

SOLDIER

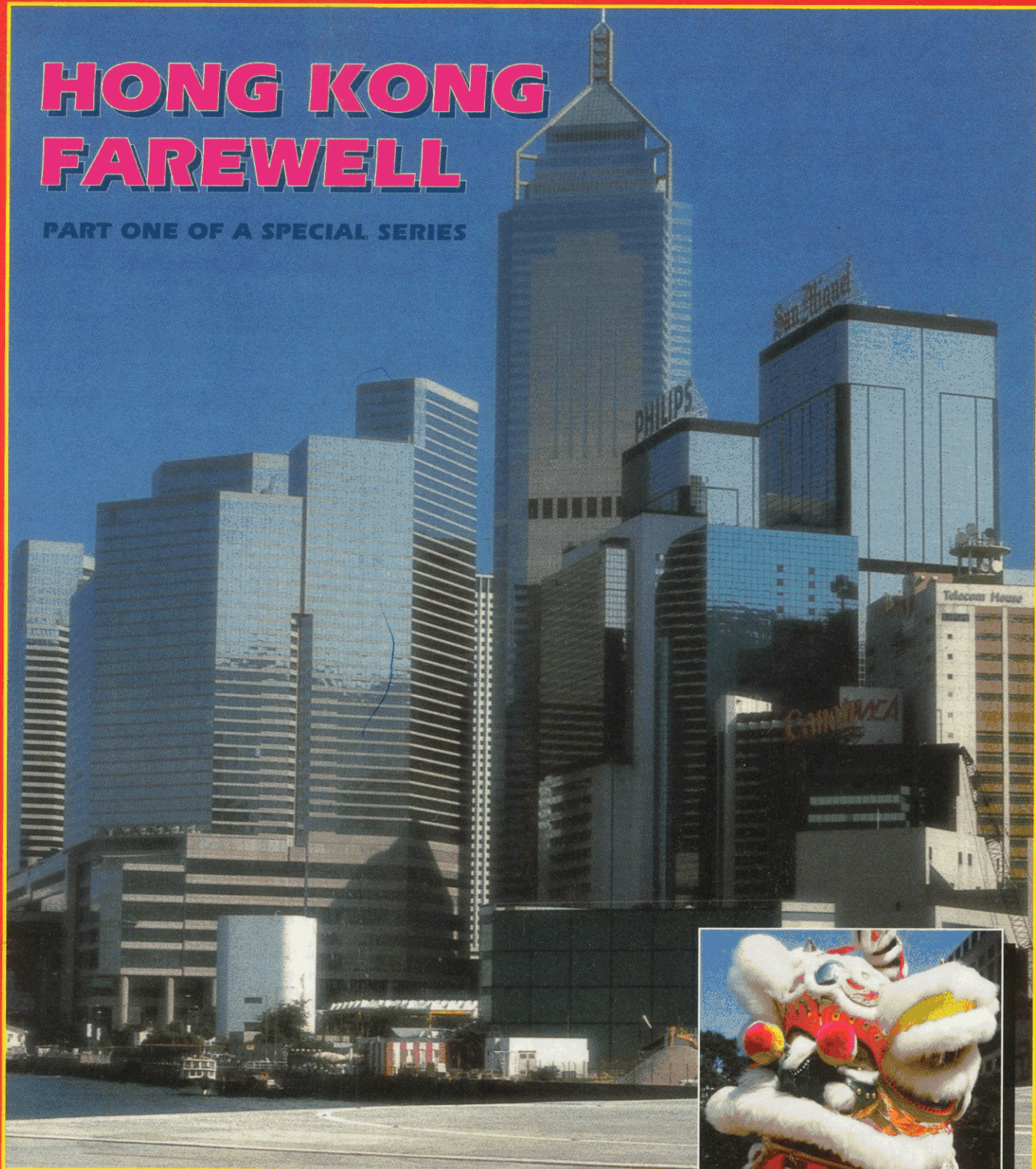
FORTNIGHTLY MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY

JUNE 9 1997

80p

HONG KONG FAREWELL

PART ONE OF A SPECIAL SERIES



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units on exercise

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The final countdown

AS HONG KONG enters its final month under British sovereignty, *Soldier* marks the end of the garrison's 156-year history with a colourful special series.

In this and the next two editions, we describe how, carefully and meticulously, British Forces Hong Kong are planning the closing stages of their presence and prepar-

ing the Chinese for their takeover on July 1. We also take a nostalgic look back, with the human stories of those who lived, fought and tragically shed their blood in this last Far Eastern outpost of Empire.

Hong Kong Farewell is on Pages 21-28. See also our Review page, 33, and 'Tiger tales from old Hong Kong', Page 34.



Tigers fly home



Incorporating the Territorial Army magazine

June 9, 1997 Vol 53/12

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First women's rugby at Army sevens



Flanked by Congolese MiG aircraft at Brazzaville, officers and senior ranks of 1 PWRR drink a silent toast "To the Immortal Memory" of their predecessors who defeated the French against overwhelm-

ing odds at Albuhera in Spain on May 16, 1811. The Diehard Ceremony celebrates the call of a commander who, surrounded by French forces, urged his men to "Die hard, 57th, die hard!"

Battalion back from crisis zone

SOLDIERS of the 1st Battalion, The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment flew home from Africa as the crisis in Zaire was resolved.

There was relative calm as the Mobutu government stood down, and the British Army-Royal Marines force standing by to evacuate expatriates was not called into action.

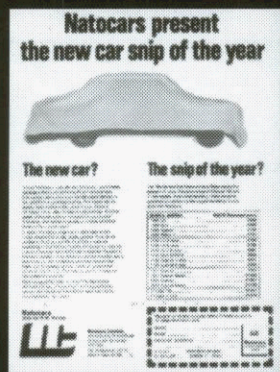
More than 200 troops from 1 PWRR and support elements had been exercising in neighbour-

● Turn to Page 5



Thanks, pal: LCpl Cris Adkins, a section 2iC with A Coy, 1 PWRR gets a pat on the head from a child at Brazzaville airport in the Congo

43,374..



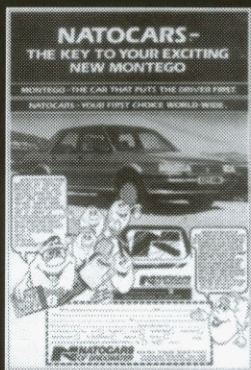
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Defence Secretary George Robertson meets men of The Royal Scots Guards at Baraci during his first visit to British troops in Bosnia. He was accompanied by the Chief of the Defence Staff, Gen Sir Charles Guthrie, and Maj Gen Angus Ramsay, Commander Multi-National Division (South West). The Secretary of State also made a first trip in his new appointment to Northern Ireland, where he was welcomed by the General Officer Commanding, Lt Gen Sir Rupert Smith.

Inset: Prime Minister Tony Blair meets Lt Col John Deverell, commanding officer of the 8th Battalion, The Royal Irish Regiment, during his visit to Northern Ireland. Between them is Capt Geoff Cleverly.



Picture: Sgt Dave Bridges

Picture: Sgt Paul Taylor

Zaire force returns to barracks

● From Page 3

ing countries to prepare for any sudden deterioration in the situation.

Elements were deployed in the Congo and Gabon under Operation Determinant.

More than 400 soldiers and officers from 1 PWRR, commanded by Lt Col Mark Rayner, had been deployed or were on standby. Those in Africa were poised to move quickly across the Congo river into Kinshasa to secure assembly areas for British nationals and Commonwealth citizens.

But as a peaceful transition appeared to be taking place in Zaire, the battalion flew back to its base in Howe Barracks, Canterbury. It is currently the Spearhead Battalion within the Joint Rapid Deployment Force, a tri-Service rapid reaction formation designed to react to situations such as the civil war in Zaire.

Duties in central Africa did not prevent the PWRR marking the Diehard Ceremony on May 16, when the regiment celebrates the courage of its predecessors at the Battle of Albuhera in Spain in 1811.

Next big event for the regiment is on June 30 when it is due to receive new Colours.

New measures on Gulf sickness

GULF War veterans concerned about their health have been invited to meet Armed Forces Minister John Reid.

In one of four new measures designed to address the whole area of ill health among those involved in the campaign, Dr

Reid has asked veterans' representatives to put their case directly to him.

He has also stated the Government's intention to extend existing research programmes into the consequences on health of the combinations of

vaccines and tablets taken by Servicemen and women during the conflict.

The minister also requested a full explanation of the scientific basis on which preventative measures were used in the Gulf, and how they were carried out in the field, and ordered an immediate additional resources to be put into the current medical assessment programme to cut the present backlog of veterans waiting to see an MoD doctor.

Dr Reid said: "The veterans have every right to expect us to give urgent attention to their concerns. And we intend to address those concerns. That is the debt of honour that our Government owes to those who served our country."

High street bomb removed

BOMB disposal experts from 49 Field Squadron EOD removed a life-threatening-mortar bomb from the high street in Gornji Vakuf, Bosnia.

It was near a school and bus station and on a route used by Stabilisation Force patrols.

The detachment, part of 33 Engineer Regiment EOD and attached to 39 Engineer Regiment, was called in because

former warring factions did not have the technical expertise to remove the mortar.

Bomb disposal officer SSgt Paul Pearson completed the task in an operation described by the senior EOD commander, Capt Roger Barrett RE, as "a text-book job".

The Wimbish-based unit was supporting the 1st Battalion, The Green Howards.

Midlands title goes to Fusiliers

TERRITORIAL Army champions at the 143 (West Midlands) Brigade skill at arms meeting were the 5th Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers. The Regular Army prize went to 30 Signal Regiment.

More than 200 competitors took part in the event at Kingsbury ranges, near Tamworth, and other awards were won by 1 Staffords, 5 LI, the Royal Mercian and Lancastrian Yeomanry, Birmingham University OTC and ATR Lichfield.



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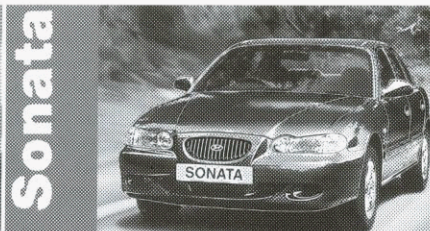
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WHEN ALL YOU WANT IS EVERYTHING

Irish Guards receive new Colours

THE Queen presented new Colours to the 1st Battalion, The Irish Guards at Windsor Castle on May 22.

It was the eighth set presented to the battalion in the 97-year history of the Irish

Guards, the last occasion being at Buckingham Palace in 1988.

More than 250 men of 1 IG paraded with their Colonel, the Grand Duke of Luxembourg, and their Irish wolfhound mascot, Cuchulain,

to receive the Colours, which were consecrated by the Chaplain General, the Rev Dr Victor Dobbin, and the Principal Roman Catholic Chaplain, the Rt Rev Monsignor Kevin Vasey.



The Princess Royal inspects men of 224 (Pembroke Yeomanry) Engineer Support Squadron RLC (V) before accepting on their behalf a Privilege of Entry scroll to the town of Fishguard and Goodwick. The squadron is part of 157 (Wales and Mid-

lands) Transport Regiment RLC (V) based in Cardiff. In 1797 local yeomanry defeated a French landing force on the west coast of Pembrokeshire. More than 50 years later Queen Victoria awarded the Yeomanry the battle honour "Fishguard".

London units on centre stage for state occasion

SOLDIERS from London-based units lent military pomp and splendour to the State Opening of Parliament on May 14 when they lined the streets from Buckingham Palace to the House of Lords.

Most Regular Army units in London District were heavily committed, with a total of 1,407 soldiers and 84 officers undertaking duties ranging from street-lining and guards of honour to mounted escorts and royal gun salutes.

Nearly half the soldiers drawn from the Grenadier, Coldstream, Scots and Irish Guards, and the 1st Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Wales, lined the processional route to Westminster.

There were two guards of honour, one at Buckingham

Palace provided by 1 SG, and the second in Parliament Square drawn from 1 RRW. All five bands of the Foot Guards were stationed along the route and salutes were fired by The King's Troop, Royal Horse Artillery, in Green Park, and by the Honourable Artillery Company from the Tower of London.

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment provided 109 men and horses and seven mounted officers to escort the Queen to and from the House of Lords.

Eight mounted troopers accompanied the regalia procession and 36 dismounted Household Cavalrymen and one officer lined the stairway in the House for the Sovereign's arrival.

Turkey talk

STAFF officers from the NATO rapid reaction force are to exchange information with officers at the alliance's command headquarters in Turkey during a week-long exercise this month.

About 50 officers based at the Headquarters Allied Command Europe Rapid Reaction Corps (ARRC) will visit Izmir from June 9-13 for briefings at HQ Land Southeast.

Opening signals

THE Royal Signals Museum at Blandford, refurbished at a cost of more than £1 million, was reopened on May 28.

Troops help crash driver

AMBULANCE staff have praised the quick action taken by soldiers on patrol in Belfast who treated a motorist injured in a road traffic accident.

Medics praised 19-year-old Fus Joe Walker for using his basic first aid training when attending the victim, who is believed to have suffered internal injuries.



Enemy ahead, or is it?

THE US Army is planning to deploy life-sized holograms of tanks, planes and soldiers to confuse and intimidate the enemy. — *Sunday Telegraph*

□ All anti-personnel landmines held by the Army will have to be destroyed by 2005. Their use until then has been suspended under a moratorium announced by the Government. — *Daily Telegraph*

□ The Army-run "boot camp" for young offenders at MCTC Colchester is to be kicked out by the Government. — *Independent*

□ Armed Forces Minister John Reid is considering financial help for British troops who contracted unexplained illnesses in the Gulf war. — *Observer*

□ The Government is set to review the ban on homosexuals serving in the Armed Forces. — *Times*

□ Servicemen, social workers, teachers and linguists have emerged as the biggest sufferers of rising stress in the 1990s, according to new research. — *Sunday Times*

□ A top-level battle plan is being drawn up to fight to retain at least part of the historic Prince Consort Library in Aldershot, which the MoD plans to move to York, where it would integrate with all other Service museums and libraries in a single building. — *Aldershot Mail*

Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, The Royal Highland Fusiliers based at Fort White-rock came across the accident, involving a truck and car, at the junction of Andersontown Road and Finaghy Road North. Fus Walker made the motorist comfortable and briefed the medical team on his condition.

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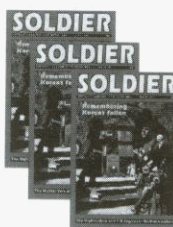
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Army's new Land Rover makes explosive debut

WIMBISH-based 33 Engineer Regiment (EOD) is the first unit to be issued with the new Defender XD Land Rover now entering service with the British Army.

