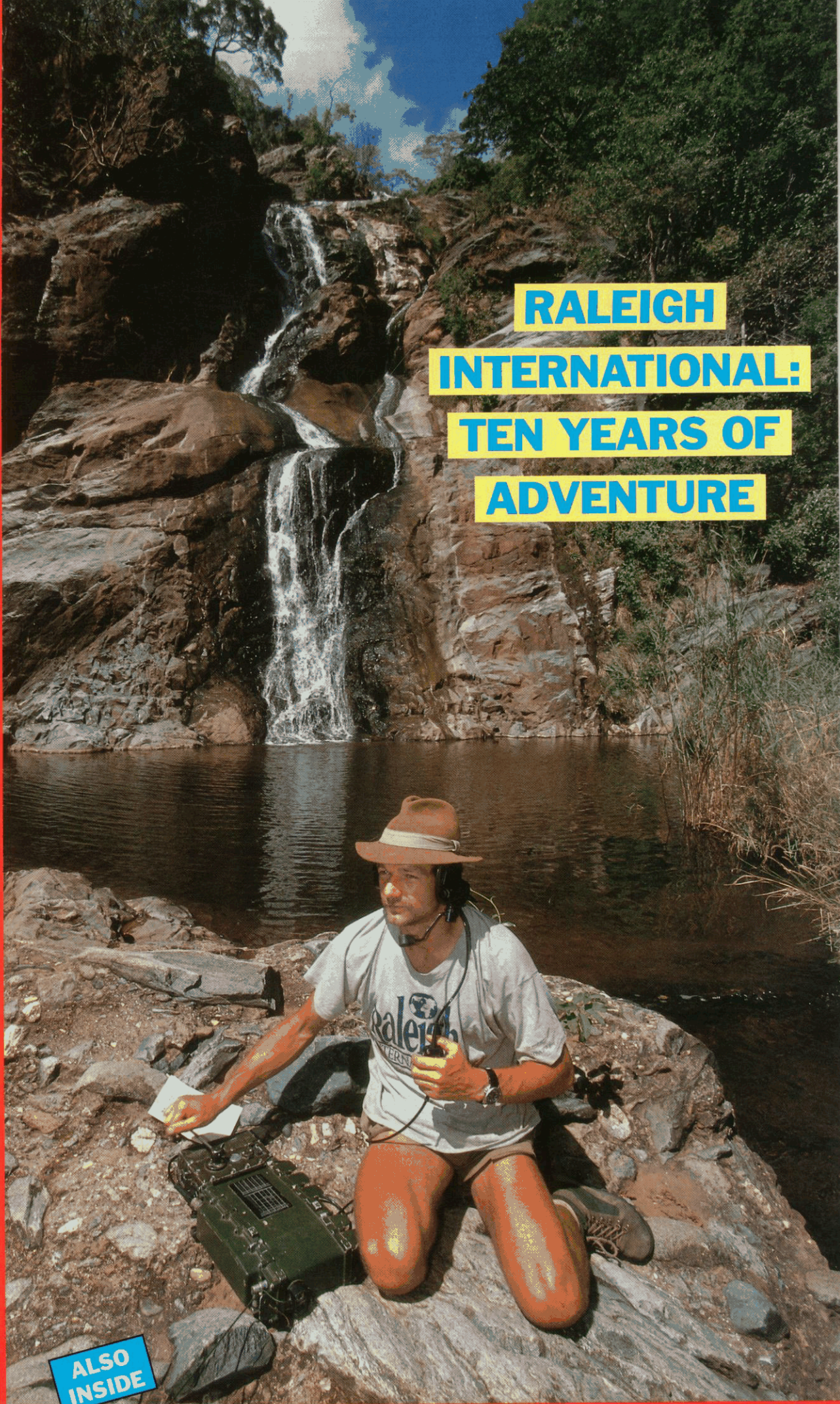


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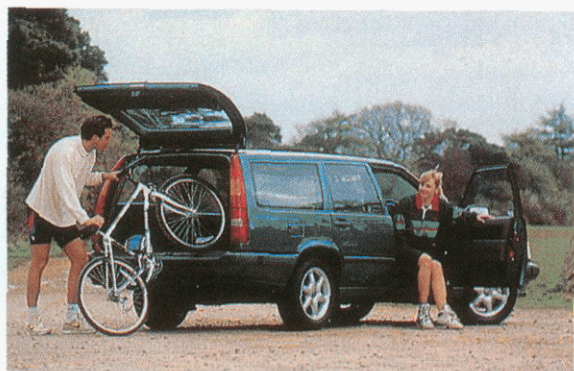
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Incorporating the Territorial Army magazine

March 21, 1994
Vol 50/6

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FRONT COVER: Cpl Adrian Norwood listens in on an Army radio during a Raleigh International expedition in Zimbabwe. Raleigh is celebrating ten years of adventure. See Pages 22-23. Picture: Guy Drayton

● **SHOULD** other ranks enjoy the same pension rights as officers? Is the Service pay structure too rigid and complex? Are daily rates of pay an anachronism? The Armed Forces Pay Review Body thinks so. A summary of the 1994 report appears in Pages 28-29.

● **FIRST** flight to Germany with the MoD's

new carriers, British World Airlines, did not go entirely to plan. A report and pictures appear on Pages 30-31.

● **D-Day** veterans believe Pegasus Bridge should become a war memorial in Normandy. Failing that, a site might be found for it in a British Army museum in Hampshire. See **LETTERS**, Page 32.

Goodbye Pirbright, hello Chelsea



Picture: Mike Weston

Led by Malachy, their Irish Wolfhound mascot, men of the 1st Battalion, Irish Guards march away from Pirbright on February 21. Later the same day they stepped through the gates of Chelsea Barracks, their new home in London. Apart from a short tour in Northern Ireland, the battalion has been resident in Elizabeth Barracks, Pirbright, since returning from Berlin two years ago

Redundancy news: How was it for you?

WHICH would you like first, the specialists in ironic humour used to ask, the good news or the bad?

These days, distinguishing between the two is not so easy. Details of the third phase of Army redundancies were either good news or bad (or neither), depending on who you are.

Linked to the late February announcement of 7,000 more redundancies were several other key words beginning with R including recruiting (more

young people needed to keep an age balance) and resettlement (a first-class package for leavers).

"Army sack 7,000 and then sign up 12,000" shouted one newspaper "exclusive", while another lamented: "Our heroes of Sarajevo will be sacked in defence cuts". Good news for headline writers...

Good news, too, for successful redundancy volunteers, especially those with a job to go to; good news for young people looking for a worthwhile career; not such good news for redundees who had not volunteered – and for the 1,600 or so soldiers who had volunteered but were not selected.

Of the 720 officers and

6,296 soldiers who were selected about 85 per cent are volunteers; the remainder, 142 officers and 953 soldiers, are being made compulsorily redundant.

In an exercise designed to produce the right balance of skills and trades for the Army of the future it is the first time that soldiers who do not want to leave have been told they must. Some non-volunteers received the news while serving operationally in Bosnia, Northern Ireland or other parts of the world.

Defence Secretary Malcolm Rifkind commented that it would be "intolerable and unacceptable to treat soldiers

● **Turn to Page 11**

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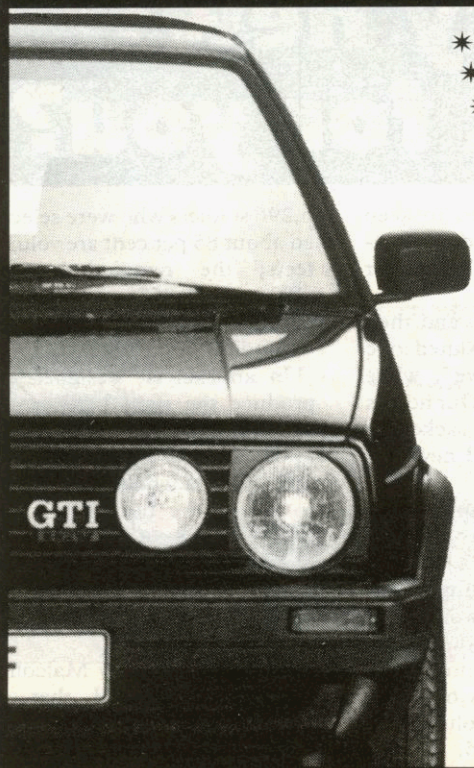
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Guardsmen move into Sarajevo TV studio

NEW BASE for men of No 2 Company, 1st Battalion, Coldstream Guards is a former television building in the heart of Sarajevo.

The car park of the austere concrete block, which until now has housed French armoured vehicles, echoes to the sound of the Coldstream Warriors and Land Rovers.

What were once offices are now sleeping areas for the guardsmen, and one room has become a makeshift operations centre filled with maps of the city.

The Coldstreamers' move to Sarajevo follows the United Nations threat to launch air strikes against artillery and missile positions in the surrounding hills. The UN ultimatum, linked to a Russian initiative, has brought relative peace to the besieged city.

In the mountains that surround Sarajevo, men of No 2 Company have established collecting points for Serb heavy weapons as part of the United Nations peace plan for the city.

Where once Serb gunners

● Turn to Page 7



Soldiers serving with C Squadron, The Light Dragoons based at Tomislavgrad and on attachment in Vitez reckon SOLDIER's Op Grapple photographs have reflected too much good weather! To set the record straight, they sent us this picture of themselves operating in "more typical" weather conditions

Mission to Mostar

BRITISH soldiers serving with the United Nations in Bosnia have succeeded in moving the final section of a multi-million dollar mobile hospital to besieged East Mostar.

The hospital was purchased at a cost of US\$12m with donations given by an Islamic South African foundation, the Waqful-Waqifin organisation.

There have been other

More Grapple reports –
Pages 16-19

attempts to move the containerised hospital, the first just before Christmas which failed when it was turned back at the Croatian-Bosnian border.

The move of the largest single donation of aid made during the current troubles was meticulously masterminded by

the British transport squadron, 60 Artillery Support Squadron RLC from Abingdon.

Two lifts, both of 19 containers, went in over two days from the Croatian town of Metkovic, on the Bosnian border, to East Mostar. The convoys had to pass through a series of HVO checkpoints along the 44km route.

Continuing fighting made the route dangerous but the trucks were escorted by eight armoured personnel carriers of the Spanish UN battalion.

Maj David Martin, officer commanding 60 Squadron and the officer in charge of the operation, codenamed Operation Nightingale, said: "The soldiers are enthusiastic about this operation. They feel it is a worthwhile project and feel privileged to be at the centre of something providing a real need to the people of East Mostar."

Vitez alert

BRITISH troops in Vitez were put on a higher state of alert after US F-16 aircraft enforcing the UN's no-fly zone over Bosnia destroyed four Bosnian Serb ground attack aircraft on February 28. But fears that UN bases would be bombarded in retaliation proved unfounded and the security state reverted to normal a few hours later.



Lion-hearted Coldstreamers. Pictured with their Warrior, named Lion, are (seated, from left) driver Gdsm John Howes, commander Sgt Nick Marriott and Gdsm Danny Morrell. Pictured behind them are Gdsm Knight and Taylor

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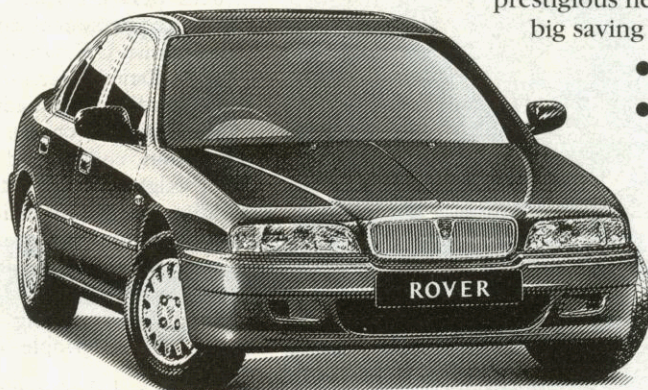
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Army to end 230-year link with Essex ranges

PURFLEET Ranges on Aveley Marshes near Rainham in Essex are to close on April 1, ending a 230-year military connection with the area. Powder

magazines at Purfleet date back to 1760 and supplied all British military stations until after the Second World War.

The MoD still owns 930

acres of land on the north bank of the Thames, west of Purfleet. The western end of the original site was once considered for EuroDisney.

With Royal Artillery recruit training moving from Woolwich to Salisbury Plain, the expense of maintaining the ranges was not justified.

Company monitors Serbian artillery

● From Page 5

rained shells on the city and its defenders, now the guns stand silent under the watchful eyes of the guardsmen.

Men of 7 Platoon have established a weapon-gathering point near the village of Krivogavci, high in the mountains. Here Warriors are dug in and the Serb weapons surrounded by razor wire to prevent their use.

Six artillery pieces and a mortar stand in the enclosure. Half a mile away five more guns are also under the platoon's scrutiny.

Serb gunners are allowed to clean and maintain the weapons, but not to remove them.

Protected by razor wire and trip flares around their position, the guardsmen of 7 Platoon, sappers and medics are living out in the open.

The company has established two other collection points. Men of 5 Platoon are about 7km to the south east in the village of Osijek, while 6 Platoon is near Poljine, 3,000ft above sea level, guarding weapons including a 122mm artillery piece, Bofors guns, mortars and two stranded T55 tanks.

The effect of Serb shelling on Sarajevo has made a lasting impression on the Coldstreamers. Said company commander Maj Bill Cubitt: "Sarajevo has suffered destruction the like of which we have not seen before. It will take decades to rebuild."

Lt Col Peter Williams, CO1 Coldm Gds, went to Sarajevo from the battalion's base at Vitez to see the conditions in which his men were living and to be briefed by Maj Cubitt.



Pipe Major Jim Motherwell, who composed a piece of music entitled *The Colonel-in-Chief's Jig* specially for the bicentenary visit, presents a score of his work to the Queen. In return he received a dram. Looking on are Maj Gen David Thomson, Colonel of the regiment (seated) and mess manager CSgt Tony Gault

Queen celebrates with the Argylls

THE QUEEN, happy and relaxed, helped the Argylls to celebrate their bicentenary in memorable style.

Smiling broadly throughout her visit, the Queen chatted informally to many soldiers of the 1st Battalion, The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders at Sir John Moore Barracks in Folkestone.

In her role as Colonel-in-Chief, she joined all ranks for a service in St Mark's Garrison Church to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the raising of the 98th Argyllshire Highlanders at the request of King George III.

Called by the Duke of Argyll for foreign service, the regiment's heroism became a legend.

The Queen was welcomed to Sir John Moore Barracks by

the Colonel of the regiment, Maj Gen David Thomson, and the commanding officer, Lt Col Alan Miller.

Still carrying her left arm in a sling following a riding accident, the Queen was shown aspects of the modern regiment's work. She was taken by surprise when a field telephone rang and she was told: "It's for you, Ma'am!"

She unveiled a painting by artist Peter Archer depicting the regimental band just before its final performance at last year's Edinburgh Tattoo, and waved off a charity bicycle ride from Folkestone to the regimental headquarters at Stirling Castle.

The cyclists completed the 550-mile ride in three and a half days, delivered a royal message of greeting to Stirling

Castle, and raised £1,000 for the Army Benevolent Fund and a children's hospice.

Before her departure, the Queen was entertained to a special "Colonel-in-Chief's Jig" written and performed by Pipe Major Jim Motherwell, accompanied by Cpl Andy Warren and LCpl Gordon Rowan. The music was presented to her in a leather folio, and Pipe Major Motherwell received a dram in return.

Lt Col Miller said: "It was a wonderful day and the Queen was marvellous. She must have spoken directly to half the battalion and virtually the whole of the sergeants' mess."

"There was a very relaxed atmosphere, with lots of laughs."

● Colour photographs – Page 51

Picture: Chris Fletcher

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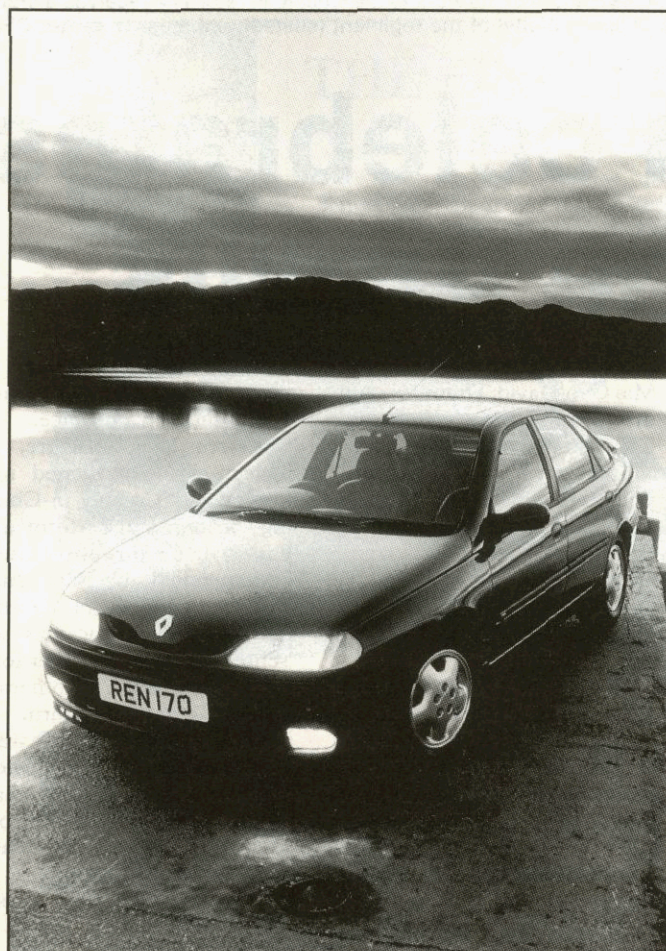
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Grapple food trial on MPs' menu

QUESTIONS about the feeding arrangements for British troops in Bosnia were asked in the House of Commons after a report in *SOLDIER* was followed-up by the national press.

SOLDIER reported (February 21) that a trial of the UN system of providing food, to be carried out in Tomislavgrad, might threaten the British breakfast, cut hot lunches and drastically restrict choice at night.

In answer to a question by Opposition Defence spokesman Dr David Clark, Armed Forces Minister Jeremy Hanley said other troop contributors in the former Yugoslavia al-

ready use the UN system of supply.

"Whether or not we subsequently change our feeding arrangements will depend on the outcome of the trial," he said.

Asked about the "impact on Service morale of the quality of rations", Mr Hanley replied that the quality and quantity of food were carefully monitored to ensure consistently high standards.

Seven major arms and ser-



vices in the Army have a shortfall of trained manpower against their manpower planning targets.

They range from the Royal Engineers, whose trained strength is almost 12 per cent short of its target, to Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps, which is 21 per cent understaffed.

With various percentage levels between those two come the Infantry, AAC, RLC, Royal Army Chaplains Department and RAMC.

Sir Nicholas Fairbairn, who

had sought the figures, also asked what reinforcement would be made to 2 R Anglian for its planned deployment to Bosnia.

Armed Forces Minister Jeremy Hanley replied: "If it is deployed, 2 R Anglian would be at its full peacetime establishment but in addition some 35 soldiers would be required as reinforcement from elsewhere in the Queens Division."

Regular Army personnel, including Gurkhas, stationed in the UK on July 1, 1993 totalled just over 84,000, compared with 93,641 in 1979.

Minden's last two units say farewell

THERE were farewells all round when Maj Gen Anthony Denison-Smith, then GOC 1st (United Kingdom) Armoured Division, called on units at Minden, Germany last month.

Promoted lieutenant general, he has taken over as GOC Southern District, while Minden Station, previously home to 11th Armoured Brigade, is due to close this summer.

Only two units remain at Minden, 4 Armoured Field Ambulance and 211 Signal Squadron.

