

OCTOBER 16
1995
EVERY
FORTNIGHT

60p

SOLDIER

MAGAZINE
OF THE
BRITISH
ARMY



24 AIRMOBILE BRIGADE:
READY AND WAITING



ALSO INSIDE

● An interview with CGS ● ITC Catterick



Top: Three rousing cheers from B Sqn, The Light Dragoons, which has arrived in Vitez to join the Devon and Dorsets battlegroup as part of Task Force Alpha. More than 100 members of the Höhne-based regiment are serving on Op Grapple. It is the fifth time that the Light Dragoons have deployed to Bosnia. The Squadron Leader, Maj Robert Pollery, is pictured, arms folded, at the back

Bottom: No hanging about in the open on Mount Igman while NATO's air strikes, Operation Deliberate Force, were taking place. Here a Warrior infantry fighting vehicle from B Company, 1 D and D speeds off on a mission. Fast, highly-maneuvrable and well-protected, the Warrior is proving ideal for UN operations. It also packs a powerful punch





Incorporating the Territorial Army magazine

October 16, 1995
Vol 51/21

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COVER – LCpl Vern Stimpson checks mortar firing data on a hand-held computer with Sgt Shaun Donnelly of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment. The vehicle is a Supacat all-terrain mobile platform. See Pages 18-27 for reports and more pictures of 24 Airmobile Brigade at Ploce in Croatia. Also gunners of 19 Regiment, Royal Artillery dug in on Mount Igman. (Picture: Mike Weston)



Picture: Peter Simpson, The Sun

Pte Keith Harness with Sgt Jason Grouse and colleagues from the Signal Platoon

MoD agrees £30,000 interim payment

Soldier shot in Bosnia to get compensation

PTE Keith Harness, of the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment, seriously injured in a shooting incident in Vitez on September 18 last year, is to be awarded an interim compensation payment of £30,000.

The sum, to be paid at once, follows agreement by the Ministry of Defence.

A final settlement has still to be decided but is likely to be substantial.

Pte Harness (25) can walk but still needs a wheelchair. He was nearing the end of a six-month Op Grapple deployment with the Poachers in Bosnia when he was hit in the back of the head by an SA80 round discharged when a fellow soldier was checking his rifle.

The bullet destroyed part of his brain.

Pte Harness was in a coma for four weeks and spent ten months in Queen Elizabeth Military Hospital in Woolwich before returning on July 25 to

his battalion at Celle in Germany. He now lives with his German wife Martina and two children, Julian (4) and Lisa (2), in a ground floor flat which has been modified for his wheelchair.

The Army paid for Mrs Harness to fly three times from Germany to see him in hospital and the Royal British Legion met the expense of her taking a United Kingdom driving test.

The battalion paid for the whole family to return to the UK while Mrs Harness completed the driving course.

The battalion also arranged to sell the family car and bought Pte Harness a £1,500 computer.

Colleagues and their families

● Turn to Page 5

**Grapple special:
Mount Igman,
Ploce –
Pages 18-27**

**ITC
Catterick –
Pages 14-15**

**Crisis for
football
referees –
Page 46**

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Green Jackets forge live links with Morocco

SOLDIERS from B Company, 1st Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets have returned to Dhekelia in Cyprus after completing what is thought to be the first joint training exercise with the Moroccan Army.

The Greenjackets, commanded by Maj Paul Lockhurst, took part in a strenuous ten-day live-firing exercise near Marrakech on the edge of the Atlas Mountains, where they trained with the 1st Battalion of the Deuxième Brigade Infanterie Parachutiste, the paratroopers of the Moroccan Army.

Overcoming language barriers – their hosts spoke only Arabic or French – B Coy focused in the work-up period for Exercise Golden Palm on exchanging ideas on tactical deployments, and the live firing of the different weapons used by the two armies.

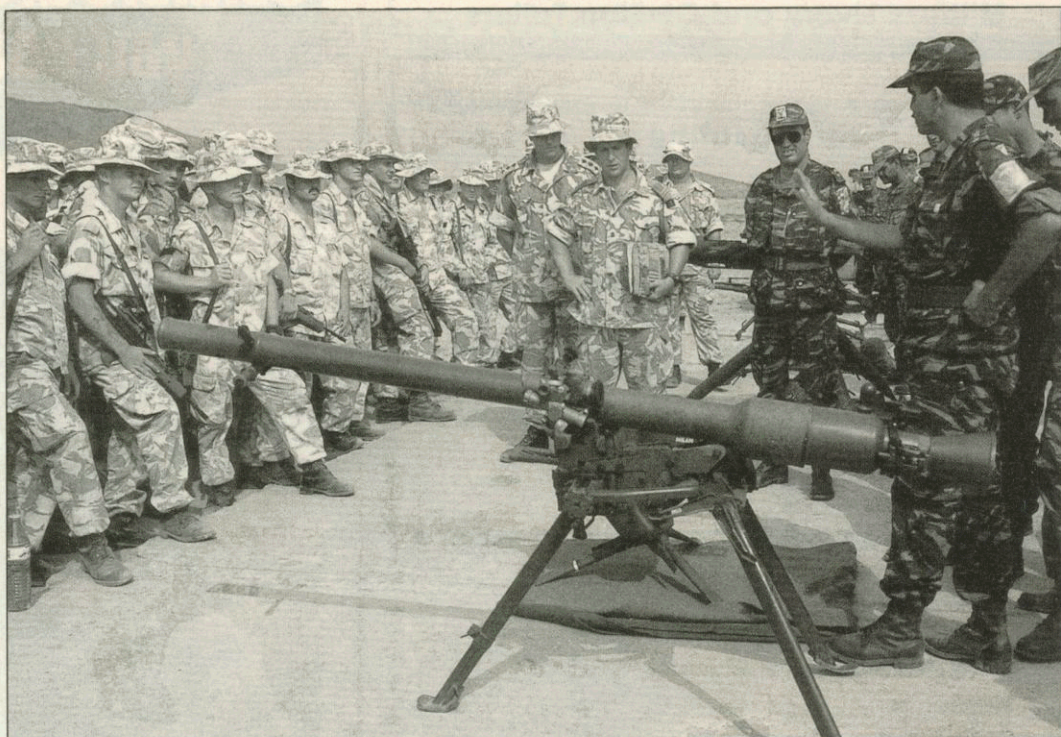
Moroccan Army equipment used during the exercise included the Russian AK47, 14.5mm heavy machine-gun and RPG-9.

The exercise moved on to tactical live firing which included a pairs' close quarter battle competition, a joint company attack supported by Moroccan TOW guided missiles and the RGJ mortars and machine-guns, and a night ambush.

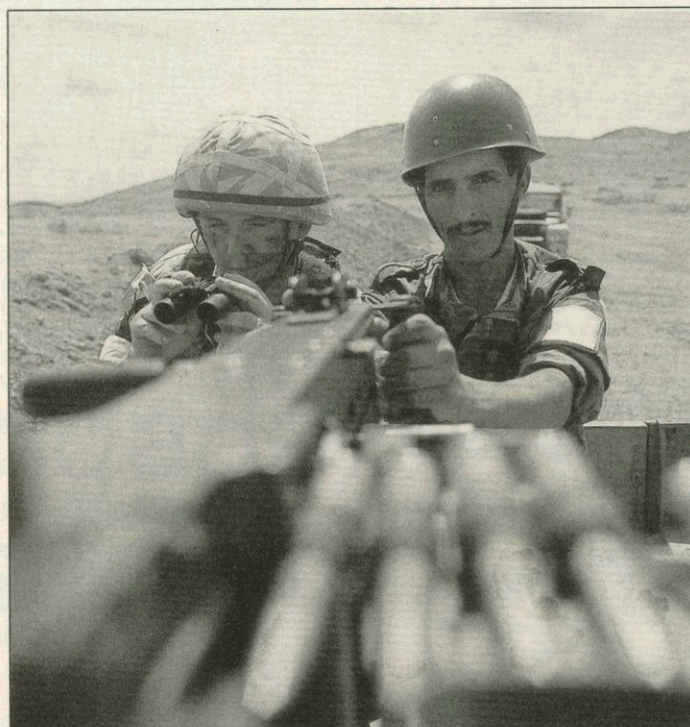
Both Moroccan and British troops lived in spartan tented accommodation, braving scorpions, desert snakes and blisteringly high temperatures during the day.

Tremendous support was provided by attached units including sappers from 50 HQ Squadron, 36 Engineer Regiment from Maidstone, and Dhekelia-based 62 Cyprus Support Squadron RE, who set up basic camp amenities and provided explosive battle simulations on the range.

The Support Squadron CLU fed the troops from produce bought at local markets.



Capt Salmi Marmoon, Moroccan Army, instructs B Coy, 1 RGJ in the use of the Russian-made RPG-9



Cpl Lee Jones (left) of B Coy, 1 RGJ behind a Moroccan 14.5mm heavy machine-gun during the approach to a live firing attack

Maj Lockhurst said: "There has been a great deal of shared experience in terms of information exchanged, interoperability of different weapon systems, and exchange of company level tactics which bodes well for future joint training."

"Ties between the Green Jackets and the Moroccan Army have been firmly established."

The British soldiers had time to visit Marrakech's colourful markets and restaurants and beat their hosts 2-0 at football.

Armour to take train

A 22-mile stretch of rail in North Yorkshire is to be brought back into use to keep the Army's heavy armour off public roads.

The Redmire line, part of the old Wensleydale line, will enable armour to go by rail to and from Catterick to Salisbury Plain. The £750,000 project includes the construction of a loading ramp for vehicles up to and including Warrior.

The reactivated stretch runs from Redmire near Bolton Castle through Leyburn, Finghall and Bedale, linking up with the main East Coast line at Northallerton.

Challenger tanks used by The Queen's Royal Hussars cannot be moved by rail from Catterick because they are too wide for the tracks. They will continue to be transported by low-loader.

COMPENSATION

● From Page 3

collected more than £6,000 for the family.

Pte Harness, who served in the Gulf War, can now walk short distances. He is learning to use a word-processor and works three hours a day typing in the welfare office.

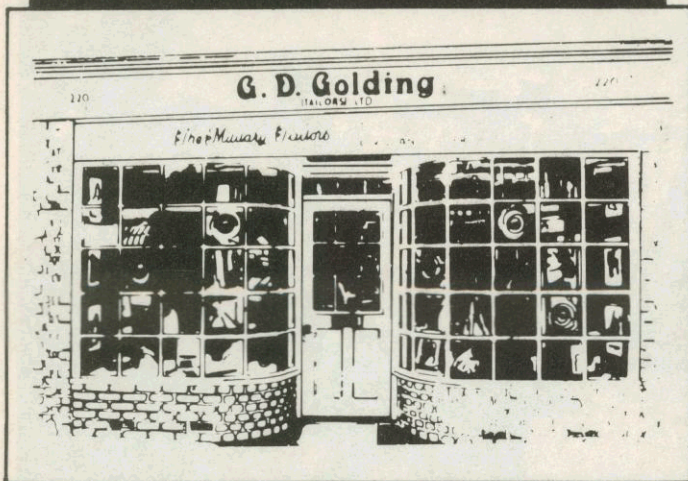
The Poachers are due to return to the UK by March 1 next year and will be based at Warminster. When they do so Pte Harness and his family will

remain in Celle, his wife's home town. His commanding officer, Lt Col David Clements, has approached civic leaders to help arrange accommodation for the family.

The final amount of compensation, to be agreed following negotiations between the MoD and Pte Harness's solicitor, could be used to offset the purchase of a house and to assist in the continuation of his therapy.

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Mike Moore / TODAY Newspaper

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THE ARMY BENEVOLENT FUND

Remembering & Supporting the Brave



Kings Own Border camp goes international

THREE hundred men and women of the 4th Battalion, The King's Own Royal Border Regiment were joined by soldiers from Denmark and the United States on their two-week camp held on Otterburn

training area in Northumberland.

Lt Col Tom Cobley, the commanding officer, said: "It is important to integrate with other nations and to see how their training methods com-

pare with our own. It is also beneficial in that soldiers are rewarded with reciprocal visits."

The battalion carried out small arms training and assessment tests before taking part in

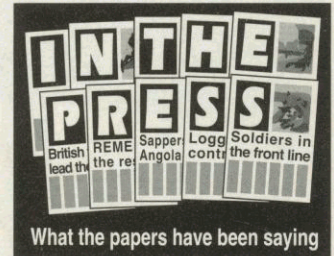
a brigade-strength exercise.

It was supported by sappers who worked with the infantry battalion's assault pioneer platoon to develop watermanship, demolition and bridge-building skills.



SSgt Budge Ashurst (left) and WO2 Dave Town were winners of the Wallop Challenge 95 helicopter competition between the Army, Royal Navy and Royal Air Force at the Army Air Corps Centre, Middle Wallop, Hampshire. The Army team took first prize in the helicopter flying skills competition and received their award from Prince Michael of Kent. The Challenge includes a series of events, including hot air ballooning, glider flying and parachuting to raise funds for military and civilian charities

Picture: WO2 Angus Beaton



Otterburn opposition

THE Army has agreed to re-examine plans to train with heavy guns and rocket launchers on Otterburn ranges after the Northumberland national park authority rejected the proposal. — *Guardian*

□ The Beaufort Dyke trench munitions dump off Stranraer in the Irish Sea is seven times larger than previously thought and has been in use for much longer than previously admitted, perhaps 50 years. — *Independent*

□ France is pushing for a fully-fledged European defence union — including a European army — separate from NATO. — *Guardian*

□ Forty babies of Gulf War veterans have been born with rare deformities. Parents claim the defects prove the existence of a Gulf War syndrome. — *Daily Express*

□ Plans for a 400-metre rifle range on the SAS's Pontrilas training area at Hereford have been withdrawn following opposition from local villages. — *Sunday Telegraph*

□ Britain stands to recoup the costs of defending the Falkland Islands and much of its military spending if oil is found in the territory. — *Independent*

NW Brigade moves East

SOLDIERS from Preston-based HQ 42 (North West) Brigade travel to Hungary this month to take part in a major command post exercise.

The NATO-sponsored Partnership for Peace exercise involves 64 soldiers from 42 Brigade to head up a Multinational Brigade headquarters in partnership with Germany and Hungary and support from nine other countries.

In all, 2,000 troops will be involved in Exercise Co-operative Light from October 16-20.

Command post exercises do not involve the deployment of troops outside the command structure, but are seen as a valid test of how nations can work together as peacekeepers.

The Multinational Brigade

will be commanded by Brig Jeremy Gaskell, Commander 42 Bde. His deputy in the MNB HQ will be a Hungarian officer, and his chief of staff will be German.

Co-operative Light will be the first Partnership in Peace exercise in which a regional, and predominantly Territorial Army, brigade has taken the leading role.

● Two soldiers taking part in the exercise will visit the Hungarian town of Szekesfehervar, which is twinned with their home town of Chorley, Lancs.

● Defence Secretary Michael Portillo had talks with his French counterpart, M Charles Millon, on a range of defence and security issues during a visit to Paris last month.

Tickled pink

Champions in the 1995 Land Command Tickle Test, in which 120 personnel selected at random from major units in every division are put through the three-mile Battle Fitness Test (BFT), were the 1st Battalion, Welsh Guards, based at Tern Hill, Shropshire.

£150,000 pregnancy pay-out

AN Army major asked to resign after becoming pregnant is to receive £150,000 in compensation from the Ministry of Defence.

Mrs Catherine Birtwistle, who became pregnant in 1981, was only the fourth woman to win a place at the Army Staff College.

