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FROM HONG KONG**



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Incorporating the Territorial Army magazine

February 22, 1993
VOL. 49/4

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Cheshires 'ecstatic'

MORALE in the 1st Battalion, The Cheshire Regiment is sky-high following news of the announcement that the planned merger of the Cheshire with the 1st Battalion, The Staffordshire Regiment has been cancelled.

"My battalion was ecstatic when the news came through," said its commanding officer, Lt Col Bob Stewart.

"We had no grouse against the Staffords, but no regiment wants to be amalgamated when it has been around as long as we have."

Soldiers of the Cheshire group have successfully

escorted thousands of tons of humanitarian aid throughout the most needy areas in Bosnia-Herzegovina in recent weeks.


The operation has been blessed by one of the mildest winters for many years, which has made the Cheshire group's task easier, but it remains a difficult and dangerous operation.

Heavily loaded Army trucks driven by 17 Squadron RCT personnel still have to negotiate a tortuous ice-covered mountain route. A longer, flatter route via Mostar is subject to

shelling and can be closed for days at a time.

Armed Forces Minister Archie Hamilton and the Adjutant General, Gen Sir David Ramsbotham, undertook a fact-finding mission to the region and visited soldiers based at Gornji Vakuf.

The town is the scene of heavy fighting between warring factions. Warrior infantry fighting vehicles at the base have been regularly fired upon while escorting supply trucks through the area, and a mortar round narrowly missed a sangar manned by British troops.



A

change

of Options

Regiments
rerieved

FOUR infantry regiments due to be amalgamated under Options for Change have been rerieved to help ease the Army's overstretch.

Adjustments to the Options programme announced by Defence Secretary Malcolm Rifkind on February 3 will result in up to 5,000 more men and women than envisaged being available for front-line units when re-structuring is complete.

Mr Rifkind announced that the amalgamations of The Cheshire Regiment and The Staffordshire Regiment, due to take place this September, and of The Royal Scots and The King's Own Scottish Borderers, planned for October 1994, would not now proceed.

The planned strength of the Army by the mid-1990s was now 119,000 rather than 116,000, he said. In addition, efficiency initiatives should release a further 2,000 or so

personnel, mainly from the support area, some of whom would be available to re-deploy to Field Army units.

Since 1991 there had been a number of developments which had added significantly to the commitments the Army is required to meet at the same time that it is in the process of reorganising.

"Additional battalions have been deployed to Northern Ireland and our overall contribution to UN peacekeeping

pressure on individual soldiers and their families."

A number of requirements for additional manpower had also been identified during planning for Nato's Rapid Reaction Corps, in which Britain has a leading role, and other elements of the force structure.

Mr Rifkind said a significant part of the extra manpower would be used to bring up to strength some units which would otherwise have to be reinforced to carry out their peacetime operational commitments.

Retaining two extra infantry battalions would result in the average emergency tour interval being increased from 15 to 17 months this year and provide an extra margin above the eventual 24-month target to make it easier to cope with any further commitments.

With the need to increase Army manpower his top priority, the cost of retaining a further 3,000 personnel would be met by making savings elsewhere in the Armed Forces.

The release of an additional

**'Planned strength of the Army
by mid-1990s will be 119,000
rather than 116,000'**

tasks in Cyprus, Cambodia, the former republic of Yugoslavia, and elsewhere has almost trebled.

"The effect of these additional commitments, combined with the disruption caused by the restructuring and draw-down, is placing increasing

FRONT COVER (main picture): Lion dancers of 29 Squadron RCT steal the show in Hong Kong. (Picture: Mike Perring.) Inset: Pte Andrew Estebanez and Sgt Huw Birdsey, 1 RRW, have kept their last watch on the border with China. (Picture: Mike Perring)

● Turn to Page 5

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Reprieve means two additional battalions

THE INFANTRY will have 40 battalions under the revised Options, two more than envisaged in the 1991 announcement. Until recently, there were 55 Infantry battalions in the order of battle.

Four famous regiments, two Scottish and two English, are still expected to disappear in amalgamations under the original programme of reductions – the Queen's Own Highlanders (Seaforth and Camerons) with The Gordon Highlanders, and The Gloucestershire Regiment with The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment (Berkshire and Wiltshire).

A name – The Royal Gloucestershire, Berkshire and Wiltshire Regiment – has already been proposed for the Glsters-DERR merger.

The Royal Hampshire regiment and The Queen's Regiment joined forces in September to become The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment (Queen's and Royal Hampshire), and The Royal Irish Rangers and Ulster Defence Regiment merged to create The Royal Irish Regiment last July.

Four Gurkha regiments have been amalgamated into two.

A number of amalgamations involving the Household Cavalry and Royal Armoured Corps have been completed, and three Guards' battalions are to be placed in suspended animation.

MEDBATT command

HEADQUARTERS British Contingent at Zagreb has disbanded and command of the British Medical Battalion (BRITMEDBATT) has passed to Operation Grapple. The headline over a story (February 8 issue) reporting this development incorrectly stated that BRITMEDBATT was to disband.

All British troops serving in Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina now come under the command of Brig Andrew Cumming, Commander British Contingent.



Sarajevo team: Based in the besieged city and helping the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) organisation with its aid warehouse and distribution system are (back, left to right) Capt Peter Jones RCT and WO2 Don Hodgson REME, and (front) LCpl Caroline Cove AGC and SSgt Alan Knight RAOC

Our team in siege city of Sarajevo



Our girl in Sarajevo – LCpl Caroline Cove AGC (26) became a star at Christmas when television viewers saw her fiancé propose marriage at a surprise reunion on BBC's "Good Morning Ann and Nick" programme

PWO set to take over

THE 1st Battalion, The Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire, based in Osnabrück, supported by 21 Engineer Regiment from Nienburg and a reconnaissance squadron from the Light Dragoons in Hohn will replace the 1 Cheshire Battalion Group in Bosnia in mid-May.

The Yorkies, commanded by Lt Col Alastair Duncan, will also be supported by soldiers drawn from the 1st Battalion, The Gordon Highlanders and 1st Battalion, The Queen's Lancashire Regiment from Berlin, and the 1st Battalion, The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders from Minden.

Sappers of 35 Engineer Regiment's three squadrons in Bosnia will be replaced by 21 Engr Regt's 1 Field Squadron and 45 Field Support Squadron, accompanied by 522



Lt Col Alastair Duncan

Specialist Team Royal Engineers. The National Support Element at Tomislavgrad based on 5 Ordnance Battalion supported by 17 Squadron, Royal Corps of Transport, will be replaced by 27 Regiment, Royal Logistic Corps from Aldershot.

This formation will come into existence on April 5 and will include elements of the present 27 Regiment RCT.

OPTIONS

● From Page 3

2,000 for front-line duties would be achieved by re-deploying them from other roles as a result of "the development of detailed plans for reorganisation, and the implementation of market testing and other initiatives aimed at improving efficiency."

Describing manpower as a "very expensive resource", Mr Rifkind said he would "continue to keep the long-term strength of the Army under close review in the light of changing circumstances."

"Such circumstances will include any changes to current and foreseeable operational commitments including the planned withdrawal from Hong Kong."

He added that the MoD had not yet completed its studies of how best to integrate both Regular and Volunteer Reservists into the post-Options force structure, which would also have implications for the long-term strength of the Regular Army.

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Tomislavgrad units help ease refugees' plight



Capt Chris Morris RAMC (right) pictured with displaced Muslims at a crowded refugee camp at Posusje, central Bosnia. Soldiers from the Tomislavgrad-based National Support Element have been helping charity workers to provide medical care and run the camp. The elderly woman was suffering from frostbitten fingers



Flying the flag for Wales are Vitez-based Tpr Russel Pritchard (left) and Cpl Anthony "Taff" Bithell of the 9th/12th Royal Lancers. The flag was sent to Taff by his mother

Pay rules for Op Grapple troops re-stated

PAY and allowance rules under which the Army is serving in the former Yugoslavia have been re-stated in Parliament.

Answering a question in the House of Lords, Viscount Cranborne, Under-Secretary of State for Defence, said the normal Service rules were being applied.

"Troops previously stationed in Germany, including The Cheshire Regiment, were receiving an overseas allowance to compensate them for the higher cost of living there," he said.

"A similar allowance is not necessary in Bosnia and the troops themselves would not expect to receive the same level of allowance while serving outside Germany."

He added that they did, however, retain a significant element - 70 per cent for married personnel, 40 per cent for single - of the Germany allowance in recognition of their continuing financial commitments there.

And because of conditions in Bosnia, local food and accommodation charges had also been waived.



Col James Anderson, Commander Royal Engineers, 4 Armoured Division, inspects the farewell parade of 5 Field Squadron at Iserlohn

Stallions boost cot death fund

WHEN members of Verden Stallions Rugby Club heard that one of their players had lost his baby son they decided to raise funds for research into cot death syndrome.

A fancy dress rugby match, barbecue and disco produced £1,135 for the Foundation for Infant Death Syndrome.

'Fighting Fifth' on the move to UK

SOLDIERS of 5 Field Squadron paraded in Iserlohn for the last time as part of 26 Engineer Regiment on January 22 before their move to Tidworth.

Based in Iserlohn since 1970, the squadron, known as the 'Fighting Fifth', is the first under Options for Change to move back to the United Kingdom complete with all its equipment.

The day of the final parade

has an historical significance for the squadron. It was on January 22, 1879, that Lt John Chard of 5 Field Company successfully defended Rorke's Drift and was awarded the Victoria Cross.

While based in Germany, the squadron has served in Northern Ireland and the Gulf, and currently has a troop deployed on Operation Grapple with the Cheshire Battalion Group.

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Dukes lead Norway force

DESPITE being confined initially to the southern region because Operation Grapple deployments have left sparse coverage for the north, the annual Exercise Hardfall in Norway is well under way.

This year's exercise has involved about 1,100 British soldiers, 429 vehicles and 208 trailers.

In the thick of the action have been members of HQ UK Allied Mobile Force (Land), the 1st Battalion, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment, a Logistic Support Battalion, 249 Signal Squadron, 21 Signal Regiment, a Royal Engineers' independent field troop and 158 Provost Company.

The UK command element is based near Stalheim.

Following initial company exercises, a five-day battalion field training exercise took place, with the Logistic Support Battalion providing the enemy.

Force cross-country and skiing competitions, with each unit providing a team, will provide light relief before the action moves north, culminating in Exercise Battle Griffin, a joint exercise with the Norwegian Army and members of the US Marine Corps.

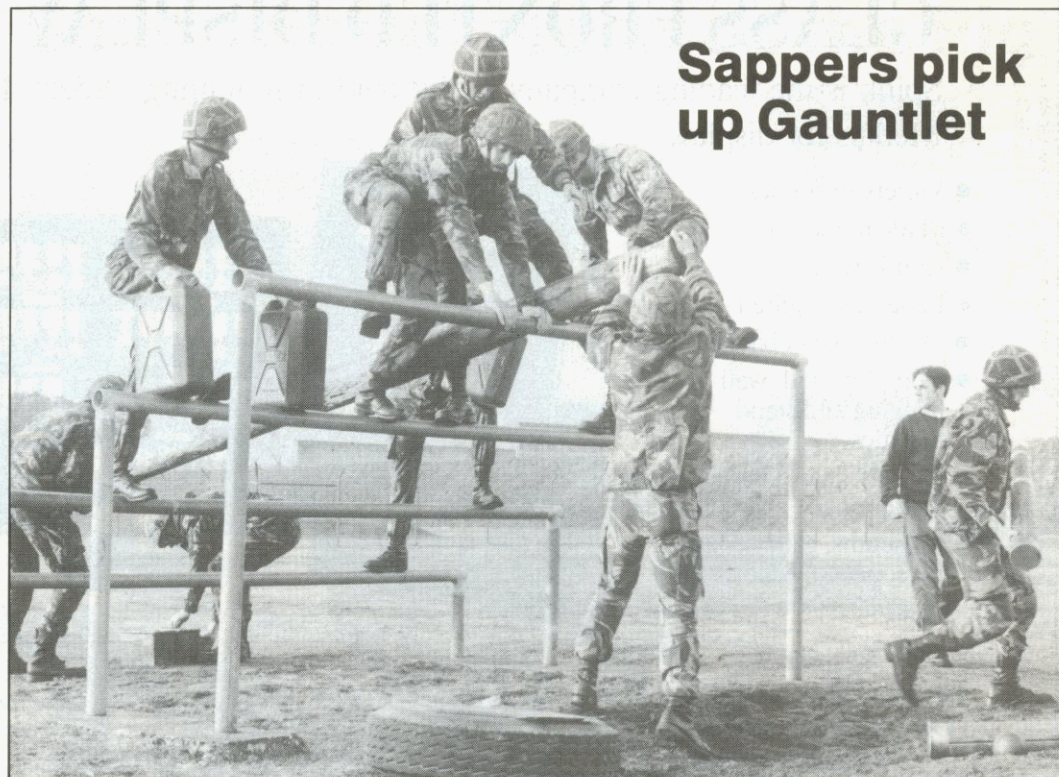
Naples charity

THE SMALL tri-Service community in Naples gave £41,506 to charity last year. Fund-raising events included a sponsored race up Vesuvius.

Attack helicopter tendered

THE FIRST step in the Army's quest to acquire about 100 attack helicopters worth £2 billion has been taken.

Five contractors have been invited to tender for the contract to equip four regiments of the Army Air Corps with tank-busting helicopters capable of destroying artillery, infantry units, fixed-wing air-



Sappers pick up Gauntlet

Sappers from 23 Engineer Regiment in Osnabrück negotiate an obstacle during a gun carriage race on Vorden ranges. The ten-man section was taking part in Exercise Hegars Gauntlet, a 36-hour endurance competition to test basic military knowledge, initiative and common sense



Staff Cpl Geoff Wright of the Defence Animal Centre School of Farriery gets down to a bit of serious competitive shoemaking

Leading farriers in heat of action

TOP ARMY farriers competed for trophies and cash awards in a competition at the Defence Animal Centre, Melton Mowbray.

Winner of the open competition, in which participants had to show they could make and fit a $\frac{3}{4}$ fullered shoe to a horse and make a specimen surgical shoe, was LCoH Lloyd Jenkins, Household Cavalry, ahead of LCpl Steve Newman, Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment.

Third was LSgt John Ryan of the Irish Guards, with WO1 FSM Carl Jones of the Royal Army Veterinary Corps fourth.

Farrier Steve Casey RAVC won the military apprentices' challenge where competitors had to make two shoes – one for hunting and one for road work – in 50 minutes.

Tpr David Matravers, Royal Scots Dragoon Guards was second. Third place went to Farrier David Adcock HCMR and fourth to LCpl Dean Latham of The Royal Regiment of Wales.

craft and other helicopters.

Procurement Minister Jonathan Aitken announced that the MoD would order a complete attack helicopter weapons system to replace the Lynx in the anti-armour role.

The contract for the helicopter, designed to be an attack weapon and not to carry troops, will be assessed in 1995.

Companies invited to tender are British Aerospace and Eurocopter with the Franco-German Tiger attack helicopter; Westlands and McDonnell Douglas with the AH-64 Apache; GEC and Bell Textron with the Cobra Super Venom; Italy's Agusta with the A-129 MongOOSE; and Boeing-Sikorsky with the Commanche.

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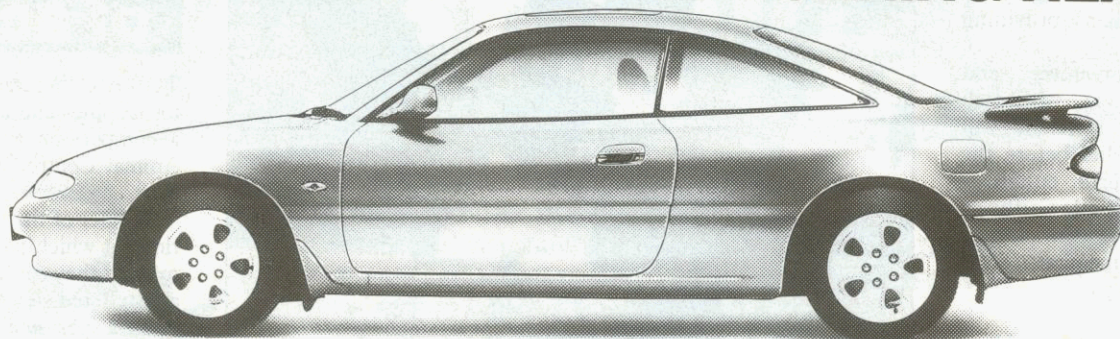


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Yard probe Falklands allegation

AN INVESTIGATION into claims that British troops killed Argentine prisoners during the 1982 Falklands war is being conducted by Scotland Yard detectives who have flown to the islands to take evidence.

The allegations were made in a book written by former Parachute Regiment lance corporal Vince Bramley.

Oman is to buy 36 Challenger 2 main battle tanks and four armoured recovery vehicles in a contract with Vickers Defence Systems worth about £150m.

SAS soldiers, speaking from behind a screen, gave evidence at the Court of Session in Edinburgh in a case in which a prisoner sued the Scottish Secretary, claiming that he was beaten by members of an SAS team rescuing a prison officer during a siege at Peterhead Prison in 1987. The prisoner lost the case.

Saxon Patrol replaces the Pig



First picture of the new Saxon Patrol vehicle which has just entered service in Northern Ireland. It will replace the ageing Humber Pig armoured patrol vehicle.

Apart from special equipment for its internal security role, the Patrol is fitted with an uprated

braking system and a powerful Cummins diesel engine. Additional armoured protection is provided for all crew members and run-flat tyres are fitted as standard. It has a top speed of more than 80km/h.

Two versions of the vehicle have been produced by GKN

Defence. The troop carrier is the standard section vehicle and will transport up to ten fully-equipped personnel including the driver and commander. The ambulance caters for two stretcher cases and up to six sitting wounded, and attendant medical staff.