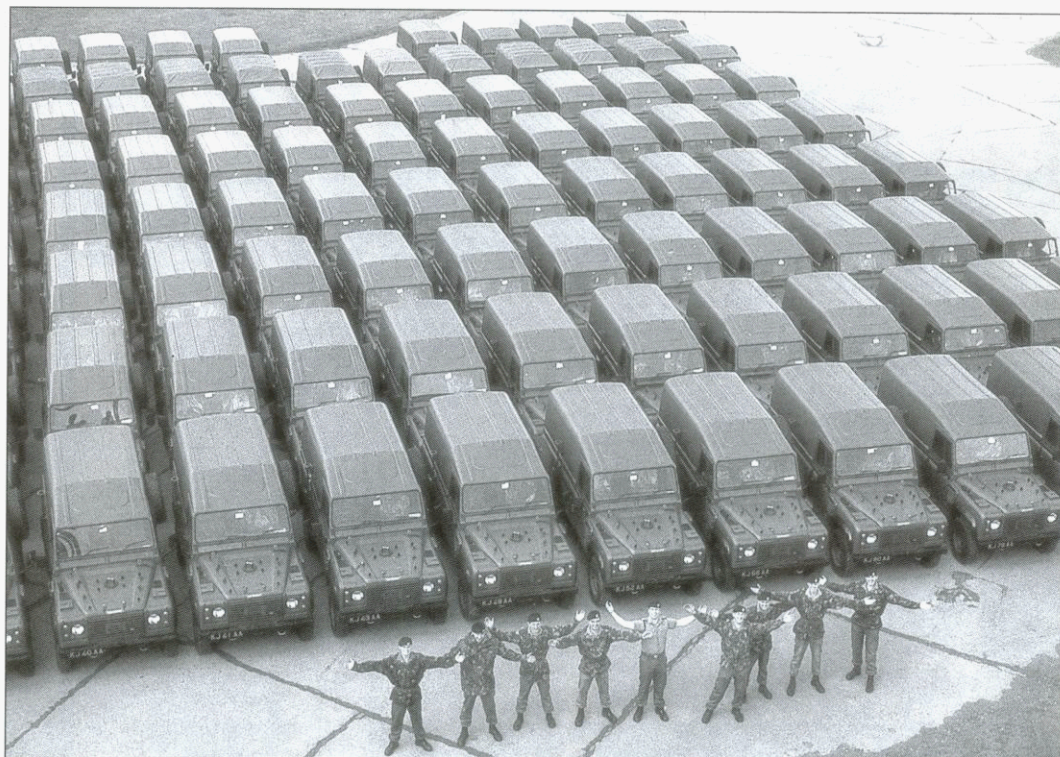
The regiment has received 94 of the vehicles.

Among the selling points for the XD were better performance, increased payload and improved durability. It is said also to offer greater comfort, reduced maintenance costs and new safety features.

It will go into service with 33

Known spot

A PLAQUE marking the spot where the remains of the Unknown Warrior were taken ashore at Dover in November 1920 has been unveiled by the Chief of the Defence Staff, Gen Sir Charles Guthrie. Wreaths were laid by the Royal British Legion. The remains lie at rest in Westminster Abbey.



Picture: Terry Champion

Taking a bow: sappers of 33 Engineer Regiment (EOD) with some of their new XD Land Rovers

Regiment all over the world, including Bosnia, where EOD detachments from the unit have been deployed since Operation Grapple 1.

Capt Alistair Boyle said the regiment, whose role includes defusing wartime German bombs and clearing UK training areas of conventional and chemical munitions, was delighted to be the first to get XD. "It will make all the difference to the way we operate."

At a cost of more than £200 million, 8,800 Defender XDs, including 800 ambulance variants, have been ordered for the Armed Forces.

Airmobile RGBW

SOLDIERS of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Gloucestershire, Berkshire and Wiltshire Regiment are to train for a new role after joining 24 Airmobile Brigade at Colchester.

The battalion, based at Episkopi in Cyprus for the past two years, has swapped places with the 1st Battalion, The Light Infantry.

While in Cyprus, 1 RGBW provided a resident company in the Falkland Islands for four months and took part in exer-

cises in Egypt, Jordan and Kuwait.

It will be training in the United Kingdom and Canada as it becomes familiar with the airmobile role.

Six RGBW soldiers returned from Cyprus the hard way. They completed a 1,500km sponsored cycle-ride, passing through Greece, Italy, Austria, Switzerland, Germany, France, Luxembourg and Belgium, raising more than £2,000 for charity as they did so.

Operational honours and awards

DETAILS of awards for gallant and distinguished service in Northern Ireland, former Yugoslavia and elsewhere.

Northern Ireland

CBE

Col J R M Hackett, late WFR.

OBE

Lt Col R I H Andrews MBE, Int Corps; Lt Col R P D Folkes AAC.

MBE

Cpl B K Brown RGJ; Maj A U Campbell REME; Maj J W Denny RRF; Capt W H Eke PWRR; Maj P J Oliver RLC; Capt G S Pearce BEM, Int Corps; SSgt I W Purchase REME; Maj R A Sharp, R Signals; Maj S F Mck Telfer, RS; Maj H O Walters, Int Corps.

MiD

Sgt J O Casey AGC(RMP); Tpr P Coombs RDG; Pte J T Gorman, Hldrs; Cpl J A Hepburn BW; Pte I

Johnson RLC; Sgt J McCurdy AGC(PS); Cpl J Pickering RDG; Sgt P Plowman PWRR.

QCB

Sgt P S Clare, Para; Cpl S E Coles RLC; Sgt A J Hawkins QGM, QRL; Spr J Hosking RE; LCpl I J Smith RE.

QCVS

Cpl P M Beardall RE; Lt Col H G R Boscawen, Coldm Gds; Sgt P Cooper RRW; SSgt R Crook RE; Capt R Dickinson RRW; WO2 P M Feeney REME; Sgt B J Gill RDG; LCpl T A Hobbs, Coldm Gds; Sgt A S Knight DWR; WO2 M J Lee AGC(PS); LCpl D Lennon, R Irish; Capt A J Little DWR; Capt J P A Mason, R Irish; Cpl P A Moodie RGJ; Capt A D Norris RE; CSgt I J Osborne RRW; Sgt W J Patterson KOSB; Sgt A Pedwell PWRR; Maj K M Potts, Hldrs; WO2 L Simm, Int Corps; WO2 R J

Simpson REME; Sgt W J Steenson, R Irish; WO2 S D Taylor, R Irish; SSgt S R Webster RE; Sgt G M Willis RDG.

Former Yugoslavia

CBE

Brig M A Charlton-Weedy OBE, late RA; Brig J C McColl OBE, late R Anglian.

OBE

Lt Col H L A MacDonald MBE, QDG; Lt Col P J Mercer MBE, WFR; Lt Col A R E Singer KRH; Lt Col T G Williams AGC(ETS).

MBE

Capt A J Finnen, Para; Maj P Gill RE; WO1 J C McBride RLC.

QCB

Capt P G Gilby WFR; Sgt A J Secombe RE.

QCVS

Cpl A P Beeton RE; Lt Col J R Berry OBE, Int Corps; Maj M J

Davis RLC; Capt K E Edmonds RAMC; WO2 C A Gallagher, Int Corps; Capt E J Hemesley QLR; Lt Col C Hendicott MBE, RE; SSgt G A Hockey, Int Corps; Maj A O G Hoey RLC; WO2 A J Hull AGC (MPS); Sgt A Isherwood AAC; Maj Gen J P Kiszely MC, late SG; Spr C J Mann RE; Maj P A Pendlebury RE; Brig B P Plummer, late RWF; Lt Col P A Pratley MBE, R Signals; Lt Col N H Rollo RE; Sgt M A Smith QLR; Lt Col C W Tadler RA; Maj A B Woods AGC (ETS).

Miscellaneous

MBE

CSgt M R J Courtneil, Para.

MiD

WO2 C B Matthews RA.

QCVS

Lt G I Bradley RA; Capt H A B Holt IG; CSgt D M Smith, Coldm Gds; Maj R J E Williams, Para.

Brigade breaks mould to exercise in Scotland



Top shots: Cpl Richie Vallance, Lt Steve Lodge, Cpl Jason Wheatley and Cpl Dave Cannon

Airmen steal the show at NISAAM

CRACK shots from 5 Regiment, Army Air Corps based in Northern Ireland carried off a large chunk of the prizes at the Province's Skill-at-Arms meeting.

A talented five-man team competed in the Minor Unit iron sight category, winning the pistol team championship, the team snap, the FIBUA team, the MMTR match, the Minor Units Roupell Cup and the rifle match.

Not surprisingly, the airmen – two from 5 Regiment and three from the unit's REME attachment – were crowned champion Minor Unit.

Individual prizes were awarded to Cpl Jason Wheatley (REME), who won the MMTR iron sight, and Cpl Richie Vallance

(REME), winner of the Northern Ireland unit pistol competition.

Vallance and Wheatley also finished second and third in both the FIBUA iron sight and the individual Champion at Arms, and ranked highly in the General Officer Commanding's XII.

Team captain Lt Steve Lodge AAC commented: "The guys did extremely well and worked hard together and as individuals. We did not get the chance to practise as a full team due to commitments, so it was quite an achievement to win as much as we did, especially as we were using iron sights."

"We all enjoyed the competition and I was very proud to be captain of such an excellent team."



Pte Derek Gray, surrounded by colleagues from the 3rd Battalion, The Cheshire Regiment shooting team, was awarded the Best Young Soldier title at the Army Skill-at-Arms

meeting in Liverpool. His team went away with a cabinet's worth of individual and team trophies, including best rifle team, best light machine-gun team and best overall team.

WHEN Territorial Army troops from Northern Ireland-based 107 Brigade deployed on a major exercise to Scotland's west coast, it was the first time in 33 years that it had undertaken such an ambitious project.

Exercise Eagles Fire involved more than 1,600 soldiers, nearly 450 vehicles, two Chinook helicopters, Scimitar recce vehicles and the assistance of Regular units from England and Scotland as well as cadets.

The main contingent crossed from Larne and Belfast on commercial ferries to Stranraer and Cairnryan. Deploying troops on a large scale was the main aim of the exercise but Brig Alasdair Wilson, Commander 107 Bde, said he was also concerned that units should appreciate their role in a wider context.

"Our aim was to train individual units but do it in an all-arms environment so they could see how other units operate, and that has been a tremendous success," he said. "It's vitally important and it is something we don't get enough of these days."

"Each unit is well trained in its individual capabilities and skills, but what they don't see often enough is formation exercise at brigade level or even above, so we have to take every opportunity to get them together. On this weekend everyone saw everyone else operating and learned from it."

Brig Wilson was impressed by his troops' professional attitude and flexibility. "They only had about six hours



Pictures: Paul Taylor

A soldier from the North Irish Horse on the edge of an exercise minefield keeps a sharp eye out for the enemy during Eagles Fire on the west coast of Scotland

to shake down, but by then all the units had knitted together and were working as they should.

"I have to say that for a Regular Army brigade going out on exercise for a week or two weeks, it would probably take four or five days to shake down. These TA

guys have to do it a lot faster than that."

Col Mervyn Elder, Deputy Commander 107 Bde, added that the exercise would not have been possible without the co-operation of Scottish landowners. "We have an excellent relationship with them. We very much rely on their goodwill and



On the road: A youngster compares bikes with a driver from 211 Squadron RLC (V)

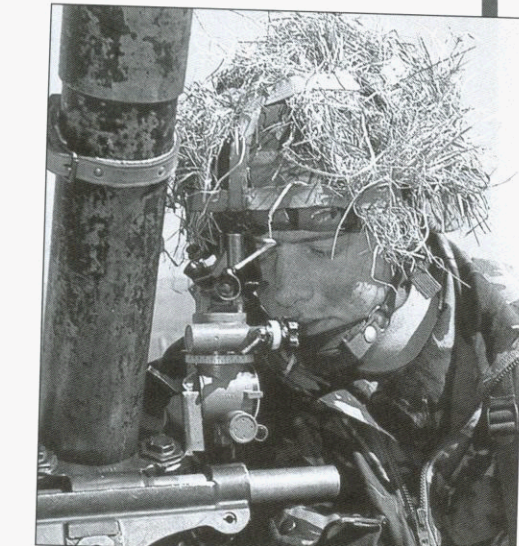


Pte Katherine Caine, 66 Sqn, 40 Ulster Signals Regt, at her post

appreciate their helpfulness," he said.

Cadets from Scotland acted as casualties and came in for much praise. One officer commented that they were invaluable in large-scale exercises.

Without them 253 Field Ambulance and the medics would have struggled to reap much benefit from the exercise. Cadets from the Glasgow and Lanarkshire, Lothian and Borders were among those taking part.



LCpl Dominic Veal, (A Coy) 3 (V) BW, was a member of a mortar detachment

Soldiers' stress is nothing new

IT'S NOT often I use this space to recommend a book, but one has landed on my desk which, I think, makes a valuable contribution to the debate about soldiers and stress. It's called *Shell Shock* and its author, Anthony Babington, takes a long view of the effects of combat on soldiers.

He quotes historical sources, including Herodotus writing about the Battle of Marathon in 490 BC. "... an Athenian, Epizelus, while fighting in the medley, and behaving valiantly, was deprived of his sight, though wounded in no part of his body, nor struck from a distance; and continued to be blind from that time for the remainder of his life."



Cari's column

Over the centuries, a succession of physicians described the same collection of symptoms exhibited by soldiers suffering what we now call post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), or what used to be called battle fatigue, among other names.

Symptoms ranged from emotional and mental problems to severe physical manifestations, such as paralysis, gastric disorders, heart problems and, in the most extreme cases, unexplained death.

Soldiers involved in the American Civil War suffered badly. Some physicians attributed their stress to being separated from their wives and families. Others suggested that the main sufferers were young men with active imaginations.

As the years went by, understanding of links between stress and severe physical symptoms became clearer. Soldiers returning from the First World War exhibited a bewildering range of

ailments – including those which had first been recognised 2,000 years previously. By 1941, many civil and military psychiatrists in the USA were agreed that it was possible to identify men with a pre-disposition to mental instability. They suggested that men in this category should not be recruited – thus saving at least 50 per cent of the casualties.

As it transpired, the examinations of medical histories of potential recruits were frequently cursory, but it laid the foundations for the United States military's very efficient system of dealing with the consequences of stress and trauma.

Since the Second World War, British soldiers have had to deal with conflicts all over the world and the incidence of PTSD is, says Anthony Babington, higher than ever. Some might say, he claims, soldiers of today are less selfless and less resolute than their forebears. Others might say that they are more conscious "of the imbecile futility of war".

The reason I believe this book is so important is that it places PTSD in an historical context, and demonstrates two important principles. First, it shows that there are strong links between severe physical disorders and psychological disturbance. Second, the material gathered by Anthony Babington illustrates that PTSD is no new fad invented by a mollycoddled generation.

Shell Shock is published in hardback by Leo Cooper.

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

Catering for all training tastes

GIBRALTAR Garrison Catering Warrant Officer, WO1 Bob Woodhouse, has been cooking up a busy time as civilian stewards and chefs for the Tri-Service Catering Platoon – formed last July – received their training.

"Having arrived in Gibraltar in October 1996, I spent time looking around to see what facilities were available here, and what size a task I had been set," he explained.

"After weighing up the situation and the number of personnel that required training, it was decided that it would be easier to bring

steward training to Gibraltar than try to send the stewards back to the Steward Training Wing at the Army School of Catering in Aldershot."

Then WO2 Woodhouse had to persuade the budget-holder to fund flights for instructors to travel to Gibraltar – and convince the school's Chief Instructor, Lt Col Duncan Robertson RLC, that it was not a "jolly in the sun" for a couple of his instructors.