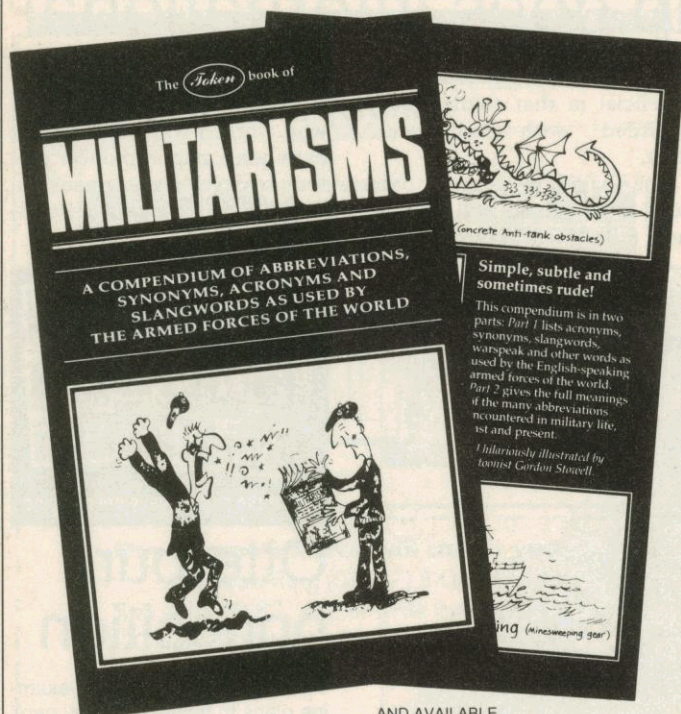
She now serves as a major in the Territorial Army.

Recruit dies at Catterick

PTE Richard Robertson, a recruit based at the Infantry Training Centre, Catterick, and due to be capbadged to The Black Watch, died after being involved in a shooting incident on the Catterick training area.

No other person was believed to be involved. The incident is being investigated.

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Last march for RHKR

MORE than 1,000 part-time soldiers and veterans of The Royal Hong Kong Regiment (The Volunteers) marched through the city of Hong Kong to exercise their Freedom rights for the last time on September 2.

Gen Sir Michael Rose, the Adjutant General, and Mrs Anson Chan, Chief Secretary of Hong Kong, took the salute as the regiment paraded past the Convention Centre in North Wan Chai.

Later that evening Gen Rose was present when the Governor, Mr Chris Patten, took the salute at the regiment's disbandment parade at Gallipoli Lines, Fanling.



Soldiers of The Royal Hong Kong Regiment (The Volunteers) march past Gen Sir Michael Rose, the Adjutant General, during a final Freedom parade before the regiment was disbanded

Volunteer military service in Hong Kong began 141 years ago as a result of the temporary withdrawal of British naval forces.

In response to a call for volunteers to defend the island, 99 people signed the Colonial Secretary's circular of May 30,

1854. The Volunteers have assisted civil authorities on many occasions during their long history.

The Hong Kong Volunteer Defence Corps saw active service at the outbreak of the Second World War, fighting gallantly during the defence of

the Colony in December 1941. Of the mobilised strength of 2,200, 289 were killed, listed as missing, or died of their wounds.

The corps was awarded the battle honour Hong Kong and changed its name to its modern title in 1969.

Hong Kong fêtes veterans

HUNDREDS of Second World War veterans returned to Hong Kong for a liberation parade to mark the 50th anniversary of the island's liberation from Japanese forces on August 30, 1945.

The Governor, Mr Chris Patten, took the salute at the Cenotaph as showers heralded the arrival of a tropical storm.

But, as a 24-man detachment from the 1st Battalion, The Royal Gurkha Rifles under 2nd Lt Tom Martin paraded with units from HMS *Trenchant*, RAF Sek Kong, the Hong Kong Military Service Corps and The Royal Hong Kong Regiment (The Volunteers), the clouds lifted for a service of remembrance and thanksgiving.

After *Reveille*, sounded by LCpl Darren Tucker of the Queen's Division's Minden Band, Wessex helicopters from 28 (Army Co-operation Squadron) RAF, led a flypast over Victoria Harbour. As the ceremonies drew to a close, 150 veterans formed up around the Cenotaph and, to warm applause, were led by the Pipes and Drums of 1 RGR past the saluting dais where Mr Patten, accompanied by Maj

Gen Bryan Dutton, Commander British Forces Hong Kong, took the salute.

Veterans and their families attended a reception and lunch at City Hall where the Governor told them: "It is an honour and a privilege to have you here in Hong Kong. You are all heroes of this city whose freedom you helped win."

The old soldiers took part in a number of commemorative events and made emotional pilgrimages to the military cemeteries at Sai Wan and Stanley, and to the site of the PoW camp at Sham Shui Po.

Many travelled to Stonecutters Island for a tattoo and Beating Retreat ceremony organised by the HKMSC and RHKR. A motor cycle display was put on by 29 Transport Squadron RLC.

The Minden Band of the Queen's Division, which flew from its Colchester base specially for the liberation ceremonies, provided the music.



Maj Gen Bryan Dutton, Commander British Forces Hong Kong, lays a wreath at the Cenotaph during the city's commemoration of the 50th anniversary of its liberation from the Japanese

Mr Patten, Maj Gen Dutton and Maj Gen Guy Watkins, Honorary Colonel of The Vol-

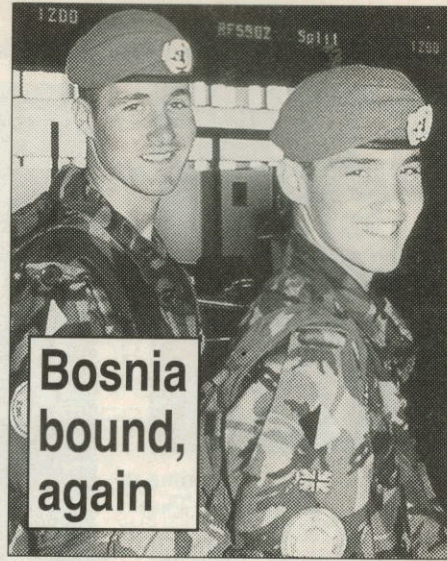
unteers, dotted the eyes of a lion and dragon to mark the beginning of the tattoo.

Sweet gesture



The Man from Mars, **Paul Dear** (right) and members of the Joint Helicopter Services at RAF Odiham, (left to right) Cpl **Damian Gunn** RLC, SSgt **Mark Harney** RLC, and Pte **John O'Connor** QLR, load 500 packets of sweets destined for children in Bosnia. Paul, father-in-law of Cpl **Paul Gibbs**, who works for the unit, was alerted by daughter **Fiona**, who noticed that soldiers were sending sweets from their ration packs. This was a trial run to see if the goodies arrived safely at their destination.

Bosnia bound, again



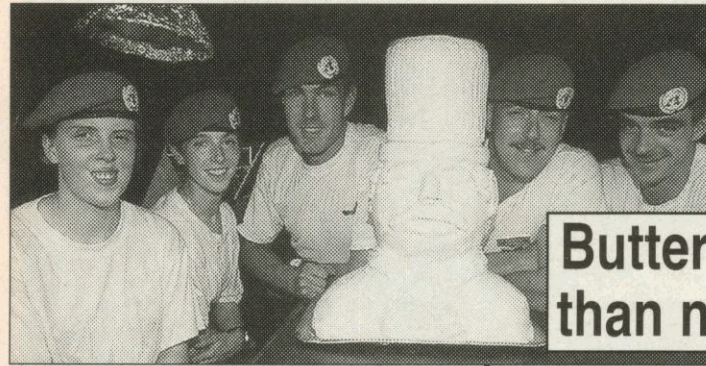
Tpr **Matthew Lambie** (22) and brother **Karl** (19) are pictured at Hanover Airport on their way to Bugojno in central Bosnia. It was the start of a second UN tour for the Lambie boys from Doncaster, who are both serving with B Squadron, The Light Dragoons, normally based at Hühne. Karl (right) was the youngest British soldier in Bosnia when he completed a tour at the age of 17. He survived unscathed when his vehicle detonated a landmine. Matthew said of the incident: "It shook me up a lot and we have been a lot closer since it happened."

Brave Dave



WO1 **Dave Fordyce** (centre) receives the Queen's Commendation for Brave Conduct from Maj Gen **Bob Hodges**, inspecting officer and Colonel of The King's Own Royal Border Regiment, during a VJ Day parade at Carlisle Castle. Now working as a senior ammunition technician at BAD Longtown in Cumbria, Dave received his award for service in Northern Ireland.

PEOPLE



Butter late than never

A new chef called **Dave** has joined the 13 feeding 550 troops in the remote Bosnian hamlet of Lipa. And all because SSgt **Cliff Grand-Scrutton** has been training his young chefs in the art of butter sculpture.

"Just because we are in the field I don't think we should let training standards drop," he said.

Working from a tented kitchen, Dave, Cliff and the gang have been feeding drivers and workshop staff of Aldershot-based 27 Transport Regiment RLC involved in the extraction of British troops from Gorazde and now re-supplying the guns on Mount Igman. Left to right are Pte **Sara Jane Owens**, Pte **Danny Pomeroy**, Cpl **Gary Herbert**, Dave, SSgt **Cliff Grand-Scrutton** and LCpl **Ken Jack**.

Cross your wings!

American paratroopers of C Company, 2nd/75th Ranger Battalion and men of C Company, 1st Battalion, The Parachute Regiment have earned the right to wear each other's highly prized parachute wings.

They swapped equipment for a parachute drop on Salisbury Plain during a two-week training exchange for the 180 US Rangers at Normandy Barracks, Aldershot.

The British Paras will be returning the compliment when they visit the Rangers at Fort Lewis on America's West Coast in January.

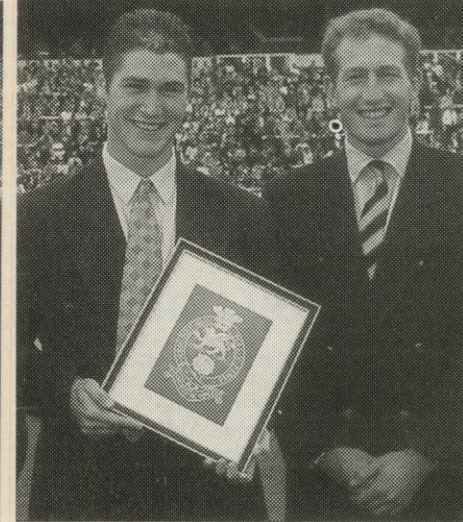
PLAY UP LEE

Army striker Pte **Lee Bradbury** has swapped his Army combat boots for the football version, with the blessing of his regiment. His former company commander, Capt **David Bradley** (right), and Sgt **Stacey Flain** (left), of the 1st Battalion, The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment, called at Fratton Park, home of Portsmouth FC, to wish him well in his new career as a professional footballer.

In front of packed grandstands, Lee was presented with a framed, embroidered regimental badge.

"We are sad to lose him but we did not want to stand in the way of a promising sporting career," said Capt Bradley.

His old infantry mates at Howe Barracks, Canterbury, will be hoping that Lee (20), who comes from the Isle of Wight, is on target for Pompey...



General's badge



Gen Sir **Peter de la Billière** receives the Rhiwderin Detachment badge during a visit to Gwent ACF cadets at Swynnerton training camp. Making the presentation is Cadet SSgt **Andrew Sherston**.

Cadet with a lotta bottle

When calamity struck on an expedition in the Himalayas, Nottingham Army Cadet **Corrina Bates** helped to guide the rescue helicopter to the scene - with powdered milk.

Eighteen-year-old RSM Corrina was with a party trekking through Pakistan's inaccessible North West Frontier region when expedition organiser Nigel Williams became ill with severe stomach pains. Cadets set off to summon help while Corrina and her colleagues had an anxious 48-hour wait.

They broke open their remaining tins of milk powder and wrote a giant "H" on the ground to attract the pilot of a rescue helicopter.

Nigel was soon in hospital and making a full recovery while the 60 cadets completed their 120km hike through the Hindu Raj mountain range.



Picture: Gareth Griffiths

AIMING LOW

Catterick-based (from left) Flt Lt **Simon Chafer**, Cpl **Dean Booker**, Pte **Adele Hearne**, Cpl **Bryan Houston**, and Maj **Rick Beven**, all members of 19th Mechanised Brigade Headquarters, have set themselves a lowly target - the deepest valley in the world. They are attempting a 21-day trek through the 6,096m-deep Arun River Valley between Mount Everest and Mount Kanchenjunga.



Cheeky...



Black Watch piper Pte **Blair McQuade** from Fife has his attention diverted by Belfast schoolgirl **Julie McBride** (9) while pal **Marie Therese Magill** (12) checks to see if his tartan is correctly tucked. The youngsters were among 200 schoolchildren from across the communities in Belfast invited to visit the 1st Battalion, The Black Watch at Girdwood Barracks in the city.

Potent force on the modern battlefield

Operational effectiveness maintained despite the years of turbulence

DESPITE a period of intense individual and collective turbulence, the British Army is now more potent on the battlefield than ever before, says the Chief of the General Staff, Gen Sir Charles Guthrie.

Interviewed during a visit to *Soldier's* offices in Aldershot, Gen Guthrie described the Apache helicopter order as the most important the Army had ever had. "To have that kind of power on the modern battlefield is something we have never had before. It really is a step change."

Assessing the British Army's equipment, he said: "I think that there is not an army in the world which is better equipped than ours at the moment, and that is widely recognised. There is not an army represented in Bosnia which would not prefer to have Warrior."

"AS90 is a great success, the Light Gun is a great success, as are Challenger 2 and the new rifle."

Speaking on the enormous changes faced by Army personnel and their families during the past three years, Gen Guthrie said: "We've made nearly 17,000 officers and soldiers redundant, we have brought 33,000 families back from Germany, and 250 units have been either amalgamated or disbanded."

"I don't recall any time in history when the British Army has been through such change and I think it is remarkable that it has achieved this, at the same time maintaining its operational effectiveness in different parts of the world."

"I realise that a lot of people have suffered from turbulence during the Options for Change exercise. Individual turbulence went up by some 50 per cent. But I now hope that we have a time when the Army



Power: Apache



Success: AS90



Envied: Warrior



Gen Sir Charles Guthrie, Chief of the General Staff, pictured during his visit to *Soldier*

will be able to settle down and build on Options to form the kind of army we need, appropriate for the times we live in. I am very confident that will happen."

But CGS warned that it would be naive to think changes would not go on in the Army. "It is quite right that they should because we have to produce an army the nation needs."

Gen Guthrie admitted there was a problem with manning. "There is a shortfall, and we are going to have to put that right. We are going to have to put recruiting and retention right and see if we can do something about promoting the image of the Army."

"The Army is very well thought of, I am delighted to say, but there are very many people who have no detailed knowledge of the Army. They have never had anyone in their family in uniform and it is them I want to tell that it is still a very good career, an interesting career. Just because the Cold War is over doesn't mean the importance of our Forces is any less."

"A young person joining the British Army now will have a very much more interesting time, I think, than perhaps people like I did when I joined."

A job well done

THE Chief of the General Staff paid tribute to British soldiers involved in humanitarian missions all over the world.

"I go quite often to Bosnia and I always come back extremely impressed and proud of what I see. The British Army has done a very good job indeed there under very difficult conditions."

"But the British Army, not just in Bosnia – in the last couple of years we've been in Rwanda, in Angola, and other parts of the world too – is acknowledged, not just by the British, as being really in the forefront, in the van, of armies who are taking on this kind of commitment."

"You just have to look at some of our junior ranks in their very early 20s who already have four medals illustrating that they have served in the Gulf, in Bosnia, in Rwanda, in Cyprus, or in Angola. There are still plenty of opportunities."

Gen Guthrie confirmed that Eastern Bloc countries, including Poland, Hungary and the Ukraine, were keen to make their training facilities available to the British Army. "I am interested in spending

money on the training facilities we have in this country. We have already improved Salisbury Plain, and what we can do there, we are doing so at Castlemartin, Warcop and Kirkcudbright, and we have plans to do great things at Otterburn."

"But modern weapons need large areas and the importance of taking training to places like the Ukraine, Hungary and Poland, and to continue our investment in Canada, is greater than it was."

Commenting on reports that the United Nations force in former Yugoslavia could be replaced by a NATO-led force of 15,000, Gen Guthrie said the numbers of troops deployed in Bosnia would hinge on the situation.

"There will be for some time, not for ever, a considerable number of soldiers required from different nations, and that is where the figure 15,000 comes from."

He confirmed that if the UN were to withdraw, the most likely option to replace it would be NATO's Allied Command Europe Rapid Reaction Corps (ARRC) under Lt Gen Sir Mike Walker's headquarters. He felt other nations not permanently with the ARRC would want to be represented in that headquarters.