SG take to boats to aid flood victims



Members of the 2nd Battalion, Scots Guards provided an unusual doorstep service for residents of North Muirton housing estate in Perth when the River Tay burst its banks following severe weather last month. The men of 2 SG, based at Dreghorn Barracks in Edinburgh, used boats to evacuate people from their flooded homes. Also involved in the rescue operation were TA soldiers from 104 (City of Edinburgh) Field Squadron RE(V), 1/51 and 3/51 Highland Volunteers, 71 Engr Regt (V), 153 (Highland) Arty Spt Regt (V), 225 (Highland) Fd Amb RAMC (V) and RAF and naval units

Salute to the Queen

A 41-GUN Royal Salute was fired by The King's Troop, Royal Horse Artillery in Hyde Park on February 6 to mark the 41st anniversary of the Queen's accession to the throne.

Other tributes included a 62-gun salute fired by the Honourable Artillery Company at the Tower of London, and a 21-gun salute at the Pierhead Building, Cardiff Bay, by C (Glamorgan Yeomanry) Troop, 211 (South Wales) AD Battery RA(V), part of Newport-based 104th Air Defence Regiment.

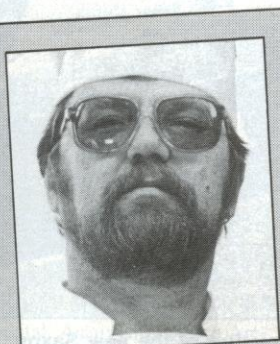
A Second World War Sherman tank which stood at the entrance to San Sebastian Barracks, Korkecke, headquarters of the now disbanded 3rd Armoured Division, has been resited outside the headquarters of the Iron Division - 3rd (UK) Division - at Bulford.

In the picture

A black and white photograph of four members of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) in uniform. A man with a mustache in the background holds a vintage camera. A woman in the foreground holds a framed photo of the same group. The text "In the picture" is overlaid in the top left corner.

After almost 50 years' service to the Crown, WO2 **Alan "Rocky" Blake** has retired. Rocky (66) who departed on New Year's Eve, returned to the Duke of York's HQ, Chelsea last month to receive a limited edition colour print signed by Gen Sir **Peter de la Billière**, a £500 travel voucher and a satellite television system.

Rocky signed on in 1941, serving with 27 Jungle Fd Regt RA, 159 Para Light Regt and 6 AB Div before joining the Merchant Navy in 1953. In 1962 he joined the Civil Service, and he served with the TA's Artists Rifles Volunteers from 1958 to 1985.



Cool Blues managing director **Joe Beriro** took Harry on because of his well-presented CV: "With his Army background, I thought he could take the pressure and enjoy the hard work," he said.



One of his first tasks was to lead a delegation to brief the Vietnamese Cabinet. Based in Hanoi, Maj Campbell travelled widely within Vietnam. He returned to his unit in Münster just in time to command the advance party overseeing the unit's move to Preston in Lancashire.

The dummy which she received from the Light Infantry museum in Winchester should prove useful to display that item . . .

A black and white photograph of two women in military uniforms. The woman on the left is wearing a dark uniform with a light-colored braided sash and a pilot's wing badge. The woman on the right is wearing a dark uniform with a white shirt and a dark tie, and is holding a small object in her hand.





Welsh goat says cheerio to Chinese lion: Cpl David Joseph, Goat Major of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Wales for 15 years, and Taffy III take their leave of the Lion Dancers of 29 Squadron RCT, before leaving Hong Kong

RRW tour marked by harmony of dragons

WELSH and Chinese dragons worked in harmony during the two-and-a-half years that the 1st Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Wales was in Hong Kong.

After their tour as demonstration battalion at Warminster, the Welshmen found Hong Kong a complete change. The battalion has now handed Stanley Fort over to the Black Watch and in January replaced the Scots as the resident battalion at Clive Barracks, Tern Hill.

Back in Shropshire, they had a culture shock in reverse as they became re-acclimatised to lots of water, much of it cold and some of it in the form of snow.

But sitting in the sea with a jungle hat on for protection from the sun or drinking water in the shade was not how Lt Robin Davies envisaged his exercises in Hong Kong. He soon learned that dehydration is a killer.

"When it gets to 39 degrees it is too hot to do anything else," he said.

Everyone carried two water bottles on their belt and two litres in their bergen, and platoon sergeants and commanders had to enforce rigid water discipline to avoid some soldiers drinking too much and others not enough.

Along the border with mainland China, much of the water that Sgt Huw Birdsey

**Words: Gordon Skilling
Pictures: Mike Perring**

remembers from his last time in Hong Kong has disappeared under concrete.

"When the battalion was here on an emergency tour in 1980 there were just a few huts across the border. Now it is a massive city and a special economic zone," he said.

Dignitaries, including the Deputy Commander of British Forces and the Lord Mayor of Haverfordwest, may have been slightly surprised at the briefing they received from Pte Andy Estebanez. Having studied political developments across the border he gave them a dissertation on the "one

country, two systems" syndrome.

After three years in the Army, most of it spent in Hong Kong, Pte Estebanez's experiences have been almost as exciting as those of Pte Andrew Lambe, who looked like a 14-year-old when he joined the regiment, according to boxing officer Capt Alan Harray.

"The only place he had been was Barry Island," he said. "Now he's six inches taller and an absolutely brilliant boxer, and he was one of our three in the first boxing squad from Hong Kong to go to China."

The battalion's cross country runners amazed the garrison by coming third in the arduous Trailwalker two-day marathon,



Above - The Royal Regiment of Wales cheer their honorary colonel

Below - Pte Jason Bowser, WO2 Richard Molloy, Cpl Tony Ellis and Capt John Dunford came third in the Trailwalker marathon



Cpl Adrian Wilson, Pte Andrew Lambe, Maj Alan Harray and Pte Justin Herbert represented Wales in China

an event usually dominated by the Gurkhas.

Battalion rugby captain Capt Simon Butt was looking forward to returning to a more competitive standard of rugby in Britain. The Hong Kong Chinese did not play, and neither did any of the other battalions in theatre. But 1 RRW put up a stout defence against a bruising Kiwi pack from a visiting New Zealand regiment, earning a hard-fought draw.

"We are now looking to an operational tour in the Falklands and we are building up to Northern Ireland after 18 months in Tern Hill," said Capt Butt.



The Welsh put up a stout defence against the Kiwis to earn a hard-fought draw

Few will return to enjoy the splendid opportunities

THE BRIGHTEST remaining jewel of the British Empire – and one of the Army's best exotic postings – will be handed back to its original owners when British administration and jurisdiction over Hong Kong ends on June 30, 1997. Hong Kong then becomes a special administrative region of the People's Republic of China.

There are advantages and disadvantages to a posting in Hong Kong. From a military point of view there are not enough suitable areas for realistic training. Infantry must go to ranges in Australia to fire Milan and after 1997 the opportunities for British soldiers to go on exercise there, in New Zealand and Borneo, will be few and far between.

There is, however, a wide range of training which can be carried out using assets from the Royal Navy or Royal Air Force often impossible to obtain in Britain or Germany.

The first weeks in the garrison are a severe culture shock to all new-comers. The exotic customs and dramatic scenery, exciting shopping and frenetic activity make it a vibrant and exciting environment unlike anything they have encountered before.



Maj Gen Sir John Foley, Commander British Force Hong Kong

There is not enough time in a posting to fit in all the opportunities waiting to be taken up, and few will get the chance to return.

Soldiers learn an appreciation of the Orient. Some learn new ideas, whether alternative medicine or philosophy, with its emphasis on harmony with one's surroundings. Sceptics can laugh and reject this

spirituality, as mainland China did when erecting a jarring angular bank in the centre of the commercial area, out of keeping with local sensibilities.

But the British do not scoff. They have learned to live with the similar spirituality of the Gurkhas.

"We certainly respect the cultural thought that lies behind it and touch our hats to it," said the Commander British Force, Maj Gen Sir John Foley.

The British presence is welcomed by the community as underpinning its law and order, and the

Hong Kong government is immensely grateful for the contribution made to stopping the endemic smuggling of luxury goods, whose corrupt organisers are also involved in drugs and weapons.

The unpleasant task of catching illegal immigrants was carried out by the 1st Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Wales for the last time in September,

when responsibility was handed over to the Hong Kong Police. It was a task the regiment had first carried out in 1980 during an emergency tour to help stem the flood of refugees.

It was difficult for soldiers not to feel sympathy for the cold, bedraggled creatures who braved pollution and patrol boats to swim to a better life.

But the reality of the overcrowding problem always came into the picture and the soldiers did what was required extremely well.

The end of border patrols meant there would be more training time available for company and battalion level training, said the Commander of 48 Brigade, Brig Phillip Trousdell.

"There will be training in eastern and western Malaysia and Brunei and when the 2nd King Edward VII's Own Gurkha Rifles go to Wainwright in the summer, it will be the first time for a Hong Kong battalion," he said.

The Gurkhas were taking a bigger hammering than anybody else under Options for Change, he said, but their redundancy package was very good and the level of man-management and care of

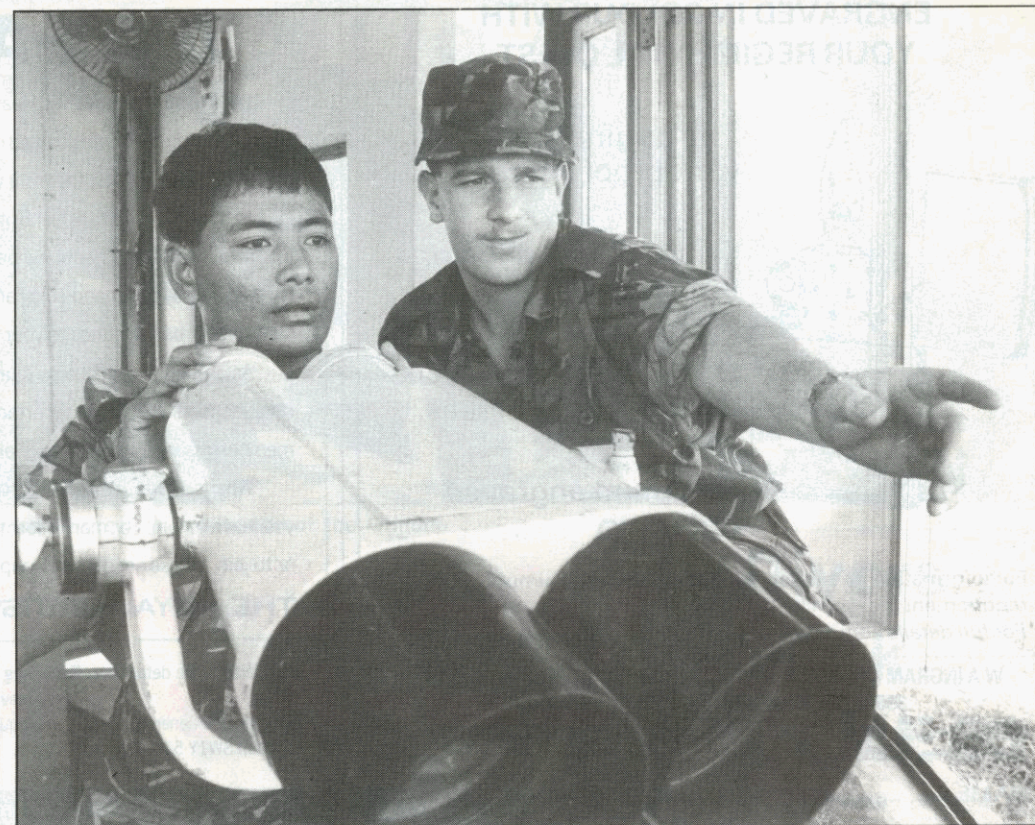


Brig Phillip Trousdell, Commander 48 Infantry Brigade

the soldiers had been at a high level.

Gen Foley said he was enormously impressed by the way the amalgamation of 1 and 2 GR had been carried out, and paid tribute to the leadership of the officers and SNCOs who had made it work.

"It is a challenging job to deal with the reduction of the garrison in a caring and sensitive way," he said. "Few soldiers will be able to return to enjoy the absolutely splendid opportunities in the area."



Pte Glen Dobbs, 1 RRW, briefs Rfn Tham Bahadur Gurung of 2 GR before handing over the OP

Garrison underpins security of Colony

THE HONG Kong Garrison is a comforting and reassuring presence as the island and New Territories prepare for absorption into Communist China in 1997.

The security and stability of the colony is underwritten by a garrison of 9,800, of whom 7,500 are military and the remainder civilian support staff. Half the garrison is Gurkha and there are 1,500 troops locally recruited.

The Royal Navy provides three Peacock-class patrol craft and the Royal Air Force eight veteran Wessex helicopters, but the largest element came from the British Army.

This presence is shrinking and 48 Gurkha Infantry Brigade has been reduced from four to three battalions. Over the next five years the Gurkhas will reduce from 7,500 to 2,500 men.

The 1st Battalion, The Black Watch replaced the 1st Battalion, The Royal Regim-

ent of Wales in January, and in September the first and second battalions of 2nd King Edward VII's Own Gurkha Rifles (The Sirmoor Rifles) merged. The 10th Princess Mary's Own Gurkha Rifles is the third battalion, while 6th Queen Elizabeth's Own Gurkha Rifles, also a part of the brigade, serves in Brunei.

Support is provided by The Queen's Gurkha Engineers, whose boat troop has an energetic role patrolling the waters to stop illegal immigration and smuggling. The Queen's Gurkha Signals provide communications, and all second line transport is provided by The Queen's Own Gurkha Transport Regiment, which trains its own Gurkha and Chinese drivers. It also has a maritime troop, operating three landing craft.

The headquarters of the Brigade of Gurkhas, situated in Hong Kong, has a world-wide responsibility for

Gurkha matters, while the training Depot Brigade of Gurkhas provides basic military training for all Gurkhas enlisted into the Brigade, career courses and also Nepali language courses for the British.

Hong Kong also has an Army Air Corps squadron equipped with eight Scout helicopters. The Hong Kong Military Service Corps is a vital asset to the garrison. It is manned by locally-recruited Hong Kong Chinese who return home every evening after work. Their range of skills and local knowledge is indispensable.

The Royal Hong Kong Regiment (Volunteers) continues the tradition of support started when it was raised to maintain stability when the garrison was reduced in 1854 because of the Crimean War. It is a reconnaissance regiment equipped with Ferret armoured cars.

Dragons in harmony

● From Page 15

The Royal Regiment of Wales has a long connection with the Far East, the 2nd Battalion, The South Wales Borderers fighting in Burma while stationed in India in the 1880s. The same battalion was stationed in China with the International Brigade for two years before the start of the First World War.

The South Wales Borderers were back in Burma during the Second World War, as were the Welch Regiment, whose 2nd Battalion captured the two Japanese anti-tank guns which decorate the entrance to their headquarters.

The South Wales Borderers were also involved in the

Malaysian emergency in the 50s and the Welch Regiment fought in Korea. Both occupied Stanley Fort in the mid-1960s, one handing over to the other before amalgamation.

The present adjutant, Capt Philip Napier, carries on a tradition established over six generations – his father was colonel of the regiment in the 1980s and an earlier forebear, Gen Sir Charles Napier, is said to have sent the famous "peccavi" signal home stating that he had sinned after capturing Sindh in 1843.

Capt Napier arranged an attachment to The Queen's Royal Irish Hussars in Falling-bosel and found himself in the Gulf as a squadron second-in-

command. He was presented with his Gulf Medal by the Prince of Wales in Hong Kong last autumn.

The present commanding officer, Lt Col Peter Davies, was pleased to hear favourable comments on his own regiment when he arrived last September to take command.

The first "true" RRW CO, having joined in 1969 after the amalgamation of the 24th and 41st, he found that the Oriental culture had not rubbed off on all his men.

"Remarkably few single soldiers admitted they had tried Chinese food," he said. "When I asked one what he'd had, he said 'curried chicken and chips from the Naafi!'"

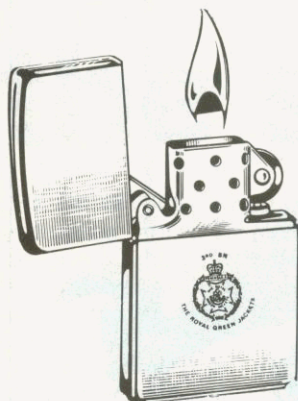


The Prince of Wales, Honorary Colonel of the Royal Regiment of Wales, presents the Gulf medal to the Adjutant, Capt Philip Napier, watched by Lt Col Peter

Davies. In the background is Maj Steve Sharma, former medical officer of the battalion, who returned to Hong Kong from Lisburn to receive his medal

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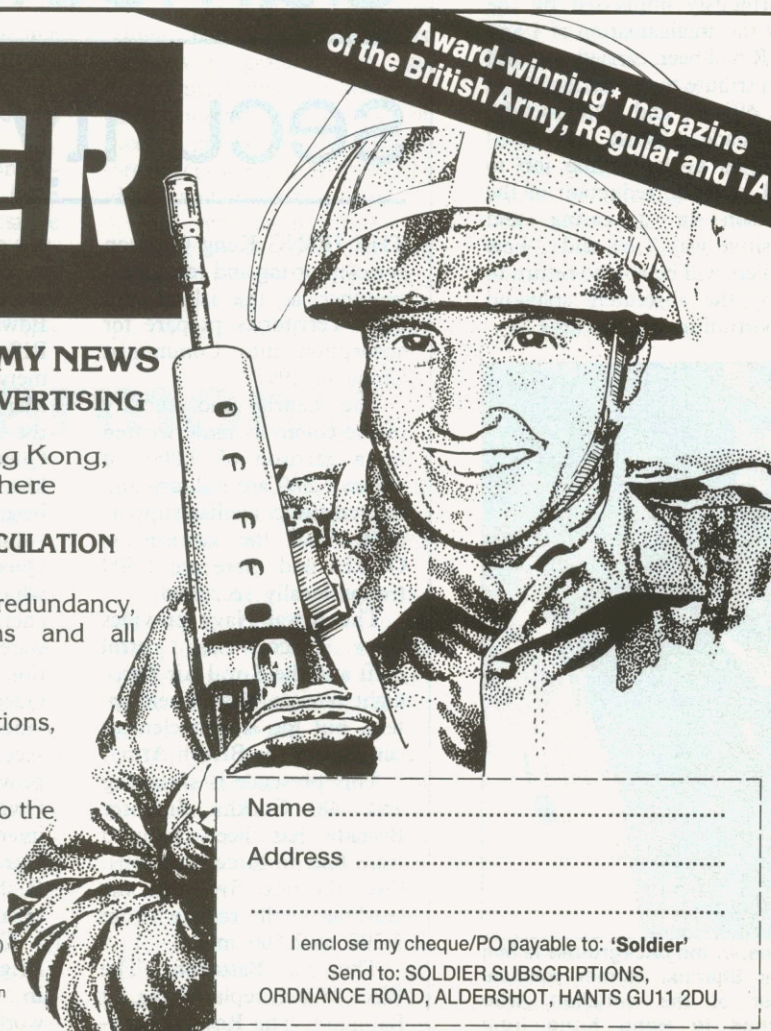
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Expedition members and a Sky Television crew on the banks of the Orinoco

Household Cavalry go up the Orinoco

MEMBERS of The Household Cavalry survived two attempted coups, the attentions of Indian robbers, and an attack by piranhas during an ambitious expedition to the upper reaches of the Orinoco river in the Venezuelan Amazonas.