Formed in 1978 to support 11 Armd Bde, 4 Armd Fd Amb is due to move to Browning Barracks, Aldershot, as part of the 3rd (United Kingdom) Division, while 211 Sig Sqn is about to join its parent regiment, 1st Armoured Division Signal Regiment, in Hammer-smith Barracks, Herford.

Gen Denison-Smith presented a United Nations Force Commander's commendation to Capt Chris Townend QARANC, now at BMH Rinteln, in recognition of his exemplary service in Bosnia.

Lt Col Paul Edmondson-Jones RAMC, CO 4 Armd Fd Amb, made a presentation to Gen Denison-Smith in appreciation of his support for Minden Garrison during the past two years. The new GOC 1 (UK) Armd Div is Maj Gen Roddy Cordy-Simpson.

Duke visits Gren Gds at Bessbrook



Now you see him . . . Fd Marshal the Duke of Edinburgh meets a heavily disguised soldier of the 1st Battalion, Grenadier Guards at Bessbrook, south Armagh. Prince Philip, who is Colonel of the regi-

ment was briefed on 1 Gren Gds' role and met members of a patrol, some of whom were colleagues of Gdsm Danny Blinco, the last soldier killed in Northern Ireland in 1993

BRIEFLY . . .

Bristol fashion

BRISTOL University Officers' Training Corps, which does not have an official Engineer Troop, won the annual OTC competition at the Royal School of Military Engineering, Minley Manor, finishing first in all three disciplines - assault course, bridge-building and assault boat race. Sixteen out of a possible 19 UOTCs took part.

Police get to work on NVQs

SIX Royal Military Police warrant officers and 12 sergeants are pioneering a scheme which could lead to half the RMP force working towards National Vocational Qualifications (NVQs) by 1996.

They were starting pilot courses in assessor training and supervisory management at Cricklade Further Education College, Andover, this month.

Under the scheme, initiated by Brig Ian Cameron, the Provost Marshal, half

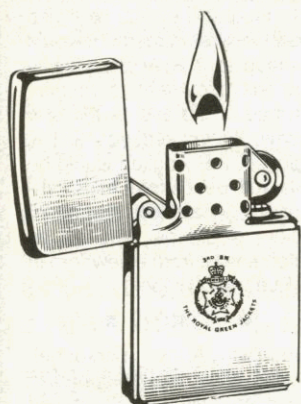
AGC(RMP) personnel will have an opportunity to work towards an NVQ in a dozen subjects ranging from business administration and close protection to information technology and criminal justice.

An NVQ in customer services for all military policemen and women is expected to be available soon. The scheme should help second careers.

Co-ordinator WO1 Lynne Horton can be contacted on Worthy Down Mil 2754.

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On course for new life in leisure?

Voluntary redeundee CSgt Stephen Gauvain, of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Welch Fusiliers, has an interview with course leader Gay Garrett of Powys Adult Guidance Service at a job assessment course for senior NCOs, held at Cwpp y Gollen training camp, mid-Wales, during the week in which the third tranche of redundancies was announced.

A 38-year-old father of two, he joined the battalion in 1974 as a fusilier and gave the matter a great deal of thought before



Picture: Mike Weston

applying for redundancy last October.

"A course like this is very

enlightening (he found he has the potential to be assistant manager of a leisure centre, for

example), and essential for anyone coming out of the Army," he says.

Redundancies

● From Page 3

differently just because of where they happened to be serving at the time".

Anyone declared redundant while serving overseas will be able to return to the UK at least six months before leaving the Army. Any redeundee who had been due for a tour in Bosnia will not now go.

The Adjutant General, Gen Sir Michael Wilkes, said the Army was overborne in certain age groups, particularly officers in their mid-to-late forties and soldiers who had served between four and ten years.

Cuts had to go deeper in these areas – and in certain trades. Some soldier volunteers were in the wrong trades: to lose them would not be cost-efficient.

Redundancies were identified by impartial selection boards on the basis of factors including rank, age and specialisation, so as to match the shape of the Army's needs from 1995.

A higher proportion than before of the support services was included in this phase of the programme.

● The Army's three-year manpower reduction programme has produced a total of 16,866 redeundees, 89 per cent of whom volunteered. Volunteers among officers total 68 per cent; among soldiers 93 per cent.

Volunteers have been given eight months' notice, others a year. All receive the same financial package and help with resettlement.

Sum benefit

EVERYONE leaving on redundancy with more than 12 years' service receives an immediate pension as well as a terminal grant.

In addition, redeundees receive a special capital payment (SCP) of up to 18 months' pay, tax-free, designed to compensate officers and soldiers for any period of lost service.

Those made redundant with less than 12 years' service receive a tax-free SCP of up to 19 months' pay and a preserved pension and terminal grant, payable at the age of 60. The preserved pension is transferable to a new employment scheme.

Examples of terminal benefits are shown here.

SOLDIERS – AT 1993/94 PRICES

RANK	TYPE OF AWARD	With 6 yrs reckonable service Scale 'B'	With 6 yrs reckonable service Scale 'C'	With 12 yrs reckonable service	With 20 yrs reckonable service	With 22 yrs reckonable service
Cpl	Annual pension	–	–	£2,845	£4,741	£5,216
	Terminal grant	–	–	£8,535	£14,223	£15,648
	SCP	£7,878	£13,267	£17,671	£9,557	–
	Total lump sum	(£7,878)	(£13,267)	(£26,206)	(£23,780)	(£15,648)
Sgt	Annual pension	–	–	£3,126	£5,210	£5,732
	Terminal grant	–	–	£9,378	£15,630	£17,196
	SCP	£8,575	£14,432	£19,264	£10,503	–
	Total lump sum	(£8,575)	(£14,432)	(£28,642)	(£26,133)	(£17,196)
SSgt	Annual pension	–	–	£3,558	£5,930	£6,524
	Terminal grant	–	–	£10,674	£17,790	£19,572
	SCP	–	–	£20,229	£11,086	–
	Total lump sum	–	–	(£30,903)	(£28,876)	(£19,572)
WO2	Annual pension	–	–	£3,678	£6,130	£6,744
	Terminal grant	–	–	£11,034	£18,390	£20,232
	SCP	–	–	£23,717	£12,964	–
	Total lump sum	–	–	(£34,751)	(£31,354)	(£20,232)
WO1	Annual pension	–	–	£4,064	£6,774	£7,452
	Terminal grant	–	–	£12,192	£20,322	£22,356
	SCP	–	–	£25,002	£13,656	–
	Total lump sum	–	–	(£37,194)	(£33,978)	(£22,356)

OFFICERS – AT 1993/94 PRICES

RANK	TYPE OF AWARD	AGE 41 20 YEARS RECKONABLE SERVICE	AGE 52 31 YEARS RECKONABLE SERVICE	AGE 55 34 YEARS RECKONABLE SERVICE
Captain (Late Entry)	Annual pension	£8,327	£11,893	£12,866
	Terminal grant	£24,981	£35,679	£38,598
	SCP	£42,584	£26,023	–
	Total lump sum	(£67,565)	(£61,702)	(£38,598)
Major	Annual pension	£9,971	£14,351	£15,545
	Terminal grant	£29,913	£43,053	£46,635
	SCP	£48,075	£29,379	–
	Total lump sum	(£77,988)	(£72,432)	(£46,635)
RANK	TYPE OF AWARD	AGE 45 24 YEARS RECKONABLE SERVICE	AGE 52 31 YEARS RECKONABLE SERVICE	AGE 55 34 YEARS RECKONABLE SERVICE
Lt Col	Annual pension	£15,037	£18,592	£20,115
	Terminal grant	£45,111	£55,776	£60,345
	SCP	£62,212	£38,018	–
	Total lump sum	(£107,323)	(£93,794)	(£60,345)

12,000 job vacancies: interviews guaranteed

DESPITE the latest round of redundancies, the Army will start recruiting to fill nearly 12,000 full-time job vacancies next month to ensure a regular flow of personnel of the right age.

This figure, made up of 730 officers and 11,200 soldiers, including 1,000 apprentices, is a 20 per cent increase on the current recruiting target. A further increase is expected next year.

"These vacancies are good news for young people," said Brig Christopher Elliott, Director of Army Recruiting.

"We have 135 different trades, first-class training, excitement, challenge, travel, variety, fun and good pay.

"And we guarantee a job interview for all applicants."

A national advertising campaign explaining why recruits are needed for a smaller Army was launched as the new redundancies were announced.

Soldiering is primarily a young person's business: more than two-thirds of the workforce is under 30. There is a ten per cent annual turnover.

"In 1993, 21,600 left the Army, of which only 6,512 left as redeundees," said Brig Elliott. "The other 15,000 went through 'natural wastage'.

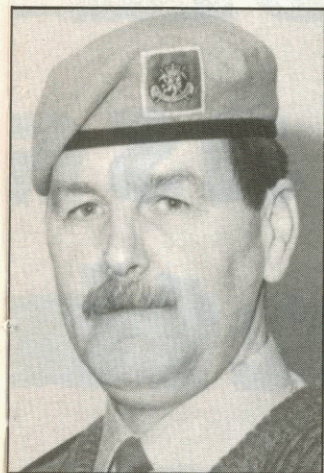
"We need a regular flow of manpower. We cannot recruit older people in mid-career."



Spr **Scott Osler** and LCpl **Peter Graveson** worked all week to brighten up the Mount Alvernia residential home in Gibraltar... and a very good job they made of it. Both dab hands with a paint brush, they were ably assisted by Sgt **Jim Smith** and Spr **Jack Warner**. All four are serving with the Fortress Specialist Team Royal Engineers.

YEOMAN SERVICE

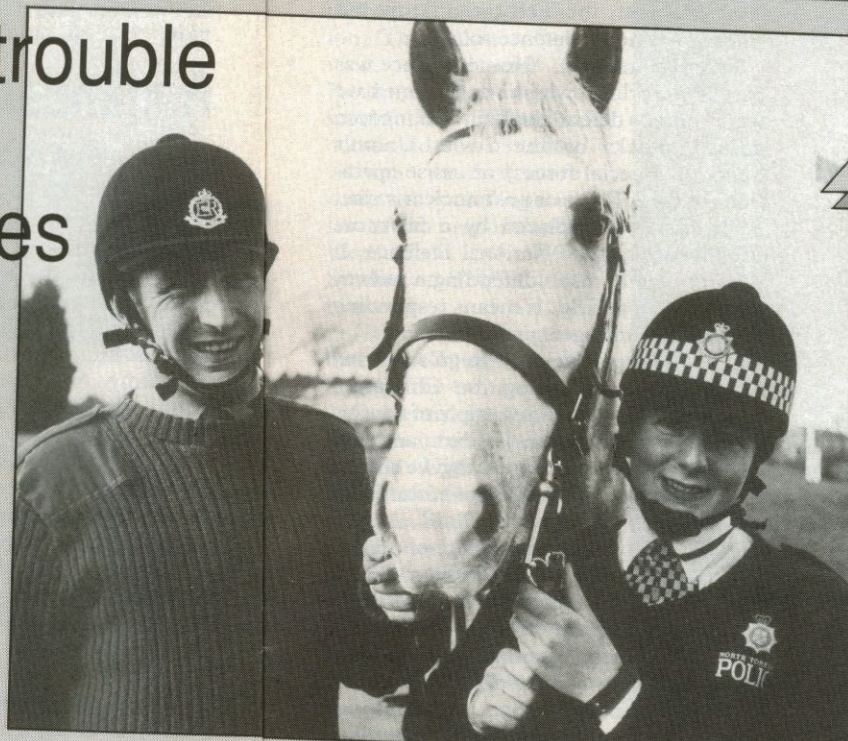
Edinburgh TA soldier WO2 (RQMS) **John Connolly** has been awarded a Lord Lieutenant's Certificate at a ceremony in the newly opened headquarters of The Scottish Yeomanry. John enlisted in The Parachute Regiment in 1964, transferred to The King's Own Scottish Borderers, and left the Regulars in 1977. He enlisted in the TA as a driver with 225 (QOLY) Sqn RCT(V), rising to the rank of SSM before transferring last year to the new Scottish Yeomanry.



Neigh trouble for the Mounties

Mounted Royal Military Policemen from Aldershot are patrolling Catterick Garrison in tandem with their civilian counterparts. One week every month two RMPs and their horses travel to North Yorkshire from Aldershot to monitor areas difficult to cover by car or on foot.

Photographed on the rounds are Cpl **Neal Ridley**, who has been with the RMP Mounted Section for 4½ years, and PC **Sara Prowse** of the local force.



Picture: Chris Barker

PEOPLE

Royal audience

A handy cap, Sire! Munster's Carnival Prince, **Wolfgang III**, is greeted by Lt Col **Tony Barton**, CO, 8 Artillery Support Regiment RLC, during a visit which marked the regiment's 30th and final year in the city before its return to the United Kingdom.

The Prince, who usually grants his audience to a select few, gave a big welcome to all members of the regiment. Col Barton presented him with a plaque and his guards with medals, and Wolfgang responded by making presentations to soldiers who had helped the local German community.



A piece of cake!

Capt **Terry Marsh**, PSAO with C Company, 5th Battalion, The (Shropshire and Herefordshire) Light Infantry (Volunteers) had a surprise when he turned up for a routine drill night at Hereford – the company presented him with a cake to mark his 40 years' Army service. Terry followed his father, **Tommy**, into the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry as a boy soldier in 1954.



Medal parade

Eighty-one for three... No, not an England cricket score, but the accumulated service of this trio of worthies at Headquarters Training Support Command (Germany), Sennelager. Pictured after receiving Long Service and Good Conduct Medals are (from left) WO2 **Terry Croakin** SASC (17 years in uniform), WO2 (SQMS) **Joe Collins** RA (32 years), and WO2 **Tom Docarty**, A and SH (32 years).

Well done, the 151st

Greater London TAVRA chairman Sir **Greville Spratt** presents the coveted Elworthy Trophy to members of 151 Detachment South West London Army Cadet Force. It was the third time the Kingston unit had won the award. The detachment was also judged the best first aid unit in London by St John Ambulance Brigade. In February, 151 rebadged from The Queen's Regiment to The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment.

The Elworthy Trophy is awarded annually to the best unit in Greater London.



Aiming for closer ties

Swansea's Lord Mayor, Cllr **Walter Dyer**, pictured with Swansea soldier Cpl **Stuart Smitham**, visited the 1st Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Wales at its Tern Hill barracks, near Shrewsbury, to strengthen the already close ties between the regiment and communities in South Wales.

TA's senior soldier sees history as a mirror of our times

IF PART-time soldier and military historian Richard Holmes was allowed to have one thing engraved on his tombstone, it would, he said, be: "I commanded a good battalion."

He did – 2 Wessex – and now the 47-year-old Hampshire man has assumed the mantle of the Territorial Army's Number One soldier. As Brigadier TA, Richard Holmes is the UK Field Army Commander's adviser on all matters Territorial and a focal point for the TA itself.

The Territorial Army is, he says, currently marking time while numerous defence studies are completed.

"Once we get a verdict, this summer, on precisely what our new role will be, we can then get on."

"What I would hope is that the new Reserve Forces Act due in 1995 will get the TA structured and legally based in a far more flexible way, so that we can actually get TA volunteers serving in lots of situations short of war."

Why the problem?

"You have to step back in time and remember that the Territorial Army is really a child of the period before the First World War. It was established by Haldane in 1908 and designed as part of the military establishment which could cope very well with peace or major war, but less well with situations in between."

'... actions that worked well with the crossbow might not work well with the SA80, but we can, at least, prevent ourselves making the same 'mistake twice'

"Precisely because at the time it was founded, the country was expecting a major war, it can be compared to a large on-off switch – 'off' in peacetime and 'on' for general mobilisation. What we actually need is to change that single large switch to several small buttons to give us a spectrum of abilities in areas short of war."

"Everybody knows it has to happen, but

we really do require new legislation that genuinely reflects our changed circumstances following the end of the Cold War."

As a result of the perceived reduced level of threat, the Territorial Army has given up its home defence role.

Brig Holmes said: "Home defence was part of a world in which we imagined we were going to defend the United Kingdom against attacks by the Soviet Union's Spetsnaz (special forces) or assist operations in the UK pre or post nuclear strike."

"It has been replaced by a far more useful expression – National Defence. It doesn't merely mean defending a railway station or an airfield. It means responding to a whole contingency of events."

"TA sappers helped Regular Army Royal Engineers during the Chichester floods. That is just one example of the sort of assistance a part-time soldier can offer. National Defence is something we should all be able to sign up to quite enthusiastically."

Richard Holmes is not short of experience. He enlisted in the TA as a private soldier 30 years ago. Commissioned into an infantry regiment, 5 Queens, he spent much of his service training in the Nato role with his battalion, working his way up through a variety of posts including platoon and mortar platoon commander

before commanding 5 Queens' Guildford company for five years.

Eventually, he was appointed commanding officer of the 2nd Battalion, The Wessex Regiment (Volunteers) at Reading. Deciding it would be better to command his battalion full-time, he took more than two years' special leave from his post in the Department of War Studies at RMA Sandhurst.

"It was the best possible fun. I enjoyed it hugely," he enthused.

Currently, he teaches each winter on the Army's Higher Command and Staff Course at the Staff College, Camberley. He organises the operational student syndicates look at particular operations: for example, a comparative study of Afghanistan and Vietnam.

Students look at the differing phases of war and styles of operation – amphibious landings, airborne drops, river crossings, armoured advances and defensive battles – and at the end of each course visit actual battlefields.

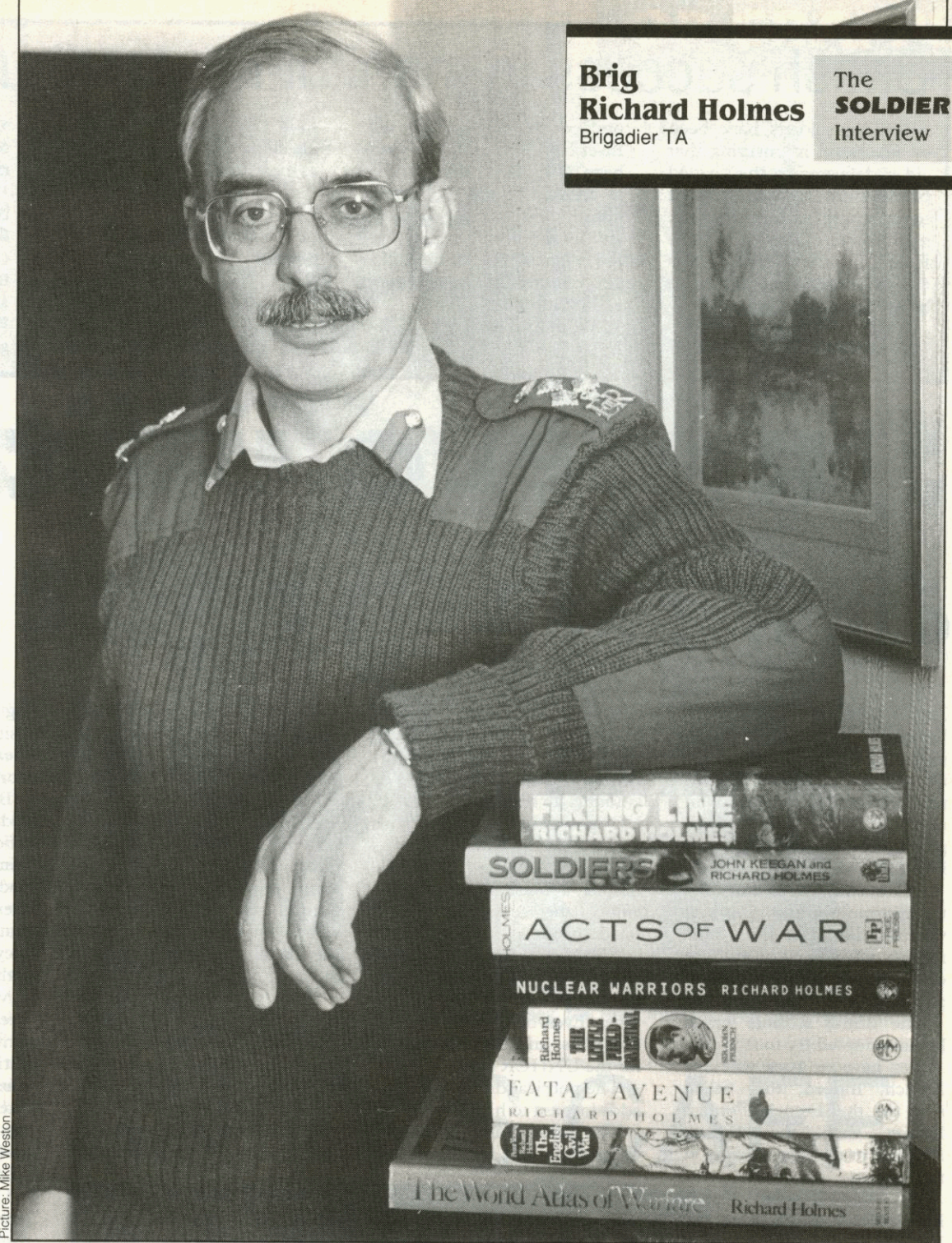
According to Brig Holmes the course is designed to give them a feel for the way military operations and terrain are mashed together.

