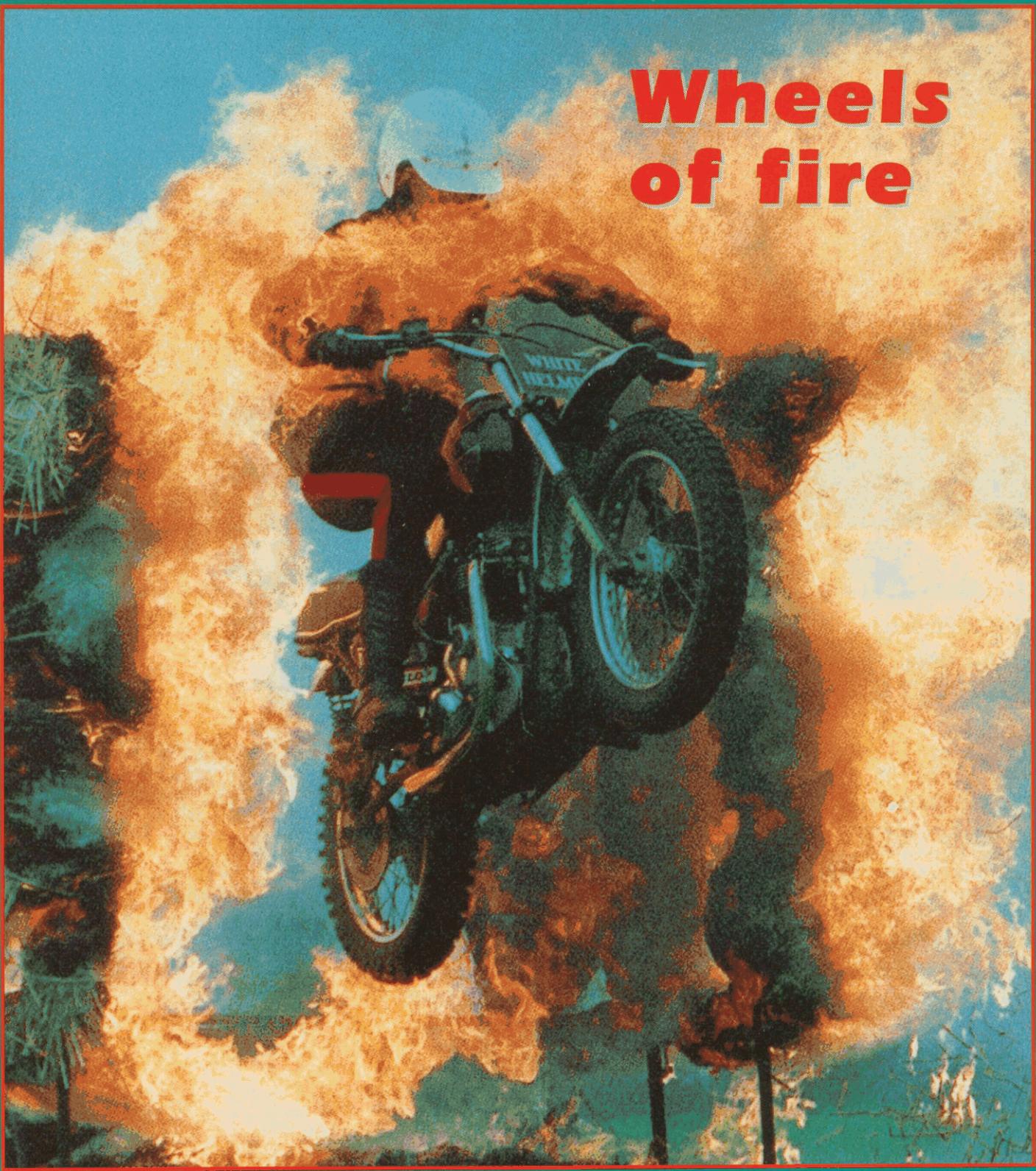


SOLDIER

FORTNIGHTLY MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY

JUNE 10 1996

60p



**Wheels
of fire**

**Resolute:
2 LI-QRH**

**Exercise
Purple Star**

**Gurkha pipers'
link with R Scots**

**Medics of
Millbank**



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Incorporating the Territorial Army magazine

June 10, 1996 Vol 52/12

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Picture: Richard Constantine

All fired up: LCpl Andy Stuart flies through a hoop of flame during the first public display by the famous Royal Signals' White Helmets motor cycle team at Blandford Camp.

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Hong Kong XV teams up with Chinese Army



Picture: Mike Weston

Travelling light . . . a British paratrooper about to take part in the largest Allied parachute drop since the Second World War hauls his personal equipment towards a waiting transport aircraft. Well wrapped in protective material, the bundle contains his bergen, rifle, rations and ammunition

British paras make light of casualties

SEVENTY-NINE soldiers – 41 of them British – were injured when United Kingdom and American airborne units taking part in Exercise Purple Star joined forces in the largest Allied military parachute drop since the Second World War. One soldier suffered a broken pelvis.

But casualties – mostly ankle injuries – were said to be lighter than expected. Military planners had forecast that four per cent of the force would be injured during the operation.

Nearly 2,000 troops from Aldershot-based 5th Airborne Brigade and 4,000 American soldiers from the US Army's 82nd Airborne Division jumped at night from 800ft during Operation Big Drop III.

The first wave of 146 transport planes – in a formation 22-miles long – released vehicles, cargo and artillery pieces on to the drop zone (DZ) at Fort Bragg in North Carolina.

Earlier, at Cherry Point Marine Corps Air Station, the British paratroop force divided

Ex Purple Star

into "chalks", one for each of 28 US C-130 Hercules aircraft tasked to transport the 5 AB Brigade contingent to the DZ.

The first aircraft carried the brigade's new commander, Brig Graeme Lamb. Crowds gathered at the end of the runway to wave the aircraft off. The propeller-driven C-130s lifted off 15 seconds apart.

In the preceding phases of the month-long exercise, Britain's 3 Commando Brigade took part in a massive amphibious landing on a beach in the vast US Marine Corps training area of Camp Lejeune.

More than 50 warships and

auxiliaries gathered off the coast during the night. While most of the troops and vehicles were put ashore by landing craft, others were airlifted by helicopters.

During the initial stages a Cobra attack helicopter and a Sea Knight troop carrier aircraft collided.

Both plummeted into a heavily-wooded area of swamp. Fourteen American servicemen were killed; there were two survivors.

All flying operations were suspended for a time, which meant a long delay in getting units ashore.

At one point, 29 Commando Regiment, Royal Artillery had

● Turn to Page 14

Soldiers immune under firearms amnesty

A FIREARMS amnesty being held throughout the United Kingdom from June 3-30 will also include immunity for Servicemen and women.

An MoD Police spokesman said that because many firearms in Great Britain had "originated through Service sources in, for example, the Gulf and Bosnia", it had been agreed when setting up the amnesty that the MoD Police should play an equal role to that of Home Office forces.

The amnesty also covers ammunition and self-defence sprays, which, with guns, may be handed in to any MoD or civilian police station.

An MoD Police amnesty helpline - 0371 854300 - will be open throughout the period.

Shock for younger leavers

RESEARCHERS are claiming that younger people leaving the Army have had more difficulty finding jobs than their older colleagues.

The Ex-Services Resettlement Group says that according to statistics from a computer survey, two years after discharge about twice as many ex-soldiers between 20 and 24 are unemployed as their civilian counterparts.

• Full story in *Cari's Column* - Pages 12-13.

ARMED Forces Minister Nicholas Soames visited Germany to see staff of HQ 1st (UK) Armoured Division going through the Brigade and Battle Group Trainer at Sennelager. They are due to deploy to Banja Luka later this month, relieving HQ 3 (UK) Division, which will return to Bulford.



Picture: Mike Perring

On parade: soldiers representing different trades of the Army in which the AITO offers courses assembled at Arborfield, one of the Service's largest training centres and home of the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers Training Group School of Electronic and Aeronautical Engineering and Princess Marina College

Training reorganised under single umbrella

THE Army Individual Training Organisation (AITO) was officially launched by the Minister of State for the Armed Forces, Nicholas Soames, on May 22.

The AITO, which came into being on April 1, is designed to train soldiers in their individual skills. It is responsible for the majority of the establishments needed to train 85,000 soldiers every year to meet the needs of the Field Army and the Quartermaster General.

To achieve this the AITO has a military and civilian staff of 12,000. It covers 34 establishments at 39 sites, and has a budget of £495 million, making it the largest defence agency.

It is commanded by the Director General of Individual Training, Maj Gen Christopher Elliott, who is also the chief executive.

A Customer Advisory Board convened by the Adjutant General will decide training priorities.

Individual training is split into three phases: basic recruit

or Phase 1 training; Phase 2 training in basic skills required for regiments or corps; and Phase 3 training to further professional skills. There are 1,400 Phase 3 courses, ranging from languages to sniping, computing to supply logistics.

With its headquarters in Upavon, Wiltshire, the chief executive is supported by a management board comprising the heads of personnel, finance, training plans, training man-

agement and a secretariat.

Following the launch, Mr Soames visited Arborfield and Winchester. Arborfield is home to four establishments: HQ REME Training Group; the School of Electronic and Aeronautical Engineering; the School of Equipment Support (Army); and Princess Marina College.

RAC, Light Division, AAC, AGC and Int Corps recruits are trained at Winchester.

More help for 'risk' recruits

AN extended recruit course is being considered to help "risk candidates" join up, Maj Gen Christopher Elliott revealed at the launch of the AITO.

The scheme is aimed at people highly motivated to join the Army but not fitted by their lifestyle to be safely put into

the rigorous ten-week basic recruit training programme.

The Army would take risk candidates "for a week or two", show them how to train, then allow them home to get themselves up to standard. It is seen as an option to pass many more people through basic training.

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Picture: Sgt Ian Liptrot, Gren Guards

French President Jacques Chirac inspects a Guard of Honour formed by No 1 Company, 1st Battalion, Irish Guards on Horse Guards Parade during his State Visit to Britain. President Chirac, accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh, was escorted by Maj Cassian Roberts IG, Captain of the Queen's Guard

Terriers deployed to Split and Sarajevo

FOUR hundred Territorial Army soldiers drawn from units across the United Kingdom flew to former Yugoslavia last month to join their Regular counterparts.

The latest roulement of part-time soldiers to serve in the Balkans, they will spend six months in Split and Sarajevo. Meanwhile, some TA soldiers coming to the end of the first Op Resolute six-month tour have opted to stay on.

The Terriers are helping to provide base and convoy security, and are involved in communications and field hospital duties. Thirty members of 4/5 Rangers based in Portadown, County Armagh, are patrolling alongside Gurkhas at Divulje Barracks, near Split.

• 9 R Irish, from Antrim, exercised in the Brecons while the 7th (Belfast) Battalion was on camp at St Martin's Plain in Kent. The soldiers were able to develop skills not normally tested on their Northern Ireland training areas.



TA capbadges in Bosnia. Front to back: Pte David Watterson, 2 RHF; Pte Subash Shrees, 3 RGR; Pte John Pyper, 4/5 Rangers; LCpl Steve Green, 4/5 Green Howards; LCpl Phil White, 3 PWO; Cpl Billy Montgomery, 2 SG; Cpl Jim Scott, 3 BW; LCpl Glynn Leaning, 3 DWR; Fus Danny Jary, C (Fusilier) Coy, 4 QLR; and Pte Andy Hamill, 7/8 A and S

Ten Tors hit by blizzard

HUNDREDS of teenagers had to be rescued from Dartmoor when blizzards forced the annual Ten Tors expedition to be cancelled.

Army and Royal Navy helicopters were called in to evacuate youngsters to safety in the Army camp at Okehampton on the edge of Dartmoor.

Most of the 2,400 entrants made their own way to safety and many teams of six com-

pleted the course but Brig John Powell, Commander of 43 (Wessex) Brigade, decided that the gales, driving rain and snow showers made it too dangerous to continue.

The trek takes place over Dartmoor's ten main tors, with competitors marching between 35 and 55 miles. Ironically, it was last abandoned ten years ago when 200 competitors suffered heat exhaustion.

Around the Houses

A summary of Defence topics from Westminster

Part-time boss for reserves, cadets

ARMED Forces Minister Nicholas Soames told the Commons on May 20 that it was intended to appoint a part-time Director of Reserve Forces and Cadets in the MoD next year.

Speaking during the passage of the Reserve Forces Bill, he said the MoD also aimed to appoint a TA brigadier later this year to a post in the Directorate of Development and Doctrine.

Earlier he said opportunities were being considered to increase the scope of TA officers to obtain the necessary qualifications for command and staff appointments. It was intended especially to encourage a further TA presence at the junior command and staff college.

"In addition, I am actively considering the possibility of TA officers attending the higher command and staff college," he said.

INCREASE

"I aim to increase the number of TA staff appointments at lieutenant-colonel and major levels, which will help to broaden the range and experience of serving officers."

An amendment by former TA officer Julian Brazier that there should be a two-star reserve officer appointment to advise on policy matters was withdrawn.

The Bill, which brings the law on reserves up to date and will permit reserves to be used more flexibly, was passed after its third reading.

□ □ □

A fresh attempt to obtain pardons for more than 300 British Empire soldiers executed in the First World War for cowardice, desertion and other offences failed in the Commons on May 9.

After several unsuccessful written pleas to the Prime Minister in the past, Mr Andrew Mackinlay had proposed an amendment to the Armed Forces Bill at the report stage.

□ □ □

Royal Ordnance, part of British Aerospace Defence Ltd, is being awarded two contracts, together valued at about £80 million, to supply five years' worth of 81mm mortar ammunition to the British Army.

It's a fact

There were 2,990 full-time and 2,858 part-time members of the Ulster Defence Regiment when it amalgamated with the Royal Irish Rangers to form the Royal Irish Regiment on July 1, 1992. On March 31, 1996, The Royal Irish Regiment (Home Service) consisted of 3,014 full-time and 2,122 part-time soldiers. — Parliamentary reply.

COMBAT STRESS

From earlier wars we had 'Shell Shock'. Today they call it 'Combat Stress'. What Corporal Alan Young saw and heard in Sarajevo left him cowering in a corner. And he still can't leave his room.

For many veterans, not just from Bosnia but from the Falklands, Korea, and especially the Second World War, the story is the same. 'Combat Stress' can shatter a life forever.

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... offers a few words from the wise!

"... I would again express my thanks and appreciation for your most prompt reply service, wishing the best of luck to the **SOLDIER Magazine** and looking forward to my copy for a long time to come." — **MD, Bristol.**

"As a regular reader ... I was very interested to read of Ms Anne Pitcher and her amazing writing feats, on the 'PEOPLE' page of **SOLDIER** of May 13 1996 ... Keep up the excellent work — a great read!" — **DH, Hersham, Walton on Thames.**

"I would like to compliment you on the excellence of your magazine. The articles provide wonderful insight into the operation of the Army and the ordinary soldier's life. The photography is exceptional and enhances the stories. Every two weeks I go to the local "British Shop" and usually read every word as soon as I get home. Keep up the good work." — **GLG, Peterborough, Ontario.**

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SOLDIER goes to the top of the class again

FOR THE second successive year, *Soldier* has been voted best in its class in a national competition.

In our April 29 edition we reported that staff writer Phil Wilcox's profile of cartoonist Larry had won an award of excellence in the Communicators in Business Awards for 1996. When the awards cere-

mony took place in Brighton on May 8 it was announced that after further deliberation by the judges the feature had been elevated to "best in class", ahead of 33 other entries.

Soldier also learned that it has scooped an additional merit award apart from the one already announced for headlines. The extra award was for



its October 30, 1995 article headed "Bounty boost for front line" breaking the news that the Army was giving £1,000 to soldiers in certain arms for extending their service.