As a result, Gwen Grace and Tony Cockerton were sent to the Rock for two weeks to carry out the training. The intensive theoretical



Col John Kirby (fourth left) with Marlborough Club committee, club and Naafi personnel in Jim Sweeney's "personal" bar

DURING his two-year tenure as the Garrison Sergeant Major Rhine Area Support Unit in Rheindahlen, ex-WO1 (GSM), now Capt Jim Sweeney RA certainly made his mark.

But he could never have dreamed that his hard efforts in engineering a much-needed refurbishment within the Marlborough Club Naafi complex would result in the bar being named after himself.

Recognising the facility's potential – it is so popular that serving personnel travel from as far afield as Paderborn and Belgium to attend the three nightly discos held each week – he set about the task of organising the re-vamp.

The result, a new bar based on an Irish theme, took five weeks to complete.

Tasked with finding a suitable name, the club committee – all junior NCOs from the garrison – were adamant that "Sweeney's" was not only apt but, more importantly, a fitting tribute to the man

Best bar none?

himself and his sterling work on the project.

Capt Sweeney was asked to attend and open the facility, but unfortunately his new regiment was in the Hebrides. In his absence, Col John Kirby, Commander Rhine Area Support Unit, did the honours on his behalf by unveiling a commemorative plaque.

All that remains now is for Jim to return and visit "his" bar.

Ap-peal for members

THE recently re-formed Army Guild of Bellringers is looking for new members.

Membership is open to anyone who is or was a full- or part-time member of the Army and its auxiliary services at any time.

Details on the guild, which was originally formed in 1959 and disbanded in 1970, from Connie Baron, tel 0181 428 1332.

and practical course, covering all aspects of stewarding, was held in the officers' mess.

Feedback from officers attending a function night proved that the training was a resounding success and standards extremely high.

The two instructors worked extremely hard for the fortnight, carrying out the training to a very high professional standard, and the students, who were of Gibraltarian and Moroccan nationality, thoroughly enjoyed the course, working well as a team, said WO2 Woodhouse.

Switched-on Alan saves thousands

A SIMPLE system to conserve Army batteries, devised by SSgt Alan Van Eker, is set to save the taxpayer thousands of pounds.

Alan, of Rheindahlen-based Support Battalion HQ Allied Command Europe Rapid Reaction Corps, has been awarded £100 by the MoD – and may be in line for further financial recognition.

Tens of thousands of PRC (Personal Radio Communications) 349 batteries are in use with the Army's communication systems and are regularly exposed to the worst the elements can offer.

The terminals corrode and the batteries – costing £28.40 each – are written off.

Alan's suggestion that the battery contact, screw and washer be replaced at a cost of £7.42 for a set of two (a saving of around £21 for

each battery) was accepted by the Army.

Potential savings are enormous, and the battery life has been considerably extended.

The MoD Award Group decided that the suggestion deserved special recognition in the form of Alan's £100. But more than that: they were so impressed that they have referred the idea to a higher authority for further investigation.

So a bigger award could now be in the offing for Alan, whose commanding officer, Lt Col Charlie Darrell, said: "It is essential that we all get the best possible use out of Army equipment, to make every penny count."

"SSgt Van Eker deserves special praise for his initiative in coming up with a simple idea that will save considerable sums of taxpayers' money."

The award scheme is designed to encourage suggestions that will save the department and the Armed Services money and



SSgt Alan Van Eker shows off his certificate and cash reward – together with some of the PRC 349 batteries which led to receiving them

resources and improve efficiency, with those making worthwhile suggestions being rewarded for their efforts.

Open (learning) house in Germany

IN keeping with its role of providing education and training for Services personnel, 34 Army Education Centre at JHQ in Rheindahlen held a Learning at Work open day last month.

It was the main promotional day in Adult Learners Week, a United Kingdom-wide event which brings together employers, learners, policy-makers, broadcasters and providers of education in a festival of learning for adults.

The staff of 34 AEC, unique within Germany for its participation in the event, invited personnel and dependants to call into the education centre on the day in question.

A variety of stalls, displays and teaching areas provided information on the interactive learning centre and facility, adult education classes, basic numeracy and literacy courses, language classes

and soldiers' and officers' education.

There were also opportunities to obtain information on individual education and resettlement training, including National Vocational Qualifications, Open University and correspondence courses.

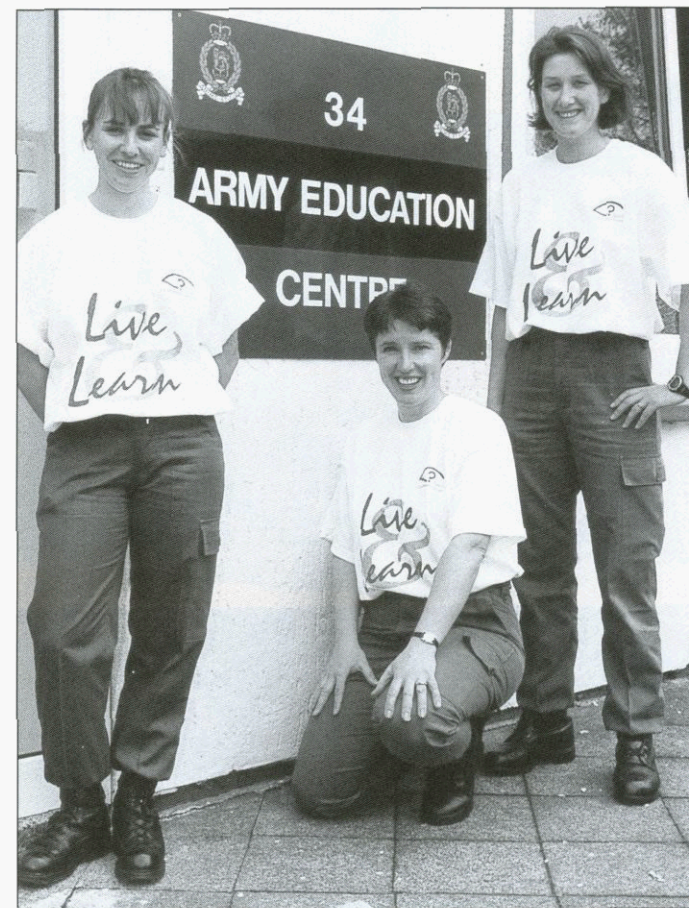
Another attraction to visitors was the chance to try out the BBC CD-ROM, which accompanies the Computers Don't Bite campaign – run in tandem with Adult Learners Week – which aims to introduce individuals with no IT experience to the world of computers.

Attention, officers

MEMBERSHIP of the Officers' Pensions Society (OPS), standing at 55,000, is open to all retired officers of the Armed Forces, wives and husbands of serving and retired officers, and officers' widows and widowers and dependants.

Officers on the Active List reaching the age of 50, in the last three years of service, or warned for redundancy may also be admitted.

Write to Membership Secretary, The Officers' Pensions Society, 68, South Lambeth Road, Vauxhall, London SW8 1RL or tel 0171 820 9988, fax 9948.



Come on in: Capt Michelle Claridge, Maj Helen Wildman and 2nd Lt Kelly Holloway say welcome to 34 AEC Open Day

Expect a fire-filled finish at Earls Court

GRAND finale to this year's British Army-led Royal Tournament (Earls Court, July 15-27) will feature fireworks and pyrotechnic special effects, incorporating the 1812 Overture and Spanish "mascleta" – fireworks to rhythmic explosions and percussion.

These and other promised fiery attractions,

such as the show's opening celebration of artillery and the power of modern forces, are highly appropriate, with the finale being sponsored for the eleventh consecutive year by Royal Ordnance.

Tickets, price £5, £11.50, £19 and £25 (Royal Enclosure), are available from the Earls Court box office on 0171 244 0244.



Accident General's Corps?

Getting a pat on the back from the Commandant of the Army Training Regiment Winchester were these Phase 1 training recruits, who acted swiftly when they wit-

nessed a serious road traffic accident as they were taking part in a navigation training exercise in the area.

All members of the Adjutant General's

Corps, the women (left to right Rcts **Dance, Mockrell, Graham, Goode and Kelleher**) took charge of the incident, treated a casualty and directed traffic to avoid further danger. Their conduct was commended to the commandant by LCpl **Simon Hoskin**, a military clerk at Worthy Down's School of Employment Training.



Pictures: Sgt Ian Liptrot, HQ London District

Musical merits

Accolade of being named best junior musician of all five bands in the Household Division this year went to flute player Mus **Darren Hardy**, Coldm Gds, who was accepted into the regiment's band only last year. With him are Mus **David Wyatt**, Irish Guards (left), runner-up to him for the 1997 Musician of the Year, and third-placed Mus **Geoffrey Baxter**, also Coldm Gds.

Equally delighted with the award he received was Dmr **Kenneth Harkness**, F Coy, Scots Guards (inset), who can truly claim that perseverance pays. He won the Silver Bugle competition, for the best bugler in the Household Division, after trying unsuccessfully since 1993.

Howe shows how

LCpl **Craig Howe**, Infantry Recruiting Team, demonstrates a Milan to Gurkha recruits at Church Crookham, Hampshire. The team's visit gave the young soldiers the opportunity to handle and inspect weapons from both the British and overseas armies.

Picture: Terry Champion



Quite Possibly Recruits?

The result (a 6-1 defeat for the Army men) was almost immaterial when the Queen's Park Rangers youth team played a match against the Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment in London.

Earlier, the youngsters had been shown round the HCMR's Hyde Park barracks as part of a campaign by the regiment, which has written to all London football clubs with the suggestion that those young men who sign, but do not make the professional league grade, might consider an Army career instead.

Whether or not the QPR youth team contained any potential mounted trooper only time will tell, but those helping them to enjoy the day included CoH **Paul Patternotte**, LG (bottom right), scorer of the single HCMR goal, LCpl **Phil Lythe**, LG (above him) and, to his left, Tpr **Rob Ingham**, also LG.



Picture: Bob Higson, HQ London District



BREATH-TAKING!

Proof that the staff of the Joint Service Parachute Centre in Bad Lippspringe, Germany, take their military training very seriously is provided here, as instructors SSgt **Paul Worthing**, QRL and Cpl **David Openshaw**, 2 LI, complete their ATD4 (NBC) training somewhere over Sennelager Ranges - complete with respirators.

Picture: Cpl John Bishop, A and SH

Haydn in the clouds

Twenty-five years as a chaplain to the Forces were marked in spectacular style for the Rev **Haydn Jones** as he took to the air in a Gazelle helicopter - a surprise treat to mark his retirement.

Although he had never flown in a helicopter before, the Rev Jones, Assistant Chaplain General for York-based 2nd Division, accompanied the crew on a training flight.

He was delighted to find that their flight path took them over York Minster...



Picture: Chris Barker

PEOPLE

Dad's Army...



It's a case of "like father, like son" at Hull Army Careers Information Office as recruiting officer Capt **Rip Wilson** signs up his off-spring, **Leevy**, who was destined for Bassingbourn to join the Royal Signals.

And, at the formation parade of 254 Provost Company (Volunteers) in Holywood, County Down (inset), it was more a case of "like father, like daughter" as LCpl **Michelle Cameron** was pictured with dad, Capt **Peter Hunt** (the company's PSAO) and husband LCpl **Derek Cameron**.



Country practice

Report and pictures: Paul Barnard

A FIFTEEN-mile walk to the doctor in blazing temperatures is routine for the nomadic tribes of Kenya, as 120 medics from Germany discovered during a four-week deployment to Kenya.

Exercise Sharp Point 97, led by 2 Armoured Field Ambulance from Osnabruck, was designed to support the Kenyan health ministry's programme of immunisation, and, with local aid agencies, to provide primary health care.

It was the third year that the exercise had been run, and CO Lt Col Jeremy Rowan set his medical teams the ambitious target of treating 5,000 cases during a 21-day period.

Soldiers from Osnabruck were enhanced by other Germany-based medics and logistic support staff.

After flying in to Nairobi, most travelled for 14 hours through the bush to Samburu province and the vast, arid plains and blast-furnace heat of the Rift Valley. Base camp was established at Lesirikan, from where sections deployed for up to seven days at a stretch.

The rest of the party deployed south from Nairobi to the Magadi area near the border with Tanzania.

Maj Bob McFaulds and his team had the mammoth task of ensuring the two remote locations were resupplied almost daily. Onset of the rains added to the problems, washing



Capt Jo Cooke with a small patient away dirt roads and trapping vehicles in mud.

Each section, led by a captain, was made up of 14 personnel. They set up surgeries each day, which, thanks to the "bush telegraph", attracted long queues as soon as they opened.

The medics beat their targets, logging more than 11,000 vaccinations and 10,000 primary care treatments.



A mobile section in the bush in Samburu province

Editor who scooped world

JOHN GROVE, a former editor of *Soldier* who as one of its first uniformed reporters scooped the world with Second World War "secrets" revealed for the first time, has died at the age of 82.

In the immediate postwar years John used his innate reporting skills to break previously untold stories, such as the existence of Britain's irregular forces. Other *Soldier* exclusives included details of the Nazis' wartime plans to invade Britain.

A pre-war reporter on the *Middlesex Chronicle*, John was an obvious choice for the uniformed staff of the embryo *Soldier*,

joining its editorial team as a captain-reporter in 1945.

Later he was the magazine's local editor in Hamburg for seven years before becoming editor proper from 1957-62.

His Hamburg colleague for six years, former prisoner-of-war Karl-Heinz Bottger, writes: "My wife and I will never forget the years of co-operation and friendship in Hamburg when I - as a former 'adversary' in war - was taken up as a friend."

John Grove retired in 1975 as Controller of Publications for the Post Office. His funeral took place on May 9.

"WHEN entering the territory of an offender . . . do not hunt over the rice fields or damage the earth-works. Do not burn houses or cut down trees. Do not seize domestic animals or grain or agricultural implements.

"Where you find old people or children, allow them to go home unharmed, and do not antagonise even able-bodied men if they do not challenge you. And see that the enemy wounded have medical treatment."

In short, "maintain the infrastructure". Ssu Ma Jang Chu gave these rules of conduct to the Chinese army around 500BC.

At the end of the Second World War the massive structural rebuild of Europe, which was already under way, kicked into a higher gear.

A civil affairs department had been raised by the War Office to follow the military into Europe and recreate the civilian infrastructure, establish legal systems, reopen schools, and rebuild government. Individuals were recruited to task: from legal specialists to civil engineers.

This was not a new concept. District officers had been in India for some time and civil affairs officers could be found in Africa during the Boer War.

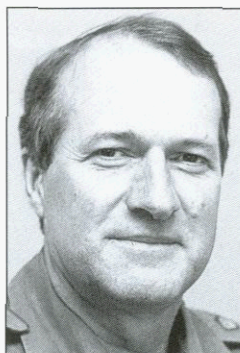
Details of civil-military operations had been recorded in Malaya, Aden, and most of the colonies. Once their job was done they were allowed to return to their civilian occupations.

The Gulf War was the epitome of hi-tech, computerised warfare. The destruction of the infrastructure was as important as the destruction of the army.