"Military history is important to the commanders of tomorrow, but we need to be clear that we are not talking about the old 'drum and trumpet' style of military history – what the distinguished British military analyst, Maj Gen JFC Fuller, called the 'Bradshaw mind', where a historian can tell you in pounds the weight of kippers eaten by Stonewall Jackson's staff in the Shenandoah Valley campaign of the American Civil War."

"What we need to do is use military history as a mirror for our own times and to accept there are probably no hard lessons, but lots of examples. We are looking at the

Brig
Richard Holmes
Brigadier TA

The
SOLDIER
Interview



Brig Richard Holmes, military historian and the TA's senior soldier, with a selection of his published work

way professionalism has developed and what the past has to tell us about the future.

"The striking thing is that war across the ages is often more intimately linked than anything else. In other words, it might be possible to get Henry V, Napoleon and Rommel talking to one another in a way that was entirely comprehensible to each of them."

"Of course, actions that worked well with the crossbow might not work well with the SA80, but we can, at least, prevent ourselves making the same mistake twice."

Such study requires meticulous research and Brig Holmes is no stranger to interpreting information from regimental war diaries and historic documents.

He has written 20 books on military history, mainly concerning the First World War. His latest work involved a ride on

horseback from Mons to Fontainebleau following the exact route of the British Army's 1914 retreat.

"Having studied more than 50 sets of letters and diaries of participants held in the Imperial War Museum's Department of Documents, I then spent two weeks riding the route so that I could produce a very 'hands on' account of the influence of terrain."

"If you retrace an incident at the right time of year and under much the same circumstances, it gives an author a particularly unique feel for a military operation. The only difference was that, unlike the soldiers who took part, I wasn't frightened."

His book, provisionally titled *Riding to Retreat – Mons to the Marne 1914 Revisited*, will be published later this year.

Interview by Laurie Manton

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THE CAR IN FRONT IS A **TOYOTA**

British success in monitoring distribution may be expanded

BRITISH soldiers have been so successful in ensuring that aid is delivered to the divided communities in Sarajevo that tentative approaches have been made by the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) for more soldiers to be used in other areas.

United Nations troops are not normally involved in sec-

ondary distribution of aid. Elsewhere in Bosnia they have been used only to escort primary convoys to UNHCR warehouses where other agencies and local authorities take over the responsibility for delivering aid directly to hard-pressed communities.

But the Sarajevo team of five British soldiers is monitoring

food and fuel distribution, checking that it actually reaches those for whom it is intended.

"We agreed to assist the UNHCR in Sarajevo because it was getting desperate, so we put a team in to reorganise the logistics within the city," said Brig John Reith, Commander British Forces.

"We were asked to follow the

aid because the UNHCR realised it was not going to the right places."

Since then, corruption has been reduced to such an extent that 90 per cent of the aid allocated to the Serbians gets to its target, and 70 to 80 per cent of aid to the Bosnian Muslims. Previously, only 40 per cent got through.

To spread the monitoring wider would, however, be a massive task outside the remit of the British force, and would involve them operating in the Canadian and Nordic areas.

Brig Reith has asked for more detailed information on the requirement to study its feasibility.

Sarajevo unit ensures aid hits right target

DEFA DOG is not a good European. Being the result of a mixed marriage in Sarajevo might have taught him a certain tolerance, but he has an uncontrollable urge to savage passing French soldiers guarding the airport.

His attitude does little for the *Entente Cordiale*. Civilians without identification cards receive only a cursory sniff but come a grey, French uniform and Defa goes mad.

The British soldiers whom he has adopted try to stop him – they have to work with the French. Indeed, they relied first on the French Foreign Legion then the French Marines to provide security at the airport.

Maj Ken Lindsay, King's Royal Hussars, was glad the French troops took a grip on security. Stopping theft of the fuel and food aid he stores at the airport was a priority when he took command of the five-man team of British soldiers monitoring the secondary distribution of aid.

His Sarajevo detachment is based in a sector run by a French brigadier who commands one of three French battalions in theatre, plus Ukrainian and Egyptian battalions.

Previous British detachments concentrated first on setting up a bakery, then on organising fuel for the Bosnian government. This is monitored by WO1 Dave Harris, who also liaises with the logistics officer at the headquarters of Sector Sarajevo about convoys.

At Sarajevo airport, WO2

Allan Horne is responsible for the day-to-day monitoring of the receipt and issue of aid and checks that the agreed amounts go to the right places. He is assisted by Cpl Paul Impleton, the team's troubleshooter and "gopher", who, despite a tense environment, enjoys the relaxed working relationship.

"Sir' just doesn't work here because we live, work, eat, sleep and breathe with each other. Everybody does the pots and pans, and it is also easier for the UNHCR civilians."

The political dimension also adds interest to his work.

The monitoring burden falls to Maj Lindsay and Maj Paul

Words: Gordon Skilling
Pictures: Mike Weston

Williams, a teacher of Arabic at the Beaconsfield Defence School of Languages. Maj Lindsay caters for Bosnians within the city, mainly Muslims but also Serbs and Croats, while Maj Williams deals with the needs of Serbians outside the city.

Equipped with two Northern Ireland-issue Land Rovers – essential for Sarajevo – the members of the team are rarely in their offices. Along with locally-employed UNHCR civilians they spend most of their time on the road, check-

ing local distribution points, visiting areas receiving aid and speaking to local Red Cross workers and other agencies.

Because they travel so widely, they also work as field officers for the UNHCR, gathering information for other bodies, passing memos to agencies about a variety of matters affecting the people they meet, and chasing up officials if there is no reaction.

Maj Lindsay operates a two-week cycle. As soon as aid arrives, it is held in a hangar until moved to a compound where loads are prepared. Every second Sunday a meeting decides where aid will be distributed, 23 per cent usually going outside the city.

On Wednesday, aid starts going to the communities, and distribution is completed by the following Saturday. During the first week the British team monitors the warehouses and in the second it checks that the aid has reached the people nominated during the Sunday session.

"We can trace the aid right the way from the time it leaves the airport to the family which receives it," said Maj Williams. "On my last distribution we accounted for 92 per cent."

Said Maj Lindsay: "The UNHCR assesses the need in winter as 623 grammes per person per day but has difficulty in meeting that. In November we could supply only 374g."

Plenty of food is available from donors, and when it does arrive it is distributed quickly and efficiently. But the prob-

lem is getting the food to the city in the first place.

When the airport was closed for a day 22 flights were lost, which meant 100 tonnes less to be distributed. The situation is no easier on the ground. Convoys cannot use the main Mostar route because the Bijela bridges were blown so they have to snake over mountain routes kept open by British sappers. Only half the convoys needed are getting through.

It is the vulnerable – the old and infirm – who really suffer, living on their own, unable to forage for scarce wood or coal.

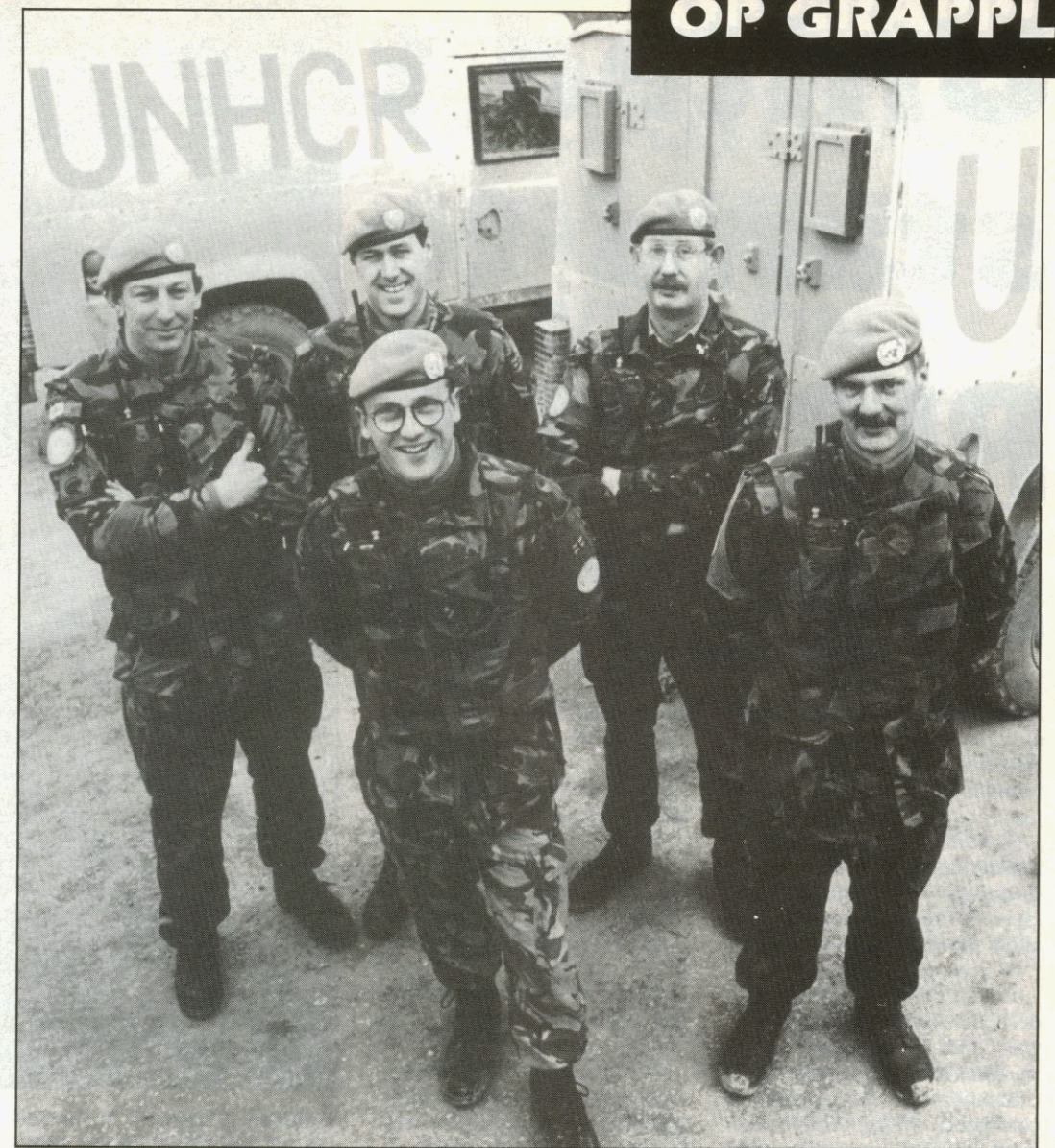
Lack of food is not the main problem, however, said Maj Williams, who was also involved in the aid operation in Kurdistan.

"I do not see people starving. They suffer more from the problems of winter. It is very depressing with no electricity or water. Their homes are very badly damaged, schools are closed, there is no transport and there is general danger in just moving about. Morale and mental health suffer as much as physical wellbeing."

The greatest factor, however, has been the constant threat of the shot which the victim did not hear. Until the heavy guns around Sarajevo fell silent last month, somebody died every day because of the war.

Not as many people now live in the city's old folks' homes. Many have died through natural causes, many more from snipers' bullets.

"Those left have learned where to walk and when not to go out," said Cpl Impleton.



Sarajevo detachment: left to right (back) Maj Ken Lindsay, Maj Paul Williams, WO1 Dave Harris; (front) Cpl Paul Impleton, WO2 Allan Horne

ANDY'S CAFF!

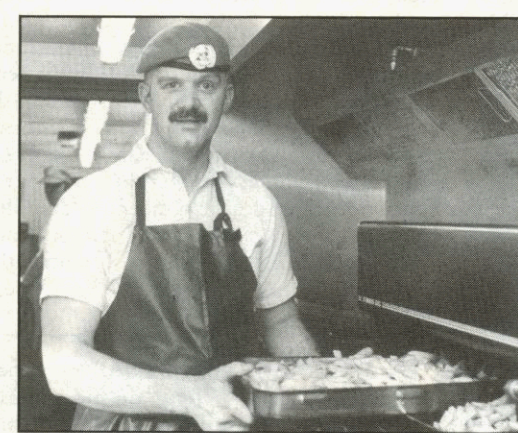
SGT ANDY Hewitt and his four cooks at Tomislavgrad sometimes have to cope with up to 100 unexpected guests for dinner.

Although the guests are welcome, he wishes they would let him know in time to get in extra rations instead of arriving unannounced at the gate.

Convoys passing through Tomislavgrad usually spend a night at the British base to prepare for the long haul over the mountains.

UNHCR convoys tend to have little trouble as they are following set procedures, recognised and respected by the checkpoints.

Every night Capt Ed Legard LD holds a meeting for convoy commanders and briefs them on fighting in the area, the con-



Sgt Andy Hewitt: Who's coming to dinner?

dition of the road and administration points.

"The UN are very able people with good trucks who make the route seem relatively easy," he said. "But we also get non-governmental organisations, which are a very mixed bunch."

"They are interesting characters. I applaud their good intentions and we will always try to help any individual or organisation wanting to take aid into central Bosnia."

"However, they often don't realise how difficult it is to cross three active front lines over a mountain range."

The biggest problem is negotiating their way past HVO checkpoints.

"Some want to save the world but don't appreciate why it is not always possible to do so."

When two convoys turned up without the snow chains essential to crossing the mountains, they expected the British Army to provide them. When the chains were not forthcoming

Turn to next page



Maj Paul Williams and the Sarajevo detachment join Maj Mijovic, Serbian commander of Sarajevo Airport Settlement, for a meal

United they stand to prevent a loggy jam

A MINI United Nations operated by the British Logistic Battalion at Split is providing a template for future UN operations at grass-roots level.

Its task is to co-ordinate the logistic support of all nations operating within the Bosnia-Herzegovina command to allow the most efficient use of UN resources in the area.

BRITLOGBAT commander Lt Col John Wallace is also the Chief Logistic Officer of the International Logistic Co-ordination Cell. His second in command, Maj Lawrence Jones, is full-time Chief-of-Staff of the cell, which has an international staff of five: a Danish and Belgian captain, a Spanish sergeant as chief clerk and a Dutch corporal driver.

The cell has two roles: one is dealing with purely military matters; the other is organising the interface between the UN military and the UN civilian authority, which controls all accommodation and services for units as they pass through.

When a Malaysian battalion arrived it required 1,500 beds and had to be accommodated in hotels until it could move to its location.

Every Friday, Lt Col Wallace

and his staff have a meeting with representatives from the Belgian, Canadian, Dutch, French, Nordic, Malaysian and Spanish contingents, along with the senior administration officer, a former RAOC officer, Mr Alex Russel.

"It is very valuable," said Lt Col Wallace. "We can discuss the position each National Support Element is facing, then cross-service each other and offer assistance."

"Each nation has strengths and weaknesses so we aim to make maximum use of everybody's strengths to make up the shortfalls. The overall result is to have a more effective logistic effort for the whole force."

The task was demanding during January and February, when the flow of troops was high, creating a heavy logistic work load.

The loggies do not deal just with British supplies.

Early in the New Year the Malaysian battalion arrived in theatre with two mechanised infantry companies, two cavalry squadrons and an engineer squadron.

The Nordic battalion which took over from the 1 PWO



company group at Tuzla had a particularly frustrating – and expensive – logistic problem.

They were to have replaced a Canadian battalion at Srebrenica, which had hoped to be relieved by the Light Dragoons. The Serbians refused to let the British through, and the Canadians had to stay put.

The Nordic supplies were positioned near Belgrade but the Serbians also refused to let them through. They had to be re-routed by rail through Hungary, Austria and Italy then by ferry to Split from where they completed the journey by truck or track through the British area, the only passable route.

The Mostar route is still

closed, and although a Slovenian engineer battalion has been investigating the possibility of operating a ferry to bridge the gap caused by the destruction of the Bijela bridges, the only way through is still over the routes Triangle and Diamond set up by British sappers of 35 Engineer Regiment at the start of Grapple 1.

The Dutch battalion is also due to change, and other roulements are in the pipeline.

Although demanding, the work is very rewarding and there is a good relationship with all the other nations and the UN administrative staff, another of whom, Mr Wallace Lockwood, a former Royal

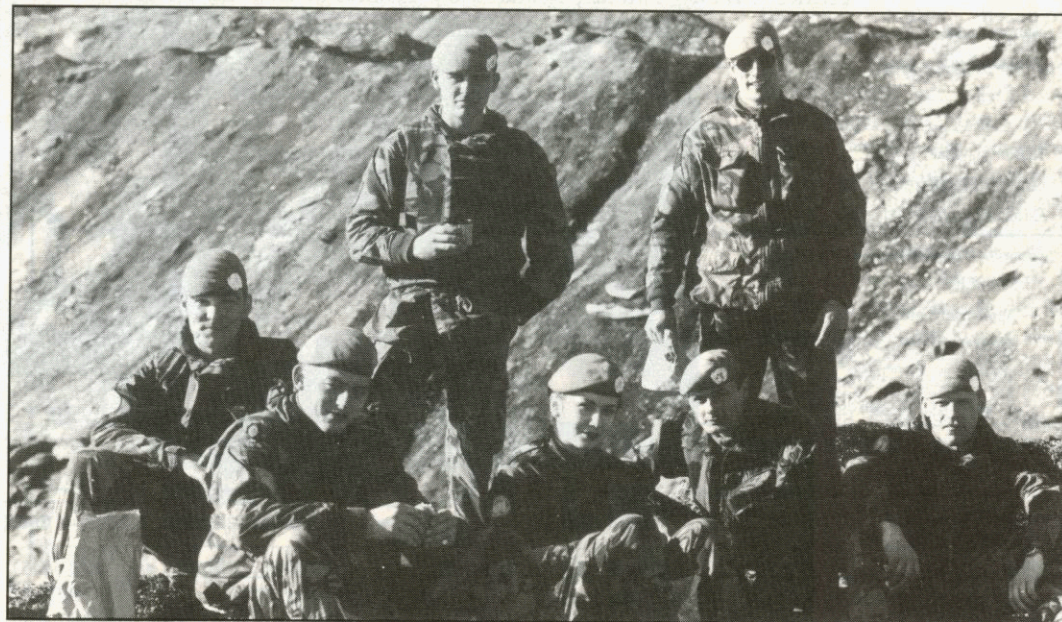
Artillery quartermaster, is accommodation officer.