It brings to eight the number of awards won by *Soldier* in the past five years.



Picture: Mike Weston

Outright excellence: A delighted Col Cliff Paskell, Commandant Bordon Garrison, looks on as Sir Peter Hutchinson, chairman of the Forestry Commission (centre), presents the Forestry Authorities' National Centres of Excellence award to Earl Howe, Parliamentary Secretary of State for Defence,

on Hankley Common, Surrey. Unusually, the Army Training Area at Longmoor District near Aldershot won the award outright in all four categories: improving the quality of the landscape; creating benefits for wildlife; providing public access; and growing timber in environmentally sound ways

Sapper to challenge Gasherbrun

BRITISH Servicemen and women are to attempt to climb the north-west face of the world's 11th highest mountain, Gasherbrun 1 in the Himalayas.

Col Mervyn Bridges RE will lead a team drawn from all three Services and including Army logisticians. They will be accompanied by civilian research scientists.

It will be only the second British ascent of the mountain, and the first 8,000-metre peak climbed by a Service expedition without oxygen.

Also on the expedition will be a junior team - all under 23 years old - drawn from the three Services.

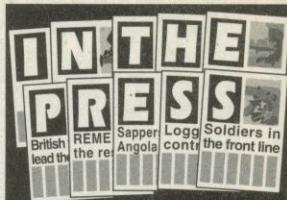


Goodbye Brüggen: Members of 3 Base Ammunition Depot, Royal Logistic Corps, exercise the Freedom of the City of Brüggen, Germany - granted in 1973 - for the final time before the depot is closed and handed over to the German authorities in September

THOUSANDS of readers responded to the appeal in our April 29 issue for their comments about *Soldier*. Questionnaires received by May 20 went into a £100 prize draw which was being conducted as this edition went to press. The lucky winner will

Thousands go into prize draw

be announced in the next issue, dated June 24. Meanwhile, questionnaires received after May 20, though not qualifying for the draw, will be professionally evaluated with all the others. We will let you know the experts' conclusions in due course.



What the papers have been saying

Les 'Super-pros'

SENIOR French officers have admitted that the British Army is better. In a front-page article in *Le Monde* newspaper, French commanders praised the professionalism of British forces which they describe as the "super-pros". - *Daily Telegraph*

□ United States port authorities impounded as unsafe the *Kapitan Mezentsev*, a Ukrainian roll-on roll-off vessel chartered by the MoD and being used to carry supplies off North Carolina during Exercise Purple Star. - *Daily Telegraph*

□ A Pentagon study has found that despite the hundreds of millions of dollars spent to keep American troops fighting fit, many of them eat, drink and smoke too much for their own good. - *Guardian*

□ Freelance mine disposal expert and former Royal Engineer Paul Jefferson, blinded and crippled while clearing Gulf War mines without safety equipment, has won a compensation case estimated to be worth more than £1m. - *Independent*

MPs warned on MQ sale

THE Commons Defence Select Committee has been warned of "irretrievable damage" to Service life if the privatisation of the MoD's married quarters estate goes ahead.

Army Families Federation chairman Cherry Milne told MPs that fewer homes would be available and Service families would lose their integrated community spirit.

● See letters - Page 28

It's a fact

MAJOR Army units totalled 96 on April 1, 1996, as against 128 six years ago. The figures cover Regular Army units of battalion size or equivalent in the major Combat Arms.

Included in the latest total are one training regiment each for the RAC, RE and R Signals; Gurkha infantry battalions; and one AAC TA squadron. It does not include the Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment. - *Parliamentary reply*.

'Crash' course

Looking on as potential Territorial Army officers take part in a training course is Lt Gen **Hew Pike** (second right), Deputy C-in-C Land Command. He was visiting the headquarters of 145 (Home Counties) Brigade Specialist Training Team, a TA unit based in Aldershot.

Sixteen candidates took part in a classroom exercise which involved planning and carrying out a rescue following an aircraft crash in a remote area of a foreign country.



The Signals are good



Enjoying a two-week visit with their hosts, the Queen's Gurkha Signals, at Prince of Wales Barracks in Hong Kong were Officer Cadets **Matthew Grattan** and **Annabel Taylor**.

Seen with Cpl **Bagpir Pun**, the pair, who began officer training at Sandhurst last month, hope to put their experience in the Territory to good use. While in Hong Kong, they were tasked to compile a photographic record of the QG Signals, details of which will be incorporated into a corps painting to be commissioned in ten years' time.



Picture: Sgt Dave Whitley MPC/Land

Booth's back!



Down memory lane

Meeting up with soldiers from his old regiment, the Royal Dragoon Guards, during a visit to Girdwood Barracks, Belfast – where they are on a six-month tour of duty – was Northern Ireland Secretary **Sir Patrick Mayhew**. During National Service in the late 1940s, Sir Patrick served as an officer in the 4th/7th Royal Dragoon Guards.

He retains close links with the regiment, which amalgamated in 1992 with the 5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards to become the Royal Dragoon Guards.



Mercian morsels

LCpl **John Dennis**, an RLC chef serving with The Royal Mercian and Lancastrian Yeomanry, shows off some of the fare which won him and the three other members of the regiment's Combat Caterer team five of the seven prizes in the 143 (W Midland) Brigade competition. He and Sgt **Barrie Shepherd**, Cpl **Bomber Harris** and LCpl **Ray Ball** represented the brigade in the UK finals at Grantham, where they won the shooting and NBC stands.



High ... and mighty?



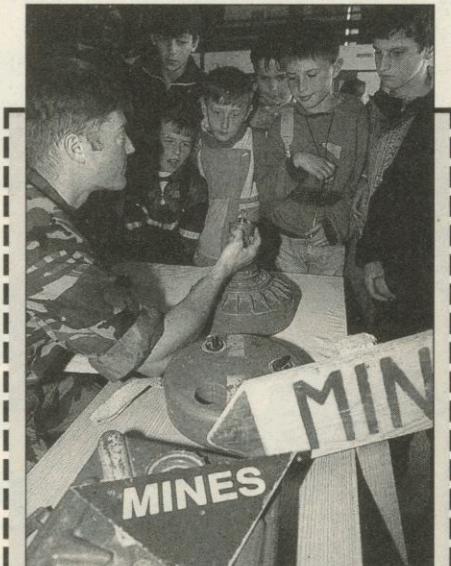
Mills Mount Battery, perched in the loftier regions of Edinburgh Castle, was the scene of a presentation of 11 pipe major's certificates to students from the Army School of Bagpiping by Armed Forces Minister **Nicholas Soames** (foreground, left). On his left are Lt Col **Andy Middlemiss**, Divisional Colonel, The Scottish Division; Gen Sir **Charles Guthrie**, Chief of the General Staff in Edinburgh with Mr Soames to attend a meeting of the Army Board; Maj Gen **Jonathan Hall**, GOC Scotland; LCpl **Alan Johnston**, Scots DG; and Pipe Maj **Bruce Hitchings**, Highlanders.

PEOPLE



Anyone for pommes frites?

Flying the culinary flag for Great Britain in Bosnia is Cpl **Steve Watson** (right), as French soldiers sample a British meal. Chefs from the British ARRC Support Battalion, Royal Logistic Corps, also feed American, Italian and British soldiers.



Safety first

LCpl **Paul Ralfe**, serving with 33 Engineer Regiment (EOD) in Bosnia, gives a mine awareness presentation to children at Prva Ojnovna School in Donji Vakuf.

Although only two of the school's pupils have been injured by mines, the threat to Bosnia's youngsters is still very real: at least 2,700 minefields are known to exist in the divisional area, yet to date records for only 2,000 are available.

LCpl Ralfe has been giving the presentations since December.

Almost 1,000 children between the ages of seven and 15 assembled in the school hall to hear him and other IFOR experts deliver their warning.

It took a shoot-out between Alnwick-based Z Company, 6th (Northumberland) Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers and Sheffield University Officers' Training Corps to decide the outcome of Exercise Martial Merlin, 15th (North East) Brigade's demanding 1996 annual military skills competition. But their prowess should come as no surprise, since 6 RRF

recently took the opportunity to photograph all their 1995 champion teams before the trophies had to be returned.

Pictured above (left to right) are the shooting team, winners of the Bisley Falling Plates competition; the orienteering team, 1995 brigade champions, with LCpl **Dorothy Mills**, the 1996 over-35 individual champion; X Company, last year's Martial Merlin champions; the 1995 2nd Division road

safety quiz winners; the sailing team, winners of the Sadler Trophy at the Army Sailing Regatta; the winners of the Yellow Brick Road Corporate Challenge; and the winners of the 2nd Division field catering competition.

Those fantastic Fusiliers . . .

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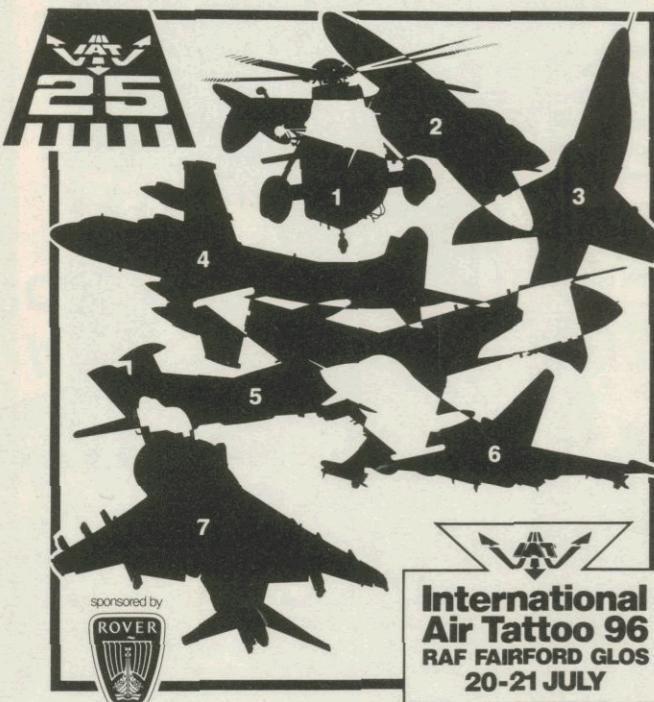
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August 8 edition of **SOLDIER**



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New agency is UK's biggest dental surgery

SERVICE personnel make up 80 per cent of the staff employed by the Defence Dental Agency, the formation of which from the three single-Service dental corps was reported in the last issue of *Soldier*.

Under the new arrangement they will spend most of their working career in the Service to which they were recruited, providing primary dental care and having an operational role. Teams equipped with portable dental surgeries are currently treating troops deployed throughout Bosnia.

Air Vice-Marshal Jefferson Mackey, chief executive of the agency, said dentistry was a specialised service managed most effectively on a tri-Service basis.

It is one of four medical agencies to come under the Surgeon General and its creation, following a recommendation by the Defence Cost Study, "will offer improved levels of patient service coupled with flexibility and cost-effectiveness across the three Services."

The Defence Dental Agency – the largest employer of career dental staff in the UK – has responsibility for 292,000 patients based in 195 locations worldwide.

Two major professional and trade training establishments are

located at Aldershot and Halton, providing basic and advanced training for dental officers and dental hygienists as well as post-graduate training for dental officers and civilian practitioners.



Mrs Janine Carter (right), administrator of the Army Families Federation in Northern Ireland, cuts a cake to mark the re-launch of the Federation of Army Wives under its new title. Looking on are Col Trevor White, Assistant

Sweet talk...

Celebrity chef Gary Rhodes cuts a telephone cake to mark the launch of Legionline, the new helpline set up by the Royal British Legion with the help of Tate and Lyle. By ringing 0345 725 725, serving personnel and members of the ex-Service community and their dependants can obtain authoritative, expert advice on a range of issues.



Picture: Terry Champion

Listening Legion launches helpline

A NEW national helpline which could benefit more than 16 million serving and ex-Service people and their dependants was launched on May 20 by celebrity chef Gary Rhodes.

The Royal British Legion's Legionline – 0345 725 725 – will offer expert advice on issues ranging from pensions and benefits to small businesses and training schemes.

Sugar conglomerate Tate and Lyle, who share a 75th anniversary this year with the Legion, paid for the setting up of Legionline and have met the first year's administrative costs.

The line was established in response to the growing number of enquiries directed to the RBL and other Service organisations. It aims to be the first point of contact for serving and ex-Service men and women with queries or concerns.

Although many calls are expected to be from war widows and the ex-Service community and dependants, contact has been made by serving soldiers and their families.

Legionline co-ordinator John Ashton said: "People phone us from all over the world, many desperate for help and practical support. One woman needed to track down the family of a British pilot shot down in France; another man serving in the Forces was having trouble funding vital equipment he needed for his disabled son."

"We were able to provide both with the information and contacts they needed."

Statistical shock for young leavers

THE Ex-Services Resettlement Group regularly contributes to the *Counterpoint* programme on BFBS.

Over the years we've covered the experiences of people leaving the Services who want to find a job. New research undertaken by the Group has thrown up some interesting findings.

Based on a variety of small samples over the years it has frequently been said that 80 per cent of all Service leavers have a job three months after discharge.

It seems that, while this might be true of some people, it's not an accurate view of all leavers.

In 1992 the Group embarked on a project called Overview. It started with the Army and eventually included all three Services. The latest findings concern the Army.

Overview isn't a sampling exercise. A computer disk containing all the National Insurance num-

bers of those who left the Army in the previous two years is sent to the Department of Social Security. Staff mark on the disk all those who are registered as unemployed on the date of their national computer run and add the period of current employment. The disk is then returned to the Group.

This kind of research relies on confidentiality. The reason the disk isn't returned to the MoD is that individuals could be identified. This would be an offence under the Data Protection Act. The Ex-Services Resettlement Group cannot identify people and does not wish to.

The Group is interested in the information only in its pure form. Speaking on *Counterpoint* on BFBS, Henry Hawkesley of the Group said they have no way in which to identify individuals and that strenuous efforts have been made to ensure that all legal requirements have been met.

There is a computer run every three months and there have now been five separate runs on the Army. There has been a remarkable consistency between them. Some categories do better than others.

Before Overview there was a long-held opinion that if someone served in the Army for a long time he or she would become set in their ways and would be difficult to employ and experience difficulties in settling down to civilian life.

The general picture emerging from the research is that the longer a person serves the more likely he or she is to find a job when leaving.

This confirms the anecdotal evidence. Many have said that they believe this to be the case but, until now, we have had no evidence to support it.

Those who have held the opin-

ion have argued that a person with good organisational skills and a highly-developed sense of loyalty is likely to be attractive to an employer. Until now, we have had no hard evidence to prove the point.

The major problem, according to Overview, seems to lie with young leavers. The national unemployment figure for those aged between 20 and 24 years is 17 per cent, but for those leaving the Army in the same age group the figure, up to the two-year point after discharge, is about double that of their civilian counterparts.

This may seem to be alarming news for those in the age group who are about to leave. But these figures should be seen as a warning and an incentive to act.

Civilians have to be unemployed for six months before becoming eligible for employment training. Unemployed ex-Service



Cari's column

people can get it on discharge and they should get an extra £10 a week on top of unemployment benefit as well.

I'm indebted to Henry Hawkesley for all the information. He'll be back in the *Counterpoint* programme next month for a follow-up interview, so stand by for more information.

I am as guilty as everyone else of relying on the "everybody knows" kind of discussion. I thought that everybody knew that anyone with an LS and GC was going to have a hard time getting a job in civvy street.

I assumed that a young Service person would have more time to adapt. It seems we are wrong. So what are the implications of the findings of Overview? I'm sure the Ex-Services Resettlement Group will have the answer next month.