The 22-man expedition suffered two casualties, Tpr Jason Archdale, who broke his nose while rafting down the Atures Rapids, and LCpl Mark Calder REME, who lost a chunk of flesh from a finger when bitten by a piranha.

Both men were treated by Sgt Shaun Anderson of 23 Para Field Ambulance, although Tpr Archdale had to be flown home because the laceration on his nose would not heal in the jungle heat.

The expedition, led by Maj Christopher Mitford-Slade, spent a month exploring the upper reaches of the Orinoco,



Going with the Orinoco flow – local transport on the river

and was believed to be the first from Europe to climb the north ridge of Cerro Duida.

It also proved a route to the face of Mount Huachamacari and carried out a recce on the Brazo Casiquiare for the Roof of Americas expedition.

The expedition included a week in America and Puerto Rico, a week of mountaineering and diving along the Caribbean coastline of Venezuela, a training week in Puerto

Ayacucho, and a final R and R visit to Angel Falls and Caracas. It took 18 months to plan.

A Sky Television crew filmed team members in training at Puerto Ayacucho and left camera equipment with LCoH John Core to film the remainder of the expedition. The resulting documentary, including some outstanding footage by LCoH Core, was shown on Christmas Day.

Divers mark REME 50

BAD weather plagued an expedition to Belize by REME divers marking the 50th anniversary of their corps.

The 12 Army divers, drawn from units all over the world and led by SSgt Symor Skilbeck from 9/12 L LAD REME at Herford, were joined for the surveying exercise around the Sapodilla Cays by six divers from Coral Cay Conservation.

The REME divers, who paid for their own flights to Belize, carried out sediment sampling after an 11-hour trip in a landing craft.

They were loaned equipment by Hamworthy Compressors and Panasonic UK helped with a video film for the REME 50 commemoration.

Sennelager team hits Malaysian high spot

EIGHT members of 3 Tank Transporter Squadron RCT from Sennelager have climbed Gunung Tahan (7,174ft), Malaysia's highest mountain, after a long journey by canoe and foot through the surrounding jungle.

Driving rain and icy winds greeted the party at their last campsite before reaching the mountain, but the final ascent

provided a tremendous sense of achievement and brilliant views across the cloud-veiled jungle.

The expedition later visited Batu Gajah war cemetery near Ipoh to pay respects to the men of 3 Company RASC, the predecessor of 3 Tk Tpnr Sqn RCT, killed fighting terrorists during the Malaysian emergency, and called at Singapore on the way back to BAOR.



LCpl Wilton, Cpl Williams, 2nd Lt Hirst, Dvr Morris and LCpl Taylor, and (front) Dvr Parr, Sgt Jack and LCpl Booth on the summit of Gunung Tahan, Malaysia's highest mountain



B Company Woofers acted as enemy during Exercise Rock Rose



Cpl David Middlemiss (right) of D (Fire Support) Company gives instruction on Milan to LCpl Alan Willis



Above – LCpl Graham Johnson on foot patrol at Dhekelia

Left – Pte Michael Parr, top of the Junior NCOs' cadre, parades the Regimental Colour through Alexander Barracks



Sgt Gilly Potter runs the Woofers well-stocked PRI shop

Woofers set for Warrior return

ONE OF THE few regiments unaffected by Options for Change, the 1st Battalion, The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters is entering its final year of almost five years' continuous service outside of the United Kingdom.

Almost two years' service as resident battalion in Cyprus has seen the battalion well settled into the patchwork of life making up Episkopi Garrison in the Eastern Sovereign Base Area.

The Woofers have certainly made the best of their posting to the sunny Mediterranean island. Not only have soldiers had a chance to try out every type of sport and adventurous training facility, but according to the battalion's commanding officer, Lt Col Geoff Silk, they have had more opportunities to go on overseas exercises than units based

Words:
Laurie Manton
Pictures:
Terry Champion

in the United Kingdom.

"We have already exercised at platoon and company level in Italy, Berlin and Jordan, and have further training planned in Portugal and Sardinia, as well as a full-scale battalion exercise in Jordan," he said.

Later this year, the Woofers return to the UK. They will be based in Tidworth as part of the

1st Mechanised Brigade and will convert to Warrior.

"As one of only two Warrior battalions in the UK, we will be available for peacekeeping operations such as those in the former Yugoslavia, or anywhere else with the Allied Rapid Reaction Corps," said Col Silk.

Although facilities for sport and adventurous training in Cyprus are extensive, there is a price to pay and 1 WFR have

been tasked with providing internal security for the 120 sq km Eastern Sovereign Base.

Each company spends several weeks as Duties Company, responsible for controlling access to Dhekelia Garrison and dominating the SBA through a combination of foot, mobile and heliborne patrols.

"Key points such as a water desalination plant and an ammunition sub-depot are regularly patrolled and a

quick-reaction force based at Alexander Barracks can set up a vehicle checkpoint within minutes," said battalion operations officer Capt Mark Pugh-Cook. The battalion also provides men for a permanent guard at a Nato listening post in the east of the island.

The Woofers can be supported by a number of agencies, including a troop of armoured cars provided by B Squadron, Queen's Own Hussars, and

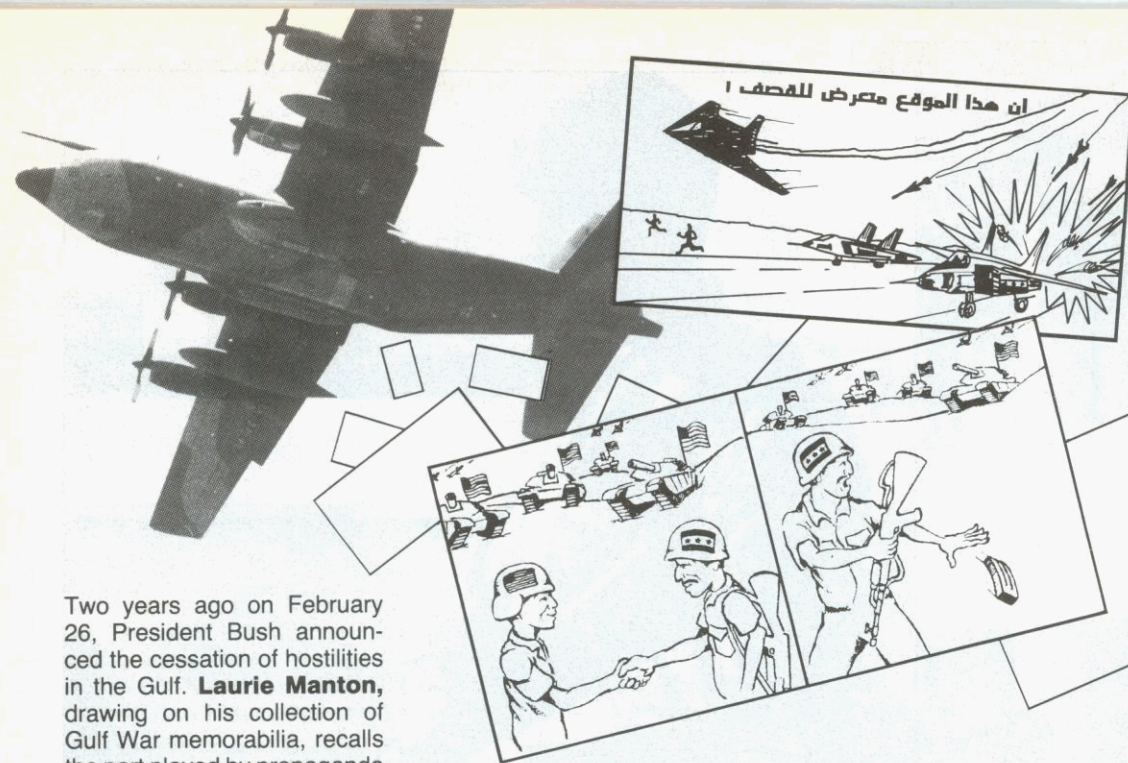
Army Air Corps and Royal Air Force helicopters.

A young soldier with cause to be pleased with himself is Pte Michael Parr. By passing out top of the Junior NCOs' cadre, he earned the privilege of marching around the barracks carrying the Regimental Colour.

The battalion has achieved a reputation for marksmanship that must be the envy of the Infantry. It has won the annual

Tickle shooting competition, open to every battalion in the British Army, for the past seven years.

Now the soldiers of the 1st Battalion, The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters are looking forward to their return to England. With the prospect of converting to Warrior and being part of Britain's contribution to Nato's Rapid Reaction Corps, their future looks both secure and challenging.



Two years ago on February 26, President Bush announced the cessation of hostilities in the Gulf. Laurie Manton, drawing on his collection of Gulf War memorabilia, recalls the part played by propaganda and psychological warfare during Operation Desert Storm

ON THE first evening of the Second World War, RAF bombers carpeted the Ruhr, Bremen and Hamburg with more than five million propaganda leaflets in the hope that the British pen might prove mightier than the German war machine.

During the 1939-45 war, printed propaganda ranged from broadsheet newspapers to tin-square 20-page booklets, and oak leaf shapes which informed the German population that their soldiers were falling like autumn leaves and would soon be lying under the winter snows.

On D-Day the Allies dropped an estimated 27m leaflets an hour over the Normandy coastline.

The psychological and military impact of the medium was refined during the Korean War, and in a "hearts and minds" aerial campaign in Vietnam the United States Air Force dropped 10,000 million leaflets.

Air-dropped information – or misinformation – is often the only way of reaching enemy soldiers in the front line. The tactic can be directed at an individual unit or formation.

Some leaflets seek to undermine morale, imply rifts between allies, or seek to stir up religious and political differences. Others urge the finder to surrender as his only means of self-preservation.

This was especially true in the Gulf War, during which psychological operations (PSYOPs) using such leaflets were very effective in convinc-

ing Iraqi soldiers to cease resistance.

According to Col Layton G Dunbar, Special Forces, who led the United States 4th Psychological Operations Group (Airborne): "PSYOPs do not win wars alone: they are a force multiplier – one which saves lives, and in Operation Desert Storm, PSYOPs was successful in doing that."

PSYOP teams in support of Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm began their psychological preparation of the battlefield in earnest in December 1991. Radio, leaflet and loudspeaker operations continuing non-stop throughout the air and ground war phases of the conflict.

A PSYOP radio network, "Voice of the Gulf", broadcast from January 19 until the end of the war. The station was the most reliable source of war news available to the Iraqi soldier throughout Desert Storm.

Sixty-six PSYOP loudspeaker teams provided tactical support for every major ground unit, persuading and instructing thousands of enemy soldiers to surrender.

On many occasions they saved lives on both sides by talking Iraqis into surrender before Coalition troops attacked their positions. An entire battalion surrendered to a US 1st Cavalry helicopter patrol when the attached PSYOP team broadcast that "death from above" was imminent.

Leaflets were dropped mainly from the air by Hercules, strike aircraft and B52 bombers.

"Leaflets had a significant impact on soldiers deserting,"

Blitzed by a desert storm of propaganda



said an Iraqi general.

A catalogue of aerial propaganda leaflets used in the Gulf, published by the Psywar Society, lists 80 different leaflets used by the Allies. They include warning messages to citizens of Baghdad and Basra, inviting them to leave before targets in the cities were bombed. Others warned Iraqi divisions of impending air raids, and were followed up by a "we told you so!" variant.

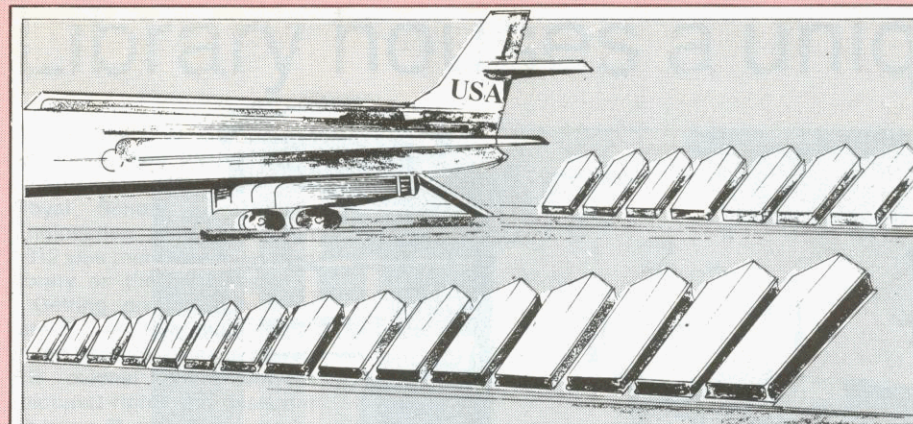
Many of the leaflets doubled as safe conduct passes for deserting Iraqis. Printed instructions told them to carry their weapons on the left shoulder with the barrels facing

downwards. The soldiers were to raise their arms and hold the passes above their heads when approaching Coalition positions.

The Iraqis produced their own propaganda leaflets, but such was Allied supremacy that Iraqi jets were barely able to get airborne in the war zone.

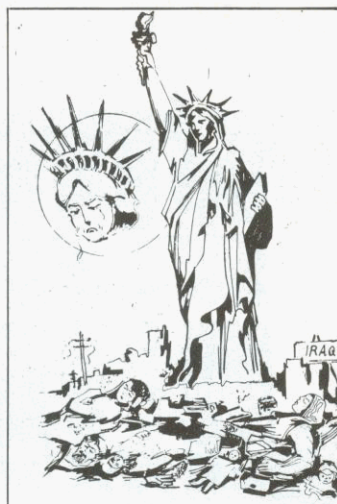
One Iraqi leaflet depicts an American aircraft surrounded by coffins, another a Kuwaiti leader and two girls living it up in an international hotel in Saudi Arabia. Is he worth fighting for, is the sting in the tail.

Another leaflet exhorted its

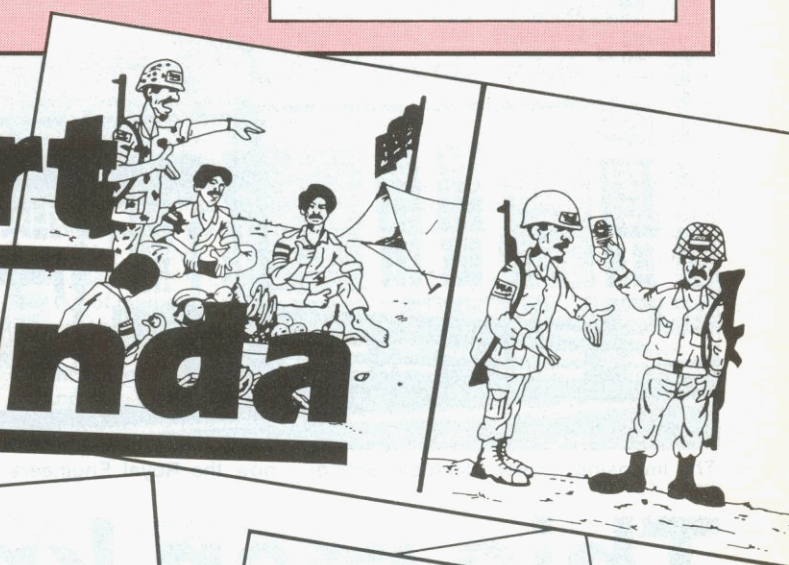


DEAR SOLDIERS :
YOUR COMMANDERS HAVE SAID THAT THE WAR WILL TAKE FEW DAYS WERE THEY CORRECT ? AND CONVINCED YOU THAT LOSSES WILL BE MINIMUM IN THE GROUND COMBAT, WE ASSURE THAT THEY WON'T BE CORRECT

Two examples of Iraqi propaganda leaflets found abandoned in Kuwait after the Gulf War in 1991. Allied air supremacy meant that the Iraqi air force were not able to get airborne to drop them on Coalition troops



LIBERTY STADIUM CRIES FOR HELP BECAUSE OF YOUR AGGRESSION AND KILLING CIVILIANS, INNOCENT KIDS, MOTHERS AND OLDS.



own soldiers: "You have become the object of the world's amazement and appreciation while you defend glorious Iraq."

Perhaps the strangest PSYOPs assault took effect a day before the January 15 deadline for Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait.

An account of the work of the 4th Psychological Opera-

tions Group records that, three weeks previously in an operation called Wave, 12,000 bottles were cast afloat on the waters of the Gulf.

The idea was simple – to reinforce the Iraqi fear of an amphibious invasion by sending them little pictures of Marines assaulting the beaches. The bottles began bobbing up on the beaches of Kuwait on January 14.

