

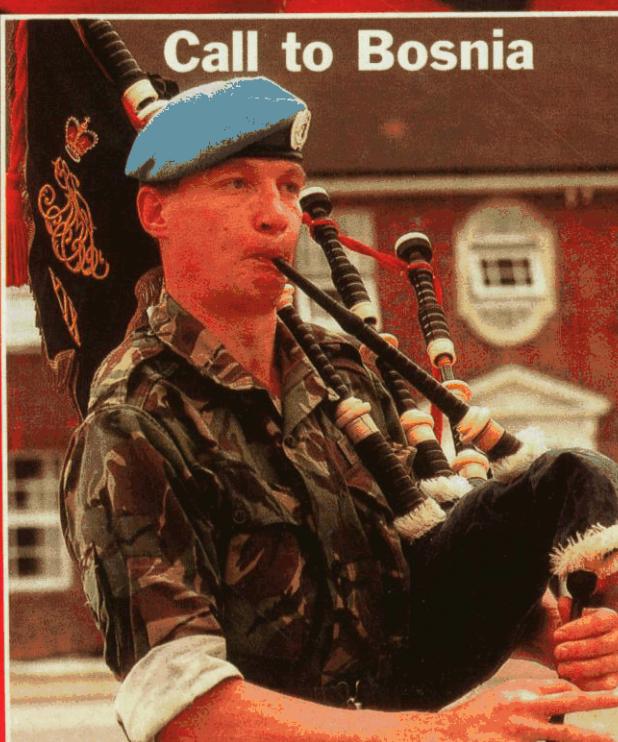
JUNE 26  
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FORTNIGHT  
60p

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MAGAZINE  
OF THE  
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**JUNE 26, 1995**  
**Vol 51/13**

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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 – LCpl Andrew Edis (front) of 1 Gren Gds won the Major General's Silver Bugle competition in Wellington Barracks, London, and will carry the bugle at all State ceremonial events for a year. Behind him are runners-up Dmr Kenneth Harkness SG (left) and Dmr Jason Heaven IG. (Picture: Terry Champion)

**Inset:** LBdr Evan Macrae pipes as 19 Fd Regt RA prepare to fly to Bosnia. Story in Pages 12-13. (Picture: Mike Perring)

● **CYPRUS:** 3 R Irish goes on exercise as 21 Field Squadron (EOD) rids a beach of its armoured eyesores. – *Pages 18-19.*

● **FALKLANDS:** A TA company is pioneering the way for more operational deployments by part-time soldiers. – *Page 20-21.*

● **TIDWORTH:** Horse trials success could

establish the garrison on the equestrian sporting scene. – *Pages 22-23.*

● **NORTHUMBERLAND:** MLRS in spectacular action as Otterburn training area prepares for change. – *Centre pages.*

● **LIFESTYLE:** Why we have a better Army than we deserve. – *Pages 32-33.*



Picture: Mike Weston

Fus Martin Williams hobbles across the tarmac at RAF Brize Norton with Fusiliers Ian Diamond, Ian Smith and Steve McCabe accompanied by some of the loved ones who greeted them

# RWF injured flown home

AS THE first Royal Welch Fusilier hostages released by Bosnian Serbs returned to Britain celebrations were restrained, writes Gordon Skilling.

Of the 33 members of the 1st Battalion seized while manning observation posts at Gorazde, five were still being held as this issue went to press.

Most of the released fusiliers were expected to return to duty with their unit.

The four who were flown back to RAF Brize Norton on June 7 were injured when their Saxon rolled 200ft down a ravine after they had been captured.

Fusiliers Steven McCabe, Ian Smith, Martin Williams and Ian Diamond, who sustained leg injuries, were evacuated on an RAF VC 10.

Among the families waiting to greet them were Fus Ian Diamond's wife Christine, who he mar-

ried four days before leaving for Bosnia. Serb captors allowed him to keep a Walkman and a tape of love songs she had sent him.

His brother, Fus Neil Diamond, had gone on leave days before the hostages were taken, otherwise he too would have faced capture.

Fus Williams's fiancée, Miss Sharon Henthorn, refused to leave his side at Brize Norton and accompanied him to hospital at RAF Wroughton. He had been given brandy by the Serbs as an anaesthetic before they set his broken ankle.

The captives were fed a diet of soup and bread but there were no reports of ill treatment.

Lt Hugh Nightingale said he thought he was on a "short walk to a shallow grave" when he was blind-

**More Grapple  
troops fly out  
– Pages 12-13**

● Turn to Page 12

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# Weapons recognition – and all on disc

A NEW technology training pack, designed and distributed by the Services Sound and Vision Corporation (SSVC), and using photographic compact discs, is set to revolutionise the task of weapons recognition training in the Army.

The Equipment Recognition Packs (ERPs), several hundred of which have been dispatched to Territorial and Regular Army District and Brigade specialist teams, as well as almost all arms units and schools, replace the familiar audio-visual slides.

Centred on a Kodak photo-CD player supplied with every pack, the new system is claimed to provide a faster,



**Identity disc:** the photo-CD and the rest of SSVC's Equipment Recognition Pack, which will test trainees on their powers of identification of weapons and armoured vehicles

cheaper and more user-friendly method of training Service personnel to identify international aircraft and armoured

vehicles. Packs comprise an SSVC-designed binder, containing a set of 12 specially-produced CDs, two VHS

videotapes, training instructors' notes and a series of recognition pictures.

Each CD contains a planned sequence of images – originally supplied by the Defence Intelligence and Security School and transferred to disc by the MoD's own photographic section – with the first discs testing the trainee's current knowledge, and subsequent discs teaching or re-testing the relevant information.

The CD player connects directly to a monitor, TV or video projector and instructors, using their remote control, can zoom in on a portion of the image only – giving interest and added difficulty to the task of identification.

## Desert Rats receive Bergen's Freedom

SWORDS drawn and bayonets fixed, soldiers from Headquarters 7th Armoured Brigade marched through the streets of Bergen, Germany, to exercise their newly-granted Freedom of the town.

The parade was led by the Band of The Royal Tank Regiment.

Brig David Montgomery, Commander 7 Armd Bde, received the Freedom scroll from Dr Helmut Wegner, Bürgermeister of Bergen, during a ceremony in the Stadt. In return, a short history of the Desert Rats and a battle pennant were given to the town.

There has been a British Army garrison in Bergen since the end of the Second World War. Despite being nowhere near the village of the same name, the garrison is known as Höhne.

Garrison and town depend heavily on each other, with Bergen's economy relying on the Army presence and the soldiers making extensive use of local facilities.



**Soldiers of 7 Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn march through the town of Bergen after receiving its Freedom**

The Freedom was awarded to the brigade in recognition of 50 years spent in the defence of Western Europe and recent peacekeeping duties in former Yugoslavia.

Dr Wegner said the town greatly appreciated the continued presence of the soldiers. Thanking the people of Bergen for the honour, Brig Montgomery said: "We have no plans to leave and look forward to a fruitful relationship in

peace over the next 50 years."

After the ceremony and before marching through the town, 7th Armoured Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron paraded on the town sportplatz under Maj Jeremy Wilson, R Signals, the squadron commander.

The Bergen Freedom scroll was trooped through the ranks by Capt Jim Langley and escorted by Sgt Taff Smith and Sgt Taff Webb.

## Soldier shot at Otterburn

PRIVATE Scott McGregor of The Black Watch died from a single SA80 rifle shot while sitting in the back of a personnel carrier after an exercise at Otterburn training area. He was completing training at the Infantry Training Battalion at Ouston. An inquiry into the incident has begun.

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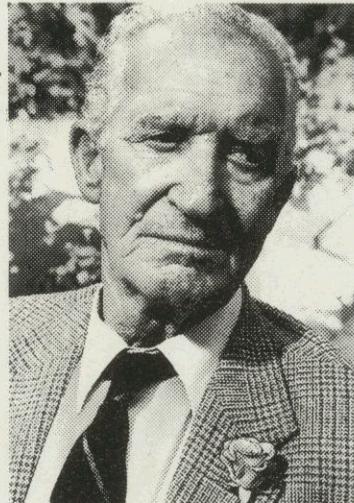
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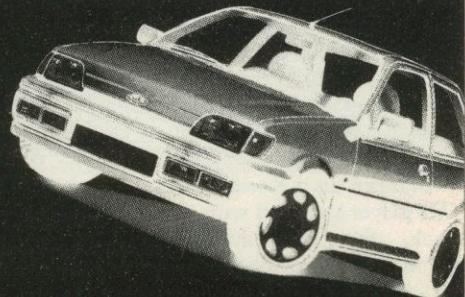
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# Drug tests end in discharges

OF 4,420 officers and soldiers so far compulsorily drug tested under the Army programme, 21 had tested positive, Armed Forces Minister Nicholas Soames said in a written answer on May 25.

Answering Shadow Defence Secretary Dr David Clark, he said of the 21, 15 had been either discharged or recommended for discharge and two had chosen to leave voluntarily.

Of the remainder, it was recommended that two would be formally warned, with a reduction in rank for one of them. Decisions on the other two were awaited.

To date 45 units had been visited at random and individuals within them chosen by random selection of surname initial.

• • •

Half of the 500 or so veterans claiming to suffer from "Gulf War syndrome", have been medically examined, with no evidence that the condition exists, members of the Commons Defence Committee were told. The Surgeon General, Vice Admiral Tony Revell, said on June 7: "What we are finding is that the diagnosis in our population is no greater than what you would expect in the national statistics." Of the soldiers examined, some had serious and life-threatening medical problems unassociated with their service during the Gulf War.

Just over half had relatively minor complaints; some were suffering from ME; others depression and anxiety; and a further 22 per cent were victims of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), related to the war.

• • •

Work on rationalising elements of the Defence Postal and Courier Service agency is getting underway, with the concentration of cen-

tral London activities at Mill Hill.

Armed Forces Minister Nicholas Soames said in a Commons written answer that the aim, as announced under Front Line First, was to integrate departmental mail services, rationalise vehicle fleets, provide better training and set up a strategic management structure across all the armed Services.

• • •

Lord Kennet asked how in the MoD it is decided whether redundant churches and chapels are of "sufficient architectural or historic merit" to be listed for statutory protection.

Defence Under Secretary Lord Henley replied that in the case of a church or chapel a recommendation for listing would normally be made by English Heritage. Appro-

priate buildings on Defence property which was the subject of disposal would be protected by action taken by the MoD.

• • •

Other points from Parliament:

- Answering a Commons question, the Armed Forces Minister said that 54 women made redundant under the third tranche of the Army redundancy scheme received special capital payments which were lower than those of their male counterparts

- Describing the defence costs study as a great success, Defence Secretary Malcolm Rifkind said it was estimated it would result in annual savings of £1 billion by the end of the decade.

- Latest figures show that there are 156,500 Service personnel stationed in England, 18,400 in Scotland and 4,800 in Wales.

- Findings of the inquiry into the Chinook helicopter crash on the Mull of Kintyre on June 2 last year were expected this month.

## Scots DG depart Catterick in style

THE ROYAL Scots Dragoon Guards celebrated the anniversary of the greatest moment in their history – the Battle of Waterloo – with a spectacular pageant at Richmond Castle, Yorkshire.

On June 18, 1815, Sgt Charles Ewart of their forebears, The Royal Scots Greys, snatched the Imperial Eagle from Napoleon's 45th Infantry at Waterloo, crushing the latter's reputation as "The Invincibles".

The pageant marked the start of three days of festivities as the regiment – which has an eagle as the centrepiece of its cap badge – prepared to leave Catterick for Fallingbostel. It will be replaced by The Queen's Royal Hussars.

## Catering centre

A NEW complex which will train the Territorial Army's Catering Support Regiment was opened by Lord Forte at Prince William of Gloucester Barracks, Grantham.

## Aussies on guard at Edinburgh Castle



Pte Scott Warren of B Company, 5/7 Royal Australian Regiment takes over the Edinburgh Castle guard from Pte Scott Dunn of the 1st Battalion, The King's Own Scottish Borderers. One hundred and twenty soldiers from B Company took over the KOSB's public duties role at the castle for a few days during their month-long exchange visit to the battalion at Dreghorn Barracks, Edinburgh

## Duke of York's Headquarters re-opens

IN A ceremony representing the culmination of a major programme which has taken eight years to complete, the refurbished Duke of York's Head-

quarters in Chelsea was formally re-opened by the Duke of Kent on June 18.

During his day-long visit, the Duke met many of the 1,300

part-timers based at the HQ, described by Fd Marshal Lord Bramall, President of Greater London's TA, as "truly the flagship of the Territorial Army".

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# British and German Infantry formally twinned

CLOSE connections between infantrymen of the British and German armies were cemented with the formal signing of a *Partnerschaft* (twinning) docu-

ment. Attending the ceremony at Hammelburg, Bavaria, were Maj Gen Raymond Pett, Director of Infantry, who travelled from his Warminster headquar-

ters to the headquarters of his German counterpart, Brigade General Wolf Wedde, Brig Alan Behagg, Commander of the British Army's Training Sup-

port at Sennelager, Col Christopher Darnell, commander of Infantry Training Centre Warminster and Col Andrew Meek, Cmdr ITC Wales.



Members of the successful regimental shooting team of the Royal Monmouthshire Royal Engineers (Militia) with their impressive haul of trophies from the 1995 Wales Skill-at-Arms meeting held at the Sennybridge training area. The team, drawn from 108 (Welsh) Field Support Squadron (Militia) and 225 (City of Birmingham) Field Squadron (Militia), qualified to represent 160 (Wales) Brigade at the TA Skill-at-Arms meeting at Bisley

## Double delight for BW pipers

PIPERS and drummers from the 1st Battalion, The Black Watch can knock the spots off most musicians when it comes to international competition, and they have also proved to be among the best heavy machine-gunned in the British Army.

Soon after winning the Jakarta pipe band championships against some of the most talented musicians from Australasia and Asia, the Black Watch pipers and drummers - who make up the battalion's heavy machine-gun platoon - won a competition which runs worldwide.

Best score was returned for the battalion by Pte Tam



Lt Gen Sir Roger Wheeler meets the winning BW pipers and drummers

Moles. The battalion has just begun a Northern Ireland tour based at Girdwood Barracks where the pipers and drum-

mers received their heavy machine-gun trophy from Lt Gen Sir John Wheeler, GOC Northern Ireland.

## IN THE PRESS



What the papers have been saying

BOSNIAN Serbs took £5 million worth of fighting vehicles from the UN in a week and recovered many weapons held in UN compounds. Prizes included six French Sagaie armoured cars and four British Saxons. - *Daily Telegraph*. French peacekeepers used tanks and infantry to re-take Vrbanja bridge from Bosnian Serbs who had captured it dressed in stolen French uniforms. - *Independent*

President Clinton has created a scientific advisory panel to investigate the mysterious illnesses which have affected Gulf War veterans. - *Independent on Sunday*

Advertisements for attack helicopters are appearing in general circulation publications as the battle for a £2.5 billion Army contract reaches its climax. The campaigns are for the European-built Tiger, the GEC-Marconi Cobra Venom and the American-designed Apache. - *Daily Telegraph*

## CHAPLAINS ON COURSE

TWENTY-THREE Army chaplains from the North West took part in a first aid training day laid on by 5 Field Ambulance RAMC at Weeton Barracks in Lancashire. The programme included instruction on life-saving and first aid and a number of practical tests on coping with emergencies.

## Bases launched

TWO new Defence Agencies, the Army Base Storage and Distribution Agency (ABSDA) and the Defence Transport and Movements Executive (DTMX) were formally launched at Bicester by Secretary of State for Defence Malcolm Rifkind on May 17.

## Back to school...

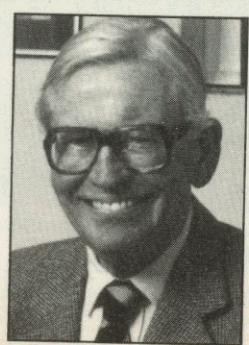
The Combined Cadet Corps at Cheltenham College had a particularly appropriate person to carry out their biennial inspection this year. Lt Gen Sir Michael Rose, former UN commander in Bosnia (centre), seen with headmaster Peter Wilkes and contingent commander Lt Col Ian Wright, attended the college from 1953 to 1958. The Army section of the corps wear the uniform and cap badges of the Royal Gloucestershire, Berkshire and Wiltshire Regiment.

Cheltenham College is one of only two public schools to have its own Colours. The other is Eton.



## COM-gratulations!

The Project UNICOM (Unit Computing) staff were feeling particularly pleased recently when they were pictured at their Worthy Down base. Their £100 million project to provide computer support to the Army had just been awarded ISO 9001 under a scheme for IT organisations – the first British Army organisation to do so. Pictured handing over the certificate, in front of the Land Rover, to DCIS (A) Brig Neill O'Connor is Kelvin Carlton of DNV QA, which audited the project.