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

● MQ letter – see Page 28



Spr Digger Bell and Ross White rehearse mine clearance drills at Camp Lejeune. Behind them are LCpl Simon Woodham and Spr Mark Loader. All are members of 1 Tp, 59 Indep Cdo Sqn RE

Drop injuries on light side

• From Page 3

only three 105mm Light Guns, one trailer and 24 soldiers ashore; 59 Independent Commando Squadron Royal Engineers was similarly delayed.

Commando Logistic Regiment, which has 100 soldiers on its strength, took more than two days to disembark. The latecomers faced heavy surf which had built up over the preceding 48 hours.

Two hapless Commando loggies had a shock when they drove their Land Rover and trailer down the ramp to "wade" the vehicle ashore. Because the surf was deeper than they expected, their vehicle began to float away. They were towed to safety by a big-wheeled tractor.

Defence Secretary Michael Portillo had little problem reaching the shoreline. He stepped from a landing craft on to a 1940s vintage Beach Armoured Recovery Vehicle (BARV) which took him ashore, where he was "corralled" by the huge media contingent waiting on the beach.

WARTIME AIRFIELD

Camp Davis, a sprawling former wartime airfield, proved an ideal inland location for 5 Brigade to carry out a tactical air landing operation (TALO).

Trees and shrubs now grow where buildings and hangars once stood, providing ideal cover for the brigade after hundreds of troops and light vehicles had been airlifted in on a succession of Hercules aircraft.

In the final stages of Purple Star, an operation involving what was believed to be the largest helicopter assault ever mounted – 1,000 troops in 60 helicopters – had to be postponed because of darkness and bad weather.

More than 53,000 British and American troops took part in the exercise, deploying as a joint task force to assist the country of "Kartuna" against invaders from the neighbouring "Korona".

UK and US units operated as if under a United Nations mandate and appropriate United Nations Security Council resolutions. Purple Star was also used to practise the functioning of the Permanent Joint Headquarters recently established at Northwood, and the strategic deployment, command and control of the UK's new Joint Rapid Deployment Force.

There go the Marines

Right: Commando loggies drive through the surf during the amphibious landing. One vehicle got out of its depth

WHEN LCpl Michael Bandey and the rest of the Royal Engineers' breaching party went ashore under cover of darkness to clear a safe path through a beach minefield, they hardly expected to encounter the battalion of American Amtrak amphibious vehicles which raced past them.

Anything can happen in the confusion of battle, and the amphibious landing phase of Exercise Purple Star was no exception. The US Marine Corps unit had mistaken the British beach landing site for its own a mile further west.

But no harm was done and LCpl Bandey's team continued to prod their way up the sand, marking mines for disposal as they went. Once the way had been cleared, the fighting units of 3 Commando Brigade moved ashore from the fleet of landing ships lying up off the beach.

The brigade, a Royal Marines formation, has a large number of commando-trained soldiers, notably 29 Commando Regiment, Royal Artillery; 59 Independent Commando Squadron, Royal Engineers; and about 100 Royal Logistic Corps supply and transport specialists serving in the Commando Logistic Regiment.

Capt Ian Mulholland RA had already been ashore for two hours, but there had been a 24-hour delay in getting the battery's command post ashore to link up with its missile detachments.

"When we tried to land the night before, heavy surf prevented us getting off the landing craft. We were taken back on board HMS *Fearless* and were brought in again this morning after the surf abated," he said.

Maj Tony Troulan, OC 59 Indep Cdo

Sqn RE, said his men were fulfilling their role of providing close support to 3 Brigade.

"This included mobility operations – clearing minefields and bridging – and counter-mobility operations – demolition tasks and minefield-laying," said Maj Troulan. "We pushed west as fast as we could in support of the Marines, ensuring the momentum was kept up by clearing a way through any minefields they encountered."

After the exercise, 59 Squadron was split three ways. One part accompanied 42 Commando to the Caribbean on a two-month tour, while another set off for a month-long combined arms exercise in California. The rest returned to their new base at Chivenor in North Devon. The squadron recently moved from Plymouth.

Having seized its objectives, the brigade was ferried across a two-mile wide estuary near Camp Lejeune. The exercise culminated in a two-pronged attack by 3 Commando Brigade and the 5th Airborne Brigade against "enemy" forces massed on a training area at Fort Bragg.

Exercise Purple Star was part of the final work-up of Britain's new Permanent Joint Headquarters (PJHQ) at Northwood and the Joint Rapid Deployment Force which includes both 3 and 5 Brigades.

• More reports in next issue



The battery commander's party unloads equipment from a Royal Navy Sea King



Javelin operator Bdr Ian Barclay scans the skies for enemy aircraft



Right: 8 Battery's command post pictured during a halt in helicopter operations following a mid-air collision in which 14 US servicemen died. At that point, the battery had only three guns and a trailer ashore. Pictured are Gnr Scot Hawke, Lt Alex Sharples, Lbdr Steven Spencer and Greg Jarvis, and Gnr Brian Krakow



Lady of the lamp's spirit lives on

THE NEWLY-established Royal Defence Medical College (RDMC) in Millbank, London has a lot of history to live up to.

Now officially tri-Service, as from April 1, the organisation took over both name and premises of the Royal Army Medical College, occupant of the building since its opening 89 years ago last month.

Maj Gen George Cowan, last in a long line of commandants of the college in its old form, spoke to *Soldier* shortly before handing over to his successor, Surgeon Commodore Ian Jenkins, the naval officer who has taken the helm as the first RDMC commandant.

"Medically, the Crimean War was a shambles," Maj Gen Cowan said.

"When Florence Nightingale went out, she found the doctors didn't have any proper training in preventive medicine or any education in the military aspects of their profession."

So in 1860, the Army Medical School was established at Fort Pitt, Chatham.

Before then, doctors joining the Army had been posted directly to their regiments, or had undergone a small amount of military medical training at York Hospital in Chelsea or the General Invaliding Hospital on the Isle of Wight (moved that year to Fort Pitt).

Three years later, postgraduate military medical training transferred to the then

Report: Phil Wilcox
Pictures: Mike Weston

newly-opened Royal Victoria Hospital at Netley, Southampton, Maj Gen Cowan explained.

On the recommendation of a Royal Commission after the Boer War, the Royal Army Medical College was built on the site of a huge prison (the Millbank Penitentiary) on the edge of the Thames and opened in 1907.

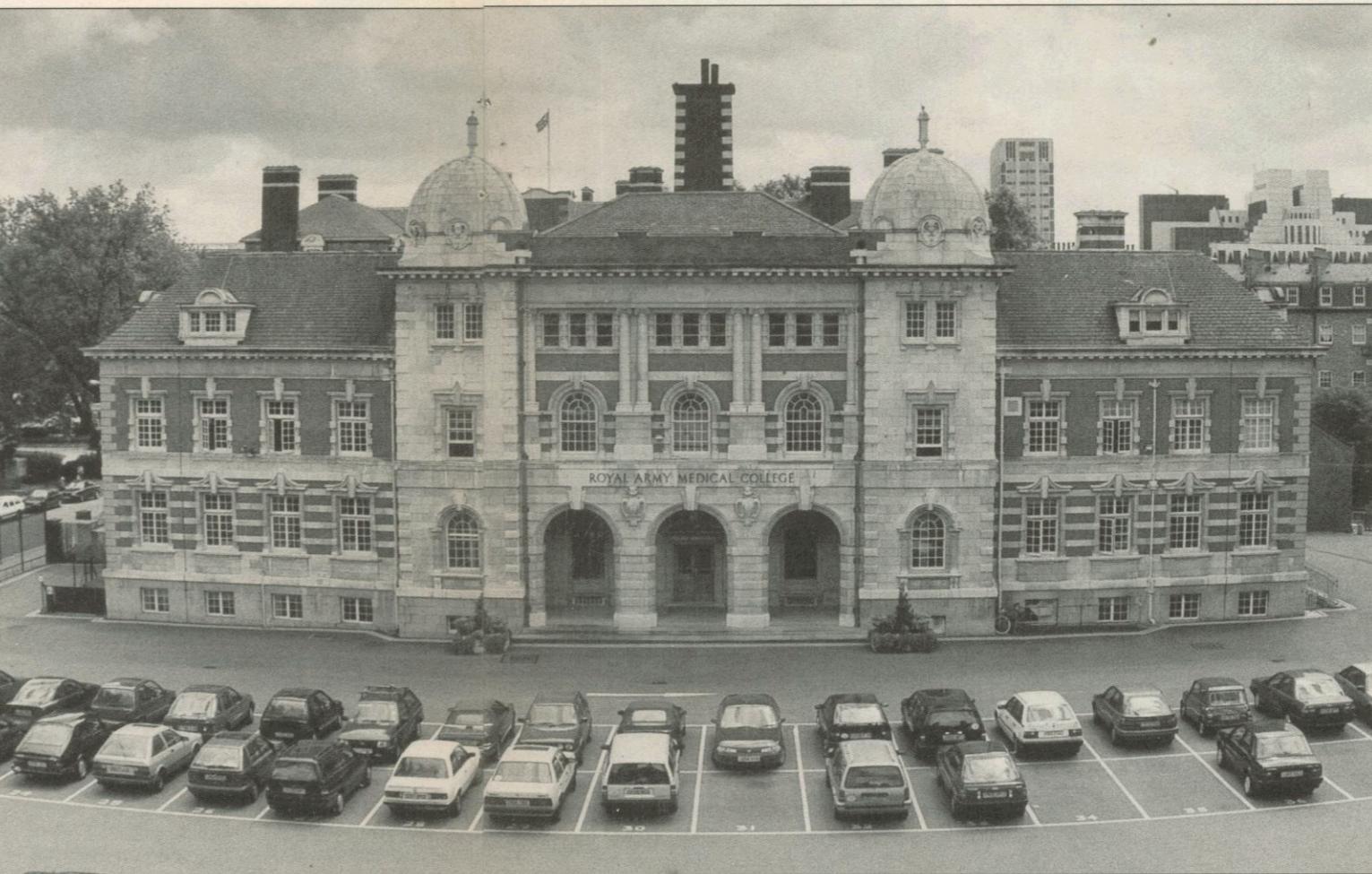
Getting on for a century later, the college – now a Grade 2 listed building – currently provides post-graduate training in military surgery, military medicine, Army pathology, military psychiatry, preventive medicine, military entomology, general practice and the dental sciences.

"We have for many years, of course, taught all three Services and the Reserves here, and the teaching staff at the RDMC will still be mainly from the Army," said the major general.

The Professorships of Military Surgery, Medicine, Pathology and Psychiatry are held jointly with the Royal Colleges, most of which are based in London.

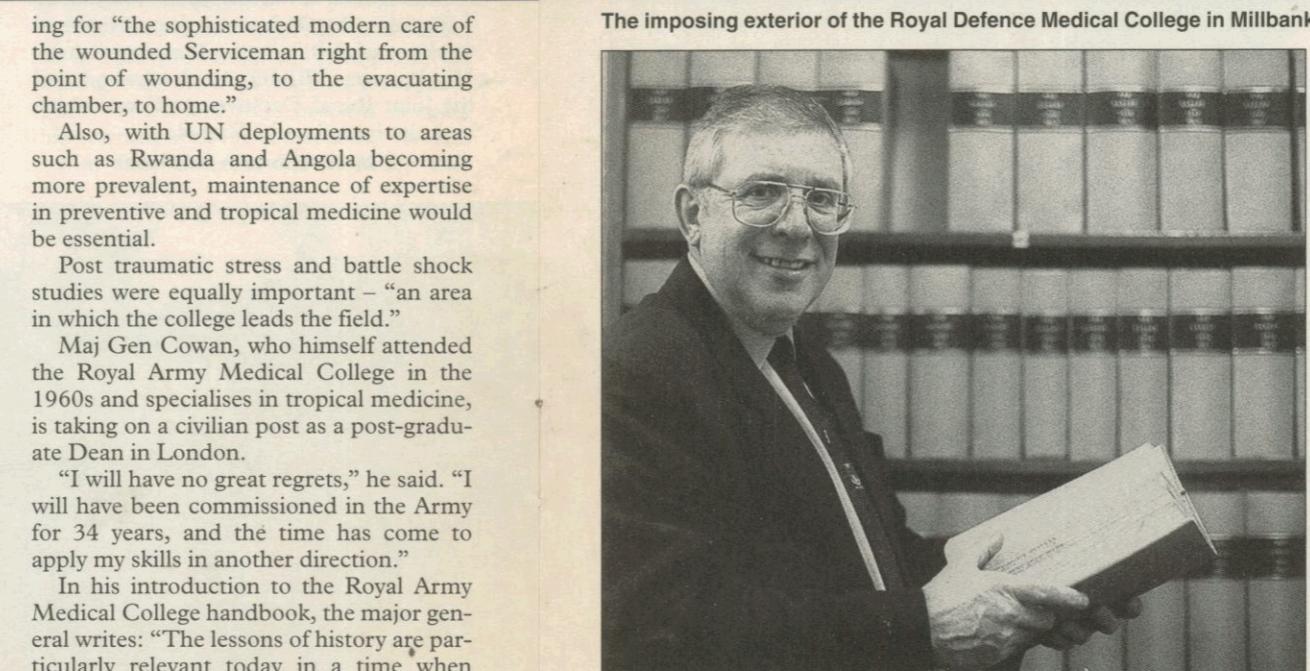
"This establishment is used a lot for the interface of civilian and Service medicine in the capital, which we feel is a great asset," the outgoing commandant said.

He envisages the college's role becoming increasingly important in the future, train-

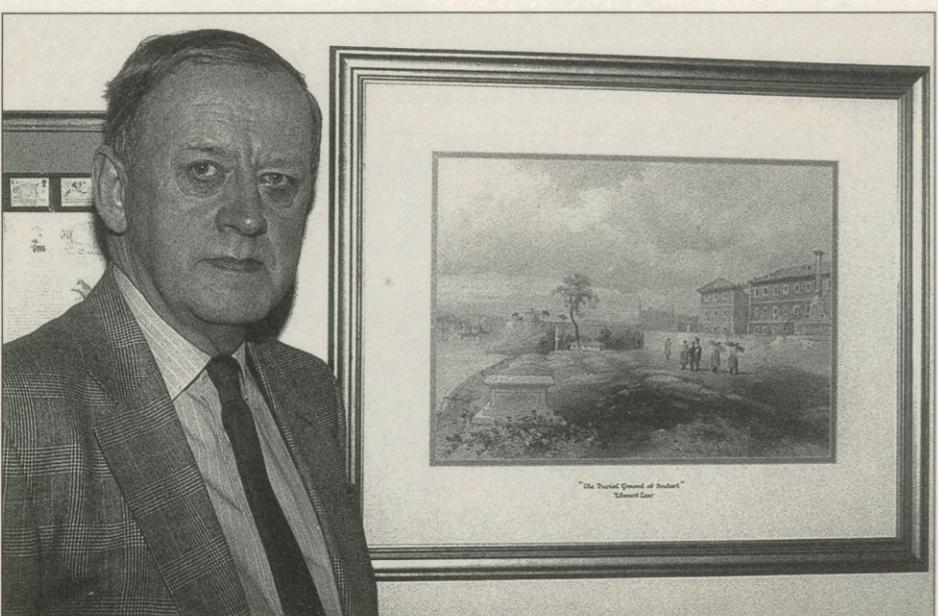


Picture: College Photo Unit

The imposing exterior of the Royal Defence Medical College in Millbank, London



Left: Lt Col Mitch Clarke does a spot of "heavy reading" in the RDMC's comprehensive library: an 1894 volume of the *Lancet*



Maj Gen George Cowan, final commandant of the Royal Army Medical College, with Florence Nightingale's favourite picture, "The Burial Ground at Scutari" by Edward Lear, given to the college for safe keeping

ing for "the sophisticated modern care of the wounded Serviceman right from the point of wounding, to the evacuating chamber, to home."

