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MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY



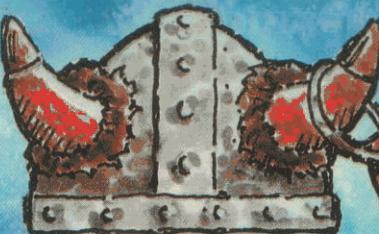
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Incorporating the Territorial Army magazine

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FRONT COVER: Drum Major Steve Tubb of The Royal Gloucestershire, Berkshire and Wiltshire Regiment, which received its Colours from the Duke of Edinburgh at Windsor Castle. See Pages 22-23. (Picture: Mike Perring.)

Battalions moved to south Armagh base



Picture: Mike Perring

Bessbrook helipad was a hive of activity as three battalion groups were ferried to Crossmaglen in the largest airmobile operation in Northern Ireland. Soldiers of 3 R Irish are pictured moving to a Puma

Big airlift to Crossmaglen

THE LARGEST British airmobile operation since D-Day has been successfully mounted in Northern Ireland, with more than 1,000 men and women descending on Crossmaglen in south Armagh.

Operation Rectify marked the end of the refurbishment of the joint Army/Royal Ulster Constabulary base at Crossmaglen and was planned by HQ 3 Infantry Brigade in Portadown in conjunction with RUC Southern Region.

The operation involved securing a number of supply routes through south Armagh, down which 1,400 tonnes of building supplies were moved by the Royal Logistic Corps.

Vehicle checkpoints were established on all roads into Crossmaglen to control access into the village.

As vehicle movement in south Armagh can be dangerous, 5 Regiment AAC and the RAF's 230 Squadron moved most of the men and stores in 22 helicopters including Chinook, Puma and Lynx.

Slick management of the air assets was essential to the success of the operation and was carried out by the tactical headquarters of 5 Regiment AAC, which was collocated with brigade HQ.

In the last phase of the operation three battalion groups were lifted in some 2,000 passenger movements with 30 tonnes of equipment.

Past experience with 6 Airborne Brigade in Germany in the 1980s and 24 Airmobile Brigade in the early 1990s was invaluable. This scale of brigade operation has often been carried out on exercise. The concept, which had never been proved under operational conditions, has cleared a major hurdle.

The engineering work at Crossmaglen was the largest and most technical project recently undertaken by Royal Engineers, said the officer commanding 33 Fd Sqn RE, Maj John Watton.

Construction of the base and an elevated sangar involved up

to 180 sappers and 39 pieces of engineering plant, including seven cranes, which were double-crewed to enable work to continue 24 hours a day.

Despite five terrorist incidents, the work was completed in ten weeks, almost two weeks ahead of schedule. During one incident, the Provisional IRA launched a mortar attack which injured one sapper, but work was under way again less than two hours after the attack.

Among units involved were 32 Regt RA, 25 Engr Regt, HQ 3 Inf Bde and Sig Sqn, 1 WG, 1 PWRR, 1 R Anglian, 1 KOSB, 1 WFR, 1 Staffords, 2 Para, 3, 7, 8 and 9 R Irish, 172 Pro Coy RMP, 5 Regt AAC, 26 Tpt Sqn RLC, 321 EOD Sqn RLC, Army Dog Unit NI, and 230 Sqn RAF.

"It was a high risk and complex operation," said Commander Land Forces Maj Gen Anthony Leask. "Its success is due to the hard work and professionalism shown by all who took part and they deserve the highest credit."

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DESIGNED TO BE DRIVEN

Monk denies Germans hid in Monte Cassino

A CLAIM that German soldiers used the monastery at Monte Cassino for shelter has been categorically dismissed by a surviving monk.

The May 2 issue of *Soldier* carried a report in which Monte Cassino Veterans Association secretary Mr John Clarke said Father Don Agostino Saccomanno had admitted the presence of German troops during the fierce Second World War battle.

"The decision to bomb the monastery has been vindicated," said Mr Clarke, after meeting the monk during a visit to Monte Cassino in March. But Don Agostino denies he told Mr Clarke that Germans sheltered from the bombing in the subterranean St Benedict's Chapel.

"I explicitly deny having made the statements recounted in the article," he told *Soldier*. And a senior British

officer who was present at the meeting between Mr Clarke and Don Agostino confirmed that the monk made no reference to the presence of German troops.

Historian Tom Aitken, who has carried out extensive research into the controversial bombing of the Benedictine abbey, says he has found no evidence that Germans sheltered there.

"It seems to me that the Ger-

mans did exploit the abbey of Monte Cassino, but that they did so in far subtler ways than by using it for observation or as a hidey-hole. They had, in effect, constructed a coconut shy around a ming vase, and were quick to use the destruction of the object of value for propagandist purposes."

Told of Don Agostino's denial, Mr Clarke said he was "shaken" but stood by his interpretation.

LD bring peace to Maglaj

D SQUADRON, The Light Dragoons has been in Bosnia for more than three months having deployed as part of the Augmentation Force on March 12 and is based in Maglaj, the most northern British location.

Since its arrival the squadron has been joined by A Squadron, currently operating in the Tomislavgrad area. All four Light Dragoon Sabre Squadrons have either completed a six-month tour or are currently deployed in-theatre.

The job involves ensuring that the peace accord signed by the BiH (Muslims) and the HVO (Croatians) in February is holding and that humanitarian aid is getting through.

The Maglaj finger was cut off for months until the blockade was lifted on March 19.

The troops are finding the job interesting. Tasks include patrolling the buffer zone, monitoring active sites, escorting aid and supervising and controlling the movement of heavy weapons. Manning of check points on main UN routes is also a necessary, if tedious job.

The situation remains at times tense, with an active front line between the BiH and the Bosnian Serbs some 800m from the base. Since No 3 Coy, 1 Coldm Gds moved in to Maglaj on March 20, to be replaced on roulement by D Squadron in April, the lot of local people has improved.

They had been on the receiving end of nine months of heavy shelling during the blockade but now enjoy a relatively normal lifestyle.



British sappers reinforce a bridge on a United Nations supply route in former Yugoslavia

Cook's tour takes strain

A BYPASS on the main low-level route north of Mostar in Hercegovina has been named after the military plant foreman responsible for designing and constructing 36 Engineer Regiment's major engineering projects.

The mammoth operation directed by WO1 Barry Cook skirted two bridges over the river Bijela blown up last year, forcing aid convoys to take the tortuous high route Triangle.

Sappers had to carve a route through solid rock for 22 metres, bridge a 172-metre gap over the river, and weld British, Spanish, Slovak and Malaysian engineers into a cohesive group.

Over 21 days they used 2½ tons of explosive and moved more than 50,000 tons of rock, working long hours. Another 20,000 tons were moved to build ramps for a Soviet-style pontoon bridge.

"I had never used that kind of explosive and the lads had never drilled before," said WO1 Cook, "but it seemed the bigger the challenge the better we worked."

The bridge and Cook's Bypass were opened by Brig Andrew Ridgway, Commander British Forces in former Yugoslavia, with the commanders of the new Bosnian Federation Army, Gen Anto Rosso and Brig Muslimovic.

Anglians injured

SOLDIERS from the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment, who were injured when their Spartan set off a mine in Bosnia also had their weapons and personal equipment stolen.

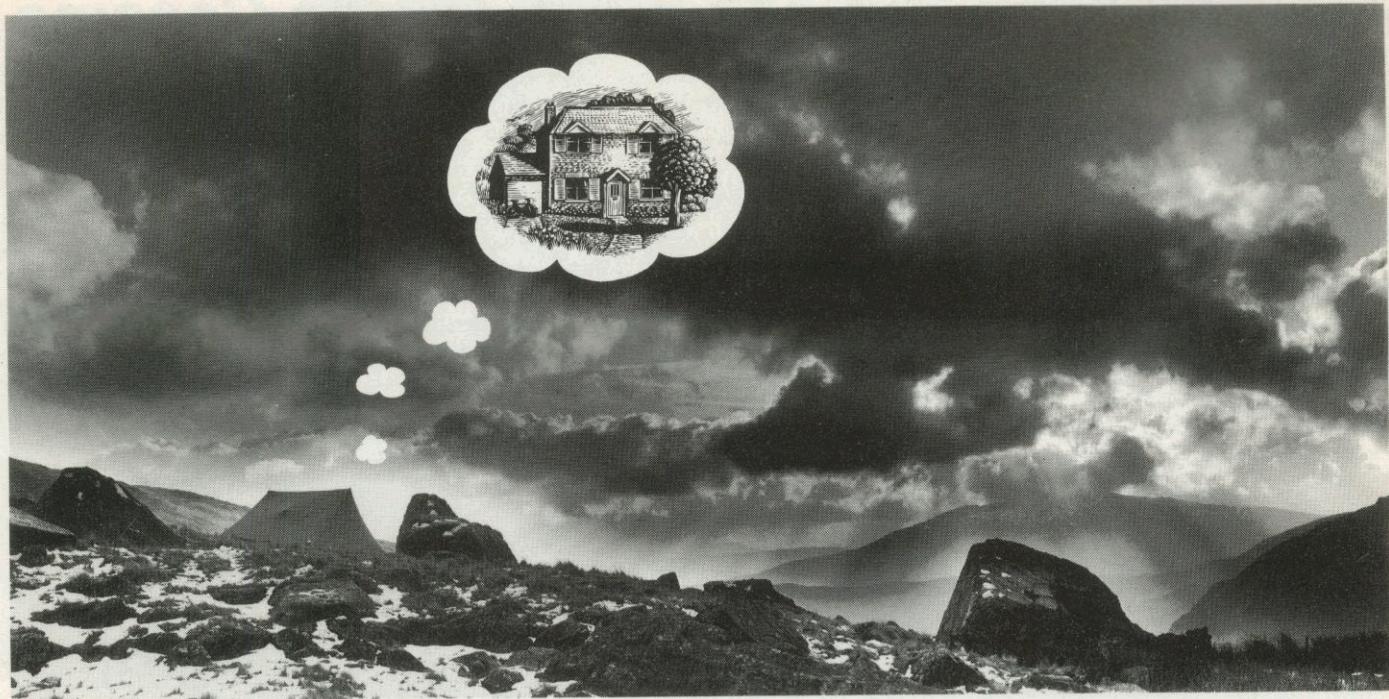
They were helicoptered to Tuzla where the injuries were said to be not life-threatening.

The vehicle was on its way to an observation post near Maglaj.

Soldier killed

PTE Sean Richard Taylor of the 1st Battalion, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment, was killed when he was struck by small arms fire at Gorazde in Eastern Bosnia on June 26, as this edition went to press.

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KCB

Maj Gen J P Foley CB OBE MC, late RGJ.

CB

Maj Gen W J Courage MBE, late 5 DG; Maj Gen D Grist OBE, late Glosters; Maj Gen A C P Stone, late RA; Maj Gen M T Tennant, late RA.

CBE

Brig J R Drew, late REME; Brig R D S Gordon, late 17/21 L; Col B C Lambe, late RA; Brig H A Woolnough OBE, late RA.

OBE

Col C R Elderton RLC; Col G R B Jones TD, late RAMC TA; Lt Col J M Kane RLC; Lt Col C M E Pugh RTR; Lt Col C Robinson BEM RLC; Acting Lt Col C J Rowland ACF; Lt Col N G Smith QOH; Col A R E De C Stewart LD; Lt Col S M P Stewart MBE, QDG; Lt Col P A Wall RE.

MBE

WO2 G A Barker RLC TA; WO1 T



GCB: Gen Sir Charles Guthrie, Chief of the General Staff

J Barnes REME; Maj J F Batty RE; WO1 N E Baugh, R Signals; Sgt S J Bean RLC; Maj J P F R Bendall LI; Cpl A O Bennie, R Signals; WO2 W T Billington AGC (SPS); Rev E H Brown TD, RACD TA; Maj P R Butler, Para; Maj J W

Castle RE; Maj I W J Cleasby REME; Capt D L Cook, Int Corps; CoH P Cross LG; Maj G W Currie, Royal Canadian Regt; SSgt E P Dalton, Para TA; Maj M M Davidson BEM, SG; Cpl P G Dean REME; Sgt N De Oweney, R Signals; WO2 J Dewberry AGC (SPS); SSgt K Dodd, R Signals; Maj P A Duncan RA; Cpl T Gifford AGC (SPS); WO1 T Graham AGC (SPS); SSgt G W Heaton, Para; WO1 A Hewson RE; Maj R S Jackson RA; SSgt Johnson, R Signals TA; Cpl C M Lee, Int Corps; Sgt Kesharkumar Limbu 7 GR; WO2 W E Linton, R Irish.

WO2 A S Livesley, Int Corps; Capt L A Lloyd RE TA; Maj S J Marriner AGC (SPS); Maj B Mather, Coldm Gds; Lt J Mayson, R Signals; SSgt A W Mc Allister, R Irish; WO2 G H McIntosh AGC (SPS); WO1 P Middlehurst BEM RE; WO2 J McC Millip RLC; Sgt M T Moloney RA; Maj N Moore REME; Maj J P Newis-Edwards RLC; WO1 M Newton RTR; Lbdr S J Oatley RA; WO2 P R Ogden RLC; WO1 L Place RA; Maj J H

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RRC

Col I M Leith-Macgregor, late QARANC.

ARRC

WO1 P C Cooper QARANC; Maj J D Thornton QARANC.

Recommended by the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs:

OBE

Lt Col D A Rance, Bermuda Regt.

MBE

Maj M Leung Chi-ping, Royal Hong Kong Regt (V).

Three killed at Suffield

THREE British soldiers have been killed in two separate incidents during battle group training exercises in Canada.

Pte Marc Anthony Smith, 25, from Poole, Dorset died on

June 9, after a Warrior IFV ran over his Land Rover at the British Army Training Unit, Suffield (Batus). Pte Smith was serving with the 1st Battalion, The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment.

Cpl Robert Hawksley and Martin Bailey of The Queen's Royal Lancers were killed when an artillery shell exploded near their trench during a live-firing exercise on June 14.

Both men served in the Gulf War. Cpl Hawksley, 29, from Nottingham, was a member of the 17/21st Lancers before amalgamation, while Cpl Bailey, 25, from Northamptonshire, was formerly with the 16th/5th Queen's Royal Lancers. Both regiments amalgamated last June at Tidworth to form QRL.

Continental TA to be disbanded

TEN YEARS after it was formed, the Continental Territorial Army is to be disbanded on November 30. The 160-strong unit was formed in Germany in 1984.

IN BRIEF

THE Multinational Division Central (Airmobile) was activated at Rheindahlen in Germany on June 22. The MND(C) is headed by Maj Gen Pieter Huysman of the Netherlands Army, and comes under the command of the Allied Command Europe Rapid Reaction Corps (ARRC), commanded by Lt Gen Sir Jeremy Mackenzie.

• • •
Winners of the annual Ben-gough inter-troop competition held by The King's Royal Hussars at Sennelager were 2 Troop, C Squadron.

• • •
The Base Ammunition Depot at Longtown, Hereford and Worcester, has become the first British Army unit to qualify for an Investors in People training and development award.

Princess at Paderborn



Princess Alexandra presents the Northern Ireland medal to Pte Richard Burton, 2nd Battalion, The Light Infantry at Alanbrooke Barracks, Paderborn. He was one of eight representative soldiers - two from each company - chosen to receive medals from the Princess, the regiment's Deputy Colonel-in-Chief

D and D celebrates

OFFICERS and men of the 4th Battalion, The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment had a double reason for celebration when they marched through the town of Sherborne on May 28. They were exercising their new Freedom of Sherborne, received by their Colonel, Gen Sir John Wilsey, that morning, and marking the official open-

ing the previous day of their remodelled regimental museum at the Keep in Dorchester.

About £260,000 has been raised by the regiment towards the museum project and a further £270,000 is needed from public donations. The opening was performed by the Duke of Kent, Colonel-in-Chief.



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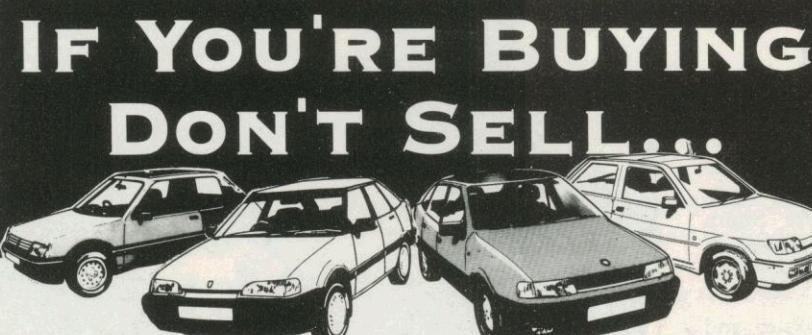


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Serious injury claims top 1,100

SERVICE personnel made more than 1,100 compensation claims for serious injury against the Ministry of Defence in 1993, Defence Under-Secretary Viscount Cranborne told the Lords.

In answer to a question by Lord Swinfen on May 23, he gave the following figures for claims received over the past five years.

With the number of claims still outstanding given in brackets, the figures are: 1989, 594 (72); 1990, 664 (192); 1991, 895 (372); 1992, 960 (435); 1993, 1,169 (941).

No distinction is made in the figures for the degree of injury. The number of claims outstanding includes those where liability is not in question but where agreement has yet to be reached on the actual amount of

compensation.

• • •

Details of future food supply arrangements for the Armed Services are expected shortly.

In a written question, Mr David Martin asked about the progress of plans to transfer the Armed Services food supply task to Naafi.

Armed Forces Minister Jeremy Hanley, who announced proposals to close two Royal Navy victualling depots, said negotiations with Naafi had now reached a satisfactory conclusion.

• • •

An order for about 90 attack



A summary of Defence topics from Westminster

helicopters for the Armed Forces is expected to be placed by the middle of next year, Defence Procurement Minister Jonathan Aitken told the House of Commons.

• • •

Following an increase in April, the average, 70-year-old Second World War widow receives a total tax-free pension of almost £140 a week, said Social Security Under-Secretary Lord Astor.

He declined a request put in a question from Lord Mackie of Benshie for a 30 per cent rise for war widows to mark the

50th anniversary of D-Day.

• • •

Defence Under-Secretary Lord Cranborne paid tribute in the Lords to the work of the three Armed Services in the D-Day commemorations in the UK and Normandy.

Lord Williams of Elvel, Opposition Defence spokesman, had earlier congratulated Lord Cranborne himself on the organisation of the events.

• • •

Between April 1, 1990 and May 1, 1994, the Regular Army's uniformed strength (trained and untrained) was reduced by about 20 per cent, Defence Procurement Minister Jonathan Aitken told the House of Commons.

Rescue wins MC

A WELSH Guards military observer in Cambodia who had a price put on his head by Khmer Rouge guerrillas has been awarded the Military Cross for his "inspired conduct and magnificent example".

Within two weeks of arriving in November 1992, Capt Richard Williams was taken hostage for four days, and when he was later refused armed help for two colleagues abducted by guerrillas, he carried out a single-handed rescue.