"We have got to know each other well, which means that everybody is very willing to offer assistance to each other on a low level," said Lt Col Wallace. "Politically, nations are supposed to be self-sustaining but it is useful at our level, where we can make things work, use a bit of cross-assistance to achieve results."

For its size, it is a singularly efficient and effective organisation.

"We have found things to do which are not exactly within our remit," said Maj Jones. "Someone has got to do the job, so we just get on with it."

Smoothing the way for international understanding through the International Logistic Co-ordination Cell are (seated) Danish Capt Erling Christensen, Belgian Capt Guy Snauwaert, with Spanish Sgt Felix Poveda and Dutch Cpl Pascal Bosch flanked (left) by Maj Lawrence Jones (Chief of Staff) and Lt Col John Wallace (Commander)



Having their lunch break while Muslims load their ration of coal are the liaison team: (standing) LSgt Neil Hirst, Gdsm Ian Smith; (seated) Gdsm Greg Brier, Capt Ed Macfarlane, Interpreter Belma Ljuta, LSgt Jeff Smith REME and Gdsm Gary Howe

OP GRAPPLE

COLDSTREAM COAL KEEPS POWER ON

THE Coldstream coalmen call at Bugojno every Friday. If they did not, a hospital, school and 600 needy families would have little fuel.

Two Warriors escort two Land Rovers with liaison officer Capt Edward Macfarlane and four guardsmen from their base in Gornji Vakuf, through the confrontation line and on to Bugojno, where the captain pays a courtesy call on the commander.

Six jerrycans of valuable diesel fuel are poured into six battered lorries. Exactly enough fuel is given for them to be driven to a mine to pick up coal and take it to the UNHCR warehouse, the hospital and school.

There is just enough fuel to get the drivers back home the following week.

At the mine a seventh jerrycan fuels an excavator which loads the coal on to the lorries.

It is all done under strict supervision of No 1 Company, 1st Battalion, Coldstream Guards to ensure that fuel and coal does not get into the wrong hands. Stringent tests had to be made to establish how much fuel was needed, and negotiations took three

weeks to establish a routine which started with two trucks, then three and finally six.

On one occasion they escorted a lorry full of baby food from Feed the Children to a warehouse where a queue started to form as soon as it arrived. Sgt Jeff Smith from the Light Aid Detachment also went to repair two Land Rover ambulances which had broken down.

They were needed to bring back wounded soldiers from the mountains.

It is a fascinating job for the young captains and their staffs, out everyday providing an interface between the UN and the fighters and dealing with very varied tasks.

But it is a difficult business. Maj Andrew Johnston, OC No 1 Coy in Gornji Vakuf, has achieved the remarkable feat of bringing rival commanders together three times to discuss how to stop hostilities and resume aid convoys.

"There is a great tendency to try to link things together, and I spend much of my time trying to detach them and get them treated as separate issues," he said. "It is easier said than done sometimes."

ANDY'S CAFF!

● From Page 17

ing, the Army was accused of being unhelpful.

"They see the misery on their TV screens and wonder how they can help, so they buy any kind of truck, get some blankets and drive to Bosnia to distribute them.

"But at the end of the day it

is not that easy, and it would help us to help them if they went through proper UNHCR channels."

If they do that, they will fly through the checkpoints because the UNHCR has been established for two years, is well equipped and prepared, and knows the background to the problems.

"There is not a lot we can do if they turn up with dodgy

paperwork, but whatever problem they may have, we help them as much as we can," said Capt Legard.

"That is what the British are there for – to help the aid get through.

"We are like a big transport cafe for them, they are amazingly interesting characters and give a lot of fun."

Good relations with the HVO police have greatly

helped the flow of aid. Royal Military Police man the first major checkpoint at Lipa in conjunction with the HVO police and have now gained their confidence.

"We are here with them all the time and have built up a rapport, so we are able to solve a lot of problems," said Cpl Nick Newmann. "They now look to us to see if a convoy is United Nations, and if we say it

is OK, they usually let it through."

But the RMP are strict in enforcing the rules of the game.

"Because the UNHCR convoys have the correct paperwork, civilian vehicles tag on, so we have to be strict about what they are carrying because illegal military items would earn the UN a bad name," he said.

Cyprus drops RLC squadron into rigours of infantry role

DROPS specialists 1 Transport Squadron RLC dropped everything when they heard their Colchester-based unit – part of 10 Transport Regiment RLC – was on its way to Cyprus for a month in the sun, writes **Capt Steven Hawley**.

More used to exercising with DROPS (Demountable Rack Off-loading and Pick-up System) trains, the squadron's primary role, they left their vehicles behind for four weeks to get to grips with the complexities of working as a dismounted infantry company deployed on out-of-area operations.

Based at Radio Sondhe

Camp in Episkopi canton, the RLC soldiers spent the first fortnight of Exercise Lion Sun on dry training in map reading, basic infantry skills, helicopter operations and skill at arms.

They also fitted in two range camps, one at Akrotiri covering individual skills, the other at Dhekelia culminating in a section attack, live firing and 66mm anti-tank shoot.

The squadron's success in adapting to its infantry role was due largely to the considerable efforts of a training team on loan from the 1st Battalion, The Parachute Regiment.

Halfway through Lion Sun and before the main exercise,



Lt Anna Carpenter rallies her troops

2nd Lt John Boyd, OC 1 Para Trg Team, devised a dry run for the squadron.

Then it was action all the way. A platoon commanded by

2nd Lt Andy Moffat was flown in by helicopter to secure high ground adjacent to the beach-head before the rest of the company made an amphibious landing at dawn.

After a five day chase inland the "enemy" were brought to book during a full company attack on Paramali village.

There was still time for members of the squadron to carry out adventurous training projects in various parts of the island before their return to Colchester, confident in the knowledge that their next mission would not be quite so sunny – and it would involve a lot of flatracks.



Quick trot: Glosters' race day in Botswana owed nothing to Ascot

Glosters warm to Botswana

ONE HUNDRED and eight soldiers of B Company, 1st Battalion, The Gloucestershire Regiment very quickly warmed to their latest exercise.

It was snowing when they left their barracks in Catterick for the flight to Gaborone, capital of the African state of Botswana, and 37 degrees C when they stepped off the aircraft.

Home base for the six-week Exercise Diamond Cutter was tented accommodation at Carne Camp – named after Lt Col Fred Carne VC who com-

manded the Glosters in Korea until his capture at Imjin – and the men of B Coy quickly settled into a routine which began each morning with an 0500 hours bugle reveille.

Botswana's vast savanna provided the Glosters, commanded by Maj Richard Felton, with superb opportunities for live firing. Training was led by Capt Ian Savage, Sgt Maj (WO1) Marc Boon and a small team of assault pioneers.

"It's very different from the ranges I run in Wales," said

WO1 Boon. "First task of the day is to drive game off the ranges."

Platoons received survival training, followed by two-day exercises for which no rations were issued. No soldier admitted to going hungry, so the lessons must have been well learned.

Botswana Defence Force personnel trained alongside B Coy in an excellent atmosphere of professional rivalry, particularly during inter-platoon sports competitions.

In keeping with current English football fortunes, 1 Glosters failed to qualify, and the photo-finish result of the Carne Cup donkey derby is still awaited.

Logistic support was masterminded by WO2 Harvey, attached from Hullavington-based 9 Supply Regiment RLC, and CSgt (CQMS) Mark Cornock, Glosters. They had to supply, via a 1930-vintage diesel generator, 4,000 litres of water a day for drinking and showering. They were also responsible for local purchases of food, of which beef and fresh vegetables were plentiful.

Medical cover was under the command of Capt Simon Hall. His team taught combat medical skills so effectively that only one heat-related illness was reported despite temperatures that reached 47 degrees.

Climax of the exercise was live-firing training, after which B Coy took advantage of the facilities around the Victoria Falls in neighbouring Zimbabwe to enjoy bungee jumping, white water rafting and safaris.



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Kenyan adventure for globetrotting QLR

JOIN THE 1st Battalion, The Queen's Lancashire Regiment and see the world!

Latest stop for the Berlin-based globetrotters was Kenya, where the battalion took part in Exercise Grand Prix 1 before enjoying some memorable adventurous training.

The African experience came hard on the heels of 1 QLR's mechanised infantry training at BATUS in Canada, and involved rifle platoons formed from The King's Royal Hussars, 38 Fd Sqn RE, 1 Cheshires and a section of part-time soldiers from 4 QLR.

Based at Nanyuki Showground, the battalion found unlimited challenges within a 100-mile radius. The jungles and forests around Mount Kenya, the high altitude scrub bush of Dol Dol and Mpala Farm 30 miles north, the desert-like Archer's Post, and the added element of wild animals, offered great variety.



White water rafting was the most popular adventurous training activity during 1 QLR's time in Kenya

Adventurous training activities included white water rafting, Canadian canoeing, climbing, trekking and mountain biking.

Separate expeditions were

mounted to climb Mount Kenya, walk up Kilimanjaro and attempt a very demanding camel safari in the north.

Back in Germany the battalion, one of the final units

involved in the drawdown from Berlin, is now busy with a full ceremonial programme before returning to the United Kingdom in the autumn. It is to be based at Tidworth.

Why Sally had to SEE for herself

LT SALLY Mendonca AGC (SPS) attached to 1 Gordons, is a typical Raleigh International case history. Having received permission to become a member of the organisation's staff for three months and successfully negotiated an interview and staff selection weekend, she went to Zimbabwe last year as a project manager.

She took part in a trekking project which involved walking from Kazangula on the border - where Zambia, Zimbabwe, Namibia and Botswana meet - to the Victoria Falls.

Having completed five separate treks, Lt Mendonca was given a very different project, the Surgical Eye Expedition (SEE), which she describes as "hard work

but extremely worthwhile". The project teams first screened hundreds of potential patients and targeted the most inaccessible and needy areas, then worked alongside four eye surgeons as scrub nurses in the theatre.

"The projects all achieved their aims and, despite occasional frustrations, I would recommend Raleigh to anyone."

Army leads the way on Raleigh

THE NAME Raleigh is synonymous with an image of a pioneering and adventurous person, willing to tackle the unknown.

And it is precisely that sort of spirit among the 17 to 25 age group which the organisation which bears the famous explorer's title is aiming to nurture.

Raleigh International and its predecessor until two years ago - Operation Raleigh - are celebrating ten years of, to quote its pamphlet, "developing young people by giving them the opportunity to carry out demanding environmental and community projects on expeditions overseas and in the UK".

Perhaps the one common denominator over that decade has been the involvement of the Services - especially the Army - in a leadership role.

Majors, warrant officers, sappers, lieutenants and lance corporals, Regular and TA have all been among those who have played a vital role in the organisation's success.

Heading "the largest diving programme the world has ever seen" (in the Bahamas) ... building a bridge and raising a causeway in a crocodile creek in Australia ... constructing a 45km electric fence to protect native crops in Zimbabwe from hungry elephants ... working in a leprosy hospital in Guyana ... all have been tackled with aplomb by Army representatives, leading groups of youngsters.

"Over the past ten years, around 800 people from the Services have assisted us, of

which probably 70 each year have been from the Army," said Raleigh's chief executive Jamie Robertson-Macleod.

There have been changes in that time, explained the former equerry to Princess Grace of Monaco who left the Army in 1980 and whose relationship with Raleigh goes back to the early days in 1984, when Oper-

ation Raleigh was set up by Col John Blashford-Snell.

"These days we have six professional expedition leaders - five of whom are ex-military, including a former Gurkha officer, an engineer and an officer from The Parachute Regiment - who are employed by the company."

However, although the

Adjutant General is an honorary vice-president and adviser, Raleigh is not a military-run organisation, he stressed.

"And the old days, when young people were 'going round the world in ships' have largely disappeared.

"The organisation is much more focused now on its participants making a contribution to the host community - usually in developing countries. Those involved really do want to do something constructive."

Familiar activities such as white-water rafting and mountaineering are still an important element of the expeditions, but joint ventures with aid agencies on construction, scientific and medical projects have come increasingly to the fore.

"Out in the field, the benefits in terms of development for Army staff are invaluable," Mr Robertson-Macleod said.

"When you are leading - or, more precisely, managing - a team of young people who could range from ex-offenders to scientific graduates, from Post Office workers to brand managers, there is no question of ordering them around.

"If you were to say: 'Come on, lads, we're going to go up this river', it wouldn't work. They would be likely to ask why."

So the potential "project managers", apart from giving an undertaking to provide funds to cover, inter alia, their travelling costs, have to undergo a tough assessment week-



Picture: Terry Champion

end and, if selected, a strict interview.

"The assessment weekend is designed to weed out the 'too military' type," Mr Robertson-Macleod explained, "the person who is inclined to shout and scream and is not able to relate to people."

Raleigh's expeditions plans director Peter Ormerod, a former gunner and commando battery commander, concurred.

"We try to de-militarise staff before putting them in the field," he said. "If a potential candidate is clearly unsuitable, we would say so in a politely-worded report to their CO."

Generally speaking, he added, it was a question of leading by example and by management, rather than by telling.

It was a great exercise in leadership for junior officers, for example, because they would be dealing with people

of their own age, but were not in charge.

Having ex-military leaders at Raleigh was a great help, Mr Ormerod felt.

"We certainly value our link with the Services generally, but with the Army particularly."

As well as expedition leaders, Raleigh employs logistics managers (effectively QMs), who, ideally, are energetic and with enormous re-serves of stamina, deputy plans director Chris Kendall said.

"What being in the field does not prepare you for is being taken out of the Army environment, with all its backing.

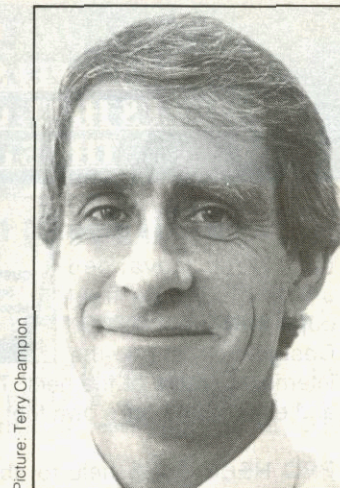
"You have got your vehicle, got your equipment, but then you have to plan things yourself, generally on foot, with a radio as the only contact with the outside world. These guys have to think on their feet and use their initiative."

Another enthusiast for the Army connection is Raleigh's programme director, former officer Bijan Nabavi.

When carrying out on-the-spot reces for future expeditions, he finds that the fact that there is a military element involved is very often a selling point with the authorities concerned.

"Our volunteer staff who are managing the groups are in the TA or young Regular soldiers released by their units: they are professionals, officers or NCOs with experience," he tells them.

Raleigh's average exercise (nine each year lasting ten weeks, invariably "roughing it" under canvas) consists of 100 young venturists, together with 30-odd voluntary staff, normally under a full-time leader, split into small teams working on different projects. Depending on the project, a Royal



Above - Raleigh International chief executive, Jamie Robertson-Macleod. Contact number for the organisation is 071-371 8585

Left - Peter Ormerod, Director of Plans (centre) with his deputy Chris Kendall (left) and programme director Bijan Nabavi pictured in Raleigh's huge equipment store

Engineer or other instructor would be used, with a male or female deputy leader, a logistics manager in charge of purchase of rations, mechanics (often REME) and communications officer.

Participation by serving Army personnel is official, says Bijan Nabavi, so anyone who gets permission to take part is designated as being on adventurous training or, in the case of the TA, leadership training.

Although applications are officially put in by way of a DCI through senior officers, he stresses that ultimately it is the Raleigh application form which is the deciding factor.

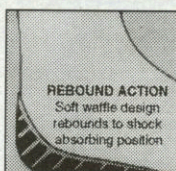
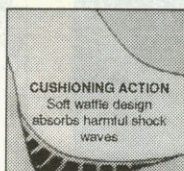
"Once individuals have obtained permission from their unit to apply, they are called for an initial interview, where, apart from assessing their specific skill such as signals, we carefully assess both their motivation and their potential ability to adapt to working with young people."

As Jamie Robertson-Macleod put it: "We are developing fast, and the Army is going with us. We are becoming more consistent in what we do, and we are running things more as a business."

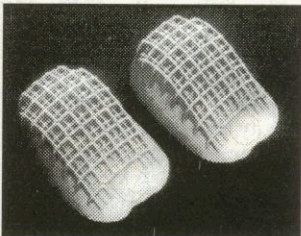
And, as the Raleigh organisation prepares to enter its second decade, with expeditions to Zimbabwe, Alaska, Siberia, Malaysia and Chile on the stocks, if past experience is anything to go by, many of those keen and enthusiastic young venturers will afterwards opt to join the Army...

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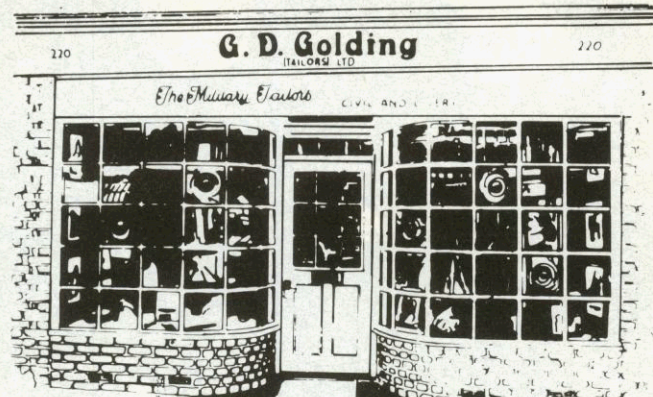
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TA PAY RATES

Illustrative new rates of TA pay with effect from April 1 (Stage 1) are:

OFFICERS

Rank	Service	New daily rates
		£
2nd Lt		33.41
Lt	On appointment	44.18
	+1 year	45.34
	+2 years	46.50
	+3 years	47.66
	+4 years	48.82
Capt	On appointment	56.23
	+1 year	57.75
	+2 years	59.27
	+3 years	60.80
	+4 years	62.31
	+5 years	63.84
	+6 years	65.35
Maj	On appointment	70.86
	+1 year	72.62
	+2 years	74.39
	+3 years	76.14
	+4 years	77.89
	+5 years	79.65
	+6 years	81.40
	+7 years	83.16
	+8 years	84.92
Lt Col	On appointment	99.42
	2/19 years in rank/service	102.03
	4/21 years in rank/service	104.65
	6/23 years in rank/service	107.43
	8/25 years in rank/service	110.22
Col	On appointment	118.63
	+2 years	121.87
	+4 years	125.09
	+6 years	128.33
	+8 years	131.56
Brig		148.65

QUARTERMASTER CATEGORY

Rank	Service	New daily rates
		£
Lt	On entry	68.08
Capt	After 6 years	74.20
Maj	14 years	78.66
Lt Col	On appointment	89.98
	After 3 years	91.25

OFFICER CADETS

Rank	Service	New daily rates
		£
Cadet	On entry	23.45

NON REGULAR PERMANENT STAFF (NRPS) (CCF ADMIN)

Rank	Service	New daily rates
		£
Capt	On appointment	53.74
	After 3 years	58.10
	6 years	62.46
Maj	On appointment	67.72
	After 3 years	72.76
	6 years	77.80
Lt Col	On appointment	95.01

THE 1994 AFPRB award for TA personnel is to be staged in line with the award for Regular personnel.

The TA bounty is increased to £275 for the first year, £575 for the second year and £850 for the third year. These new rates will be paid from April 1, 1995 for the training year completed on March 31, 1995.