### Francis farewell

Bowing out after 12 years as regimental secretary of The Queen's Regiment and later The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment is Col John Francis. Col Francis, whose last appointment as a serving officer was as British Defence Attaché in Jakarta from 1981 to 1983, played a large part in ensuring that the 1992 amalgamation of the two regiments got off to a flying start.



That's my boy!

Two generations of Scottish Army history are united at Dreghorn Barracks, Edinburgh, as 72-year-old John Falconer watches his son Ian rehearse with the Lowland band for a VE Day service held in the city's St Giles Cathedral. Originally a Seaforth Highlander, John, who was "called up" to represent the Queen's Own Highlanders at the Service, served throughout the war with 51st Highland Brigade, rejoining the Army from 1962 to 1968. Ian joined in 1979.



### OFF TO A FLIER

Giving former Scotland rugby captain David Sole a military send-off as he prepared to leave Heathrow airport for a record-breaking round-the-world race against time to raise funds for the Gordon Highlanders Museum campaign were Cpl Andrew McLean (left) and Col Sgt Liam O'Brien.

## All aboard

Brig Mike Hodson (left), Chief Executive of the Defence Transport and Movements Executive (DTMX), Tony Hurst (centre), Railfreight Distribution's Manager Defence, and Brig Kevin Goad, Chief Executive of the Army Base Storage and Distribution Agency, with the name-plate for the Class 47 diesel locomotive which they had just named "The Royal Logistic Corps" at the large DTMX international freight terminal in Bicester. Prime objective of the DTMX is to meet the military operational commitments placed upon it in peace, crisis, transition to war and war itself.



## PEOPLE

The Duke of Kent is shown a set of medals by senior storekeeper Philip Button during a private visit to the Army Medal Office at Droitwich, Worcestershire. Throughout his visit, the Duke, who is a field marshal, met members of the 42-strong workforce and showed a keen interest in the background and history of the medals.



### What's in store?



### Joe's jamboree

Half-a-million items of equipment, Scouts for the use of, was the rather unusual commodity which Royal Engineers Quartermaster Capt Joe Middleton of Nottingham-based 350 Field Squadron, RE, had to look after when he was approached to help out.

For three days, 73 Engineer Regiment's Chilwell base became the hub of a nation-wide supply operation when its stores were "borrowed" as a centre for the distribution of kit to more than 3,000 British Scouts for their movement's world jamboree in the Netherlands in August. A fleet of lorries delivered tons of uniforms and equipment to the TA base, from which 67 Scout units from the UK picked up their gear. Worksop-based assistant Cub Scout leader Andrew Fullelove (left) helped oversee the distribution.



### On "pair"-ade!

Taking part in the annual Coldstream Guards memorial service in London last month were Keith (left) and Kevin Humphrey, thought to be the Army's first RSM twins. Keith is RSM of Sandhurst's Old College, while his brother keeps the young soldiers in order at the Army Apprentices' College in Harrogate.



Maj Gen Jonnie Hall (left), the last two-star Director of the Royal Armoured Corps, hands over to his successor, Brig Andrew Gadsby, at HQ RAC, Bovington. The post is the first Arms directorate to revert to one-star level. Maj Gen Hall was driven off in a 1920s Rolls Royce armoured car and has now taken up his new appointment as GOC Scotland and Governor of Edinburgh Castle.

### One less star

# D and D re-roled to beef up Grapple force

FOR THE first time British soldiers are providing an in-theatre reserve force for the UN Commander in Bosnia, with an additional substantial force on standby when Security Council sanction is given.

The 1st Battalion, The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment has been re-roled to provide a theatre reserve force, while 24 Airmobile Brigade were expected to move from Colchester to the Balkans.



Members of 30 Signal Regiment on their way to board the RAF Hercules aircraft taking them from RAF Lyneham to Bosnia

## More troops for Bosnia

• From Page 3

folded and taken away to be released.

Welcoming them back to Britain, Brig Barry Stevens, Commander of 160 (Wales) Brigade, praised the captives' conduct.

"The self-discipline of the modern-day British soldier is absolutely phenomenal; it is part of their training to be able to contain their emotions and just to get on with the job in hand," he said.

The fusiliers and other United Nations hostages were pawns in a power struggle following Nato air strikes after repeated Serb violations of the UN heavy weapons exclusion zone around Sarajevo.

First element of the theatre reserve force, called Task Force Alpha, is a battle group based on 1 D and D and including the first British guns and armoured engineering assets deployed to Bosnia, as well as a squadron of light reconnaissance Scimitars already in theatre.

It is likely to be the first building block of a multi-national force comprising additional French and Dutch

forces as well as Canadians, New Zealanders and Spanish already in theatre.

The battle group has been formed by concentrating 1 D and D's resources in Vitez, a move made possible because of the alliance between the Bosnian Croats (HVO) and the mainly Muslim Bosnian Government (BiH).

As BRITBAT 1, the Devon and Dorsets carried out peace-keeping and humanitarian duties at Vitez, Gornji Vakuf, Jelaj and Zepce. BRITCAV-BAT operated from Zepce, Maglaj and Gornji Vakuf.

The Royal Artillery assets comprise two batteries of six 105mm light guns from Colchester-based 19 Regiment Royal Artillery allowing accurate return of heavy fire without resort to air strikes.

The addition of a sapper squadron with three Chieftain armoured bridgelaying and three armoured assault vehicles will give the UN the capability to force its way through road blocks and mined areas.

These assets are from 21 Engineer Regiment based at Nienburg and 32 Armoured Engineer Regiment at Bergen-Hohne. Sappers of 21 Engr Regt are already in theatre and this move means that the whole regiment will be deployed on Op Grapple.

Task Force Alpha immediately gives Lt Gen Rupert Smith more flexibility.

The force at the moment comes under the direct command of Brig Andrew Pringle, British Forces Commander of Sector South East at Gornji Vakuf. By the end of June it could be ready as a tactical theatre reserve comprising between 1,000 and 2,000 troops.

A more strategic rapid reaction force would be based on 24 Airmobile Brigade, which has been on standby to deploy. A French Force Action Rapide of 4,000 is also on standby.

"Maj Redburn in particular has been great. He was in touch with us twice a day, and even if he had no information to pass he would still telephone to see how we were," said Mr Williams.

"He has kept us hopeful and optimistic all through without raising false hopes."

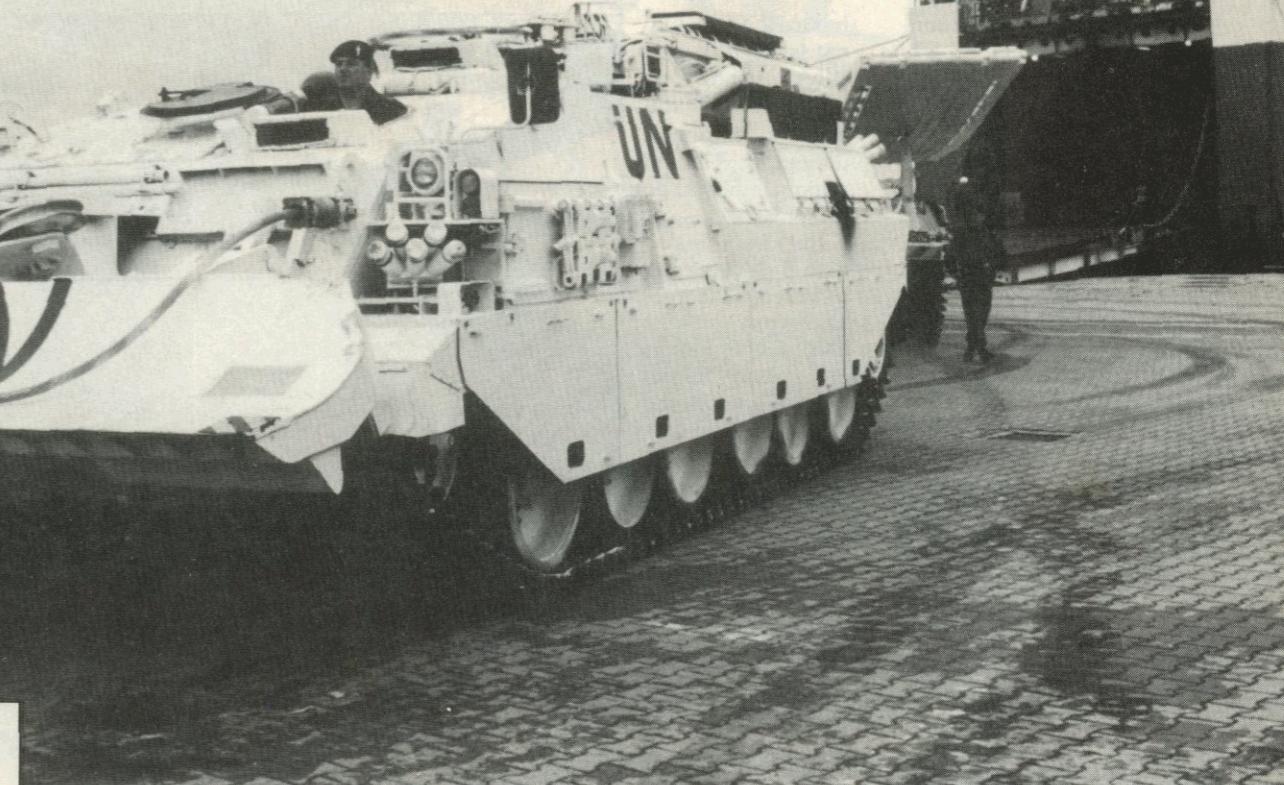
Originally envisaged to block a massed Soviet armoured thrust, the brigade also has 84 Milan anti-tank missiles posts.

The Theatre Reserve and Rapid Reaction forces are different in character from UN forces currently deployed and have the capacity for sustained conflict.

The 24 Bde element will wear blue berets. All vehicles will still be clearly marked as part of the UN Protection Force.

The planned increases in troops result from a crisis caused by Bosnian Serbs taking nearly 400 hostages, including 33 Royal Welch Fusiliers.

Gunners from 19 Regiment RA prepare their 105mm light guns to deploy to Bosnia



Armoured engineering assets are moving to Bosnia for the first time: here an armoured assault vehicle of 32 Engineer Regiment reverses onto a ship at Emden

## UN seeks consent rather than conflict

NATO defence ministers meeting in Brussels require the Bosnian Serbs to allow the UN to operate without taking hostages, holding up vital supplies or harassment.

The new 10,000-strong force bound for Bosnia should make the UN task easier, said Defence Secretary Malcolm Rifkind in Brussels, but there was no question of it fighting its way through.

"If the consent is not there, the UN will not remain," he said.

Mr Rifkind added that the complete release of all UN hostages and the opening up of humanitarian supply routes to the Muslim enclaves such as Gorazde, where soldiers of the Royal Welch



The advance reconnaissance party of 19 Regiment RA arrives in Split

Fusiliers are based, would be an important indication that such consent did exist.

Following the British decision to regroup 1 D and D as a theatre reserve force supported by artillery and armoured engineer reinforcements, France has announced that it will send 2,000 troops.

They will include three armoured infantry companies, artillery, an armoured reconnaissance squadron, helicopters, engineers and signallers.

The Dutch are understood to be ready to send 170 more troops with 120mm mortars and mortar-locating radar to join the new brigade. Spaniards, Canadians and New Zealanders will also be represented.

The United States is reported to have offered attack helicopter facilities for any withdrawal, along with AC 130 gunships, intelligence co-ordination, strategic airlift and close air support. No ground troops will be assigned to the two rapid reaction brigades.

# It's a far cry from Dishforth

## Land of extremes for Army Air Corps in Bosnia

FLYING in Bosnia's mountainous environment - "working hot and high" in the words of Army pilot Sgt Nigel Thomson - is not what the flyers of 664 Squadron, Army Air Corps are used to.

Since arriving in theatre from their base at Dishforth, North Yorkshire, they have operated in weather conditions ranging from extreme blizzards to extreme heat.

The deployment of four Lynx helicopters marked the end of a period of standby which had stretched into a year.

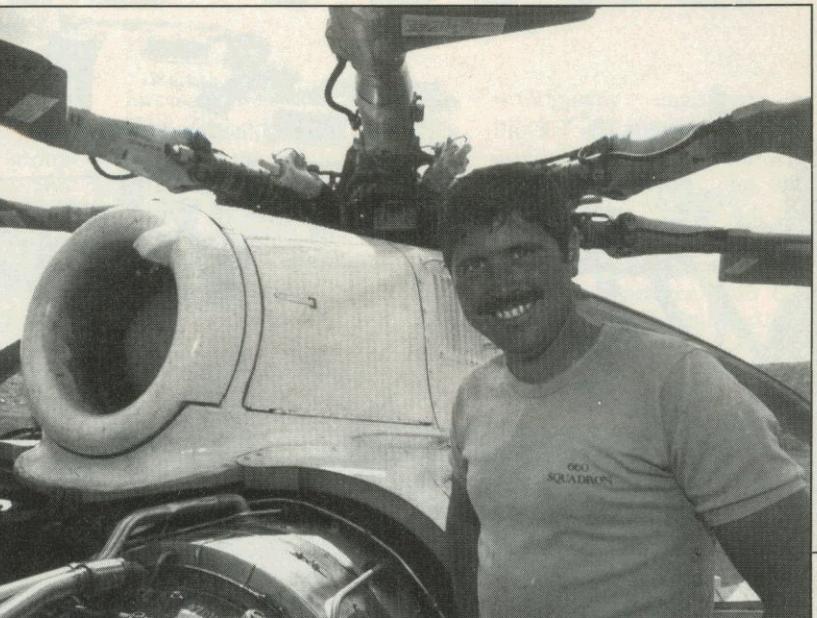
"The United Kingdom offered us when the United Nations decided more helicopter support was needed," said Maj Nick Caplin, officer commanding 664 Sqn.

Now he and his crews have discovered that flying in former Yugoslavia can involve many

hazards. The country is rugged, and wires strung on pylons across valleys are extremely difficult to spot and seldom indicated on local maps.

But after a session with the squadron's qualified helicopter instructor, WO2 Paul Bayley, pilots are quickly "familiarised" with the types of terrain they will fly over by day or night, the latter with night vision goggles.

"It's another theatre and another terrain for us," he said. "We're gaining experience from a different type of mission. On an operational tour everything you do is



orientated towards your job, so you concentrate solely on that."

With two aircraft stationed at Gornji Vakuf, the squadron has been able to offer the United Nations force in former Yugoslavia air support which had not previously been available.

"We are making a considerable contribution to UN operations," said Maj Caplin. "We have a number of roles and can respond within minutes.

"To have a light helicopter with good visibility which can fly throughout the theatre by day or night is proving particularly valuable and effective. It's a role for which we are well equipped and it is very satisfying.

"Lynx seems to have been well received. It can take four or five passengers round the countryside fairly fast," explained Maj Caplin.

The squadron has flown in support of UN troops from a number of countries, including Turkey, Malaysia, Spain and Canada.

Backing up the aircrew is a 25-strong equipment support section based at Split with the other two 664 Sqn aircraft.

It is manned by 20 personnel from the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, two



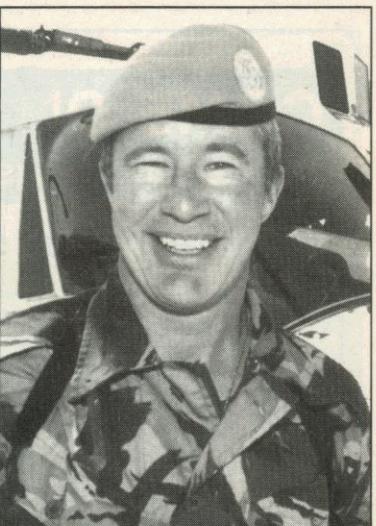
A 664 Sqn Lynx flies over one of the many destroyed villages along a confrontation line in Bosnia



Above: A 664 Squadron Lynx flies over Lake Prozor in Bosnia



Above left: Sgt Brian Imrie, REME attached to 664 Squadron, takes an opportunity to look over the massive engines of the Russian-built Halo helicopter (pictured left), the world's largest



Right: WO2 Paul Bayley, 664 Squadron flying instructor



Below: Maj Nick Caplin, officer commanding 664 Squadron on Operation Grapple



Serviceability of 66 per cent had been expected, but despite the difficulties, 92 per cent had been achieved, a credit to the section.

Capt David Potts is in charge of the section and admitted that the squadron has an advantage in having a high priority for spares.

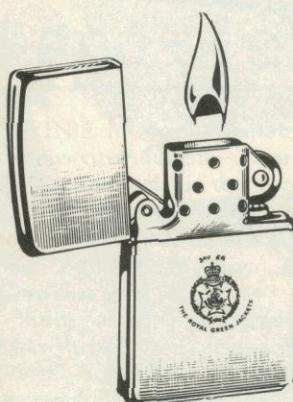
But the job is not without its problems . . .