Also, with UN deployments to areas such as Rwanda and Angola becoming more prevalent, maintenance of expertise in preventive and tropical medicine would be essential.

Post traumatic stress and battle shock studies were equally important – "an area in which the college leads the field."

Maj Gen Cowan, who himself attended the Royal Army Medical College in the 1960s and specialises in tropical medicine, is taking on a civilian post as a post-graduate Dean in London.

"I will have no great regrets," he said. "I will have been commissioned in the Army for 34 years, and the time has come to apply my skills in another direction."

In his introduction to the Royal Army Medical College handbook, the major general writes: "The lessons of history are particularly relevant today in a time when cost-cutting is foremost, but when the conduct of specialist training for all doctors is becoming even more strictly controlled and the need for continuing medical education for trained doctors is being increasingly recognised.

"The contacts nurtured over many years

between the RAM College and the Medical Royal College is achieving those aims in the Army."

As the Royal Defence Medical College in turn makes its mark in the military history books, the hope is that further achieve-

ments will follow. With the centenary of the Royal Army Medical Corps fast approaching, the future location of the Royal Defence Medical College is still under discussion . . .

College curiosities

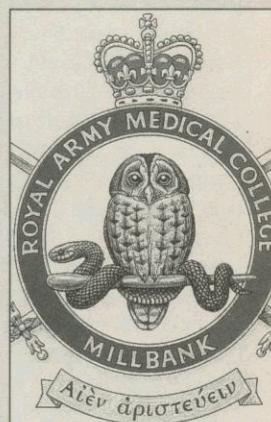
GAS MASKS: Teaching was suspended at the Royal Army Medical College during the First World War, and the premises were used for production of vaccines and, later, for research into protection against chemical warfare, when early gas masks were developed at the college

WE NEVER CLOSED: Although the college was seriously damaged by bombs in 1941, courses in tropical medicine continued throughout the Second World War and more than 3,000 officers passed through

BIRD BRAIN: When the Russian equivalent to the RAMC's Surgeon General visited the establishment, he was presented with a plaque bearing the college's badge depicting an owl and snake on a rod, with accompanying crown and swords.

He could understand the significance of everything bar the owl, but when it was pointed out that it represented Athena, goddess of wisdom, he said: "That is what was puzzling me: in my country, we believe owls to be very stupid."

HEROES'
ROOM: In the Royal Army Medical Corps' Officers' Mess, situated next to the college, a collection of paintings and other memorabilia in the VC Room illustrates the acts of gallantry and valour which led to the award of the Victoria Cross – in some cases twice – to 39 members of the medical services



Above: Detail from the now defunct college badge and logo, designed by a staff entomologist in 1961. Taken from Homer's *Iliad*, the motto says: "Always to be the best"

35 S. So
April 27/76
a private intimation from Mr. Hardy himself
that, having read "the Report of the
Senate, the School is saved:

I conclude that he takes time to consider
about the proposed Cte. as the means of
adapting to increased numbers
May god speed you all & us too.

Plus ça change? : Letter from Florence Nightingale comments that, following a report "the [Army Medical] school is saved"

wheely flying!

NEXT year, the oldest, most famous and accomplished motor cycle display team in the world – the Royal Signals White Helmets – will celebrate its 70th birthday.

Since January it has been business as usual as the team trained hard to perfect its exciting and daring display for the 1996 summer season.

First of many public displays of the year took place last month at its base at Blandford Camp in Dorset.

An invited audience of families, friends, VIPs and representatives of several British companies who will be providing all-important sponsorship throughout the forthcoming season was present.

During the display, those riders who have joined the

COVETED

team this year and completed a very demanding selection course were presented with their coveted White Helmets by Maj Gen Archie Birtwistle, the Master of Signals.

The short ceremony represented a graduation from novice to display rider.

"It signified that those who had successfully made the grade in training were worthy to be members of such a high profile team," a member of the Royal Signals said.

They can now look forward to joining their established fellow-riders in topping the bill at the action-packed Royal Tournament in July.



Pictures: Richard Constantine



Short, sharp response

THE machine gun opened up on Call Sign 31 without warning.

Two crew members on sentry duty in the Light Infantry Warrior armoured fighting vehicle saw tracer strike only a few metres away. Their gunner was asleep in a nearby bunker.

When Pte Andrew Foster got behind his 30mm Rarden canon he was told to return one round if the Warrior was fired on again.

This was going to be difficult – not because of the range of 1,900m, but because Pte Foster had been trained to fire three rounds as quickly as possible, not single shots.

"There was a little buzz as we waited, and when we were fired on again I instinctively put two armour-piercing rounds into the position," said Pte Foster. "There was no more firing after that."

Pte Foster's platoon of B Company, 2nd Battalion, The Light Infantry, had been in location in a Muslim area for two weeks, a large Union flag flying above it, and the Light Infantrymen were ready to make a robust response to any trouble.

Soldiers from 2 LI also returned fire when engaged by Bosnian Serbs.

On both occasions the brigade commanders of the forces involved were confronted by an angry commanding officer, Lt Col Ben Barry, who gave them "a severe interview without coffee".

The 2nd Battalion landed at Split as part of a Multi-National Brigade Rapid Reaction Force and at first operated round Sarajevo and Mount Igman.

An unexpectedly early fall of snow at Mount Igman caused problems but quickly accustomed the Light Infantrymen to the Bosnian winter and operating over long distances in a complex multi-national environment. The battalion moved 250km to the other side of the country



Pte Andrew Foster, who returned fire with Warrior's main armament



Warrior vehicles of A Company 2 LI en route in the Sanski Most-Bihac area



Lt Col Ben Barry, commanding officer of the 2nd Battalion, The Light Infantry, in front of one of his Warriors



Sgt Jock Murray (right) and vehicle commanders listen carefully to a briefing

when it changed from UN command to being part of the NATO-led Dayton Peace Agreement Implementation Force (IFOR) to control the area from Sanski Most to Bihac.

It was an epic two-day journey in appalling weather, with a platoon being attached to the Light Dragoons to provide security for their impressive advance to Banja Luka.

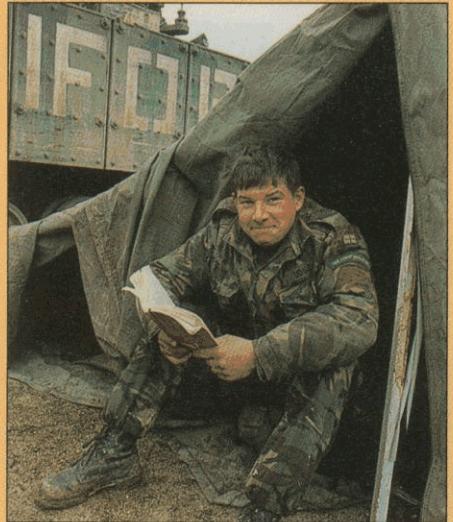
Most of the 180km of confrontation line which

had to be policed was mined and there was very little information or intelligence on the 120,000 soldiers of three armies who had to disengage.

The battalion operated in strength on either side of the confrontation line and a great deal of liaison and patrolling was necessary, with company and platoon commanders taking every opportunity to exercise initiative.

Opening crossing points on formerly

• Turn to next page



Pte Richard Udale relaxes beside his Warrior

Short, sharp response

• From Page 19

mined tracks was tricky and there were lucky escapes when vehicles went over mines.

In its final phase the battalion was based in Banja Luka, with a company remaining at Sanski Most as part of The Queen's Royal Hussars battle group.

The British element of IFOR soon won the confidence of soldiers and civilians in areas in which they were operating and the military objective of separating opposing forces and supervising their return to barracks was achieved as planned.

Pte Foster's training had paid off, even if he fired an extra round.

So, too, had the battalion's preparation. It benefited from exercising at BATUS during the previous two years, gaining a solid foundation of basic skills as well as working with armoured engineers, artillery and helicopters.

"It was a pretty significant achievement to go into an unexplored area at the end of a very long supply line in winter with communication difficulties," said Lt Col Barry.



Field lesson: Training continues for soldiers of A Company, 2 LI providing part of 4 Armoured Brigade's reserve force during preparations for the return of the Bosnian Serb Army to the Anvil

A little ingenuity soon transformed their tents. Little skill was needed by the

Willing hands help put a community back on its feet

THE AROMA of roast pork loses its attraction when it emanates from a pit in which the carcasses of diseased pigs are being incinerated.

Gunners from 26 Regiment Group, Royal Artillery had a severe problem to cope with because of the large number of diseased pigs running wild in the Sanski Most area.

Some 2,000 had to be shot, burned and buried by men of 17/159 Battery to prevent them contaminating the water supply and spreading dysentery or cholera.

British squaddies are well used to making the best of any environment, and civilians living beside them benefit from such enterprise.

"Neither we nor the local school children had anywhere to exercise, so we refurbished a gym," said Maj Mike Redmond, the 17/159 Battery commander.

"It was not in an ideal condition after being used by various militia."

BIG CLEAN UP

Gunners helped local people clean it up, provided locks to secure it, and the town soon had a proper facility which could be used by children and soldiers.

More than 200 displaced youngsters also discovered the joys of Sunday afternoon tea parties organised by the gunners. LBdr Andrew Fenton wrote to his old school, which sent out boxes of sweets.

The battery is housed in a wood factory which used to supply fitted kitchens to a major DIY retail outlet in Britain. It now provides timber for new rafters, doors and window frames, indispensable in the reconstruction process.

First customers were the gunners themselves, who struck up a rapport with the German-speaking foreman and were given permission to use spare wood to make themselves more comfortable by constructing their own furniture.

A little ingenuity soon transformed their tents.

Little skill was needed by the



Over to you: Ptes Jason Dawson, Bobby Eaton, Stephen Somerville and Mick Sumner of the 1st Battalion, The Queen's Lancashire Regiment help Serbs load aid for a rural community

Queen's Royal Hussars to get the Kljuc school up and running. All that was needed was a bit of cleaning, wood to heat the school, and the inspiration to get stuck in.

The Hussars were probably the only people in Bosnia to worry about getting permission to cut down trees – environmental considerations are ingrained following heightened awareness in Britain and Germany.

Over four weekends the Hussars provided the means to let the community help itself. "We trucked the school staff up into the forest with our chain saws, felled half a forest, loaded the trucks and took it to the school," said Maj Keith Deakin.

The labouring was largely done by civilians, but British and Canadian troops were also roped in, and a grateful community invited them to a banquet.

Engineering equipment had to be bid for to repair roads which had collapsed into the river Sava. This had meant a long detour for villagers on the left bank, but also opened up patrol routes for the Hussars.

Fork lift trucks could clear most of the derelict cars peppered along the roads, but

Sweet memory: Maj Duggie Brown gives Mihajlo Knezevic a commemorative bar of chocolate

heavier equipment was needed to clear buses and lorries.

The Hussars HQ established itself in Dettingen camp (named after a 1743 battle honour), a former transport establishment which provided an ideal dump for the pile of vehicles.

OC HQ Squadron, Maj Deakin would

normally become battle group logistics officer on deployment, but as the Challengers were not firing their weapons and the long logistic chain was operating smoothly, he could devote his time to helping regenerate the community through G5 projects.

As last year's BAOR football champions (and the first cavalry regiment to win since 1956, said Maj Deakin) the regiment was not averse to arranging football matches.

Apart from the occasional mistimed tackle, the pitches were safe enough. The surrounding area, however, is strewn with mines and EOD teams led by people like Sgt Mike Garcia concentrate on giving mine awareness lectures to school children.

Information was one of the vital commodities provided by soldiers of the 1st Battalion, The Queen's Lancashire Regiment to Serb communities returning to the Anvil.

INFORMATION CENTRES

Centres were originally set up by 1 RRF to help civilians find out what facilities were available and eased their traumatic return to devastated towns.

"Our resources are limited, so our job is to identify tasks which can be done and tell the UNHCR or non-governmental organisations about them," said Capt Edward Hemeses.

B Sqn, QRH, part of the QLR Battle Group, provided 300 meals one day and also water containers until the community sorted its own supplies.

"We are a signpost," said Lt Steve Greenwood, normally 1 QLR's motor transport officer but currently liaison officer for the Mrkonjic Grad rural area.

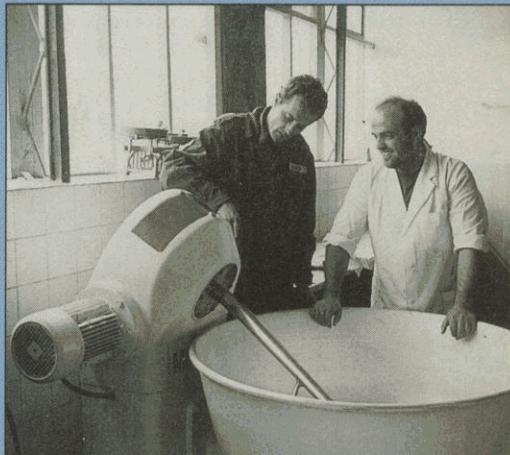
"Everybody comes to us and we point them in the right direction. It started with food, water and hospitals, but every question you can think of came to us."

After a couple of weeks Sgt Ian McCleary could see the difference with electricity, running water and more coffee shops opening.

As well as respect for the British soldiers, many Serbs have an affection derived from their memory of

how Britain helped the Partisans during the war. The first bar of chocolate Mihajlo Knezevic ever had was from a British soldier who parachuted into the Ribnik valley to help Tito in 1944.

As a 12-year-old, Mihajlo used to carry messages over the mountains from partisans in his valley to other partisans.



WO1 (ASM) Welsh REME, who tracked down the mixer in Zagreb, discusses its operation with Vurdic Kamenko

More than a crumb of comfort

BREAD is back on the tables of Mrkonjic Grad, thanks to the tenacity of 32 Armoured Engineer Regiment.

Extensively damaged during the war, the local bakery was repaired by sappers helped by soldiers from the 1st Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers.

But the bakers, mixing dough by hand, had no way of keeping up with demand despite working through the early hours every morning.

Lt Col Peter Wall, CO 32 Armd Engr Regt, tasked the REME Workshops with finding an electrical mixer to increase output. A cement mixer was tried and discarded before a proper custom-built dough mixer was located in Zagreb.

The Overseas Development Agency put up the money and the sappers fetched the machine on a 14-tonner, the only vehicle big enough to carry it.

Baker Vojvodic Milorad was estatic. When formally presented with the mixer by 4th (UK) Armoured Brigade commander Brig Richard Dannatt he said it would allow the bakery to increase production from 800 loaves a day to up to 4,000.

"I want to thank IFOR... this is very important to us in Mrkonjic Grad."

After 52 years, Tommies were again in his valley, and Mihajlo now sells chocolate, biscuits and cakes at the front gate of a factory occupied by B Company 1 QLR. In memory of his first chocolate, Maj Duggie Brown, OC B Coy, gave him another bar.

Powerful persuaders

A CHALLENGER main battle tank presents a powerful and arresting spectacle in the countryside near Bosanski Petrovac.

It is a very visible sign of military capability, reassuring civilians while at the same time deterring the previously warring armies from not complying with the Dayton Peace Agreement.

Before Dayton, no United Nations peacekeepers had been allowed into this Serb-held area between Bihać and the former British armoured brigade headquarters location in Sipovo.

But following the Muslim-Croat Federation offensive last year, the Serb 2nd Kryena Corps was pushed back, and both Serb and Muslims are returning to the area in ever larger numbers.

They needed reassurance that the fighting would not start again, and for them the IFOR Challenger was a strangely comforting sight.

"Arguably there is no other weapons system that can make our statement the way a tank can," said Lt Col Nigel Beer, commanding officer of the Catterick-based Queen's Royal Hussars.