The United States of America, which had not disbanded its own civil affairs department after the Second World War, sent its teams to Kuwait to assist and advise in the rebuilding of the country. As a direct result, the majority of the most important civilian contracts were awarded to the US.

In 1995, Armed Forces Minister Nicholas Soames visited Bosnia-Herzegovina. Noting that operations had ceased to be compartmentalised military affairs, he identified the need for a group of civil-military specialists who could assess an area and produce a requirement, a solution, and a list of the resources required.

Aware of the involvement of non-gov-



Lt Col Peter Haywood-Bromfield, CO CAG



Territorial Army officers of the Civil Affairs Group come from a wide range of regiments and corps, reflected here in the different cap badges

A very civilised affair

ernment organisations - Oxfam, International Red Cross, Save the Children, and many

other voluntary bodies, the new group would concentrate on re-establishing the basics: food, water, shelter, public utilities, human health in built-up areas, and animal health in rural areas.

An army feasibility study was carried out in June 1996 and the Civil Affairs Group was given the go-ahead to recruit.

"Public utilities engineers, environmental health officers, doctors, vets, nurses. We were looking for highly qualified, highly motivated, individuals. Military experience was not a necessity," explained Lt Col Peter Haywood-Bromfield, the Regular Army CO of the Civil Affairs Group based at CVHQ RE, Gibraltar Barracks in Hampshire.

"More than 520 people applied and sat a series of psychometric exercises. As a result, 42 were selected for the group," he added.

"The operations manager of Newcastle Metro, vets, air-traffic controllers, former senior policemen, electrical and hydro engineers . . . the quality was of the very highest," said Maj Dennis Westaway, SO2 Civil Affairs.

Lt Col Haywood-Bromfield explained the research that had gone into the formation of the group.

"The Americans lead the field in the civil

**Report: Chris Kinsville-Heyne
Pictures: Terry Champion
and Mike Weston**

affairs world and we were keen not to waste time re-inventing the wheel. We looked at the US Army peacekeeping institute in Carlisle, Pennsylvania; the government-run research and development think tank, RAND, in Washington DC; the US civil affairs department at Fort Bragg; and the control aspect at the Pentagon. We learned a lot in a very short space of time," he said.

"We were very impressed with the Cell for Army Lessons Learned - CALL - which has all the information from every US operation stored on computer. We can access it via the Internet."

There is a strong emphasis on the use of information technology for planning. CD-ROM and Internet are everyday tools, although the military skills still have to be taught or re-learned by the civil affairs officers.

The familiar use of an estimate, albeit with different headings, and use of the orders process, will allow the civil affairs teams to dovetail with the formation they are attached to.

"We would see nine teams of four available for attachment to formations with the staff officers at CVHQ RE. In addition, a number of experienced officers have

formed the civil affairs group (Supplementary pool), a consultative team who can provide additional input and can network for a solution to a problem at the cutting edge of industry in support of the teams on the ground," added Maj Westaway.

The location is no accident. The presence of 720 Royal Engineers forming the CVHQ military workforce provides for an ideal synergy.

Lt Col Haywood-Bromfield summed up: "The group will be operational by October 1, 1997, with sufficient people and skills to support a division in the field."

"The Regulars are available as a deployable recce element as of now, providing the commander with details of language, customs, staple diet, everything a commander needs to know before going into an area."

"It is tremendously exciting and the group is looking forward to playing its part."

To quote again: "The well-being of the people equally with the well-being of the Army requires a common sympathy and a common interest between them."

The words of Maj Gen John Pope to the veterans of the Army of the Tennessee more than 100 years ago hold true for the members of the new Civil Affairs Group today.



Maj Dennis Westaway, the SO2

Have Rapier,

will travel

IT WAS of course only an exercise, but the notional threat of air attack on the north western isles of Scotland tested the 16th Regiment, Royal Artillery, as it had never been tested before.

Exercise Spring Challenge, the deployment to Benbecula and Uist, which lasted throughout April, was designed to be a realistic trial for the gunners' latest weapon, Rapier Field Standard C (FSC). The state-of-the-art air defence system had not previously been tested in the field, and the gunners, experienced on computer simulators, were looking forward to laying their hands on the real thing.

First, however, they had to get to the Hebrides, with rather a lot of kit; not only the freshly camouflaged new missiles, but also their mobile workshops, supplies and units of the '80s-vintage Tracked Rapier that still equip two of the four batteries.

Because this was to be a regimental scale deployment, played out against a scenario of increasing tension and eventual war, the gunners had to do it using their own vehicles, on public roads and ferries.

"It may sound like just going on exercise," said Lt Col Nigel Philpott, 16 Regiment's commanding officer, from his headquarters on Benbecula, "but it was in itself a very realistic aspect of the operation. In war we might well have to deploy independently. Now we know we can do that."

A meticulously detailed plan ensured that the 250 vehicles packed with soldiers did not cause motorway jams, or, worse, result in 400 gunners simultaneously ordering cups of tea in the same roadside Little Chef.

The deployment took less than a week, and only the vagaries of the Western Isles' climate briefly threatened its smooth completion. The Hebridean ferry had been loaded with vehicles for one of the many crossings when it was suddenly hit by force ten winds.

With mooring lines snapping, the ship made a rapid exit from port, leaving all but one of the drivers still on shore. During the

stormy two-hour crossing, the hapless exception, the only one to clamber aboard, became violently seasick. When the ferry reached Benbecula, he was not in a fit state to help drive the vehicles ashore.

It could be said that 16 Regt went from road test to missile-fest. Within days of arrival on Benbecula, the Rapier units began an intensive series of launches, simulating the consolidation and exercise phase that would precede an actual outbreak of hostilities.

LAST FIRING

No fewer than 156 missiles were fired from both FSC and tracked Rapier, for which (barring some unexpected crisis) it was the weapon's last firing.

The regiment's 2iC, Maj Tony Hacon, said he would be sorry to say goodbye to Tracked Rapier – "a good old war-horse".



"It's like driving a new Porsche." Gnr Melanie Burn was the first woman soldier to fire Rapier Field Standard C

But he was impressed by FSC.

"This new system," he said, while watching another launch from a concrete bunker on the missile range, "is a quantum leap in capability. Other Rapier systems were evolutionary, but this is revolutionary."

At first glance, it appears that the system, based on three lorry-towed trailers, must sacrifice the mobility of Tracked Rapier, but, according to Maj Hacon, that is not a major concern.

"Any tactical battlefield mobility that we may lose by abandoning tracks for wheels is more than made up for by the other abilities of this new kit."

So how revolutionary is FSC?

Very. It can track up to 30 distant targets, and prioritise them for destruction. Then, using radar, thermal or optical systems, it can fire multiple missiles at independent targets, which may be fixed-wing aircraft, helicopters or even cruise missiles. And all of this can be put in place by a team of six soldiers within minutes of arrival in a threatened area.

It all added up to kit which generated a lot of excitement among its operators.

"It's like driving a new Porsche," said elated Gnr Melanie Burn. All of the operators on Spring Challenge seemed to share that thrill, but, as the first woman to fire the weapon, hers was special: "All eyes were on me," said Gnr Burn, the excitement evident in her face despite several layers of camouflage cream. "But my missile tracked well, and I got a technical hit."

Technical hits – detonations less than three metres from the target – are preferred. The remotely-controlled target planes are each worth £120,000, so bull's-eyes are expensive.

During Spring Challenge, most of the missiles launched were controlled by optical means – the trusted "mark-one eyeball". It demanded cool nerves and steady hands. Even so, about 80 per cent of firings were technical hits.

The achievement of Gnr Paul Mills was, therefore, greeted with admiration by his mates.

Gnr Mills, a command post signaller, became the first member of the regiment to achieve a direct hit



Above: Swan-song for tracks. Barring an unforeseen crisis, Tracked Rapier was fired for the last time during Exercise Spring Challenge on Benbecula
Inset: RAF Chinooks deployed for tactical movements of Field Standard C

during the exercise, when the fully-fuelled target aircraft was captured in his sights, and exploded in a ball of flame. He was honoured with an engraved trophy made from the tail fin.

"I've been a bit of a hero since," he said with a grin that seemed indelible.

"Between the missile and the target plane, I just destroyed £150,000 worth of kit. It makes up for every weekend duty I've ever had to do."

While Gnr Mills enjoyed his fame, Lt Col Philpott was planning the next phase of the exercise, which would involve tactical battery movements using Chinook helicopters, and simulated attacks by RAF Tornados and Harriers.

Reflecting on the value of the new weapons under his control, and the responsibility that it places on the men and women of his regiment, he said: "Each detachment – that's a launcher, radar and control unit – is worth £30 million. When we have exchanged the last of our Tracked Rapier for FSC, we will have £720 million-worth of equipment, making us the most expensive unit in the Army. But it's worth it because FSC is simply a world beater.

"Mind you," added the colonel, "it's quite awesome being tasked to take it on the road."



Thar she glows! Brig Mark Douglas-Withers, Director RA, watches a Rapier FSC missile track its target



A Tracked Rapier crew from 16 Regiment on Benbecula with the old missile system now being replaced by the more sophisticated Field Standard C version

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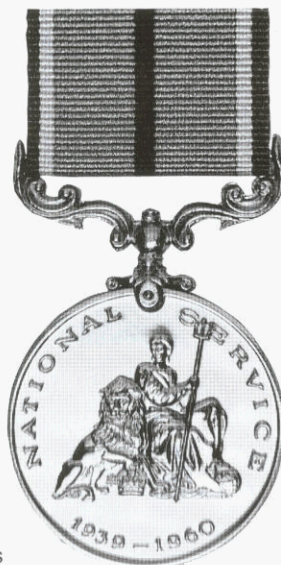
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SPECIAL SERIES PART ONE

IN a simple, dramatic, and colourful celebration before an invited audience of 10,000 between 6 pm and sunset on June 30, Britain will mark the end of its 156-year sovereignty over Hong Kong.

By one second past midnight on July 1, the People's Republic of China will have accepted the handover in a separate ceremony in the nearby waterfront convention centre. Most of the British garrison will by then have left by jumbo jet, having been fer-

ried across the harbour to Kai Tak airport. Soon the Prince of Wales, representing the Queen; the outgoing Governor, Chris Patten; and others including the remaining officers, men and women of the British Military Garrison, will also have left by sea and air.

In a series of three special sections starting with this issue, *Soldier* tells the story of the Hong Kong garrison, past, present and future.



SPECTACULAR SWANSONG

IT HAS been called the Parade of the Decade - the British Farewell Celebration to be held on the waterfront in Hong Kong on June 30.

But the much-heralded event, coupled with the joint handover ceremony around the midnight hour as the minutes tick away into July 1, is fast attracting so many superlatives and so much world interest that a more fitting description might be the Show of the Century.

It's certainly a spectacular swansong in the Army career of the Garrison Sergeant Major, WO1 Vince Bell, Coldm Gds, who is only too well aware of the estimated £3 billion real-estate value of the parade ground, reclaimed from the old Tamar basin.

"The East Tamar site is probably the most expensive parade ground in the world; it's only going to be used once; and it's mine," said the man responsible for the military element of the handover ceremonies.

GSM Bell is no stranger to the task. He has been organising parades since 1989, when he had more than a passing role in Trooping the Colour.

His first task on his arrival in Hong Kong in April 1995 was to produce the parade for the 50th anniversary of the colony's Liberation Day.

"That was the biggest spectacle Hong Kong had seen for many years," he recalled. "There were more than 2,000 men on parade, including the Armed Forces, the disciplinary and auxiliary services and the veterans."

Since then he has gained a few more notches on his belt. The disbandment parades for Queen's Gurkha Engineers, 50 Hong Kong Workshop, the Hong Kong Military Service Corps; the closure of RAF Sek Kong and the departure of 1st Battalion Royal Gurkha Rifles were all products of his fertile imagination - paying due regard, of course, to protocol.



WO1 GSM Vince Bell with feet firmly planted on the £3 billion East Tamar parade ground that he "owns" - until June 30

He has used each of the occasions to try out ideas for the final parade. The man who describes "drill" as his favourite hobby explained: "I have three 'bibles'. The Queen's Regulations, Ceremonial for the Army and the Basic Drill Manual all set out some guidelines and some hard-and-fast

• This story by Lynne Shiels, JSPRS Hong Kong. Other articles in this special feature were written by Chris Horrocks and John Elliott

rules. I go through these and then, in consultation with the commanding officer, I put together a parade to suit the occasion."

On the wall of his office is a scale model of the parade ground to be used for the British farewell celebration, with paper cut-outs representing the number of people who will be present in the various guards of honour and bands.

"It's accurate to the last centimetre," he said. "I need to know exactly how much space I have to ensure that the movements I've included are possible."

"The trick is to make the parade as spectacular as possible, but keep it as simple as I can, bearing in mind that we will only have two weeks to rehearse."

He would have liked longer, he says, pointing out that rehearsals for Trooping the Colour begin some two-and-a-half months before the day.

Nevertheless, he is completely confident that the parade will be fully up to his demanding standards.

WO1 Bell, who joined the Coldstream Guards at the age of 15 straight from school in 1972, and has served in Northern Ireland and Bosnia among other places, retires from the Army on June 30 - immediately after the final parade - and, he says, is "open to offers" for a second career. Meanwhile he is making sure of a spectacular swansong.

"If we were to ask for volunteers to take part, we'd be trampled in the rush," he pointed out.

"This is the sort of event we'll be able to boast about to our grandchildren in 20 years' time. This in itself is enough to ensure that those who are taking part will give of their best and that we leave Hong Kong in a solemn and dignified manner."

MILITARY MILESTONES

Significant dates in the lifetime of the British Garrison

1841: British flag first raised on Hong Kong at 0815 on January 26, providing secure base for trading with South China merchants. Maj Gen Charles D'Aguilar the first GOC.

1842: Treaty of Nanking. End of first Opium War. Hong Kong ceded to British in perpetuity and confirmed as free port.

1854: Royal Hong Kong Regiment (The Volunteers) formed when Crimean War cuts British military presence in Hong Kong.

1857: Raising of Canton Commissariat Corps to provide logistic support for British Expeditionary Force during Second China War: first recorded employment of Hong Kong Chinese by British Army.

1860: Britain acquires Kowloon and Stonecutters Island.

1878: Disbanded Volunteers raised again as the Artillery Volunteers.

1880: Hong Kong Chinese serve with Regular British Army unit for first time in newly-raised 40 Fortress Company RE.

1894: Hong Kong awards medal to men of Shropshire Light Infantry, Royal Engineers and RN, plus nurses and civilians, after plague.

1898: China leases New Territories and 235 islands to Britain for 99 years.

1911: Manchu Dynasty overthrown and Chinese republic established. Thousands seek refuge in Hong Kong.

1937: Sino-Japanese War: hundreds of thousands more Chinese refugees. Britain begins strengthening defences. Hong Kong Chinese start training as Regular troops in 22 Company RE.

