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November 29, 1993
Vol 49/24

CONTENTS

- 5 Newsline
- 14 People
- 16 Operation Grapple
- 18 Pace-stick competition
- 20 Cambrian Patrol
- 21 UKLF OP competition
- 22 Gordons on exercise
- 23 Roof of the Americas
- 24 Exercise Log Leap
- 26 Exercise Iron Storm
- 28 3 R Irish
- 32 For families
- 34 Letters
- 36 Briefings
- 39 Kriss Akabusi Challenge
- 40 Book reviews
- 43 HOAY competition
- 44 SOLDIER Mart
- 49 Classified advertisements

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Queen visits Hameln sappers



A salute for the Colonel-in-Chief. The Queen pauses to speak to Royal Engineers during her happy and relaxed visit to the sapper autumn fayre in Gordon Barracks, Hameln. Behind her is Lt Col John Durrance, commanding officer of 35 Engineer Regiment. (See page 5)

Swords signal peace double

ALTHOUGH 7th Signal Regiment from Herford has been named the 1992 winner of the Wilkinson Sword of Peace, an exceptional award is to be made to the 1 Cheshire Battalion Group for its outstanding work in Bosnia.

Joint awards have been made in the past, but the special award is unprecedented.

Both Swords of Peace are to be presented in Germany on December 14. The sword received by the 1st Battalion, The Cheshire Regiment at Fallingbostal will be engraved with three badges – those of the Cheshire, The Royal Irish Regiment and the 9th/12th Royal Lancers.

A helicopter will fly Wilkinson Sword representatives to Herford on the same day to make the presentation to 7th Signal Regiment.

The signallers, already sup-

porting orphanages in Herford and Romania, were chosen for the award for a dramatic operation they launched to assist orphanages in Albania.

Within five days of seeing television reports highlighting the desperate plight of children in Albania, a team from 7 Regt had raised funds, obtained diplomatic clearance, and was on its way to assess how best it could help.

Although international attention was focused on Tirana, the capital, the signallers reached the remoter southern region via Romania and Bulgaria.

Another team entered Albania to contact orphanages in the Gjirokastr region.

They were the first British soldiers to set foot in Albania since the end of the Second World War and their efforts are said to have made a huge con-

tribution towards the restoration of diplomatic relations between the United Kingdom and Albania.

With the help of Naafi, the regiment delivered 40 tonnes of aid worth DM50,000 (about £19,900) and a fully-equipped ambulance from Herford to southern Albania, setting up a base camp in northern Greece and ferrying aid across the border to targeted orphanages.

In August 1992 a second expedition took three Bedford lorries packed with clothing, toys and medical equipment valued at DM80,000.

The special award to the 1 Cheshire Battalion Group recognises its considerable efforts in former Yugoslavia during Op Grapple 1.


Swords of Peace have also been awarded to the Royal Navy's mine countermeasures group which exercised with Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian navies in the Baltic, and to RAF Lyneham for its part in delivering humanitarian aid to northern Iraq, Bosnia and Somalia.



FRONT COVER: LBdr Trevor Bankhead of 7 Parachute Regiment RHA calculates target information using Field Artillery Computer Equipment during Exercise Iron Storm. Story and more pictures on this 3rd (United Kingdom) Division artillery concentration in Pages 26-27. (Picture: Mike Weston.)



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Sappers' show is fit for a Queen

SAPPERS put on a spectacular command performance for the Queen when she visited Hameln earlier this month, writes Paul Barnard.

Her first stop after arriving in glorious autumn sunshine on November 4 was the historic old town, where cheering crowds greeted her arrival.

The Queen was driven to Upnor Hard on the banks of the River Weser, where she met sappers from the various BAOR-based regiments and watched demonstrations and displays highlighting their various roles.

She was clearly fascinated by the many skills presented to her and stopped at each display to speak to the men.

There was a marvellous moment when she encountered



The Queen crosses the Weser on board a ferry made of three M2 rigs. From midstream she watched a number of dramatic amphibious demonstrations by Royal Engineers

tered LCpl Spud Lewis dressed as a "Baldrick" look-alike on the Field Defence Stand. In peaked cap, night-shirt and slippers, he drew a broad smile from the Queen.

This part of the programme came to an end when a combat engineer tractor (CET) gave a dramatic demonstration of its capability as it cleared a path through a pile of debris, rubble and overturned vehicles.

As the CET came to a halt, out jumped LCpls Dave Kill-

gannon and Ross Dunn from 35 Engineer Regt, complete with blue UN helmets.

The Queen paused to chat to each soldier, asking them about their tour in Bosnia.

"We were both slightly nervous," admitted LCpl Killgannon. "However, the Queen put us very much at ease."

The Queen boarded an M2 amphibious bridging ferry and crossed the Weser to watch a display of Royal Engineer armoured equipment and

combat skills. En route, a combat engineer tractor fired its rocket-propelled anchor and pulled itself out of the river – a dramatic sight.

On the return crossing, amphibious skills were demonstrated as divers plunged into the icy waters from a Gemini assault craft.

The afternoon programme began when the Queen was driven the short distance to Gordon Barracks, home of 35 Engineer Regiment, where she was entertained to lunch.

Later she was greeted by hundreds of soldiers and their families lining her route to the sapper autumn fayre.

Four parachutists emerged from a Lynx helicopter and made a perfect landing just yards away to present her with a pair of ceremonial scissors with which she cut the tape and declared the fayre formally open. Just before she entered, eight-year-old Nicola Cuggy, daughter of SSgt Alan Cuggy, stepped forward to present her with a posy.

Inside the gymnasium, the Queen was treated to a song about the Pied Piper performed by children from Hameln and Hastenbeck schools and visited many other stands in the fayre. A quartet from the Band of the Royal Engineers played throughout.

It was then off for a cup of tea with Mrs Rosie Anderson and other regimental wives.

As the Queen emerged to her waiting limousine a hot-air balloon rounded off the day's activities as it rose gracefully into the air displaying a huge banner proclaiming: "Goodbye from your Royal Engineers."



NEARLY 100 tri-Service personnel are now working round the clock in Wiltshire in a new purpose-built operations centre supporting British forces in the former Yugoslavia.

Gen Sir John Wilsey, Commander in Chief UK Land Forces, is pictured at the Land operations desk as the new centre "went live" at his headquarters in Wilton. With him are (left to right) LRO Christopher Isaac, RN, Maj Simon Shadbolt RM, Lieut-Cdr Tom

Wilton HQ goes 'live'

Mason RNR, Sqn Ldr David Wood RAF and Cpl Julie Bailey.

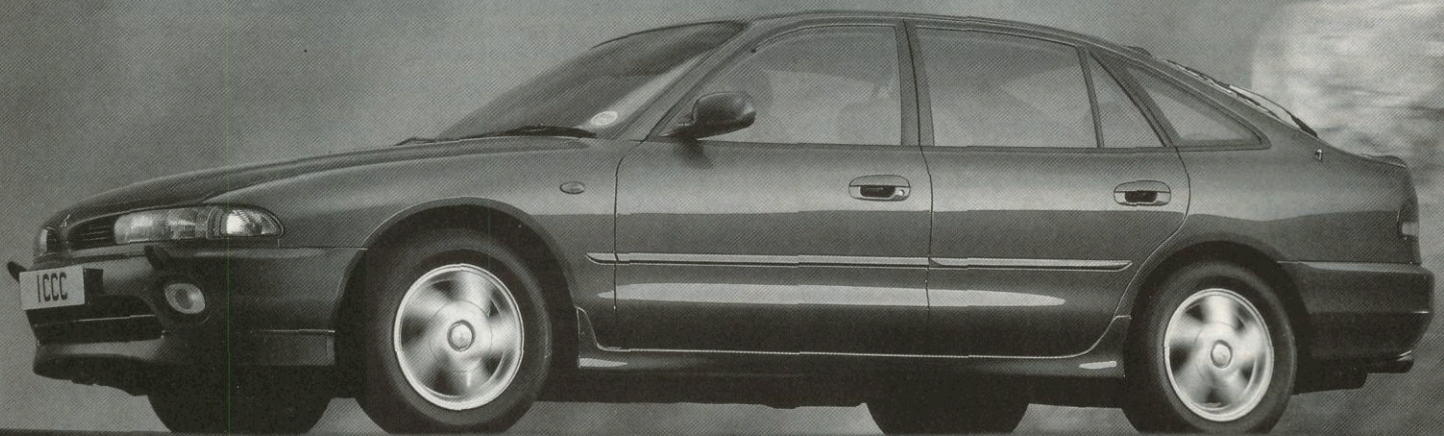
The Joint HQ, formed at RAF Strike Command, High Wycombe, at the end of July, moved to Wilton at the beginning of this month, reflecting the strong Army bias of the current humanitarian operations.

"This is the first time that

Wilton has hosted an operational joint headquarters and the co-operation and goodwill being displayed by members of all three Services presently serving here is most heartening," said Col Peter Williams, Assistant Chief of Staff (Land).

The new centre gives a national focus for overseas operations worldwide which have an Army element.

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DESIGNED TO BE DRIVEN

Grapple 3 troops replace Yorkies

AT SPLIT's northern dock, a Spanish ship which had arrived from Emden in Germany reversed into a berth.

Within minutes the first of the British Warrior armoured fighting vehicles was being driven on to Croatian soil by soldiers of the 1st Battalion, Coldstream Guards.

Normally stationed in Münster, northern Germany, they were taking over from the 1st Battalion, Prince of Wales's Own Regiment, who are returning to Osnabrück in Germany to be reunited with the wives and children they have not seen for many months.

A lasting legacy of the Yorkies' tour was the assistance they gave to an American charity helping the hospital at Nova Bila.

Men of the Coldstream mounted their first patrols on Sunday, November 7 from the battalion's bases in the town of Vitez and Gornji Vakuf.

The Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire retained command in the mountainous area of central Bosnia, relinquishing it to the Coldstream when Lt Col Alastair Duncan handed over to Lt Col Peter Williams later in the week.

● The crew of a 1 PWO Warrior travelling to Split to catch an aircraft home after a six-month tour in Bosnia narrowly escaped serious injury when their AFV's systems failed in the middle of the night and it slipped off the road.

The three men were negotiating the final downhill of the dangerous Route Triangle after motoring from Vitez. Trees stopped it – upside down – before it reached a precipice after it had tumbled 20ft.

Slovakian engineers later cleared the trees before men of 11 Field Squadron, 38 Engineer Regiment, winched it back to the road and moved it to Tomislavgrad from where it was taken on a low-loader to the docks in Split for shipping back to Germany.

● See also Pages 16-17

Duchess plants oak sapling at MCTC



The Duchess of Kent talks to Sgt Ivor Gwilym AGC(MPS), second from right, as she inspects a quarter guard during her visit to the Military Corrective Training Centre in Colchester on November 9.

The Duchess, Deputy Colonel-in-Chief of the Adju-

tant General's Corps, planted an oak tree to mark her visit, toured the establishment and its farm, met members of the WOs' and Sergeants' Mess and the Wives' Club, and had lunch with the officers.

She was met on arrival by the Lord Lieutenant of Essex,

Lord Braybrooke; Maj Gen Christopher Wallace, Deputy Colonel Commandant AGC (RMP and Military Provost Staff); Brig Ian Cameron, Inspector of Military Establishments; and the Commandant MCTC, Lt Col Patrick Gascoigne.

Don't just book it . . .

Let CHBS organise it!

DISCOUNTED hotel accommodation for Service men and women away on duty will be arranged by a central booking service from December 1.

The Central Hotel Booking Service (CHBS), which will also apply to MoD civilians, is part of new requirements for claiming UK night rate subsistence allowance (NRSA) being introduced on that day.

A new MoD desk has been set up by IBM and Thomas Cook, who have been appointed to provide the central booking service for selected hotels throughout the UK, except for Northern Ireland.

The scheme's benefit to Service personnel is that participating hotels will provide specially-discounted bed and breakfast accommodation with the following minimum standard:

- Rooms with en suite bath or shower; ● colour TV; ● tea/coffee-making facilities; ● working space (telephone, chair and writing surface); ● choice of English or

- Continental breakfast; ● suitable restaurant facilities; ● securely lockable room; ● front desk/reception security; ● statutory safety and fire security provision.

From December 1 all personnel requiring an overnight stay and who cannot be provided with Service accommodation will have to notify CHBS, who will then make all the necessary booking arrangements.

The booking desk will be staffed by experienced and well-trained operators to provide a full, speedy and helpful reservation service using a computerised, networked database of selected UK hotels.

The service will have telephone and fax lines dedicated to MoD and most bookings will be made on the spot. Confirmation will include a reference number which must be

quoted on claim forms.

New rates of night subsistence allowance are being introduced at the same time, comprising three elements: B and B (payable by rank); Essential Expenses (EE) of £20 across the board for other meals and local travel; and Personal Incidental Expenses (PIE).

The latter, already introduced last April to cover a newspaper, telephone calls and laundry, is taxable and will therefore be "grossed up" when paid so that claimants receive the intended net amount.

A further flat-rate of £25, known as the Privately Arranged Rate (PAR) will apply to those who opt to stay with relatives or friends.

In addition, those wishing to stay in Service or civilian clubs which have not yet joined the CHBS scheme may continue to do so and claim actuals up to the discounted rate.

Full details will be announced in a DCI.

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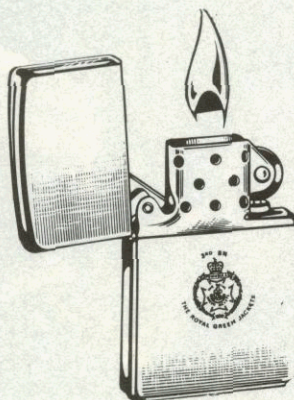
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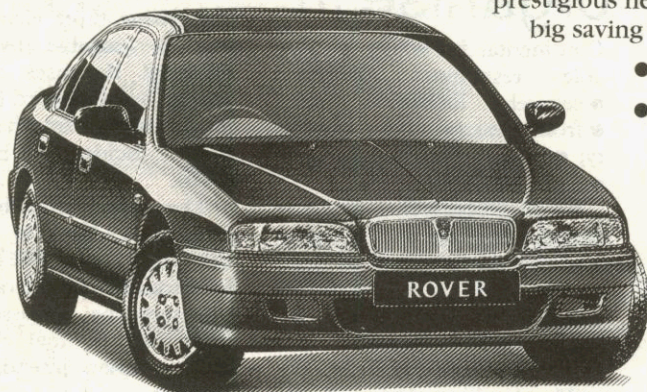
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Nienburg bridgers are still quickest in world

AGGRESSION and good technique helped 21 Engineer Regiment from Nienburg to record the fastest time of the day in the 1993 medium girder bridge competition at Hameln although they were well outside the world record they set last year.

Near freezing temperatures did not help, but Sgt Ross Hall's nine-man team still managed a time of 8min 54sec, easily the best of the day. And they retained the title despite a 30-second penalty which gave them an overall time of 9min 24sec.

Last year 21 Engr completed the task – constructing a six-tonne girder bridge across a gap of nearly nine metres – in an incredible 7min 12sec.



Members of the 21 Engr Regt team who won the 1993 medium girder bridge competition at Hameln

Teams from the United States, Italy and Holland turned the competition into a truly international event.

Iserlohn-based 26 Engineer Regiment were runners up, with 35 Engineer Regiment, the "home" team, third.

Good performances were also recorded by two UK-based Territorial Army units, 103 Field Squadron (V) from Newcastle and 73 Engineer Regiment (V) from Notting-

ham. Their times were 11min 53sec and 14min 34sec respectively.

Highest placed international unit was 565 (US) Engineer Battalion, based at Karlsruhe, in sixth.

The medium girder bridge (MGB) was designed as a successor to the famous Bailey Bridge. Since its introduction 20 years ago it has been sold to 35 countries on five continents.

ABSD in Sarajevo mission of mercy

THE ARMY Blood Supply Depot at Aldershot is heading an international effort to send red blood cells to former Yugoslavia where there is a chronic shortage.

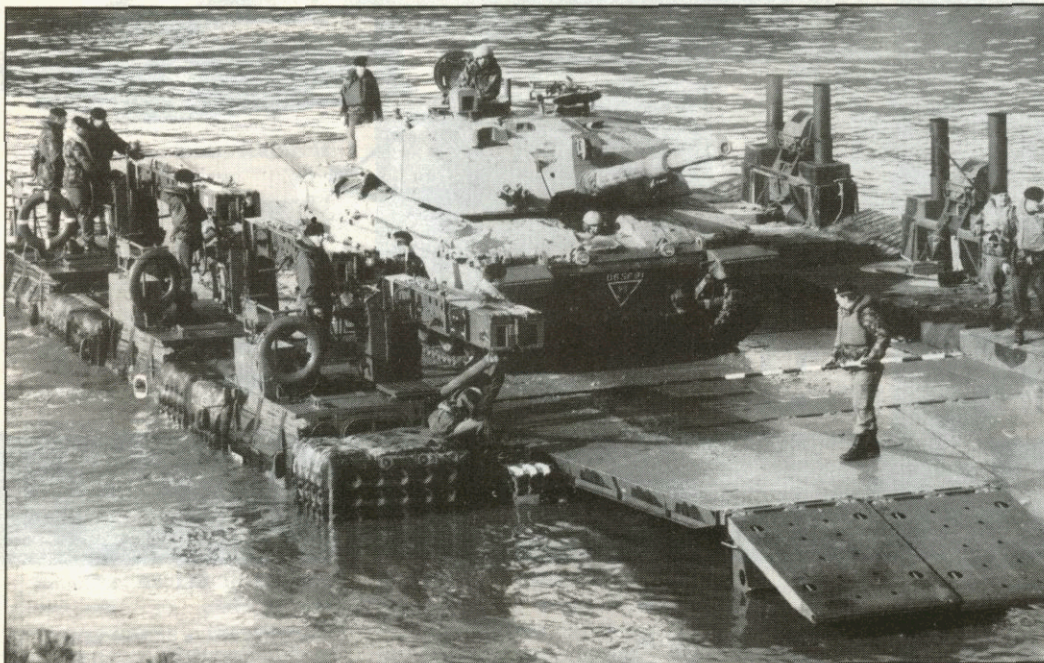
Following an appeal from the World Health Organisation, the Aldershot medics are processing donations of blood cells from as far away as Scotland, Germany and the Netherlands.

The packing process is complex, and the Aldershot unit uses skills and equipment developed by the Army during the Gulf War.

Col Michael Thomas, CO ABSD, said: "Having seen the conditions under which doctors are working in Sarajevo, it is extremely rewarding to be able to utilise our expertise in such a good cause."

The red blood cells are flown once a week to a transfusion centre in Sarajevo via an emergency field blood bank at Ancona on the Adriatic coast. By mid-November the ABSD had dispatched four consignments to Sarajevo.