SOLDIERS

Rank	Class	Band	A	Scale B	C
			£	£	£
Pte	4	Band 1	20.90	21.20	21.65
	3	Band 1	23.41	23.71	24.16
		Band 2	27.20	27.50	27.95
		Band 3	31.38	31.68	32.13
	2	Band 1	26.19	26.49	26.94
		Band 2	29.99	30.29	30.74
		Band 3	34.18	34.48	34.93
	1	Band 1	28.42	28.72	29.17
		Band 2	32.21	32.51	32.96
		Band 3	36.39	36.69	37.14
LCpl	3	Band 1	28.42	28.72	29.17
		Band 2	32.21	32.51	32.96
		Band 3	36.39	36.69	37.14
	2	Band 1	30.37	30.67	31.12
		Band 2	34.16	34.46	34.91
		Band 3	38.69	38.99	39.44
	1	Band 1	32.67	32.97	33.42
		Band 2	36.46	36.76	37.21
		Band 3	40.98	41.28	41.73
Cpl	2	Band 1	35.09	35.39	35.84
		Band 2	38.87	39.17	39.62
		Band 3	43.40	43.70	44.15
	1	Band 1	37.66	37.96	38.41
		Band 2	41.46	41.76	42.21
		Band 3	45.98	46.28	46.73
Sgt		Band 4	41.06	41.36	41.81
		Band 5	45.15	45.45	45.90
		Band 6	49.61	49.91	50.36
SSgt		Band 4	43.42	43.72	44.17
		Band 5	47.50	47.80	48.25
		Band 6	51.98	52.28	52.73
		Band 7	57.38	57.68	58.13
WO2		Band 4	46.43	46.73	47.18
		Band 5	50.52	50.82	51.27
		Band 6	56.03	56.33	56.78
		Band 7	61.55	61.85	62.30
WO1		Band 4	49.52	49.82	50.27
		Band 5	53.59	53.89	54.34
		Band 6	59.18	59.48	59.93
		Band 7	64.68	64.98	65.43

GROUP A NRPS – SOLDIER'S NORMAL RATES

Rank	On appt	After 3yrs	6yrs	8yrs
Pte	27.18	27.28	27.38	27.48
LCpl	31.24	31.34	31.44	31.54
Cpl Class 2	37.84	37.94	38.04	38.14
Cpl Class 1	40.31	40.41	40.51	40.61
Sgt	43.84	43.94	44.04	44.14
SSgt	46.09	46.19	46.29	46.39
WO2	54.24	54.34	54.44	54.54
WO1	62.50	62.60	62.70	62.80

GROUP B NRPS – SOLDIER'S NORMAL RATES

Rank	On appt	After 3yrs	6yrs	8yrs
Pte	27.18	27.28	27.38	27.48
LCpl	31.24	31.34	31.44	31.54
Cpl Class 2	37.84	37.94	38.04	38.14

TA PAY RATES

Illustrative new rates of TA pay with effect from January 1, 1995 (Stage 2):

OFFICERS

Rank	Service	New daily rates
		£
2nd Lt	On appointment	33.52
Lt	+1 year	44.30
	+2 years	45.47
	+3 years	46.63
	+4 years	47.80
	+5 years	48.97
Capt	On appointment	56.57
	+1 year	58.09
	+2 years	59.62
	+3 years	61.14
	+4 years	62.67
	+5 years	64.20
	+6 years	65.72
Maj	On appointment	71.80
	+1 year	73.57
	+2 years	75.34
	+3 years	77.11
	+4 years	78.88
	+5 years	80.65
	+6 years	82.42
	+7 years	84.19
	+8 years	85.96
Lt Col	On appointment	101.07
	2/19 years in rank/service	103.73
	4/21 years in rank/service	106.38
	6/23 years in rank/service	109.20
	8/25 years in rank/service	112.02
Col	On appointment	120.58
	+2 years	123.87
	+4 years	127.16
	+6 years	130.45
	+8 years	133.74
Brig		151.11

QUARTERMASTER CATEGORY

Rank	Service	New daily rates
		£
Lt	On entry	68.95
Capt	After 6 years	75.15
Maj	14 years	79.66
Lt Col	On appointment	91.12
	After 3 years	92.40

OFFICER CADETS

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Cadet	On entry	23.52

NON REGULAR PERMANENT STAFF (NRPS) (CCF ADMIN)

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Capt	On appointment	54.06
	After 3 years	58.44
	6 years	62.81
Maj	On appointment	68.62
	After 3 years	73.69
	6 years	78.77
Lt Col	On appointment	96.60

SOLDIERS

Rank	Class	Band	A	Scale B	C
			£	£	£
Pte	4	Band 1	20.96	21.26	21.71
	3	Band 1	23.49	23.79	24.24
		Band 2	27.27	27.57	28.02
		Band 3	31.47	31.77	32.22
	2	Band 1	26.27	26.57	27.02
		Band 2	30.07	30.37	30.82
		Band 3	34.28	34.58	35.03
	1	Band 1	28.56	28.86	29.31
		Band 2	32.37	32.67	33.12
		Band 3	36.57	36.87	37.32
LCpl	3	Band 1	28.56	28.86	29.31
		Band 2	32.37	32.67	33.12
		Band 3	36.57	36.87	37.32
	2	Band 1	30.51	30.81	31.26
		Band 2	34.33	34.63	35.08
		Band 3	38.87	39.17	39.62
	1	Band 1	32.83	33.13	33.58
		Band 2	36.64	36.94	37.39
		Band 3	41.19	41.49	41.94
Cpl	2	Band 1	35.26	35.56	36.01
		Band 2	39.06	39.36	39.81
		Band 3	43.62	43.92	44.37
	1	Band 1	37.85	38.15	38.60
		Band 2	41.65	41.95	42.40
		Band 3	46.21	46.51	46.96
Sgt		Band 4	41.75	42.05	42.50
		Band 5	45.90	46.20	46.65
		Band 6	50.44	50.74	51.19
SSgt		Band 4	44.15	44.45	44.90
		Band 5	48.29	48.59	49.04
		Band 6	52.85	53.15	53.60
		Band 7	58.33	58.63	59.08
WO2		Band 4	47.21	47.51	47.96
		Band 5	51.36	51.66	52.11
		Band 6	56.97	57.27	57.72
		Band 7	62.56	62.86	63.31
WO1		Band 4	50.34	50.64	51.09
		Band 5	54.49	54.79	55.24
		Band 6	60.17	60.47	60.92
		Band 7	65.76	66.06	66.51

GROUP A NRPS – SOLDIER'S NORMAL RATES

Rank	On appt	After 3yrs	6yrs	8yrs
Pte	27.32	27.42	27.52	27.62
LCpl	31.39	31.49	31.59	31.69
Cpl Class 2	38.02	38.12	38.22	38.32
Cpl Class 1	40.50	40.60	40.70	40.80
Sgt	44.56	44.66	44.76	44.86
SSgt	46.84	46.94	47.04	47.14
WO2	55.13	55.23	55.33	55.43
WO1	63.54	63.64	63.74	63.84

GROUP B NRPS – SOLDIER'S NORMAL RATES

Rank	On appt	After 3yrs	6yrs	8yrs
Pte	27.32	27.42	27.52	27.62
LCpl	31.39	31.49	31.59	31.69
Cpl Class 2	38.02	38.12	38.22	38.32

R IRISH HSFT AND HSPT

First stage – From April 1, 1994

OFFICERS HSFT AND HSPT

Rank	Service	New daily rates
		£
2nd Lt (SSLC)	On commissioning	26.61
	After 9 months	28.43
2nd Lt		35.48
Lt	On appointment	46.92
	+1 year	48.15
	+2 years	49.38
	+3 years	50.61
	+4 years	51.84
Capt	On appointment	59.71
	+1 year	61.32
	+2 years	62.94
	+3 years	64.56
	+4 years	66.17
	+5 years	67.79
	+6 years	69.40
Maj	On appointment	75.25
	+1 year	77.12
	+2 years	78.99
	+3 years	80.85
	+4 years	82.71
	+5 years	84.58
	+6 years	86.44
	+7 years	88.31
	+8 years	90.18

SOLDIERS R IRISH HSFT (pre April 21, 1977)

Rank	New daily rates
	£
Pte B 19 and under	22.21
Pte B aged 20	25.25
Pte B aged 21	28.27
Pte A	31.92
LCpl	35.87
Cpl	44.04
Sgt	47.96
SSgt	50.46
WO2	59.52
WO1	68.70

SOLDIERS R IRISH HSFT (post April 21, 1977)

Rank	Scale A	Scale B	Scale C
	£	£	£
Pte B 19 and under	22.21	22.51	22.96
Pte B aged 20	25.25	25.55	26.00
Pte B aged 21	28.27	28.57	29.02
Pte A	31.92	32.22	32.67
LCpl	35.87	36.17	36.62
Cpl	44.04	44.34	44.79
Sgt	47.96	48.26	48.71
SSgt	50.46	50.76	51.21
WO2	59.52	59.82	60.27
WO1	68.70	69.00	69.45

R IRISH HSFT AND HSPT

Second stage – from January 1, 1995

OFFICERS HSFT AND HSPT

Rank	Service	New daily rates
		£
2nd Lt (SSLC)	On commissioning	26.69
	After 9 months	28.51
2nd Lt		35.59
Lt	On appointment	47.04
	+1 year	48.28
	+2 years	49.52
	+3 years	50.76
	+4 years	52.00
Capt	On appointment	60.07
	+1 year	61.69
	+2 years	63.31
	+3 years	64.93
	+4 years	66.55
	+5 years	68.17
	+6 years	69.79
Maj	On appointment	76.24
	+1 year	78.12
	+2 years	80.00
	+3 years	81.88
	+4 years	83.76
	+5 years	85.64
	+6 years	87.52
	+7 years	89.40
	+8 years	91.28

SOLDIERS R IRISH HSFT (pre April 21, 1977)

Rank	New daily rates
	£
Pte B 19 and under	22.28
Pte B aged 20	25.33
Pte B aged 21	28.36
Pte A	32.01
LCpl	36.05
Cpl	44.25
Sgt	48.76
SSgt	51.30
WO2	60.51
WO1	69.85

SOLDIERS R IRISH HSFT (post April 21, 1977)

Rank	Scale A	Scale B	Scale C
	£	£	£
Pte B 19 and under	22.28	22.58	23.03
Pte B aged 20	25.33	25.63	26.08
Pte B aged 21	28.36	28.66	29.11
Pte A	32.01	32.31	32.76
LCpl	36.05	36.35	36.80
Cpl	44.25	44.55	45.00
Sgt	48.76	49.06	49.51
SSgt	51.30	51.60	52.05
WO2	60.51	60.81	61.26
WO1	69.85	70.15	70.60

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THE FREEDOM OF A FAMILY HOLIDAY IN CORNWALL IS AT YOUR FINGERTIPS – FOR YOUR FREE BROCHURE PLEASE CALL OUR FRIENDLY HELPLINE AND RESERVATIONS QUOTING REF SR – ON

0392 447 447

SINGLE PENSION SCHEME FOR OFFICERS AND OTHER RANKS TO BE ADDRESSED BY MoD

Armed Forces pay structure 'over complex' – AFPRB

THE ARMED Forces Pay Review Body (AFPRB) believes the Services pay structure is becoming increasingly difficult to justify in its present form.

In its 1994 report*, the independent AFPRB states that for many years it has believed the structure to be over-complex.

Both the pay structure and the AFPRB's function were misunderstood by many Service personnel at all levels.

"A number of factors contribute to this complexity – the rank systems of the three Services, the differing pay structures between officers and other ranks, the concept of military pay plus additional pay giving varying salary scales... and the complexity and rigidity of the Service job evaluation system."

The Board is considering with the Ministry of Defence how the issue might be taken forward.

(Last month the MoD announced a wide-ranging, year-long, independent review into Forces' pay, allowances and terms of service. The initiative was welcomed by the AFPRB.)

The Board's recommended increase of between 3 and 4.4 per cent, staged on April 1 (2.7 per cent) and January 1 (averaging 3.6 per cent) next year, were accepted in full by the Government.

After visiting 17 Service locations at home and abroad, AFPRB members reported a widespread decline in confidence by Service personnel in the future of their military careers.

Personnel had expressed fear, both of being unable to continue their careers because of restructuring and reductions, and of remaining in an organisation whose role and structure was being so fundamentally questioned.

"Against this background of exceptional change and uncertainty, skilful management is required to ensure that reasonable expectations are not damaged and morale is not lowered.

"As the recession lifts and the period of rundown of Service personnel numbers draws to a close, it will become increasingly important to take steps to guard against the loss of essential Service personnel to jobs in the civilian world."

Some military salaries, especially for more senior officers

and senior non commissioned officers, had by April last year fallen below what civilians in comparable positions might expect to earn.

The AFPRB had taken this into account by recommending higher percentage increases where justified by evidence.

Other points from the report:

Hours of work

Evidence provided by MoD showed that hours worked by Service personnel remained broadly similar to civilian comparators, but there was no doubt that some Servicemen and women worked much longer hours than civilians. The AFPRB is to look more closely at hours worked in its assessment of the X factor next year.

Lost leave

Having expressed concern in past reports about increased instances of leave denied due to Service commitments, the AFPRB had been baulked because an MoD survey had not produced the desired degree of analysis.

There had been confusion between annual leave and leave for other purposes, and it had not always been possible to reconcile individual perceptions of lost leave with unit leave records.

"The overall situation therefore remains unclear and we are disappointed that this evidence is still unavailable to us in a sufficiently reliable form to enable us to decide whether we should take any action on pay."

The Board remains convinced there is a problem which needs to be resolved and

has asked the MoD to ensure it is given the evidence it requires. It shares the MoD reluctance for a financial compensation scheme and would prefer that all leave be taken.

Pensions

Perceived inequalities between the pension scheme for

had been discussed informally with many personnel during the year. Board members concluded that views about the possible advantages and disadvantages varied according to rank and, sometimes, Service.

With the agreement of MoD, it has decided to appoint management consultants to

that of officers, with increments rewarding expertise and experience in rank.

Many felt pay differentials on promotion had been reduced and that their contributions to the Services were no longer fully recognised.

Analysis of an MoD review revealed practical constraints which would have to be overcome in any single new scheme.

Each Service needs to retain personnel for different lengths of time. The Royal Navy wants the majority of personnel to remain to the 22-year point, and some for a further ten years; the Army has only a very limited requirement for personnel to remain beyond 22 years; and the Royal Air Force requires many of its SNCOs to serve between 29 and 36 years.

There is also a severe cash problem for any new pay scheme which requires additional funding at a time when the defence budget is being dramatically reduced.

The MoD believes the current pay arrangements for WOs and SNCOs should remain in place for the time being, although it might wish to return to the structure of SNCOs' pay in the context of performance pay.

The AFPRB, while accepting this conclusion, says a performance pay system might well have particular relevance for the best, longer-serving SNCOs and WOs, for whom there is no scope for promotion, but whose value to the Services increases with experience.

Daily rates

Following the AFPRB's conclusion last year that daily

rates of pay were an anachronism, an MoD working group examining the concept of converting to annual salaries had agreed such a change would be implemented in due course.

Pay as you dine

Many personnel had told the AFPRB they would prefer to pay for meals as and when they wanted them, rather than take those provided at set times.

Most had been prepared to pay more for each meal if it was provided on this basis.

"We remain unhappy with several aspects of MoD's policy on food charging," says the report. "Our particular concern remains the concept that free feeders (ie those on RN ships or in field conditions) are subsidised by those who pay for their meals but do not take them."

"It seems there is therefore no real incentive to encourage personnel to eat in Service messes, and no incentive for messes to provide value for money."

"In the past MoD has told us that it was not possible to trial any changes to the current system because the costs of doing so would be prohibitive. We now understand that MoD is to review its internal mechanisms for accounting for and allocating expenditure on food, and a new system might be based on the number of meals served."

The AFPRB believes a simple and inexpensive meal recording system would be a positive development and intends to watch a proposed MoD trial attendance recording system with interest.

* Review Body on Armed Forces Pay, 23rd report, 1994, HMSO, £6.65.

Qualifications and the X factor

THE AFPRB may take soldiers' access to civilian qualifications into its consideration of the X factor next year.

The Body's 1994 report welcomes efforts already made in the area of commensurate civilian qualifications, but believes more can be done. It urges the Employment Department and MoD to liaise closely and to give the civilian recognition of Service qualifications and experience priority consideration.

"We see this as a highly important recruitment and retention issue as well as being the practice of good employers, in ensuring that costly investment in training is seen as a national resource. It may also be an area to which we will wish to return in our consideration of the X factor next year."

officers and that for other ranks had been mentioned in previous reports and are to be addressed by a MoD review during 1994.

The AFPRB, which has had "some sympathy" with the concept of a single pension scheme for officers and other ranks, has asked that areas of concern – age from which service is reckonable, length of service for immediate pension, and amount of pension available for commutation – be looked at in the review.

Performance pay

Performance-related pay

examine the whole area of performance pay.

"This will assist us in considering whether in principle it could be applied in the armed forces, and if appropriate, the form of any recommendations we might take. We have no preconceived views."

The AFPRB will also be considering the concept of performance pay for two-star officers and above.

WOs and SNCOs

The AFPRB had heard with increasing frequency a preference for WOs and SNCOs to have a pay system more akin to

FOR FAMILIES

Phil Wilcox describes how he and photographer Mike Weston missed out on becoming a part of military aviation history.

It'll be all right on the flight . . .

IT MUST have looked good on paper . . .

● A company which is due to take over the British Forces Germany troop transport contract from Britannia Airways at the beginning of April: British World Airlines (BWA).

● An entirely different departure airport: Stansted in Essex, usurping its older cousin at Luton.

● Plus a flight to three of the company's troop destinations in Germany (the exception being Münster-Osnabrück) ON THE SAME DAY . . .

The upshot was that a cross-section of humanity descended at around 0900 on a bleak morning last month on handling agent Servisair's check-in desks on Island 3A in the light, airy and wide open spaces of the departure concourse.

Army representatives from each UK district, MoD staff, individuals from the Services Booking Centre and the soon-to-disappear Joint Services Air Trooping Centre were all there.

Also sundry VIPs, airline representatives, and colleagues from Service publications.

The reason?

All had seats on a proving flight for the new service, co-ordinated through the RAF's movements operations division.

Originally founded in 1946 as Silver City Airways – and taking in a couple of name changes and an association in the 1950s with holiday flight pioneer Freddie Laker along the way – BWA began by operating Bristol Freighters on car ferry services from Lydd to the continent.

This particular passenger duly took his place in seat 09E on board "City of Manchester", one of BWA's brace of BAe 146 series aircraft.

First impressions were of a courteous cabin crew and, for a six-footer, plenty of leg room.

Boiled sweets duly dis-

pensed, forward and rear doors confirmed as switched to automatic, and a welcome on behalf of the MoD by the captain announced. Flight No RR990 with its 86 passengers took off over the Clacton coast towards the North Sea.

Wheels parted company with tarmac at 1014 local time and touched down again at RAF Bruggen's new terminal 50 minutes later (1204 local time).

What the cabin had lacked in the form of electronic audio and visual entertainment had been partially compensated for by the ready repartee of at least one member of the four-person crew.

Also, the passengers' appetites had been satiated with a piping hot breakfast (it will in fact be a hot chicken lunch on the actual run because of later timing) of bacon, eggs, tomato, hash browns, fresh fruit and so on.

The first inkling of any possible snags which the day might hold in store came with the announcement: "Ladies and gentlemen. We would like to apologise for the short delay in disembarkation. We are still awaiting steps for the aircraft."

From then on, the best-laid plans, in both MoD and BWA terms, began to move inexorably off-course.

The culprit was what was euphemistically described as "an item of essential avionics equipment" which needed to be replaced on the plane.

An optimistic announcement that the part had been located and would be flown in within half an hour proved to be a false trail.

The main problem was the weather: it was snowing continuously, not only in Bruggen, but in other parts of the country, and the possibility of any further inward flights was diminishing with every passing minute.

And the minutes *did*



Cabin crew (left to right) Craig Gibson, Belgian Lawrence Legat, Tracey Hudson and Debbie Murphy line up before the epic flight

Top picture – Lion idle: the stricken 146, with its leaping lion logo, awaits the spare part at RAF Bruggen

pass, transforming into hours.

