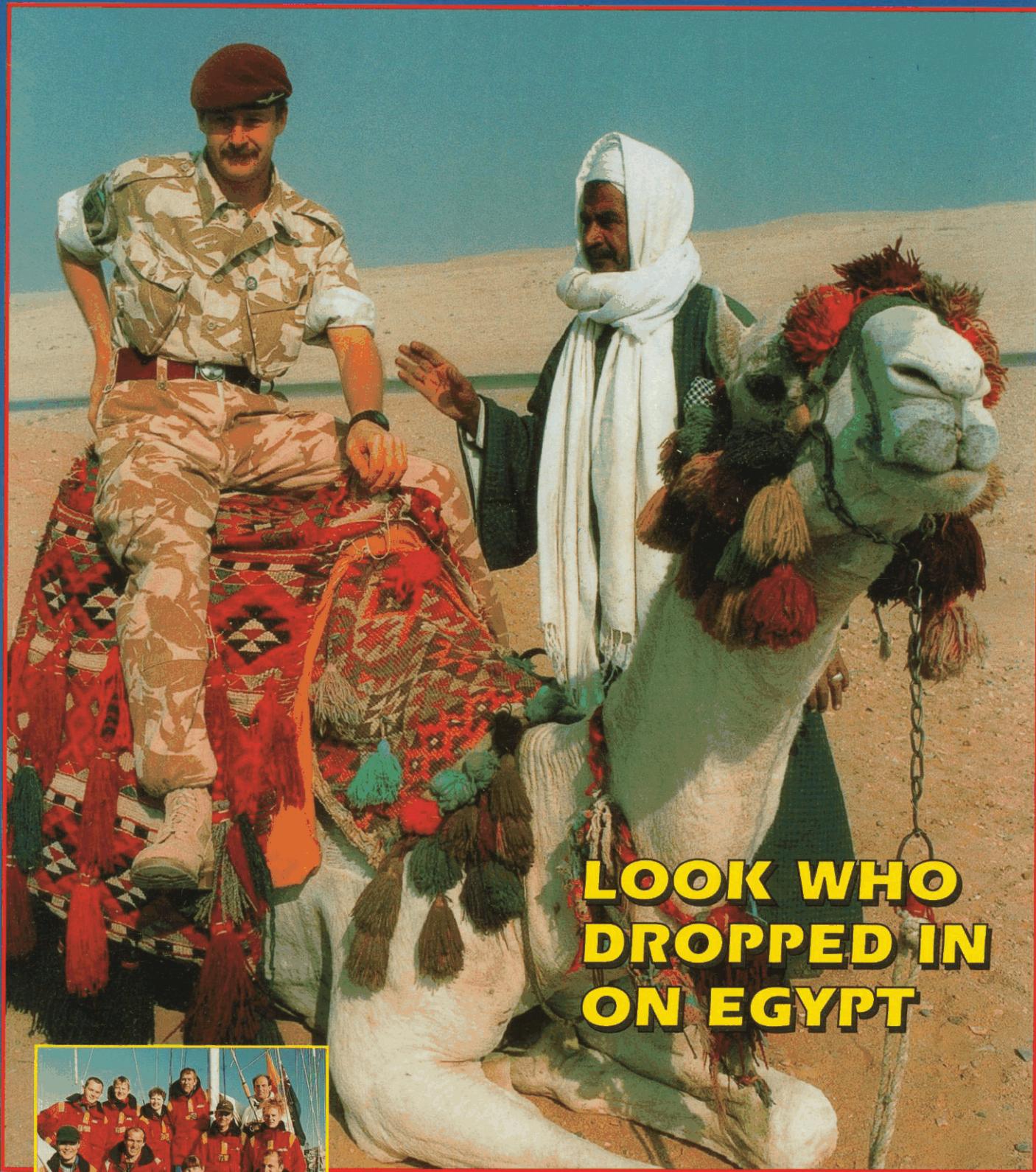


SOLDIER

FORTNIGHTLY MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY

JANUARY 8 1996

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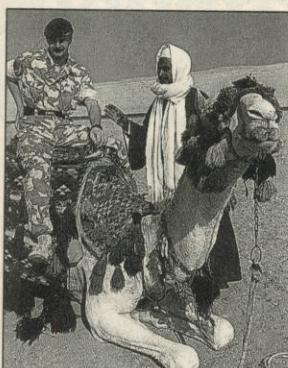
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FRONT COVER



Sgt Wayne Porter, 2 Para, turns to local transport on Ex Bright Star. See Pages 22-25.

(Picture: Mike Perring)

Inset - Members of the AGC who took part on the final leg of Ex Northern Lights relax on their return to the UK. Skipper Maj Mandy Cran is at the wheel. The adventure continues in May when AGC divers attempt to locate a warship sunk in the Orkneys in 1917.

(Picture: Maj Joe Bright)



Picture: Terry Champion

Lucky Jim

Starting a richer life literally from scratch is ex-Welsh Guardsman James Lowe, pictured celebrating a £100,000 windfall from a Royal British Legion "Poppy" scratchcard.

Flanking James, who was wounded during the Second World War but still managed to return to his regiment in time to march to Berlin, are Welsh Guardsmen LCpl Ian Jones and Adrian Legg.

Dame Vera Lynn, who presented James with his cheque, seems to be scratching his chin in the hope that some of his luck might be passed on ...

The scratchcard campaign is hoping to raise £800,000 towards the Legion's welfare work for the ex-Service community. Cards are widely available in newsagents, clubs and Naafi shops

Redcaps combat £20m thefts



ARMY police are re-doubling their efforts to enlist soldiers and their families in a campaign to combat a theft epidemic which over a 12-month period has been valued at more than £20 million.

About a third of all crimes reported to the Royal Military Police are related to theft of property. A significant proportion involves military kit, both unit equipment holdings and personal issue items.

In addition, private belongings reported stolen range from cars, bicycles, personal computers and hi-fi and video equipment to credit cards and cash.

Under its Kit Watch crime prevention initiative the Royal Military Police is aiming to make soldiers and dependants

more aware of the problem. It is encouraging them to take more positive action to protect official and personal items, and data such as PIN numbers, with the help of secure records, identification markers, descriptions and photographs.

RMP crime prevention officers are on hand to give advice and information to individuals and groups on kit protection measures.

They visit units to undertake crime prevention surveys and make recommendations on the

management of crime risks.

Meanwhile, everyone is being urged to get hold of the Kit Watch (A 6048) and Coded for Keeps (A 6047) crime prevention leaflets - plus an ingenious card for making PIN numbers more secure.

They are issued by the Crime Prevention Office, Specialist Operations Unit, RMP (UK), Old Sarum, Salisbury.

Further information and advice can be obtained from the crime prevention officer at local Service police stations.

British troops begin big move to Bosnia

PLANS to deploy up to 13,000 troops to former Yugoslavia as part of a 60,000-strong NATO peace implementation force (PIF) are well advanced.

HMAV *Arakan*, crewed by RLC personnel, sailed from Marchwood military port with stores and equipment in support of British troops to be deployed with the PIF.

Also on board were personnel from 17 Port and Maritime Regiment who will be joined in Split by 50 more soldiers to handle British, US and other national ships using Split and Ploce ports.

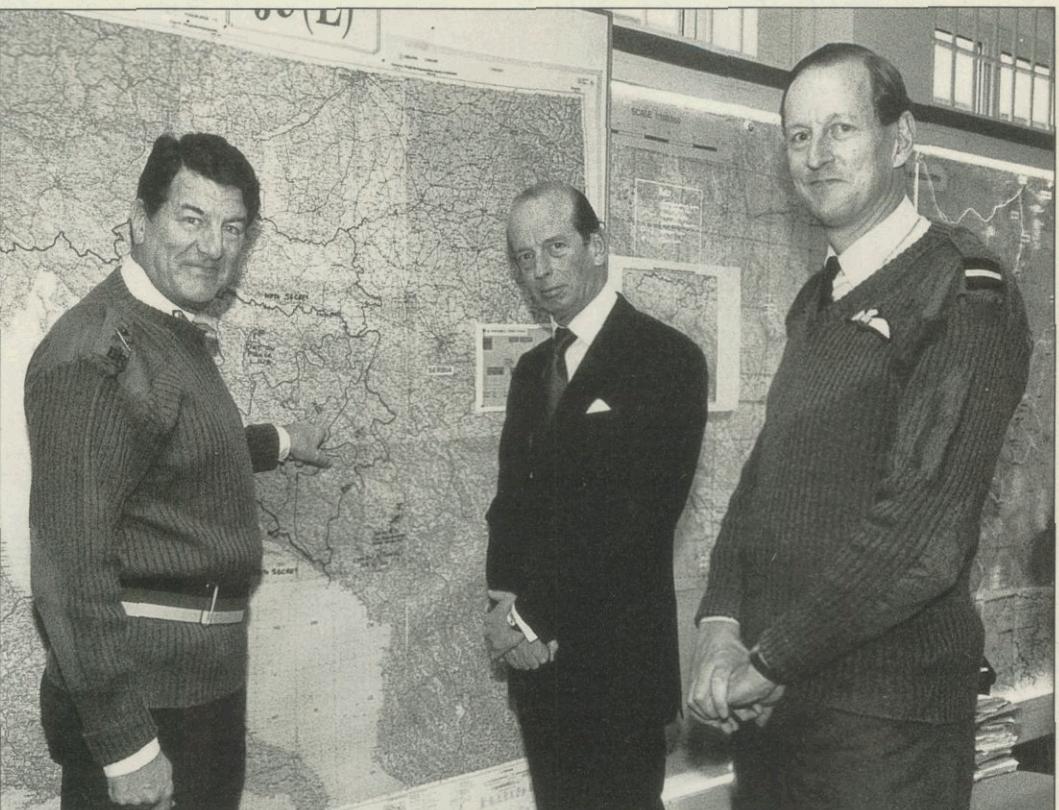
From Germany, 56 soldiers serving with 7 Signal Regiment flew out to set up a communications network for the force in Sarajevo. They were followed by 122 officers and men of HQ Allied Command Europe Rapid Reaction Corps (ARRC).

As *Soldier* went to press, 400 soldiers from HQ ARRC, ARRC Support Battalion and 7 and 16 Signal Regiments had flown from Germany to join the enabling force.

Sixty vehicles, 53 trailers and 18 pallets of freight had been transported.

Artillery and engineer regiments, plus a REME battalion, were due to be deployed as part of 1 (UK) Armoured Division's assets.

Sixty men from 23 Pioneer Regiment RLC left their Bicester base in mid-December. They will be responsible for the security of British Forces



The Duke of Kent is briefed by Gen Sir John Wilsey, C-in-C Land Command, on the current military situation in former Yugoslavia during his visit to Joint Headquarters at HQ Land Command near Salisbury. Air Commodore David Adams (right), Director of Operations, took part in the briefing. The Duke, who holds the rank of field marshal, met key personnel from all three Armed Services masterminding plans to send an enabling force to the Balkans, to be followed by the main body after the formal peace accord is signed in Paris

throughout Bosnia and Croatia.

Fourteen Territorial Army soldiers from Belfast, including nine from 40 (Ulster) Signal Regiment (Volunteers), also left to join the Regulars in Bosnia. The part-time comms, transport, medical and engineering specialists underwent

additional training and briefings to prepare for their six-month tour of duty.

"We have been given a great deal of information about what to expect, but there is always the unknown quantity," said Cpl Jackie Wisely. "It is what we have been training for and I don't see any problems coping with the demands."

Their families were briefed on what to expect and how to receive help and information.

More than 650 soldiers from 3 Close Support and 4 General Support Regiments RLC were preparing equipment and training for winter driving and cold weather living in readiness for their operational tour.

The soldiers, from Abingdon, will provide logistic support to British troops of 3 (UK) Division, the main UK-based contribution to the PIF.

Both RLC regiments have already served in support of the UN operation in Bosnia.

Colchester gunners back from Mt Igman

MORE than 400 gunners serving with 19 Regiment RA returned to Colchester on December 8 after a high-profile tour of duty in Bosnia.

The Highland Gunners dug in on Mount Igman overlooking Sarajevo and were frequently in action with their 105mm Light Guns to break the siege of the city.

Also reunited with their families were 40 soldiers of the Colchester-based Combat Service Support Battalion, commanded by Lt Col Chris Storey, who returned from peacekeeping duties in former Yugoslavia on December 11.

They provided combat service support to 24 Airmobile Brigade, deployed in August,

Fire hero's award

WELSH Guardsman Lee Rogers has received a top award for driving a full petrol tanker away from the scene of a fire on Merseyside.

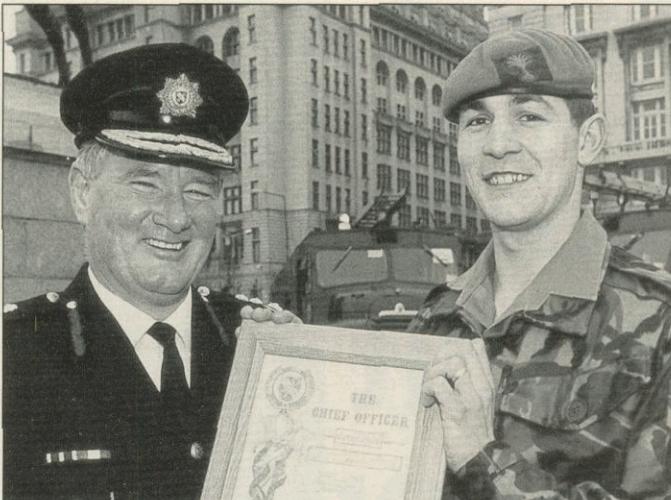
As reported in *Soldier* (Nov 27), Gdsm Rogers was on emergency fire duty with other soldiers of the 1st Battalion, Welsh Guards when the incident happened.

They attended a blaze in Bootle, Liverpool on November 4 and found four trailer units loaded with thinners and old paint on fire. There were a number of explosions.

Gdsm Rogers was the driver of the Army crew's Green Goddess fire engine when the petrol tanker was identified just 30m from the blaze. At the Divisional Fire Officer's request he ran to the tanker and drove it to safety.

In support of the Chief Fire Officer's Commendation, Divisional Officer Peter Uttley said Gdsm Rogers's actions were above and beyond his duty.

Right: Merseyside's Chief Fire Officer, Andrew Best, presents Gdsm Rogers with his commendation outside the Royal Liver Building.



Special forces rescue SNCO

A BRITISH soldier abducted by Marxist guerrillas in South America has been freed after 119 days in captivity.

SSgt Timothy Cowley AGC, serving on the staff of the British Defence Attaché in Colombia, was kidnapped while birdwatching 100 miles west of the capital, Bogotá.

He went missing in the Andean mountains in the remote Tolima area, known for its opium-producing poppy fields.

Colombian special forces played a key role in the operation to free SSgt Cowley. They

were reported to have worked closely with an SAS team flown in soon after the abduction.

Colombia's national police chief described the attack on the rebel hideout as "a very risky operation".

SSgt Cowley was posted to Colombia two years ago as a clerk. When he was found he was tied to a tree with a rope around his neck.

The guerrilla group Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia had demanded a £1.3 million ransom.

To assist negotiations for his release, the British media cooperated in a virtual news black-out of SSgt Cowley's capture.

At a press conference at Bogotá, he said he had a few problems with his feet but was otherwise fairly fit.

"You become accustomed to the environment that you're in – which is living in the middle of the wood surrounded by people who have got guns," he said.

"You try to occupy yourself with various things. I wrote a book, which I've lost, and I watched birds."

SSgt Cowley, who is married with a two-year-old son, was expected to return to the UK within a few days.

Foreign Secretary Malcolm Rifkind has congratulated all involved in the rescue.

MQs may be leased out and rented back

DEFENCE Secretary Michael Portillo has proposed that the MoD should transfer ownership of married quarters in England and Wales to the private sector on a series of long leases.

Accommodation needed to meet Service housing requirements would be rented back.

If a good price were available several thousand surplus properties would be transferred on a freehold basis immediately, he said in a Commons written reply.

The bulk of official Service residences would be included in the sale where possible and sensible.

As far as possible he wanted to place the business of owning and disposing of the homes in the private sector, where significant efficiencies could be expected.

Interested parties would be invited to tender for the estate. Mr Portillo added that the Defence Housing Executive would continue in its current form for at least three years to enable it to focus on management improvements.

As at September 30, the MoD had 13,898 vacant families quarters, of which 3,202 were in the process of being sold.

The MoD is ordering 29 vehicle-launched scatterable mine systems from Alliant Techsystems of the United States, said Defence Procurement Minister James Arbuthnot.

Up to November 15, 133 Army personnel had failed the compulsory drug test and a further 328 results were awaited. In all, 16,968 Servicemen and women have been tested.

Around the Houses

A summary of Defence topics from Westminster

port of armoured formations.

Iveco-Ford, Land Rover and Steyr-Daimler Puch have submitted competitive tenders to meet the Army requirements for a medium mobility ambulance, Procurement Minister James Arbuthnot told the Commons in response to a question from Shadow Defence Secretary David Clark.

He also told Dr Clark a £20 million order for 394 Steyr-Daimler Puch vehicles to meet the Army's requirement for a heavy-duty version of the medium utility truck had been placed in June 1994.

The Reserve Forces Bill was given its second reading in the House of Lords on November 28.

Written answers:

• While there is no plan to revive junior leaders' regiments in their previous form, the MoD is urgently considering introducing a junior entry to the Army to attract young people with the potential to become senior NCOs and WOs.

• The Army's £2.6 million airship, *Skyship 600*, was ruptured during a mastling operation at its Boscombe Down base in May. Repair of the *Prince of Wales's* envelope has not been possible and the cost of a replacement has not yet been established.

• Up to November 15, 133 Army personnel had failed the compulsory drug test and a further 328 results were awaited. In all, 16,968 Servicemen and women have been tested.

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Germany-based troops to train in Poland

BRITISH troops will exercise in Poland during 1996, subject to ratification by the Polish parliament.

Units from 7th Armoured Brigade, based in Germany, will use the Drawsko Pomorski training area in the Polish

north-west region in September for a command field exercise.

The Ministry of Defence is hiring the Polish training area in the same way as it does training areas elsewhere in the world. The extensive facilities at Drawsko Pomorski will allow the brigade to exercise command and control and practise manoeuvre in a way not possible in Germany.

