

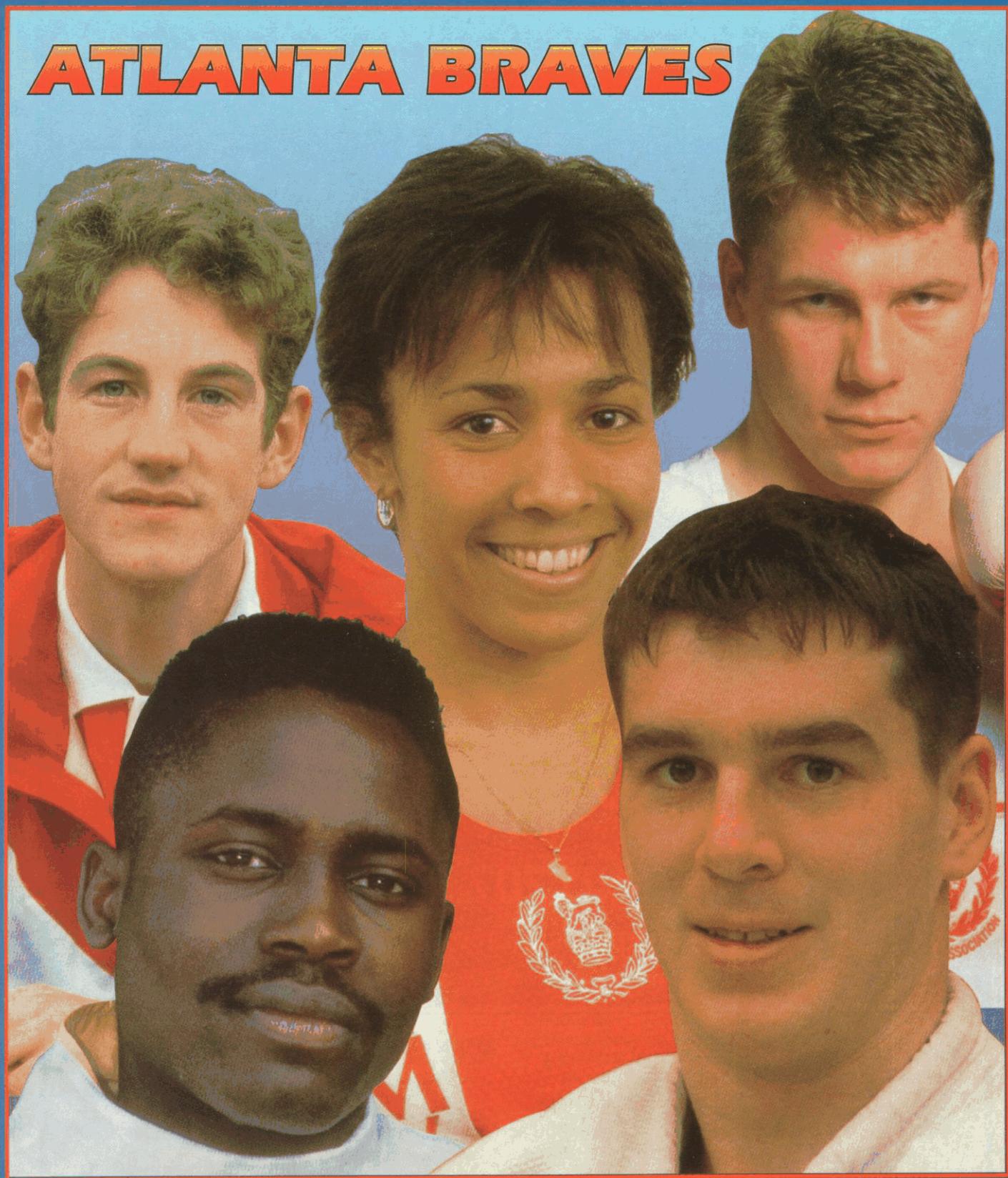
SOLDIER

FORTNIGHTLY MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY

APRIL 15 1996

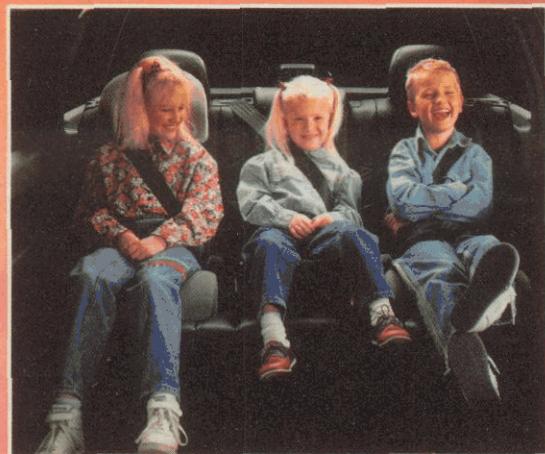
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April 15, 1996 Vol 52/8

CONTENTS

10 People

12 Lifestyle

Catterick Garrison to be given new 'heart'

14 Bosnia

38 Engr Regt nears end of its latest tour

16 HQ Land

New command is one year old

18 Bike snipers

Green Howards trial mobility innovation

21 Snake man

Cyprus to have its own 'viper vet'

22 Land Rover

New version is in a class of its own

24 Cover story



Olympic stars: (back) hockey player 2nd Lt Guy Fordham, athlete Sgt Kelly Holmes and boxer Cpl Chris Bessey; (front) fencer Cpl James Williams and judo star Spr Jonathan Spencer

26 HKMSC

Hong Kong soldiers in New Zealand

28 Risk business

Office that deals with compensation claims

30 Diary

Guard dogs had to be taught to bite again

32 Your letters

34 Reviews

37 Win £50

44 Sport

Rugby team pulls plug on mighty Bath

4 Brigade ensures returning army sticks to Dayton rules



Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, The Queen's Lancashire Regiment watch a Serb military convoy making its way back into the Anvil. In the turret of the Saxon is Kgm Alex Boyer, 1 Kings, attached to C Company, 1 QLR

Picture: Mike Weston

Anvil watch

From Gordon Skilling in Mrkonjic Grad

THE Bosnian Serb Army returned to its barracks near Mrkonjic Grad under the very watchful eye of 4 Armoured Brigade.

At Black Dog checkpoint on the former confrontation line, 9 Platoon of C (Champion) Company, the 1st Battalion, The Queen's Lancashire Regiment watched as the first of 500 Serb soldiers drove back into the area known as the Anvil.

Four convoys were expected, along with seven 122mm guns and 30 120mm mortars. Tanks, armoured personnel carriers, heavy guns and anti-aircraft weapons were not allowed back.

The Serb Army had been forced from this anvil-shaped area the size of Yorkshire during the Bosnian Muslim-Croat Federation's September offensive. But under the terms of the Dayton peace agreement, first the federation withdrew, then the Serbs were allowed to return.

High in the hills to the north

– hills still covered with snow – riflemen of the 2nd Battalion, The Light Infantry and sappers of 32 Engineer Regiment monitored the move of the Serbian 1st Light Infantry Brigade from its temporary camps.

The brigade had been told to confine its movements to the main road – route Gull – from Banja Luka to Mrkonjic Grad, where it drove past the AS90 guns of 52 (Niagara) Battery, Royal Artillery.

CHECKPOINTS

At strategic points along this and other possible routes 1 QLR soldiers provided checkpoints from their Saxon vehicles.

Blocking positions had been prepared by 26 Armoured Engineer Squadron to prevent unauthorised vehicles and equipment slipping past.

Warriors of A Company, 2 LI and the Challengers of B Sqn, The Queen's Royal Hussars were held in reserve near the Kula barracks which would become the headquarters of the Serbs in the Anvil.

An eagle-eyed Royal Artillery forward observation officer at Black Dog spotted an

anti-aircraft chassis being towed behind a water bowser. When this was pointed out by Maj David Howcroft, officer commanding A Company, 1 QLR, the Serbs returned north with it.

It was a genuine mistake. They had, in fact, scrupulously followed all agreements and the move went without a hitch, apart from an embarrassing number of Serb vehicles which broke down.

Former combatants know NATO-led IFOR troops have a different mandate from the UN Protection Force.

With an international treaty backed by AS90, Challenger, Warrior and Saxon, the various armies know they can expect a robust approach from the British-led Multi-national Division South West if they do not comply with the military provisions of the agreement.

All the signs in the British area, however, were good.

● Muslim soldiers in Sarajevo who at first refused to co-operate with IFOR changed their minds when told British Warriors were on their way.

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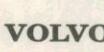
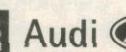
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Canada honours Royal Hussar life saver

KING'S Royal Hussars Maj Toby Bridge has been presented with one of Canada's top military bravery awards for saving the life of a Canadian officer in Croatia.

Maj Bruce Henwood, serving with the 8th Canadian Hussars (Princess Louise's), lost both legs and sustained other injuries when his light vehicle struck a land mine near Karlovic in Croatia last Sep-

tember. Maj Bridge also helped a Dutch officer caught in the blast.

The three men were patrolling a new area when the mine exploded beneath their vehicle. Maj Henwood took



Maj Toby Bridge

the main blast and all three lost consciousness.

Recovering first, Maj Bridge eased the Canadian officer's breathing and tended to his legs.

Despite the threat of more mines, he set out alone to find help and an ambulance. On his return he injected Maj Henwood with morphine and stayed with him to ensure he was given the best care.

The Hussar officer received the Medal of Bravery, awarded for acts of bravery in hazardous circumstances, from Governor General Roméo LeBlanc at the Canadian High Commission in London.

Maj Henwood, who said he would have died but for Maj Bridge's help, was flown from Canada for the ceremony, the first time the two men had met since the incident.

Service signs up to racial equality contract

A FIVE-year programme of racial equality measures has been undertaken by the Army in liaison with the Commission for Racial Equality (CRE).

Signed by MoD Permanent Secretary Richard Mottram on March 28, the agreement follows a two-year examination by the CRE of the Household Cavalry which found there had been racial discrimination in recruitment and transfer and, in individual cases, through racial abuse and harassment.

Although this meant that the Commission had the right to impose a notice requiring racial equality measures to be taken by the MoD, the Ministry, following discussions, has agreed to bring them in voluntarily.

The agreement lays down detailed procedures designed to tackle racial harassment in the Army, and encourage more young people from ethnic minorities to view the Armed Forces as a good career option.

Procedures to be implemented include a review of the Army's selection tests for soldiers.

CRE Commissioner Bob Purkiss, who led the investigation, **• Turn to Page 9**

Steve joins family firm



Picture: Chris Fletcher

It was a proud day for the Walkers when the latest in the family line of soldiers marched on to the parade square at Army Training Regiment Pirbright to the beat of the Life Guards' band. They were there to see Gdsm Stephen Walker pass out into the Coldstream Guards.

Stephen (17) will join brothers Simon (24, left) and Neil (22), who had travelled from Germany for the occasion. Proud dad, Mr Kevin Walker, served 14 years with the regiment.

Paras set for US invasion

MORE than 2,000 Aldershot-based troops prepared for the biggest airborne exercise since the Second World War with a mass parachute drop and a series of raids on Salisbury Plain.

Officers and men from 5 Airborne Brigade were rehearsing for the American Purple Star exercise in May.

About 30,000 soldiers from the brigade will join forces with 3 Commando Brigade from Devon, and US Army and US Marine Corps units in the searing heat and swamps of North Carolina.

It will be the first opportunity for British paratroopers and commandos to be tested in their new role as a Joint Rapid Deployment Force (JRDF) to strengthen Britain's ability to project military forces worldwide.

The Salisbury Plain exercise, Winged Avenger, culminated in a tactical air landing carried out by Gurkhas on Keevil airfield. Brought in at dawn in two Hercules aircraft, the Gurkhas captured and secured the airfield after which the rest of the brigade carried out an air and land operation with back-up vehicles.

It's a fact

On January 1 this year, there were 16,078 women serving in the Armed Forces, about seven per cent of the total strength. – Parliamentary reply.



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asked to put a stamp on their reply. However, everyone who returns a simple questionnaire by the closing date will have the chance to win a cash prize.

Look out for more details in the next issue.



The Duke of Edinburgh, Colonel-in-Chief of The Royal Gloucestershire, Berkshire and Wiltshire Regiment, inspects a quarter guard of 1 RGBW at Episkopi. The Duke spoke to many officers and men

and their families during his two-day visit, presented a number of awards, including a Mention in Dispatches to Cpl Darren Lewis, visited company locations and watched battalion training

Army moves to end female pay discrimination

WOMEN soldiers who have been paid less than male soldiers on the same terms of service are to be compensated and offered new engagements.

They should be seeing on unit notice boards throughout the Army the message: "If you have a reckonable service date after June 12, 1985, the Army may owe you money."

Women on "discriminatory" Notice Engagements are being strongly encouraged to change their terms of service to bring themselves into line with men on the same engagement.

Commanding officers have been told to bring the situation to the attention of women soldiers who enlisted on a Notice Engagement between June 12, 1985 and January 1, 1991, and to encourage those affected to change their terms of service or claim compensation.

Those most likely to benefit are women who joined just before 1991. It is believed compensation will range from a few pence to several hundred pounds.

From the nine-year point onwards women soldiers are paid in the same manner as men, but those on Notice Engagements with less than nine years' reckonable service are currently paid on a lower scale than men on the same engagement.

Until now, women have not been allowed to commit themselves for six or nine years, but receive a bonus at six and nine years which partially compensates them for the time they could have spent on a higher pay scale if they had been paid in the same manner as men.

Servicewomen on Open or Short Service Engagements are

already on non-discriminatory terms and are not affected.

The Directorate of Staff and Personnel Support (Army) at Worthy Down says there are no disadvantages in opting for the change and there is the major advantage of financial compensation for past discrimination.

Women who left the Service after June 12, 1993 may also be entitled to compensation and are being invited to write to the Manning and Record Office responsible for them during their time in the Army.

Rules of eligibility and application details are outlined in DCI Army 27/96.

The move is in line with the Army's commitment to developing and using employment practices which do not discriminate on grounds of sex – except to the extent necessary to maintain combat effectiveness.

Around the Houses

A summary of Defence topics from Westminster

Reserves call-out 'up to 9 months'

THE Reserve Forces Bill provides for a new power of call-out for peacekeeping and humanitarian operations. Maximum length of service would be nine months, Armed Forces Minister Nicholas Soames said during the second reading in the Commons.

Two new categories of reserve would be created, a high-readiness reserve (HRR) allowing an increased call-out liability, and a sponsored reserve scheme, which would permit some support tasks currently performed by Regulars to be let to contract.

"The sponsored reserve will consist of civilians belonging to a contractor's work force," he said. They would be subject to Armed Services legislation while engaged in the particular task.

Reservists and employers would have the right to seek exemption or deferral of call-out, and the Bill would provide for financial assistance to individuals and businesses financially disadvantaged by call-out.

□ □ □

In recognition of the reduced physical fitness of some young people, a physical development course is being trialled at ATR Glencorse. Aim of the course is to offer borderline cases a progressive three-week fitness programme to bring them up to the required entry standard.

□ □ □

Following the National Park Authority's objection to proposals to provide for MLRS and AS90 training at Otterburn, the MoD is "considering whether it will be possible to meet the further concerns which have been expressed", Mr Soames told the Commons.

Written answers

□ The trained strength of the Army was expected to be below its establishment by around 3,000 personnel as at April 1.

□ Thirty cases of racism in the Army have been investigated since 1990, of which seven have been substantiated and five are still under investigation.

□ Redundancy payments of £232 million were made in the financial year 1992-93, the first year of Options for Changes. Subsequent payments totalled £509 million, £453 million and £187 million.

Duke of York leads tribute to Dunblane

THE DUKE of York led a minute's silence for the massacred of Dunblane while attending a St Patrick's Day parade in Ballymena.

The parade, in St Patrick's Barracks, involved for the first time all battalions of The Royal Irish Regiment, of which the Duke is Colonel in Chief. He was met at Aldergrove by Brig David Strudley, Chief of Staff, and Col John Sankey, the Regimental Colonel, before travelling to the Regimental Depot in Ballymena on a private visit.

After a service led by padre Capt Ray McKnight, the Duke received shamrock from Mrs Charlotte Davidson, wife of the commanding officer, Lt Col Brian Davidson, before himself presenting sprigs to officers and men.

He spoke to families and visited the recently opened regimental museum before travelling to Grosvenor Barracks in Eniskillen where he was met by Lt Col Wayne Harber, CO 4 R Irish. Next stop for Prince Andrew was Drumadd Barracks in Armagh where he was met by Lt Col Philip Baxter, CO 1 R Irish, and Lt Col John Deverell, CO 8 R Irish.

At each location he presented shamrock to soldiers on duty.

It's a fact

Latest figures for operational deployments of British troops are: Northern Ireland, 17,500; IFOR, 12,700; Iraq, 400; Cyprus, Kuwait, Angola, Georgia, 400.

SAS to move

A NEW base for 22 Special Air Service Regiment is to be made at the former RAF site at Credenhill, Hereford.

It has been confirmed that the move will take place within the next three years. Stirling Lines, the regiment's headquarters in Hereford for the past 40 years, has limited space for training.



Deputy Prime Minister Gerhard Glogowski inspects soldiers of 21 Engineer Regiment on the final parade



The Duke

Parade marks end of 46-year sapper link with Nienburg

FORTY-six years after the unit moved to Nienburg, officers and men of 21 Engineer Regiment have said farewell to the German town before leaving for their new base in Quebec.

Formed at Holzminden in 1949, the regiment settled in at Nienburg between December 1950 and March 1951, becoming a divisional asset in support of the Desert Rats, 7 Armoured Division. Before then, the Royal Engineers had usually operated as semi-independent companies or squadrons.

Reorganised several times, 21 Regt was reformed in 1969 to support 11 Armd Div, then redesignated 1st Armoured Division Engineer Regiment between 1978 and 1981 before reverting to its original, and current, title.

The regiment received the Freedom of Nienburg in 1980 to mark the corps' 30-year association with the Stadt.

Hundreds of people lined the streets of Nienburg as commanding officer Lt Col Tony Harking led his troops through

the Altstadt and past the historic Rathaus. Marking the Freedom for the final time, soldiers marched with bayonets fixed behind the corps band.

The Burgermeister of Nienburg-Weser, Herr Rolf Warnecke, and the Chief Royal Engineer, Gen Sir John Stibbin, took the salute.

The farewell ceremonies began with the presentation to 21 Regt of the *fahnenband* (pennant) of the Government of Lower Saxony in recognition of the unit's contribution to Anglo-German relations during the past 46 years, and in appreciation of the engineers' humanitarian work in the Balkans.

He presented the regiment with a bear's paw from the town. In return, Col Harking unveiled a stone plaque as a permanent reminder of the 46-year association between the town and the British Army.

The farewell ceremonies ended informally with a rugby match, a spectacular medium girder bridge display by the regiment's team, holders of the world record, and a display of marching music by the Band of the Corps of Royal Engineers.