In the terminal, SSVC had a captive audience for its afternoon transmissions. (The large screen in the departure lounge should prove invaluable when mothers with children start coming through on BWA flights on a regular basis.)

A timetable of some of the rest of the day's events: 1548: the part arrives, having been transported by road from Cologne through atrocious conditions, and a mechanic can be seen fixing it to the plane, which by now has become a familiar friend.

1752: called for departure.

1856: runway lights disappear and we leave the ground for the 35-minute trip to Hanover. Compli-

mentary drinks and sandwiches are dispensed by still-cheerful cabin crew.

1935: aircraft lands, taxis in with snow on the runway, disembark into gloomy lounge while plane (and runway) are de-iced.

2036: back on board. Stewardess announces: "Good evening ladies and gentlemen. We are now on the final leg of today's epic journey. We would like to apologise once again for the delay to your flight and we sincerely hope that this hasn't inconvenienced you too much . . ."

2116: airborne for the third time, not having managed to attempt Paderborn leg. Dinner of cottage pie, mixed veg and cake.

2137 (local time): terra firma at Stansted.

It has been a long day for everyone.

Sqn Ldr Ian Guthrie of the Services Booking Centre tells SOLDIER: "As a proving flight, it is a route and a number of destinations we would not normally attempt. A multiple leg flight is not what the BWA contract is about."

"The programme depended entirely on moving transit passengers on from Bruggen, but today's sequence of events conspired against us. They have highlighted all sorts of problems, including points which need to be rectified on the ground at Bruggen, and these will all be looked at before flights start in April."

● Details of the new arrangements for troopers to Bruggen, Hanover, Paderborn and Münster-Osnabrück are contained in DCI Gen 16/94.



Pictures: Mike Weston

Widows warm to mutual support

AN INVALUABLE asset in the aftercare of Army widows has been formally endorsed by the widows themselves.

Nine attended the inaugural annual meeting of the Federation of Army Widows at Warrington to elect a steering committee, draw up a mandate, dis-

cuss a logo and fund-raising, and create an awareness of the organisation's existence.

Tentative approaches have been made to a patron.

Founder members Janet Cross and Jane Burrows were elected chairman and secretary.

Morale among the widows was high. For several it was a first opportunity to talk to others in the same situation. The overriding emotion was of hope, mutual understanding and support.

Mrs Burrows told SOLDIER that membership of the group was growing on average by one a week.

Contact the Federation of Army Widows by writing to the secretary, c/o Eclipse House, 2 School Road, Winsford, Cheshire.

Don't forget . . .

. . . the Spring National Franchise Exhibition, National Hall, Olympia, London, April 15-17. Unigate Dairies and Securicor Pony Express are two of nearly 100 exhibitors. Details and discounted tickets from Franchise Hotline 0494 813846.

Get wise on car buys . . .

THEY SAY that, after a house, the second biggest purchase most people make in their lifetime is a car. How many of us approach it quite so well-informed?

All the more reason, then, why it might be a good idea to take a look at a new booklet, *Complete Guide to Car Buying*, produced by Natocars Ltd, Wylds Road, Bridgwater, Somerset TA6 4DG (tel: 0278 455555; fax: 0278 450396). Calls are free from Germany (01-3085 9806), Holland (06022 9806) or Belgium (078 114310).

The publication explains special entitlements and discounts available when

buying a new car, tax-free or tax-paid, plus a special guarantee scheme for used car purchase.

All sorts of other money-saving tips are there for the asking and it is especially informative on the new European regulations for tax-free purchase.

For a free copy, contact Natocars Ltd, Wylds Road, Bridgwater, Somerset TA6 4DG (tel: 0278 455555; fax: 0278 450396). Calls are free from Germany (01-3085 9806), Holland (06022 9806) or Belgium (078 114310).

Cari Roberts

➔ COUNTERPOINT



PETS AND PEACE OF MIND

RECENTLY a Serviceman told me the story of his dogs and their experience of quarantine.

He said a shortage of kennel space had meant he had to send his dogs to a kennel at the other end of the country from where he was intending to settle.

Neither he nor his wife were able to visit and had relied on phone calls. Although they were never given any cause for concern, when they fetched the dogs home, they found them in a terrible condition.

One had had to be put down.

Since the story was highlighted in this column, and in Counterpoint on BFBS, I've had a number of responses. One was from Mike Parish from Par Air Services, who had some helpful advice to offer.

If you're returning to the UK and are putting your dog – or cat – into quarantine there are a few things you should bear in mind. First of all, the vast majority of kennels are good places where people genuinely care.

But it doesn't do any harm to let them know that you, too, care about your pet's welfare. If you can't visit the kennel personally, ask a relative or friend to visit on your behalf.

Get them to check that the animals are kept somewhere clean and safe, that they seem relaxed and healthy. No kennel worth its salt will mind having visitors. If you have to rely on the telephone, ask specific questions about your pets.

There are a number of specialist companies who handle the whole process of sending a pet back to the UK for quarantine and there are plenty of sources of advice. Drop me a line if you need more.

★ ★ ★

If you're married and between postings, waiting for a married quarter, or being made redundant, you might like to know about the Service Families Centre at Corsham. It costs around £15 a week for a self-contained, self-catering unit and there is a wide range of facilities including a school, playground, shop and medical centre.

Details from your local FHWS, HIVE or from the Army Families Advice Bureau. Ask for their advice sheet 11/3.

★ ★ ★

When a few well-intentioned people got together in 1919 to try to improve the lot of veterans of the Great War they didn't see their task as long-term.

Sadly they were wrong. Since then there has only been one year – 1968 – when no British Serviceman has died on duty.

In the last 75 years, the Ex-Services Mental Welfare Society – which now works under the name of Combat Stress – has helped nearly 60,000 men

You can contact Cari Roberts at BFBS, BFPO 786 or c/o SOLDIER.

and women. About 70 per cent of today's 3,500 patients are Second World War veterans.

Terrorist victims of so-called "peace time" operations account for another 20 per cent and more than 50 clients are victims of the Falklands and Gulf wars.

Main task of the Society is to improve the quality of life for those who ask for help, many suffering from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.

The Government's Care in the Community policy is one reason for the increase in the numbers of people seeking help. Many mental hospitals have been closed and some ex-Service men and women, who have lived in such hospitals for lengthy periods, end up with no carer or social worker to help them.

They eventually find their way to Combat Stress.

An ex-Guardsman who was on board the RFA *Sir Galahad* when it was bombed in San Carlos water has this to say: "When I first came up the steps and saw all these old men, I wondered why the hell I'd come. But after two days I knew."

"They knew the same guilt at surviving when your best friend has died; they knew how the nightmares kept recurring and, above all, they knew that I am not being wet, or a weakling, to suffer in this way."

Last year Combat Stress opened a new unit named after Jacqueline Mayo – known to SOLDIER readers, BFBS listeners and Service men and women everywhere as Anne Armstrong. It's proving to be a tremendous asset.

Congratulations to Combat Stress on 75 years of service – may they continue to be supported.

Standby step to new skills

A REMINDER from the Tri-Services Resettlement Organisation: Now is your chance to learn new skills at a modest charge.

As reported in SOLDIER (February 21) places are being made available, at short notice, on courses with spare capacity in Resettlement and Regional Resettlement Centres to people who are not other-

wise eligible. The standby places are open in order of priority to eligible Service leavers who have used up their 28 days' training, but who are able to get leave from their unit and otherwise non-eligible Service people – those who have completed less than five years service and MoD civilians being made redundant.

The cost is £75 per person per week regardless of the type of course but you'll have to pay for your own accommodation and travel. Details of course dates and locations are published bi-monthly in Service Resettlement bulletins.

Applications should be made direct to your chosen centre on MoD Form F363.

Pegasus Bridge: plea by veterans of 52nd

THERE have been numerous, sometimes inaccurate, accounts in the national and local media concerning the capture of Pegasus Bridge in 1944 and, since its replacement this year, its future.

As adjutant of the 52nd, 2nd (Gliderborne) Battalion Ox and Bucks Light Infantry, 6th Airlanding Brigade, 6th Airborne Division on June 6, 1944, and this year representing the 52nd in Normandy, I would like to clarify the facts to date.

The lifting bridge over the Caen Canal (later Pegasus Bridge) and the nearby bridge over the River Orne (later Horsa Bridge) were seized and held by a *coup-de-main* group of D Company plus two platoons of B Company of the 52nd, with a detachment of Airborne Engineers, under the command of Maj R John Howard DSO. All were under the command of 5 Para Brigade.

The bridges were taken minutes after midnight June 5-6 before the seaborne invasion on June 6.

More than two hours later the defence of the bridges was taken over by CO 7 (Light Infantry) Battalion, The Parachute Regiment. Together they then beat off numerous attacks by German infantry and armour until late on D-Day when they were relieved by troops from 3 Division from the coast and the arrival of more of 6th Airborne Division by air.

Horsa Bridge was replaced some years ago and this year Pegasus Bridge is being replaced by a similar, but larger, lifting bridge.

The old wartime bridge has been put on waste ground nearby to await its future. The local French authorities intend to decide on this when they have finished with the problem of millions of visitors to Nor-

mandy this 50th anniversary of D-Day year.

Pegasus Bridge is not a "prize of war" like the many cannon, vehicles and other artefacts we have in this country. It is a French bridge and its future must lie with the French authorities.

The majority of those of us in the 52nd who were concerned with the capture of the bridge in 1944 feel it would be nice if the old bridge were to be used as a war memorial in Normandy.

If, however, the French wished to offer the bridge to this country we feel it could be accommodated, and well

maintained, at the Army Air Corps Museum at Middle Wallop, Hants.

Without the courage and incredible skill of the pilots of the Glider Pilot Regiment the *coup-de-main* could not possibly have been a success.

The capture of the bridge was the first unit land action of the invasion but many other bridges and objectives were taken in Normandy requiring equal skill and gallantry.

Perhaps Pegasus Bridge has received rather inflated publicity. — **Col (Retd) J M A Tillett, late Ox and Bucks Light Infantry and Royal Green Jackets.**

DODGERS ARE MISSING OUT

IT HAS been reported that the firm of Lowe Bell has been awarded a £62,500 contract to advise the Government about the programme of events to mark the 50th anniversary of D-Day.

This is a worthy and unique event in history, which deserves full recognition. However, other events had occurred before this landing.

The Battle for Rome had lasted six months prior to D-Day and had involved heavy casualties, especially in the bitter fighting for Monte Cassino and on the Anzio

Beachhead. The capture of the city was immediately overshadowed by the momentous events of June 6, 1944.

I and many others hope to return to the area for the 50th anniversary ceremonies in May this year. According to the latest news from the organisers, the Ministry of Defence cannot even provide an Army Band to attend.

We might have been known as the D-Day Dodgers, but others are dodging their responsibilities to veterans on this unique occasion. — **D Dean (ex-4 Para 1944-46), Erith, Kent.**

A is for Ac, phonetically speaking

AFTER reading Mr G C Hogben's letter of phonetic alphabets (February 7) I found the answer in Signal Training (All Arms) Pamphlet No 1: Signalling Codes 1942.

Pre-1942: Ac, Beer, Charlie, Don, Edward, Freddie, George, Harry, Ink, Johnnie, King, London, Monkey, Nuts, Orange, Pip, Queen, Robert,

Sugar, Toc, Uncle, Vic, William, X-ray, Yorker, Zebra.

Post-1942: Able, Baker, Charlie, Dog, Easy, Fox, George, How, Item, Jig, King, Love, Mike, Nan, Oboe, Peter, Queen, Roger, Sugar, Tare, Uncle, Victor, William, X-ray, Yoke, Zebra. — **Lt Col C W Payne, Badley Library, Royal School of Artillery,**

BIRD'S EYE-VIEW



Why omit Trieste and Suez service?

WHILE welcoming the award of a post-1962 Accumulated Campaign Service Medal (SOLDIER, February 21), why has such a medal not been issued for service between 1945 and 1962?

Here are three examples of extremely hazardous operations:

● **1945:** Mine clearance, bomb disposal and demolitions in Rhineland and throughout North-West Europe after the war.

● **Trieste - 1946-47:** One of the early postwar UN peace-keeping operations. Yet no UN

Medal was issued, although the American contingent received recognition from their government. The 13th Infantry Brigade commander, Brig de Winton, was assassinated at Pola in the area of operations.

● **Suez:** What more needs to be said? If this remains a delicate political issue after all these years, a 1945-62 Accumulated Campaign Service Medal might restore justice to the troops who suffered. — **C T Wareing, Redditch, Worcs.**

AT THE risk of starting a huge rammy, may I respectfully state that in my opinion the Ministry of Defence has boobed again.

The Accumulated Campaign Service Medal is to be based on post-1969 service. This arbitrary decision excludes many soldiers who faced danger in Borneo, Aden and Malaya.

Many soldiers on full careers served in Northern Ireland in the early Seventies at a time when tour lengths could be only four months. Because

many regiments at this time were not participating in the roulement tours, many SNCOs completed two or three tours at a time of very high activity by the terrorists.

In Aden, if detached up country, one of the duties of the corporal i/c detachment and the mechanic was to drive a Stalwart belonging to 60 Sqn RCT around the tracks and up and down the airfield.

This duty had to be carried out immediately after stand-to and before any other wheel turned or aircraft landed. It would appear that the odd RCT or REME soldier was considered to be expendable.

I am not trying to devalue the service of many men in Northern Ireland; I am aware of the dangers. My son was injured in a rocket attack and my nephew died there.

Gentlemen, please think again and include all soldiers who qualify post-62. While you're at it, give the gallant men who served in the Canal Zone their medal as well. — **R Smith, Lennoxton.**

In praise of 'Irish Generals'

IT WAS with interest that I read the review of Richard Doherty's book *Irish Generals* (January 24).

That the author did not rank his commanders in order of seniority nor place them in alphabetic succession did not worry me as it seems to have disturbed your reviewer.

My first consideration when reading a book is whether it is so well written that it entertains and educates me. Doherty's book met both those criteria.

Neither did I see it as a collection of obituaries and I am certain that it was not Doherty's intention to produce a critical study of leadership.

There are, as your reviewer points out, only a couple of hundred pages in which ten biographies are dealt with; scant time to cover so controversial an issue as military leadership.

That Churchill saw himself as a strategist has never been denied. His concept of hoping to turn the Gothic Line (in Italy) and "to advance via Trieste and the Ljubljana Gap to Vienna", was completely unrealistic.

Those of us on the ground were expected to achieve that feat in an impossibly short time fighting through a terrain in which determined defenders on a mountain peak could halt an advance stone dead.

Nowhere did your reviewer refer to the standard of writing in the book. I shall supply the praise which your reviewer did not express and say that *Irish Generals* is readable and enjoyable and a worthy companion to the other works which Doherty has produced.

For me, the book is worth ten times its modest cost for the mention of two of the commanders of the Irish Brigade of 78th Division and if your reviewer is looking for "the point that the author intended", may I suggest that Doherty has provided in his book a long overdue recognition of the part played in the Second World War by ordinary Irishmen — and not just the generals dealt with — who came from both sides of the border. — **James S Lucas, Bromley, Kent.**

'Windy' and Arnhem

I JOINED the Army Ordnance Corps as a boy apprentice in 1936, later serving first as a glider pilot, then as a para-trooper in the 1st and 6th

British Airborne Divisions and subsequently the 2nd (44th) Indian Airborne Division.

I was therefore amazed to read in SOLDIER (November 29) that "Windy" Gale had commanded the 6th Airborne at Arnhem!

As I make frequent visits back to the UK and am an avid attender of Airborne Forces Day I would be delighted to hear from any boy apprentices or "band rats" of the late 1930s, or members of 1st, 6th, 2nd AB Divs circa 1942-48 with whom I may have served. — **Maj (Retd) Keith McLeod, 143 Stromboli, North Beach, Durban 40001, S Africa.**

● **As others have pointed out, "Windy" Gale commanded the unbeaten 6th AB Div in Normandy. The 6th was also involved in the Battle of the Bulge and the Rhine Crossing, as well as in Holland, India, Siam, Java, Malaya, Singapore and Palestine. — Editor**

ANVIL IS THE KEY

BRIAN JEWELL (January 24) asked how Capt Peter Fowler was killed near Montpellier in Southern France on August 21, 1944 "in an apparently peaceful area".

Operation Anvil (the landing in Southern France) took place on August 15. One must assume that Capt Fowler was working with SOE and French resistance groups to disrupt the movement of German reserves towards the Anvil landings. I can find no record in SOE literature. — **Col (Retd) Pip Newton, Winchester.**

SOLDIER to Soldier

Arnhem bells appeal launched

AN APPEAL for £150,000 to raise two new bells for the Church of St Eusebius, 200m from the "bridge too far" at Arnhem, has been launched.

The bells (two others have already been funded by Anglo-Dutch companies) will commemorate the courage and humanity shown by Allied soldiers and the townsfolk of Arnhem during those desperate September days 50 years ago.

The church's four original bells, felled during the battle, will be renovated in time for the anniversary.

Details of the appeal from Clive Richards, Arnhem Bells Appeal, St Mary Abchurch House, 123 Cannon Street, London EC4N 5AX (tel: 071-621 1122).

Arctic drive challenge

THE Anthony Nolan Bone Marrow Trust is seeking adventurers to take part in the ultimate driving and navigation test. It is inviting teams from the Armed Forces to take part in two international car rallies.

One, in August, covers a route from Cape Tarifa in Spain to Nordkapp in Norway, while Arctic Super Challenge in November will take drivers through snow and ice in Scandinavia and the Arctic Circle.

Entry forms for this fund-raising effort, which aims to help more than 4,000 people awaiting bone marrow transplants, are available from the Regional Appeals Manager, 19 Stancombe View, Winchcombe, nr Cheltenham, Gloucestershire GL54 5LE (tel: 0242 603598).

It's smart to smarten up

BRITISH Telecom is offering prizes worth £50,000 for projects which brighten up the environment, and they want to hear from units willing to take part.

Smarten up the area in which you live, work or play before April

D-DAY DIARY

MAY

25: 50th anniversary of Review of the Fleet, Portland Harbour.
27-28: Hampshire remembers D-Day, Royal Victoria Country Park, Netley, near Southampton (0703 285968).

28-30: Military Vehicle Trust 50th anniversary commemoration rally, Southsea Common, Portsmouth. Details from Chris Pearce (0489 572582).

JUNE

2: Parade of veterans, bands and vehicles, Weymouth (0929 426310).

4: Southwick House garden party, HMS Dryad, near Portsmouth. Beating Retreat, Portsmouth. Portsmouth Guildhall dinner.

5: Drumhead Service, Southsea Common, Portsmouth. Veterans welcome.

Flotilla departs Portsmouth for Normandy, led by Royal Yacht. Parachute drop near site of Pegasus Bridge and unveiling of bust of Gen Sir Richard Gale.

Service of commemoration, Hermanville military ceremony, Normandy.

6: National services of commemoration in Commonwealth War Graves Commission cemeteries at Bayeux, Douvres la Deliverande, Hermanville, Ranville and Ryes.

International service, Omaha Beach, led by President Mitterrand. Arranches march and fly-past.

25: 50th anniversary reunion festival, Royal Albert Hall.

26: 50th anniversary parade on Horse Guards, followed by service at Cenotaph.

SPECIAL D-DAY EXHIBITIONS

- National Army Museum (071-730 0717).
- Tank Museum, Bovington (0929 403463).
- Museum of The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment, Cathedral Close, Salisbury, story of the Beach Groups (0722 414536).
- Imperial War Museum, D-Day to Victory exhibition (071-416 5000).
- D-Day Museum, Portsmouth, includes Overlord Embroidery (0705 827261).
- Airborne Forces Museum, Aldershot (0252 349619) and Aldershot Military Museum (0252 314598).
- Waterfront Museum, Poole (0202 673322).
- Museum of Army Flying, Middle Wallop, D-Day display (0264 384421).
- RAF Museum, London, "Flying for Invasion" (081-205 2266).
- Hall of Aviation, Southampton (0703 635830).
- Southwick House near Portsmouth, Eisenhower's operational HQ (0705 210522).
- Royal Naval Museum, Portsmouth (0705 733060).
- Royal Navy Submarine Museum, Gosport (0705 529217).