Challenger 2 takes to the water



Land ahoy as Challenger 2 makes its first water crossing on an M2 rig. The Army's new main battle tank is currently undergoing user trials at the Armoured Trials and Development Unit (ATDU) at Bovington Camp, Dorset. The unit was assisted in the water crossing by 227 Amphibious Engineer Squadron and Vickers Defence Systems

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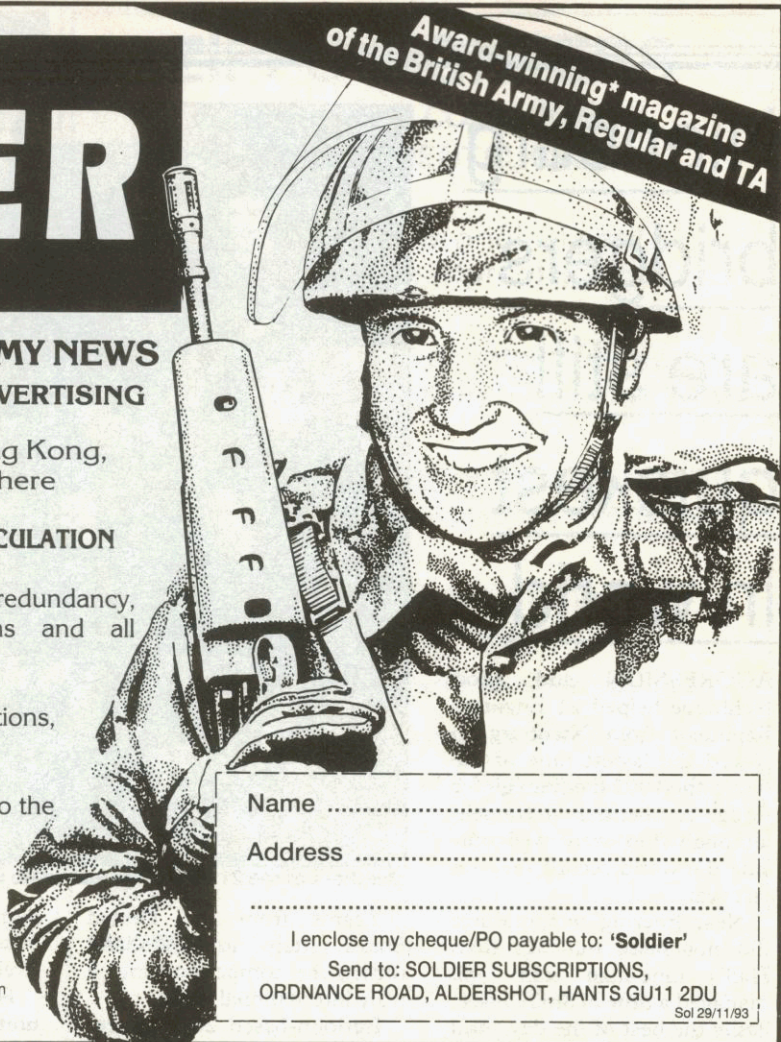
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'Cowboy' Tom saves the day

LT TOM Pitman's first day with the Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment would be hard to beat.

He was on a carriage in Hyde Park rehearsing for a State visit when the horses bolted, throwing the postilions to the ground and scattering troops in all directions.

Like the hero from a John Wayne movie, Lt Pitman jumped from the carriage on the shaft between the galloping horses, then leapt on to one of the runaways, bringing them to a halt just short of Speakers' Corner.

Lt Pitman has worked with horses all his life and spent some time as a ranch hand in Texas.

His commendation, from C-in-C UKLF, says his swift



Lt Tom Pitman

and courageous action prevented injury to participants and spectators.

Staff Cpl Richard Waygood, one of the mounted escorts to the carriage, received a commendation from GOC London District for his attempts to bring the leading horses under control.

TWO Territorial Army soldiers serving with Brixton-based 253 Provost Company have received commendations from GOC London District for their responses to two separate incidents.

LCpl William Sparks tackled and subdued a much larger man at Dartford in an incident which involved a woman trying to cash stolen cheques at a bank.

While the woman was being questioned, her male accomplice tried to break down the door. He was tackled by LCpl Sparks who handed him over to the police.

Cfn Adrian Brooks REME, attached 253 Pro Coy, received his commendation for saving a man's life outside a Hastings nightclub.



LCpl Sparks



Cfn Brooks

Using a plastic bag, he staunched a vicious stab wound in the man's neck and kept him alive until an ambulance arrived.

The man lost six pints of blood but survived to see his assailant charged with attempted murder.

Cfn Brooks is soon to be promoted lance corporal.

Bünde bids Army goodbye

HUNDREDS of people lined the streets of Bünde to wave their farewells to 1 General Support Regiment RLC. It was the end of a 36-year association between the German town and the British Army.

A ceremony of farewell was followed by a concert featuring the Royal Logistic Corps Band. A persistent drizzle did not dampen the crowd's enthusiastic reception for the troops as they exercised for the last time their right of Freedom to the town.

The regiment, formerly 1 Armoured Division Transport Regiment, was formed in Germany in 1965 and had been based at Birdwood Barracks since 1983. It was granted the Freedom of Stadt Bünde in 1990.

The regiment is moving to Gutersloh, so ending the British presence at the barracks since it was built in 1985.

Commanding officer Lt Col Peter Maggs thanked Bürgermeister Siegfried Hagemann and the people of Bünde for



Maj Lou Mahanty leads the Bürgermeister on his review of 1 General Support Regiment RLC at Bünde

their friendship to British soldier and their families over the years. Many thousands had lived and worked in the town, many soldiers had married local girls, and some ex-Servicemen had settled there.

Brig Gen Peter Noack, Deputy Commander 7 Panzer-division, presented a *fahnenband* (banner) to the regiment "in gratitude for duties carried out in the past decades for German's freedom and peace". He wished the regiment a peaceful future and good luck in its new role.

CENOTAPH CEREMONY

DETACHMENTS of the Household Cavalry, Royal Artillery, Foot Guards, women's services and the Territorial Army formed the east side of a hollow square round the Cenotaph in London for the Remembrance Sunday service attended by the Queen on November 14.

The south side was formed by massed bands of the Guards Division, pipers from the 1st Battalion, Scots Guards, and Bands of the RM and RAF.

Phoenix accepted

PHOENIX, the GEC-Marconi Avionics unmanned battlefield surveillance aircraft developed for the British Army, has received formal system acceptance from the Ministry of Defence.

Primary role of Phoenix will be to detect, recognise and mark targets for artillery and Multiple Launch Rocket System (MLRS) batteries.

Wessex Brigade in Lotov trouble

WHEN warlord general "Bagdan Lotov" decided to defy the United Nations and continue his ethnic cleansing of the tiny state of Breckland he did not count on the arrival of 43 (Wessex) Brigade and some of the worst floods in living memory.

Breckland was in fact Stanford Training Area near Thetford in Norfolk, and Gen Lotov's defiance was the excuse for the three-day Exercise Wyvern Warrior at the end of 43 Brigade's concentration at STANTA.

The brigade, a predominantly TA formation, had three major units under command: 4th Battalion, The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment, 6th Battalion, The Light Infantry, and the Royal Wessex Yeomanry.

It was reinforced by a unit from 163 Provost Company, the brigade REME Workshops and a mixture of support and recce helicopters. In all, nearly 1,000 TA personnel were involved in the annual camp.

Civilian staff from the brigade played the parts of an unco-operative civilian population in the FIBUA village of Eastmere as the West Country Light Infantrymen arrived to restore peace in the face of extreme provocation by Lotov's brigands.

Heavy flooding played havoc with the Devon and Dorsets' attempt to construct a bridge over the River Wissey to allow a convoy, escorted by the Yeomanry, into the village, and eventually sappers from 39 Engineer Regiment at Waterbeach were called in to advise.

In the final phase, battle-group attacks were carried out at dawn to liberate hostages held by the warlord's forces.

Colchester barracks in £3.5m overhaul

WORK has begun on a £3.5m building project which will double the size of Roman Barracks, Colchester, to accommodate 10 Regiment RLC, recently returned from BAOR



Notts sappers hit high spots

Members of a hill walking expedition mounted by Nottingham-based 73 Engineer Regiment (V) pause for breath and a team photograph in the Pyrenees. Led by Lt Sean Scullion, the 14-man team climbed a number of peaks on both the French and Spanish sides, including Monte Perdido (3,355m), the third highest in the Pyrenees



A "hostage" is liberated by a 43 (Wessex) Brigade soldier during Exercise Wyvern Warrior

Next Step for areas of support

ALL "significant defence support areas" including recruiting, pay, medical services and schools, are to be considered for agency status under the Government's Next Steps initiative. Among the areas already under review are the Army's logistic information systems and engineer services.

Defence Procurement Minister Jonathan Aitken announced on November 2 further support elements of all three Services which would be considered for agency status.

They include recruiting, pay and some personnel systems for each service; those schools not already in agencies; Army individual training; significant further elements of Army logistics in the base areas; the medical organisations of each service; human factors research; tri-Service communications systems; the Defence lands organisation; and parts of the Procurement Executive.

Mr Aitken said the aim was to increase efficiency, standards of service to customers and value for money and to prepare those organisations which were finally selected for launch as defence agencies by mid-1996.

under Options for Change. New facilities will include a workshop, petrol station and improved vehicle washing and parking areas.

Part of the Tidworth-based

UK Combat Service Support Group, 10 Regt is responsible for the movement of combat supplies for 3 (UK) Division and Nato's Rapid Reaction Corps (ARRC).



Karen's parade
Apprentice **Karen Moore** (18), the first woman to command a male drill squad, clocked up another "first" by taking a passing out parade at the Army Apprentices College, Harrogate. In September Karen was appointed App Tradeswoman Regimental Sergeant Major, and last month, in front of Maj Gen **Patrick Cordingley**, GOC Eastern District, she commanded the college parade for all graduates of her intake.

Woman in charge



Maj **Doreen Haddow** has returned to 135 Independent Topographical Squadron RE(V) after nine years – as its OC. The first woman to command the squadron, she is preparing the unit for a new role, supplying maps to the Allied Command Europe Rapid Reaction Corps (ARRC). The squadron's headquarters in Ewell, Surrey, has been renamed Mercator House by Fd Marshal Lord Bramall following a £2.5m refurbishment.



We see no ships . . .
Proving that they have mastered the naval salute – if not the military version – are three former naval ratings who are ending their Service careers in khaki – as members of the 3rd Battalion, The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment (Volunteers). From left are Ptes **Dick Gleed-Owen**, **Barry Siddons** and **Jack Marriott**.
All three served at different times in the Royal Navy between 1953 and 1972 before joining the WFR's now disbanded Home Service Force.



'Pool success
Cpl **Julie Prescott** (left) of Liverpool-based 156 (North West) Transport Regiment RLC(V) was heavily outnumbered at an international Reserve Forces military skills competition at Saarbrücken, Germany. In fact, she was the only woman to take part. Undeterred, she and her male colleagues finished fifth out of 32 teams, and third out of nine in the international category. Also pictured are (from left) LCpl **Neil Hoey**, German host Maj **Hocke**, Cpl **Kevin Smallwood** and Pte **John Griffiths**.

PEOPLE



Super senior

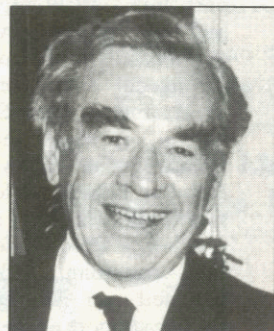
Former Royal Signals warrant officer **Jim Woolgar** (77) still cuts a dash on the ski slopes of Europe as Britain's oldest racer. Competing in the British Masters Alpine team last winter, the sprightly Army and Naafi pensioner won two gold medals on the World Cup circuit.
He also finished seventh overall in the World Masters and third in the International Alpine Cup for senior citizens – some of them 20 years younger.
The British Alpine Centre, Bavaria is helping him out with equipment.

Ray joins the Devils



Arnhem veteran **Ray Sheriff** from St Dunstan's in Sussex flies through the air with the greatest of ease . . . and a little help from the Red Devils. Seventy-three-year-old Ray, who was blinded in the battle for Arnhem nearly 50 years ago, was strapped to Cpl **David Mitchell** in freefall from 13,000ft. Other members of the Red Devils fell in formation.
Ray, who made 19 drops during the Second World War, hopes to join nearly 100 other veterans in an anniversary drop at Arnhem on September 17 next year.

John's farewell



Long serving Army public relations officer **John Ellis** has swapped his notebook for a bus pass. After retiring as a major in the Royal Engineers, John has spent the past 12 years serving the Army in Scotland. He had special responsibility for 52nd Lowland Brigade at Edinburgh Castle, and latterly at HQ, Craigiehall. To mark John's "second" retirement, Col **Robin Hunt**, Deputy Chief of Staff, presented him with a painting of the Officers' Mess at Craigiehall.

Meeting the standard . . .

Colchester-based 36 District workshop has been awarded BS5750 accreditation by the British Standards Institute. The 180-strong REME organisation, which provides second-line field repair to the equipment of units in the southern half of Eastern district and the northern half of London district, achieved the standard 13 months early. Maj Gen **Mike Heath**, DGES (left) presented the certificate to **Derek Norfolk** and OC Maj **Eric Tomlinson**.



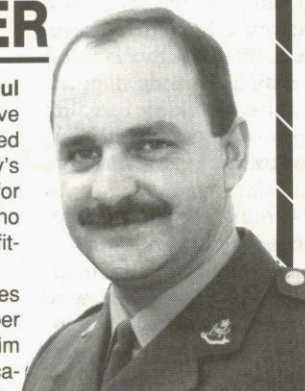
Key moment

Watched by wife **Yvonne** and daughter **Chloe**, JTech **Mark Lockett** RAF receives the keys to a new Volvo 850 Estate from Gen Sir **Charles Guthrie**, C-in-C BAOR, outside JHQ. The car, donated by Volvo, was first prize in the draw which raised more than DM30,000 (about £12,270) for British Forces Germany sport and charities.



LIFE-SAVER

Colchester-based Sgt **Paul Todd** of the Military Corrective Training Centre has received the Royal Humane Society's resuscitation certificate for saving the life of a man who suffered a heart attack in a fitness club.
Paul battled for 20 minutes to save fellow club member **Phillip Adams**, bringing him back to life on several occasions.

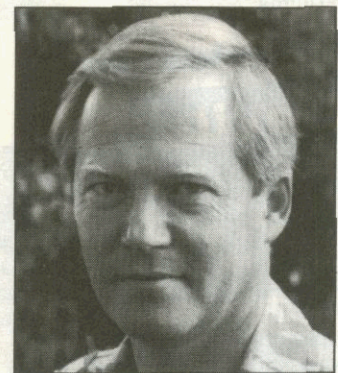


Sappers gear up for Op Lifeline

UNITED NATIONS plans to rebuild the vital Bijela Bridge received a severe setback when further damage was inflicted on the structure. A second, smaller, bridge on the same supply route was destroyed, bringing the operation to a virtual halt.

Royal Engineers in Bosnia, Germany and the United Kingdom had been mobilised following Gen Francis Briquemont's decision to rebuild the five-span Bijela Bridge.

But the original task of replacing two spans was vastly complicated when two further spans and a central pier were



Brig John Reith

Tribute to troops

BRIG Robin Searby has come to the end of his time in command of the British troops serving in former Yugoslavia. His place has been taken by Brig John Reith.

As Brig Searby left for England, he said: "I am very proud of what my UN soldiers have achieved, often in the face of great difficulty and danger. While always seeking to calm the tension down, the troops have negotiated aid through time and time again."

"Everything I have asked them to do they have done." The new Commander British Forces, Brig Reith, was commissioned into The Parachute Regiment in 1969. He commanded the 1st Battalion for two years. After serving in the Gulf on Operation Granby he took command of the 4th Armoured Brigade in Germany.

Reports by
Henry Bojdis,
Alan Patterson,
Gordon Skilling

"dropped" on the night of November 4.

However, such is Gen Briquemont's determination to carry out Operation Lifeline that reconnaissance is under way to see what can be salvaged.

In Hameln on the River Weser and Nienburg in Germany, Plymouth and Long Marston in England, and Split in Croatia, Royal Engineers with skills ranging from diving to demolition started packing their kit, studying plans, and practising bridge building, mine clearance and demolition techniques.

The first group of trained combat engineers set off to rebuild a bridge that few had heard of a few weeks ago.

In the British headquarters in Split, a Royal Engineers staff officer read the UNPROFOR operation order and began to draw the planning threads together.

He has the awesome problem of orchestrating the men with the right skills, their equipment, everything they need to support themselves in the timescale that has been given to him.

Maj Paul Cox knows that the deadlines given to him are unlikely to be met but he also knows that if the Spanish Battalion can secure the route to the bridge and a safety area around the building site, then his men can do the job.

But he admitted that this order could not have come at a more difficult moment for him and the Royal Engineers.

The sappers of 1 Squadron of 21 Engineer Regiment, just finishing a highly successful tour in FRY (Former Republic of Yugoslavia) were about to leave. Should he keep some back or let them go?

They had built the very effective dirt-track roads to carry aid into the heart of Bosnia Hercegovina.

Just for good measure they had turned the dirt tracks into good quality macadam, winter-proof roads... a tremendous

feat of engineering under appalling conditions.

Replacing them were sappers of 11 Squadron, Royal Engineers. But sappers are sappers – and the decision came down in favour of the new guys. They will face a challenge different but equal to that of their predecessors.

The officer commanding the squadron, Maj Alan MacKlin, knows that many lives depend on the ability and professionalism of his men and that of their UN colleagues such as the Spanish battalion who will have the task of securing and guarding the area if and when the bridge is built.

In Plymouth the specialist divers of 59 Commando Royal Engineers were also checking their equipment and weapons. They will have to dive into the Neretva, a boulder-strewn, icy-cold, mountain river, and check the bridge's piers for underwater damage and demolition charges. They will also act as safety crews for their colleagues working above.

Against the odds, Gen Briquemont has demanded and received an agreement signed by both the HVO and BiH commanders that the warring parties will not hinder the reconstruction of the Bijela Bridge and that the road will be demilitarised in the area.

In Hameln, the chartered civil engineer, Maj Stuart Ruxton, between packing and studying plans, was computing the complexities of the task.

He will be in charge of technical aspects of the construction that will require blasting away part of a mountain on the



Smiles reflect the pleasure these Muslim children derived from a party laid on by troops of 1 PWO at Klaci, a village near Vitez

Mostar bank; 12,000 tons of rock in total.

The bridge is on a bend but the Royal Engineers need enough space in a direct line to assemble the new replacement spans and edge them forward over the river in a technique called "build and boom".

And at HQ Engineer Resources, Long Marston, near Stratford upon Avon, stood a bridge, bought by the UN from Mabey Johnson in Bristol. Also there were the bridge-builders of 7 Field Squadron, 21 Engineer Regiment, Royal Engineers from Nienburg, West Germany.

They crawled over it examining every span, spar, nut and bolt, checking and double checking. And then they test-built it, honing and polishing their techniques.

The lives of many people may depend on that bridge and the expertise of the British sappers.

Children sad to see PWO leave

AS THE white-painted Warriors of the 1st Battalion, The Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire roll out of Bosnia there are many local children sad to see them go.

The British soldiers in their blue United Nations berets, tough and often irreverent on the exterior, have shown the youngsters a softer side of their character and have brightened up many young lives blighted by the brutality of war.

Typical were the men of the battalion's C Company, under command of Maj Vaughan Kent-Payne. Finding time somehow amid the demands of their UN duties, they took aid to orphanages and families in their area and organised parties for some 3,500 children in a dozen scattered villages.

It was on their arrival in cen-



Maj Vaughan Kent-Payne

tral Bosnia in May that the soldiers of 1 PWO became aware of the barren abnormality of the lives of the local children. They had food to eat, but little

else besides. They raced after the Army vehicles shouting "bon-bon" (sweetie) or "skola" (pencil).

The battalion had to ban soldiers from throwing chocolate bars from their lunch boxes because of the danger of a child being run over by the next vehicle in the convoy.

Maj Kent-Payne wrote, as did many soldiers, to some of the leading children's produce manufacturers in the United Kingdom. Cow & Gate provided a magnificent 5,500 jars of baby food, SMA Nutrition sent 72 large cans of powdered milk and there were generous contributions from KP Crisps and Van den Berghs Foods.

PATIENT YORKIES BOW OUT QUIETLY ON LAST CROSSING

SOLDIERS of the 1st Battalion, The Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire carried out their last evacuation of Muslim families from behind Serb lines in Bosnia on October 31.

The Yorkshiremen were already accompanied by a few soldiers of the 1st Battalion, Coldstream Guards, who are taking over the United Nations duty.

Such evacuations take place

only after painstaking negotiation and by the time the next one is arranged the 1 PWO soldiers will be back in Germany after their six months of service in the strife-torn region.

On this occasion the evacuation involved about 100 people, almost exclusively women, children and the elderly, from the area of Banjaluka in north-west Bosnia. They – and all their worldly goods – arrived at the Serb lines near

the town of Tuzla in two battered buses.