"This is the first time Lynx has deployed with this amount of equipment for REME to check and maintain. In the UK we would be on an airfield with hangar space, built-in cranes and proper lighting."

Report: Fiona Devine  
Pictures: Chris Fletcher

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# SOLDIER MAGAZINE

**SOLDIER**

THE BRITISH ARMY MAGAZINE

FROM  
1945

**SOLDIER**

THE BRITISH ARMY MAGAZINE

MESSAGE FROM  
THE CHIEF

I am glad to have the opportunity of being able to speak to all soldiers in the R.A. This is the first time I have done so. There are many names and faces that I know well and some that I have not seen for a long time and some they could be.

And what is the situation today?

Germany has not yet defeated the R.A. The R.A. has not yet won the war. All that one can say is the command of the R.A. is still intact.

We are fighting on, fighting and we have not yet won the war. There is still a long way to go. We must not be afraid for this crowd, we must not be afraid for this situation, we must not be afraid for this future.

And what are we fighting for?

You remember the song written in the

Second World War, the one which we all

were asked to sing, the one which we all

were asked to believe in.

That's right, it's still there.

I like to hear that sort of the confidence

that we have in our future, a future

which is bright and which is full of hope.

That's right, it's still there.

It's still there, it's still there.



RMA Sandhurst's victorious teams, pictured at West Point, including, in the front row, competition organiser Capt Jim Willis (sixth left), American trainer Capt Joe Fenty (on his right), winning squad leader OCdt Charlie Johnston (3rd left), third-placed team leader

OCdt Nick Chapman (third from right) and female members OCdt Trudy Robinson and the unfortunate OCdt Caroline Woodbridge (left and right respectively)

## RMAS BEATS THE PRIDE OF WEST POINT

# Sandhurst 'smokes' the opposition - again

FOR THE second year running – literally, at times – a team of RMA Sandhurst cadets has retained the sword presented to the US Military Academy, West Point by its British counterpart in 1967 as the prize in the annual Sandhurst Competition.

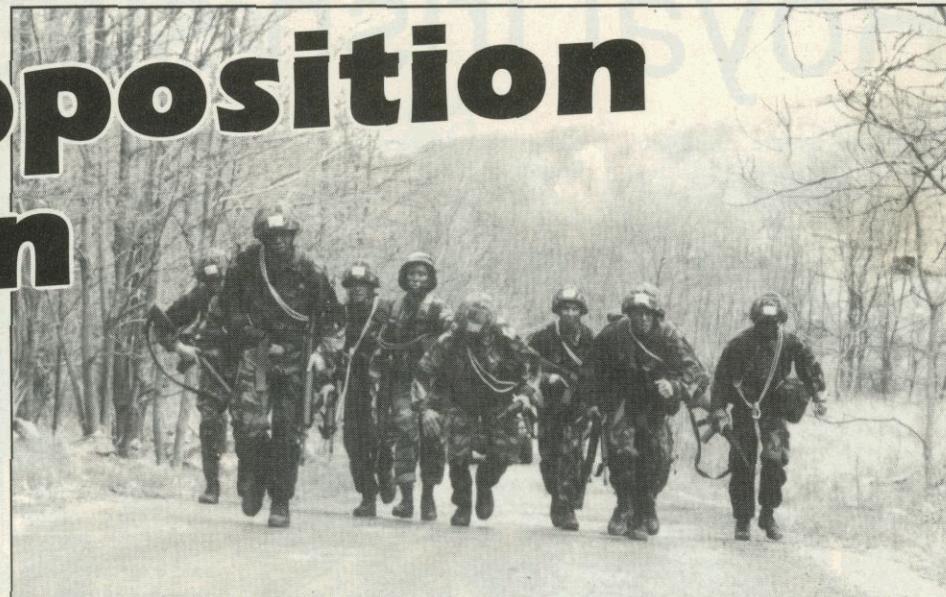
Aimed at promoting military skills at West Point, the one-day event consists of a seven-mile run in full military kit, punctuated by a series of stands and tasks, ranging from a one-rope river crossing and an initiative test, to scaling a 12ft wall.

At the end, a 2km run in NBC kit is followed by a shoot.

Of the 40 teams taking part, 36 are from West Point, two are invited from other American universities and Sandhurst's two teams make up the balance. Each comprises eight males and one female.

This year, RMA's OCdt Trudy Robinson was a member of the first team to complete the course within the given bogey time of 80 minutes.

Cruel luck hit her opposite number in the other Sandhurst team, OCdt Caroline Woodbridge, who damaged an ankle in



Tough going: RMA's second team at the half-way point

training the day before the competition. However, West Point's Cdt Rose Lopez duly stood in, and the team in which she competed finished third.

The US Military Academy is divided into four regiments, each comprising nine companies, with each company entering a team.

Winning regiment wins the Sandhurst sword, while the winning team receives the Reginald E Johnson memorial plaque.

Maj Gen Hew Pike, RMA Sandhurst Commandant, visited West Point to watch the competition and present prizes.

His own establishment's first team, who

had spent time in England and America training under the admirable tuition of Capt Joe Fenty, an American exchange officer at Sandhurst, won the sword.

Nine American cadets from the 4,000 on four-year courses at West Point will join RMA's Commissioning Course 943 in Germany before commissioning in August.

But, as far as this year's competition goes, no one from this side of the Atlantic disagreed with a remark from one of Sandhurst's friendly rivals.

"You guys really smoked us this time", he said.

# Big scrap for EOD sappers in Cyprus

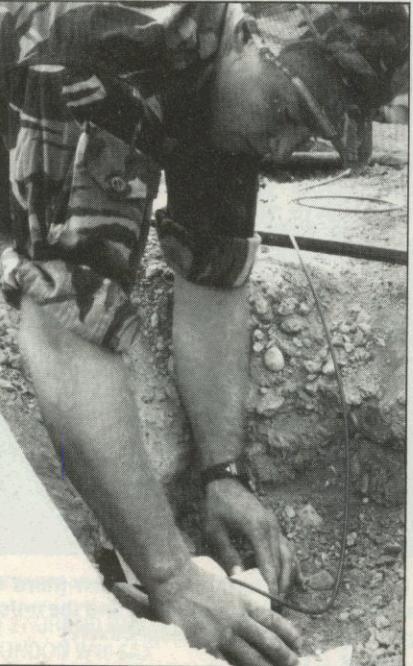
WHEN soldiers from 21 Field Squadron (Explosive Ordnance Disposal) were called in to clear debris and unwanted material from the military ranges at Akamas, Cyprus, they found they had several rather large problems to deal with...

These came in the bulky shape of four main battle tanks, each weighing up to 50 tons, and 11 smaller armoured fighting vehicles, all filled with at least 15 tons of concrete and each one immovable.

In an area increasingly visited by tourists during the extended periods when the ranges are not being used by British Forces Cyprus, the vehicles – used for many years as targets, but now redundant – are an eyesore.

The solution has been to use explosives to cut and blast the tanks into smaller, more manageable pieces.

Three types of explosive charge were used: shaped cutting charges to slice off bar-



Spr Steven Diplock places a concussion charge in a cavity created using a smaller charge to achieve best effect

rels; concussion charges to shatter and lift the concrete inside the tanks; and lifting

Pictures: Cpl Brian Gamble

charges to remove the turrets.

Under the direction of Sgt Ben Wilkinson, a total weight of 80kg of high explosives was used.

As well as the clean-up operation at Akamas, the 60-strong contingent from 21 Fd Sqn also carried out clearance work on the very active Pyla ranges, in the Dhekelia Sovereign Base area, and on the old bombing range south of the long disused Larnaca airport, in preparation for the land to be handed over to the Republic.

Based at Wimbish, Essex, under the command of Maj Bob Tonkins, head of the Cyprus team, the squadron is due to return to the

island next year to complete range clearance work.



Sgt Ben Wilkinson, who directed the T5 task, fits a shaped charge to cut off the barrel



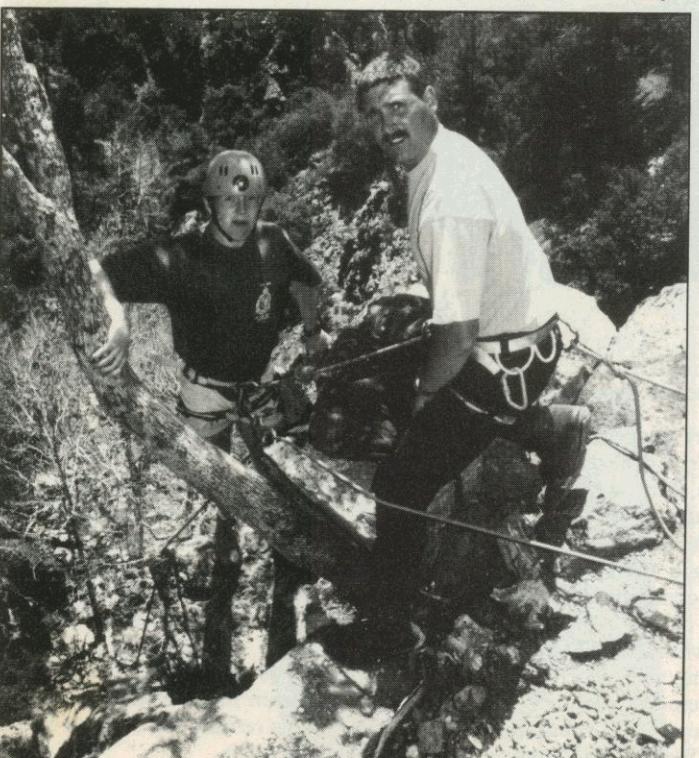
Above: A Soviet T55 tank forlornly awaits its demise in the sand at the Akamas ranges. Main picture: Explosive end for T55: the 10-ton turret, blown more than 100ft into the air, can be seen falling on the right

## Royal Irish sweat it out in the dunes

SOLDIERS more used to pounding the streets of Ulster exchanged pavements for sand dunes to take part in a gru-

elling training exercise in the heat of Cyprus.

A 120-strong company from the 3rd Battalion, The Royal



Soldiers from F Company, normally based in Portadown, prepare to descend the 100ft abseil during the adventure training package

Irish Regiment, whose men are normally based in Portadown, Rathfriland, Ballykinler and Kilkeel, were put through their paces on Exercise Lion Sun.

"It's by no means a holiday: the troops are not here for fun, they are learning to soldier in rough barren terrain," said exercise commander Maj Mark Ewing.

"They have to learn to fight in it and survive in it so that they will be stretched very much to their limit."

One soldier, downing pints of water in the heat to prevent dehydration, commented after taking part in a realistic and testing live firing exercise on Pyla ranges on the island's eastern side: "This is the chance for us to train in a very different and challenging environment."

He and his eight-man section had just fired more than



Exercise Lion Sun commander Maj Mark Ewing

2,000 live rounds in a fast-moving battle scene which included tanks firing and artillery shells exploding – all simulated with live explosive.

Also included in the tough exercise programme were hill-walking, mountain-biking and abseiling 100ft down the Troodos mountains.

Outdoor pursuits instructor CSgt Johnston, in charge of the two-day adventure training package, said: "I feel it is a challenge for people if they start at the bottom of a rock face and think 'I'll never get up there'. When they actually get to the top they've achieved something."

The soldiers also spent a day at the water sports centre at Lemmings Beach, learning to water-ski, windsurf or canoe.

Four weeks of hard training culminated in an extended exercise during which the participants carried out beach

landings, occupied villages and launched helicopter raids on a large enemy force in the shape of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets, who are based on the island.

As Lt Col Rob Andrew, CO 3 R Irish, who paid a five-day visit to the exercise, put it: "This is a further opportunity for the home-based Royal Irish soldier to demonstrate his immense versatility, in that he can enjoy the stability and quality of life where he has put down roots and still take advantage of world-wide training opportunities."

After the rigours of the exercise, 90 per cent of the soldiers taking part opted for a cheap trip to Israel and Egypt, widening their travelling experiences further.



Above: 3 R Irish troops on the move during intensive training at Dhekelia



Right: Canoeing at sea... another aspect of adventurous training in Cyprus



Left: Piper LCpl Green tunes up

# Terriers get taste for duty way down South

IT IS a cold, wet morning on West Falkland and eight men are waking up from a night's sleep on a windswept mountainside ready for another long, lonely military patrol.

At the same time, 60 soldiers at RAF Mount Pleasant on East Falkland are being given orders to search another mountainside for an enemy observation point.

Sixteen kilometres away, a platoon living on a firing range measuring 163 sq km is about to start practising manoeuvres with live ammunition.

Down on the coast, another platoon, which has slept in full combat fatigues, is ready to defend the islands at five minutes' notice - a state of readiness they have maintained for the past week.

Just another normal day for any British Army unit which has served in the Falklands since the 1982 conflict - except that this company comprises 214 soldiers from the Territorial Army.

Most of them are from the Army's 5th Division in Wales and western England, although several are from London, the north west of England and Scotland. Having taken over the role of the Resident Infantry Company (RIC) from the Regular Army to serve a four-month tour of duty, the company's main operational role is to be part of the overall deterrent - defending the islands if necessary until reinforcements arrive.

However, they are also benefiting from some of the best training grounds in the world.

Pride of the RIC is Onion Range, a massive area named after Onion Mountain where the soldiers deploy while on firing exercises, using live ammunition in situations which are unique.

There is no way into the camp by road, so the soldiers are lifted in by helicopter and extracted in the same way a week later.

Terrain and climate provide the biggest challenge. Peat bogs can swallow a man without trace, so no one leaves the camp unaccompanied.

The weather can swing from warm sunshine to a raging snowstorm within seconds.



Fus David Hughes (left) and Cpl Mark Bailey exercise with GPMGs on the superb facilities at Onion Range



At the ready: Lt Neil Harold (right) and Cpl Mark Bailey

The other physical outdoor tasks which the soldiers look forward to are patrols, normally three days' hard slog across a tree-less wilderness with no escape from the elements.

Whether they are TA or Reg-

ulars, this is probably the best place in the world for infantry soldiers to do the job they joined up for without actually going to war.

"This is not about standing on gates and handing out

passes; this is real infantry work," says company commander Maj Adrian Walton.

One man with mixed memories of the islands is Kingsman Eddie Brown, who spent nine years in the Regular Army with the Scots Guards and fought with them when they took Mount Tumbledown on June 14, 1982.

Since returning to the faraway islands, he has climbed to the monument on top of Tumbledown at every opportunity.

He has kept a tin of polish and a cloth under a rock by the brass plaque and cleans it on every visit.

During the ferocious battle, Eddie, a guardsman at the time, lost his best friend, Gdsm James Reynolds, to enemy mortar fire.

Gdsm Reynolds was killed when a mortar shell exploded nearby as he helped to carry an injured soldier down the mountainside. Both stretcher bearers died. He was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal posthumously.

# TA unit discovers Falklands are great infantry training ground



Memories of a fallen comrade: Kgs Eddie Brown polishes the Scots Guards' memorial on Tumbledown

To this day, spent ammunition cases are abundant and Tumbledown is littered with discarded clothing, food tins and other debris of war.

A couple of Argentine field kitchens at which soldiers fed during the conflict can be found on the Port Stanley side of the mountain.

To mark the June 14 anniversary, Kgs Eddie Brown placed a Scots Guards beret on top of Tumbledown during a private

pilgrimage to honour his dead friend before going on to Stanley with a Welsh Guardsman serving in the Falklands.

Of the 22 different cap badges serving with the company, there are ten men from the 4th Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, some of whom volunteered to take part in the annual Exercise Commando Challenge.

This is a re-creation of the

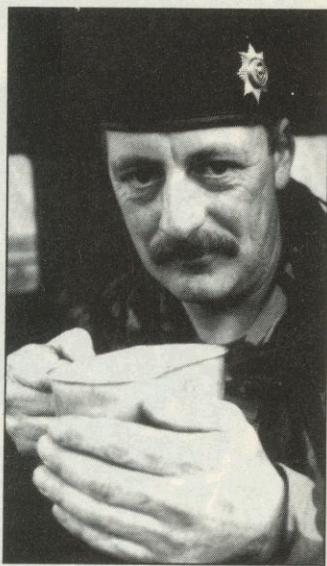
Report and pictures:  
Stuart Bingham

three-day yomp by 45 Commando, Royal Marines, from Port San Carlos to Port Stanley, a distance of about 75 miles. To maintain realism, modern competitors have to carry a bergen full of equipment and attempt to complete the route in the same time that the Marines took in 1982.

These days, however, a medical officer is present through-



Lt Gary Draisey, from Gwent



Tea time: LCpl David Slack

out the challenge to keep an eye on the participants.