The high plateau is ideal tank country, if a bit rocky, but tanks are careful to keep to "green routes". Unusually for Bosnia, there are many open areas which give clear fields of fire.

"The one thing we are not doing is motorising across country because of the mine threat," said Lt Col Beer.

When the armour arrived there was tangible concern that there would be non-compliance with the Dayton agreement.

"Things have gone much better than anyone dared hope on the military side, partly because local people are war-weary and want peace," said Lt Col Beer.

But he was also quite clear that it was IFOR's overwhelming military strength which had deterred non-compliance.

QUALITY OF LIFE

"We have been in the business of reassurance, but in many ways we are now entering a more difficult phase. The military aspects were quite clear-cut but we are increasingly likely to find ourselves trying to improve the quality of life of civilians, whether in minor civil aid projects or by assisting other organisations.

"These political, police, humanitarian and economic areas will be much less clear-cut and in many ways more challenging, requiring greater flexibility and adaptability by officers and soldiers."

The QRH Challengers are employed in an unusual way, fulfilling tasks traditionally carried out by reconnaissance soldiers:

observation posts, vehicle checkpoints and patrolling. It is far removed from their normal high-intensity training.

Despite high mileage, the tanks were performing excellently, said LCpl Ben Kinsella.

Serving within a Canadian brigade provided another dimension for the headquarters and one of the two squadrons deployed.

The QRH Battle Group and the 6th Czech Mechanised Battalion to its north both come under command of the 2nd Canadian Multi-National Brigade, based in Coralici, north of Bihać.

Although the Hussars are under Canadian control for operational tasking, the regiment received all its logistic support and administration from 4 Armoured then 1 Mechanised Brigade, which also has operational control over B Squadron in Mrkonjic Grad.

Regimental headquarters is at Kljuc, just outside the British brigade's Anvil area and in the Canadian brigade boundaries.

This Muslim town is also home to G Company of the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Canadian Regiment, part of the QRH Battle Group along with B Company, 2nd Battalion, The Light Infantry (replaced by a 1 WFR company), and Hussars' A/C squadron.

Completing the international flavour is a detachment of Dutch Marines who provide forward observation officers for the battle group.

Liaison with the Canadians presents no problems, particularly with A Squadron's Canadian 2iC under command.

Capt John Malevich is on an exchange posting from the QRH's sister regiment, the 8th Canadian Hussars, which is also the regiment of the Canadian brigade commander. Capt Malevich is half Slovenian, so has a personal interest in helping bring peace to former Yugoslavia.

If peace is threatened in the QRH area of responsibility it is not expected to be



An A Squadron Challenger negotiates a checkpoint guarded by a QLR Saxon



Trooper Adam Barrett and Tpr Jon Gardner enjoy a brew while waiting to deploy on patrol



A QRH tank crew passes time while waiting to deploy with B Squadron

through confrontation between the Serbs and the Federation, but between the Bosnian Muslims and Bosnian Croats in Kulen Vakuf.

"Muslims hold the east bank and the Croat military hold the west bank, and

although it is really nothing to do with the Dayton Agreement, it is a flash point and I have a platoon of infantry based there," said Maj Andrew Cuthbert, officer commanding A Squadron.

The regiment tried to avoid having any-

thing like Cyprus's Green Line which suggested a permanent presence, but an infantry platoon is continuously based in the town.

In return for this platoon - from 2 LI-1 WFR - a troop of Challengers was detached



Pipe Major David Johnston plays *Reveille* in QRH headquarters at Dettingen camp

to B Company at Sanski Most.

The squadron is based at Alamein Camp at Bosanski Petrovac, collocated with half of the regimental reconnaissance troop of four Scimitars, along with the battle group echelon support, the Light Aid Detachment and Quartermaster Technical's department.

One of the regiment's assets, its pipe band, is widely spread and Pipe Major David Johnston has his work cut out organising band practice.

The former Queen's Royal Irish Hussars had a strong band, but when the regiment amalgamated with the Queen's Own Hussars in 1993, Pipe Major Johnston had to rebuild it from scratch.

Many recruits come from the Birmingham area and he is encouraged by the support he gets from this side of the regiment: 60 per cent of the band is English.

English or Irish, the local Muslims appreciate the IFOR presence - and the sight of Challenger.

FEATURE

HOW DASU RAN ITS OWN SHOW



Cpl Craig Murthick, LCpl Cheryl Simmons, LCpl Paul Duke, Cpl Robert Hart and Cpl Percy Rivers of the Defence Animal Support Unit training wing at Sennelager set up dog sections to provide unit security in Croatia and Bosnia

Dogged approach pays off for teeth arm that lost its bite

IT WAS a dog's life for Cpl Bob Hart and Percy Rivers when they arrived in Bosnia.

With a couple of other two-legged and six four-legged members from the Royal Army Veterinary Corps Defence Animal Support Unit (DASU) in Sennelager, they arrived in early December to provide security for 24 Airmobile Brigade units based at Ploce.

Their canine charges had undergone an intensive six-month course to adapt them from NATO rules of engagement to United Nations rules.

"Their previous training made them non-aggressive. They were taught to hold on without piercing the skin or biting," Cpl Hart explained.

Just weeks after arriving in theatre the brigade was short-toured and the Royal Anglians whom the DASU had trained as handlers returned to Britain.

"We then had to change back to IFOR rules and re-train all the dogs to make them bite properly," said Cpl Hart.

The dogs were flown from Sennelager in special air-portable aluminium kennels in which they spent the next three months as there were no suitable facilities available at



Split. The transit kennels were so small the dogs had to be constantly exercised.

For a while the animals were housed in a tent close to a site used for personnel in transit, and there were a few near misses before a safe location was found in an abandoned concrete bunker on the sea front.

Having arrived with dogs, dog food and dog equipment but little other support, it was up to the two corporals to convince commanding officers of the benefit of their brand of security.

Quartermasters had to be found, vehicles borrowed and electricity provided for kennels. It was a difficult task, with no back-up until they were taken under the wing of support headquarters at Divulje airfield.

As units who wanted the dogs had to provide handlers for training, there was sometimes a reluctance to take personnel away from their normal jobs.

But dog sections were soon established with Royal Logistic Corps establishments at Lipa and Kupres and the presence expanded to 18 dogs and 40 handlers over a variety of locations from Split to Sipovo and Sarajevo.

Guinness, guts and Goose Green

DESPITE failing to break the record of crossing East Falkland on foot in less than nine hours, Sgt Keith Rumbold and Cpl Steven Walker had the satisfaction of raising more than £2,000 for the Goose Green primary school playground.

Both members of the Adjutant General's Corps serving in the Falkland Islands, the pair attempted to run the 100km (62.5 miles) from the school to the war memorial in Stanley.

Cpl Walker, whose next tour of duty will be to Bosnia, was unfortunately medically withdrawn after 40 miles, but insisted on continuing the run at a later stage to support his colleague's successful attempt. The current record was set by a Falkland Islander on horseback.

Sgt Rumbold is currently recognised by the *Guinness Book of Records* as the co-holder of the 24-hour basic fitness test (BFT) relay. This involved completing the three-mile timed Army test a staggering 58 times in 24 hours.

Oars power . . .



These soldiers from the 1st Battalion, The Royal Irish Regiment clocked up the equivalent of 400 miles on rowing machines, far enough to have taken them from Armagh – where they are on an operational tour – to their current base at Catterick.

WO1 (RSM) Dee Orwin (foreground), who organised the event in the soldiers' spare time, says the choice of charity was obvious after two cases of meningitis had occurred within the battalion.



Cpl Steven Walker (left) and Sgt Keith Rumbold



In the swim: Sgt Alan Wright (centre, moustache), of HQ and Central Group RAC, with some of the 24 other swimmers who hope to raise £1,000 for the Dunblane Appeal Fund by swimming 3,112 lengths (about 77,800m) of the pool in Gibraltar Barracks, Aldershot in a time of 2½ hours

Para Terriers choose Holy Land challenge



FOUR very fit members of the 4th Battalion, The Parachute Regiment (V) have taken up a gauntlet thrown down by Polar explorer Sir Ranulph Fiennes to take part in a "biblical triathlon" later this year.

Between October 12 and 20, they and the organisers hope, members of the Regular Parachute Regiment and other Army units will be attempting to swim across the Sea of Galilee, cycle to the Dead Sea and trek to Massada in the cause of charity. The cost to individuals taking part will be £900 in sponsorship, plus an identical amount after the event.

Money raised will be used to invite a teacher from every one of the UK's 30,000 schools to training courses at centres run by the David Lewis Organisation to help them identify children who may be in the incipient stages of epilepsy.

For every person entering the event and raising the required sponsorship amount, the organisation will be donating £250 to the Army Benevolent Fund. Every TAVRA

approached to date has shown interest and the Army School of Physical Training in Aldershot is among Regular units keen to get involved.

Organisers say the intention is to structure the event to "stimulate competition between the élite contenders, but also offer enjoyment to those who have less endurance but enjoy a challenge in an exciting and historic part of the world."

● See coupon on Page 28

We'll tak the back roads ...

A SEVEN-hour run from Glencorse Barracks to Dunblane Cathedral, covering a 60-mile course following backroads through Livingston, Lintlithgow, Falkirk, Stenhousemuir and Stirling, helped to raise more than £1,500 for the Dunblane Appeal Fund.

The team of eight runners from Army Training Regiment Glencorse, including Cpl Rod Leach, a PTI seconded to the regiment from 1st Battalion, The Highlanders, who dreamed up the idea, all currently serve as instructors there.

Promising dividends

THE BURMA Star Association, the 1940 Dunkirk Veterans Association and SSAFA are among 25 ex-Service and civilian charities which will benefit from £350,000 raised by the Tribute and Promise appeal.

Held last year to raise awareness about the needs of the wartime generation, the initiative had as its focus the VJ 50th anniversary celebrations on August 19.

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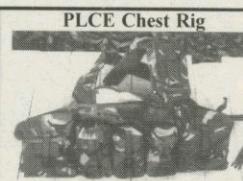
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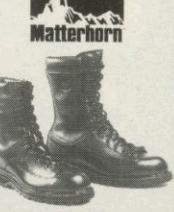
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Paratrooper with a mission

THE Maginot Line, Dunkirk, Sicily, Arnhem . . . old soldier Reg Curtis tells what it was like to be in the thick of the fighting with No. 2 Commando 11th SAS 1st Parachute Battalion. And an exciting story he relates in *Churchill's Volunteer - A Parachute Corporal's Story*.

Reg started his working life in 1934 in a south London engineering factory. He was keen to learn and planned his future around the job, but a strike put him out of work and he joined the Grenadier Guards for a short term, after which he intended joining the police force.

But, as with so many other young men, the war intervened and Reg found himself in France, guarding the supposedly impregnable Maginot Line, where he and some other Grenadiers captured two prisoners following an exchange of fire and a bayonet charge.

From here on Reg's story takes off. Returning from Dunkirk he volunteered for the Paras, after Churchill put out a call.

The training was tough. Too tough for one of his pals, who lost his nerve on a training jump from an RAF balloon which, had he succeeded, would have earned him his Para wings.

With his own "wings" firmly in place Reg saw action in Sicily and North Africa and, of course, Arnhem.

His description of the battle for the famous bridge is

In brief

The Anglo-Boer War: The Road to Infamy 1899-1900 by Owen Coetzer. Author sheds new light on the Natal campaign, from which defeat was plucked out of almost certain British victory. Such was the scale of reversal at Spion Kop, Colenso, Vaalkraatz and Ladysmith that they became names to blight the reputation of the cream of British generals. Arms and Armour Press, hardback, £16.99.

Fascism: A History by Roger Eatwell. Vintage, paperback, £8.99.

Churchill's Volunteer: A Parachute Corporal's Story by Reg Curtis, hardback, Avon Books, £14.95.

detailed, fast-moving and hellish. Wounded men lay everywhere, unable to tell him anything about the fate of 1 Para.

He was seriously wounded himself and medics decided to strap him and another to the bonnet of a jeep, with two more in the back, and make a

dash past the enemy guns. They made it, but with many others he was captured soon afterwards and became a PoW.

This is an all-action story told in a straightforward, although at times quirky style, and should prove of interest to all soldiers past and present. — JM



Churchill . . . a drawing by Reg Curtis

Fighting men of Caledonia

IT IS NOT surprising that over the years British Army chiefs, when faced with a situation requiring fighting men of the highest calibre, have often turned to Scottish regiments to meet their battlefield needs.

Tough and ferocious, the status and reputation of Scottish warriors and latter-day soldiers of famous regiments stems from hundreds of years of inter-clan battles, cross-border forays and fighting against the English.

Whether they were better than others as fighting men in those far-off days is open to question, but as Philip Warner shows in *Famous Scottish Battles*, from Stirling Bridge in 1297 to Culloden in 1746 — of which the 250th anniversary has just passed — many of them, in those bygone times, had a propensity for extreme violence and, at times, would go on the rampage for the sake of something to do.

Consequently, Scottish men acquired a reputation for being fierce, fearless and loyal, the combination of which has pursued them down the centuries and is one they have proved in countless battles and wars ever since. Philip Warner's book is

Famous Scottish Battles by Philip Warner. Leo Cooper, £9.95. **1745 - A Military History of the Last Jacobite Rising** by Stuart Reid. Spellmount Publishers, £18.95.

an easy-to-read and interesting account of 16 major battles over a span of 500 years, which will excite the curiosity of readers other than those with just an interest in military history.

There are up-to-date maps of the 16 battle sites and surrounding areas which visitors and readers alike will find most helpful in their understanding of what went on and where.

While Philip Warner covers a selection of battles over hundreds of years, Stuart Reid confines himself to the battle of Culloden Moor, the last full-scale battle fought on British soil.

In his book *1745 - A Military History of the Last Jacobite Rising*, Stuart Reid joins a long line of others — not least himself since this is a follow-up to his earlier study of the battle, *Like Hungry Wolves* — in telling the story of Charles Edward Stuart, more popularly known as Bonnie Prince Charlie or

The Young Pretender, and his Jacobite army and their annihilation by Cumberland's men (including both English and Scots) at Culloden.

Annihilation, massacre, carnage, call it what you will: the rebels were overwhelmed in a very short time. Hundreds died in a hail of grapeshot in a matter of minutes as they charged the British line without inflicting a single casualty.

Reid's final casualty figures for the battle are 1,500 rebels dead or dying on the battlefield against 50 dead and 259 wounded on Cumberland's side.

Hundreds more Jacobites were badly wounded or died of their wounds, or were hunted down and slain. It was total destruction by a far superior force.

With the defeat went the dreams and hopes of the Italian-born Charles Stuart, who fled from the battlefield when he realised all was lost.

The author tells the story of the last military campaign on British soil in great detail, much of which is verifiable since he lists his sources at some length.

Good reading. — JM

WRITE TO

SOLDIER, ORDNANCE ROAD, ALDERSHOT, HANTS GU11 2DU

Citation recognised British brigade's heroism

FURTHER to the letter from Les Peate (May 13) I can confirm that the Korean Presidential Citation was awarded to the 27th British Infantry Brigade and not the 27 COMWEL Brigade as he says.

The citation stated that the award was for outstanding and heroic performance of

duty on the field of battle during the period September 5 to 15, 1950 – during this period the brigade held a critical sector of the Naktong river line – and for its participation in the general offensive of September 16.

The 3rd Royal Australian Regiment

arrived in Korea on September 28 and did not join the brigade until October 1 when it was renamed the 27th British Commonwealth Infantry Brigade.

By this time the brigade was located in the area of Suwon. – Lt Col (Retd) H R Jeffes, Hove, E Sussex.

POINTS IN QUESTION

Did any British unit make a bayonet charge during the Second World War and has any since?