On one occasion he and seven Indonesian soldiers were ambushed by 25 Khmer Rouge, and when the commander refused to counter-attack, Capt Williams took over and flushed out the guerrillas, killing four without injury to his party.

Leeds opens streets to the Yorkshire LI

OFFICERS and soldiers of 8th Battalion, The (Yorkshire) Light Infantry exercised their right to parade through Leeds at the invitation of the city's Lord Mayor.

The battalion is directly descended from the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry - the only regiment to have

General test for revamped Warrior



Lt Gen the Hon Sir William Rous, Quartermaster General (in combat jacket), gave a Warrior armoured fighting vehicle a thorough test before accepting it as the first repaired by the Army Base Repair Organisation, Donnington (formerly 34 Base Workshop REME). The first rebuild is pictured (left) with some of the workforce and a vehicle from Bosnia awaiting repair at the Workshop. Vehicles are stripped to component level and all equipment updated to ensure the most up-to-date technology is returned

been founded in Yorkshire and to have maintained a permanent connection with the county ever since - which was granted the Freedom of Leeds in 1945.

A message of congratulations was sent by the Queen Mother, the KOYLI's Colonel-in-Chief.

DURING a two-day visit to British soldiers in former Yugoslavia, Armed Forces Minister Jeremy Hanley saw great advances in co-operation between Croat and Muslim Bosnians compared with his last visit a year ago.

He was met at Split by Brig Andrew Ridgway, Commander British Forces, and called on 2 R Anglian at Vitez, 1 DWR at Gorazde and Bugojno, and later saw Lt Gen Michael Rose, UN commander, in Sarajevo.

IN BRIEF

• • •

In thanks for service in Germany, the Chief of the German Defence Staff, Gen Naumann, presented honorary ribbons to The King's Royal Hussars, The Queen's Lancashire Regiment and The Gordon Highlanders. Almost 80 British units have been honoured by the historic Fahnenband.

D-DAY
50 YEARS
AGO THEY
WERE THERE
WHEN WE
NEEDED
THEM...

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TUESDAY 6TH JUNE 1944

D-DAY LANDINGS



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1944-1994

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Here's tae the Gordons

A RECONSTRUCTION of the history of The Gordon Highlanders by a United States military re-enactment organisation was a spectacular focus for bi-centenary celebrations of the regiment in Aberdeen.

The Gordons' campaigns in the Egyptian and Sudanese campaigns were highlighted following a parade of 400 Gordons marching through the "granite city" exactly 200 years after their first parade there.

The beautiful Duchess of Gordon did her bit for the regiment by placing a guinea between her lips and offering it – and a kiss – to original recruits.

Today's Gordons have spent a week visiting their traditional recruiting ground in the north-east of Scotland, exercising their Freedom in the burghs and beating retreat.

Section attacks are not normal activities for soldiers of 70 Aircraft Workshop based at Middle Wallop – unless they are on Lion Sun exercise in Cyprus. Sgt Tom O'Connor, LCpl John Dobbin, LCpl Tony Harring, Cpl Richie Vallance and Sgt Gaz Massey refresh their infantry skills near Episkopi

Picture: Col Brian Gamble RLC

IN BRIEF

BULFORD Conservation Group on Salisbury Plain has reached the last ten of the Shell Best of Britain campaign for voluntary groups which work to improve the environment. The group, of Army and civilian personnel, sited 450 nesting boxes made from recycled ammunition boxes and has increased the population of barn owls on Salisbury Plain by 500 per cent.

• • •
Gazelles of 6 Flight Army Air Corps in Shawbury carried rocks to Helvellyn in the Lake District. The Territorial Army pilots and crew spent three days on training with underslung loads which were used to construct a new path through severely eroded areas of fellside.

• • •
Sixty cadets of The Royal Green Jackets and the Band of The Light Division sounded retreat outside the headquarters of RGJ in the West End of London in celebration of the cadet unit's centenary year. Designated The King's Royal Rifle Corps, the unit – the only cadet unit ever to have earned its own battle honour, in South Africa – was inspected by Fd Marshal Lord Bramall – himself a Green Jacket.

Cabbies go back to Normandy



The Queen Mother and Fd Marshal Lord Bramall drive on to Horse Guards to review a parade of London cabbies bound for the beaches of Normandy. The London Taxi Benevolent Association for War Disabled organised the parade before the cabs transported veterans back to Normandy to mark the 50th anniversary of the D-Day landings

Swedes drop in on 24 Airmobile Brigade

A SWEDISH military team paid a one-day visit to 24 Airmobile Brigade units in Colchester and Wattisham to evaluate the brigade's equip-

ment and manpower in its peace-time location. The team, tasked under the reciprocal arrangements of the Vienna Document 1992 – an interna-

tional treaty concerned with confidence security building measures – was met and briefed by the brigade's commander, Brig Peter Grant Peterkin.



Picture: Mike Weston

An idea which had long been talked about became reality at the Royal Military School of Music, Kneller Hall, Middlesex when a huge gathering of former graduates from the school assembled at the school. Over a four-day period, the All Stars, as these serving and retired bandmasters and Directors of Music called themselves, reminisced and also recorded an album of items, several of which had a link with Kneller over the years.

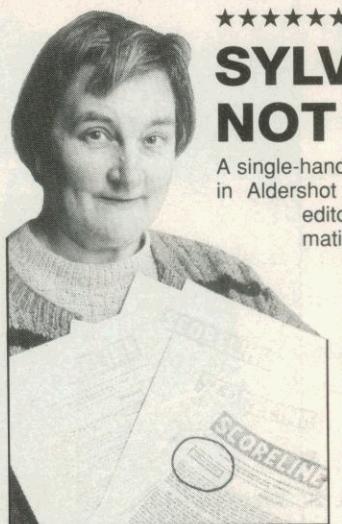


One of the Royal Artillery's most experienced "Metmen", SSgt Bill Proctor (back row, fourth left), is looking forward to retirement after nine years' service with the Meteorological Troop, Central Volunteer HQ RA. Before that, Bill, seen here with colleagues at a detachment commanders' (Territorial Army) course at Larkhill, had been a Regular gunner for 23 years.



These crack shots from the 6th (Northumberland) Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers carried off four major trophies when they became Eastern District Territorial Army champions at the annual skill-at-arms meeting at Strensall, near York. Sgt Chris Kane, 6 RRF, won the trophy for the best overall shot. From left to right are Cpl Alan Mole, LCpl Stuart Melvin, Fus Geoffrey Hewitson, Maj Alan Wall, WO2 Jimmy Ward, WO2 Alex McNeish, Sgt Chris Kane, Fus Stephen Durham, 2nd Lt Peter Griffiths.

What a lotta medals



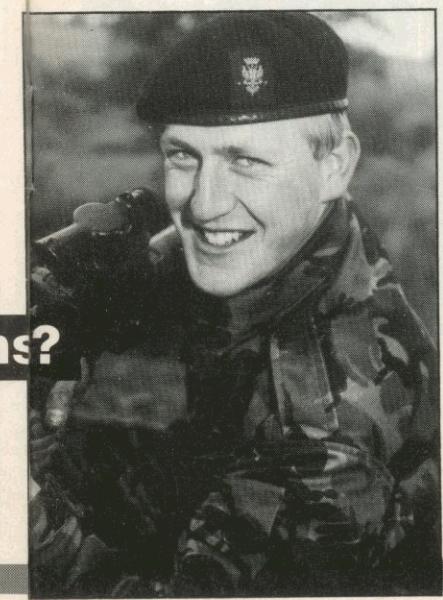
SYLVIA'S 1,000 NOT OUT . . .

A single-handed achievement was celebrated in Aldershot when Sylvia Nash, voluntary editor of *Scoreline* – the sports information sheet which covers the Southern District – for the past 20 years, notched up her 1,000th issue. Sylvia, who has followed the careers of many famous sportsmen during that time, and even managed to get copies out to the Falklands and the Gulf, was presented with a thank-you bouquet by Brig Adrian Schuler, Deputy Commander and Chief of Staff of Southern District.

Picture: Mike Perring

Skill-at-Farms?

When Officer Cadet Mark Budgen of Telford-based Royal Mercian Lancastrian Yeomanry, who is training for a commission, is not engaged in TA activities such as trying his hand at the Wales skill-at-arms meeting at Sennybridge, he has an "extraordinary" civvy occupation. He's an ostrich farmer, owning 12 of the beasts from which he hopes to breed . . .



PICKFORD'S MOVE

After more than 19 years, RSM Bob Pickford is back at Meeanee Barracks, Colchester, as RSM of 1 LI. "It hasn't changed much, although I feel a little more important than I did then," joked Bob, who in the intervening period has served all over the world. He has just taken over from RSM Mervyn Garner.



Para-gons of military skills. Aldershot-based 216 (Para) Signal Squadron won the gruelling two-day Commander's Cup competition on Dartmoor against ten other Royal Signals units. From left (back) are Cpl Kevin Read, LCpl Al Hammond, LCpl Andy Hodgeson, Sig Tony Barker; (front) Sgt Jim Duncan, Capt Steve Vickery, Sig Paul Henderson, Sig Taff Kinsey. Teams are picked at random so Commander of Communications, Brig Nigel Wood, can assess standards.

Going by the book

It's all very well to be up-to-date on modern machines, but when a 1958 Skeeter helicopter is involved, it pays to have a peek at the original handbook, obtained from the museum by SSgt Pete Arger (centre). Like his two colleagues from the Army Air Corps' Historic Aircraft Flight (WO1 Paul Spragg (left) and SSgt Mick Hemingway), he is an instructor at Middle Wallop, where all three were participating in the air show there.



Picture: Mike Perring

PEOPLE



Hong Kong rock 'n roll!

NINE nurses and medics and an administrator from BMH Hong Kong had a terrifying escape while shooting rapids on the Karnali river in Nepal.

Things went disastrously wrong when their raft overturned on Jailhouse Rock, the largest rapid on the river, flipping bodies in all directions.

The cold and exhausted paddlers – seven women and three men – were forced through the “hydraulic holes”

(areas where the water recirculates on the other side of the rock) before safety kayakers managed to pull them back to the raft.

Expedition member SSgt Andy Day AGC(SPS) and a river guide were heaved on to the upside-down raft, but before it could be righted the raging river had swept the party head-on into another rapid.

Deposited down a wide stretch of the gorge, it took

some time for the party to regroup. Miraculously no one was injured and the raft and all equipment was recovered.

The only casualty was one shoe worn by Sgt Tony Christou RAMC, although he did retrieve the in-sole!

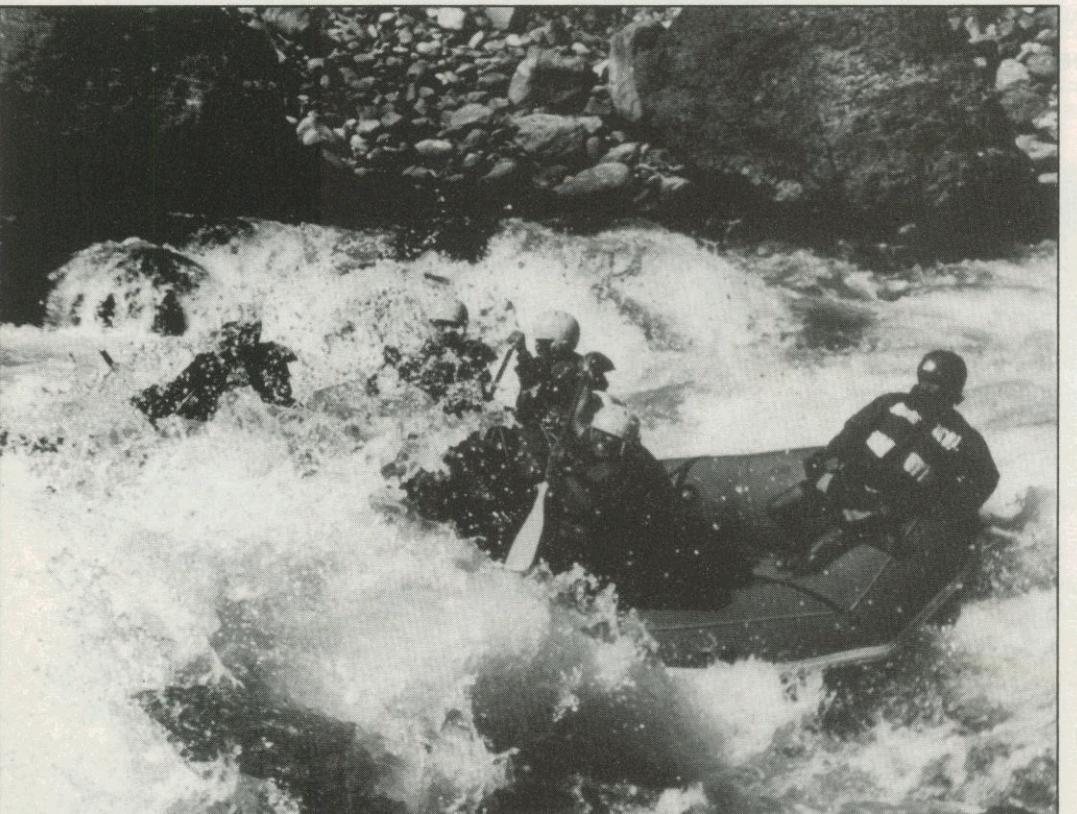
Exercise Fools Paradise was

conceived by Capt Jeff Lubbock, then adventurous training officer at BMH Hong Kong, but when he was posted away Capt Clare Jeffries

QARANC took over the planning and leadership.

Other members of the team were Capt Jane Couper, Sgt Sharon Armsby, Sgt Helen McCormac, Cpl Owena Pozzi-Gurung and LCpl Sheli Bithell (all QARANC), and Cpl Andy Honeyman and LCpl Kerry Mount of the RAMC.

The hospital party – none of whom had previous experience – flew from Hong Kong to Kathmandu and spent three days carrying out capsizing and emergency drills on the rapids of the less-demanding Trisuli, a river which follows the Kath-



Now you see them... Support Coy, 6 GR white water rafters on the Kali Gandaki in Nepal

Brunei rafters take on Nepal's toughest

TWO teams of 12 men from Support Coy, 6 GR based in Brunei “ran” the four most hazardous rivers in Nepal during a particularly challenging adventurous training exercise attempted by the battalion.

During two three-week phases, separate teams ran the Bhote Kosi and the Karnali and the Kali Gandaki and upper Marsyangdi, never previously attempted.

Medics wanted

RALEIGH International, the London-based organisation which aims to develop young people by giving them the opportunity to carry out demanding environmental and community projects here and overseas, has sent out an SOS for medics.

Anyone suitably qualified who is interested in assisting current expeditions (ongoing until September) to Malaysia, Russia or Zimbabwe should contact Raleigh on 071-371 8585.

in addition to three other rivers including the awesome upper Marsyangdi, never previously attempted.

Led by Capt Nick Rowe, Exercise Raging Rapids set out to be larger and more ambitious than several other military white water rafting expeditions to Nepal. It involved taking on the Karnali

Sheffield team hot foot it to Mexico

SIX members of 38 Signal Regiment (Volunteers) left the winter temperatures of Sheffield behind them to tackle three dormant volcanoes to the east of Mexico City.

Led by 2nd Lt Bob Childs of 64 Sqn, who had proposed and organised the project, the part-time soldiers spent 14 gruelling days in Mexico, eventually logging up 5,422 miles in the fortnight.

First summit, Cofre De Perote (4,282m) involved an

mandu-Pokhara road, before driving and trekking for four days to the launch site on the Karnali.

Putting the Jailhouse Rock episode behind them, the rafters “with more than a little fear” continued their voyage, eventually completing a 190km stretch of the river during which they negotiated more than 70 further white water rapids without mishap.

The expedition ended at Chisapani, from where the BMH team visited Toyal Bardia wildlife reserve for a memorable elephant safari.



The QRL ski party pauses for breath on the high road across central Norway

Lancers ski on Norway's high way

WHILE most of The Queen's Royal Lancers were working hard in sunny Osnabrück, a team of nine, lead by Capt Anthony Willmore, whipped away for some intense ski-touring in central Norway. The team, consisting of experienced skiers, skied from hut to hut over some of the highest ground in northern Europe.

A distance of about 120km

was covered, often in extremely adverse weather conditions and always through deep snow.

The expedition was superb fun as well as being hard work, with many of the skiers being tested to their limits.

The expedition ended with a couple of days R and R in Lillehammer, where the teams skied both the Alpine and Nordic Olympic courses.



Members of the 38 Sig Regt team head for Cofre De Perote (far right)

ascent of 25km over volcanic ash and stony dirt tracks. To beat the heat the climbers set out at 0430 hours. On reaching the summit they were surprised to find armed police guarding television and radio masts.

A large pack of dogs caused a

disturbed night before the next climb, El Pico De Orizaba, at 5,700m the second highest mountain in the Americas. The walk-in took six hours and was completed in drizzle and wet fog.

Members of the team experi-

Summit success

SOLDIERS from Buckley Troop, 97 Squadron Royal Logistic Corps based at Army Training Regiment Pirbright climbed Glydar Fawr during an adventurous training exercise in Snowdonia National Park.

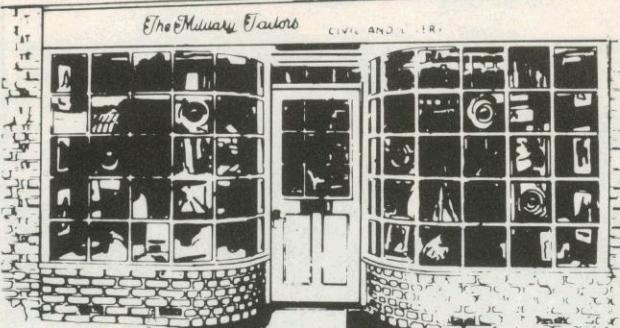
Normandy excursion

TEN members of B Company, 1st Battalion, The King's Own Scottish Borderers visited the D-Day landing beaches during a cycling tour of Normandy. They followed the route taken by 1 KOSB on D-Day and the subsequent advance on Caen, and visited graves of fallen Borderers at Hermanville.

