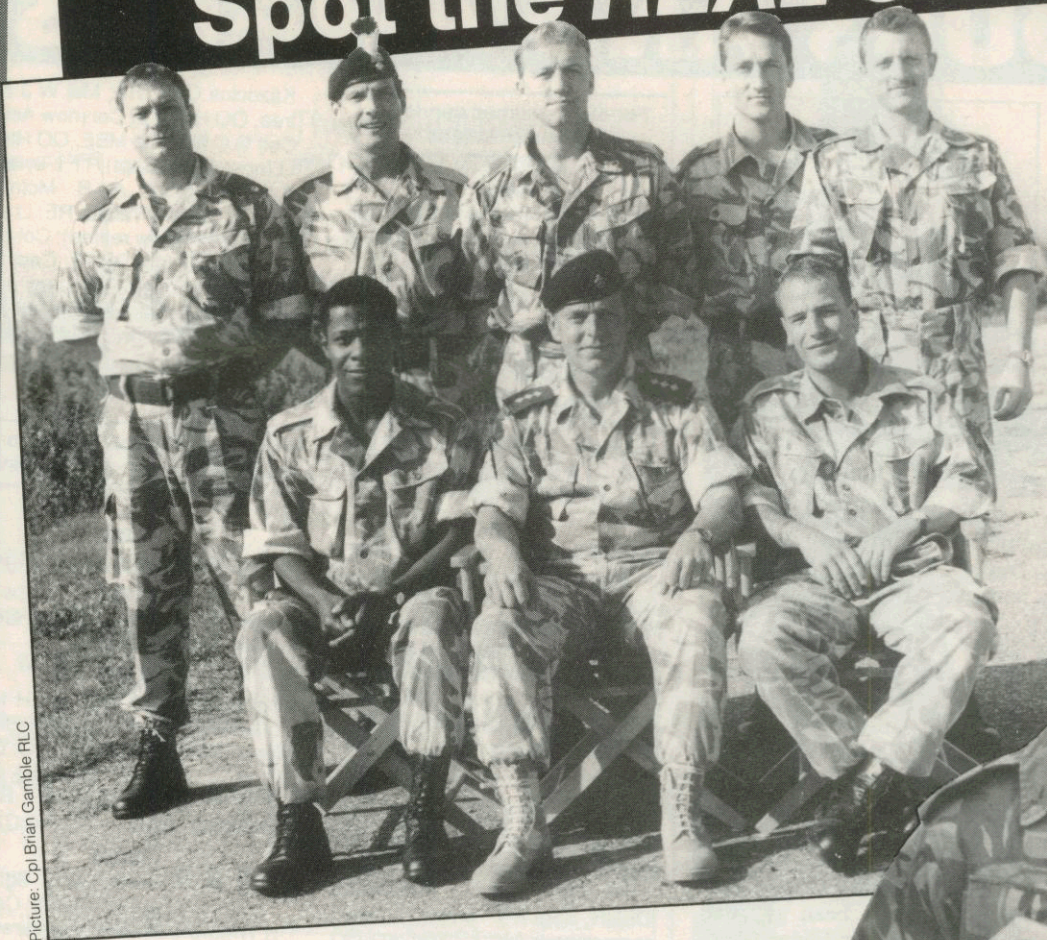
MC

Maj M R Walton RA; Lt (Acting Capt) R J W Williams WG.

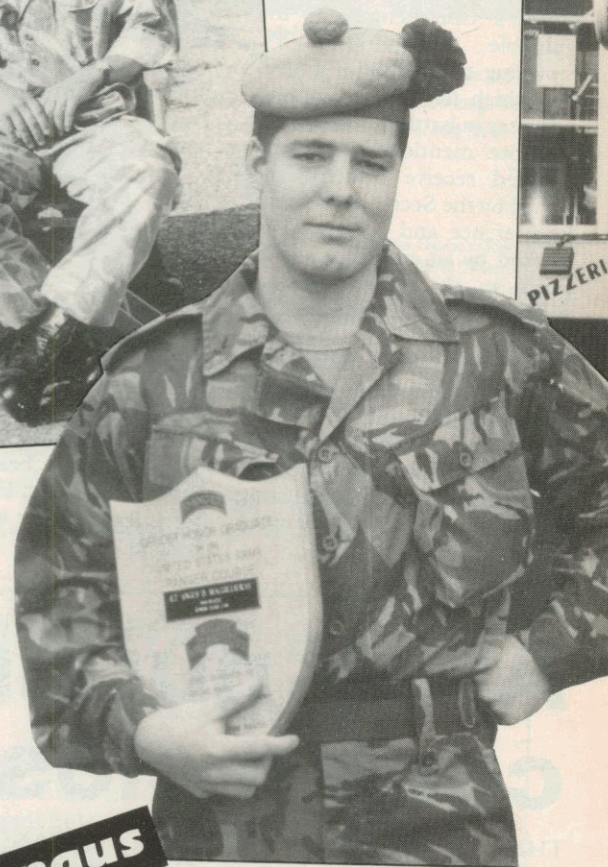
MID

Capt N A Wilson RA.

Spot the *REAL* soldier



Actors from the popular television series *Soldier Soldier* were caught for the camera as they posed on location for the latest series at Bloodhound Camp, Cyprus, with their real-life counterpart Capt **David Attwood**, Kings (the Army's project officer for the 13 programmes). He's the one sitting in the centre, by the way.



Angus is a man to Watch

First out of 287 officers is an achievement that anyone can be proud of. Even more so in the case of Lt **Angus MacGillivray** of the 1st Battalion, The Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment). He is seen with the Officer Honour Graduate award presented to him by the United States Army Rangers after Angus – the only British officer, and one of only five overseas officers on the taxing four-month survival and leadership course held in four American states – had successfully finished as top member out of only 94 who eventually passed out.

Hillsborough Castle was the venue for the annual meeting of the Northern Ireland TAVRA. Pictured (left to right) are Col **George Baird**, chairman TAVRA (NI), Maj Gen **George Kennedy**, Director General Territorial Army and Col **Michael McCorkell**, Lord Lieutenant, County of Londonderry.



Couple's marathon task



Andrew and Jane James, of Cheltenham-based C Company, 1st Battalion, The Wessex Regiment (Volunteers) were hoping that their fitness training was up to strength before tackling the London marathon last month. Jane has just gained her HGV licence and Andrew was recently promoted to lance corporal.

Closing . . .



"For Sale" signs advertise the Army Careers Information office in Hanover Street, Edinburgh, which has closed as part of the Options cuts. CSM **Gil Cochrane** and Sgt **George Skinner**, Scots Guards, Sgt **Hugh McLeod**, Royal Scots and Sgt **Elizabeth Poole** AGC expect a quick sale.

Fred lands at museum

Former soldier **Fred Snowden** (second from right) and fellow Normandy veterans found themselves setting foot on a landing craft for the first time in 50 years when they attended the unveiling of new exhibits at the D-Day Museum in Southsea, Hampshire. "It brought back a lot of memories: I lost quite a few of my mates over there," he said.



Jim's major achievement

A diploma in management and a national vocational qualification level 5 certificate are the end result of some hard work by Maj **Jim Gettins**, QM (Tech) Warminster Support Unit, who qualified for his diploma with the Temple Hewitt Partnership of Wetherby.



This team is well trained

The Royal Engineers' Permanent Way Troop in Germany came to the rescue in a corner of Nordrhein Westfalen when voluntary narrow gauge steam train enthusiasts found that part of their track had fallen into disrepair. Working under OC Capt **Brian Smith**, seen with Herr **Martin Krieg** of the railway enthusiasts' club, as part of a military aid to the civil community project, they ripped out the dangerous section of track and replaced it with firm new sleepers capable of carrying both steam transport and passengers.



PEOPLE

Watch runs out of time in Hong Kong

Story: Lesley Edgar
Pictures: Mark Owens



Black Watch sentries study the Chinese OP on Crest Hill in the New Territories

SOLDIERS and families of the 1st Battalion, The Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment) will look back on their 20-month tour of duty in Hong Kong, which comes to an end in August, with sadness and pride.

They have had the honour of being the last British infantry battalion to serve in the Colony before it is handed back to the Chinese on June 30, 1997, marking the end of 99 years of British sovereignty.

The 670-strong battalion, which arrived in Hong Kong in January 1993 and is based at Stanley Fort on the southernmost tip of the island, forms part of 48 Gurkha Infantry Brigade. When the Jocks leave in August, 48 Brigade will reduce to two Gurkha infantry battalions which will merge into one before the end of this year.

Garrison strength currently stands at around 8,500, compared with 12,000 in 1987, and is due to reduce to between 3,000 and 3,500 by 1995.

Despite the reduction in numbers, the garrison is a tangible sign of Britain's commitment to the Colony's six million people, and to assisting the Hong Kong Government maintain territorial integrity.

The Black Watch plays no small part in all of this. Its duties range from assisting the

Royal Hong Kong Police in anti-smuggling and border surveillance, to helping civil authorities in times of storms and disasters. The Jocks are also prepared to deploy on limited operations anywhere in the world at seven days' notice.

The rugged terrain of the New Territories, coupled with the searing heat and almost unbearable humidity of the Hong Kong summer, provides an excellent testing ground for



A Jock on exercise in the New Territories

men and officers alike.

"I haven't known a battalion fitter and more robust, and it is very much to do with the climate and the terrain," said Lt Col Sir Andrew Ogilvy-Wedderburn, commanding officer of The Black Watch.

This point was proved at the battalion's annual inter-platoons competition, when the individual and collective skills of 12 platoons were put to the test in a gruelling eight-day exercise in the New Territories.

The battalion has not restricted its training to Hong Kong but has taken advantage of its posting to exercise in different environments and climates. Bravo Company deployed to the Hawaiian islands for six weeks last June and July to exercise with the US 1st Marine Expeditionary Brigade based on Oahu, while Delta Coy deployed to New Zealand for five weeks in September and October.

Last month Alpha Coy were in the jungles of Brunei on Exercise Hutan Labi.

Ten to 12 volunteers from the regiment are about to undertake a month-long expedition to Rolwaling Himal and an ascent of Mount Parcharmo in Nepal under team leader Capt Robert Scott-Dempster.

There is plenty of scope for recreation for the 355 families based at Stanley Fort. The bat-

talion provides a wide range of sporting and recreational facilities, including football, rugby, golf and all manner of water sports. Families can relax in the Red Hackle Club which serves as a coffee shop by day and a bar by night, and where the price of a pint of beer is cheaper than the £4.50 demanded in some Hong Kong nightspots.

The wives have created a real community spirit at Stanley Fort, and enjoy the taste of the Orient afforded by the many Hong Kong markets.

"I always wanted to come to Hong Kong," said Maria, wife of Pipe Major Alex Brown, "so for me this is a dream come true. The only negative thing about living out here is the extreme heat and humidity in the summer - and no one warned me about the flying cockroaches that get caught in your hair."

Maria gave birth to daughter Teresa last March and both she and her husband are proud of their "Hong Kong baby".

The regiment enjoys the goodwill and respect of the Hong Kong community. This, according to Lt Col Ogilvy-Wedderburn, is largely due to the efforts of the soldiers themselves.

The Regimental Band and Pipes and Drums of The Black Watch have played a major role in maintaining and enhancing

the battalion's profile in the Colony.

"We have accepted the most diverse range of playing engagements I have ever known in over 20 years in the Army," said Bandmaster Ian Peale.

"They vary from formal engagements at the house of Governor Chris Patten and on the quayside at Ocean Terminal to welcoming QEII, to performing for children in schools in the New Territories as part of the Music for the Millions project undertaken by the Black Watch on behalf of the Hong Kong Government."

Lt Col Ogilvy-Wedderburn added: "Hong Kong has changed out of all recognition since I was here with The Black Watch as a young subaltern in 1972. At that time there was real tension with China, and border surveillance patrols were one of our main duties.

"Thankfully, the threat of aggression is now regarded as low, and border-manning mostly serves as a reminder to China that we are still here."

The British Garrison will remain in being until the Colony is handed over to China in 1997, but the 1st Battalion, The Black Watch will take its leave in August and return to Pirbright, Surrey to become part of 2 Infantry Brigade.



The Pipes and Drums welcome QE2 to Ocean Terminal



Recce Platoon, 1 BW, winners of the inter-platoon competition



Gurkhas on Stanley Fort parade ground

Veterans return to Monte Cassino

IMMEDIATELY behind the Italian town of Cassino, the land rises sharply. On the dominant point stands a celebrated monastery originally founded by St Benedict in 529.

Monte Cassino proved the most stubborn obstacle encountered by the Allies during their victorious advance from the south of Italy to Rome. The landmark was reached in December 1943, but it took more than five months to capture, **writes Laurie Manton.**

During the early months of 1944, some of the fiercest fighting of the Second World War took place around the town and monastery. Both were reduced to rubble by repeated shelling and air attacks. German generals said afterwards that the fighting had been worse than Stalingrad.

In the Commonwealth War Graves Commission cemetery today, towering, polished columns of green marble stand sentinel. They bear the names of hundreds of soldiers of the British Commonwealth and Empire who went missing in action during the Italian campaign. The individual graves of 4,000 soldiers killed in the Monte Cassino battles surround them.

This month, more than 1,500 Monte Cassino veterans were making the pilgrimage to Italy to commemorate their fallen comrades.

The Duke of Kent and the Commander UK Field Army, Lt Gen Sir Richard Swinburn, were attending a service of Remembrance at the Cassino war cemetery on May 15 at which the Peninsula Band of the Royal Green Jackets and Pipers of the Queen's Own Highlanders were to play.

Afterwards, the veterans were taking part in a beach-head service at Anzio, joining Polish veterans paying homage at the Polish war cemetery on Point 593 and taking part in a parade of Allied veterans at Gaeta.

Later this month, the Monte

Cassino Veterans Association will hold a 50th anniversary remembrance service at St Margarets Church, Westminster. Among the congregation will be more than 100 war widows, Winston Churchill MP and three former wartime nurses who tended the wounded from the Cassino battles.

Allied soldiers were concerned that the Germans were using the monastery as a strongpoint, but an embargo had been placed against direct action against the building.

This embargo was raised by the overall commander in Italy, Gen Alexander, who approved an attack. On February 15, 1944, just before the third battle of Monte Cassino, American aircraft bombed the monastery with devastating and controversial effect.