I believe the last bayonet charge by a formed unit took place on April 11, 1945 and was mounted by 6 Commando during the Essel bridgehead battle in N Germany. Full details can be found in my book *No Triumphant Procession – The Forgotten Battles of April 1945*. – Lt Col J D K Russell, 1 PWRR.

In July 1944 at Eterville in Normandy, the men of C Coy of the 2nd Bn Glasgow Highlanders (46 Brigade, 15th Scottish Division) were put in support in an area by the church where the enemy had broken through.

The company was caught by heavy mortar fire and lost a lot of men while getting into position. It was then attacked by German heavy infantry supported by a few tanks.

The Germans were killed to a man in a bayonet charge led by Cpl Lorrimer. When the Germans withdrew they left more than 100 dead in and around C Coy's position. Mortar fire resulted in 85 casualties among the Glasgow Highlanders. – T G Smith, Knutsford, Cheshire.

Service tenants live in the 'worst of all worlds'

CARI ROBERTS'S remarks in *Soldier* on the subject of rent increases for Service married quarters (April 29) were smug. Here is a more jaundiced view.

Married quarters rent rises are presented as "no more than a catching-up exercise", and "placing the military on a par with their civilian comparators" will be:

● The bricks, mortar and paint will be owned by profit-making civilians who are responsible for their upkeep. These buildings will be rented to the MoD who will:

● Sub-let the properties to Service tenants through the Defence Housing Executive (DHE).

● The rent paid by tenants goes not to the local DHE, but to the Exchequer, which allots a budget to the DHE.

The transfer of MQ properties to the private sector offers no advantages whatever to the tenant.

If anything it further compli-

cates an archaic situation, to the disadvantage of the tenant. The new chain of responsibility for MQs will be:

This both eliminates the dynamic free-market influences that characterise landlord/tenant/agent relationships in the real private rental property market, and insulates DHE and ASU from bottom-up tenant-driven pressures to develop and exercise the budgetary flexibility vested in local housing authorities.

In effect Service tenants are being asked to pay real market rates without being offered real market service – the worst of all worlds.

'ARCHAIC'

MoD landlords are allowed to charge their tenants 1990s rents but to retain with their ASUs the same archaic, unresponsive, centrally-run, low-budget system that prevailed 20 years ago.

The effect of this decision will be to persuade more and more Service personnel to take advantage of what Service schemes are available and buy their own homes – with disastrous effects on the communal nature of regimental life, in UK and abroad.

Cari is presumably above such trivia. – Mrs J M Sturtivant, c/o 5th (Warwickshire) Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, Coventry.

● Cari Roberts comments: "My column is aimed at provoking debate and I'm delighted that Mrs Sturtivant has taken the trouble to raise important issues."

British Honduras medal?

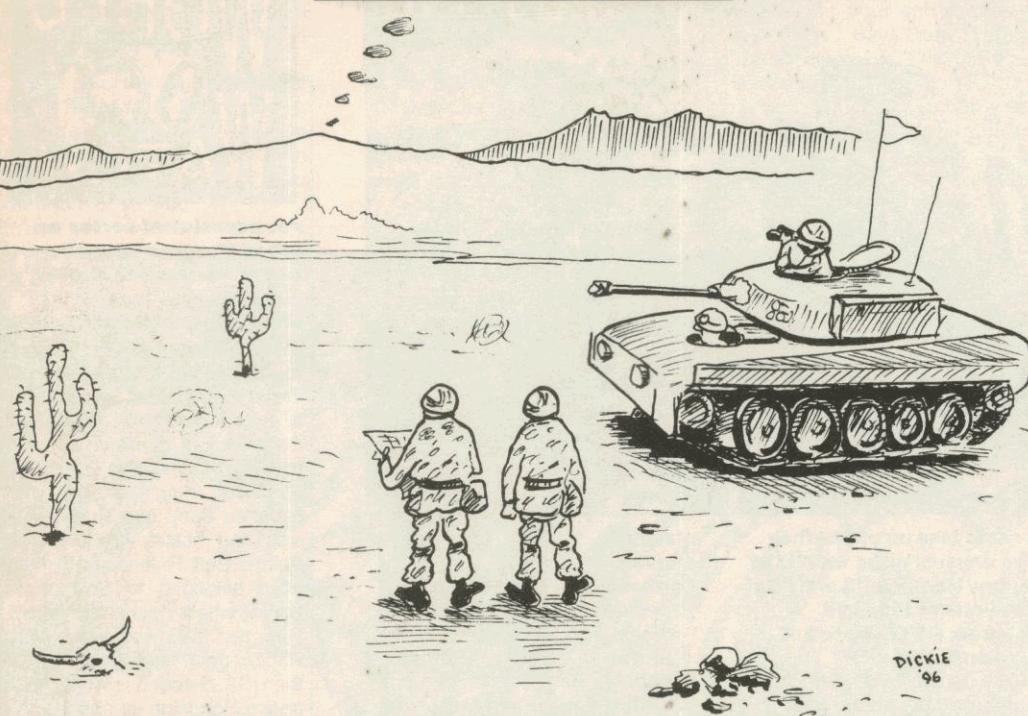
I BACK Leon Clarke (Letters, May 13) in his call to the Royal British Legion to support efforts to get campaign medals for men who did their bit in troubled parts of the world.

I accept the Sir Ranulph Fiennes Challenge!

Name: Rank:
Unit: Address:

Phone/Fax:

BIRD'S EYE-VIEW



"It's OK, Sir... his radio has gone U/S but he bumped into some jolly helpful Indian chaps..."

Exercise Purple Star – Pages 14-15

Search is on for youngest reader

JAMIE Westbrook, aged 11, asked if he is the youngest reader of *Soldier* (April 29).

I am seven years old. I have an uncle who was in the Welsh Guards and who passes on the magazine to me.

Please could you put my letter into *Soldier* so that my uncle will read it? – Bradley Williams, Hitchin, Herts.

WHILE not wishing to take anything away from Jamie Westbrook, may I introduce you to eight-year-old Johnathan Severyman, from Aigburth, Liverpool.

Johnathan, whose mum works for me at Kelton Grange Nursing Home, Aigburth, has "adopted" me as his Uncle Major Alf. Like Jamie, he is Army-barmy, to the extent of taking his dad out at weekends to the local park to explore caves and conduct route marches, complete with haversack-rations, webbing and faithful retainer guard-dog Sasha.

Johnathan takes my old copies of *Soldier* and digests them from cover to cover. – A Summers TD, Liverpool L17.

IN RESPONSE to Jamie's letter, I am ten-and-a-half and have been reading *Soldier* for three months.

I enjoy it very much and receive my copy from my grandfather, who served with the Middlesex Regiment for 33 years. – Nick Waldron, Canterbury, Kent.



Loyal reader Suzanne Batch, 11

lage. I have been interested in the Army since I was four.

I go to the Royal Tournament every year and I can't wait to join the Army Cadets. I have been reading *Soldier* for a year. Suzanne Batch, Ashford, Kent.

I AM 13 years old, so not as young as Jamie Westbrook but an avid reader of *Soldier*. I particularly enjoy the reports from around the world.

I think you should publish more information about the Bosnia affair and others. This school is exclusively for sons and daughters of serving or former Service personnel and many of the students have fathers or mothers out there. – Tom Whateley, Haig House, Duke of York's Royal Military School, Dover, Kent.

● We do try to cover Bosnia as widely as possible, Tom – indeed, there are several pages in this issue. But we take your point. – Editor.

I AM a young fan of yours and have been reading and collect-

For the record...

Light Brigade

REF J W Bell's letter (April 1), Canon William Murrell Lummis's *Honour the Light Brigade* records the names of every man at Balaklava – of all five regiments participating. The good canon was also editor of the 11th Hussars Journal.

Nary a mention of the 7 H or the KDGs! They weren't there! Far from "making-up the brigade" he maligns my own 13th LD who were not only in the front line but on the right of it.

There's a yarn that Cardigan told-off some 13th LD who rode abreast of him, "Who's leading this bloody charge anyway?" He had his bottle, black or no. I can hear him, as if alive, "calling out" a certain cavalry officer!

Every book and picture I've studied agrees with the *Soldier* comment on sequence and formation. – Gerry Frizzelle (ex-B Sqn, 13th/18th Royal Hussars (QMO)), London SE12.

● Mr Bell, whose original letter provoked such comment, was moved to conduct further research in the Middlesbrough reference library and has written with the following quote from the Cambridge Historical Encyclopedia of Great Britain (Christopher Haigh, Cambridge University Press, 1985): "The regiments taking part were the 17th Lancers, the 13th Hussars, the 11th Hussars, the 4th Hussars and the 8th Hussars." Mr Bell writes of his pride and respect for the 11th Hussars, which he joined in 1933. He was posted in the Second World War to 1st The Kings Dragoon Guards. – Editor.

Total soldiers

I AM SURE many were delighted (but possibly not taken in by) Col April Fulcher, late WRAC and the project CCCC97 (April 1).

However, this redoubtable lady is not the first with the "total soldier" concept; one Brig George Chatterton actually had such men in his regiment during the Second World War.

It was known as the Glider Pilot Regiment... see their history! And they were pilots as well! – Ian Penneck, Southwell, Notts.

ing your magazine for more than a year.

I enjoy finding out about or collecting anything to do with the British Army and have done for quite some time. I especially like photographs of British soldiers in action. – Ross McGlade, Balerno, Scotland.

50 YEARS AGO

From *Soldier*, June 8, 1946

BRITAIN'S PRIDE

A rumble of heavy tracks on the streets of London heralds the armoured contingent of the British Army. At its head is a brand new Comet, a specimen of Britain's latest and finest cruiser tank, resplendent in spotless green paint against which her spare track-links contrast their shining black. Sitting in her turret . . . is Lt R G Byron, DSO, 4/7 Royal Dragoon Guards, commander of the tank and of the armoured contingent. He has been in the Army since 1918.

(From a report on the Victory Parade)

25 YEARS AGO

From *Soldier*, June 1971

HOVER BOVVER

A frightened housewife living on a remote island 500 miles inside the Arctic Circle sent a message to the Norwegian police, reporting that a monster had come out of the sea in a snowstorm and crawled up the beach. What she had in fact seen was her first hovercraft, one of four which 60 men of 200 Hovercraft Trials Squadron, RCT, had taken to northern Norway for three months of trials in arctic conditions.



All set to take on one of their more unusual tasks were LCpl Anthony Harper (left) and LCpl Leon Potts of 125 Field Squadron, RE (V), based at Stoke-on-Trent.

They used a hydraulic platform to drill two metal nest boxes into position 70m (250ft) up a cooling tower at Ince power station in Cheshire. The boxes have been specially designed for peregrine

falcons (inset), a protected species whose natural nesting

habitat is sheer cliff faces – an environment which, unlike the cooling tower, does not always provide protection to the birds from criminals who steal eggs and chicks for profit.

From a special Bosnia edition of the Swedish Armed Forces' magazine *försvarsets forum*: Throughout history Sweden [not a member of NATO] has had many violent conflicts with her present colleagues in IFOR. Swedish King Charles XII marched deep into Russia and also had hostile relations with Poland. Both Finland and Norway have belonged to Sweden in unions where neither the formations nor the dissolutions were without pain. Now together with the USA, Sweden is working for peace alongside ex-enemies.

From *Army newspaper, Australia*: A four-year project is under way to design and build a Korean War Memorial on Canberra's Anzac Parade. It will be dedicated on the anniversary of the Battle of Kapyong, a defining moment in what the Australians call their "forgotten war".

From *Army, Association of the US Army magazine*: The US Army is now deeply involved in the Balkans. . . The stakes are high. It may be that we are witnessing the evolution of a new order of affairs defining the world's expectations for burden bearing by the sole surviving superpower. – Maj Gen Edward B Atkeson, US Army (Retd).

Initiative sets 'people' goals

THE ARMED Services and the Ministry of Defence have been committed to achieving the Investors in People (IIP) Standard by Field Marshal Sir Peter Inge, Chief of the Defence Staff, and Richard Mottram, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary.

The annual pilgrimage to lay wreaths at the war memorial in the town centre is always held on the closest Saturday to May 8 – the day in 1915 during the second Battle of Ypres when, obeying the order to stand to the last man, the 3rd Monmouths lost 703 killed and wounded without giving an inch of ground to the enemy.

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Hon. Secretary, Friends of the Imperial War Museum, Lambeth Road, London SE1 6HZ.

WORLD WATCH

An occasional series on what the journals of other armies are saying

From a special Bosnia edition of the Swedish Armed Forces' magazine *försvarsets forum*: Throughout history Sweden [not a member of NATO] has had many violent conflicts with her present colleagues in IFOR. Swedish King Charles XII marched deep into Russia and also had hostile relations with Poland. Both Finland and Norway have belonged to Sweden in unions where neither the formations nor the dissolutions were without pain. Now together with the USA, Sweden is working for peace alongside ex-enemies.

From *Army newspaper, Australia*: A four-year project is under way to design and build a Korean War Memorial on Canberra's Anzac Parade. It will be dedicated on the anniversary of the Battle of Kapyong, a defining moment in what the Australians call their "forgotten war".

From *Army, Association of the US Army magazine*: The US Army is now deeply involved in the Balkans. . . The stakes are high. It may be that we are witnessing the evolution of a new order of affairs defining the world's expectations for burden bearing by the sole surviving superpower. – Maj Gen Edward B Atkeson, US Army (Retd).

From *SALUT, magazine of the South African National Defence Force*: As part of the SANDF's investigation into possible future peacekeeping operations, senior members attended an international workshop in Pretoria. Part of a Norwegian government-funded project, it was also attended by representatives from Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, Malawi, Mozambique, Mauritius, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

From *Army Reserve magazine (USA)*: "Ooah!" "Hough!" "Aieeyah!" "Hoo-wah!" . . . The great regiments of history have always had such rallying calls. In America's Army our heritage rings with stirring battles cries: "Geronimo!", "Garry Owen!" and "NSDQ (Night Stalkers Don't Quit)". There is power in all of these expressions. And make no mistake about it – there is power in "Ooah!" – Gen Gordon R Sullivan (former Army Chief of Staff).

WITH Euro 96 upon us, football boots will be very much in evidence in stadium and on television screen.

But Surrey businessman Don Telford is interested in them for quite another reason: he wants people to SEND him their old football boots . . . for dispatch to Africa.

Don't bin your boots

"Don't bin your old boots" is his message. "They may be rubbish to you, but they are 'solid gold' to a young African. "Football is the most popu-

lar sport in that country, but the people are poor and boots are expensive," says Don, a former TA sergeant in The Duke of Wellington's Regiment. He runs a shipping company and has recently returned from Uganda.

He can be reached on 01252 783280, fax 01252 782063.



The Queen Mother inspects men of the 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards at a ceremony in the private gardens of Clarence House during which she presented a new Standard to her "Welsh Cavalry".

REUNIONS

Wildenrath Stags 1985-92: Reunion to be held at RAF Brize Norton Rugby Club on June 22. Details from Sgt Aly Wynn on RAF Halton ext 6110.

Commando sappers: Reunion on July 26-28 at RM Barracks, Chivenor to coincide with 25th anniversary. All commando-trained ranks who have served with 59 Indep Cdo Sqn RE are invited to attend. Details from Capt M D Berrill, RMB Chivenor, Barnstaple, N Devon EX31 4AZ (Chivenor Mil 7603).

40th Regiment RA: Regimental reunion of the Lowland Gunners, past and present, takes place in Edinburgh on August 24. Details from WO2 (BSM) Pivett, 40th

Regiment RA, Caen Barracks, BFPO 30.