اوقف القتال الان، حافظ على حياتك
من المجاع، يجب من حامله التقييد بالخطوات التالية:
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1. Remove the magazine from your weapon.
2. Sling your weapon over your left shoulder, muzzle down.
3. Have both arms raised above your head.
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5. If you do this, you will not die.



The imposing former Electrical School – now the Royal Engineers Museum

This man knows his sappers from A to Z!

GERALD NAPIER is a man who can truthfully claim to know the history of the sappers from A to Z.

Or to be more precise, if not chronological, everything from the Albert Hall to Zulus...

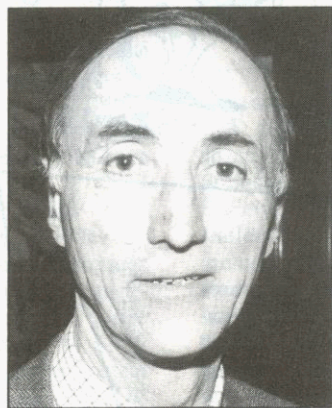
As director of the Royal Engineers Museum at Gillingham, Kent, this knowledgeable retired colonel will point out that the famous circular edifice in Kensington was designed and built, not by a commercial company, but under the supervision of sappers.

And he confesses to finding it "extraordinarily chilling" to have on display a bullet taken from the body of a lieutenant colonel killed at Rorke's Drift.

Just two items gleaned from SOLDIER's visit to the

museum, whose 30,000 exhibits include Wellington's blood-stained map, drawn up by the sappers at Waterloo, 19th century treasures brought back from China, India and Abyssinia – and a full-size Harrier jet.

"The icing on the cake is the quality of our collection," said Col Napier, as he walked past a display which features realistic sound effects of tunnelling and howling wind,



Col (Retd) Gerald Napier, director of the Royal Engineers Museum

the Royal Engineers' involvement in, say, defence weapons, counter-insurgency operations and Nato support."

depicting the methods used by soldier artificers in building the galleries still very much in evidence in Gibraltar.

"We cover only up to the end of the Second World War at the moment, but we intend to bring the exhibits up to date by showing examples of

Formerly housed in an old chapel, "far too small, and with no public access", the museum moved in 1986 into the imposing building once occupied by the sappers' Electrical School.

An ambitious expansion plan, involving provision of additional interactive displays, better graphics and lighting, an education centre, a rooftop display area and refreshment facilities, is gradually getting under way.

In the meantime, Col Napier said, after a whistle-stop tour of



All smiles in *The Sapper* magazine office: (back row) Doreen Ginn, who produces the *RE Supplement* and Juliet Scanlan, assistant secretary to The Institution of Royal Engineers – which provides the funding for *The Sapper* magazine; (front) Claire Cunningham, responsible for the *RE List* and *The Sapper's* assistant editor, Viv Bye

exhibits covering the corps' involvement in French, Peninsular, Crimean (including a replica of a pre-fabricated hut

New-look for RE magazine

READERS of the Royal Engineers' bi-monthly magazine, *The Sapper*, may well have noticed the odd change of late. Apart from the appointment of a new editor, former RE colonel Robbie Reive, last June, the publication – along with the annual *RE List* and quarterly *RE Journal* – is now being prepared by means of desk-top publishing.

In simple terms, this means that page layout is designed on screen in the editorial office at RHQ RE in Chatham, courtesy of three new computers purchased by The Institution of Royal Engineers.

"It has cut down our printing bill considerably," said assistant editor Viv Bye.

Articles for the magazine are submitted by sappers serving throughout the world, and there is never any shortage of material, Col Reive said.

Next target for *The Sapper*? Well, it just happens to be its centenary year in 1994...

shipped out and assembled by the sappers) and China wars, it was of the utmost importance that one always had

something new on offer. Only recently, a commercial company which had been using a Mulberry berth since the end

of the war had asked if the museum wanted it.

"It really ought to be preserved. After all, it is part of the greatest military invasion in history, the invasion of Normandy," said Col Napier. "But just how to go about it could be a problem..."

The First World War display, with trenches and bunker, had prompted com-

Library houses a unique archive

One of the first stipulations which Charles Pasley made when he established the Royal School of Military Engineering in Chatham in 1812 was that there must be a library on the premises.

Getting on for 200 years later it is still very much there, in the capable hands of retired RE colonel John Nowers (pictured right) and assistant librarian Maggie Magnuson.

Paid for by serving Royal Engineers officers, the library has been housed since 1952 in what was the lecture theatre of the sappers' instruction building.

On its shelves publications can be found on anything from archaeology to religion.

But would-be browsers will not find a fiction section.

"These days we are very much more of an archive," said Col Nowers, "covering the history of military engineering in general and of the Royal Engineers in particular."

The collection is constantly growing, with material being purchased throughout the year, although a great deal is contributed.

Thanks to someone who didn't throw them away, Col Nowers said, the library has, for example, the war diaries of all First World War RE units –



even where the consecutive entries for two days read something along the lines of "Raining. In France. Don't know where" and "Still raining. Still in France. Still don't know where..."

Sports records are also meticulously preserved. Among them are those for RE football dating back to 1867 –

including accounts of sapper victories in the FA Cup.

Despite being a private possession of the corps, paid for out of members' funds, the library takes pride in the great interest shown in it by members of the public.

And yes, rubbing shoulders with *The Principles of Strategy* (1891), *The History of*

Malta (1804) and *The Trigonometrical Survey of India* there are bound copies of *SOLDIER* to be found, too.

● The Royal Engineers Corps Library is open between 0900-1230 hours and 1330-1700 hours on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays throughout the year except for public holidays.

ments from Col Napier's "hottest critic – a 94-year-old veteran of Passchendaele" – that he had not quite got it right.

"I had to explain that we are not trying to replicate everything precisely; we have to use settings to show other things.

"One cannot do more than just hint at the various periods in the galleries. Every item has a whole story behind it: the great problem is to get across to people how fascinating it all is."

Col Napier admits he has a more immediate poser – lack of space and funding.

"The Army museums are in a fight for survival but perversely, because of amalgamations and cuts, we are getting more and more to look after – from Christmas cards sent during the Korean War to much larger items.

"Our 30,000 exhibits are rapidly becoming more like 40,000."

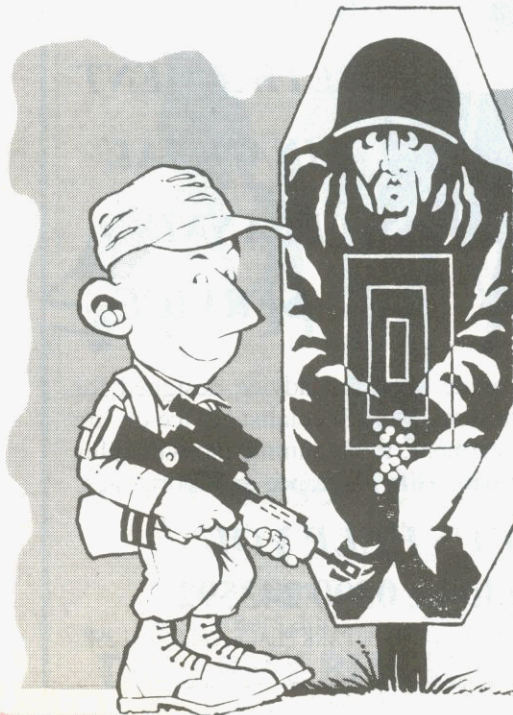
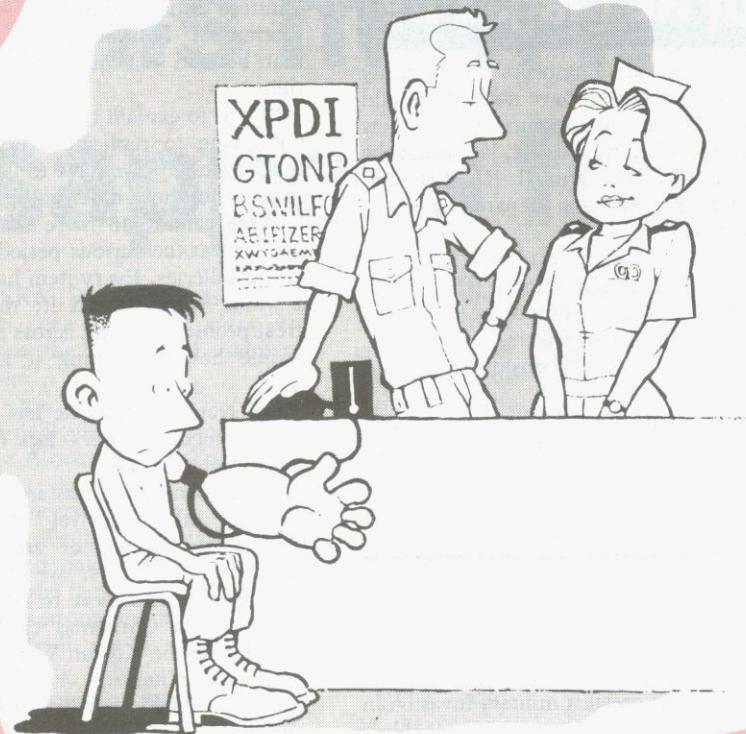
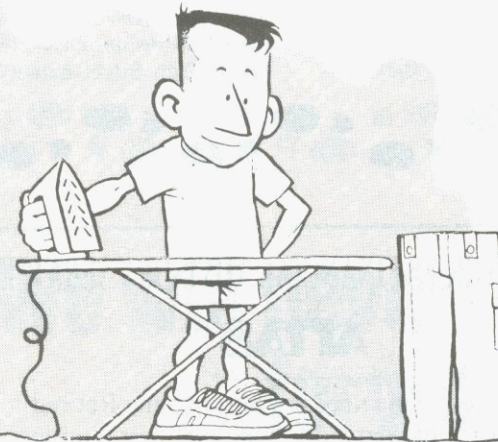
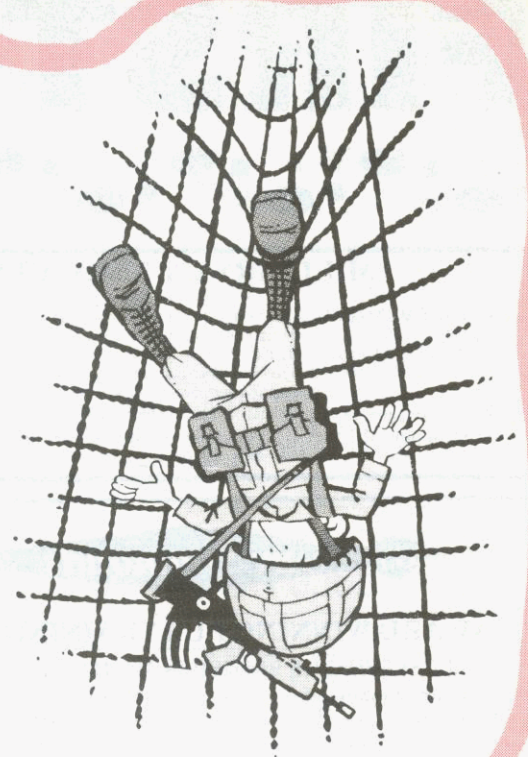
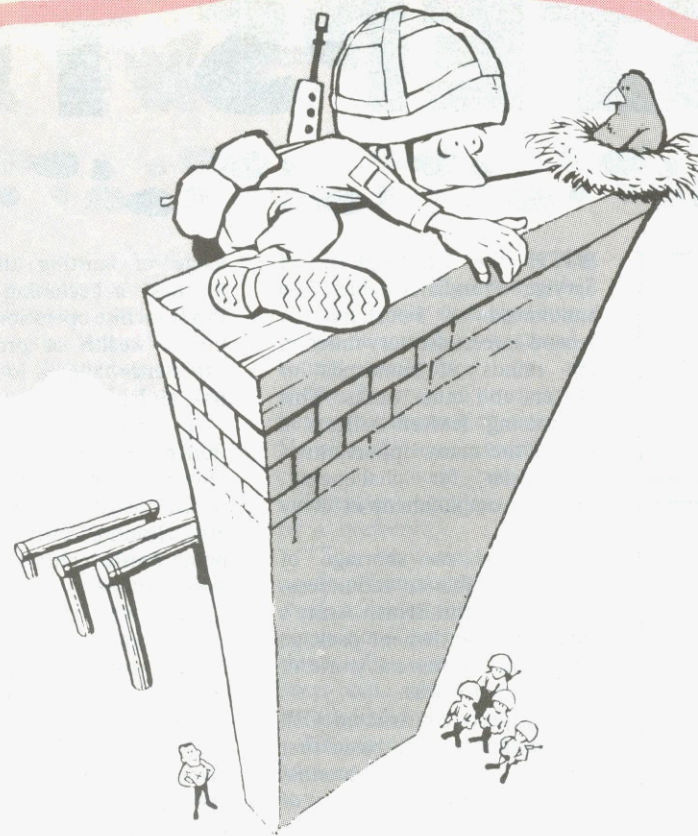
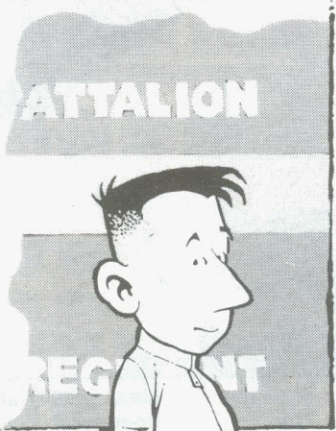
In the meantime, anyone want to buy a Harrier?

Words: Phil Wilcox
Pictures: Terry Champion

Tom



looks at BASIC TRAINING



by
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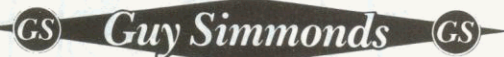
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WITH the latest phase of Service redundancies due to be announced on February 25, second careers are very much in the minds of hundreds of officers and other ranks. This advertising feature reflects a few of the many opportunities that exist for challenging, fulfilling employment in civvy street.

There is no shortage of advice available to redundees, both within the British Army's extensive resettlement package and in the commercial world of placement services.

A properly-constructed CV, for example, is the basic first step to claiming a potential employer's attention. Many of the agencies which offer this service are run by people with personal experience of the Armed Forces.

Those who seek the chal-

lenge of starting their own business or becoming involved in a franchise operation may tap into a wealth of professional experience tailored to reducing risk and highlighting pitfalls.

A major attraction of franchising is its success rate in sectors as diverse as catering, retail, distribution and delivery, cleaning, quick printing, home improvements and business services.

Despite the recession, 85 per cent of franchises were said to be successful last year, significantly more than any other business.

One way to find out more about the field is to visit the Spring National Franchise Exhibition at Olympia, London, from March 26 to 28. Representatives from more than 100 businesses, including many High Street names, will

be present, and it will be possible to get free advice from banks, lawyers and other specialist consultants.

The first 20 readers to call the Franchise Hotline on 081-742 2828 will be given free tickets to the exhibition. Tickets on the door will cost £10.

A few hundred pounds spent in taking expert advice now could prevent mistakes costing many thousands of pounds later, cautions Colin Taylor of Guy Simmonds, the business transfer agents.

Of the licensed trade, he says that despite the recession and the attentions of the Monopolies Commission, the right man in the right pub can still make a very good living.

"However, there are many failures, most of which can be attributed to being ill-prepared

for the trade and not knowing how to select the right pub."

Colin Taylor strongly advises would-be publicans to attend a course recognised by the British Institute of Innkeeping before committing themselves. He also advises Servicemen to choose a course run by an independent company and not by a brewery.

"The breweries and pub-owning companies have hundreds of leases and tenancies to dispose of," he says. "Many of these pubs are not viable at the rents being asked, but they are hardly likely to tell you that!"

His agency is offering free advice to Service personnel on any aspect of the licensed trade.

Pubmaster Limited is the United Kingdom's largest independent pub retailing company with more than 2,000

● Turn to next page

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FIRST STEPS TO A NEW CAREER

● From Page 29

pubs nationwide. It is not tied to any one brewery and offers negotiable rents and expert help from regional managers. Pubmaster advises that anyone wanting to make a fresh start by running a traditional pub in England or Wales will need "upwards of £6,000" to get started.

You will probably be attracted to any career, job or business opportunity because it is something you anticipate you will **enjoy** doing. This is one of the main reasons pubs are popular with ex-Service personnel.

Setting up a business of your own is not something to be treated lightly. It is vital to establish at the outset how much money you have to invest in the project, and by what means it will be raised.

Are you capable of running your own business? Many

services require a sound working knowledge rather than formal skills or paper qualifications, although a good understanding of business and accounting procedures would be a positive step to efficiency and profitability.

Sub post offices and confectionery/tobacconist/newsagents have also survived the recession and are much sought-after.

A business report and valuation to confirm that the business is capable of sustaining repayments on a proposed loan will be commissioned by any lending source.

Independent surveys and valuations will give further peace of mind that you are not about to be confronted by unexpected structural repairs.

If you are buying a business, stay on good terms with the outgoing owner! It can save a lot of hassle. All transactions have a negative side, and

buying a business is no exception. But provided you have chosen both property and advisers wisely, you will find that being your own boss can be very rewarding.

The Armed Forces Financial Advisory Services (AFFAS), a division of Willis Corroon Financial Planning Limited, already offers a wide range of individual financial and insurance advice to Servicemen and women all over the world. If you haven't already seen one, make sure you get an AFFAS starter pack available from pay and welfare offices.

Don't forget, whatever path you choose for a second career, specialist advice is absolutely essential before you invest large sums of money.

Defence-related industries have always relied heavily on personnel with experience of the Armed Forces – as consultants, in the boardroom,

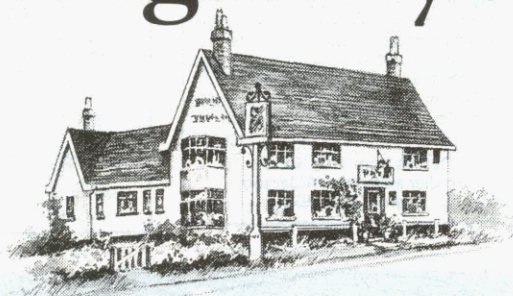
as product managers and on the shop floor.