The Falklands tour is the first occasion on which an entirely TA unit has been operational overseas in peace-time.

It could be the catalyst for many more part-time soldiers being deployed operationally around the world.

# Tidworth Horse Trials set the standard

A UNIQUE combination of expert horsemanship, military efficiency and a beautiful setting resulted in making this year's Army Horse Trials at Tidworth one of the most successful in recent years, writes Karen Moseley.

Cold and wet weather on the first day, and flurries of rain on the second, did nothing to dampen the spirits of the intermediate and novice competitors who included top international riders such as Australia's Barcelona double Olympic gold medal winner Matt Ryan.

The three phases of show jumping, dressage and cross country took place under dark skies and dripping trees, but the ground was perfect for the horses, and the event passed without accident or injury.



Horse and pedal power. Lt David Todd, 1 QLR, a dressage steward, picks up a score from WO2 Chris Haywood (HCMR) riding Ultra. Bicycles facilitated administration on the course

Now in its 37th year, the trials, set in the grounds of Tidworth House, attracted almost 500 competitors. Capt Mark Phillips designed the attractive cross country course, and the patron, Lt Gen Sir Michael Rose, visited the trials on the second day.

He said such events were of great value to the Army. "This sort of sporting activity does a great deal to encourage the sort of qualities we need today, and it is nice the Army can be seen out and about doing something for the civilian population."

New organiser Brig John Wright, who took over the running of the Tidworth Polo Club last year, and who is also responsible for the trials, said he was delighted with the two-day event.

## Military section results

1, Oracle, ridden by CoH Mark Avison, owned by Defence Animal Centre, 26 points. Also winners of the Phillips Challenge Cup for the highest-placed NCO; 2, Otis II, ridden by WO2 Richard Waygood, owned by DAC, 29; 3, Sunderland, ridden by LCpl Rupert Hackman, owned by Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment, 33; 4, Ramillies, ridden by CoH Martyn Thompson, owned by HCMR, 33; 5, King's Luther, ridden by Sgt Peter Harnett, owned by King's Troop RHA, 38; 6, Sgher

Bentighearna, ridden by LCpl Tom Bridges, owned by Capt Richard Bridges RN, 39; 7, Olympus III, ridden by CoH Joe Weller, owned by HCMR, 40; 8, Ludlow, ridden by Sgt Peter Harnett, owned by King's Troop RHA, 44.

Loriners Trophy (Inter-Services), won by Army (WO2 Richard Waygood/Otis II, CoH Mark Avison/Oracle, CoH Joe Weller/Olympus, Maj Dougie McGregor/Fly by Night IV).

1 RHA Trophy for best-placed commissioned officer – Maj Dougie McGregor.

"When one considers how much effort and money competitors put in to this sport, it is terribly important that the organisation should be slick, and above all that it should be enjoyable. I hope we went some way towards achieving that."

He added: "It was clear that the competitors were having fun, and I am sure this will put Tidworth on the horse trials map again."

Soldiers from The Queen's Lancashire Regiment under the command of Lt Col Graham Flood, who were the first to admit they had virtually no previous equestrian experience, provided the efficient and good humoured logistic back-up which contributed to the event's success.

Military riders were very much in evidence with a military novice section and an Inter-Service competition which was won by the Army. And for the first time there was a soldier, Sgt Peter Harnett, on his own Bombay, riding in the intermediate section against Badminton hopefuls and top internationals.

Harnett won the Royal Hussars Challenge Cup for the best military rider in the class.

The cross country course builder, CoH Joe Weller, from the Household Cavalry



Mounted Regiment, also took part in the novice section and was a member of the winning Inter-Service team, riding over the course he had built. CoH Weller, who is based at Knightsbridge Barracks, rode



Pictures: Mike Perrin

Above – Lt Gen Sir Michael Rose presents the Army team with their rosettes after their victory in the Inter-Services competition

Left – CoH Joe Weller with his band of helpers, the Assault Pioneer Platoon, 1 QLR, at the Taittinger Bar fence, one of 23 jumps designed by Capt Mark Phillips and built by them in 14 days. From left to right are Pte Alan Ward, Cpl Ox Glynn, Pte Colin Willan, Pte Andy Anderson and CoH Weller

Below – Tidworth Horse Trials organiser Brig John Wright with Army Saddle Club patron Lt Gen Sir Michael Rose



Olympus III, one of the regiment's famous Blacks. "I was pleased there were no injuries and that the fences withstood everything that was thrown at them."

A riding instructor at Knightsbridge, CoH Weller

demands that. "I found the course quite tough," he said. "You could not afford to be blasé. You had to be bold and ride strongly, but Tidworth is renowned for

breaks in and trains the Blacks. He has been riding for as long as he can remember.

His mother and an aunt are both riding instructors, the former, a cerebral palsy sufferer, founding a riding school for

physically handicapped people in Kent.

After this year's outstanding success, the Tidworth Horse Trials look set to take their rightful place in the event calendar.

# Back into battle for 7th Brigade

SINCE RETURNING in November from a six-month stint as part of Operation Grapple 4 in Bosnia, Headquarters 7th Armoured Brigade based in Höhne, Germany, has spent the first six months of this year re-focusing from a peacekeeping role to establishing a battlegroup training pattern for its more customary general war fighting role.

Its constituent units, The Queen's Royal Hussars, 2nd Royal Tank Regiment, the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment and 1st Battalion, The Royal Highland Fusiliers – supported by 40 Field Regi-

ment, 32 Engineer Regiment and 2nd Battalion REME – have been involved in a series of exercises in Germany and Canada.

"When we came back from Op Grapple, we had six months' worth of work to catch up on," explained Maj Paul Holt, RGBW.

"In terms of our units, it is very much the year of the battlegroup, with the QRH, Anglians and 2 RTR all doing stints at BATUS (British Army Training Unit Suffield, in Canada) at some stage."

Also, elements of 2 Bn

**Report: Phil Wilcox**

REME and 40 Fd Regt will have been involved in Bosnia and Northern Ireland respectively, he added.

"We are adopting the formation training plot across the Army, and 1995/96 is the transitional year," said Maj Holt.

"It is an attempt to rationalise training resources and operations commitment and lengthen the aspiration time of the arms plot."

The higher formation trainer, designed to enhance command post exercises by using a computer system programmed to replicate enemy intentions, is still in its early stages.

A brigade exercise was being carried out this month and the trainer will be used as a basis for a division exercise in October.

Different challenges have faced each of 7 Brigade's units over the months.

For the QRH, for example, their foray into the Medicine Man exercises in Canada is the most difficult: they are the first battlegroup to use the Tactical Engagement Simulator (TES) at BATUS, said Maj Holt.

Attacking forces using the realistic TES equipment – a two-way system which uses lasers to indicate "hits" on tanks and other targets – have to ensure that they do not become electronic "casualties" themselves.

"For battlegroups, TES will be a big change," said Maj Holt.

"One can actually see the consequences of tactical decisions on the battlefield. It will put commanders on the spot, and can only improve what we do. I am looking forward to seeing it."

"It will never replace live firing, which is good battle inoculation and gets soldiers used to handling weapons, but doesn't help you practise tactics."

In contrast, for 2 RTR, the greatest task has been the learning curve of re-converting

from being a tank regiment to using CVRT (combat vehicle recce tracked).

Similarly, the men of 1 RHF have had their hands full re-converting to an armoured infantry role.

With the arrival of the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards, and two regiments' worth of the new Challenger 2 tank due next year, the next few months promise to be just as busy at Höhne.

But, as Maj Holt pointed out, "we have a culture here at headquarters.

"We get used to changing roles – we have very flexible soldiers and NCOs".

## The importance of people

"AS FAR as I am concerned, the watchword is 'People count'. Our men are our most valuable resource; we must make sure to give them the best, and they will give their best."

That is the philosophy of Brig David Montgomery, who took over as Commander HQ 7 Armd Bde in April.

Apart from ensuring the quality of life for his soldiers, where "the Army seems to be pulling one way and their personal life another way", there are other challenges which come high on his list of priorities, he told *Soldier*.

"The most important thing I am trying to achieve is to make the brigade as operationally effective as possible, with decent overall training, especially in the 'heavy metal', high intensity sphere.

"Our best training area is Canada, and we are going to give it a good crack next year, when we will be the training brigade there."



**Brig David Montgomery**

This year, he added, the brigade will be concentrating on getting the theory straight; next year, they will be putting it into practice.

The brigadier is enthusiastic about making maximum use of the facilities at Suffield, but is also very keen, he said, on breaking into the vast areas of the old Eastern Bloc whenever they become available.

As for Höhne being a joint brigade and garrison headquarters, he admitted that there is a slight downside in that "one gets involved in things the other brigades do not", but at the same time "one is able to control one's own destiny".

And his famous surname?

"There is a faint family connection," the brigadier said.

"I am a tremendous fan of his, and an admirer of what he achieved, but sadly, apart from my new brigade's 'Desert Rat' history, I cannot claim any distinctions like his..."

HQ 7 Armd Bde is unique

WITHIN A month of his arrival at 7th Armoured Brigade Headquarters in Höhne just over a year ago, Deputy Garrison Commander Lt Col Paul Norrington-Davies, RRW, found himself, as he describes it, in the role of "continuity man".

Left with the bare bones of staff after the HQ was deployed for a lengthy period in Bosnia, he set about making constructive use of their absence.

His posting came about as a result of a decision to appoint garrison colonels to the five garrisons in Germany, with the stipulation that they should be half-colonels who had already held a post command.

"The idea was that we should be responsible for the infrastructure side of things, allowing brigade commanders to concentrate on operations and training," explained Lt Col Norrington-Davies.

In reality, with his then commander, Brig Andrew Ridgway, being heavily committed to the Bosnian tour, this was not feasible.

among the German-based brigades in that a decision was taken to house a joint brigade and garrison HQ under one roof, with Lt Col Norrington-Davies being given his title as deputy with the remit to run the garrison.

Left with the bare bones of staff after the HQ was deployed for a lengthy period in Bosnia, he set about making constructive use of their absence.

ment money for the year, but across the division there had been a massive underspend.

"I think because I was in post while they were away, I was able to identify this: had there not been a garrison colonel I couldn't have done so."

He made a shortlist of things he would like to do and buy for the soldiers and their families, such as internal decoration of their quarters.

Apart from the obvious all-important morale-boosting effect this has, with husbands and fathers being overseas in Bosnia or Canada, and the nearest big town an hour away, there has been an interesting knock-on effect.

"As a short term contingency, it seems to have worked quite well, especially on the property management side," he said.

"I managed to spend our allocation of property manage-

said Lt Col Norrington-Davies.

He also purchased a "considerable" amount of gymnasium equipment, including aerobic, step, rowing and cycle machines.

Physical training staff have told him that the gym, which is widely used by Army wives, is among the best-equipped in Germany.

In bad weather, soldiers can go inside as a formed unit to train.

The conference centre at the headquarters has been refurbished, complete with rear projection facility, and information technology equipment purchased which virtually satisfies all unit requirements.

Two identical, fully-furnished chaplaincy centres have been installed at Höhne and Fallingbostel for use by soldiers and families.

"All of these purchases will improve the way we do busi-

ness, or the quality of life for dependants," Lt Col Norrington-Davies, who works in tandem with a budget manager, said.

With upwards of 14,000 people in the garrison to deal with, and an annual budget of more than £100 million, it is like running a business, he pointed out.

"Because these days it is their own money, it is making people much more aware of how it is being spent: they are being more efficient and much less wasteful".

He next intends to install audio systems into the gyms, together with radio mikes for the aerobics instructors and TVs and videos, to provide the same standard as in UK-based health and fitness clubs.

It is all a question of identifying shortfalls and using resources to achieve the objective, said Lt Col Norrington-Davies, who admitted: "Maybe I'm lucky. My farthest outstation is Fallingbostel, 25 minutes away. That's one of the advantages: I can get to know the commanding officers well".



Called to arms: officers from 7th Armoured Brigade Headquarters, Höhne

## Business is good at Höhne



**Lt Col Paul Norrington-Davies**

# Heavy mob turns on power at Otterburn



Main picture: MLRS at Otterburn. Left: AS90, the Army's new gun. Right: Verging on a problem. Roads will be widened to accommodate MLRS

THE SPECTACULAR power of the Multi-Launch Rocket System (MLRS), the new AS90 self-propelled gun and FH70 were on show at Otterburn when the training area held an open day.

A £23 million development plan is under consideration, including £1 million of environmental measures to reduce the effect of military training, protect wildlife and the landscape, and minimise noise.

Training has had to be reorganised following the drawdown of forces from Germany, and Otterburn is the only range in the United Kingdom on which MLRS can be fired tactically. Main battle tanks, however, will not be deployed there because the range is unsuit-

able for off-road manoeuvres. Up to 30,000 soldiers, including Nato forces, use the 58,000 acres at Otterburn to train and fire weapons for periods from two days to two weeks.

The Royal Air Force and Nato air forces also use the range to practise air-to-ground attacks and low-flying training.

Maj Gen Rob McAfee, Director General Training, said the original proposals had been considerably modified in the light of advice from officials of the Northumberland National Parks Authority and Countryside Commission. An environmental impact assessment was also done for the Army by independent consultants.

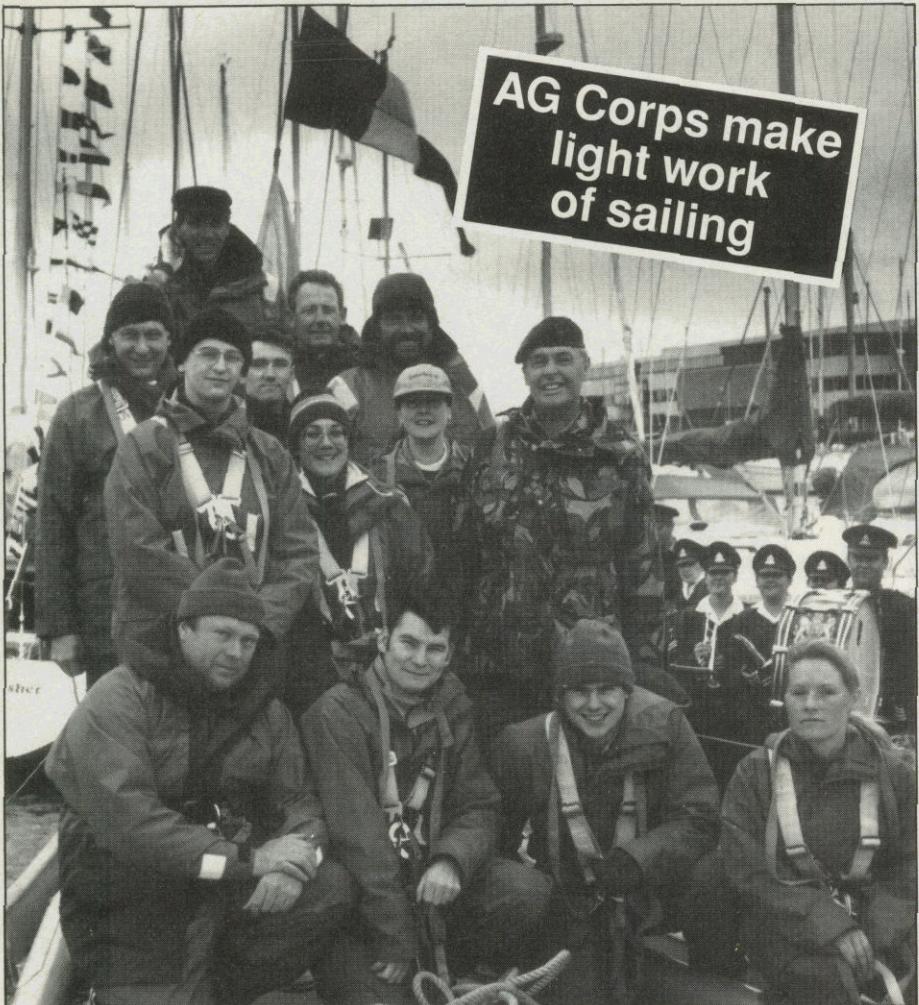
"The proposals now are the minimum necessary to meet the Army's operational requirements, and we believe the mitigating measures in the development plan will be to the benefit of the environment," he said.

By the end of the year 72 per cent of the Army will be based in the UK. A significant proportion will be units equipped with heavy tracked vehicles and the resultant pressure on training areas would be monitored.

The Ministry of Defence plans to spend £70 million on upgrading the infrastructure of its eight training areas at Otterburn, Salisbury Plain, Sennybridge, Warcop, Castle-martin, Stanford, Cinque Ports and Catterick.

Pictures: Mike Perring





MEMBERS of the Adjutant General's Corps set sail from Gosport for Reykjavik, Iceland, on May 17 for the first leg of the sailing phase of Exercise Northern Lights adventure training expedition, which takes place throughout this year and into 1996.