The scenario for Exercise Uhlans Eagle involves a deployment that will practise the skills required to mount missions such as those used to support United Nations operations.

Although the exercise will involve British forces only, NATO and Partnership for Peace nations will be able to observe.

Audit to look at ethnic minority job initiatives



What the papers have been saying

GEN Sir David Ramsbotham, the former Adjutant General, has been appointed to replace Judge Stephen Tumim as Chief Inspector of Prisons. — *Independent*

An Army boot designed to let a soldier walk away from a land mine explosion with nothing worse than a sprained ankle has been developed by a Singapore engineer. — *Daily Telegraph*

A Defence underspend of £500 million in 1994 and £180 million the year before came as a result of huge efficiency savings within the MoD and delayed procurement projects. — *Daily Telegraph*

Ministers are considering offering Army places to teenager offenders released from the new military-style "boot camps". — *Observer*

The Army is considering allowing women to fight in the front line for the first time after a series of tests run by the Defence Evaluation and Research Agency at Farnborough indicated they would be as good as men on the battlefield. — *Sunday Times*

The Parachute Regiment is to be equipped with light armoured vehicles and heavy weapons costing £50 million. — *Observer*

France is to rejoin NATO's military committee nearly 30 years after withdrawing under President de Gaulle. — *Times*

INDEPENDENT consultants from the Office of Public Management are to examine all documentation on ethnic minority matters in the Army during an audit expected to last up to six weeks.

Recruiting literature, equal opportunities training syllabuses, policy statements, and initiatives to encourage recruitment and retention will be scrutinised.

The audit will also involve the Royal Navy, Royal Air Force and MoD civilian staff. Consultants are due to hold discussions with Service and civilian policy staffs as well as groups of white and ethnic

minority personnel. A survey of a directorate in the Procurement Executive, manned by uniformed and civilian staff and including ethnic minority personnel, will be carried out to assess the impact of equal opportunities policies on current working practice and culture.

Since the 1980s the Ministry of Defence has taken measures to attract and retain more ethnic minority Service and civilian personnel, and to develop equal opportunities policies to ensure all are fairly treated.

Despite the steps, ethnic minorities remain significantly under-represented within the MoD. Following the audit, the independent consultants will make recommendations for improving current equal opportunities initiatives and proposals for fresh ones.

It's a fact

SEVENTY regimental museums are to receive around £1.6 million funding from MoD towards staff costs in 1995-96 in addition to a separate £3.2 million grant to the National Army Museum towards operating costs and purchase grant. — *Parliamentary written answer*

Staffords are a family regiment...



Northern Ireland's fertile environment has been endorsed by the 1st Battalion, The Staffordshire Regiment. Since the battalion arrived in Ballykinler in February 1994 no fewer than 65 babies have been born to its families... at an average rate of three a month. Later this year the Staffords, under Lt Col Simon Knapper, are due to take over from the Gurkhas in Hong Kong to prepare for the 1997 handover to China.



Picture: Chris Fletcher

Show of hands: children from a local school greet the Prince of Wales during his visit to Wattisham Station, Suffolk. The Prince, who is Colonel-in-Chief of the Army Air Corps, saw a demonstration of the corps' ground and air capabilities organised by 4 Regiment AAC, before seeing how the regiment deploys tactically in the field and meeting

members of 3 and 4 Regiments, currently based at Wattisham Airfield.

Accompanying him were Lt Gen Sir Michael Walker, Col Commandant of the AAC, Brig Peter McQueen, Director of Army Aviation, and Lt Cols John Greenhalgh and David Joyce, commanding officers of 3 and 4 Regiments.

Lowland Gunners make their debut with AS90

THE SKILLS and ingenuity of 40th Regiment, Royal Artillery (The Lowland Gunners) were tested to the full during Exercise Tartan Debut at their base in Höhne, Germany, when the regiment confirmed its conversion to AS90 from the old M109.

After a break of 18 months from its artillery role, a period which included a tour of duty in Northern Ireland, the regiment tested all aspects of gunnery, with observation posts firing six battery commanders' fire plans.

Use of the M Star radar allowed OPs to record the fall of shot and adjust fire before the crushing delivery of 36 rounds in less than ten seconds.

Support elements also proved their worth, with REME gun fitters coming to terms with the new high-tech system to ensure the regi-

ment's guns remained in action. At the same time, the ammunition party got to grips with their DROPS 2 vehicles to re-supply the guns over rugged terrain.

Lt Col James Marment, the commanding officer, said that although the regiment tried several developments during the exercise, all had served to enhance the Lowland Gunners' ability to operate the new system.

IN BRIEF

ARMED Forces Minister Nicholas Soames called at HQ Northern Ireland for briefings with senior officers during a short visit to the Province. Later he flew to Dungannon, County Tyrone, to meet men of the 1st Battalion, Irish Guards, currently on a six-month tour.

Thirty-seven part-time soldiers from 2 (V) RGBW, 78 Engr Regt (V), 5 (V) RGJ, 4 (V) D and D, and

5 and 6/7 (V) PWRR have become temporary Regulars so that they can join the 1st Battalion, The Royal Gloucestershire, Berkshire and Wiltshire Regiment on operational duty in the Falkland Islands.

As part of the run-up to the deployment, the new recruits will spend six weeks in Cyprus with the Regular 1st Battalion.

The Carrington Building at Sunniside Territorial Army Centre in

Belfast, opened 30 years ago, has been officially re-opened following extensive refurbishments. Maj Gen C E G Carrington, Honorary Colonel of 152 (Ulster) Regiment, Royal Logistic Corps (Volunteers), was among those who attended the ceremony.

Strength of the Army on October 1 was 109,172 according to the Government Statistical Service. On April 1, 1990 it was 152,812.

Support agency in place

ARMY technical branches and authorities which provide a range of support services are now operating under a new defence agency.

The Army Technical Support Agency (ATSA) comprises the aircraft, electronics, and vehicles and weapons branches of REME, and the Army scaling and cataloguing authority and land systems technical publications authority.

The new agency, details of which were given by Armed Forces Minister Nicholas Soames, has its headquarters in Andover and occupies main sites at Middle Wallop, Malvern, Chertsey, Woolwich (two sites) and Chilwell.

An initiative is under way to reduce the number of main sites, with a target of restructuring on a single site by mid-1998.

MILITARY PERSONNEL

Among the mainly civilian staff of 1,200 are 300 military personnel, most of whom are REME but with a sprinkling of other capbadges and representation from the Royal Navy and Royal Air Force.

ATSA contributes to the operational capability of the Armed Forces by providing technical advice and services which promote efficiency in equipment support and enhance availability and supportability in the design of front-line military equipment.

"The previous system was far from satisfactory, although it had evolved for good historical reasons," said Lt Col Brian Nutt, corporate planner for setting up the agency.

"It was no longer up to meeting the technical support demands of today's Army and had become too fragmented, with different advice and time scales from different directors and without any clear focus."

There was duplication of personnel and budget staff, and duplication in some of the engineering functions.

"It is a significant development within REME. Many unit titles have been lost but by working together we will become a more efficient operation," said Lt Col Nutt.

Called to the bar



Picture: Mike Weston

About to switch on the newly-installed bar code reader at Mill Hill is **Mike Hall**, General Manager Royal Mail Consultants, with **Col Barry Cash**, PCS2 and Mill Hill sorting office staff. Using the new machine, BFPO Mill Hill will now be able to bar code all ongoing mail - a task previously carried out by the Royal Mail on behalf of BFPO.

Monro's move
Lt Col **Hugh Monro**, the man who helped to forge two of Scotland's oldest regiments, the Queen's Own Highlanders (Seaforth and Camerons) and The Gordon Highlanders, into a new one in 1994 is on the move to MoD headquarters in Whitehall. First CO of the 1st Battalion, The Highlanders, Lt Col Monro, pictured with Pipe Maj **Alasdair Gillies**, joined the QO Hldrs more than 20 years ago and is the fifth generation of the family to serve.

Marathon meeting

While in New York to take part in the city's annual marathon, Pte **Mark Dabbs** (right), 306 Field Hospital (V), met a man with, literally, an impressive track record. In the 1988 Seoul Olympics, **Gelindo Bordin** was the only European to win a gold medal at a running event. He is a double European champion, was third in the Rome world championships and has previously won marathons in Boston, Milan and Venice.



PEOPLE

Keeping it in the family



Continuing a long-standing link with the B (Sherwood Rangers Yeomanry) Squadron, The Queen's Own Yeomanry, at Newark, Nottinghamshire, are LCpl **Graham Mayall** and his father Cpl **Graham Mayall**.

Graham - standing in front of a Saladin, his first vehicle in the squadron - joined the Regular Army in 1964, serving in Aden, Israel and Egypt, and has been with the squadron since 1973. His son joined in 1991 as a fitter attached to B Squadron.

Happy Howards

Enjoying uncustomary warm weather as they practised platoon level field firing during a week-long autumnal range package at Sennelager Training Centre were some of the 200 men from Osnabrück-based A and B Companies, The Green Howards. Back row: Ptes **Gavin Potter** and **Johnny Lowe**, with Sgt **Al Barker** and Ptes **Tony Chambers** and **"Woody" Wood**. Front row: Pte **Lee Deboer**, LCpl **John Blackburn** and Pte **"Yozza" Hughes**.



Making his farewells after 12 years as Commandant of Erskine Hospital, Bishopton, near Glasgow - Britain's biggest hospital for disabled ex-Servicemen and women - was Col **Ken Shepherd** (left), who has retired. He was chatting to ex-RSM **James Niblo**, one of the patients at the hospital who formed a guard of honour on the colonel's departure.

James had the job of making a soldier of Ken when the latter joined the Highland Light Infantry in 1948. With them is Staff Nurse **Kim MacKenzie**.

The hospital, which has looked after more than 60,000 ex-Service personnel since opening in 1916, is to be re-built.

It's all "tattoo" much...

Not only was former Scots Guardsman **Bob Renwick** given a helping hand from CSM **Gordon Dickson**, SG, when he attended the East Calder Tattoo, he was delighted to be handed a beret, cap star and a book about his beloved regiment. Well worth the visit!



The music man

Bandmaster **Gary Clegg** of the Band of the Prince of Wales's Division (Clive) advises two brass players, **Abigail Coe** and **Sarah Wilson**. They were

among 40 young people from 18 schools in the Wakefield area who took part in a workshop and concert alongside the band. Gary's teacher father, **Ted Clegg**, a former bandsman with the Scots Guards and, like his son, a trombone player, took a turn at conducting at the concert.



Federation gets word on housing, medical care and overstretch

SERIOUS, pressing issues were debated at the 13th annual conference of the Federation of Army Wives at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst on November 29.

This year's impressive speakers confronted the reality of change in areas that affect everyone: medical care, housing and the reality of the Army meeting world-wide commitments with an overstretched workforce.

In her opening remarks, chairman Sally Smythe spoke of the



Conference notebook

need for the Federation to address the future with an increasingly professional eye and referred to work already done on streamlining the organisation.

Earl Howe, the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Defence, showed a comprehensive knowledge of problems confronting Service personnel and their families and had some reassuring words. He promised a continuing commitment to the needs of the Army family.

Gen Sir Michael Rose, the Adjutant General, appeared to be impressed by the group of women before him. It was his first encounter with the FAW en masse and he seemed surprised by their grasp of the issues.

He thanked wives for their great support but regretted he could not give them hope of more stability in the near future because the world had become more unstable since the end of the Cold War.

Gen Sir John Wilsey, C-in-C Land Command, took delegates on a tour of 1995, supported by slides and maps. He explained the situation in former Yugoslavia following the Dayton agreement, giving wives information which had only just been released.

Last year I advocated that Gen Wilsey be sent around the world as a tonic for everybody connected with the Army... and I'm still one of his biggest fans.

A natural communicator, he made a tremendous impact on those who heard him. But what makes me warm to him – and I know others feel the same – is his patently genuine desire to make wives and families feel their needs are being taken seriously. In the current climate of instability it is a valuable asset.

Polly Christopherson, who is moving on posting, is looking for someone to take over as editor of the *Army Wives Journal*.

Points from Conference

□ Moves to unify the FAW organisation include a single charter for the United Kingdom, Northern Ireland, Germany and Cyprus.

□ Cherry Milne, a former FAW(G) chairman, is to succeed Sally Smith as chairman of the Federation.

□ The issue of updating nursing skills of British Army wives in Germany is being taken up with the Chief Nurse at the Department of Health.

□ Lady Wilsey, in her third year as President of the Federation, said the organisation would move to full-time staff to have a more professional approach.

□ The FAW's 1995 charity appeal for the British Red Cross appeal for war victims in Bosnia raised £7,500. It would be used for a feeding programme in Bosnian schools.

□ Polly Christopherson, who is moving on posting, is looking for someone to take over as editor of the *Army Wives Journal*.



High-powered panel: Gen Sir Michael Rose answers a question during the FAW open forum. From left to right are Lord Howe, Gen Sir John Wilsey, the Adjutant General, and Defence Housing Executive chief Colin James

chief Colin James outlined the way ahead for UK quartering and reassured his audience that there would be no "pepperpot" approach to inserting civilians into Service housing areas. He acknowledged, to a ripple of chuckles, that we "have all heard this before".

Lively forum

The open forum was as lively as one might expect. Some questions had been given to the panel in advance, enabling speakers to have information to hand. This didn't preclude spontaneous questions, some of which clearly taxed the panel.

Lunch was, as usual, where the real work was done with people from far-flung parts meeting to compare notes. I always enjoy this bit for the chance to talk informally to people I would normally have to make an appointment to see.

The afternoon was taken up with the FAW annual meeting and a discussion about the way ahead. A ballot on the proposed change of

name gave a clear mandate for a change but, because of lingering concerns about getting the Federation's image right, a final decision on the name has been deferred.

All in all a very satisfying day. If the FAW can keep its hand to the plough, the next 12 months will see changes which will benefit not only wives but the wider Army family.

Lord Howe was appointed in July. He hasn't had much time to get acquainted with his new brief but I found his speech interesting because it displayed a real grasp of the concerns of Army families.

Uppermost in everyone's minds was the announcement, the day before the conference, on the future of married quarters in the UK. Lord Howe said substantial progress had been made with the formation of the Defence Housing Executive as a specialist housing division within MoD to undertake the management and maintenance of the Married Quarters Estate on behalf of all three Services.

The initiative, he said, provided



Pictures: Mike Perrin

FAW chairman Sally Smythe (front left) presents the Naafi Good Neighbours Award for Community Service and a £500 cheque to Caterick HIVE's Jeannie Pemberton. Behind them are Shelley Dyson (left) and Rosemary Hewett from Colerne HIVE, the runners up, who received a cheque for £100

a unified, professional housing management organisation which would offer a more responsive and efficient service to MQ occupants. The DHE will continue in its current form for at least three more years.

The MoD is to transfer ownership of MQs to the private sector on long leases, renting back to meet its needs. Crucially, if a good deal was not available to the MoD, there would be no deal.

Several thousand surplus properties will be transferred immediately on a freehold basis and future surplus MQs will be returned to the new landlord.

Entitlement

MoD will retain responsibility for the maintenance and allocation of housing. The Minister said there would be no change in entitlements, in the method by which charges were set or in the MoD's responsibility to house those entitled to it.

He also gave assurances on the future of medical and dental services in the UK and overseas.

Lord Howe acknowledged there were problems over school places and outlined the position in the UK with regard to admissions for Service families returning from Germany. He said the Department for Education and Employment had asked local authorities to deal sympathetically with Service parents, and not to interpret admissions procedures over-rigidly.

On the subject of unemployment benefit – a long-standing bugbear for Service wives – Lord Howe said the DSS had given an assurance of assistance should a disproportionate number of claims go to appeal. The DSS had also agreed to a wide-ranging study early in the New Year of all the problems faced

by Service families on benefits. The key to any review is information and I urge anyone with comments to write to me, in confidence, at *Soldier*. If we are to persuade the DSS that there is a problem, we have to give them the information.

There were questions from the floor about the need for quarantine of pets from Cyprus – a rabies-free island. After highlighting the campaign by *Passport For Pets* on BFBS I got letters from people all around the world who were working to get the rules changed.

All, operating independently, argue that scientific advances make quarantine, in its current form, unnecessary for the Service community. After the conference I made a few calls and it seems that the issue is being addressed at several levels.

It is a delicate matter and has a lot to do with the way in which the risk of rabies is perceived by the British public.

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



HIVE co-ordinators, above from left, Jacqui Forbes (Münster), Kay Robson (Münster West) and Sian Storer (Münster); right Penny Rock and Jacqui Painter (both Höhne) cut a 10th birthday cake



Pioneer HIVEs mark tenth anniversaries

HÖHNE and Münster HIVEs have just celebrated their tenth birthdays with well attended open days.

HIVEs – Help Information Volunteer Exchange – were developed as a result of the Gaffney Report which identified a weakness in traditional methods of providing voluntary support to Service families.

Höhne and Münster were the original pilot schemes in Germany, the first of 28 set up to serve the Army and eight the

Royal Air Force. The furthest north is located at Fallingsbostel, the furthest south at Decimomannu. All are very much an integral part of the welfare support within each garrison.

And they are not there just for British wives; HIVEs offer support to wives of other nationalities and to Servicemen, both single and married.

HIVE co-ordinators train at JHQ Rheindahlen and attend study days so they can offer a professional support service.

'CAREER STRATEGY FOR LIFE'

SPEAKING on the current manpower shortage in the Army, the Adjutant General, Gen Sir Michael Rose, told wives' representatives that it had been a mistake to tear down the old recruiting system before building a new one.

He said the Army was not currently perceived by the public as a good employer because of the possibility of redundancy. On a positive note, he added: "While the Army cannot offer a career for life it can provide a career strategy for

life." It was working on a scheme for all young people joining the Army to acquire National Vocational Qualifications (NVQs), and it had been suggested by the Secretary of State for Education and Employment that the Army should award its own NVQs.

Other measures included going back to the junior leaders' scheme under an apprenticeship arrangement.

The Bett Review was a recognition that for 45 years the Army had

BLESMAsoul! These guys are good

FIVE SOLDIERS, each of whom had undergone a leg amputation within the previous year, swam a ten-mile marathon and raised more than £1,500 for the British Limbless Ex-Servicemen's Association (BLESMAs).