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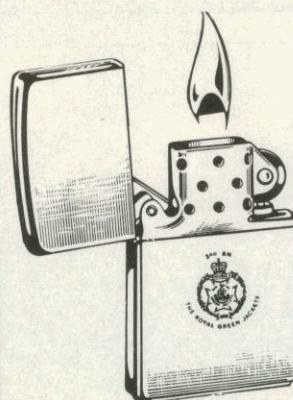
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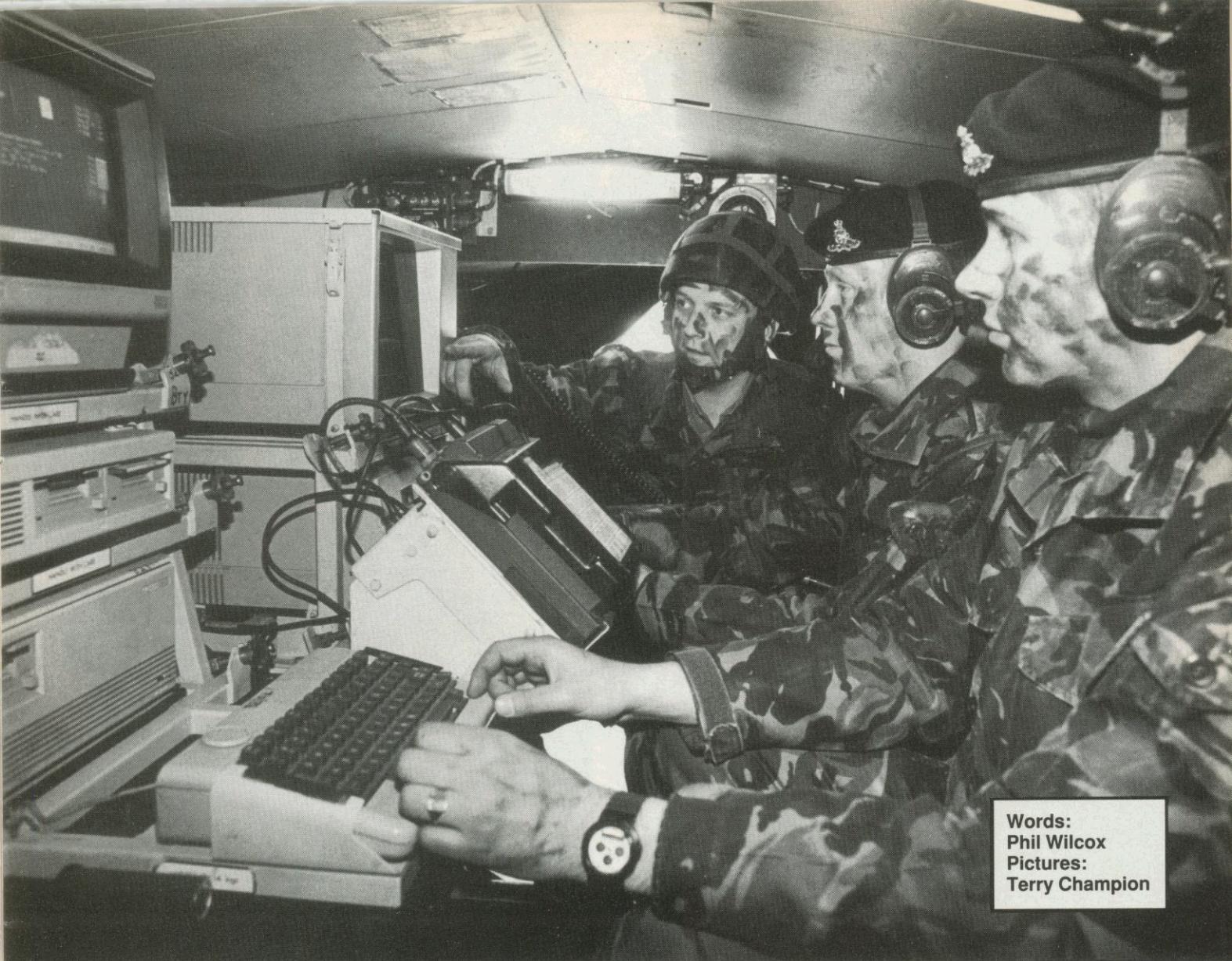
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Phil Wilcox
Pictures:
Terry Champion

In 35 Battery's squadron command post are (left to right) Capt Hewian Morgan, Bdr Warren Wilson and LBdr Adam Carter

AFTER A lengthy sojourn in Dortmund and the small matter of a Northern Ireland tour, the red dragon of Wales is finally planting its feet firmly in the Lincolnshire countryside.

To put it another way, the members of 22nd Regiment Royal Artillery, "the Welsh Gunners", have been getting used to life at their base in Kirton Lindsey near Scunthorpe, from whose airfield the legendary Douglas Bader flew.

He would have appreciated the regiment's aim which, although these days it has dropped its air defence role from its title, is "to prevent enemy aircraft interfering with ground operations".

The regiment, under the command of Lt Col Steve Thomas, returned from Dortmund in August 1992 after 14 years in Germany and was deployed to Northern Ireland in April last year.

"My problem when we came back in October was that, since we are not infantry by trade, we had to make sure that we did not lose our air defence

Red Dragon lands in Lincolnshire



skills," Lt Col Thomas said.

So from November until March, all of 22's batteries had to re-train on Rapier and Javelin, culminating in their firing missiles in the Hebrides.

"We have now finished our technical training and are back on track with tactical training," said the CO, whose own test exercise, Summer Dragon, is due to sort the sheep from the

goats in August and September.

The regiment, under the command of 3rd (UK) Division and with corps troops supporting the Allied Rapid Reaction Corps, has five batteries, including a Commando battery, and uses surveillance radar, optical trackers and Rapier as well as Javelin shoulder-launched missiles.

For classroom training, a comparatively archaic system using slide projections has been superseded by a simulator not unlike the ubiquitous arcade games.

But the new kit is several notches more sophisticated, as well as having a much more serious purpose.

Sitting beside an instructor,
● Turn to Page 18



Members of 20 Commando Battery on the alert as colleagues abseil in with equipment

WELSH GUNNERS

From Page 17

a soldier can identify an enemy aircraft (a skill put into practice in another classroom whenever time permits), track it on screen and hit it.

The operator gives a constant commentary to the instructor – who can see on his screen what the former is watching – and is not allowed to fire unless he has identified the target.

This is put to invaluable use in the field, as members of the regiment's 35 Battery demonstrated to SOLDIER.

Rapier troop commanders recce up to 15 to 20 sites and return to the command post with data on the areas which the weapon system can and cannot see, which is translated into a computer print-out.

The information is con-



Lt Col Steve Thomas,
CO 22 Regiment
Royal Artillery

densified into a priority arc, so missiles are not wasted.

"If we are weak in a particular area, we can either ask the CO if we can have some Javelins to fill that particular gap, or we can re-configure, sending the recce officers out again," said one member of the battery.

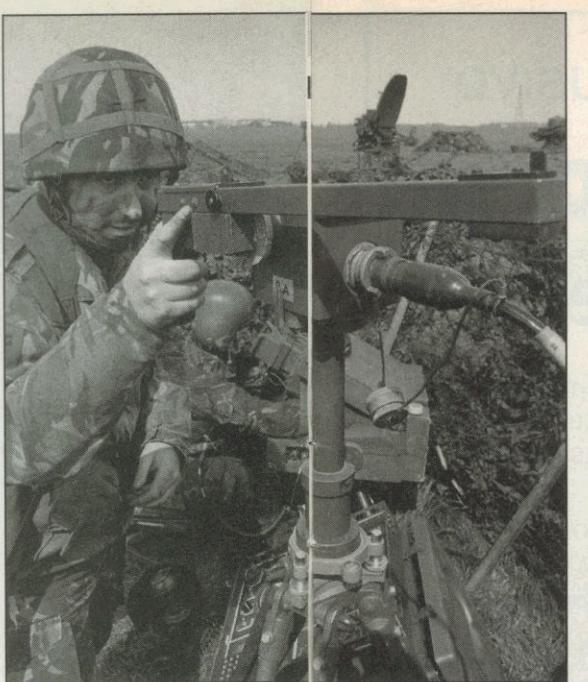
Details of target engagement rates – the number of times an aircraft can be hit within a certain arc – are recorded.

Console operators, who have the help of a surveillance radar, and are usually under the orders of a detachment commander (a bombardier or sergeant), generally have two to three seconds reaction time on identifying a thermal image of a target.

The DN181 radar tracker system has all-weather capabilities, 24 hours a day. Its only set-back, said one of the operators, is that it takes a comparatively long time (about half an



Gaining momentum after necessary interruptions for six-month tour and re-training are 22 Regiment's rugby squad, who reached the finals of every trophy last season except the Army Cup



Above – Bdr Nicholas Evans operates pointing stick in the field, with Gnr Wayne Jones at console



Ready for instant action, now they are on terra firma: Gnr Chris Broadbent (left) and Bdr Mark Ormston with (foreground) LBdr Joe McCafferty, all of 20 Commando Battery

target at seven kilometres, is located nearby.

In situations where it would not be feasible to use radar, such as when a unit is first deployed to the field and cannot use electronic equipment, a hand-held "pointing stick" will over-ride the radar if necessary.

The DN181 radar tracker system has all-weather capabilities, 24 hours a day. Its only set-back, said one of the operators, is that it takes a comparatively long time (about half an



Ready to roll: two soldiers from the regiment's travelling recruitment road show

Royal Marines. They made abseiling with equipment down an old water tower on camp look easy, speedily arranging themselves into an attack formation on hitting the ground.

Re-formed only in 1991, having been placed in suspended animation in the early 1970s, the battery, which is equipped with Javelin, claims a very high pass rate in the pre-Commando courses.

Detachment commander LBdr Iain Watkins said: "We have come a long way since the

battery was set up. To begin with, the amount of Commando-trained personnel was only five or six per cent. Now it is 60 per cent."

Doing their bit for recruitment are the personnel who make up the regiment's mobile recruiting team, which will be travelling through locations such as Butlin's, Barry Island, Porthcawl and Llandudno as well as Pembrokeshire and mid-Wales during the next few months.

Their caravan and Rapier

launcher are a real magnet for schoolchildren, said one member.

"And of course, apart from telling would-be recruits about jungle and Arctic warfare experiences, with the extra element of the missiles, I think we can offer much more than our sister regiments."

Lt Col Thomas is very proud of his regiment's connections.

"I am the first Welsh CO of the Welsh Gunners. We have close ties with the towns of Wrexham and Newport, and

our recruiting area is the whole of Wales."

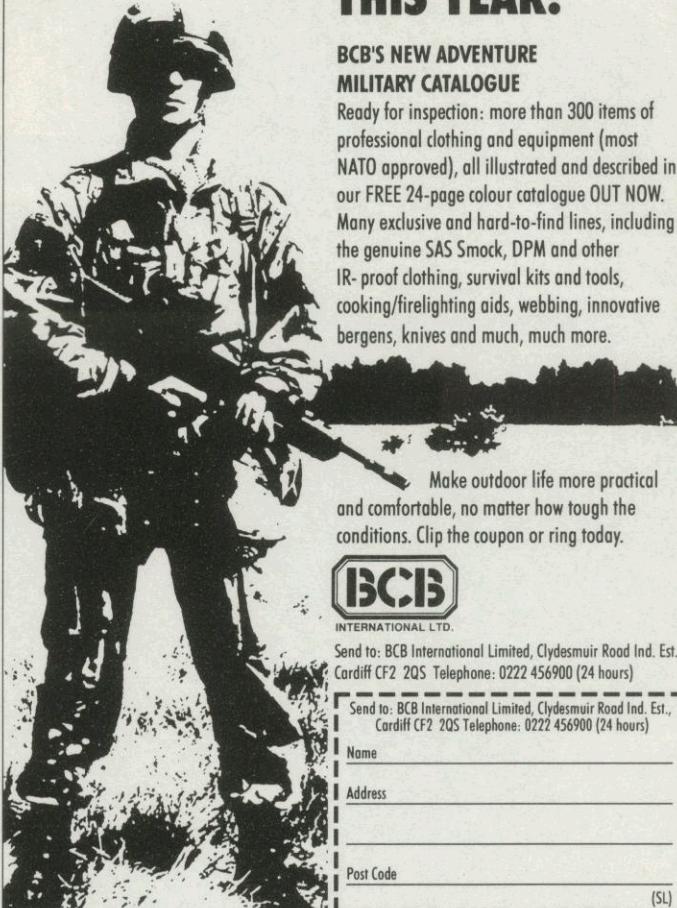
With three awards across the ranks in the first, revised, Honours List and progress being made on the sporting side now that his men can settle down and live up to 22 Regiment's recruiting motto: "High technology soldiers in the modern Army", he is a happy man.

There is only one cloud on his horizon, he says.

"I like to recruit rugby players – and 7 RHA poach them from me..."



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Wavell's ger



IT HAS taken 52 years for an immortal assessment of Britain's first Second World War Commander-in-Chief in the Middle East to appear. It was an infantry regiment

Gen Wavell
1941

'The competitions are fun and always worth entering. I sent in an observation test and won £50!'

SOLDIER

Room for
a few more
in Normandy

SO MANY veterans are planning to return to Normandy for 1941: A Study in Generalship by Harold E Raugh Jr, published by Brassey's hardback, £32.50.



'I lost contact with a bunch of good mates I served with during World War 2 - I couldn't believe it when Searchline got us back in touch!'



I Cfn Sparks Cfn B



Cfn A

DETACHMENTS of the Household Cavalry, Royal Artillery, Foot Guards, Queen's Royal Lancers and the Territorial Army formed the east side of a square round the Cenotaph for the Remembrance Service attended by the Queen and other heads of state.

The man lost six fingers but survived to assist a fellow soldier charged with murder.

They are offering a gratuity-funding service for D-Day Logement, charge £5 a person, and can be contacted c/o The Black Swan Mill, 14401 Bayeux, CEDEX, France (tel: (010) 33).



Picture: Mike Perring

A yomp at Ballykinler will be very similar to one in the Falklands for a platoon of the 4th/5th Battalion, The Royal Irish Rangers which will spend four months supporting the 1st Battalion, The Royal Irish Regiment

Adaptable Rangers ready for Falklands

BATTALIONS in Nato's Allied Command Europe Rapid Reaction Corps have to be ready to deploy anywhere at short notice, and the 4th/5th Battalion, The Royal Irish Rangers (V) is proving this by operating in the Falkland Islands.

The only TA infantry battalion in Northern Ireland, 4/5 Rangers is the first to be used in an MoD trial of the feasibility of using volunteer reserves in support of the Armed Services in circumstances short of war.

The reinforced platoon of 40 soldiers from Portadown, Newtownards, Abbotscroft, Ballymena, Enniskillen and Armagh will carry out a four-month tour as part of the Reinforcement Infantry Company from the 1st Battalion, The Royal Irish Regiment, which is based in Cyprus.

Most volunteers are single, and almost three-quarters are employed. Some are students who can use their summer vacation, others are changing jobs or are intending to join the Regular Army after the tour. Only one soldier has had to resign from his job.

"Looking at the quality of the soldiers I am not surprised they are so valuable to their employers that they have been given time off and job security when they return," said the commanding officer, Lt Col Hugh Sturgeon.

The battalion has no operational role within Northern Ireland. Its training includes nuclear, chemical and biological subjects, as well as anti-tank weapons in keeping with being ready to mobilise abroad in support of national defence policy.

Training in the South Atlantic will be split between live firing at the extensive Onion ranges, patrolling, a quick reaction force and duties at Mount Pleasant.

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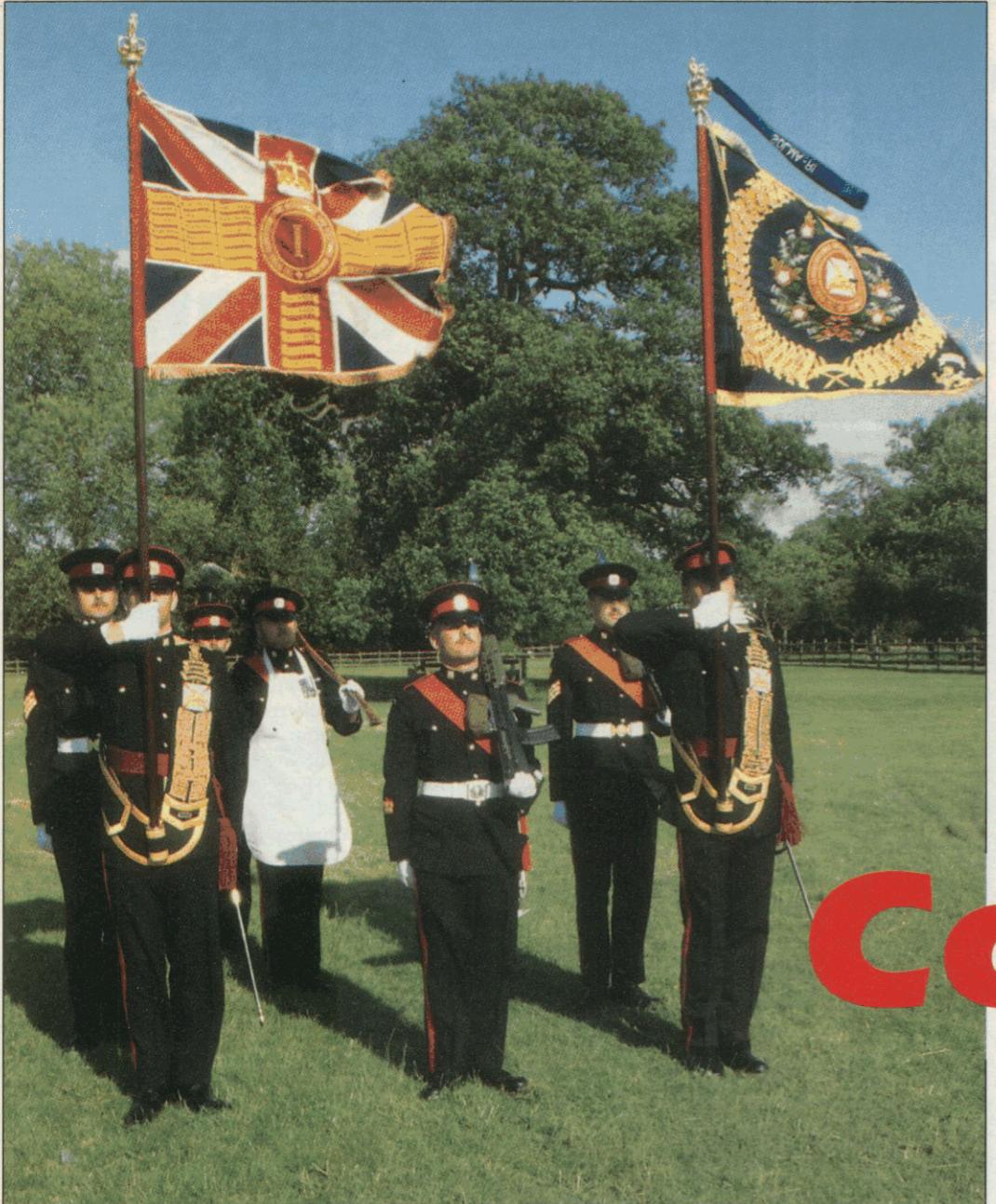
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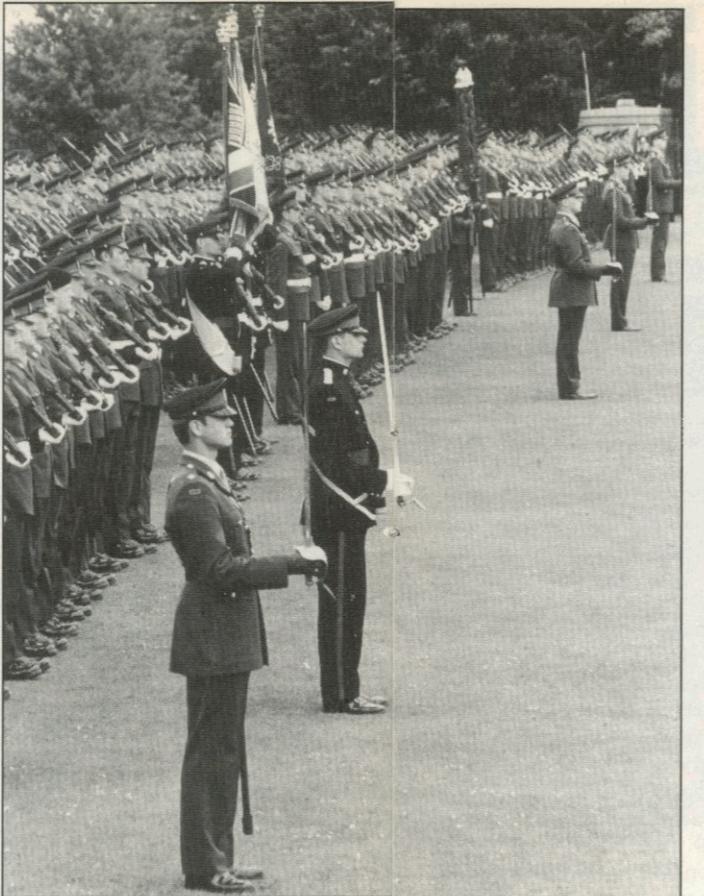
Other _____



The regimental Colour, pictured on the right, carried by 2nd Lt Matthew Vine, features the Solmar-Ri streamer. On the left is the Queen's Colour, carried by 2nd Lt Matthew Thomas



The Solmar-Ri streamer, a unique US presidential honour for a British infantry unit recalling the Glosers' stand in Korea, is tied to the Regimental Colour by Gen Gordon Sullivan, Chief of Staff, United States Army



Above - The Duke of Edinburgh, Colonel-in-Chief, inspects the new regiment at Windsor Castle

Left - The Royal Gloucestershire, Berkshire and Wiltshire Regiment on parade



Colours of glory

WINDSOR Castle was the dramatic setting on June 8 when the Duke of Edinburgh presented Colours to the 1st Battalion, The Royal Gloucestershire, Berkshire and Wiltshire Regiment.