Mate for the first leg on board Her Majesty's Sail Training Yacht *Sabre* is Maj Dave Gault from Worthy Down, an experienced ocean sailor.

The crews are drawn mainly from the corps, with invitation places being taken

by members of other regiments and Services.

Over the subsequent five legs, the yacht will visit Greenland and Newfoundland before returning to Gosport in November.

Giving the AGC expedition a rousing send-off on board HM Sailing Yacht *Sabre* were expedition committee chairman Brig Tom O'Donnell (in beret) and the corps' Staff Band. Mate for the first leg is Maj Dave Gault from Worthy Down, an experienced ocean sailor.



Lady Fraser, Her Majesty's High Commissioner – the Queen's representative at the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland – inspects a guard of honour provided by the 1st Battalion, The King's Own Scottish Borderers to mark her arrival at the Palace of Holyroodhouse, Edinburgh. Lady Fraser, pictured with Maj Gen Jonny

Hall, GoC Scotland and Maj Jim Stanton, commander of the guard of honour, which was supported by the Pipes and Drums of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Scots (The Royal Regiment) and the Highland Band of the Scottish Division, was taking up residence at the palace for a week last month.

John Prebble, whose evocative article reprinted here was first published in *Soldier* (issue No 7), went on to win acclaim as a novelist, historian, film writer and author of dramatised documentaries for television and radio. His trilogy *The Highland Clearances*, *Glencoe* and *Culloden* are classic works of Scottish history

# After the guns... the cuckoo

A SOLDIER'S mind is very resilient. It has to be.

Beside the Rhine, as the war swept to its finish, we had lived on an emotional wave. We had cheered when the beams picked up the Jerries that came over at night. We hadn't cheered like that for a long time. British soldiers rarely cheer, except cynically.

I suppose it was what they call *élan*.

We crossed the river and harboured in the low Westphalian fields. There was little now but routine.

But a soldier's mind is very resilient. It has to be. They took us out from the dust and the smell of formaldehyde and the sound of the pile-driver on the bridge, and we stayed in this field where we heard only the cuckoo and, on one night, a nightingale.

At first it was rather strange to find that they were finishing the war without us. But we got used to it. While we were here we read about Belsen and Buchenwald, and we woke up to the fact that we were living among Germans.

## Unknown Pilate

The Airborne had landed in the fields we occupied. Go up the road and you see the gliders on either side, their noses broken and the perspex chipped away. They lie in tragicomic positions, tails flung joyously in the air, or one wing extended in a last jibe at the Nazi salute.

They didn't all come down so. In the wheat field near us a glider had come down in flames and burnt a black crucifix among the green stems. The Germans buried the pilot beneath a crude cross that said "Unknown Airborne Pilate". One of the first things the boys from B Troop did was give it a new cross and correct the spelling.

Some of us have made little crosses and rings from the perspex, made them for the children we left in Holland or the people at home. "That's from a plane that landed across the Rhine." Something tangible, because memories pass too quickly. We would have made pipe stems from the perspex too, had we not found a ruined pipe factory up toward Rees.

So it goes on, writing letters, reading, getting up, going to bed, with a job to do now and then. Now it's, "All I want to know is when I'm going to get my ticket." Chappie says, "Ticket? You watch them poison darts!" He says you can go for

miles in the jungle without knowing that you've been carrying a little Jap on your pack, complete with poison dart.

What was it like after the Great War, daddy? Well, son, we lay about in the sun and got brown, got browned off. We went swimming. We played solo and we said, "This sort of life will do me until I'm demobbed."

The roads are full of vehicles going east. Their drivers talk about Bremen, Hamburg and Osnabrück. ("He asked for eggs and the old so-and-so brought out a basket with ninety in it!") The dust from German towns and German roads covers us, rises from our battle dresses in clouds as we slap them. We've been here long enough to see the green corn grow up from our ankles to beyond our waists.

The Russians, the Poles, the Dutch and the Italians work on the roads and grin up at you as your vehicles pass. The Russians are proud of their camp. They've built an open-air theatre there, with a view of the Kremlin at the back. They've hung portraits of Lenin and Stalin over the entrance. They sing in the evening. They sing as they march in fours. As you pass they rise and salute you, whoever you may be.

The driver from Brigade says that the woman who owns the house in which he and his mates live won't let them alone. All day long she walks round the house peering in at the windows, watching them. She opened the lid of the cesspool and stirred it up so that it took them a



John Prebble (back, centre) and friends at the mess in Binder-strasse, Hamburg, where they lived. It was spring of 1946 and most knew they would be home by mid-summer

long time to get the smell out of the house. She tells her neighbours that the British burnt her furniture, burnt her books and her clothes. ("If she's not careful someone'll burn her!") Her husband was an officer in the SS, and the Nazis used her house as an HQ.

## The Welshmen Sang

Last night five Welshmen got into the old hall, into the part where the ceiling isn't down, and while one played the piano the others sang. I never thought I'd see Germans dancing in the ruins of their town, but while the old folk listened curiously to the Welshmen, five little girls

danced a little folk dance outside the hall, like a Highland reel, and sang their own music.

Perhaps they dance in the villages round Weimar, near the slope of Buchenwald. But I doubt it.

So many men all over Europe now, waiting like us. Waiting in fields, in villages, and in cities. For all of it we feel good, because when you've just helped to win a war you can't help feeling good.

War correspondents can report this war, but none of them will feel or describe that sense of personal achievement and satisfaction, of relief, which we feel.

## It Means All This

You've got to be called up, get your first pair of ammunition boots, wear your gaiters the wrong way. You've got to have your first leave. You've got to get tired, physically and mentally exhausted, browned off, drunk, angry. You've got to come all the way across Northwest Europe on your feet, or in the back of a three-tonner, or in the turret of a tank. You've got to go weeks without any mail, get drawn last in the leave ballot, find your billets in a hole or in a pigsty where the original occupants resent you more than you do them. You've got to be pegged, go to Brussels, get lost in an RHU. You've got to be flung into a new unit and find how hard it is to lose old friends and make new ones. You've got to be posted near home, or 500 miles from it, or 5,000. You've got to know what it's like to find someone from your own town, your own street, and smoke the dog-end of a Woodbine with them. You've got to have moments of hating everything in khaki. You've got to drink hot sweet tea, eat biscuits and bully, or eat nothing at all. Have people you thought more immortal than yourself killed, and find yourself still alive. You've got to be scared.

You've got to get left in a field like this, miles from anywhere, certainly miles from Bermondsey or Lime Street Station.

Then you know how good it is to feel that the war is over.

A soldier's mind is very resilient. It has to be.

## PADDLE POWER PAYS DIVIDENDS

SOLDIERS of the 1st Battalion, The Green Howards took advantage of the more relaxed situation in Northern Ireland to complete a canoe marathon which raised £625 for the Gateway Club for mentally and physically handicapped people in Cookstown.

The Green Howards are on a six-month tour as the East Tyrone Battalion.



Nine soldiers (pictured) canoeed from the source of the Ballinderry River near Teebane Bridge to the shore of Lough Neagh, 27 miles away, in just over ten hours, navigating numerous weirs and rapids. The money will enable members of the Cookstown community to enjoy a summer holiday that would not otherwise have been available to them.

## Mr Raffles homes in with more lolly



### High expectations

This intrepid group of RLC soldiers serving at the Base Vehicle Depot Ashchurch are looking for sponsors for a world record attempt taking place later this year, when a team of four climbers will scale the three highest peaks in the UK, cycling in relays a total of 468 miles between the

mountains. Idea for the challenge - in aid of the Anthony Nolan Bone Marrow Trust - came from SSgt Gary Mazzone (on the left of regional appeals manager June Galea, centre row), whose daughter received extensive help from the trust. Contact him on 01684 293165 ext 4369.

Football legend Sir Stanley Matthews presented a cheque for £20,000 to the Macmillan Nurses in Telford. The money was raised by The Royal Mercian and Lancastrian Yeomanry.

Southsea resident Jon Perry, who will be re-tracing a "death march" of more than 600km forced on Arnhem veterans 50 years ago, is looking for sponsors.

Interested parties should

write to Jon, who is making the march in August in support of the Arnhem Veterans' Club and Portsmouth Victim Support Scheme, at Zagan to Bad Orb, c/o Portsmouth Victim Support Scheme, 1 Northern Parade, Portsmouth PO2 9PB (tel 01705 653111)m

Funds raised from a charity match organised by Cpl Jim Lyons, 4 Armoured Brigade Signal Squadron, between the Royal Signals football side and a Celebrity team will

## Marathon men



Army Recruiting and Liaison staff in Northern Ireland raised nearly £2,000 by competing in the London and Belfast marathons. The money will go to a number of cancer charities in the Province. From left to right are WO2 Mervyn Glass, Sgt Sam Cook, WO2 Terry Welsh, Capt Bert Smith, SSgt Robert Dunseith, Sgt Chris Mackey and Sgt Dave McGonigle. Capt Smith and WO2 Welsh completed both London and Belfast runs.



Picture: Mike Weston

be presented to a leukaemia appeal fund established by Norwich City goalkeeper Bryan Gunn.

Soldiers from 40 Regiment, Royal Artillery came to the rescue of the Lagan Valley Hospital in Lisburn, Northern Ireland, by collecting for two video machines and televisions to show a selection of donated educational videos in the gynaecological and children's wards. A selection of general video tapes was also purchased.

Cooks from the 1st Battalion, The Parachute Regiment worked round the clock to prepare dozens of pastries, gingerbread men and sweets for children in Belfast's Royal Hospital for Sick Children, as a thank you for the special relationship which formed with many of the young patients when the soldiers were on a recent tour of duty in the Province.

Sir Bert Millichip, chairman of the Football League, presented a cheque for £3,000 to Maj Gen John Boyne, vice-president of the Army Football Association. The money, from the FA Charity Shield, will go to the Army Benevolent Fund.

Charities involved in Bosnia have so far received £2,000 from the sale of a limited print from a David Rowlands painting commissioned by officers of 2 R Irish who were attached to 1 Cheshire during Grapple 1.

The painting depicts a War-



Picture: Dave Bridges

## Arty chefs in shape



Keeping up their reputation as being a "very fit catering department in a very active regiment" were these chefs from 26 Regiment, Royal Artillery based at Gütersloh, who decided to take up the challenge and enter two teams of four in this

## Long-range Lancers ...

MAJs Patrick Roberts and Richard Nixon-Eckersall, 2IC and ops officer of the island-based Queen's Royal Lancers, completed a mountain bike ride from one side of Cyprus to the other and raised £530 for the International Red Cross.

They took just over 15 hours, thought to be the first time the 221km-long Buffer Zone has been cycled in less than 24 hours.

Left: SSgt Ricky Birch, 2 RTR, with wife Angela and children Anna and Benjamin, presents the proceeds from a snookerathon held in the 2nd Royal Tank Regiment sergeants' mess at Fallingbostel to Eleanor Muir, fundraising officer for the British Diabetic Association

year's Royal Logistic Corps Caesars half marathon at Bracht.

Having trained for five weeks, they did themselves proud on a scorcher of a day, raising more than £800 for Imperial Cancer Research in the process.

# Why we have a better Army than we deserve

WHENEVER there's a military story these days my phone rings fairly constantly with requests for interviews and "human interest" stories.

Usually I become exasperated with the shallowness of the questions. This time it's been different.

The crisis in former Yugoslavia seems to have sparked a very real interest in soldiers and their lives. There seems to have been such confusion about the actual nature of the situation that journalists have been moved to re-examine the way in which we see the Armed Forces.

Have we got the Forces we deserve? That was one question put to me and a panel of ex-Service people in a recent studio debate.

It's a good question. In trying to answer it we got involved in a fascinating look at the way in which civilians see the Services and the way in which Service people and their dependants are treated.

First on the list was the position of the wives, children and parents of Service people. We heard from one mother whose son was, at the time, being detained by forces engaged in the conflict in former Yugoslavia.

She said she had heard very little from his unit and felt out of touch with what was going on. She named an officer who had been

charged with dealing with relatives and suggested that he had been less than attentive to her needs.

Then we heard from another mother whose son had just been released from detention. She was overjoyed and named the same officer as being a paragon of efficiency and attentiveness.

The truth, we decided, lay somewhere in between and was coloured by their separate experiences.

I asked both women the same question. Did they think mothers got a raw deal when soldiers were in dangerous situations? Yes, they both said, they did. Wives were good copy, it seemed, but mothers weren't.

But what of the wives and children of Service people? How, asked the presenter, did they cope?

The answer, of course, is that experiences differ. In the previous couple of days I heard from wives who said they felt well-treated and well-informed and others who said they needed more hard information and less protection from people who didn't want them worried.

One mother whose husband was due to leave for former Yugoslavia told me that their children at first seemed sanguine and asked if they could go

**'We have a very long way to go before we can claim that we give the modern Army the support and backing it needs.'**



**CARI'S COLUMN**

then keep her children away from news bulletins – or let them see what was going on?

In the days following her talk with me I re-told her story (anonymously) to journalists. Instead of the usual dismissive reactions I got real interest. These were young writers and broadcasters and it took a while before I realised that this was the key. They genuinely didn't know much about the way in which Service people live.

The young presenter found it incredible that a recently-redundant ex-Serviceman should contend that the Army provides good man-management experience. After all, he says, obeying orders isn't a

The plight of peace-keepers where there is no peace to keep has exposed

questions which need to be answered soon. What do we have an Army for? What is its role? And, having defined its role, how do we look after all the people whose lives are bound up with it?

The way in which the crisis in former Yugoslavia has put the Army, in particular, in the spotlight means that the time has never been more appropriate for those who are connected with constructing the Army's image to take the job seriously.

This may be equally wide of the mark but I suggest there is a grain of truth in it. Until this latest crisis I have seen the same lack of knowledge in civilians, combined with a kind of diffidence. For them the Forces were on the sidelines of life and only good for the sort of headlines that turn a Press officer's hair grey.

Major conflicts like the Falklands and the Gulf gave journalists hard copy. Guns were fired and even the most unimaginative journalists could identify Us and Them.

In the former Yugoslavia the situation has been more confused. Loyalties have changed from village to village. What should have been a relatively simple task of keeping civilians alive rapidly became a complicated web which challenged our perceptions about what a modern army is for, who joins our Army

good grounding for a life in management.

Where had he got this idea? He could offer no explanation. The ex-Serviceman in question suggested that the lad's knowledge was derived from the folklore of post-war comedies where the sergeant-major shouted at the National Servicemen while the chinless officers muddled through in a haze of gin.

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## Queen comforts RWF hostages' wives



The Queen, on a visit to their base in Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, meets wives and children of soldiers serving with the 1st Battalion, The Royal Welch Fusiliers in Bosnia. The Queen, who is Colonel-in-Chief of the regiment, spoke to a number of wives whose husbands had been taken hostage by the Bosnian Serbs. Mrs Mark Smith, whose husband Mark is serving in Bosnia, said: "It really perked us up to have the Queen visit at a time like this."

and how we should support them.

*So, to return to the original question, do we have the Army we deserve?*

*What we do have, said the ex-Serviceman, is the Army we can afford. I would contend that we have a much better Army than we deserve. I believe we have an Army comprised of young men and women working at full stretch, with intelligence and boundless patience.*

I think it's vital that those responsible for the image of the Army capitalise on the re-awakened interest in the role of the Forces. I believe it's time to make the point

that those who have to work in the former Yugoslavia represent the modern Army at its best.

These young men and women provide the very finest example of a modern service.

For me the question is not whether we have the Army we deserve but whether we deserve the Army we've got. I don't think we do. I think we have a very long way to go before we can claim that we give the modern Army the support and backing it needs.

Whether we're talking about keeping mothers informed about their sons' and daughters' work or whether we're discussing

the care of wives and children I think there is still work to be done convincing civilians that the Army is a working model for a well-ordered community contributing to the common good.

At the top we need a more robust attitude to attacks on the cost of running our Services, we need more money spent on PR in all its forms and, on the families front, we need an enlightened attitude to what the modern Service man and woman need in terms of support.

On the ground, we all need to be aware of keeping up that most nebulous

of factors – morale. There should be praise, praise and more praise heaped on the Army we (as civilians) don't deserve.

A small step would be the relaxation of rules about wearing uniforms in public. It would, I grant you, be a very small step but at least it would give civilians the chance to ask soldiers about their life and work and get to know them instead of waiting until there is a crisis before they think of them.

● Cari Roberts presents *Counterpoint* on BFBS radio. Write to her at BFBS, BFPO 786; or c/o *Soldier*.

## SSAFA needs YOU!

SSAFA and the Forces Help Society are looking for volunteers to assist with their crucial work in the military community.

With all former Service personnel and their dependants under the SSAFA/FHS umbrella, one in four people in Britain is eligible for help.