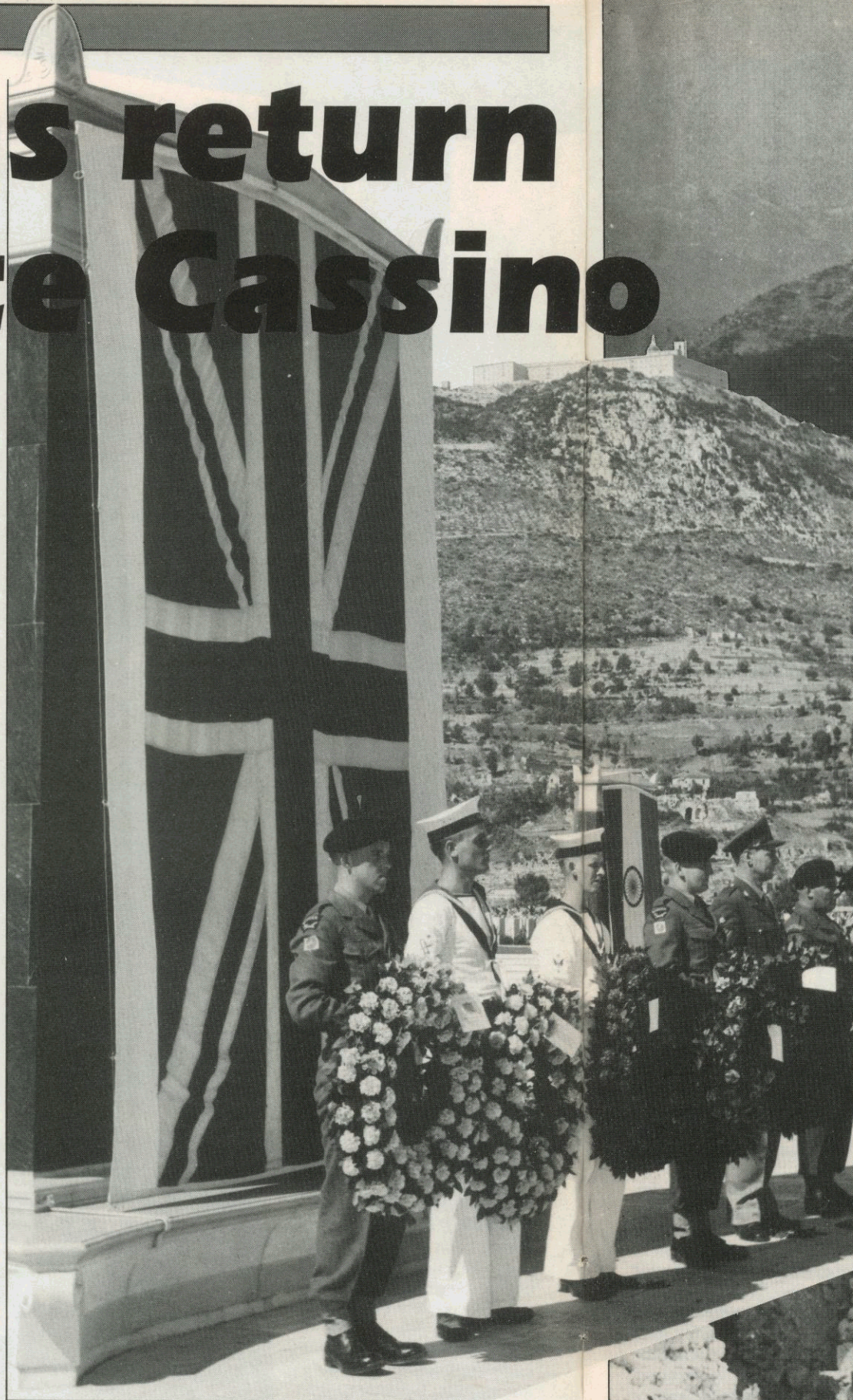
The destruction of the monastery provided the Nazis with a propaganda coup because they persuaded the Abbot to sign a statement testifying that no German soldiers had been in the monastery before or during the attack.

After 50 years of controversy over the bombing, SOLDIER (May 2) revealed that the last surviving wartime monk had admitted German soldiers had used the monastery for shelter.

After the monks were evacuated, German paratroops took up defensive positions in the rubble of the building and held off a succession of attacks by the Allies.

In March, 1944 the 1/9th Gurkha Rifles fought its way up to Hangman's Hill, just below the summit. The gallant Gurkhas found themselves surrounded. Food and ammunition were dropped by air to the defenders who held out for nine days before they managed to withdraw.

The monastery was finally captured by Polish troops on May 18. Tens of thousands of Allied soldiers had been killed or wounded during the five months of action. The monastery was rebuilt after the war.



Above right – The monastery on Monte Cassino under bombardment by Allied aircraft on February 15, 1944. The mountain took five months to capture at a cost of thousands of lives

Right – Smiles of victory as British soldiers file past the "Hotel de Roses" in Cassino after the long-besieged town had fallen to the Eighth Army on the morning of May 18, 1944

Above – Wreath bearers at the unveiling of the Cassino Memorial in 1956. Dominating the skyline above the cemetery is the rebuilt monastery



All mod cons – at the double

TAKE THE empty shell of a disused shoe factory. The security fence is damaged, there is no power; water has not flowed through the pipes for more than two years and the sewerage system is blocked after years of neglect.

Contaminate everything with the remains of a sheepskin business – from carcass to carpet – and you have the challenge thrown down to the men of 11 Field Squadron RE. Make the building habitable for 300 men of The Duke of Wellington's Regiment and 50 sappers from 38 Engineer Regiment at Ripon – in two days.

Officer commanding 11 Field Squadron Group, Maj Alan Macklin, sent 30 members of the squadron from Gornji Vakuf to Bugojno in a ten-vehicle convoy carrying



Maj Alan Macklin

every tradesman necessary to complete the work.

Portable generators were quickly started up by Spr Brocky Brockenbrow and soon afterwards LCpl Frank Griffiths had the "genny" connected to the factory restaurant.

Careful tweaking of the many fuses by Spr Wayne Whalley got the old strip lights working and the cookhouse

facilities were soon functional.

A water purification unit brought from Vitez was soon drawing water from a nearby stream and Cpl Andy Branch suddenly soon had cold Bosnian mountain water gushing through drains and toilets. LCpl Ian Thornton successfully connected into the fire hydrant circuit and, after a number of trial runs, he and Cpl Steve Gerlack closed all the leaks in the system.

Before long the whole site was more habitable and a camp routine was established under Sgt Chaz Bray.

First visitor was Brig John Reith, Commander Sector South West and Commander British Forces in the former Yugoslavia. He expressed his amazement at the progress made in just a few hours.



Picture: SSgt Ian Dunning

Colleagues of Cpl Barney Warburton RE, killed by a mine in Bosnia on March 19, unveil a memorial stone erected in his memory at Stari Vitez. The local stonemason has promised the words will never fade

FEAST OF FOOTBALL

FIVE soldiers serving with the British battalion in Bosnia formed a hotch-potch football side against a team of men who have been fighting for their lives in Central Bosnia.

Based in Stari Bila with the Coldstream Guards, Capt Ian Fielding, 1 Kings, who captained the side, and a few others had been discussing the possibility of a five-a-side football match against the nearby Stari Vitez football team.

Stari Vitez is a Muslim

enclave in the heart of the Bosnian Croat town of Vitez. Since a peace agreement signed between the two fighting factions, life had become a little easier for the embattled citizens, writes Karen Moseley.

The setting for the match was a gymnasium which had seen a lot of action – most of it as a result of artillery and mortar fire. But the holes in the roof and the windows did not put the local people off.

The British team was a

mixed bag. As well as Capt Fielding, it consisted of the adjutant of the Coldstream Guards, Capt "Magoo" Giles, Lt David Cornell RGJ, and Lt Charlie Winter and Gdsm Charlie Chaplain of the Coldstream Guards.

Facing them was a strong bunch of Muslim fighters who had spent most of the past ten months fighting for their lives and homes against the local Croats.

The day chosen for the

match was also the day of the "Birom" feast which marks the end of the Ramadan festival. Children hung from the windows and a great mass of people sat or stood in what was once the stage area in the ramshackle hall.

Capt Fielding described the action: "After 39 minutes of frantic activity we were level at six goals each when the Stari Vitez team made some important substitutions."

They pulled off victory with a well-timed shot into the hessian and timber goal, a signal for much rejoicing from the local contingent.

After the match the team was invited to the Birom celebrations, of a huge feast celebrating the end of Ramadan. The Imam of Stari Vitez sat at the head of the table flanked by the commanding officer of the Coldstream Guards and the town's civic dignitaries.

Thanks to numerous aid deliveries Stari Vitez was well stocked with food, and the footballers tucked into a feast of local delicacies.

The day ended with small gifts being presented to the British in recognition of their efforts.

TRIBUTE WRITTEN IN STONE

IN A SIMPLE and moving ceremony in the Bosnian town of Stari Vitez, a stone memorial to Cpl Barney Warburton, Royal Engineers, was unveiled by Capt Paul Bassett, officer commanding the detachment of 33 Engineer Regiment to which Cpl Warburton belonged.

More than 100 soldiers from Royal Engineers, The Light Dragoons, Coldstream Guards and Belgian units stationed in Vitez, paraded at the site where Cpl Warburton died on March 19.

Joining them were a small group of men and women from both the Bosnian Muslim and Bosnian Croat communities in Vitez, including the local Imam and priest, standing side

by side for the first time in a year since being separated by the civil war.

During the service a children's choir sang *The Answer is Blowing in the Wind* in both English and Serbo-Croat.

The memorial is a simple plinth made from local stone. On it lies a plaque, made from Welsh slate, bearing the crest of the Royal Engineers with the simple inscription: "Corporal Barney Warburton, Royal Engineers, died in the service of peace. Stari Vitez, 19 March 1994".

Local stonemason Rusid Stipo, who prepared the stone plinth, lost his own son in the fighting. He has promised that he will ensure the words he has carved never fade.

ALL IN A GOOD CAUSE



The industrial washing machine paid for by British soldiers is handed over to staff of the Vrlika Institute

Sigs clean up for Split home

MEN AND women of the Signal Squadron from HQ Armoured Brigade in Germany and 60 Artillery Support Transport Squadron, based in Abingdon raised £16,000 in six months to buy an industrial washing machine and drier for the seriously handicapped of the Vrlika Institute in Split.

An international carol service, raffles, auctions and a charity show in London all contributed to the total.

★ ★ ★

Five members of the permanent staff of the Infantry Training Battalion, Ouston took part in a 140ft charity abseil in Newcastle to raise £325 for children with cerebral palsy.

★ ★ ★

More than 100 people of all ages took part in a three-mile charity fun run organised by the Army Training Regiment, Winchester to commemorate the first anniversary of its formation.

★ ★ ★

Officers from 73 Engineer Regiment's Chilwell-based 350 Field Squadron and other Territorial Army units from Beeston, Bilborough, Mansfield, Newark and Worksop are mounting what is claimed to be Britain's biggest-ever mass blood donation.

★ ★ ★

Lt Cols Andrew Farquhar and Alastair McPherson, both members of the

military training staff at the Royal Military College of Science, Shrivenham, took part in the London Marathon to raise between £1,000 and £1,500 to assist with the reconstruction of Shakespeare's Globe Theatre.

★ ★ ★

Territorial soldiers from The Queen's Lancashire Regiment will abseil 350ft down Blackpool Tower on July 19 to raise money for the Army Benevolent Fund and Preston's Emergency and Trauma Team.

★ ★ ★

Former members of the Durham Light Infantry – the oldest 72 years of age – are walking 95 miles along the West Highland Way to raise money for the Gurkha Welfare Trust.

★ ★ ★

Part of the proceeds (£1,000) from the Light Division's final Sounding of Retreat by its massed bands and buglers in London last year has been presented to the Army Benevolent Fund.

★ ★ ★

Money raised at the BAOR Sappers' autumn fair during the visit by the Queen last year was used to buy a defibrillator for Great Ormond Street Hospital.



Both football teams with local people in the background. Capt Ian Fielding is front centre

Grenadiers bow out to sound of trumpets

Words: Robert Higson
Pictures: Cpl Sean Jackson



Wild West show: Gdsm Michael Beynon pictured during a 2 Coy attack up Cottonwood Creek on Yakima Training Area

THE 2nd Battalion, Grenadier Guards will become the last unit in the Household Division to succumb to Options for Change when it stands down in November.

On the anniversary of the Battle of Inkerman it will join the second battalions of the Coldstream and Scots Guards in suspended animation. No 2 Company, to be re-named Nijmegen Company later this year, will be retained to carry out Public Duties in London.

However, the battalion is not fading quietly into the sunset. Next month on Horse Guards Parade its Colour will be Trooped, for the second time since 1991, in valediction at the celebration of the Queen's official birthday.

And before starting weeks of painstaking preparation, the 2nd Battalion carried out a final major exercise at the other end of the military spectrum, far removed from red tunics and bearskins.

Exercise Trumpet Dance, which takes place annually in Washington, offered the Grenadiers, whose battle group followed the Queen's Own Highlanders for the second month of the exercise, the opportunity for a break from Public Duties and the chance to undertake training on a scale virtually impossible in the UK.

Fort Lewis, where the exercise is based, impresses most visitors. Facilities include the

"Recondo" - a confidence-testing course with high towers, death slides, plank walks and ropes over an expanse of very cold water; the night inoculation range, where advances are made under barrages of Somme-like intensity; and the grenade-throwing range in the House of Tyres.

Inland, on the other side of the Cascade Ranges, lies the Yakima Training Area - 261,000 acres of high desert, covered with arid scrub and tumbleweed.

Here the Grenadier Battle Group rifle companies, which included B Coy, 1st Battalion, The King's Regiment (also enjoying a break from Public Duties) took turns in a series of fast-moving live-firing attacks against computerised targets on one of the US Army's most sophisticated ranges.

N Battery (The Eagle's Troop) from 3 RHA in North Yorkshire provided artillery support with 105mm light guns from BATUS in Canada. Sappers of 2 Troop, 8 Armoured Field Squadron, based at Tidworth, breached wire for the advancing troops with bangalore torpedoes and provided other bangs and flashes for battle simulation, while the Grenadiers' own mortars added a taste of fire and fury.