With many members of the regiment, past and present, married to local women, the links between 21 Engineer Regiment and Nienburg are assured for many years.

are many British soldiers and their families with strong ties in Nienburg who will look back with fond memories on the friendship and hospitality they have always received."

Burgermeister Warnecke told the troops they would always be welcome in the town. "You have a permanent invitation to march through our streets with flags flying, bayonets fixed and bands playing."

He presented the regiment with a bear's paw from the town. In return, Col Harking unveiled a stone plaque as a permanent reminder of the 46-year association between the town and the British Army.

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HONOUR

Gen Stibbin said the award of the *fahnenband* was a tremendous honour for the regiment and illustrated the mutual trust developed between the people of Lower Saxony, the town of Nienburg and the Royal Engineers.

"It is sad, however, that this presentation also marks the end of the regiment's residence in the town. I know that there

Staffords' farewell to Ballykinler

SOLDIERS from the 1st Battalion, The Staffordshire Regiment have said their goodbyes at the end of a successful two-year tour in Northern Ireland.

Based at Ballykinler, the battalion forged strong links with the community. It has returned to Shropshire for five months before deploying to Hong Kong.

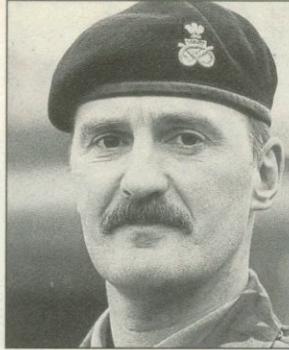
The Staffords arrived in Northern Ireland before the 1994 cease-fires and quickly adapted to the changing secu-

rity role across the areas of County Down and South Armagh in which they worked.

Lt Col Simon Knapper, commanding officer, said the cease-fires had provided an opportunity for the battalion to become more involved with the community on social and sporting levels.

"We worked hard and played hard," he said.

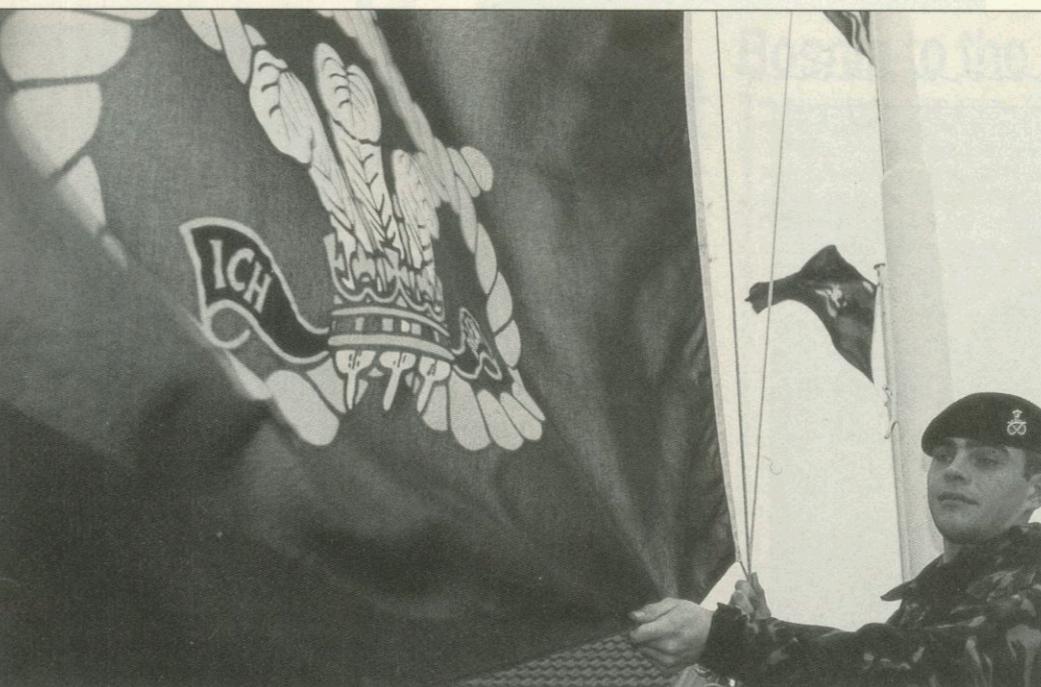
"Looking back on the tour I think the battalion's efforts at



Lt Col Simon Knapper

meeting people on the football pitch or in social gatherings means we will long be remembered, but more importantly, we will long remember the many friends we have made.

"I can think of the hundreds of young people from all over Ireland who came to Ballykinler for our five-a-side football competition when Bryan Hamilton, the Northern Ireland football manager, came along to spot talent."



Pte Gareth Voice lowers the 1 Staffords flag at Ballykinler to mark the end of the battalion's two-year tour

Troops to clean cemetery on Vis

TROOPS serving with the NATO Implementation Force (IFOR) in Split are to refurbish a neglected British military cemetery on Vis, an island 40km off the Adriatic coast.

A plaque in the cemetery records the names of 12 British soldiers and sailors who died in the Dalmatian seas and islands during the Second World War.

Territorial Army officer Capt Joe Shone, 3 PWO, commander of the defence platoon at Divulje Barracks, Split, has been tasked to start the work.

Racial equality contract

From Page 5

said: "The Army has set the ball rolling with its new Equal Opportunities Directive.

"This makes non-discrimination a matter of military law; calls for equal opportunity advisers in all units; gives Servicemen and women a duty to report breaches of policy; and makes hampering investigation of complaints and victimisation cause for disciplinary action."

Mr Mottram said: "We are absolutely determined to put

the problem right, but we do not believe that there is widespread discrimination in the Army as a whole, or in the other two Services."

The CRE will now defer a decision on imposing a "non discrimination notice" on the Ministry of Defence for 12 months.

If the MoD and the Army achieve the targets set out in the action plan for the first year to the satisfaction of the Commission, the threat of a notice will be withdrawn.



What the papers have been saying

MILITARY police have appealed for help in rounding up Army runaways, said to be fleeing at the rate of 150 a month. – *Sunday Telegraph*

□ Nearly 9,000 of last year's 20,000 potential Army recruits failed at the first hurdle because they could not cope with simple fitness tests or pass the medical. – *Daily Mirror*

□ The female form needs to be streamlined and strengthened for active military service, says the Defence Research Agency at Farnborough. Adjustments should include increasing the bust size (for lung capacity and strength), broadening the shoulders (for heavy lifting), and tightening the buttocks (losing excess weight for long route marches). – *Sunday Times*

□ Staff of the Defence Courier Service have been cut by half from 140 to meet budget cuts. The service's 34 couriers, all former warrant officers, carry classified documents around the world for the MoD. – *Times*

□ Women may serve in tank crews after an all-party Commons committee approved expanding their role in the Army. – *Independent*

□ President Clinton is facing increasing international pressure to maintain a force in the Balkans after the deadline at the end of the year. – *Times*

□ Two roll-on, roll-off ferries are to be bought for the Armed Forces to boost rapid deployment capability. – *Times*

Chaplains join in at Andover

TORNADO aircraft of 617 (Dambuster) Squadron made a sunset fly-past over the Royal Air Force Chaplains' School at Andover on March 29 to mark its transformation from a purely RAF establishment to the home of the new tri-Service Armed Forces Chaplaincy Centre. From April 1, training resources for Royal Navy, Army and RAF chaplains will be under one roof at Amport House, a Grade 2 listed building.

Stalwart Stafford

LCpl Thomas Nokes of the 1st Battalion, The Staffordshire Regiment proudly shows a GOC Northern Ireland commendation presented to him by Lt Gen Sir Rupert Smith.

He received the award following an incident in Newry when he and colleagues were attacked by a mob outside a public house.

Despite sustaining an injury himself, he saved his colleagues and prevented the theft of weapons.

The Staffords have just completed a two-year tour at Ballykinler.



Picture: Arthur Edwards, The Sun



Vic gives a helping hand

Sgt Maj Vic Ferguson puts a protective arm around crippled Bosnian orphan Hurmija Mujic on her arrival at Heathrow. Vic, who is serving at HQ ARRC in Sarajevo, led a campaign to raise thousands of pounds so that 12-year-old Hurmija could receive treatment in Britain. She was paralysed when shrapnel severed her spinal cord.



Picture: PDA (Phot) Phil Ball, HQ ARRC

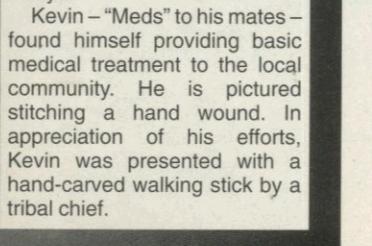


Picture: PDA (Phot) Phil Ball, HQ ARRC

Kev has 'em in stitches

Territorial Army soldier Sgt Kevin Butler and two colleagues from 34 (Northern) Signal Regiment got away from Britain's winter weather for six weeks to provide communications and medical support to Regulars exercising in Kenya.

Kevin – "Meds" to his mates – found himself providing basic medical treatment to the local community. He is pictured stitching a hand wound. In appreciation of his efforts, Kevin was presented with a hand-carved walking stick by a tribal chief.



He's for YOU, Sarah!

You could have knocked Sarah Sheath down with a feather when husband Mark, a signaller serving with Krefeld-based 7 Signal Regiment, walked in the door. Mark was meant to be on duty in Bosnia.

And following him to Sarah's desk in the typing pool at JHQ Rheindahlen was a film crew led by television personality **Anthea Turner**, host of Carlton TV's new "All You Need Is Love" show.

The Army put Mark on a military flight from Sarajevo to Zagreb, from where Carlton flew him to Germany for the reunion which will be broadcast in the United Kingdom this month.



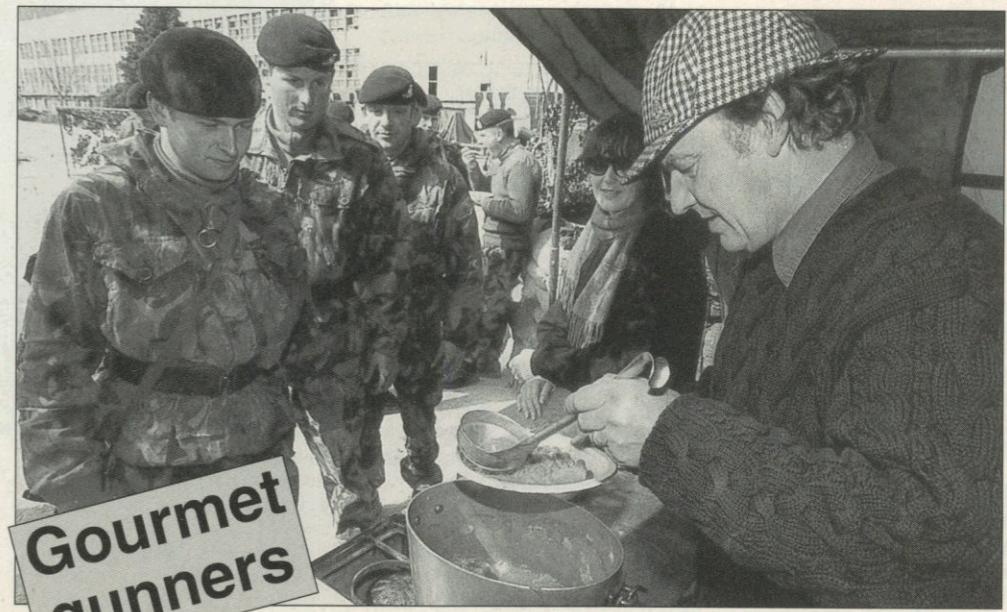
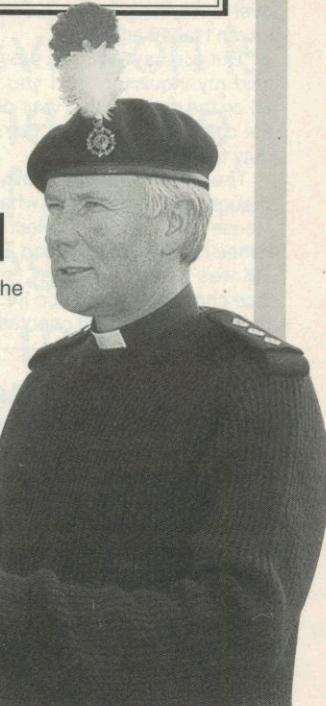
PEOPLE

Bosnia to the Bard

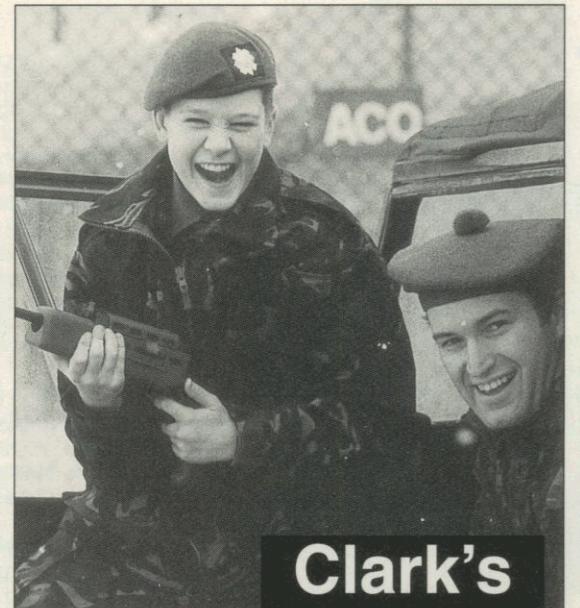
Five days after leaving former Yugoslavia, the Rev **Peter Hills** stepped on to the stage in Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*.

Appropriately for a chaplain who has spent the past six months peacemaking in Bosnia, he was playing Escalus, Prince of Verona, who tries to end the feud between the Montagues and the Capulets.

Peter, chaplain to the 1st Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, trot the boards in Richmond Amateur Dramatic Society's production at the Georgian Theatre Royal in Richmond, North Yorkshire.



Grub's up. Members of 26 Regiment RA based at Jajce in Bosnia queue for a Balkan feast prepared and served by globetrotting television chef **Keith Floyd**.



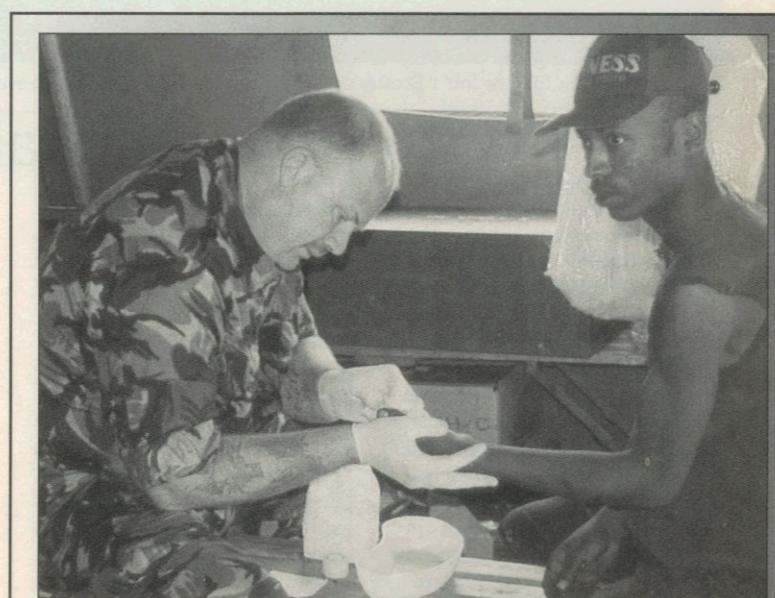
Clark's so keen

Thirteen-year-old Clark Borland's family pledged £60 to an Edinburgh radio station's Help a Child Appeal... if their likely lad could spend two days at the city's Armed Forces Careers Office and go through the selection procedure.

The careers office readily agreed and Clark, from Ladywell in West Lothian, was picked up by Sgt **Colin Hitchens**, SG, and put through the Army entrance test. He passed with flying colours and went on to ATR Glencorse to see infantry weapons and watch recruits on a passing out parade.

Next day he was medically examined at Glencorse before passing the physical entrance tests. Finally he was interviewed by Maj **Colin Dunbar** RHF, OC Recruit Selection, who presented him with a framed certificate and a tam-o'-shanter to mark the visit.

Clark will be eligible for the Army's Junior Leader entry due to open in September next year.



BALKAN BRIDE

We rarely publish wedding photographs in *Soldier*, but are pleased to make an exception in the case of LCpls **Stephen Kennett** and **Joanne Roddis** who chose an unusual location to make their vows. Both serving with 7 Signal Regiment on Operation Resolute, they tied the knot in Headquarters Allied Command Europe Rapid Reaction Corps (ARRC) in Sarajevo last month.



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Why soldiers need a safe place to talk

OVER the past few weeks I have been discussing the matter of confidentiality and padres with a variety of people – many of them clerics of different denominations. I thought I knew what I believed until one of them asked me about my own work.

"You say," he said, "you deal with letters written to you in absolute confidence. What would you do if someone wrote to you telling you they were engaged in criminal activity?"

"Would you break your promise?"

After much reflection, I think I would have to because my duty as a citizen would take precedence over everything else. But then, I haven't taken any vows.

"But you have made a promise," said my inquisitor, "and you have taken the decision that your duty to the community is greater than your duty to the individual."

The issue of confidentiality was brought into sharp focus when the House of Commons select committee reviewing the Armed Forces Bill was told of pressures on Service chaplains to pass on information about the sexual orientation of



Cari's column

Service men and women who talk to them in confidence.

The MoD maintains that a chaplain's first duty is as a military officer and that he is obliged to report any relevant information to his commanding officer. What are they actually saying?

There is a huge difference in routinely reporting conversations between chaplains and soldiers and taking a decision that a piece of information might compromise the safety of the community.

The Roman Catholic Bishop to the Forces, Bishop Francis Walmsley, reinforced the principle that confidentiality of the confessional was "utterly inviolable". He said he didn't know of any priest who had broken that confidence.

I don't believe there is any priest of any denomination who would routinely pass on details of private conversations with Servicemen and women. In the wake of major conflicts, such as the Falklands or Gulf wars, many soldiers needed

to talk to someone about what they had seen and done.

Every day Service personnel face problems compounded by the fact that they have surrendered a little of their freedom so they can serve their country. They need to have a safe place where they can talk to someone who knows the community in which they operate as intimately as they do. It can be argued that any sympathetic officer would do.

Padres are set apart from the community by their calling. Even non-Christians recognise, and respond to, the integrity of someone who has devoted his life to the service of others under the direction of an authority even higher than the MoD.

Padres have a special place in Service life. Soldiers know that chaplains mingle with the great and good in the officers' mess, but that ceases to matter at 4am on a cold morning in some apparently God-forsaken part of the world in

which people are shooting at each other. It is then that confidences are exchanged and doubts discussed. When a soldier is afraid he needs to know there is someone with whom he can be totally honest. He also needs to know that, when the sun comes up and the battle is over, his trust will not be betrayed.

In less dramatic circumstances, trust is equally important. A man or woman troubled in thought needs a safe place in which to discuss them. Everyone has doubts and fears about themselves, their attitudes and their future. Everyone has times when things look bleak.