As well as caseworkers, there is a need for people to run SSAFA branches and divisions, help with finances, fund-raising, publicity, training, office work, visiting, and hospital driving.

Training is provided and all out-of-pocket expenses are met.

Find out more from Ann Needle, SSAFA Central Office, Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother House, 19 Queen Elizabeth Street, London SE1 2LP (tel 0171 403 8783 ext 223).

## Tidworth tribute

THREE events were held at Tidworth and Bulford on June 9 to honour Anne Armstrong, the champion of Army families and *Soldier* columnist, who died in 1993. A plaque in her name and a photograph of her were unveiled at Tedworth Park Pavilion and the Royal British Legion Training College, respectively. Later the FOCUS Training Centre in Bulford was dedicated to her memory.

Full coverage in the next issue.

## PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES

A CONTINGENT of 130 from British Forces Germany joined soldiers, sailors and airmen from 24 countries in a moving expression of friendship at the finale to the 37th international military pilgrimage to Lourdes.

The BFG party travelled by train from Berlin, picking up parties at Hanover, Bielefeld, Gütersloh and Moenchengladbach.

The Gütersloh contingent of 90, led by Father Martin Caddell and pilgrimage



The Band of the Royal Dragoon Guards forms up in front of the Upper Basilica, Lourdes, during the 37th international military pilgrimage

## A fayre job

A COMBINED job fayre and seminar, jointly hosted by the Services Leavers Support Team (SLST) and the Regular Forces Employment Association, was held at the new Royal British Legion Training Company's premises at Tidworth on May 26.

Racal, BRS, Sabre-watch, Westlands, Honda and Motorola were among the 20 companies – all of which are actively recruiting ex-Forces personnel – attending the event, which was aimed at introducing Service leavers to employ-

ers on an informal basis.

The purpose of the SLSTs, which are part of Army HQ staffs, is to support all Service leavers and their families who are making the transition to civilian life.

Brig Tony Dixon, its director, says Combat Stress is already helping 33 personnel who served in the Gulf War as opposed to 75 Falklands veterans.

Contact for the Wiltshire, Dorset and north west Hampshire areas is Maj (Retd) Cynthia Pettit, tel 01722 334872.

## Gulf PTSD figures 'higher'

going to create very complex issues," said Brig Dixon.

He also warned that hundreds, possibly thousands, of former Servicemen and women could have horrific memories of the war in Europe and Japan triggered by this year's high-profile 50th anniversary commemorations.

Last year the society experienced an increase in the number of patients following the D-Day services.

PTSD can surface after a traumatic event or be delayed by weeks or decades, said Brig Dixon.

Combat Stress has more than 4,200 patients and operates treatment centres, a home for veterans, and eight regional welfare offices in the United Kingdom.

It is the only organisation specialising in the welfare of ex-Service personnel who suffer from psychiatric illness or injury.

Those wishing to seek help from a welfare officer, or to make a donation towards the charity's running costs, can contact Combat Stress at Broadway House, The Broadway, Wimbledon, London SW19 1RL (tel 0181 543 6333).

# Gays in uniform: a soldier's view

IN RESPONSE to the reported proposal by the Labour Party to lift the ban on homosexuals serving in the Armed Forces (*Soldier*, May 15 and 29), I feel it my duty as a serving SNCO with 17 years' service to contribute to the debate.

I welcome, as I believe all Service men and women will, any proposal which enhances the efficiency of the Armed Forces while maintaining and promoting sympathetic management of its human resources for the benefit of all concerned.

I am sceptical that such a proposal by Dr David Clark, the Shadow Defence Secretary, will bring any benefit to the Armed Forces or the people serving in them.

Traditionally there has been a very homophobic culture in this country and to the ordinary man and woman, not without cause, society cannot be blamed for rejecting ideas and practices which fly in the face of traditional values.

The sexuality of an individual is no big deal in itself but it becomes so when the gay minority groups coerce organisations into feeling obliged to recant their traditional beliefs and preferences.

Homosexuals and lesbians can and have contributed to society and I am sure will continue to do so. As reported in the press, Brighton Police advertise for recruits in a national gay and lesbian newspaper, surely a sign of how far society has transformed – but to whose benefit?

When infringement of civil liberties is discussed, let us ensure that we do not infringe the liberties of those who already belong to an organisation who are content within "their acceptable society".

The Armed Forces comprise one of the last bastions of traditional ideas and beliefs existing for the benefit of the country and its people.

I would ask Dr Clark to consult the majority of the Armed Forces, who I believe would close their barrack gates to such a proposal. – D A Tibbles, 124, 3 Bde, BFPO 809.

# Ask Burma veterans about Montgomery

I HAVE read with interest BJ's review of Nigel Hamilton's book *The Battles of Field Marshal Bernard Montgomery* (*Soldier*, May 15) but I have not – nor do I intend to – read the book itself because of the contentious comments it seems to include.

I never served under Montgomery but I know many men who did and few, if any, could be said to have "adored" the field marshal.

It is possible he was Britain's favourite general but this is because the greatest field com-

## Why I did not celebrate

I DID NOT celebrate VE Day for four reasons – Pte Lee Clegg being still in gaol; the Churchill papers affair; Service pensions being higher in Germany and Japan than here; and the massive payouts to Servicewomen dismissed because they were pregnant. The Government and the great British public have got to get matters into proper perspective before I join the parades and fun. – Harry Whitehead (ex-6th Airborne Div), Keighley, W Yorks.



Picture: Mike Perring

Russian Orthodox priest Fr Maxim Nikolski performs the ceremony at a commemoration service at the graves of the three Red Army soldiers at Tidworth Military Cemetery. Among the onlookers were Russian assistant military attaché Nikolai Kudinov, air attaché Col Anatoly Belyaev, and members of the Royal British Legion Tidworth branch. The three Red Army soldiers, who died in 1945 were, like many others, rescued from German slave labour camps and treated at military hospitals in the United Kingdom, but died shortly afterwards of tuberculosis and other related diseases.

DURING my service in the 2nd Battalion, The East Lancashire Regiment in India in 1947 I was stick man twice and as the CO's runner sat outside the Orderly Room being constantly passed by the CO, 2iC, adjutant, RSM and provost sergeant. If I had been scruffy I wouldn't have been there long. – Harry Whalley (ex-9th RWF, 4th Border, 2nd E Lancs, Cheshire Yeomanry, RASC/RCT), Manchester.

**Stick man**

mander, like his army, was unknown or forgotten.

I refer, of course, to Fd Marshal William Slim, GOC Fourteenth Army in Burma. He was in the opinion of Earl Mountbatten and many other VIPs the best general in *any* of the combatant forces.

As for PSN's statement that Montgomery was "our finest field commander since Wellington for whom his troops, including your reviewer, had nothing but praise and adulation", this beggars belief.

Montgomery had no repeat-

able nickname other than "Monty", while Slim was known as "Uncle Bill" to all ranks and races of the Fourteenth Army. He led literally from the front and was often under fire. He never excused himself, often accepting the blame for mistakes made by his subordinates.

Can anything similar be said about Montgomery, who invariably blamed others for his errors?

Ask any veteran of the Burma campaign for his views. – J R Allan, Truro.

## Remember the heroes of Norway

MAY I congratulate *Soldier* on its coverage of the VE Day anniversary. This year also marks the 55th anniversary of the Norway Campaign, when British and Allied forces gallantly attempted to defend this free country from Nazi occupation.

On May 14, survivors from the 1st Bn Irish Guards were reunited in a Mass at Westminster Cathedral to remember comrades who perished when a troopship carrying the battalion was bombed.

Messages were sent to the survivors by the Queen and the Norwegian ambassador.

No medal, plaque or monument marks the sacrifices of the 1,869 dead, wounded and missing British soldiers from this two-month campaign.

I hope in this special year we may not forget those who fought to defend Norway. – Antony Shaw, Dept of War Studies, King's College, Strand WC2.

## BIRD'S EYE-VIEW



"It's a sort of appeasement gesture by the MoD"

● Otterburn training area development planned – see Pages 26 and 27

## One out of five for Suez 'medal'

REFERENCE the Suez Commemorative Medal advertised in *Soldier* (April 17), were any officers or soldiers consulted about it?

I know I was not as I would have told Award Productions Ltd that the Sphinx had nothing to do with it. It is on the outskirts of Cairo.

If something was wanted to remind them of the Canal Zone I could have told them about patrols, guards, tents and diarrhoea.

In the words of that Brummie girl on *Juke Box Jury* some years ago, I'll give it one out of five and won't buy it. – Len Oliver, Colchester.

● Ian Stewart, a director of Award Productions and a Fellow of the Society of Numismatists and Medal Designers, explained that the design incorporating the Sphinx symbolised Egypt barring the access and egress of shipping to the Canal.

He added that the company, which tied all its work to charities, had already given £2,000 from sales of this medal to the Ex-Services Mental Welfare Society (Combat Stress). – Editor.

□ HAS anyone noticed a different word association when Suez is mentioned in letters by disgruntled veterans of various medal campaigns?

At one time Suez was con-

nected with fiasco, deceit, frustrations and Dulles's fork-tongued diplomacy.

Now, due to constant pressure by our supporters, it is synonymous with unfairness in the awards system.

If nothing else we have turned round a concept. Who knows, in time to come, a new phrase might be introduced into the English language – "It's another Suez", meaning that you have sweated your whatnots off, kept your end up, done all the right things and so on.

Yet, in the final assessment, the MoD treats the action as a non-event and cheats you of just deserts. – C L Golder, Bolton, Lancs.

□ THERE must be a record of the HQ MELF 17 standing order putting troops on an active service footing in 1951.

Also there must be an official directive issued issued with orders to evacuate dependants.

Again, there should be a record of the order for troops in MELF 17 always to carry small arms and walk in pairs when outside the camp perimeters.

In some way hard evidence such as this should contribute to the case for an official award to troops serving in the Canal Zone from 1951. – L Clarke (3 GHQ Signal Regt, Fayid, MELF 17), Dinas Powis, S Glamorgan.

## How British have helped South Africa

NOW that South Africa is back in the international limelight it is possible to buy *Soldier* again.

And although I have to pay R6.95 for each 60p issue I have been collecting your informative publication for more than a year.

As a lieutenant (registered nursing officer) with the Active Citizen Force of the South African Medical Service (SAMS) I take an interest in how medical services of other defence forces operate.

Our forces have had a very long history of military assistance and even when the political situation prevented official contact between our two countries we were still supported in some way.

Now that we have been accepted back into the international fold, the British Services have gone out of their way to help our new National Defence Force.

Among them have been the British Military Advisory and Training Teams (BMATTs) and I hope their tours of duty in South Africa will prove a valuable experience.

Incidentally I must compliment the ten-man environmental health team from Aldershot, detached to Rwanda, on whom you reported last November under the heading: "How ten soldiers improved the health of a nation".

The tasks they were required to perform were not at all pleasant. – Lt Andrew D Teasdale SAMS, PO Box 6276, Westgate, 1734, South Africa.

## Markeaton

ON the topic of infantry training battalions, I joined No 1 Young Soldiers Training Centre at Markeaton Park Camp on December 2, 1943.

At some time before our departure the title had changed to 27 Training Battalion. My intake left on June 6, 1944.

It was 1966 before I saw Markeaton Park again. The Nissen huts had gone by then, but the old Naafi, which must have been brick-built, was still there. – Barry Smith, Dover, Kent.

## Topo unit plant Rory's Oak reminder of 30 years in Ratingen

A PERMANENT memento of a 30-year association with Stadt Ratingen in Germany – an oak tree – has been planted in a local park by sappers of 14 Independent Topographic Squadron, Royal Engi-

neers. Comprised of surveyors and support personnel, the 81-strong squadron, which provides geographic support to Nato's Rapid Reaction Corps (ARRC), recently moved from Ratingen to

Monchengladbach to be closer to the ARRC headquarters. The squadron moved into Roy Barracks – named after Gen Roy, first Military Surveyor in the British Army – in 1965.

Planting Rory's Oak were Maj James Mitchell, OC14 ITS and Ratingen's Burgermeister, Wolfgang Diedrichs, with Service Liaison Officer Mike Gudgin in attendance.

### SOLDIER to Soldier

## Airborne veterans show Dutch courage

NINETEEN soldiers from various Territorial Army units took part in a 2,000ft parachute jump over Holland from a Russian aircraft to commemorate the liberation of Texel in the Second World War.

The British contingent, led by Sgt Roy Mobsby, 163 PRO Coy RMP (V) and Ron Ball, ex 7 Para RHA, joined a combined unit from the International Association of Airborne Veterans, American and Canadian chapters for a week-long acclimatisation course.

Some of the soldiers were dressed in Second World War equipment for the jump, which was also unconventional in that in one stick alone there were paratroopers representing Canada, America, Britain, Holland, Belgium – and a solitary Japanese soldier...

The event – now to be held annually under the control of Paracentrum Texel – was a great success, finishing with a parade at Den Burg town hall, where the burgermeister presented Dutch Para wings to the 50 assorted soldiers on parade.

Details on future events from Roy Mobsby (tel 01703 899369).

## Taylor-made for gallery ...

TAKING a rather different approach to military history, looking at the social side of Army life as well as portraying battles, medals and ribbons, is a new permanent gallery, entitled A Soldier's Life, at Newcastle-upon-Tyne's Discovery Museum.

And one of the prize exhibits is a picture of a very youthful Liz Taylor, immortalised as she appeared as a pin-up in *Soldier* magazine.

Officially opened by the Duke of Gloucester, the gallery is based on the local cavalry regiments – the



Young soldiers lay flowers at the Ulster Defence Regiment memorial at St Patrick's Barracks, Ballymena. Nearby is the Royal Irish Regiment memorial, also recently dedicated. The memorials honour all members of the regiments who have died in service, either as a result of terrorist action, accident or natural causes.



Immortalised in the new gallery: Liz Taylor pin-up as featured in *Soldier*

15th/19th The King's Royal Hussars (now The Light Dragoons) and the Northumberland Hussars (now part of the Queen's Own Yeomanry) and has items from both regiments' historical collections.

The Discovery Museum is in Blandford Square, Newcastle-

## Medallions for Anzio veterans

ARRANGEMENTS for the issue of the Anzio Beachhead Commemorative Medallion, mentioned in this column (April 17) have been changed.

Application must now be made directly to Comune di Anzio, Piazza C Battisti, 00042, Anzio, RM, Italy.

Applicants should specify name, rank and unit. If attached to a different unit from the parent regiment, this should be specified if the regiment in question was not present on the beachhead as a unit in its own right. Widows may apply.

There is no charge for the medallion itself but postage costs must be included in the form of an international money order for the equivalent of about £1 sterling in Italian lire.

The Italy Star Association is not now issuing the medallions, which were struck at public expense by Anzio Town Council as a mark of recognition by the city.

On their annual overseas trip this spring, members of the association made a nostalgic "50 years on" return to areas in Italy and Austria in which they had served between 1943 and 1945. They also visited Slovenia. Although cere-

### SEARCHLINE

DUSSTAMPS, the postal stamp club for Service personnel worldwide, celebrates its 200th monthly newsletter and postal auction this year. For further details contact Jim Morris, Kennerley House, Lindow End, Mobberley, Cheshire WA16 7BA.

Peter Stone wishes to contact anyone who was in the Armourer Boy Apprentices RAOC, Hulsea, Portsmouth batch of January 7, 1937. Replies to 626 Shropshire Drive, West Chester, PA 19382, USA.

Anyone who knew Keith Wood, who served in cavalry or RAF, 1945-46, Castle Ehrental, Klagenfurt and in Zeltweg, Syria, is asked to contact Mrs Sybille Frimmel, Dammgasse 19, 9020 Klagenfurt, Austria (tel code plus 0463 41640).

R K Gigram seeks cap badges of units involved in Italy between 1943-45. Replies to PO Box 6116, Durban 4000, Republic of South Africa.

G Robson wishes to hear from former 6th (Border) Bn KOSB members who fought in the Reichswald Forest area of Germany and who have recollections of his late grandfather, Pte William Davis, killed going to the aid of a Maj Malone or Molony on February 23, 1945. Replies to 4 Castle Mews, Farringdon, Sunderland, Tyne and Wear SR3 3DX.

monies were held at Udine in Italy and Klagenfurt in Austria (where comrades of some members are buried) there was less emphasis on this occasion on visits to Commonwealth war cemeteries.

Other destinations included Venice and Trieste, which brought back memories for former members of 2/7 Queen's Royal Regiment who had served there.

At Villach, which had been a transit town for troops returning to the UK, huge 1945 photographs were displayed at key points to mark the 50th anniversary of the end of the war in Europe.

## 50th ANNIVERSARY EVENTS

### Imperial War Museum

London at War exhibition; Home Front Memorial Gallery roll of honour; special film season.