Serb militiamen looked on as the exiles struggled with their possessions, in sacks and suitcases, towards the British Army trucks which would then take them to Muslim territory. There were smiles of gratitude as the Yorkshire soldiers moved to help.

As usual, the crossing of the lines was overseen by the liaison officer appointed by the

Yorkies. Working with the factions in the Turbe area was Capt Colin Hay, Queen's Own Highlanders.

Transport for the move was supplied by the PWO motor transport platoon, with platoon 2iC WO Ken Debnam in charge. For him the evacuation was routine.

Tension in the Turbe area was relatively low as the crossing took place.

With Warriors front and

back, the convoy made its way to Travnik.

On arrival the trucks were mobbed by townspeople anxious to ask the new arrivals for information about relatives still in Serb-held areas. The troops helped with the unloading before returning to their base at Vitez.

In the excitement, their departure was hardly noticed by those they had helped toward a new life.

Dragoons keep it in the family

LIGHT Dragoons leaving Bosnia after a six-month tour sang a Christmas carol with a difference for the Dragoons who were replacing them.

"We wish you a merry 'Stag On'," they chorused as C Squadron arrived at Split Airport to replace the 101 men of B Squadron who were returning to Osnabrück in the Russian Ilyushin which had brought their mates from Germany.

Among others arriving were 204 Signal Squadron from Münster, who were greeted by banners from 2 Signal Squadron from Verden. And when the main body of the 1st Battalion, Coldstream Guards arrived, they had the same treatment from the 1st Battalion, The Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire.

For each of the new arrivals, from various units, there was a reminder that they would be spending Christmas away from their families, but there was no rancour and the newcomers took it in good part.

At Split port, 52 Warriors and 24 Scimitars were arriving to replace the vehicles which have done sterling service since the 1st Battalion, The Cheshire Regiment, arrived in theatre a year ago.

The next day the vehicles were on their way north – first on low loaders of 7 Squadron Royal Logistic Corps as far as Tomislavgrad (TSG), then on their own tracks towards the formerly treacherous Route Triangle, where they passed the second batch of PWO on their happy way south.

Nub of the operation was at TSG, where the bright new vehicles were bombed up with the ammunition from the mud-spattered veterans returning to Split.

RQMS Charlie Lister, 1 PWO, was merciless in his winding up of Coldstream RQMS Vince Bell as he handed over, but got as good as he gave.

Joking apart, RQMS Bell was sincere in his appreciation of an excellent hand-over. Just as sincere was RQMS Lister, who wished the Coldstream the good fortune and good soldiering which allowed 1 PWO to return in high spirits after a job well done escorting relief supplies to desperate people in war-torn former Yugoslavia.

Pirbright steps up the pace

ACROSS the parade ground, a rhythmic clicking sound resonated in the crisp autumnal air.

Closer inspection revealed its source: four soldiers marching between markers arranged on the square, pace-sticks tapping out an even beat to either side as they moved.

Hot on their heels, an NCO called out various, apparently random, commands.

To the uninitiated, it could have been a truly Pythonesque, comic vision.

But not only was this a serious business, with reputations at stake, the quintet was also playing its part in putting the spotlight on a skill which, without careful nurturing, could easily become yet another casualty of our times.

The occasion was the first Army Training Regiment Pirbright inter-company, squadron and battery pace-sticking competition.

So it transpired that a healthy total of 19 teams – some of whom had journeyed from the Midlands – entered the fray in a contest which on this occasion included an inter-training regiment prize as well as inter-unit and individual awards.

The organisers also had another innovative ace up their sleeves to keep all concerned on their polished toe-caps over the four-and-a-half hours of competition – a team of women from ATR Pirbright...

They and 18 other batches of "stickers" and "drivers" representing units from, variously, the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, the Household Cavalry, ATRs Pirbright, Lichfield and Winchester, Princess Marina College Arborfield and 1st Battalion, Irish Guards literally showed their paces

throughout the morning.

During each team's 15-minute display, the three judges, Pirbright ATR commandant Lt Col Shane Alabaster, Capt Mike Nesbitt and WO1 (RSM) Pat Cloney, were keeping six sharp eyes on march on, get on parade, inspection and proving, and halting and dressing in slow and quick time.

Armed with stop-watch and clipboard, they followed the progress of the four stickers (the competitors using pace-sticks) and their driver (who issues the orders) as they made their way up the course.

With what they hoped was clockwork precision, each driver – who followed two paces behind their charges – issued a cautionary word of command within seven paces before their team entered boxes marked along the route.

"Changing sticks" echoed the warning, followed by "Change... sticks" as the stickers turned their pace-sticks for 20 paces within the box.

Further drills followed, including changing sticks with carry, in slow time for the journey down the square, in quick time for the return trip.

A judicial consultation half-way through gave most teams the opportunity to regain the circulation in cold hands before setting off on the return journey.

At the other end, Scots, Welsh, Irish and Grenadier Guardsmen exchanged light-hearted banter, fortified, as were the other spectators, by a little liquid sustenance in the form of the odd glass of port.

"For too long, pace-sticking has been a dying art," Lt Col Alabaster told SOLDIER, as he and his fellow judges sought a temporary respite from the elements.

"I see a lot of people walking round with pace-sticks and never opening them. That is like owning a Ferrari and not being able to drive."

In competition, he said, slow time was not all that difficult, but the sheep were sorted from the goats in the quick time exercises.

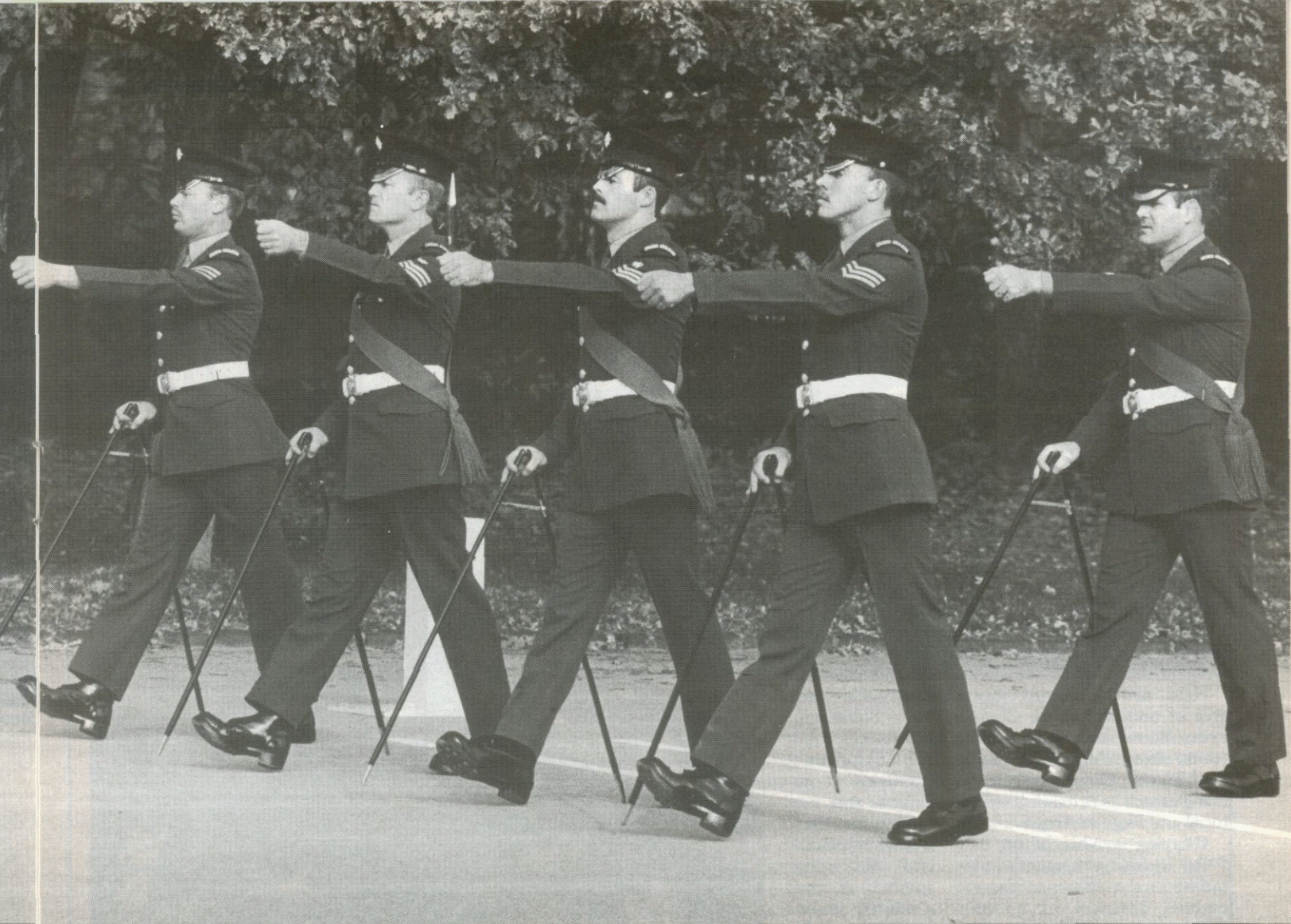
The winning team would have a combination of skills in quick time, personal drill – and confidence in using the stick.

That confidence could only be built up by teaching young soldiers – the potential instructors of the future – the essentials of pace-sticking, as well as encouraging more inter-company competitions, said CSM Trevor Gregg IG.

"Although we are no longer a Guards depot here at Pirbright," he explained, "we are still the home of drill instruction, and we have got to make sure that instructors – and their aptitude with pace-sticks – do not become a rare breed."

It is getting on for 15 years since CSM Gregg was measured for his first stick, which cost him £30 and, like all

Words:
Phil Wilcox
Pictures:
Terry Champion



Watch this pace: CSM Trevor Gregg (right) "drives" his 1 Battalion, Irish Guards team into a box as they head into second place in the inter-unit competition. On the left is LSgt Kenny Fox, winner of the same competition's best individual sticker award

pace-sticks, bore a personalised serial number.

Each is tailored to the individual, measured with the elbow in line with the waist belt, increasing in size as the soldier gains height.

This particular morning, his latest trusty stick was being put to the test as he made his debut as driver of the regiment's 1st Battalion team.

"I would much rather be one of the stickers," he confessed. "If I give the wrong word of command, or start them off on the wrong foot, it's the team that gets penalised, not the driver."

"They lose points: I lose a bottle of port per mistake!"

Another potential problem was that each individual has a stronger hand. In slow time, that made very little difference, but in quick time, when a competitor had to pace a stick for 22 or 23 paces, it was crucial.

CSM Gregg would like more inter company competitions in pace-sticking to be encouraged.

"It's a very intricate part of any foot drill," he said, "yet in five weeks of all-arms drilling, squads take their sticks out on the square for just one day, and then it is only in slow time."

A falsetto command from a rival driver on the Pirbright parade ground coming to the end of his team's session was the cue for CSM Gregg to rally his team into action for their taste of competition.

In the background, meanwhile, one team at least could be observed

having a last-minute rehearsal before being thrust into the limelight. The unheralded arrival of a postal van in their midst was a hazard they were unlikely to encounter on the square...

But as one participant said,

as long as he and his colleagues could get up the course and back again without dropping a stick, win or lose they would enjoy the day.

Teams came and went.

Some had been practising, when whenever commitments permitted, for a month, some for a mere week.

And then, to a hush that would have graced a cathedral, the women from the home-based ATR team marched smartly on, led by Sgt Christine Howse, their driver.

A few minutes, and the odd nervous fluff, later, they completed the course to a huge cheer and prolonged applause which extended well beyond biased supporters.

"We were a bit nervous, doing the drill in front of

everybody, and we made some mistakes, but at least we will know what it will be like for next time," one said, after a congratulatory greeting from their instructor, ATR Pirbright's WO2 (Drill Sgt) Gregg Fenner.

And how did they fare overall?

Well, considering that they were not due to take possession of their own, tailor-made sticks – duly bearing an engraved souvenir of the competition – until the following week, they were not last...

Now, appetites whetted, they and other competitors will soon be taking that imaginary Ferrari out of the garage in preparation for the Regular Army pace-stick championships (the new name for the world championships) in the spring.

With any luck, that and other similar events at Pirbright will encourage a new generation of pace-stick wielders to perpetuate this very specialised skill on the parade grounds of the future.



Happiness is... taking the men on at their own game. The three clerks from AGC SPS and two chefs from the RLC who made up the ATR Pirbright ladies' team are (left to right) LCpl Lynne Draper, Pte Theresa Collins, Sgt Christine Howse, Pte Lucy Stone and LCpl Sara Wright

Single gold medal won by German unit

PITTING their wits against sub-zero temperatures, tough terrain and the clock, 93 highly-trained military teams took to the mountains of mid-Wales last month in the unique Cambrian Patrol competition.

A highlight of the British Army's training calendar, the annual Cambrian Patrol is regarded internationally as one of the toughest tests of military skills, endurance and stamina. Only the fittest attempt it.

Held in the Sennybridge area of mid-Wales, the Cambrian Patrol this year drew teams from America, Italy, Netherlands, Canada and Germany as well as Britain's Territorial and Regular Army.

Carrying weights of up to 70lb, including bergens and radio sets, the eight-man teams covered distances of up to 70km while on their three or four-day patrols into "enemy territory".

Navigating in atrocious conditions by day and night to avoid enemy troops looking for them, snatching sleep and meals where they could and being tested on all aspects of their military training, the teams pushed themselves to their limits.

They moved by foot across country as stealthily and swiftly as possible, facing a series of military skills tests and a mock media interview while making for enemy positions which they had to observe in secrecy and report on.

Their progress – though they did not realise it at the

time – was frequently monitored by men of the Larkhill-based Surveillance Target Acquisition Night Observation and Countersurveillance (STANOC) Centre and by RAF Harrier and Tornado aircraft of 4 Squadron, Laarbruch, and 13 Squadron, based at RAF Honnington, overflying the exercise area.

Though they were not penalised for being spotted, it was a salutary lesson for many patrols on the night-into-day technology of battlefield detection equipment.

Each team's capabilities, timings and stamina were continually evaluated. There were no overall winners – instead they were competing against themselves for gold, silver or bronze medals and the prestige earned by returning to their units with one of these much-coveted awards.



Press officer Mervyn Wynne Jones plays the role of a journalist, quizzing a patrol as it passes through Sennybridge's FIBUA complex



Sappers from 59 Ind Cdo Sqn RE pause for breath in the Sennybridge FIBUA during the Cambrian Patrol. They are, from left to right (back) Sps Lee David, Paul Gailimore and Darren Ward; (middle) Sps Edward Land and Kief Rhanlarian and LCpl Jonathan Penny; and (front) LCpl Brendon Hynes and team leader Lt Piers Noble.

Their preparations for the competitions included a month of intensive training in Plymouth and on the Dartmoor and Sennybridge training areas

Merely to have finished the course was a considerable achievement.

The emphasis on marking this year shifted dramatically towards achieving the mission rather than earning a broad spread of points on activities such as abseils and river crossings along the route.

More marks were awarded for successfully infiltrating enemy lines to mount a covert observation post at a close target recce location and reporting back in detail.

Debriefers awaited information on all aspects of the enemy's position including

routines, activities, disposition and dress. They also wanted a tactical assessment of what the patrols were looking at with details, for example, as to how well the position was defended.

Playing a realistic and professional enemy at all locations were men of Ternhill-based 1 RRW.

A novel extra this year was the staging of a media interview. On the basis that Press are found on every modern field of conflict – and usually where one least expects them – "journalists" stopped each team and quizzed them on aspects of the patrol.

Stressed out – but OPs stay on course

TWENTY-SIX teams, including one from the Netherlands, had their stamina, flexibility and military skills put to the test during an exceptionally gruelling 28-hour UKLF OP competition on Salisbury Plain at the end of October.

First paragraph in the written orders for the competition came straight out of British Army Doctrine – "... essential that commanders at all levels are placed under stress... new factors should be introduced so that plans have to be changed... commanders must be faced with a non-compliant situation so they have to think and act..."

Regular Army winners were 148 (Meiktila) Commando Battery RA, with 19/5 Battery RA from Force Arty AMF(L) the runners-up. East Ham-based 289 Commando Battery RA(V) and 307 Battery RA(V)

from Nottingham were first and second in the TA section.

Challenges facing the observation parties included live firing, march and shoot and a series of daylight stands and

night orienteering, night stands and night observation.

Each regiment represented produced at least one event. The live firing stands were staged by 7 Parachute Regiment RHA, 14 Regiment RA and the 7th Battalion, The (Durham) Light Infantry with mortars.

They provided complex tests of the observers' abilities and offered realistic rates of fire.

The march and shoot competition covered 21km, with 1 RHA's A team (95 per cent) and 32 Regt RA (89 per cent)

achieving notable scores. Some of the daylight stands were very popular and queues formed as teams gauged the advantages of staying or moving on. This produced a lively competitive atmosphere which improved the overall nature of the event.

A variety of new stands open only at night included the observation test run by 14 Regt RA, and an orienteering course set by 3 RHA.

Commander UK Field Army, Lt Gen Michael Rose, was present to see the high level of determination shown by all the teams and present the trophies at Knighton Down.

More teams than ever are expected to enter next year's competition, which is scheduled for June. Indirect fire observers interested in a challenge should contact their Unit Training Officer for details.



Lt Gen Michael Rose, Commander UK Field Army, presents the Regular OP Trophy to Capt Simon Dunk from 148 (Meiktila) Cdo Bty



A 19 Regiment RA OP team in action at the first aid stand on Salisbury Plain

The broad principles of media-handling were being tested. While it is crucial no information is revealed that would be of value to intelligence gatherers, stone-walling and unhelpful and impolite responses will frequently translate into negative media coverage. Security, attitude and technique were being tested.

Medals were harder to come by on the 1993 Cambrian Patrol. There were 40 bronze awards, 14 silver and just one gold – won by the German specialist Fernspahkompanie 200.

The latter took with them 40-year-old, Para-trained Lt

Robbie Davies of Liverpool-based 55 Signal Squadron, Royal Signals (V).

Hearing on the eve of their departure that the Germans needed an English-speaking signaller, Lt Davies – who had always wanted to attempt the Regular Army Cambrian Patrol, but who had done absolutely no training – volunteered himself, donned a bergen and radio set and helped them to success.

More than 1,000 troops – including the 750 competitors – were involved in Cambrian Patrol 93.

Those supporting the exer-

cise included representatives of virtually every TA unit in 160 (Wales) Brigade. Two Wessex helicopters of 60 Squadron, RAF Benson were on hand to extract patrols while a Scout helicopter belonging to 666 Squadron AAC (V) at Netheravon was used on a variety of other tasks.

"A lot of hard work has been put in by a lot of different units to ensure the success of Cambrian Patrol," said exercise co-ordinator Maj Dan Skipworth-Michell LI.

"From the participants' point of view, it has been a challenging event and was cer-

tainly one that needed considerable preparation and training. It was nevertheless achievable and I hope that each patrol has left feeling that they have learnt something."

The Cambrian Patrol began more than 20 years ago when a group of Welsh Territorial Army soldiers designed a weekend competition featuring long-distance marching and shooting over the Cambrian mountains.

It has now grown into the most prestigious event of its kind in Nato.

Words: Mervyn Wynne Jones



Waterloo Company 1 Gordons return fire from the bridge at Katstrup during Ex Action Express 93 in Denmark



Inset – Capt Jonathon Tink, the operations officer (left), discusses details of the advance with the commanding officer, Lt Col Ian Chant-Sempill

Battle of the Bridge of Katstrup

THE BRIDGE, about 10km south of the Gordons' position, was finally captured at dawn after a fierce firefight with the enemy.

A strategically important crossing of the River Amose on the line of advance south to the main objective, the bridge had been wired for demolition, but the 1st Battalion, The Gordon Highlanders were too fast off the mark.

Having secured three other bridges by sundown they moved forward to secure the next objective, the town of Saeslev, by the evening of the following day.