For most of us, those times pass of their own accord, and all that is needed is a bit of sympathy. The worst thing that can happen is that a temporary difficulty is blown out of all proportion and action is taken which, in the long term, may not have been necessary.

Padres know how to listen. They know when to act and when to keep their silence. If it is true that pressure is being put on them to disclose private conversations, I hope they are finding diplomatic ways of not doing so. In the event

of a padre being given information which might compromise the safety or good order of the military community, I hope they would take their line from Bishop Walmsley.

He suggests there are different levels of confidentiality. The lowest is a discussion which reveals information affecting a third party... for example, the planting of a bomb or abuse of some nature.

The bishop said in that case the priest would advise the person to report the information, with the warning that he might have to disclose the information himself for the common good.

I have met many padres over the years and, without exception, I have been impressed by their wisdom and discretion. I hope that they will be allowed to continue their difficult spiritual ministry without interference or pressure from those whose concerns are more temporal.

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



Maj Gen Peter Sheppard is to become the new Controller of SSAFA on May 1.

As Chief of Staff at HQ BAOR between 1991 and 1993, Gen Sheppard was responsible for overseeing the withdrawal of 70,000 soldiers, wives and dependants from Germany. He succeeds Maj Gen Charles Grey, Controller for the past 12 years.

Helena's special break

ANOTHER reminder that the Guild of St Helena's 1996 holiday for special needs children, run in conjunction with SSAFA, will be at Fairthorne Manor, the YMCA centre in Hampshire from August 19-23.

With SSAFA matching the Guild's annual funding, twice as many children – 24 – will be taken this year. Aged eight to 14, they will go canoeing and abseiling with 16 volunteer carers and centre staff.

Application forms from the Warden, The Guild of St Helena, Wellington Barracks, Birdcage Walk, London SW1E 6HQ.

RASS is the place for jobs

SERVICE personnel and their families looking at second-career opportunities will have an opportunity for more than just a good time when they visit the Rhine Army Summer Show (RASS) at Bad Lippspringe, Paderborn on May 25-27.

For the second year a resettlement exhibition specifically targeted to meet the needs and skills of Service personnel will be on hand to offer advice on career options.

Among the employers represented at RASS will be Northern Telecom, the Royal Orthopaedic Hospital and the Firm Security Group.

New centre planned for Catterick

It's a fact

ALMOST 5,000 married quarters were sold up to November 1995 under the discount scheme which started in December 1983.

Eviction is measure of last resort – minister

SINCE 1992 there have been 45 evictions from Army quarters, all as a result of marital breakdown.

During the same period there were no evictions in the RAF and three in the Royal Navy.

The figures were given by Armed Forces Minister Nicholas Soames in a written answer on MoD policy for evicting Service families who had lost their entitlement to Service accommodation following redundancy or breakdown of marriage.

He said the total number of evictions remained very low because the process was initiated only after all other avenues had been exhausted.

Figures for the Army were: 1992, 17; 1993, 15; 1994, 6; 1995, 7.

Mr Soames said that from April 1 the Defence Housing Executive had become responsible for evictions from the married quarter estate.

TELEPHONE

Soldiers deployed in former Yugoslavia have access to telephones in 16 different locations and may make unlimited calls to the United Kingdom and Germany.

In a written answer, Mr Soames listed the telephone sites as Tomislavgrad, Bugojo, Lipa, Gornji Vakuf, Vitez, Sipovo, Mrkonjic Grad, Kupres, Jajce, Jezero, Sanski Most, Glamoc, Banja Luka, Sarajevo, Kiseljac and Split.

Where personnel are charged for calls, the per minute prices vary from 75p to £1.20 depending on the system. A monthly welfare telephone allowance is payable towards the costs.

Leavers should have bulletin on their reading list

JOB opportunities and housing information in the East Midlands and Eastern Region are featured in the latest Services Resettlement Bulletin.

The issue carries advice on what job clubs – local Employment Service JobCentres will tell you where your nearest one is located, and how to join – can do for Service leavers, career options for women, and jobs with a European connection.

There is also a special feature on the rise and rise of the supervisor.

A 94-page reference section contains a mass of useful information on courses and briefings available to Service personnel looking at second-career options.

All military units receiving official publications should get a copy of

Happy birthday to us

WIMBISH Station HIVE celebrated its first birthday with a party attended by station commander Lt Col Peter Davies, officers, men and families of 33 Engineer Regiment (EOD).

Since the HIVE (Help Information Volunteer Exchange) opened a year ago, more than 600 enquiries have been dealt with, the office has gone from 12 hours a week to full-time opening, and the branch has been recognised by HQ Land Command.

Organiser Mrs Sue Capewell has raised more than £750



towards the cost of items used for the benefit of regimental families and has taken on the weekly door-to-door sale of bingo tickets to boost funds.

Pictures show Sue Capewell (left) and Valerie Davies, wife of the station commander, selecting raffle winners, and (inset), the birthday cake.

It's a fact

ESTIMATED number of war disablement pensions or lump sum gratuities awarded between 1967 and 1987 was 76,000. Since 1987, a further 297,770 have been awarded. – Parliamentary answer.

More thanks to Cyprus samaritan

ANOTHER reader, Mr J A Wallace of Warminster, has written in appreciation of WO2 (BSM) Paul Mills and other British soldiers who helped him and his wife visit the graves of former Gordon Highlander colleagues buried in Cyprus.

"Without WO Mills's help I would have been unable to fulfil a wish which has taken me 40 years to do," he wrote.

The thanks of Peter and Jean Baldwin to WO Mills for helping them visit Waynes Keep cemetery in the buffer zone were recorded in these pages in the April 1 issue.

They were able to see the grave of Peter's brother for the first time.

Boxing clever

SGT Billy Surch's hard work in raising funds has paid off with the handover of a new horsebox to Hohne Garrison Stables. It is the second box that Billy, serving with 40 Regiment RA, has provided for the garrison stables.

POSTED to South Africa? Allied Pickfords, the movers, have produced a free fact sheet of useful information. Send an A4 or A5 stamped addressed envelope to Moving to South Africa, 52 Broadwick Street, London W1V 1FF.

Anyone for art?

IF YOU are unaware of the existence of the Army Arts Society, it is anxious to rectify that ignorance.

Founded in 1982, the society has 200 members drawn from all ranks, serving and retired, and is looking to attract more. Members range from accomplished artists to relative beginners.

The society encourages and supports artists and craftsmen and stages regular exhibitions at which they can show and sell their work.

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A DODGY section of Route Gull on the side of Komar mountain brought home to the men of the Fighting Fifth's Support Troop the difficulty of keeping Bosnia's often fragile roads passable.

A persistent landslip threatening the road has become infamous with engineers operating in the area.

On first inspection, the road had dropped

Ups and downs of Route Gull

1.5m from its original position – and, weakened by extreme winters and heavy traffic, had obviously been doing so for several years. Below the surface the 5 Fd Sqn sappers found eight layers of asphalt, which had raised the road to its original level.

They had it "sorted" in four days. But after traffic and thawing snow had done their worst, the surface subsided a further 3m before disappearing 8m down the mountain ten weeks later.

WO2 Phil Taylor took the troop back on to

the mountain in wind chill temperatures of minus 35 degrees to resurrect the route. They made a 180m cut into the side of the mountain, constructed a drainage system with the help of combat engineers, and laid a new road base of 400m.

The route is open to traffic again ... but, the Royal Engineers are wondering, for how long?

Peace plan puts Ripon engineers on the spot

BRITISH sappers have left as much a mark as any group involved in returning order and stability to former Yugoslavia.

Now preparing to return home to their Claro Barracks base in Ripon, North Yorkshire, the men and women of 38 Engineer Regiment have in many cases completed two and even three Balkan tours.

When they arrived in Bosnia six months ago for their latest tour – Operation Grapple 7 – they were prepared for a winter of consolidation.

The regiment deployed to Gornji Vakuf, where RHQ set up home and 5 Field Squadron was attached to 22 Engineer Regiment; Vitez, home to 11 Field Squadron; and Tomislavgrad, occupied by 15 Field Park Squadron.

But the Dayton peace agreement totally changed the character of the deployment as the engineers began a hectic battle to establish camps and services for the thousands of fresh troops arriving in theatre to create the NATO-led Peace Implementation Force (IFOR).

As the pace hotted up, 28 Engr Regt had personnel working on more than 100 task sites.

FIGHTING FIFTH

Men of "the Fighting Fifth" – 5 Fd Sqn – were surprised by their early recall to Bosnia. Having completed Grapple 4, they found themselves back again 11 months later as the Gornji Vakuf squadron.

Although the change to IFOR command did little to improve the availability of resources, it did give them more confidence as they were at last able to move around central Bosnia unhindered and "bombed up".

MT Troop under SSgt Billy Hunter had the vital task of moving stores and equipment from Split to sites in and around Sipovo, Jajce, Mrkonjic Grad and Gornji Vakuf, covering anything up to 400km in a single journey over difficult roads.

The squadron's recce element explored newly liberated areas, providing information which led to the opening of routes Gull, Bluebird, Albatross and Hornblower.

The art of "kicking tin" – constructing



Above – A Serb-constructed Bailey bridge at Donji Vakuf before it was upgraded by 5 Fd Sqn



Right – A combat engineer tractor (CET) of Combat Support Troop, 11 Fd Sqn, moves in to demolish a ruined building in a clearing programme for a local community at Vitez

landing sites for Harriers and helicopters – was well tested when the squadron, with the considerable help of "tin" specialists 11 Fd Sqn, built a three-pad forward operating base for HQ Multi-national Division (South West) at Gornji Vakuf.

Support Troop, who had the thankless task of repairing the area's rapidly deteriorating roads, were led by SSgt Mario Reid after troop commander 2nd Lt Nick Stott's tour was ended prematurely by an anti-tank mine. Thankfully, both he and his driver are now in good health.

A composite troop from the Fighting Fifth also constructed a 180ft "triple-double, extra-wide" Bailey bridge over the

River Ponor at Podrodo, west of Mrkonjic Grad, enabling IFOR's heavy traffic to reach Sanski Most and other areas in the north west corner of central Bosnia.

The bridge, a major achievement for the squadron, was named after Spr John Perie VC, a hero of the Crimean War.

RESOURCES TROOP

One of the first units to experience the change from UNPROFOR to IFOR was the Resources Troop of 15 Fd Pk Sqn in Divulje Barracks, Split. OC Capt Phil Clemens and WO2 Billy Nichol had an early indication of a massive in-load on engineering stores, heralding the start of an

estimated 1,500 lifts. Reinforcements sent in to boost the troop strength included Capt Tony Hewson and SSgt Steve Shepperson with their manpower and vehicles. There was too much equipment for the unit to store on its site, so a container city was constructed at the village of Plano, 3km away.

Sgt Andy Davies and LCpl Mick Orr had to account for it all while Sgt Taff Ham and Cpl Paul Manterfield made sense of bids from units in the field.

These included 38 and 32 Engr Regts who were tasked to build important troop locations at sites which included the Cable Factory in Tomislavgrad, the Bus Depot at Bos Petrovach and the Sawmill at Sipovo.

German, Dutch and Royal Logistic Corps transport provided vital assistance in delivering enormous quantities of construction materials.

Items that the troop was unable to acquire – such as manhole covers – were manufactured by the workshop section which also prepared and maintained the vast number of generators now in theatre.

When the troop prepared to leave in late April, it was handling up to 100 loads arriving at Split by sea every week.

END OF INVICTA

As Triangle's importance as a main supply route diminished with the greater freedom of movement accorded IFOR in Bosnia-Herzegovina so the decision was made to remove sappers based at Fort Invicta and Camp Redoubt, closing another episode in the RE story.

Invicta and Redoubt, landmarks for many on successive Grapple deployments, were stripped by 15 Fd Pk Sqn as the snow and ice clearance operation moved to Kupres to keep two new routes open.

Plant operators battled in appalling weather conditions to construct a by-pass around Tomislavgrad, whose main street would not cope with the anticipated influx of IFOR vehicles. It was completed just hours before the first convoys of heavy armour trundled up country.

Elsewhere in the Tomislavgrad area, a troop under SSgt Kev Sharpe has been constructing a camp for the RLC.



Sappers get to grips with Bailey panels on the Perie bridge site



The first British Challenger main battle tank crosses Perie Bridge after the official opening by Brig Richard Dannatt, Commander 4 Armd Bde

It's a GEM of an idea

A NEW MoD staff suggestion scheme for all serving personnel and civilians was launched on April 1.

Called GEMS, it is aimed at anyone with an original idea that will save money or improve safety, quality, efficiency, operational effectiveness or the environment. Suggestions that lead to improved design, use or maintenance of equipment could also qualify for cash awards under GEMS.

The new scheme aims to speed up the interval between good ideas being put forward and their evaluation and implementation. To find out your local contact, ring the GEMS manager, Jan Goodenough, on 0171-218 4952.



Posh parade sees start of new role for Steelbacks

A NEW Territorial Army regiment formed in Peterborough on March 30 when the officers and soldiers of the 5th (Volunteer) Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment swapped roles to become a transport unit.

The Steelbacks – nickname of 5 R Anglian – exercised their Freedom of Peterborough for the first and last time before laying up their Colours and re-badging to become the 158 (Royal Anglian) Regiment, Royal Logistic Corps (Volunteers).

Music was provided by the R Anglian Territorial Band and the Corps of Drums of 5 R Anglian.

A royal salute was taken by the Lord Lieutenant of Cambridgeshire, Mr James Crowden, and the Colonel of the regiment, Maj Gen Patrick Stone, who inspected the parade before the Colours were trooped.

The 5 R Anglian Colours were laid up in Peterborough Cathedral during a service led by Canon Trevor Wilmott. The Rev Dr Victor Dobbin preached.

New cap badges were given out by Lady Victoria Leatham, the regiment's Honorary Colonel, and Maj Gen Martin White, Director General of Logistic Services (Army). Then, led by a Foden truck, the new regiment marched to the Town Hall where a salute was taken by the Lord Lieutenant.

Commanding officer Lt Col David Baylis said virtually all the current members of the battalion had agreed to change cap badges.

FEATURE A YEAR ON, LAND COMMAND IS LOOKING GOOD

HQ that puts an army in the field . . . and cares for it

LAND COMMAND has the means to put a potent military force – tailored to meet any situation – into the field anywhere in the world. It costs the nation £2.8 billion a year. The flexibility of its command structure enables it to respond rapidly to any situation and to make quick decisions.

When the British force in former Yugoslavia switched from UNPROFOR to NATO command, Britain's contribution of troops in the region increased from 2,500 to 11,500 Servicemen and women.

Units were identified, trained and dispatched with their equipment in a

few weeks, sometimes within days or hours.

Once in theatre they have to be administered in terms of pay, supplies, equipment, replacement personnel, leave and medical care to ensure they can function effectively in their military role.

Care of soldiers' families left at home has also to be administered. Keeping them fully informed and ensuring any problems are quickly resolved in the absence of a husband, wife, parent, son or daughter, is one of the least-publicised areas of responsibility for the headquarters.

While personal problems are best sorted out at unit level, Land Command has in place a flexible and responsive command chain which can push an apparently insoluble personal problem swiftly up to the appropriate level where a solution can be found.

It's big, it's effective, and it delivers . . .

ACCORDING to its Chief of Staff, Maj Gen Charles Vyvyan, the British Army's Land Command has proved a remarkable success. It is big, effective and delivers the goods, he says.

A year on from its formation, the organisation that provides the focus for all the British Army's fighting troops is proving its worth, **writes Laurie Manton**.

Headquarters Land Command controls nearly three-quarters of the Army, including the Territorial Army. Not least of its strengths is its command and control element, which makes it easier to deploy British troops abroad.

It can deliver the appropriate forces at the right place and time, and in the right frame of mind, ensuring that those "right forces" are properly led, trained, equipped and supported.

"It certainly made the Army's deployment to former Yugoslavia [Op Resolute] as part of the NATO Implementation Force [IFOR] run smoothly," said Gen Vyvyan.

"We now have command and control of all the resources which the Army would wish to contribute to any operation – national, coalition, NATO or United Nations.

"Essentially, we control about 72 per cent of the Army, including the TA and most of its operational elements. Clearly the Quartermaster General's and the Adjutant General's departments have a very big part to play and, of course, some of their resources are sent out to theatre, but as part of an operational package for which we are responsible," he explained.

HQ Land Command inherited the buildings of the previous United Kingdom Land Forces headquarters at Wilton near Salisbury and increased the size of its dependency.

At the same time it reduced by 25 per cent the size of the staff at the headquarters. Now, less than two per cent of the Army's fighting strength is involved in



headquarters infrastructure throughout the command, a very low ratio.

Do headquarters still form a vital part of fighting formations?

"Yes," said the general. "Headquarters are crucial at various levels, because if you are going to deliver an effective operational capability into theatre, you have got to ensure that it is properly structured, manned, equipped, trained and sustained.

"That is all done back in the United Kingdom, not in theatre, and therefore you need all the various elements within a headquarters to put it together."

Under the new doctrine, does everyone know what is expected of him, down to the most junior soldier?

Gen Vyvyan said they do, but pointed out that these days, every operation is different, as are its requirements.

"We no longer deliver an operational capability in terms of formation as we used

to. In the past, you might dispatch a complete brigade on an operation, as they did in the Gulf. Today, we would produce what is called a 'force package'. We'd decide what is required and send the appropriate units.

"For example, 4 Armoured Brigade is in Bosnia, currently, as part of the IFOR. Normally stationed in Germany, it consists of two Warrior battalions and two armoured regiments – what is known as a 'square brigade'. But, in Bosnia, it is made up of a Saxon battalion, a Warrior battalion, half an armoured regiment and half a reconnaissance regiment," he explained.

"We did not send the entire brigade. We dispatched a force package. Its constituent parts were decided by us to fit a NATO requirement that was endorsed by the Ministry of Defence."

Has Land Command worked out Standard Operating Procedures to cover most types of operational scenario?

Gen Sir Roger Wheeler C-in-C Land Command, pictured during a recent visit to HQ MND South-west at Gornji Vakuf

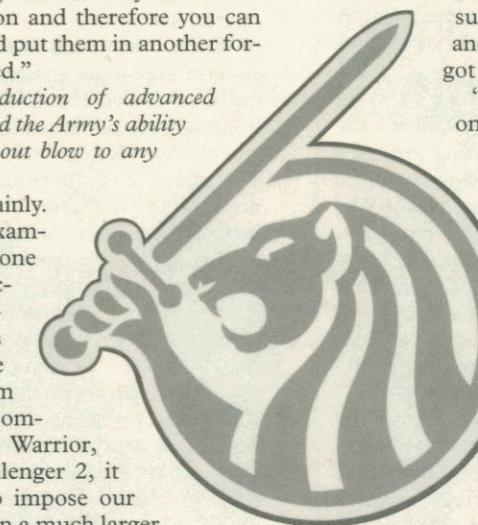
"No, we have not. There are a number of joint theatre plans for various operations, but the whole concept behind force packaging is that you have everyone trained within a formation and therefore you can take them out and put them in another formation as required."