Aged between 19 and 30, they met up while attending the Defence Services Medical Rehabilitation Unit, RAF Headley Court, Epsom, and decided to swim 640 lengths of a 50m pool at a local leisure centre to acknowledge the help BLESMA had given them.

Sgt Andy Fuller (QLR), who had given up his wheelchair only four weeks before the event, swam 94 lengths without a break.

Sappers Robert Copsey and Jamie Gillespie, with Gnr Paul Taylor, had been invited to join the association's ski-bobbing expedition earlier this year.

"We wanted to contribute to BLESMA's national appeal as a way of saying 'thank you' for all the help and support we have been given," said Robert.

LCpl Philip Aucott (RLC) joined the group during a week of adventure training with the Calvert Trust, again arranged and sponsored by BLESMA.

After sailing, abseiling, hill-walking and other activities, they confidently stated: "We didn't know we could do so much."

During their rehabilitation, the soldiers had the chance to go running, cycling and scuba diving. The sponsored swim was supported by, among



Pride of the pool: (left to right) Sgt Robert Copsey, Gnr Paul Taylor, Sgt Andy Fuller, LCpl Philip Aucott and Spr Jamie Gillespie. Each had undergone a leg amputation in the previous year

others, Headley Court patients and staff, including the station commander.

"We wanted to try and make

people aware of BLESMA and to show what amputees can achieve," said Andy.

Now he and his four fellow-swimmers, who are being medically discharged from the Army, hope that other new amputees will be encouraged by their efforts to persevere with rehabilitation to rebuild confidence and self-esteem - and that BLESMA's contribution to this process is recognised.

South Armagh-based 1st Battalion, The Royal Scots, have been travelling east around the globe, without budging from Newry.

Using exercise bicycles and rowing machines, the men and women of the battalion, including the cooks and the doctor, are hoping to at least reach the Far East.

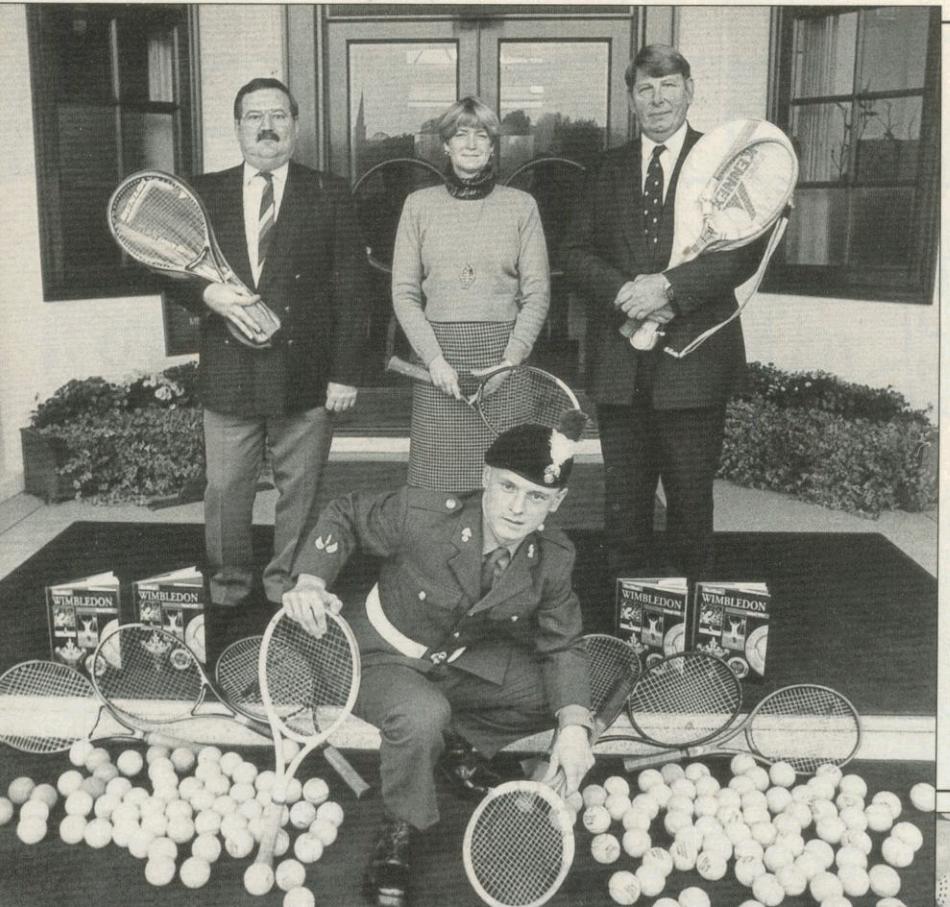
Sponsorship and donations will go towards the BBC's Children in Need.

"Basically, it is a very simple



Your money or your teeth: Members of Headquarters 145 (Home Counties) Brigade, in various uncustomary guises, swooped on Dental Support Specialist Cpl Kerry Hibbert while collecting from the HQ Royal Army Dental Corps at Aldershot for the Children In Need Appeal. They raised more than £700

Picture: Mike Weston



Picture: Mike Weston

hour BFT and running in the London marathon.

Four members of the 2nd Battalion, The Princess of Wales's Own Regiment, returned to their Northern Ireland base from the USA having made a wildlife conservation charity £5,200 richer.

They raised the money by running in the New York marathon on behalf of Tusk Force, having first raised the necessary sponsorship requirement of at least £1,300 for each of them.

All the proceeds will go towards a Tusk Force project in Asia concerned with saving the rare Siberian tiger - highly appropriate for a regiment which earned the nickname "The Tigers" for outstanding service in India during the 19th century.

A sponsored ten-a-side rugby tournament to raise money towards the purchase of a racing wheelchair was organised by big-hearted soldiers from 14 Regiment and the Royal School of Artillery, Larkhill.

Disabled charity fundraiser Tracy Gill was unable to continue taking part in wheelchair marathons because her racing chair had been stolen. Sponsors of the event were Courage Breweries.



Picture: Mike Weston



Among those helping to drum up support for a sponsored abseil to boost funds for breast cancer research at Sheffield's Royal Hallamshire Hospital were (in berets, left to right) LCpl John Lumb, Pte Philip Jordan and WO1 Brian Thomas of the locally-based 3rd Battalion, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment (West Riding) (Yorkshire Volunteers)

ALL PART OF THE SERVICE

When the 1st Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers needed some tennis equipment for the youngsters at the sports stadium in Zenica, Bosnia, who better to approach than the All England Tennis Club at Wimbledon?

They were only too delighted to oblige, and the resultant "goodies", along with clothing collected in the UK by 1 RRF staff and dependants, have been despatched by the battalion.

Pictured at Wimbledon with Alison Edwards, assistant to the All England Lawn Tennis Club secretary, are Capt Chris Mears (left), permanent admin officer of C (City of London Fusiliers) Company of The London Regiment - a TA unit of which C Coy are the RRF element - and Maj Colin Bowes-Crick and Fus Paul Collins, also of RHQ Tower of London.



Officer Cadets Phil Sheriff (left foreground) and Carl Thompson, with other members of 1 Platoon, Burma Coy, RMA Sandhurst, present the proceeds (more than £1,500) from a sponsored four-course, silver service meal which the platoon held on top of Pen-y-Fan in the Brecon Beacons, to delighted ward manager Sally Martin of the children's ward at Frimley Park Hospital. A framed picture of the lunch - held in howling winds and driving rain, and interrupted by some passing members of The Staffordshire Regiment who were training for the Cambrian Patrol - was also handed over as a souvenir.

Putting teaching on the map



WO1 (SMI) Michael James of the MAPRIC team

□ Since 1980, more than 4,000 students, from lance corporals to majors, and from all regiments and corps, have attended the two-week tri-Service map reading instructors' courses, run 16 to 18 times a year by the navigation section of the SMS's topographic department.

□ Primary clients for the courses, open to all junior officers and NCOs required to teach map reading, are the new Army Training Regiments. Bids from Territorial Army units are also accepted.

□ Before being considered for selection, all applicants – who should have attended an Army Methods of Instruction course or unit equivalent, and be confident in classroom instruction techniques – have to complete a pre-course test and achieve a 60 per cent pass mark.

□ These results are confirmed by an entry test at the beginning of the course, when students (who are expected to possess a knowledge of map reading to at least CMS (R) level) not achieving 60 per cent are returned to their units without continuing the course.

“We did toy with the idea of inviting ex-members of military survey to attend a one-day course to mark MAPRIC 250,” said navigation instructor WO1 (SMI) Michael James RE.

“However, we felt it better to try to minimise disruption to students who are on a pass or fail course. Instead, the certificates at the end of the two weeks will be specially modified and will probably be presented by the senior instructor.”

MAPRIC students are trained to ensure that, apart from improving their knowledge of aspects of advanced map reading such as use of air photography and lightweight compass, they can, by the end of the fortnight, pass on what they themselves have learned.

A “takeaway” map reading instructors’ pack-



Left – MAPRIC instructor Sgt Stuart Batey unravels the mysteries of air photography for Sgt Jock Pagan, 5 TA Trg Regt RLC

ON A misty autumn morning, several small groups of soldiers were standing in a Berkshire field, poring over maps and making calculations.

As they did so, they were making their own contribution to a milestone in Army history.

All were students taking part in the 250th Map Reading Instructors' Course (MAPRIC) to be held by the School of Military Survey (SMS), Hermitage.

Initiated in 1980, the course is designed to assess and enhance participants' abilities to teach map reading at the Common Military Syllabus (Recruits) level, and give them a sound working knowledge of the contents and use of the map reading instructors' package.

age, prepared by the SMS with transparencies supplied by the Services Sound and Vision Corporation, and produced on software with an accompanying instruction manual, is ideal material for units to elaborate on the course.

Tips are given along the way to make the teaching less dry.

“If a person hasn't had experience of teaching, it could be a stumbling block,” said former Royal Engineers warrant officer Anthony Borkowski, now a civilian instructor with the MAPRIC team.

“Standing up in front of people is very difficult: we have come to the conclusion that the ideal rank is staff sergeant, because, with their dealings with such a broad range of units and troops, they carry credibility.”

Teaching does not present many problems for the small team of MAPRIC instructors, whose expertise has been called on as far afield as Washington and Poland.

Two of them lead a two-week annual course in Cyprus and, until recently, two courses a year were held in Hong Kong.

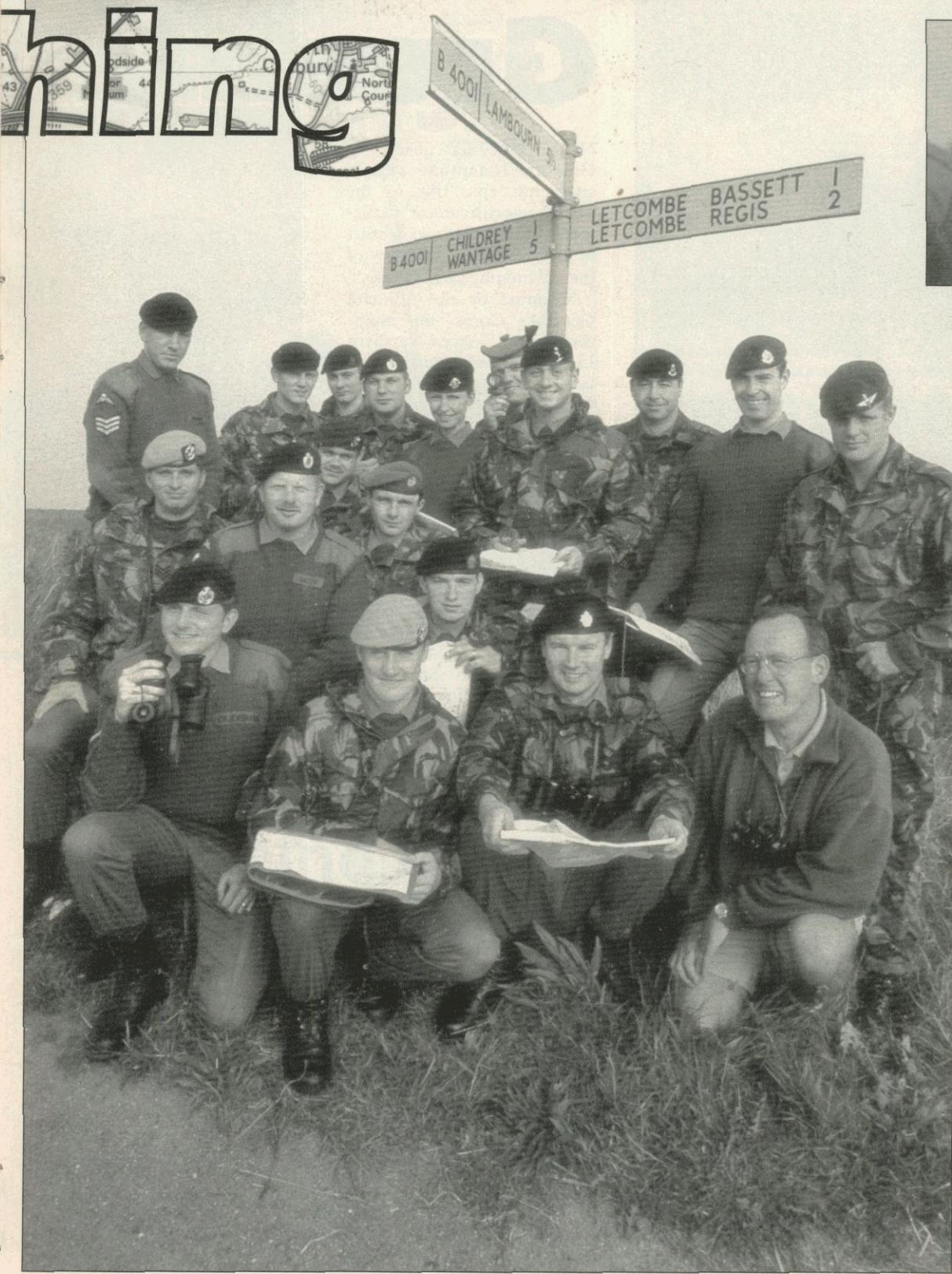
The international connection is maintained at the SMS, where students from Thailand, the Lebanon, Egypt, Romania and Saudi Arabia have attended recent MAPRIC courses.

In the farmer's field at Castle Hill, four groups of students, halfway through their course, and fresh from a session on air photography training,

were putting the classroom theory they had learned, and their earlier *al fresco* forays over the previous few days, to the test.

Exercise Clearview was designed to give course members practice in planning and running an exercise in which they might have to teach students how to set up a map using a lightweight compass, take bearings, identify position and features, make use of grid references and point out a direction by using the sun and time.

“We have no large training areas, apart from a small local range, which we find ideal for night training, so we work on public land or local



woods, with the owner's permission,” explained Mr Borkowski.

Setting a map with a compass in the middle of a field was not easy, he added, so the area, in a typical part of rural England, where the contours do not stand up, was perfect for testing course members' capabilities.

A four-student syndicate was taking its turn in organising the exercise.

“It's up to them how they run things,” said WO1 James. “For example, instead of splitting their ‘trainees’ into groups, they could have centrally briefed them.”

At the beginning of their second week,

the course members – whose cap badges ranged from Royal Signals to Army Air Corps and Highlanders – were due to spend a full day at a place of their own choosing, taking turns to test each other in both a static location and along a 5km route.

At the end of a further three-and-a-half days which included a final field test, evening exercises, lessons on map supply and compass and route following techniques, and a final theory test, they were scheduled to receive their results and certificates and attend the traditional end-of-course discussion.



Above – Setting his sights on qualification is LCpl Adam Knights

Left – Pointers to success? A varied array of capbadges as MAPRIC 250 members, with civilian instructor Anthony (Boris) Borkowski, front row, right, take a breather from a field exercise in deepest Berkshire



Calculating glance from LCpl Jo Wavell

The course is marked independently of the instructors by a separate department of the school.

“We know we are getting it right,” said WO1 James, “because we are notching up a high percentage of B grade [above average] passes each time, and the odd

A [outstanding] grade.

“It is difficult enough for students attending the course to digest a lot of information on, say the grid systems in different countries – conversion from Bosnian maps, for example, is like driving on a different side of the road – but they then have to be able to put it across.”

The newly-qualified graduates from MAPRIC 250, who can now boast the specialist qualification of Map Reading Instructor (MR Instr), should be more than equal to the task as they, in turn, enlighten students on the mysteries of spheroids and grid magnetic angles.



AT David Turnock battles with the waves in Costa Rica

HARROGATE LADS 'SURF' UP A FIRST

A SEVEN-strong team from the Army Apprentices College, Harrogate, kept up the college's track record for trips to unusual places by mounting an expedition to Costa Rica.

Staff members Capt Andy Churchill (R Signals), civilian lecturers Archie Miles and Mike McHale and apprentices Ian Belton, Nathan Hadley, David Turnock and Gareth Vernon took part in Exercise

Big Wednesday, a mixture of river and sea kayaking and jungle trekking.

They also achieved a credible result, against international competition, in the World kayak surf championships held along the spectacular Pacific coastline.

ATs Belton, Hadley and Vernon are all previous UKKF white water championship winners.

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Greenland ahoy!

NOW SAFELY back at Gosport, Hampshire after a six-month epic trip to the world's northernmost settlement, on the north west coast of Greenland, are the crew of the sail training yacht *Sabre*.

Mounted by the Adjutant General's Corps, the multi-disciplinary Exercise Northern Lights included diving in Scotland, trekking in Iceland and Greenland, and an ambitious attempt to sail in the Arctic seas around Greenland and Canada.