There was even a detachment from 658 Squadron, AAC, at Netheravon, with a couple of Scout helicopters,

flying the last mission before this type of aircraft was withdrawn from service. The US Army provided a Chinook to ferry men and guns to their positions in the hills and A10 Thunderbolt aircraft and Cobra attack helicopters gave close air support.

A busy programme of night marches, night firing, attacks, withdrawals and counter-attacks was spread across the full range of Yakima weather. No 2 Company had to contend with snow and driving wind on their 36-hour field exercise, while, a week later, the principal problems for Inkerman Company were caused by heat.

No 2 Company was able to lessen the burden of the 20km night march, for which everyone was required to carry extra ammunition and a couple of mortar bombs in addition to their normal kit. Negotiations with a local farmer provided some unofficial, though it was claimed not illegal help, in the form of a pair of pack horses.

In the south of Washington State near the Oregon border, the rotating companies had the opportunity to organise their own dry training programmes among the secluded woods of Camp Bonneville.

And there was a chance for everyone to enjoy some of the region's excellent skiing, and to visit places from Vancouver to San Diego.

Then it was back home to the parade square for Grenadiers and Kingsmen alike. The Grenadiers went straight into Spring Drills, the annual ritual which involves everyone from commanding officer to newly joined guardsman, and then into preparations for the big event - Trooping the Colour in June. B Coy, 1 Kings, were due to mount Queen's Guard a week after their return.

This might seem an abrupt change of tack. "We just take it in our stride," said Sgt Kevin Kitcher, of No 2 Coy, who will be carrying the cased Colour on to Horse Guards Parade.

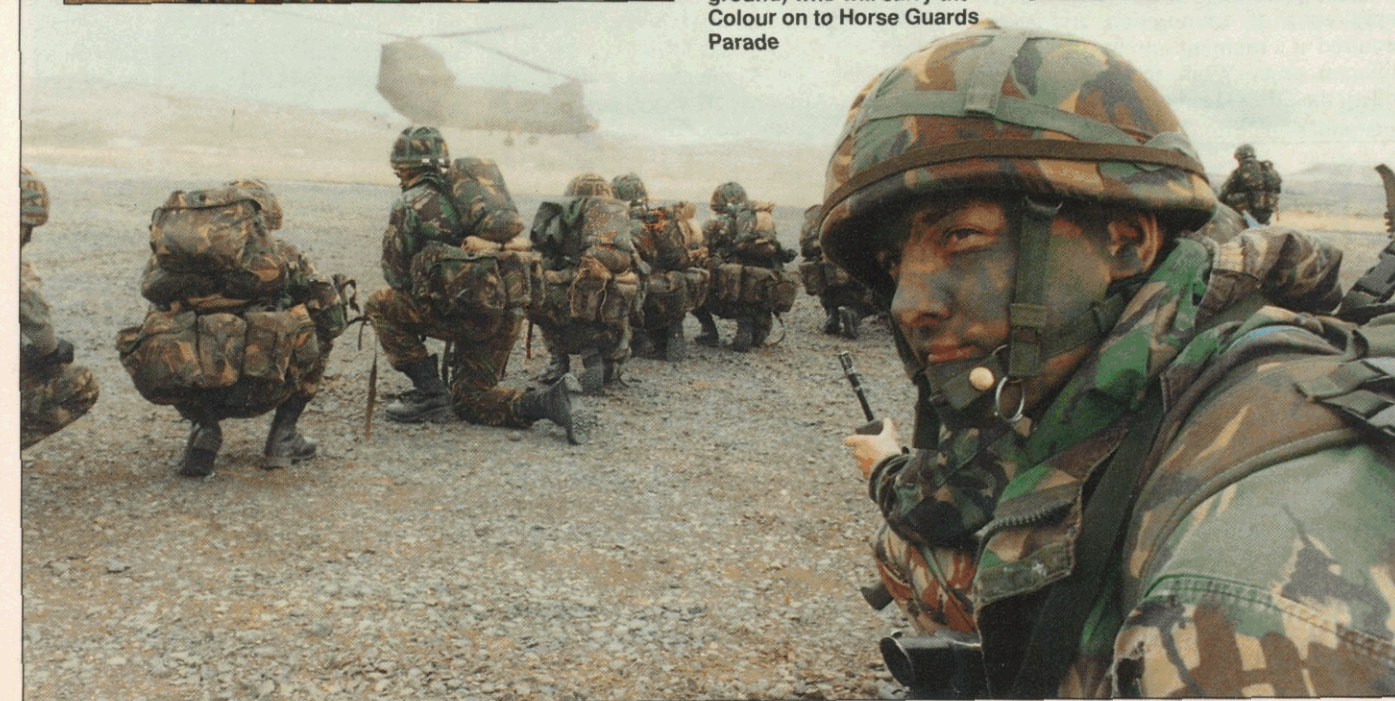
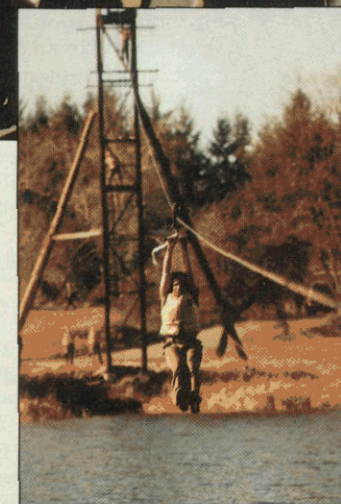
"The transition will go very smoothly - as you would expect," was the comment of the commanding officer, Lt Col Richard Aubrey-Fletcher.

"It is a sad moment," he added. "The battalion, after more than 30 years of service to Queen and Country, will be no more. But there is a future ahead for all the young guardsmen, and Nijmegen Company will continue the traditions and ethos of the battalion."

Perhaps it was a good omen for June's parade when the platoon competition, which concluded the exercise, was won by No 2 Company's 4 Platoon, whose commander is 2nd Lt Sebastian Wade, the ensign selected to carry the Colour as it is trooped for the final time.



Clockwise from left - Last Scout mission for pilot WO2 Malcolm Cook (left) and WO2 Michael Scaife, SSM of 658 Sqn AAC; Lt Col Richard Aubrey-Fletcher, CO 2 Gren Gds, loads a 105mm light gun; Maj Tim Jalland, OC Inkerman Coy, tackles the Recondo at Fort Lewis (Picture: Sgt Ian Lip-trott); Men of No 2 Coy ready for take-off at Yakima with Sgt Kevin Kitcher (foreground) who will carry the Colour on to Horse Guards Parade



Ord – stem on which victory

D-DAY
50

"REPORTS of operations show that our forces succeeded in their initial landings. Fighting continues," said the official SHAEF communiqué issued on the night of June 6, 1944 when the greatest invasion the world had ever seen was just 24 hours old.
"Fighting continues."

THESE words conjure up vivid images of bullet-swept beaches, hand-to-hand fighting in closely wooded lanes, in villages and towns just beyond the sea shore; enemy mortars and guns laying down murderous pre-arranged fire, the whispering of the naval shells passing overhead to land miles inland, perhaps on Caen; and all the time RAF and US bombers and fighters flying overhead to drop bombs on enemy strong-points and lines of communication.

What does not immediately spring to mind is the organisation behind the fighting men in the front line, the supply system which fed ammunition to the Infantry, the gunner and the tank crew. It is a story of intricate planning by the Royal Army Ordnance Corps "commandos", the Ordnance Beach Detachments . . . and a story of gallantry, writes Laurie Manton.

The requirement was for small units of technicians trained in the handling of ammunition and fighting equipment. They would land in the wake of assault troops and keep open, in the first few frantic days, the chain of supply.

Training in Scotland, in the worst possible conditions, they became experts in the rapid issue of ammunition and stores required at a moment's notice by a dozen different units. While they sweated and toiled, the OBD Headquarters staff devel-



DUKWs bringing supplies ashore in the early days of the invasion. Sometimes they had to sail six miles out to sea, and negotiate smokescreens to get vital supplies of ammunition, petrol, food and equipment ashore

oped a system of coding which allowed a private issuing stores on the beach to refer only to a certain code letter, or series of letters and numbers, before handing over without delay a spare lock for a Vickers machine gun, a new barrel for a Bren, or a pair of socks.

More than 200,000 items of equipment and 700,000 spare parts were coded by letter.

Packing was done with waterproof material. Millions of spare parts were reduced to thousands on the "essential" list of guns, wireless sets and weapons of all kinds.

Detachments tested their skills in Madagascar, North Africa, Salerno and Anzio.

Then came Normandy. Armed with the same courage that typified their previous exploits during four previous invasions, the OBDs landed on the French coast a few hours behind the assault formations and, within minutes began to service forward troops.

Most of the sites were shelled and bombed day and night and casualties were relatively heavy, yet only one OBD was completely destroyed during the first few days.

For ten days, the men of the OBDs unloaded landing craft, organised dumps and issued ammunition and stores of all kinds.

Their war diaries reveal how they set up their dumps on the beaches, replenished the assault troops and sent out patrols to discourage German snipers.

"On D+1 we were still being shelled and sniped from a house along the sea front. The OBD men did some good work with the Bren and cleared the snipers out."

Another report tells how the major commanding an OBD went forward with a sergeant to recce a dumping area and came under fire from snipers at the edge of a wood. A patrol was formed, killing six Germans and taking two prisoners. Other snipers were forced back to the far end of the wood and the dump was established where the major wanted it.

During the night one driver was killed and three captured within yards of the OBD headquarters. The officer called for assistance and tanks finally cleared the wood and released two of his captured men.

As the invasion forces pushed inland, the OBDs followed, maintaining their supply service until the breakthrough divisions had burst a way into the Falaise Gap. Gradually the OBDs were absorbed into the normal RAOC Base Depots and Ordnance Field Parks.

Side by side with the OBDs of the RAOC, petrol and supply units of the Royal Army Service Corps went ashore on

flowered



A beach scene on D-Day, when depots maintained supplies under heavy fire

D-Day to organise depots on sites pre-selected from aerial photographs.

Many were still occupied by Germans and the men of the RASC, a fully-combatant corps equipped with infantry weapons, helped to clear resistance.

Once the depots were established, large quantities of petrol and food poured in from the beaches, and within a few hours

these commodities were being issued to frontline troops. Shell fire, mortar bombs and air attack set fire to some petrol dumps.

The famous DUKW, the motorboat-cum-lorry, proved its worth as a means of offloading ships without the benefit of normal port facilities.

In the first few days of the invasion the

One of the invasion beaches as it appeared on D+1, when supplies were mounting up and the dumps were being organised into a firm base for the troops pushing inland

DUKWs plied ceaselessly from ship to shore. Often they had to sail six miles out to sea to load up in the choking smoke laid down to obscure the armada and the beaches from the enemy.

The DUKWs evacuated casualties on the return journeys, saving many lives.

The RASC Motorboat Companies, with their fast launches, carried out important inter-communication duties in the anchorage, and provided vessels for fire fighting. One of these boats rescued 160 men marooned on the huge concrete caissons of the Mulberry Dock when gales interrupted its construction.

As Mulberry began to operate, RASC road transport carried stores direct from ship to inland depots. Not once did the troops ahead lack ammunition, food or petrol during those early days.

Winston Churchill summed up the work of the Ord troops: "Victory is the beautiful bright-coloured flower. Transport is the stem, without which it could never have blossomed. Yet even the military student, in his zeal to master the fascinating combination of the actual conflict, often forgets the far more intricate complications of supply."

D-DAY COMMEMORATIVE ISSUE

Our D-Day special issue will be a double edition incorporating the May 30 and June 13 issues. It will include regular **SOLDIER** features, as well as a special D-Day section, and will cost £1.20.

You can order a copy to be sent to you by sending a cheque/po for £1.70 (including p&p) payable to "Soldier" to: Soldier Magazine, D-Day issue, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU. Telephone: 0252 347353.

Subscribers will automatically receive their D-Day issue.

D6



LAST TO LEAVE

Words:
Laurie Manton
Pictures:
Terry Champion



Pte Richard Monks
arms the tilt fuse
on a mine



Hands on experience: Pte Mick Sumner and Pte Daz go through
their drills on the mortar range



The effort shows as forced marchers on a NCOs' cadre carry a "wounded" colleague

THE HONOUR of being the last British battalion to serve in Berlin has gone to the 1st Battalion, The Queen's Lancashire Regiment, whose 650 officers and men have been based at Wavell Barracks since 1992.

By then, the Berlin Wall had fallen and 1 QLR found itself spared many of the duties undertaken by previous battalions. They no longer had to supply guards for Spandau prison or patrol the perimeters of West Berlin's British Sector.

Said Maj John Lloyd: "We have taken full advantage of not being confined to Berlin and have been on two battalion training exercises overseas.

"One was in the mechanised role in Canada, where we found ourselves the last to use the FV 432 armoured person-

Tidworth is next home for QLR

nel carrier at BATUS before it was replaced by Warrior. That was followed by a six-week deployment to Kenya, where soldiers enjoyed some unusual adventurous training activities, including camel trekking. The deployment culminated in jungle training and a field-firing exercise."

Drawn almost entirely from the county of Lancashire, 1 QLR has many traditions and peculiar historical anecdotes, despite being one of the youngest infantry regiments in the British Army.

Perhaps the most striking is the Primrose cap badge backing which dates back to 1702 when Sanderson's Regiment of Marines faced its uniform with yellow. When the Queen's Lancashire Regiment was formed in 1970 on the amalgamation of the Loyal (North Lancashire) Regiment and the Lancashire Regiment, the diamond-shaped primrose patch was adopted as a sign of respect for its ancestors.

The regiment is fiercely



Members of the Corps of Drums of the 1st Battalion, The Queen's Lancashire Regiment, cut a particularly colourful dash during a rehearsal in Wavell Barracks, Berlin, for the World Percussion Festival which takes place in Brazil

proud of the Primrose... and woe betide anyone who is heard to refer to it as a "Yellow Diamond". Many a new recruit or junior subaltern has suffered restriction of privileges or extra duties for such an offence.

The Corps of Drums of 1 QLR has steadily built a fine reputation for drumming. Its drums section is about to take part in the world percussion festival in Brazil, following success in a drum festival in South Korea last year.