"It will be very interesting to see how some of the Muslim nations, for instance, who have troops on the ground in Yugoslavia, would fit into the chain of command. One has to ask, would the Russians be part of that HQ, because they may well wish to have peacekeeping troops on the ground."

A year on from the cease-fire, Gen Guthrie believes the Army still has an important job in Northern Ireland.

"Over the years the role of the Army there has changed. It is obviously changing now. There is still need; there is a great deal of community relations going on which the Army is taking an interest in, including the protection of buildings which have been attacked."

"Catholic chapels and Orange halls have been targets. We have been protecting those as far as we can. The Army's job is to support the RUC and to help the political process. I think our role in that will continue for some time."

"We are able to react quickly to what the needs are by reducing numbers or increasing numbers. We think we do have an important part to play to support the peace process."



Spectators nearly a mile away on the far bank of the River Elbe watch the big explosion

End of line for the U-boat pens

FIFTY years ago a company of British Army engineers set off an explosion that was heard – and seen – for miles around.

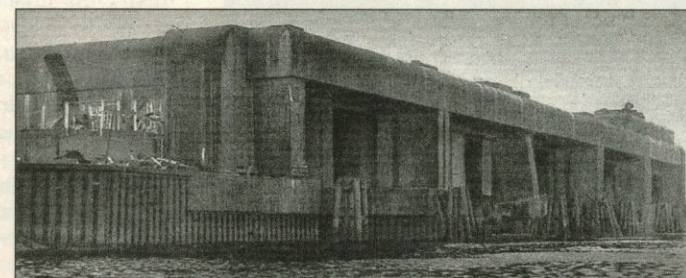
SOLDIER 50
MAGAZINE YEARS ON

They detonated 200 250kg German bombs simultaneously to reduce to rubble the massive reinforced concrete U-boat pens at Finkenwärder near Hamburg. Nearly 155,000 cubic yards of concrete was sent crashing down in what *Soldier* reported in its October 27, 1945 issue to be "the greatest single demolition arising out of the war".

Despite the large amount of explosive used, the men of 224 Field Company RE placed their charges with such skill that nearby houses were untouched. Onlookers on the far bank of the Elbe saw flame burst hundreds of feet into the air.

With a rumbling sound which lasted several seconds, the 15ft thick walls of the submarine pens folded outwards and the roof collapsed. The demolition was in accordance with Allied policy of neutralising Germany's war potential.

Experts had doubted whether the bunkers could be destroyed in a single explosion. The vast structural strength of the pens called for heavy charges, but it was essential that neighbouring factories and barracks should not be damaged.



Already weakened by preliminary charges, the five-bay U-boat pens at Finkenwärder, near Hamburg, await final destruction

The men of 224 Fd Coy had a long and successful record of operations behind them. Under Maj H E A Donnelly MC,

the unit had landed in Normandy on D+14 and been well forward throughout the campaign, taking part in the bridging of the Maas, Rhine, Lippe, Ems, Weser and Elbe rivers. Its personnel had won a DSO, five MCs, four MMs, one DCM, and a *Croix de Guerre*.

After carrying out 72 major demolitions since VJ Day the company had earned a reputation for "keeping blast done up in a handkerchief".

The sappers spent several weeks preparing cavities in the walls to take the 250kg German bombs. Holes were sunk deep into the foundations of the moles on which the walls rested and mines inserted.

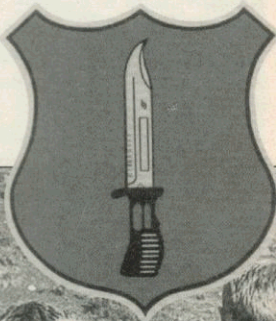
These holes were made with 75lb "beehive" charges – devices which controlled and directed the blast so precisely that neat holes of uniform diameter could be "drilled" through eight feet of reinforced concrete. So slight was the disturbance in other directions that the molten metal from the mild steel beehive cone collected in a large globule at the bottom of the hole.

Maj Donnelly himself fired the charges that destroyed the Finkenwärder pens. "I'm due to be released soon," he told *Soldier*, "and this may be my last big demolition. Anyway, it isn't everyone who has the chance to do £2.5 million worth of damage in one second."



Pte Michael Willis (WFR) and Pte Jonathan Burniston (Green Howards) defend a trench during attack by "enemy" forces. These permanent trenches at Feldom – designed to spare both construction time and the environment – each contain four men who spend three days at a time, eating, sleeping and changing in cramped conditions

Yorkshire's Centre of interest



A THIRD of the Army's new recruits – up to 5,000 Regular and 3,000 Territorial Army troops – are expected to pass through the Infantry Training Centre (ITC) at Catterick each year now that it is fully operational.

The brigade-sized organisation, opened on April 1, is described as being "a centre of excellence for, with the odd exception, all Phase 2 infantry training, with some superb facilities".

With 550 permanent military staff and 170 civilians, it is

**Report: Phil Wilcox
Pictures: Mike Perring**

"much larger than Sandhurst". At any one time, including trainees, its average population will be 2,500 according to the commandant, Col Adrian Freer, who commanded the 2nd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment before taking up his post.

Idea behind its formation was to concentrate training in one centre, saving money and creating maximum efficiency.

Based at Vimy and Helles

Barracks, ITC Catterick, comprising three training battalions, is also responsible for the All-Arms Parachute Selection Training and training members of the various corps of drums.

Recruits at the latter are operational soldiers who are taught machine-gun skills at the centre as well as undergoing musical training. Their course culminates in a three-day live firing exercise.

In common with the ITCs at Warminster and Brecon, students have already completed ten weeks of basic training at one of the Army Training Regiments before going through the gates to learn specialist skills over a 12-week period.

Foot Guards and members of The Parachute Regiment undertake longer, more specialised courses.

"The key to everything we do here is our intake system," said Col Freer.

"We take in 200 soldiers every fortnight, with the aim of achieving maximum efficiency, at the same time not having too many to train."

Each intake forms up as one company representing all the infantry's divisions and regiments.

A Resources Cell (the "Engine Room") works night



Heading for the top? Members of multi cap-badged B Coy, just four days into their 12-week course, tackle one of a series of steep

and day co-ordinating the needs of 2,000 people.

Whenever possible, the centre tries to achieve training by own capbadge.

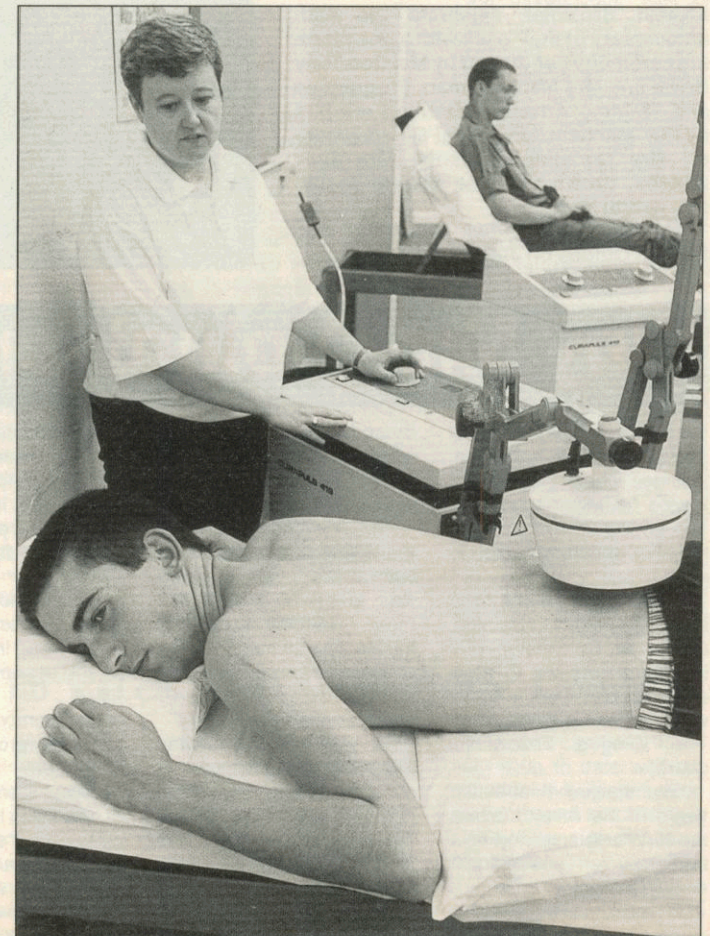
Whoever does the training, the aim is the same: to train the combat infantryman to take his place in a rifle platoon anywhere.

Developments at ITC Catterick, at a cost of more than £8 million, include a 250-seat lec-



A section commander gives a student arcs and reference points during a section attack at Feldom permanent defensive position – another of ITC Catterick's extensive facilities

Below – Pte James MacFarlane receives heat treatment from senior physiotherapist Sue Mann at ITC Catterick's Williams Coy Remedial Centre. Remedial training has been one of the success stories at the ITCs, enabling a speedy return to training for those who have fallen behind due to injury. Because of its size, Catterick can do it on a far greater scale, saving money and resources



A student from 20 Platoon Guards Training Company gets to grips with a 94mm LAW (light anti-tank weapon) during an al fresco classroom session. Using blank ammunition, members of the platoon acted as both attackers and defenders

hills in the centre's tens of thousands of acres of natural training areas. They are led by two of ITC's permanent staff (extreme

ture theatre, a new armoury and indoor training complex, medical and remedial training facilities, an outdoor training complex, bayonet assault course and training area and a new accommodation block and gymnasium.

The neighbouring Warcop and Bellerby ranges have also been enhanced.

With all of these amenities on their doorstep, there should be

right), who themselves, from commandant downwards, frequently take on an early morning five-mile march

little reason for the embryo infantryman not to go to his unit, after passing out from ITC Catterick, without feeling he has achieved the three skills which, in the commandant's words, are important to a soldier. These are: handling a weapon properly, having a thorough knowledge of fieldcraft, and being able to maintain a high standard of mental and physical fitness.

The quiet evolution in Army family life

AT THE end of November the Federation of Army Wives will gather at Sandhurst to discuss the year behind them and the challenges to come.

They will, we hope, announce the results of the poll taking place at the moment.

In the current edition of the Army Wives Journal there is a voting form. Wives are being asked to give their views on whether the organisation should change its name.

If they think it should there are two alternatives on offer – the Federation of Army Wives and Families, and the Army Families Federation.

One of the reasons behind this change of name has to be the evolution going on, albeit quietly, in Army family life. It's something we have all been talking about for a long time but I believe there is a real urgency about

addressing ourselves to the issues now. If we don't then I believe we face the possibility of dividing our community beyond repair.

Not long ago I did a radio interview with Sue Innes, author of a book called *Making It Work*. She is a writer and journalist of great experience.

In the course of researching the book she talked to many women about the ways in which they were trying to carve out the life they wanted, balancing work and home.

In the past such an interview would have provoked little response. This time it created quite a bit of interest, not least from a "house husband" in Germany who thought my remarks "did not do women or men any service at all".



Cari's column

My crime? I had suggested that both women and men were having difficulty defining roles in society because society kept moving the goalposts.

My critic says that, these days, it's wrong to even think of roles, that we should be taking people at face value. For various reasons I would guess that this is a fairly young person.

It would be easy to dismiss his keenly-felt views as the idealism of youth but a survey of young people points to a more significant trend.

A recent MORI poll, commissioned by the think-tank Demos, seems to show that the vast majority of people aged between 18 and 24 years are obsessed with themselves.

They have grown up

taking for granted the freedom to live and work where they choose, alienating themselves from the previous generation, for whom freedom and relative plenty were hard-won privileges.

Following up the survey, *The Sunday Telegraph* went out on to the streets. One of those interviewed was 22-year-old Jim Masters, who said: "We belong to Europe now. Queen and country are just things of the past." I wonder if he ever buys a poppy.

Penelope Leach, whose books on childcare pepper the bookcases of middle-class parents, blames the selfishness of the young on a change of family structure.

"Every generation says that the generation behind it is awful," she says. "But this dislocation between the generations is new."

Perhaps it is this dislocation, this unwillingness to

accept that we can't always have what we want, that is driving many of the women who are claiming damages for disrupted or truncated careers.

In commenting on claims by a Mrs Birtwhistle (described in some papers as Major Birtwhistle) that she had lost the opportunity of rising to and becoming a full colonel because of her dismissal on pregnancy, Humphrey Davies endeared himself to the politically correct.

"The anguish of the realisation that she could never return to her chosen and cherished career merits a high award," he said.

Leaving aside the finer points of the Birtwhistle case in particular, is it really true that not getting what you want should put you in line for a high award?

If in today's Britain this is the reality then the Ministry of

Defence must be on its guard.

The next challenge will be the way in which they handle the review of the ban on homosexual Service people.

Whatever senior military figures may feel about the issue – and however much support within the Services they may have for their views – it is potentially damaging to express radical or reactionary views without first learning the language of today's civilian.

If senior figures at MoD need a warning they have only to look at the Church of England.

Many traditionalists are claiming that the changes brought about by processes such as the ordination of women and general acceptance of homosexual clergy are leading to the division of the Church into sects.

No such fate awaits the

Army but the lesson here concerns cohesion. If the military community is to avoid the same depressing divisions in its family life it must handle the inevitable changes with the greatest sensitivity.

When the vote is announced at the FAW Conference I hope all mention of "wives" is removed from its title.

It would be a small step in trying to adjust to a new way of life.

It would also reaffirm the new emphasis on looking after Army families as an entity rather than an unfortunate appendage of the Service person – an aim which was evident in the Bett Review.

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



Students from the Trinity College of Music in London's West End join the Band of the Coldstream Guards for a day as regiment and college forged links which it is hoped will be mutually beneficial. The 40 students were given tuition in the finer points of military drill by WO1 Perry Mason, the London District Garri-

son Sergeant Major, and later marched and played in the ranks of the Coldstream musicians.

Half the Trinity College students were women. Even though there are none in the Household Division, female musicians are being seen more frequently in military bands.

Brownie pack celebrates its 45th birthday

Krefeld Brownies celebrate the 45th anniversary of their pack with a tree planting ceremony conducted by Maj Gen Tony Boyle and Mrs Mary Garman, Programme and Training Adviser. Watching are Mrs Lesley Mitchem, Divisional Commissioner; Mrs Christine Richards; Mrs Julie Simcox, Brown Owl; the Brownies; and Mrs Judith Yeardley.

The 1st Krefeld Pack registered with the Girl Guides on July 20, 1950.



Why Mick volunteered...

SGT Mick Dalton AGC (MPS) broke the habit of a lifetime when he volunteered to help a charity – and ended up by having a hugely enriching experience.

Mick, serving at the Military Corrective Training Centre at Colchester, put his name forward to look after disabled people for a week under the auspices of The Winged Fellowship charity.

"For the first time in 21 years in the Army I broke the long-time rule and volunteered for something," explained Mick.

"They have facilities in different parts of the coun-

try and I was dispatched to Jubilee Lodge in Chigwell, Essex, not really knowing what was expected of me.

"A quick 'phone call from the railway station and I was at the lodge for what was to prove one of the most rewarding weeks of my life. Ninety-five per cent of the staff are volunteers, and the remainder full-time care assistants or nurses."

He was briefed on what to expect and shown how to avoid injury when handling heavy guests. Volunteers are allocated a guest to look after, dress, feed and so on.

They assist that person on day trips and help them

get ready for bed at night.

"The reward," said Mick, "is the smiling faces of guests who, in some cases, have been restricted to the same room for 50 weeks of the year."

"I think the hardest thing was trying to snatch a few hours sleep in order to be fit for the demands of the next day."

Accommodation and food are provided free to volunteers.

If you want to know more or, like Mick, break the habit of a lifetime, contact: Volunteers Department, WFT, Angel House, 20 Pentonville Road, London N1 9XD (0171 833 2594).



Sgt Mick Dalton with his guest on a Winged Fellowship outing to Chessington theme park

Bett debate reveals areas of concern

BRIEFING sessions in the United Kingdom and Germany on the Bett Review revealed a certain amount of unease in the Army, although aspects of the report were greeted with approval.

A general view was that the Bett team might not have entirely understood the Service and its unique characteristics, and had therefore made inappropriate comparisons with civilian organisations and practices.