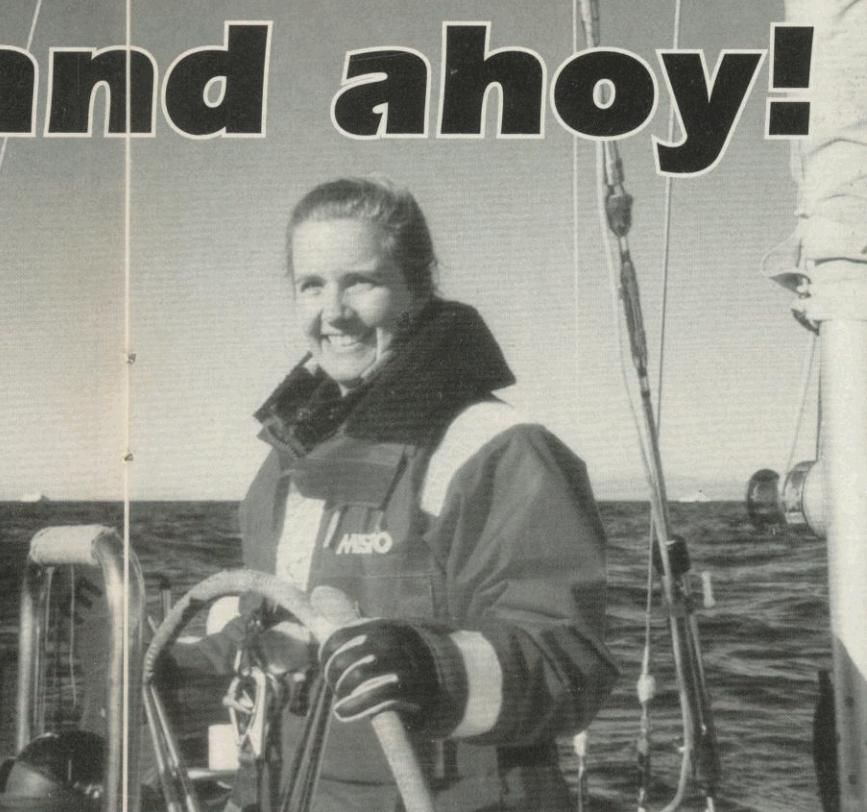
Flying the AGC flag, *Sabre* set sail from Gosport on May 17 with the aim of visiting Siorapaluk, the settlement in question, writes Maj Lesley Wilde, who took part in one phase of the expedition.

A relay of six crews sailed the yacht, ranging in experience from novices to sailors with years of experience. None had sailed in the Arctic before.

The final phase began in Thule, a US base in northern Greenland, the crew starting their training in earnest in trying to avoid huge icebergs.

In four weeks at sea, they experienced a Force 9 and two Force 8 gales.

As the vessel journeyed down the coast, the crew was frequently greeted by friendly, helpful and curious people. Despite the language barrier, there always seemed to be a

Maj Lesley Wilde takes the helm of *Sabre* in Greenland during Exercise Northern Lights

residence where they could take a shower, buy provisions and replenish with fuel and water.

The scenery in Greenland was breathtaking: magnificent skies and sheer, soaring mountain ranges.

In the final week, the weather began to deteriorate noticeably and the storms became more frequent. However, by then all members of the crew had reached a level of competence which enabled tasks required to sail the boat to be

completed speedily and efficiently. As *Sabre* made her way into Camp Lloyd, Kangerlussuaq, the celebrated northern lights appeared in the sky.

Another AGC crew would be arriving in a couple of days to sail the yacht across to Canada.

(See picture, front cover)



Capt Heidi Chittenden (left), an eye surgeon based at Frimley Park Hospital, Surrey, receives some mid-air coaching from Pete Allen, national four-way champion, over the coast of Florida.

She was one of ten from one TA and various Regular units to take part in the two-week Exercise Freefall Express, an Army skills training parachute camp. Individuals did 57 jumps each, with the intention of becoming future members of the Army eight-way team which is aiming to win the national championships in 1996.



Tired and somewhat grubby, Sequoia Dragon members at the end of the trail. Left to right: JUO Charlie Pinkstone; OCdts Jim Glossop and Paul Yarram; expedition leader 2nd Lt Adrian Williams; WOCdt Sophia Hughes; OCdt Dave Owens; WOCdt Emily Powell-Smith

Manchester united on land and sea

MANCHESTER and Salford University Officers' Training Corps (MSUOTC) cadets have been involved in team ventures in very different environments.

Seven of them trekked 260 miles over the snow-capped peaks of California's High Sierra mountains, while, to mark two productive years as the OTC training major before

leaving for its equivalent in Liverpool, Maj Tony Dowson led a crew on a 570-mile sea expedition from Denmark to the Netherlands.

Four days after arriving in Los Angeles, expedition leader 2nd Lt Adrian Williams and his team set off to walk the John Muir Trail, which extends 250 miles from the Golden Trout wilderness in the south to the Yosemite National Park in the north.

After three days, the party reached Mt Whitney, with JUO Charlie Pinkstone and OCdts Paul Yarram and Jim Glossop making the summit on the following day.

Day five saw them through the forests and grasslands of Sequoia National Park and into the more barren King's Canyon.

Before the end of the trek, the officer cadets experienced an earthquake (4.5 on the Richter scale).

A week before their colleagues began their North American challenge, five officer cadets from MSUOTC and two from Liverpool UOTC set off from Frederikshavn, Denmark in the Tall Ships race.

Maj Tony Dowson, with a first and second mate to complete the crew, was starting his last adventure training exercise with the Manchester cadets.

The crew, sailing in the Royal Artillery's *British Steel*, crossed the finishing line second in their class.

End result as they reached Amsterdam: teamwork good, international relationships excellent, and two trophies for the mess.

Marching on the Cape



Members of the Army Training Regiment Pirbright comprised one of four British Army teams which competed in this year's ninth annual Western Province Cape March in South Africa. It was only the second time that Britons have participated, and a first for an ATR.

Pictured (back row) are LCoH Sean Pickford HCR; team leader Lt Paul Calvert RLC; Brig Parker, Defence Adviser to South Africa; Maj Gen Dan Lambrecht, GOC Western Province Command; LSgt Karl Dawson WG; LCoH Richard Gallagher HCR. (Front): Sgt Stuart Moor REME; SSgt Dave Cheddell RLC; LSgt John Davis

ing in both distance and hillwork is essential for the event, in which the South African Defence Forces are keen to get more British and international teams involved.

Inset: The RLC Training and Development team put their best feet forward in the same competition.



Sgt Warren Massey RLC enters into the spirit of the West with his racoon-skin cap

Report: Gordon Skilling
Pictures: Terry Champion

Trails End OC, Maj Ian Horn



WO2 Steve Matthews, Camp Sergeant Major



New chaps for members of a riding expedition

On the Rocky trail of adventure

AFTER testing themselves against a merciless enemy and sophisticated weapons effect simulators on Alberta's broad plains, British soldiers on exercise in Canada face harsher realities when they take on Mother Nature in the Rocky Mountains.

For more than 800 soldiers from the summer battle groups and "live" opposing forces at British Army Training Unit Suffield (BATUS), the end of the Exercise Medicine Man trail was not the washdown after the final mission, but the Trails End adventurous training camp, two hours away in the foothills of the Rockies.

Fewer than ten per cent of soldiers attending each Medicine Man are able to take up places at Trails End, but the lucky 90 or so have a choice of five-day expeditions.

On the menu are trekking, Canadian canoeing, mountaineering and rock climbing, parachuting, horse riding, ski mountaineering, Nordic skiing, white water rafting, mountain biking, rock climbing, abseiling, caving and paragliding.

Soldiers can learn to ride, how not to fall off sheer rock faces, and how to pack a canoe so it won't tip them and their equipment into a cold, fast-flowing mountain river.

The three established posts at Trails End are held by the OC, Maj Ian Horn

APTC, storeman Cpl Jon Brooks AAC, and MT representative LCpl Gary O'Hara RLC. Maj Horn hopes to have two more posts established by the time the 1996 exercise season starts in April.

He needs a permanent camp warrant officer and a chief instructor. During the summer the jobs were done, respectively, by WO2 Steve Matthews, R Signals, and Sgt Bill Agnew APTC.

Temporary staff are provided by units and are posted in for periods ranging from several weeks to 11 months.

Until now, only soldiers deployed to BATUS have been eligible to apply for the three-week packages provided by Trails End, but next year the centre is due to take adventurous training responsibility for 1,950 soldiers from the Pond Jump series of exercises at Wainwright in Northern Alberta.

Winter accommodation

Because it had no suitable accommodation, the camp has until now been unable to cope with large numbers of soldiers during the hard winter months. This has been rectified and several new accommodation blocks, shower units and a new kitchen have been installed.

Permanent staff and their families live in the small town of Cochrane, west of Calgary.

Maj Horn, who started a two-year posting in July, said adventurous training now gets the same priority of funding given to shooting on the ranges.

"The line was firmed with the creation of the Army Adventurous Training Compendium in 1994. Four levels of challenge



Soldiers pack kit before a mountaineering expedition

pursuits are clearly laid down and Trails End covers most of the subjects in the compendium," he said.

But don't let anyone tell you adventurous training is a holiday. It is regarded as mainstream training... with a difference. Its contribution is seen as valid and every bit as important as firing on ranges.

As well as providing an opportunity to acquire new skills, adventurous training expeditions bring leadership into sharp focus.

"You can talk about leadership until you are blue in the face but the best way of getting it across is by putting soldiers in stressful situations, giving them the correct equipment and instruction, and leaving them to get on with it," said Maj Horn.

The aim is to develop qualities which enhance a soldier's ability to withstand the shock and strain of wartime operations.

Every exercise set up by the centre is predominately aimed at teaching leadership skills in an arduous environment.

Cpl Jon Brooks is keen on Nordic skiing in the "back country", taking in scenery shared by few others. He is studying through Calgary University to become a Canadian canoe guide and for his cross country skiing guide qualifications.

Popular with soldiers who imagine

Home on the range: Wrangler Baz Graham with LCpl Paul Clark and Sgt Warren Massey

themselves as budding Clint Eastwoods is the horseback expedition. Some enthusiasts have been known to turn up in Stetsons and bandannas.

"We stretch and challenge them in different ways, and when they return to their units they are really buzzing."

Since being posted to Trails End he has become fascinated by bald headed eagles, golden eagles and red-tailed hawks.

During a visit by Members of Parliament he was asked to display his knowledge. What were those strange bluish birds called? Blue birds, was his prompt answer.

And these black ones with reddish flashes on the wings? That's right... red-winged blackbirds!



"During the summer we get about 100



British and Egyptian paratroopers make a joint landing during Exercise Bright Star

A drop in the desert

BRITISH paratroopers returned to Egypt as friends in November – nearly 40 years after they dropped in as enemies to seize the Suez Canal.

One hundred and ten men based on A Company, 2nd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment landed near El Alamein after an eight-hour flight from RAF Lyneham.

They fell from three C-130 Hercules aircraft exactly four minutes after a similar drop of Egyptian paratroopers, with whom they exercised over the following week.

It was the first time a strategic parachute insert had taken place recently, and it was completely successful, said 2 Para 2iC Maj Geoff Weighell.

Although the exercise involved in-flight refuelling and linking up with Egyptian aircraft, the drop went in on time and on target without injuries, he said.

In all, 140 paras took part in Bright Star, a multi-national exercise held every two years since 1985 to demonstrate the West's determination to support an ally threatened by aggression.

Overall, 40,000 troops from Egypt, France, the United Arab Emirates, the UK and USA took part.

The guided missile destroyer HMS *Cardiff*, which had been home to three of the paratroopers since sailing from Portsmouth, was attached to the naval force which took part in the landing. As their mates parachuted in, a helicopter whisked the trio to the dropping zone. With them

went three sailors on an exchange with A Coy.

The British contingent's first task was to secure high ground on the historic Alam Halfa ridge overlooking a beach where an Allied force landed.

It proved easier to accomplish than it had during the Second World War, when the ridge was held against the Afrika Korps' last thrust towards Cairo in August, 1942.

The first two C-130 Hercules dropped 110 parachutists and a third aircraft dropped two Land Rovers with trailers.

One platoon, commanded by Arabic-speaking Lt Stuart Guest, was detached to operate with the Egyptian force, while an Egyptian platoon joined A Coy.

Cross-training was the theme of the next few days and included a day examining and firing each other's weapons, with Lt Guest providing explanatory captions in Arabic.

Some weapons were familiar, such as the General Purpose Machine-Gun, but others were less well-known, although many paras had fired the ubiquitous Kalashnikov AK47.

"It is a good close quarter weapon but is not really all that effective for the long distance stuff that we do," said Pte Steven Smith.

As one of the battalion's snipers, he was interested in the Egyptian equivalent of the L96 A1 sniper rifle, the Remington 700. "It is nice to fire and the sight is better than



Lt Gen Hew Pike gathers up his parachute after landing in Egypt

ours, but it is a bit rigid and hard to move," he reckoned.

WO2 (QMSI) Richard Ciereszko of the Small Arms School Corps had his work cut out supervising safety measures during joint firing of Milan and the 66mm Light Anti-tank Weapon. Safety standards varied markedly and he had to work hard to impose acceptable parameters.



Soldiers of 2 Para tab along the dusty trail from the top of Alam Halfa ridge after the insertion phase of Exercise Bright Star

The Egyptians also operate Milan but do not have the MIRA thermal imaging device, and were interested to see it demonstrated.

Capt Chris Plyming had a particularly challenging task. As commander of the patrols platoon, he led a joint Long Range Desert Patrol-type foray against a divisional headquarters.

An Egyptian officer commanded during the navigational phases, and the force of 72 included Egyptian Rangers and United Arab Emirates special forces spread equally among vehicles provided by the Egyptians.

Capt Plyming superimposed his command structure on the force, putting a British vehicle commander and signaller in every group.

A fire support section covered several assault groups in a successful attack, despite the fact that some Egyptian officers drove up to the position to chat to the "enemy" while Capt Plyming was in the middle of a tactical assault.

Delays combined to thwart an attack following a second joint drop with the Egyptian paratroopers.

A "friendship jump" qualified participants for each other's wings, with the coveted insignia being ceremoniously handed over following a jump by Egyptians from a

British aircraft, and British, Americans and United Arab Emirates jumping from an Egyptian aircraft using the T10 parachute.

The last few days were taken up by a package at a Red Sea resort.

The paras' tents were blistered on to a massive US logistic organisation at the vast air base of Cairo West.

Although only a few miles from the Pyramids and the Sphinx at Giza, security made leaving the camp difficult.

Next door to the camp was a bazaar offering exotic delights of the Orient and the more prosaic stamps of Western culture such as pizzas and Kentucky Fried Chicken.

Company Sergeant Major WO2 Kevin Robison and "Colour Man" Billy Farrel found the Egyptians eternally willing to help.

Sterling service was given by SSgt Jess Cooper and his local resources section from 9 Supply Regiment at Hullavington.

Sgt Mark Stone RLC and his two chefs proved they could be flexible. Expecting the company back from a drop at 1800 for an evening meal, they did not see the first ones



Maj James Chiswell, OC A Coy 2 Para

return until four the next morning . . . and they were still ready to provide breakfast an hour after dinner.

With the paras' ability to operate in isolation, they took everything in their stride and the OC, Maj James Chiswell, was impressed at how quickly the Egyptians working with them adjusted to British ways.

"Their drills were very different and they tended to do things a lot quicker and just roll through positions, whereas the British way is more measured," he said. But when he briefed the Egyptian platoon, explaining the procedures he wanted and the spacing that was expected, they adapted quickly.

"On balance, we were very impressed," he said. "The Egyptians were very open to new ideas we put forward, they were flexible in adjusting to new concepts and tactically they seemed very sound."

Maj Chiswell's right-hand man when communicating with the Arabs was Maj Martin Patterson, head of Arabic languages at the Defence School of Languages at Bea-

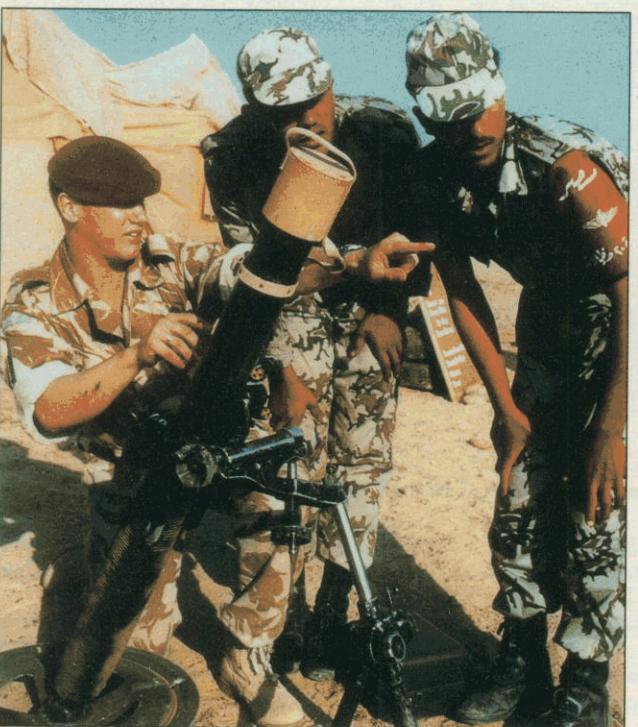
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Above - Cpl Ryan Fraser, Sgt Mark Stone and Pte Ged Hennigan serve Pte Adrian Tankard

Right - LCpl Paul Cretella, Cpl Paul McIntosh and Sgt Wayne Porter on their ships of the desert

Below - Pte Del Harris demonstrates the 81mm mortar



Desert drop

From Page 23

consfield. Also lending a tongue was Capt Nick Kitson of 2 RGJ, who learned of the exercise when his battalion took over from 2 Para at Holywood in Belfast.

He completed the same Arabic course as Lt Guest at Exeter University, but had had little call on his specialist skill until going to Egypt.

His task was to liaise between the Egyptian company and the 2 Para platoon detached to it, and between the Egyptian battalion HQ and A Coy.

Medical support was available from the Royal Army Medical Corps, which provided a doctor and four soldiers from 23 Parachute Field Ambulance.

"Soldiers can be remote from acceptable

civilian facilities and we prefer to treat our casualties ourselves," said Maj John Duckett.

In the event, he had only a few minor injuries to deal with among the paras, and stitched up an Egyptian finger.

Coping with the political dimension and the massive amount of diplomatic work necessary to smooth the way was the Defence Attaché at the British Embassy in Cairo, Col Guy Sayle WG.

The political impact of the relatively few paras on Bright Star far outweighed their numbers.