Drum Major Ian Dunn said: "Music is a secondary role for Corps of Drums soldiers. We normally make up the battalion's machine gun platoon and will have taken part in the Army's machine gun competition at Sennelager shortly before departing for South America."

Marksmanship is a particular forte for the Queen's Lancashire Regiment, according to 2nd Lt Simon Dewar of the regimental shooting team. "We currently have six members of the Army 100 and team coach Cpl Mark Cooper has shot for the Army," he said.

Command of the battalion has recently passed from Lt

Col Geoff Sheldon to Lt Col Graeme Flood.

Now 1 QLR is in the process of handing back the last of its Fox armoured cars, originally used for patrolling the wire fence and obstacles marking the border between East and West.

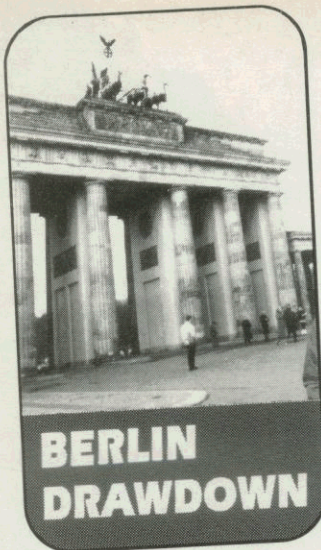
On leaving Berlin later this year, the battalion will reform as part of the 1st Mechanised Brigade at Tidworth, where it will be re-equipped with Saxon armoured vehicles. To prepare soldiers for the change in role, a number of specialist platoon cadres have been held to boost the skills of troops finding themselves operating Milan and mortars or tasked as assault pioneers.

The 2iC of Mortar Platoon, CSgt Steve Woods, said his men were carrying out continuation training after successfully completing a part one shoot at Munsterlager. In these days of modern weaponry, he believes the 81mm mortar being used by his men still has a part to play.

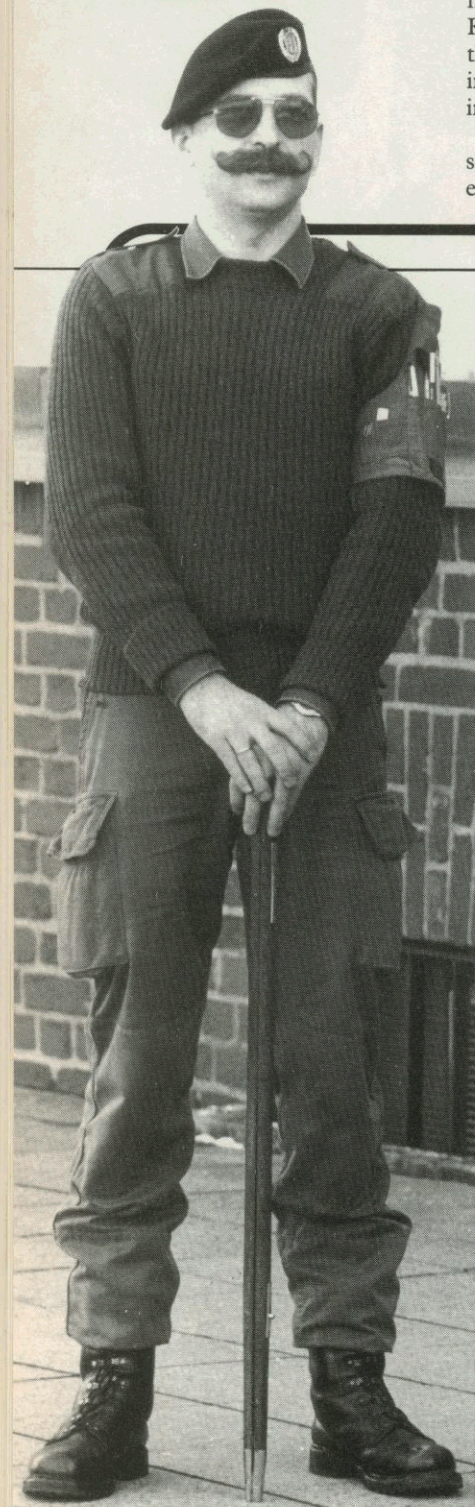
"It gives you immediate fire support and mortar platoons should be a part of infantry battalions for many years to come," he said.



Shooting team coach Cpl Mark Cooper (standing) puts battalion marksmen through their paces. Right to left are Ptes Darren Marsden and John Ingham and LCpl Stephen Tickle



BERLIN DRAWDOWN



On guard: CSM Gerhard Zellmer

MARVELLOUS PLACE TO SERVE

THE BRITISH Army is going to miss Berlin, according to Berlin Infantry Brigade's commander, Brig David Bromhead, who said it had been a marvellous place to serve in, both professionally and privately.

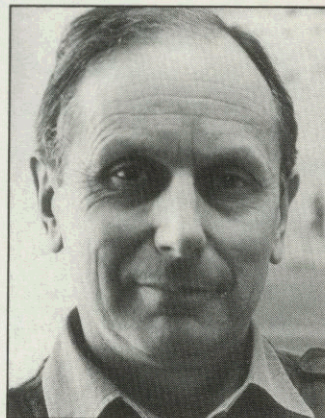
"In the past 12 months, my two infantry battalions, 1 Gordons and 1 QLR, have spent more time outside Berlin than in. They have taken part in major battalion exercises in Kenya and Canada and more than 670 soldiers have been involved in adventurous training.

"Our sports facilities are second to none. We have enjoyed full use of the city's

Olympic complex, which was built for Hitler's 1936 Olympics, and all its associated sports stadiums and swimming pools."

One of the perks of serving in the city since the Wall came down has been the chance for soldiers and their families to get away from Berlin to enjoy the surrounding countryside and see at first hand a part of Europe barred to British Servicemen during the sterile years of the Cold War.

"We are sad at the prospect of leaving, but, our role to protect the security of Berlin finished with the ending of the Cold War," said Brig Bromhead. "There is now no reason for us



Brig David Bromhead

to be here, but we are leaving with a feeling of pride and satisfaction at a job well done."

The coming together of the

former East and West German armies – the National Volks Armee and the Bundeswehr – has given Britain and its Western allies an opportunity to study Warsaw Pact options for an attack on West Berlin.

Two plans existed: the first envisaged a surprise attack by the 1st Armoured Division of the NVA, supported by many Soviet motor rifle troops.

East German armour would simultaneously have broken through the Berlin Wall in seven places and advanced along four main axes, while tanks and troops poured across the Starken crossing point into the British sector.

"Once they had seized their

major objective – a motorway crossing under the Kaiserdamm – they reckoned Berlin would then be in their hands. However, if surprise was lost, they would have surrounded West Berlin and starved the troops and residents out," explained Brig Bromhead.

"It seems the Soviet Army was wary of becoming engaged in street fighting which had cost it so dearly during the capture of Berlin in 1945. They were not prepared to suffer heavy casualties and considered that once the Allied brigades were surrounded, it would only be a matter of time until the Western troops would capitulate."

Of more than 25,000 NVA officers, only about 4,000 remain in service with the Bundeswehr. In the reorganisation, every single NVA officer of brigadier general rank and above was dismissed.

"The combined German Army now reflects the training and command structure of the West German Bundeswehr, rather than the East German NVA. The latter, as we knew it, has disappeared by training and by time, and is now just an extension of the Bundeswehr, with whom we have very close ties," he said.

Now Brig Bromhead's energies are channelled almost exclusively to the withdrawal of

the British garrison. About two thirds of the equipment used by British troops in the city was provided by a defence costs agreement, the Berlin Budget, so much will be handed directly back to the German authorities. But, says the brigadier, it is still a major operation.

"We were responsible for providing 'A' vehicles, and more than 50 Chieftain tanks and armoured personnel carriers have had to be backloaded.

"Troops will remain here until early September, but thereafter numbers will drop rapidly, leaving behind a small force of logisticians who will be responsible for handing back movables and property."

End of the road for 'home' guard

FOR ONE unit, the final withdrawal of British troops from Berlin marks the end of more than 40 years' service to the Crown. When the British flag is lowered at its Smuts Barracks base later this year, 248 German Security Unit's 250-strong guard force will stand down as the unit is disbanded.

It will be a particularly poignant occasion for its OC, Staff Superintendent Wolfgang Schiller, who has been closely involved with the military history of the former German capital for more than 50 years.

During the first large-scale Allied bombing raid on Berlin in 1943, aged 13, he saved a family from a burning house and was presented with a War Merit Cross to mark his bravery. Two years later, as a 15-year-old soldier, he was awarded the Iron Cross 2nd Class for knocking out two Russian tanks with a Panzerfaust. More recently he has been awarded an MBE for services to the British Army in Berlin.

Staff Supt Schiller joined the GSU



Staff Supt Wolfgang Schiller is OC 248 GSU

when it was formed in 1950. After the unification of Germany in October 1990, he was staggered to find his name and those of his staff on a death list in East Germany. All the unit's members were marked for summary execution because of their connection with the British.

He has since met a former East German Army officer, now serving in the Bundeswehr, whose war role had been to destroy the GSU administrative block on Smuts Barracks.

The unit was originally formed in December 1950 as the German Service Organisa-

tion (Watchmen Service). Its task was and is to provide an armed and disciplined civilian force in uniform capable of relieving British troops from guard and security duties in West Berlin.

Since then, the organisation's duties have evolved from patrolling ammunition and stores compounds to responsibility for the security of all British Army establishments in the city ranging from the central Naafi complex to the official residence of the British commandant. Teeth arm units are the exception – they provide their own guards.

Only German nationals may serve in the GSU. They receive training in a number of military skills, including weapons, radio procedures, fire-fighting and first aid. The first female watchmen were recruited in 1990.

GSU guards are a familiar sight at entrances to British bases in Berlin. Senior Security Guard Rudolf Spangenberg stops traffic while Security Guard Olaf Potratz stands ready to inspect identity documents



Day of the Yeomanry

IF THE passengers on an aircraft flying over Windsor Great Park on a bitterly cold Sunday morning last month had glanced down to their right, they would have witnessed an impressive spectacle.

Laid out below them, like so many children's toys, was a small column of horses and riders and a long row of stationary wheeled and tracked vehicles, each containing soldiers and colourful standards.

An open-topped Range Rover stopped by a canopy-covered platform and two figures emerged.

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh were arriving to join the Queen Mother, who had made her entrance a little earlier, to inspect the serried ranks of about 40 serving Yeomanry regiments.

They and their families had travelled from Coventry and Hampshire, from Belfast, Oldham and north of the border to stage this 200th anniversary showpiece.

As the National Anthem sounded, members of the Glamorgan Yeomanry fired a 21-gun salute, then the Queen and Prince Philip, accompanied by Col Sir Ralph Carr-Ellison, Colonel Commandant of the Yeomanry, were driven slowly past assembled units.

The wretched weather of the

previous few days had made walking out of the question.

Speeches over, accompanied by the sound of a fierce wind over the amplifiers, 15 horses and riders – including a member of the First Aid Nursing Yeomanry (the FANYs) – paraded past the saluting dais.

They in turn were followed by the somewhat noisier Land Rovers and recce vehicles, each proudly bearing a colour which was dipped as soldier passed Sovereign.

A momentary pause, then, from a corner of the hastily set-up parade ground – the ceremony had originally been scheduled for Poets Lawn – the emotive sight of a phalanx of Old Comrades emerged, the Army in their blood, paying their respects as they marched past the dais to the tune of *The Boys of The Old Brigade*.

The National Anthem rang out again, the colourful guidons were marched off parade – under command of Col John Hills – and Her Majesty went on a tour of the regimental tents, led by the Pride of Sussex Pipe Band, which is affiliated to the Sussex Yeomanry Royal Engineers.

On the by now abandoned parade ground, four spectators sat down to a picnic.

The Yeomanry's big day was nearly over.

And it's their year, too . . .

THE QUEEN's review of the Yeomanry at Windsor is the major event in a year in which the British Army's Yeomanry units are marking their 200th anniversary.

Volunteer cavalry troops date back to March 1794 when William Pitt, threatened by a French invasion, presented a bill to Parliament.

Anniversary events during 1994 include a nationwide charity event in July and a glittering reception to be hosted by the City and Corporation of London.

Words: Phil Wilcox
Pictures: Terry Champion



Above: The Queen, the Duke of Edinburgh and Col Sir Ralph Carr-Ellison, Colonel Commandant, review assembled members of the Yeomanry. Below, clockwise from right: a member of the First Aid Nursing Yeomanry was among the riders at the parade; the Queen and the Duke smile despite the elements; a standard is dipped as a tracked reconnaissance vehicle passes the Queen; stirring sounds as the band marches, led by Director of Music Maj Roger Parker



R Irish swap sun for snow



Rgr Mark Matthews instructs an Alpini soldier in the use of the L96 sniper rifle. The Italians were very impressed with British infantry weapons and equipment, which also included SA80 and LSW

NINETY-SIX all ranks of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Irish Regiment, based in Episkopi, Cyprus enjoyed a stimulating change in environment when they spent ten days with Alpini troops in northern Italy on Exercise Roman Return 94.

They climbed Monte Lussario and ascended 1,000 metres in 3,000 metres of marching, most of it in snow.

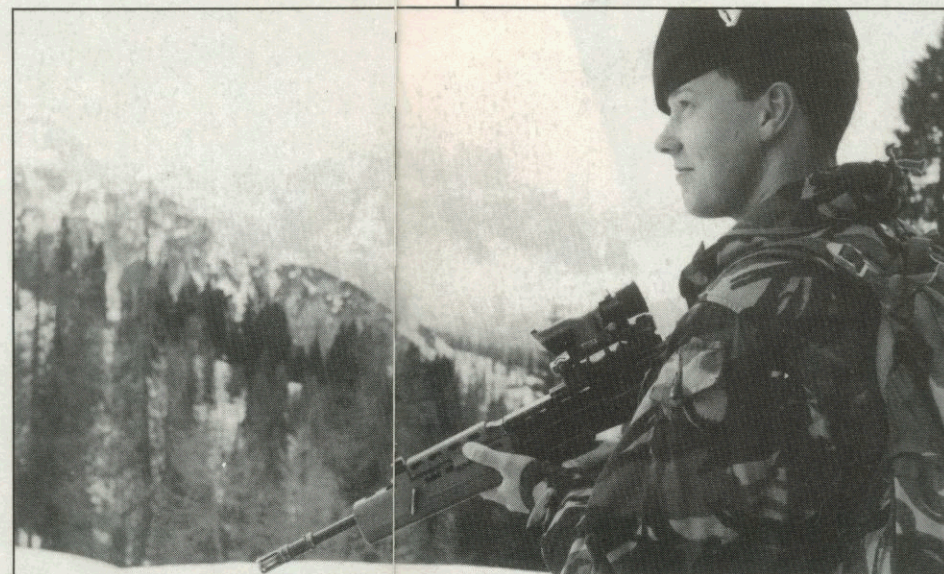
"We lost a bit of gravy there" was the Rangers' comment as they admired the stunning views of the Italian and Slovenian Alps from the peak.