Has the introduction of advanced weaponry enhanced the Army's ability to deliver a knockout blow to any future enemy?

"Most certainly. Take AS90, for example. It is clearly one of the most effective self-propelled weapons systems in the world. As a system it is unrivalled. Combined with Warrior, MLRS and Challenger 2, it will enable us to impose our operational will on a much larger battlefield."

Later this year, 7 Armoured Brigade will exercise in Poland. Will this type of cross-training increase?

"Most people assume that when the Army was reduced in size by almost 30 per cent there was a corresponding reduction in the total number of troops based in the



UK. That is not true. There are more troops in the UK now than there were before. More pertinently, there is a bigger number of larger systems such as AS90, Challenger and Warrior, and they have got to train somewhere.

"People are not very keen on armoured training taking place in the UK, so we are trying to develop our training areas here, taking into account environmental and parochial concerns.

"We are also trying to export as much of our training as far as we can and as far as we can afford it. The British Army has lost a number of manoeuvre training areas in Germany, including Soltau, and we are looking to train more with the Americans in Germany.

"We are also actively looking for more training areas in Eastern Europe, but BATU in Canada will continue to be the core of our All-Arms training," he said.

Infantry link with training command taken over

AFTER two-and-a-half years as Commander Training Support Command (Germany), Brig Alan Behagg has handed over to Brig Tresham Gregg, marking the end of an Infantry era.

The command was developed from Headquarters Infantry in Sennelager and the Infantry association continued during the tenure of Brig Behagg, late R Anglian.

A cavalryman, Brig Gregg commanded the 15th/19th The King's Royal Hussars from 1988 to 1991.

Brig Behagg, who is leaving the Army on retirement, was responsible for nursing the infant organisation and taking all the various training schools and teams in Germany under one umbrella to co-ordinate specialist, collective and special-to-arms training.

The approach provided a better and more uniform training standard.

Army calls in Royal Navy to tackle wartime depth charge

ARMY divers teamed up with the Royal Navy Northern Diving Group to make safe a 500lb Second World War depth charge off the Co Down coast.

The device, discovered by a sub-aqua diver inside the hull of a wrecked Liberty ship, the *Lee*, lying in 10m of water on the seabed near Portaferry, was a danger to the many divers who explore the area.

After Coastguards had called the Army for help, WO David Brown, team supervisor from 25 Engineer Regiment at Antrim, dived on the wreck, inspected the depth charge and decided to call in the Navy.

Royal Navy explosives experts from Faslane in Scotland subsequently destroyed the device, which contained 500lb of TNT, in a two-hour operation. The only casualties were a 5ft conger eel and a few fish.



Brig Alan Behagg



Brig Tresham Gregg



Battalion snipers demonstrate the advantages of four-wheel drive

Snipers on wheels

Report: Paul Barnard
Pictures: Roger Lortie

SOLDIERS from the 1st Battalion, The Green Howards are hoping that an innovation they have been working on will catch the imagination and be used in sniper operations.

While completing their Warrior conversion on the ranges at Bergen-Hohne, camouflaged Green Howards were to be seen bouncing round the training area on four-wheel drive Honda Quad bikes.

If successful, the project would greatly improve the mobility of snipers operating in difficult terrain. Although there is some way to go, early tests produced promising results, and the battalion is keen that the idea be accepted into operational use.

The three-week Bergen-Hohne package was the culmination of an intensive five-month programme to prepare the Osnabrück-based Green Howards for their new armoured infantry role. It followed four weeks of "dry" training at Sennelager under the supervision of the Armoured Infantry Training and Advisory Team.

Soldiers were put through day and night Warrior live-



Maj Gen Roddy Cordy-Simpson talks to Capt Ken Stewart, OC sniper cadre

firing, fire and manoeuvre, winter survival techniques and a company-level exercise designed to practise withdrawal through a minefield.

All the skills were tested during a three-day battalion field training exercise.

The Warrior conversion began in October and came on top of the battalion's short tour in Northern Ireland.

Maj Gen Roddy Cordy-Simpson, GOC

1 (UK) Armd Div, paid a flying visit to Bergen-Hohne ranges to watch the training. He saw B (King Harald) Company completing a gunnery exercise and a display by the sniper cadre.

The battalion's assault engineers were put through their paces in Hameln with a programme of tasks which included basic construction and demolition, minefield breeches, obstacle creation and clearance, cratering and blowing down trees.

Before moving to the US training area at Grafenwohr-Hohenfels in Bavaria for high-quality live-firing opportunities and to use state-of-the-art SIMNET computer-generated tactical simulators, the battalion spent a few days at the Brigade and Battle Group Trainer in Sennelager.

Lt Col Andrew Farquhar, CO 1 Green Howards, was delighted with the way his men responded to the challenges of converting to Warrior and believes the battalion is shaping up well for its summer trip to Canada on Medicine Man III.

"This has been an intensive and highly-demanding programme which has meant long periods away from Osnabrück," he said. "Nevertheless, the commitment shown has been outstanding and, although the battalion has some way to go, we can now look forward with confidence to our new role."

Terriers meet the P Company standard

LOW temperatures and heavy snow added to the hardship when 29 Territorial Army officers, officer cadets and soldiers volunteering for service with Airborne Forces reported to the Infantry Training Centre at Catterick to be put through the dreaded P Company selection course.

Candidates ranged in age from 19 to 35, and in rank from private to captain. JUO Mark Harris of Southampton University Officers' Training Corps passed out with the best marks as one of his course colleagues failed and four fell by the wayside through injury.

Their civvy street occupations included a dozen full-time students, a wind farmer, a Eurobond dealer, a dustman, a landlord, two security guards, a surgeon and a project manager whose company flew him from America for the training.

Although the course was compressed into two-and-a-half days, the tests - log race, milling, ten-mile battle march, obstacle course with transnium, and stretcher race - were the same as for recruits to the Regular Army, and run by the same staff.

Airborne TA units at present are 4 Para



It's cold and wet, but heavy snow won't stop these part-timers from completing the obstacle course

(V); 10 Para (V); 266 (GVA) Battery RHA (V), part of 7 (Para) RHA; 144 Para Med Sqn RAMC (V), part of 23 Para Fd Amb; and 395 Tp RLC (V), part of 47 AD Sqn RLC. In addition, there is an increment of 55 Sig Sqn (V), and TA officers working with 7 (Para) RHA in the RA Specialist Pool (V), and the HQ 5 Airborne Brigade element of the watchkeeper and liaison officer pool.

All are due to exercise with their Regular counterparts during Exercise Purple Star in the United States in April and May.

Terriers who get through P Company training have the chance to do a two-week basic parachute course at RAF Brize Norton, and can then ask for a posting, secondment or attachment to a TA airborne unit.



Stretched to the limit: teams struggle through North Yorkshire snow during the stretcher race

'A STUN GRENADE OF A BOOK'
Sunday Express

KILLING ZONE

By
HARRY McCALLION

The true story of a life in the Paras, the SAS,
the RUC and the South African Special Forces

BLOOMSBURY
paperbacks

Snakes alive!

ARMY families based at Episkopi Garrison – and elsewhere in Cyprus – will soon be able to sleep more easily, writes **Phil Wicox**.

Until now, they couldn't be certain whether snakes which they frequently encounter in their quarters were of the innocuous variety, or venomous reptiles such as the island's indigenous blunt-nose viper.

Enter Cpl John Waite, RAVC, who will now, literally, be there to handle the problem.

A veterinary technician currently in his final year of a two-and-a-half year posting to the Cyprus Defence Animal Support Unit (CDASU), John is ready for action, fresh from a two-week training course at London Zoo.

"The snakes have been an ongoing problem since 1994," he told *Soldier*, as a boa constrictor wrapped itself around his arm and waist outside the zoo's reptile house.

"There were a few incidents last year where snakes were found in people's quarters and gardens and, when they see a snake of any sort, they automatically assume it is a blunt-nose viper."

Nobody, including the military police, was prepared to handle them, so the CDASU pursued the problem.

John put the idea of a training course to HQ BFC and it was duly approved by them and his CO, Maj David Mountford RAVC.

"I normally deal with Servicemen's pets and all the Forces' animals at the Cyprus bases," said Cpl Waite.

"It's useful to get my hands on another species, rather than cats and dogs – although, with several others, I was involved in rescuing a pilot whale which had ventured seriously offshore in Cyprus."

And did he feel his stint at London Zoo would prove beneficial?

"It has definitely been an extremely



Esther Wenman, the zoo's head keeper, reptiles



Picture: Mike Weston

Making hiss-tory: Veterinary technician Cpl John Waite, RAVC, first in the Army to undertake a reptile course at London Zoo, with slithery friend

useful course," John said. "I have dealt with virtually every type of snake, from grass snake to articulated python. All the reptile staff have contributed, and have been very helpful."

Had there been any scary moments?

"Getting into the pit with the vipers and having them crawl over me was pretty 'hairy', I must admit – but it has been beneficial being so close to the snakes."

"It means that I can get on with the intensive job of dealing with them when I get back to Cyprus."

Hopefully, he added, somebody will

take over from him within a year.

"It's definitely a first for the corps... and I hope I have set a precedent."

Esther Wenman, London Zoo's head keeper, reptiles, was in agreement.

"The zoo carries out a lot of training, normally on a one-to-one basis," she said.

"But, although here in the reptile house we have dealt with the police and the RSPCA before, we have had no previous contact with the Army. John's successor will be welcome."

In the meantime, the corporal vet can't wait to put his newly-acquired knowledge to practical use . . .

XD offers speed, manoeuvrability, comfort and rear seat belts...

IT MAY look similar, but apart from a few bits of the engine, every part of the new Defender XD is different from its predecessors.

The XD is equipped with contoured seats and power-steering, and incorporates a feather-light gear change and spring-assisted clutch. Passengers will appreciate the new wider and more comfortable fold-down rear seats.

The engine offers 70 per cent more power and torque compared with current in-service diesel vehicles. It has already been dubbed a "rally" version of the original Defender.

Based on the current battle-proven military Defender series, the XD (it stands for "eXtra Duty") is said to provide greater performance, increased payload and improved durability.

The vehicle also offers greater comfort, new safety features and reduced maintenance costs.

Axes have been strengthened and suspension springs and dampers upgraded to cater for increased payload and extended operation on rough terrain.

A completely new wheel has been developed for use on all XD vehicles and new tyre specifications have been developed. This includes extra steel bracing for better puncture resistance. Spare wheels can now be carried on both sides of the vehicle, as well as on the bonnet.

A substantially strengthened rear body is standard on all XD 90 and 110 vehicles supporting a roll cage providing full protection for front and rear occupants, while a new PVC canopy – more stable in adverse conditions – is easier to clean and fit.

A new twin air intake and water ingress protection system gives a standard maximum fording depth of 0.6 metres. A raised system increases wading depth to 1.5m.

The Defender XD 130 is a new medium mobility, air-portable ambulance. Its rear ambulance body was developed with Marshall of Cambridge.

The vehicle's stretcher and seating configuration is very flexible, easily adapting to accommodate four stretchers or six seated casualties, or two stretchers and three seated casualties. A separate medical attendant's seat is provided in either case.

Stretcher gear provided has been designed to be user-friendly, with the top stretcher rack having power assistance to enable two persons to comfortably complete the loading operation.

All the casualty seats have folding frames and incorporate retractable lumbar supports and seat belts, and there is a walk-through door connecting the rear ambulance body with the front cab.

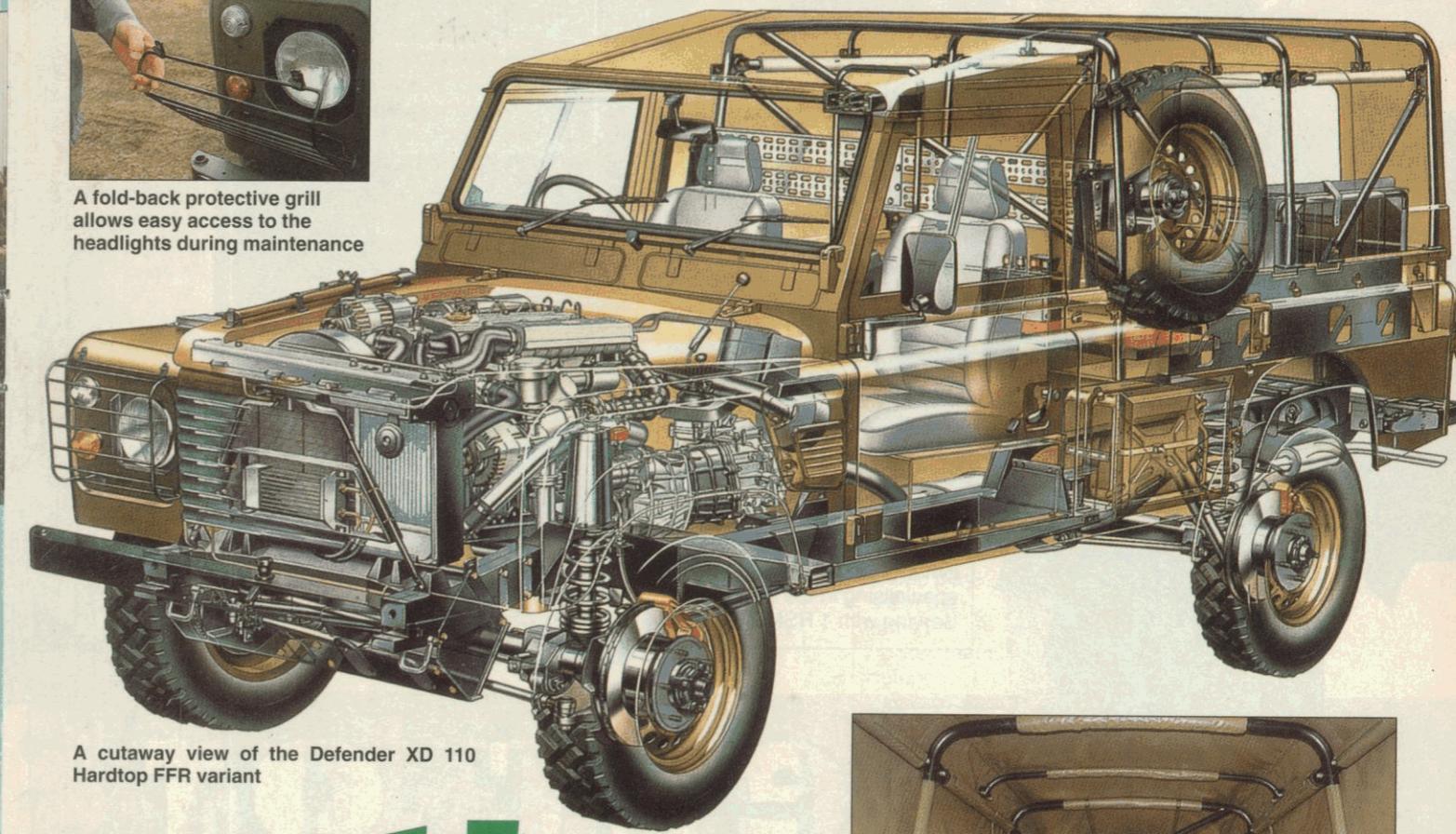
22



Defender XD tests the water on Land Rover's "jungle" test track



A fold-back protective grill allows easy access to the headlights during maintenance



A cutaway view of the Defender XD 110 Hardtop FFR variant



Not just another Land Rover

IT WAS impossible to decide who was more surprised... the two ducks paddling quietly across a stream or the occupants of a Land Rover driving along the river bed.

In the event, the feathered travellers took priority and the vehicle waited patiently until the "trespassers" had completed their circumnavigation of the water section on the test circuit before moving off.

A combination of obstacles, inclines and boggy tracks on the Land Rover demonstration tracks at Solihull offered ideal conditions for testing the off-road handling skills of the British Army's new Defender XD vehicle.

Some slopes seemed impossibly steep, but were easily negotiated.

Defender XD's capacity for bumping over obstacles is immense. Wooden steps, Continental-style "pave" and deeply-rutted terrain proved no hindrance to the XD's progress.

But spare a thought for the drivers who tested Land Rover's new vehicle. They logged 750,000 miles on a wide range of

surfaces during a test cycle of unprecedented severity.

Terrain included flooded and undulating tracks and high-speed driving circuits on Ministry of Defence test tracks at Longcross and Long Valley designed to match the worst-case battlefield conditions.

Heavier payloads and a demanding duty cycle resulted in the chassis being re-designed and the body strengthened.

It had to be proved that the XD could operate successfully in environments ranging from winter in Scandinavia and summer in the Middle East to the mountain tracks and rubble of Bosnia.

Two projects – Wolf (TUL/TUM) and Pulse (Ambulance) were developed by a 45-strong Land Rover team using the Rover Group's state-of-the-art computer-aided design and engineering analysis equipment.

As well as providing trials vehicles to the MoD, Land Rover built a number of others on which to do their own tests.



"You can have the world's most reliable vehicle, but it has to fulfil a soldier's needs," said military projects manager Neil Doswell.

"The RLC Trials and Development Unit at Aldershot was issued with nine vehicles and seconded them out to various units to get direct user feedback.

"Changes were made along the way, but in the end we were able to satisfy all the users' needs."

Land Rover's parent company – the Rover Group – sent its quality projects manager, Roy Poolton, to look after technical

cal issues that arose from the trials. He attended meetings with the evaluation team and guided Land Rover's engineering experts towards solutions to all the issues raised.

"The success of the Wolf 2 project was that when the vehicles went into the second phase of trials, there was not one repeat of issues raised in the first," said Mr Poolton.

Land Rover's director of government and military operations, George Adams, said that when a soldier gets behind the wheel of Defender XD the first thing he will notice, besides the much more com-

fortable seats, will be engine performance.