22 (Gibraltar 1779-1783) Battery RA: Serving members will be hosting a weekend reunion, to include a formal dinner, parade, all ranks function and church service, for all former members of the battery on September 20-22 at Roberts Barracks, Larkhill. Details from Project Officer, 22 Bty Reunion, Roberts Barracks, Larkhill, Salisbury, Wilts SP4 8QU (01980 675965 or 675948, or Larkhill Mil 732) 5965 or 5948).

12th Battalion, Devonshire Regiment (6th Airborne): The 50th reunion dinner will be held at the Devon Hotel, Exeter by-pass (Matford Roundabout), Exeter, on October 12. Personnel who served with the 12th Devons from 1940-45 are asked to contact social secretary Mrs Ada Follett, Rosemount, Exmouth Road, Exton, nr Exeter, Devon EX3 0PQ (01392 874596).

Infantry Boys/Junior Leaders Battalion: Former boys and permanent staff, Tuxford, Harrogate, Plymouth, Oswestry please note the second annual reunion dinner

APPOINTMENTS

Major General: T J Sullivan – To be Chief of Staff Headquarters ARRC, May 17.

Brigadiers: C R Watt – To be Director ASC, May 13.

Colonels: J C W Gillman – To Ministry of Defence, May 7; M A

Hart – To be Comdr RASU, May 6.

Retirements

Brigadiers: D H Coombe, late RAMC, May 9; A Dean, late RACD, May 18.

Colonels: A J G Wight, late WG, May 16.

has been rescheduled from August 3 at Worthy Down and will now be held on October 19 at 5 RGJ Training Centre, Milton Keynes. Details from Howard Johnson, 35 Maes-y-Sarn, Pentrhy, Cardiff CF4 8QQ, please enclose sae (or tel 01222 891274).

16: Band of RAF College Cranwell performs at Cranwell in aid of SSAFA. (details: 01406 425550).

SEARCHLINE

Cornwall School, Dortmund, Germany: Former teachers and pupils sought for reunion on July 27. Details from Sharon Selman (née Stephenson) on 01622 743100 evenings, 01622 773260 days.

DATES

May

30-June 6: Armed Forces Art Society 63rd exhibition, National Army Museum, Chelsea.

June

3: SSAFA military band spectacular, Duke of York's HQ, Chelsea, 7.45pm. Tickets £5 (payable to Greater London TAVRA) from Duke of York's HQ, Chelsea, London SW3 4RY.

5-6: Floodlit Beating Retreat by massed bands of Household Division, Horse Guards Parade, 2130. Salutes to be taken by Princess Margaret (5th) and the Duchess of Gloucester (6th). Tickets, £10, £8 and £5, from 0171-414 2271.

11, 12, 13: Beating Retreat by Royal Marines on Horse Guards Parade to mark 75th birthday of Captain General, 6.15pm. Tickets: 01705 547205.

15: RLC at Home. Displays, demonstrations, sideshows at Princess Royal Barracks, Deepcut, Camberley, Surrey, 2-6pm.

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

15-21: Weymouth international military and veterans' festival.

23: Colchester Garrison Country Day, Fingringhoe Ranges, including 24 AB Bde military display and music. Proceeds to ABF, SSAFA and local charity.

25: Evening with ex-Para Frank ("It's the way I tell 'em") Carson at Airborne Forces Museum, Aldershot (01252 349619).

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

July

5: RE Rowing Club 150th anniversary reunion, Royal Henley.

9-20: Royal Tournament.

11: RBL 75th anniversary service, Westminster Abbey.

14: Para spectacular, Southsea Common, in aid of Airborne Forces welfare. Free entry.

21: Oxon-Bucks RBL gala day, Stonor Park, Henley-on-Thames.

28: Tank Museum battle day, Bovington.

August

14-26: Gurkhas at Gallipoli exhibition, Gurkha Museum, Winchester (01962 842832).

September

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

October

6: Aldershot militaria exhibition and fair, The Maltings, Farnham, Surrey,

November

16: Band of RAF College Cranwell performs at Cranwell in aid of SSAFA. (details: 01406 425550).

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

To the banner born

ROYAL Scots and Gurkhas carried out a ceremony dating back more than 100 years when two colonels exchanged pipe banners at the home of the 3rd Battalion, The Royal Gurkha Rifles, Church Crookham.

Lt Gen Sir Peter Duffell, Regimental Colonel of The Royal Gurkha Rifles and Brig Mark Strudwick, Regimental Colonel of The Royal Scots, tied the banners to the bass drones of pipes carried by a Gurkha and Royal Scots soldier to mark their long association.

Also present was Lt Col John Poole-Warren of The Royal Green Jackets, who was presented with two pictures to mark his regiment's affiliation with the Gurkhas.

The honour – some misguided souls would say the blame – for having introduced Gurkhas to the Scottish Highland bagpipes is claimed by the First of Foot, a Lowland regiment known to have had a serving piper in the 1630s.

The Gurkhas and the Indian

Gurkha culture

Army were probably the first to adopt the pipes; today they are played in almost every country, and several armies have pipe bands, from Jordan and Egypt to Malaysia and Brunei.

The pipes have long been an integral part of the Gurkha military culture, with traditional Gurkha tunes adapted to the instrument and played with traditional Scottish marches and airs.

Gurkhas attending piping courses at Edinburgh Castle are renowned for their dedication to learning a foreign instrument, with strange terms and weird, late medieval music. They succeed through hard work, and the most recent to pass out from his pipe major's course was awarded a distinction both in theory and practical.

The doughty Highlanders of Nepal first acquired their love of the pipes when they met Britain's oldest royal and Regular regiment while serving in India in the 1890s, though the connection with Britain dates back to around 1815. While the Royal Scots and most of the



Lt Gen Sir Peter Duffell, Regimental Colonel of The Royal Gurkha Rifles, and Brig Mark Strudwick, Regimental Colonel of the Royal Scots, tie banners on the pipes of LCpl John Todd and Piper Narayan Rai

British Army were defeating Napoleon at Waterloo, another little-known campaign was being fought with particular ferocity.

But during the Anglo-Nepal war British and Gurkhas noted each other's bravery... and the fact that prisoners were treated honourably. Survivors of the Battle of Malaun in 1815 decided to join the East India Company Army and formed the first four British Gurkha battalions.

After a long association with the Royal Scots in India the 1st Battalion, 10th Gurkha Rifles established the first Gurkha pipe band.

From 1895 the pipes and drums were trained by the pipe major of 2 RS and pipers of the 2nd Battalion, 10 GR were

trained between 1909 and 1911.

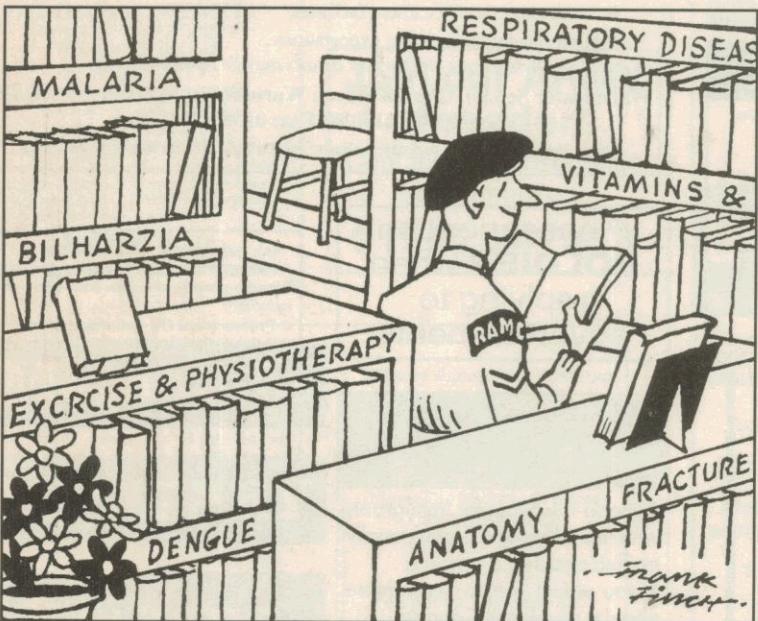
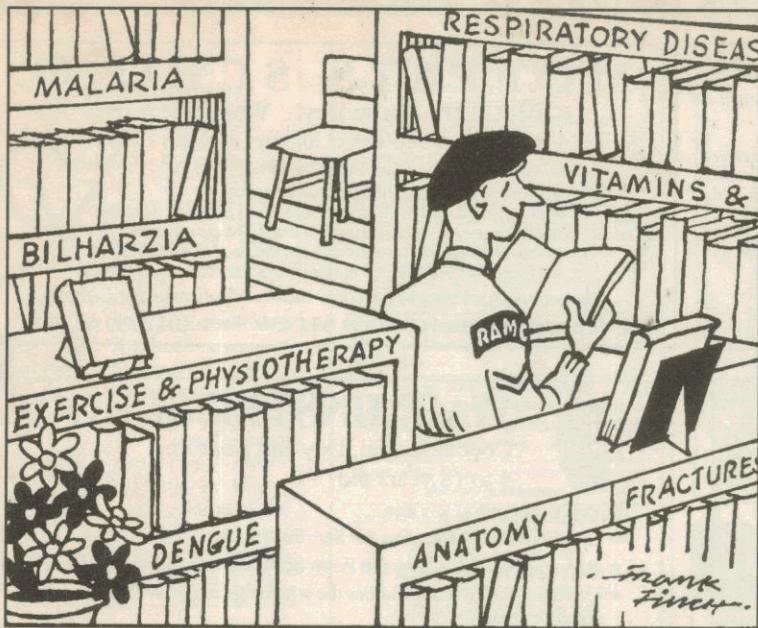
On both occasions the pipers were given permission by the Royal Scots to wear their tartan, the Hunting Stewart.

Royal Scots and Gurkhas fought alongside each other in 1915, repelling Turkish attacks on the Suez Canal then landing at Gallipoli.

The link continued throughout the Second World War but it was not until 1950 that the affiliation with the Royal Scots was confirmed, and permission was given to wear a patch of Hunting Stewart Tartan on Gurkha uniforms and as a background to the regimental badge.

It was at this time that it became customary for colonels of the regiments and commanding officers to present pipers with

Report:
Gordon Skilling
Pictures:
Mike Perring



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Competition No 635 (April 29): Congratulations to Mr R Stapleton, of Wrexham, Clwyd, who wins £50. Book prizes go to runners-up Mr D J McCoy, of Maida Vale, London W9, and Sgt Crick (ACF Instructor), of Rushden, Northants.

new banners for the bagpipes. When 10 GR merged with the other regiments of the Brigade of Gurkhas to form the Royal Gurkha Rifles, 3 RGR adopted the traditions of 10 GR.

The day chosen for the ceremony was Delhi Day, which commemorates a battle honour won by The King's Royal Rifle Corps and 2 GR and perpetuates another strand of tradition.

Lightning pace

After the battle, the Gurkhas asked to be known as riflemen and to wear the rifle green uniform, black buttons and black crossbelt of the RGJ, as well as adopting the Rifles' pace of 140 to the minute, instead of the normal infantry pace of 116. Pipers tend to march at a more stately swagger of 112, although Gurkhas still play at a hectic 140.

While the Gurkhas have easily adopted the traditions of line regiments, LCpl John Todd of the Royal Scots found it less easy marching with the Gurkhas when he paraded to receive the Gurkhas' banner.

"I've never marched so fast in all my days," he declared.



Lt Gen Sir Peter Duffell presents a framed print to Lt Col John Poole-Warren of The Royal Green Jackets to commemorate their affiliation with the Gurkhas

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D3

Same final, same result, but only just

THE ARMY Rugby Union season ended in style with the Deloitte Touche seven-a-side tournament at Aldershot, writes **Roger Thompson**.

Early rounds were dominated by teams which excel at the 15-a-side game, but new names such as ATR Lichfield and 8 Regt RLC skilfully fought their way through to the final competition.

They were joined by The Duke of Wellington's Regiment and the usual muster of Welsh sides, although the Welsh Guards and the Welsh Gunners (22 AD Regt) had to be satisfied with plate rugby.

The plate final promised to be a highly competitive game with 22 AD Regt taking on

Gunners edge ahead

16 Regt RA 25-HCR 10

A HARD-FOUGHT London District inter-unit rugby Challenge Cup final was won by 16 Regiment RA, 25-10 winners over the Household Cavalry Regiment at Chiswick.

The cavalry opened the scoring with a penalty kicked by LSgt Daz Bradhurst, but the lead was short-lived. A try and conversion by Cpl Jerry Kelly put the gunners in front, and they extended it soon afterwards with a Kelly penalty.

LCoH Paddy Roberts went over for the cavalrymen and Bradhurst added the conversion to level the scores at 10-10.

But the gunners pulled away in the final quarter, running in three tries through Gnr Eddy Cochrane, Capt Kev Burgess and LBdr Geordie Leach.

London District Army RU chairman Col David Griffiths presented the trophy to 16 Regiment.

newcomers 1 RTR. Captained by the very experienced Howard Graham, recently of 7 (Para) RHA, the Welsh Gunners were, from the outset, able to control the centre of the field, allowing the ball to do the work until the gaps were created on the flank.

Graham scored four tries, with Tom Langlands and Daz Hall contributing to a very impressive 59-12 victory.

The main final was the "old firm" match of 7 (Para) RHA against 2 Signal Regt, yet again under the control of referee Maj Keith Montgomery. The gunners started explosively, punching through tackles to achieve numerical superiority around the ball.

An excellent try was scored by Jones in a style which suggested a large score was to follow. However 2 Signals continued to play the more traditional sevens, drifting and shifting the balance of power across the field until the gaps were opened.

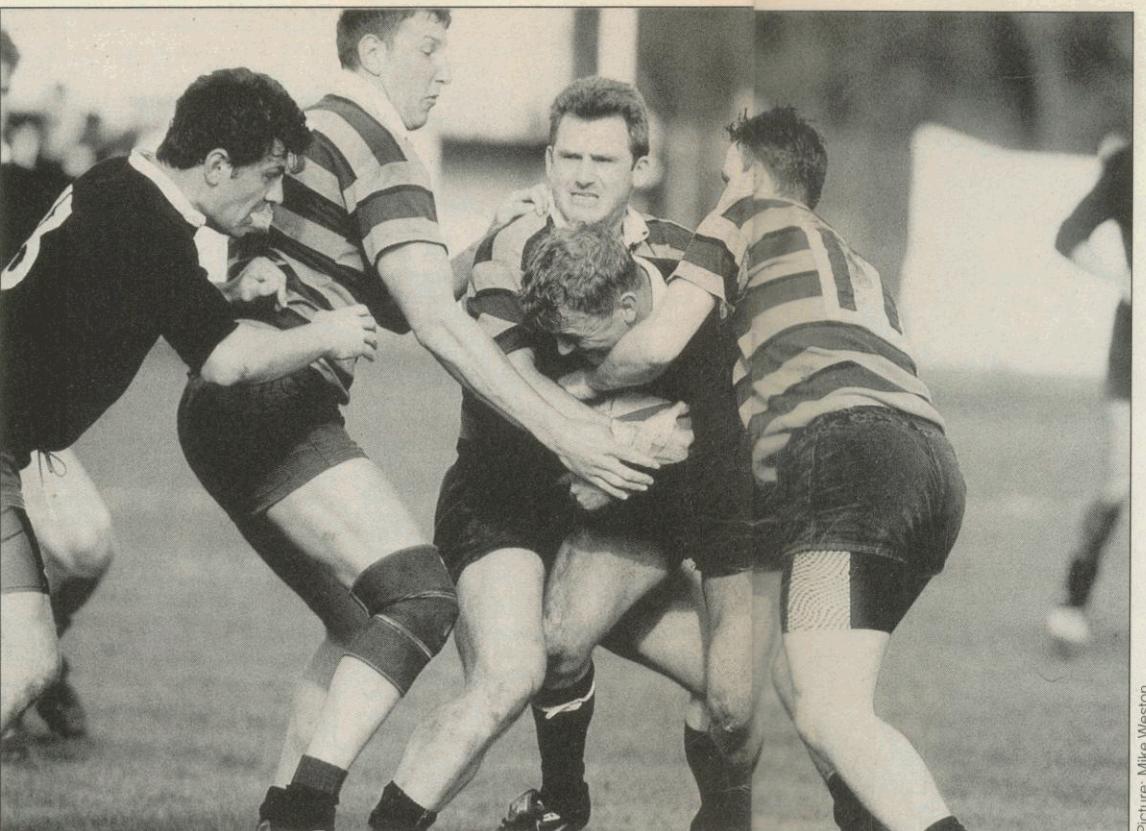
PIVOTAL PLAYERS

In Cassidy and Merrit they had pivotal players capable of directing the vigour of Curtis and Denham - two Army flankers who had missed most of the season through deployment to Bosnia.