The main areas of criticism expressed at the seminars were:

□ There was little support for the **rationalisation of ranks**. Few junior ranks felt qualified to comment on recommendations for senior amalgamations, but there was much comment on the recommendations for other ranks.

Particularly strong views were expressed about the proposal to amalgamate the two warrant ranks and effectively to abolish the rank of lance corporal.

□ There was some concern and misunderstanding about the **three-stage career**, particularly for

other ranks. Such a structure does not imply a wider use of SNCOs and WOs beyond the age of 40, and no specific recommendation to this effect was made by Bett.

Stage three of the proposed career structure would continue to be for the minority.

□ There was some concern that the proposed **allowance package** might undermine conditions of service and even diminish the element of choice so important in the Review's recommendation.

The loss of leave warrants caused particular concern, and the view was expressed that their importance had not been understood.

□ It was widely felt that

performance related pay would be based on subjective criteria and could become divisive.

There was some doubt about the concept of "**five years stability**". While people are clearly concerned about turbulence caused by over commitment, they and their families want, and expect, a reasonable level of mobility.

□ The greatest single concern was that the loss of the **immediate pension** would discourage people from remaining in the Army beyond the age of 30.

Proposals for a new pay system were not widely understood, and while the principle of more flexibility found some favour, there was concern that the recommendations might

impinge on the authority of the Armed Forces Pay Review Body.

There was general support for more individual choice in postings and career direction, and some scepticism about how this would work in practice.

There was also backing for improved welfare support to families; proposals to ensure Service personnel received their full entitlement of leave; a clear contract of Service; and better training links with industry.

Work is now going on in the MoD to determine the extent to which the Army can support the independent review and to identify areas where modified recommendations may be more appropriate.

Osnabrück opens Grapple families' centre

THE opening of Osnabrück Garrison's Operation Grapple families' centre was attended by the Commander, Brig Richard Dannatt, and Garrison Welfare Co-ordinator Mr Richard Cunningham.

The centre will provide a

focal point for families of soldiers deployed with United Nations peace-keeping forces in Bosnia.

It offers a range of facilities for visitors, including a bar area, plus tea, coffee and light refreshments, and a satellite television and

video. Children have their own room stocked with toys and books.

Of special interest will be the audio/video suite in which families can record messages for their loved ones serving in former Yugoslavia on Op Grapple.

Class of '96

MORE than 300 schools representing the best in the independent sector are taking part in Independent Education 95, the national exhibition run by ISIS, the Independent Schools Information Service, at Olympia 2 in London from October 13-15.

Staff from the entire spectrum of United Kingdom day, boarding, single sex, co-educational, nursery, pre-prep, prep and senior schools will be available for a chat.

ISIS reckons weeks of information gathering can be reduced to a single day at the exhibition, entry to which is free. A free catalogue is available.

There is also a free creche, on a first come first served basis.

Families can keep themselves up to date with the situation through an information board which shows maps of the area and regular updates. The main office has a fax for sending and receiving messages to and from Bosnia.

UNDER FIRE

Cold comfort on Mt Igman

BRITISH soldiers on the sun-scorched and dusty slopes of Mount Igman anticipate that within weeks they could be knee deep in snow and swept by icy winds, writes Susan Coulthard.

Temperatures on Igman, the highest mountain in Bosnia and once the venue for the Winter Olympics, will plummet to 30 degrees and more below freezing.

No Olympic competitor, however, had to cope with the rigours of overnighting in a wet gun pit during a blizzard, or endure six months spent squatting in an observation post.

Those are the prospects for hundreds of British troops based on the heights which dominate Sarajevo.

They are living in tents and dug-outs, with little running water and no heating. While the sun shines, life on Igman is bearable. When the snow arrives it will be hell.

Thirty-seven sappers from 51 Field Squadron RE, hot-foot from helping to construct Ploce camp for 24 Airmobile Brigade, have arrived to take on a new challenge – nothing less than a programme to provide winter accommodation, ablutions, heating and protection for troops who will have to sit out the worst the Bosnian weather can throw at them.

"We've got just six weeks to clear this job and it won't be easy," commented Lt Andy Hanna of 51 Sqn.

"In six weeks the winter will be here with a vengeance. We have to get the lads into warm accommodation before then."

The French have been on the mountain for two years and have learned to cope with the conditions. But the engineers intend to make life a little less spartan for the British gunners.

● Gunners dug in on Igman are claiming to have broken a First World War endurance record after spending 65 days in the field at the same spot.



Taking advantage of their gun pit shelter bay to catch up with the latest news from home are (left to right) LBdr Collin Ecclestone, Bdr Jimmy Calder and Gnr Barry Barnsley



LCpl Sammy Parker from 31 Armoured Engineer Squadron helps guide a log into position on Mount Igman. The sappers have been building protective shelters for gun crews and other troops in the area

...but the Highland Gunners hit back in kind

LBDR Roy Kinnear has more experience than most of what it is like to come under fire. He is serving with the United Nations' Multinational Brigade on Mount Igman, overlooking Sarajevo.

A round exploded just ten metres away from him when an observation post he and other gunners were evacuating was targeted by Bosnia Serb artillery.

"All I heard was a whoosh and a deafening bang. The shock wave pushed us down in our trench and left us covered in dust," he said.

Capt Andrew Dawes is a forward observation officer (FOO) responsible for leading an observation party from 25/170 (Imjin) Battery of 19 Regiment RA, the Highland Gunners.



D Sub, 25/170 (Imjin) Battery with their 105mm Light Gun. From left are Sgt Chris Young and Gnrs Richard Wood, Jason Allan, Kevin O'Neill and Nick Coop

"Our duty is to observe areas of interest, movement of forces or firing incidents and report them back. We also direct fire. During the NATO airstrikes, that was what we were doing.

"We have gathered a lot of information and are confident that we know what weapons systems belong to who and where they are located," he said.

He and his men have also been able to assess the effects of damage around BSA positions.

Conditions have been far from good on the mountain. It rains for up to a week at a time. But the rewards of watching the fall of shot from the regiment's own guns have made up for the rigours of OP duty.

Airstrikes, while more powerful, are less accurate than artillery, and 19 Regiment's 105mm Light Guns have been called upon several times to neutralise targets close to population centres.

"Our original OP became untenable. It was first engaged by direct fire from a BSA 30mm Praga anti-aircraft gun and then destroyed by an anti-tank weapon," explained Capt Dawes.

"Unfortunately, that is one

Report: Laurie Manton Pictures: Mike Weston

of the realities of working so far forward."

Back on the gun lines, crews were itching for the chance to bring their guns into action in support of NATO's Operation Deliberate Force.

Sgt Paul Milton of E Sub is in overall charge of a gun platform and its crew.

"I make sure the gun gets the proper data put on its sights and that the ammunition is loaded correctly, as well as ensuring the gun gets fired on target and on time," he said.

Gun crews sleep next to their weapons. Shelter bays have been constructed either side of the gun pits.

The crew of E Sub had just moved into their site after 35 days at another location.

The guns are normally towed by Pinzgauer light trucks which entered service in April. According to Sgt Milton, they are "brilliant."

"It is a little cramped in the back for soldiers and their

equipment, but, for drivers towing the Light Gun across country, it is very good."

There was some disappointment among the Highland Gunners on Igman, most of whom had waited in vain for a chance to fire the guns.

Sgt Chris Young of D Sub said: "After completing our first tour of duty without firing in anger, we discovered that French artillerymen who had taken over our

positions were almost immediately ordered to open fire on Bosnian Serb positions.

"Now we are back and a temporary ceasefire has been ordered."

Guns need ammunition... lots of it. Control and distribution is co-ordinated by the regiment's fire distribution centre (FDC), which arranges for ammo to be brought up from the echelon by DROPS vehicles.

WO2 Steve Wall is a watchkeeper at the FDC, which is



LBDR Roy Kinnear

also responsible for co-ordinating fire plans. He said 28/143 (Tombs) Battery had fired more than 500 rounds at targets around Sarajevo.

"Our guns used up what is probably a battery's entire training allocation for 12 months over a 48-hour period."

He admitted that delay caused some frustration when OP teams called for fire on a target. "Fire is sometimes delayed while political clearances are sought, but when we do return fire, we reply with like. If the BSA use a mortar, we fire a mortar round back at them; 155mm shells are returned by the French guns.

"Our 105mm Light Guns can fire marker, illumination, smoke or high explosive rounds. The HE is our ultimate response, but we often use smoke rounds to deter BSA action. If we drop smoke next to their position, they realise immediately that we are on to them and usually stop firing."

The gunners of 19 Regiment are supported by French 155mm self-propelled guns and six 120mm mortars from the Royal Netherlands Marine Corps.

● Turn to next page

GUNNERS ON MOUNT IGMAN

● From Page 19

The Dutch weapon is quick to operate. It can be brought into action less than four minutes after being set up, and fire up to 20 rounds a minute.

Cpl Herman Gordier said the mortar could deliver normal ammunition more than 8km, and almost twice as far using rocket-propelled rounds.

The mortars used by the Arctic-trained marines are usually towed into action by Land Rovers, but not on Mount Igman.

"Our government wanted us to have some protection against incoming fire, so we were ordered to travel in APCs. We are not used to working with armoured vehicles and much prefer the Land Rover. But if we get shot at, armour is better," he said.

Royal Engineers were originally deployed to Mount Igman to dig in the British guns, but their role changed as the NATO operation began in earnest, said Sgt Seth Roose of 31 Armoured Engineer Squadron from 32 Engineer Regiment based in Germany.

"We have carried out work on behalf of the French guns and Dutch mortars, and a number of radar sites as well, digging in guns and providing basic toilet facilities.

"Our main task has been to construct bomb shelters for troops in case fire was returned by the Bosnia Serb Army."

In their few spare moments they have constructed a log cabin.

An infirmary established on Mount Igman under the command of Lt Col Ross Walker RAMC combines various aspects of the British and French military medical systems to the best advantage.

"Our input is a number of paramedics drawn from 5 Armoured Field Ambulance and 16 Field Ambulance. We also had, for a time, Bravo Medical Section of 3 Field Ambulance from the original Force Medical Squadron, who spent their time rushing around theatre in support of other units including 1 D and D and 19 Regiment RA.

"Mount Igman Infirmary is in an isolated area, prone to bad weather, and close to the guns and NATO's close air support operations. It could be difficult evacuating casualties by helicopter, so we have a French Army forward surgical team attached to us in case any casualty requires immediate surgery."



In good spirits: Capt Andrew Dawes and Bdr Craig Menzies of 25/170 (Imjin) Battery have been keeping watch on Serb positions around Sarajevo from OP Green

Out of the Blue

BRITISH gunners manning OP Blue on Mount Igman overlook a deceptively tranquil landscape of hay ricks, pigs grubbing in the harvested maize fields, and cattle pulling ploughs on the patchwork of strip farms, writes Susan Coulthard.

But the medieval scene conceals something sinister – the tanks, ammunition dumps, bunkers and mortar positions of the Bosnian Serb army, all targeted on the main supply route into Sarajevo.

Eight hundred metres from the snipers in the front line, five British soldiers cling to the almost sheer face of a densely wooded hillside. Their heavily camouflaged observation post – OP Blue – is a tiny log cabin.



LBdr John Joyce (left) and Capt James Phillips with 21 Charlie near their camp at the top of Mount Igman

There is space inside only for the normal shift of two observers and a French Foreign Legionnaire providing anti-sniper protection. And 21 Charlie, an adopted puppy.

From their slit window the gunners of 19 Regiment RA have a panoramic view over miles of hostile ground. They have come to know it with great intimacy; every barn, every path, every window, every gun position, every sniper vantage point.

When Royal Engineers arrived to construct the site they were greeted by a hail of machine-gun fire.

"That was some housewarming we received," said Capt James Phillips, the forward observation post officer.

"We've been mortared, sniped at, and had more than our fair share of machine-gun barages."

LBdr John Joyce was among the first of the British soldiers to return fire. After two mortars landed close to the OP, followed by heavy machine-gun fire, he retaliated. "As soon as the machine-gun fire started I returned fire and soon shut them up. It was the first time I had ever fired rounds in anger.

"It was strange because there was absolutely no fear, just a determination to get on with the job. Suddenly all the training clicked into place."

The men are on watch for eight hours at a time, giving 24-hour cover for a vast area east of Sarajevo.

Capt Phillips said: "Every move made down there is picked up and relayed back to headquarters. If action needs to be taken we'll get the call on the radio. We're all qualified to bring in artillery fire and air strikes on to positions below us."

Accusations that NATO aircraft have hit civilian centres surprise LBdr Donnie Macleod, even though military installations are deliberately sited in populated areas. "We work to such an astonishing degree of accuracy I just can't see how we could make a mistake."



Above – Handover/Takeover. Maj Ian Simpson (left) hands over command of 8 Field Workshop REME to Maj Colin Murdoch. The workshop is part of 24 Airmobile Brigade's Combat Service Support Battalion



Left – Cpl Dave Stephenson from HQ 3 (UK) Division tests chlorination levels at Ploce. Together with WO2 Taff Jones, he is responsible for environmental health on the camp

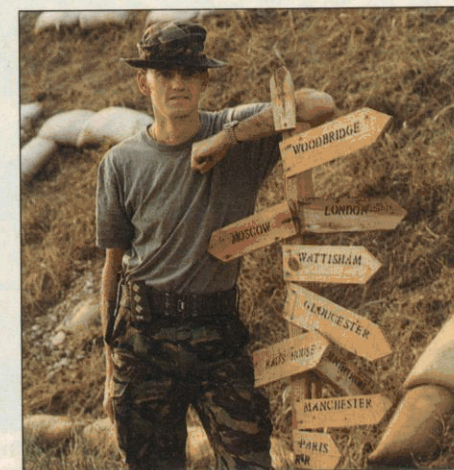
Right – On Guard. Despite all its other training priorities, the 1st Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment still found time to organise an inter-company novice boxing competition for its younger soldiers



Below – All roads lead to home at Ploce Dockyard Camp. Well, except for Moscow. Capt Simon Vickers of 3 Regiment Army Air Corps REME Workshop is suitably impressed by the soldiers' handiwork



Pte Rick Holman (left) and elements of A and B Coys, 1 R Anglian prepare for a battle run



Airmobile Brigade is ready and waiting

As the war in the former Yugoslavia took a new turn, with NATO aircraft and artillery blitzing Bosnian Serb Army positions around Sarajevo, more than 3,500 battle-ready British troops based in neighbouring Croatia awaited a call to arms...

THE SOUTHERN Croatian town of Ploce has been home to Britain's 24 Airmobile Brigade since August.

Nestling on the Adriatic coast, the town has its own port and is an ideal base for the brigade. On one square kilometre of barren wasteland alongside the docks, three tented camps have been erected by Royal Engineers to house almost 4,000 troops.

Conditions are spartan, but morale remains high despite problems faced by the brigade.

During the first few summer weeks of the deployment, soldiers had to sleep under nets to counter the swarms of mosquitos which enveloped the camp.

Cold showers offered some respite from strength-sapping heat which soared to 112F, but temperatures dropped markedly with the arrival of autumn.

The refusal of Croatian authorities to provide training areas on which the brigade could hone battle skills proved

a major disappointment, according to its commander, Brig Robin Brims.

He said: "Without them, we are effectively confined to Ploce, where we only have a small flying area on the nearby isthmus which is adequate for basic flying and instrumentation, and a small strip of land alongside the runway.

"That said, my troops are able to carry out individual training and, with great ingenuity, some mini-exercises.

"Recently, 3 Regiment AAC and 1 R Anglian exercised with the sappers and gunners. Soldiers were flown round a pre-designated route on the base and disembarked on the same bit of ground. They then came under fire from another position and had to counter-attack and breach a simulated minefield.

"While this was taking place, the helicopters went off to do a rotor-turning refuel nearby, before returning to pick up the troops."

Written into the scenario were details of the casualties sustained crossing the minefield, and the injured were passed down

the medical chain for treatment by 19 Field Ambulance.

"It all took place in an area the size of three or four football pitches. However, there is no substitute for proper training and that fact is well known by



Soldiers of a 1 R Anglian mortar detachment run through their firing drills using a practice round

Reports: Laurie Manton Pictures: Mike Weston

both Britain and the United Nations."