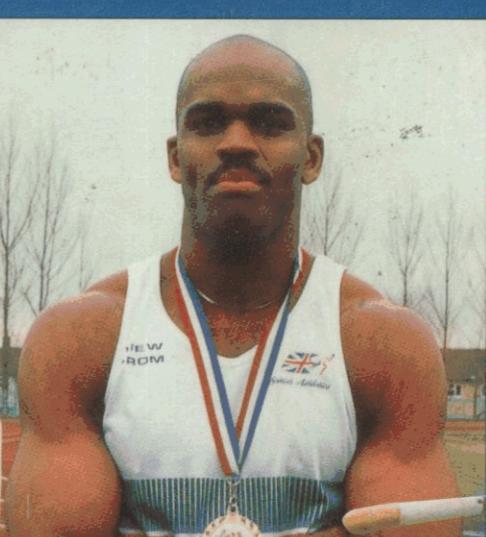
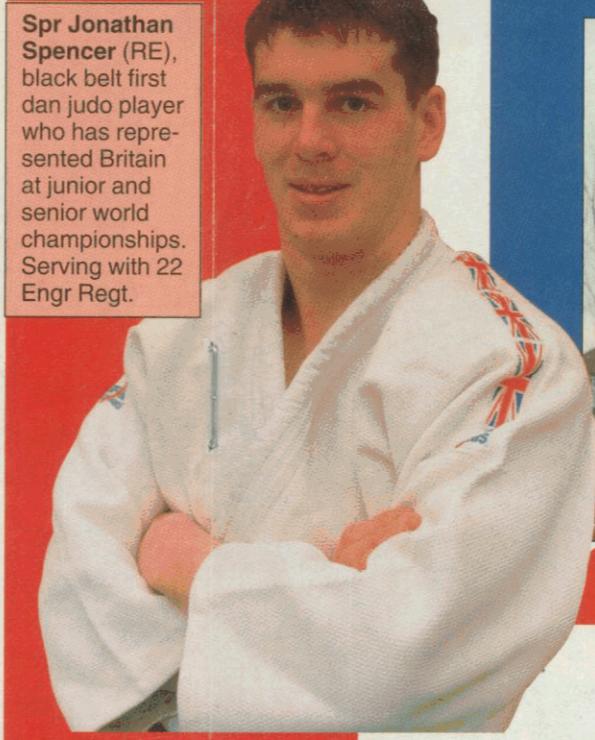
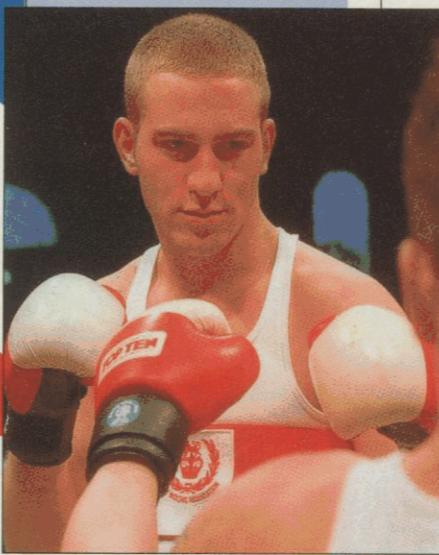
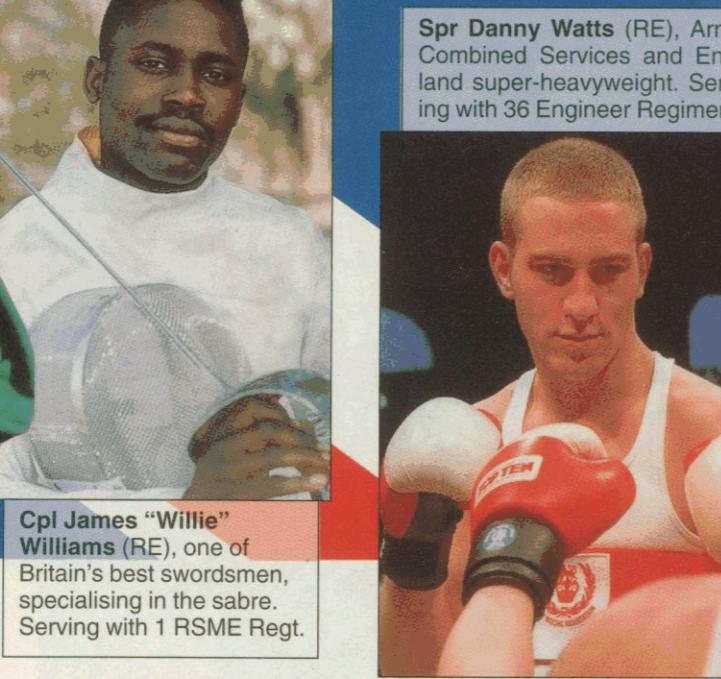
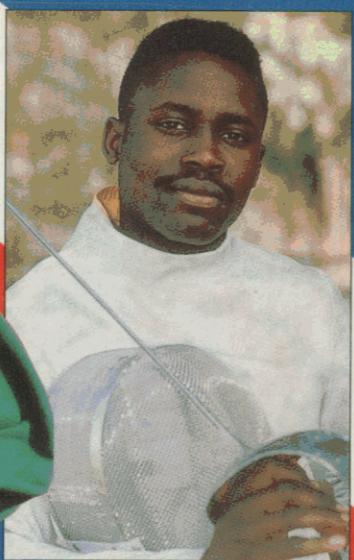
"The current in-service Defender has a naturally-aspirated diesel engine," he said. "XD has a turbocharged direct-injection engine providing vastly increased power and torque."

"It is not just another Land Rover. It is a quantum leap forward."

The first vehicles will roll off the production line this summer, entering service later this year. In all 8,800 Defender XDs, costing more than £200 million, have been ordered for Britain's Armed Forces. The order includes 800 ambulance variants.

Above – A new roll bar system and better seating in the rear of the vehicle offers increased passenger safety and comfort. The MoD has taken up an option of rear seat belts on every vehicle

Left – Left to right: XD 90, 130 and 110



Best of British

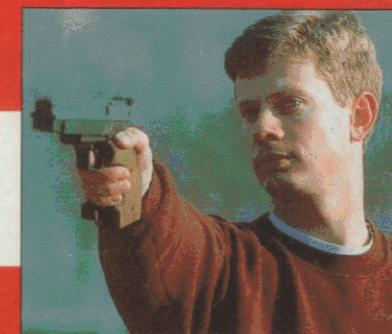
THE British Army is proud of the contribution it makes to the nation's sport at the highest levels of excellence.

Although some of the athletes featured on these pages may not make the final selection for the summer Olympics in Atlanta, USA, all are rated among the best in their particular disciplines. All have been

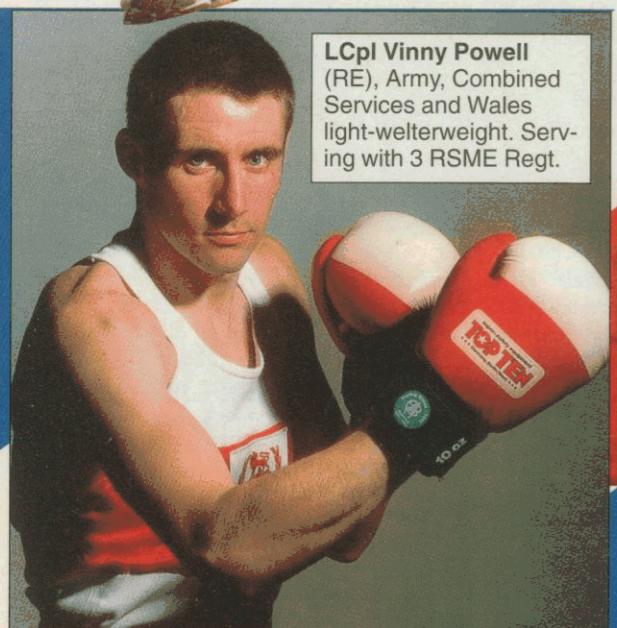
involved in the intense preparations and build-up before the national squads are named.

All are international athletes in their own right... the best of British.

SSgt Rod Finch (AGC (SPS)), an athlete who has made the breakthrough to international level, representing British athletics in middle distance races both indoors and out. Serving with 7 (Para) RHA.

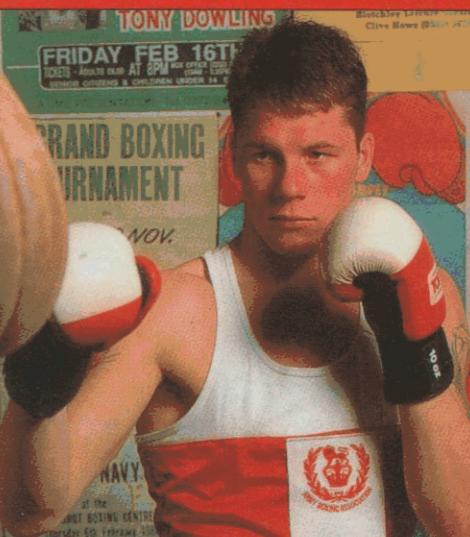


Lt Craig Manley (RA), latest in a long line of Army modern pentathlon contenders for Olympic selection. Serving with 7 (Para) RHA.



2nd Lt Guy Fordham (RAMC), midfielder in the British hockey team. Currently attached to Royal Army Medical College.

Sgt Kelly Holmes (AGC), the top 800m and 1,500m runner in Britain and one of the best in the world. Our brightest prospect for a medal at Atlanta. Serving with the Household Division Army Youth Team.



Cpl Chris Bessey (RLC), the Army, Combined Services and England light-middleweight boxer. The winner of two national titles, he is the undisputed No 1 in the country and will be a strong contender for Atlanta if he does well in the forthcoming European Championships. Serving with 27 Regiment RLC.



Maj Stuart Hudson (RAMC), one of the best Star-class dinghy sailors in the country. Serving with 23 Para Fd Amb.



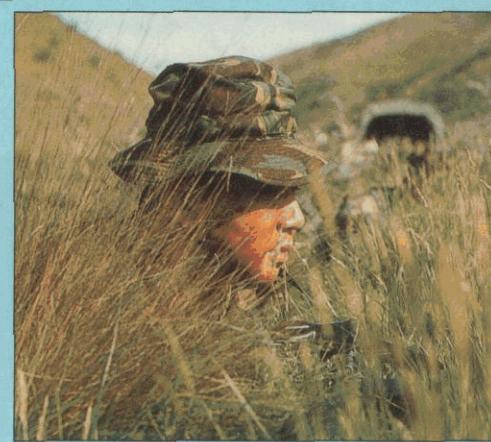
HKMSC soldiers tackle the obstacle assault course



Tactics talk during training



HKMSC soldiers try keep on the straight and narrow in the Rangitata River rapids



Ready for ambush



HKMSC base camp at Glenfalloch, South Island, New Zealand

Enter the dragons

ONE hundred and twenty locally enlisted Hong Kong Chinese soldiers serving with the Hong Kong Military Service Corps (HKMSC) visited New Zealand to take part in a series of field firing and training exercises.

The six-week-long Kauri Dragon was the HKMSC's first – and last – platoon-level exercise to be held overseas.

Divided into three phases, each tailored for a platoon of 35 men, the majority from Dragon Company, Kauri Dragon provided the soldiers with the opportunity to train in an environment completely different from anything they experience in Hong Kong.

"More than 80 per cent of the men sent to New Zealand had never participated in overseas training, mainly because they were new members to the corps, having passed out from their recruit training in 1993," said exercise training officer Capt Paul Wong. For many, he added, this was a once-in-a-lifetime experience because the HKMSC will disband in December.

Each phase of Kauri Dragon lasted about ten days, with the first few concentrating on field-firing at Glenfalloch, 3,000

metres above sea level and 200km west of Christchurch on South Island. The mountainous terrain is surrounded by snow-capped hill-tops and provided spectacular views.

While the scenery was exceptional for the men from Hong Kong, so were weather conditions in Glenfalloch. They were not pleasant and something the men had to get used to quickly. Freezing, snowy mornings gave way to burning sunshine by afternoon while the evenings brought heavy downpours.

However, Glenfalloch proved to be ideal ground for military training: 3,000 hectares in size, it encompassed almost every type of terrain, including hills, plains, scrubland, woods and brush.

Maj John Ingham, 2iC of Depot HKMSC on Stonewallers Island and exercise commander, was pleased with what had been arranged and with the favourable feedback from his men.

"They all seemed to enjoy it, despite the rough weather conditions," he said.

Logistic support was provided by HQ 3 Land Force Group of the New Zealand Army and the Hong Kong soldiers were well looked after by their Kiwi counterparts who provided accommodation and a well-stocked cookhouse. Three full-time drivers and two medics were also attached to the HKMSC during their stay in New Zealand.

Commander British Forces Hong Kong, Maj Gen Bryan Dutton, paid a brief visit and was impressed by the soldiers' enthusiasm, self-confidence.

"There are limited facilities in Hong Kong where they can improve their military skills and it is good to see these young Hong Kong Chinese soldiers training in an environment totally different from their own," he said.

"Their self-confidence is obvious and, despite the severe weather, they appear to have thoroughly enjoyed themselves."

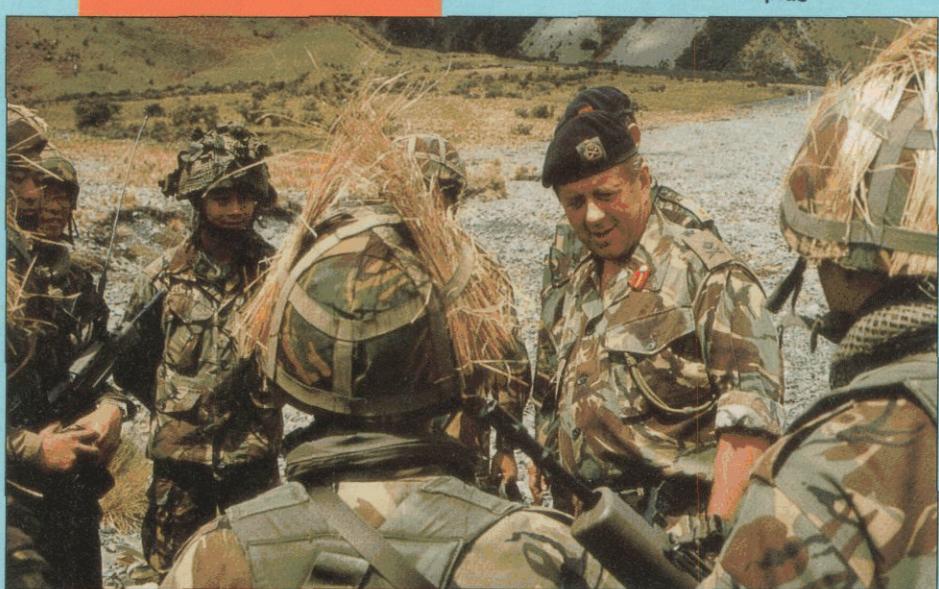
Kauri Dragon covered a wide range of military skills including field-firing, and section and platoon night ambushes. The

men also had to tackle a 22-obstacle assault course after which they took part in an 8km run with full kit.

As part of the exercise they also took part in adventurous training, including white water rafting, abseiling, mountain biking, trekking, horse riding and jet boating. The Hong Kong soldiers had their first taste of white-water rafting on the Rangitata River about 200km west of Christchurch,

After the rigours of training, the troops were given a well-deserved rest and recreation period. Several hired cars and went off to explore the country while a few brave souls experienced one of New Zealand's most fashionable sports – bungee jumping, a sport which has yet to "take off" in Hong Kong.

As Kauri Dragon drew to a close Capt Wong was happy with the way the training had gone. "Everyone got something out of their stay in New Zealand, particularly on the military side," he said. "Equally, it was a great opportunity for these young men to visit New Zealand and to take home with them memories of a lifestyle and culture very different from their own."



Maj Gen Bryan Dutton, Commander British Forces Hong Kong, chats to soldiers during a visit to the HKMSC during field-firing training

Your risk is their business

The MoD's Claims Branch is part of Personnel Logistics (Legal Services) Division.

Its three sections, employing 30-plus civilian staff, deal with:

□ Financial matters involving insurances and indemnities in connection with Services-sponsored events, and displays by parachute and motor-cycle display teams.

□ Claims of Service personnel, dealing with anything from sports-related injuries to a database of those involved in ongoing "Gulf Syndrome" cases, although injuries as a result of war operations or military action by warring factions are not part of the branch's remit.

□ Public liability claims, covering low-flying and maritime matters.

CLAIMS TO FAME

THIS YEAR, it is expected that £12m in compensation will be paid out to service personnel, with an average of £15m for the foreseeable future.

THE BRANCH's Pregnancy Dismissal Section, set up in February 1994 and run by Anthony Elford, has now settled 98 per cent of the claims – at an average of £11,000 – which resulted after two servicewomen (one a former Army corporal) successfully took their case to the High Court in 1991.

ARMY and other personnel who believe they have symptoms attributable to service in the Gulf War have their travel and overnight expenses paid by Claims Section 2 when they go to London to be medically assessed, if their claim is with the branch.

MOST unusual application for insurance and indemnity submitted to Claims Section 1 must surely be for a party of 500 Polish Cub scouts who tackled an assault course...

CLAIMS to Section 3 (public liability) range from damage to chimneys to helicopters frightening sheep in the lambing season.

SILLIEST potential claim (to Section 2) has to be from the man who said the MoD was negligent for not having someone to catch him when he landed after his first parachute jump...

GETTING ON for four centuries ago – in 1616, to be precise – a member of a British militia unit sued one of his fellow soldiers for a negligent discharge.

Though that turned out to be an isolated case over the course of the next 330 years, it was only when the 1947 Crown Proceedings Act was introduced that, under Section 10, members of the Armed Forces were effectively prevented from suing the Crown or each other for negligent acts in the performance of their duty.

Compensation for personal injuries attributable to service in the Armed Forces was – and still is – paid (by the Department of Social Security) in the form of an index-linked war pension.

But in the 1980s, says Kelvin Barber, who has just handed over the reins as MoD's Chief Claims Officer on retirement, there were some high-profile incidents resulting in victims becoming paraplegics, whose injuries had been manifestly caused by someone acting on behalf of the Crown.

"Although the injuries were substantial, the Servicemen concerned were not in a position to sue the Crown. It became apparent that the scale of damages available to civilians had begun to outstrip the war pension."

"In 1987, Section 10 of the 1947 Act was repealed and, since then, the MoD has been able to meet claims from Servicemen and women in exactly the same way as other employers. So now, what a Serviceman gets is the same as a civilian."

But the effect on soldiers of an injury could be more serious, said Mr Barber.

If civilians were to break a leg, they could carry on with their job; for a soldier it could have a much more profound effect.

"Both would endure the same pain and suffering, but the loss of earnings for the Services employee would be a lot more."

Unique features

There are several unique features about claims from Service personnel, he added.

"In Service life, people do things and run risks which they don't do in civilian life: not only do they work for the MoD, but they live – and socialise – on MoD premises."

"This is where we have to draw the line in terms of our employment of personnel and where their social life takes over."

A case in point was a Serviceman (not in the Army) who had drunk himself to death.

Initially, a High Court judge had held the MoD 80 per cent responsible and had awarded damages.

"We appealed," Kelvin Barber explained, "and the Court of Appeal decided we had no responsibility for his drunkenness. The person concerned had been

drinking in several places, so it was not reasonable to expect the Armed Forces to exercise control."

Mess ceremonies are another unusual area.

In one instance, a Serviceman was leaving a unit, had drinks in the bar and, as part of the leaving ceremony, was required to chop up a stool.

He was given an axe by the barman and, during the course of events, the stool was kicked away and the man seriously injured someone else with the axe.

The MoD had to pay substantial compensation because there were individuals involved who were on duty.

"Cases such as this, and another, where a young chap on a short-term commission who claimed to have suffered trauma while in the Army sued both the MoD and the individual officers – and lost – raise issues which help to define the law, and the limits of our liabilities," said Mr Barber.

Hostile operations

The extent to which the MoD has liability for its personnel involved in hostilities is another area where the law is "non-existent" in terms of procedures, he added.