The Duke, as Colonel-in-Chief, with the Duke of Gloucester, Deputy Colonel-in-Chief, and Maj Gen Robin Grist, Colonel of the new regiment, then joined a rank of battalion representatives to receive a unique honour.

In recognition of the glorious stand by the 1st Battalion, The Gloucestershire Regiment, supported by Troop C, 170th Independent Mortar Battery, Royal Artillery in Korea in 1951, Gen Gordon Sullivan, Chief of Staff of the United States Army, tied a blue United States presidential citation, the Solmar-Ri streamer, to a gun of 25/170 (Imjin) Battery RA and the new regimental Colour.

Gen Sullivan also presented tokens to the battalion and battery representatives.

The regiment is formed from the amalgamation of The Gloucestershire Regiment and The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment (Berkshire

and Wiltshire). It incorporates the old 28th, 49th, 61st, 66th and 99th of Foot, and their ancient traditions.

The blue American honour from Korea complements another, blood red, reminder of times when the regiment made its mark on the Americans - as sworn enemies.

The red Brandywine flash behind the new cap badge is brought from The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment and marks a defiant gesture of the 49th in dyeing their hackles when American revolutionaries swore to kill them after a daring bayonet attack.

The badge incorporates the Glosers' Sphinx, recalling how the 29th fought back to back against the French at Alexandria in 1801. The unique Glosers' honour of a back cap badge is also retained.

The Queen's Colour bears 46 combined battle honours from the two world wars, and the regimental Colour bears 47 combined battle honours from other periods. The regimental Colour is unique in that the battle honour scrolls and fringe edgings are not gold but primrose, because of the historic facings of the Glosers.



The new Colours are laid over the drums before being consecrated

Commanded by Lt Col Patrick Davidson-Houston, the battalion formed in Alma Barracks, Catterick, on April 27 as a mechanized battalion of 19th Mechanized Brigade of the 3rd (UK) Division.

If the battalion is not deployed to Bosnia, a six-week exercise in Kenya is envisaged in late 1994 before it moves to Cyprus for two years to take

over the Western Sovereign Base area at Episkopi. This duty will include a four-month tour for a company group in the Falkland Islands.

The battalion has formed a cohesive unit astonishingly quickly, soldiers from the two old regiments bonding easily to create the same friendly environment that was in evidence before amalgamation.

Training initially centred on coming to terms with the battalion's fleet of Saxon armoured vehicles, which were new to almost half the men.

By April 29, thoughts had turned to field training as the Battalion moved to Salisbury Plain. The emphasis was centred around UN-style operations. Range work, field firing and the more specialist skills required by UN forces were all covered.

The package concluded with a two-day exercise, enabling every aspect of training to be put into practice.

At Alma Barracks on May 10 the Band and Drums performed their first Beating Retreat.

Words: Gordon Skilling
Pictures: Mike Perring

Normandy déjà vu.

for 3 (UK) Division

FIFTY YEARS on, the 1994 invasion of Normandy proved a much more peaceful affair than on D-Day as soldiers, past and present, gathered to remember those who fell in action and commemorate the beginning of the Second Front.

It was perhaps apt that the British Army's 3rd (United Kingdom) Division, which had taken part in the original D-Day landing, was selected to support the Second World War veterans in their commemorative events.

Again the British Army deployed by sea and air. At the Marchwood Military Port in Hampshire, dozens of vehicles were driven up the ramps of two Royal Fleet Auxiliary logistic landing ships, *Sir Galahad* and *Sir Bedivere*, as more than 800 troops marched on board.

The vessels are descended from the tank landing ships (LCTs) used so extensively on D-Day, and form part of the United Kingdom's Amphibious Task Group. The military port, used as an assembly area for Operation Overlord and a Mulberry harbour construction site, is home to 17 Port and Maritime Regiment RLC (Lt Col Mike Bowles), which was heavily involved in providing assistance to D-Day events.

For the Hampshire Remembrance D-Day event at Netley, the regiment built a 262ft long Mexeflote causeway to enable the Duke of Edinburgh to reach a barge taking him to the Royal Yacht. A week later at the start of the UK national commemorations, from a beach at Stokes Bay, Gosport, Chieftain main battle tanks were loaded on board two of 51 Port Squadron's RLCs (ramped craft, logistic) as a

symbolic representation of the embarkation of the invasion force.

In addition, the landing ship HMAS *Ardennes* took part in the Royal review of embarked veterans. Meanwhile, three other Army vessels set sail for Arromanches on the Normandy coast.

RAF C130 Hercules aircraft flew another 500 Servicemen and women across the English Channel, including six military bands, Normandy Company from the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst and 20 "press minders" drawn from the Territorial Army's Pool of Public Information Officers commanded by Col Mike Peters.

Another 1,100 British soldiers, of the 1st and 3rd Battalions, The Parachute Regiment

and elements of 10 Para, descended on a Ranville drop-zone.

After the two RFA ships entered the Caen canal at Ouistreham and steamed towards the restored city of Caen, soldiers had a grandstand view of the new Pegasus Bridge which was raised to permit the grey-painted troop carriers to sail past.

At Caen docks, personnel from 59 Movement Control Squadron RLC were waiting to co-ordinate the move of incoming troops to administrative bases from where units would carry out their supporting tasks.

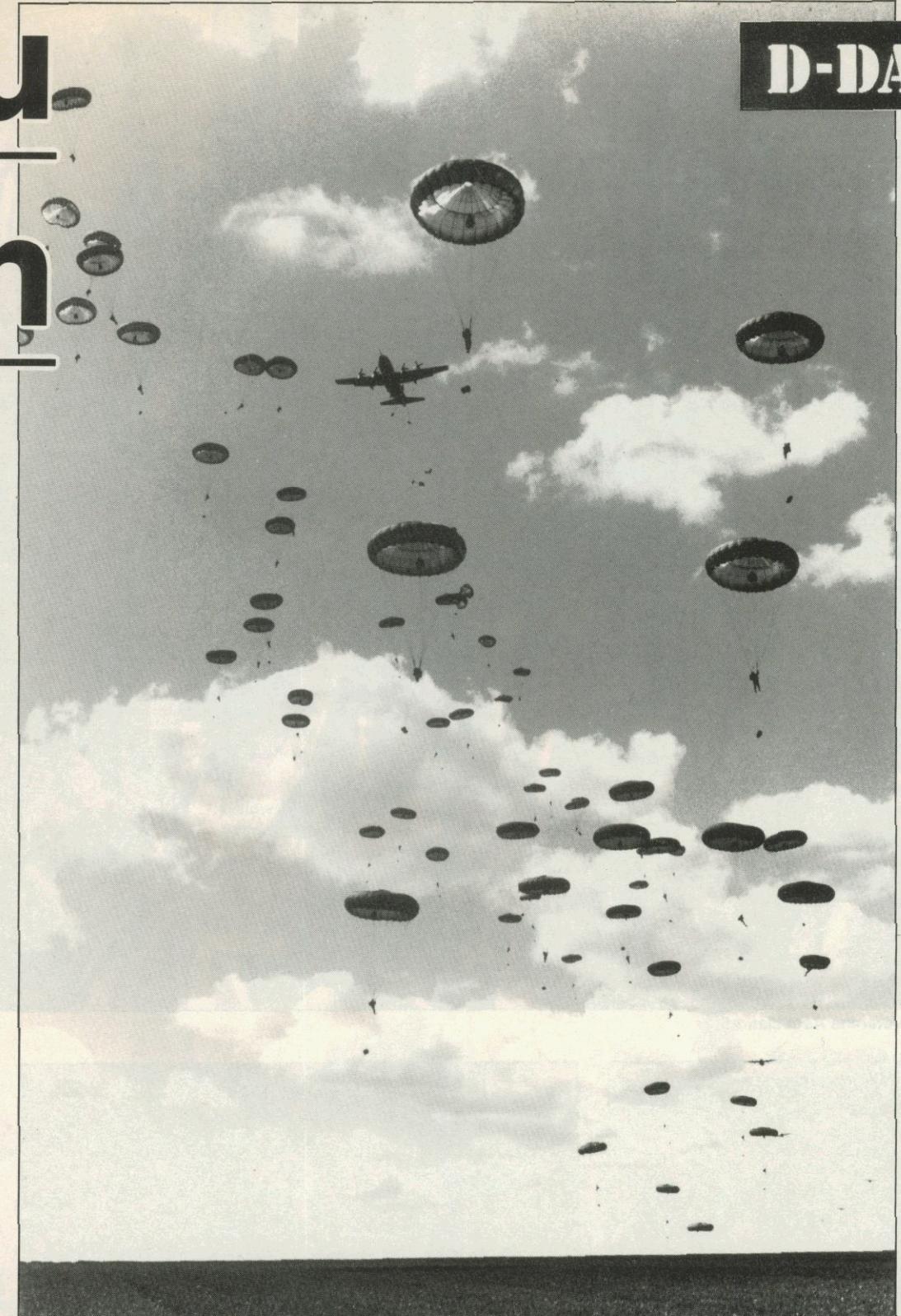
The operation, codenamed Iron Tribute, involved the 3rd (United Kingdom) Division organising services at five war cemeteries and a British veterans' parade at Arromanches.

While divisional troops were deploying, three specialist TA units were putting finishing touches to projects around the D-Day landing areas.

Commanded by Lt Col Peter Hayward-Broomfield, sappers from 120 and 130 Field Squadrons (Air Support) and 198 Field Support Squadron (EOD) (V) used their two-week annual camp to renovate historic sites. To assist in moving men and materials, two Gazelle helicopters and crew from the TA's 666 Squadron Army Air Corps were attached.

On D-Day the 9th Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, commanded by Lt Col Terence Otway, was tasked to knock out a battery of German guns at Merville. Allied planners had been concerned that the battery posed a threat to the eastern flank of the seaborne landings at Sword beach.

A less than successful parachute drop left the battalion scattered across the Normandy countryside. Of its original strength of 800 men, only 150 made it to the start line for the attack. Undeterred, Otway's



One of the largest-ever peacetime parachute drops took place on the original wartime drop zone (DZ) at Ranville, where more than 1,200 paratroopers landed in two waves from 17 C130 Hercules aircraft. Many of the paratroopers were using the new low-level parachute (LLP) which has just entered service as a replacement for the long-established PX4 system. It was the first public showing for the new 'chute

force attacked the battery from the rear and captured the objective in 30 minutes.

Some years ago, one of the battery's casemates, which had been used as a cowshed for 40 years, was renovated by 10 Field Squadron RE. This year, 198 Squadron was tasked to refurbish a second, to provide access for visitors.

Said the OC, Maj Jeremy Smethurst: "We cleared out the interior of the bunker and removed a metre of earth

which covered its top. Concrete steps were laid and a viewing platform was constructed to enable veterans and visitors to stand on top and observe the whole battery area. We also built some orientation tables which will contain pointers to key points around the area."

At the site of Pegasus Bridge, on the opposite bank from Café Gondrée, sappers laid the foundations for a path across the original glider landing

zone. Stone columns mark the spots where the three gliders came to a standstill.

From a clifftop overlooking Arromanches, soldiers built steps down to the town and erected railings at the cliff edge. Nearby, others were installing a memorial, on behalf of the RE Association, to mark the involvement of the many Royal Engineers units in the landings and battles.

Its central feature is a map of Normandy marked to show the

sapper perspective, surrounded on three sides by a stone wall. Formation insignia have been mounted around the wall.

One of the soldiers involved in the stone's construction in the UK was LCpl Terry Moreton, a stonemason in civilian life who has worked on York Minster.

"There was a bit of a drama when we found one of the key pieces of Portland stone had been badly cut," explained Col Hayward-Broomfield. "I phoned the quarry and staff there spent their bank holiday weekend cutting a replacement. We then had to find a way to collect the stone from the UK."

"Fortunately, the US contingent was working further along the coast. I asked their help and they provided a Chinook helicopter which flew us back over the English Channel to collect the new segment of memorial."

The sappers also found time to tour the battlefields and cemeteries. As they prepared to leave, a second invasion was taking place - a veritable armada of ferries full of veterans and their families, landing at French ports in the region. The old soldiers were gathering to remember their fallen comrades, meet fellow survivors and to tell their grandchildren of their part in Operation Overlord.

It was now that months of planning by 3rd (UK) Division's Commander Royal Artillery, Brig Mike Raworth, and his staff paid off, as Deputy Chief of Staff, Col Andrew Figgars explained:

"When tasked for this operation, we began by identifying the nature of the ceremonies, the order of service and who would conduct them. We wanted to ensure that the veterans were able to celebrate the commemoration of their deeds, 50 years ago, in the best possible way."

"We strove to ensure, as far as it was possible, that they were looked after, given the right information and able to get to the right place at the right time."

Two principal divisional headquarters were established - a main HQ on board two landing ships at Caen, and a divisional support group which

• Turn to Page 32



From this observation platform constructed by these sappers from 198 Field Support Squadron (EOD), visitors to Merville Battery will be better placed to view the whole wartime complex



Royal British Legion and Normandy Veterans Association standards are carried on parade



Above: Parachute Regiment Pony Major, Sgt Dave Soanes, with his charges, Shetland Ponies Pegasus and Falkland, lead the Paras on parade at Ranville after a mass parachute drop

Left: Taking a well-earned rest after laying a path and building this seat at Arromanches are Sprs Simon Unitt and Ian Summerscales and Cpl Kevin Pinington



Above: SOLDIER subscriber Ted Abbot (2 Cheshire) holds the Military Medal and bar. He and his gunner escort, Mr Wally Jones, are both wearing the Normandy commemorative medals presented to them at Caen Town Hall

Below: An impromptu memorial service at Bayeux

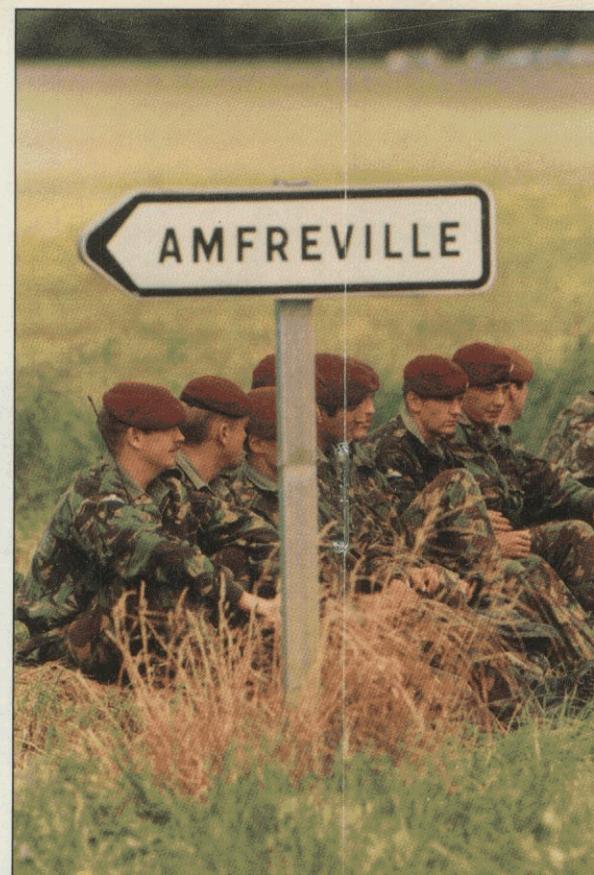


Above: No plan of war on this "bird-table". 3rd (UK) Division's Chief of Staff, Col Tresham Gregg, CRA, Brig Mike Raworth and DCoS, Col Andrew Figgurs co-ordinated the D-Day commemorative events





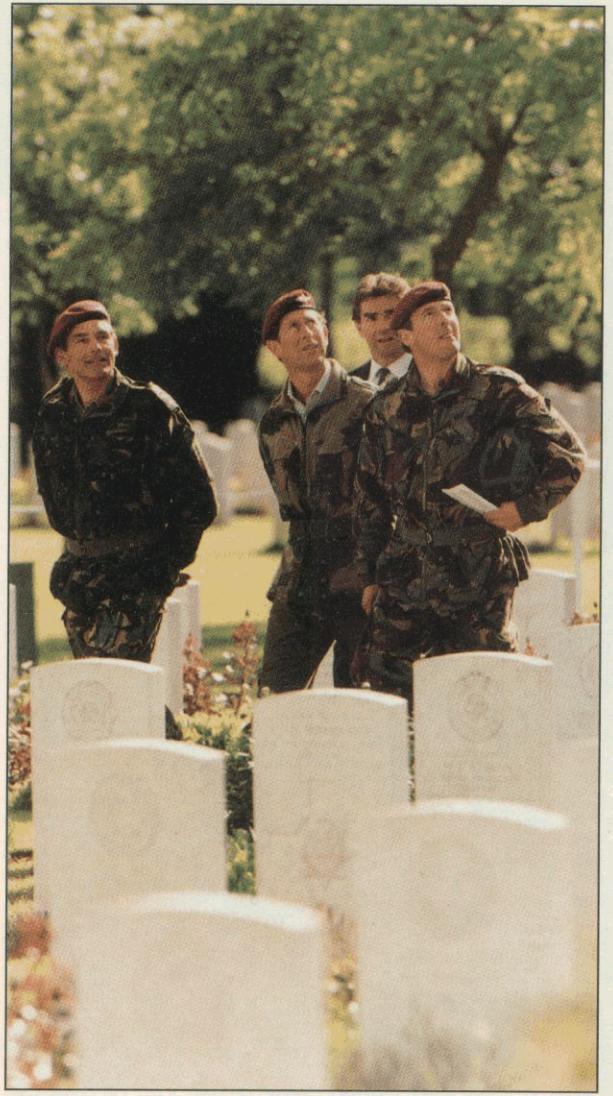
Above: A monk among Normandy veterans reviewed by the Queen and Duke of Edinburgh at Arromanches



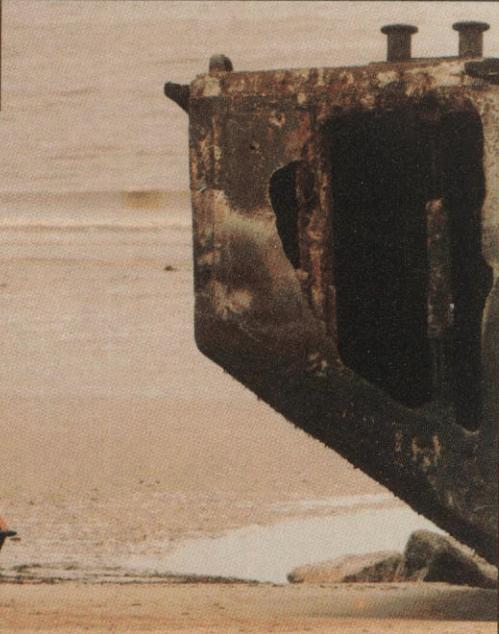
Right: Sappers from 36 Engineer Regiment prepare the beach at Arromanches for the Queen's visit



Above centre: Paras await orders at the Ranville DZ



Left: During a private visit to Ranville war cemetery, the Colonel Commandant of The Parachute Regiment, Maj Gen Rupert Smith, the Prince of Wales and Regimental Colonel David Parker watch a wartime Dakota aircraft passing overhead



Above: Parade commander Academy Sgt Major, WO1 David Cox, had more than 10,000 veterans under his command at Arromanches



Left: Parked next to a section of Mulberry harbour, 23 PFA medics await a call during the Arromanches march-past



Right: This bust of Maj Gen Richard Gale, wartime commander of 6th Airborne Division, was unveiled at Ranville by the Prince of Wales. The bust was sculpted by Vivi Mallock



Above: Army medics Pte Michelle Brown, Capt Philip Rosell and LCpl Alan Shepherd of 23 PFA in conversation with D-Day medical officer Lt Col (Retd) Bert Hodgson.