B Company of 1 R Irish, reinforced by the Recce Platoon, were based at Chiusaforte, near Udine in north-east Italy, only five miles from Slovenia and 15 miles from Austria.

Their hosts were the Cividale Battalion, 15th Alpine Regiment, Julia Brigade which, like most of the Italian Army, is a conscript unit led by Regular officers and NCOs.

"They were excellent hosts," said Maj Peter Harvey, OC B Company, "very generous with their hospitality, warm and interested in everything about us - our weapons, our kit and our kind of soldiering."

"They were fascinated by the Irish nature and really approved of our caubeen, which compares in appearance to the Alpinis' own unusual



Lt Nick O'Shaughnessy, 2iC B Coy, in the Italian Alps during Exercise Roman Return 94

headwear." Aim of the exercise was to conduct joint infantry training and foster relationships between the two armies. It was a mixture of hard work, some fun and a day of R and R in Venice.

"The soldiering was good," said Maj Harvey. "Both sides found it very interesting to fire each other's weapons - and both sides were firmly of the opinion that ours are better. We took SA 80, LSW and the L96 sniper rifle and the Italian soldiers were greatly impressed."

"We had a three-day joint dry training exercise with them in the Resia Valley, us taking them on but with sections exchanged. Modesty does not allow me to say which side came off best."

"The Rangers and Alpini got on surprisingly well and nearly everyone was speaking a few words of Italian by the time we got back. But the Italian soldiers did not want us to speak

their language because they were so keen to practise English."

The Rangers were all amazed at Venice - not only the canals and wonderful architecture but also the prices: four cups of coffee in St Mark's Square cost £17!

"This was a valuable exercise for a Cyprus infantry battalion," added Maj Harvey. "It gets a company off the island - where the IS duties are continuous and demanding - and provides a marvellous opportunity to meet another country's soldiers and compare notes."

"We all learned a lot and the Rangers were particularly stimulated by seeing the Alpinis' role at first hand."

"I hope another company from Cyprus will be able to go back next year."



Alpini commanding officer Lt Col Mario Giammei and Maj Peter Harvey, OC B Coy, 1 R Irish, lead the march up Monte Lussario. The mountains in the background are in Slovenia; they were not far also from the border with Austria



A welcome pause during the march up Monte Lussario. Maj Peter Harvey checks his bearings



LCpls Mark Borley REME and Tom Ripley, company medic, take an opportunity to check the football scores in St Mark's Square, Venice

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MILITARY MUSIC

De-lightful Yeomanry

London Again
Band of The Inns of Court and City
Yeomanry Band of the Royal Yeomanry
Conductor: Maj Rodney Parker

A FINE idea for a programme, this – the music of Eric Coates. Since the loss of our specialised light-music programmes of the BBC the music of such as Coates, Percy Fletcher, Haydn Wood, Frederic Curzon and many more is seldom heard.

Of them all Eric Coates has, or had, a score of tunes known to all and sundry, *Music While You Work* and *In Town Tonight* being whistled by newspaper boys from London to Limerick.

Today we still hear *By the Sleepy Lagoon* (Desert Island Discs) and the *Dambusters March* often enough, but little else.

Here this fine band of experienced players resurrect the whole of the *London Again Suite*, with Oxford Street, Langham Place (based on the notes BBC) and Mayfair beautifully characterised, a movement from the suite *The Three*

Men (The Man from the Sea), as well as *Sleepy Lagoon* and *Calling All Workers*.

Coates was one of the first English composers to feature the saxophone in a concert work, and his once popular *Saxo Rhapsody* is given a welcome performance by Paul Stevens.

Gone are the days when the piece was heard on every bandstand on summer afternoons, and for this old bandsman every note of Coates's music evokes memories of Eastbourne, Hastings, and many a bandstand further west.

The great phantasy *The Three Bears* is retold here with verve and humour, and the march *Music Everywhere*, written for the inauguration of Independent Television in 1949, ends this delightful programme.

There is enough of his music left for several more discs, and the other composers I mentioned each deserve similar recognition. I wait in hope.

● From Music Masters and dealers, CD £12, cassette £7.

REVIEWED BY RODNEY BASHFORD

A soldier's soldier

ONE OF the latest to join the long line of military stalwarts who have penned their memoirs is Charles Millman, described by Gen Sir Michael Gow in the foreword to *Stand Easy – The Rear Rank Remembers* as a "soldier's soldier" and a man who has been in Army uniform for just about the whole of his adult life.

Even now, after more than 43 years in the Army and more than 50 in a mili-

tary uniform of one sort or another, he still occasionally dons the "gear" (his word) of a Deputy Lieutenant of Kent, a role he took on last year.

His account of a military career spanning most of his life is, like most soldiers' autobiographies, interesting and amusing.

An infantryman down to his socks, his style is unpretentious and modest. He describes himself as a "rear-

Pencil and brush on River Kwai

AS ONE who shared Gunner Jack Chalker's sufferings on the infamous "Railway of Death" in Thailand, 1942-45, this reviewer could not put down his book until the last page was reached.

The title *Burma Railway Artist* might give the impression that this is no more than a picture book. There are indeed pictures on almost every page, plus numerous full-colour plates, but these are complemented by a text that is absorbing as much for its smooth-flowing style as for the horrors it describes.

Way back in 1912, British engineers had surveyed a 250-mile route along the Kwai Noi river for a railway linking Thailand with Burma. They pronounced it "impracticable".

But in 1942 the Japanese High Command with 60,000 expendable allied PoWs and 70,000 conscripted Asian coolies on their hands decreed that the link with their victorious armies in Burma should be completed within 14 months, whatever the cost.

Meanwhile in 1939 Jack Chalker had enlisted as a gunner in the Royal Artillery. No run-of-the-mill recruit, he was talented with pencil and brush and was about to take up a scholarship at the Royal College of Art. Now he had to

apply himself to dial sights and clinometers on 25-pdr guns.

So he found himself posted to Malaya, and after the surrender of Singapore became one of the Allied PoWs slaving on the railway along the River Kwai.

It was a crime punishable with severe beatings to be found with any writing or sketching materials, yet he secretly managed to produce many of the drawings appearing in this book – hiding them under his bed platform.

Smitten with malaria, dysentery and dengue fever, he was evacuated to the so-called "hospital" camp down-river at Chungkai where some 2,000 sick and wounded PoWs were being treated under incredibly primitive conditions by those two stalwart doctors, Lt Col (later Sir Edward) "Weary" Dunlop and his assistant Capt "Marko" Markowitz.

These names came to be revered by hundreds whose lives they saved.

Recognising the valuable talents of Gnr Chalker, Col Dunlop wangled him a job in the guise of "medical assistant", in reality an artist to record "the horrendous detail of disease, wounds and ravages of starvation suffered by those in jungle hospitals".

Thus we have accurate drawings of bamboo artificial limbs, surgical suction pumps incorporating scrounged Ovaltine tins, and horrific details of legs devoured to the bone by gangrenous jungle ulcers – the cause of so many amputations.

Amid all this misery and ever-present death, Chalker's inherent aesthetic sense enabled him to perceive the natural beauty of the jungle scene. Besides his sketches of skin-and-bone PoWs labouring on the railway track there are delicate watercolour landscapes and studies of rare plants and flowers (and of those fearsome bamboo thorns which inflicted the suppurating ulcers).

Obviously he didn't stay there long, graduating from RMA Sandhurst in the first post-war intake and progressing up the ladder to the rank of brigadier 43 years later. – JM

Stand Easy by Charles Millman. Pentland Press, paperback, £12.95.

This first publication of



An Australian soldier at Kanyu River Railway Camp, one of the Jack Chalker sketches drawn at great personal risk on the "Railway of Death" and among the many stark images in *Burma Railway Artist*

Chalker's work stands comparison with that of his better known fellow-prisoner, Ronald Searle.

The text is essentially a diary, recounting his experiences from the fall of Singapore to his release in 1945. As Col Sir Edward Dunlop observes in his foreword, "the author's gentle, modest, whimsical style belies his own gallantry, generosity, great talent and extraordinary improvisation."

He might have added that it is also a memorial to those 13,000 British and Australian soldiers who did not survive the "Railway of Death".

It is pleasing to record that after the war, ex-Gnr Chalker graduated from the Royal College of Art and is a Fellow of the Society of Medical Artists of Great Britain.

This is a book that should be digested by those whose only knowledge of the Thailand jungle camps is derived from that blockbuster film *The Bridge on the River Kwai*. They will learn much of the true facts. – JMB

Burma Railway Artist. The War Drawings of Jack Chalker, by Jack Bridger Chalker. Foreword by Sir Edward ("Weary") Dunlop. Leo Cooper, hardback, £17.95.

BOOK REVIEWS

Adjutant got his feet wet on D-Day, too

IT IS tempting to imagine publishers searching through shelves of previously-published books to find something suitable to bring out as a new edition to commemorate the 50th anniversary of D-Day.

There is nothing wrong with giving a new lease of life to a well-written book or allowing an author an opportunity to update the work. But let the reader beware; sometimes it will be discovered that the book, under another title, has been read before.

The Commandos: D-Day and After by Donald Gilchrist was first published in 1982 as *Don't Cry For Me – The Commandos: D-Day and After*. It is the personal account of the author's wartime life, in particular of Operation Overlord – as much a prayer as it was a codename.

Donald Gilchrist, late of the Cameronians, was adjutant of No 4 Commando but as he prepared to get his feet wet at Sword Beach on that momentous morning, like every other man along the Normandy coastline, it was the task in hand and personal survival that occupied the mind.

"An adjutant had disappeared. In his place was a commando soldier, ready for the fray. There would be no time to write Part I and Part II Orders or pen sharp disciplinary notes, no time to write even a postcard."

No 4 Commando was to be in action in Normandy for 83 continuous days, well exceeding the record held by a battalion of The Durham Light Infantry which during the First World War was in the front line for 51 days.

Donald Gilchrist writes a very clear and graphic account of his Commando's part in the campaign and what the book achieves is aptly summed up in Lord Lovat's foreword: "The author has spared the reader an overdose of blood and thunder. This is a human story which describes a group of ordinary volunteers – young and physically fit, who took to the sea in ships – who later

became men whose discipline and dedication never failed them in severe battles against odds."

Although D-Day and the subsequent battle is the focal point, the author uses the flash-back technique to describe Special Forces training.

In such a flash-back he tells of an encounter with Admiral Cowan, "nearer seventy than sixty". Despite his age Cowan managed to get himself into the action at Tobruk.

"When Rommel's Panzers overran the town, the Admiral stood out, alone, firing his revolver at the tank." Cowan was captured but the Germans repatriated him, and back in England he was wearing a Commando flash when the author was tasked with escorting him on an exercise.

With No 4 Commando were the Free French of Nos 7 and 8 Troops, whose bravery at Ouistreham greatly contributed to the success of the operation. For some of these Frenchmen the return to home soil and the taste of victory would be bitter-sweet. For instance, their leader Capt Philippe Keiffer had a son and daughter in German-occupied Paris. The lad was to be killed fighting for the Resistance, just before Philippe reached Paris.

In passing, the author presents us with a tantalising mystery. We are told of a French school mistress who related an encounter with a "German officer" a few weeks before D-Day in Ouistreham: he apologised to her in English when he collided with her in the street.

The same lady also spoke of an inspection by German officers at Salenelles, which was repeated about a week later by a second group.

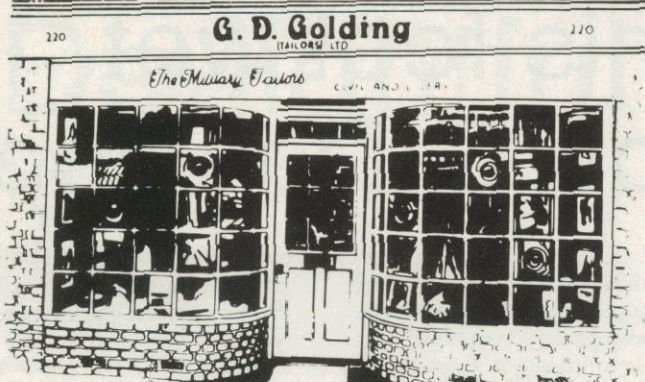
She asked the author, "If the second lot of high-ranking German officers were genuine – who, then, were the others?"

We are left to speculate. – BJ

The Commandos: D-Day and After by Donald Gilchrist. Published by Robert Hale, paperback, £7.99.

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Mike Moore / TODAY Newspaper

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THE ARMY BENEVOLENT FUND
Remembering & Supporting the Brave



CSA 'unfair' to take LOA into account

SERVICE opposition to Local Overseas Allowance (LOA) being taken into consideration by the Child Support Agency has been co-ordinated by personnel services staff at JHQ Rheindahlen.

Maj Alan Homewood said: "This allowance is paid because of the higher cost of living here. We feel it is unfair that it should be taken into account, particularly as it is lost when a soldier returns home."

The MoD required proof that Service personnel are being adversely affected. A report was being compiled this month.

Guide to Services' security

LOOK OUT for the latest guide to Social Security for Service people and their families. Its title is *Service families abroad (and at home)* and the reference number is FB 5.

The leaflet contains more than 50 pages of easy-to-digest information on the whole range of benefits available to Service families, from National Insurance to unemployment benefit, redundancy overseas to maternity allowances, and retirement pensions to widows' entitlements.

BFPO and HIVE offices should have a copy.