1941: October: Hong Kong Chinese Regiment formed. December 8: Japanese bomb Hong Kong. Up to 15,000 ground forces dislodge British and Canadian troops from Kowloon and New Territories. December 18-19: Japanese invade Hong Kong island after British refuse to surrender. Christmas Day: Survivors of vastly outnumbered multi-

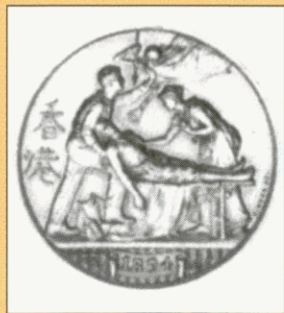
national garrison surrender and are brutally treated, including rape and murder of Stanley nursing sisters. Occupying Japanese forcibly repatriate three-quarters of Chinese population. Later, 140 escaped Hong Kong Chinese form HK Volunteer Company and take part in Burma campaign.

1945: August 14: unconditional surrender of Japan. August 30: Hong Kong liberated.

1946: HKVC returns to Hong Kong to join HK Pioneer Company.

1948: Hong Kong Chinese Training Unit formed.

1949: Communist victory in Chinese civil war, which has caused further huge influx of refugees, continuing into 1950s and 1960s. New labour and money, plus liberal tax policies, result in economic boom.



The bubonic plague medal awarded to British by Hong Kong in 1894

1962: Borders closed to Chinese refugees. HKCTU becomes Hong Kong Military Service Corps, allowing HK Chinese soldiers to pursue full career in British Army.

1967: Communist-inspired riots threaten political stability of colony. Garrison sets up programme to get young people into the countryside at weekends, now an enormously popular pastime.

1971: British withdrawal from Singapore: Hong Kong becomes organisational centre for the Gurkhas, who had fought with the British Army since the early 1800s, and in every major conflict this century. Three battalions – Engineers, Signals and Transport Regiment – based in Hong Kong; a battalion each based in Brunei and England.

Mid-1970s: Increasing flow of refugees from mainland as well as “boat people” from Vietnam.

1975: The 41st Mule Unit, last animal transport unit in British Army, disbands in Hong Kong.

1984: Sino-British agreement for Hong Kong to revert to China as special administrative region in 1997.

1988: Defence Costs Agreement: 65 per cent of garrison cost borne by Hong Kong Government, rest by British.

1989: Tiananmen Square massacre in Beijing follows democracy protests. Sympathy marches in Hong Kong.

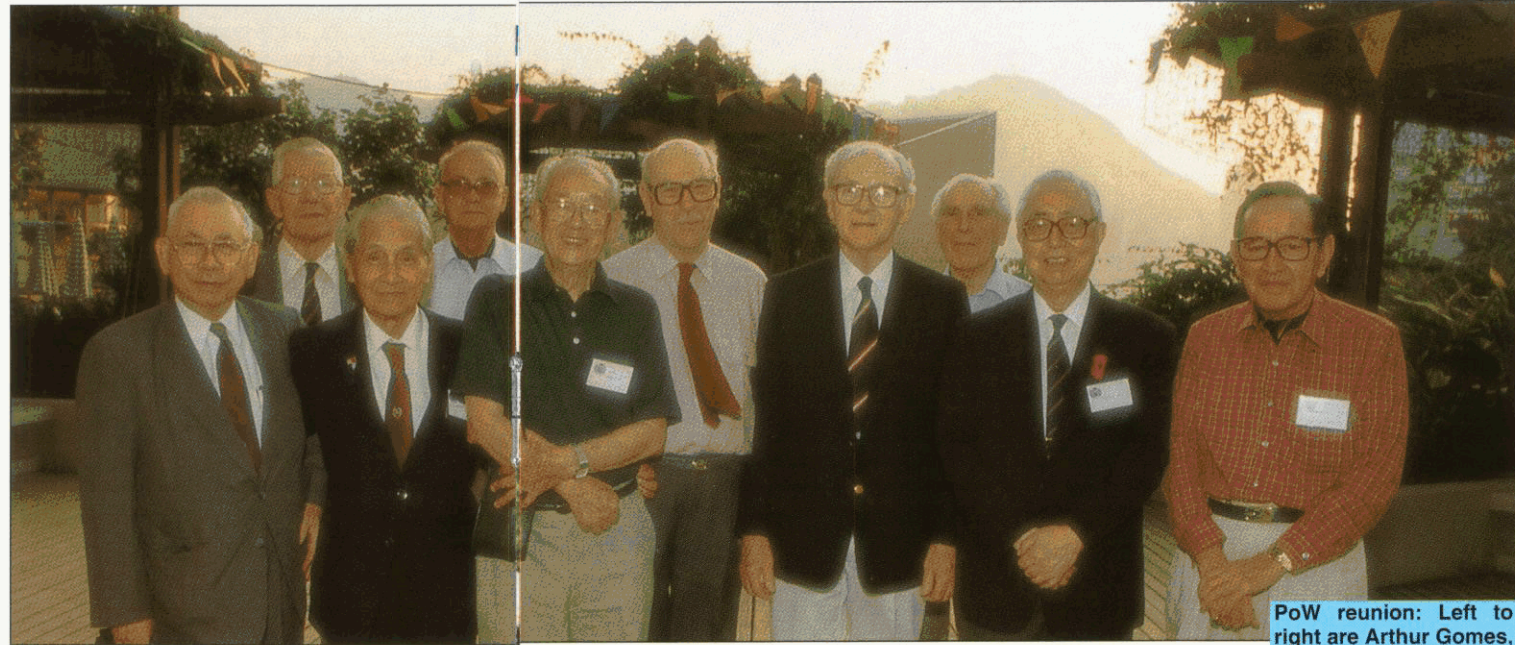
1992: Army hands over border patrols to Hong Kong Police.

1994: Hong Kong Garrison reduced from 9,500 to 3,250. 1st Battalion The Black Watch, last accompanied UK infantry battalion, departs.

1995: September 3: The Royal Hong Kong Regiment (The Volunteers) disbands.

1996: Final phased rundown begins. British families with school-age children go home. November: 1st Battalion Royal Gurkha Rifles, Gurkhas' last accompanied tour, leaves for UK. December: Disbandments of Hong Kong Military Service Corps, 67 Gurkha Indep Fd Sqn QGE, 50 HK Wksp REME. RAF Sek Kong closes. Maj Gen Bryan Dutton becomes first CBF Hong Kong to visit mainland China since Communist takeover in 1949 when he calls on the PLA's future Hong Kong garrison commander, Maj Gen Liu Zhenwu, who later makes return visit to Hong Kong.

1997: 1 BW take over from 1 Staffs as last British infantry battalion in Hong Kong. March: remaining British families withdraw. April: HMS Tamar, symbol of 156-year naval presence, decommissioned at Stonecutters Island. PLA advance party arrives. May: Garrison strength falls to about 1,500. Osborn Barracks, Kowloon, closes. June 30: farewell parade; final withdrawal. July-September: rear party established in UK at Permanent Joint Headquarters, Northwood.



PoW reunion: Left to right are Arthur Gomes, T R Ingram, M C M Silva, A W Rowe, Nick Jaffer, W Macfarlane, J V G Mitchell, H T Bennett, R W C Mok and R A Castro

A brotherhood forged in captivity

ARTHUR GOMES is proud of the group he has brought together in the pleasant surroundings of the vast YMCA, a building which competes with Kowloon's finest hotels in nearby Nathan Street.

Half a century ago he marched this way, in despair, to begin nearly four years of captivity.

The 30 or so elderly men in the room, accompanied by wives and children, are all members of the Hong Kong Prisoners of War Association – all were captured by the Japanese during the Second World War.

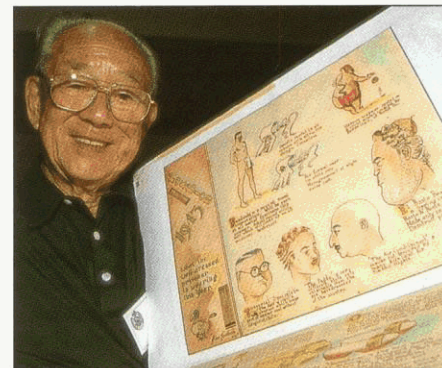
Now a deceptively young 79, Arthur says they have come from Australia, America and the United Kingdom. The occasion is a reunion timed to coincide with Hong Kong's final Remembrance Sunday parade, presided over for the last time by a British governor.

A corporal in the Hong Kong Volunteers when the Japanese overwhelmed the regiment on Christmas Day 1941, Arthur believes his association will survive the change of sovereignty.

“We feel that we will continue because we haven't got a name that annoys them [the Chinese authorities]. It is my intention that we will try and observe Remembrance Day here in future years, if possible on the 11th day of the 11th month.”

Arthur, who lives in Kowloon, was with 18 Platoon, No 5 Company when the Volunteers went on exercise in December 55 years ago. They were under canvas at Kong Hill, not far from the site of the modern Jockey Club, when trucks arrived in the middle of the night. New guns, still packed in grease, were hastily unloaded.

That was a sure sign the situation was



Nick Jaffer with the scrapbook he compiled while in captivity. It includes photographs of Japanese guards snapped secretly on a camera smuggled into the camp

serious . . . the company's exercise weapons had no firing pins. There was enough ammunition for just five belts a gun.

“The order to surrender came by telephone from Command HQ to us at our pill box which covered the approaches to the Kennedy crossroads,” Arthur recalls. “It was Christmas afternoon, about 4 o'clock.”

“We were directed to proceed to St John's Place in Garden Road, where the present American Consulate building now stands, and there to await further orders from the Japanese.”

The Volunteers were marched along Nathan Road to Sham Shui Po Camp, a British Army barracks occupied by soldiers of the Middlesex Regiment. It had been looted and vandalised by the invaders.

It was to be their prison for the next three years and eight months as the Japanese used them as forced labour. The hill on which the Walled City was built, near the

site of what is now Kai Tak airport, was torn away rock by rock and dumped in the harbour. Many were taken away to work in the coal mines of northern Japan.

A strong relationship had developed between the Volunteers and the Middlesex Regiment as both had machine-gun companies. Middlesex officers and instructors were attached to the Volunteers before the war during their training camps in the hills of Fanling near the Colony's border in the New Territories, just a few miles from the Japanese positions.

It was a fellowship which continued in the prison camp. Ron Anderson, Middlesex Regiment, and Arthur Gomes were the librarians of the Sham Shui Po camp when they were not out with working parties.

Arthur still remembers the strength of RSM Fred Jones of the East Surreys. “He kept all our morale up . . . a real pillar of strength.”

Captivity ended on August 16, 1945, when working parties returned from town with news that the war had been won. When their Japanese guards were confronted with a newspaper trumpeting details of Japan's surrender, they admitted it was over. Two days later the Union Flag was flying once more in Hong Kong and the PoWs were marching through the streets in a victory parade.

Of those who survived the hard labour, starvation rations and the incessant beatings, 450 remain in touch through Arthur's association. They have raised a permanent memorial to those they lost on the site of Sham Shui Po camp.

It lies in the children's playground in Kowloon public park.



Old memories of a port of fragrance

Garrison troops and echoes of Empire; trooping at Stanley, walls battle-marked still. Victoria's Murray Barracks and the pomp of Flagstaff and Governor's House guard-mounting. Rumours of reinforcement as the dragon stirred.

New Territories now and the old stables at Fan Ling, our billet of concrete and vermin. TaiPo, MaiPo, SanWai, LoWoo, Sacred Hill and more. ShaTaukok to LokMaChau and TokaLing in the rain.

Ringworm, prickly heat, dysentery, bites and parasites. Sometime weekend relief at the welcoming Fleet Club.

Concern for expatriates in Shanghai and Tientsin.

Operation Sealion, in and out with the tides. HM Cruisers *Sussex*, *London* and *Belfast*, each absorbing, in their turn, the regiment. Heavily encumbered, would we fit? Would we go? Not for us the full journey, but the matelots went.

Forty-two dead and more than that wounded. To St John's Cathedral on Friday, April 29: “A service to the memory of those who lost their lives in the Yangtse River on April 20-21, 1941 from HM Ships *London*, *Consort* and *Amethyst*.”

The Yangtse Incident was over and the dead eulogised. I remember them still. – Cpl Donald Atkinson, 1st Buffs, Hong Kong 1948-49.

Life was like that

The early morning sound of the bugler as he blew *Reveille* . . . beautiful sunrises and the smell of smoke from the fires in the cookhouse.

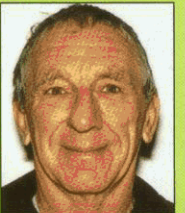
Weekly marches across flooded paddy fields to spend hours strengthening the D Company gun pits on the hillside overlooking the road pass to Sek Kong airfield.

RSM's Saturday morning drill parades on the dusty airstrip, and the laughs directed at our CSM, who, while taking a full company drill parade, disappeared down an open inspection pit.

A week manning an OP at Lok Ma Chau on the Chinese border. That was life in an infantry battalion in Hong Kong. – LCpl Don Bristow, 1st Battalion, The Wiltshire Regiment, New Territories, 1952-53.



Donald Atkinson



Don Bristow

Battlefield tourists on the Gin Drinkers' Line

REGENT STREET, Oxford Street, The Strand . . . an exploration of the defensive tunnels of the Shing Mun Redoubt in Hong Kong's New Territories is like a large-scale game of Monopoly.

With the game's capitalist connotations, there is a certain irony as the handover of Hong Kong to the Chinese approaches.

Soldiers of the 1st Battalion the Middlesex Regiment named the tunnels after London thoroughfares to remind them of home as the defences were prepared against the Japanese threat in the mid-to-late 1930s.

The dark, dank, muddy passages were part of a range of installations along the 18km "Gin Drinkers' Line", a reminder of the between-wars lifestyle in the colony.

Fifty-five years after the actual invasion, the tunnels are the object of fascination by battlefield tourists and weekend walkers alike in what is now countryside parkland.

These and hundreds of other concrete reminders of the colony's static defences – pillboxes, bunkers, searchlight positions and buildings which survived – are still to be found in strategic positions all over the mainland and islands of Hong Kong.