By midnight, Waterloo and B Companies had taken up defensive positions to the south and west of the town when both companies were ordered forward to launch a dawn attack on the bridge at Katstrup.

Unfortunately, enemy patrols spotted elements of B Company and the advantage of surprise was lost.

There was a great deal of noise when the attack began at dawn, automatic rifles, machine-guns and explosives from both sides coupled to the shouts of the Jocks and the defenders producing an atmosphere of confusion.



Pte Knight of B Company, 1 Gordons, keeps watch as a Danish tank crosses a bridge during Action Express

The reality, however, was that every Jock knew exactly what to do.

First across the bridge were Ptes Cameron Ross and Paul Davies of Waterloo Company, followed quickly by their mates. By 0830, the bridge, codenamed "Daisy" – the Danish Queen's nickname – had been captured and secured by The Gordon Highlanders.

They were on exercise in the north-east corner of the Danish island of Zealand. The "enemy" was the Allied Com-

mand Europe Mobile Force (Land) (AMF(L)), and facing the Gordons was the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Green Jack-ets.

The Gordons, currently based in Berlin and due to be merged with the Queen's Own Highlanders next September, were probably taking part in their last major exercise before returning to Scotland in April prior to the amalgamation.

The exercise, Action Express, was the largest concentration of Nato land forces

in 1993, with the AMF(L) providing 6,000 troops from Belgium, Germany, the Netherlands, Italy, the United States and the United Kingdom.

A Danish brigade, reinforced by the Gordons, provided the enemy for the combat phase of the exercise.

The Jocks consolidated their position around the bridge and dealt with PoWs and casualties while their Danish comrades crossed the bridge on their way south to take the final objective before the exercise scenario dictated the Jocks' withdrawal and final "defeat".

Pte Greg Welsh of W Coy had taken over his section on the attack because his section commander had been slightly injured.

With all the movement and noise he had found the initial stages somewhat confusing, but soon got to grips with the situation. Despite two determined RGJ counter-attacks, supported by two Scimitars, the Jocks held on to their prize.

The attack was a well-disciplined operation, undertaken by professionals who had been slightly bored by the slow progress of the first two days of the exercise.

Lengthy spells of inactivity do not make happy Jocks and the 5km tab and sustained assault lasting about 90 minutes made up for the first two days.



Picture: Mike Weston

All set for January: (foreground) Roof of the Americas leader Capt John Warburton-Lee, expedition "doc" Capt Mike Charlson RAMC and deputy expedition leader Capt Richard Gaffney with CSgt Charlie McKeown, equipments manager and LSgt Mark Jordan (QMS Clerk), who will join the expedition at the Grand Canyon phase four mobility challenge stage. Flanking them are Gdsm Bob Giles and Gdsm Barry Jones, pictured at Wellington Barracks, London

Here we go again!

IT WAS while he and his colleagues were sitting round a camp-fire in Africa three years ago that the great idea came to Capt John Warburton-Lee, writes **Phil Wilcox**.

They were in the throes of his successful Roof of Africa expedition – demanding enough in itself, with 86 men and women climbing seven mountains, exploring deserts, crossing a jungle twice and canoeing the entire 730km of the Zambesi in Zimbabwe.

But next time, the intrepid Welsh Guardsman thought, why not take on an expedition which reached the geographical and physical extremes of north and south America?

Very soon, that dream is to be realised.

In January, the Roof of the Americas expedition takes off in earnest.

Due to last until spring 1995, the six-phase expedition starts with a 2,500-mile journey by dog-sled and snowmo-

Guards hit the Roof of the Americas

bile round the Alaskan arctic tundra to reach the northern-most and western-most points in the Americas.

Then, *en route* to their ultimate destination of Cape Horn, its participants – mainly novices – will face tasks which will include climbing the highest mountains in north and south America (Mt McKinley 20,320ft, Mt Aconcagua 22,850ft), kayaking and rafting the entire length of the River Colorado as it flows through the Grand Canyon, and crossing the Patagonian ice-cap.

Three gruelling training and selection camps were held in Devon earlier in the year to whittle the volunteers – mainly Guardsmen from the Household Division, but including members of the RAMC, the Veterinary Corps, Adjutant

General's Corps and REME – down to about 100.

Capt Warburton-Lee told **SOLDIER**: "In an undertaking like this, teamwork is everything. We are looking not only at an individual's mental and physical robustness, fitness and determination, but compatibility is critical – not to mention a sense of humour and, lastly, an aptitude for adventure training."

Unlike Roof of Africa, there would be less of a bias towards mountaineering for the six 20-strong teams taking part. Each stage of the project could stand up as an expedition in its own right.

The first Roof of the Americas group is due to fly to Anchorage in January to undertake a two-week training package of cross-country ski-

ing and snow-shoeing in preparation for the Arctic, where temperatures can plummet to minus 60 degrees.

Deputy leader Capt Richard Gaffney WG, who held the same post on the 1990 expedition, said: "We hope that this time around will be just as beneficial to the novices in terms of character development."

The expedition – which is aiming to raise funds for charity and whose patron is the Prince of Wales – is also looking for another £150,000, preferably in sponsorship.

At least those taking part need only keep an eye out for the odd Arctic predator.

In Africa, hazards ranged from being arrested for two days by armed guards until they were persuaded that John and his team were neither illegal immigrants nor mercenaries, to having their tent flattened by a buffalo.

● **REME WANTED:** Volunteers required to keep expedition vehicles on the road. Contact Capt Warburton-Lee on 071-414 3433.

Loggy group takes giant leap forward

THE SHEER incongruity of it all was staggering.

On the cheerless seafront of the out-of-season south coast resort, a poster advertised the latest offering from the local operatic society.

A mile or so up the road, thousands of tons of ammunition and a seemingly endless stream of trucks, belching exhaust fumes, were being disgorged on to a chilly, isolated beach.

Exercise Log Leap was getting under way...

The aim of the two-week long exercise – held earlier this month – was to test the operational effectiveness of the Combat Service Support Group (United Kingdom) – CSSG (UK) – for the first time.

Formed in January, the group, as its title suggests, provides third-line combat service support to UK formations.

Log Leap was based on the notional deployment of 3 (UK) Division and 24 Airmobile Brigade to one of Nato's flanks as part of a Rapid Reaction Corps (ARRC) operation.

The exercise set out to simulate the three major operations which, given that scenario, CSSG (UK) would be required to conduct in order to support a force – namely the opening and establishment of a point of debarkation, and establishment and operation of rear support and forward support groups.

Involving as it did some 5,000 personnel and 50 vehicles, Log Leap, as well as being the largest field training exercise (FTX) to take place in the UK this year, was the first major logistic exercise since the Gulf War.

All aspects of combat service support operations were tested during the fortnight, including shipping, C130 and support helicopter.

This provided an ideal opportunity to validate the CSSG concept, and gain the



Members of 91 Sqn, 9 Supply Regt RLC joint helicopter support unit outloading HLS from location "Buttercup" to location "Apple"

experience necessary to develop it for future operations, one participant said.

Among units, Regular and Territorial, playing an essential role in the massive undertaking were HQ 17 Port and Maritime Regiment, 52 and 94 Composite Support Squadrons and 217 Transport Squadron (part of 150 Transport Squadron).

Others in the thick of it included 218 Port Workshops, 243 Provost Company and 29 Move-

ment Control Regiment.

At Browdown Beach, where a beach-head had been established at 0700 that morning by 52 CSS, an impressive amount of cargo had already been unloaded from landing craft, stacked and ready to be sent forward to the theatre.

Now, in the early afternoon gloom, the grey paintwork of the RFA *Sir Tristram*, sister vessel to the ill-fated

Sir Galahad of the Falklands campaign, was barely discernible against an equally grey sky.

Words:
Phil Wilcox
Pictures:
Mike Perring



Traffic control point "somewhere on the plain"

Anchored nearby was HMAV *Ardenne*, playing an equally important part in the proceedings.

From the direction of the *Tristram*, the distant silhouettes of vehicles and men could just be made out against the horizon: the first of many that day to make their way to shore on a Mexeflote.

Simultaneously, a constant stream of ammo pallets, originally loaded at Hull Docks by 150 Regiment, was being unloaded from another mexifloat and stacked nearby.

This, together with the DROPs vehicles and loading cranes ready to take the stores forward, and the camouflaged tents at intervals along the beach, was the spectacle which greeted drivers before they cautiously made their way down the ramp and on to the metalled landing track.

During a brief few minutes' break from the fray, some participants, feeling the chill, sought the temporary refuge of the EFI wagon, itself duly "cammed-up" and with dimmed lighting.

There was one warmer place they might have found.

A few yards away, Sgt Tommy Pope and his two-man team in the mobile laundry (91 Sqn, 9 Supply Unit) – a service arguably taken as much for granted on exercise as the



Friendly warning from LCpl Andrea Burgess, 116 Provost Coy (TA)

invaluable functions of both the EFI and the field bakery – had built up a cosy fug.

The following day, a rear support group (RSG) was set up on Salisbury Plain.

Once supplies and stores are landed on the beach, RSG moves them forward and must pick up 30 days of supplies to maintain the whole division to enable it to fight an operation, explained Capt Bernie Lee CSSG (UK).

"We have got one third line supply regiment and two third

line transport regiments, but the TA makes up 60 per cent of the formation.

"All of our MPs, REME, ambulance and hospital personnel are Terriers."

Later in the week, a move of the division from the plain and from Oxfordshire – where the transport divisions and supply helicopters were based – to Wales was simulated.

That entailed providing the forward support group (FSG) with ten of the 30 days' supplies.



Ready for the trip ashore: vehicles on a Mexeflote raft unload from RFA *Sir Tristram*

"The FSG is much closer behind the division, and because they are closer it is more dangerous," Capt Lee said. "So the heavier elements of the formation wouldn't move. We might put one hospital forward and keep three back."

"The smaller and lighter elements of the formation can go and sort that out."

Summing up the first week of Log Leap, Maj Charlie Hobson 2M, Chief of Staff of HQ, said that for many people in a large formation it was the first occasion in a long time that they had been out on a general war exercise.

"We have learnt a lot of useful lessons about mounting and controlling an exercise of this size."

"By and large, what we thought was ambitious was just about right, and we have managed to maintain it."

The main supply routes (MSRS) themselves had been a good test: roadworks and a great deal of civilian traffic had built in a realistic plus factor which would be encountered on operations.

One vital aspect which had emerged, Maj Hobson said, was that an exercise of this scope could not be carried out

without involving aircraft, ships and railways – and a great deal of improvements could be made at the point of debarkation.

"I believe that the way ahead for the CSSG is not to exercise in this nature in the UK again. It was useful this time because we could learn the lessons, and we haven't wasted a lot of money by doing it, but in future we must go abroad."

More use should be made of civilian and Army shipping, since in most operations, 80 per cent of stocks and stores were sent by sea.

Also, the major said, "we have got to marry up with the people flying into theatre, and exercise that element."

"If we can arrive at the theatre in good order, we can receive the fighting troops and send them into battle set up properly for their tasks."

"Then we will have achieved our aim."

By now, the units who took part in Log Leap will have long since declared that they are back in their peace-time locations, and all weapons, vehicles and personnel have been accounted for.

And denizens of that coastal town will be settling down to "The Merry Widow"...

CSSG(UK) ON
EX LOG LEAP



Above – Gnr John Coles and Lt John Hodgson calculate safe arcs of fire

Left – Gun position recce vehicle of 7 RHA is manned by LBdr Trevor Bankhead, Bdr Vernon Mills and Lt Gary Wilkinson. The regiment has been on standby for duty in Bosnia, hence the United Nations markings

IRON DIVISION GUNNERS FIRE STORM OF STEEL



RAF Puma drops off a light gun

THE SIGHT and sound of the combined firepower of RAF Harrier jets, missile-firing helicopters and four batteries of Royal Artillery guns directing their fire against targets on Salisbury Plain was awesome, even from the relative safety of Observation Post 4 where watching soldiers, Army cadets and VIPs had gathered.

Exercise Iron Storm was the first major test for artillery regiments serving with the 3rd (United Kingdom) Division which re-formed in England after moving from Germany last year.

Following unit-level training, each regiment's fire direction centre took part in a command post exercise which practised new operating procedures.

While that was taking place, the four regimental gun groups carried out a series of complex road moves around the training area.

Troops from 22 (Locating) Battery were deployed in support of the exercise to provide meteorological information, sound-ranging and a

remotely-piloted vehicle (RPV).

The RPV is a battlefield reconnaissance drone – known as Midge – launched from a converted Bedford 4-ton truck. It flies along a pre-programmed flight path taking photographs as it passes over enemy positions.

Range restrictions were such that its work had to be simulated by an Army Air Corps helicopter fitted with a video camera.

Electronic warfare support was given by 237 Signal Squadron of 14 Signal Regiment (EW) based in Germany. Enemy forces were provided by the Honourable Artillery Company.

Involved in the live-firing exercise were 19 Regiment and 29 Commando Regiment Royal Artillery, the 3rd Regi-



Above – LBdr Mohammed Pervaz checks gun charges on Salisbury Plain during Exercise Iron Storm

Left – Smoke rises from the gun line after the Light Guns of G Battery, 7 Parachute Regiment RHA have fired



Words:
Laurie Manton
Pictures:
Mike Weston



Commander Royal Artillery, Brig Mike Raworth

ment Royal Horse Artillery and 7 Parachute Regiment RHA.

The Territorial Army's 269 (West Riding) Battery (Volunteers) is now part of 19 Regiment's order of battle. The regiment's role is to support 24 Airmobile Brigade.

Lt Col Paul Molyneux, CO 19 Regt, said: "Since transferring from an OP role to the Light Gun, 269 Battery has

done a lot of training on its own, and Iron Storm has proved an ideal way for the battery to integrate itself with both the regiment and the 3rd (UK) Division.

The Terriers were moved to their fire positions by Royal Air Force Puma helicopters, with guns carried as underslung loads.

Commander Royal Artillery,

Brig Mike Raworth, told SOLDIER his exercise had been designed to practise operational command and control.

"Getting four regiments to fire on the same target at the same time, using the right ammunition and ensuring first round accuracy is a complex art and requires a good command and control system.

"Iron Storm was the first

exercise of this type to take place in the UK for many years. We managed to make good use of the ranges here which offer plenty of scope for training."

The exercise culminated in the firing of more than 70 guns, including 18 FH70 howitzers which can hurl a 155m high explosive shell more than 20 kilometres.

Soldiers of 3 R Irish, and their families, pay a high price for keeping the peace . . .

SEVEN honour boards hanging on the wall at the headquarters of the 3rd (County Down and County Armagh) Battalion, The Royal Irish Regiment bear testament to the heroism and devotion to duty of the battalion's soldiers and their Ulster Defence Regiment predecessors.

The lists include 184 honours and awards for bravery such as the Queen's Gallantry Medal and more than 90 GOC's Commendations. A separate board records the human cost. Thirty-two members of the battalion have died as a result of terrorist action in the past 25 years.

Soldier X is a shining example of determination to overcome terrorism, at whatever cost. The part-timer lost both legs and most of the fingers of one hand when a booby trap exploded under his car as he was driving a friend home from work.

"Even as I saw the bomb explode through the floor of my car, I was gripped with a determination to live, and started shouting that the terrorists weren't going to beat me," he said.

He survived largely because of good work by three members of a patrol who subse-

quently received a Mention in Despatches and two GOC's Commendations for their actions. Soldier X's car burst

into flames as its fuel tank ruptured, but a junior NCO ran to the front of the burning vehicle with the intention of extracting the man and his passenger.

Finding this impossible, he got in through the rear and pulled him out over the back

seat. At this point, rounds from his personal protection weapon started "cooking off" in the intense heat.

Another soldier helped the NCO to pull the soldier into cover then returned to rescue the passenger moments before the car was engulfed in flames.

The commanding officer, Lt Col Tim Hambrook, said: "The man showed amazing resilience and a tremendous determination to overcome his injuries. He kept himself conscious until he got to the hospital."

"Within one week of the incident, he was sitting up in bed, determined to get back to work."



Lt Col Tim Hambrook, CO 3 R Irish



Two armoured vehicles of B Company on patrol

TESTAMENT TO COURAGE



Words:
Laurie Manton
Pictures:
Mike Perring

The past few years have been particularly turbulent for the battalion, which was originally based in equal numbers on Armagh and Portadown. When the boundaries were redrawn this year, Portadown became the headquarters of 3 R Irish, taking in the original 3rd Battalion companies from Ballykinler. Battalion members based in Armagh were redeployed to another battalion.

The merger produced the largest single infantry battalion in the British Army, with more than 1,200 soldiers based at Portadown, Ballykinler, Rathfriland and Kilkeel.

As Lt Col Hambrook explained, wo-

men make up ten per cent of the battalion's strength.

"Many hold important positions, such as adjutant and assistant adjutant. Others work in intelligence as senior NCOs."

"This year, one of my female soldiers was the first woman ever to compete, as part of an infantry team, in the Service rifle championship at Bisley in the Regular Army Skill-at-Arms meeting," he said.

The battalion's average age has dropped sharply since the UDR was merged with The Royal Irish Rangers.

The regiment continues to get younger. "My oldest soldier is 54 and the youngest 18. Our average age is 25," said Lt Col Hambrook.

The tactical area of responsibility (TAOR) is a mixture of urban and rural, encompassing three main towns - Portadown,

Lurgan and a huge 1970s conurbation at Craigavon.

Although Protestant para-military organisations are active in the TAOR the main threat comes from the Provisional IRA, which has been engaged in attacks on commercial premises and members of the Security Forces.

The IRA is currently engaged in a "commercial" bombing campaign.

Major bombs in the past two years have caused extensive damage in Craigavon and destroyed the commercial centres of Lurgan and Portadown.

Close-quarter assassins and vehicle booby traps have been used in attacks on soldiers and policemen in the area. Two soldiers from the battalion have been murdered this year. One, LCpl Ian Warnock, was killed by gunmen while waiting

to pick his wife up from work.

"It is difficult to counter these attacks. Many of our soldiers live and work in the community and are at risk," said Lt Col Hambrook.

The battalion works closely with the Royal Ulster Constabulary to restore normality. It tries to suppress terrorism through a variety of operations. Defensive operations are designed to deter attacks through a series of high-profile measures including vehicle checkpoints - a visible deterrent to reassure the public.

To keep its soldiers motivated, the battalion also engages in pro-active operations.

The mountains of Mourne provide a picturesque backdrop as a B Company patrol from Kilkeel moves across farmland

Said Lt Col Hambrook: "These activities sow doubt in the minds of the terrorists and that in itself is suppressive."

"Our patrols operate in three teams. If you take into account a soldier's helmet, body armour, rifle and other equipment, individuals can be carrying between 50 and 100lb of kit."

The battalion has a mix of Land Rovers. It has also taken delivery of 12 cut-down Land Rovers originally designed for use in the Middle East.

The soldiers prefer

because they can see what is going on around them.

The lion's share of duties takes place at checkpoints

because nearly all terrorist activity involves vehicles. Restriction of movement denies them the freedom of the roads and is an effective method of countering attacks.

One great advantage the Royal Irish Regiment has over mainland regiments is a much better understanding of the ground, gathered through years of patrolling the same area.

By the time a battalion soldier completes 22 years' service, he will have completed the equivalent of a 264-month tour in Northern Ireland, compared with the standard six-month roulement or two-year resident battalion tours carried out by mainland units.