One aspect of resettlement always worth investing in is training. Merrist Wood College near Guildford has been carrying out resettlement programmes for years, and has helped many Army personnel to retrain for second careers in civvy street.

Current students include a redundant corporal from the Life Guards on a one-year landscape construction course. In fact, a member of the Merrist Wood lecturing staff was once a corporal of horse in the Blues and Royals.

● **SOLDIER** magazine is planning future resettlement features of this nature. Would those interested in advertising please contact Lindsey Champion on 0252 347352.

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War Pensions Directorate

Providing a better service

IN JUNE last year the National Audit Office revealed in a report on the quality of service provided for war pensioners that a backlog of 100,000 cases required urgent attention.

Seven months later, in December 1992, a Parliamentary Select Committee was told that the backlog of war pensions had been cut to 70,000, but the department was unable to proceed further until the MoD had "done its bit".

This, they had been assured by the MoD, would be completed by April 1, 1993.

Lord Henley, the minister in the Department of Social Security with special responsibility for war pensions, told me that services to the DSS's customers were delivered mainly by executive agencies freed from central bureaucracy constraints in order to be more efficient and flexible.

Soon to become just such an agency is the War Pensions Directorate at

Norcross, Blackpool, which the Director of War Pensions, Mrs Pam Rogers, is determined to streamline to provide a high quality service.

Her team is responsible for assessing war disablement pensions and war widows' pensions, paying pensions to ranks other than officers (who are paid by the Paymaster General's Office), and providing a welfare service for war pensioners and widows.

It is expected that agency status will be achieved by April 1994. At present the directorate is part of the Benefits Agency, the operations arm of the DSS.

On entitlement to war pensions, Lord Henley said: "You do not have to have served during war-time to get a war pension."

You may qualify if you were:

- Injured or disabled because of service in HM Armed Forces between 1914 and 1921, or at any time after September 2, 1939;

- A civilian or civil defence worker and were disabled as a result of the 1939-45 war;

- A merchant seaman and were disabled as a result of wound or disease received during time of war, or due to the effects of detention by the enemy.

Also eligible are widows, widowers and dependent relatives of someone who died as a result of war injury or disability.

Pensions for disablement or death caused by service in HM Armed Forces between October 1, 1921 and September 2, 1939 are the responsibility of the MoD.

Lord Henley said the War Pensions Directorate had responded to the



Christine Simpson and Mike Cooke process an inquiry in the War Pensions Helpline office at Norcross, Blackpool

principles of the Citizens' Charter, both in spirit and deed.

"They have issued a helpful leaflet – the title *Working For You* – says it all – to all war pensioners and new claimants, set up a telephone helpline and, through the War Pensioners' Welfare Service, taken their service out into the community by way of public 'surgeries'.

"And, despite a huge and sustained rise in the number of new claims for a war pensions – enough to fill Wembley Stadium with

another 50,000 outside – they have made significant improvements in the time taken to clear cases.

"In my ministerial role I have met many war pensioners and representatives of their organisations and I have been delighted to hear that they too can see the improvements I have referred to," said Lord Henley.

"I have also met many of the War Pensions Directorate staff and I know they are absolutely committed to providing the best service they can."

'Eff no' – so ditch the fly!

THE LATEST newsletter from the Service Dependents' Section at Smedley Hydro, Southport, contains an interpretation of office jargon, which should clear up a few mysteries at unit level.

Notes written against the NHS number on medical record envelopes are explained thus:

- "Fly" (or formerly) – means the number is no longer used, a new one having been allocated at some stage;

- "eff regn" (effective registration) – means two numbers have been incorrectly given to this patient. The number with "eff regn" against it is the one to use;

- "eff no" (effective number) – means much the same as "eff regn".

The section receives 50,000 envelopes a year from Service units, and appreciates anything that can be done to make life easier for those who open the post. It would help greatly if F MED 249s could be wrapped around bundles of records with the details facing **outwards**.

It saves unwrapping and re-wrapping, and would be a massive time-saver if applied to all 50,000 incoming envelopes.



Thanks to BT's free satellite telephone lines over the Christmas and New Year period Mrs Denise Metcalfe, with baby Christopher (11 months), was able to speak to husband Cpl Chris Metcalfe, serving with 1 Cheshire in Bosnia

Picture: Mike Weston

Meet the cast of CAST

A CAST of seven ... From left to right are Pearl Orr, Jackie Hoddinott, Myra Arnot, Ruth Rixon, Marilyn Liptrot (seated), Karen Wright and Joy Stuart.

They make up the Community Activities Support Team at HQ BAOR, from where they support 47 HIVEs (Help Information Voluntary Exchange) and 18 Home-Starts throughout Germany, Holland and Belgium, and RAF Decimomannu in Sardinia.

Based at Joint Headquarters Rheindahlen and directly funded by the MoD, CAST BFG is part of the G1 HQ BAOR and HQ RAFG admin branches.

Staff members regularly visit all the HIVEs in their domain (including nine on RAF stations), and organise and run co-ordinators' training courses and



study days. Close links are maintained with other agencies such as SSAFA, FAW, Relate and the RAFG Wives' Association.

To help HIVE co-ordinators, CAST BFG has an extensive reference library which

draws up-to-date information from sources such as the Citizens Advice Bureaux, DSS and housing agencies. The library also produces regular newsletters and fact sheets for its HIVEs.

If you need more

information about CAST BFG and the service it offers, ring any member of the team on JHQ (Mil) 23218 or 22029 (Civil 02161-4723218/4722029) or write to CAST BFG, c/o G1 Division, HQ BAOR, BFPO 140.

Mums' rights cause dilemma in Services

A PREGNANT Servicewoman who qualifies for maternity leave and who wishes to return to duty after confinement will be allowed 98 days' paid leave plus unpaid leave up to maximum of 48 weeks.

This instruction completed a process which started more than 30 years ago when all Servicewomen had to leave on marriage. Then a concession was made to allow married Servicewomen to remain in the service.

However, on becoming pregnant, the majority were discharged at the three to four months point but once the child was born there was no chance of continuing their service career. Between 3,000 and 4,000 Servicewomen left.

A recent court case victory has now enabled these women to claim compensation for unfair dismissal.

So Servicewomen can

now marry, have children and stay in providing they can fulfil their contract of being available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year, for deployment anywhere in UK or overseas, with, quite rightly, no concessions.

Why should single people, for example, have to take a posting just to enable a married Service couple to stay together, or do a duty because of others' sick children?

Since the ratio of married Service persons to singles is now increasing, postings could well become more difficult. Secondly, husband and wife have to ensure that supervision of the child or children is adequate enough to enable both Service parents to carry out their contracted commitments.

So Servicewomen can

Changing times and the recent instructions on the main provision of the maternity leave scheme do not differentiate between married and single Servicewomen who have children. The problems arise when the single Servicewoman does not marry the father.

There are a number of such cases now in the Services. All rules and regulations refer to married, separated, divorced or widowed when it comes to the right to married quarters and allowances.

This leaves the children as "non persons". If a Servicewoman has responsibility for the child, she is still classed as a single person and therefore has no entitlements.

An increasing number of women in the Forces, for various reasons, are decid-

ing to stay single – and arrange adequate child care such as a live-in nanny.

The question being asked by such Servicewomen able to fulfil their contracts in every way, is: "Can I apply for a married quarter and be eligible, for example, for Boarding School Allowance?"

The Ministry of Defence is looking into these cases. Whatever it decides will offend some and please others.

It has taken more than 30 years for married Servicewomen to be accepted. This recent development concerning their rights, providing they fulfil their contract, is causing a dilemma within Service circles.

Maternity leave details can be found in Director Staff and Personnel Support Branch Instruction 12/92 Annex A to DSPSI 246/3 18 Dec 1992.

Tyrwhitt House expands

AN EXTENSION and extra ground-floor rooms due to be completed at Combat Stress's Tyrwhitt House in Leatherhead will enable more disabled ex-Service personnel to use this excellent facility.

Tyrwhitt House is one of two homes – the other is Hollybush in Scotland – open all year round to provide up to one month of respite care for former Servicemen and women. There is also a residential home, Kingswood Grange, Surrey.

A surprise Christmas cake provided by the new Light Dragoons at Hohné delighted Army, Royal Navy and Royal Air Force guests staying at Tyrwhitt House over the holiday period. Other regiments and units may wish to become involved with the homes next Christmas.

Details of Combat Stress's work and its need for funds can be obtained from Combat Stress, Broadway House, The Broadway, Wimbledon, Surrey.

BSA claims

THERE may be an entitlement to compensation for Service personnel who have had reduced local education authority grants because they are in receipt of Boarding School Allowance.

But the MoD requires documentary evidence from the LEA in question before processing a claim.

To avoid delay, those wishing to claim should send a certificate, available from all units, from their LEA for signature.

PPA leaflets

CALLING all BAOR-based parents of children aged under five. A useful Pre-School Playgroups Association leaflet entitled *Welcome to all Armed Forces Families and Families To Be* is available from Services Liaison Officer Jenny Harfield at the PPA National Centre, 61-63 King's Cross Road, London WC1X 9LL (tel: 071-833 0991).

IF YOU think you may be entitled to a war pension, or simply seek general advice, contact the War Pension Helpline Service on 0253 858858 (Monday to Friday), or write to the War Pensions Directorate, Norcross, Blackpool, Lancs FY5 3TA.

The Helpline went "live" on January 2 last year and supervisor Cathryn Pammenter's staff are now fielding up to 1,000 calls a week.

Hearing problems account for the majority of pensions.

Home service

IT IS NOT only in time of war or international tension that the people of Britain have cause to thank their Servicemen and women.

A recent reply by Armed Forces Minister Archie Hamilton in the House of Commons provided a timely reminder of the extent to which the Armed Forces have assisted "at home".

Asked to list the occasions since 1962 on which Service personnel have been used in response to civil emergencies, Mr Hamilton responded with 44 instances of military assistance during industrial disputes.

They range from the dock strike of July 1970, when 34,000 troops were placed on standby, to the ambulance strike during the winter of 1989-90 when more than 1,200 personnel were deployed nationwide with crew Service ambulances.

Other major deployments included the fire brigade strike of November 1977 to January 1978, involving 20,750 Servicemen and more than 1,000 Green Goddesses, and the oil tanker drivers' dispute a month later, when 15,000 troops were put on standby.

The last time soldiers reported for special duties during an industrial dispute was in the summer of 1989 when sappers laid trackway in London's parks during a BR and London Transport strike.

Some 43,500 Service and civilian personnel and their dependants are entitled to be beneficiaries of the Gulf Trust fund, Mr Hamilton has told the Commons in a written answer.

"Those who have already received assistance from the fund may require further financial help and stress and trauma-related cases may not emerge for a number of years," he added.

SOLDIER to Soldier

Malaysia pilgrimage

FORMER Royal Greenjacket Peter Dawson has heard from ten regiments and old comrades' associations in response to his appeal for plaques to be placed in

Chess on Services' agenda

WITH British enthusiasm for chess at an all-time high following Nigel Short's spectacular success, it is worth recording that the Army Chess Association, open to all serving and no-longer-serving personnel, is represented all over the world, from BAOR to Belize, and from Hong Kong to the Falklands.

Details of membership, and of two forthcoming events - the Combined Services championships at HMS Sultan, Gosport, Hants on March 18-22, and the Thompson's Army championships at the Army School of Education, Beaconsfield on April 9-12 - can be obtained from Capt P G Rutherford RCT, Secretary ACA, 3 Close Support Regiment, Dalton Barracks, Abingdon, Oxon OX13 6JB.

the church at Batu Gajah, Malaysia.

Nearly 100,000 British Service personnel were involved in the Malayan emergency of 1948-60, and 466 lost their lives. Each year on or about June 16, a commemorative service is held in the Batu Gajah Christian Cemetery ("God's Little Acre") to pay homage to those who paid the supreme sacrifice during the Second World War, the Malayan emergency and the Borneo and Indonesian confrontations.

Peter's appeal resulted in plaques from KOSB, 15/19 H, RWF, R Signals, SAS, the West Kents, Inniskilling Fusiliers, Lincolnshire and Loyal Regiments, and the Association of Jewish Ex-Servicemen and Women.

Incidentally, anyone wanting to join Peter Dawson on a 21-day pilgrimage to Singapore, Malacca Ipoh, Kuala Lumpur, Cameron Highlands and Penang, leaving on June 6, should send an 8x4in stamped addressed envelope to 9 Park Avenue East, Keyworth, Notts NG12 5JZ.

Wargamers in print

DISPATCHES from the front, in the form of *The Private*, the British board wargaming newsletter, are now available in BAOR and the United Kingdom at the same price, £1 an issue.

The 20-page publication, which contains a range of game news and reviews, appears every two months and can be obtained from editors Alan McClenahan or Duncan Maclean, c/o 122A Central Road, Worcester Park, Surrey KT4 8HT.

When image is everything

BRITISH officers armed with both pistol and SA 80 rifle are not an unusual sight in many Operational Grapple locations. The reason, according to one major at Vitez, is that the type and number of weapons carried by an individual is an indication of status in the warrior culture of a strongly macho society.

So an officer draped with small arms atop a Warrior with general purpose machinegun and 30mm Rarden cannon is obviously someone to respect.

Harold remembers

FOR THE past 18 years the Army Benevolent Fund has received an annual donation of £1,000 from the Harold Bridges Foundation. A



Peter Dawson and the regimental plaques which he will place in a church at Batu Gajah in Malaysia

APPOINTMENTS

Brigadiers - D J Innes - To be Comd HQ Bulford Area, Jan 25; A D Thompson - To be Comd ETS UKLF, Jan 28; M J Strudwick - To MoD, Feb 2.

Colonels - D J Lowe - To MoD, Jan 25; E G Mercer - To HQ UKLF, Jan 25; N D Ross - To MoD, Jan 25; N H G Beard - To Staff Coll, Feb 1; R P D Brook - To be Comd CTC, Feb 10; D H Hills - To HQ ARRC, Feb 1; N G Quarrelle - To HQ ARRC, Feb 1.

Lt Cols - S C Court RE - To be CO HQ RSME, Jan 25; K J Hadfield, R Signals - To SHAPE Staff (BAE), Jan 25; J H O'Hare RAOC - To be CO 9 Ord Bn, Jan 25; I A M Ross RE (Svy) - To 42 Svy Eng Gp, Jan 25; M K Stretch, R Signals - To be CO 34(N) Sig Regt, Jan 26; I C MacFarlane RCT - To UK Mil Rep Staff

new book could add considerably to that figure.

Harold, 92, served in the Army for just two years between 1918 and 1920. A year later he was unemployed (with no dole), but by 1955 he was employing about 340 men in his Lancashire road transport business.

He attributes this turn-round in his fortunes to an RAMC captain at Fulwood Barracks, Preston, in 1921 - and tells the story in his autobiography, *As I Remember*.

Harold has pledged that each

Brussels, Jan 30; M A D Donnithorne-Tait, Scots DG - To BDS Washington, Feb 5; R A Dudin RE - To HQ UKLF, Feb 1; J K Marsham LI - To MoD, Feb 1; M S Norbury RE - To HQ UKLF, Feb 1; G T Robey, Green Howards - To HQ Multinat Div (BAE), Feb 1; J R Wallace RCT - To be CO 3 Armd Div Tpt Regt, Feb 5; D M H Wright REME - To MoD, Feb 2; P W Clarke RE - To MoD, Feb 1; N A Clissitt RA - To Staff Coll, Feb 1; N R Drayton REME - To MoD, Feb 1; H A R Hancock, R Signals - To MoD, Feb 1; J P Riley RWF - To Staff Coll, Feb 1; N T S Williams REME - To Staff Coll, Feb 1.

Retirements

Colonels - J Cater, late RA, Feb 4; R A S White, late Int Corps, Feb 7.

sale of the book will result in up to £2.50 being donated by his foundation to the Army Benevolent Fund as long as the purchaser indicates clearly that he or she wishes the fund to benefit from the transaction.

Orders for one or more copies at £10 each (free delivery in the UK) should be addressed to Harold Bridges, AIR 90, Lunsdale, Burrow, Via Carnforth, Lancs LA6 2RJ. Cheques should be made out to Harold Bridges AIR 90 and crossed A/C payee only.

REUNIONS

● **121 Company (AGRA) RASC, BAOR 1955-58:** Members of 121 Coy (Paderborn/Dusseldorf) are trying to arrange a reunion in the UK in mid-1993. Don Hodges, 43 Mulberry Close, Swindon, Wilts SN2 1HU and David Watts, 1 Merlewood, Harmans Water, Bracknell, Berks RG12 3PA would be pleased to learn the present whereabouts of former members of the unit.

● **656 Air Op Sqn RAF/AAC:** Golden Jubilee reunion celebration planned for March 26-27 at Netheravon. For details contact H C (Nobby) Clark, 1 Marlborough

Buildings, Bow Street, Langport, Somerset TA10 9PR (tel: 0458 250009).

● **Christmas Island:** The annual Christmas Island reunion lunch for officers of all three Services who served on Christmas Island with Task Force Grapple will be held at the RAF Club, Piccadilly, on March 27. Details from Mr Brockett, Hon Secretary, Phyllis Court Club, Marlow Road, Henley-on-Thames RG9 2HT.

● **150 Regt RHA/South Notts Hussars OCA:** Annual reunion dinner will take place at the

Strathdon Hotel, Derby Road, Nottingham on April 3. Details from D W Parker on 0602 875790.

● **RAOC/REME Middle Easters Association:** Reunion luncheon at The Oval Banqueting Suite, Kennington on April 3 to include ex-COPO(ME) members. Tickets (£13) and details from Charles Baxter, 129 Benhill Road, Camberwell, London SE5 7LZ (tel: 071-703 5365). Please send sae.