Channel Islands occupation and liberation exhibition.

From August: Victory in the Far East display.

Until August 31: D-Day to Victory exhibition.

### JUNE

24-25: Tynemouth Castle, Tyne and Wear VE commemoration.

### VJ Day – AUGUST

12-19: VJ week in Pwllheli, Wales (tel 01758 614066).

19: Open-air service in central London; Tribute and promise parade, central London; firework display along the Thames.

20: Tribute throughout the nation, including services in Belfast, Cardiff and Edinburgh, and culminating with a Beating Retreat and Sunset ceremony in these cities and London.

22: Fleet Veterans' Parade, Edinburgh Place, Hong Kong.

26: South Bedfordshire Royal British Legion's celebration, Dun-

stable (tel 01582 663166).

28: Liberation parade, Cenotaph, Hong Kong.

29: Battlefield tour, Hong Kong.

30: Beating Retreat, Stonecutter's Island, Hong Kong.

### VJ Day SEPTEMBER

2: Royal Hong Kong Regiment (V) disbandment parade.

2-3: Berwick on Tweed tattoo.

● Entry to Government-sponsored events free to veterans

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

## REUNIONS

**Airborne chefs (Galley Recon):** Reunion for para-trained chefs to be held in Aldershot on June 23. Airborne chefs not yet contacted are asked to telephone SSgt Iain Bayliss on Aldershot Mil (722) 4360 or 01252 349360.

**Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regimental Association:** annual Crich dinner, July 1. Nottingham Gateway Hotel, Nuthall Road, Nottingham, and annual pilgrimage to regimental memorial, Crich, July 2. Details from RHQ WFR, Foresters House, HQ Chilwell Station (0115 9465415).

**Hipswell Lodge:** Golden jubilee reunion of Army Education and Resettlement at Hipswell Lodge, Catterick Garrison, will be marked with a garden party on July 14. Past members of staff, military and civilian, are asked to contact (by June 20) the Commandant, Resettlement Centre, Catterick, N Yorks DL9 3AX (tel 01748 872898/872900, fax 81748 872906). Offers of photos and relevant memorabilia appreciated.

**Somerset LI (Malta and Cyprus 1955-59):** Reunion planned at Ladymead School, Cheddon Road, Taunton, Somerset on October 14. ACC, RAEC and APTC also welcome. Details from Dave Williams, 29 Knowle End, Woolavington, nr Bridgwater, Somerset (tel 01278 683022) or Trevor Fackrell, 6 Greatwood Close, North Petherton, nr Bridgwater, Somerset (tel 01278 455934).

**7th and 3rd (V) Battalions, The 22nd (Cheshire) Regiment (TA):** Annual reunion at The Armoury, Stockport on October 28. All past and present members of 3, 4 and 7 Cheshire, and A Coy, The Mercian Volunteers, welcome. Tickets (£3) from the Secretary, 95 Hazelwood Road, Hazel Grove, Stockport SK7 4NB.

## DIARY

Until the autumn: Soldier 50th anniversary exhibition, National Army Museum, Royal Hospital Road, Chelsea. Admission free.

### JUNE

24: SSAFA Tattoo, Deene Park, Corby, in aid of SSAFA.

25: Colchester Garrison County Day. Enquiries on 01206 782020.

### JULY

7: ATR Winchester marching bands parade through the city centre, 1815-1915 hours.

9: Royal Military Academy open day. Free entrance and parking.

18-29: 105th Royal Tournament, Earl's Court.

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

## Memories of the Palace



ALTHOUGH the Royal Army Educational Corps has now become part of British military history – it was absorbed into the Adjutant General's Corps in 1992 – the Army has ensured that it will be perpetuated at Eltham Palace, the splendid London building with which the corps was closely associated for almost half a century.

The Hong Kong Officers' Mess wishes to return property to donors. Any person from the former Blackdown Mess or Support Troops Mess who presented items is asked to contact the QM, Log Sp Regt RLC, BFPO 1. Closing date is August 1. The Hong Kong Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess, which will close on December 1, also wishes to return property to benefactors. Contact the RSM, Log Sp Regt RLC, BFPO 1.

## APPOINTMENTS

**Colonels:** R C J Rhodes – To BOD Donnington, May 22; S F N Miller – To 7 Dental Group, May 22.

**Lt Cols:** E T Bolitho, Gren Gds

– To Staff Coll (DS), May 24; R P Jennings RLC – To MoD, May 22; N P C Lewis LI – To Be DA Kampala, May 25; P R Sharland LI – To MoD, May 22.

from 1976 to 1980. There to witness the unveiling was Brig Allan Thompson, head of the Army's Educational and Training Services, successor to the RAEC and now based at Worthy Down, Hampshire.

Eltham Palace was a principal royal residence in England for 200 years from the early 14th century, falling into ruin after being ransacked by Parliamentary soldiers during the Civil War.

Following its rebuilding in the 1930s, it became the home of the RAEC in 1945, and its magnificent surroundings became the centre for the planning and organisation of education throughout the British Army.

● The picture shows Brig Thompson (left) with Maj Gen Howell after the unveiling.

# Monty the martinet put fresh shine on Iron Sides

WHEN Monty took command of the 3rd Division in France in 1939 he immediately issued a memo to his officers to smarten up the troops.

He was then a major general and made clear his disapproval.

"Disgracefully" long hair, drunkenness in the streets and failure to salute officers were, according to Patrick Delaforce in *Monty's Iron Sides*, just a few of his complaints about the men soon to fight the retreat to the beaches of Dunkirk.

He put bars out of bounds (Monty was a lifelong abstainer) and the men had to be in their billets by 2130 hours.

Officers, too, came under his microscope, finding themselves under similar curfews. Some of the more senior ones lost their posts.

But his "gather-round-boys-I-won't-bite-you" style of pep talk, plus his views on personal fitness and discipline, were generally accepted without rancour and helped enhance his image as a soldier's soldier.

This, and the fact that the 3rd Division were well aware that the battle for France was due to start at any moment, gave his instructions a sharp edge of realism.

The retreat and evacuation from Dunkirk is well documented. This book tells, in the words of those who were there, of the subsequent years of training and preparation the Division underwent for D-Day and its return to the beaches of Normandy and, eventually, the capture of Bremen after enduring nearly a year of savage fighting across Europe.

While the Iron Sides won two VCs, the price they paid for their return to mainland Europe was high, resulting in 15,000 casualties, including 2,586 killed. - JM

**Monty's Iron Sides** by Patrick Delaforce. Alan Sutton, £16.99.



Cheers, guys – American and British soldiers celebrating on VE Day. From *Brewing for Victory*

## Battle of the (beer) bulge

AMONG the countless songs of the Second World War, *Roll Out the Barrel* was way up the hit list.

It epitomised all the good times among the bad, and people everywhere sang it with gusto, usually boosted by a goodly intake of wallop.

In *Brewing for Victory*, Brian Glover tells the heady and enlightening tale of how a drop of ale boosted the morale of

everyone of drinking age throughout the dark days of 1939-45.

Or perhaps it was more than a drop. He points out in passing that only five breweries produced special bottled beers to mark the end of the war. The rest were either too exhausted or had no bottles.

Glover tells also of the battles between the brewers and the temperance activists which had started back in 1915 when Lloyd George declared war on the demon drink, claiming it was more deadly than the German submarine blockade.

With the pubs open all hours and inebriation a common sight on the streets, he determined to put a stop to it all by restricting opening times to less than six hours a day.

History repeated itself in 1939 when the anti-drink brigade again declared war on booze by demanding all sorts

**World War II – Blaze of Glory.** Film documentary accompanied by classical music. Part of the proceeds donated to RBL Poppy Appeal. Polygram Video, 70 min, £12.99. CD soundtrack also available.

Three in DD Video's *The Valour and the Horror* series, all in b/w

# History on the hoof

MANY PEOPLE pay large sums to go on battlefield tours but *Riding the Retreat* costs only £20 and is a marvellous account of an excursion on horseback by the eminent historian Richard Holmes and four friends.

In August 1993 they took the withdrawal route made by the British Expeditionary Force (BEF) from Mons to the Marne in the first month of the First World War, 79 years earlier.

By going on horseback they not only experienced some of the exhaustion of their prede-

## This phenomenon of the First World War

EVEN the most thorough military historians aiming for the definitive article may have to try, try and try again, especially when their subject is as important as the Battle of the Somme.

When Gerald Gliddon first published *When the Barrage Lifts*, a topographical history of the battle, in 1987, the interest was so great that many readers wrote to him, some suggesting minor alterations.

Two years later Leo Cooper re-published his book with many of the suggested changes, plus some of the author's.

It went out of print in 1991 but a new edition of this monumental work, brought out by Alan Sutton Publishing and incorporating 50 further small changes, "represents a considerably altered version" when compared with the original, says the author.

Considering the size and scope of this book – it lists possibly every village, town, wood, copse and all the road, track

and colour, at £14.99 each: *Savage Christmas* – grim story of the battle for Hong Kong, which surrendered to the Japanese on Christmas Day, 1941. 105 min; *In Desperate Battle: Normandy 1944* – focus on the Canadian troops, many untrained and unprepared, who played a pivotal role against some of Germany's

best troop and tank divisions. 104 min; *Death by Moonlight* – story of the 50,000 airmen of Bomber Command and the high price they paid. 105 min.

First two of a 14-part series from DD Video on *The Vietnam War*, price £12.99 each, using CBS TV colour footage and narrated by

Walter Cronkite: *The Seeds of Conflict* – How America became drawn into the civil war; and *The Tet Offensive* – CBS camera crews and correspondents were in the thick of the

fighting and flew on one of the war's most dangerous missions, the re-supply flights to the Marines besieged inside Khe Sanh. 62 min.

Latest in DD Video's *Elite Fighting Forces* series is *Spetsnaz*, Russian version of the SAS, which surfaced again recently

when units were sent into Chechnya to hunt down guerrillas. Colour and b/w, 55 min, £12.99.

Three more releases based on the Pathé Video Library's war archives, price £12.99 each:

**Weapons of War** covering both world wars and including radar, the bouncing bomb, and V1 and

V2 rockets, narrated by Raymond Baxter; *War in the Far East* – story of the "forgotten" war, featuring memories of men who were there, narrated by Raymond Baxter; *Keep Smiling Through* – featuring Stars in Battledress and other major performers and narrated by Willie Rushton.

## VIDEOS

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cessors, although none of the death and starvation, but were able to retrace more easily the routes and scenes of the rear-guard actions fought at such famous engagements as Le Cateau and Nery, as well as discover the changes to the countryside which have occurred.

Nor did they have to contend with the congestion on the roads caused by refugees fleeing before the advancing Germans "... pitiful crowds of women and old men and children, carrying bundles on their backs or wheeling babies and

more bundles in wheelbarrows or perambulators ..." as observed by Brig Gen Count Gleichen.

Holmes draws on a wealth of observations by participants which adds a great feeling of continuity, especially when interwoven on the sites of the actions involved.

At Le Cateau, for example, when the famous order was given to 122nd Bty RFA – "Every man for himself. Destroy the guns" – Lt Lionel Lutyens recalled: "I was so

trembling with excitement and

funk by now that I couldn't get

my foot in the stirrup."

We learn in the epilogue to the book what happened to a great number of people who are quoted and in it we discover that the frightened Lutyens won a MC at the Battle of the Somme in 1916 only to be killed by a sniper's bullet at Ypres in 1918.

Lt Alan Hanbury-Sparrow of The Royal Berkshires is quoted as having observed his old CO during the later stages of the withdrawal "... so weary that only his courage gets him along. Behind him creeps the Battalion at the slow lumbering pace of agricultural labourers".

We find that Hanbury-Sparrow was awarded the DSO and MC and rose to command the

With 57,000 British casualties on the first day of the Somme alone, there must be a great desire still – almost 80 years on – among relatives and descendants for information about this awesome tragedy.

This book will go a good way towards meeting their need to know. Perhaps the hawk-eyed will spot a fault or two – but that's a cross even the best military historians have to bear.

**When the Barrage Lifts** by Gerald Gliddon. Alan Sutton Publishing, hardback, £25.

**Napoleon and Waterloo** by A F Becke. Reprint of the artillery major's classic work on the Emperor's campaign with the Armée du Nord, 1815. Greenhill Books, hardback, £19.95.

**We Can't Even March Straight** by Edmund Hall. Sub-titled "Homosexuality in the British Armed Forces" this argues one side of the case in a topical debate. Vintage, paperback, £7.99.

**Mussolini's Soldiers** by Rex Trye. Well-researched and well-illustrated study of Italian soldiery

under Fascism, 1922-43, by a New Zealander descended from a British Army family. Airlife Publishing Ltd, Shrewsbury, hardback, £24.95.

**A Dear and Noble Boy** edited by R A Barlow and H V Bowen. The life and letters of Louis Stokes, who exchanged Rugby schoolbooks for uniform and died on the Somme in 1916. Leo Cooper, hardback, £15.95.

**The Java Man** by Sean Martin

Blain. At 13, the author was the youngest member of the Irish armed forces. At 17 he joined the Queen's Royal Irish Hussars and four years later transferred to the RAPC, taking redundancy in 1978. This action-packed thriller is his first novel. Michael Joseph, hardback, £15.99.

**The British in the Mediterranean** by Peter Dietz. Retired brigadier's historical, architectural and archaeological survey of the Crown's involvement in the Med basin. Brassey's, hardback, £29.95.

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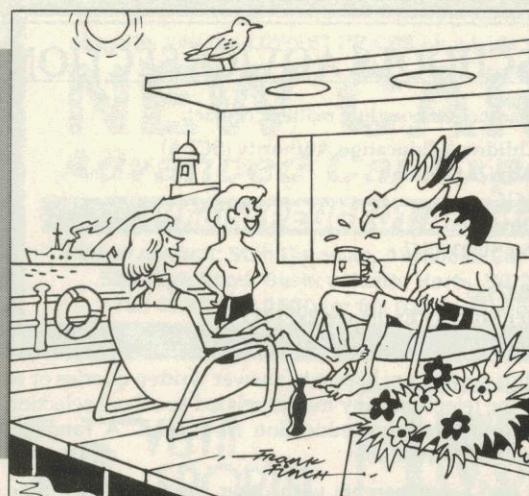
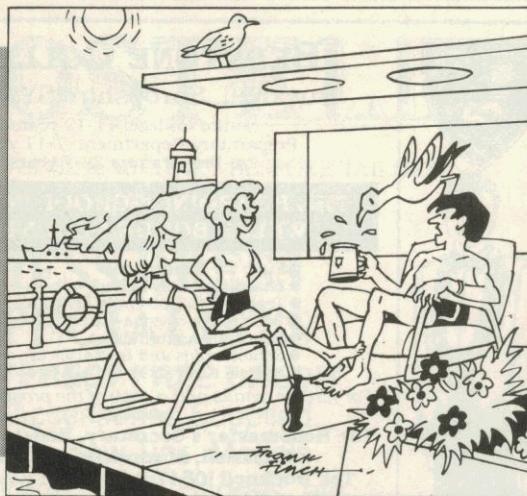
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# HOW OBSERVANT ARE YOU? COMPETITION 614

The pictures here are from our Frank Finch cartoon archives. Find ten differences in detail and you could be £50 richer or win a new book. Circle the differences in the right-hand picture, cut out the whole panel, add your name and address and send to HOAY 614, Soldier, Ordnance Road, Aldershot GU11 2DU by July 14. Do not include anything else



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

The names of the winner of the £50 first prize and two runners-up will be announced in the August 7 issue.

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Competition No 611 (May 15 issue): Congratulations to Mr M J Fayers, of Chelmsford, Essex, who wins £50. Book prizes go to runners-up Mr D Sparrow, of Eastbourne, E Sussex, and E B Byatt, of Hayes, Middlesex.



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D7



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D6

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All correspondence to: **Pen Pals**, Soldier Magazine, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU.