Right: Commando piper Bill Millin entertains visitors to Bayeux with a virtuoso display

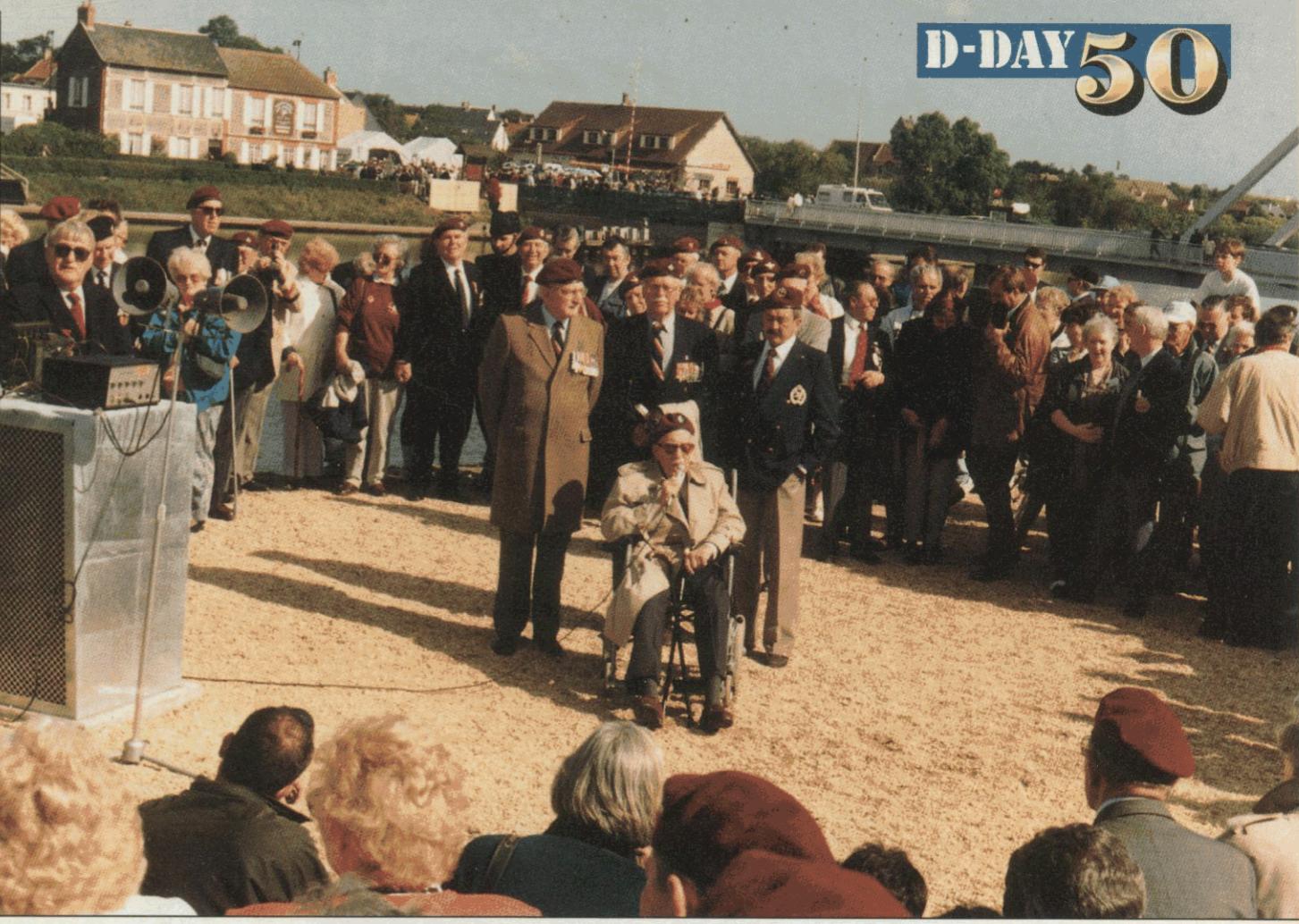
Below: The Chief of the Defence Staff, Fd Marshal Sir Peter Inge, greets two Normandy veterans



Above: A Royal Engineers officer assisting at Bayeux war cemetery

Right: Maj John Howard (seated) recounts his wartime experiences to an appreciative audience at Pegasus Bridge

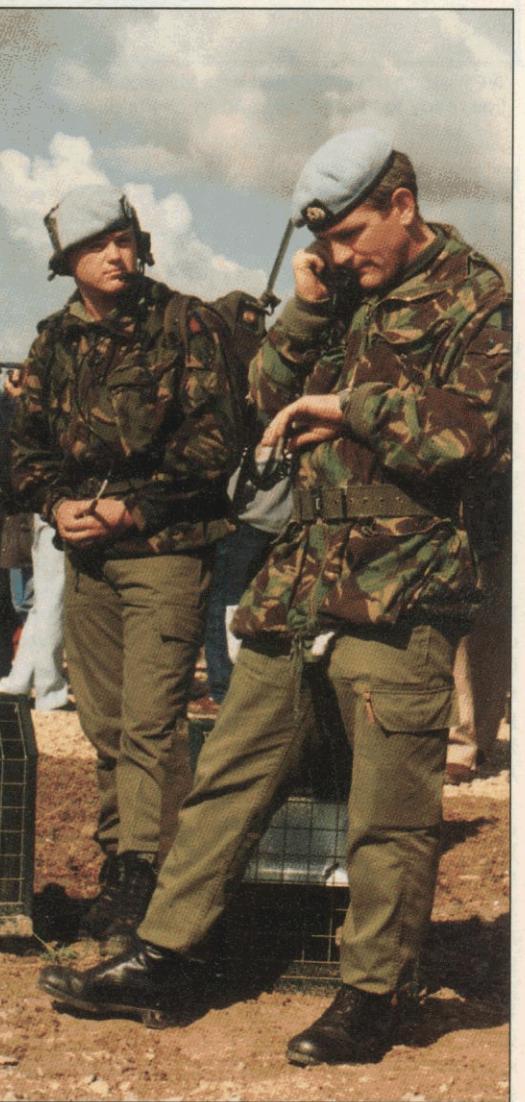
Below: Victor Keech, ex-Royal Norfolk Regiment, at the grave of his platoon commander, Lt Mac Campbell



Above: WO1 (RSM) Dave Wilson of 3 Div Signal Regiment directs two veterans to a commemorative service at Hermanville

Right: Normandy veteran Michael Finan, ex-REME, saw service with the Army, Royal Navy and Royal Air Force. He also served in the Territorial Army

Far right: Cpl Gary Chandler and Maj Mark Betteridge of 653 Squadron AAC provide ground control communications for three Lynx helicopters ferrying veterans to a ceremony at Pegasus Bridge





A Chieftain tank is loaded on a Mexeflote raft operated by 51 Port Squadron RLC at Marchwood Military Port, while RFA Sir Bedivere (behind) lies ready to load troops and trucks taking part in Operation Iron Tribute

This year's gift was soldier kneeling at prayer

● From page 25

controlled logistics for the operation.

Each major unit deployed on the operation was tasked to organise a service of remembrance at five British war cemeteries selected from 18 such sites in the Calvados, said Col Figgars.

The 3rd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment took charge at Ranville; 3 Div Signal Regiment at Hermanville; 1 RWF at Douvres-la-Délivrande; 47 Regiment, Royal Artillery at Ryes and 36 Engineer Regiment at Bayeux.

Other units involved included 1 RHA, 9 Supply Regiment RLC, 158 Provost Company RMP, 653 Squadron AAC, 244 Squadron of 21 Signal Regiment and Catering Support Staff. Medical cover was provided by 23 Parachute Field Ambulance RAMC, while the REME's equipment support sections kept the division's trucks on the road.



With her binoculars and Union Flag at the ready, this Arromanches resident was determined to get a good view of the ceremonies

Attendance at D-Day ceremonies is an annual occurrence for 3 Div, with elements travelling to France to commemorate the invasion at its central point, Hermanville-sur-Mer.

Over the years, the division has presented the village with gifts to mark the very real friendship that exists between the inhabitants, the division and its veterans. These have ranged from a computer for the village school to a Churchill AVRE sited on a memorial at La Brèche d'Hermanville.

This year's gift was a statuette of a British soldier kneeling in prayer before the invasion, sculpted by Peter Hicks. It was presented to the Mayor of Hermanville by the GOC 3 Div, Maj Gen Mike Jackson.

Before the presentation, soldiers laid wreaths on the beach before attending a 3rd Division service of remembrance at the Commonwealth War Graves

Cemetery, where local children laid flowers on the graves of those who died on D-Day.

In the run-up to the national commemorative events, the area around Pegasus Bridge attracted the attention of thousands of veterans. The Bugle Platoon of 2nd Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets, led by Bugle Major Joey Byrne, played at a ceremony at Café Gondrée to mark the presentation of a regimental memorial plaque to mark the establishment's long connection with the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry, whose soldiers landed in the glider operation at the bridge. The cafe was the first house to be liberated on D-Day.

Following the cemetery services on June 6, it was intended that as many British veterans as possible should march past the Queen and other members of the royal family at Arromanches.

In advance of the various



Comrades-in-arms. As one of the main contingents of Normandy veterans march past the Queen at Arromanches, two old soldiers supported each other at a slower pace

D-DAY 50

ceremonies, 20 Field Squadron of 36 Engineer Regiment put together prefabricated platforms on which royal guests and clergy would stand, as well as installing ramps to permit wheelchair access. They had been constructed in kit form at Engineer Resources, Long Marston. There would have been more sappers to hand, but one-third of the regiment had been sent to Bosnia.

"Because the tides on the Normandy coast are so erratic, we had to practise getting the royal dais off the beach before the tide came in, using a self-loading dump truck to carry it.

"We also had to repair steps on the seafront leading to the beach, lay a special woven carpet from the steps to the dais, and construct a ramp over a sewage outfall pipe, across which the veterans had to march."

Said Lt Simon Higgins: "We transported it all across to France on our trucks. When we arrived at Bayeux, we found the factory premises, where we planned to assemble the Royal dais and platforms, was lacking power, light or water.

"My men worked 19 hours a

from 3 Close Support Regiment RLC, and a right guide to lead them throughout. I also had two sergeant majors and two colour sergeants from Sandhurst to assist me."

During the service a veteran collapsed across a platform from which the Armed Forces' senior chaplains were due to lead the prayers. Medics from 23 PFA carried him away on a stretcher.

Ceremonial matters at Arromanches were the responsibility of the RMA Sandhurst's Academy Sergeant Major, WO1 David Cox, Gren Gds - who, as parade commander, had no idea how many veterans would turn up on the day, or whether the beach would support their weight.

"I couldn't be sure of numbers so we rehearsed for 14 divisions of veterans, each 600-strong. In the event, 10,000 turned up," he said.

"Because of the number involved and their age, we tried to keep it simple. There was no rehearsal. Veterans turned up on parade and away they went.

"Each contingent had a marshal, a corporal or above drawn

from 3 Close Support Regiment RLC, and a right guide to lead them throughout. I also had two sergeant majors and two colour sergeants from Sandhurst to assist me."

Beached behind the veterans during the parade were three Army vessels from Marchwood. The larger light-grey logistic landing craft, HMAV *Arakan*, was flanked by two ramped craft (logistic), *Arromanches* and *Arezzo*.

Many veterans were wearing a new medal for the first time. As a tribute to veterans of the Battle of Normandy, the Regional Council of Normandy created a commemorative medal for veterans or next of kin.

They were presented by regional councillors and mayors at the Women's Abbey in Caen or on battle sites during formal ceremonies. The gold medal hangs from a distinctive rainbow-coloured ribbon.

A new report commissioned by the housing charity Crisis claims that ex-Service homeless are more disadvantaged than other homeless people. We look at what the Armed Forces do to redress the balance.

How Service helps prevent homes plight

THE 1990s have seen a revolution in resettlement support and advice for personnel leaving the Armed Forces.

Since the drawdown announcement in 1991 all three Services have established effective organisations to help leavers struggling to negotiate the sometimes bumpy path into civvy street.

Advice and counselling on every resettlement issue – from housing to jobs, training to financial planning – is freely available to all Servicemen and women, married and single, at national, regional and local levels.

This resettlement package is designed to prepare the Serviceman long before he leaves. It starts typically with an interview two years before the departure date outlining options. After that it is up to the individual how much he or she uses the services provided.

A number of housing initiatives are now well established, including the Services Home Savings

Scheme, under which the MoD adds £1 to every £3 saved towards a house.

The MoD has pointed out that the Crisis survey was fairly limited, involving only 73 people, 21 per cent of whom were not ex-Servicemen (they were Merchant Navy seamen). More than half those interviewed were over 50.

Advice centre

MOST personnel, especially those approaching discharge, will be aware of the existence of the Joint Service Housing Advice Office (JSHAO) based at Old Sarum, Salisbury. The need for housing advice was identified by the MoD Housing Task Force in 1991 who recognised the increasing difficulties facing many leavers.

Since its inception, JSHAO has responded to more than 6,000 written enquiries and dealt with

What the Crisis report says . . .

A QUARTER of all single homeless people have served in the Armed Forces, according to research carried out for the housing charity Crisis.

A study of homeless ex-Service and former Merchant Navy personnel, *Falling Out*, concludes that they are more disadvantaged than other homeless people.

They are:

- more likely to sleep rough;
- spend longer periods in temporary accommodation;
- more likely to have been homeless for many years.

In addition, homeless ex-Service people are on

average older, have difficulty in settling on leaving the Forces, and found the level and quality of help in finding accommodation on leaving the Forces to be low.

Of the 73 men interviewed in hostels, soup kitchens and homeless centres in London, only 12 per cent had received help in finding accommodation when they left the Forces, and only 39 per cent were satisfied with the help they had received.

"Single people leaving the Forces suffer the double blow of losing their job and their accommodation," says Crisis.

Many who had thought at the time that they did not need help had since changed their minds.

The report concludes that resettlement help is geared towards families.

much less so to single Servicemen and women.

Only ten per cent of cases dealt with by the Joint Service Housing Advice Office, set up in 1992, are single people. The report acknowledges that schemes do exist to help the single ex-Service homeless, but says they can help only a small number each year.

"Single people leaving the Forces suffer the double blow of losing their job and their accommodation," says Crisis.

The nature of their life in the Forces has meant that they have not built up a stake in housing – through tenant's rights or on the house-buying ladder – and they have no right to be rehoused by their local authority.

"They are also more likely to have become institutionalised . . ."

"The MoD should recognise the particular problems of single people leaving the Forces and the role they have in helping them in the transition to civilian life." This was especially important in the light of the redundancies resulting from Options for Change.

Measures recommended by the *Falling Out* authors include:

- MoD should make use of its empty quarters (10,000 at the end of 1993) for single people leaving the Forces;
- Schemes combining temporary accommodation with employment training and housing and job-finding services should be established for people leaving the Forces.

There is no question that sound advice and relevant information is available through JSHAO which has an impressive data base listing details of all local authorities in the UK and their policies towards housing ex-regulars, lists of housing associations, letting and estate agents.

Where there is a specific housing policy or provision for single people, this has been noted. Guidance and assistance can only be given to those who seek it and it is never too early to start thinking about future housing needs. Preparation leads to better prospects of success.

For housing advice, contact: Joint Service Housing Advice Office, HQ UKLF, Old Sarum, Salisbury, Wilts SP4 6BN (tel: 0722 43 8235/8236/8237; fax: 0722 43 8224).

*Falling Out, available from Crisis, 7 Whitechapel Road, London E1 1DU (tel: 071-377 0489), price £6.95.



Army HQ Scotland's Action and Support Team. Pictured left to right are (back) Maj Rod Jay, WO1 Gordon Prescott, Maj Angus McPherson and Capt Steve Bollen; (front) data base operator David Moore, Cpl Helen Sturgess and Sgt Duncan Hay

FOR FAMILIES

Scotland's message to Germany

RESETTLEMENT experts from the Action and Support team at HQ Scotland met more than 140 Service leavers and their wives during an intensive roadshow tour of BAOR.

Their presentations at Hohne, Gütersloh and Rheindahlen were made in two parts: short talks in the morning followed by discussions after lunch.

A member of the team also visited many units sending redundants to Scotland to discuss admin problems that have arisen in the

past. Purpose of the roadshow was to ensure that all Germany-based leavers are aware of problems they may face.