Jobs on the move

LEAVING the Army? Make sure you see the latest Services Resettlement Bulletin. The 120-page booklet features careers in the transport industry and has a special section on opportunities in the East Midlands and Eastern region.

There is also an article you should read if you are thinking about taking over a pub.

The justification for the Child Support Agency including the X factor when assessing Service personnel was questioned in the House of Commons by Sir Jerry Wiggin.

In a written reply, the Under-Secretary of State for Social Security, William Hague, said: "The X factor forms part of the basic pay for all members of the Armed Forces, irrespective of rank or location."

"The Child Support Act 1991 defines earnings as any remuneration or profit received from employment, including any bonus, commission, royalty or fee."

"This clearly includes the X factor, which is, therefore, taken fully into account in the calculation."



Picture: Lincolnshire Echo

Excellent Co-operation

Resettlement officer Maj Norman Wingate learns about the retail trade with the help of Chris Cocking, food manager at the Lincoln Co-op's Moorland Centre. He was seeing industry at first hand under the joint initiative run by Lincolnshire Training and Enterprise Council and the Armed Forces Resettlement Programme.

Lincoln Co-op is one of the county's employers who have agreed, through Army resettlement officers, to give Service leavers an opportunity to attend familiarisation attachments.

Lt Col Graham Parker, head of Eastern District's resettlement office, completed an attachment with the Lincolnshire Echo.

Cari Roberts

→ COUNTERPOINT ←



Network for expatriates?

YOU MAY remember I passed on the idea of a club for ex-wives and husbands of Service spouses and asked for your reaction.

I've had some interesting ideas, including a proposal for a sort of "expatriates' club".

Many people find settling back into the UK difficult if they've been overseas for some time. Why not, said one of my correspondents, suggest a club or network for those returning.

It would be a focal point for those who want a bit of moral support and be a good start for the networking that everyone is always on about - what do you think?

The Rosyth office opened by the Tri-Services Resettlement Organisation is the sixth to open in Britain in the past eight months. Another two are planned to open later this year.

This means that 90 per cent of British-based Servicemen and women will be

within 65 miles of a centre during their move to second careers.

It's hoped that extending the network of centres will make it easier and cheaper for Service leavers to attend courses and briefings they're interested in.

The Rosyth centre will run briefings and short training courses for Servicemen and women living in Scotland, Northern Ireland and the north of England.

The regional resettlement centres provide briefings in subjects varying from CV preparation to personal financial advice and training courses of up to one week, concentrating on areas such as computer skills and management.

For longer resettlement courses most people will still have to go to one of the

major centres to find what they want.

Leavers can also use the centres in a less formal way and simply call in for advice and help if they need any. They will have access to word processors to help with preparing CVs and may well find other Service leavers there to lend a bit of moral support.

● A post-exit survey of more than 1,300 Service leavers reveals that 78 per cent found jobs within three months of leaving. More than half had no gap between their last day in uniform and their first day in civvies.

● If you travel around a lot it's likely that you'll carry credit cards. Most of the time they save a lot of hassle and some of them

are accepted world-wide. But there are reports that a crackdown on fraud in France has resulted in problems for some travellers.

The strip on the back of a credit card, which carries all the essential information, can become worn with use. If this happens it can mean that some checkout machines won't accept the card.

In Britain what usually happens then is that the operator punches in the number manually.

This, apparently, isn't happening everywhere in France because the number of firms authorised to do so has been severely restricted.

Many people will be travelling to France this summer, so the advice is to check your card before you set off. If the strip looks worn request a new card to save yourself possible embarrassment. When it arrives, cut up the old one.

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

SOLDIER to Soldier

Gratitude for benevolence

THE ARMY Benevolent Fund is holding a special drumhead service of thanksgiving, organised by Maj Michael Parker, at the Royal Hospital, Chelsea on June 30 to mark its 50th anniversary.

Aim of the service, to be attended by, among others, the Queen Mother, the Duchess of Gloucester, the Military Knights of Windsor and some 350 representatives of the corps and regiments of the British Army, including the majority of their colonels and colonels commandant, is for those concerned with Army benevolence to join together in a "simple and dignified ceremony".

Old Glory goes home

ONE OF THE earliest known Stars and Stripes flags has been returned to America by the descendant of Maj Gen Sir Gordon Drummond, commander of the British soldiers who captured it on the Canadian border in 1813.

With 13 stripes and only 14 stars in a unique configuration, the huge flag fluttered over Fort Niagara until elements from 52 (Niagra) Battery, Royal Scots, the Welch Regiment and the Leinster Regiment surprised the garrison in a bold *coup de main*.

The trophy remained in the Drummond family home at Megginch Castle, Perthshire, until Baroness Strange agreed to the Americans' pleas for its return.

Valued at £100,000, it was returned to Mr Brian Dunnigan in the presence of Lt Col Bill Sylvester, commanding officer of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Scots.

Tune in to D-Day

BBC RADIO 2 will broadcast a series of commemorative programmes to mark the 50th Anniversary of D-Day.

The John Dunn Show will visit the south coast of England on Friday June 3, to tell the story behind the preparations for the battle.

A D-Day Gala Concert will be broadcast from the Guildhall, Portsmouth on Saturday June 4,

DIARY

MAY

8: Combined Cavalry Old Comrades parade and memorial service at Cavalry Memorial in Hyde Park.

14-15: International Air Show, Middle Wallop.

15: Cassino 50th anniversary commemoration service. Commonwealth War Graves Commission Cassino cemetery.

16: Anzio Beach Head Cemetery commemoration service.

19: UK and international veterans' parade, Cassino and Gaeta.

21: Monte Cassino 50th anniversary remembrance service, St Margaret's Church, Westminster.

21-23: Rhine Army Summer Show, Paderborn.

JUNE

1-2: Floodlit Beating Retreat by Massed Bands of the Household Division, Horse Guards, 2130 hours. Tickets £12, £10 and £3 (unreserved) from Household Division Funds Office, Wellington Barracks, Birdcage Walk, London SW1 (enclose sae).

11: Queen's Birthday Parade on Horse Guards, Colour trooped by 2 Gren Gds.

17: AGC Corps Day, Worthy Down (ticket details on 0962 887254/887427 or Winchester Mil 2254/2427).

26: Colchester Garrison Country Day, Fingringhoe Ranges, 1000-1600.

JULY

11-22: Guild of Aviation Artists annual exhibition, The Carisbrooke Gallery, 63 Seymour Street (behind Marble Arch), London W1. Entry forms and schedules from the Guild of Aviation Artists, The Bondway Business Centre, 71 Bondway, London SW8 1SQ.

16-23: Nijmegen Marches, the Netherlands.

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

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

and Radio 2's Canon Roger Royle will provide commentary from the Royal British Legion Remembrance Service on board SS *Canberra*, en route to Cherbourg.

Radio presenter and Normandy veteran, Charlie Chester, will accompany a party of D-Day veterans on a visit to the invasion beaches of Normandy on Sunday June 5, which will include a trip to the Pegasus Bridge site and the Memorial Museum in Caen. The party will then travel to the Abbaye-aux-Dames to receive commemorative medals.

On Monday June 6, a documentary, *A Moment in History - D-Day 1944*, will feature the memories of those who took part in the invasion and those who waited at home for news along with the "voice of D-Day" - John Snagge, who announced news of the landings on BBC Radio. Also included will be eye-witness accounts from soldiers, sailors and airmen and interviews with German soldiers who defended the beaches against the Allied attack.

Finally, the Jamesons - Derek and Ellen - will commemorate D-Day with a special programme from the Imperial War Museum in London. Guests will include Maj John Howard, one of the first to land in France on D-Day and who led the attack on Pegasus Bridge, and Christabel Leighton-Porter, model for wartime pin-up "Jane".

● A reminder to readers that **SOLDIER** is now on sale at the National Army Museum, Hospital Road, Chelsea.

SEARCHLINE

● **Ronald Joseph Sparkes RE (1861511)**, who was based at Ross Barracks, Shorncliffe, Folkestone, 1930-40. His daughter Marina, adopted 1941 following death of her mother in 1941, would like to have news of him. Replies to Mr R W Milward, 46 Tangier Road, Richmond, Surrey TW1D 5DW.

● **Singapore Swimming Club:** The club celebrates its centenary in November and wishes to trace ex-members, particularly from the period just before and just after the Japanese occupation. Replies to Maurice Sheares, Katong PO Box 50, Singapore 9143 (tel: 3452122, fax: 3444476).

● **Band of PWO:** Past and present invited to farewell parade and all ranks barbecue, July 9-10. Details from Band Office, 1 PWO, Belfast Barracks, BFPO 36 (tel: Germany 541 960 5517). Ex-members Noel Brickett, Stephen Dean, Dave Fretwell, Nigel Hartill, Phillip Penny, Kevin Tempest and

Bill Wright are asked to make contact.

● **Malta 1953-55:** Robert "Nobby" Acres, whose wife was called Renata, please contact Charlie Don's daughter, Alex Don, on 081-509 0827.

● **18 Regt RA (1964-70):** David J Padgett, 36 Princess Ave, Wellington, Telford, Shropshire TF1 2LJ (tel: 0952 416089), wishes to hear from former colleagues with a view to arranging a reunion.

● **Peggy Trotton:** Miss D Richards (35 Hollinghurst Road, Radcliffe, Manchester M26 1JN) wishes to contact school friend Peggy Trotton who trained at Ratcliffe College of Further Education and married after joining the Army in 1975-6.

● **REME Association:** The newly formed Luton, Dunstable and District Branch of the REME Association is open on the third Monday of

every month at the Victoria Club, Victoria Street, Dunstable, Beds at 7.30pm. Enquiries to Denis O'Donoghue on 0582 862527.

● **Jim Southwell REME**, from Southampton area and who served in Fallingbostal 1956-7 and Paderborn 1957-8, is sought by Adam AntAthair-Siorai, Postfach 1130, 29675 Fallingbostal, Germany (tel: +49 05162 1533).

● **Mr Eddie Dean** (4 Mersey Place, Nunhouse Estate, Winsford, Cheshire CW7 3LH, tel: 0606 592319) wishes to hear from anyone who served with his late father, **LCpl Charles Dean**, 1st Bn, The 22nd (Cheshire) Regiment, in India 1929-32.

● **JLRRE Old Park Barracks, Dover**, September 1972 intake, C Sqn CSE/A. Anyone remembering **Taffy Griffiths** is asked to write to Mr M Griffiths, 26 Vulcan Street, Holyhead, Gwynedd, N Wales LL65 1TL.

PILGRIMAGES

● **51st Highland Division (Holland 1994)** veterans who wish to join a pilgrimage led by Gen Sir Derek Lang to Holland from Oct 21-31 are asked to write to him at PO Box 3, Musselburgh EH21 7LE. Ceremonies may be led by Pipes and Drums of Scottish regiments.

● **52 Light Infantry (Rhine crossings)** four-day pilgrimage planned for March 1995 to field of battle near Hamminkeln, Germany. Survivors and families are asked to contact Howard Wright, Chasestone, 11 Paddock Drive, Dorridge, nr Solihull, W Midlands B93 8BZ (tel: 0564 773478).

MILITARIA

● History of the **Kenley area**, south of Croydon, is being researched by the Bourne Society, which wishes to trace Royal Artillery and Tank Corps personnel stationed there during the war. Replies to C Burgess, 110 Hayes Lane, Kenley, Surrey CR8 5HR.

APPOINTMENTS

Brigadiers - D H Roberts - To MoD, April 18; R A Draper - To be DA/MA India, April 25.

Colonel - S F E Evans - To RPO Chester, April 25.

Lt Cols - D R Arthur RA - To Royal Brunei Armed Forces, April 22; I M Daniell RE - To HQ RSME, April 18; A G Morrison RLC - To

D-DAY DIARY

MAY

25: 50th anniversary of Review of the Fleet, Portland Harbour.

27-28: Hampshire remembers D-Day, Royal Victoria Country Park, Netley, near Southampton (0703 285831).

28-30: Military Vehicle Trust 50th anniversary commemoration rally, Southsea Common, Portsmouth. (Details: 0489 572582).

JUNE

2: Parade of veterans, bands and vehicles, Weymouth (0929 426310).

3: D-Day Tattoo, Bath and West Showground, Shepton Mallet (ticket hotline 0749 823270).

4: Southwick House garden party, HMS Dryad, near Portsmouth (invitation only); Beating Retreat, Portsmouth; Portsmouth Guildhall dinner.

5: Drumhead Service, Southsea Common, Portsmouth. Veterans welcome.

Flotilla departs Portsmouth for Normandy, led by Royal Yacht. Parachute drop near site of Pegasus Bridge and unveiling of bust of Gen Sir Richard Gale.

Service of commemoration, Hermanville military ceremony, Normandy.

6: National services of commemoration in Commonwealth War Graves Commission cemeteries at Bayeux, Douvres la Délivrande, Hermanville, Ranville and Ryes.

International service, Omaha Beach, led by President Mitterrand. Arromanches march and fly-past.

25: 50th anniversary reunion festival, Royal Albert Hall.

26: 50th anniversary parade on Horse Guards, followed by service at Cenotaph.

MoD, April 18; M J Rutledge 9/12 L - To be CO 9/12 L, April 21; A C W N Sernberg, Cheshire - To IMRO(S), April 18.

M B Cooper RA - To MS, April 25; P C Cort REME - To HQ REME Trg Gp, April 25; M G A Drage, Gren Gds - To HQ AMF(L) (BAE), April 25; S J Knapper,

Staffords - To be CO 1 Staffords, April 25; J S Lloyd, Gren Gds - To be CO ITB Catterick, April 27; A Poole RACHd - To Pool of Chaplains UK, April 29; P A J Sheridan RE - To MS, April 25; C W Tadier RA - To SHAPE Staff (BAE), April 25; K W Kiddie RRF - To be CO 5 RRF, April 28.