● **138th (City of London) Field Regiment RA Association:** Reunion on April 26 at Victory Services Club, London. Details from Frank Flack, 22 Camborne Way, Hounslow TW5 0PW (tel: 081-750 5267). News from ex-members welcomed.

● **659 Squadron AAC:** 50th annual reunion, weekend April 30-May 1, at Detmold, Germany. All serving and ex-members welcome. Details from Capt Pidgeon on Germany (01049) 5231 747 489.

● **RAMC/RADC WOs' and Sgts' Past and Present Dinner Club:** The 1993 annual dinner and reunion is to be held on May 8 at the RAMC Trg Gp and RHQ RAMC, Keogh Barracks, Ash Vale. Details from WO1 (RSM) P Fowler RAMC, Keogh Barracks, Ash Vale, Aldershot, Hants GU12 5RQ.

● **Regimental Band, 17/21 L:** The Regimental Band of the 17th/21st Lancers is planning a reunion in June. For details contact Band Sergeant Major, 17/21 L, Alwal Barracks, Tidworth, Hants SP9 7AS (tel: 0980 841659).

● **Beachley Old Boys Association:** Annual reunion weekend, July 2-4. Details from College Liaison Officer, Beachley Old Boys Association, Army Apprentices College, Beachley, Chepstow, Gwent NP6 7YG (tel: 0291 627212 ext 5343).

DIARY

FEBRUARY

12: Forces Sweethearts Exhibition opens at Imperial War Museum, running until October 15.

20: Military in Miniature exhibition, British Model Soldier Society, Aldershot Branch, Princes Hall, Aldershot.

17-19: Mountbatten Festival of Music, Royal Albert Hall, featuring Massed Bands of the Royal Marines. Proceeds to Malcolm Sargent Cancer Fund for Children and selected Service charities. Ticket applications (enclose SAE) for balcony area £8 and £3 (restricted view) from RM Concert Office, Room 112, Archway Block South, Old Admiralty Building, Spring Gardens, London SW1A 2BE.

MAY

29-31: Military Vehicle Trust "Overlord 93" rally on Southsea Common, Portsmouth.

JULY

20-31: 103rd Royal Tournament, Earls Court, hosted by the Royal Navy. Tickets available from box office on 071-373 0100.

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

MILITARIA

● **Medloc:** Ex-Movements Control Officer Chris Elliott, 47 Rue Denfert Rochereau 34120, Pézenas, France, is researching a book on Medloc, the Movement Control operation to get soldiers home from Europe, North Africa and the Middle East immediately after the Second World War. He is anxious to contact anyone with knowledge of Medloc military trains, or who might have been in transit camps at Milan, Villach in Southern Austria, Toulon, Dieppe

and Calais.

● **Sulmona and Chieti PoW camps, Sept 1943:** Author Charles Allen would like to hear from Allied escapees or failed escapees (or information about them) from Sulmona and Chieti in southern Italy (where his father, Capt Geoffrey Allen, 2/7 GR, was a prisoner) in September 1943 for a BBC Radio programme. Please write to Charles Allen, 46 Roderick Road, London NW3 2NL.

SEARCHLINE

● **11th Armoured Division:** Author writing a division history in aid of Army charities seeks personal stories and anecdotes of their experiences from ex-members. Please contact Patrick Delaforce, 2 Hamilton Road, Brighton, E Sussex BN1 5DL (tel: 0273 564372).

● **Sharp-End Humour:** Funny stories from NW Europe Campaign, D Day to VE Day, sought

from those who were there by author, Patrick Delaforce, 2 Hamilton Road, Brighton, E Sussex BN1 5DL, for book to benefit Army charities.

● **Sgt William "Bill" Henry Oakley** of 23rd Hussars, 11th Armd Div 1940-46, wishes to contact comrades who served with him. He was stationed at Teddesley Hall, Knaresborough, Newton Camp, Whitby, Common-

dale Camp, Plumpton Camp, Chippingham, Thetford, Bridlington and Aldershot before going to France. Replies c/o his son, D G Oakley, 11 Denewood Place, Meir, Stoke-on-Trent ST3 6JB.

● **David Strohmeyer**, formerly of Enerdale Crescent, Priory Estate, Slough, Bucks, is asked to contact his old friend, Rolf Nowack, Buchenweg 4, 3411 Katlenburg, Germany.



Sad times for John Lyons, formerly of The Rifle Brigade, who is selling his impressive collection of regimental badges, accumulated since he left the Army. "I need the money," says the one-time Bren gun carrier driver and police corporal. The 192 badges are due to be valued by Christies auction house in March.

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The Royal Irish Regiment.
The Queen's Lancashire Regiment.
The Duke of Wellington's Regiment.
The Royal Regiment of Wales.
The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters.
Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment.
The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment.
The Light Infantry.
7th Duke of Edinburgh's Own Gurkha Rifles.
The Army Air Corps.
The Royal Army Chaplain's Department.
Royal Corps of Transport.
Royal Army Medical Corps.
Royal Army Ordnance Corps.
Corps of Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers.
Corps of Royal Military Police.
Royal Army Pay Corps.
Royal Army Veterinary Corps.
Small Arms School Corps.
The Royal Army Educational Corps.
Royal Army Dental Corps.
Royal Pioneer Corps.
Intelligence Corps.
Army Physical Training Corps.
Army Catering Corps.
The Army Legal Corps.
The Berkshire Yeomanry.
The Inns of Court and City Yeomanry.
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The Wessex Regiment.

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The dead man's penny

OF ALL the methods to commemorate soldiers who died, the First World War memorial plaque is, perhaps, one of the more poignant, writes Laurie Manton.

The "dead man's penny", as it was dubbed, was issued by a grateful Government to the next of kin of those who lost their lives.

In most cases, the bronze plaques were displayed by relatives on a wall or a mantelpiece, but they were often used in another way. Some, who could not afford the cost of an inscription, had the plaques fitted to a family gravestone.

In August 1917, the Government announced plans for an open competition to design the plaque and offered the considerable sum of £250 as a first prize.

Entrants were issued with guidelines by the War Office and told that the design should incorporate a symbolic figure and bear the inscription, "He (or She) died for Freedom and Honour".

An outline of the rules published in *The Times* provoked such strong interest that the closing date had to be extended.

Then it was further announced that, in addition to the plaque, a scroll would be issued to the next of kin. Suggestions from denizens of the literary world and scholars of repute were invited for the



wording on the scroll.

The committee consulted the Provost of King's College, Cambridge, Dr Montague Rhodes James, and received by return of post a draft which, with slight alteration, proved ideal.

In March, 1918, the winner of the competition to design the plaque was announced as Mr E Carter Preston of the Sandon Studies Society, Liverpool, who later designed the DFC, DFM, AFC, the General Service Medal 1918-62, the 1939-45 War Medal and the Korea Medal.

Carter Preston's plaque depicted Britannia, her left arm extended over a blank tablet on which the name of the fallen would be inscribed. Before her stood a lion described as "striding forward in a menacing attitude". Above is the inscription "He died for Freedom and Honour" and the other side showed a lion slaying an eagle which represented the destruction of the Central Powers.

Plaques and scrolls were issued to next of kin from 1919 onwards. Each of the 1,150,000 which eventually went out was accompanied by a letter from King George V which read: "I join my grateful people in sending you this memorial of a brave life given for others in the Great War. George R I"

The bronze plaques were manufactured in Acton before production was switched to Woolwich Arsenal and other former munition production centres.



HE whom this scroll commemorates was numbered among those who, at the call of King and Country, left all that was dear to them, endured hardness, faced danger, and finally passed out of the sight of men by the path of duty and self-sacrifice, giving up their own lives that others might live in freedom. Let those who come after see to it that his name be not forgotten.

The Robert Williams Mark Bushill
Royal Justices

Scroll wording submitted by
Dr Rhodes James

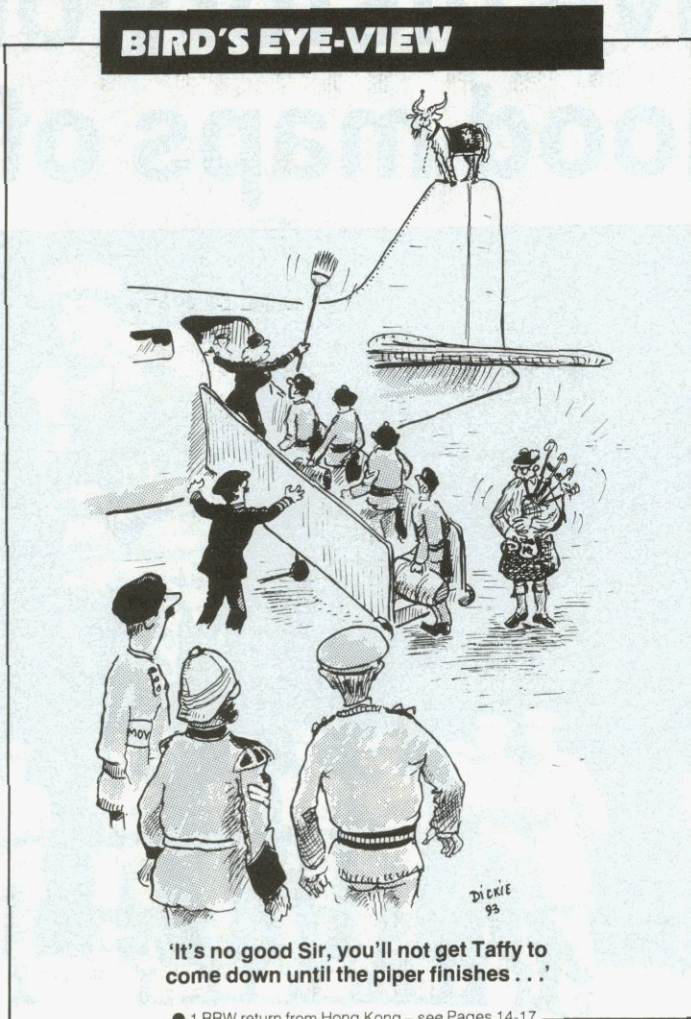
Let's have a special medal for Infantry

READERS may find it of interest that US Army personnel were awarded an astonishing 115,442 "major individual decorations" in recognition of personal acts performed during the Gulf War period, 1990-91.

They were: Silver Star, 75; Legion of Merit, 158; Distinguished Flying Cross, 97; Soldiers' Medal, 38; Bronze Star, 27,243; Purple Heart, 396; Air Medal, 5,741; Army Commendation Medal, 81,694.

The US Navy and Marines have their own extensive list. The above are decorations awarded in addition to campaign medals and those concerned may also wear Saudi Arabia's Kuwait Liberation Medal, issued as a keepsake to our Service personnel.

All British personnel positioned to the Gulf for Ops Granby and Desert Storm rightly received a campaign medal. However, there is no distinction between, on the one hand, logistics personnel in Bahrain or Dhahran and, on



the other, those who actually saw the enemy at close range.

America has the Combat Infantryman's Badge and Australia the Infantry Combat Badge which may be worn with medals by all infantry soldiers who have seen action against an armed enemy.

I would not suggest that Britain should present medals on the "brought up with the rations" scale of some countries, but could we not at least recognise the very special role of our infantry soldiers in action? – **Jim Jacobs, Fareham, Hants.**

Para's Ten is a victim of the defence cuts

THE PARA's Ten, a ten-mile cross country race, which for the past nine years has been held at Depot Para, Aldershot and had been high on the athletics calendar, has fallen victim to the Ministry of Defence's grossly-misnamed Options for Change.

"Options", in fact, gives a great deal of change and very few options!

Despite the very high standards of training, consistently turning out troops of the highest quality, the Depot of The Parachute Regiment and

Airborne Forces is to close by mid-1993.

Started ten years ago, the Para's Ten, a tough cross country race over part of the famous Para course, immediately caught the imagination of the athletics world and every race was over-subscribed.

Generous sponsorship from Coloroll and then Classic Miniatures led to a very extensive prize list but the major change in the beginning was the very high quality of medal awarded to every competitor completing the

course. These highly-prized medals are already becoming collectors' items.

A large and enthusiastic but ever-changing team of workers were supervised by the directors and administrators for all nine races, myself and RSM, later Capt, John Wilson.

We wish to thank all who supported the race over the years and who raised many thousands of pounds for the Airborne Forces Security Fund and other charities. – **Maj (Retd) C M Steggle, Church Crookham, Hants.**

TA medics in flood emergency

YOUR article on the Perth floods (February 8) failed to mention the sterling work carried out by 225 (Highland) Field Ambulance RAMC(V) of Dundee.

Immediately before the floods this unit had been called out to ferry emergency supplies and blankets to lorry drivers stranded by snow drifts at Forfar.

As the floods hit Perth permanent staff worked through the night transporting boats from Dundee to Perth and then TA soldiers manned a generator for seven days.

Medical teams from the unit were also put on standby to evacuate a local hospital should the flood waters rise.

This is another fine example of how the modern Army Medical Services are able to adapt to civilian as well as military emergencies in time of need. – **Capt Peter Starling RAMC, 225 (Highland) Field Ambulance RAMC(V), Dundee.**

LAD, not FRG!

IN YOUR article on the "loggies" in Bosnia and the jobs and services they provide (January 25) you referred to the Forward Repair Group (FRG).

Although you were correct in saying it is located at Vitez, the photograph in fact showed members of 1 Cheshire Light Aid Detachment carrying out a 432 pack removal and not the FRG, as the article seemed to imply – **Cfn A G Desroches, FRG Vitez, BFPO 544.**

Mess items need homes

NOW that the 2nd Infantry Division no longer exists, the 2 Signal Regiment and York Garrison Sergeants' Mess has a number of items, including goblets, donated since 1979 when the regiment was at Bunde in Germany. Donors or their families who wish these items to be returned should contact me. – **Sgt A Donaldson, Provo Sgt, 2 Sig Regt, Imphal Barracks, Fulford Road, York YO1 4AU (tel 0904 662228).**

Definitive history of Paras lacks good maps of action

NOT THE least of last year's 50th anniversary events was that marking the formation of The Parachute Regiment, accompanied by the publication of several books.

Among these is *Para!* by Peter Harclerode, with which the regiment has co-operated fully and authorised its publication as a definitive history, permitting the author access to its archives and records, both historical and pictorial.

Sadly there are no references to source material, much of which is obviously new.

The result, however, is a thoughtful and thorough account of the formation and actions of the regiment throughout its short but spectacular existence.

The author goes into great detail about all the actions but such detail needs the support of good maps, otherwise events and movements become meaningless.

Sadly your reviewer, who served in the regiment, has to report that in this aspect the book fails as maps are either non-existent or, with one or two exceptions, inadequate – a case of “spoiling the ship for a ha’porth o’ tar”.

Strangely, in the chapter on Arnhem, he omits the information recently released by the regimental curator that Maj Gen “Windy” Gale (GOC 6 AB Div), when asked by Lt Gen “Boy” Browning (GOC 1 AB Corps) shortly before the battle was launched what he would do if he was forced to accept the plan of landing 11km from the bridge, replied: “I would resign”.

This would have put the comment of Maj Gen Roy Urquart (GOC 1 AB Div) – “We were ready and willing to accept anything, with all the ‘ifs’” – more into perspective.

The Falklands War features more prominently (65 pages) than Arnhem (33 pages) and Normandy (31 pages) put together, but no mention is made of the controversy over whether 2 Para's action at Goose Green was originally conceived as a raid or an attack. The map of this battle is good.

The author's terse comment



Springing into action: This War Office photograph, issued in May 1943, shows an RAF instructor teaching paratroop recruits to land and roll by means of a springboard

about the inadequacy of some aircraft and equipment in the early days such as “jumping from the door of a Hudson had been tried but found to be impractical” brought back memories for your reviewer of his first jump from a Hudson in 1943 when the officer in front of him was killed by his parachute not developing due to the nature of the exit from the door – impractical indeed.

The chapters on each campaign or operation are prefaced by excellent summaries on the political and military background, but the Suez Canal Emergency (October 1951) is incorrectly attributed to King Farouk's overthrow (1952) instead of the abrogation of the Suez Canal Treaty of 1936.

The regiment was given the title “Red Devils” by its German opponents in the campaign in Tunisia in 1942-43, during which 1 Para Bde suffered 1,700 casualties and inflicted more than 5,000 on the enemy.

When the train carrying the brigade to Boufarik after the campaign was passing a German PoW camp, the Germans, seeing the red berets of the men they so admired, ran from their tents and cheered their former adversaries.

As Maj Gen “Boy” Browning

(then GOC 1 AB Div) wrote: “Such distinctions are seldom given in war and then only to the finest fighting troops.” – PSN

Para! Fifty Years of the Parachute Regiment by Peter Harclerode. Arms and Armour, £20.

HEARD THE ONE ABOUT...

IT MAKES a nice change to pick up a book and find a laugh on just about every page.

Such is the case with *You've Lost Your Name!* a collection of memories of those who have served in the Coldstream Guards.

Edited by John G Hook, a former WO1 in the regiment, it's a “pick-up-and-giggle” type of read.

Most pages include three or four stories, some of which ring a bit tall, but then old soldiers' tales often do.

For all that, these anecdotes should appeal to many outside

as well as inside the regiment.

Some of the recollections feature well-known personalities such as RSM Brittain (he of the big voice and matching feet) who, watching a young officer struggling to start his motor-bike bellowed: “Of course it won't go, it isn't polished.”

According to Mr Justice Leonard (1945-47), who tells the story, the bike started with the very next kick.

Maj Gen Sir George Burns, Colonel of the Regiment, recounts how he split his trousers getting on his horse at the Queen's Birthday Parade,

Detailed essence of the Green Howards

IT WAS Sydney Smith who said: “I never read a book before reviewing it, it prejudices me so”. Of course this was one of those smart-alec throw-asides by a literary critic but one can recognise an element of truth in it.