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

22 and you will automatically be eligible for the BT Community Awards.

Local awards are worth between £250 and £1,000 and the judges will be looking for initiative, originality and enthusiasm. For full details, contact Hilary Price, BT Environment Week 94 (Campaign HQ), PO Box 272, London WC1A 2EG (tel: 071-404 2202).

Stick story gathers pace

A FOOTNOTE to our story (People, February 21) on former soldiers John Needham and Colin Davison, who make pace sticks at Aine in North Yorkshire. They have been awarded the BS5750 Quality Assurance Award.

John, ex-RAPC, and Colin, ex-REME, received a Ministry of Defence contract as a result of the

award earned through the Rural Development Commission. They also export pace sticks to American Servicemen and to military outfitters in Singapore, Australia, Canada and the Middle East.

Liberation of Guernsey medal

GUERNSEY has struck a special commemorative medal for all surviving members of Task Force 135, the special British force of 6,000 men and 57 merchant ships which liberated the Channel Island on May 9, 1945.

Now the island wants to hear from anyone who took part in Operation Nestegg, or their relatives. Write with any relevant unit or ship details to Maj E H Ozanne (Retd), Deputy Director, Guernsey Tourist Board, PO Box 23, St Peter Port, Guernsey GY1 3AN.

REUNIONS

● **150th Regt RHA South Notts Hussars OCA:** Annual reunion dinner in the Strathdon Hotel, Derby Road, Nottingham, April 23. Details from Geoff Clarke on 0602 815711.

● **Band of The Royal Highland Fusiliers:** Reunion for past and present members, April 23. Details from Band Clerk or BSM, Regimental Band, 1 RHF, Edinburgh Training Centre, Cavalry Barracks, Colinton, Edinburgh (tel: 031-310 5259).

● **Command sapper reunion:** Sixth reunion will take place in Seaton Barracks, Plymouth on May 6-8. All commando-trained ranks who have served with 59 Independent Commando Squadron RE are invited. Details from Capt M D Berrill, Seaton Barracks, Tavistock Road, Plymouth PL6 5DL (tel: 0752 764003 or Seaton Mil ext 4003).

● **Middlesex Regiment (DCO):** Annual reunion at Victory Services Club, London W2, May 7. Details from R E B Morris, 38 Traps Lane, New Malden, Surrey KT3 4SA (tel: 081-949 7506).

● **RAMC/RADC WOs and Sgts Past and Present Dinner Club:** The 1994 dinner and reunion is to be held on May 7 at the RAMC Trg Gp and RHQ RAMC, Keogh Barracks, Ash Vale. Details from WO1 (RSM) P Fowler RAMC, RAMC Trg Gp and RHQ RAMC, Keogh Barracks, Ash Vale, Aldershot, Hants GU12 5RQ.

● **1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards Regimental Association:** Reunion buffet lunch at the Victory Services Club, Seymour Street, London W2 on May 8. Details from Regimental Secretary, Home HQ, QDG, Maindy Barracks, Cardiff CF4 3YE (tel: 0222 227611 ext 8213).

● **North Irish Horse:** 50th anniversary of Hitler Line Battle, May 23, 1944, anniversary weekend May 20-22 at Ballykelly, Co Londonderry. Ex-members and supporting arms (51 RTR, 142 RAC etc) welcome. Details from Admin Officer, 69 (NIH) Signal Squadron (V) (tel: 0504 49077).

● **Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment:** 300th anniversary to be celebrated in Worcester on June 4. Tickets from branches of the regimental association or RHQ WFR, Norton Barracks, Worcester WR5 2PA (tel: 0905 354359).

● **Chindit Association:** Annual reunion to commemorate 50th anniversary of their last campaign in Burma will be held in the presence of their patron, The Prince of

Wales, at Whittington Barracks, ATR Lichfield on June 17. Association members and families only.

● **The Gordon Highlanders:** Bicentenary and Trooping the Colour will take place in Aberdeen on June 25. Former Gordons wishing to attend should contact RHQ, The Gordon Highlanders, Viewfield Road, Aberdeen AB1

APPOINTMENTS

Maj Gen Michael Heath CB CBE to be Colonel Commandant, Corps of Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers from February 14 in succession to Maj Gen Christopher Tyler CB.

Brigadiers - I P Inshaw - To be Comdt HQ Bicester Gar and BOD Bicester, Feb 21.

Colonels - S L Bennett - To be Comd Log Sp HQ Scotland, Feb 14; S S Paul - To IMS Brussels, Feb 14; A Curran - To MRS Osnabrück, Feb 7; A M H Joscellyne - To MoD, Feb 21; H Bentley-Marchant - To HQ BFHK, Feb 26.

Lt Cols - S W L Strickland,

7XH (tel: 0224 318174).

● **National Ex-Prisoner-of-War Association:** Annual reunion planned for October 21-24 at Warners Lakeside Village, Hayling Island. All Allied PoWs, friends and relatives welcome. Details from C Jago, 74 Norfolk Road, West Harnham, Salisbury SP2 8HG.

Kings Own Border - To be DA/MA Helsinki, Feb 20; P W Reynolds RA - to P&EE Shoebury, Feb 14; D C Bryan RADC - To BMH Rinteln, March 1; L H Lodge RAMC - To DGAMS, Feb 28; M H Anderson RA - To HQ LAND-SOUTHEAST (BAE), Feb 21; J E Middleditch AAC - To MoD, Feb 21; P J Taylorson RLC - To be Comdt Pet Cen Dep HQ, Feb 21; J C Miller RLC - To be CO Cat Sp Regt, Feb 21; J Sands RS - To Sch of Inf (Warminster) HQ, Feb 21.

RETIREMENTS

Brigadier - J H Almonds, late R Signals, Feb 21.

Tell us your D-Day story

CALLING all D-Day veterans ... what are your special memories of the great invasion?

SOLDIER invites recollections of June 6, 1944 to be considered for publication in a special anniversary feature this summer.

Contributions should be restricted to no more than 175 words, and should include your rank at the time and name of unit.

...and put us in the picture

DID you have a camera with you and on D-Day? Photographs taken on June 6 will be considered for our anniversary issue

CLOSURES

● **The WOs' and Sergeants' Mess,** HQ Berlin, will close in May. Anyone who has presented property and lost touch with the mess, please call WO2 (SSM) G T Bardley on Berlin Mil 4495 or write c/o BGAAU, BFPO 45.

SEARCHLINE

● **Royal Artillery Association, Leicestershire and Melton Branch:** Meets third Tuesday of every month at Humberstone Royal British Legion Club, Tennis Court Drive, Leicester, 1930 hours. Ex and serving gunners and parents of serving gunners welcome. Enquiries to Ashley Collins (tel: 0832 720761) or Ken Sims (0533 715659).

● **53rd Recce Corps** holds regular reunions and is anxious to trace former members, particularly Tpr Jack Stevens who used to live in Walsall, West Midlands. He was wounded when serving as a driver in B Sqn, and his crew killed. Contact Joe Rogers, 14 Furlongs Road, Sedgley, Dudley, W Midlands DY3 3UT (tel: 0902 885635).

● **Harold Winterbottom RASC:** The daughter of the late Harold Winterbottom of Bolton, Lancs, is trying to trace where he landed on D-Day. He enlisted in the RASC on June 4, 1942, and, after landing in Normandy, went on to Caen, Paris and Düsseldorf. Replies to Mrs Margaret Langwine, 75 Greengate Farm, Coedpoeth, Wrexham, Clwyd.

● **Bandmaster Steele:** Norman A Davall, 12 Romeyn Road, Streatham, London SW16 2NU, wishes to trace Bandmaster Steele, who, while at Kneller Hall

DIARY

MARCH

11-12: Grand Military Meeting, Sandown.

APRIL

17: Queen to review Year of the Yeomanry parade in Windsor Great Park.

21: Queen's Birthday. King's Troop RHA to fire 41-gun salute in Hyde Park; HAC to fire 62-gun salute at the Tower.

MAY

8: Combined Cavalry Old Comrades parade and memorial service at Cavalry Memorial in Hyde Park.

14-15: International Air Show, Middle Wallop.

21: Monte Cassino 50th anniversary remembrance service, St Margaret's Church, Westminster.

21-23: Rhine Army Summer Show, Paderborn.

JUNE

1-2: Floodlit Beating Retreat by Massed Bands of the Household Division, Horse Guards, 2130 hours. Tickets £12, £10 and £3 (unreserved) from Household Division Funds Office, Wellington Barracks, Birdcage Walk, London SW1 (enclose sae).

11: Queen's Birthday Parade on Horse Guards, Colour trooped by 2 Gren Gds.

JULY

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).

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

several years ago, was instructed by the late Albert Kay in the Schillinger system of musical composition.

● **Edward Russel from Southampton area:** Stuart Edwards, 9 Old Horsham Road, Crawley, W Sussex RH11 8PD (tel: 0293 528447) wishes to trace Edward Russel, regiment unknown, who in 1946 was based in or near Duderstadt, near Göttingen, in Lower Saxony, Germany.

● **El Adem Radio Service (TEARS) 1958-70:** John Barker, Spook E Darin, Phil Dasher, John Fraser, David Howes, Terry O'Ware, Rick Old, Ron Shipton and others sought for second reunion on May 21. Contact John Moir on 0705 595489.

● **Tony Grimes,** ex-RRF, stationed in Gibraltar 1970-71, is asked to contact old friend Carol Threlfall (Winters), 11a Anson Road, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 2HE (tel: 0625 526918).

● **B Donechy,** ex-1st Battalion, Highland Light Infantry, seeks old comrades who served with him at Fort George, Colchester, Tripoli, Tobruk and Malta 1950-52. Replies to 709-66 Falby Court, Ajax, Ontario L1S 3L2, Canada.

● **Junior Soldiers, Fulwood Barracks (1969-71):** Those inter-

ested in a reunion are asked to contact Tony Bennett at 10 Renshaw Drive, Walton-le-Dale, Preston (tel: 0772 315180) or WO2 John Hogan at Inf Trg Bn, Strensall, York YO3 5SW (tel: 0904 659811 ext 2931).

● **Friends of Barry and Ruth Young,** who served together at 11 Armd Bde, Minden, and 7 Signal Regt, Herford, in the 1970s, are asked to contact Cas Francis, 176 Station Road, Mickleover, Derby DE3 5FJ (tel: 0332 511471).

● **Lisa Goult:** Last known posting to QM Stores, Hanover, Germany, is asked to contact Dean at 411 Swift Road, Sandy Hill Estate, Farnham.

● **BBC Television:** The 25th anniversary of the Troubles in Northern Ireland will be marked by a season of programmes this summer. One of them will be devoted totally to soldiers' experiences, all ranks, those serving and retired. Documentary-maker interested in soldiers' accounts, anecdotes, feelings, during key moments, or at other times, during or following tours of duty from 1969 to current date. The programme wishes to reflect the significant contribution the Army has made to keeping the peace. Please phone, in strictest confidence, Neil Grant 081-895 6398.

Wars are not won by armies alone

DOMINICK GRAHAM and Shelford ("Ginger") Bidwell, both former British Army officers, graduates of the Staff College and military historians, have undertaken a formidable task in *Coalitions, Politicians and Generals*.

This was to analyse the two world wars, both of which were fought by coalitions: the first led by the French and British until the entry of USA in 1917, the second initially by the British and French until the Americans entered in 1941.

The authors pose the fundamental question: "How could governments, inevitably concerned with great strategic decisions when the prosecution of war demanded a total effort in terms of economic resources and manpower, make the best use of expert military advice?"

Also, equally difficult: "Once the commander-in-chief in the field had been given his mission, how much latitude should he be allowed?"

They have attempted to answer these questions by dividing the book equally between the two wars and examining the command organisation established and the relationship of political and military personalities involved.

The first half deals with the 1914-18 war, the complex relationship between the French and English and the establishment of an Allied Supreme Command dominated by the French.

The intense conflict between Fd Marshal Haig and Lloyd George, first as Secretary of War and later as Prime Minister, is examined in great detail, as is the third battle of Ypres (Passchendaele).

They conclude: "Whether 3rd Ypres was limited or strategic plagued, confused and soured the relationship between Lloyd George and Haig for ever."

Technological developments, especially in communications and intelligence gathering, between the wars played a part in correcting the failure of the political leaders of the first coalition to control

their generals in the field. However, the factors which remained constant in both wars were national pride and ambition, and the conflict of personalities, both of which had a profound influence on operational decisions.

The second half of the book covers 1939-45 and in particular the break-out from the Normandy beach-head and the conflict between Gen Eisenhower and Fd Marshal Montgomery and other American generals, in particular Gen Bradley.

This makes fascinating reading and the authors conclude that Montgomery was invariably right (an opinion shared by your reviewer, who served in HQ 21 Army Group) especially over the need for a Land Force Commander and the adoption of the "narrow front" concept, although his abrasive personality probably caused his failure to achieve either objective.

They emphasise the influence Gen Marshall, "de facto commander-in-chief of US Army and Air Force", had over Gen Eisenhower to the extent that he was initially little more than a pawn in Marshall's hands.

Fd Marshal Montgomery told your reviewer in 1970: "Gen Marshall was a great administrator but he did not have any idea of the conduct of war", an opinion which the authors of this book appear to share.

The effect of logistics is covered in both wars ("generals make plans but quartermasters make them possible") especially the fiasco of the American logistics after the break-out from Normandy which is recounted in great detail, some of it for the first time, with some revealing statistics including the complete disappearance of a train guarded by a platoon of US infantry, pre-

sumably into the French "black market"!

The Americans had not learned the lessons of 1917-18 and persisted in the division of the logistic command from the operational command, with disastrous effects on the operational efficiency of formations.

The authors clearly demonstrate that "wars are not won by armies alone, no matter how well they are equipped or how bravely they fight. In the end, their part is dictated by and subordinate to national strategy and political direction."

They also emphasise the impact of industrial might upon the balance within a coalition and conclude that "no arrangement for the conduct of a coalition is proof against the friction of jealousy, the national rivalry of armies and the real goals of its members. Politics, not the cold logic of staff appreciation, prevail."

This book should be compulsory reading for students of cadet, staff and war colleges of all the Allied armies. - PSN

Coalitions, Politicians and Generals. Some Aspects of Command in Two World Wars by Dominick Graham and Shelford Bidwell. Brassey's, hardback, £29.95.



Fd Marshal Haig



"See you over there" . . . troops prepare to depart for the Normandy beaches. The chestnut palings were used to fill anti-tank ditches

BIG PICTURE CAPTURES THE SCALE OF OVERLORD

IF THE number of books being published about D-Day is anything to go by, everyone in the land will soon be an expert on the subject.

However, the main challenge for authors is to portray the sheer enormity of Operation Overlord and it must be said that many books of the past have failed in this regard.

A young man recently told this reviewer of his surprise at being unable to cycle the length of the invasion coast in a single day!

Robert Kershaw's *D-Day: Piercing the Atlantic Wall* presents a true impression of the scale of Overlord, a hard task

when he uses the currently popular device of interweaving eyewitness accounts by those who took part in the Normandy fighting.

As every soldier knows well, battle is a highly personal experience, with knowledge of what is going on confined to a few yards of smoke-filled vision.

Further, as the author tells us, "As a serving soldier myself (he has been a Parachute Regiment officer since 1972), I find it almost impossible accurately to recall active service incidents twenty years - even two years - ago, without resorting to a diary . . ."

But then, Robert Kershaw

does not only use a collection of oral history accounts; he combines them neatly with a lucidly-written narrative.

The immediate appeal of this book is in the pictorial content and, unlike many works that feature battle photographs, we are told how some of them came to be taken - in particular, those by Robert Capa, the American photographer who struggled ashore on "Easy Red" Omaha beach with his two Contax cameras, and stills from film taken by Sgt Ian Grant, the British cameraman attached to Lord Lovat's 45 Commando during the landings on Sword beach.

"Both sides believed the event would force the decision in the West. Yet paradoxically it resulted in a stalemate, until the Allied break-out two months later."

This stalemate has been the subject of much speculation over the years, attributing it variously to errors in generalship and clashes of commanders' personalities, miscalculated strength of German opposition, and even misguided choice of the invading formations.

All these and other reasons have been put forward to explain the long delay in breaking out of the bridgehead. Robert Kershaw leans to the

belief that the protracted battle was inevitable.

"Casualties imposed on relatively inexperienced troops coming ashore did impose a psychological check on risky advances . . . The defensive nature of the plan in securing the bridgehead first, encouraged troops to dig in, rather than maintain the advance inland."

"It was moreover beyond the experience of Allied troops to conduct the 'Blitzkrieg'-type warfare in which German commanders were already proficient."

"Training within the restricted confines of the British Isles would not have mentally or practically prepared them to conduct operations on this ambitious scale."

Some readers may be disappointed that the author has not included the roles played by the two RN midget submarines, X 20 and X 23, as off-shore directional beacons, and the courageous US/British/French Jedburgh Teams working in German held territory.

However, these omissions do not detract from this compelling book, which is very hard to put down. - BJ

D-Day: Piercing the Atlantic Wall by Robert Kershaw. Published by Ian Allan, hardback, £25.

Foot note on English battlefields

AMBLERS and ramblers both will find *Battlefield Walks - The Midlands* of interest and use.

For the serious walker who likes a good tramp around the countryside with history thrown in, this book provides 16 walks of up to ten miles across and around the heart of England.

A fortnight's holiday in the area would be just about enough to cover all the routes suggested by David Clark.

For those who prefer to slope along at an easy rate, but

who have a modicum of interest in the battle sites of yore, this book provides a combined mix of English history and travelogue.

It covers areas from Gloucestershire to Nottinghamshire and from Worcestershire across to Lincolnshire, and tells battle stories from Evesham (1265) to Worcester on September 3, 1651 (288 years to the day before the start of the 1939-45 war).

Looking at the author's map, Bosworth would appear to be a

good starting place, not only because of its central location, but because of its significance in English history.

He describes the battle, tells you how to get there, the length of the walk (this one is five miles), gives information on maps and map references, roads and car parks and details of the countryside through which the walker will pass. - JM

Battlefield Walks by David Clark. Alan Sutton, paperback, £9.99.

Dashing Blashers, fearless funster

WHILE he may be loath to admit it, Col John Blashford-Snell was undoubtedly born with a silver spoon in place.

Some reading his autobiography, *Something Lost Behind the Ranges*, might feel he entered his world with not a silver spoon, but a golden goblet.

Since that day in 1936 he has been taking big sips from a cup of good fortune which has been the source of his exciting life as a soldier, traveller, explorer and adventurer.

Fun was, and still is, a buzz word with "Blashers". Son of an outspoken preacher known as "Bish" and a mother whose ancestors included Louis XV, Oliver Cromwell and Judge Jeffreys, he had a marvellously happy childhood.

At times his escapades rivalled those of *Just William*.

Playing Friar Tuck in a school play, with his mother proudly watching, he got his Fs mixed up with his Ts and on another occasion, when his mother was entertaining some US airmen to tea, he surreptitiously aroused the family's giant St Bernard dog with a feather. While the flyers and their girlfriends fell about laughing, his mother shrieked her red-faced embarrassment.

This skylarking carried over into adulthood and he relates numerous little escapades and jollies while at Sandhurst before being commissioned into the Royal Engineers.

From then on his life became one big adventure, his Army service spiced with expeditions and exploration.