SPECIAL D-DAY EXHIBITIONS

- National Army Museum (071-730 0717).
- Tank Museum, Bovington (0929 403463).
- Museum of The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment, Cathedral Close, Salisbury, story of the Beach Groups (0722 414536).
- Imperial War Museum, D-Day to Victory exhibition (071-416 5000).
- D-Day Museum, Portsmouth, includes Overlord Embroidery (0705 827261).
- Royal Engineers Museum, Chatham (0634 406397).
- Airborne Forces Museum, Aldershot (0252 349619) and Aldershot Military Museum (0252 314598).
- Combined Operations Museum, Inverary (0499 22203).
- REME Museum, Arborfield, Reading (0734 763567).
- Waterfront Museum, Poole (0202 673322).
- Museum of Army Flying, Middle Wallop, D-Day display (0264 384421).
- Military Vehicle Museum, Newcastle-upon-Tyne (091-281 7222).
- RAF Museum, London, "Flying for Invasion" (081-205 2266).
- Hall of Aviation, Southampton (0703 635830).
- Southwick House near Portsmouth, Eisenhower's operational HQ (0705 210522).
- Royal Naval Museum, Portsmouth (0705 733060).
- Royal Navy Submarine Museum, Gosport (0705 529217).

REUNIONS

● **Cambridgeshire Regiment:** Annual service of remembrance in Ely Cathedral, 2.15pm, June 12, followed by reunion. Details from J R Stubbings, 25 The Vineyards, Ely, Cambridgeshire CB7 4QG (tel: 0353 663294/662203).

● **AGC Corps Day:** June 17 (1130-1800), includes Beating of Retreat by Band of Adjutant General's Corps. Fun day for families. Ticket admission details from Asst Regt Sec on 0962 887254 or 887427 or Winchester Mil 2254/2427.

● **RE Association:** All sappers invited to reunion weekend June 17-19, Ripon, N Yorks. Contact Bill Rudd on 0765 606808.

● **Armourers Association:** Reunion to be held on June 25 in London. Details from C Dennis, 18 Willowslea Road, Bevere, Worcester, Worcs WR3 7QP.

● **Army Basketball Association:** 50th anniversary reunion at ASPT, Aldershot, on June 25. Details from Maj Terry Goulding APTC, HQ W and WDIST, Copthorne Barracks, Shrewsbury SY3 8LZ tel: 0743 262269 or Shrewsbury Mil ext 2269/2294).

● **St Boniface (Rheindahlen):** Annual reunion at Holy Trinity Church, Prince Consort Road, London SW7 on June 26. Choral evensong 6pm followed by supper. Former St Boniface choir and congregation welcome. Contact Lt Col A P M Hole, 39 Vogan Close, Reigate, Surrey RH2 8AT (tel: 0737 244001).

● **Queen's Own Dorset Yeomanry:** Bi-centenary parade, July, at Dorchester. Units connected

with QODY were 94th, 141st, 294th Fd Regts RA TA; 250th, 255th, 341st Med Regts RA TA; Dorset Garrison; 241st and 522nd Coast Regts RA TA. Old comrades are asked to contact Maj L E N Neville-Jones, Audlem House, 68 Blake Hill Crescent, Poole, Dorset BH14 8QS.

● **Well-drillers reunion:** 30th anniversary reunion of all who served with the Royal Engineer Well-drilling Team is planned for Oct 8-9. Details from Sgt L Morrice, 521 STRE (WD), Chilwell Station, Beeston, Nottingham NG9 5HA (tel: 0602 572385).

1995

● **ATS Dinner Club:** Reunion weekend in Buxton, Derbyshire, June 1995. Open to all ex-ATS members. Application forms (to be returned by June 30, 1994) from Mrs Joy Balmain, 57 Greenbank Road, Preston, Birkenhead, Merseyside L42 7JJ. Please enclose sae.

CLOSURES

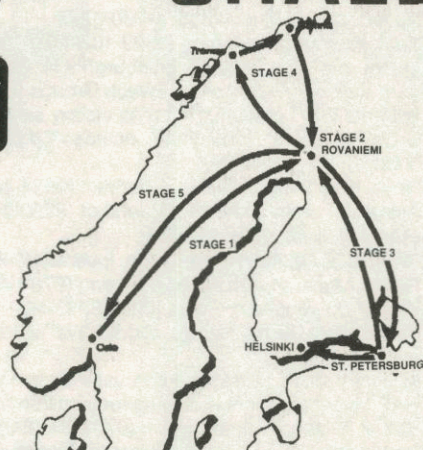
● **62 Tpt and Mov Sqn RLC (Berlin)** is to disband in September. Anyone who has presented items to the squadron is asked to contact Capt Cutler or WO2 Nichol on Berlin Mil (309) 7223/7265 or c/o 62 Tpt and Mov Sqn RLC (Berlin), BFPO 45 regarding disposal.

● **The WOs' and Sergeants' Mess, HQ Berlin**, will close in May. Anyone who has presented property and lost touch with the mess, please call WO2 (SSM) G T Bardsley on Berlin Mil 4495 or write c/o BGAU, BFPO 45.

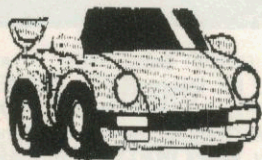
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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON BOTH OF THESE EVENTS PLEASE CONTACT:

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50 years on, and I still duck

MANY thanks to Stanley Simm Baldwin (Letters, April 4) for his support concerning the award of the 1939-45 Star and Defence Medal for Battle of Britain ground defenders.

I reiterate that the Defence Medal was not awarded for Battle of Britain service but for three years' service in the UK.

You could not complete the latter during the Battle of Britain, which lasted for some four months only. At the end of that period if you were dead or wounded you were entitled to the Defence Medal – but not because you had served in the Battle of Britain.

If you were mentally wounded after some of the very nasty attacks on locations such as south-eastern airfields you did not get the Defence Medal.

Three months, three weeks, three days – sometimes even three minutes – on one of those airfields was far more terrible than three years in some parts of the UK which knew no war. Yet the people who served in the quiet places got the medals rather than those who really suffered.

More than 50 years on, I still duck for low-flying aircraft and jump at every little noise.

I have been told that a clear conscience is as good as a medal – so why were any medals issued at all? – **H V Cossons, Wincanton, Somerset.**

Sad losses

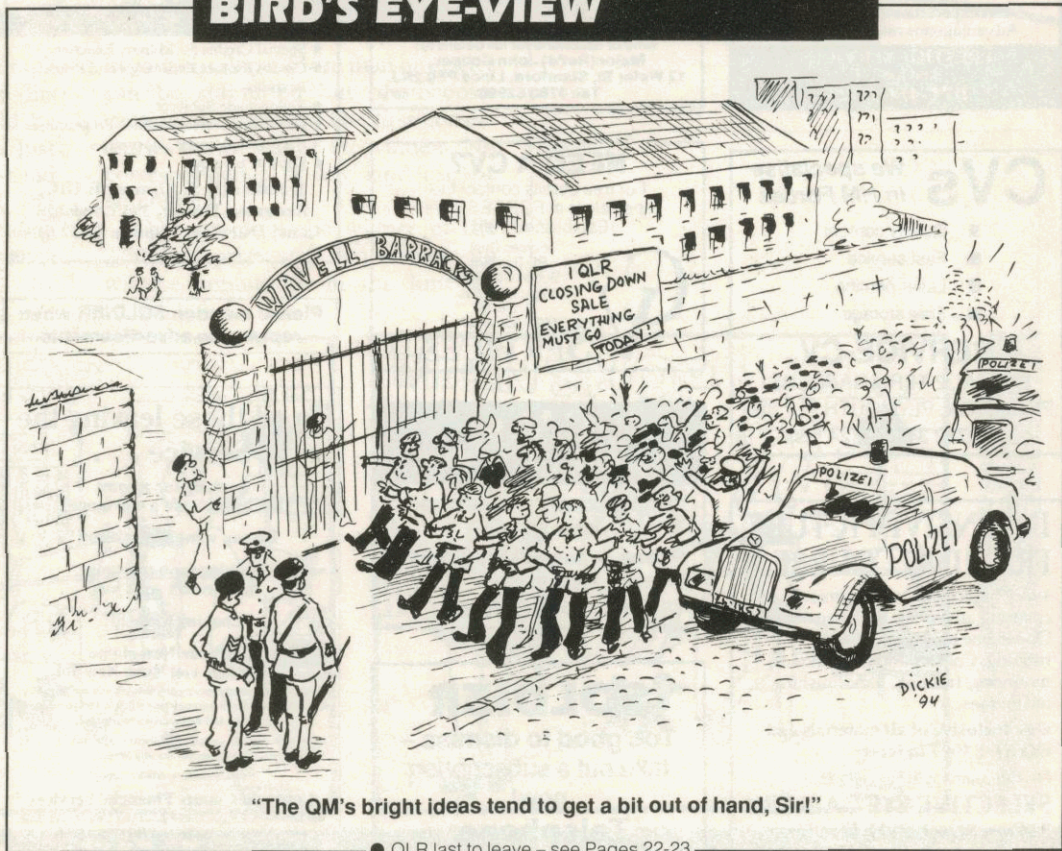
LAST year's Sounding Retreat by the Light Division was probably the last. Sadly, we have lost so many tattoos and pageants because of the cuts, and thousands of us are accepting it without protest. Imagine the uproar if they had been pop concerts! – **A Blake, Kent.**

Name the Haig funeral loco

IN 1928 the funeral train of Fd Marshal Earl Haig was hauled from Edinburgh to St Boswells by two NBR Atlantic Class team locomotives. Haig was then taken by farm cart to Dryburgh Abbey and laid to rest alongside Sir Walter Scott.

I know Cock o' the North was one of the train

BIRD'S EYE-VIEW



"The QM's bright ideas tend to get a bit out of hand, Sir!"

● QLR last to leave – see Pages 22-23

Canadian Scottish tribute to the Brits

MY comrades in the Canadian Scottish Veterans who are visiting the UK for the D-Day anniversary have asked me to write this letter, especially John Stace-Smith, who never tired of reminding us that we were on "holiday" here in 1944, whereas the British had been at it since 1939, in the Far East, the Middle East and elsewhere.

He would also remind us that we never had to fire a shot in fear until after we had the training and up-to-date equipment – and that D-Day would not have been possible if the Brits had not made such a stand.

We are amazed how few of

the young generation have understood this and we fear that D-Day ceremonies may fog this effort in their eyes.

Let me say to this generation that long before D-Day, and unparalleled in the field of human endeavour, an island people held on against the most powerful professional military might the world had ever known.

It was the will of a nation which believed in the loyalty of the citizen to the community, with the leaders as servants of the public.

An island race at ease with itself in the moral certainty and justice of its cause and which

believed in the concept of a State as the servant and not the master of its people and in the right to choose by vote the form of government under which to live.

Most of us who came to help did not have to fire a shot in fear until we had training built on the British experience and had the benefit of equipment and numbers. Indeed, we felt on holiday here, while the Brits had done so much to make D-Day possible.

My comrades and I believe that the 50th anniversary ceremonies should take account of the pre-D-Day sacrifice by the British. – **Lewis Bradford, (ex-1st Bn, The Canadian Scottish Regiment), Hindhead, Surrey.**

engines, but what was the other? Also, what were the drivers' names? The enginemmen were given a gratuity of four shillings (20p) and a packed lunch.

Any further information about Haig's funeral train would be welcome. – **Charles Meacher, Glenrothes, Fife.**

● This correspondent also tells us that he has been asked by his Canadian comrades to engrave a suitable glass presentation piece as a tribute to the British who took part in the Normandy landings. – **Editor**

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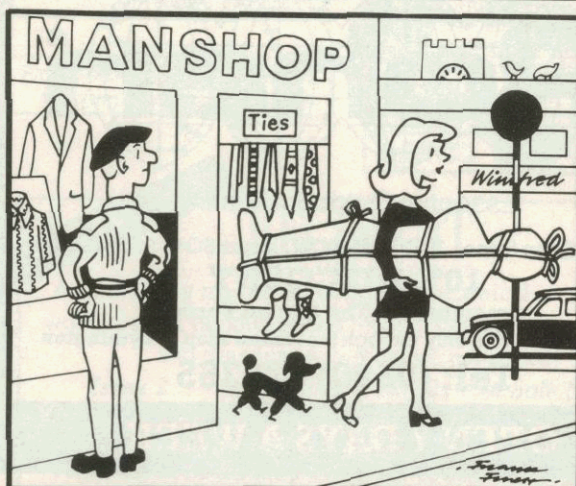
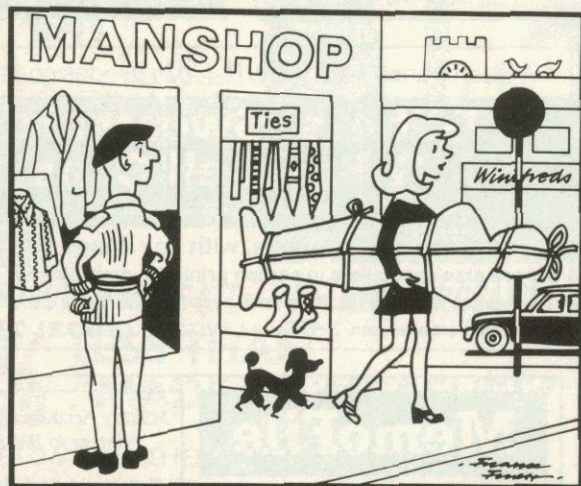
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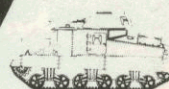
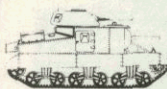
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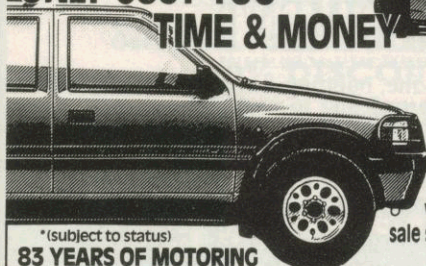
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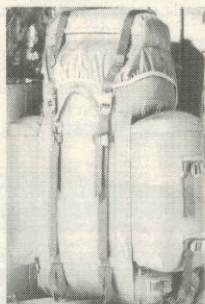
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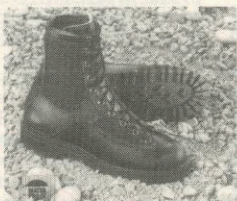
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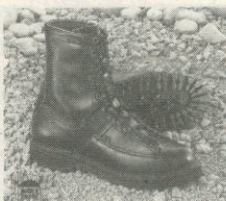
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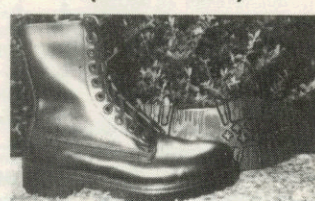
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D6

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10/94

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Hi, I'm Julie, 30, with a daughter. My interests include running, netball, going to the cinema and nightclubs. I would love a few pen friends, home or abroad. **P938**

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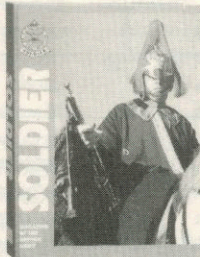
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April 16, 1994

First prize (17 goals, £2,000): Cpl S L Bridgman, Army Apprentice College, Chepstow.