Each Royal Irish battalion has a welfare officer, on call 24 hours a day to deal with prob-

● Turn to Page 31



A soldier keeps watch as an Army Land Rover passes through a housing estate in Lurgan. Note the distinctive roll-bar on the vehicle



Soldiers share a joke on patrol. Behind them is Kilkeel harbour

DANGER
MEN AT WORK



© Military Picture Library

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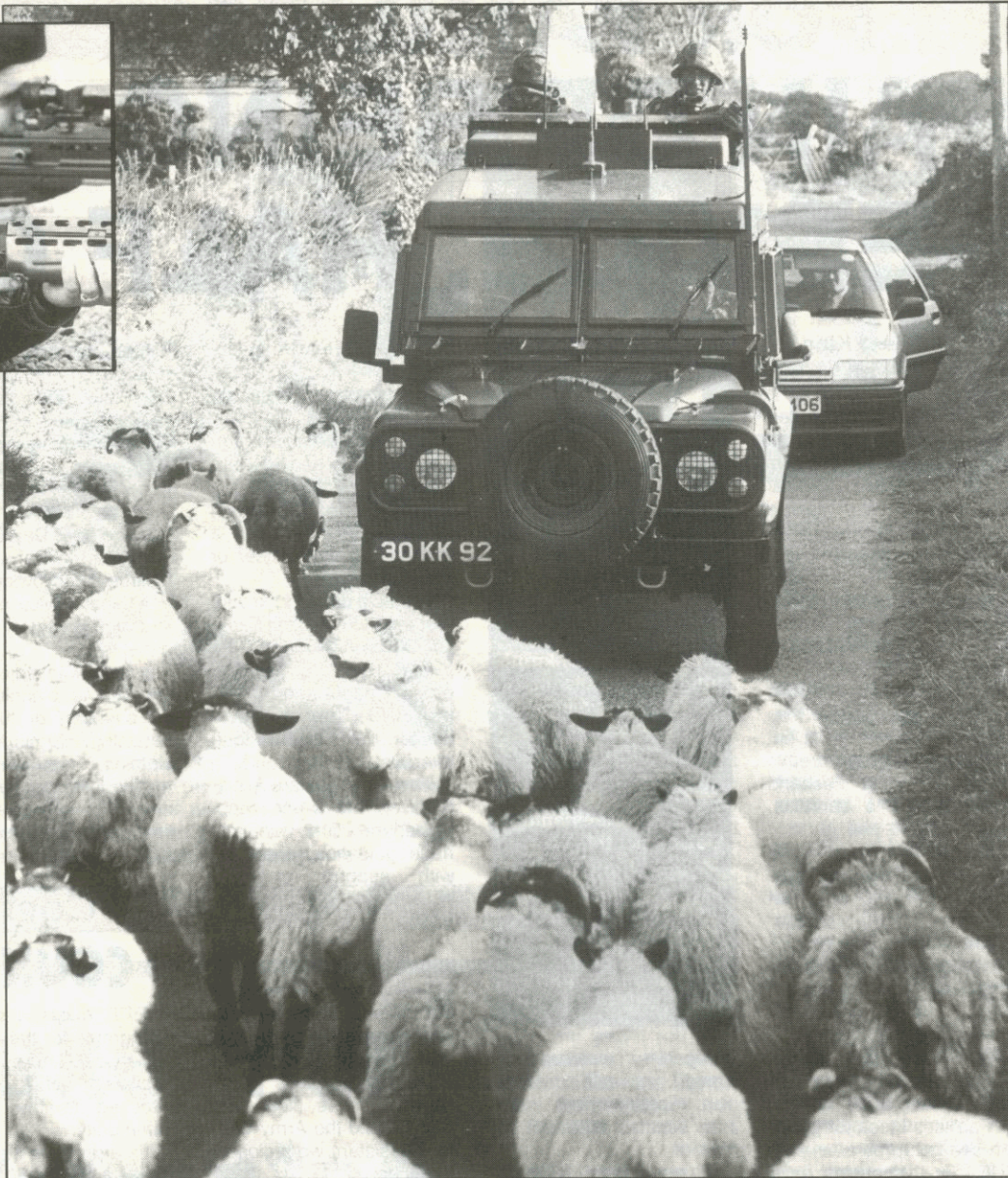
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Above – Two battalion crack-shots take aim. The female soldier, nearer the camera, was the first to shoot in the service rifle championship at Bisley, as part of an infantry team

Right – A 3 R Irish vehicle waits for a flock of sheep to pass



COURAGE

● From Page 29

lems caused by death, stress and injury. The officer is usually an older person with a great deal of experience.

Supported by a staff of two at Portadown and a third at Ballykinler, a Greenfinch captain runs the battalion's bereaved families group.

"Every soldier has a parent, spouse or relatives. There is a hell of a lot of stress and soldiers are always at risk. Even after retiring, they remain in danger. It is very demanding emotionally, especially when counselling the bereaved.

"The families group takes up a lot of time. It was originally formed as a widows' group, but now includes parents and children of those killed. We organise holidays, outings and fund-raising events," she said.

The all-embracing need for security affects even the relatives of the murdered. One widow never opens her front door without identifying who is outside. All keep family photographs of relatives in uniform locked away and are careful not to publicly acknowledge their Service allegiance. Most children do not know that mum or dad is in the Army.

A soldier told of a knock at his door one evening. He looked through the spy hole and saw a hooded man, his voice muffled. The soldier ran out of the back door and round to the front of the house where he discovered that the caller, wrapped against the elements, was delivering a Chinese take-away to the wrong home.

Intimidation is never far away. One soldier told how he had received a bullet through



F Company Greenfinches prepare for duty

the post. With it was a note saying "You won't see the next one". He was accused of being part of the British "war machine".

"They 'eyeball' you to let you know they know you are a

soldier. If you are out for a walk, a car full of dedicated Republicans will drive slowly behind, engaged in their own brand of psychological warfare.

"I think . . . it's my country, and I'm not going to let them

intimidate me. If you are looking for a motto, it is, 'Business as usual'," he said.

The indomitable Soldier X agrees, praising the support he has received from all the members of the families group.

"The reception my wife and I received was fantastic. Everyone was so friendly and the 'crack' was good."

One note of frustration expressed by the group was that IRA attacks on the mainland were given so much publicity.

"Of course, we feel sorry for them, but these attacks happen in Northern Ireland on an almost daily basis and receive little exposure in the media," one said.

The battalion is proud of two recent successes. At the sixth attempt, 3 R Irish finally won the Army fly-fishing championship on Rutland Water, and one rifleman became Champion-at-Arms at Bisley with the best aggregate scores on rifle, pistol and machine-gun.

FOR FAMILIES PAIN OF BEING 'HALF SERVICE, HALF CIVVY'

by Vanessa King

WHAT IS it like to be "half-Service, half-civvy?" This is the fate of hundreds of Servicemen's wives when their marriages break down. They become "Irregular Occupants" of married quarters. As one who has made the transition from Army wife to Irregular Occupant to civilian single parent, I know from experience the anguish such families can go through.

Life as an Army wife can be quite tough enough. You are not prepared for it, but when your marriage breaks down and your husband goes back into barracks, new problems pile up.

For the first 93 days, the rent is paid by your husband. After that, the rent becomes the wife's responsibility. In my case the £25 rent charged when we were together almost doubled to £43 a week when he moved out.

Add Council Tax and water rates, and you can see how debts pile up.

Facilities I took for granted ceased to be available. Officially, I shouldn't have used the Naafi - but I did because my benefits were paid through it.

I was allowed into the Community Centre only if invited by someone.

The garrison newsletter



Vanessa King is divorced and bankrupt after five turbulent years as a soldier's wife. She and her three-year-old son, James, now live in a council flat near her parents in Hampshire. But, earlier this year, she was an Irregular Occupant in Army married quarters - a status she will never forget. Her story first appeared in SSAFA News.

stopped, so I was suddenly denied valuable information. Useful 'phone numbers became difficult to get hold of.

The emotional trauma of marriage breakdown is difficult to bear. Assistance should be available from the moment a cry for help is made and, indeed, SSAFA and Army welfare do an excellent job in providing

guidance. Irregular Occupants may turn to three main agencies for help: the Unit Families Office, SSAFA and the Army Families Housing and Welfare Service. I feel that the Families Office is misnamed. I have never heard of a female Families Officer or member of staff.

I found it daunting to take a problem to the Unit Families Officer (UFO) only to be treated like a soldier, ordered about and patronised. I feel strongly that a review of UFOs is long overdue.

The Army Welfare Assistant, on the other hand, helped me - first, with marriage guidance, and later with support when I became an Irregular Occupant.

I found SSAFA most approachable. I would recommend younger Irregular Occupants, or those with little experience of dealing with the Army, to seek SSAFA's services first. However, it is clear that SSAFA and the Army Welfare Assistant work closely together.

Families Housing and Welfare's Deputy Housing Commandant gave me valuable advice and help in applying to my local council for housing and information about benefits. But I found

estate wardens slow in responding - I don't think they fully understood the stress caused by divorce, eviction and moving.

Irregular Occupants need help. I would send them to SSAFA and Army Welfare from Day One. My 'shopping list' would include the following help:

- Legal advice and help in claiming Social Service benefits;

- Help with adjusting to low income, planning regular payment of fuel bills, obtaining furniture and clothing, removal costs, nutritional guidance;

- An information pack listing such aid agencies as DSS, Citizens' Advice

Bureau and Gingerbread;

- Emotional support, if merely a shoulder to cry on;

- Child care support: baby-sitting with other IOs to enable shopping, visits to solicitors and the aid agencies;

- Debt counselling, advice on house and health insurance;

- Advice on job hunting and training - and its effects on benefits;

- Health and dental advice, how to manage stress.

These, and many other needs, may seem a tall order. But remember, for these wives there is no longer a man about the house.

Cari Roberts

→ COUNTERPOINT ←

THERE exists a problem with grants for the children of Services families and the families of civilians attached to the Service community.

It's a problem that's said to affect around 50 families a year.

That might sound a small number but, for those affected, and as far as SCEA are concerned, it's 50 too many.

The *Daily Mail* highlight-

ed the story of the parents working for SCEA who couldn't get a grant for their child to go on to further education.

When they applied for the mandatory grant the parents had been working overseas for more than three years.

Despite the fact that the award is mandatory the local education authority used their length of service outside the country as



Prime time

Snapper snapped: Squadron Sgt Major Phil Cadman, a United Nations photographer (in sunglasses), is snapped chatting to the Prime Minister as John Major met families during a visit to British forces in Cyprus. With Phil is his wife Viviane, son Jason, 2½, and daughter Kelly, 5

LEAVERS HOME IN ON PART BUY PLAN

FIRST Service leavers to benefit from the Home Finder scheme run jointly by Nationwide Building Society and North British Housing Association have moved into their new homes.

LCpl Chris Cullinan, wife Sharon and son David (8) moved from Tidworth to the Stockton-on-Tees area after consulting Home Finder, while Cpl Malcolm Partridge, wife Debby and

son Tony (11) were found a home near Sheffield.

Both families took advantage of the Part Buy scheme, specially designed for people leaving the Armed Forces.

Under Part Buy, Service families can use their redundancy payment or retirement lump sum to buy as little as a 15 per cent interest in a Nationwide property. The remainder is owned by a fully mutual housing association managed by North British, and may be bought at a later date.

For those facing unemployment, it is likely the rent will be met by housing benefit.

Under the Part Buy scheme, there is an option to move into the house before the redundancy/retirement payment has been received and before the house purchase has been completed.

Other Home Finder options are:

Rented Properties available on short-term tenancies for a minimum six months (with an option to renew). On some there is an option to purchase outright.

Full Buy for Service personnel and leavers who wish to purchase properties outright.

Home Finder is an independent housing advice unit which aims to provide members of the Armed Forces with the form of tenure which best suits their circumstances. It has a register of 17 housing providers and 1,600 outlets around the country.

Nationwide's Stuart Bernau says they now have more than 200 Service personnel on their register and are delighted that the first two families have actually moved in.

More information is available from Home Finder on 0604 793766 or the Joint Service Housing Advice Office on 0722 336222 ext 8350, 8351 or 8355.

as possible.

To that end, if you have had problems with grants do let me know and I'll pass your comments on to SCEA.

• • •

Just briefly - our health and care reporter, Pauline Hamblin, has been talking about dealing with phobias and anxiety attacks this month.

She has produced an excellent factsheet and offered her services to anyone who would like to ask advice on any health and care issues. She has worked in the medical services for many years and now runs a consultancy.

Pauline is only one of a team of experienced people who help to put the programme together.

If you're trying to deal with a worry and you're feeling alone there should be a lot of local agencies that can help you.

But if you're a bit shy, you can always drop me a line in confidence and I'll try to steer you in the right direction.

You can write to me at *Counterpoint*, BFBS, BFPO 786; or c/o SOL-DIER.

Don't take this 'no' for granted

grounds for refusing to grant it.

This is, as far as I can see, a question of semantics. For tax purposes those serving overseas are deemed to be "ordinarily resident" and while tax is a separate matter, it's within the power of the LEA to refuse to accept the same definition and refuse to make mandatory awards.

When Col Laurie Edwards-Major made his regular appearance on *Counterpoint* on BFBS he was keen to talk about the efforts SCEA has been making to clear up the situation.

At the moment parents who want a mandatory award for their children's education should, in the first instance, apply to their home area - that is, where they have family connections or a house or where they were last posted. The area where the college or university is located can also pay the award if the

"home area" has refused.

SCEA has been fighting this particular corner for a very long time and last year tried to assess the scale of the problem.

It was, said Laurie Edwards-Major, difficult to come up with a definitive answer because, according to SCEA's calculations, there are very few people affected by it. But, he added, that's not the case and if one family is affected by the situation, it's a problem.

His advice to parents who will have to look for grants in the future is to start applying to the home area. If that fails they should try the LEA responsible for the college or university.

Failing that, tell SCEA, which is seeking information in an effort to build a working relationship with Hampshire LEA.

It has tried to get Department for Education authority for Hampshire to act as

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I shed blood for TA medal

YOUR article on WO2 John Walton receiving the fourth clasp to the TA Efficiency Medal (November 1) stirred memories of the award of my own fourth clasp in 1973.

The actual medal was handed over to me at a regimental parade in Osnabrück in 1951, when a visiting brigadier presented MBEs, BEMs and LS and GDs to various recipients.

I was not due for a medal, so

imagine my surprise when my name was called out. On marching out to the brigadier, he said: "I do not know this medal but I am sure you deserve it" and proceeded to pin it through my shirt and skin, making a nice patch of blood on my shirt.

He apologised and said he would buy me a drink in the mess after the parade. - **P Beaton, Clacton-on-Sea, Essex.**

Jackets yes, wings no

IN PART I agree with the sentiments aired by Mrs P J Barlow (November 1) about civilians wearing military clothing but I can see no real harm in making items such as

DP jackets available. Many soldiers probably welcome the availability of surplus as the Army can be less than generous with replacements - not just of clothing but of equipment.

What I do find unacceptable is the tendency for civilians to wear military insignia, such as parachute wings, on their clothing. This should be an offence if the wearer is not entitled to do so.

Perhaps these scruffy characters should experience and pass P Company before they start wearing the Red Beret. - **M White, Northants.**

Essex man

WITH regard to the debate in your letters columns on why the sphinx adopted by British regiments for their insignia should be female, the badge of The Essex Regiment had a sphinx which was clearly male. - **D S Tucker, South Woodham Ferrers, Essex.**

IF RECENT correspondence on the status of foreign and commemorative medals is anything to go by, there is a lot of confusion about what is officially "right" and what is "wrong".

The long-standing position in Britain is that only awards approved by the Sovereign can be accepted and worn by British citizens.

As far as serving personnel are concerned, these rules are unambiguous. Where ex-Servicemen and women and civilians are concerned, the rules are equally clear - although there is absolutely no official sanction against those who wish to ignore the official directive.

In other words, it is a matter of conscience. You can wear as many commemorative medals as you can get hold of, and no one can do anything about it.

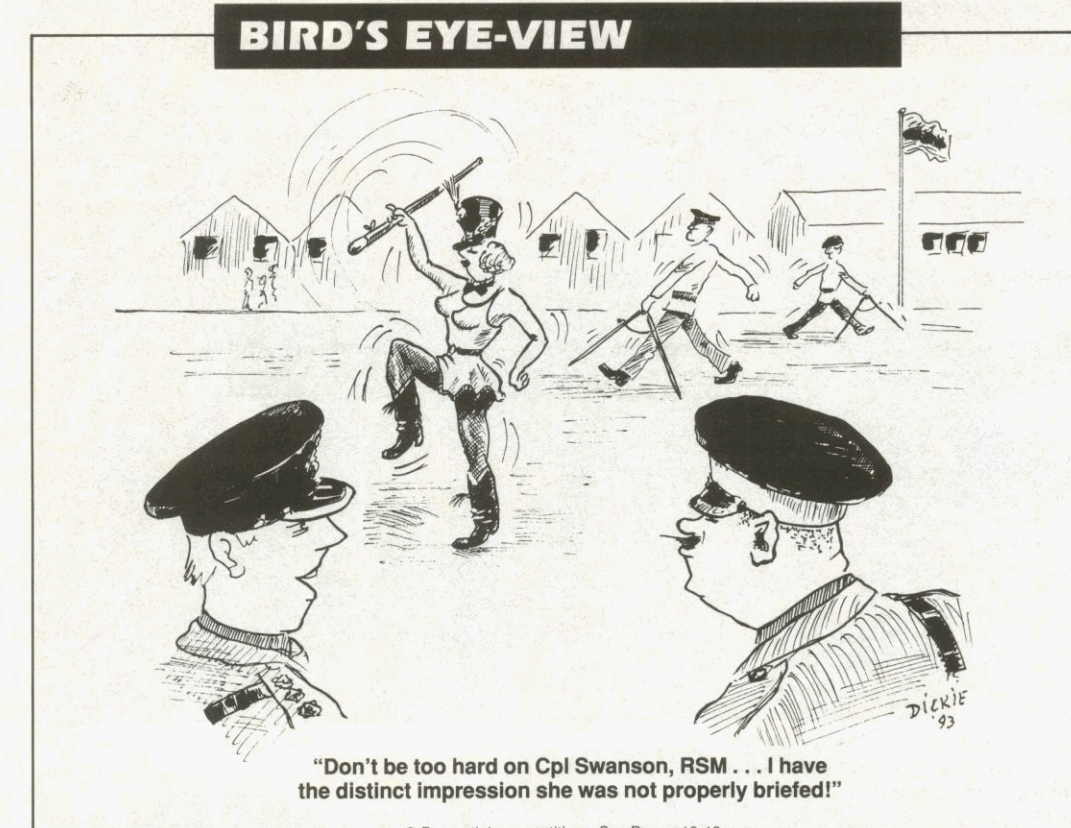
However, to wear medals not approved by the Sovereign could be regarded as a discourtesy to

the Queen. Two types of awards cause most confusion - those offered by foreign governments and those struck for profit or to mark a special event.

Decisions on the acceptance and wearing of awards from foreign governments are a matter for the Sovereign, who relies on advice from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Permission to accept and wear foreign awards is not normally given if the award is offered more than five years after the campaign it recognises - or if the Sovereign has awarded a British medal for the same campaign or period of service.

The Sovereign's award is considered sufficient recognition without need to be supplemented by



● Pace-stick competition - See Pages 18-19

Peter takes the credit

IN THE review of the book *D-Day: Operation Overlord* (November 1) your critic refers to Brig Lord Lovat being portrayed by Richard Burton in the film *The Longest Day*.

Burton actually took the part of a wounded fighter pilot. Lord Lovat was played, not very convincingly, by Peter Lawford. I hope that on June 6,

1944, Lord Lovat had a magazine fitted to his rifle because Lawford's certainly did not - nor did he have a sling!

In the film, Bill Millin the piper was ordered to play *Blue Bonnets* on two or three occasions but unless I am mistaken at no time was it actually heard. - **Graham Day, Port Glasgow.**

● The Burton-Lawford case of mistaken identity was also pointed out by N H Chadwick, of London SW5 and J O'Brien, of Penarth, S Glamorgan, who also mentions with reference to another book review that *The Royal Horse Artillery has precedence only when accompanied by guns. Without the guns, he says, they follow The Life Guards and The Blues and Royals.* - **Editor**

Rights and wrongs of medal wearing

awards from other governments.