His exploits eventually caught the eye of Prince Charles, who persuaded him to launch the popular youth training schemes Operation Drake and later Operation Raleigh, which led him into further excitement and risks.

This is a fun book written by a man with a rich sense of humour who tells a good story, not necessarily with a laugh on every line, but certainly with at least one on every page. Dip in and enjoy it. - JM

Something Lost Behind the Ranges by John Blashford-Snell. HarperCollins, hardback, £18.99.

ARU president backs SPIRE Appeal



Gen Wilkes

GEN SIR Michael Wilkes, the Adjutant General and President of the Army Rugby Union, has put his not inconsiderable power behind the SPIRE Appeal to aid those who have sustained serious injury playing rugby.

As a former Army player, Gen Wilkes understands only too well the risks involved in the game at all levels.

With more than 300 unit teams playing an average of 25 matches each year, the possibility of an unfortunate injury is ever present.

Players are covered by compulsory insurance but a few years ago such provision was rare. A number of former players are already disabled and the SPIRE Appeal is designed to help their cause.

Col Roger Thompson, secretary to the Army Rugby Union, said: "AG's personal commitment to SPIRE has struck a sympathetic chord within the Army and the Appeal has started to gather momentum. One unit in Germany has collected £400 by carol singing, players from 15

Signal Regiment in Northern Ireland have donated £300, and the Coldstream Guards has sent a generous cheque from deepest Bosnia.

"It's not just a case of simply dipping into the PRI account. We really do want today's able bodied players to do something worthwhile on behalf of their less fortunate colleagues."

A final cheque will be presented to Mr Ian Beer, the President of the Rugby Football Union, at the Army seven-a-side finals at Aldershot in April.

Grapple unit's signal of hope

TWO signallers serving on Operation Grapple 3 collected nearly £600 for the Royal Signals Museum expansion project at Blandford and the Vrilinka orphanage, a home in Bosnia adopted by the corps.

Sig Si Lauder and Sig Steve Nelson of Osnabrück-based 4 Armoured Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron organised a raffle at Divulje Barracks near Split to raise the money. The squadron is planning a number of other events.

★ ★ ★

Three Northampton postmen ran all the way to Belgium to raise £1,000 for the local SSAFA branch. Organised by postman Paul Chapman, one of the runners, the Royal Mail/SSAFA Memorial Challenge was staged to mark the 75th anniversary of the armistice of the First World War.

★ ★ ★

The Imperial Cancer Research Fund is looking for Service entries to the UK and Ireland Corporate Games at



Staff at Naafi's Osnabrück complex put on fancy dress to help customer LCpl Mike Sawyer, who was leaving the Army on medical grounds. They organised pony rides, face-painting and a bouncy castle outside the store and donated a day's wages, raising £1,016 which was presented to Mike by Lt Col David Morris, CO 2 Armd Fd Amb. Standing behind Mike are (left to right) Lt Col Morris, Colin Lane (Naafi official in charge), Michele Noonan, Anita Quinn, Sarah Andrews, Jackie Stewart, Sgt Martin Newman and Capt Richard Wilson

Milton Keynes from June 17-19, through which it hopes to raise £100,000. Details are available from the UK and Ireland Corporate Games, PO Box 1993, Milton Keynes MK9 3JU (tel: 0908 231993).

★ ★ ★

Six soldiers of the Herford-based 1st (UK) Armoured Division Headquarters and

Signal Regiment have just sent a cheque for more than £2,000 to the Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus Association. Led by LCpl Anthony Walker, whose daughter Vanessa (4) is a sufferer, the soldiers raised the money by competing in last year's Berlin marathon.

★ ★ ★

The Army Benevolent Fund

is £1,268 better off – thanks to 217 (London) General Hospital RAMC(V). Each of the hospital's four detachments did their own thing to attract sponsorship.

The Braganza Street, London, unit ran from London to Brighton; Catford Detachment held a games night; Blackheath a sponsored swim; and Brighton a bed-push.

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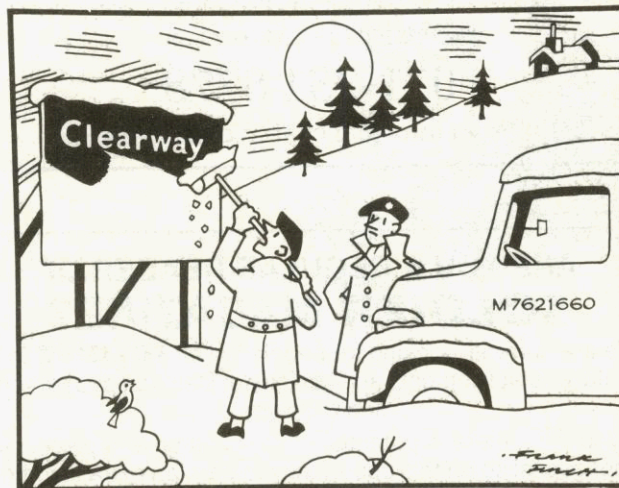
in your envelope.

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

The names of the winner of the £50 first prize and two runners-up will be announced in the May 2 issue.

Name: (Give rank or title)

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Competition No 580: Congratulations to Lt Col B C Neeves, BMATT, BFPO 7, who wins £50. Book prizes go to runners-up Mrs M C Taylor, of Malaga, Spain, and Sgt Chris Hutchinson, of BUDFIN, HQAFNORTH, BFPO 50.

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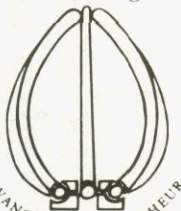
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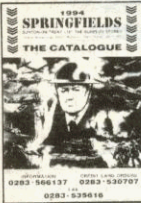
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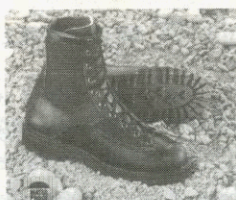
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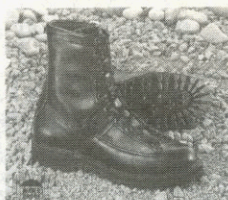


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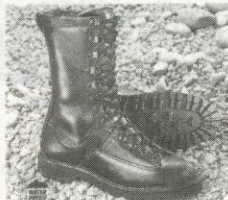
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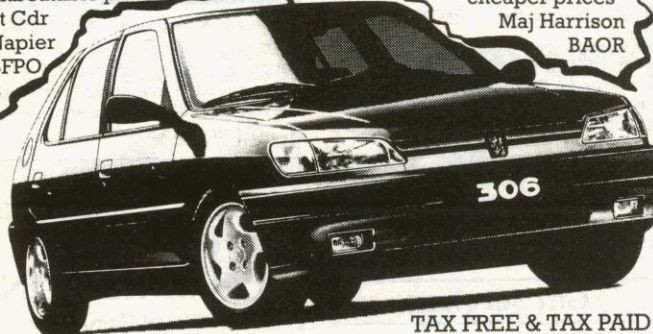
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FEBRUARY 26, 1994

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Tout, Olsson put Britain in top ten

DESPITE the disappointment of finishing outside the bobsleigh medal positions at Lillehammer, Cpl Mark Tout (RTR) and Cpl Sean Olsson (Para) led their British teams to a unique success for a non-Alpine nation.

Both soldiers drove their two and four-man bobs to top ten finishes, an achievement matched only by Switzerland in both disciplines.

Tout, who has matched the best in the sport on the World Cup circuit this winter, finished sixth in the two-man to Olsson's tenth, and fifth in the four-man to Olsson's eighth.

Sgt Michael Dixon (35 Engr Regt), competing in his fourth Winter Olympics, was given the honour of carrying the British Olympic flag at the opening ceremony.

Unfortunately, a chest infection prevented him competing in the 10km biathlon event. Cpl Ian Woods (26 Engr Regt) finished tenth in the 10km biathlon and equal 54th with Dixon in the 20km. The British 7.5km biathlon relay team of Dixon, Woods, LBdr Kenneth Rudd (12 Regt RA) and LCpl Mark Gee (2 RTR) finished 17th.

Bdr Dave Belam (3 RHA) was 61st in the 30km cross-country race and 63rd in the 15km.

Capt Hugh Hutchison (3 RSME) finished 25th in the

freestyle competition, failing to qualify for the final stages.*

● Army bobsleighters Mark Tout and Sgt George Farrell (16 Sig Regt), and ex-Sgt Lenny Paul, each received cheques for £6,000 from the pools-sponsored Foundation for Sport and the Arts to help them with their Olympic expenses.



Army rowers try out their new Janousek racing eight and a set of Concept 2 "big blades" at Chiswick. The new boat and blades, purchased with the support of the Army Central Fund, will spearhead the Army eight's assault on this year's major Inter-Services titles.

Crews are being formed to compete at the Heads of the River race with the specific intention of wresting the Services pennant at the London Head of the River from the Royal Navy on March 26.

The squads, coached by two Olympic oarswomen, will go on to compete at civilian events leading up to the Joint Services regatta in May.

New boat boost for rowing eight

The seniors will then focus on Henley in July while the veterans concentrate on the world masters championships in Holland in September.

If you have not had details of the squads and your rowing status is Senior 3 or above, please contact Maj Tim Park on Warminster ext 2641 (seniors) or Lt Col Max Heron on Aldershot ext 2428 (veterans).



Nowhere to run? Sgt Kevin Jones (ATR Winchester) finds himself outnumbered ten to one by 22 Field Hospital players during a Southern District Cup rugby match (Minor Units). ATR Winchester triumphed 64-0, running in 11 tries in the process

Tug of war on course

WHEN Cpl Dick Field first became involved with Army tug of war 24 years ago the sport was a side show to athletic competitions.

There were no qualified officials and most pulls were initiated by the commanding officer tying his handkerchief to the middle of the rope and shouting "heave".

Standards gradually rose under the guidance of tug of war stalwarts such as Maj Stan Meadows (APTC), Lt Col Tug Lawson (RA) and Lt Col Peter Andrews (MSPC), and with the help of civilian organisations, coaches and judges were trained.

In 1992 the now Maj Dick Field was appointed Army secretary and, with his Royal Navy and Royal Air Force counterparts, planned the birth of the Combined Services Tug of War Association (CSTOWA) in 1993.

Last month their dream came true when the first CSTOWA course for judges and coaches – the first run by Servicemen for Servicemen – was held.

Ashman fit to be a champion

FALLING numbers in BAOR resulted in the first joint Army-Royal Air Force individual squash championships being staged at the Matchball Squash Club in Sennelager.

The tournament, sponsored by HiTech, attracted 45 players in the men's competition and 14 to the women's section. Sgt Phil Ashman (AGC, 14 Signal Regt) claimed the men's title by overcoming pre-tournament favourite Sgt Humphreys (16 Signal Regt) in a five-set final, and Cpl Julie Horobin (68 Tpt Sqn RLC) beat SSgt Comyns (13 Signal Regt) in the women's final.

Humphreys, the No 1 seed,

took the first two games 9-6, 9-6, but started to struggle in the third as Ashman's superior level of fitness began to tell. Ashman eventually clinched that game and quickly wrapped up the next two.

Other winners were: women's plate final – SACW Hewitt (RAF Laarbruch); men's first round plate final – SSgt Evans (RLC, 12 AD Regt RA Wksp); men's second round plate final – SSgt Richardson (1 ADSR); classic plate – Capt Wallis (12 Sup Regt RLC); over 35s – Capt Hall (26 Engr Regt Wksp); veterans – Capt Wallis (12 Sup Regt RLC).

Survival of the unfittest!

INJURIES played a crucial part in the final stages of the Army indoor tennis championships staged in the Dome at Aldershot and sponsored by Swiss Pioneer Life.

Sgt Eric Simpson (APTC), a 1993 finalist, won his league in the round robin stage despite a torn hamstring, but he was not sufficiently mobile to prevent Capt Bill Herlihy (AAC) reaching the final.

In the other half of the draw, Capt Nigel Watts (nursing a bruised elbow sustained playing hockey) came through against WO1 Steve James (also carrying an elbow injury).

Watts went on to beat Herlihy 6-2, 6-4 in the final, while Simpson had to use all his guile and tenacity to defeat James in an enthralling three-setter for third place.

The women's competition

fellow internationals Lt Cdr Chris Robison (RN) and Cpl Mark Flint (RAF).

Five-times Army champion QMSI Geoff Wade (38 Engr Regt) was an excellent fifth ahead of Cpl Gareth Williams (Dept Regt RE), Bdr Barry Stoddart (4 Fd Regt RA) and Cpl Paddy Cairns (ATR Basingbourn), all making team debuts.

The veterans' race, run concurrently, was equally exciting, with the Army narrowly edging out the strongly fancied RAF. There was nothing between the first three until Maj Glen Grant (JSBC) opened up the gap on the last lap to finish 13 seconds ahead of Sgt Kevin Brown (RAF), and Sgt Bill Bailey (2 Sig Regt).

Pte Frazer Felton (5 AB Bde) won a terrific individual battle with Pte Nigel Bamford (23 PFA) as Army juniors filled the first six places in their race. Chepstow apprentices Johnathan Morgan, Lee Winter and Malcolm Bethell were third, fourth and fifth.

Cpl Kelly Holmes (CMETS), in her first race since November following a minor operation, led the Army to a convincing win in the women's championship. Current Army champion Cpl Sarah Bradbury (160 Pro Coy) was second and Cpl Celia Duffield (1 GS Regt RLC) third on her debut.

● Rod Finch and Sarah Bradbury lead the Runner of the Year competition after three events. A full update will appear in the next issue.

Kings Own Border claim title

OVERALL UKLF ski champions are the 1st Battalion, The King's Own Royal Border Regiment, currently serving in Londonderry.

The title is decided on the combined result of the Alpine competition – contested this year by 26 teams – and the Nordic event, which attracted 23 teams to Monetier, Serre Chevalier, in the French Alps.

Fourth overall in the Major Units' Alpine competition, 1 Kings Own Border clinched the UKLF title by taking another fourth place in the Nordic disciplines. Runners-up were 19 Fd Regt RA and third were 1 QO Hldrs.

It was 1 Kings Own Border's best ever skiing result and also ensured they retained the Infantry Cup.

The Nordic events were dominated by 2 RGJ and runners-up 29 Cdo Regt RA, with 1 QO Hldrs third and 1 Kings Own Border fourth.

RMCS took the Minor Units' title ahead of 70 Ac Wksp REME.

In the individual competition, Rfn Caton (2 RGJ) won the Nordic combination ahead of fellow Greenjacket Cpl

Brooks. First woman was Pte Cooke (6 LI), Pte Hayton (1 Kings Own Border) was first junior, 2nd Lt Perkins (29 Cdo Regt RA) the first novice, and WO2 Seager (42 Svy Engr Gp) the first veteran.

Perkins also won the 10km race, Brooks the 15km.

As reported in SOLDIER (March 7), Scots DG won the Major Units Alpine title.

Soldiers excel in British skeleton team

FIVE soldiers based in Germany lifted British skeleton bobsleigh to new heights by finishing third in the team competition at the World Cup. In doing so they beat Italy

and Germany, both powers in the sport. Austria took the team title with Switzerland second.

Best placed of the British team was Cpl Mark Wood (1

ADSR) who finished tenth overall. Woods won the British individual title earlier in the winter.

Behind him were Cpl Tim Hathaway (REME Wksp, 40

Regt RA), 15th; Cpl Rob Watson (REME Wksp, 1 PWO), 19th; Cpl Paul George (1 ADSR), 24th and Cpl Richard Rochester (40 Regt RA), 40th.

Dutch dash Kentish hopes

Combined Services 0,
Netherlands AF 2

HOPES of the Combined Services relieving the Belgian Armed Forces of the Kentish Cup were dashed by the semi-professional National Service Netherlands Armed Forces team at Aldershot Military Stadium on March 1, writes **Derrick Bly**.

The first real Dutch attack, in the 13th minute, produced the only goal of the first half. Cpl Dave Maynard, having his most effective game for some time, created several half chances without hitting the target.

Fifteen minutes after the interval the Dutch took a stranglehold on the game with a second goal, laid on by junior international Bond for Buimer of FC Zwoller.

Belgian Services 2,
Combined Services 4

The Dutch result was a great disappointment after Combined Services had threatened the Belgian's four-year hold on the Kentish Cup with an inspired performance on a snow and ice-covered pitch more suited to the talents of Torvill and Dean.

Despite going two goals down at Leuven FC, the British Servicemen fought back magnificently against a semi-professional Belgian side containing four Standard Liège players and one member of the Belgian World Cup squad.

Belgium scored twice in the opening 12 minutes.

It looked as if a massacre was on the cards, but the visitors

responded superbly. POPT Steve Riley (RN) fired home after Maynard had flicked on a SSgt Alan Higgins corner, and LAEM Nigel Thwaites (RN), fed by Sgt Steve Bates on the halfway line, ran 30 yards to equalise.

Eight minutes from the end Thwaites scored again.

The Belgians wasted a dubious penalty decision when Cfn Mickey Taylor saved low to his right, and Services punished them further with a fourth goal, Strouts heading home a corner.

SSgt Kevin Parkins, Sig Paul Brown and substitute Sgt Tony Wright, with Strouts, Bates and Taylor, were the Army representatives in a memorable fighting performance.

Slalom canoe

● Details of the 1994 UKLF slalom canoeing championships, scheduled for May 12-15, are available from WO2 R A Wood (APTC) on 729 3237.



Combined Services skipper SSgt Alan Higgins (2 Sig Regt) introduces Football Association vice-chairman Chris Wilcox to Sgt Tony Wright (9 Fd Wksp REME) before the game against the Netherlands at Aldershot. On the right is Cpl Dave Maynard (RLC)

CLOB serve up a fizzy cocktail

Army 25,
Combined London Old Boys 5
ENGLISH rugby coaches would have cringed when the Army played the Combined London Old Boys. Eighty minutes of attacking rugby, hardly a "slo-mo" maul in sight and not a pre-arranged misdemeanour to be seen, writes **Roger Thompson**.

The Old Boys were determined to play Barbarians' style rugby, taking short penalties in their own 22 and running the ball hard and wide and it took the Army fully 20 minutes to impose some degree of presence.

Gradually the heavier forwards took the fizz from the CLOB pack. Coghlan, Brammer and Fowers looked as comfortable as an old sofa

while the new pair of Orr Ewing (BW/RMAS) and Lt Andy Newsham (22 Regt RA) each warmed to their tasks.

Newsham, a product of the Under 21 XV and in his first full game for the Army, added considerable stature at the lines-out. He is quick around the park and has a bright future.

Liberty marathon

● The Caen marathon on June 12 will take in the Normandy D-Day beaches to commemorate the invasion. Applications for the Marathon de la Liberté are available from Memorial, un Musée pour la Paix, BP 6162, 14066 Caen CEDEX, France (tel: 31 06 06 44; fax: 31 06 06 70).

Army boxers won eight titles at the CSBA championships on March 3. Full report in next issue.

Picture: Mike Perring

Queen celebrates bicentenary of The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders



Above – (from left) Cpl Lyle Davidson, Pte Graham Simpson (obscured), Pte Tom Black and Pte Jim Hartness share the joke as the Queen speaks into a field telephone

Below – The Queen looks through a common weapons sight held by LCpl Jim Monaghan while visiting stands depicting the life of an Argyll and Sutherland Highlander. On the left is CSgt Graham Reid



Pictures: Chris Fletcher and David Bishop



The Queen wishes a safe journey to A and SH cyclists setting out from Folkestone to Regimental Headquarters at Stirling Castle. On the left of the line are Cpl Chick Burns and Cpl Robert Devine. They completed the 550-mile journey to raise money for the Army Benevolent Fund



DROPS specialists from 1 Transport Squadron RLC based at Colchester take a break on a Cyprus beach after a hard day's adventurous training. The squadron spent four weeks on the island exercising as a dismounted infantry company. Story and another photograph in Pages 20-21.