"It has always been assumed that we don't have 'duty of care' in a legal sense, when a Serviceman is engaged in actual hostile operations.

"We would hope that the result of any



precaution is taken, but just because you expose them to risk does not mean that you are negligent. It is an extremely interesting legal area."

Many claims relate to accidents in training, an aspect which will be closely scrutinised by the branch in future, according to Mr Barber.

Chief Claims Officer Kelvin Barber, who retired at the end of February (sitting, right) with (left to right) Tracey Allen (Servicemen's personal injury claims); Sandra Ryan (low flying claims); Stephen Trout (Senior Claims Officer); Mike Clacket (Servicemen's personal injury claims); Ian Pearce (sitting, indemnities) and Drew Wilson (public liability claims)

Former WRAC corporal Jan Tibbit (Claims 2 Section) discusses a case with Claims Officer John Maloney

Risk analysis, involving trends in how and where claims arise, will result in those involved being told: *These accidents are happening, and it is costing money. Are there any reasonable ways to avoid it? Are the mats in a gymnasium thick enough and properly fixed to the floor, for example?*

"After all, if they move, some person could land on their back and be seriously injured," said Mr Barber.

Press-up punishment

"To take another instance, a corporal may have done a non-stop weekend on duty, he is tired, drives back to barracks, parks in the wrong slot, is given 50 press-ups by his sergeant as a punishment – and sustains a back injury."

"A trivial event ends up having a serious effect on a man's career."

As an employer, Mr Barber said, the MoD has an obligation to provide a safe place of work which also encompasses freedom from bullying and harassment.

From a handful when he took over in 1990, he has watched the number of liability claims grow, and with them, the law gradually becoming more clearly defined.

"The problems are not going to go away, and the branch is looking for more effective and efficient ways to deal with them," he pointed out.

For his successor, Jef Mitchell, the emphasis will probably change as risk management becomes more of a growth area, Kelvin Barber feels.

"It will take a long time to forget about claims, and I shall continue to read about cases with considerable interest – but I shall do so from the comfort of home," he said.



Medals of a remarkable soldier to go on display

THE MEDALS of Gen Sir William Gordon Cameron, an extraordinary soldier, have been bought by The King's Own Royal Regiment Museum at Lancaster.

Gen Cameron, born in 1827, served in the British Army for an amazing 69 years, a period which included action in the Crimean War, in Turkey in the 1850s, and the Abyssinian Expedition of 1868 on which he commanded the 1st Battalion, The King's Own Royal Lancaster Regiment.

He served the regiment for 40 years in all, and was its colonel for 20 years before his death in March 1913.

The medal group was obtained with the help of a grant from the Victoria and Albert Museum Purchase Grant Fund.

• The Victoria Cross awarded to Sgt Maj James Clarke, Lancashire Fusiliers, for conspicuous bravery in Picardie nine days before the end of the First World War, was sold to an anonymous buyer at Spinks', London, on March 12 for £22,000.

JWS hosts its last warfare think-tank

A HIGH-powered and successful Senior Officers' Joint Warfare seminar was held at the Joint Warfare Staff, RM Poole under the auspices of the Supreme Allied Commander Europe, Gen George A Joulian, US Army.

Nearly 50 delegates from the Armed Forces of most NATO countries took part in the 25th annual seminar, which aimed at developing NATO thinking on planning for operations and drew heavily on the current Balkan experience.

It was chaired jointly by the Assistant Chief of the Defence Staff (Operations), AV Marshal

Master . . .

ONE of the country's foremost experts in aviation medicine, Dr Ian Perry, has been elected Master of the Guild of Air Pilots and Air Navigators. He is the first soldier to hold the office.

One of the first RAMC cadet officers in 1961, he subsequently served as a captain with 24 Field Ambulance in Aden, a campaign which nurtured his belief that the lives of Servicemen could be sustained by effective aerial support.

His papers on the subject won



Sussex cadets pose proudly with a plaque erected at the start of a new "trim trail" at Crowborough Training Camp.

On the trail

50 YEARS AGO

From *Soldier*, April 13, 1946

A STAR IS BORN

Work has started at the Royal Mint and Woolwich Arsenal to make millions of campaign stars - Africa, Burma, Italy, Atlantic, Pacific, France and Germany, Air Crew Europe, and 1939-45 - for Second World War service. The stars are made from copper and zinc.

25 YEARS AGO

From *Soldier*, April 1971

FISHY TALE

After a TA officer complained he could not get a decent kipper in Germany, the newspaper *Bild Zeitung* challenged Rhine Army Public Relations to prove it. A German kipper was declared the winner at a tasting presided over by a Swiss gastronomer.

Teeth arms re-activated

ARMY dog handlers in Germany spent months last year teaching their charges NOT to bite suspects when making an arrest.

It was the Defence Animal Support Unit's contribution to the UN's non-aggressive policy in former Yugoslavia.

Now under NATO's more robust command, the RAVC unit is having to put the bite BACK into its dogs. The DASU - six people and nine dogs - are involved in guard duties at the Split complex and all over the British area of operations where security requires a few extra teeth.

Militiamen return to battle sites

FORTY-nine officers and warrant officers from the Royal Monmouthshire Royal Engineers (Militia), accompanied by military historian Dr Paddy Griffith, visited

... pilot

sites of First and Second World War battles involving predecessor units of the regiment.

While the primary aim of the trip was to study battlefields including Vimy Ridge and Cambrai, the party was keen to see the places from where its 100 and 101 Squadrons were evacuated in 1940.

Briefings on the British Expeditionary Force and Dunkirk evacuation were given by Maj Jeremy Smith and Capt David Washington, OC and 2 iC of 100 Fd Sqn (M), and Lt Col (Retd) John Pope.

A wreath was laid at Bellinglise to commemorate the action of the 466th Fd Coy, which still exists at Cannock in the guise of 2 and 3 Troops, 143 Plant Squadron (Militia).

Trailwalker nears HK \$12m mark

TRAILWALKER 95, the 100km trek along Hong Kong's MacLehose Trail organised by the Queen's Gurkha Signals, raised an incredible HK \$11,930,000, a third of which will be used to assist the Gurkha Welfare Trust with its work in Nepal.

Last year was the 14th and final occasion on which the QG Signals took on the work of organising the event, regarded as one of the most testing challenges in Hong Kong's sporting calendar.

As well as attracting hundreds of civilians, more than 30 teams from the British Garrison took part, with the Queen's Own Gurkha Transport Detachment, based at Sek Kong, and the Hong Kong Military Service Corps among the top ten teams across the finishing line.

From 1997, Oxfam Hong Kong will co-ordinate the event, and in recognition of the contribution of the Gurkhas over the past 14 years, the Trailwalker Advisory Committee intends to establish an endowment fund to continue Trailwalker's work in Nepal.

CLOSURES

Due to the Hong Kong withdrawal in June 1997, the Flying Kukris RFC is now in its final season. Anyone who has donated plaques, shields or photographs and wishes them to be returned should contact Sqn Ldr A C Birrell, Borneo Lines, Sek Kong Station, Hong Kong, BFPO 1 (00 852 24837163; fax 00 852 24881127),



REUNIONS

4 Bn, Northamptonshire Regt (1939-46): All ranks reunion dinner on May 3 at Clare Street Drill Hall, Northampton. Tickets (£7.50) from Maj D P Scopes, Rectory Cottage, Barnwell, Northamptonshire PE8 5PG (01832 272814).

RASC Jersey Boys: Reunion at the Riverside Hotel, Kenilworth, on May 17-19. Details from Joe Gutteridge, New Horizon, 6 Tudor Way, Bridgwater, Somerset TA6 6UE (01278 422806).

43rd (Wessex) Recce Regt RAC: First reunion of reformed OCA takes place on May 18 at the Patchway, Bristol. Details from Alan J Dracup, 26 The Meads, Downend, Bristol BS16 6RQ (0117 9761980).

Cheshire Regimental Association (Birkenhead and District Branch): Fifth 'Oak Leaf' Dinner takes place at Hesketh Hall, Port Sunlight, on May 24. Tickets (£10)

APPOINTMENTS

Colonels: C A Atkins - To be Comd 7 Dental Gp, Mar 6; M J Dent - To HQ 5 Div, Mar 11, J H Hardy - To be CO 5 Dental Gp, Mar 11; D S Jolliffe - To MoD AMD, Mar 11; R C Menzies - To be Comd Med HQ Land, Mar 11.

A N Bellamy - To be Comd BATUS, Mar 18; R S Jeffrey - To UK Sp Unit SHAPE, Mar 20; S A Lane - To MoD, Mar 18; J S K Swanson - To be Comd Med Lond Dist, Feb 27 (belated entry); A V Twiss - To be DA/MA Ankara, Mar 19.

Lt Cols: T J Blad RE - To MoD,

from Bill York on 0151-630 2917.

74 Med Regt RA: Annual reunion at TA Centre, Brighton, on June 1. Details from Ron Somers, 104A Lee Road, London SE3 9DE (0181-852 6716). New contacts unable to attend will be included on newsletter mailing list.

Armourers and Artificers Weapon: Armourers' Association reunion to be held at Victory Services Club, London, on June 22. Details from Chris Dennis, 18 Willesden Road, Bevere, Worcester WR3 7QP (01905 755334).

SEARCHLINE

Former members of 57th (East Surrey) Anti-Tank Regt RA are asked to help with a project to record the history of the regiment between the years 1938-45. Before conversion to its anti-tank role, the unit existed as 5 Bn, East Surrey Regiment, drawing personnel from Surrey and south

west London. Contact Jack Parkinson, Hon Sec 57/67 Regt OCA, 26 Portway Crescent, Ewell Village, Epsom, Surrey KT17 1SX (0181 394 0455).

The Mayor of Gambassi Terme, near Florence, Italy, is trying to trace seven British PoWs who,

having escaped in the confusion after the Italian armistice in September 1943, were sheltered, fed and clothed for nine months before the liberation. The town wants to invite them back as a gesture of gratitude to the Allied Forces which liberated Italy. The seven were Cpl G H Goddard and Ptes Frank W Hyam, Harold Blakesley, Dennis Barlow, George O S Adams, Frank Bowen and Ernest Pye. Replies, in English, to Il Sindaco, Gambassi Terme, Provincia di Firenze 50050, Italia (or fax 0039 571 636925).

Catherine Tabrum Crowther wishes to hear from anyone who knew or served with her father, William Williamson McLean, born Pollock Street, Glasgow, Aug 14, 1917, and raised in Campbeltown, Argyll. Served RASC 1940-55 and held rank of QMS. Replies c/o Beale, Sackville House, 53 New Street, Sandwich CT13 9BZ.

Retirements
Brigadiers: T E O'Donnell, late RAPC, Mar 16; R A Smart, late RADC, Mar 31.

Sappers honour RE pair

SSgt Paul Hardon lays a wreath at Stari Vitez during a service in memory of fellow Royal Engineers Cpl Barney Warburton and Spr Barry Nicholas who died while serving in Bosnia in 1994.

The service, conducted by Padre Tony Coslett, and attended by 26 members of RE Regiments serving with the Peace Implementation Force in former Yugoslavia, took place on the second anniversary of Cpl Warburton's death while on active service in Stari Vitez.

Spr Nicholas lost his life in Gornji Vakuf when an anti-personnel mine was accidentally activated. He was 20 years old.

"They will be remembered with pride and affection as young men who gave their lives in the service of peace," said Capt Coslett.

DMED, Ludgershall: Second reunion at Ludgershall, Andover, on September 13-14 for all who trained there, including TA, National Service and civilian staff. Details from C Mason, Lanuille, Grange Road, Ellesmere, Shropshire SY12 9D (01691 622300).

219 Signal Squadron (Tripoli), 245 Signal Squadron (Benghazi), 235 Signal Squadron (Malta), 1959-65: Reunion planned September 27-28 in the Midlands. Contact R F Andrews, Moorings, 7 The Heath, South Tankerton, Whitstable, Kent CT5 3HJ.

DATES

April

13-14: British Army (Germany) show jumping and hunter trial two-day event, Moosdorf, sponsored by 1 QDG.

21: Surrey Military Collectors Society militaria fair, Linkfield Lane, Redhill, Surrey.

May

3-5: Rheindahlen Show.

4-6: Aldershot Show.

25-27: Rhine Army Summer Show, Paderborn.

25-27: Overlord '96 military vehicle rally, Southsea, Hants.

11: RBL 75th anniversary Big Band dance, Dunstable.

11-12: Military culinary competition and open day, St Omer Barracks, Aldershot, 1000.

June

5-6: Floodlit Beating Retreat by massed bands of Household Division, Horse Guards, 2130.

15: Queen's Birthday Parade. Colour trooped by 1 IG (rehearsals June 1 and 8).

29-30: SSAFA Lincolnshire fund-raising event at Air Day, RAF Waddington, Lincoln.

July

5: RE Rowing Club 150th anniversary row-past and reunion, Royal Henley.

9-20: Royal Tournament.

21: Oxon-Bucks RBL gala day, Stonor Park nr Henley-on-Thames. Details from County Field Officer on 01865 53151.

28: Tank Museum battle day, Bovington.

September

7-8: Berwick Military Tattoo. Proceeds to SSAFA.

October

6: Aldershot militaria exhibition, The Maltings, Farnham, Surrey.

November

16: Classic military concert, Band of RAF College Cranwell at Cranwell in aid of SSAFA. (details: 01406 425550).

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

Airborne 'brickies' help build Falklands memorial

SIX soldiers from the Aldershot-based 2nd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment helped move an old chapel brick by brick.

They joined 27 pupils from Pangbourne College on a 55-mile "yomp" from Salisbury to their school in Reading.

Pangbourne has strong military connections and is raising money to build a memorial chapel in its grounds to commemorate those who lost their lives in the 1982 Falklands War.

OLD CHAPEL

The college was "given" a disused Elim chapel, sited in Salisbury, and plans to move it, brick by brick, to Reading.

The Paras got the ball rolling after a short service in the chapel during which they and the students were presented with the first bricks by the Mayor of Salisbury and Mrs Sarah Jones, widow of Falklands hero Lt Col 'H' Jones, who was awarded the Victoria Cross posthumously for his actions while leading 2 Para in the Battle of Goose Green.

The soldiers accompanied the youngsters along the Ridgeway between Salisbury and Reading to ensure their safety.

BOOK OF HONOUR

Forty-five Pangbourne old boys served in the Falklands campaign and it is planned that the old Elim building, renamed the Falkland Islands Memorial Chapel, will house a book of honour and kneelers dedicated to each man who died in the South Atlantic.

There will also be a memorial garden in which families bereaved by the war will be invited to plant trees and shrubs.

The 2nd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment was deployed to the Falkland Islands in May 1982, winning battle honours at Goose Green and Wireless Ridge. Eighteen men were killed in the fighting, including the commanding officer, Lt Col H Jones.

WRITE TO

SOLDIER ORDNANCE ROAD ALDERSHOT HANTS GU11 2DU

I led the assault on Canal Zone barracks

I STILL have a copy of the original photograph of the Lancashire Fusiliers attacking the Bureau Sanitaire in Ismailia in the Canal Zone (*Soldier*, Feb 5, March 4).

It was taken by a photographer standing atop a Centurion tank on the morning of Friday January 25, 1952, just as the attack began on the barracks.

Intelligence had discovered that many of the terrorist snipers who were killing British personnel were in fact thugs and students from Cairo University, who moved freely about Ismailia legally armed as auxiliary police before returning to the barracks safe from pursuit.

In the first attack of Operation Eagle, which began at dawn on January 25 on the orders of Gen Erskine, C Coy of 1 Lancs Fusiliers, comprising

For the record... Sacrosanct

HAVING served in the Corps of Royal Engineers from 1939-46, surviving the epic withdrawal to Dunkirk and the landing on Juno beach on D-Day, June 6, 1944, it grieves me to see *Soldier* join others in the media using the term "D-Day" to score an eye-catching headline ("D-Day in the Balkans", Feb 5).

D-Day June 6, 1944 should be enshrined and used only in the proper context. Its use in any other way I feel is an insult to all those who took part on that historic day. — H F Pollock, London SE17.

With the greatest of respect to veterans of June 6, 1944 the Concise Oxford Dictionary gives two other meanings for D-Day: the day in which decimal currency came into use in Britain (Feb 15, 1971), and "day on which any operation is scheduled to begin". — Editor.

Flight of Fancy

HMS *Fancy* ("Journey home was broken by shipwreck", March 18) was not a frigate but an Algerine fleet minesweeper, pennant number J308. — D K B Johnson, Chippenham, Wilts.

Pikes against Hitler — see Page 36

ing three platoons totalling 70 soldiers, supported by Centurion tanks, was given the task of capturing the barracks.

As the tanks encircled the barracks firing blank rounds, loudspeakers mounted on trucks called on the Egyptians to surrender. Instead, they directed a steady barrage of fire at us.

The LF did not return their fire. Unknown to us, the Egyptian general commanding auxiliaries had contacted his forces from the safety of a hotel miles away and ordered them not to surrender.

In *Soldier*'s photograph of 8 Platoon, C Company, leading the assault at 9 a.m., I am the platoon commander on the far right, wearing a khaki cap and carrying a revolver and camera — unlike the rest of my men, who were prepared for battle. Looking back, I might just as well have worn a target on my chest!

We advanced into the barracks courtyard behind three Centurion tanks and immediately came under heavy fire from the surrounding buildings. We quickly advanced into the buildings and began clearing each room and floor.

The fighting lasted until about 10.30am, when the auxiliaries finally capitulated after suffering 45 killed and 60 wounded in the 90-minute engagement. Some of the wounded died later that day.

Ismailia charge: the writer is arrowed



About 800-900 prisoners were taken.

Great concern at the high casualties suffered by the auxiliaries led to an assault on the town's regular police force barracks being delayed while efforts were made to induce a surrender. These efforts failed.

Finally at 12.30pm the other barracks was lightly and briefly shelled by armoured cars and about 500 regular police surrendered. — Brian Sinclair-Whitely, Nashville, Tennessee, USA.

Londonderry battalion feature well received

AS A German reader of your magazine, may I congratulate you on your fine feature on the 1st Battalion, The Highlanders in Londonderry (March 4). I hope we do not have to wait too long for another article about an infantry unit serving in Northern Ireland. — Thomas Barth, Nettetal, Germany.

We shall be featuring the Northern Ireland service of another famous Scottish infantry regiment in the near future. — Editor.

Look out for your chance to win a cash prize in our readership survey soon

BIRD'S EYE-VIEW



Snake man of Cyprus — see Page 21

Paras' pride in how we wore our berets

I HAVE been reading *Soldier* for nigh on 40 years but it is only now I am almost retired that I have the time to write to you with these points.

When I served with The Parachute Regiment we were taught how to wear our berets — and how proud of them we were. For some time now every picture of Paras in the magazine has shown soldiers either with the badge placed over the left ear or the front of the beret pulled down into almost a peak.

The soldiers of no other regiment, nor the officers in The Parachute Regiment, wear their berets in such a manner.