Housing and employment were the most pressing issues, and the roadshow team was grateful for support given by representatives from the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities, Scottish Homes, the Law Society of Scotland, the Employment Service and Fife Enterprise.

You can contact the Action and Support Team at Army HQ Scotland at any time. Their 24-hour telephone number is Edinburgh Military 2353 or 031-310 2353.

Management awards for Servicemen

WATCH out for a new Education for Promotion scheme for soldiers.

Linked to the National Examining Board for Supervisory Management, the scheme will allow corporals to gain the introductory award, and staff sergeants the certificate, in addition to the appropriate Military Education for Promotion Certificate.

Entry into the scheme is conditional on satisfactory completion of pre-course packages in numeracy and literacy.

DSS leaflets

NEW leaflets from the Department of Social Security include: *Invalidity Benefit (NI 16A)* and *Statutory Sick Pay – check your rights (NI 244)*.

Cheaper crossings

SERVICE families can take advantage of a special 15 per cent discount on all cross-Channel sailings with Sally Ferries.

Cari Roberts

→ COUNTERPOINT ←

SSAFA adopts new image

the only one to be having problems with the CSA – particularly if you're a second wife – be assured that you are not.

Don't be afraid to approach the FAW or any of the other agencies who can help.

All information is treated in the strictest confidence.

• • •

Finally, three long-running stories are attracting the attention of the media at the moment: the compensation payments to women who left the Services on pregnancy; the proportion of ex-Servicemen currently living on the streets of London; and the possibility that those who served in the Gulf War may be suffering ill effects, allegedly resulting from environmental factors.

I have been asked to comment by various organisations, so any advice you have to offer is welcome.

Needless to say I treat all letters in the very strictest confidence.

• • •

You write to Cari Roberts at Counterpoint, BFBS, BFPO 786 or c/o SOL-DIER.

35

Homefinder offers wider choice

NATIONWIDE Building Society has extended its Homefinder part-buy, part-rent scheme to include properties available for sale from its network of more

than 300 estate agents across England and Wales.

Homefinder, which has been endorsed by the MoD, previously offered only properties taken into

possession by Nationwide.

Details on 0604 793766, any Nationwide estate agency, the Joint Services Housing Advice Office or resettlement offices.

For housing advice, contact:

Joint Service Housing Advice Office, HQ UKLF, Old Sarum, Salisbury, Wilts SP4 6BN (tel: 0722 43 8235/8236/8237; fax: 0722 43 8224).

*Falling Out, available from Crisis, 7 Whitechapel Road, London E1 1DU (tel: 071-377 0489), price £6.95.

Going from badge to worse!

HAVING examined the recently-issued head-dress badge of a soldier of the Royal Gloucestershire, Berkshire and Wiltshire Regiment, I wonder who ever approved such an awful specimen.

In my view the design has some small merit but the execution and final result are badly produced, far too heavy and as far as I can recall quite the worst regimental badge to appear since such badges were generally adopted in 1800.

One can only hope that it will not be long before it is replaced. — **Hugh L King (co-author, *Regimental Badges of the British Army*), Farnham, Surrey.**

• Picture — Page 23

Not only sappers at Beachley . . .

AS AN ex-apprentice of the Army Technical School, Beachley, I was naturally very interested to read the report (May 2) on the pending closure of the Army Apprentices College.

May I enlarge on the comment "the school continued to provide the Army's young Royal Engineers throughout the Second World War".

Throughout the war the Army Technical School also trained artificers and gun fitters for the Royal Artillery, vehicle mechanics for the RASC and other tradesmen who eventually joined the armoured regiments, RAOC and REME as well as RE. We were extremely proud of the various arms and corps we were destined to join on completion of our three-year apprenticeships.

Another omission was of the large contingent of Beachley Old Boys Association who, despite the age of some and the inclement weather, took part in the march through Chepstow. Many more were spectators.

There may be some Old Boys who are unaware that, despite the closing of the Apprentice College, the Beachley Old Boys Association will continue to exist. All ex-Beachley boys can join.

The address to write to for information is: Hon Secretary, BOBA, The Old Schoolhouse, Beachley, Chepstow NP6 7YG.

I went to Beachley in April 1942 as an apprentice artificer, eventually joining the Royal Artillery. For any ex-Boys reading this, I was in 42A Group, C Company.

Although I have now been retired from the Army for many years I still look forward each fortnight to the arrival of *Soldier*. — **G R Stanley, 12 Leopold Drive, Bishops Waltham, Hants SO32 1JU.**

Border skirmish

"DEPENDABLE county regiments . . . are the backbone of the British Army". Having read this in *Soldier* (May 2) I immediately wondered which Scottish "county" regiments would fit your statement.

After all, as I understand, the "regional" regiments of Scotland do not even have regimental stable belts, everyone having to use that of the Scottish Division.

Then I read A Denton's comment (Letters May 2) regarding his Army service — "Why not the English?" What

about the British squaddie? Ah, now we have the answer: the Armed Forces are really English. This would explain the rape and betrayal of Rosyth.

It would also give credence to the story of the English officer with the Royal Irish who was overheard stating that the only problem with his regiment was that there should be more English public schoolboys as there were too many Irishmen in the regiment. — **A A Bolland (ex-RMP), Middleton, nr Morecambe, Lancs.**

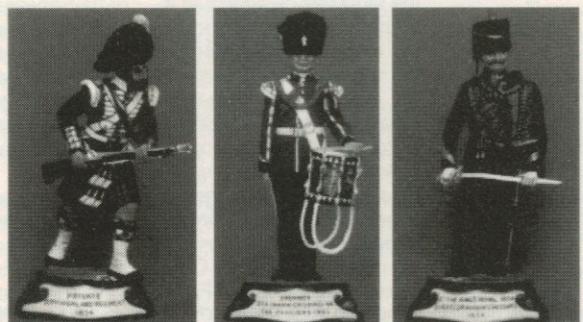
Cheered up by the RLC

MAY I, through *Soldier*, express my thanks to the members of the Royal Logistic Corps, whose unfailing cheerfulness, kindness and courtesy during the five hours we spent

awaiting our coaches after the D-Day ceremony at Arromanches helped us greatly — quite apart from the endless supplies of hot and cold drinks. — **Patricia Lloyd, Worcester.**



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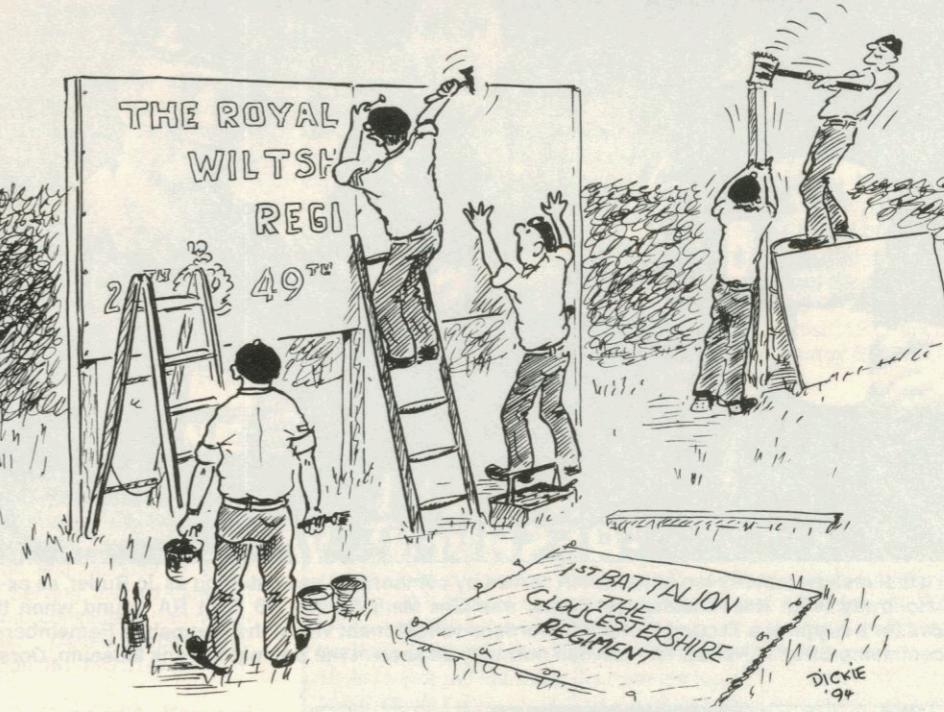
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BIRD'S EYE-VIEW



"It'll fit on to three panels I think, Sgt Jenkins."

• New Colours for RGBWR — see Pages 22-23

German paras at Cassino

I ATTENDED the commemoration ceremonies at Monte Cassino and Anzio. The Peninsular Band of the Royal Green Jackets and four pipers from

Red in the face

ACCORDING to a letter I have received from the Editor of *The Guardian Weekly*, a Suez Emergency medal was not awarded, and never will be, due to "British embarrassment in the face of military and diplomatic humiliation, combined with a desperate desire to forget it ever happened".

If this is indeed the real reason it does not diminish in any way the efforts and sacrifices of our troops. Should a token gesture be required to acknowledge the "cock-up" perhaps the medal should be given only to the rank and file. — **Hugh Jones, Prince George, British Columbia, Canada.**

Yanks at the ceremonies, although the 5th Army was for a long time in command at Cassino and all through the campaign at Anzio.

Musical support was also provided at a parade in Gaeta and the pipers attended social functions.

Ex-soldiers from all over the Commonwealth were there and all must have appreciated the presence of the band and pipers. It was a moving and memorable occasion. Only those with no sense of history, and a beady eye on the exchequer, could have failed to anticipate the need.

Strangely, there were no

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Yanks at the ceremonies, although the 5th Army was for a long time in command at Cassino and all through the campaign at Anzio.

The Mitsubishi Zero is a low-wing single-engine aircraft. The crossbar reinforcing on the side of the cockpit canopy is another clue.

That wreck is worth serious money and would greatly enhance regimental funds. — **John Tiley, San Francisco, California.**

Origin of feather

I HAVE been burning the midnight oil regarding George Robinson's query as to the origin of the white feather being presented to a non-combatant (Letters, February 21).

Brewer's Dictionary of Phrase and Fable, published in the 1930s, states that a cock would show the white ruff at the back of its neck when it had enough of fighting.

Despite long hours of research I can find no reference to the custom being carried out before the First World War.

As the novel *The Four Feathers* was published just after the Second Boer War I can only presume the author used artistic licence and the idea for the custom came from the book and perhaps the first version of the film. — **Malcolm Cameron, Edinburgh.**



Illustration from German book on pre-1914 uniforms

Berlin riddle

THE heraldic eagle on the ceiling of the corridor in 46 Army Education Centre, Berlin, as depicted in *Soldier* (May 2) is the Prussian eagle worn in brass on the spiked helmets (*Pickelhaube*) of a number of Prussian Grenadier regiments and the 3rd Regiment of Prussian Horse Grenadiers before 1914.

The eagle with wings outstretched and holding a sword and a sceptre was also used by Prussian Guards regiments but then they were augmented with different emblems.

Line regiments had the Prussian eagle with its wings elevated on their spiked helmets. — **H Muller, Lt Col (Retd) Royal Marechaussee, Breda, Netherlands.**

SOLDIER to Soldier

Headstones tell a story

EVERY headstone in Normandy's war cemeteries represents a soldier's story. At Ranville where the main force of the 6th Airborne Division landed to hold the left flank of the invasion force, three headstones mark unusual events or circumstances.

Pte Emile Courteil, Para, was responsible for paratroop dog Glen. On D-Day, witnesses thought the dog unusually hesitant to leave the aircraft. Tragically, the soldier and his dog were among those killed in a "friendly fire" incident. Found linked by Glen's lead, they are buried together.

German-Jew Kurt Meyer died serving with No 10 (Inter-Allied) Commando. For obvious reasons, he served under an assumed name, as LCpl Peter Moody of The Hampshire Regiment. Both names appear on the headstone.

His namesake, Col Kurt Meyer, who commanded the 12th SS (Hitler Youth) Panzer Division, was later sentenced to death for his part in the murder of 23 Canadian soldiers at Buron. His sentence was commuted to life and he was released nine years later.

The grave of Lt Den Brotheridge lies on the edge of an adjacent church at Ranville. After landing with Maj John Howard's glider force at Pegasus Bridge, the officer was killed in the attack. He was found outside Cafe Gondrée, having been shot in the throat.

He was the first Allied soldier to die on D-Day.

Medical link with college

TWENTY Army medical and dental SNCOs and warrant officers from all over the world have completed a special four-week course run by Farnborough College of Technology at classrooms in Keogh Barracks near Aldershot.

The pilot scheme for military medical and dental group practice managers provided training which led to a diploma from the Association of Medical Secretaries, Practice Administrators and Secretaries (AMSPAR).

All 20 candidates gained the diploma, nine with credit and four with distinction. The course was designed by Ann Dennis, a senior lecturer at the Farnborough college, advised by Lt Col Terry Reeves, Technical Training Officer for Army Medical Services.



Picture: Mike Perrin



Picture: Terry Champion

Rheindahlen reminder

ARTISTS take note. The second Army Arts Society Festival to be staged in Germany will take place in Rheindahlen from November 17-19. Last year's at Bielefeld was judged to be a great success.

Organiser Liz Mackenzie (Foster House, RAF Wegberg, BFPO 40, tel: 02161 27414) wants to hear from anyone interested in exhibiting, demonstrating or performing. All Service personnel, dependents and attached civilians are eligible.

SSVC scoops film awards

SIX OUT OF seven SSVC training films entered in the prestigious US International Film and Video Festival in Chicago received top awards in competition with 1,500 entries from 29 countries.

And on the same day, SSVC was presented with the Aviation and Space Writing Association Award for Excellence for its entry in the industry communications video category at an awards ceremony in the National Air and Space Museum in Washington.

REUNIONS

● **RGJ Association:** Royal Green Jackets Association reunion, July 9, Sir John Moore Barracks, Winchester. Details from Bettie Hicks, RHQ, Peninsula Barracks, Romsey Road, Winchester, Hants SO23 8TS (tel: 0962 864176).

● **12th Bn, The Devonshire Regiment (6th Airborne) 1940-45:** 48th annual reunion dinner to be held at the Devon Motel, Exeter by-pass (Matford Roundabout), October 15. Contact Mrs Ada Follett, Rosemount, Exmouth Road,

Exton, nr Exeter, Devon EX3 0PQ (tel: 0392 874596).

● **Artillery Clerks:** 61st reunion dinner at Woolwich on October 29. Serving and former artillery clerks and all SNCO military clerks serving with RA establishments, regiments or units welcome. Details from WO2 (SQMS) C A Knaggs on 081-781 3710.

● **South Notts Hussars Association:** Reunion dinner, Nottingham, November 12. Details from Col A J Haines, 54 Rivergreen

Crescent, Bramcote, Notts NG9 3ET (tel: 0602 285371).

● **43rd Recce Regt RAC (The Gloucestershire Regiment):** Derryculihy survivors and others are invited to attend a Service of Remembrance on November 13 at the Merchant Navy War Memorial, Tower Hill, London EC3. Wreaths will be laid for crewmen and members of the regiment lost on June 24, 1944. Details from M McEwen Charlish, 132 Park Lane, Carshalton, Surrey SM5 3DT (tel: 081-647 4270).

CLOSURES

● **Support Weapons Wing, Netheravon** is relocating to Warminster in April 1995 to come under the control of ITC, when the WOs' and Sgts' Messes will merge. Anyone who presented items to the Sgts' Mess and does not wish them to be transferred is asked to write to RSM SWW, c/o SWW, Netheravon, Salisbury SP4 9SG regarding disposal.

● **12 RSME Regiment** will be amalgamating with Depot Regiment RE in September. Anyone who has donated items which they would like returned should contact Mrs Sheila Young on 0634 822601 by September 30. Unclaimed pieces will be donated to the new 1 RSME Regiment.

MILITARIA

● **Palestine Police (1919-48):** Sidney Allison (3444 Karger Terrace, Victoria, BC, Canada V9C 3K5) wishes to locate any books or written records of the "Pal Police".

● **Department of Archives, Bahamas** wishes to obtain photographs, records or articles of regiments or soldiers stationed in the Bahamas during the Second World War. Replies to Director of Archives, Department of Archives, PO Box SS6341, Nassau, Bahamas.

● **Researcher of 159(W) Fd Amb (1947-65) and 224 Fd Amb (1965 to present day)** wishes to borrow photographs of these TA units in Clydach (1947-54) and Stoke-on-Trent (1954 onwards). Write to G J Packer, 61 Birchgrove Road, Birchgrove, Swansea SA7 9JR.

PILGRIMAGES

● A memorial to **RASC Air Despatchers** who lost their lives while attempting to re-supply Airborne Forces at Arnhem in September 1944 will be unveiled and dedicated by Gen Sir John Hackett on Sunday, November 18. Location of the memorial is 200m from the entrance to Oosterbeek Cemetery. Details from Maj W M Carlisle RLC on RAF Lyneham 6515 or 0249 890381 ext 6515.

● **Japanese Labour Camp Survivors' Association of Great Britain** is arranging three two-week pilgrimages to Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia and Burma to mark the 50th anniversary of the end of the Second World War. Onward travel also possible. Pilgrimages not restricted to JLCSA members. Enquiries to Three Pagodas VJ50, Rayner House, 23 Higher Hillgate, Stockport, Cheshire SK1 3ER.

SEARCHLINE

● **Queen's Regimental Association:** Sutton branch, newly formed at TA Centre, Sutton, Surrey, meets on first Monday of every month. Serving and ex-Queensmen and constituent regiments welcome. Details from Eric Hensby on 081-715 5141.

● **Mrs P Harris:** 30 Kenwood Road, Portchester, Fareham, Hants PO16 9LR wishes to trace her son **Michael Norman Harris** (48), with whom she lost contact 20 years ago.

● **JLR RA, Ramsay Troop, Hereford and Bramcote 1958-61:** With a view to a reunion, anyone who remembers Peter (Trig) Cole is asked to contact him at 1 Rosewood Close, Westborough Way, Anlaby Common, Hull HU4 7SQ (tel: 0482 507321).

● Does anyone remember **Sgt Harold Brown**, Kings, who lived in Market Drayton before the war, was drafted to Isle of Man after Dunkirk, and later commissioned at Octu in India? Replies to Mrs E Wood (48 Hawarden Avenue, Douglas, Isle of Man IM1 4BG), widow of his friend, the late Capt Wood, Green Howards.

● **JLR RAC (1965-67):** William McKinnon is trying to trace James M T Scott, Bill McDowell, Paul Stow and others from JLR RAC, B Sqn (Churchill Block), Stanley Barracks, Bovington Camp, Dorset. Replies to PO Box 2958, Rivonia, 2128 Johannesburg, South Africa.

● **Herr Bruno Freitag:** sports officer with Bundeswehr at Holzminnen in 1958-59, wishes to trace his friends **Lt White or Waite** and **Sgt Cowley**, who were either Royal Engineers or RCT. Replies to him at Immobilien Contor Nord GmbH, Kurhausstrasse 6, 25999 Kampen/Sylt, Germany.