Permission is normally given to accept the foreign award as a token of the esteem of the government concerned. However, it should be regarded as a souvenir or keepsake, and should not be worn with or alongside awards approved by the Sovereign.

Thus the Liberation of Kuwait commemorative medal, issued by a grateful Saudi Arabia, may not be worn because an equivalent British award - the Gulf Medal - already exists.

For the same reason other Gulf campaign medals offered by Kuwait, Canada and the United States may also be accepted but not worn.

Veterans of the Second World War will remember that permis-

sion was given to British seamen involved on the Russian convoys to accept - but not to wear - the commemorative medal offered in 1985 by the former Soviet Union.

Medals are sometimes offered to Service personnel by local authorities to commemorate special events, or produced to raise funds for ex-Servicemen's associations, or as purely commercial ventures. All are unofficial.

They should not be worn in any circumstances - with, under or alongside medals approved by the Sovereign. They should be considered as souvenirs or keepsakes to be displayed in trophy cabinets.

In a nutshell, official policy is that only official medals approved by the Queen may be worn.

British awards and medals granted by the Sovereign to those who have earned them are rightly prized and worn with pride.

Most would surely agree that this is preferable to an "issued with the rations" situation - widely derided by British Servicemen ancient and modern - in which every chest is adorned with rows of ribbons.

● It has just been announced that members of the Armed Forces on loan or contract service in Oman on November 18, 1990 and who received from the Sultan of Oman the Glorious 20th National Day Medal in recognition of their services, may, with the approval of the Queen, wear that medal with unrestricted permission.

SUEZ CANAL ZONE

About time for an about turn

THE LAST time I wrote to **SOLDIER** with regard to official recognition by way of a medal for all the Servicemen and women who served in the Suez Canal Zone during the troubled times, my letter was headed "About time".

Now I believe it should be "About turn" and that these men and women should be awarded a campaign medal - not a Bar to the GSM or the Africa GSM, nor a clasp, nor a commemorative medal that can be purchased but may not be worn, and so on.

Those men and women did their duty on active service and I am convinced that a special medal should be struck and awarded to all who served in that hell-hole of a posting. - **H Whitehead BEM, York, former WO2 (CSM), 10 Armd Wksp REME.**

I HAVE been reading my regimental magazines of the 1950-53 period and find that after the "Battle for Ismailia", as the Egyptians call it, various awards for gallantry were given to officers and fusiliers in my battalion.

One MBE, one Queen's Commendation, one George Medal and two BEMs were awarded for outstanding bravery during the incidents in the Canal Zone.

Surely awards like this given to my battalion and presumably to other Servicemen in the area during the troubles justify without doubt the award of a clasp "Canal Zone 50/53" to the GSM. - **W Bentham (ex-LFs), Preston.**

I WAS pleased to see Col Newton's letter (November 1) referring to documentary evidence that CIGS considered we were being attacked by terrorists in the Suez Canal Zone on November 17/18, 1951.

Good for you, Col Newton - I am glad you are again taking up the cause of the Suezvets of that period. - **Len Oliver, Colchester.**

SOLDIER to Soldier

Room for a few more in Normandy

SO MANY veterans are planning to return to Normandy for the D-Day celebrations next year that most local hoteliers have long filled their books for the week of June 6.

From Rouen to Bayeux the message is the same: there is no accommodation left for large groups. But according to Tony and Andrea Daly, who own a B and B in Bayeux, there are still rooms, gîtes and mobile homes available for smaller parties.

They are offering an accommodation-finding service, called D-Day Logement, charge a fee of £5 a person, and can be contacted c/o The Black Swan Mill, BP 37, 14401 Bayeux CEDEX, Normandy, France (tel: (010 33) 31 21 91).

For example, they have on their books a cottage on the coast near the landing beaches. It sleeps six and costs 600 francs (about £70) a night during D-Day week. And they have just filled some double rooms (B and B) in Bayeux which were priced at 180 francs (about £20) a night.

Incidentally, Tony and Andrea are offering SOLDIER readers a ten per cent discount off their own B and B prices next year for a minimum stay of two nights.

● The 1994 Holts' Battlefield Tours D-Day 50th anniversary brochure mentioned in these columns (November 15) is now available. Details on 0304 612248.

Bruneval painting

A RECENT acquisition for the Airborne Forces Museum was an oil painting of the Bruneval Raid by artist Chris Stothard. He produced two, one of which he gave to the museum, in which it now hangs.

The other, unframed, depicts C Company, 2nd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment leaving their Whitley aircraft over the snow-covered fields near the radar site at Bruneval, and was based on planning photographs in the possession of the late Maj Gen John Frost.

The second painting is held on behalf of the artist by Sqn Ldr R E



Latest arrival at the Tank Museum at Bovington in Dorset is a Centurion-based AVRE, or Armoured Vehicle Royal Engineers to give it its full title. The museum's latest recruit – 02 BA 33 – was the last Centurion AVRE in service with the sappers. It was built by the Royal Ordnance Factory in 1951 as an ordinary tank and converted in 1963.

Pictured with curator Col John Woodward is the AVRE crew of Sgt John Mudd (commander), Cpl Ian Godbert (gunner), Cpl David Thomas (radio operator), Cpl Colin Harlowe (driver) and Cpl Stephen Gravett (co-driver).

It was handed over on behalf of the RE Museum, Chatham, by Capt Charles Ingram, officer commanding the RE Armoured Vehicles trials team at Bovington.

Leach (Retd), Lambourn, 33A Church Street, Guilden Morden, Nr Royston, Herts SG8 0JD, who is looking for a buyer.

It has an asking price of £300, from which the artist will be making a donation to a Royal British Legion memorial appeal.

Last charge

BRIG the Rev Charles Harris (97) spoke the words of exhortation over the tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Westminster Abbey on the 75th anniversary of the Armistice that ended the First World War.

He is the last survivor of the British Army's last cavalry charge, by 100 officers and men at the Battle of Cambrai – the first tank battle – in 1917.

The Rev Harris took holy orders in 1947.

Return to Ranville

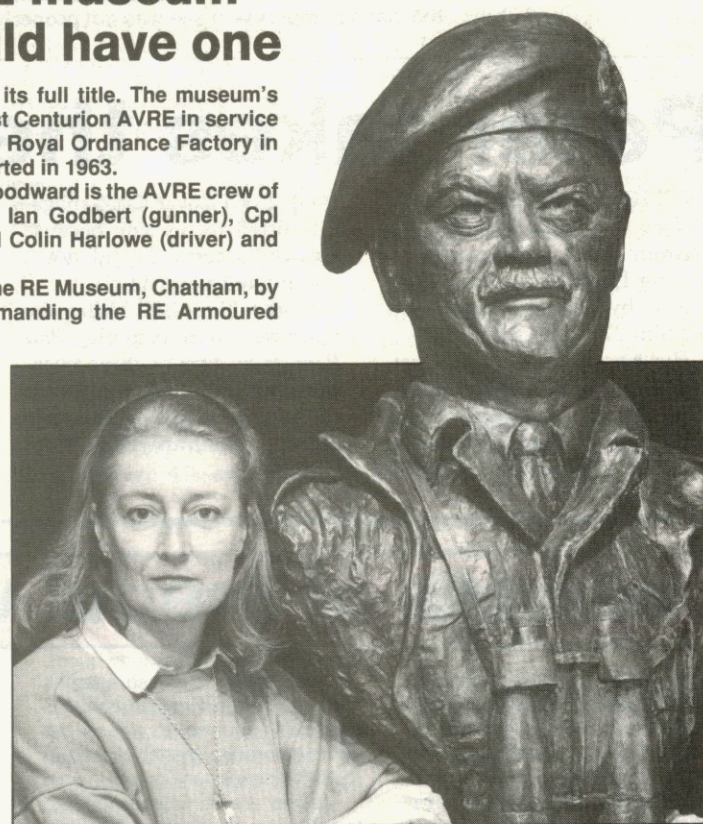
VISITORS to the Forces Art Exhibition at the National Army Museum in Chelsea next month will be able to take a peek at an item destined to take its place on a

AVRE museum should have one

AVRE, or Armoured Vehicle Royal Engineers to give it its full title. The museum's latest recruit – 02 BA 33 – was the last Centurion AVRE in service with the sappers. It was built by the Royal Ordnance Factory in 1951 as an ordinary tank and converted in 1963.

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It was handed over on behalf of the RE Museum, Chatham, by Capt Charles Ingram, officer commanding the RE Armoured Vehicles trials team at Bovington.



Vivi Mallock – who has been sculpting for only four years – with her latest masterpiece, a bronze bust of Windy Gale

battlefield site in Normandy.

A bronze head of Gen Sir Richard (Windy) Gale, commander of the renowned 6th Airborne Division during the Battle of Arnhem in 1944, will be one of the main exhibits on display.

Sculpted by Vivi Mallock, whose husband was formerly commandant of the Army Air Corps Centre, the bust created more than a stir of interest when it was temporarily *in situ* indoors recently at Middle Wallop, courtesy of the Museum of

Army Flying. Its ultimate destination, however, will be much more at the mercy of the elements.

Next summer, the sculpture, commissioned by the Airborne Forces Trust, will be placed on a plinth in Ranville, a short distance from the site of the soon-to-disappear Pegasus Bridge as a part of the 50th anniversary celebrations of the assault.

● The Forces art exhibition is open from Friday, December 10 until Thursday, December 16

SEARCHLINE

● **Dave Tanner**, runner-up in 1992 ABA championships, is sought by Jim Chambers, 20 Rickleton VC, Washington, England NE38 9RT, with whom he trained at the Junior Leaders Regiment, Royal Artillery at Bramcote.

● **Sgt Michael Wheatley**, born 1928, stationed Khartoum 1947-

48, wounded in Korea, patient at Plastic and Jaw Unit, Rookdown House, Basingstoke, Hants, summer 1952, please contact Family Rimpau, Mascagnigasse 27, A 5020 Salzburg, Austria.

● **Sgt Frank Robinson REME**, 5 Inf Wksp, 2 Div, Wintennan, 1952-56, last known living in Hull-

Goole area, or anyone who knows of him is asked to contact "Bomber" Stan Brownhill on 061-962 5212.

● **Pte Edward Downend**, 13056660, last heard of in 175 Coy, Pioneer Corps, shortly before D-Day, 1944. Writer M Eudier of Barbeville, Normandy, would like to invite Mr Downend to a 50th anniversary celebration in France. Anyone who knows his whereabouts is asked to contact the Military Attaché's Office, British Embassy, 35 rue du Faubourg Saint-Honoré, 75383, Paris CEDEX 08 (tel: 1 42 66 91 42 ext 3250).

● **Tom Price**: Would anyone knowing the whereabouts of Tom Price, who served with Clive Turtle at the Army School of Catering 25 years ago, please contact Mr Turtle's daughter, Mrs Sharon Hodsdon, of 63 Cray Valley Road,

Orpington, Kent BR5 2EY (tel: 0689 8333445), who is organising a reunion.

● **K D Doolan 14418584**: Mrs G O Doolan (12 Monsal Grove, Fairfield, Buxton, Derbyshire SK17 7TF) wishes to contact anyone who served with her late husband, K D Doolan, originally from Grantham.

● **12th Anti-Tank Regiment RA and RASC, Egypt, 1950**: Film production company wishes to hear from members of this regiment and corps serving in Egypt in the spring and summer of 1950 with a story to tell and would particularly like to trace anyone who knew Gnr John Golby and Robert Smith or Dvr Frank Hensman. Please contact Helen Stroud, Convergence Productions, 10 The Chandlery, 50 Westminster Bridge Road, London SE1 7QY (tel: 071-721 7531).

DIARY

NOVEMBER

UNTIL Nov 23: "Battledress Broadcasters" exhibition, National Army Museum.

DECEMBER

8: First SSAFA Central London Christmas carol concert at Royal Military Chapel (The Guards' Chapel), Wellington Barracks, Birdcage Walk, London, 7.30pm. Tickets: 081-673 7280, 081-539 4114 or 071-735 1597.

10-16: Annual London exhibition of the Armed Forces Art Society, Lady Butler Galleries, National Army Museum, Chelsea.

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

APPOINTMENTS

Brigadiers – A J Hoon – To be Dir Mil Svy, Nov 1; R J S Wardle – To be Comd 52 Lowland Bde, Nov 1; R W Trigger – To be Comdt 48 Gurkha Inf Bde and LF HK, Nov 13.

Colonels – M J C Galloway – To be OIC R Signals MRO, Nov 1; M B Mounde – To MoD, Nov 5; C R L Lomer – To IMS Brussels, Nov 2; R I B Rickard – To be Comdt Sch of Equip Supp(A), Nov 5; C J Burton – To MoD, Nov 1; A Fisher – To HQ LONDIST, Nov 8; J C Campbell – To 1 (UK) Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt, Nov 8; J C A Smith – To be Regtl Pmr RPO Glasgow, Nov 8; K O Winfield – To be DA/MA Peking, Nov 10.

Lt Cols – H M Fletcher, Para – To MoD, Nov 1; C E Gilmour, QO Hldrs – To MoD, Nov 1; M R Goodfellow RA – To RCB, Nov 1; P B Neale, R Signals – To be CO 9 Sig Regt (Radio), Nov 4; A M F Potter, R Irish – To MoD, Nov 1; I D Raley RA – To be CO 100 Fd Regt, Nov 1; R T Wyborn RLC – To HQ SDist, Nov 1.

R D N Carstairs AGC(ETS) – To ETS UKLF, Nov 8; P W Clarke RE – To BLO Pioneer Sch Munich,

Nov 8; C M B Coates RA – To HQ Rhine Gar, Nov 8; C R Harper, R Signals – To 11 Sig Regt, Nov 8; T J Murray RLC – To MoD, Nov 8; K Vasey, RACHD – To be Sen Chap HQ BAOR, Nov 8; T B D'E Powell AGC(ETS) – To be Comdt 1 Resettl Cen, Nov 8.

RETIREMENTS

Brigadiers – A F Eastburn, late R Signals, Nov 1; J H Lewin, late RA, Nov 1; A C Massey, late RCT, Nov 1; D A Reece, late Int Corps, Nov 1; N J Ridley, late QO Hldrs, Nov 7; M J Squire, late RCT, Nov 1; R Tarsnane, late REME, Nov 1; C B Telfer, late RPC, Nov 1; R S Mountford, late RA, Nov 15; I S Reid, late RHF, Nov 10.

Colonels – M G Boissard, late QDG, Nov 1; R F Clayton-Jones, late RACHD, Nov 1; V G Cowley, late ACC, Nov 1; J D Cox, late R Signals, Nov 1; T J Earl, late LG, Nov 1; J R Hart, late R Anglian, Nov 1; P B Hewlett-Smith, late RMP, Nov 1; E T Hudson, late Gren Gds, Nov 1; J N Hughes-Wilson, late Int Corps, Nov 1; F E Hutley, late WRAC, Nov 1; Sir Charles Lowther Bt, late QRIH,

from 11.00-17.00 (14.00-17.00 Sunday). Admission is free.

D-Day bridge comes down

DEMOLITION work has begun on the Pegasus Bridge at Benouville, Normandy, the first structure captured by the Allies in the 1944 D-D landings. The 60-year-old bridge

over the Orne Canal is to be replaced by a modern crossing – barely eight months before the 50th anniversary of D-Day.

For several years veterans have argued for the bridge – named in honour of the 6th Airborne Division's winged horse symbol – to be kept as a permanent memorial. It is likely that it will be rebuilt on a site close to where 6th Airborne's gliders landed.

Ironically, German equipment is being used for the demolition.

Nov 1; D J Martin, late RE, Nov 1; R G Middlemas, late RA, Nov 1; P B Page, late RE, Nov 1; C B H Walshe, late RAPC, Nov 1; M A G Watts, late LI, Nov 1; P Wescott, late RE(PCS), Nov 5; G F Wheeler, late RTR, Nov 1; R G Laird, late RACHD, Nov 12.

MILITARIA

● **651 Air Operations Squadron/Humber, Vauxhall drivers, Fayid, Egypt**: Would any members of 651 Sqn, including ground crew, and particularly those who served at Fayid, Egypt (1950-52), please contact researcher Sara Stanton, PO Box 694, Burtonsville, MD, 20866, USA (tel/fax: 301 890 7213). She also wishes to contact drivers of Humber and Vauxhall staff cars at Fayid and Ismailia, 1950-52.

● **Military bands**: Jerome Gatehouse, 67 Hoskins Street, Newport, Gwent NP9 5LA (tel: 0633 243286) is researching the history of military bands and would like to hear from military bandsmen, past and present.

247 Pro Coy RMP (Berlin) disposal

Anyone who presented property to the WO's and Sergeants' Mess or the Corporals' Mess of 247 Pro Coy RMP in Berlin, due to disband in July, and who has lost touch with the unit, is asked to contact WO1 (RSM) R W Godwin at 247 Pro Coy RMP, BFPO 45 (tel: Berlin Military 4114).

REUNIONS

1994

● **17 (Corunna) Bty RA All Ranks reunion**: Corunna celebratory weekend, Gütersloh, January 14-15. All past members encouraged to attend. Details from WO2 W M Taylor, 17 (Corunna) Bty, 26 Regt RA, BFPO 113 (tel: Gütersloh Mil 333 (010 49 5241 106)).

● **Crewe Whitbread Combined Services reunion and ball**: April 16 at Crewe in aid of Star and Garter Homes. Details from J G Davies, 6 Mavor Court, Flag Lane, Crewe CW1 3BL (tel: 0270 257092).

● **50th Missile Club RA**: Sixth annual reunion on May 21 at Peterborough. Details from Mr A J Todd, 9 The Grove, Heathhall, Dumfries and Galloway DG1 1TN (tel: 0387 62378 evenings).

● **2nd Battalion, South Wales Borderers**: Unveiling of commemorative stone at Asnelles, Normandy, and reunion lunch take place on June 5. Contact Islwyn Edmunds, 22 Nottage Mead, Porthcawl, Mid-Glamorgan CF36 3SA.

● **6th Guards Tank Brigade Workshop REME**: A reunion and memorial service will be held at Lenham, near Maidstone, Kent on June 25-26 for ex-members and relatives to mark the flying bomb disaster at Charing Heath, Kent on June 24, 1944 in which 52 Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers were killed. Details from Norman Rutt, 1 Headington Road, Earlsfield, London SW18 3PR (tel: 081-946 0064).

CHRISTMAS GIFT IDEAS FROM **SOLDIER** MAGAZINE

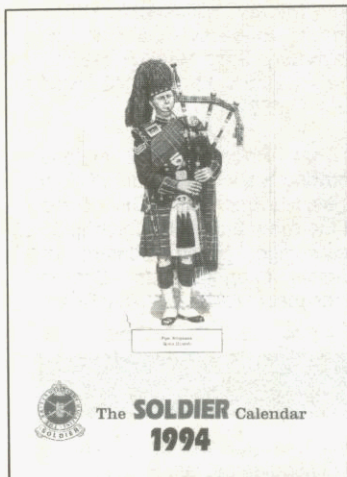
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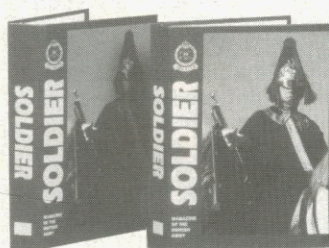
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Pictures: Mike Weston

Challengers all: some of the day's competitors with athlete and soldier

KRISS HAS GOT THEM ON THE RUN



DIVING over oil drums and scrambling through canvas tunnels isn't everyone's cup of tea, but there was certainly no shortage of enthusiastic boys and girls to do just that as they descended on London last month, writes **Phil Wilcox**.

And, adding an extra sense of occasion to the re-launch of the Army-funded Challenger Team, a real-life major general and a former world champion athlete also locked antlers on the assault course erected on a grassy area opposite the National Army Museum in Chelsea.

Challenger Team was originally set up in the 1980s, explained the soldier in question, Maj Gen Jack Deverell, Director General Army Manning and Recruiting.