NATO's air and artillery operation, Deliberate Force, to clear the Bosnian Serb Army's heavy artillery from the heights surrounding Sarajevo changed the perception of how 24 Bde might be employed with the rapid reaction force.

As the force's in-theatre reserve, the brigade's troops found themselves poised, at short notice, to take part in the operation.

Brig Brims and his head-

quarters staff planned contingency operations involving reces.

Because of the political dimension in all UN operations, plans changed as fast as they were made. The staff of 24 Brigade has got used to this "on the bus - off the bus" style of soldiering.

"You can make plans, but the next week the situation changes and you have to move to the next phase. And, of course, there are many scenarios to follow," said Brig Brims.

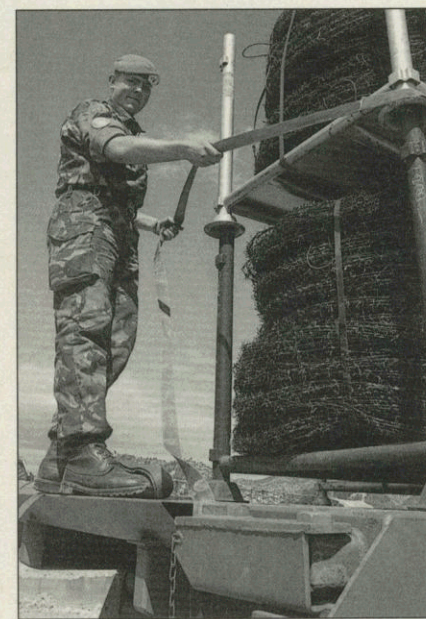
"Take the Bosnian Serbs. Will they ignore the NATO attack or retaliate? Will they come to the negotiating table or not, and if they do, will they take the negotiations seriously? Will there be an agreement and if there is, how lasting will it be? All these questions remain to be seen.

"There is a lot of uncertainty and things keep changing. It is very difficult, but my soldiers are bearing up remarkably well."

The brigadier was full of
● Turn to Page 26



Recce Platoon snipers LCpl David Shaw and Pte Dave Clothier, carrying L96 rifles, are ready to operate in support of Screen Company, 1 R Anglian. Note the camouflaged One-Ten Land Rover behind



Above - LCpls Paul Rivers and Tony Short man the GLOBLE computer system. Behind them are other supply specialists from 15 Logistic Support Squadron

Left - Pte Martin Jones of the Combat Service Support Battalion secures defence stores on the back of a DROPS vehicle

THE Combat Service Support Battalion provides close logistic support to 24 Airmobile Brigade. It comprises a headquarters squadron and two sub units, 15 Logistic Support Squadron and 8 Field Workshop.

The support squadron is split into four troops. Two transport troops using a fleet of DROPS vehicles move ammunition and stores for the artillery, and supplies and equipment for the brigade.

A combat fuel troop equipped with 22,000 and 12,000-litre tankers distributes fuel, oil and lubricants, and a supply troop provides all the materiel required to keep the brigade and its units in operation.

At Ploce, the supply specialists are responsible for 35 Engineer Regiment

Group and the RAF Support Helicopter Force in addition to 24 Bde.

Their workload has increased dramatically and the troop's 38 soldiers are in constant touch with UK-based stores depots through GLOBLE, a computerised stores request and issue system.

Maj Ridley Clayburn said: "My petroleum operators have been detached to work with the Royal Air Force Tactical Support Wing and are based at BFI 5, potentially the biggest bulk fuel installation in theatre. "Our drivers, too, have been heavily

committed. One DROPS troop has been dispatched to supply ammo for the guns of 19 Regiment, Royal Artillery on Mount Igman, the other troop has been moving supplies between Ploce and Zagreb, a three-day round trip."

The other sub unit is 8 Field Workshop, responsible for first-line repair of the CSS Battalion's vehicle fleet and second-line repair of the brigade's vehicle assets. It also has an optronics section which can repair the guided missile systems fitted to the Army's helicopters.

In close support



Headquarters staff at Ploce listen intently during a morning briefing as 24 Brigade's chief press officer, Maj Gerry Bartlett PWRR, keeps them up to date on the media "offensive" in Bosnia

To anyone who's leaving the Armed Forces, the civilian world can be an unwelcoming place. It own. The Royal British Legion exists solely to help ex-Service people and their families. Most of us everything in our power to make it easier for you. We can provide rehabilitation and resettlement year, we were able to help over 180,000 people. If you're having trouble adjusting to life on civvy help by joining the Legion, by helping collect donations from others, or even by making one

can be uncaring. It can be confusing. And it can be very lonely. But at least you're not on your have served in the Forces ourselves. So we know exactly how it feels to leave. And we'll do facilities, counselling services, legal and pension advice, and even small business loans. Last street, maybe we can help you too. And if you're not, maybe you can help us. You can yourself. We guarantee it'll go to a good cause. For more details, call us on 0800 1939 45.

CIVVY STREET

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION.
BECAUSE
IT CAN BE COLD OUTSIDE.





LCpls Lee Pearce and Matt Eades and Sig Woody Wood of 21 Signal Squadron (AS) connect a 50 pair armoured cable

GETTING THE MESSAGE

SOLDIERS from 21 Signal Regiment (Air Support) have been responsible for providing command and control requirements to the RAF's Support Helicopter Force (SHF) and its 12-strong mix of Chinooks and Pumas.

Drawing its soldiers from Colerne and Laarbruch, the regiment also mans the Ploce comcen and handles UN-provided garrison communications.

The communications centre is the busiest in the

atre, handling an average of 700 messages a day for the 18 units based at Ploce. Ten miles of cable was laid to establish an internal camp telephone system.

Lt Duncan Parkinson said the regiment provided radio and Ptarmigan comms to the SHF HQ and all elements of the force. "This includes the flying and tactical refuelling sites, as well as a forward operating base and our Mobile Air Operation Teams (MAOTs)," he said.

A detachment from 21 Signals spent more than three weeks at Zagreb working a rear link for two "white" Chinooks flying humanitarian aid to Bosnian Serb civilians driven out of the Krajina region during the Croatian Army's summer offensive.

Many of the signallers have been drawn from 244 Squadron – the famous "Red Hand Gang" – whose crack communicators have traditionally used a red hand as their tac sign.

It's a long haul from Wattisham . . .

MORE THAN half the 52 helicopters based at Ploce were provided by Wattisham-based 3 Regiment AAC.

And it took a unique feat to get them there. Pilots and aircrew of 3 Regiment flew the fleet of 27 helicopters from their Suffolk base all the way to Croatia.

Never before had the Army Air Corps "self-deployed" a regiment on overseas operations over such a distance. The flight involved stop-overs in France and Italy, while the rest of the unit flew into theatre on board US Air Force heavy lift transport aircraft. Support vehicles followed at a more leisurely pace – by sea.

Following its arrival at Ploce in August, the regiment, commanded by Lt Col John Greenhalgh, has been preparing its mix of Mk 7 anti-tank and Mk 9 light battlefield Lynx



LCpl Will Watchorn (front) and Stuart Leadbeater carry out the first 800-hour service under operational conditions on an AAC helicopter

and Gazelle reconnaissance helicopters for operations as 24 Airmobile Brigade's aviation battlegroup.

Pilots have flown hundreds of training missions to ensure

they are ready for anything.

Low-fly areas have been established on and around the island of Uvala Luka, ten miles south of Ploce. There pilots from the three squadrons –

Report: Laurie Manton
Pictures: Mike Weston

663, 662 and 653 – can practise manoeuvres including evasive action to shake off attacks by fixed wing aircraft.

The regiment is supported by 72 Aircraft Workshop REME, part of 7 Battalion REME. It is responsible for second-line repair of the 27 helicopters serving with 3 Regt as well as six aircraft from 664 Squadron based in Split.

The workshop's 40-strong close support section has carried out the first in a series of major services on the helicopters. The B5 service, done when an aircraft has flown 800 hours, involves it being virtually stripped and rebuilt.

The OC, Maj Mark Ravenscroft, said: "In Wattisham, it would take seven to ten weeks to complete because of the dis-



A 244 Signal Squadron Land Rover ready for loading on to a Chinook helicopter. Alongside are LCpl Roy Constable and Sigs Mick O'Neill and Lindsey Payton

tractions of home life, weekends and military routines.

"Here, our target is 21 days, which can be achieved by working shifts 24 hours a day.

"It's a milestone in servicing

terms, because it is the first B5 service made under operational conditions and in the shortest-ever time frame."

The workshop has its own test pilots who fly aircraft after

they have been rebuilt before returning them to the aircrew.

The environment in which the 72 Aircraft Workshop staff is working is far from ideal. The camp has been swept by

Above – In flight. The Lynx is crewed by Capt Sean Tully and Cpl Simon Rappolt. In the Gazelle behind are Capt Bob de Gale and Cpl Al Rorrison. Both aircraft are part of 662 Sqn, 3 Regiment AAC

storms, and dust generated by aircraft smothers the interior of the hangar, equipment under repair and the soldiers themselves.

Another problem is the noise made by up to a dozen helicopters at a time turning in the vicinity. Ear defenders are essential equipment on the job.

A stores section from 132 Aviation Supply Unit RLC provides a stock of aircraft spares for the workshop. It has a computerised stock control and ordering system linked to a depot in the United Kingdom to ensure replacement parts are readily available.

Airmobile Brigade

● From Page 22

praise for the 35 Engineer Regiment Group which built the camp.

"The sappers did a fantastic job," he said.

Torrential rain did not help. The Royal Anglians were flooded out, despite deep

layers of hardcore being used to raise the tented accommodation above the level of the water table. Troops were startled to see one obviously well-prepared Viking sergeant major paddling a canoe from his tent to the cookhouse.

Morale improved considerably with the establishment of a Royal Logistic Corps mobile bath and laundry unit which provides clean clothing as well as hot showers each evening.

Sappers braved flies, maggots and stinking refuse during the construction of a bulk fuel installation near the dock rubbish tip. Their excavations uncovered rotting animal carcasses and a pit in which hundreds of gallons of rancid margarine had been dumped.

The Croatian authorities are naturally suspicious of the troops' intentions.

"It takes some understanding, but it is very important to

see things from the Croatian viewpoint," emphasised Brig Brims. "We got a frightful wiggling after one of our helicopters hovered over a tiny island in a remote coastal area. To the local authorities, watching from a distance, it looked as if the helicopter was dropping people off on the island, and they were worried it might be some devilish plot by one of their enemies."

To redress matters and

dispel any suspicion, the brigade opened up its base to the port authorities, the area's political heads and senior army officers, who received detailed briefs on the role of 24 Airmobile Brigade, and demonstrations of its equipment and helicopters.

"Afterwards, when a Lynx helicopter crashed, the local authorities could not have been more helpful. One of their ships sailed to the scene and used its

sonar to find the wreckage, and two larger vessels positioned themselves between the television cameramen and stills photographers trying to photograph bodies being pulled from the helicopter after it was raised," he said.

The brigade commander and his staff are fortunate in having the use of one of Ploce dockyard's better disused buildings as a headquarters. It provides a spacious operations

room and additional offices.

The brigade's tour is scheduled to last for six months or more.

"Clearly, if something major was going on at the end of that time, we would hang on until things quietened down. But if the situation improved, the tour could be reduced," said Brig Brims.

In the meantime, 24 Brigade's other infantry and aviation regiments – the 1st Battalion,

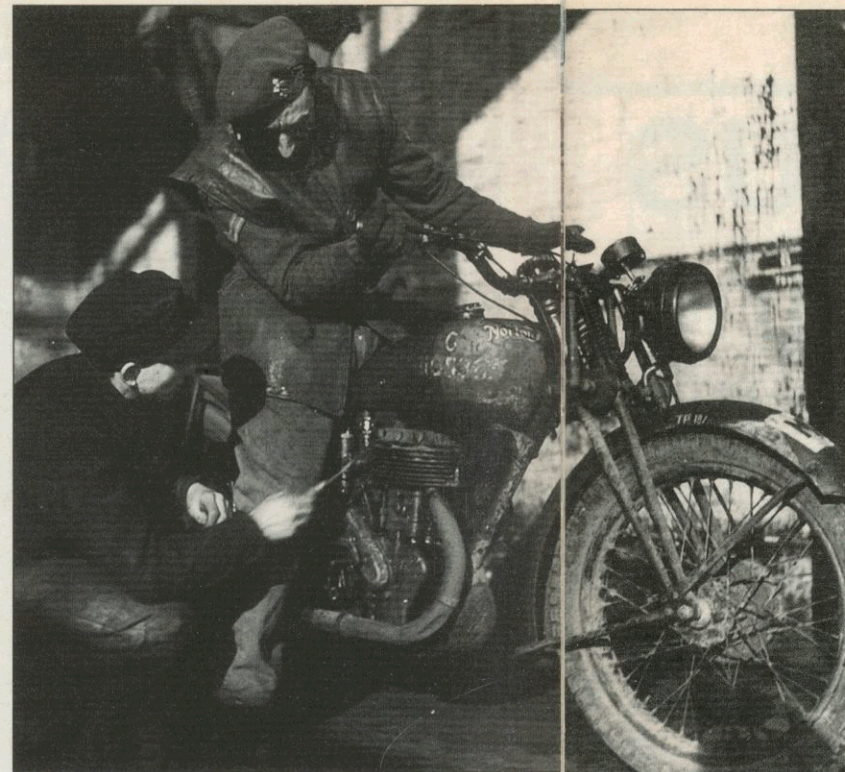
The Light Infantry and 4 Regiment AAC – remain on standby in the United Kingdom.

They provide the brigade with some flexibility in manpower and could be used to relieve 1 R Anglian and 3 Regt AAC.

Brig Brims is in close contact with both units, regularly passing back updated training requirements and sending Ploce-based staff back to brief them on developments.



Above – Three soldiers on three wheels prepare an ambush during a training exercise in 1942



Above – “Do you really think messing about with the carb is going to make any difference to the performance?” A side-valve Norton gets a final tune-up before re-issue



Right – Hot pursuit. A Grenadier Guard aboard a Tommy-gun equipped Norton



Left – Fourteen years after the war the Army was still using the same trusty old steeds. Here Sgt Brooker aviates a Matchless at the top of a one-in-three hill on his way to winning the 1959 ‘Modern Rough-Riders’ championship

Military experiments on two wheels

NOT A LOT of people will know this. Aveling Barford, once famous for making road rollers, produced a motor cycle in 1938, writes **Brian Jewell**.

Admittedly, the two-wheeler was a one-off experimental prototype for the Army to test, but it does have a place in transport history if only because of its unorthodox design, the most notable feature of which was its angle-iron frame drilled with lightening holes, giving the impression that it had been cobbled together from bits of Meccano.

“On a slightly sad note, the motor cycle appears not to have survived the war; it is listed in a November 1944 census as being converted to an air compressor!”

The description comes from a newly-published book, *British Forces Motor Cycles 1925-1945*, by C J Orchard and S J Madden. There have been many military works on armoured vehicles and a somewhat smaller number concerned with “soft-skinned” trucks and cars, but as far as is known this is the first dedicated to motor cycles.

In the mid-1920s the

Mechanical Warfare Experimental Establishment was created to test and assess the suitability of all forms of self-propelled transport for potential use by the Army.

In the case of motor cycles, the Establishment laid down that models proffered by the industry should be subjected to a 10,000-mile programme of both on- and off-road testing.

Unorthodox as well as conventional motor cycles were considered and experimental trials were carried out using two-stroke lightweight models and three-wheels-in-a-line vehicles.

“The idea of a three-wheeled machine evolved as a result of the success of the Army’s new six-wheeled lorries... For improved grip in certain off-road conditions a track could be fitted over the rear wheels, thus turning it into a half-track motor cycle.”

One three-wheeler to be tested was the 1928 OEC (Osborn Engineering Company) 342 cc two-stroke, des-

cribed in the manufacturer’s literature as a “Caterpillar Tractor”.

Unconventional designs were eventually rejected but the War Office kept an open mind when it came to having them demonstrated.

For example, there was the Swiss Moto-Chenille 350 cc, a machine of very strange appearance with a four-wheel track-laying bogie in place of the front wheel and its engine mounted on the handlebars.