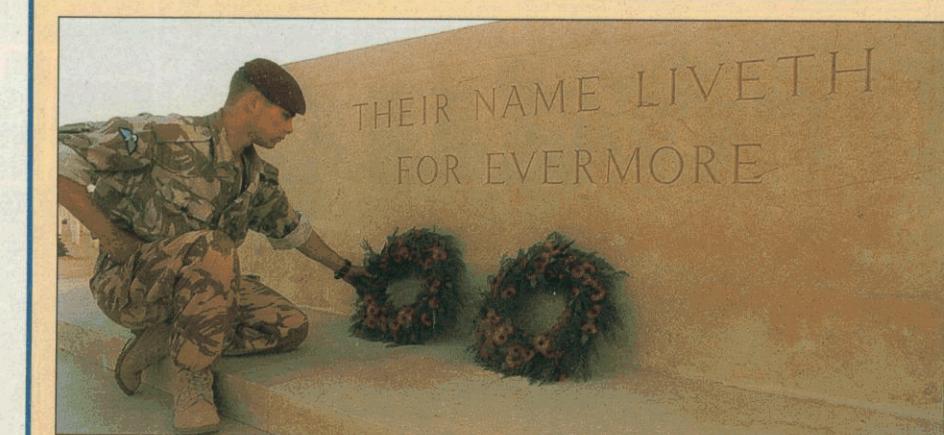
"Very few had operated in a desert environment before, and conducting desert operations in vehicles was something new to us, but it is the same old principles of fire and manoeuvre that still come through and it was really quite easy to adjust from our normal area of operation," said Maj Chiswell. The adjustment was easier

because of a series of study days on the North African campaign, particularly El Alamein. Maj Chiswell also covered the Arab-Israeli wars and the Suez crisis, drawing on the invaluable experience of veterans of the 3 Para drop on Gamil airfield in 1956.

But it was very much as friends that the paras took up the Egyptians' invitation to take part in Exercise Bright Star, and they greatly benefited from the adventure.

If invited to take part in the next Bright Star, the regiment will suggest a longer period of joint operations, particularly on Long Range Desert Patrol-type aspects.

"We could have taken on a lot more if we had been there longer," said Maj Weighell. "The Egyptians and Emiratis are keen to train with us, and we are keen to train beside our new friends in a different part of the world."



Pte Stephen Raisbeck reflects for a moment after placing a wreath at El Alamein memorial

Bugle call for heroes of El Alamein

All in the line of duty

BRITISH military observers on Exercise Bright Star saved three Egyptians from drowning on Armistice Day.

The four officers were having lunch at a beachside restaurant when they were alerted. While Lt Col Richard Carrow RGJ swam 100 yards to rescue two young men in difficulties, Gp Capt Dougie Barr RAF gave mouth-to-mouth resuscitation to a third at the water's edge.

Col Anthony Biggs, Cdr Robin House RN helped to revive them. The officers then attended the Remembrance Day service in the El Alamein war cemetery.

AT THE going down of the sun, the paras remembered the dead at El Alamein.

After jumping into Egypt on Armistice Day as part of Exercise Bright Star, paratroopers of A Company, 2nd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, secured a strategic ridge to cover an Allied beach landing, then made their way to the Commonwealth War Graves Commission cemetery at El Alamein.

Several paras, including Lt Gen Hew Pike, Deputy Commander UK Land, who parachuted into Egypt with A Company, have relatives buried there.

The site where the paras landed was on the ridge of Alma Halfa, where the last thrust of Rommel's Afrika Corps was held, and largely

ly broken, on the back of the Rifle Brigade in August 1942.

A few months later, not far away, the great attack would start and be immortalised as the second battle of El Alamein.

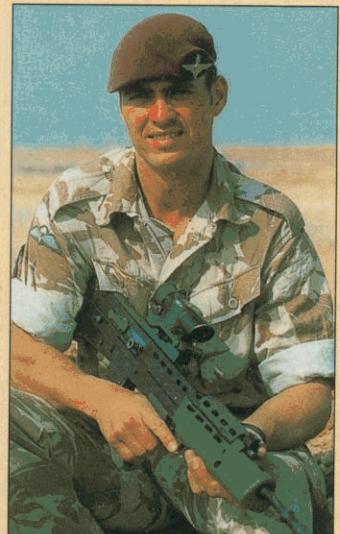
Pte Stephen Raisbeck laid a wreath with Gen Pike and Pte John O'Sullivan read Binyon's poignant words.

The light faded, and the evening stillness was broken by familiar hymns led by Padre Andrew Phillips. As Drum Major Bob Cope's bugle sounded and the pipes played their lament, Pte Darren Porch was particularly moved.

"My grandmother's uncle is buried here," he said. "It was a brilliant service, just as the sun was setting."



Combined operations with Parachute Regiment soldiers, the Royal Navy, Egyptians and United Arab Emirates: Pte Geordie Keenan, Cpl Paul Armstrong, Pte Graham Hassall and Able Seaman Cliff Davies join forces with LCpl Saeed Alneami, Pte Tareq Naimi and Pte Sarwat El Bagory



Pte Darren Porch

Producing the goods

SSVC was formed in 1982 with the merger of the Services Kinema Corporation and the British Forces Broadcasting Service.

In 1995, it became the SSVC Group of Companies in anticipation of MoD changes to the way in which services and training are being presented to the Forces.

From April this year, the devolution of budget funds to users and the introduction of competitive tendering will open up the Forces' market to all-comers, allowing the SSVC Group the opportunity to compete with its commercial rivals in the business, corporate and public sectors.

As a result, the group has redefined its operations into four dedicated divisions to "establish and maintain a competitive edge within the technological and communications marketplace".

One of these is the Multimedia Training Division, of which SSVC Productions is a component.

In point of fact

SSVC Productions makes around 50 video training and information programmes for all three Services each year. Its four producers undertake military or commercial projects from initial concept through to script, production, copying and distribution.

Before joining SSVC, via freelance and television work, Anne Carroll was personal assistant to film director Stanley Kubrick of *2001 - A Space Odyssey* fame.

General training films made by SSVC Productions, such as *Rules of Engagement*, which outlines the code of conduct within a war situation, are distributed to every unit in the Army.

One security video, seen by units all over the world and particularly well-received by soldiers, is *Aftermath - Post-Incident Procedure*, which outlines how to deal with a terrorist explosion. To make it realistic, SSVC Productions blew up some Army buildings at Abingdon. (They were already scheduled for demolition...)

Actors used in the videos have to be carefully chosen. You cannot use famous faces, says Anne Carroll. If someone has been seen in, for example, *Eastenders*, it is hard for the viewers to identify with them in a service context.

WHEN THE Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, decided it needed more recruits, it could have chosen to publicise the fact in a brochure, writes Phil Wilcox.

Instead, like many other Army establishments, it opted for a well-established organisation in Buckinghamshire - the Services Sound and Vision Corporation (SSVC) at Chalfont St Peter.

And, in particular, SSVC Productions, now part of the corporation's newly-formed multimedia training division.

The end result, *Serve to Lead*, a video chronicling a year in cadets' life at the Academy, is undergoing its final touches by Anne Carroll, producer with specific Army responsibility within the production section.

Documentary treatment

Recruitment is merely one aspect of Army life she has covered.

Documentary treatment of highly topical welfare subjects such as post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) are a priority as far as units are concerned.

For *The Mind At War*, a 50-minute awareness video commissioned by Army psychiatrists, Anne asked for case studies from, among others, the Second World War Burma campaign, the Falklands, the Gulf and Northern Ireland.

She interviewed participants of various ranks from those theatres, without a psychiatrist present, and found that not only did they show courage in coming forward - particularly those still serving - but they were anxious to help fellow PTSD sufferers.

Another completed video, *There's Always One*, tackles the problem of alcohol abuse, with dramatised evidence from young soldiers with a drink problem.

A third, on drug abuse (*Users Are Losers*),

is in its early stages of production.

"When you are making a training film, what you do not want is just to go through a list of do's and don'ts," Anne Carroll told *Soldier*.

"It should grab the viewer's attention by involving them in a realistic, credible scenario: the average soldier is no fool."

At present, bids for coverage of a topic by SSVC Productions are submitted by units each financial year to the Army Training Directorate, which allocates a limited amount of funding to successful bidders.

A technical adviser from the unit concerned is selected to discuss script and teaching points with Anne's section.

"Because we know the Army so well, we know our way around, like who to go to for what, and what things should or should not look like," she says.

"This is a great advantage. We don't have to ask as many questions as someone from outside would have to do. We already know what the AGC or MLRS is, for example.

"The research time for anyone else on a project would be at least twice as long, and consequently twice as much money."

Having cleared the outline with the technical adviser, the production section begins to shoot the video, which could be in the form of a drama, documentary or comedy.

"We would only ever use actors where they have lines to speak," explained Anne, one of a team of four producers in SSVC



Anne Carroll of SSVC Productions in the editing suite at Chalfont. Working on a project are off-line editor Mike Craven (right) and Brian De'Ath, on-line editor

Productions.

"If the soldier is doing what he normally does in his natural environment, that is fine."

Once shot, a "rough cut" of the finished product, similar to a bespoke suit with stitching on, is created and shown to the technical adviser concerned.

Possible improvements and alterations are discussed, and the sponsoring unit is involved at all times.

Approval given, the finalised version is polished in the on-line editing suite at Gerards Cross.

The time scale from commission to completion varies, depending on the availability of facilities, which sometimes can mean waiting for, say, some Challenger tanks to be freed.

It is generally a six to seven week process, the technical adviser informing the production section of the number of copies required and their destinations on completion.

SSVC's distribution department then sends copies to the relevant units.

"Every commission is different, and every one of them is a challenge," said Anne. "In almost nine years with SSVC, I don't think I have ever repeated a subject. By now, I feel I know an awful lot of things, but I am not an expert on any of them."

"Dealing with the Army, there are so many things I have encountered that I would not have come across anywhere else: making a film about a tin of beans is not

half as interesting as making a film about Challenger 2." The feedback from the programmes is satisfying, she added, with telephone calls or letters coming from the most unexpected sources.

"I've had a lot of people contacting me since the stress video came out, saying 'I've got that - where do I go to?' Friends and colleagues had been regarding them as drunks."

After disaggregation on April 1, the Army Training Directorate will still hold the budget for units wishing to make training films, but production commissions will be put out to tender.

Double-edged sword

"It will be a double-edged sword," said Anne, whose latest commission is a briefing video on Brunei.

"Up till then, we will have been solely employed by the MoD for the MoD. In future, we will be free to make films for anyone else, but we will no longer be given a guaranteed sum of money: we will have to be self-sufficient."

There have been great changes recently at SSVC to reflect this. The organisation has been slimmed down "to compete with any commercial company". Anne is aware many Army units who have been dealing with SSVC for years might go elsewhere.

"I think it's good that it is a fair market, but I am concerned that inexperienced people may not know what they are being

charged for. One or two units who have their own funds have tried other sources, but have come back here straight away. There is a certain feeling of trust.

"Also, we have a library of archive material which can be re-used. We can take take shots of, say, Challenger 2 or Warrior off the shelf and know exactly how it will fit in, because we have filmed it."

Making the video is not the end of the story when units are using an outside concern. Distribution is another aspect which has to be considered, since technical advisers will either have to arrange this themselves or ask the production company concerned.

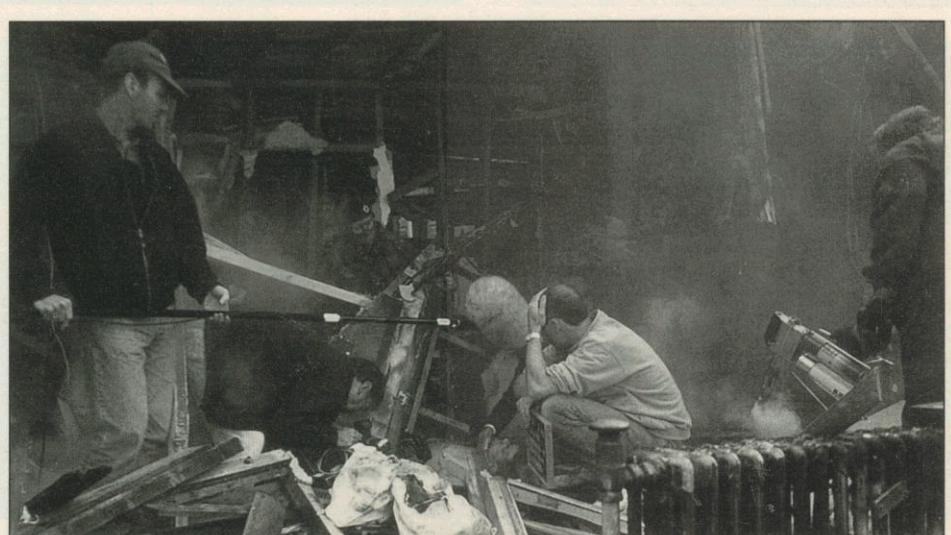
After April, one natural avenue for SSVC Productions to pursue would be making training films for the defence manufacturing market using already established contacts, Mrs Carroll confirmed.

Because the defence manufacturer often sold on to the MoD, as in the case of Challenger 2, people would need training on the product as a part of the package.

"There is an advantage in SSVC having had long experience in dealing with the Army's training requirements. It is not as simple as it sounds to make a training film and not make it boring," she said.

"A lot of people in the Army were of the mistaken impression that, because of disaggregation, SSVC doesn't exist anymore."

"As you can see, we are very much alive and kicking."



Organised chaos: SSVC Productions team at work on *Aftermath - Post-Incident Procedure*, a training video about a terrorist explosion. Buildings were blown up to make it realistic

Sappers on target at Peat Fell Range

A new firing range at Catterick Garrison is expected to cut by half the time needed to train new recruits in weapons skills, writes James Gaskin.

The new Peat Fell Range on the Bellerby training area is the first in the United Kingdom to be purpose-built for the Army's new Automatic Marking System, although other ranges have been converted to accommodate the computerised system.

It allows the trainee soldier to have a monitor beside him on the firing point, enabling him to correct and improve his aim almost instantly. The target has an inbuilt sound sensor to indicate precisely where it was hit.

Time-saving scheme

No longer will young soldiers at Catterick's Infantry Training Centre, which puts all infantry recruits through their specialist training, have to waste time on checking targets.

The mammoth scheme was designed and built by 39 Engineer Regiment from Waterbeach, Cambridge, and was expected to be broadly completed by Christmas. A little landscaping remains to be done in the New Year.

Sappers from 60 HQ and Support Squadron designed the range and their colleagues in 48 Field Squadron (Air Support) were the construction force working for the Catterick Army Field Training Centre.

Cost of the Royal Engineers doing the work was £701,000, against £1,500,000 quoted by civilian contractors. "This is a great saving for the Treasury," said Maj John Miller, officer commanding 48 Field Squadron.

The 600m electric target range has a control building built on a re-inforced concrete raft with service ducts for control and power.

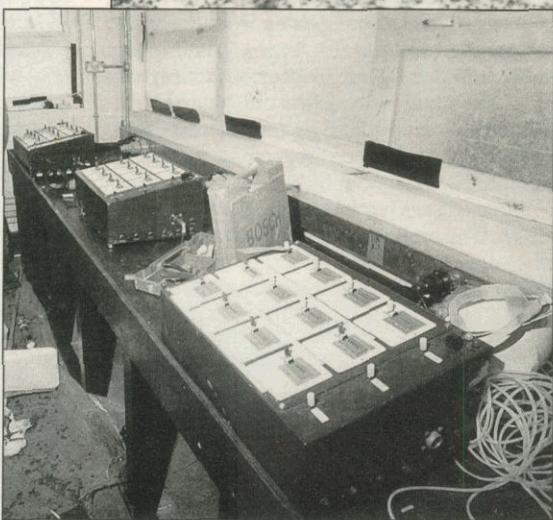
Constructing the range floor meant removing 24,000 square metres of top-soil and 33,000 square metres of subsoil.

And, for the sake of environmental harmony, heathers and grass seeds will be planted next year so the land can quickly return to its former glory.

"We are also protecting the ground from pollution by putting in seals to prevent fuel from leaking," explained Maj Miller.

The project has been made further acceptable by the use of Barbary Buff stonework and pheasant egg grey paint-work. And the range floor has been designed so as not to be visible to people enjoying the surrounding countryside.

Maj Miller had about 120 men on the



Above - Looking over the fire pits, in which VDU screens will be installed, are (from left) Maj John Miller, Sgt Maj Geoff Hartill and WO2 Ashley Bowland

Left - The target control room under construction

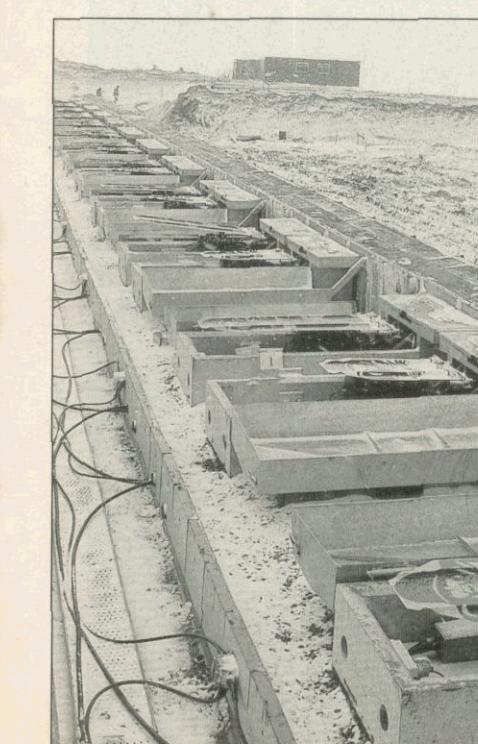
control building with its computerised target moving, the target store, workshop and mantlet, and refurbished an existing troop shelter.

In addition, engineers have had to lay on electricity to the buildings, drill a well and put in a filtration plant for the water supply.

To reduce the chance of soldiers having to lie on water-logged ground, the sappers dug in 4.5km of herringbone drainage to keep firing points as dry as possible.

The squadron carries the "Air Support" part of its title to denote its usual task of providing the basic needs of an operational RAF station. "We lay and maintain the runways, electrical systems, the hangars and the fuel systems," said Maj Miller.

Now his remaining task is to persuade the powers-that-be to change the range name to "Beaver" Peat Fell Range so that it embraces the squadron's official emblem following its tour of duty in Canada.



Computerised targets under construction



Sgts Thomas Gorman (left) and Ken McIlveen of the Royal Military Police have volunteered for a six-month tour with their Regular counterparts in Bosnia

Terriers get their hand in for Bosnia

PART-TIME soldiers from across Northern Ireland have staged a major Bosnian-style humanitarian exercise, a scenario which for some of them could soon become all too real.

A number of specialist Terriers attached to medical and engineering units are considering volunteering for a six month tour with their Regular counterparts.