British, Canadian, Chinese, and Indian

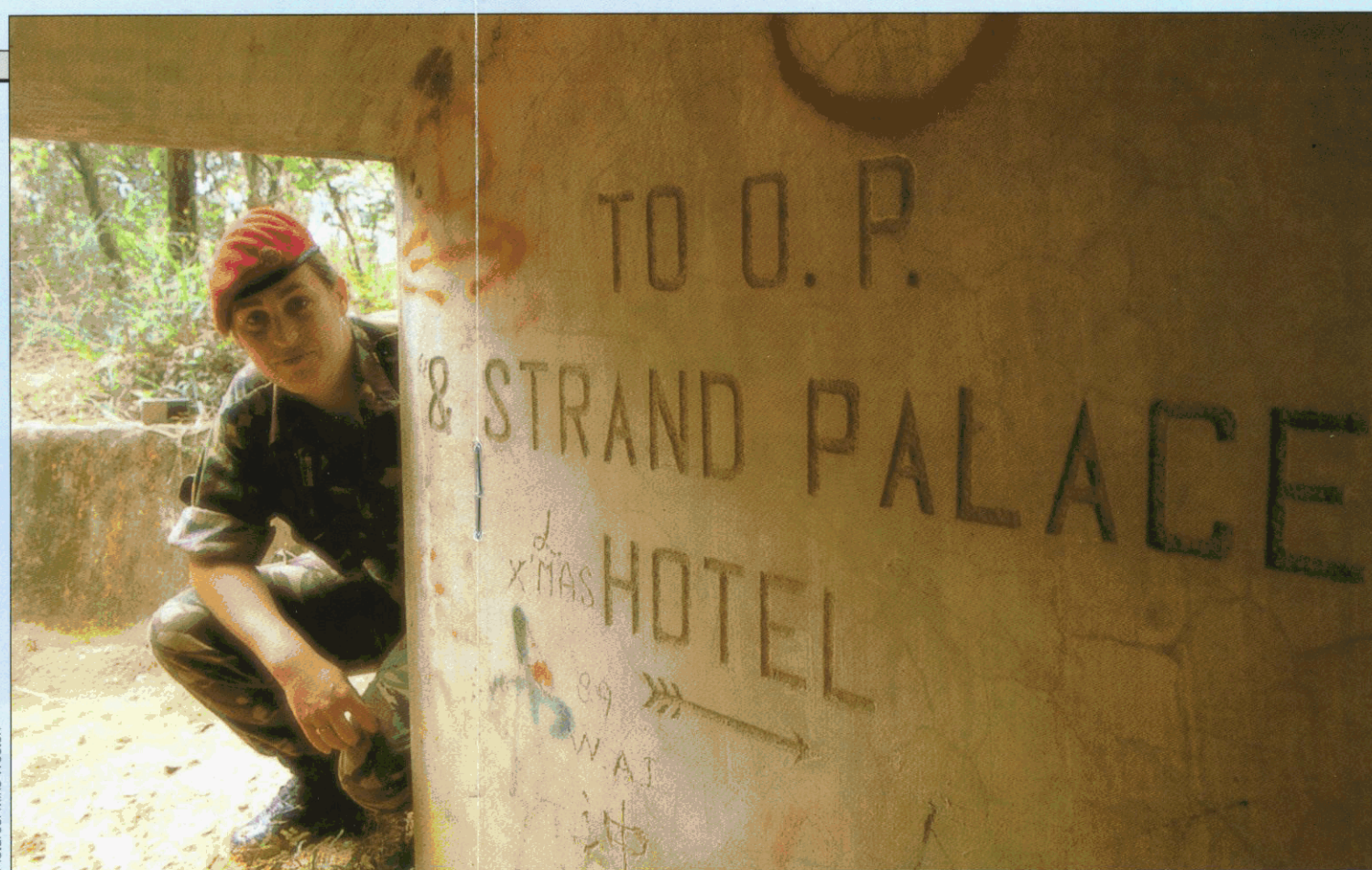


One of the poignant headstones in Stanley Military Cemetery. Many soldiers and civilians died in captivity; others survived inhuman treatment

soldiers, plus French, Russians, Americans and Portuguese in the Hong Kong Volunteers, gallantly defended the colony until the Christmas Day surrender in 1941.

More than 1,500 died in action: thousands more perished in captivity.

Pictures: Mike Weston



This way to the palace: Capt Sarah Wood RMP(V), points out an intriguing inscription left by homesick Middlesex Regiment soldiers on a tunnel in the Shing Mun Redoubt. Sarah, a

member of the Joint Services Public Relations team in Hong Kong, was Soldier's guide on a tour of New Territories and Hong Kong island battlefield sites



Staging post to Korea

Our draft of Durham Light Infantry National Servicemen en route for Korea arrived, with a buzz of excitement, in Hong Kong in September 1952 on the troopship *Empire Orwell*.

We were due for a short stay attached to the 1st Battalion, The Royal Ulster Rifles at Fanling in the New Territories, during which time we were introduced to the sounds and smells of the East, a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

Our draft included a Yorkshireman, Norman Collinson, who should not have been there. This was picked up by an orderly clerk in the Ulsters, so he had to return home in time for Christmas. When we left Hong Kong in the December the atmosphere was completely different to our arrival. Everyone was thinking about what lay ahead of us. – Pte Albert Owers, 1st Battalion, The Durham Light Infantry



Brigade against the Communists

In May 1949 I was serving in the UK as a captain on the staff of HQ 27 Independent Infantry Brigade Group when we were ordered to the Colony to defend it against Chinese Communists who were advancing south, having bottled up HMS *Amethyst* on the Yangtse River.

We had to carry side arms when going to the remoter parts of the New Territories . . . to deter bandits.

I recall sitting on the summit of Castle Peak and watching the Communist forces shell, in turn, the Nationalist islands around Hong Kong and then occupy them. The Nationalists left from one side as the Communists approached from the other.

I was playing golf at Fan Ling when Nationalist fighter bombers passed overhead and strafed Communist supply dumps over the border at Lo Wu. They had flown from Formosa.

After the brigade returned to Hong Kong from Korea in May 1951 we stood within a yard of a Communist soldier at the frontier stone in Sha Tau Kok. Had we still been in Korea, we would have shot each other. – Lt Col H R Jeffes, Hove, Sussex.



Many pillboxes remain as grim reminders of the dark but heroic days of 1941. This one, at Jardine's Lookout, overlooks the strategic Wong Nei Chong Gap, defended by the Winnipeg Grenadiers and Hong Kong Volunteers. Nearby Brig J K Lawson, Royal Canadian Regiment, became the highest-ranking casualty in the battle for Hong Kong when he died in a "shoot-out" in the open with Japanese troops who surrounded his headquarters. All his staff and Royal Scots reinforcements also died

by a Japanese navy launch and spent the rest of the war labouring at the docks in Kobe, Japan. But that's another story . . .

The Middlesex lost 132 drowned out of their draft of 350.

Lt Col Stewart, his health broken by his efforts to protect his men, died in Kobe. Sgt Waldron survived the war and rejoined his regiment. He retired in 1967 as a major and now, in his eighties, lives near Canterbury.

A Christmas lost

WHEN the Japanese Imperial Army attacked Hong Kong just before Christmas 1941, the island's main defences consisted of a ring of 85 concrete pill-boxes manned by the machine-gunners of the 1st Battalion, The Middlesex Regiment.

Maj (Retd) Frank Waldron remembers it vividly. A sergeant with Z Company, he was at Leighton Hill in the north-west of the island, from where he and his men were pushed back through Wanchai into the centre of Hong Kong.

"The Japanese came on to the Kowloon side first, where the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Scots were, and attacked and gradually overcame them. In the meantime they were also landing from the sea at Lye Mun."

The Japanese launched their initial attack from the mainland, and for three days (December 8-11) there was heavy fighting along the main defence line across the Kowloon peninsula.

Defending the garrison with the two Regular British battalions were two battalions of Indian infantry (5/7th Rajput Regiment and 2/14th Punjab Regiment), two Canadian infantry battalions (the Royal Rifles from Quebec and the Winnipeg Grenadiers), part

of a Royal Artillery anti-aircraft regiment, the Hong Kong and Singapore Volunteers, two coastal defence artillery regiments, two companies of Royal Engineers, and a company of Chinese sappers.

The attack on Hong Kong island itself began on December 12, when pill-boxes manned by Z Coy were heavily shelled and bombed.

"When the Japanese arrived they knew where the pill-boxes were, and as we had no air or sea forces we were bombarded by their artillery fire and gradually knocked out, one by one, as they went round the island," said Maj Waldron.

Despite heroic resistance, the Japanese had surrounded the defenders by Christmas eve. At dawn the next day the end was in sight: the garrison was exhausted by 16 days of almost continuous action.

At 1523 hours Maj Gen C M Maltby MC, the General Officer Commanding, called a halt and ordered Lt Col H W M "Monkey" Stewart, CO 1 Middlesex, "to proceed with a white flag" to the Japanese headquarters.

"The surrender came on December 25 when the general said we couldn't go on any longer," recalled Maj Waldron.



Maj (Retd) Frank Waldron

He remembers Hong Kong of the time as having almost no tall buildings. "It was a little island with the normal oriental shops.

"For nearly all our time there we were stationed in Kowloon, over on the China side, living in wooden huts."

He remembers there were only two big buildings in Kowloon, one the Peninsula Hotel on the waterfront. "Otherwise it was real country life in the New Territories, where the Chinese lived in their huts beside the road."

The 1st Middlesex, a machine-gun battalion, had been in Hong Kong since August 1937, when it was rushed in from Singapore as trouble brewed. It spent the next three years on the border, keeping out the Chinese communists.

Young Waldron and his colleagues loved it. As the "overseas battalion" they were expecting to spend up to 20 years stationed abroad. After Egypt and then Singapore, Hong Kong Garrison was an exciting place to be.

"It was a homely sort of place then, and we got to know it inside out. A lot of Chinese people lived on the streets.

"There wasn't much transport, so we had to march into the New Territories for a month or so at a time."

Star Ferries gave the Kowloon-based battalion ready access to the island during off-duty hours.

FACTS AND FIGURES...

MOST of the initial 10,000-strong Hong Kong garrison, including logistic support, is expected to be based across the border in the Chinese city of Shenzhen and elsewhere in the Special Economic Zone.

THE GARRISON will have "the best of everything" in new kit – aircraft, vehicles, ships, catamaran ferries, rifle, uniforms.

IT WILL be equipped with a dozen or so Z-9 helicopters based (believed to be "reverse-engineered") on the French Dauphin.

ITS inventory includes a dozen of China's most modern F-82 fixed-wing aircraft, expected to be based permanently near Guangzhou for area defence.

ITS two infantry regiments, minus artillery support, have been accorded the status of a brigade.

THE GARRISON will be commanded by five major-generals, led by Maj Gen Liu Zhenwu, former commander of 42 Group Army. Three of them were promoted late last year.

THE major-generals include two political commissars, whose responsibilities include welfare and postings.

LEADER of the Hong Kong advance party, Maj Gen Zhou Borong, who was a late recruit to the PLA at the age of 28, spent a year at the Royal College of Defence Studies in London in 1988.

SOLDIERS and junior officers, who have all spent at least a year in the PLA, will serve in Hong Kong on three- or four-month rotations before going back to be "spiritually purified."

THE recently-built headquarters and barracks in Shenzhen are state-of-the-art by Chinese standards but spartan by ours.

WARSHIPS, including guided missile patrol craft of a new class, will be rotated between the custom-built new base in Hong Kong and Shantou, a main port 200 km to the north-east.

THE Chinese have said the garrison will not be bigger than the British garrison (which was 20,000 strong after the Second World War, but 10,000 in recent years).

ALL soldiers (as opposed to officers) in Hong Kong will be "gated" – they will not be allowed out of barracks except in organised parties, either on duty or for recreational purposes.

WITH the 15th Party Congress planned for October following the death of Deng Xiaoping, all eyes are expected to be on the success of the Hong Kong handover.

China's elite garrison – fashioned on ours?

WILL IT BE "no change" when the Chinese People's Liberation Army takes over from the British Garrison at midnight on June 30?

China's "new model" army – the elite brigade which will replace the British forces after 156 years – seems anxious to make a good impression on the world and buff-up the image tarnished by Tiananmen Square in 1989.

And it is being given such a painstakingly detailed handover by the outgoing British forces that some believe the new garrison will be run on very similar lines to the one it is replacing.

The men, specially selected for height and looks from a conscript army of more than three million, will have new uniforms, a new badge featuring Hong Kong's bohinia flower, and "state-of-the-art" equipment – in Chinese terms – including a new rifle.

Since the unarmed advance party of 40, led by Maj Gen Zhou Borong, arrived on

April 21 (boosted to almost 200 by May 30), there have been regular meetings with the British to ease the process of transferring responsibility for the defence of Hong Kong. It is the culmination of a "getting-to-know-you" process which started in 1994.

"I genuinely believe they want to get it right," the Commander British Forces, Maj Gen Bryan Dutton, told *Soldier*. "We have been briefing them now for two-and-a-half years on every detail of our life here – our relationship with the law and with the Hong Kong Government, with the police, our logistics training, our operational role,

how we control maritime and air space – even how we deal with the Press.

"We have briefed them on how we deal with elements of Hong Kong life; everything from sport to our support of Hong Kong charities; our disaster relief roles – every single aspect of our life here.

"We have briefed and briefed . . . We



To smooth the handover to the PLA, the British have been briefing the Chinese on all aspects of military life in Hong Kong – including how to deal with the press. Shortly after leading the first advance party into the Prince of Wales Bar-

racks on April 21, Maj Gen Zhou Borong, who spent a year at the Royal College of Defence Studies in London, faces the media throng. On the left is the last Commander British Forces Hong Kong, Maj Gen Bryan Dutton.

have taken them around the barracks, they have opened every manhole cover there is. They know exactly what they are getting and they know exactly how we work.

"To a large extent their future garrison mimics ours in terms of its organisation and much else. They are aware that the

image the world has of them is that of Tiananmen Square. They want to use their presence in Hong Kong as a means of righting that image.

"Their words to me are: 'We want to use Hong Kong as a window on the world to show that we are now modern, sophisticated

so on, that is a factor of about 300 to one.

"So I presume from that I'm paying my soldiers enough to buy 300 beers a month in Wanchai, though I encourage them not to spend it all on that!"

The PLA unaccompanied conscripts' experience in garrison towns in China, with no outside influences, would also give them a severe culture shock and provide a stark contrast to their predecessors, he said.

"These highly disciplined, very regimented people from a very controlled environment are coming to the great free-market city of the world.

"We have had a garrison composed of

ed armed forces." In private discussions, Maj Gen Dutton has emphasised that the British are determined to do everything they can to help the Peoples Liberation Army.

Detailed administrative arrangements have been set up to make life easy for them. A framework of meetings and liaison groups has been established.

"We have gone to considerable trouble – we have provided a Chinese cookhouse with many woks and Chinese eating utensils.

"We have not tried to impose our culture on them and I think so far that the atmospherics between the two parties are very good.

"I am satisfied that a proper working relationship is developing and I think we will be able to achieve what we both need to do in a professional way.

"We are going about this in an open, straightforward, professional manner. There is no rancour; we are both doing what has to be done."

Maj Gen Dutton, who finds himself in the novel position of commanding a barracks occupied by both British and Chinese Service personnel, said the principal aim in the approach to June 30 was to ensure that the transfer of defence responsibility went smoothly and professionally.

"We see it as the British garrison's major contribution to the future stability of Hong Kong.

"We are doing everything we can to ensure that the PLA have the opportunity to establish the correct relationship with the Hong Kong Government and people.

"I sincerely hope that they have as good a relationship with the people of Hong Kong as we have had over the last century-and-a-half. We are doing our best to ensure that they do."

PLA pay small beer compared with British

HONG KONG citizens are likely to see at least one noticeable difference in the lifestyle of PLA Servicemen compared with their British counterparts.

They are not expected to be seen out "on the town" except – and only in exceptional circumstances – in uniformed, organised groups.

"They tend to have quite austere conditions of service and low rates of pay," said Maj Gen Dutton. "They're paid about enough to buy one beer in Wanchai per month.

"For my lowest-paid Serviceman here, after he has paid for his accommodation and

Regular soldiers, sailors and airmen and their families, full-time professionals who have spent their life being involved in alliances and coalitions.

"You have only to look at the medals worn by my own men and women for service in such theatres as the Gulf, Bosnia, Northern Ireland and Zimbabwe, and you will have a whole range of examples of what we have been doing ever since I joined the Service.