On another topic, I have followed with interest items about the Gloucestershire Regiment.

When I wore the Glosters badges I was informed that the back badge was awarded as a battle honour when the regiment formed a square and fought back-to-back in Egypt.

The first time it was awarded



this honour the back badge was encircled in one laurel wreath. By repeating this incredible act of bravery, the regiment was awarded a second surrounding laurel wreath.

Lastly, can anyone please tell me if it is possible to obtain a copy of the film of the 1945 Victory Parade? — Brian C Kirkwood (former Lt, Parachute Regt), 76 Davisbrook Boulevard, Scarborough, Ontario M1T 2J2, Canada.

ON THE subject of Sam Browne braces (March 4), the old 4th Bucks (Territorial Army) Battalion of the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry wore two braces with their Sam Browne, but with chromium-plated fittings.

The waist buckle, as with Regular battalions, was wider and had straight edges, not rounded as on the regulation belt.

The Cameronians (Scottish Rifles) the old 26th and 90th of Foot, wore two braces, but with conventional buckle, and I believe the belt was black. — G Ewens, Morden, Surrey.

Amateurs? Not us!

DON'T call us cooks, say the chefs attached to 52 Bty, 26 Regt RA, in Glamoc, Bosnia (Letters, April 1).

I served in the ACC and although I agree that the title chef is more appropriate in the modern Army, I think a lot of ex-cooks will not be too pleased about the term "amateur". — George Snell, Liverpool L5.

Boot out the few who give us a bad name . . .

WITH reference to an incident involving a brawl in Cyprus reported in *The Sun* newspaper on March 11, it is time that some Servicemen and women serving abroad realised that they are guests in a foreign country and learned to respect and adapt to its culture and laws.

As a former member of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Gloucestershire, Berkshire and Wiltshire Regiment I have served in Cyprus three times and have found the local population to be friendly, courteous and well disposed to British Servicemen and women. This applies to all the countries in which I have been based.

Action should be taken immediately to boot out the small number of Servicemen and women who bring the good name of the Services into disrepute, especially now that the Forces are in the fortunate position of being able to pick and choose their personnel. — M G Lerpiniere (former SNCO, 1 RGBW), Woodhall Spa, Lincs.

Sergeant's sash taken as red . . .

AS AN ex-Guardsman and ex-Royal Engineer, may I comment on Ralph Martin's letter (March 4) about the wearing of red sashes, which he considers to be "the most abused item of regimental dress".

In my experience the red sash is worn in the Infantry to indicate the rank of full sergeant.

A warrant officer's sash is wine-coloured.

In the Corps of Royal Engineers the only sergeant to wear a red sash is the orderly sergeant of the day; no warrant officer or sergeant wears a sash. — K Williams, Edinburgh.

Not-so-fuzzy memories of greatness

THE TITLE of Lt Col Louis Sanderson's biography *Variety is the Spice of Life* is apt, even though it covers only a little over six years, between 1938 and 1945.

Indeed, he says he has the remaining 40 years of his Army life yet to write about – and if it is in the same rollicking, easy-to-read style as this, it will be worth waiting for.

Born in Argentina of Scottish parents (a source of prob-

lems in the South American country) he was nicknamed Fuzzy by friends because of his thick, wavy hair. From his Argentine connections he moves quickly to his time with the King's Own Scottish Borderers in Portsmouth, where he met Montgomery, then a brigadier.

Even in those days the Great Man was regarded as some-

Variety is the Spice of Life by Lt Col L G S Sanderson. Minerva Press, London SW7 2JE, paperback, £8.99.

thing of a martinet and when the young Fuzzy was summoned to the presence, he faced the interview with something approaching terror. In the event Monty, who was about to take over the 8th Division in Palestine in the rank of major general, invited Sanderson to become his aide-de-camp and prepare to set sail within a fort-

night for Egypt. It was the start of six years' service in close association with greatness – including de Gaulle, Eisenhower, Horrocks and Patton.

He has something to say about all of them, as well as his battle experiences throughout Europe.

The hope now is that the sequel from this admirable soldier, who has been decorated with the OBE, MC and Bar, will be as good as this. – JM

Cavalry action brought to life

THE penultimate volume of Lord Anglesey's mighty *History of the British Cavalry* opens with a lengthy chapter (40-odd pages) dealing in depth with the almost farcical "Curragh Incident" in Ireland in early 1914.

True, this warrants some factual re-examination, particularly of the contentious roles played by Churchill, First Lord of the Admiralty, and Gen Sir

Arthur Paget, GOC Ireland (grandson of Wellington's cavalry commander at Waterloo, and great-uncle of the present Marquess). But though it had no bearing on the later hostilities across the Channel, readers unfamiliar with "the hysteria, muddle, ambiguous orders and poor leadership" may welcome this

A History of the British Cavalry, Vol 7: The Curragh Incident and the Western Front, 1914 by the Marquess of Anglesey. Leo Cooper, hardback, £35.

unbiased exposé of the facts. When the BEF arrived in France, its mounted element, the Cavalry Division, comprised 12 regiments with four RHA batteries attached.

The author has much to say about the C-in-C, Fd Marshal Sir John French, of whom "arguments for his fitness for command still rumble on". But he is scrupulously fair in his summing up, deploying all the pros and cons with equal impartiality.

Similarly with Gen (Sir) Edmund Allenby, commanding the division. A thrusting cavalryman whose own worst enemy was his violent temper, he was commonly known as "the Bull".

First contact with the Germans came on August 22 when C Squadron of the 4th Dragoon Guards encountered a strong patrol of Uhlans at the village of Casteau. Promptly charging, Capt Charles Hornby ran his sword through a Uhlans, becoming the first man of the BEF to kill a German.

In the subsequent dismounted action Cpl E Thomas shot a Uhlans officer with his rifle, scoring another "first". Two days later, on the retreat from Mons, the 4th DG and 9th Lancers put in a charge with disastrous results. Confronted by massed artillery and infantry, the regiments were brought up sharp by wire and disintegrated into penny packets, losing 169 killed and wounded, without ever reaching

ing their objective. "There seems little doubt", writes Anglesey, "that the actual charge was both inefficient and of little use."

It was here, at Audregnies, that Capt Francis Grenfell, 9th Lancers, won the first VC of the war for his efforts in saving the guns of a field battery.

The author devotes 24 pages (plus maps) to the heroic action on September 1 at Néry, where the single gun of L Battery RHA continued to defy 12 heavier German guns until relief came. Three VCs were won, that of Capt E K Bradbury being posthumous. The battered "Néry Gun" of L Battery has pride of place in the Imperial War Museum's Medal Room.

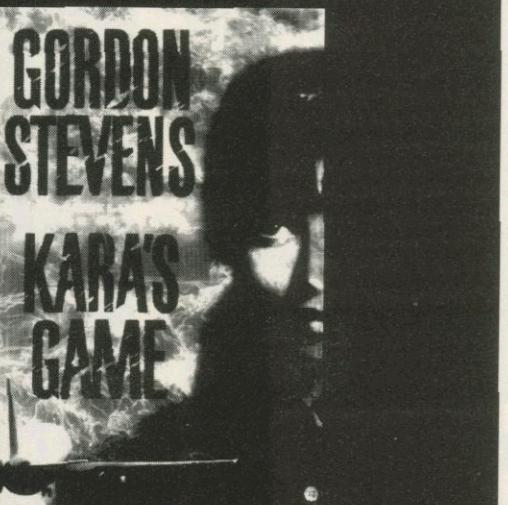
Remaining chapters recount the advance to the Aisne and the first battle of Ypres, all, as in previous volumes, replete with personal reminiscences which bring the cavalry actions vividly to life.

This might well be regarded as an official history of the 1914 campaign, but it is more than that, for it is eminently readable and gripping in its accounts of battles.

The book is copiously illustrated with contemporary photographs and paintings, many not previously published. But it is a pity that the artist depicting the last action of L Battery RHA at Néry shows not a 13-pdr gun but an 18-pdr. Laymen (e.g. *The Sphere* artist) were not to know better.

The final volume of Lord Anglesey's classic is due out in January 1997. We await to salute it. – JMB

She had to be stopped. She had to be killed...



...but who will finally win?

'KARA'S GAME is an excellent, exciting read... Stevens takes you right there. Read it, take your chance on the sniper-dominated streets. Cross the bridge with Kara and her young son, put your courage on the line.'

I thought 'PROVO' was great but this book is exceptional! *Larry Hollingworth CBE, United Nations High Commission for Refugees, Bosnia 1992-1994*

Gordon Stevens powerful new novel KARA'S GAME. Out now in hardback.

HarperCollins Publishers

In brief

US Army Handbook 1939-1945 by George Forty. Retired British Army officer and former Tank Museum curator profiles in detail the mighty army whose rise to prominence Churchill described as a "prodigy of organisation". Alan Sutton, hardback, £19.99.

Why the Allies Won: Explaining Victory in World War II by Richard Overy. Masterly analysis. Pimlico, paperback, £12.50.

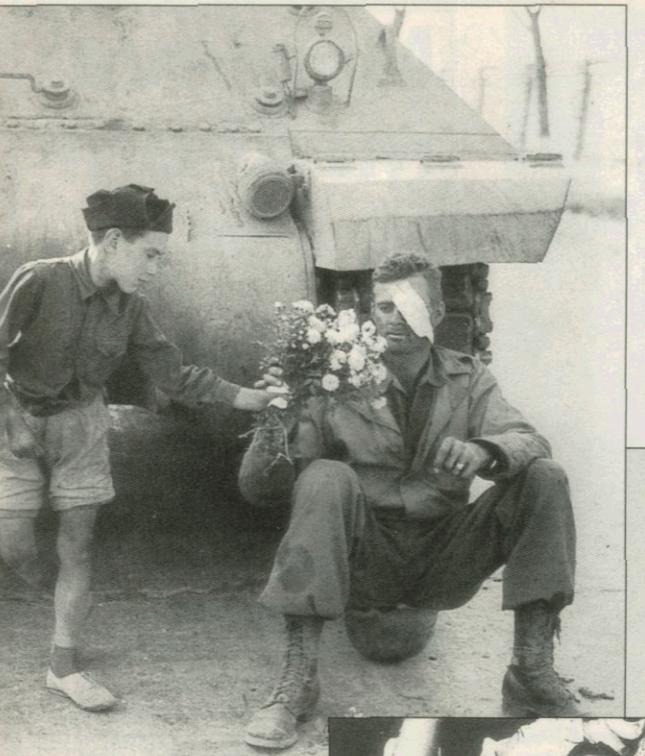
Riding the Retreat: Mons to The Marne 1914 by Richard Holmes. Royal Military College of Science lecturer relives the retreat of the British Expeditionary Force. Pimlico, paperback, £10.

Fighter: The True Story of the Battle of Britain and Blitzkreig: From the Rise of Hitler to the Fall of Dunkirk, both by Len Deighton. New editions of the 1970s popular histories. Pimlico paperbacks, £10 each.

Twenty-Five Years in the Rifle Brigade by William Surtees. For his hero Sharpe, a soldier with the 95th Rifles, modern writer Bernard Cornwell has drawn on first-hand accounts of the Napoleonic Wars left behind by men such as Surtees. This 450-page classic is re-published in the Napoleonic Library series, with a new introduction by Ian Fletcher. Greenhill Books, hardback, £19.50.

Kara's Game by Gordon Stevens. Taut and tense thriller with immaculately-researched Bosnia backdrop. HarperCollins, hardback, £14.99.

From the City, from the Plough by Alexander Baron. Vivid Second World War novel written by one who took part, telling of a fictional Fifth Battalion of the Wessex Regiment in France, 1944. Available for the first time for more than 20 years. Robert Hale, hardback, £16.99.



Above: Pte Forest Darr shows off his souvenir medals to Cpl Marvin Wells during the Rhine campaign

Left: A wounded soldier of the 1st Armoured Division accepts flowers from an Italian boy, Rome, June 1944.

Below: News of victory... or a baseball score? The picture is uncaptioned



GI's eye view of victory

THESE pictures are selected from many hundreds on glossy art paper in two superb hardback volumes entitled *Faces of Victory* produced as Second World War collectors' items by the United States magazine *Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW)*.

Sub-titled *Europe: Liberating a Continent and Pacific: The Fall of the Rising Sun*, they tell the story of both theatres from the GI's point of view, the narrative by the magazine's staff punctuated by the pick of the archive photos, in colour and mono, and preceded with forewords by Gen William C Westmoreland and Rear Admiral Chester W Nimitz Jr respectively.

Westmoreland writes of the Europe book:

"This fast-paced and meticulously researched volume will be a wonderful keepsake for any veteran of WWII to pass on to his children and grandchildren."

This applies almost as much to Tommies as GIs, for their paths ran parallel on many occasions on their way to a common goal.

The books are published by Addax, of Kansas City, Missouri and distributed at £36.50 each in the UK by Gazelle Book Services Ltd, of Lancaster (tel: 01524 68765).

Canons to the left of them . . .

WHEN Lady Mayhew collated letters from members of her widely-dispersed family and re-circulated them among the others, they were eventually edited into a significant social and military document of the Second World War.

A similar fate has since befallen the prolific First World War letters of the Bickersteth brothers, Julian and Burgon, to their mother, Ella,

who combined their first-hand accounts with her comments on current events to form a remarkable diary. Julian was a

senior chaplain with the 56th (London) Division and Burgon a member of the 1st (Royal) Dragoons. Both were awarded the Military Cross. They had four other brothers, two of whom were also in the Army.

Their father was the Rev Canon Samuel Bickersteth. His wife's original 11 volumes, each 3in thick with thousands of pages of typescript and newspaper cuttings, have been edited by Bishop John Bicker-

steth, a former Bishop of Bath and Wells and a grandson of the collator.

The extremely readable result contains some moving passages, especially Julian's description of his ministrations to two young soldiers sentenced to death by firing squads for desertion.

The editing of the diaries must have been a laborious task, but Bishop Bickersteth has handled the job with skill and sensitivity. His exceptional

book is graced by a foreword by a former Archbishop of Canterbury (Donald Coggan) and an introduction by the eminent historian John Teraine.

And, an unusual touch (but entirely in keeping) was its pre-publication launch – on a Sunday, in the hallowed halls of King's School, Canterbury.

"Doing the honours" at the distinguished gathering, headmaster Canon Anthony Phillips summed up the work with the words: "absolutely stunning".



Riders race to their bikes in a Le Mans-style start to the 24-hour cross country race at Bordon

Hull riders show most stamina at Bordon

FOUR Hull-based members of the Territorial Army's 150 Transport Regiment (V) carried off the main trophy at the Army's ambitious 24-hour cross country endurance motor cycle event on Bordon training area.

They completed 150 laps, the same number as SEME Bordon, but were placed first because they were quicker to complete a tie-break mechanical test.

Cpl Philip Sumpton, LCpl Ricky Haynes, LCpl Peter Huntley and Pte Del Stanley made up the Hull quartet.

Third team to finish were 4 Regiment AAC who completed 146 laps.

The event, which started with a midday Le Mans-style start for the 19 teams taking part, went through the night and finished at noon the following day. Believed by organisers Capt Jason Butler and SSgt Graham Gorse of 14 Field Wksp, 6 Battalion REME, to be the first of its kind, it raised more than £3,000 for Army and local charities.

As an exercise to improve motor cycle driver skills in the Army, the cross country race attracted entries from as far afield as Germany and Northern Ireland.

Four riders in each team split up the 24-hours between them, circumnavigating a boggy four-mile course on Bordon's Recovery Heath as many times as possible. Competitors were pulled over at intervals to carry out simple mechanical tests on



Bordon's muddy conditions claim another victim

their standard-issue Service motor cycles.

With a thick night fog making it difficult for riders to see beyond their handlebars, there were several incidents of individuals having to be retrieved from deep mud. Eight helpers were needed to recover the 24 Airmobile Brigade entry after it left the track and disappeared into a pool of liquid mud. But, with 23 Para Fd Amb RAMC standing by, there were no serious injuries.

A special award for team spirit was made to the team from the Northern Ireland-based 1st Battalion, The Highlanders. They raised the most money, £315, and competed in fine style.

Medieval mayhem in 1940

WE MAY all still laugh at the classic TV series *Dad's Army* but when it was formed in 1940 the Home Guard had the deadly serious purpose of defending Britain in the event of a German invasion.

The question of the moment that has divided opinion among the more venerable correspondents to the *Soldier Letters* pages has been: *Did we really intend to use pikes against Hitler?*

And it seems that this ancient weapon, abolished from the infantry in 1830 but carried traditionally by the artillery until 1845, was not the only one revived to counter a 20th century threat.

Alfred Howarth writes from Worsley, Manchester: "The distribution of a variety of offensive weapons such as ancient pikes to Home Guard units was, indeed, a cause of much hilarity in 1940.

"However, when the Red Alert (Invasion Imminent) sounded throughout the land one warm summer evening, we wondered who might be laughing on the morrow.

"My TSM, the late Eric Barber, affirmed in his book *My War* that he was issued with 70 pikes that night. Shades of Agincourt! All these events are covered in my own book, *Don't Forget to Write*."

Knobkerries

From Victoria, British Columbia, comes confirmation from James B Cummings, who served in the Home Guard at the tender age of 14, that on the west coast of Scotland his unit was armed with lengths of pipe with an 18in bayonet attached to one end.

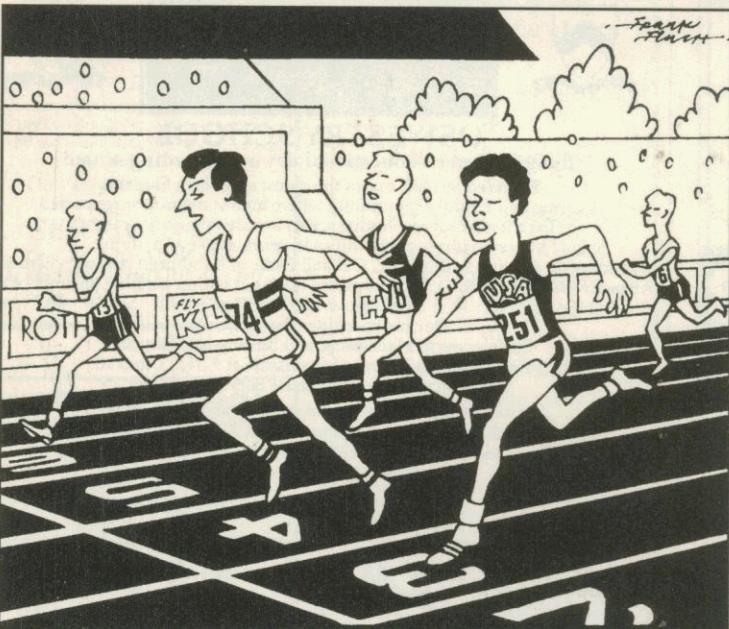
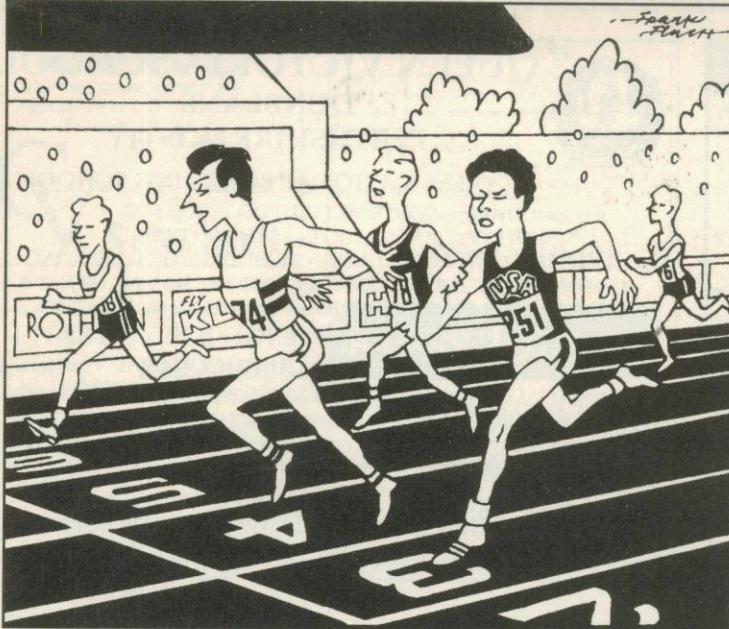
Mr A Maddock, of Folkestone, Kent, recalls that one of his first jobs on being posted as an armourer to the 1st AA Div RAOC Workshop at Kidbrook, SE London in 1941 was to weld No 1 (SMLE) bayonets to the ends of several bundles of 5ft steel tubes for eventual issue to London AA sites.