Some soldiers have already made up their mind and are likely to be going to former Yugoslavia just after Christmas. They include Sgt Thomas Gorman and Sgt Ken McIlveen who serve with 254 Royal Military Police (Volunteers) based at Holywood in County Down.

When a signal came through asking for volunteers the two had no hesitation.

"It's what we have been training for," said Sgt Gorman. "There is no point putting in all that work if we aren't prepared to use it for real."

Taking their TA talents to the front line is nothing new for the duo, who are known among their friends as "The Management". They joined the Territorial Army on the same day 11 years ago,



TA engineers clear mines from rough ground during Exercise First Relief in Scotland

both got their sergeants' stripes at the same time and volunteered together to serve in Germany for six months to allow their Regular counterparts there to take up duties in the Gulf.

As they count down the days to their Bosnia deployment they have been rehearsing their role on Exercise First Relief, which brought together units from across Northern Ireland to southwest Scotland.

Engineers with 74 (AA) Independent Field Squadron in Bangor joined combat medics from Belfast and Londonderry at Castle Kennedy and Glenluce in Wigtownshire to fine-tune their compatibility on a humanitarian exercise.

Over two intensive days engineers built bridges, cleared minefields and set up water points as combat medics processed and cared for refugees.

"It's important this sort of thing is as realistic as possible," said Maj Harry Walker of 74 Sqn. "We are giving soldiers the chance to work with other specialist services and we are giving them a taste of what could be expected if ever they were mobilised. There's no point in doing it in half measures."

WRITE TO

SOLDIER ORDNANCE ROAD ALDERSHOT HANTS GU11 2DU

Gurkha links with Indian Army

ON the subject of Indian Army ranks, your correspondent B H T Barlow-Poole seems to have jumped to the wrong conclusion regarding subedar-majors wearing only one crown.

Before 1935 officers with this title belonged to a group known as Indian Officer (ICs).

In 1935 they were re-titled Viceroy's Commissioned Officers (VCOs). Their rank devices were the same as those worn by British officers.

Subedar-majors wore a single crown, subedars wore two Bath-type stars and jemadars wore two Bath-type stars.

The title subedar (also spelt subadar) referred to the Infantry; risalder was substituted for those in the cavalry. Their status was designated by their mode of uniform, which had a stand-up collar.

This system led to confusion when other styles of uniforms were worn. Therefore in June 1941 rank insignia for shirt-sleeve order was altered.

For a subedar-major the

insignia on the shoulder slip-on consisted of three horizontal, stripe-like ribbons of red upon each of which was placed a miniature silver crown.

Subedars had two similar ribbons, on each of which was a miniature silver Bath-type star and jemadars had one ribbon and one star.

This unusual arrangement proved unpopular and was, again, altered in September 1945. The old style of single crown and one or two stars was re-introduced but they were now worn above a single hori-

zontal ribbon at the base of the slip-on and shoulder-strap.

After partition, as stated by John Gaylor, these ranks were surprisingly retained as junior commissioned officers. On India becoming a republic in 1950 the crown was replaced by the Pillar of Asoka and the stars became five-pointed.

In 1968 the title jemadar was replaced by naib-subedar.

A similar system survives in British Gurkha regiments. From January 1948 these were known as King's Gurkha Officers, later becoming Queen's

Gurkha Officers (QGOs). Their rank insignia is worn on a single ribbon worn centrally the length of the shoulder-strap or slip-on. It is 14mm wide and its 1mm central red stripe has a 2mm black stripe spaced either side.

Majors (QGO) wear a single black crown, captains (QGO) three black Bath stars and lieutenants (QGO) two black Bath stars. — Lt Cdr W M Thornton RNR (Rtd), Publicity Officer, Indian Military Historical Society, Southall, Middx.

Tobruk gunners deserve record

SO THE gunners of 19 Regiment RA, dug in on Mt Igman, claimed to have broken a First World War record after spending 65 days in the field at the same spot (*Soldier* Oct 16).

Perhaps they are forgetting that the heavy ack ack guns in Tobruk in 1941 remained in the same gunpits for many months

and were served throughout by the same gun teams, or what was left of them.

It was also one of the rare occasions when circumstances turned terriers into rats. In a broadcast Lord Haw Haw stated: "You are very close to mother earth, you rats of Tobruk".

● Correspondent M J Tanner, of Reigate, Surrey, put in a counter-claim in our Oct 30 issue for 137 Bty, 40 Lt Regt RA, which served in Borneo for 12 months, 1965-66, with only a short R and R break. — Editor

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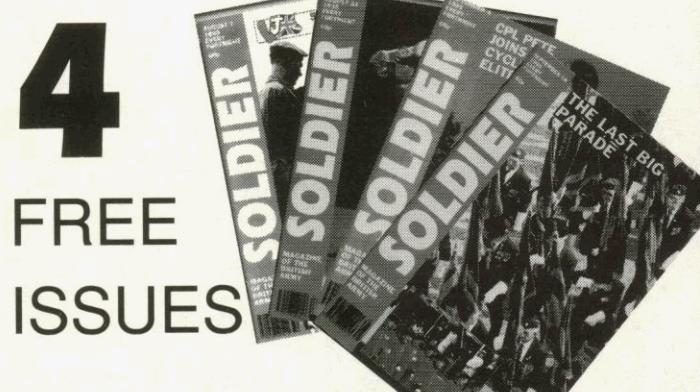
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BIRD'S EYE-VIEW



"...When I said 2 Para was to leave its mark... I meant in the best possible way..."

● 2 Para in Egypt — Pages 22-25

We never forget El Alamein here . . .

WITH reference to "Never forget El Alamein" (Letters, Nov 27), on the Sunday nearest October 23 there is always a reunion church service and inspection of the El Alamein and Eighth Army veterans at Enham Alamein, just north of Andover, Hants.

It takes place in the Eighth Army Church adjacent to the British El Alamein Museum, and more than 100 veterans took part in the 1995 service.

The occasion was also the 50th anniversary and celebration of the generous donation by the Government and people of Egypt which enabled the village and workshops to be set up in memory of the liberation of Egypt from the German occupation and threat to Alexandria and Cairo.

All veterans of El Alamein and the Eighth Army are welcome to the service and the local Royal British Legion branch provides a buffet lunch and tea in the Enham Alamein RBL Hall. Prior warning of attendance is always appreciated.

Anyone who wants an illustrated booklet about the Eighth Army Church should send me a stamped, addressed envelope. — John Woods, Elm Farm, Landford, Salisbury SP5 2BE.

WOs: the good, the average and the rest

AS A recently retired AGC(SPS) Warrant Officer Class 1, I was interested in the comments of Sgt M G Lerpinier (Letters, Dec 11) on the conduct of "that" sergeant major in the *Redcaps* TV documentary.

I feel quite certain that he was not alone in his judgement. In my view, taken at face value the warrant officer in question demonstrated a distinct lack of professionalism and might have justified a disrepute charge.

However, I think any criticism should be tempered by the fact that the person in question was involved in an entertainment programme and may have been asked to perform for camera.

In addition, I must take issue with Sgt Lerpinier's rather shallow inference that, following the "performance" of this character in a TV documentary, line regiment warrant officers are more

professional than their corps counterparts.

Warrant officers fill a wide variety of management positions throughout the Services and, as in most professions, there are good managers, average managers, and managers

of questionable parentage. I would find it difficult to believe that, during his long career, Sgt Lerpinier has not met at least one infantry sergeant major from the last category! — T W Anderson, London SE4.

CONCERN ABOUT THE REGIMENTAL SYSTEM

OVER the years we have seen fundamental changes take place within the regimental system of the British Army, the most recent being under Options for Change.

Now we need more men, and to that end soldiers are being offered financial inducement to remain in the Army for longer periods.

I believe most infantry regiments are undermanned and I

have read reports that the concept of a corps of infantry is being considered, although this appears to have been ruled out by the MoD.

I wonder if, in view of the many changes that have taken place, others like me have grave concerns on this issue. I would be interested in setting up a watchdog group and would value the views of your readers. — R McAdam, 141

At last, Ilkeston honours Pte Allen

PTE Brian Allen of the 1st Battalion, The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment, shot and killed in Crossmaglen Square, Northern Ireland alongside his section commander, Cpl Steve Windsor, on November 6, 1974, will not be forgotten.

His name – and that of Pte Joseph Minchin, killed in Ireland in 1920 – was added to the war memorial in his home town of Ilkeston, Derbyshire, just in time for the Remembrance Day parade on November 12.

It was an emotional occasion for Pte Allen's family, friends and ex-DERR comrades who laid wreaths in his memory and that of Pte Minchin, Royal Lincolnshire Regiment, killed by Sinn Fein activists in Tipperary. Also there was Pte Mick (Noddy) Walters, seriously injured in the same incident in which Pte Allen died.

But behind the proud moment lay years of frustration and hard campaigning. When Pte Allen's family first asked the local council for permission to have Brian's name engraved on the memorial, it was refused.

They wrote to Buckingham Palace and 10 Downing Street, obtained the support of their local MP, and contacted the media. The council wouldn't budge.

Then former 1 DERR company clerk Mick Smith took up the cudgels, wrote a protest song, bom-



They would not forget: Mick Walters (left), badly wounded in the Crossmaglen Square ambush that killed Pte Brian Allen, inspects the two new names engraved on the Ilkeston war memorial. With him is campaigner Mike Smith, former 1 DERR company clerk. Right: The late Pte Brian Allen, 1 DERR

barded the council with letters and refused to let the issue fade away.

Ilkeston's Royal British Legion joined in, contributing £300 and raising the total to nearly £840. Under pressure from the widespread response, Erewash BC relented... and the names of Pte Brian Allen and Pte Joseph Minchin were added.

Eventually the local authority had second thoughts, costed the additions at £1,370 and said it would consider paying half.

Mike's appeal for funds brought an instant response: DERR Headquarters and several regimental associations responded, as did the RGBW Associations. A car boot sale raised £126 and local people chipped in. The officers

and men of Cyprus-based 1 RGBW sent a generous donation.

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Cadets do it the Green Howards way

TWELVE cadets from Scarborough College Combined Cadet Force were given hands-on experience of British Army battlefield equipment when they spent a week training with soldiers of the 1st Battalion, The Green Howards at Belfast Barracks in Osnabrück.

They familiarised themselves with the small arms trainer, fired SA80s and 9mm pistols and completed a march and shoot competition against St Edmund's School CCF, which was visiting the neighbouring Queen's Royal Lancers.

Scarborough College CCF is capabaged and affiliated to the Green Howards who have recently completed a tour in East Tyrone, Northern Ireland.

The regiment is currently converting to Warrior.

Brits' breakfast breakthrough

WE hear the Mostar headquarters of the United Nations Multinational Brigade served up its first British breakfast on November 13. Soldiers were dragged from their tents by the unmistakable smell of bacon and eggs wafting through the early morning mist. In the kitchen were two British and one French chef.

In a brigade which prides itself on integrating soldiers from three nations, the breakfast queue was no exception. British, Dutch and French soldiers were soon waiting in line with equal enthusiasm.

Eggs and bacon marked a departure from the brigade's French catering tradition. Master Chef WO Ray Donovan

was responding to requests for something to warm the inner man as colder weather affected appetites. French chef Thomas Michau said: "I love British breakfasts. I trained in Ireland and got a taste for them there."

First man in the queue, Cpl Alan Coe of 2 RRF, had no doubts. "I love it now we've got proper bacon and eggs. It sets you up for the day."

A 95-year-old Victorian cookhouse in Imphal Barracks, York, has been renovated and extended in keeping with its original design. The Kohima Restaurant was reopened by Maj Gen Patrick Cordingley, GOC 2 Div, on December 4.

HONOURED: Tribute was paid to the 1,078 British Korean War dead during an act of remembrance at St Paul's on November 10. Wreaths were laid on behalf of the Korean people, the Royal British Legion and the British Korean Veterans' Association. Later, Mr S R Choi, head of Korean conglomerate Samsung Europe, presented a cheque for £600,000, of which £500,000 will be used to establish a scholarship for descendants of RBL members to study in Korea, and £100,000 will go to the British Korean Veterans' Association Relief Fund.

LONG SERVER: Retired officer Maj John Jessop, who began his career as a boy trumpeter in 1946, bade farewell to full-time work at Imphal Barracks, York, in December. After joining the Royal Engineers, John transferred to the Royal Army Educational Corps in 1949. Involved in the education and training services at the barracks since 1987, he will continue to be deputy curator and treasurer of the Kohima Museum.

No... it wasn't my Dad's

WO2 (QMSI) Richard Ciereszko of the Small Arms School Corps brought home a trophy from the El Alamein battlefield which he visited on exercise with 2 Para recently – a Tommy's helmet.

But he knew it wasn't his Dad's, he said. Dad needed his at Monte Cassino.

WO2 Ciereszko's father, Julian, was captured when the Russians invaded Poland in 1939. Polish Army officers were massacred in the Katyn forest and their men were put in concentration camps until the Russians turned to the Poles for help during the German invasion of 1941.

"Many then made their way to Persia and fought with the Eighth Army, liberating Tobruk and chasing the Germans out of Sicily and Italy," he said.

His father served with the 15th Poznanski Uhlans' recce and discovered Mussolini's dress uniforms in a house. He "liberated" a golden pen, and has been kicking himself ever since for not taking more.



REUNIONS

Coldstream Guards drummers: Reunion planned for past and present drummers from the regiment. Those interested are asked to send a stamped, addressed envelope to F P Horsfall, Daydream, 222 Leigh Hunt Drive, Southgate, London N14 6DS.

16 Signal Regiment: Anyone who served in the regiment in the 1960s is asked to contact Chris Bartlett who is arranging a reunion. SAE for details to 45 Whitehouse Road, Leigh on Sea, Essex SS9 5SR.

5 Kings - 2 T Force OCA mini reunions to be held in Liverpool, Wolverhampton and London during March. Contact K U G Moore, The Granary, Church Road, Bacton NR12 0JP (tel 01692 651086).

28/143 Battery (Tombs's Troop) RA: Anniversary reunion weekend to mark the formation of 28 Battery will take place March 1-2. Former members of 28 or 143 Btys wish-

ing to attend should contact the Battery Captain, 28/143 Battery (Tombs's Troop), 19 Regiment Royal Artillery, Kirklee Barracks, Colchester, Essex CO7 2UJ (tel 01206 783020).

No 4 Coy, 3rd Bn Coldstream Guards (1950-55): Fourth reunion dinner to be held in Birmingham, April 13. Details from Harry Westgarth, 49 Rokey Park, Hull HU4 7QE (tel 01482 503649).

RAMC/RADC WOs' and Sgts' Past and Present Dinner Club: 1996 dinner and reunion is to be held on June 1 at Keogh Barracks, Aldershot. Details from WO1 (RSM) G B L Bell RAMC, Army Medical Group Training Group, Keogh Barracks, Ash Vale, Aldershot, Hants GU12 5RQ.

RE Rowing Club: 150th anniversary reunion lunch, July 5 at Henley Royal Regatta. Details from Lt Col J M Heron, 73 Engr Regt (V), T A Centre, Wigman Road, Bilborough, Nottingham

APPOINTMENTS

Brigadier: R F Mendham – To MoD, Nov 20; M J Roycroft – To MoD, Nov 22; A M D Palmer – To MoD, Dec 4; D C N Shaw – To be Commander HQ 42 (NW) Bde, Dec 8; J M Shaw – To HQ ARRC, Dec 5.

Colonels: P C Cook – To be Comd HQ Episkopi Garrison, Nov 24; R V Kelly – To MoD, Nov 20; M J N Richards – To HQ Land South East (BAE), Nov 21; C W Paskell – To be Comdt SEME, Nov 27; S D Young – To MoD, Nov 27; R J Griffiths – To MoD, Dec 1.

T Cross – To MoD, Dec 6; H M Fletcher – To Staff College, Dec 4; T J Ludlam – To be Comdt Engineer Resources, Dec 4; M A D Donnithorne-Tait – To MoD, Dec 4;

C C Wilson – To HQ AFNorthwest (BAE), Dec 4.

Lt Cols: W A Bailey RE – To HQ MNDC, Nov 24; I Beck SG – To RHC, Nov 20; J C D Cook, RACChD – To HQ BFHK, Nov 22; P Firth RLC – To HQ RLC TA, Nov 23; K R Pople AAC – To HQ Land, Nov 22; A F Thomson REME – To HQ Land, Nov 22.

P V Budd RLC – To HQ Land, Nov 30; J S M Edwards RHF – To HQ Land, Nov 27; E G Happe RA – To P & E Shoeburyness, Nov 27; R A James, R Signals – To MoD, Nov 27; R A E Legg KOSB – To AP & DO Edinburgh, Nov 27; J Longland RLC – To Log Cen USA, Dec 2; A P Philip REME – To MoD, Nov 27.

J R J Baxter RA – To MoD, Dec 4; S K E Clarke RE – To BMM Kuwait, Dec 6; G Gillot RLC – To MoD, Dec 4; R C Lloyd RWF – To MoD, Dec 4; R C Lloyd-Williams LI – To BDS Washington, Dec 8; A W B Loudon BW – To be CO 1 BW, Dec 6; D J McLean, R Signals – To R Sch of Sigs, Dec 4; P B Neale, R Signals – To MoD, Dec 4; P Parfitt, R Signals – To MoD, Dec 4; A H Symmons, R Signals – To R Sch of Sigs, Dec 4; W G Withers RLC – To be CO Cat Gp RLC, Dec 4.

Retirements

Colonel: A M H Joscelyne, late Gren Gds, Dec 1; D A Beveridge, late Queens, Dec 12.

DATES

Until January 21: D-Day Dodgers exhibition, Italy 1943-45, National Army Museum.

1996

February
14-16: Royal Marines' Mountbatten Festival of Music, Royal Albert Hall. Ticket office 01705 547205.
25: Battlefields Trust study day on "The Common Soldier in British Battles", Europe House, nr the Tower, London. Bookings on 01203 350763.

May

4-6: Aldershot Show.
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 Parade, 2130.
● To include public events in this diary, contact the Editor.

GULF SERVICE

A PLAQUE bearing the names of the 47 British Servicemen who died during the Gulf War is to be unveiled at a service of dedication in St Paul's Cathedral on February 28. Applications to attend can be made in writing to the MOD, Room 6/76, Metropole Building, Northumberland Avenue, London WC2N 5BL (fax 0171 218 9384) or the British Memorial Fund-Kuwait, PO Box 67274, Bayan 43763, Kuwait (fax 00965 5398520).