Faced with a regimental history that covers a long period of the British Army, there is a temptation to put everything into a compact and representative image, skating over detail and what is often the best narrative.

It would be an injustice to do this in the case of *The History of the Green Howards* by Geoffrey S Powell, who was deputy Colonel of the Regiment between 1982 and 1984.

In the words of Gen Sir Peter Inge, the present Colonel of the Regiment, the book is a “distillation of the essence of our regiment's history, told in a readable manner... It will be

creating much mirth among fellow colonels.

Since most of the stories are in this vein, they make amusing reading so long as the reader doesn't take on too many at one go. Ten minutes and have a rest. This is the way to a few good belly laughs and a lot of chuckles. – JM

You've Lost Your Name! edited by John G Hook. Available from Regimental HQ, Coldstream Guards, Birdcage Walk, London SW1E 6HQ at £5 plus 93p p and p. Cheques should be made payable to Coldstream Guards Central Bank.



Ever vigilant: Green Howards on patrol in the streets of Belfast, January 1993

a dull individual who fails to be moved to both pride and sadness by this stirring account of the deeds of his predecessors.

“Above all, of course, this book is a statement of the debt owed by both nation and the Army to our regimental system.”

The story of the Green Howards extends back to 1688 when Francis Luttrell, one of Somerset's ancient and wealthy families, was commissioned by William, Prince of Orange, to raise a regiment of foot. This was done within three days.

The man who was destined to give his name to the regiment was one Charles Howard, a Coldstream Guards officer and second son of the third Earl of Carlisle, who took over the colonelship in 1738.

Serving in Flanders in 1743 was another Howard's Regiment of Foot, that of Thomas Howard.

“Confusion was inevitable. A method to distinguish the two was vital. The answer was simple. The more senior regiment, later the 3rd of Foot, wore facings of buff. Those of Charles Howard's had by then changed from yellow to yellowish-green.

“So it was that one of these two regiments became ‘The Buff Howards’, shortened to ‘The Buffs’ and one ‘Green Howards’... It was not until 1920 that the latter became an official title.

The book is a reflection of the British Army through some of its finest episodes: in Europe during the French Wars of 1697-1793, the American War of Independence, Crimean

War, Boer War, First and Second World Wars and the more recent service in Suez, Malaya and Northern Ireland.

The Cardwell Reforms of 1881 brought many changes to the Army. “For the Green Howards the outcome was the creation of a four-battalion regiment... Eight years earlier the Regiment's Depot had been established at Richmond in Yorkshire.”

To widespread disgust the Reforms took away the regiment's green facings, but these were restored in 1898 during service in Gibraltar.

Like many regiments, the Green Howards suffered terribly on the Somme in July 1916. “That morning ‘A’ Company of the 7th Battalion had attacked prematurely and had been destroyed by a single machine-gun within twenty yards of leaving the assault trenches... At 1430 hours the rest of the Battalion met a similar fate.”

Six Victoria Crosses were awarded to Green Howards on the Somme, but at a horrendous cost and as the author says: “There were few homes in the North Riding... in which the words ‘Green Howards’ or ‘Yorkshires’ did not evoke tragic memories.”

There is a particularly graphic description of the Gallipoli campaign of 1915, and the involvement of the Green Howards for whom “Thirst, flies and diet of warm bully and biscuits were complimentary enemies”.

During the landings and attack on Lala Baba, “every officer but three had been either killed or wounded.

One-third of the men had been hit. The colonel, his second-in-command and two of his company commanders were either dead or dying.”

The Second World War brought the Green Howards their share of honours and disasters. The 1st Battalion's activities in Norway and the survivors' dejected voyage home is well described.

The regiment had its full part in the desert victory, and in Sicily a veteran of the Afrika Korps told his captors, “I have been against many British attacks, but that was the finest I have ever seen. I congratulate you!” He was referring to the 7th Battalion's taking of Mount Pancali.

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The Green Howards survive and this history, enhanced by many illustrations, is a fine tribute. – BJ

The History of the Green Howards: Three Hundred Years of Service by Geoffrey Powell. Arms and Armour, hardback, £20.

Definitive history of Paras lacks good maps of action

NOT THE least of last year's 50th anniversary events was that marking the formation of The Parachute Regiment, accompanied by the publication of several books.

Among these is *Para!* by Peter Harclerode, with which the regiment has co-operated fully and authorised its publication as a definitive history, permitting the author access to its archives and records, both historical and pictorial.

Sadly there are no references to source material, much of which is obviously new.

The result, however, is a thoughtful and thorough account of the formation and actions of the regiment throughout its short but spectacular existence.

The author goes into great detail about all the actions but such detail needs the support of good maps, otherwise events and movements become meaningless.

Sadly your reviewer, who served in the regiment, has to report that in this aspect the book fails as maps are either non-existent or, with one or two exceptions, inadequate – a case of “spoiling the ship for a ha’porth o’ tar”.

Strangely, in the chapter on Arnhem, he omits the information recently released by the regimental curator that Maj Gen “Windy” Gale (GOC 6 AB Div), when asked by Lt Gen “Boy” Browning (GOC 1 AB Corps) shortly before the battle was launched what he would do if he was forced to accept the plan of landing 11km from the bridge, replied: “I would resign”.

This would have put the comment of Maj Gen Roy Urquart (GOC 1 AB Div) – “We were ready and willing to accept anything, with all the ifs” – more into perspective.

The Falklands War features more prominently (65 pages) than Arnhem (33 pages) and Normandy (31 pages) put together, but no mention is made of the controversy over whether 2 Para's action at Goose Green was originally conceived as a raid or an attack. The map of this battle is good.

The author's terse comment



Springing into action: This War Office photograph, issued in May 1943, shows an RAF instructor teaching paratroop recruits to land and roll by means of a springboard

about the inadequacy of some aircraft and equipment in the early days such as “jumping from the door of a Hudson had been tried but found to be impractical” brought back memories for your reviewer of his first jump from a Hudson in 1943 when the officer in front of him was killed by his parachute not developing due to the nature of the exit from the door – impractical indeed.

The chapters on each campaign or operation are prefaced by excellent summaries on the political and military background, but the Suez Canal Emergency (October 1951) is incorrectly attributed to King Farouk's overthrow (1952) instead of the abrogation of the Suez Canal Treaty of 1936.

The regiment was given the title “Red Devils” by its German opponents in the campaign in Tunisia in 1942-43, during which 1 Para Bde suffered 1,700 casualties and inflicted more than 5,000 on the enemy.

When the train carrying the brigade to Boufarik after the campaign was passing a German PoW camp, the Germans, seeing the red berets of the men they so admired, ran from their tents and cheered their former adversaries.

As Maj Gen “Boy” Browning

(then GOC 1 AB Div) wrote: “Such distinctions are seldom given in war and then only to the finest fighting troops.” – PSN

Para! Fifty Years of the Parachute Regiment by Peter Harclerode. Arms and Armour, £20.

HEARD THE ONE ABOUT...

IT MAKES a nice change to pick up a book and find a laugh on just about every page.

Such is the case with *You've Lost Your Name!* a collection of memories of those who have served in the Coldstream Guards.

Edited by John G Hook, a former WO1 in the regiment, it's a “pick-up-and-giggle” type of read.

Most pages include three or four stories, some of which ring a bit tall, but then old soldiers' tales often do.

For all that, these anecdotes should appeal to many outside

as well as inside the regiment.

Some of the recollections feature well-known personalities such as RSM Brittain (he of the big voice and matching feet) who, watching a young officer struggling to start his motor-bike bellowed: “Of course it won't go, it isn't polished.”

According to Mr Justice Leonard (1945-47), who tells the story, the bike started with the very next kick.

Maj Gen Sir George Burns, Colonel of the Regiment, recounts how he split his trousers getting on his horse at the Queen's Birthday Parade,

Detailed essence of the Green Howards

IT WAS Sydney Smith who said: “I never read a book before reviewing it, it prejudices me so”. Of course this was one of those smart-alec throw-asides by a literary critic but one can recognise an element of truth in it.

Faced with a regimental history that covers a long period of the British Army, there is a temptation to put everything into a compact and representative image, skating over detail and what is often the best narrative.

It would be an injustice to do this in the case of *The History of the Green Howards* by Geoffrey S Powell, who was deputy Colonel of the Regiment between 1982 and 1984.

In the words of Gen Sir Peter Inge, the present Colonel of the Regiment, the book is a “distillation of the essence of our regiment's history, told in a readable manner... It will be

creating much mirth among fellow colonels.

Since most of the stories are in this vein, they make amusing reading so long as the reader doesn't take on too many at one go. Ten minutes and have a rest. This is the way to a few good belly laughs and a lot of chuckles. – JM

You've Lost Your Name! edited by John G Hook. Available from Regimental HQ, Coldstream Guards, Birdcage Walk, London SW1E 6HQ at £5 plus 93p p and p. Cheques should be made payable to Coldstream Guards Central Bank.



Ever vigilant: Green Howards on patrol in the streets of Belfast, January 1993

a dull individual who fails to be moved to both pride and sadness by this stirring account of the deeds of his predecessors.

“Above all, of course, this book is a statement of the debt owed by both nation and the Army to our regimental system.”

The story of the Green Howards extends back to 1688 when Francis Luttrell, one of Somerset's ancient and wealthy families, was commissioned by William, Prince of Orange, to raise a regiment of foot. This was done within three days.

The man who was destined to give his name to the regiment was one Charles Howard, a Coldstream Guards officer and second son of the third Earl of Carlisle, who took over the colonelship in 1738.

Serving in Flanders in 1743 was another Howard's Regiment of Foot, that of Thomas Howard.

“Confusion was inevitable. A method to distinguish the two was vital. The answer was simple. The more senior regiment, later the 3rd of Foot, wore facings of buff. Those of Charles Howard's had by then changed from yellow to yellowish-green.

“So it was that one of these two regiments became ‘The Buff Howards’, shortened to ‘The Buffs’ and one ‘Green Howards’... It was not until 1920 that the latter became an official title.

The book is a reflection of the British Army through some of its finest episodes: in Europe during the French Wars of 1697-1793, the American War of Independence, Crimean

War, Boer War, First and Second World Wars and the more recent service in Suez, Malaya and Northern Ireland.

The Cardwell Reforms of 1881 brought many changes to the Army. “For the Green Howards the outcome was the creation of a four-battalion regiment... Eight years earlier the Regiment's Depot had been established at Richmond in Yorkshire.”

To widespread disgust the Reforms took away the regiment's green facings, but these were restored in 1898 during service in Gibraltar.

Like many regiments, the Green Howards suffered terribly on the Somme in July 1916. “That morning ‘A’ Company of the 7th Battalion had attacked prematurely and had been destroyed by a single machine-gun within twenty yards of leaving the assault trenches... At 1430 hours the rest of the Battalion met a similar fate.”

Six Victoria Crosses were awarded to Green Howards on the Somme, but at a horrendous cost and as the author says: “There were few homes in the North Riding... in which the words ‘Green Howards’ or ‘Yorkshires’ did not evoke tragic memories.”

There is a particularly graphic description of the Gallipoli campaign of 1915, and the involvement of the Green Howards for whom “Thirst, flies and diet of warm bully and biscuits were complimentary enemies”.

During the landings and attack on Lala Baba, “every officer but three had been either killed or wounded.

One-third of the men had been hit. The colonel, his second-in-command and two of his company commanders were either dead or dying.”

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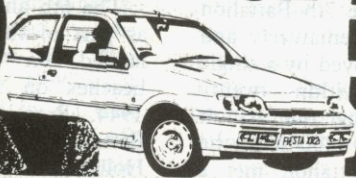
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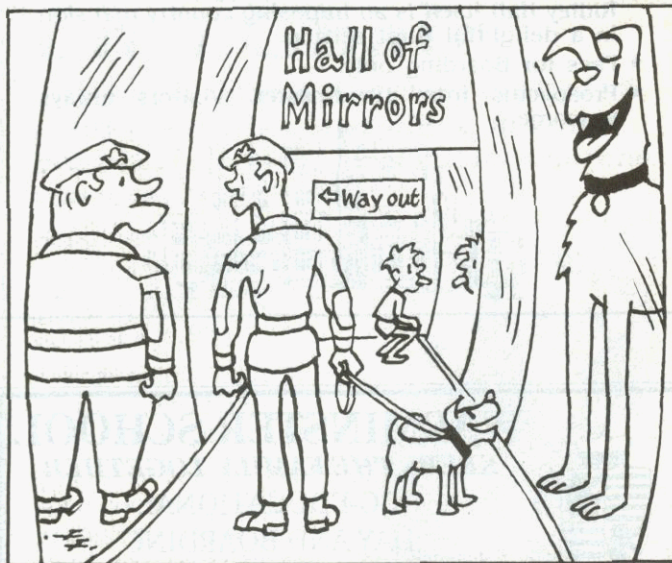
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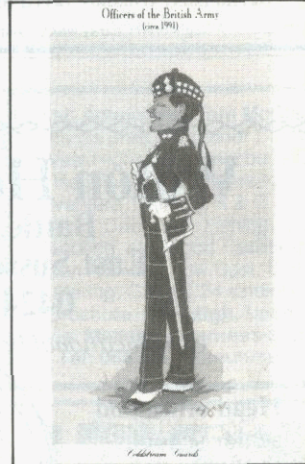
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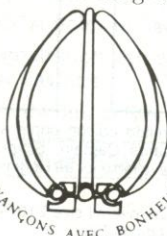
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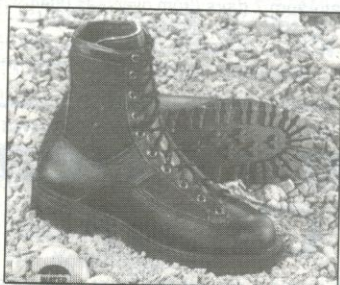
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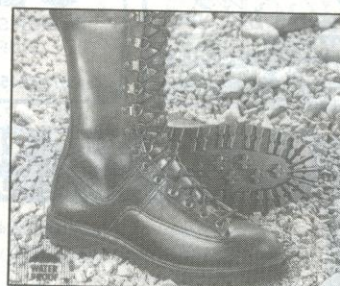
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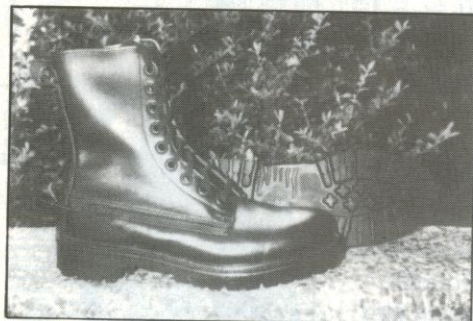
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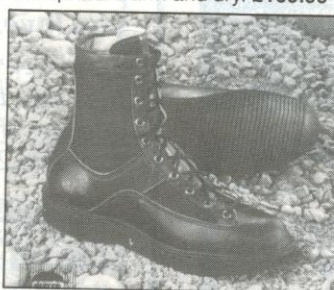
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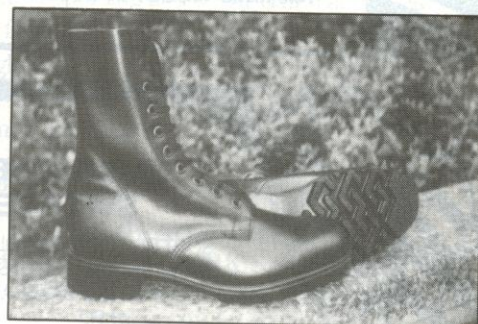
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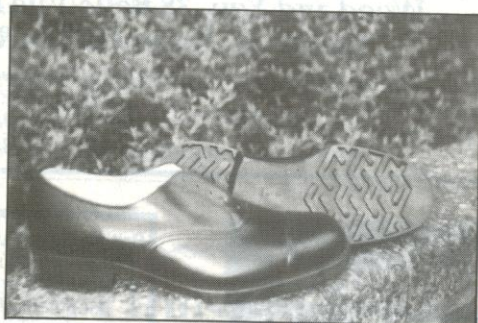
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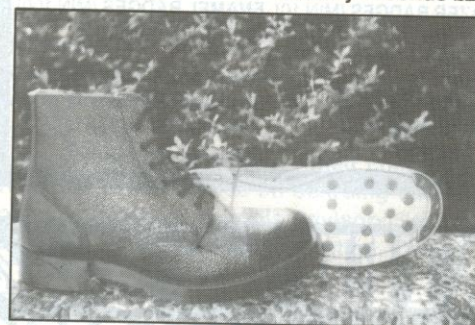
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REPLIES. To reply to a pen pal, write a letter and send it to Soldier Magazine at the address below. The Box number must be **CLEARLY** written in the **TOP LEFT CORNER** of the envelope. Replies will not be forwarded after three months from the cover date of this issue.

A pen pal advertisement costs **£11.75**. Send your details (maximum 30 words) and a cheque or postal order for £11.75, payable to "Soldier", to the address below. The advertisement will appear in the first available issue and all replies will be forwarded. 84

All correspondence to: Pen Pals, Soldier Magazine, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU.