● **IJLB, Crownhill Barracks, Plymouth (Jan 1956-Dec 1957):** If you served at the Infantry Junior Leaders Battalion in Crownhill

DIARY

JULY

2: Cavalry Barracks, Hounslow, open day with 1 Kings (081-818 6527/Mil 764 5527).

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

16-23: Nijmegen Marches, the Netherlands.

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

AUGUST

14-15: Army Careers/ESCA U-15 county cricket championship finals, Officers Club and Buller Barracks, Aldershot.

SEPTEMBER

5-11: Farnborough International Airshow.

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

Barracks, especially in 9 Pl, C Coy, including permanent staff, contact Howard Johnson, 35 Maes-y-Satn, Pentrech, Cardiff CF4 8QQ (tel: 0222 891274) with a view to a reunion next year.

● 19 Air Formation Signals (1944-71, Burma, Singapore and other Far East stations): Former members invited to join newly-formed regimental association and attend second reunion in September. Details from Fred Fordyce, 10 Woodstock Place, Edinburgh EH16 6BE.

● **Soldier Bob:** Photograph sought of Soldier Bob, a labrador-border collie with the signals platoon of a KOSB battalion in NW Europe during the Second World War. Replies to Editor, SOLDIER, Ordnance Road, Aldershot GU11 2DU.

● 697 WT Coy and 698 WT Coy (1949-52): Anyone who served with Dvr Marshall John Bailey is asked to write to him at 3 Brynamlwg, Clydach, Swansea SA6 5NB.

● 12th Anti-Tank Regiment RA and RASC, Egypt, 1950: Film production company wishes to hear from former personnel. Contact Helen Stroud, Convergence Productions, 10 The Chandlery, 50 Westminster Bridge Road, London SE1 7QY (tel: 071-721 7531).

APPOINTMENTS

Maj Gen M J D Walker CBE has been appointed Colonel Commandant Army Air Corps with effect from May 20 in succession to Gen Sir John Learmont KCB CBE.

● **Colonels - A E Whitley** - To HQ ARRC, May 30; C A Atkins - To 2 Dent Gp, May 30; R E Potts - To 7 Dent Gp, June 3; M M Slattery - To QEMH, June 13.

● **Lt Cols - P T Macfarlane** RACD - To Pool of Chaplains UK; May 31; T M White RLC - To Staff Coll, May 31; C S K Anderson LG - To be Def Attaché

Rabat, June 11; B W Barry LI - To be CO 2 LI, June 6; A J Brown RACD - To be Warden Church House UKSC(G), June 7; J B O'Gorman IG - To HQ Londist, June 6; I C Shuker, R Signals - To HQ UKSC(G), June 6; D J B Wood KRH - To Staff Coll (DS), June 13; D J Cooke REME - To HQ BF Cyprus, June 13.

● **RETIREMENTS** **Colonels - R J Abbott**, late AAC, June 17; D M G Charles, late Para, June 16; R W Potts, late RADC, June 15.

Back to the Iron Duke's fiery fields

WORDS by Ian Fletcher, photographs by Andy Cook. And fine photographs they are, too, in *Fields of Fire - Battlefields of the Peninsular War*.

Nothing wrong with Fletcher's words, either, as they tell the powerful story of Wellington's six-year war from 1808 against the French in Spain and Portugal.

This a guide telling how, when and where Wellington, formerly Sir Arthur Wellesley, "arguably the greatest military commander in British history", fought the French with a mix of English and Portuguese soldiers to drive them out of Spain in 1814, resulting in the award of a dukedom.

War in those days was a strange affair, with many officers behaving like dandies by wearing top hats, carrying umbrellas and riding to hounds. Even Wellington was known to chase the fox, but drew the line at carrying a brolly.

The soldiers, on the other hand, experienced the rough end of life, but it was possibly better than before they joined up. For many it was an escape from poverty, crime and other social problems and deprivations.

Cook's black-and-white photographs show the battlefields as they are today, supported by some excellent colour plates of famous paintings of battles and of historic sites taken by both him and Cook.

This beautifully produced book, well set out with easy-to-read type on high-quality paper, is an excellent companion to battlefield tours.

It is also a first-class reference source which will enhance any bookshelf, but keep it away from the coffee table in case someone has an accident. -JM

Fields of Fire - Battlefields of the Peninsular War by Ian Fletcher, photographs by Andy Cook. Spellmount, £35.

Eyewitness in the Crimea

THE CRIMEAN War, or "Russian War" as contemporaries had it, is among the most extensively documented conflicts in British military history.

Kinglake's eight volumes and the host of other lesser works down to the present day have surely told us all we could seek to know about that mismanaged campaign.

So is there room for yet another offering? The co-authors of *War Correspondents: The Crimean War* demonstrate that there is.

Unlike previous scribes, they concentrate on the despatches of William Howard Russell, who, as accredited correspondent of *The Times*, was the first to reveal to the shocked British public the appalling horrors and sufferings endured by the

But their despatches give

Soldiers of the Queen, from the initial assembly camp at Varna on the Black Sea to the final siege of Sevastopol. way to those of the pre-eminent journalist whose name is familiar to all students of the conflict. The major part of this book reproduces in full the voluminous eyewitness accounts "Bill" Russell sent home via the new "Electric Telegraph".

Some of these include trivia uncomplimentary to the aged British C-in-C. While his troops were suffering from the cholera epidemic at Varna, Lord Raglan was worrying about the question of facial hair. Should the soldiers be ordered to shave? Compromising as ever, he decreed that moustaches might be worn, but not beards.

Contemporary photographs of hirsute Guardsmen and others show that this ruling was

largely ignored. Lord Lucan of the Cavalry Division, while not quarrelling with his insubordinate subordinate, Lord Cardigan, was concerned about the "dirty appearance" of his troopers and demanded that stocks of yellow ochre and white pipeclay should be requisitioned. Would mules be available to transport such necessities? commented Russell.

But the meat of his despatches was, of course, his blow-by-blow eyewitness descriptions of the battles of the Alma, Inkerman, and of course the Charge of the Light Brigade at Balaclava, which inspired Tennyson to thrill his public with his "into the Valley of Death" versifying.

Russell's later images of the fields of battle must have shocked the Victorians at their breakfast tables.

"The skeleton of an English dragoon lay still with tattered bits of red cloth hanging to the bones of his arms... the half-decayed skeleton of artillery and cavalry horses lay as they fell, or had crumbled away into a debris of skin and bone.

"From the numerous graves the uncovered bones of the tenants started up through the soil, as if to appeal against the haste with which they had been buried."

Lesser-known operations such as the Kertch expedition and the naval offensive in the Baltic under Admiral Sir Charles Napier receive due attention, the latter contributing his own despatches.

The joint authors, Andrew Lambert and Stephen Badsey, are both professional lecturers in military history, the former at King's College London, the latter at Sandhurst. They are thus well qualified to add explanatory introductions to each chapter.

The numerous illustrations include several hitherto unpublished photographs by Roger Fenton, the earliest war photographer.

This volume is a worthy addition to the corpus of literature on the Crimean War. -JMB

All three are from Band-leader, whose videos and discs are now available only from The Sound & Picture Co, PO Box 177, Dorking, Surrey RH5 5FE, all at £15 each, or from dealers, CDs at £12, cassettes at £7.60.

Rodney Bashford

Pageantry on screen

VIDEOS of outstanding military musical events have been available for some time, including Retreat Beatings, the Royal Tournament, the Mountbatten Festival of Music, and the last of the tattoos.

But for sheer spectacle, that much overused word, you have to possess the three Wembley Musical Pageants.

Never again can so many musicians be gathered together in one place, most of the bands seen here having disappeared into history. It is a sobering thought that the remaining Army bands, even if available, could muster no more than half the number seen on these videos.

For band buffs of all ages, and for those who enjoy the nostalgia of things past, these three pageants represent a keepsake that you will be proud to own in years to come, and perhaps hand down through the family.

The logistical problems should have been insurmountable, yet such is, seemingly, our national talent for the organisation and performance of great ceremonial displays, that all was achieved with a minimum of fuss and rehearsal, particularly the

fuss. Field marshals and generals arriving to watch a rehearsal were dismayed at the chaos of 1,500 musicians, guns, horses, tanks, and vehicles of all kinds milling about the Wembley stadium. Yet not a word of concern was passed to the directors.

The odd minister of this and that went white at the gills, but not the generals.

VIDEOS

They knew it would, as always, be right on the night.

When the television programmes offer nothing of interest try these on your visitors and friends, especially if they are from abroad.

You can be your own commentator, detailing the various manoeuvres, uniforms, regiments and any facts from your own experience and knowledge.

The Biggest Band Spectacular in the World Vol. 2 is on video VHS BNV 1990, and contains the pageants of 1975 and 1977. The first was attended by the Prince of Wales, and the 1977 doubled as the Silver Jubilee Reserve and Cadet Forces Review

DIPLOMATICALLY SPEAKING...

AN OLD after-dinner story tells of an Englishman walking along Whitehall on a foggy night during a Second World War blackout who stops an English passer-by to ask which side the Foreign Office was on.

"I don't know, mate," replies the passer-by, "but I believe in the last war they were on our side."

The story is one of many told to great effect in *Diplomatic Bag*, a collection of anecdotes, humorous or otherwise, from the world of diplomacy.

Edited by Sir John Ure, one of Mrs Thatcher's Foreign Office advisers during the Falklands crisis, the anthology ranges from the Renaissance to the Gulf War.

Soldier-diplomats such as Lord Kitchener, Sir Fitzroy Maclean and Sir Andrew Gilchrist come across larger than life in some of the more amusing tales.

Gilchrist, ambassador in Reykjavik at the start of the Cod War in the Seventies, found his embassy under attack by an angry mob and stones were being thrown at the windows by one large Icelandic fisherman with great accuracy.

Turning to his First Secretary, Gilchrist said coolly: "Try to remember that chap's face: if he throws a cricket ball as well as he does a rock we ought to try to get him for the embassy cricket XI!"

Faced on a later occasion

George's bosom friends

by another hostile and noisy crowd - this time in Dublin

- he decided to match decibels with decibels and instructed his Highlander military attaché to drown the sound of the opposition with his bagpipes.

For sheer outrageous behaviour, few who figure in this gem of a book can outdo George Brown, Foreign Secretary in the Sixties, who had a reputation for peeking down the bosom of his diplomatic hostess when dining out at London embassies.

But one evening at a Scandinavian embassy he excelled himself - "causing enormous offence", according to one of his private secretaries at the time.

"The ambassador in question was not young - and George had not troubled to peek down her bosom," says Sir Richard Parsons.

"Prepared for the experience, she had been deeply mortified by his failure to come up to scratch." - CH

Diplomatic Bag edited by John Ure. John Murray, hardback, £19.99.

Easy with the knife

SOME diaries never contain a harsh word about anyone or anything. From their jottings it would appear their authors just don't like writing about disagreeable events.

Seldom, it seems, does anything nasty happen to them or those around them.

Such a diary, for that is what *A Doctor's Experiences of Life* really is, are the reminiscences of Maj Gen Patrick Dignan, former Director of Army Surgery and Consulting Surgeon to the Army.

It is largely composed of malice-free stories about colleagues, friends and acquaintances, though there are some tragic episodes resulting from the nature of his work.

No doubt the general could, had he wished, have filled his 128 pages - which includes 36 family album-style monochrome photographs - with more spirited tales and illustrations, but he sticks to his image, described in the foreword by Col T A I Bouchier Hayes as a man who would "never tell a story that reflected badly on anybody other than himself..."

This book mirrors the more positive aspects of his military life, but should not be dismissed on that score. It's actually very good. -JM

A Doctor's Experiences of Life, by Patrick Dignan. Pentland Press, £10.50.

Pipers played a vital role

BILL MILLIN's recently recounted exploits with Lord Lovat's 1st Special Service Brigade at D-Day introduced a new generation to the courage of pipers leading soldiers into battle.

The effect of Highland bagpipes on our own troops - and the enemy - is part of our military heritage but heroism of earlier years was in danger of being forgotten until the republication of Charles Mal-

colm's study, *The Piper in Peace and War*.

The book, which details how pipers have led soldiers into battle since the days of the Roman piper commemorated in Hadrian's Wall, should be compulsory reading in the few remaining piping battalions.

First appearing nine years

● Turn to next page

The SAS makes racy reading

IT IS NOW 14 years since the SAS hit the headlines with their storming of the Iranian Embassy in London. Since then they have seldom been out of the news or of books, much to their perceived chagrin.

Now they are in print yet again, this time in *The SAS - Savage Wars of Peace*.

A follow-up to *The SAS at War*, this book takes up the regiment's unofficial story from 1947 to the present day.

Unofficial because as author Anthony Kemp makes clear he had neither "the blessing" of the MoD nor of the regiment.

Which means, in effect, he had no access to official documents or information which would have given his book a mantle of authenticity.

This is a common problem faced by those purporting to write factually about an outfit best described as esoteric and covert.

That is not to say that his story - or rather his account of their exploits over the past 47 years - is in any way incorrect, since there are many sources of information which can be collated and verified.

Official or not, Mr Kemp, like most people in this country - not to mention those of many other nations who look to the SAS for help and guidance in the training of their special forces - sees the regiment as among the very best in all things military.

This book is a collection of known and hitherto little-known stories relating the heroic achievements and derring-do of the mysterious, brave men who wear the badge of a winged dagger and operate by the motto, *Who Dares Wins*. Racy reading. - JM

The SAS - Savage Wars of Peace by Anthony Kemp. John Murray, £19.99.

One for the high road

MILITARY MUSIC
by
Rodney Bashford

Afore Ye Go

Band and Pipes and Drums of the Royal Highland Fusiliers
Conductor: Bandmaster G O Jones

"AFORE Ye Go" is the legend to be found round the neck of every bottle of a well-known blend of whisky. What better and more appropriate title for its farewell programme before yet another regimental band goes on its way.

Harken awhile, dear reader, afore the gentlemen of Princess Margaret's Own Glasgow and Ayrshire Regiment pass into history.

And a very fond farewell it is, having all you could wish for in a programme which is as fine a snook as I have ever heard cocked.

Mr Jones also rises to the occasion with three marches - *Cross of St Andrew*, *Be Ye Also Ready*, and *Assaye*, which

(Almost) without strings

Showtime

With the Atherstone Choral Society, Orchestra of the Royal Engineers
Conductor: Lt Col P R Evans

I DON'T recall a previous programme by a choral society and an orchestra from the Army devoted to modern musicals, although bands have occasionally included choral items.

Having had the services of an orchestra it is a pity that, as with previous discs from the Royal Artillery, the strings alone are not featured more.

That aside, the ensemble is excellent and the choir a skilled one. They were formed in 1974 and have wide experience of working with bands of all kinds, and their repertoire includes music from oratorio

to the Beatles.

Two items are by the orchestra alone - the overtures to the much underestimated Rodgers and Hammerstein *Flower Drum Song* and Marvin Hamlisch's *A Chorus Line*, and here I missed the string tone the most.

The remainder are much better known, with attractive selections from *The Sound of Music*, *Cats*, *Phantom of the Opera*, *My Fair Lady*, *Love Changes Everything* from *Aspects of Love*, and *Les Misérables*.

● From Bandleader, Sound and Picture Co, Box 177, Dorking, Surrey RH5 5FE, or dealers, CD £12, cassette £7, on BNA 5084.

includes *I Belong to Glasgow*.

He has also written an evocative and haunting melody for band and pipes for the Children's Hospice Appeal and one child in particular - *A Song for Suzanne*. It deserves to hit the charts more than did *Amazing Grace*.

Pipe Dreams is by another ersatz Scot, Capt Kevin Lamb, and yet another is Louise Denny, who supplies a tune for pipes and band called, yes, *Afore Ye Go*.

A mixture of marches and melodies are *Birkenhead*, *Scottish Serenade*, *Victory Salute*, *Sunset Salute*, *Oft in the Still Night*, *Misty Morn*, the *Officer's Mess Call*, *Company Marches*, all the regimental music, including the slow and quick march pasts, and a pipe set of seven tunes.

The concluding *March Melody* has the only possible two tunes that a braw Scottish regiment could play. Firing on all cylinders of band, pipes, and clattering drums they launch into *Scotland the Brave*; and with final whooping cries the ultimate snook of the traditional song of departure, *The Black Bear*.

The shouts were indecipherable, but I earnestly hope it was a word usually followed by - and the same to you.

● From Bandleader, Sound & Picture Co, CD £12, cassette £7.60, on BNA 5102.

Irish pipes were 'weapons'

● From Page 41

pipers within the Army, sometimes by regimental officers, is a recurrent theme. Declared a weapon of war by an English court, the Irish war pipes inspired the English at Crecy but Edward III banned them in Ireland and Cromwell wanted to banish pipers to Barbados.

The pipes survived government proscription better in Scotland and the effect on Scots soldiers was recognised by Pitt, who enlisted them to help carve out the Empire. Pipers were instrumental in

winning the Heights of Abraham and securing Canada for Britain - despite attempts by a staff officer to stop the playing.

Mr Malcolm's book records Wellington's distaste when one general dared to suggest that pipers were not authorised by HQ, particularly as the Iron Duke knew the general had seen "the many gallant deeds of Highland regiments in which their pipers played so important a part." An Army Order soon followed establishing a pipe major and five pipers for every Highland regiment.

Mr Malcolm died in 1961 without having updated his book. The publisher, Patrick King, would do a great service if he found an anthology to cover the period after 1927. Few know of pipers' contributions in the Gulf and Falklands, or how the Argylls were piped into Aden's Crater or the 51st Highlanders into Alamein. - RGS

The Piper in Peace and War by C A Malcolm. Foreword by Pipe Major Angus MacDonald, new introduction by Patrick King. Hardwicke Press, hardback, £19.95.

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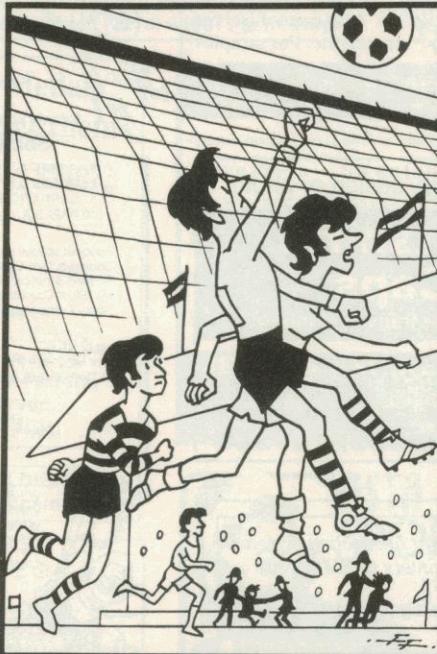
The pictures here are from our Frank Finch cartoon archives. Find ten differences in detail and you could be £50 richer or win a new book. Just circle the differences in the right-hand picture, cut out the whole panel, add your name and address and send to HOAY 590, Soldier, Ordnance Road, Aldershot GU11 2DU by July 29. Do not include anything else in your envelope.