SEARCHLINE

News sought of Keith Rose, son of **LCpl Mary Rose ATS**, who died in a road accident involving 20 ATS women at Veltem-Beisem, Belgium on January 13, 1945, aged 24. Her home address at the time was thought to be Harrowby Place, Birmingham. Mrs Jeanne Servranckx, Drieboekstraat 114, B-2180 Antwerp-Ekeren, Belgium, has discovered in the papers of her late mother (with whom LCpl Rose's parents stayed on a number of occasions) photo-

graphs of Mary, her friends, unit and grave, and wishes to pass them on to her son.

Army service details or memories (particularly Burma campaign) of the late **4619772 Pte Thomas Fearon**, and his colleague **Harry Hull**, sought by nephew. Thomas Fearon served March 1940-Feb 1946 in India, Ceylon and Burma with **2nd and 7th Bns, Border Regiment**, as, it is believed, did Harry Hull. Replies to James Neeson, 441 Ballyoran Park, Portadown, Co Armagh BT62 1JX.

Mrs R Blay, 50 Perkins Avenue, Margate, Kent CT9 4AX, seeks help in tracing Service records of her late father, **George Cripps 5390522, Ox and Bucks Light Infantry**. He served in India Aug 42-March 44, and Burma March 44-April 45.

CLOSURE

Due to closure of **50 Hong Kong Workshop REME** on November 30, 1996, anyone who has made a presentation to the unit and would like it returned should contact Drawdown Project Officer, 50 Hong Kong Workshop REME, Malaya Lines, BFPO 1 (tel 24837652/24837657).

Life and times of an SAS soldier

ANDY McNab's first book, *Bravo Two Zero*, chronicled his time as a prisoner of the Iraqis during the Gulf War.

It proved a big hit with the British public, topped the best sellers' list for several months, and has, so far, sold more than 1,500,000 copies.

Now McNab (not his real name) has written an earthy account of his military career from enlistment as an infantry junior leader, through service with the Royal Green Jackets to the Special Air Service Regiment.

Immediate Action was the subject of an injunction by the Ministry of Defence after he had submitted a copy of the manuscript and invited the MoD's comments on security matters. "I just wanted to make sure they were happy with my story and that I wouldn't be putting former colleagues at risk," he said.

Despite his experience, he remains convinced of the need for legislation to control ex-Servicemen and women writing books which compromise the Armed Forces.

He believes a set procedure should be laid down under which manuscripts are submitted so that the MoD can make recommendations to authors.

"If they then overstep the line, the MoD should be granted the right of injunction."

In an interview with *Soldier*, McNab talked candidly about the SAS. He said its soldiers were reassured by the knowledge that should they be disabled on active service, it might not mean the end of their service with the regiment.

"They have a lot of useful experience and they can fulfil roles in the ops room, in the collation of intelligence, and as interpreters. I know a one-legged trooper and another with a false arm who have gone on active service."

"There is a wonderful photo of a squadron warrant officer and a soldier on a mountaineering course practising knots, and they have only a



Andy McNab (rear) with his anti-drug cartel team in South America

Immediate Action by Andy McNab. Bantam Press, hardback, £15.99 or less.

couple of fingers between them."

A photograph in the book shows McNab and a colleague leaning against a wall in a hard-line Republican estate in Northern Ireland. They were there to monitor the activities of key terrorists.

"The real stress comes when you go into a 'hard' area searching for a 'player' with a weapon or bomb."

McNab tells of his part in one of the first strikes against drug cartels in Latin America. It almost ended in disaster.

He spent time in the Middle East on standby to rescue hostages John McCarthy and Terry Waite, and recalls a time when the whole regiment was poised to take part in a D-Day-style landing to protect British nationals in the Lebanon.

The timely arrival of *Britannia* to evacuate civilians made the operation unnecessary.

The regiment has always had a mix of troops. Many are from the Commonwealth and it now has its first Gurkha.

Having different nationalities on the books enhanced operational capabilities, said McNab. "Samoa or Fijian SAS troopers blend in better on a tropical island than sunburnt Brits looking like half-cooked chips."

Beside his writing projects, he works with a company which prepares journalists,

cameramen and photographers for dangerous areas such as Bosnia and Afghanistan.

"TV news organisations want shots of fighting. I help to explain the battlefield to them and teach them what is happening, where they want to be to get better pictures and when it is time to run away."

"A Canadian cameraman who attended one of our courses stemmed the flow of blood long enough to reach safety after being shot. Another saved two wounded children in Bosnia through knowledge gained on the course."

McNab is already thinking about his next book, a novel, but must first finish a film-script of *Bravo Two Zero* for the BBC.

He has no firm idea of what form the plot will take, but is sure the Special Forces will figure somewhere. "Truth is stranger than fiction, so rest assured that I will be drawing on my own experiences." - LM

Book briefs

Binoculars, Opera Glasses and Field Glasses by Fred Watson. Their history and how they work, by an astronomer. Shire Album 317, £2.25.

Paragliding: The Complete Guide by Noel Whittall. Illustrated handbook to the sport. Springfield Books, hardback, £17.95.

Going Hostile by Barry Davies. Novel "based on a real, long-running duel between an SAS man and a Palestinian terrorist". Bloomsbury, hardback, £15.99.

A light on Special Services

IN THE beginning were the Jedburghs, an undercover guerrilla force of American, British and French officers, organised by the US Office of Strategic Services (OSS) with specific orders to "get Hitler".

The plans to carry out this daring scheme in 1945 are revealed in *Twilight Warriors - Inside the World's Special Forces*.

Freelance journalist and writer Martin C Arostegui, born in Manila and now resident in Spain, kicks off at a tremendous rate with this account to capture Hitler at all costs.

The man chosen to lead the Jedburgh (named after ancient Scottish warriors)

Twilight Warriors by Martin C Arostegui. Bloomsbury, hardback, £16.99.

was Capt Aaron Bank, now 90 and living in San Clemente, California.

Arostegui goes on to tell of the formation of the SAS in the Middle East in 1941, how their fame spread around the Army and among the enemy, and how men flocked to join, including many from the French Foreign Legion, the Greek resistance and "even knife-wielding cut-throats from Middle Eastern mafia gangs".

Churchill, he suggests, was much impressed by their success rate, not surprising since Arostegui's description of their exploits leaves the antics of James Bond way out in the cold.

From the SAS - of which there is a good deal - he zooms in on the Royal Navy's Special Boat Squadron, the USA's Delta Force and the US Navy's anti-terrorist unit SEALs, the Green Berets and Rangers, the Australian SAS, Germany's GSG9 and France's GIGN.

What many of these initials stand for is unclear, but suffice to say this is such an exciting read it really doesn't matter. - JM



COMPETITION 627

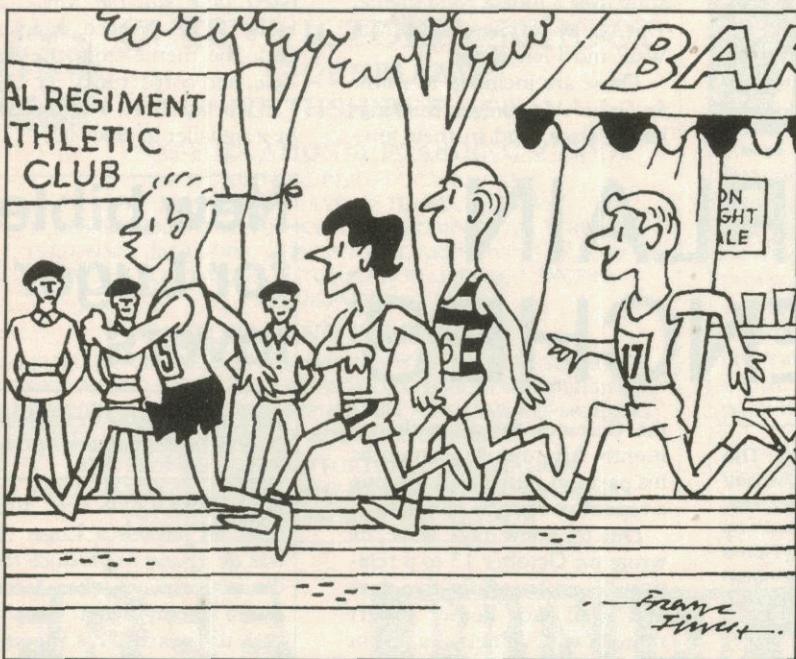
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your envelope. More than one entry can be submitted but photocopies cannot be accepted. The first correct entries drawn will be the winners. No correspondence of any kind can be entered into.

The names of the winner of the £50 first prize and two runners-up (awarded book prizes) will be announced in the February 19 issue.



Name : (Give rank or title)

Address :

Competition No 624: Congratulations to LCpl Sealey, Post NCO, QRL, Imphal Bks, BFPO 36, who wins £50. Book prizes go to runners-up Mrs M Smith, of Tiverton, Devon, and WO1 (SSM) Cooper AGC (SPS), RPO Chester.

Spirited love letters from a Phantom

THERE are many reasons why the personal correspondence of famous people creates interest. One is a genuine desire to know what two people – in this case a married couple – had to say to each other; another, of course, is plain nosiness for any juicy bits.

Not that there's any wanton lust in *Always and Always*, the wartime letters of Hugh and Margaret Williams (née Vyner, equally famous as a beautiful model and actress) just a mutually expressed need, like millions of others at that time, to be together.

Hugh Williams was a

famous actor (father of today's Simon Williams) who up to 1939 had appeared in 35 films as well as Broadway and West End starring roles.

His glittering career was put on hold when he enlisted as a private in a London TA unit in April 1939, transferring to the 8th Battalion, The Devonshire Regiment two days before war was declared. Six

months later he was commissioned, only to find himself guarding Staines Bridge and defending the Sussex coast at Bexhill-on-Sea.

A short break from this tedium provided the opportunity to make three morale-boosting films before returning to duty in 1942 and an attachment to Phantom (3 GHQ Liaison Regiment), "the eyes

Always and Always
edited by Kate Dunn. John Murray, hardback, £19.99.

and ears of the British Army behind enemy lines".

Phantom had around 1,000 men split into groups of scout-car patrols equipped with wireless and pigeons.

The group's role was to penetrate enemy defences and pass back information to commanders. It was a dangerous job, but Williams, anxious for action, joined this covert outfit serving in Tunisia, Italy, France and Germany. He survived the war and died in 1969, aged 65.

The letters, if you can stand the sentimentality, make interesting reading. – JM

Coldstreamers' tour de force

WHO BETTER to perform a salute to London Town than a Guards band? They have traipsed its streets and played in its cathedrals, parks and historic places.

The fact that a well-known march, *Royal Windsor*, appears on the programme is merely because a Guards band's workload is such that, like the tourist, if it's Tuesday, it must be Buckingham Palace – or is it Windsor Castle?

We are taken on a grand tour starting with Albert Ketelbey's *Cockney Suite*, a bandstand favourite of former years with its *Appy Amstead* jollifications cocking a snook at A State Procession. *Westminster Waltz*, *Birdcage Walk* of course, *Covent Garden*, and *Knightsbridge* are all visited via Robert Farnon, Arnold Steck and Eric Coates.

The *Nightingale Sings in*

MUSIC/RODNEY BASHFORD

● London Salute – Band of the **Coldstream Guards**. Conductor: Maj D Marshall. Bandleader, BNA 5119, CD £12 or cassette £7.60. From Sound and Picture Co, PO Box 177, Dorking, Surrey RH5 5FE.

Berkeley Square, Gershwin has *A Foggy Day in London Town*, and a solo clarinet has a night *On the Town*.

Then there is what must be the very first recording of Elgar's lovely overture *Cockaigne (In London Town)* by a military band, leading to a finale which visits *The Royal Hospital* at Chelsea, the *Guards on Parade* almost anywhere, and the regimental march *Milanollo*.

Very tiring for a tourist, but don't miss this tour of our capital city by expert guides looking for no tips.

● The Signaller – Band of the **Royal Corps of Signals**. Conductor: Maj D F Wall. From Bandleader, BNA 5114, CD £12 and cassette £7.60. From Sound and Picture Co, PO Box 177, Dorking, Surrey RH5 5FE.

AN AMBITIOUS and well played disc comes from the home of the **Royal Signals**, Blandford Forum. Much of the music has corps associations, adding up to a varied and unhackneyed programme.

Marches first, and they are the corps' quick and slow marches, and excellent examples in *The Signaller*, which aptly uses a Morse code theme, *The Master (of Signals)* by Maj Wall, and *Vimy Ridge*.

These are included in *Music for Guard Mounting* at Buckingham Palace, and in their fore-

court "concert for the tourists" are included *The Donkey Serenade* and *Lassus Trombone*.

This music was actually played in June when the Corps celebrated its 75th anniversary.

Philip Sparke's *Jubilee Overture* is also in the mood of celebration and precedes a series of solo items. *Londonderry Air* on saxophone, *Largo al Factotum* on tuba, *Nessun Dorma* on cornet, a Mozartian *Rondo for Horns*, *The Carnival of Venice* for two euphoniums, and a *Concerto for Drum set*. There is even a *Blandford Suite* by the band's librarian.

The programme ends with a concise history of the corps narrated over suitable music by Holst (*The Winged Messenger*), the theme from the film *Zulu*, and corps' tunes.

A worthy effort. You need not be a signaller to enjoy it.

ARMY CHAPLAIN IN THE TRENCHES

CHAPLAINS held a unique place in the British Army in the two world wars. Holding commissioned rank and attached to the officers' mess, they ministered to all and shared the dangers and discomforts of action.

This was particularly true of chaplains of the First World War. There were just over 100 padres with the Army in 1914 and nearly 3,500 four years later. The story of one of the uniformed clergymen is vividly told in *The Best of Good Fellows*.

The Rev Charles Edmund Doudney, from Bath, became an Army chaplain on April 7, 1915. He was determined to maintain links with home by letters to his family and through reports published in the *Bath and Wilts Chronicle*.

Initially he was posted to a base hospital at Rouen where his daily programme was reasonably civilised.

In May, Charlie's "quiet life at No 8 General Hospital" was rudely disturbed by orders to join the 18th Infantry Brigade (6th Division) to be attached to 2nd Durham Light Infantry in the Ypres area.

Under shellfire in Ypres he showed a boyish enthusiasm:

The Best of Good Fellows: The Diaries and Memoirs of the Rev Charles Edmund Doudney, MA, CF (1871-1915) compiled by Jonathon Horne. Jonathon Horne Publications, 66c Kensington Church Street, London W8 4BY, hardback, £18.95 plus £2 p&p.

"What were my feelings? Well, I hardly knew. It was certainly very exciting and very interesting but it was so unreal that one hardly knew that one's own personality was moving through it."

Later he was to walk alone through Ypres at night. "But now it was silent and deserted and the roofless houses stood gaunt and ghastly."

"Everywhere, now and then, a stench coming from some cellar or ruin told of dead people as yet unburied."

That last line gives a clue to how Charlie's feelings were changing. He was seeing the raw side of trench warfare with its daily burial services and horrendously wounded men.

During the Battle of Hooge, he worked in a dressing station at Vlamertinghe. By October he had not written anything for

the *Chronicle* for more than a month. After nearly six months his pastoral duties had become a repetitive routine of horror.

Due for a few days' leave, he wrote on October 13 to a relative: "I am let off for five days and shall race home. I start tomorrow ... There is a lion in the path of all this joy as I have to go to the trenches tonight to bury eight men."

While riding on the step of an ambulance to the trenches he was hit by shrapnel. Taken to No 10 Casualty Clearing Hospital near Abeele, south-west of Poperinghe, he died three days later after less than seven months' service as a chaplain.

Charlie's replacement was Tubby Clayton, founder of Talbot House in Poperinghe. Intended as a rest haven for soldiers irrespective of rank, rare at that time, it has grown into the Toc H organisation.

This well-designed and produced book is an apt tribute to the compiler's and publisher's grandfather, the Rev Charles Edmund Doudney. It also provides an insight into the way the Church organised and coped in those terrible times of 80 years ago. – BJ

New bible for Luger lovers

The Luger Story by John Walter. Greenhill Books, hardback, £19.95.

HOLLYWOOD'S best film spies all packed a Luger. It was *de rigueur* to produce the distinctive pistol when faced by an enemy agent, usually with the words: "Zis is going to 'urt you more zan me."

It became the best-known handgun in the world.

John Walter reveals in *The Luger Story* that the Luger has been around for nearly 100 years. Many are collectable and extremely expensive.

Although Germany was the country of origin, many were produced elsewhere. A company in America still makes them.

Its story is topped only by that of the famous Colt revolver popular in the 1830s.

Enthusiasts will find this book of great interest, as the author includes identification and valuation lists, in addition to a long bibliography.

More than 70 illustrations and several pages of detailed drawings show the component parts of the various types. – JM

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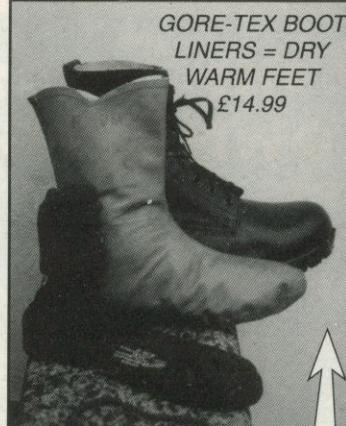
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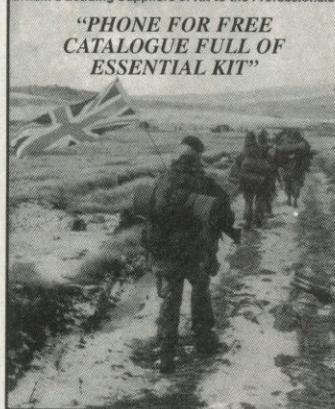
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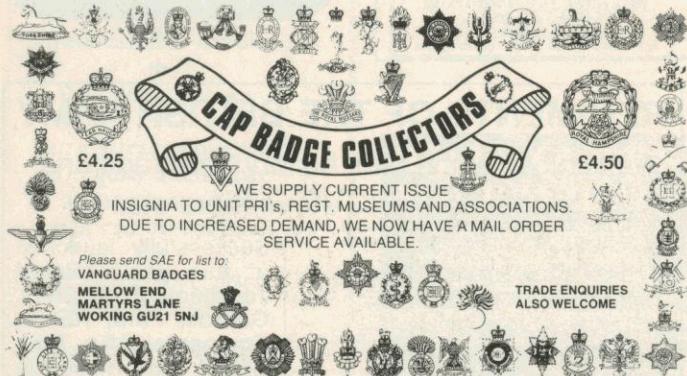
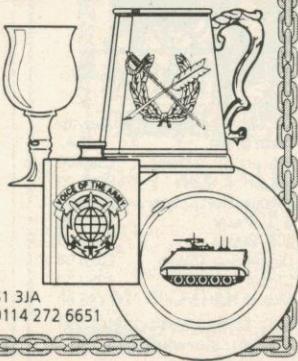


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NOVEMBER 25, 1995

Six-way tie for first prize (19 goals, £950 each) Cpl M W Blatchford, ITC Catterick; WO2 A E Hall, HQ Brunei Garrison, BFPO 11; Maj A S L Hutchinson, RMA Sandhurst; Sgt G A Miller, 280 (UK) Signal Sqn, BFPO 35; Cpl S J Monkhouse, 5 Regt RA Wksp REME, Catterick; Lt R Whiteoak, HQ Int Centre, Ashford.