Caring female, 18 years old, brown hair and eyes. Would like to write to a soldier between 18 and 23. All letters answered. P417 03-04

Hello, my name is Tracy, I'm 22, 5'10" slim and attractive. I would like to write to a soldier 22+, honest and sincere with sense of humour. Photo if possible. P428 04-93

Fun loving female, late 20s, looking for someone with sense of humour to exchange letters. Photograph appreciated. P429 04-93

Need some excitement in your life? I'm certainly that! Big and bubbly female, 21, would love to hear from you. Looks unimportant, but height 5'9" plus an advantage. P430 04-93

Three females, aged 35, 26, 21. Would like loads of mail from all you guys. So grab a pen, cheer us up and write. P431 04-93

Hello, I'm Wendy. I'm 26, nearly divorced and have a five-month-old baby girl. Unfortunately not Cher lookalike, look more like Meatloaf, but have a wicked sense of humour. P432 04-93

Female, 20 years old. Wants to write to a soldier overseas. Those with a good sense of humour please write to me. P433 04-93

Attractive, single lady, aged 24. Blonde, 5'7" with Army upbringing. Would love to hear from sincere Servicemen. I'm well travelled, outgoing and respectable, miss Army life. All genuine replies answered. P434 04-93

Pen Pal wanted. I'm 36, 5'5", slim and have long dark blonde hair, green eyes. Divorced, two children. Interests include music, country walks, cinema, home life and evenings out. P435 04-93

Tall, slim, single female, 25, country loving. Interests include riding, beagling, books and travel. Are you tall, good humoured, interested in country pursuits? If so, why wait, write now! P436 04-93

Female, 20, single mother. Seeks a male to write to, to cheer us both up. Must have a good sense of humour. P437 04-93

Hi, my name is Alan. I am a letter seeking LCpl looking for a friend. I'm 26, 6'4", not bad looking. Hope to hear from you soon. P438 04-93

Single, 25-year-old female living and working as receptionist in East Kilbride. Enjoys pubs, discos, socialising and keep-fit. Photograph appreciated and I will do the same. Promise to reply. P439 04-93

I'm Steve, 30, professional NCO. Enjoys keeping fit, travel to faraway lands, being active outdoors and lazy indoors. Seeks pleasant, like-minded servicewoman. P440 04-93

Donna and Bev, two fun loving girls from sunny Brum. Both 25, 5'7", Donna auburn hair and brown eyes, Bev blonde hair and blue eyes. Come lads, put a smile on our faces. P441 04-93

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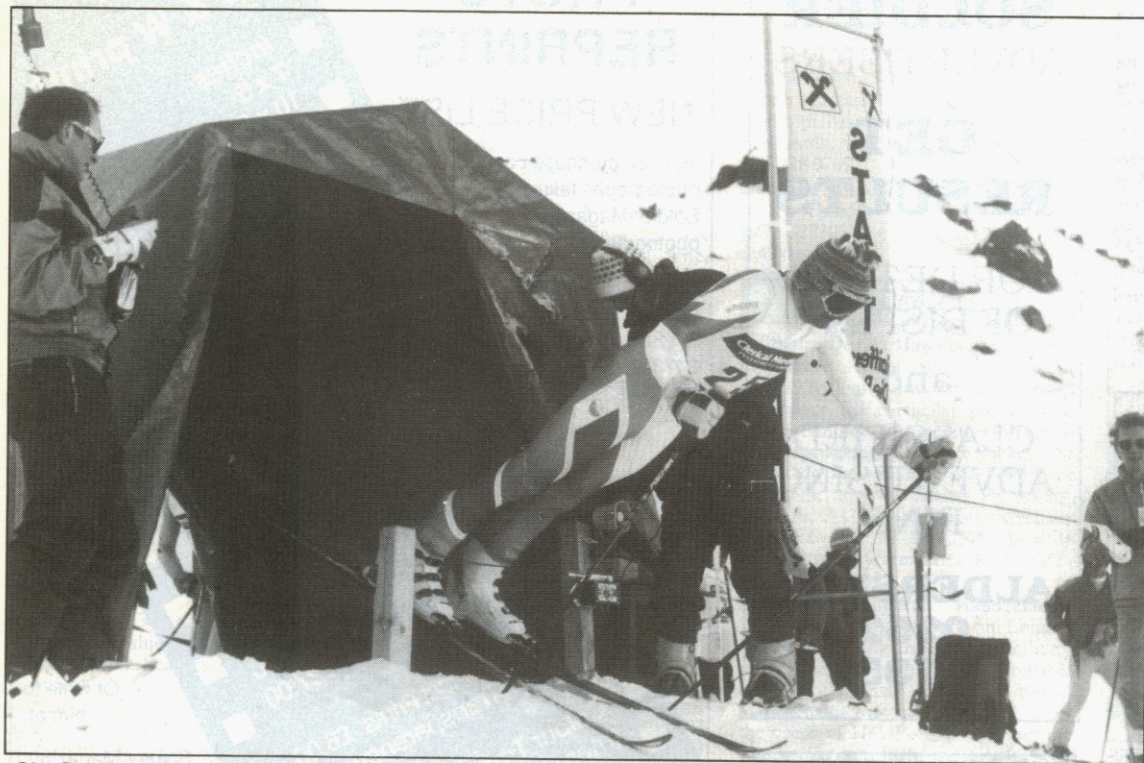
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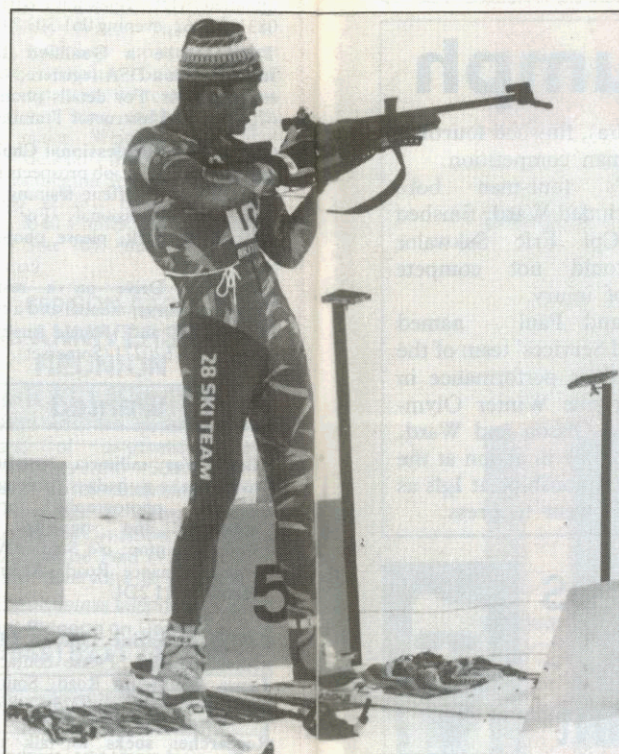
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Sig Stephen Massey (4 ADSR) gets off to a flying start in the giant slalom



Cpl Neil Danby (28 Engr Regt) in the 7.5km biathlon marathon



Members of the victorious 4 ADSR Alpine and Nordic teams celebrate

Herford's 4 ADSR leads the way at Galtur

HERFORD's 4 Armoured Division Headquarters and Signal Regiment stormed to victory in all four Alpine events at this year's divisional ski championships in Austria, and excellent performances by individuals and the unit's Nordic squad secured their triumph as the 1993 Major Unit champions, writes **Sarah Madison**.

While atrocious weather wreaked havoc with other Army ski competitions, a distinct lack of snow and mild temperatures threatened the success of the 4th Armoured Division championships.

Galtur, 1,600m up in the Silvretta mountains, has been home to the Division's Nordic skiing for 20 years – the Alpine transferred from nearby Ischl five years ago.

The disbandment of 3rd Armoured Division and the arrival of their skiers, together with teams from the Rear Combat Zone, meant that almost 30 units and about 250 competitors travelled to the Tirol.

The 4 ADSR team, led by Capt Jon Dakin, convincingly won the slalom, giant slalom, downhill and combined Alpine events.

Much of the credit for 4 ADSR's success at Galtur went to skiers from the disbanded 22

Signal Regiment, who have previously played a major role in 3 Armoured Division ski meets.

But 4 ADSR were chased hard throughout the championships by teams from the Royal Dragoon Guards and 28 Engineer Regiment, who battled it out for second and third places in each of the main events. The Queen's Dragoon Guards were second in the slalom, while the RDG's consistently successful performance during the eight-day competition won them the Royal Armoured Corps Combined Alpine Daily Telegraph Cup.

Noticeable by their absence were 35 Engineer Regiment, currently deployed in Bosnia with the United Nations.

Following their success in



Capt John Dakin, the 4 ADSR captain, in action during the downhill

1992, the 9/12th Royal Lancers, also from Herford, fielded an impressive team. In the individuals, Capt John Crossley took major honours, winning the giant slalom and combined Alpine, and taking third in the downhill.

Cpl Geordie Crawford (4 ADSR) ensured his place at the Army meeting with an impressive win in the downhill – 1.5sec

ahead of Bdr Gary Down of 12 Regiment RA. Down won the individual slalom.

Exceptional skiing by Tpr Richard Fenwick from Rheindahlen Garrison and Cpl Mark Claxton of 16 Signal Regiment, secured the combined Alpine junior and novice titles. Minor Unit Alpine combination stars this year were the team from Headquarters 4th Armoured Division.

In all, almost 40 individuals and seven teams from the 4 Div Alpine events moved on to compete at the Army championships at Serre Chevalier, France.

The Nordic events were again dominated by the strong teams from the Hameln-based Royal Engineers, although 4 ADSR and a number of artillery units – 32 Regt RA, 50 Regt RA and 26 Regt RA – were always hard on their heels. Royal Marine guest skiers from 45 Commando won 1993 Best All Round Nordic.

Led by Corp Ed Nicoll, the 35 Engr Regt team, which boasts several British Nordic squad members and four members of the British junior

biathlon team, looked set to scoop the major prizes again, but had to share the medals and titles with 28 Engr Regt.

But 35 Engr Regt took the honours in the 4x10km relay and swept home seven minutes ahead of the rest of the field in the 4x7.5km biathlon.

The 28 Engr Regt squad won the military team combination trophy after taking gold in the 15km Nordic and the gruelling military patrol race, which this year had a new, more tactical format.

The tough 30km race began with a 100m climb, without skis, up the mountain face – something the Royal Marines made look easy, but 28's patrol team – Pullman, Robinson, Danby and Palmer – finished in just 2hr 9min 44sec, 13 minutes ahead of second-placed 50 Regiment RA.

With their skiers achieving good results throughout, 50 Regiment became Royal Artillery Nordic champions.

In the individual events, 2nd Lt Richard Barrett of 32 Regt RA was named 10km novice and military combined novice, while 35 Engineer's Spr Wayne Page became 10km and 15km junior and Spr Clive Brown, the individual military combination champion. LCpl Mark Palmer (28 Engr Regt) took first in the 15km Nordic race.

Students hold Army at Buller

Army XI 2, London University 2

AN ARMY XI containing a few members of the 1st team squad and skippered by Bdr Basher Bates fought out a dour 2-2 draw against London University at Buller Barracks, writes **Derrick Bly**.

Bates put the Army ahead on the half hour when he headed in a Gnr Mark Mahoney corner kick. The ball was back in the students' net a minute later, but the goal was ruled out for an Army push on a defender in the six-yard box.

The soldiers did go two up just before the interval when LBdr Gary Tootle converted another Mahoney corner.

But that lead was reduced

within two minutes of the restart, and London University, who saw much more of the ball in the second half, squared the match three minutes from time.

Army UK champions 2 Signal Regiment will play either 27 Regt RCT or 47 Fd Regt RA in the semi-finals of the Wilsons Hogg Robinson Challenge Cup, while 2 PWRR or the Training Regiments RE take on 1 RRF or SEME Bordon in the other.

The UK Minor Units competition for the Yorks and Lincs Cup is more clear-cut, with Depot and Trg Regt RCT meeting CAD Kineton in one semi-final, and 15 Sqn RCT drawn against 14 Fd Sqn RE.

Infantry 3, Royal Artillery 1

The Royal Artillery, fielding their strongest side of the season, put a disorganised Infantry defence under pressure and deservedly took the lead on the half hour through LBdr Gary Tootle, writes **Mike Crowe**.

This spurred the Infantry to greater effort and they equalised through Gdsm Neil Trebble (Gren Gds) five minutes before the break.

Gdsm David Hill (SG), on his debut for the Infantry, scored with his first kick within seconds of taking the field as a substitute, and Trebble made the game safe for the Infantry two minutes from time.

Pat hangs up his notebook

PAT MASSEY, whose perceptive football reports have appeared in these pages for many years, has retired. Lt Col Massey, R Signals, played football at regimental level, and from 1967 to 1972 was the first Army team manager. While he

was in charge the Army won the prestigious Kentish Cup in successive years, the only time this has been achieved.

Pat Massey continued to support the Army Football Association by acting as its publicity officer, diligently

filing reports on Service matches to SOLDIER and a number of other publications.

His successor is Lt Col Derrick Bly, who has been associated with the very successful REME and SEME football sides of recent years.

Tout powers to World Cup triumph



Cpl Mark Tout

CPL MARK Tout (RTR) achieved one of the finest British bobsleigh performances of all time when he led his four-man bob to a course record and victory in the penultimate event of the World Cup circuit at Cortina d'Ampezzo in the Italian Dolomites.

Tout, whose brakeman was former Royal Anglian Lenny Paul, clocked a winning time of 1min 46.41sec, having set a course record of 53.03sec on his first descent. The victory,

considered to be Britain's best bobsleigh result since Nash and Dixon won the 1964 Olympic two-man title at Igls, Austria, took Tout into sixth place in the overall World Cup rankings.

Earlier, Cpl Sean Olsson (Para), braked by Lenny Paul, drove their two-man bob into the bronze medal position. It was Olsson's second third place finish on this season's World Cup circuit.

Tout, braked by Cpl Dean

Ward (Para), finished fourth in the two-man competition.

Olsson's four-man bob, which included Ward, finished 15th. LCpl Eric Sekwalor (Para) could not compete because of injury.

Tout and Paul – named Combined Services' team of the year for their performance in the Albertville Winter Olympics – and Olsson and Ward, were due to be in action at the world championships at Igls as SOLDIER went to press.

That was close!

DVR GARRY Wadsworth (1 ADSR) held off Sgt Rod Finch (AGC attached 3 Para) in a sprint finish to win the Army cross country title at Longmoor, Hants.

The two were locked together throughout the three-lap 10km race, with Wadsworth, fourth last year, crossing the line two seconds ahead of Finch, who improved on his bronze medal of a year ago.

Pte Darren Stevenson (1 PWO), sixth in his first senior outing last year, was third.

York-based 2 Signal Regiment won the Major Units competition ahead of 1 R Anglian and 3 Para, while FOD Dulmen ran away with the Minor Units honours for the seventh successive year. Second team were 5 AB Log Bn, with 264 Sig Sqn from Hereford third.

Despite Stevenson's great run, Osnabrück-based 1 PWO, winners of the senior team event for the past four years, were relegated to fifth.

Cpl Kelly Holmes led CMETS Beaconsfield to victory in the women's race over 5km, JDvr Lister won the youth title for JLR RAC, Sig Richards (2 Sig Regt) won the junior gold medal, and Capt Jim Wood (APTC) pulled away to win the veterans' title by four seconds from Maj Keith Arnold (11 Sig Regt), with defending champion Capt Peter Marsh (AVSD Ludgershall) third. ATR Bas-



Dvr Garry Wadsworth (67) and Sgt Rod Finch (172) contest the lead with Pte Darren Stevenson. Inset right – Cpl Kelly Holmes wins the women's race

singbourn's veterans packed well to win the team trophy.

JLR RAC had a clear run to the line in the youth race after the apprentices from Chepstow were delayed by a breakdown on the M4. They missed their race and had to run off their frustration in the senior event.

The Inter-Services cross country championships are

being hosted by the Royal Navy at the Brickfields, Plymouth, on February 19.

Women – 1, Cpl K Holmes (CMETS); 2, Sgt M Bradley (Gds Depot); 3, Cpl Bradbury (176 Pro Coy). **Team** – 1, CMETS; 2, WSN; 3, 251 Sig Sqn.

Youths – 1, JDvr Lister (JLR RAC); 2, LTpr Gonthier (JLR RAC); 3, LDvr Bennet (JLR RAC). **Team** – JLR RAC.

Juniors – 1, Sig Richards (2 Sig Regt); 2, LCpl Boston (2 Sig Regt); 3, Spr Boardman (Depot Regt RE). **Team** – AA Coll Chepstow.

Wales pick Grant



ARMY middle distance runner Maj Glen Grant (RA) has been selected by Wales for a 3,000m race in the indoor international at Kelvin Hall, Glasgow, on February 19 – at the ripe old age of 39!

Grant (pictured above) has represented Great Britain and Wales more than 20 times in events ranging from 800m to cross country, and he was a finalist in both 800m and 1,500m in the 1978 Commonwealth Games.

Now serving with Artillery Branch UKLF, Maj Grant has competed in three world cross country championships and holds the Army 1,500m and 10,000m records.

Team close Oxford gap

NARROW defeats by Oxford University provided a solid workout for the Army badminton teams preparing for the Inter-Services tournament from March 27 to 31.

The results against the University – the men lost 8-7, the women 5-2 – were much closer than in previous years.

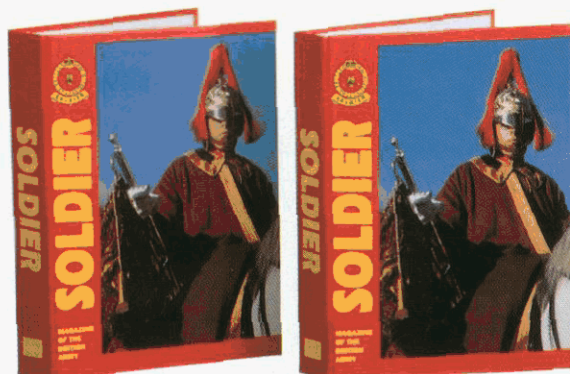
The men were represented by WO1 Graham Orzewski, WO2 Steve Cryans, team captain SSgt Adrian Quinney, Cpl Max Maxwell, LCpl Steve Pengelly and Pts Robert Troup and Maurice Weedon. The women's team consisted of Lt Rachel Cooper, Cpls Judith Mullet and Gwen Paul, and LCpl Trish Kane.

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The 1st Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Wales made an emergency tour to Hong Kong in 1980 and left its mark – in the form of the Prince of Wales's feathers – on a hillside overlooking the border with the mainland. Now the battalion has returned to Shropshire after another tour of duty in the Colony. In the foreground are Sgt Huw Birdsey and 2nd Lt Steve Mannings. Report and more pictures inside.

Picture: Mike Perring



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