"The finished job was called a 'bayonet standard', not a pike," he writes.

"In the same tech file was a large blueprint giving instructions how to manufacture knobkerries using metal salvaged from bomb sites. The common one was made from a length of half-inch water pipe and a piece of water tank."

Mr Maddock, a Regular soldier who sometimes worked with the Home Guard, adds: "On my many visits to the AA sites I did not at any time see gunners parade with these strange weapons but they were there in the rifle racks in case of need."

"We can laugh at the use of pikes but at the time things were serious and we were very short of weapons."



COMPETITION 634

HOW OBSERVANT ARE YOU?

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Competition No 631 (March 4 issue): Congratulations to Sgt Ayers, ACIO Brighton, who wins £50. Book prizes go to runners-up Mr G P Coles, of North Shields, Tyne and Wear, and Mr T H Beadle, of Gillingham, Kent.

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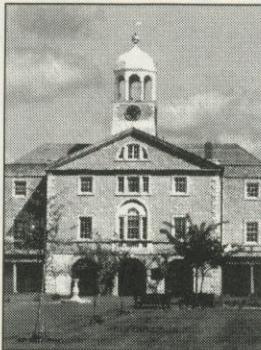
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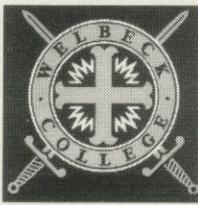
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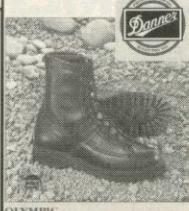
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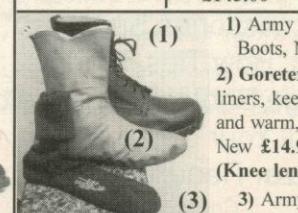
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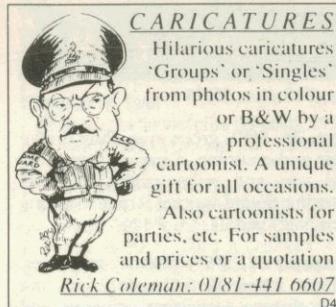
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ARMY SPORTS LOTTERY RESULTS

MARCH 16, 1996

Three-way tie for first prize (17 goals, £1,500 each): WO2 I T Coulson, RSA, Larkhill; Sgt A J Smith, 2 CS Regt RLC, BFPO 47; Maj R G C, Sparshatt, 30 Signal Regt, Bramcote.

14-way tie for fourth prize (16 goals, £10,144 each): WO1 H S Anderson, 122 Pet Sqn RLC, BFPO 17; Cpl J A Coombes, 4 GS Regt RLC, Abingdon; Maj E H Crossen, 21 Log Sp Regt RLC, BFPO 801; Ssgt S P Davis, 7 Armd Bde HQ & Signal Sqn, BFPO 30; Brig J R Drew, HQ ABRO, Andover; Cpl C Hammick, 1 (UK) Armd Div HQ & Signal Regt, BFPO 15; Sgt K P Innes, Army Apprentice College, Harrogate; Sgt S T E Jones, BMH Rinteln, BFPO 31; LCpl J T Lewis, 1 RWR, BFPO 802; Sgt J W Mc Garva, 1 Kings Own Border, Catterick; WO1 D P B McLennan, HQ York Garrison; LCpl R McNab, 39 Engr Regt, Waterbeach; Ssgt S M Rose, BFPO 825; WO1 R J Smith, HQ 4 Armd Bde, BFPO 36.

MARCH 23, 1996

Five-way tie for first prize (20 goals, £1,080 each): WO2 G Illingworth, AMF (L) CSS

Bn, Bulford; Ssgt J P Johnston, Royal School of Signals, Blandford; LCpl P Kaye, QRL, BFPO 36; Sgt C S Mullen, Fl Fd Sqn RE, BFPO 655; Sgt Sunil Rana, 1 RGR, BFPO 1.

18-way tie for sixth prize (19 goals, £33.33 each): Maj M L Beardell, HQ QMG, Andover; CSgt J G Carter, Warminster Sp Unit; Sig D A Culver, 7 Signal Regt, BFPO 35; LCpl K Doherty, 35 Engr Regt, BFPO 31; Sgt A Duffus, 4 Armd Bde HQ & Signal Sqn, BFPO 36; Ssgt P J Foster, 25 Engr Regt, BFPO 808; Cpl B Fouracre, 59 Indep Cdo Sqn RE, Chivenor; Ssgt B J Fraser, 9 Fd Wksp REME, Bordon; Maj M W Hygate, Veh & Wpns Branch REME, Chertsey; Ssgt M G Jamieson, BFPO 825; Sgt R A Johnston, 3 CS Regt RLC, Abingdon; WO1 P D Kinlan, 251 Fd Amb (V), Sunderland; Cpl D McMillan, Fl Fd Sqn RE, BFPO 655; Ssgt I T Morris, 1 R Irish, Catterick; Sgt K M Simpson, AFCO Portsmouth; WO1 R W Teare, Depot REME, Arborfield; Lt Col S F Thornton, HQ Land, Wilton; Cpl I Williams, 12 Regt R A, BFPO 16.

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Counties' final will be replay between Army and the Navy

Army 3, Hampshire 0

ARMY footballers booked their place in the final of the South West Counties Championship by beating Hampshire 3-0 on a heavy pitch in the Military Stadium, Aldershot, writes **Derrick Bly**.

Their opponents in the final at Burnaby Road, Portsmouth, will be the Royal Navy, the 1996 Inter-Service champions.

After a goalless first half during which SSgt Alan Higgins battled hard to create openings for the new-look strike force of Cpl Lee Innes and LBdr Lee Bluck, the Army went in front five minutes after the break.

Cpl Alfie Alford put Innes through and the Royal Engineer cleverly slipped the ball past the goalkeeper and into the net.

Sgt Joe Collins and his corps colleague LCpl Jim Strouts began to tear holes in the Hampshire defence, but the Servicemen had to wait until the final two minutes before making the tie safe.

JBI man of the match Higgins scored the Army's second and 60 seconds later Innes his second and the Army's third.



Members of the Fallingbostel-based Royal Scots Dragoon Guards relax with their trophies after beating 35 Engineer Regiment in the finals of the British Army (Germany) competition at Hameln. RSDG beat the sappers 3-1 to qualify for the Army finals

Sailors retain Services title

Army 1, Royal Navy 1

DESPITE having their goalkeeper sent off before half time, the Royal Navy retained the Constantinople Cup at the Military Stadium, Aldershot, writes **Derrick Bly**.

The opening exchanges were pretty even, both sides forcing early corners. But the visitors went ahead in the 15th minute when a long throw into the Army box was flicked on for the unmarked Mne Foster to score easily at the far post.

There were more chances for the Navy as the half went on, and SSgt Kevin Parkins, LSgt Pat Fagin and Pte Mark Sellars had their work cut out to keep

Coach QMSI Pat Russell made two changes from the side that beat the RAF 2-0.

Infantry take control

AGC 0, Infantry 1

A goal midway through the first half by Cpl Peter Ramm (R Anglian att ITC Catterick) was sufficient to give the Infantry victory over the AGC in a game they dominated throughout. But a combination of excellent goalkeeping by the AGC's Sgt Andy Sawyer, resolute defence and squandered chances prevented the Infantry from turning their superiority into goals.

RA 1, Infantry 4

This re-arranged game was played on a wind-swept Woolwich pitch which made it difficult for players to judge the

weight of their passes.

LCpl James McIlvogue (WG) scored ten minutes from the interval and added a second early in the second half. LCpl John Wills (Staffords) made it 3-0 with an unstoppable shot.

LBdr Kerry Roberts scored for the RA 15 minutes from time but Wills made the game safe for the Infantry soon afterwards. It was a good result against a previously unbeaten gunner side, particularly as the Infantry lost two Army players, Cpl Tosh Williams and Pte Simon Yeo, through injury in the first half.

the visitors at bay. Williams, LCpl Jim Strouts and Sig Joe Collins were involved in the best Army move of the half before Combined Services player POPT Steve Riley snuffed out the danger.

Minutes before the break Foster was booked for tugging Cpl Dave Maynard's shirt and Navy goalkeeper Meads was sent off for handling outside his area with Maynard bearing down on goal.

The ten-man Navy side re-organised as the Army raised the pace. Substitute keeper White brilliantly palmed away a free kick by Shane Smith, while SSgt Nigel Wiscombe in the Army goal also had to be alert as the Navy remained dangerous on the break.

Maynard, Cpl Lee Innes and Toothill missed chances to level the score but, with the seconds ticking away, Alford eventually forced the ball over the line when the Navy for once failed to clear.

Although the Mercury Cup, competed for annually by the two Services, is shared, the 1-1 draw was enough for the Navy to retain the championship.

John Brown Investments Man of the Match was the tireless SSgt Alan Higgins and the trophies were presented by Lt Gen Sam Cowan, President of Army football.

Marathon man

CPL Alan Shepherd (2 Sig Regt) won the Army half-marathon title for the second year with Cpl Kenny Butler (BAD Kineton) again second.

But on a cold and damp day, both men finished in significantly slower times than they recorded last year. The race was run in conjunction with the Fleet half marathon.

In the women's race, SSgt Mel Bradley improved her time by 3min 18 sec to take the individual title for the second year, while WO2 Karen Mitchell pulled out all the stops to win the veteran cham-

pionship in 1hr 35min. Hers was a fine effort because on the previous day she had run for the Army in the annual match against Wales and the Territorial Army.

The women's race at Cwrt-y-Gollen Training Camp, South Wales, was won by Sgt Sue Sharp APTC against strong opposition.

She beat a field which contained several Welsh internationals.

A depleted Regular Army men's team finished second to Wales, with the TA a point behind.



Picture: Jim Gallagher

Capt Kirsty Pemberton-Piggot, a physiotherapist based at ATR Glen-corse, prepares to start in the downhill at Aviemore

Lowlander roars in at Aviemore

PTE Gavin Angella roared to victory in the Infantry individual competition at the Bell's Army Alpine ski championships at Aviemore.

Angella, currently serving with HQ (Royal Scots) Company, The Lowland Volunteers, went on to add the Scottish Division, TA men's and TA in Scotland individual titles to his collection of trophies.

He was one of 250 Regular, TA and cadet force skiers taking part in the annual Exercise Snow Lion championships, arranged by Army HQ Scotland.

Overall winner of the Alpine title was SSgt Ian Dryden of The Queen's Royal Hussars. The giant slalom event proved particularly competitive, with

Gurkhas hold off 21 Signals challenge

A STRONG team from the 3rd Battalion, The Royal Gurkha Rifles beat 21 Signal Regiment in the final of the Inter-Unit Army Badminton Cup final hosted by Grantham-based 5 Territorial Army Training Regiment RLC.

Earlier, the Gurkhas had knocked out tournament favourites 5 R Irish.

In the Women's Cup competition, 9 Regiment RLC finished as winners with 19 Field Ambulance RAMC second.

In the Army individual championships, SSgt Judith Haynes retained the women's singles title, beating Sig Mhairi McIntosh who let a commanding final-set lead slip away.

The men's final was a repeat of the 1995 competition, SSgt Adrian Quinney beating Cpl Steve Pengelly more convinc-

ingly than he did a year ago.

In the men's doubles, WO2 Chris Sturdy, partnered by LCpl Andy Woolley, took revenge by beating No 1 seeds Quinney and Pengelly.

Mhairi McIntosh and LCpl Jinty Rigg beat Capt Rachel Cooper and Judith Haynes in the women's doubles.

An exciting and fought men's Inter-Unit doubles final was won by Lt Rukumbahadur Rana and Sig Gurung (2 RGR) who overcame 22 Engr Regt's Sgt Ian O'Hara and SSgt Dave Ormerod. It was a pity there could be only one winner.

Earlier in the day, Rana beat WO2 Steve Halls in the men's plate final while Cpl Karen



SSgt Adrian Quinney

Quinney and McIntosh teamed up in the mixed doubles to defeat the favourites, Rachel Cooper and Steve Pengelly.

Judith Haynes and Jinty Rigg reached the final of the Inter-Service individual championships last month before being beaten by a strong Royal Air Force pairing.

In the team event, the Army women were second to the RAF.



Maj Debs Kershaw AGC (SPS) has been awarded Army sailing colours following a season in which she represented the Combined Services in the England dinghy team racing championships.

She also skippered the winning Service yacht in the challenging Universal 500 race, won the small corps regatta off the Isle of Wight, and was a member of the Army team which won the Victory Trophy and Inter-Services.

Kershaw, from G1 Branch, HQ Land, was the first woman helm in the Army individual championships at Netley last year, and is also treasurer of the Land Command Sail Training Centre.



Open for excellence

ARMY boxers with (left) Lt Gen Sir Anthony Denison-Smith, GOC 4 Division, and Lt Gen the Hon Sir William Rous, the president of Army boxing, in their new Maida Gym boxing centre at Aldershot.

The centre of excellence, refurbished at a cost of £475,000, will provide the Army with a superb training and competition venue for boxing, basketball, volleyball, badminton and netball.

It boasts state-of-the-art retractable seating for 800, with potential for 1,200 spectators, an international-standard ring plus two training rings and all the necessary training aids.

The arena is likely to attract the attention of the ABA (England) as a venue for national and international events. Service expertise in staging high-profile boxing competitions has already been demonstrated by the Royal Navy ABA at its boxing centre in HMS Nelson, Portsmouth.

• Spr Danny Watts (second row, second from the right) regained the ABA super-heavyweight title at Birmingham last month. The Army's other two finalists, Pte Peter Charlton (1 PWRR) and LCpl Jason Gardner (Int Corps), were beaten.

Army pulls the plug on Bath

Bath 16, Army 27

THE bundle of match programmes fell like a paving stone on the changing room table. Only Alan Colvine, the physio, up to his elbows in metha-something, failed to register the significance, writes Roger Thompson.

Eager eyes scanning the team sheet picked out Eric Peters (Scotland), Andy Reid (Scotland and British Lions), John Mallett (England) and a host of Bath's fledgling stars no doubt desperate to please John Hall, director of rugby at the Recreation Ground.

The warm-up went well and by kick-off the Army were level on points. After the whistle, fortunes changed rapidly.

Fraser Waters, the England Students centre, gobbled up a ball from a lightning ruck and fed Audly Lumsden who went over unopposed. Five points

down, 79 minutes to go and the local crowd – not the most generous of opponents – geared themselves for a feast. They got it, but not from Bath.

Skipper Julian Brammer rallied the troops, the Army pack thundered into the attack and excellent forward play culminated in Brammer himself crashing over.

Paul Knowles (RRF) converted, then turned the screw by slotting two penalties. Devon referee Peter Facey was not, according to local support, having the best of days, but against a ferocious Army side, neither were Bath.

In the 28th minute, David Orr-Ewing (BW) rammed over for an excellent try which Knowles converted for a 20-11 lead at half time.

The game was far from one-sided, and only heroic tackling and maintenance of technique

under pressure kept out wave after wave of Bath attacks.

It was foot-slogging, hand-to-hand combat as two cultures clashed. There were a few bust-ups "off-camera" but nothing serious, and it was heartening to see that after a "wee strammash" with Brammer, Andy Reid (6ft 9in) was fit enough to be selected for Scotland's summer tour of New Zealand.

FRONT ROW

The Army front row of Matt Stewart (PWRR), Brammer and the bullish Dave Coghlan (7 RHA) were immense, grinding out the hard yards in the tight and ever-present in support.

Dave Dahinton (7 RHA) and Andy Newsham (1 RHA), a pair of very heavy Horse Gunners in harness as locks, countered, out-thought and outplayed their illustrious opponents. The

back row was everywhere, including the medical room. Orr-Ewing left the field to receive six stitches in a scalp wound and returned swathed in white bandages.

Nigel Richardson (RMAS), Orr-Ewing and Giles Powell (QDG) were first to every breakdown, securing the position until the large-calibre Horse Gunners arrived.

The second half was more of the same. Heroic defence followed by rapier-like counter-attacks, with Knowles scoring the most clinical of tries which he converted.

England prop Mallett scored a consolation try but only the Bath faithful were converted and they generously applauded the Army players as they left the field 16-27 winners.

Top athletes take up school challenge

Opposite page: British track star Sgt Kelly Holmes leads youngsters round the Military Stadium track during an athletics coaching day at Aldershot arranged under the Army's School Challenger project.

Army athletes turned out in force to assist the organisers. Others (in Army

tracksuits, from left) are SSgt Rod Finch (AGC att 7 Para RHA), Lt Dan Tomlinson (2 Sig Regt), Sgt Martin Blade (APTC), Cpl Sean Jones (2 Sig Regt), and 400m runner LCpl David Nolan (1 RRF), who recently won his first Great Britain vest.

School Challenger is an action-packed

Army initiative to provide adventurous activities for children aged 11 to 14. Schools have been invited to enrol teams of ten pupils and a team leader. Details from School Challenger, PO Box 934, Poole, Dorset BH17 7BR (tel 01202 666505).

Picture: Mike Perring



SOLDIER



Now squeeze the bag: Pipe Major David Johnston (right) and LCpl Tony Dadson from the Pipes and Drums of the Queen's Royal Hussars teach a youngster to play the bagpipes during a fun and football day organised by the regiment at their headquarters in Kljuc, Bosnia. The children were also allowed to clamber over a Challenger 1 main battle tank.

Picture: LCpl Darren Cooper