Four-way tie for second prize (16 goals, £550 each): Pte R J Johnson, 2 CS Regt RLC, BFPO 47; Maj S R Lyon, RPO Leicester; Pte R C Shirt, 1 DWR, Bulford; WO2 G Thompson, Sp Bn HQ ARRC, BFPO 40.

18-way tie for sixth prize (15 goals, £16.67 each): WO1 P Cutting, HQ Colchester Garrison; WO2 A M Forsyth, DGLW, Upavon; Sgt I W Gwilym, MCTC, Colchester; Pte M B Hall, 1 DERR, Catterick; Sgt D M Hill, Gibraltar Regt, BFPO 52; SSgt M B Jaglarz, Intelligence Centre, Ashford; Capt D Knight, 3 Armd Fd Amb RAMC, BFPO 16; Capt A D Krause, 1 BW, BFPO 1; SSgt F M Lucey, 632 MCTG, BFPO 15; Maj I McPherson, 39 Regt RA, BFPO 16; LCpl J E Morgan,

2 Bn REME, BFPO 38; WO1 P Newman, CMETS, Beaconsfield; Maj I S Ormerod, 29 Regt RLC, South Cerney; Sgt A Regan, 247 Gurkha Signal Sqn, BFPO 1; Capt I Sanderson, Defence Animal Centre, Melton Mowbray; Cpl M J Smith, 160 Pro Coy RMP, Aldershot; Capt S P J Staines, QRH, BFPO 38; LCpl S Temple, 26 Regt RA, BFPO 113.

APRIL 23, 1994

Six-way tie for first prize (21 goals, £733.33 each): Tpr S L Archer, The Light Dragoons, BFPO 30; Pte W A Evans, 4 GS Regt RLC, Abingdon; WO1 R L Gill, HQ ARRC, BFPO 140; Cpl T R James, RAC Gunnery School, Lulworth; Cpl S Levett, Depot Regt RE, Chatham; Maj W E Vincent, HQBF Cyprus, BFPO 53.

Two-way tie for seventh prize (20 goals, £50 each): Maj D M Hale, HQ BVQ, Ashchurch; Sgt S Pulfer, HQ 1 (UK) Armd Div, BFPO 15.

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Signaller leads GB challenge

In the world of the skibob – a sort of pushbike with skis – Cpl Paddy Maybin (pictured) of 16 Signal Regiment is king.

Currently the Army and British skibob champion, he led a 16-man GB squad made up mostly of soldiers to the world elite championships in Switzerland.

Maybin, serving with 255 Sig Sqn at Rheindahlen, finished 11th, Lt Col Rick Platt (MoD) was 12th and LCpl Alan O'Kell (16 Sig Regt) 15th.

Lt David Brogan (1 KOSB) was runner-up in the Army championships, which were dominated by 16 Signal Regt. REME were second in the team competition.

LCpl Michelle Turner (99 PC Regt RLC) is the British women's champion.

Anyone interested in skibobbing should contact Cpl Maybin c/o 255 Sig Sqn, 16 Sig Regt, BFPO 40.



Cpl Steven Bartliff (R Signals) in action against the Royal Air Force at Twickenham. The RAF won the match to retain the Inter-Services title

Picture: Mike Weston

Trying times for the Reds

Army 22,
RAF 28

TO GIVE the RAF a 20 point lead in half as many minutes might not be everyone's preferred strategy, but at Twickenham it almost paid off, writes Roger Thompson.

The first half was reminiscent of Dunkirk, the second of Normandy – albeit 50 years on and with the hand of French bureaucracy prevalent.

At full time even those with a passing knowledge of statistics could make the case for an Army moral victory. The Army had scored four tries to the RAF's three but, of course, statistics can lie and the airmen had won by 28 points to 22.

The stark fact is that the expected forward dominance failed to materialise until it was far too late. The RAF were not denied possession and far too frequently the game was played under the Army posts from where they failed to find touch.

A comedy of errors in defence, gentlemanly tackling which allowed the other man to go first, and failure to control the bouncing ball saw the RAF ahead by 21 points to five (the latter a Geordie Watson surge) at the interval.

Within one minute of the second half starting, the RAF

had scored the crucial try which was to give them ultimate victory. Only now did the Army start to play to their original plan – big muscle up front.

The gallant but fairly mediocre RAF pack started to wilt and, led by Tim Rodber (Green Howards) and the ever-present Gareth James (2 Sig Regt), the tide definitely turned.

Rodber burst through for a powerful try, giving Rory Underwood the sort of hand off that made him feel he was, already, wheels up for South Africa. Rodber scored a second shortly afterwards.

It was a day for replacements, Dave Coghlan (7 RHA) coming on as prop for one of his best games for the Army in recent years. Pete Curtis (2 Sig Regt) announced his arrival with two "big hits" on the RAF back row while Paul Jinks (REME) sprinted on for his first Army cap with only five minutes remaining.

In that time he scored an excellent try from the 22, side-stepping Underwood for the champagne moment of the match.

Revival on table

A TABLE tennis revival has been under way during the past two years, culminating in the Army hosting the Inter-Services tournament for the first time.

For years the title has been contested by the Royal Navy and Royal Air Force, who, not surprisingly, shared the 1994 honours. But Army players featured strongly in the Combined Services individual championships, appearing in most of the finals.

Neither ATTA chairman Col June Kennedy or secretary Capt Kym Hanscomb knew anything about the game when they took office, but turned to RAF secretary Flt Lt Richard Galowski for help – and the loan of eight tables for the

championships staged at Bordon.

Sgt Chris Freely (97 Sqn RLC) won the men's singles and teamed up with Cpl Hilary Greig (AGC Band) to win the mixed doubles. Sgt Ronna Garrod (FHWS Tidworth) won the women's plate competition, and was runner up in the women's doubles with Greig.

Anyone interested in finding out more about the Army Table Tennis Association should contact the secretary, Capt Kym Hanscombe, at SEME Regt, Prince Philip Barracks, Bordon, Hants GU35 0JE (tel: Bordon Mil 5431).

● Army teams made a clean sweep of trophies at the Inter-Services basketball championships at RAF Cosford. A full report will appear in the next issue.

That's the spirit!

ARMY hockey took a big step forward when the senior side beat four county sides at Aldershot in their pool of the Hockey Association county championships, writes Alan Healey.

This superb performance earned them a place in the quarter-finals due to be staged in Sheffield on May 7.

They started at a cracking pace against Dorset, winning 3-1, then hammered Wiltshire by seven goals to three. SSgt Ian Jennings (APTC), Capt Tim Wood (R Signals) and Lt Matt Way (DERR) each scored two in the second match, and skipper Capt Simon Hazlitt (LI) rounded it off with an unstoppable short corner for goal number seven.

Goals fly in as Army find the range

It soon became clear that the decider was likely to be between the Army and Worcestershire in the final game of the weekend.

Before that, however, the soldiers did their goal difference no harm by beating Bedfordshire 7-1 with goals from Jennings (3), Hazlitt, Maj Ian

Jolly, Way and Sgt Mick Bale.

Simon Hazlitt opened the scoring from a penalty corner after six minutes against Worcestershire, and Ian Jennings converted two more penalty corners in the 30th and 31st minutes.

Tim Wood added a fourth in the 54th minute to put the result beyond the previously unbeaten Worcestershire, although they did pull one back ten minutes later.

Ian Jolly and LBdr Ian Gall, both gunners, were outstanding for the Army throughout the tournament. But there was very good support and hard running from the whole side which played with more commitment than at any other time

this season outside the Inter-Services tournament.

If the Army can get through the quarter-finals at Sheffield, they will be faced by the semi-finals and final the following day.

The success at national level has been a reward for Army sponsors Bain Clarkson, the PAX insurance people, whose generosity has been met pound for pound by a Government-sponsored Sportsmatch award.

Incidentally, tournament referee at Aldershot for the county championship was Maj (Retd) Frank Taylor, well known in Army hockey circles. He and his officials helped make the Army-hosted championship a resounding success.

Five to box at Liverpool

FIVE Army boxers have been selected by their national bodies to box in the prestigious multi-nation tournament at Liverpool from May 22-29.

With 21 countries taking part, it is the largest competition outside the world championships and Olympic Games.

England have called up Cpl Steve Burford (REME, QRH), LCpl Chris Bessey (27 Regt RLC) and Spr Danny Watts (RE, ATR Basingstoke); Scotland have called on LCpl Jason Gardner (89 AB Int Sect); and Wales will be represented by LCpl Vinny Powell (3 RSME Regt) and Gdsm Kevin Short (1 WG).

A sixth Services boxer, SAC Owen Spensley of the Royal Air Force, will also be boxing in England colours.

Fencing action

ARMY fencers will be gathering at ASPT Aldershot for the Service championships from May 16-19, with the Inter-Services being staged at the same venue from June 3-4.

Tidworth horse trials set up for big future

TIDWORTH is to stage some of the most exciting equestrian events of the season at its prestigious Tidworth Park home. The horse trials course has been significantly upgraded, and the polo club, under new management, is looking forward to the new season.

International course designer Capt Mark Phillips has been brought in to re-vamp the cross country course for the Army Horse Trials due to be held on May 18-19, part of a move to re-establish the trials as a truly important event on the equestrian calendar.

To attract the best eventers and spectators to Tidworth, 22 new fences will be designed and built on a new course offering good footing. Jumps will be sponsored by the Royal Horse Artillery and the Royal Tank Regiment, and sappers will be building a pedestrian bridge and three jumps across the river Bourne.

A highlight of the season will be the annual Rundle Cup challenge match between the Army and the Royal Navy. Prince Charles has been a regular competitor and this year's programme includes a match between the British Services and the Pakistani Army.

David Hughes, a civilian, has been appointed to manage the equestrian events, and, although there are no longer any cavalry regiments based in Tidworth, other units are lend-

ing as much support as they can.

For more information about the horse trials and polo, contact Tidworth Polo Club on 0980 46705.

28 Engr Regt 2, 2 Signal Regt 1

HIGH winds spoilt the 1994 Army Challenge Cup Final as a spectacle, but 28 Engineer Regiment, the pride of BAOR, won't let that take anything away from their unique achievement, writes Derrick Bly.

Their 2-1 victory over York-based 2 Signal Regiment at the Military Stadium in Aldershot was their fifth successive Challenge Cup triumph, a record not remotely approached since the 2nd Battalion, The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders won the first Challenge Cup final in 1889.

Only SEME (three wins in four years in the 1980s) and The Sherwood Foresters (three in a row in 1930-32) have got close.

Early exchanges were confined almost exclusively to the midfield, although sapper Cpl Bomber Brown forced a

headed clearance from LCpl Calvin Bent and SSgt Alan Higgins, the 2 Signals skipper, smashed a 30-yard drive against the sapper wall at the other end.

The engineers from Hameln went ahead in the 14th minute when Pte John Whittle headed a long cross over 'keeper Cpl Andy McWilliam.

The UK champions should have equalised before half time when Sig Barney Bambrook squared the ball across the face of the 28 goal.

Signals' veteran ASM Tich Walton was substituted soon after the break, and in the 61st minute the defending champions increased their lead when Pte Ginge Holt looped a



Pte Ginge Holt (28 Engr Regt) gets a touch on the ball despite the attentions of Sig Jimmy Strouts (No 6) and Cpl Dave Coleman of 2 Signal Regt during the Army Challenge Cup Final at Aldershot. In support are LCpl Shan Shannon (left) and Sig Barry Bambrook.

Five in a row for 28

header over McWilliam.

That spurred the signallers to their best spell of the match, although they had to wait until the 76th minute for a goal from Higgins after good work by substitute LCpl Alf Alford.

Mr David Sargeant, managing director of competition

sponsors Wilsons Hogg Robinson, presented the Challenge cup and medals, while former England and Arsenal coach Don Howe named Pte Ginge Holt as his man of the match.

Referee WO1 Len Davidson had a fine game, his last before leaving the Army.

ATR Winchester 3, 36 RSME Squadron 1

ATR Winchester won a competitive Minor Units cup final played in a swirling wind and on a heavy pitch at Bordon.

Russell scored first for ATR with a wind assisted cross-cum-shot which went in off the angle of the far post and cross-bar. Both sides had goals disallowed for offside.

Winchester were two goals up within minutes of the break, Russell's header slipping between the 'keeper's legs.

A good spell of pressure by 36 Sqn ended when ATR scored again, this time through Ford, before Brown got a consolation goal for the losers.

Goal rangers strike again

C COMPANY, 4/5 Battalion, The Royal Irish Rangers (Volunteers) emulated 28 Engineer Regiment by winning the Territorial Army Challenge Cup for the fifth consecutive year at Liverpool last month.

The Portadown-based Rangers fought back from two goals down to beat 238 Sqn, 156 Tpt Regt RLC (V) 4-2.

It was their fourth successful defence of the title which they have won eight times in all. The battalion has been Northern Ireland champions for the past 12 years.

Kwai on Thai tour agenda

ARMY footballers taking part in the two-match tour to Thailand this month will get a chance to see the River Kwai bridge and the Death Railway.

Their hosts, the Royal Thai Army, have arranged visits to both in addition to temple tours, Thai boxing and courtesy calls on the Commander-in-Chief and the commander of the 9th Infantry Division.

On the field, the tourists will be meeting the Thai 1st Army Area team and a full-strength Royal Thai Army side.



Spr Brian Hughes of 38 (Berlin) Field Squadron, Royal Engineers adjusts strops holding one of three sections of the Berlin Wall that the unit is presenting to the Royal Engineers Museum at Chatham. The squadron's recent disbandment parade was attended by more than 50 former members. During its 133-year history, the unit saw campaign service on four continents.

Picture: Terry Champion

SOLDIER