Denham, a strong and elusive runner, scored an equalising try when he sprinted unopposed under the gunner posts. From a few yards out, crucially, Merrit failed to convert; score 5-5.

Spearheaded by Wade, 7 RHA showed there are few substitutes for power and pace. Frequently he and Van de Pant took two or three tackles before releasing the ball to the wily Denwood, Willcoxon and Jones. Sensing superiority, and a right to retain the Deloitte Touche Trophy, the gunners rammed in two quick tries through skipper Denwood and Van de Pant to take a 17-5 lead.

Apparently unconcerned, the signallers continued their



No way through: action in the sevens final between 7 (Para) RHA and 2 Signal Regiment (hooped jerseys)

Mappers rebuild to win the cup

A REVAMPED 42 Survey Engineer Group hockey team retained the Army Minor Units Cup against a strong ATR Pirbright side in the final at Aldershot.

The signallers' reward came when, from deep in their own half, a quick release found Cassidy, who swept around outstretched arms and weary legs to sprint fully 70 metres for a try which he converted on the whistle . . . 17-17 and sudden death.

Neither team deserved to lose, but after 85 minutes of sevens rugby, a single mistake or moment of creativity would win the day. That fell to the gunners and Willcoxon, who conjured his own gap and ran in powerfully to score.

The trophy was presented by Gen Sir Roger Wheeler, President of the ARU, and Mr Peter Dixson, senior partner at Deloitte Touche. From 116 entrants, at Divisional level, 7 RHA again emerged champions while 22 AD Regt took the plate for a gunner clean sweep.

Authentic victory

THE Army Under 25 XI's four-wicket win over Oxford University Authentics in a 55-over match was a highly encouraging result which augurs well for the future of cricket in the Service.

On a bright, cold day at St John's College the Authentics

batted first on a wicket apparently full of runs. Their previous scores suggested they are packed with batsmen, but some fine Army bowling - and variable fielding - restricted them to 233 for seven.

But at 113 for six the Army reply was in deep trouble until

a responsible and mature innings from 2nd Lt Dominic Asquith (4 GS Regt RLC) pulled the innings together. Making his first appearance at this level, Asquith scored an undefeated 89 to set the scene for a match-winning knock of 55 in 29 balls by Lt Ben Langman (RDG).

Langman, currently serving at ATR Winchester, is an opening bowler, but he drove superbly through the covers to turn the match in the space of five overs.

Oxford University Authentics
233-7 (55 overs, Pte M Blagrove 2-40, Cfn P Jones 2-25); **Army U-25s** 234-6 (Lt P Monro 25, Asquith 89 not out, Spr J Knowles-Pfeiffer 27, Langman 55 not out). **Army U-25s** won by 4 wickets.

RUGBY: Are you a keen rugby player? Is your 21st birthday after September 1? Do you want to play for the Army at Twickenham next year? If the answer to all three is yes, contact Maj Tom Wye on Hawley Mil (726) 3444 or 01252 863444.



Cpl Dave Rolf, captain of the victorious 42 Svy Engr Gp hockey team, receives the Army Minor Units Cup from Lt Col John Adams RA, chairman of the Army Hockey Association

Army women too good for Prisons

Army women 4, English Prison Services 0

IN A bruising end-of-season encounter at Newbold Revel, the Army women's football team beat English Prison Services 4-0.

They dominated the early exchanges and Cpl Terry Bennett (Army Sch of Catering) and Bdr Sharon Black (14 Regt RA) tested the Prison

Service goal with fierce drives.

Pte Nicky Burdon opened

the scoring in the 18th minute when she headed in a corner from Pte Tania Smyth (3 R Irish). Bennett extended the lead in the 33rd minute after being put clear by Black's pass.

Despite a couple of injuries to Army players as a result of fierce Prison Service tackling, the Army went further ahead

through second-half goals by Pte Tracy Sumner (3 CS Regt RLC) and Pte Tania Smyth.

It was a confident display by the Army after a successful two-week tour to Cyprus where they overwhelmed the opposition in each of their three games.

They beat the Army (Cyprus) 10-0, the RAF (Cyprus) 12-0 and Cyprus Ladies 18-0.

THE Royal Irish Regiment finished as clear winners of the 24th Inter-Corps target rifle match shot at Bisley.

They established a three-point advantage over last year's winners, the Royal Engineers, at the 300yd mark on Century Range, extending it to 15 points at 600yd. On Stickle-down Range at 900yd the R Irish lead went up to 19 points as the SASC slipped into second place ahead of the sappers.

The engineers made up four points on the final shoot at 1,000yd, but the SASC experienced some difficulties and fell back to fourth behind REME, leaving The Royal Irish Regiment as comfortable winners.

Highest individual score was 180.9 out of a possible 200.



Chinese and British soldiers enjoy a post-match song with the touring Kidderminster Carolians (ringed jerseys) after their historic match

Chinese join forces – on the rugby field

HISTORY was made on the playing fields of Hong Kong last month when, for the first time, the British Garrison and the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) combined forces in a rugby match against a visiting team, **writes Ruth Vernon**.

Ideological differences were forgotten as the lads scrummed down against touring Kidderminster Carolians at Borneo Lines, Sek Kong Station, one of 14 military sites the PLA will take over in July next year.

"It was very good to see soldiers of two different armies enjoying a game of rugby," said Maj Gen Bryan Dutton, Commander British Forces Hong Kong.

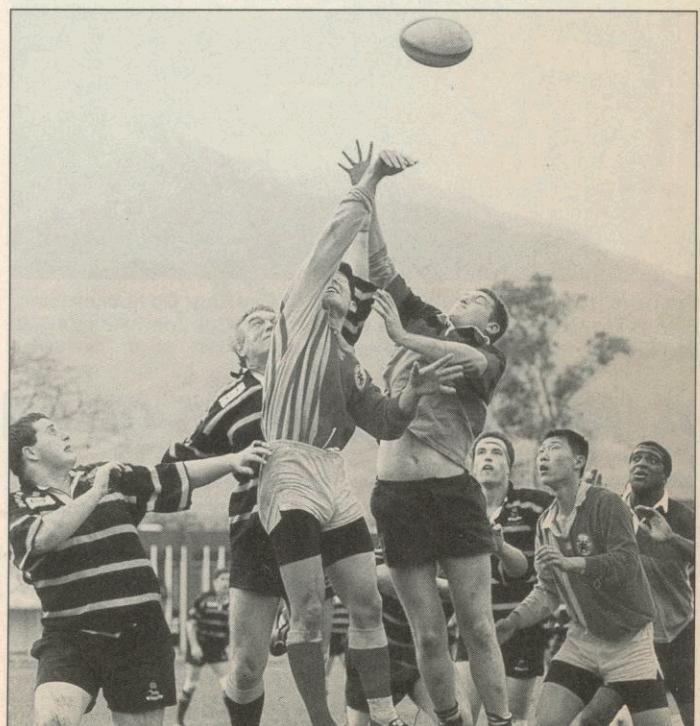
"Sport is a great diplomatic tool and leads to greater understanding. Anything that helps familiarise the PLA with the way of life in Hong Kong is a positive move."

The 13-strong Chinese squad from the PLA's Sports Institute in Guangzhou was invited by the Hong Kong

RFU to take part in the city's international Carlsberg 10s tournament, and accommodated at Borneo Lines. Before returning to China they teamed up with the garrison's finest to take on the tourists.

Despite the language barrier the combined XV gelled quickly, with the PLA players belying their inexperience to show fine running and tackling skills during the first grassroots contact between the two armies. Kidderminster won 30-7.

Lt Gen Liu Guang-miu, assistant director of the PLA sports academy, commented: "It has been a very good opportunity to co-operate and exchange rugby skills. The relationship of the two armies is forever."



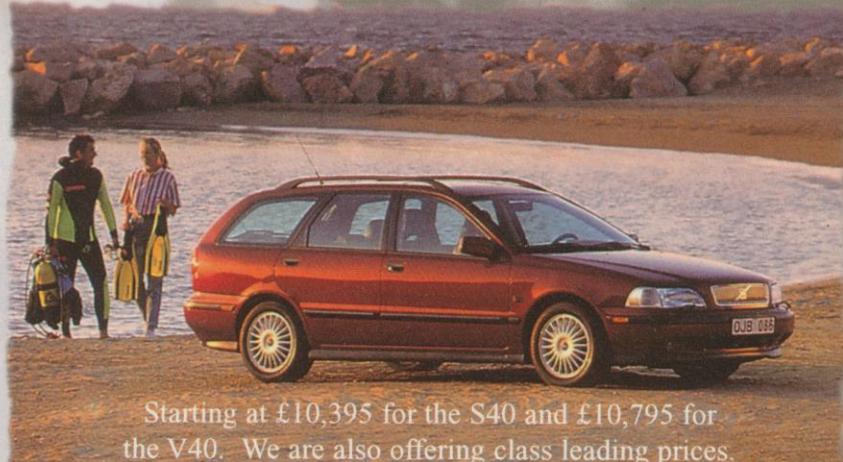
Chinese and British forwards team up to deny the Kidderminster tourists (ringed jerseys) possession at a line out at Borneo Lines



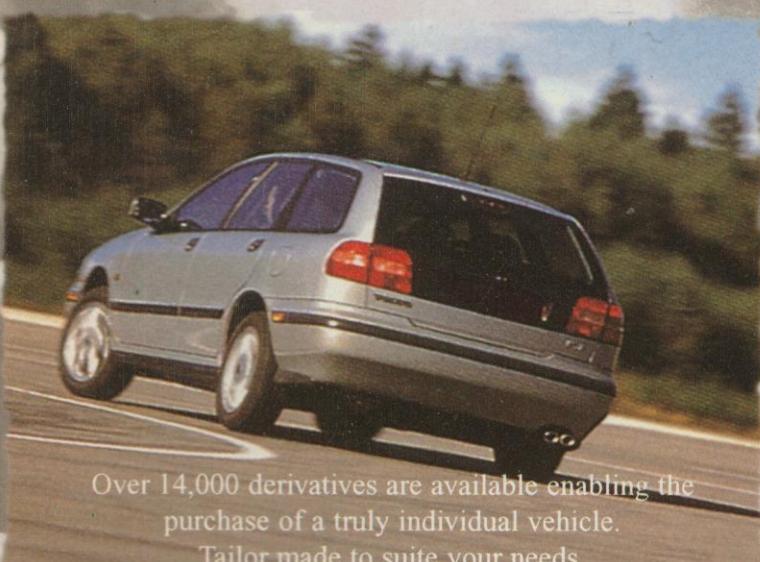
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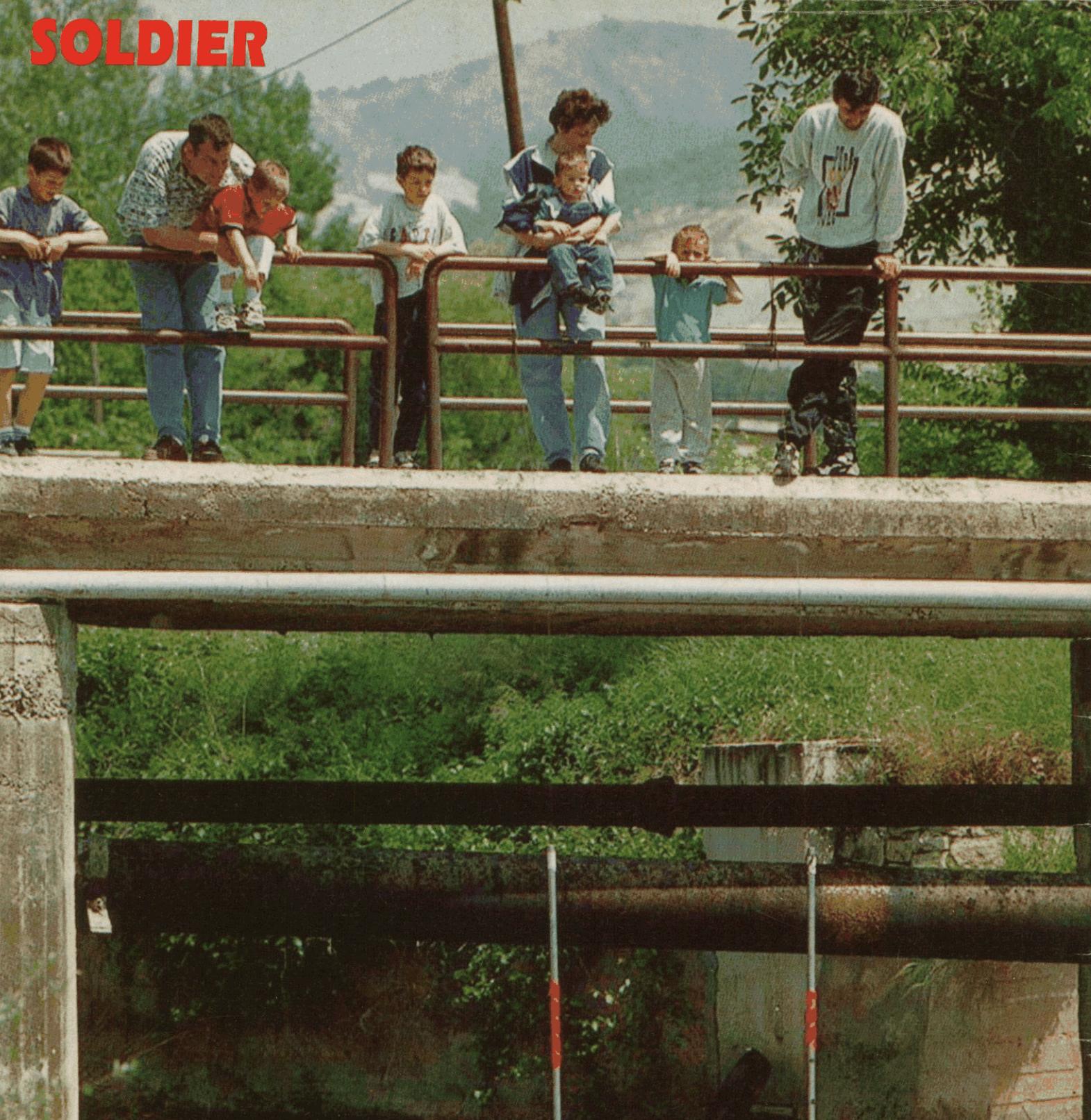
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Watched by an audience of Croatians, Army canoeing champion Pte Sarah Whelan trains on the River Jadro, which runs through Split into the Adriatic. She was preparing for the Land Command women's slalom championships on the Teifi in West Wales. Sarah, who returned to the UK this month, was serving as a combat medic with 5 Field Ambulance RAMC at Split.

Picture: Sgt Dave Whitley, Split