Its aim now, as then, is to encourage children aged between 11 and 16 to participate in a number of tasks – each one requiring different skills.

Once a completed task is received, members receive points which go towards a final total which earns a prize.

"About six months ago," said Maj Gen Deverell, "we sent out a questionnaire to our existing membership, which numbered about 4,000.

"By doing so, we were able to see how they felt about their club, which we felt was crucial to its continuing development."



Champion athlete Kriss Akabusi leaps to the challenge...

There had been an encouraging response rate (over 60 per cent) and, by using the information, the Challenger Team had been updated.

A suggested £5 membership fee had been implemented, and the membership pack improved.

Members, as well as being entitled to entry discounts on some museums and other places of interest across the country, would be eligible to attend summer camps and weekends away.

Command tasks, tied in wherever possible to the national curriculum, would cover such topics as history, geography, map-reading and great battles.

All of these tasks would encourage individuals to carry out research, as well as developing communication skills and working as part of a team.

As the project's Maj Roger Sheldermine-Hare pointed out: "The Army is aware of the difficulties facing today's youth, and wants to ensure that they are given the opportunity to develop skills which will help in later life.

"By making sure that the task cards are topical, it allows for situations that are developing around the world to be taken into account."

Former warrant officer and international athletics champion Kriss Akabusi was on hand to demonstrate the physical aspects of membership – which were equally important in character-building.

When he and his three fellow-athletes caused something of a stir in the 1991 world championships in Tokyo by clinching gold against formidable American opposition in the 4×400 final, it had been because they had worked as a team and not as four individuals, he said.

"When you are young, it is so important to know what it is like to achieve something, and to take up and develop skills.

"Hopefully, membership of

the Challenger Team will provide that."

Then he was ready to take on possibly his most daunting physical task since retiring from major championships.

He strode across the road, where ten Challenger members from places as diverse as Bognor, Peckham and Basildon – who were the lucky ones to be drawn from the proverbial hat – were waiting to do battle with their opponents – led by the director general himself – on the assault course...

● More information from: Challenger Team, PO Box 811, Baird House, 15-17 St Cross Street, London EC1B 1XE, or by picking up a leaflet from Army Careers Offices, schools careers officers or any local event involving the Army.



... as Maj Gen Jack Deverell goes up and over

Urquhart: fighting Scot, imperturbable battlefield leader

IT IS NOT surprising that in *Urquhart of Arnhem* John Baynes should have devoted one third of this excellent biography to the Battle of Arnhem, since Maj Gen Roy Urquhart will be best remembered for his role there as GOC 1 AB Division, but he has given us much more to dwell upon as well.

He has done a great service to Urquhart's memory by painting a sympathetic picture of this gentle, courageous and fearless giant who displayed great sincerity and warmth but above all possessed the greatest quality of humility.

Urquhart went to Sandhurst in 1919 where, like many outstanding generals, he did not

shine and like many others had an uneventful career in the HLI until he entered the Staff College in 1936. Two years later he sailed for India and met his future wife, Pamela, on board and remained in India until 1940 when he was posted as a major to HQ 3 Inf Div in the UK.

There, for the first time, he came under the observation of Lt Gen Sir (later Fd Marshal Viscount) Bernard Montgomery, who was GOC 5 Corps and who was to play a major part in his subsequent career.

He was soon given command of 2 DCLI, where he gained Pte Hancock as his

batman (he was to remain with him throughout the war) and the reputation of "a commander who knew how to get the best out of his men, and who had an almost uncanny ability to inspire total trust and loyalty."

Shortly afterwards, in 1942, he became GSOI 51 (Highland) Div and went with them to North Africa under Maj Gen Douglas Wimberley, first at El Alamein and then onwards to Tunis, during which Wimberley's constant presence among the leading elements caused Urquhart frequent problems.

"Throughout the desert campaign my main worry was to find out what 'DW' had done or told someone to do."

His reward was a DSO and command of 231 (Malta) Bde Group, which he led from the front in the landings in Sicily and Italy, and resulted in a second DSO. Then back to the UK as BGS XII Corps for the planning of the invasion of Europe but it was not long before once again he came under Montgomery's attention and was appointed GOC 1 AB Div early in 1944.

Here he came under the command of Gen "Boy" Browning. "I could discuss a problem with him but there was always a reserve and a barrier which I, certainly, never broke down... he had a lot of tummy trouble."

This barrier may well have led to some of the difficulties he later faced in the planning, execution and aftermath of the Battle of Arnhem. John Baynes rehearses all the well-worn difficulties but makes no mention of the conversation "Boy" Browning had with Maj Gen "Windy" Gale (GOC 6 AB Div) which was disclosed shortly after Gale's death by the curator of the Airborne Forces Museum, in which Browning asked Gale what he would do if he was forced to accept the DZ/LZs laid down by Gen Brereton (Comd 1st AB Army), to which Gale



Urquhart outside his headquarters at Arnhem

replied: "I would resign."

It would not have been in Urquhart's character to resign. One wonders what would have happened had such a threat been made and had the DZ/LZs, including a *coup de main* attack by one brigade on the bridge, been changed.

The author says the DZ/LZs were chosen by Urquhart (this is disputable) and supports Kershaw, who claims that because of the location of 11 SS Corps "it is unlikely this would have resulted in a different outcome". Many, including your reviewer, doubt this opinion.

Baynes, however, does criticise Urquhart on two counts – failure to reinforce Frost on the bridge during the first 12 hours of the battle and for not having made Brig Lathbury push on during the first night, both of which criticisms are valid.

However, as Maj Gen Sosabowski (Comd 1st Polish Para Bde) said: "It only needed one final effort by the units south of the river to relieve 1st Airborne Div" and this failure rests with Gen Sir Miles Dempsey (2nd Army Comd)

who cancelled 30 Corps' final fling.

The last word on Arnhem should come from Maj Gen Frost: "It was a gamble for the highest stakes which nearly came off." Urquhart was awarded a CB.

Urquhart's subsequent military appointments, all as a major general, were Director TA/Cadets, GOC 16 AB Div (TA), GOC Malaya Area/17 Gurkha Div, where his co-operation with Lt Gen Briggs laid the foundations on which Fd Marshal Sir Gerald Templer built his success, and GOC British Troops in Austria. All were an anti-climax and little reward for his previous successes.

One of the finest accolades to him is from Gen Sir John Hackett (Comd 4 Para Bde at Arnhem): "that great, brave, imperturbable fighting Scot, the best battlefield commander I fought under in all the war years". – PSN

Urquhart of Arnhem. The Life of Major General R E Urquhart CB DSO by John Baynes. Brassey's, hardback, £25.

American analysis of Wavell's generalship

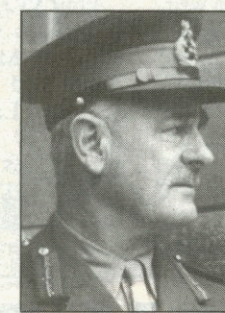
IT HAS taken 52 years for an impartial assessment of Britain's first Second World War commander-in-chief in the Middle East to appear. Ironically, it was an American infantry major, albeit an assistant professor at the US Military

Academy, West Point, who undertook this important addition to the analysis of Second World War history.

Harold E Rough Junior based the work on his doctorate thesis.

For too long we have been subjected to highly critical books about Wavell, blaming him for British adversities during the first two years of the war, and over-complimentary descriptions of this "soldier's general". It is certainly time we had an assessment by a historian standing far enough back from the canvas of the man and events.

Some of Wavell's campaigns, such as the British expedition to Greece and the defence of Crete, were abject failures while others, notably those in the Western Desert



Gen Wavell

in 1940-41, were resounding successes.

It seems indisputable that the seeds of Sir Archibald Percival Wavell's "fall from grace" as the British Commander in the Middle East were sown when he was called to London in

August 1940 to attend meetings of the Middle East Committee and Chiefs of Staff.

Wavell gave an eloquent and comprehensive exposition on the Middle East situation, which Anthony Eden thought to be masterly. Churchill was less convinced.

Churchill was to express the opinion that Wavell was a "good average colonel and would make a chairman of a Tory association".

The author's main message in this book seems to be that the Allies prematurely lost a great commander in the Middle East through clashes of personality heightened by misunderstanding.

Wavell was not blameless, as Rough says: "It is unfortunate that Wavell was unable to view the enormity of the war

effort and peril to England through the eyes of Churchill."

Was Wavell a worn-out theatre commander by the time Churchill caused him to relinquish his job to Auchinleck at 3 am on July 5, 1941, to serve as Commander-in-Chief, India? The author clearly thinks not, but leaves a chink of doubt.

"Wavell's burden of command was never greater than in May 1914, when he was accountable for the conduct of five campaigns – the defence of Tobruk and 'Brevity' (code name for the operation to drive the Germans west of Tobruk) in the Western Desert; the defence of Crete; the conclusion of the Abyssinian campaign; and the incursion into Iraq – while simultaneously preparing the 'Tiger Cubs' (artillery and tanks) for action in the desert and the intervention in Syria... It is remarkable that Wavell accomplished as much as he did."

This book clears some of the mist but the controversy about Wavell as a general will certainly continue. – BJ

Wavell in the Middle East 1939-1941: A Study in Generalship by Harold E Rough Jr, published by Brassey's, hardback, £32.50.

Arnhem retold by glider 'alien'

THE 49th anniversary of the battles for the Arnhem and Nijmegen bridges has just passed. Then, in September 1944, 10,000 men were landed by gliders in the countryside surrounding these two Dutch towns.

Their orders were to take and hold the bridges to facilitate an Allied breakthrough across the Rhine.

Of the 10,000, 1,400 were killed and more than 6,000 – about a third of them wounded – captured.

According to Montgomery, who masterminded the operation, Market-Garden was a success. His idea, it seems, was to leapfrog the enemy and be first into Berlin, so shortening the war.

But Louis Hagen, a pilot in the Glider Pilot Regiment who took part in the nine-day Arnhem battle and whose book *Arnhem Lift* was published within four months of the event, concluded then – and still does today – that it was Montgomery's "ambition" and "self-deception" which led to

the failure of Market-Garden. Others probably disagree, but it is a fact that it took some months after Arnhem for the Allies to effect a breakthrough.

Hagen, who was born in Potsdam of Jewish parents, escaped to England as a youngster only to be listed as an "enemy alien" when war broke out. But he overcame this and other minor trials and volunteered for the Army without much success until accepted by the Glider Pilot Regiment, one of the few units prepared to accept "enemy aliens".

This story – a new and expanded version of his 1945 book – is his account of one of the great battles of the Second World War. It is an "I was there..." story and is written in an easy, flowing style which was to stand him in good stead when he landed a job as Berlin correspondent on the *Sunday Express*.

It grips from start to finish. Great stuff. – JM

Arnhem Lift by Louis Hagen. Pen and Sword Books Ltd., £13.95.

THE BERLIN STORY

EVERYTHING comes to an end but to Berliners it must have seemed that the division of their city and the presence of foreign troops would last for ever.

Berlin and the British Ally 1945-1990 is an outline history of British forces in Berlin from 1945 until the Day of German unification on October 3, 1990, written by the last commandant and GOC of the British Sector, Maj Gen Robert Corbett.

In his introduction the author modestly states that he believes the book to be a "bit disconnected". A casual flick through could give this impression but a closer examination shows that it is an extremely well researched work and the short, boldly titled sections make it easy to read.

Many readers, more used to rambling histories, will appreciate this style as well as the removable fold-out time chart which summarises events related to Berlin throughout the 45 years.

"Shortly after midnight on 24 June 1948 the Russians halted all rail traffic at Marienborn and cut off the electricity supply from Eastern power stations to the Western sectors of Berlin. West Berlin had food stocks for about 36 days and coal for 45, from now on the only means of re-supply to the city would be by air..."

"By 12 August the daily airlift tonnage had risen to 4,653."

One of the problems involved with the airlift was a shortage of sacks. The British Army provided 47,000 kitbags

to fill the gap but these proved to be rather too popular and only 8,000 were returned.

The Russians' blockade of West Berlin lasted for just under a year, during which Berliners began to see the British, US and French forces in a new light: they had arrived as occupying powers (Besatzungsmächte), but now they were seen as protecting powers (Schutzmächte).

Forty-five years is a long time in the history of a city, particularly a city which experienced fighting in its streets and later endured a protracted Cold War. There are naturally thousands of events that occurred in that time: many tragic, some humorous and a few heroic. One of these involved the remarkable

● Turn to next page

Gloster's account marks Korean War milestone

IT IS more than 42 years since the Battle of the Imjin River in Korea where the Glorious Glosters defended Hill 235 on the 38th parallel against thousands of Chinese troops.

But even though they hung on to their position for five days, with many of them having to fight their way through the surrounding Chinese, they had no chance and were forced to surrender.

The story is well documented in a number of books, among them *The Edge of the Sword* by

Gen Sir Anthony Farrar-Hockley who, at the time of the battle was a captain and the adjutant of the 1st Battalion, The Gloucestershire Regiment.

Within a year of his release from a PoW camp he had written his account of the battle and of the appalling conditions and ill-treatment meted out by his Chinese captors.

Now his book has been reissued as a paperback to mark the 40th anniversary of the end of the Korean War.

Some 20 countries took part

in that war to which Britain contributed 15,000 soldiers, at least 1,000 dying in action. Many of them are buried in the UN Memorial Cemetery outside Pusan in South Korea.

Four VCs were awarded – Lt Col James Carne, CO of the Glosters; Maj Kenneth Muir, Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders; Lt Philip Curtiss, Duke of Cornwall's LI, attached to the Glosters; and Pte William Speakman of The Black Watch.

But even though the war

ended 40 years ago, no peace agreement has ever been signed between North and South Korea. Only an armistice exists between the two.

Their differing ideologies run deep and they are still separated by the Imjin and the 38th parallel where the Glosters put up such gallant resistance. – JM

The Edge of the Sword by Gen Sir Anthony Farrar-Hockley. Alan Sutton, £8.99.

BERLIN

● From Page 41

German woman pilot, Hanna Reitsch.

In April 1945, Reitsch accompanied Colonel-General Ritter von Greim in a last flight from Gatow airfield to a landing near the Brandenburg Gate. The aircraft sustained damage from ground fire. Von Greim, at the controls, was shot in the foot and passed out. Hanna Reitsch, who was crouching behind the pilot's seat, landed the aircraft by operating the control column over von Greim's shoulder.

In April 1963, television personality Hughie Green was piloting a Cessna 310 towards Gatow when he was intercepted by a Mig fighter and a twin-engined fighter. The Mig fired six bursts, the last as the aircraft was crossing the Berlin Control Zone boundary. Happily the Cessna landed safely at Gatow.

Now the East German watchtower which overlooked Gatow airfield has disappeared "to the regret of many who, secretly or not, relished the excitement and intrigue of Gatow's role during the Cold War as one of Berlin's lifelines to the West".

Gone too is the Wall which split Berlin for 28 years. New problems have replaced those of the Cold War, but these are no longer the concern of a British commander. It is now time for memoirs and history books. – BJ

Berlin and the British Ally 1945-1990 by Maj Gen R J S Corbett. Published by the author and available from 46 AEC, BFPO 45. Hardback DM53 or £22.50 (plus DM4 or £1.50 p and p). Cheques payable to The Commander's Fund.

HAPPY BLEND OF TWO REGIMENTS

"ONE HEARS so many stories of regimental amalgamations starting out in a brittle and unharmonious way, of mess members of the old regiments keeping one another at an icy distance, and of such mistrust and unfriendliness affecting morale, that it is wonderfully refreshing to find, here and there, one or two of the newly merged with whom the situation has been quite the reverse.

"The Blues and Royals must, from the very first of those historic spring days of 1661, go on record as being famous for their happy and amicable blending and compatibility."

So writes J N P Watson in *The Story of the Blues and Royals*, a composite history of two famous regiments, one of the Household Cavalry and the other from the Cavalry of the Line.

Both were of equivalent age, being raised in the same year, 1661. The Blues, or The Royal Horse Guards, has its origins in a Parliamentary cavalry regiment which, following the Restoration, Charles II kept on to perform escort, policing and guard duties.

The other component, the Royals, or 1st Royal Dragoons, was raised as part of the garrison of Tangier.

John Watson's book is in three parts. The first covers the two regiments between 1661 and 1945, threading together their early histories. Part II alternates between the postings of the two regiments at home and abroad from the end of the Second World War to the merger in 1969, a period of peacekeeping, Cold War and ceremonial roles.

Part III traces the career of the new single regiment, cover-

ing numerous postings, highlighted when 3 and 4 Troops of The Blues and Royals sailed for the South Atlantic on April 9, 1982, thus adding "Falkland Islands 1982" to the Regiment's roll of Battle Honours.

Perhaps what brought the regiment to public attention more than anything was the IRA bomb in Hyde Park which devastated the mounted guard, killing four and wounding three. One of the surviving horses, Sefton, who died earlier this year in peaceful retirement, became a national hero, and we are reminded that John Watson also published *Sefton: The Story of a Cavalry Horse*.

There are some fascinating pieces of information. It is not generally known that "King Edward VII disliked seeing the word 'Private' on the Boer War campaign medals of soldiers of that status in the Household Cavalry. He had the rank altered to 'Trooper', which was to remain exclusive to The Life Guards and The Blues until the First World War."

Part III of the book closes with what the author considers to be the unfortunate decision under Options for Change whereby the Service element of the Blues and Royals was reduced to two squadrons in a union with The Life Guards in October 1992. – BJ

The Story of The Blues and Royals: Royal Horse Guards and 1st Dragoons by J N P Watson. Published by Leo Cooper/Pen & Sword Books, hardback, £19.95.

IN BRIEF

The Great Commanders by Phil Grabsky. A companion volume to the six-part Channel 4 series of the same name. Grabsky, Head of War Studies at RMA Sandhurst, examines the lives and genius of Alexander the Great, Julius Caesar, Horatio Nelson, Napoleon Bonaparte, Ulysses S Grant and Marshal Zhukov. Boxtree in association with Channel 4, £14.99.

Soldier, Soldier by Geoff Tibballs. Official guide to the ITV drama series of the same name. Boxtree in association

with Central Television, £14.99.

1812: The March on Moscow by Paul Britten Austin. Day-by-day narrative of Napoleon's epic campaign. Greenhill Books, £30.

Martyr's Day by Michael Kelly. American journalist's account of his year in the Gulf. Macmillan, £16.99.

The Guinness Book of More Military Blunders and The Guinness Book of Naval Blunders by Geoffrey Regan. Guinness Publishing, softback, £12.99 each.