“Demonstrated in mid-1939 by its designer, it proved to be useless at hill climbing and showered its rider with stones and mud...”

When war broke out in September 1939 the British Armed Forces had well over 21,000 motor cycles of all models, the makes most favoured being Ariel, BSA, Matchless, Norton, Royal Enfield, Triumph and Velocette.

After the evacuation of Dunkirk and the heavy losses of British Army equipment all major manufacturers were

hard-pressed with orders for replacements.

To meet the demand emergency purchases of civilian machines were made from factories and dealers’ showrooms. Other motor cycles were donated by their patriotic owners.

“Some 8,000 motor cycles of both impressed and gift status were to be accepted by the authorities at the time, the vast proportion being employed by second-line formations, training units and civil defence organisations.”

The War Office generally disliked American motor cycles due not only to their large size and heavy weight but also because in most cases the rider’s controls were in a completely different configuration from those on British military machines.

Nevertheless, numbers of Harley-Davidson and Indian motor cycles, supplied under Lease-Lend arrangements, found their way to Army units, as well as to the RAF and Civil Defence. Some Indians were

disposed of to the Mid-Lothian Post Office in 1943.

Other foreign motor cycles used by the British forces in the war were captured German and Italian machines – BMW, DKW, Zundopp and Moto Guzzi.

Although lightweight motor cycles fared badly in pre-war testing because of their poor performance and susceptibility to damage, such machines came to be needed for airborne forces.

Those developed were the Exelsior “Welbike” 98cc of 1942, Royal Enfield Model WD/RE 126cc of 1942, and James ML 125cc of 1943.

The “Welbike”, looking like a child’s toy, is shown in the book towing a parachuted container. It was the design of J R V Dolphin who, in postwar years, had his Corgi scooter produced by Brockhouse Engineering.

“After the Second World War, military motor cycle development came to a virtual standstill. It was not until the early 1950s that the postwar Armed Forces accepted the new BSA M20 and Matchless G3/L as the standard Service machines.

“One of the many oddities

tested... was the fitting of Framo skis to either side of the motor cycle. When in use they were supposed to enable the rider to transfer part of his body weight to the ground, to provide the machine with greater stability on soft ground or loose gravel when cornering... Testing of this design was carried out in Egypt, but only to culminate in failure!”

The book could have been improved by a little more information on the manufacturers themselves; addresses and overall active dates would have made a useful appendix to go with the excellent charts of machines giving their serial, contract, engine and frame numbers, and the section on “colour schemes” describing the various liveries of the Army, Admiralty and RAF.

This book fills a gap in the available literature about military transport and it is to be hoped that the authors may be considering something similar dealing with Service motor cycles of the First World War.

British Forces Motor Cycles 1925-1945 by C J Orchard and S J Madden. Alan Sutton, hardback, £19.99.

Wonderful Copenhagen

TO settle a rather heated and ongoing argument, can any readers remember the length of BAOR rest period leaves taken in Copenhagen between 1946 and 1948?

Also, can anyone recall any details of their leaves in the Danish capital and the address or name of the building in the city where leave was accommodated? — **D C Taylor, 36 The Avenue, Hersden, Canterbury, Kent CT3 4HR.**

Burma Star's US branch is thriving

A FRIEND, knowing I am a member of the Burma Star Association, sent me a copy of the August 7 issue of your excellent magazine. I much enjoyed the articles on the Burma campaigns.

I served with the US 5307th Composite Unit (Provisional) — Merrill's Marauders — in 1944

and its successor, the 475th Inf Regt, part of the US 5332nd Brigade, in 1944-45.

At the Burma Star reunion in 1951 the late Lord Mountbatten recommended that an American branch of the Burma Star Association be authorised.

This was done, with membership requiring an award of

the US Asiatic-Pacific Theatre Medal with a battle star for either the first or second Burma Campaign and prerequisite membership in the Burma Star Association.

The First American Branch now has 197 members, of whom 36 attended the 49th Burma Star reunion in the Royal Albert Hall and marched in the parade to the Cenotaph in April this year.

We are holding our branch reunion in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 19-21, 1995, with Col the Viscount Slim and Lady Slim as our guests. — **Col James D Holland, USA (Retd), Secretary, Burma Star Association First American Branch, Tiburon, California.**

SECRET LIFE OF THE CDL

I FOUND details of the Canal Defence Light (August 21) interesting because my father-in-law had spoken about it.

He was 2iC of 373 Tank Transporter Company RASC and was sent to the Pembroke coast to load Matilda tanks mounted with CDLs.

In view of the secrecy surrounding these tanks, the loading was apparently carried out

with fighter air cover. The company ferried their charges via Gloucester to Southend-on-Sea and weeks later reached Portsmouth!

Embarking at Priddy's Hard, Gosport, three tank transporters and a three-tonner to each LCT, they were landed on Juno Beach.

A couple of months later 373 TT Company were sent to

Beauvais aerodrome, where they again picked up the CDLs, ferried them to the Rhine and unloaded them individually along the bank.

Incidentally, the whole concept of CDLs was kept so secret that at no time until they reached the Rhine did the crews of the tank transporters know what they were carrying. — **A J Donald, Horndean, Hants.**

OFFICERS OF THE BRITISH ARMY (circa 1991)

SPECIAL OFFER FOR SOLDIER READERS

This special offer comes to you from Military Caricature Publishing, and is the ideal presentation or Christmas gift. The prints are painted in caricature style by former Welsh Guards Captain Simon Dyer in a limited edition of 500 copies for each regiment or corps. Each print is individually numbered and signed by the artist. Overall size 8" x 16".

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| 15. 16th/5th The Queen's Royal Hussars | 43. The Queen's Lancashire Regt |
| 16. 17th/21st Lancers | 44. The Duke of Wellington's Regt |
| 17. The Royal Tank Regiment | 45. The Prince of Wales's Division |
| 18. The Corps | 46. The Devon & Dorsets |
| 19. The Royal Regt of Artillery | 47. The Cheshires |
| 20. King's Troop RHA | 48. The Royal Welch Fusiliers |
| 21. Corps of Royal Engineers | 49. The Royal Regt of Wales |
| 22. Royal Corps of Signals | 50. The Gloucestershire Regt |
| 23. The Guards Division | 51. The Worcestershire & Sherwood Foresters |
| 24. Grenadier Guards | 52. The Royal Hampshire |
| 25. Coldstream Guards | 53. The Staffordshires |
| 26. Scots Guards | 54. The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regt |
| 27. Irish Guards | 55. The Light Infantry |
| 28. Welsh Guards | 56. The Light Infantry |
| | 57. The Royal Green Jackets |
| | 58. The Parachute Regt |
| | 59. 2nd King Edward VII's Own Gurkha Rifles |
| | 60. Sandhurst Cadet (an unlimited edition but signed by the Artist) |

Chinese lost 2,000 in First World War

I CAN confirm that the Chinese were on the Western Front in the First World War. Some of them even saw unofficial armed action.

On the advice of the Australian Prime Minister, the British (which included the Canadians) had recruited 96,000 of them by 1918, mostly from Shantung province.

They were shipped to France with the Japanese Navy escorting them as far as Port Said. A Japanese destroyer squadron was based at Malta.

The reason for their use was the huge losses of the British in the Somme actions, which caused a shortage of labour

everywhere, including the docks. Two thousand Chinese lost their lives and are buried in France.

The biggest cemetery is at Noyelles-sur-Mer, near Calais, where 838 lie, while a number are buried in the Shorncliffe Military Cemetery, Kent. As they were part of the British Army their graves are tended by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

All the Chinese belonged to the British Chinese Labour

Corps, which was formed on February 21, 1917. The corps was formed into ten battalions. All personnel were uniformed and subject to military law.

The Labour Corps eventually reached a strength of 193,000, and in addition to the Chinese included 48,000 Indians, 21,000 South Africans (including Zulus and Cape Coloureds), 15,000 members of the Egyptian Labour Corps, 2,500 Maltese Labour Corps and 8,000 of the British West Indies Regiment, plus others from Mauritius, the Seychelles and Fiji. — **Pete de Wood, Schwalmthal, Germany.**

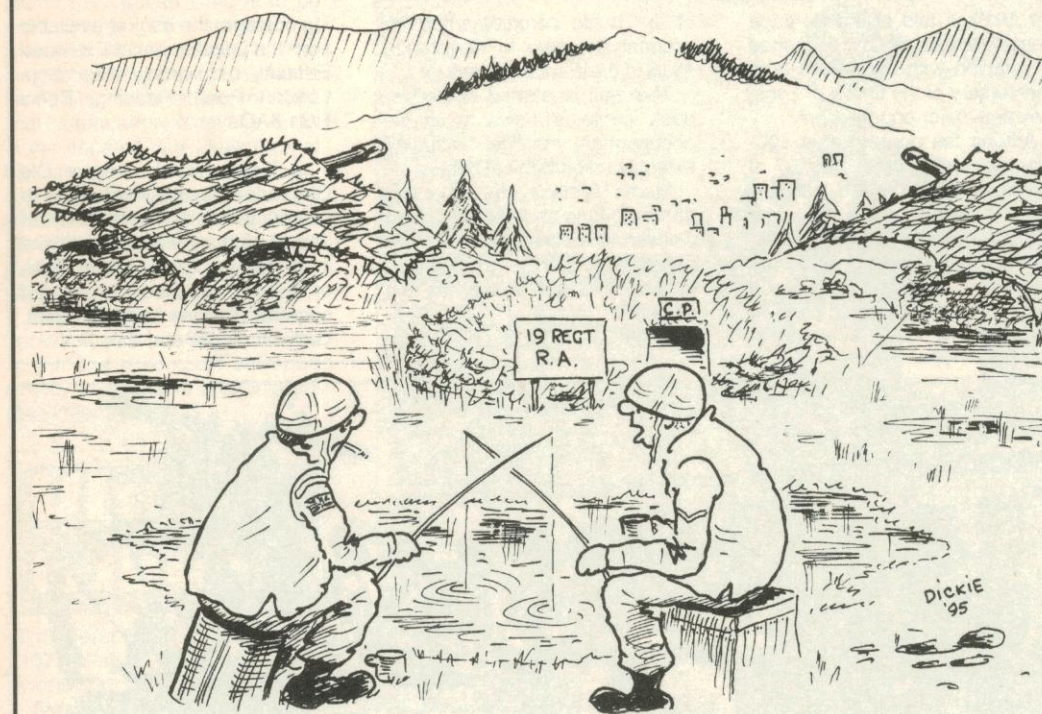
9508330 0 2). I was attracted to this book because my father commanded a Chinese labour company on the Western Front.

He stayed with it in France and Belgium for a year or more after the Armistice, engaged in battlefield clearance, and had some gruesome stories of the casualties this work caused among his Chinese. — **Richard Elley, Chester.**

AS A gardener-caretaker with the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, I had the privilege of caring for the graves of some of the Chinese who died in France in 1917-18.

Those men were buried in a special enclosure in the war cemetery at Faubourg d'Amiens, Arras, and I can assure Mr Cummings (Letters, Sept 18) that they receive the same devoted care and attention as do those of our own fallen. — **E F Oldfield, Cowes, Isle of Wight.**

BIRD'S EYE-VIEW



"Padre's looking for carol singers . . . RSM's ordered an advent calendar for the CP . . . PRI's got that worried look . . . we're here for Christmas for a cert, Wayne"

● Gunners on Mount Igman — see Pages 18-27

LETTERS

In two places at once

DURING May 1945 in a field near Bremen we had a victory march led by the Band of The Highland Light Infantry followed by a speech from Gen Horrocks.

We learned that some of us were to remain in Germany while others would go to India and the Far East.

It puzzles me that, according to TV recently, we were in the UK for the victory celebrations. My group arrived home in January, 1946, after a journey lasting three days, to a very quiet time, after seven years' service. — **Alf Blake, Northfleet, Kent.**

● It is possible the TV reference was to the Victory Parade in London on June 8, 1946, as featured in our September 18 issue. — **Editor**

FREE ENTRY

NOW the VE and VJ commemorations are over it would be a nice gesture if all ex-Service people were given free entry to the three main war museums. After all, we created them.

Any small shortfall could easily be made up by our grateful Government. — **A W Cregan, London E6.**

Crowning glory of Indian VCO

I REFER to your correspondence (July 10, August 21) on Indian Army ranks.

I served in the Indian Army during the Second World War and the subedar-majors I had the privilege to meet always had three small silver crowns resting on three red and white strips across their epaulettes.

These fine VCOs were always referred to and addressed as "Subedar-Major Sahib" with courtesy, patience and respect. They usually spoke sound English and often acted as interpreters. — **Capt (QM) (Retd) R J Steward, late IEME/REME, Devon.**

Centenarian recalls Loos 80 years on

FOR TWO years, mature students at Reading University have researched the story of Berkshire's Kitchener volunteer battalions and their fate on the Western Front.

The students, led by Prof Colin Fox, uncovered so much material that the project's first published work has been restricted to just two battalions of the Royal Berkshire Regiment, the 5th and 8th.

What happened to the men between August 1914 and Octo-

ber 1915 is told in the 64-page *Responding to the Call*, published to coincide with the recent 80th anniversary of the Battle of Loos, their first major engagement.

Among the sources was 100-year-old Mr George Strong, of Wantage, probably the last surviving member of the 8th, who was wounded at Loos and at the end of the war helped guard the Unknown Warrior in France before the coffin was shipped to England. His 1995 recollections

of the battle complemented an account he gave in November, 1915 to the *Reading Mercury*.

The well illustrated soft-cover book contains newly available documentary material, including extensive biographical details.

Martin McIntyre, one of five students working on the project, told *Soldier*: "It is our intention to complete the story of these battalions, in particular the activity on the Somme."

Priced at £3.95 (£4.50 includ-

ing postage) the book is available from the Department of Extended Education, University of Reading, London Road, Reading, Berks RG1 5AQ.

Derbyshire Yeomanry Old Comrades Association helped to celebrate the 100th birthday of James Henry Reid, who enlisted in 1911 at the age of 16. Mr Reid, of Solihull, reached the rank of corporal and served in Egypt, Gallipoli, Tripoli and Salonica.

SOLDIER to Soldier

Publish and be praised!

KEEPERS of national archives have heaped praise on a Somerset old soldier's first-hand account of his war experiences – but the author could not find a publisher for his work.

So Ron Gladman, of Minehead, followed the course many others have taken and, with the help of his family, published his unpretentious but moving story himself.

His wife Freda typed the copy and son Christopher provided the design and artwork. A local printer completed the process by producing a "limited edition" of the 90-page paperback *Citizen Soldier* for family and friends.

Ron's uncomplicated tale of life with the Hampshire Regiment in Normandy, Brussels, Nijmegen and Northern Ireland and with the Wiltshires in Xanten and Bergen Belsen, as well as his postwar search for the friends with whom he had lost contact was described as "outstanding" by Peter H Liddle, Keeper of the Liddle Collection, Leeds University Library.

The story is now part of that archive and of the Department of Documents at the Imperial War Museum, whose Deputy Keeper, Philip Reed, also paid tribute to its value as the record of an individual in the front line.

The description of the Royal Irish Regiment's capbadge on the back page of the September 4 issue referred to "a wreath of shamrock" surrounding the Irish harp and crown, although no such wreath was visible in the illustration which accompanied the text.

The shamrock, in fact, frames the regimental crest. The capbadge is wreathless.



Pipe Major Alec Brown and the Pipes and Drums of The Black Watch played specially for wheelchair-bound Willie Craig during a visit to the hilltop village of Ballycarry, ten miles from the port of Larne.

With the 1st Battalion based at Girdwood Barracks in Belfast, the musicians have kept their colleagues and members of the public entertained at every opportunity.

Their appearance at Ballycarry was for the Broadisland Gathering, a celebration of the Scots-Irish connection. Pipe Major Brown explained: "We were especially pleased to be able to play for

a wee old man at the top of the village who cannae get down to watch the pageant."

So Willie and his wife Winnie enjoyed the full glory of the pipes and drums, complete with sword dancers, in their own back yard.

Ninety Black Watch soldiers were introduced to sailing on board *Drum*, the yacht which made the headlines when it lost its keel and capsized in the 1985 Fastnet Race with Duran Duran singer Simon Le Bon at the helm. The yacht, now based in Glasgow, sailed over to give the soldiers a week-long crash course.