Four-way tie for second prize (18 goals, £75 each) Sgt M Creer-Thornton, HQ Mil Wks Force, Chilwell; Lt A Dimmock, 40 Regt RA, BFPO 30; Capt R M Heward, Rhine Area Sp Unit, BFPO 40; Maj C D Hogan, 5 Regt AAC, BFPO 808.

DECEMBER 2, 1995

First prize (23 goals, £2,550 each) Sgt A Bartholomew, The Light Dragoons, BFPO 30.

Five-way tie for second prize (22 goals, £690 each) Sgt G A Bland, 15 Regt RLC, Donnington; Sgt M Brown, 12 Regt RA, BFPO 16; General Sir Charles Guthrie, MoD CGS; SSgt B Jones, ASMT, Leconfield; Capt S P St L Mieczkowski, ITC Catterick.

NB: Only 6 prizes this week. Rule 9 applies.

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DRIVING HIS WAY TO TOP

Capt James Sunderland RLC puts his class A rally car through its paces at Deepcut while getting in some early practice for the Colway British Championships in March.

Sunderland, serving with the Defence Postal and Courier Services Agency at Mill Hill, finished in the top ten in his first year on the circuit despite one non-start and an accident in the Scottish International. He won his class in every rally he completed.

But rallying is an expensive sport and to maintain his drive to the top, Sunderland is looking for sponsorship. Already supported by Auto Factors of Camberley, he is hoping to use his Mill Hill connections to link up with Parcel Force in time for the 1996 campaign.

For the next few months Capt Sunderland will be taking a more distant view of his sport. He has just left for the Falklands for a tour of duty as OC Postal and Courier Troop RLC at Mount Pleasant.



Pictures: Mike Perring

Another year and another championship

A GENERATION of Service boxing enthusiasts could be forgiven for believing the Army has a divine right to the Inter-Services team crown, writes John Elliott.

In this Olympic-truncated domestic season, the men in the red vests secured their 13th consecutive title when the team championship was decided by who won the most bouts at the Combined Services individual championships in HMS Nelson on December 6.

Final score: British Army 6; Royal Navy 3; Royal Air Force 3.

And all without team captain Cpl Chris Bessey (27 Regt RLC) who was in Dublin preparing for an England-Ireland international.

Army winners were Pte Peter Charlton (1 PWRR), the Service's first CSBA light-flyweight champion; Pte Kevin Bennett (7 Tpt Regt RLC); LCpl Vinny Powell (3 RSME); LCpl Jason Gardner (Int Corps); LBdr Vinny Jones (32 Regt RA); and Spr Danny Watts (36 Engr Regt). Jones and Watts received walk-overs.

There is a rare intensity when the Armed Forces meet in the ring, and this night was no exception. Courage and

stamina were tested to the full.

One who passed both examinations with distinction, but ended as a loser, was the inexperienced LBdr Andrew Jessiman from 7 (Para) RHA. He had the unenviable task of taking on the RAF's best boxer, SAC Owen Spensley. That he stayed three rounds with the ABA bantamweight finalist was a considerable achievement.

Powell, who will be hoping to make an impact on the light-welter division at national level, was another having his first competitive bout of the season. His work visibly improved as the fight went on and when he stepped up the pace in the final three minutes he got close to stopping a strong and willing opponent.

In his first bout of the season, middleweight Cpl Jeff Ollerhead (1 Kings) lost on points to the eccentric Mne Dean Edwards, whose confusing mixture of pace and power won him the best boxer award.

Featherweight LCpl Peter Williams, another Kingsman, was miles ahead on points when the dangerous Mne John Turner caught him with a right hook midway through the second round. A second right hook finished the contest.

Turner has won ten bouts out of ten, seven inside the distance, and has the potential to be a real force in Navy boxing.

Dvr Billy Bessey (27 Regt RLC) may consider himself unlucky to lose to Mne Aaron Walton on a split decision. Bessey showed surprising

mobility for a heavyweight and looked stronger as the fight went on.

Bennett, the lightweight, hurt Mne Jim Twycross with several searing body shots late in their first round. The Royal Marine took two standing counts and was retired.

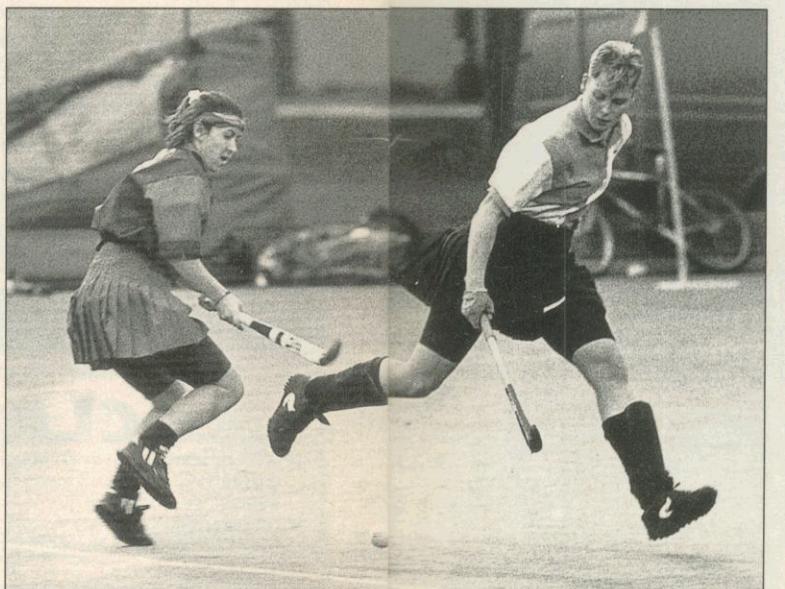
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RSM Tom O'Connor's successor as Army boxing coach is to be SSI Andy Edwards (APTC). With O'Connor a force behind the successful Kings team, he takes over in the new year.



Pictures: Mike Perring

Action from the Inter-Corps women's hockey tournament at Aldershot. Cpl Julie Blades (left) of the AGC team fails to stop Sig Amanda Smith of 3 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt

IT COULD BE YOU: Winners in the December 2 Army Sports Lottery include the Chief of the General Staff. Have you joined? Full results in Page 43.



Maj Paul Ford, Army women's Alpine ski team manager, receives the keys to a Monterey four-wheel drive vehicle from Operations Manager Debbie Holt at Vauxhall's Luton-based headquarters. Looking on are team members Capt Tanya Dennison (left) and Capt Ingrid Roldan. It is the second year that Vauxhall have supported the ski team by supplying a vehicle for their use on the European circuit.

Tough going for hard-pressed U21s

THE Army Under 21 rugby XV has enjoyed mixed fortunes, losing to Lancashire, Hertfordshire, Surrey and RMA Sandhurst, but achieving significant wins against the Royal Thai Army, Newbury and Reading.

There was also a drawn encounter against Exeter.

Team managers have had the usual difficulties in getting players released for training or even to play at the weekend, increasing operational demands on units have been felt, and a bad run of injuries has further depleted the ranks.

The Sunday fixture against

Surrey, on a high after beating Sussex, was a good example of the problems experienced in getting a representative side together.

No squad training was possible, and players were still being contacted on the morning of the game.

It was to the players' great credit that they held the rampant county XV to 11-3 at half time. Injuries and replacements playing out of position undermined the effort in the second half and Surrey ran in six tries for a 49-3 win.

But the final county game – against Sussex at Aldershot – was a nail-biting contest, the

visitors winning 16-13. Players not previously seen became available, including four from 1 RWF. Sussex led by two well-taken penalties before the dynamic Fus Kemble crashed over for a fine try, converted by Spr Griffiths.

The Army laid seige to the Sussex line and Griffiths converted two penalties.

But Sussex's heavier pack began to influence events and a penalty try awarded after the Army had prevented a push-over try saw their 13-6 advantage swallowed up.

The game was littered with injuries, the most bizarre of

Veterans a force to be respected

ARMY cross country veterans produced an outstanding team performance at the prestigious Safeway cross country races at Gateshead, writes Ted Turner.

Five of the Service's top over 40s lined up with 184 of the best vets in the country to compete over a flat three-lap

course of 5,200m punctuated by one steep 50m hill.

It was fast and furious from the gun, which suited the Army's newest veteran, sub-four minute miler Lt Col Glen Grant, who tucked in behind the leaders on the opening lap. LCpl Sean Malone, Capt Jim Wood, SSgt Geoff Baker and Capt Norman Fox were not far off the pace.

Grant lost a little ground on the leader over the second lap but looked strong and in control. Malone and Wood had their own personal battle as they began to pull up through the field.

At the start of the final lap, Morpeth, Sunderland, Kendal and the Army were all in contention for the team award. Grant capped a great run by finishing fifth, Wood moved up to 19th, a place ahead of Malone, Baker was 45th and Fox, the oldest member of the team, 78th. Fox first competed in Army colours back in 1968.

Their performances put the Army into second place overall, a superb result at this level of competition.

Eighteen-year-old Pte Darren Thomas ran with the seniors after missing the junior start and acquitted himself with distinction. He looks a good prospect after finishing in an impressive 39th place.

In the junior race Hldr James Tole finished a creditable 32nd and Sig Chris Rhodes, just back from Bosnia, was 56th. Pte Gordon Robson had to retire with an injury after being tripped on the second lap.

The senior men's race was virtually a two-lap sprint over 3,500m. Cpl Alan Shepherd ran superbly to finish 12th, just 24 seconds behind the winner after being fourth at one stage. He was well supported by LCpl Ian Cain, Cpl Mark Carlisle, and Cpl Darren Hale who packed neatly into 30th, 31st and 32nd places.

LCpl Lisa Yates (41) and Cfn Niki Hawkins (47) ran well in an exceptionally strong women's field of 99.

RLC win at first attempt

THE Royal Logistic Corps deservedly won the Inter-Corps basketball championships at the first attempt, writes **Mark Atkinson**.

Hosted by the Intelligence Corps at Grantham and sponsored by Naafi, the tournament attracted 11 teams, including REME, the 1994 champions, who were strongly tipped to retain the trophy.

Strong challenges were also anticipated from the APTC, RA, AGC (the 1994 runners-up), RE and R Signals.

The minnows of the competition, the Int Corps and Army Medical Services, put up a spirited fight.

The crunch match between APTC and REME in the first semi-final was close and very entertaining. Only an impressive full court man-to-man by the APTC in the closing minutes forced crucial turn-overs under the REME basket, to which the REME had no reply.

APTC eventually ran out 70-65 winners.

The AGC played out of their skins to reach the semi-finals, losing only to the PT corps in their pool. But lack of depth on the bench was crucial against the strong RLC, who combined superb defence with well-executed fast breaks to open an unassailable lead.

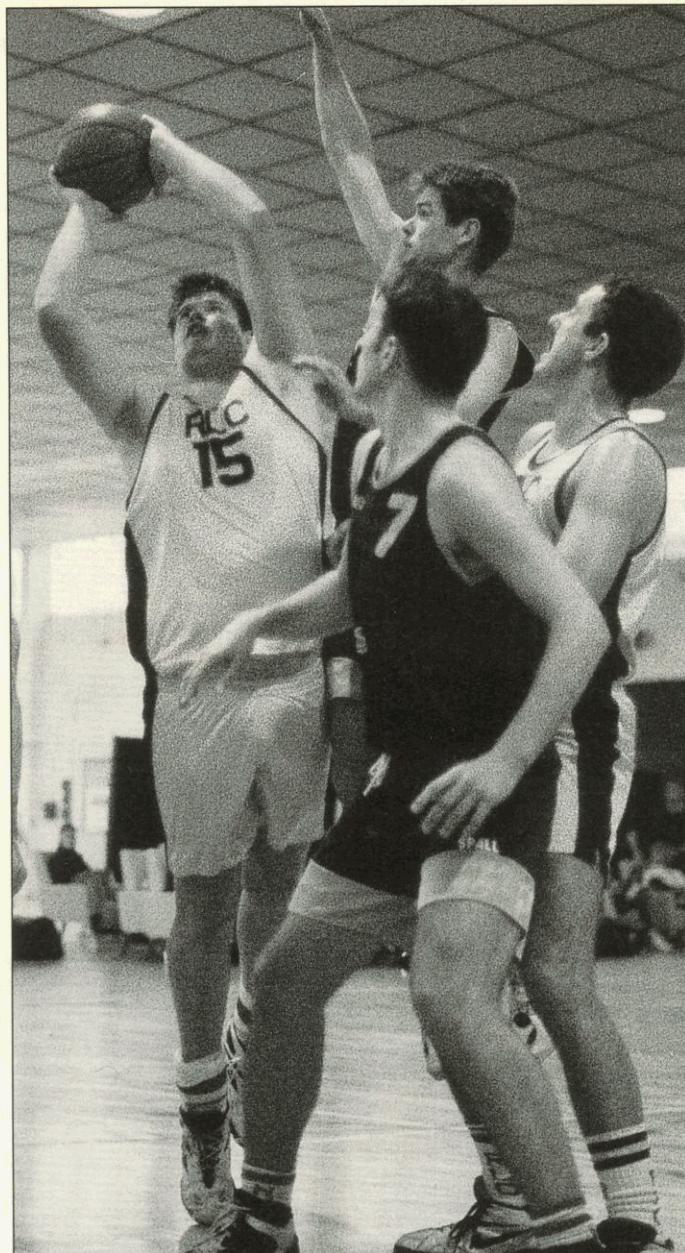
A one-sided match ended 70-38 to the loggies.

In a final which proved a fitting finale to an excellent week of basketball, the APTC, who last won the trophy in 1992, tried to force the RLC into mistakes.

But the loggies were in no mood to be dictated to and gradually turned on the pressure.

Injury to QMSI Phil Hughes did not help the APTC cause, while RLC team captain Capt Tim Brown took control, scoring some superb baskets under pressure.

Led by WO1 Frank Pask, the APTC responded in their own inimitable style but inevitably were exposed at the back, a sit-



Army thump Terriers

Army 4, Territorial Army 1

A POWERFUL Regular Army football side overcame their part-time counterparts 4-1 in a game in which the Territorial Army were always second best, writes **Derrick Bly**.

The part-timers enjoyed a good opening quarter before LCpls Jim Strouts and Joe Collins took control for the Army in midfield.

The Terriers unexpectedly scored first through Wright when a misunderstanding in defence left goalkeeper Cpl Dominic Joyce stranded.

Four minutes later the scores were level when LBdr Gary Toothill got the finishing touch in a goalmouth scrimmage.

Cpl Lee Innes pounced in the 27th minute to put the Army ahead, then missed a sitter after the break. Cpl Andy Alford chipped over the bar when it would have been easier to score but atoned later with a clever lob to make it 3-1.

Joyce distinguished himself with a brilliant fingertip save to deny the TA before handing over to Pte Kev Murray.

Innes added a fourth, and his third, in the final minutes. The Army's JBI man of the match was Jim Strouts.

Infantry 4, R Signals 0

Pte Simon Yeo (Cheshire) scored on the half hour and added a second before the interval. LCpl James McIlvogue (WG) marked his debut with a well-taken goal and Yeo completed his hat-trick shortly before the end. It was not the Signallers' day: they missed a penalty late in the game.

Under pressure: An RLC player shrugs off the attention of Royal Signals' defenders to make his shot

uation which the opposition exploited with several fast breaks. Increasingly confident, the loggies stretched their lead to 67-57.

Brown received the Inter-Corps Trophy, and the Most Valuable Player award, from Maj Gen Bill Robins, president of the Army Basketball Association.

Best new player was Spr Gilkes while the Whitmore Trophy for fair play went to the Intelligence Corps.

The trophy was presented by Mrs Megan Whitmore in memory of her late husband, George, who contributed much to Army basketball and sport in general.

UNITED THEY STAND

Hereford LFC 1, 3/5 Div 2

THE combined might of 3 and 5 Divisions women's football team proved too strong for Hereford in a friendly fixture used by the Army in their preparations for the Inter-Formation Mandrake Challenge Trophy.

A 22nd minute shot by Pte Holly Turner (15 Regt RLC) and a converted penalty by Cpl

Di Jones (MDP Dog Section), following the upending of Pte Tracey Hare (BAD Kineton) gave the Divisions a 2-0 interval lead.

Hereford's reply came from the penalty spot. Pte Marie Huetson (15 Regt RLC) parried the ball but the rebound was tucked away by a Hereford forward.

Pte Karen Bunce (5 Amb

RAMC) and Cpl Kaz Moore (221 Tpt Sqn RLC) had the upper hand in defence while Pte Claire Leader (BAD Kineton) and Hare dominated midfield. Unselfish running by Gnr Bev Auty (32 Regt RA) and good crossing by LCpl Claire Singleton (32 Regt RA) and Pte Toni Roberts (9 Sup Regt RLC) kept the Hereford defence stretched.



The majestic backdrop of the Rockies is the setting for classes in Canadian canoeing by Cpl Jon Brooks AAC (rear) and Tpr Davie Sellers 2 RTR. See feature in Pages 20-21.

Picture: Terry Champion



LCpl Len Durber and Pte Mark Dunn are ready for anything after parachuting into Egypt. See feature in Pages 22-25.
Picture: Mike Perring



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