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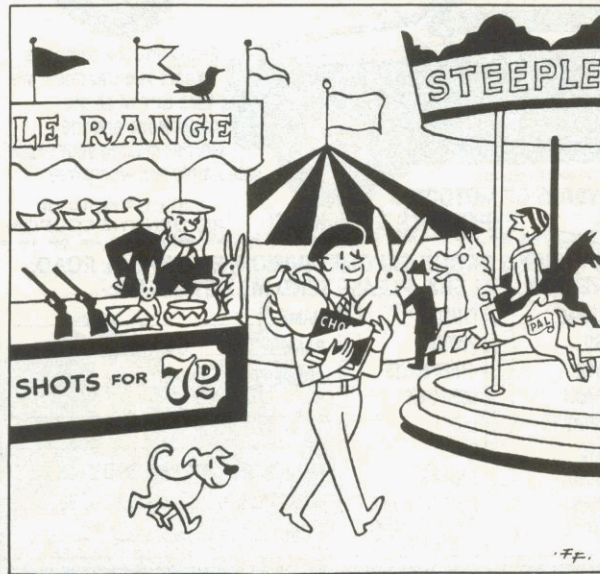
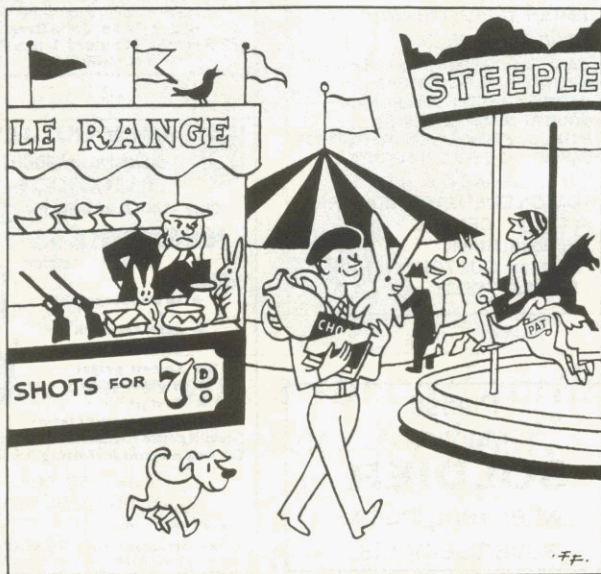
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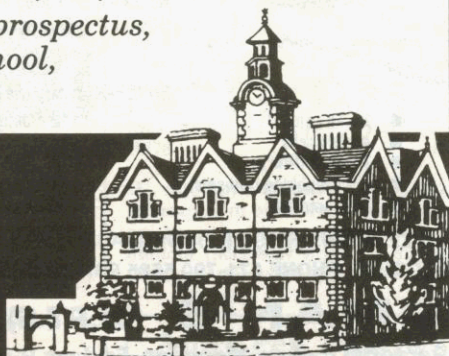
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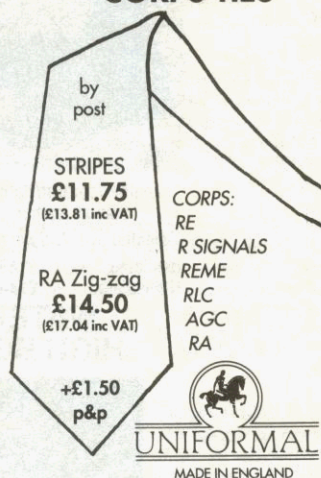
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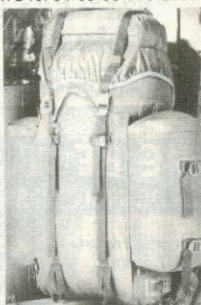
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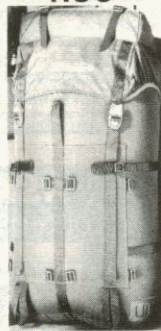
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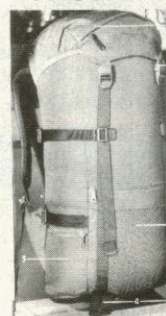
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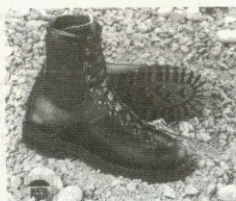
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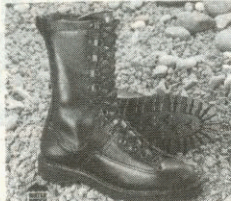
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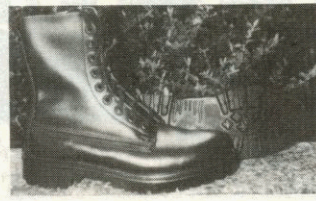
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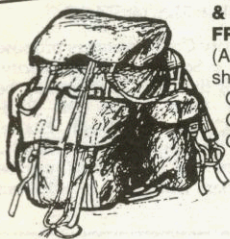
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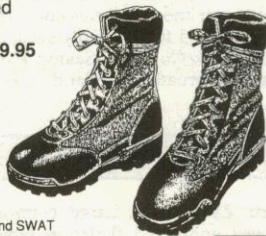


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CHARITY COMMISSION

Charity: London Irish Rifles
 Regimental Association Benevolent Fund

Ref: RLB-148574-SC

The Charity Commissioners propose to make a Scheme for the Charity. Copies of the draft Scheme may be obtained from them (ref: RLB-148574-SC) at Woodfield House, Tangier, Taunton, Somerset TA1 4BL. Objections and suggestions may be sent to them within one month from today. D4

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Wanted

Gulf War militaria bought by historian, e.g. badges, propaganda leaflets, photographs, printed ephemera and souvenirs etc., Laurie Manton, c/o Soldier Magazine, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU. D4/TC

Good quality photographs wanted of Northern Ireland - murals etc. For publication in ongoing book currently being researched. Please include dates and descriptions. Box 238, Soldier Magazine, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU. 24/93

Collector of modern armed forces caps, British and Foreign. Would like to hear from other collectors. Have some caps for exchange. Turner, 14a Sylvan Road, Exeter EX4 6EW. 24/93

ARMY SPORTS LOTTERY RESULTS

OCTOBER 30, 1993

Four-way tie for first prize (17 goals, £975 each):
SSgt S S Harris, 1 RS, Fort George, Inverness; SSgt S A Strickland, 176 Pro Coy BFPO 807; Sgt S G Duffield, ATR Basingstoke; Capt R S Appleton, HQ BRITFOR Signal Sqn BFPO 544.

22-way tie for fifth prize (16 goals, £27.27 each):
Sgt S E Clark, 3 RHA, Topcliffe; Maj G J Kinsey, HQ QMG Andover; Col O T Hall, HQ E District, York; Sgt D A Thompson, 56 (MT) Trg Sqn RE, Church Crookham; Pte B R Stubbs, 4 R Irish, BFPO 804; Col C M C F Peebles, MoD; WO2 D S Morrell, 1 Para, Aldershot; Major M C Ross, MoD; WO1 M Dickinson, HQ ARRC, BFPO 39; Pte M Barnard, 1 RRW, Tern Hill, Salop; Capt N A Searle, ASMT Leconfield; Cpl R A Clifford, 28 Engr Regt, BFPO 31; LCpl I S Dawson, 28 Engr Regt, BFPO 31; Maj M G McN Sheldford,

ATR Windsor; Cpl A Gillan, 7 R Irish, BFPO 801; Cpl G A O'Sullivan, 8 Arty Sp Regt RLC, BFPO 17; LCpl G D Powell, SEME Regt, Bordon; Col C J Walters, Army Apprentice College, Harrogate; LCpl D M Artt, JSG(NI), BFPO 825; Spr D R Dale, 28 Engr Regt, BFPO 31; SSgt K McDonald, Depot REME, Arborfield; Lt Col C P Bonney, Army Management Services, West Byfleet.

NOVEMBER 6, 1993

Six-way tie for first prize (19 goals, £750 each):
SSgt K. Davies, 19 Tk Tptr Sqn RLC, Bulford; Pte B Lafferty, 170 Pnr Sqn RLC, BFPO 39; WO1 A R North, ASC, Aldershot; Cpl M S Patterson, 8 Arty Sp Regt RLC, BFPO 17; Pte D A Phillips, 1 DERR, Catterick; Lt N H Range, 7 Signal Regt, BFPO 15.
Only six prizes this week. Rule 9 applies.

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Beijing rally helpers

SEVERAL Army units helped behind the scenes to make the 26-stage Hong Kong to Beijing rally the success it was.

All communications were provided by men of the Queen's Gurkha Signals, additional support was provided by the Queen's Own Gurkha Transport Regiment, and The Queen's Gurkha Engineers built a special ramp at the start.

Rickshaw Ramble

RULES and regulations for the 1994 BAMA UK driving/navigation championships are now available from Lt Col (Retd) E Bartlett on Leconfield Military 5243.

First round of the eight-stage championships is Exercise Rickshaw Ramble at Longmoor Camp, Hampshire, on January 8-9.

How Hugh gets a 'kick' on world's ski slopes

ASK most people for their definition of a mogul and they will probably come up with something along the lines of a business tycoon or a 16th century Mongolian, writes Phil Wilcox.

Not Capt Hugh Hutchison projects officer of 3 RSME Regiment at Minley, Surrey.

To him, moguls are lumps which occur naturally on a ski slope.

And, as three times British moguls champion, this Royal Engineer should know.

In a nutshell, this specialised sport involves skiing downhill at speed, negotiating the moguls, at the same time skiing down the "fall-line" off the course.

The competitor must jump twice off the "kickers" – particularly large moguls which send

the competitor soaring skywards, where they perform a lightning series of what can best be described as upright aerial acrobatics.

Hugh, who started skiing in the Cairngorms when he was four, switched from Alpine racing to freestyle six years ago.

Due to compete for the British team in the winter Olympics in Lillehammer, Norway, in February, his latest exploits have been confined indoors.

But they have been no less spectacular – or beneficial.

He and fellow champions from Canada, France, Belgium, the Netherlands, Switzerland and Slovenia took part in the *Daily Mail* ski show at London's Olympia in October.

Hugh was also due to participate in the same show when it moved to Manchester this month.

"It was incredible at Olympia," he said. "They had constructed what is claimed to be the largest dry ski slope ever built indoors – and they have simulated a mogul slope, complete with kickers dropped in from the ceiling."

He and other members of the Highland Spring freestyle team enthralled spectators with demonstrations of their twists and airborne pyrotechnics on the slope.

"The great thing about Olympia is that it has spectators' galleries, so, apart from anything else, it was a very good way of training, getting used to the roaring of the crowds as preparation for the Olympic season builds up," said Hugh.

The corps had been very good in allowing him to take time off for training.

Last month, he was the delighted recipient of the first individual grant – £1,000 – from the newly-established Army Sports Lottery.

"Since I am participating in a sport which is not officially recognised by the Army as yet, I was pretty chuffed," Hugh said.

"It will certainly help: further sponsorship is hard to get in these times of economy."

Hugh's current sponsors, for products, wheeled or otherwise, include Carforce, Kneissl, International, Nordica and Marker.

Now the only potential problem for this 29-year-old three-times former Army Alpine champion is whether to go for a much higher European ranking in the Europa Cups or to set his sights on success on the sport's World Cup circuit.

For the immediate future, Hugh, who in the rarefied world of "helicopters", "double daffy spreads" and "triple twisters" has few peers, will be concentrating on improving his position in the last Winter Olympics when he finished 25th out of 80.

Under the tutelage of coach Eric Perthon, a French former world champion, he is currently practising daily.

Nothing unusual in that, one might say. But on a trampoline?

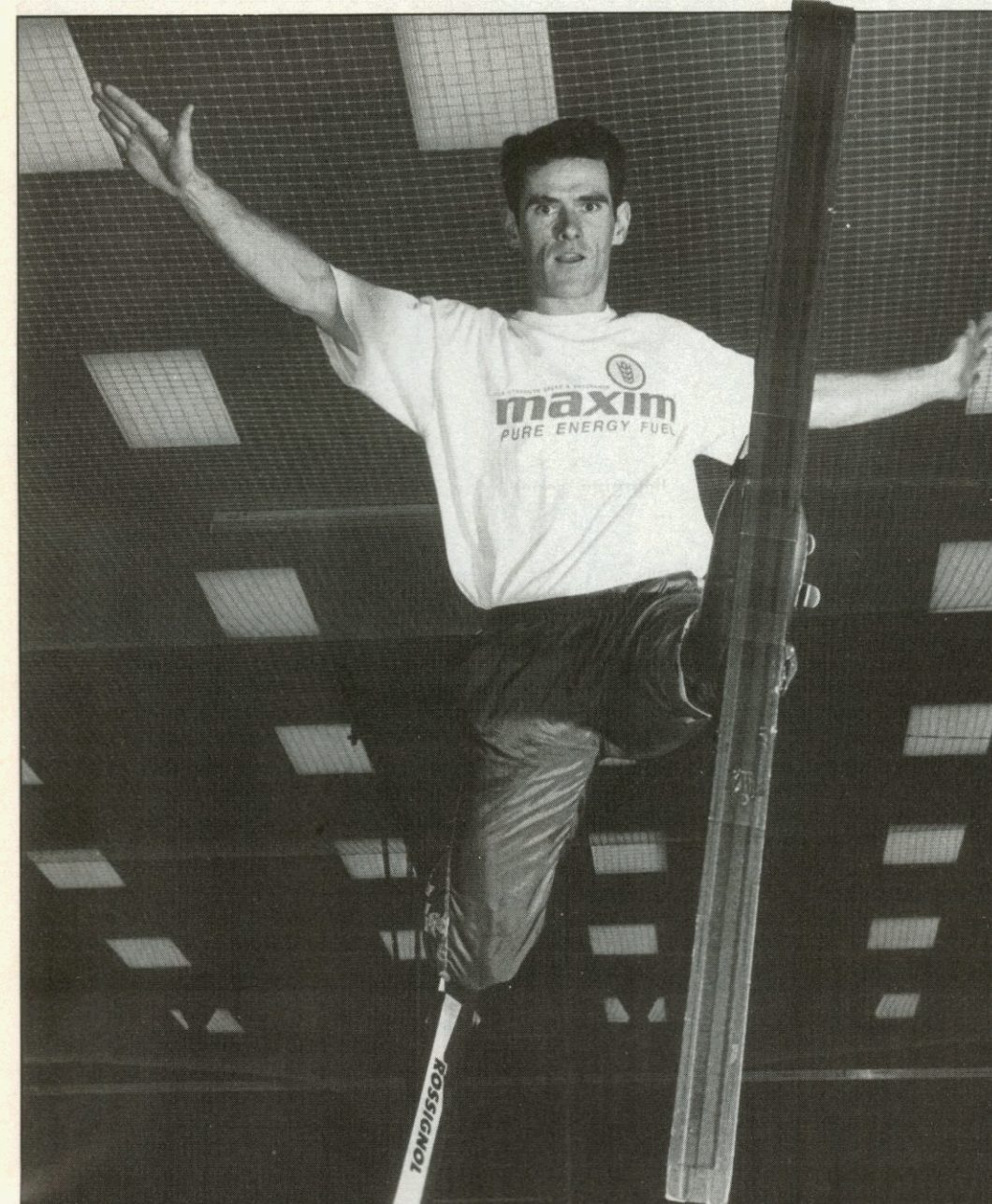
First lottery cash awarded

OLYMPIC mogul skier Capt Hugh Hutchison (RE) has become the first Army sportsman to benefit directly from the Army Sports Lottery.

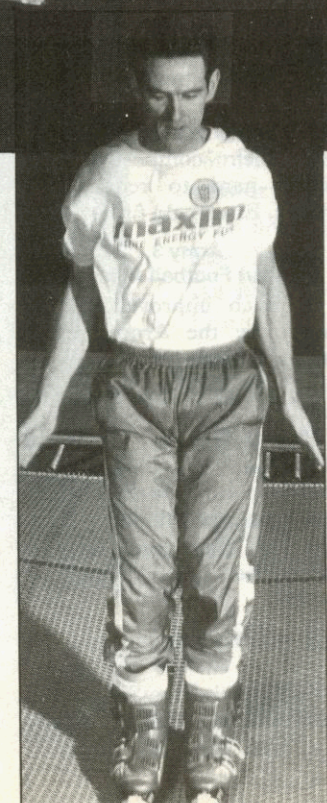
He has received a grant of £1,000 towards his winter campaign to remain among the world's elite freestylers.

A total of £2,448 in grants was announced by lottery manager Maj Adrian Cassie.

Other awards were made to 22 Fd Hosp RAMC (£198 to equip a new rugby field); the Army Skeleton Bobsleigh Association (£250 for the purchase of new helmets); the Army Badminton Association (£500 for a new strip); and the Army Mountaineering Association (£500 for sport climbing).



Olympic and World Cup mogul skier Capt Hugh Hutchison takes off... from a trampoline (inset)



Tourists put young side to the sword

A YOUNG and inexperienced Army team was horribly exposed by the touring Lusitanians at Aldershot and beaten by nine goals to one, writes Alan Healy.

Lusitanians, composed of National League hockey players from the London area, have a reputation for putting together strong sides, and they simply overwhelmed an Army team in which the management decided to "blood" several Under-21s and others new to Army hockey.

It was a case of the right policy against the wrong opposition.

Lusitanians were a goal up after five minutes through a cracking shot which ripped past 'keeper Capt John Williams from the edge of the circle.

The skill of the visitors was altogether superior to that of the hosts, and they were three up inside 15 minutes.

There was a glimmer of hope when Lt Tim Wood and SSgt Frazer Millar worked a short corner which came to nothing, before Wood took advantage of more good approach work to round the Lusitanians' goal-keeper and flick the ball into an empty net. The half-time score was 5-1.

Gdsm Rob Harris replaced Williams in the Army goal after the break, but with his defence consistently out of position and despite several good saves, he could not prevent the tourists scoring another four.

For the Army, only LCpl Rick Burton, Wood and Millar produced anything like the standard required at this level. To their credit, though, the Servicemen never gave up and worked hard right up to the final whistle.

Badminton date

THE ARMY badminton championships are to be hosted by 5 TA Training Regiment RLC at Grantham, Lincs from February 14-18.

● Winners – see Page 51.

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Captain's ball

ATR Winchester captain Sgt Neal Gaskell (KRH) passes the ball back from a lineout during his side's narrow 11-12 defeat at the hands of 3 Field Workshop REME in the second round of the ARU Minor Units' Challenge Cup competition. The REME side, the defending champions, had to work hard for their victory and trailed until ten minutes from the end of the game

Brief lapse is triple trouble

Essex FA 3, Army 0

A TEN-minute spell early in the second half decided the football match between the Army and Essex at Dagenham and Redbridge FC, writes **Derrick Bly**.

The remainder of the game was an evenly-fought affair in which both sides cancelled out the efforts of the other. It was also a very sporting encounter, a trade mark of this enjoyable annual fixture.

Cpl Davie Maynard tested the Essex 'keeper in the tenth minute while at the other end Cfn Micky Taylor earned his spurs in the Army goal with a tremendous save.

Pte John Wills, back after injury, grazed a post with a 30-yard drive, and Maynard, twice, and Sig Paul Brown all went close.

But the result was decided in

a crucial spell after the interval when the Army defence fell apart and conceded three quick goals.

Although the Army recovered their composure and fought hard to reduce the arrears, Essex held firm.

Army 3, Amateur Football Alliance 1

A much improved performance by the Army earned them a 3-1 win over the Amateur Football Alliance at Aldershot.

First half goals by Fus Kevin Jones and Sig Jim Strouts put the Army in command, and Gnr Back, a second half substitute for Sgt Bob Corner, scored the third with his first touch.

Infantry 1, APTC 4

Three goals from SSgt Steve Davis and one from Sgt Shane

Spafford sunk the Infantry on a waterlogged pitch at the Tidworth Oval. WO2 David Matthews (LI) got the Infantry's consolation goal from the penalty spot.

REME 5, Infantry 1

REME led 2-0 at half time through SSgt Gordon Stephen and Sgt Bob Corner, and although Cpl Eric Tomlinson (Kings) pulled one back, the tiring Infantry conceded three more to Cpl Graham Gurd, LCpl Tommy Richardson and Bob Corner.

● **Diary dates:** The Army takes on the Territorial Army at Aldershot on Sunday, December 5 (ko 1100) and meets the Crusaders the following evening. The final of the Minor Units competition has been brought forward to March 30 at Aldershot.

Services matches sponsored

ALL THREE Inter-Service rugby matches this season are to be sponsored by the Armed Forces Financial Advisory Services (AFFAS), a subsidiary of the Willis Corroon Group.

AFFAS has supported the Army-Royal Navy game for the past 16 years, and the two old rivals will continue to compete for the Willis Corroon Trophy. New trophies are to be awarded for the other two games, and to the winning Service, currently the Royal Air Force.

The games will be played at Twickenham on March 26 (Army v RN), April 13 (RN v RAF), and April 20 (RAF v Army). England Students and Combined Services will put on an Under-21 curtain-raiser to the Army-Navy game.

Last season's Army-Navy encounter at Twickenham attracted more than 12,500 spectators, thought to be one of the biggest crowds since the days of National Service.

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SOLDIER



Getting the Army's Challenger Team well and truly off the ground again at its re-launch in London were former warrant officer and world champion athlete Kriss Akabusi and enthusiastic members of the club. See Page 39

Picture: Mike Weston