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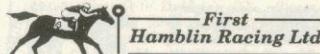
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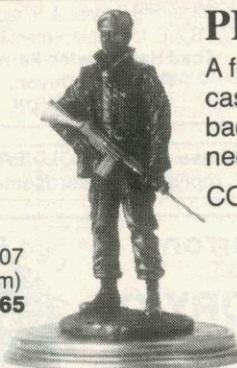
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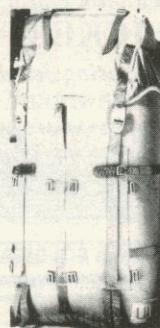
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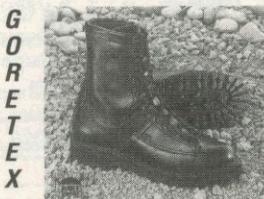
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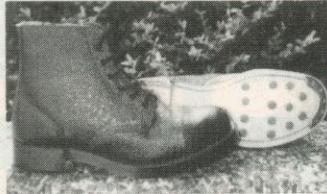
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REPLIES. To reply to a pen pal, write a letter and send it to Soldier Magazine at the address below. The Box number must be **CLEARLY written in the TOP LEFT CORNER** of the envelope. Your envelope must be no larger than 8" x 4" and should only contain a letter, and photograph if requested. Replies received more than three months after the cover date and large, heavy, or poorly addressed envelopes will not be forwarded.

A pen pal advertisement costs £11.75. Send your details (maximum 30 words) and a cheque or postal order for £11.75, payable to "Soldier", to the address below. The advertisement will appear in the first available issue and all replies will be forwarded.

Jan, 40, divorced with one daughter. Would like to correspond with soldier of similar age, anywhere - or anyone who served in Soltau, W Germany from 1974-77. **P964**

Doctor's divorcée. Young 50, very attractive, cultured, elegant, 5'8", slim, no ties, graduate, professional, non-smoker, solvent, own house etc. Seeks serving/retired officer. UK or abroad. **P965**

Jane, 30, 5' 10", slim, brunette. My interests include watching rugby, camping, music and motorbikes. I have a vgsoh - you need one to live in Cumbria! Please send a photo if possible. **ALA. P966**

Christine, 39, 5'1", blue eyes, black hair. My interests include: reading, TV, walking and ten pin bowling. I'd like some fun letters from pen pals home or abroad. Write soon. **P967**

Sincere, lonely female, 38, divorced. Natural blonde. Seeks Serviceman penfriend to brighten up my life. **P968**

My name is Margaret, I'm 30 and live with my parents. I work at a restaurant and like theatre, ice skating, music and animals. I'd like a pen pal anywhere. **P970**

Joanne, 24, single, 5'6", slim, blonde with green eyes. I like swimming, keep fit, clubbing and meeting people. I live in London and would like pen pals aged 21 to 30. **P971**

Nicolette, 23, 5'4", slim, attractive, blonde. Intelligent with gsoh, enjoys swimming, rowing, socialising, reading. Currently an undergraduate nurse. Would like pen pals 20-35. **P972**

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10-16

Survival Books, books for armoured, bodyguards, police and military science. Martial Arts, gun collectors, competitive shooters. Books on special forces. Thousands of books to choose from. Free catalogue. Outdoorsman's Bookstore, PO Box 15, Brecon LD3 7YX. Tel: 0874 84660.

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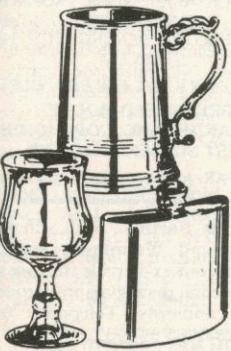
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First (562 runs, £2,000): Brig M R Raworth, HQ 3 (UK) Div, Bulford.
Second (514 runs, £1,000): Capt R G Webb, HQ Int & Sy Gp (V), London.

Third (498 runs, £500): SSgt C D Reeves, 1 RTR, Tidworth.

Fourth (497 runs, £400): 2nd Lt G P J Buxton, 3 (UK) Div HQ & Sig Regt, Bulford.

Fifth (493 runs, £300): WO2 G N Ellwood, 158 Pro Coy RMP, Bulford.

Sixth (492 runs, £200): SSgt S V Fowlie, STC, BFPO 16.

Seventh (490 runs, £100): Sgt P J P McCarthy, 4 Regt AAC, BFPO 41.

JUNE 18, 1994

First (597 runs, £2,000): Sgt J L Morgan, 3 (UK) Div Signal Regt, Bulford.

Second (581 runs, £1,000): Cpl H T Andrews, BFPO 808.

Third (578 runs, £500): Sgt K Gould, HQ BFL, Belize, BFPO 12.

Fourth (573 runs, £400): Sig K Barrs, HQ BRITFOR, BFPO 544.

Fifth (541 runs, £300): Sgt M S Kelly, 4 GS Regt RLC, Abingdon.

Sixth (538 runs, £200): SSgt A D Ashman, HQ 2 Inf Bde, Shorncliffe.

Seventh (533 runs, £100): Spr A D Kennelly, 39 Engr Regt, Waterbeach. D5

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Glencorse complete peaks race

ATR Glencorse safely negotiated the Isle of Jura Scottish Peaks Race, coming 12th in their class and 32nd out of 50 starters.

Sponsored and funded by all the regiments of the Kings and Scottish Divisions, the Glencorse team of five competed in a chartered racing yacht, the *Black Pig*.

Objective of the race is to match teams of five hill runners/sailors between and over the islands of Mull, Jura and Arran.

The sailing covers about 160 miles, taking in the fierce tides and overfalls of Corryvreckan and the Mull of Kintyre, while the runners have to negotiate 60 miles and 11,500ft of climbing over some very rugged terrain.

Glencorse were skippered by Capt Gary Deakin (Kings), with Lt Paul Barker (A and SH) as the second sailor. WO1 (SMI) Keith Donkin (APTC), Cpl Paul Longwell (QO Hldrs) and Cpl Rab Lundie (RHF) did the running, with Cpl Geordie Halliday (Green Howards) in reserve and CSgt Ron Coles (DWR) providing the support.

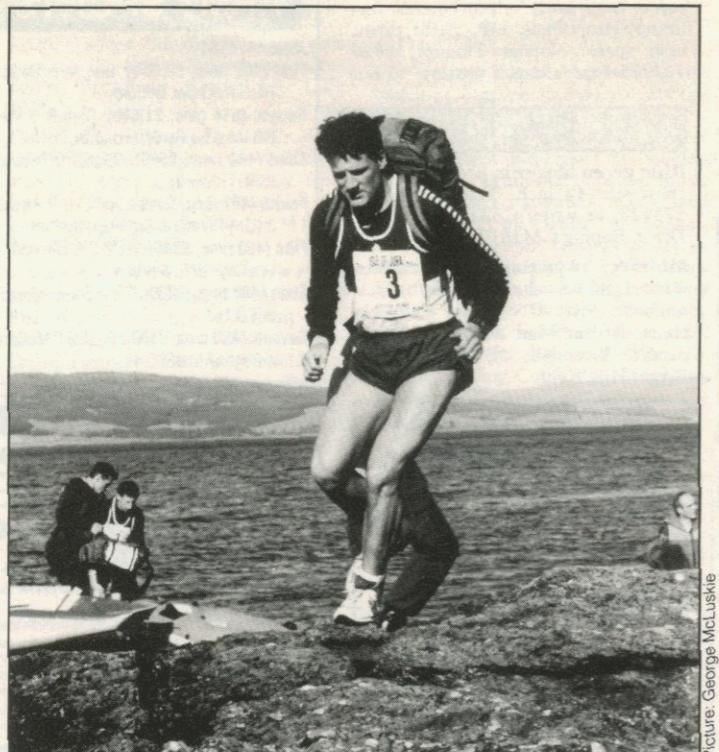
A team from Army Apprentices' College, Chepstow entered the youth event and were well placed until a rigging failure while being pounded off the Mull of Kintyre forced their retirement.

Sanby's a champion

CPL Dave Sanby (AGC(SPS)) led from the eleventh hole to beat Spr Jim Taylor (26 Engr Regt) in the final of the Army Golf Association (Germany) Rover Deutschland matchplay championships at Sennelager.

Sanby, serving with 39 Regt RA, went one up when Taylor, this year's beaten Army finalist, made hard work of the easy par 4.

SSgt John Ball (RLC, 17 Arty Sqn RLC) beat Cpl Paul King (13 Sig Regt) in the plate final.



Picture: George McLuskie

Cpl Paul Longwell (QO Hldrs) starts his run over Ben More on the Isle of Mull during the Scottish Peaks Race. With Cpl Rab Lundie (RHF) he completed the 34km, 3,000ft climb in 4hr 38min

Greatorex's hundred pushes Services home

A FINE hundred by Army skipper Capt Richard Greatorex (17 Port and Maritime Regt RLC) helped Combined Services to a comfortable five-wicket win over Lavinia, Duchess of Norfolk's XI at Arundel on June 5.

Set to get 233 to win, Services knocked the runs off in 48 overs, with Greatorex reaching his hundred in 112 minutes off just 114 balls.

He and Capt Jim Cotterill gave Combined Services a superb start with an opening partnership of 83 in 18 overs.

Lavinia's XI 232-6 (Fricker 66, Stuart 61). Combined Services 237-5 (Greatorex 117, Cotterill 30, Beeston 42). CS won by 5 wickets.

Combined Services drew their three-day game against Oxford University at The Parks when rain intervened on the third morning with the Servicemen requiring an unlikely 331 to win.

In the past two seasons the Army have achieved victories over Sussex and Middlesex

Capt Peter Germain (RMAS) held the visitor's first innings together with an undefeated 72.

Oxford University 340-7 dec (Jarratt 59, Sutcliffe 92, Malik 84; Cotterill 2-28, Spiller 2-40) and 201-5 dec (Yeabsley 52; Cotterill 2-33). Combined Services 211 (Greatorex 21, Cotterill 23, Germain 72 no; MacLay 4-52) and 43-0 (Greatorex 23 no, Cotterill 18 no). Match drawn.

A nail-biting finish to the Army's 55-over match against Essex 2nd XI at Woolwich produced a Service win by the narrowest possible margin.

Having bowled the county out for 198, the Army, with their last pair at the wicket, needed four runs off their last over to tie the scores. Jones and Logan kept their nerve against Essex skipper Don Topley and the Army won by virtue of losing fewer wickets.

In the past two seasons the Army have achieved victories over Sussex and Middlesex

Careers support schools

ARMY Careers have agreed to sponsor the English Schools Cricket Association Under 15 County Championship for a three-year period.

At Under 15 level England have beaten South Africa home and away within the past two years. With this background a county championship based on the four regions and played at half term in July, is in place.

Army Careers decided on this age group because it fitted in with involvement with schools.

On August 14-15, the regional winners will meet in Aldershot and play at the Officers' Club ground and Buller Barracks. Four games will be played all with innings of a maximum of 55 overs.

Previous ESCA Under 15 cricketers include Mike Atherton, John Crawley, Nasser Hussain, Trevor Ward and Martin Speight.



Picture: Mike Perrin

Top four in the Army triathlon championships: from left to right are Cpl Stacey Robinson, LCpl Ross Clash, Sgt Dave Mutch and Spr Dave Larcombe

Robinson wins the triathlon

HAMELN-based Cpl Stacey Robinson (28 Engr Regt) took the Army triathlon title at Arborfield, beating LCpl Ross Clash (ATR Bassingbourn) into second place in the swim-cycle-run competition.

Sgt Dave Mutch (AMS Trg Group) was third and Spr Dave Larcombe (3 Trg Regt RE) fourth.

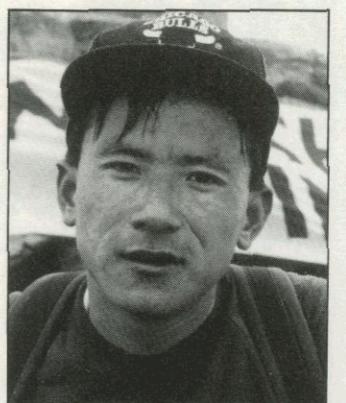
Robinson's time of 59min 28.49sec for the 500m swim, 20km cycle and 5km run put him 21 seconds ahead of Clash and well clear of Mutch. More than 150 athletes took part.

The team title was taken by 28 Engr Regt ahead of SEE and 5 AB Bde Log Bn. Princess Marina College, Arborfield won the women's competition.

A three-man team from 4 R Irish (WO2 Turner, Sgt Acheson and Pte Acheson) won a "damp dash" at Ballykelly on June 1. More than 50 Northern Ireland personnel entered for the 400m swim followed by a 4.25-mile run.

Second place went to HQNI and 15 Sig Regt, and third to 2 Para. Lisburn Gymnasium were the first mixed team.

Welsh soldiers clean up on Snowdonia race



Looking remarkably fresh on the summit of Snowdon is Welsh Peaks Race winner LCpl Rai Sanjiv, a member of the Gurkha Demonstration Team based at Dering Lines in Brecon

on the coast to the summit of Snowdon in an average time of under six hours.

Brig Barry Stevens, Commander 160 (Wales) Brigade, started the race.

Hong Kong hockey in good shape

BRITISH Forces Combined Services hockey players have recorded one of their most successful seasons in the Hong Kong HA league and cup competitions, writes Pete Lavin.

Lack of continuity because of postings got the season off to a poor start, but once settled both teams started to win games and climb the league ladders.

The BF A side finished fourth in the Premier Division, and the B team fifth in Division 3. The squad's cup runs were exceptional, with the A team (skippered by Capt Pete Frostick) beating Premier Division winners Shaheen on the way to the final of the Holland Cup.

Sqn Ldr Geoff Bakewell led the B team to the final of the Association Cup. Although both finals were lost it was the first time either team had progressed this far in the knockout competitions.

But CBF's XI won the annual fixture against the Taipan for the first time for several years.

REME go close in Denmark

BAOR REME rugby teams played off for third and fourth places in the Aalborg sevens competition in Denmark.

Having entered two teams, the corps A side easily won its league, compiling 142 points to nil in three games, while the B string also qualified for the second day.

But REME A lost in the semi-finals to eventual winners Weston Super Mare while the B squad were defeated by Denmark's national side, the Vikings.

At Osnabruck, a hard-fought McGill sevens final between the two best teams in the competition, 3 Bn REME and 16 AD Regt Wksp, ended in favour of the latter by 14 points to seven.

In the plate competition, QLR LAD beat 1 Bn REME 21-20.

THERE will be no chance of Commonwealth Games glory for Army and Wales lightweight champion LCpl Vinny Powell (3 RSME).

The hard-hitting Welshman opted to box in his own national ABA competition in this Commonwealth Games year and duly knocked out Cardiff's Gareth Lawrence in the final.

But the Welsh ABA inexplicably ordered Powell, whose

Powell snubbed by Wales

Army duties mean he is not resident in the Principality, to box-off against Lawrence for the Commonwealth Games

slot, and stipulated a bizarre sequence of meetings:

- First date set by the WABA fell within Lawrence's automatic 28-day medical suspension following his knockout;

- Powell was on holiday when the WABA issued a second box-off date;

- And a third date was set before Powell had time to prepare for the eliminator.

Another good day for Lyons family

Keeping it in the family: Sgt Steve Lyons (APTC att 2 Sig Regt) receives the Army pole vault trophy from Lt Col Tudor Quare (left).

Incredibly, it was the 16th time a member of the Lyons family has won the competition since 1960. Looking on is proud dad, Maj (Retd) Peter Lyons, secretary of the Army Athletic Association, who won the trophy seven times in the Sixties and represented Great Britain.

The Army pole vault record-holder at 4.50m is another member of the Lyons dynasty, Bob, who served with 1 PWO.



Picture: Terry Champion

Dominic's delight

THE WAY Maj Dominic Hancock (HQNI) shot up in the air on crossing the 100m finishing line at the Army individual athletic championships at Aldershot on June 8 could have signified delight – or disaster in the form of a pulled hamstring.

Happily, his was a leap of joy on winning a title for which he has had several near misses.

He was one of a number of new names to emerge as many of the Army's 1993 champions did not return to defend their titles.

Cpl Charlie Vincent made the long haul from Cyprus to finish second in both sprint finals and looks to be a good prospect for the future. Cpl Martin Blade (ATR Winchester), who has been making his mark over 400m in the south,

won the 200m in preparation for the one-lap race at the Nationals in Sheffield, where both he and Fus David Nolan (1 RRF) ran good times.

Nolan opted for the 400m at Aldershot and won in 49.3sec, a time which he improved to 48.4sec at Sheffield.

In the absence through injury of LCpl John Smith (2 Sigs), Cpl Ian Robinson (13 Sigs) won his first 800m title in 1min 55.6sec.

WO2 Geoff Wade (3 RHA) won his sixth 5,000m championship in 15min 22.9sec in the most competitive field of the day. Sgt Bill Bailey, a "newcomer" to the veteran ranks, was third overall.

Cpl Tim Tomkinson and Cpl Carl Richardson (both 2 Sigs) retained the 110m hurdles and 400m hurdles.

Best race of the championships was the 3,000m steeplechase, won by Cpl Paddy Cairns (Bassingbourn) in 9min 23.9sec after a fierce battle with LCpl Steve Thomas (1 R Anglian) and 1993 winner Cpl Colin Palmer (36 Trg and Sp Sqn RE).

Newcomer Pte Darren Dodds (27 Regt RLC) raised his personal best from 1.80m to 1.93m to beat Cpl Trevor McSweeney (2 Sigs) in the high jump, and Cpl Alvin Walker (4 Regt AAC), the new Army team captain, was in excellent form to retain the long and triple jump titles. He didn't quite get over 7m in the former but has broken that barrier already this season.

SSgt Neil Killen (2 Sigs) won the discus in fine style and is consistently throwing over



Kelly warms up with fellows

Cpl Kelly Holmes (right) gets into her stride in the men's 1,500m at the Army individual athletic championships at Aldershot on June 8.

She finished sixth in a field of 11, in a personal best of 4min 7.7sec. The race was won by Sgt Rod Finch (No 38) of 3 Para in a time of 3min 56.5sec.

Better known as an 800m runner at the top level, Holmes opted to run in the men's final to get some meaningful competition.

A few days later she took on Scotland's Yvonne Murray at the KP National Championships in Sheffield, winning a superb race in 4min 1.41sec, the sixth fastest ever run by a Briton and one of the fastest times in the world by a woman so far this year.

It earned her instant selection for Great Britain's European Games squad, and a place in England's Commonwealth Games team.

Finch had a disappointing run at Sheffield, but still has time to impress the Commonwealth Games selectors.

Picture: Terry Champion



Picture: Mike Perrin

Lining up for the camera before going into battle at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, for the first time in 40 years are representatives of the academy's staff side with their counterparts from the Indian Army's Dehia Dun academy cricket team. Dehia Dun won by 81 runs but RMA cadets retrieved Sandhurst's honour two days later when they tied a 45-over match.

SOLDIER



Gold beach at Arromanches 50 years on. The Regimental Band of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment and the massed banners of veterans' organisations await the arrival of the Queen. Her Majesty's Army Vessel *Arromanches* provides a backdrop to the ceremonial event. Report and pictures in pages 24 to 33.

Picture: Terry Champion