"By that I mean working in coalitions and alliances, in a very international community, and capable of deploying anywhere in the world."



Musical memories



Serving with the Band of the Buffs in Hong Kong in the late 1940s was a mixed experience and far different, I am sure, than it would be now. Letters, for instance, arrived by Sunderland flying boat, a trip of ten days.

Stationed at Stanley Fort or in town at Murray Barracks, both on the island, was fine, but life in the New Territories at Tsung Wan or Shatokok was very different.

Happier memories are fortunately more vivid, for instance playing at Happy Valley racecourse, or with the dance band at the American Club, a regular venue on about the fifth floor of the Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank Building, not far from the Star Ferry. We always dined sumptuously at the American Club on food we had not sampled during the austere war years.

I recall being at the harbour when the crippled and holed HMS *Amethyst* made port after a dramatic trip up the Yangtze River (later immortalised in the film *The Yangtze Incident*). We played at a service in Hong Kong Cathedral attended by Commander Kerans and the survivors of the crew.

Are there any survivors of Doc Foster's Band still out there? – T Lynch (fourth from left in picture), corporal in the Band of the Buffs in Hong Kong.

All right on the day

I remember going on a recce in 1983 as Families Officer designate, and walking round the married quarters in Stanley Fort. There was no glass in the window frames and the curtains were in shreds after a hurricane or tropical storm, and I thought how I was going to sell Hong Kong to some 300 plus families on my return.

Needless to say, on our arrival everything was perfect and we enjoyed our two years there.

I went with the pre-advance party and spent New Year's Eve as a guest of the Scots Guards, but that's another story. – Maj Ron Goodwin, 22nd (Cheshire) Regiment



Ron Goodwin

PR staff will see it write to the end

Roger Goodwin, last Joint Services Director of Public Relations in Hong Kong, in his office overlooking the harbour

A SMALL team of civilians, reinforced by Service personnel, has in the last few months acquired an intimate knowledge of what it is like to be in the eye of a hurricane.

In their case it has been a media-fanned blast of intense scrutiny as Hong Kong, Britain's last territory in South East Asia, prepares itself for the Great Handover.

Roger Goodwin, the Joint Services Director of Public Relations (Hong Kong), and his staff have had to deal with the reverberations of probably the largest international peacetime media event of the decade.

The pressure will end at midnight on June 30 when up to 8,000 members of the world's press, radio and television elite home-in on the final ceremonies as a century and a half of British sovereignty comes to an end.

Responsibility for media relations has fallen primarily to the Hong Kong Government Information Service, but the Joint Services public relations team has not had a dull moment for months.

Even now, as the focus shifts to the future impact of Chinese rule, the physical – and photogenic – manifestation of Britain's presence remains its Servicemen and women, upholding sovereignty to the final hour.

The Joint Services Public Relations Staff (JSPRS), which Roger Goodwin leads, has

been inundated with requests for facilities, ranging from interviews with Maj Gen Bryan Dutton, Commander British Forces, to photographing the lion dance display team of a military unit.

In normal times JSPRS has been one of the Ministry of Defence's busier PR teams. The last year or so have been increasingly frenetic.

Roger Goodwin explains: "Hong Kong covers an area roughly the size of the Isle of Wight, with a population equivalent to that of Greater London; yet there are 76 daily newspapers, more than 600 magazines and 100-plus Asian bureaux of the world's news organisations. To put that

into perspective, London has only one daily paper of its own, the *Evening Standard*."

On the broadcasting side, there are 15 radio and 16 television channels, two terrestrial TV stations, the headquarters of two satellite services and a cable network which keeps cameras trained on specific parts of the territory.

"Hong Kong," he says, "is massive in PR terms."

While the British Garrison has not been the media's only concern, it has remained a source of fascination. The image of British military uniforms preparing to make way for those of the People's Liberation Army has epitomised the dramatic change over-coming Hong Kong.



In 1995 JSPRS handled 800 visitors, a 30 per cent increase on the previous year. In 1996 that had leapt towards 2,000.

The arrival of the PLA advance party on April 21 this year attracted hundreds of media people.

Even the last exercise carried out by the 1st Battalion The Black Watch in the New Territories was accompanied by 80 reporters and cameramen.

Stories of "one year to go" made way for "last time" events . . . the last roulement battalion, the last families leaving, the last parade of the Hong Kong Military Service Corps . . .

"JSPRS is going to be working flat out, ensuring the Armed Forces are seen to be leaving Hong Kong with style and dignity. As the rest of the Garrison draws down, we will be getting busier and busier, literally to the moment when the keys are handed over to the PLA.

"At the same time as dealing with the media, we have to plan for the closure of JSPRS itself."

In the next two issues:

- 1st Battalion The Black Watch
- Queen's Gurkha Signals
- Hong Kong Logistic Support Regiment
- Memories of Gun Club Hill Barracks and Stonecutters' Island
- The Hong Kong Volunteers
- Hong Kong Military Service Corps
- Sek Kong: Britain's New Territories base
- Plus more readers' recollections

Alive and kicking!

I THOROUGHLY enjoyed your cover story on the Falklands (May 12), especially the feature "Then and Now". First-class reporting and reading.

I wish Denzil Connack and the South Atlantic Medal Association (82) the best of luck, but I was a bit miffed to learn he thinks the Burma Star Association is nearing the end of its useful life.

Not so, sir – we are a most thriving and active organisation and have a long way to go before we reach our sell-by date.

Reading *Soldier* in itself is liking taking a fortnightly "keep young" pill! – **Susagep** (name and address supplied).

CANAL ZONE PETITION

UNDER the last Government an unsuccessful attempt was made to get an award of a GSM for service in the Suez Canal Zone emergency, 1951-54.

In this area we have started a petition to the new Government. Those who would like to organise petitions are invited to forward them to me. – **Tom Radford** (ex-Cheshire Regt, 1952-54), 29 Leighton Road, Tranmere, Birkenhead, Wirral, L41 9DY

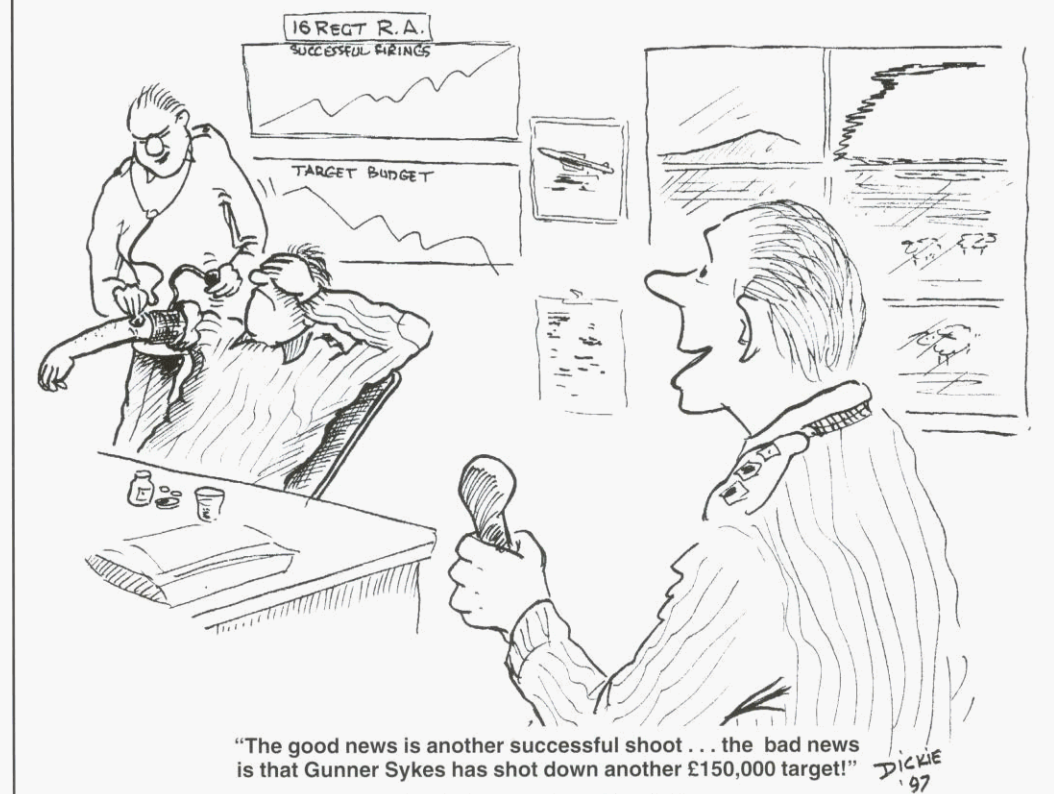
Foreign band tapes sought

I ENJOY listening to tapes of marches and over the years I have gathered quite a number. However, with one exception, they are all British.

For the same period I have studied the advertisements in *Soldier* for possible sources of tapes of foreign bands, with no success.

This is an appeal for help. Quite possibly among your readers there are like enthusiasts who have had success. Details of their sources would be greatly appreciated. – **Robert Christie**, 3 Abbey Park, Auchterarder, Perthshire, PH3 1EN.

BIRD'S EYE-VIEW



Exercise Spring Challenge – Page 18-19



Onion sellers, 1951 vintage

YOUR April Fool article, "Ten-shun, the 1st Onion Sellers" (April 14) referred to the "Europeanisation" of berets, wearing them across the top of the head with the badge in the middle.

Here is a photograph of me and some of my mates when we were serving in 2 Troop, 48 Fd Sqn, 21 Engineer Regt, RE at

Nienburg, Germany, in 1951.

The three in the front row – Joe Carroll, myself, and Robin Abbott – wore our berets like onion-sellers in those days. As you can see, the others, Yorkie Stubble, Geordie Scott and Scouse Houghton, are not members of the 1st Onion Sellers! – **Edward Kelly**, Dover, Kent.

Soldier welcomes letters for publication from all readers, whatever their status. Letters must be brief, typed or written clearly and include the correspondent's name and address in block capitals, not necessarily for publication. Anonymous letters will not be considered. Acceptance or rejection of letters is the decision of the Editor, who reserves the right to edit for length, clarity or style.

Pass on what you learn . . .

I AM the commanding officer of the oldest Navy League cadet corps in Canada. While I was browsing through the military magazines at a Montreal newsstand, the owner suggested I buy *Soldier*.

Since then I have become a true follower, finding all your articles interesting and informative.

The former CO of our corps, LCdr(NL) Francis James Duffy, began as an army cadet, enlisted in the Regular Forces, served as a Reservist and later as a cadet instructors' cadre officer. He holds the Canadian Forces Decoration (CD) with two bars, having served more than 41 years in the Canadian Armed Forces.

I know not everyone can serve as long as he or have his qualifications, but critics of cadet forces like Mr Marriott (Feb 3) should volunteer their time to teach cadets and instructors what they may have learned in the Regulars.

Keep up the good work at *Soldier*. – **Lt Tony Dieni**, CO, Duke of Edinburgh NLCC, Pierrefonds, Quebec.

All for one and one for all as African armies learn how to co-operate

IN a scene all too reminiscent of Bosnia, two columns of blue-helmeted soldiers, led by International Red Cross officials, slow-marched towards each other bearing corpses under dirty blankets.

Another body exchange between warring factions was taking place in a United Nations demilitarised zone.

But this was different: the soldiers were Africans, not central Europeans. Troops from Tanzania and Malawi wore UN blue, the antagonists – yelling, whooping and firing their assault rifles into the air – were from Zimbabwe. The UN observers came from Botswana and Namibia, and in turn were guarded by a Swazi platoon. At a discreet distance, two South African Casspir internal security vehicles and their crews waited in reserve.

This was not Mostar, but mythical Mycosa (in reality the Nyanga highlands of eastern Zimbabwe), dreamt up by Lt Col Tony Potter, R Irish, of the Harare-based



Lt Col Richard Illingworth, KRH, discusses the performance of a Cascaval armoured car with its crew. He is currently serving as the British military liaison officer in Ethiopia



Lt Col Tony Potter (left), of BMATT, discusses the exercise plan with Brig Moyo, who led a United Nations brigade on peace support operations in Somalia

Allies in Africa

British Military Advisory and Training Team (BMATT). For six months, he and his staff had been involved in the planning and execution of a unique exercise, Blue

Hungwe, named after the Shona word for the African fish eagle, Zimbabwe's national symbol.

They succeeded in bringing together

troops from ten countries – Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe – the first time so many African nations had exercised under a unified command.

A regional alliance, the Southern African Development Community (SADC), was created in 1992 to reinforce trading links and to develop a defensive coalition. Blue Hungwe provided the first opportunity for members to exercise together. President Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe said it showed SADC could be a force for good in the region. BMATT commander Brig Adrian Naughten put it differently: "I think Blue Hungwe was a success because we managed to get soldiers from ten SADC countries to train together in realistic peace-support operations, in itself a diplomatic triumph."

"There has been an appreciable improvement in military skills, and clear

indications that these countries could work together if they were called upon to do so."

Responsibility for preparing the multinational force fell to a 16-strong British team, made up of BMATT staff reinforced by instructors from the UK and Germany.

"UN peace support operations are a new concept here," explained Lt Col Tony Potter. "The main problem was communicating the exercise concepts and ideas to the different armies."

"It was a real challenge to ensure they arrived properly briefed and equipped, at the right place and at the right time."

WO2 Phil Simpson HCR sat on the turret of one of Zimbabwe's ex-Korean T59 tanks, which was going thanks to maintenance skills he had acquired at Bovington.

"The exercise was a fantastic experience," he said. "It proved a challenge to train all these guys, but they've done well."

For the exercise, an "SADC battalion" was formed under command of Zimbabwean Lt Col Ray Ncube and South African 2iC Maj Cobus Valentine, who together pulled a disparate group into a coherent force.

Maj Valentine said: "We are really grateful for what BMATT has done. Without all their hard work, experience and knowledge, this exercise could not have happened."

WO2 Ian Tait QLR, based at Preston with



A Zimbabwean National Army sergeant yells orders during Exercise Blue Hungwe

42 (North West) Brigade, taught crowd-control techniques and the use of observation posts. As he stood in the shade of an acacia tree watching a 130-strong Mozambique contingent

sing in Portuguese as they doubled past, he said: "You wouldn't believe that they were fighting each other only a few years ago."

As well as writing and planning Blue Hungwe, the BMATT team had to make practical arrangements to ensure the exercise was properly supported. WO1 Willie Crook, AGC (SPS), is BMATT's "Mr Fixit". He went to Zimbabwe in 1981 with the original 150-strong team, which helped establish Zimbabwe's national army, and returned four years ago. He hopes to stay on when he leaves the Army next year. "Our biggest success was the installation of an operations room," he said. "I asked the Zimbabweans to put up a few boards in an old accommodation hut, but they used their imagination and produced a partitioned HQ that they will be able to use over and over again."