**Jill and Christine**, both 27, single, no ties, fun loving with gsoh. Interests: reading, walking, cinema, travelling, music and enjoying life. We would like to write to soldiers aged 27-33 with similar interests. **P412**

13/95

**Hi, I'm Julie**, 27, 5'7", slim with brown hair and green eyes. I enjoy pubs, clubs, cooking and music. I would like to hear from pen pals aged 25-35 with similar interests and a good sense of humour. **P414**

13/95

**Joanne**, 31, 5'4", petite, blonde with blue eyes. Enjoys: horse riding, keep fit and socialising. I would like single male pen pals aged 28-37 to keep me busy with long letters. **P415**

13/95

**Maxine**, 18, 5'4", slim with long chestnut brown curly hair. Interests include: martial arts, riding and ice hockey. I would like pen pals up to 21 years old. **P416**

13/95

**Joanne**, 25, 5'7", brown hair and brown eyes. Interests: music, cinema, pubs and travelling. I am a nurse/student midwife and would like to hear from anyone aged 25-35, all letters answered. **P417**

13/95

**My name is Ann-Marie**, I'm 26, 5'4" and have blonde curly hair and blue eyes. I like travelling, entertaining and cheering people up. I am looking for lots of pen friends from anywhere. **P418**

13/95

**Welsh lady**, 28, 5'5" with brown hair. I am looking for a pen pal aged 21+. My interests include reading, swimming, aerobics and socialising. **P419**

13/95

**Paula**, 27, Geordie, 5'6", slim, blue eyes and brown hair. Enjoys: nightclubs, pubs, cinema and travelling. I would like to hear from pen pals aged 25-32. I love writing letters and meeting people. **P420**

13/95

**Simon**, 38, 5'9", of Indian origin, formerly from the Caribbean but now living in the E. Midlands. I am in the TA and would like to hear from ladies, any age, anywhere. Photo appreciated. **P421**

13/95

**My name is Dawn**. I am 46 and have dark, shoulder length hair. I am originally from Edinburgh, but now live in London. I would like to hear from genuine people as pen friends. **P422**

13/95

**Hello, I'm Suzanne**. I am 32, single with gsoh. Hobbies: travelling, theatre, cinema, writing, music and all sports. I would like pen pals with similar interests, home or abroad. **P423**

13/95

I'm Jackie, thirtysomething, divorced with two children. I have a good sense of humour and enjoy cooking, DIY and swimming. I would like to hear from pen pals of any age. **P424**

13/95

**Rosy**, seeking pen friends from home and abroad. I am 33, petite, with a good sense of humour and promise to reply to all letters. **P425**

13/95

**Female**, 19, would like to hear from single sincere soldiers to cheer me up. I'm 5'6", light brown hair and enjoy clubs, pubs, music etc. Please write, from home or abroad, photo if possible. **P426**

13/95

**Hi, I'm Jo**, a tall, slim, slightly crazy 24-year-old Londoner. I would love to receive witty, intelligent letters from any soldier aged 25+. **P427**

13/95

**Emma**, 20. I am fed up, but fun-loving and would like to hear from fun loving forces lads aged 20+ with gsoh. Put pen to paper and write today. **P428**

13/95

**Sue**, 33, 5'7". Slim/medium build with dark hair. I live in the Anglian region with my two-year-old daughter. I have varied interests and would like to hear from unattached pen pals posted overseas. **P429**

13/95

**Karen**, early 30s, 5'1", slim, green eyes and brown hair. Interests: drag racing, driving, training for HGV, music. I have a three-year-old daughter and would like to hear from pen pals aged 28-38. **P430**

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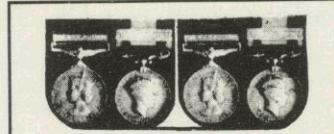
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Fifth (460 runs, £400) LCpl H K Musson, 1 MI Bn, BFPO 140.  
Sixth (457 runs, £300) Maj M A Swanson, 28 Engr Regt, BFPO 31.  
Seventh (444 runs, £200) Lt Col T J Gregson, 1 LI, Colchester.  
Eighth (440 runs, £100) LCpl A A Short, 24 Airmob Bde CSS Bn, Colchester.

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## Long ride



Sgt Sandy Mack, from the School of Electrical and Aeronautical Engineering, Reading, in action during the Scottish six-day trial at Fort William. He was a member of the three-man team which won the Services trophy. Gnr Phillip Frizzell (3 RHA) and Cardiff-based LCpl Paul Sargeant (157 Tpt Regt RLC(V)) completed the team. They were among 150 out of 210 riders who completed the 588-mile course over six days.

## A season of two halves

CONSIDERABLE success capped the Army youth football team's season as they won the Inter-Services youth championship for the fourth time running, beating the Royal Navy by a record 7-0.

It was a major turn-round for the youngsters, who had struggled during the early part of the season because of injuries and non-availability.

An early disappointment was the Army's first round exit from the FA Counties Youth Challenge Cup at the hands of Hampshire.

In the South West Counties Championship the squad lost two games and drew two, finishing above Gloucestershire in the final group table.

But as availability improved, so did performances, and there were excellent wins for the

## Close run thing for Middlesex

MIDDLESEX 2nd XI beat the Army by three wickets in the final over of a tense 55-over game at Aldershot.

Capt Richard Greatorex (26) and Capt Jim Cotterill (23) gave the home side a solid start after they had been inserted in overcast conditions. The openers put on 43 before Cotterill was bowled, sparking a collapse during which the Army lost three more wickets for 23 runs.

Sgt Nick Palmer (35) and Capt Dave Richmond (28) produced a 61-run stand to boost the total to 165-9 after 55 overs.

Tight bowling contained the Middlesex batsmen and produced a close finish, the county youngsters winning in the final over.

There were two wickets each for Capt

Paddy Logan and Capt James Carr-Smith. The game was sponsored by Royal Ordnance.

The Army made an excellent start against a strong Wiltshire side at Corsham, LCpl Martin Hutton (3-12) and Logan (1-9) reducing the Minor County to 13-4 after ten overs. Pte David Matthews's two superb slip catches kept the pressure on.

At lunch Wiltshire were 100-5 after 34 overs before the rain intervened. With tea taken early, Wilts batted six more overs to complete 40, with the agreement that the Army would receive the same number.

They eventually made 146-6, but the match was abandoned when the rain returned as the Army reached 12 for no

wicket after just four overs.

Combined Services fell an agonising two runs short in an entertaining match against Lavinia, Duchess of Norfolk's XI at Arundel.

The Duchess's team, captained by the shrewd John Barclay, declared at 218-4 after Flt Lt Paul Singleton and Paddy Logan had restricted them in the early stages.

Greatorex (77), dropped on nought, and Cotterill (101) put on a magnificent 163 for the first wicket in just 34 overs, but overs ran out and the innings closed tantalisingly close on 217-4.

Arundel is a happy hunting ground for the Army openers; in last year's fixture Greatorex scored a hundred and Cotterill 30 as the two blasted 83 in just 18 overs.



Paddling their own canoes, and very good at it too, are (from left) Sgt Malcolm Pavier, Cpl Robert Ash and LCpl Charlie Chester from Rheindahlen-based 16 Signal Regiment. They represented the Army in the Inter-Services wild water championships, coming second to the RAF. Teams from 16 Regt won the UKSC(G) and Army championships and came second to RAF Laarbruch in the downriver racing league

## Signallers lose out as RAF claim Jubilee Cup

AFTER their 2-1 defeat by HMS *Daedalus* in the opening Naafi Jubilee Cup game, Army champions 2 Signal Regiment lost all interest in this season's competition when they lost 3-1 to RAF Waddington at York, writes Derrick Bly.

The RAF unit champions went ahead in the 17th minute against the run of play, while the signallers did not take their few opportunities and conceded

ed two more breakaway goals. The home side struck a post early on but had to wait until the 78th minute for their consolation goal.

Waddington went on to take the trophy, presented by Naafi Sales Division manager Peter Stanyer, with a thrilling 5-3 home win over *Daedalus*.

Five of the eight goals came in an astonishing six-minute spell in the second half.



Cpl Cheryl Campling (RLC) on the attack during the Combined Services match against the British Police at Bisham Abbey. The game, which resulted in a 4-1 win for the police, came at the end of two days of training and selection. The Service side was captained by Lt Janet Waring (RMP at 27 Regt RLC)

## Army leaguers get their noses in front

THE ARMY defended the Inter-Services Rugby League Challenge Cup with a thrilling victory over the Royal Air Force at RAF Uxbridge. The result was in doubt until the end, the airmen missing an attempted conversion to tie the

scores right on the final whistle. The game, notable for bone-shuddering contact between the forwards, began at a frantic pace, with the hosts scoring a try after seven minutes.

But a superb move by the Army, starting under their own

### Andy's rugby double

CPL Andy Sanger (pictured) is thought to be the first player to represent the Army at Inter-Services level at both rugby codes - Union and League.

While league men have played Rugby Union in the Services for many years, most notably Billy Boston, Eric Ashton and Alex Murphy, Rugby

League was not then a recognised Service sport.

Cpl Sanger, who played Union for Wales Schools, rose through Army and Combined Services' colts ranks after joining the Royal Engineers.

He progressed to Under 21 level at both Army and CS levels, winning a senior cap

when he went on as a substitute in the centre against the Royal Navy at Twickenham in April and scored a try under the posts. Last year he played on the wing for the Army in the first Inter-Services Rugby League Challenge Cup final at Leigh RLFC.

Three weeks after his appearance at Twickenham Sanger

led the Army Rugby League team to victory over the RAF at Uxbridge and won the man of the match award.

To round off the season he also led 1 RSME Regiment to victory over the 1st Battalion, The Parachute Regiment in the inaugural Army inter-unit Rugby League Challenge Cup final.

Sanger received the Challenge Cup from Maj Gen Alan Yeoman, Director Army Sport Control Board, and the man of the match award from RFL coaching director John Kear.

Hughes and Webster exchanged penalties as the RAF came right back into the game in the second half and levelled the scores with a Prout try converted by Hicks.

Substitute Kelf combined well with Sanger to let in scrum half Moss under the posts, and again Hughes added the extra points. But with the RAF scoring wide out as time ran out, the result hinged on the final kick from the touchline. It missed, giving the Army victory by the narrowest of margins.

Tomlinson (110m hurdles) and Palmer (3,000m steeple-chase) won for the Army in the men's competition, McKinney (400m hurdles) and Hinton (100m hurdles) in the women's.

## Snape fights back to win title

A REME captain has become the first commissioned officer to win the Army golf championship since the late 1970s.

Capt Mark Snape, serving at Aldershot, ran out the two and one winner in the championships, at Seaton Carew Golf Club in Cleveland.

Runner up Gnr Sean Angell had the edge at first, forging a two-hole lead after the first nine. But Snape fought back with some excellent play and overhauled his younger opponent.

Sixty-four golfers, with a maximum 8.6 handicap, took part in the championships, which were sponsored by Allied Dunbar, and 15 of the 16 seeds from the Army squad took their places in the quarter-finals.

The Adjutant General's Corps took the honours in the Land Rover-sponsored team (scratch) matchplay competition, beating the Royal Signals in the final.

REME beat the Infantry in the final of the Singapore Trophy plate competition.

● Sgt Colin McDonald, a computer programmer at the Adjutant General's Information Centre, is the Army's South West District scratch champion. WO1 Paul Corker, staff assistant to the Garrison Commander, won the handicap competition and teamed up with McDonald to take the pairs.

## Good start

SEVERAL promising performances emerged from the Army's early season athletics match against Loughborough University and British Police at Loughborough. The students comfortably won but the Army got the better of the Police.

Tomlinson (110m hurdles) and Palmer (3,000m steeple-chase) won for the Army in the men's competition, McKinney (400m hurdles) and Hinton (100m hurdles) in the women's.

# Redcoat's peak success

## Glencorse second in gruelling Scottish marathon

REDCOAT III, the Army's new Sigma 38 racing yacht, came second in her class and eighth overall from 52 entries in the 1995 Scottish Islands Peaks Race.

A team from Army Training Regiment Glencorse, with support from the Army Sailing Association, overturned the recent dominance of the RAF in the senior class, beating their Sigma 38, Blue Diamond, as well as the Royal Marines' Bootneck Too, a Sigma 8M and the first Service yacht home in the Class 2 event.

The race, which started at Oban, is a gruelling combination of sailing and hill running. Redcoat III's bid was led jointly by Capt Gary Deakin (Kings) and Maj Ben Archer (RA), the acclaimed Army offshore skipper and ASA secretary.

Other team members were



Lt Gen Sir Michael Rose (standing, second left) with the ATR Glencorse Scottish Peaks crew. From left are Maj Ben Archer, Capt Gary Deakin and Cpl Paul Jones, with WO1 Keith Donkin and Maj Roy Hunter in front

Maj Roy Hunter (PWO), WO1 (SMI) Keith Donkin (APTC), and Cpl Paul Jones (Kings).

Donkin and Jones won the opening event, the Oban 10km road race to give Redcoat III an excellent start for the fast beat to the island of Mull.

Hunter and Donkin then completed a tough run over Ben More (3,000ft and 3km) in poor weather. Both Royal

Marines and RAF got away ahead of the Army boat, which chased them through the night to Jura.

Deakin and Jones started the 28km Three Paps of Jura run as daylight broke, closing the gap by half on the RAF with the second fastest time of the event. The Marines lost out on a navigation error in the dark.

As the yachts set off for the

long haul south and around the Mull of Kintyre to Arran, the airmen's lead was 20 minutes.

Redcoat overtook Blue Diamond close to the Mull of Kintyre and Archer made a bold tactical decision to go out into the Clyde on a longer route than most of the fleet which opted to hug the Mull.

It was a decisive move as the tide turned against the fleet and the wind died.

Redcoat crept into Lamlash on Arran under the power of her oars. She had taken up to three hours out of the opposition and arrived second in her class.

Deakin and Jones took on the final run of 24km over Goat Fell (2,500ft) in darkness and conceded the fastest time to the RAF. But the advantage was still with the Redcoat crew, who were joined for the final leg to Troon by Lt Gen Sir Michael Rose, Commodore ASA. The Glencorse entry finished second only to a Beneteau 51 co-skipped by British Steel-BT Challenge's Paul Jeffes, with the Marines 80 minutes behind and the RAF nearly two hours adrift.

The Services Trophy, presented by the RAF Sailing Association, went to the RAF youth team who won their class on board Red Arrow.



World champion effort from (left to right) Maj Alistair Keith (AAC), Sgt Kev Jones (Int Corps), Lt Matthew Gordon-Clerk (RGJ) and Capt Mike Thornton (LI), watched by Lt Col Richard Quiche, commanding officer of the Army Training Regi-

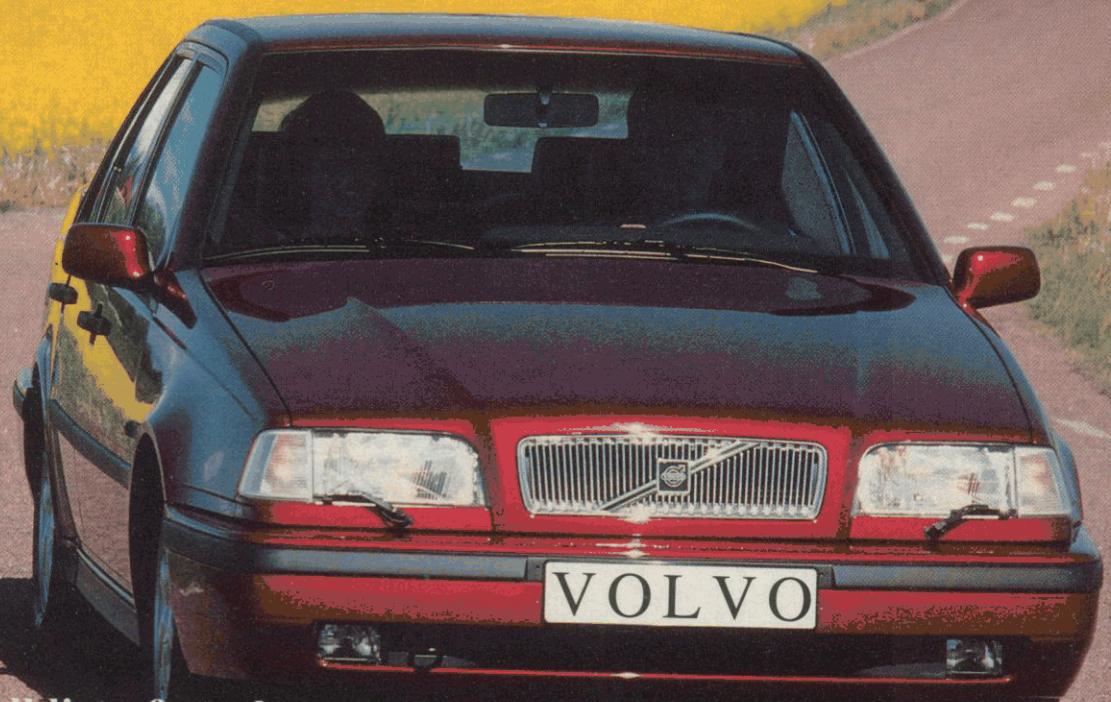
ment Winchester. The ATR quartet were crowned team world champions at the newly-formed 500m ergometer event staged for a cable television station, while Jones missed the individual 500m record of 1min 20 sec by just 1.3sec.

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# SOLDIER



WO2 Richard Waygood LG and Crackerjack negotiate the Capella Nova Log jump in front of Tedworth House at Tidworth during the 1995 Army Horse Trials. Waygood finished second in the military section on another mount. More pictures in Pages 22-23.

Picture: Mike Perring