Return of the Sussex Yeomen

Soldiers from 127 (Sussex Yeomanry) Fd Engr Sqn RE constructed new regimental display cabinets in Newhaven Fort during the summer. The squadron keeps alive the name of the Sussex Yeomanry, which fired the last rounds from the coastal fort in 1962.

have their own closed competition.

Over the weekend of May 11 and 12 there is to be an exhibition of trade stands, military bands, and parachute and motor cycle displays. Admission will be free.

Lucky 13

A VICTORIA Cross posthumously awarded to 20-year-old Capt David Philip Hirsch at Wancourt, France, in April 1917 has become the 13th held by the Green Howards' museum in North Yorkshire.

The medal had been kept by Capt Hirsch's brother, Maj Frank Hirsch, until his death last month at the age of 97. A grandson living in South Africa asked that the museum in Trinity Church Square, Richmond, care for the VC.

Regimental secretary Lt Col Neil McIntosh said the regiment was proud that relatives of VC holders wanted it to have the medals to be displayed in the museum.

Monty's shed

MONTY's caravan shed is to be painstakingly reconstructed at Aldershot Military Museum. The historic building provided a home for Fd Marshal Montgomery's tactical headquarters caravans – now in the Imperial War Museum – at his Hampshire home.

It was constructed from the rare Jarrah hardwood donated by a grateful Australian nation, and roofed with shingle given by Canada.

Every piece of wood, stone and brickwork was carefully numbered so that the shed could be rebuilt exactly as it was as a lasting tribute to Monty.

Ulster tribute

Brig John Swales, Commander 107 (Ulster) Brigade, lays a wreath at the Ulster Memorial, Thiepval, at the end of a battle study trip in northern France.

Aim of the trip was to study the German General Guderian's XIX Panzer Corps crossing of the River Meuse at



Sedan and the British counter-attack at Arras in May 1940.

The battles were brought to life by Maj Tim Kilvert-Jones RWF and two Second World War veterans, Maj Ken Macksey MC and Maj Ian English MC, who fought at Arras as a second lieutenant in 8 DLI, a TA

battalion. A service of remembrance was conducted at Thiepval by Maj J Rooney, padre to 1 (NI) Bn ACF, and a 107 (Ulster) Bde plaque for display in the chapel was presented by Maj Peter Holliday, Royal Signals, Chief of Staff and author of the exercise.

SEARCHLINE

Maida Camp, Fayid, 1952: News sought of Andrew "Jock" Hunter, Terry Mason and John Shepherd RAPC, Maida Camp, Fayid, Suez Canal Zone, 1952. Replies to Ken Smallwood (ex-NS 224207558, 1950-52), 2 Norton Avenue, Sale, Gtr Manchester M33 HE (tel 0161 969 5632).

Ex-members of 92 Coy KAR (RASC, REME), Nairobi, Kenya 1958-62 interested in a reunion are asked to contact D Waddington, 30 Kingsley Drive, Leeds LS16 7PB (tel 0113 624322 (day) or 0113 2301319 (evenings)).

Eighth Army 1941-45: Military historian seeks Eighth Army veter-

L M C Brown seeks the help of an astute reader to solve the mystery of the Royal Leicestershire Regiment capbadge. Having acquired a copy of the badge, he read in Hugh King's *Head Dress Badges of the British Army*, Vol 2, that the pattern seal dates from July 11, 1968 – several years after the regiment was absorbed into The Royal Anglian Regiment. On September 1, 1964 it was redesignated as the regiment's 4th (Leicester) Battalion.

"What I fail to understand," writes Mr Brown, of 59 Alexandra Road, Uckfield, E Sussex TN22 5BD, "is how a badge came to a regiment which had been absorbed some ten years previously. Who wore it?"

ans' personal memories to supplement official and published accounts and produce the first single volume history of Eighth Army. Contact Richard Doherty, author of *Only the Enemy in Front* (history of the Reconnaissance Corps) and *Clear the Way!* – 38 (Irish) Brigade in the Second

World War, at 27 Hillview Avenue, Prehen, Londonderry BT47 2NU.

Alan Robinson, ex-platoon sergeant and CSM of E, F and K Coys, 2nd Cadet Bn, Middlesex Regiment ACF, seeks ex-cadets 1939-60 in the Middlesex and London areas, particularly

APPOINTMENTS

Major generals: G A Ewer, late RCT – To be Assistant Chief Defence Staff (Log), Feb 96; W R Short, late RAMC – To be DGAMS, April 96; C L Elliott – UK Mil Adviser to Chairman, International Conference on former Yugoslavia, July 10.

Deputy Chaplain General: Rev J J Holliman, late RACHD – HQ 4 Div, Dec.

Brigadier: W E Strong – To be DA/MA Riyadh, Sept 16.

Colonels: A S Ritchie – To 3(UK) Div, May 29; R P Cousens – To HQ TRADOC USA, Sept 11; A J Faith – To SHAPE Staff (BAE), Sept 11; D T I Glyn-Owen – To MoD, Sept 11; B J Hodgkiss – To MoD, Sept 11; R L Styles – To

MoD, Sept 11; H C G Willing – To HQ AFCENT (Staff), Sept 11; A A Wilson – To IMS NATO, Sept 11; B A Hopkin – To be Comdt HQ and Con Gp RADC, Sept 11; D R Burns – To 1(UK) Arm'd Div, Sept 11; A D Deuchar – To MoD, Sept 11; S R B Allen – To RAC Centre, Sept 18; C M B Coats – To MoD, Sept 18; K P O'Kelly – To MoD, Sept 18; C E Price – To MoD, Sept 18.

Group B Corps: C H B Garraway – AGC(ALS), Col ALS 3, June 30.

Lt Col: V J Brooke-Fox LD – To RAC Cen, Sept 17; A Brown RE – To be CO London Univ OTC, Sept 11; C G J Bullough AGC(ALC) – To HQ 4 Div, Sept 11;

G Dodgson RA – To JPS, Sept 11; J K Ewbank, R Signals – To MoD, Sept 11; N H Hatton RLC – To HQ UKSC(G), Sept 11; J E Middleitch AAC – To HQ Salisbury Plain Trg Area, Sept 11; J S M Walker KOSB – To RCB, Sept 12.

A D T Barkas QLT – To HQ Landsouth East, Sept 20; J W R Blott RDG – To BMM Kuwait, Sept 18; M R Lanham RLC – To be CO 9 Supply Regt RLC, Sept 18; M F Richardson, D and D – To JPS, Sept 18; J R Wallace RLC – To MoD, Sept 18.

Retirements

Colonel: E D Powell-Jones, late 7 GR, Sept 23; F M Wawn, late AAC, Sept 23.

DIARY

1996

May 11-12: Army centenary international military culinary competition and open day, St Omer Barracks, Aldershot, gates open 10am. Free admission.

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

REUNIONS

Black Cats (56 Div Signals (to 1961) Old Comrades Association: Former members of successor regiments and squadrons are invited to contact secretary Steve Bland on 0181 656 9740 or write to him at 222 Wickham Road, Croydon CR0 8BJ for membership details. The association's next reunion dinner takes place at the Union Jack Club, London, on October 20.

1996

Royal Tank Regiment: Former warrant officers of the regiment interested in a 1996 reunion in Meriden, near Birmingham, on a date to be decided, are asked to contact J "Charlie" Welchman, 29 Northmoor Way, Wareham, Dorset, BH20 4EE (tel 01929 553466).

Uxbridge, Rayners Lane, Kingsbury and Willesden. Tel 01206 549617 or write to 43 Rudsdale Way, Colchester, Essex CO3 4LP.

The Airborne Engineers Association, with branches throughout the UK and members worldwide, seeks ex-Regular and TAVR airborne engineers. Contact Chris Chambers, 24 Longfield Road, Ash, Aldershot, Hants GU12 6NA (tel 01252 316579).

Les Swindale (ex-Dvr) wishes to contact any members of MT Section, 164 Rly Opr Coy RE (1939-45), particularly Frank Sheppard, Capt Tyrell, Jock Lythgoe and Cpl Furmur. Replies to 6 Yewtree Crescent, Stapenhill, Burton-on-Trent, Staffs DE15 9QL.

Maude Williams is trying to trace LCpl Luther Taylor RA, from Short Heath, Willenhall, Wolverhampton. He was stationed at Kingsbury, Middlesex, during the Second World War and from there went to Tobruk and El Alamein with the Desert Rats. He had two sisters, Doris and Emma. Replies to 38 Byland Close, Willingdon Trees, Eastbourne, East Sussex.

Sidney Allison, 3444 Karger Terrace, Victoria, BC V9C3K5, Canada (email:ub076@freenet.victoria.bc.ca) wants to know if an old comrades association exists for the Field Security Police, a branch of the Intelligence Corps during the Second World War.

Well done the cricketers who went to war

JOHN Bilcliffe's compilation of letters and diaries of the 68th Light Infantry's (later the Durham LI) campaigns in the Crimea and New Zealand between 1834 and 1866 are, without doubt, the result of years of hard work and research and will be of great interest to those who have served with this famous regiment, now sadly no more.

Gen Sir Peter de la Billière, who started his military career as a private soldier in the DLI, is one such person and has written the foreword to *Well*

Well Done the 68th by John Bilcliffe. Picton Publishing, Queensbridge Cottages, Palferdown, Chippenham SN15 2NS, £48 plus £3.50 p&p.

Done the 68th, which tells of the regiment's part in two major campaigns in two very different parts of the world over 12 years.

The profusely illustrated book is based on the letters and diaries of 11 officers and men involved in those dramatic years of action and will

prove enlightening and entertaining for military history buffs and for those seeking a social insight of the times.

The accounts tell of regimental life; of the harsh frontline conditions and how they lived, fought and died. But it wasn't all fighting. Some even managed to play the odd game of cricket – a popular game in the LI.

The diaries and letters are full of chit-chat which enhances and lightens the aspect of death and injury on the battlefield.

One excerpt refers to the death of Lord Raglan and how the writer, Capt Thomas Somerville, went to a sale of the dead commander's effects.

"Only bought a box of horse shoes and nails for 12 shillings," he wrote. "Things sold very dear, horses cheap..."

Two days later he went into Balaclava to order "Champagne from Crockfords", followed by a game of cards in which he lost 14 shillings.

It seems that in the hardest of times the Durhams made the most of life. – JM

Coldstreamer's view of a 'madman' and a 'bungler'

MORE than 180 years after they were written, the diaries and letters of Ensign John Mills, describing his service in Portugal, Spain and Holland with the Coldstream Guards, have been published.

They have been edited by Ian Fletcher, an authority on the Peninsular War.

We must be grateful to him, to the Mills family for assembling and preserving these documents, and to Mills himself for writing such pertinent observations of his life in the Army, the people and places he saw, all with a quill pen dipped in a mixture of wine and gunpowder under adverse physical conditions.

These are no ordinary documents.

They contain not only substantive first hand observations on operations and conditions of service but also frank opinions on his commanders.

Mills is particularly critical of Wellington after the Battle of Salamanca:

"His Lordship should reflect that men cannot march without shoes, that his army has been constantly moving for two months and during that period harassed in an unprecedented manner, and that they are four months in arrears of pay. He should not ride a willing horse to death."

After the disastrous siege of

For King and Country. The Letters and Diaries of John Mills, Coldstream Guards, 1811-1814. Edited by Ian Fletcher. Spellmount, £20.

Burgos he was even more scathing:

"... Spain I think is lost. If ever a man ruined himself the Marquis has done it; for the

last two months he has acted like a madman."

He calls Gen Beresford "the most noted bungler that ever played at the game of soldiers" and reserves praise only for Gen Graham.

It is fortunate for posterity that there was no censorship in those days!

But above all we must be grateful for the copious notes

made by Ian Fletcher which occupy nearly a third of this book, guiding the reader on the background and the veracity of Mills's observations.

Fletcher has extended these fascinating documents into a concise and full account of the events of 1811-14 and the book is thoroughly recommended to historians and the general public alike. – PSN

DEEP ROOTS OF THE BALKAN ATROCITIES

THE assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand, heir to the Austrian throne, at Sarajevo in June, 1914, sparked the start of the First World War.

But that act was not the sole cause of this terrible conflict. It just set the whole tragedy rolling.

In his comprehensive overview, Philip Warner tells in *World War One* of the how, when and why of the war and ends by asking whether it could have been avoided.

It seems not, for the great powers of Europe had been sabre-rattling for years; French and German industrialists were locked in bitter argument

World War One by Philip Warner. Arms & Armour Press, hardback, £20.

over Lorraine and the Ruhr; Russia wanted to dominate the Balkans as an outlet to the Mediterranean; while Germany had ambitious expansionist plans.

These factors, and many more, were all in the melting pot. It just needed a spark to set it all ablaze. The Sarajevo murder was the switch.

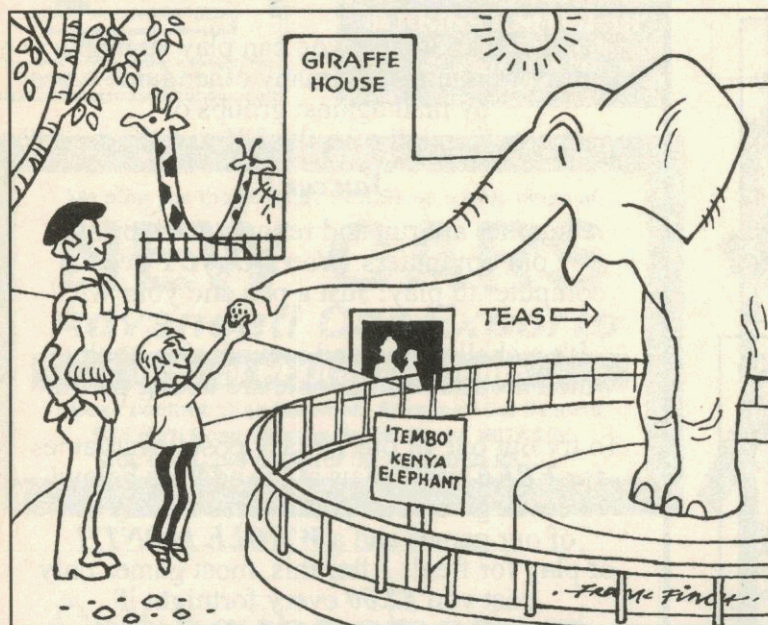
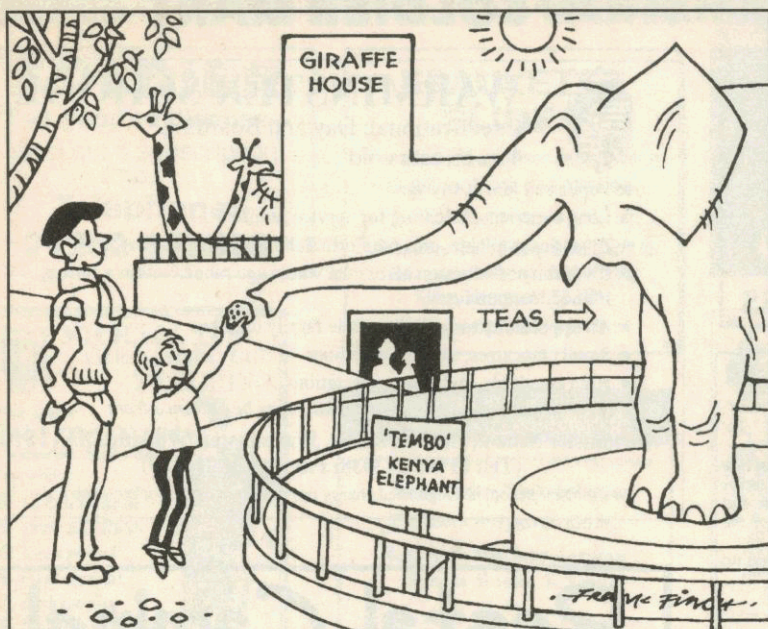
Warner lists fear, envy and greed on an international scale as possible circumstances for the 1914-18 war, suggesting

that these, among many other reasons, created a feeling that conflict was inevitable.

He writes: "Ancient animosities and feuds linger on, and every attempt to avenge real or alleged wrongs leads to worse reprisals – eventually."

"In the 1990s the world is shocked by the brutality and atrocities of the fighting in the Balkans; it has deep roots. In 1914 we spoke of 'gallant little Serbia'; few would do so today."

Warner has written yet another notable story in his easy-to-read style which will be a must for those with an interest in the Great War. – JM



COMPETITION 622

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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 (awarded book prizes) will be announced in the November 27 issue.

Name : (Give rank or title)

Address :

Competition No 619 (August 7 issue): Congratulations to Pte Crawford, 1st Battalion, The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment, Op Grapple 6, Vitez Garage, BFPO 547, who wins £50. Book prizes go to runners-up Mr N Willson, of Skegness, Lincs, and Miss E L Hodges, BATUS, BFPO 14.

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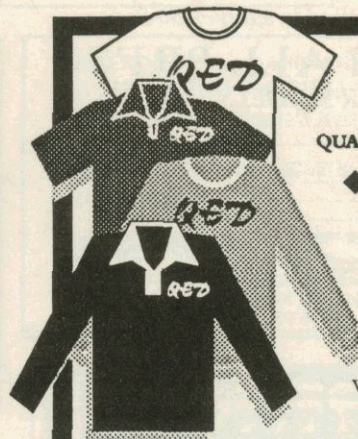
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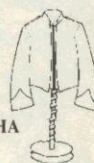
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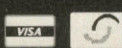
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ARMY SPORTS LOTTERY RESULTS

SEPTEMBER 16, 1995

Two-way tie for first prize (20 goals, £1,889.29 each) Capt R G Lewis, HQ 5 Div, Shrewsbury; Lt Col D McDowall, 7 Signal Regt, BFPO 35.

Five-way tie for third prize (19 goals, £444.29 each) WO2 C B Matthews, 39 Regt RA, Newcastle upon Tyne; Cpl R W Maybin, 16 Signal Regt, BFPO 40; Cpl M T Melville, 3 Fd Wksp REME, Tidworth; Cpl D L Prowting, 62 Cyprus Sp Sqn RE, BFPO 58; Col M J N Richards, RHQ RA, Woolwich.

NB Only seven prizes this week, Rule 9 Applies.

SEPTEMBER 23, 1995

Three-way tie for first prize (21 goals, £1,500 each) Capt R L Tomlin, HQ 4 Div, Aldershot; Cpl S Voyse, Hong Kong Gurkha Signal Sqn, BFPO 1; Bdr N White, 26 Regt RA, BFPO 113.

Eight-way tie for fourth prize (20 goals, £187.50 each) Capt A D Baggie, HQBF Gibraltar, BFPO 52; Spr M J Boyall, 38 Engr Regt, Ripon; LCpl J Connor, BFPO 805; WO2 P B Lambert, MoD DM (A); WO2 D J A Laraman, Sek Kong Admin Unit, BFPO 1; Sgt J McInnes, ACIO Edinburgh; SSgt S Pihajeky, 1 D and D, BFPO 22; Maj R S D Ward, School of Logistics, Deepcut.

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D3

Royal Irish are 100th Methuen Cup hotshots

CLASSIC short, magazine Lee Enfield (SMLE) rifles, self-loading rifles and SA80s were used side by side in a unique day's shooting at a blustery and soggy Bisley on September 27 to mark the centenary Methuen Cup match, writes **Phil Wilcox**.

Triumphant winners of the event by 38 points were the six-man team from The Royal Irish Regiment, led by Sgt Maj David Beattie.

Individual results from competitors in the SMLE team demonstrated that wood and metal guns – and iron sights – can put up a fair show of accuracy against today's mainly plastic equivalents with their sophisticated optical sights.

First won by the School of Musketry, also at Bisley, in 1885, the Methuen Cup – described by Lt Gen Sir Roger Wheeler, President of the Army Rifle Association, as the most prestigious and keenly contested inter-Service rifle team match in the calendar – was formally instituted by Fd Marshal Lord Methuen, at that time the Lieutenant General Commanding the Home District.



Pictures: Mike Perring

Historical line-up as (left to right) Pete Bloom, Sgt Pete Simpson and Cpl Stuart Roleston take aim with Short Magazine Lee Enfield, SLR and SA80 respectively

Since the match's inception, it has been based on operational shooting conditions with the Service rifle of the day. But this year, with not only the SA80 but also the SLR and the SMLE – in a team captained by SSgt Paul Quilliam RE – represented,

the rifles fired in the centenary event covered all but eight years of the event's history.

The Royal Irish contingent – which also carried off the Prince of Wales's Cup for infantry shooting – was among 20 teams, culled from the majority of the commands,

corps and regiments of all three Services, who competed in the match, which was attended by Maj Gen Philip Corp, Army Target Shooting Club chairman.

Apart from a very strong wind, blowing unusually straight down the range, which caused some problems, and the odd sore shoulder and cheek sustained while marksmen got used to using an SLR again after several years, the event provided, in the words of one competitor, "a really enjoyable, challenging day's shooting."

Presenting the prizes, the current Lord Methuen, grandson of the cup's donor, announced that the match – in abeyance since 1993 – is to be re-instated next year as part of the Services Skill at Arms Meeting.

RESULTS

Methuen Cup – 1, Royal Irish Regiment (1,301 pts); 2, Royal Marines (1,258); 3, Royal Naval Air Command (1,235); 4, Territorial Army (1,215); 5, Royal Engineers (1,211).

The Prince of Wales's Cup – The Royal Irish Regiment (1,301).

REME Trophy – REME (1,114). **Woolwich Trophy** – 1, Royal Engineers (1,211); 2, Royal Signals (1,115); 3, Royal Artillery (976).



Irish pride: The Royal Irish Regiment contingent shows off the results of a fine day's shooting at Bisley



Winning team: From left are Lt Col Max Heron, Capt Justin Neely, Maj Paul Marsden and Maj Nick Holland

Army rowers strike gold

A FOUR-MAN Army team struck gold at the world veterans rowing championships at Bled in Slovenia last month.

The Army rowers entered three events in fours and pairs during two days of intense competition over a picturesque, seven-lane, 1,000m course beside the spa town.

The first final was in the coxless fours, in which Lt Col Max Heron, Capt Justin Neely, Maj Paul Marsden, Maj Nick Holland, rating 47 strokes to the minute off the start, led from the first stroke.

Passing the 500m point, the Army, with a split of 1min 30sec, had clear water between them and the other competitors. They consolidated their lead to win by three lengths in 3min 18sec.

In the coxless pairs, Marsden and Holland, both former

Oxford blues, powered through the field, winning in 3min 43sec, a good time against a stiff headwind.

In the process they soundly defeated the reigning world champions of the previous two years.

Marsden and Holland are unbeaten in veteran events this summer and have recorded five victories.

Final event, for coxed fours, produced the most powerful and technical race of the championships. Rating 46 off the start, the Army opened up a half-length lead after 15 strokes and had clear water after 250m, an outstanding achievement at this level of competition.

A planned push at 300m destroyed the opposition, allowing the crew the luxury of nearly three lengths at the halfway point, which was reached in the very fast time of 1min 34sec. The result was never in doubt and the Army went on to win comfortably in 3min 21sec.

In addition to the three gold medals won under Army colours, Holland won a fourth medal rowing for Tideway Scullers School in the veterans D (average age 50) eights, and Marsden also won a fourth medal rowing for Broxbourne in the veterans D coxless fours.

The championships were the culmination of nearly four years of preparation during which Army veterans rowing has steadily established itself on the national and international scene.

The Army won 15 of the 23 events at the Joint Services regatta in May, including four veterans events, and subsequently won 12 times at civilian regattas in pairs, doubles, fours and eights, male and female.

Details of Army veterans rowing opportunities are available from Lt Col J M Heron on Chilwell Mil (745) 8302, fax 8318; and Army rowing in general from Lt Col T A Park on Brecon Mil (735) 2686, fax 2568.

Infantry hammer medics for seven

Infantry 7, AMS 0

THE Infantry got off to a flying start in their Massey Trophy match against Army Medical Services with two goals in the first four minutes from LCpl Martin Smith (R Irish) and Gdsm David Hall (IG).

Further goals followed from Cpl Tosh Williams (Cheshire), Cpl John Greechan (Hldrs) and Pte Simon Yeo (Cheshire) when his shot was unluckily deflected past his own goalkeeper by Cpl Andy Stewart to make the score 5-0 at halftime.

A combination of poor finishing and brave goalkeeping by Pte O'Reilly kept the score down in the second half, although LCpl Darren Coard (R Irish) and Cpl Greechan with a penalty made it a comfortable 7-0 victory for the Infantry.

Runner of year starts with relays

FIVE competitions this winter will count towards the Army's cross country runner of the year awards for 1995-6.

They start with the Army relay championships at Tweseldown on November 11.

The other qualifying races are the Army championships at Longmoor on February 7, the Inter-Services at Plymouth (February 16), the Inter-Corps championships at Blackdown (February 23), and the Regular Army v Territorial Army match in Wales (March 23).

Current holders of the awards are SSgt Mel Bradley and Cpl Steve Cairns.

Karate squad

The RAF is organising a karate team and looking to the Army and Royal Navy to form a Combined Services training squad for possible Inter-Service competition. Anyone interested should contact Sgt Gordon Bucknall at RAF Brize Norton ext 7339 (fax 01993 842551 ext 6375).

CRICKET: HQ RAC at Bovington lost to Wareham Police by 27 runs in a 20-over cricket match. Brig Andrew Gadsby, Director RAC, led the Bovington side.

Referees 'leaving in droves'

INDISCIPLINE on the football field and lack of support off it is causing Army football referees to abandon the sport in droves, with possible serious consequences for the game at unit level.

With local establishment football depending heavily on a rapidly diminishing band of dedicated officials, the situation is now assessed to be serious.

Maj Kevin Reardon, chairman of the Army Football Association Referees' Com-

mittee, says referees have become an endangered species.

"Although the hard core will always soldier on against the odds, there will soon be too few to consider, and in the very near future there will not be enough to cope with the number of matches that are played on a typical Wednesday afternoon."

Of more than 600 referees affiliated to the Army FA last season, less than half have re-registered for the new season.

"Those who leave the game give a long list of reasons for throwing in the towel," said Maj Reardon. "The lack of support from their parent units and the abuse they regularly experience from players are firmly established at the top."

"We supposedly live and work in a disciplined society, but the figures just might make one think differently."

Refereeing a game of football between unit teams wanting to play the game can be a

rewarding experience, but according to Maj Reardon there are now too many disciplined individuals involved in the sport to make that more than an occasional experience.

"Traditionally in football, rank on the field tends to go by the board, but if current trends continue it will only be a matter of time before referees abandon the disciplinary system of red and yellow cards in favour of the good old fashioned glasshouse."

Arrand wins classic title in close finish

CPL Andrew Arrand (89 PCU RLC) won a closely contested Army marathon championships, run in conjunction with the Polytechnic marathon at Windsor on September 24.

More than 70 Army runners took part, including the first woman to enter, Cpl Michelle Turner (Trg Regt and Depot RLC).

She finished 377th overall in a time of 3hr 48min 19sec.

The first 15 qualified as Army entries in the London Marathon. The Inter-Services is run concurrently with the London race.

Army Amateur Association secretary Capt Peter Lyons has



SACW Jackie Thompson (left) from RAF Aldergrove and Sgt Hilary Murphy (1 Staffords) with their teams at Ballykinler before the Army (Northern Ireland) beat the RAF 7-0 in the first women's Inter-Service football match played in the Province. The Army side was made up of players drawn from 3 R Irish and 1 Staffords

a further five "wild card" entries to the London Marathon on April 21.

Just 43 seconds separated the first three Army finishers at Windsor. Arrand's time of 2:26.2 put him in fifth place

overall. Cpl Alan Shepherd (2 Sig Regt) was second just 27 seconds behind and WO2 Chris Starbuck (94 Sup Sqn RLC), who returned from Bosnia for the race, was third, a further 16 seconds adrift.

Arrand was third in last year's Inter-Services.

Overall first and second places at Windsor went to Valery Zolotkov and Alexander Kuftyrev from Moscow.

LCpl Sean Malone (BAD Kinton) was the first veteran across the line in 2:46.20, with Capt Anthony Fryer (HQ 4 Div CAT Svcs) second in 2:48.20 and Capt Norman Fox

(7 Para RHA) third in 2:50.52.

The Major Units title went to BAD Kinton (Paul Harwood, David Wright, Sean Malone), with SEME Regt second, 7 Para RHA third, 1 Gren Gds fourth, and 29 Cdo Regt fifth. Kinton's impressive team run gave them second place to Rowntrees AC in the men's club competition, one place ahead of Haringey.

ATR Pirbright (Tony Leibrick, Stacy Robinson and Carl Walsh) won the Minor Units race, followed by ITC Wales, the all-veteran HQ 4 Div CAT Svcs trio and Trg Regt and Depot RLC.

FIDLER ON THE RUN

TA POSTIE WO2 John Fidler put in a storming run in the British veterans half marathon at Lake Vyrnwy last month to take third place in the over 45 class.

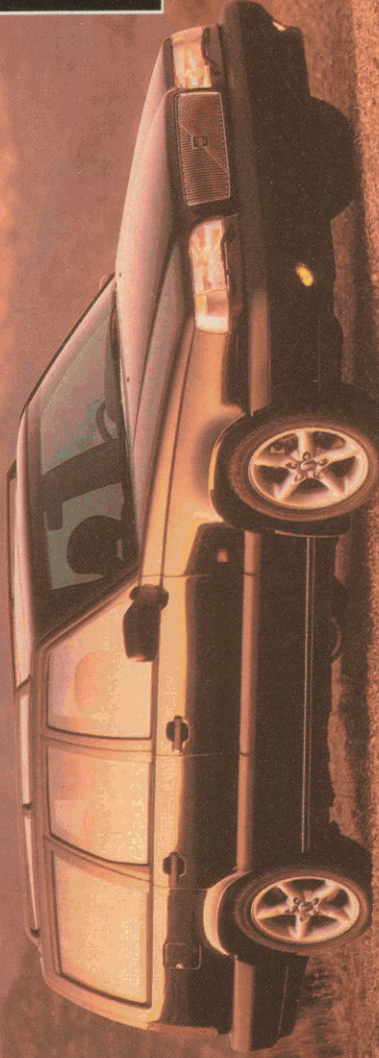
Fidler (47), serving with 86 PC Regt RLC at Grantham, was 22nd overall. He has been

the TA veterans cross country champion for the past four years and is the current Cheshire county veterans cross country league champion.

Last year WO2 Fidler ran for England in the Great Britain v Ireland cross country fixture at Sunderland.

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Adjutant General's Corps



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The Adjutant General's Corps was formed on April 6, 1992 on the amalgamation of the Corps of Military Police, the Royal Army Pay Corps, the Military Provost Staff Corps, the Royal Army Educational Corps, the Army Legal Corps, the Women's Royal Army Corps, and staff clerks of the RAOC. All Arms clerks of the REME and RPC joined on April 1, 1993, and the remaining All Arms clerks on July 1, 1993.

The capbadge is a laurel wreath surmounted by a crown; within the wreath is the Royal Crest, a lion upon a crown. A silver scroll beneath is inscribed *Animo Et Fide* (With Resolution and Fidelity). The corps' quick march is

Pride of Lions. The RAPC and WRAC amalgamated to form the Staff and Personnel Support Branch; the RMP and MPSC became the Provost Branch; and the RAEC is now the Educational and Training Services Branch. The Army Legal Corps became the Army Legal Services Branch at the same time. The Provost, ETS and ALS branches retain their original capbadges.



Royal Army Pay Corps



Women's Royal Army Corps



Royal Military Police



Military Provost Staff Corps



Army Legal Corps



Royal Army Educational Corps



A Warrior of B Company, 1st Battalion, The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment provides protection and a forest on Mount Igman the backdrop for these 5 Platoon soldiers serving with the United Nations' Task Force Alpha. The company has been deployed to afford local protection to 19 Regiment Royal Artillery's 105mm Light Guns which are dug in on the mountain top.

Picture: Mike Weston