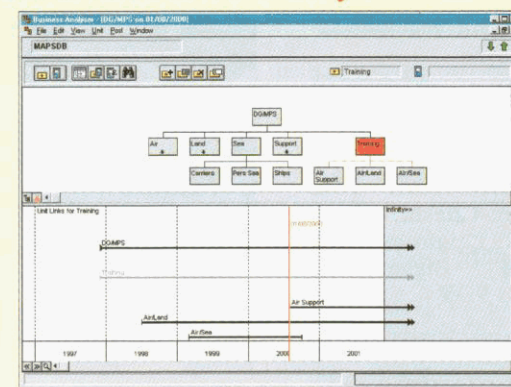
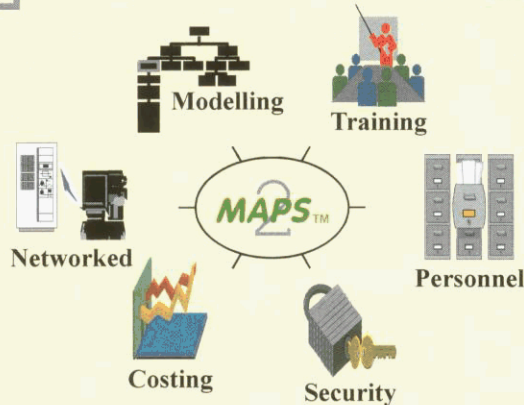
On Nyanga training area, Lt Col Mike Watson PWO, training adviser at the Zimbabwe Army battle school, was tasked to create a refugee camp. He got BMATT to buy a water pump for a nearby village, and in exchange 200 men, women and children acted as refugees for the final week.

During the exercise, a South African Oryx helicopter lifted the equipment into a pumphouse built by the BMATT team.

A delighted village headman revealed his people had been waiting three years for the water project to be finished, but lack of funds had prevented it.

The Duke of York, who attended the final day of the exercise, praised the BMATT's contribution to Blue Hungwe.

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Preston-based WO2 Ian Tait QLR shares a joke with demonstration troops from the Zimbabwean National Army

Nazi saboteurs

Q: SERVING in Germany with the RAF in the months following VE Day, I heard barrack-room rumours that fanatical Nazi sympathisers had set up an underground movement to sabotage the Allied occupation forces.

One story was that saboteurs were stringing cables across country roads at night to kill motor-cycle dispatch riders. While doubting this I do recall Army light vehicles fitted at the front with a vertical length of angle iron, curved forward at the top, presumably for protection against striking a cable.

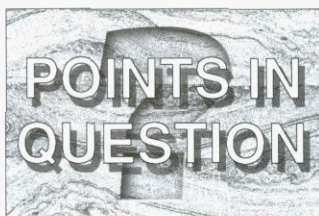
I wonder what was the purpose of the device, what would the effect have been had a vehicle hit a cable, and if it was an anti-sabotage measure, was it fitted on unit initiative or on orders from a higher formation? – **John Hopley, Waverton, NSW, Australia.**

China Dragon

Most relevant issues have been covered by earlier correspondence but here are further points from recent letters:

SGT COLIN ANSTEE mentions that the Dragon on the badge of the 49th Regiment of Foot, fore-runner of the Royal Berkshire Regiment, is surrounded by a rope.

This symbol, preceding the Dragon by some 42 years, was



awarded in 1801 when the 49th served as marines in Copenhagen. From this connection the band plays *Rule Britannia* before the National Anthem to this day.

For further information corre-

spondents may like to write to the Curator or visit the Royal Gloucester, Berkshire and Wiltshire Museum at 58 The Close, Salisbury, where full historical archives and displays are available.

All may be assured of a warm welcome to a splendid museum set among unsurpassed gardens and within the environment of Salisbury Cathedral Close. – **Col (Retd) John Hill, Poole, Dorset.**

Q: EARLY in the Second World War my husband Tom, who was serving with the Royal Engineers,

camped in the grounds of Wynnstay Hall, Ruabon, near Wrexham, North Wales.

When I visited him there we would go to the nearby pub, the Wynnstay Arms.

Every Saturday night when the landlord called "Time" everyone stood. The locals would sing their anthem in Welsh and the REs would then reciprocate with their Corps Song.

Then everyone would leave, in an orderly manner. Does anyone else recall those days? – **Constance M Burrows, Eastbourne.**

For the record ...

Korea VCs

YOUR report on Korean war veterans (May 12) states that two VCs were awarded during the war. There were actually four – Maj K Muir, Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders; Lt Col J P Carne, Gloucesters; Lt P K E Curtis, Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry (att Gloucesters) and Pte W Speakman, Black Watch (att King's Own Scottish Borderers). Two prisoners-of-war were subsequently awarded the George Cross, one, sadly, posthumously.

I enjoy your magazine very much and always look forward to its arrival. – **Lt Col (Retd) V P C Whitmore, Canterbury, Kent.**

● The error, noticed by us as soon as the edition was printed, was

corrected in the May 26 issue. Sincere thanks to the many readers who have contacted us. – **Editor.**

Chinese general

THE caption to your photograph of the arrival of the PLA advance party in Hong Kong (May 12) indicated that CBFHK is welcoming Maj Gen Zhou Borong. The officer he is addressing is in fact senior colonel; the major general is on the right of the picture, partially obscured. – **W M Thornton, Southall, Middx.**

BMH Rinteln

IN response to Mr I E Howe (For the Record, April 28), BMH Rinteln was opened in 1953, when RAFH Rinteln closed. I should know, as I was the last RAF adju-

tant to Gp Capt Wilson, the CO. – **F D Noble, Flt Lt RAF (Ret), Cambridge.**

Falklands

WITH REGARD to your Falklands feature (May 12) may I point out that the destroyers and frigates forming the task force left from Portsmouth, and the liner *Canberra* from Southampton – **Herbert E Wallace (Chairman, Normandy Veterans Association, Southern Branch), Portsmouth, Hants.**

● We should have known better. Two senior staff members were there to cheer them off from Portsmouth and one returned in the *Canberra* – to Southampton! – **Editor.**

A 'barren island' that propelled itself into the super league

THERE was a time when the only people in Britain aware of the extent and diversity of their nation's empire were its stamp collectors.

It was an age when "Into crystal glasses tinkled ice cubes while rattan roofing re-awoke to the first tut-tuts of the pale nocturnal lizard which Malays call the chick-chak."

This was the stereotypical image of an empire outpost, according to John Keay in his impressive book *Last Post: The End of Empire in the Far East*, a timely publication as Hong Kong is about to return to Chinese administration, an event that marks the end of the West's empire in the East.

John Keay examines the establishment, the struggle for maintenance and the eventual capitulation to demands for independence in Dutch, French and American, as well as British, empires in South-East Asia.

Ironically, it was Japan's victories in the Second World War, and that nation's empire-building under the banner of "Asia for the Asians", that acted as a catalyst for post-war demands of independence.

In the East the imperial tide had been running since the 18th century and remained in flood until 1930, when the story of empire's end begins; it was in that year Wei-hai-wei, along the coast from Hong Kong,

was returned to China by Britain. Hong Kong – that "barren island" in the words of Lord Palmerston – was occupied in 1840 and ceded to Britain in 1842.

The colony included the peninsula of Kowloon (ceded to Britain in 1860) and about 376 square miles of mainland behind Kowloon – the New Territories – leased in 1898.

It is this lease that expires at midnight on June 30.

Back in 1930, when Wei-hai-wei was "retroceded", the odds against its sister territory surviving to become the last outpost of empire in the East would have been long enough. In the late 1930s, as Japanese forces overran the China treaty ports, they would have lengthened; and in the mid-1940s, as the war in the Pacific drew to a sudden end, it seemed quite probable that Hong Kong had already dropped out of the race.

The fact that the Union Flag has flown over Hong Kong for so long has its roots in the commerce that spawned empires in almost every case. International trade was flourishing in Canton for 140 years before Britain acquired Hong Kong, and Shanghai International Settlement was the preferred trading base in China.

It was, perversely, Shanghai

merchants who urged the occupation of Hong Kong.

British investment in Shanghai and elsewhere in China dwarfed that of Hong Kong, described in 1851 by *The Economist* as "a kind of bonded warehouse for the opium trade".

It was fortunate for the colonialists that the local inhabitants, the Chinese merchants who settled in Hong Kong, were primarily interested in money-making at the cost of forgoing rights and representation, so long as the currency

was strong, the market open.

Chinese inclination for trade above

all else grew from strength to strength over the years.

Many of the immediate pre- and post-Second World War settlers came from Shanghai, and their relocated business houses and factories lent a new industrial dimension to Hong Kong's economic profile.

"Just as the place had drawn its commercial brains from Canton in the 1840s, so it acquired its sweatshop sinews from Shanghai a century later."

In retrospect, Hong Kong's economic growth was perhaps inevitable; it had the finest deep-water harbour on the China coast, the busiest airport, the speediest communications, the strongest currency and, since Shanghai's demise,

the most liberal economic regime.

The US embargo of Communist China, which lasted through the 1950s and 1960s, could have ended the re-export trade of the port, but a business community born out of opium smuggling and the secretive networking of China's family-based enterprises found ways round the embargo.

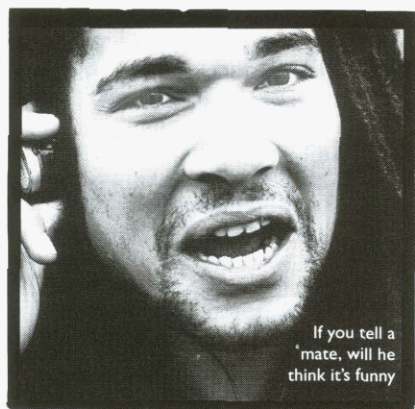
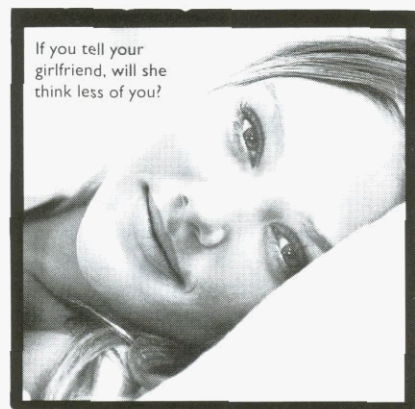
So, while mainland China languished, Hong Kong propelled itself into the economic super-league.

By the time Hong Kong's future came up for discussion in the late 1980s, it was too late for an independent post-colonial identity, and the countdown to "retroceding" the island and mainland territories to China had begun.

The author contends that "empires of the past may take some credit for the 'Asian miracle' of industrialisation and commerce".

It remains to be seen what the future holds for Hong Kong after June 30. John Keay hopes that "... empire could go out, if not with a fanfare of glory, at least with the solemn dignity of a last Last Post."

Old-style colonialists might ask: "What's in it for us, and what more are we going to lose?" These are outdated questions in the global economy of which Hong Kong has proved a vital part. – **BJ**



SOMETIMES IT'S EASIER TO TALK TO SOMEONE YOU DON'T LIKE.

When you have a problem, it's the most natural thing in the world to want to talk it through with someone. But who?

An obvious choice would be a close friend. But let's face it, we don't always choose our friends for their amazing powers of tact, diplomacy and discretion.

A girlfriend or boyfriend? But sometimes we don't want to expose our weaknesses to those we want to fancy us. Or the relationship may be the problem you want to discuss.

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Charlie's challenge

HERE's a little challenge for the rest of the Field Army... can any sub-unit match or better the 14 different cap badges under command in Charlie Company of the 1st Battalion, The Green Howards? The 14 included soldiers from other countries.

Charlie Coy has just completed six months in Bosnia, based mostly at Jajce.

Company commander Maj David O'Kelly said emphasis had been placed on rebuilding the area, and that diplomacy was more and more a part of the soldiers' armoury.

It's polo, but not as we know it

SMITH'S Lawn it wasn't... but that did not mean the polo played by British troops during an equestrian games at Sipovo in Bosnia was any less competitive.

The ponies themselves might have looked a bit out of place in more august surroundings. Local people could not suppress their laughter when they saw the shaggy mounts - supplied by a man who said he used to be a jockey - on which soldiers from The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards and the 1st Battalion, The Green Howards did battle.

True to their cavalry tradition, Nunshigum Squadron, Scots DG, reckoned the sport should include a horsey element, so Lt Richard Boyle laid on a mounted relay, mounted apple-bobbing... and the climactic polo match.

The relay was slow and furious, and won by the infantry, but the cavalry came back strongly in the apple-bobbing.

Improvising with an assortment of hockey sticks and a volleyball, riders played out the decider on a polo ground fashioned from a helicopter landing site in the town centre.

Given that the horses were hard-pressed to raise a gallop (or even a trot) Maj Ben Edwards, the Nunshigum Squadron Leader, and his team ambled to a fine victory.

Rumours that the rematch will be staged at Cowdray Park have been discredited.

50 YEARS AGO

From *Soldier*, June 1947

HITLER'S BLACK SHRINE
At Vogelsang, Germany, in the Rhineland hills, now a battle school for British troops, was written one of the most blasphemous chapters in the Nazi New Order. Here future leaders were "married" before a Hitler altar and fathered children they never saw again. - *Introduction to a feature on the shattered relics of an infamous experiment.*

25 YEARS AGO

From *Soldier*, June 1972

PAY SUPPLEMENT
The new scheme links pensions to pay and substantially increases pensions, particularly for those of soldiers retiring after the minimum 22 years' service. A lance corporal or private with 22 years will now receive a pension of £571 a year instead of the £275 of the August 1971 code.

Battling Brummies

CSgt Chinny Needham, a permanent staff instructor with 5 RRF in Birmingham, displays a chestful of medals... and the new history of 143 (West Midlands) Brigade, which was presented to the Lord Mayor of Birmingham.

The book, *By God They Can Fight*, by Capt Peter Caddick Adams RMLY, tells the story of nearly 350 years of Midlands military history.

Copies are available from Capt R J D Parry, HQ 143 (West Midlands) Brigade, Copthorne Barracks, Shrewsbury SY3 8LZ (tel 01743 262414, or Shrewsbury Mil (746) 2414), price £10. All proceeds will be donated to the Birmingham Children's Hospital Appeal and the Ulysses Trust.



Compassion ensures a quick return

STAFF photographer Mike Weston, on assignment in Korea, experienced at first hand the efficiency of the Army's compassionate cell on learning, in the middle of the night, that his father was seriously ill in England.

Due to fly to Hong Kong the next day to take pictures of The Black Watch and other units, he sent a fax from Seoul to the Joint Services Public Relations Staff in Hong Kong, requesting help in getting home quickly.

On arrival at Kai Tak the next day Mike was met by a member of the RAF movements staff, given a meal, whisked through the airport and flown British Airways Club Class to Heathrow, where there

was a vehicle waiting to take him on to Reading Hospital.

Mike said: "It was reassuring to know that, despite the turbulence going on with the drawdown in Hong Kong, colleagues were able to respond sympathetically and without fuss to an urgent plea for repatriation."

"They were terrific and I am very grateful to them."

Tribute to SAS hero

AMID tight security, the remaining nine members of the SAS Orig-

nals gathered in Northern Ireland at the beginning of May to pay tribute to friend and colleague Col Robert "Paddy" Blair Mayne, who died more than 40 years ago.

The veterans attended the unveiling of a life-size statue of the last colonel of 1 SAS at his home town of Newtownards. All nine had served with him.

One, Jonny Cooper, went behind German lines six times with Blair Mayne.

Despite the absence of publicity, a crowd of 2,000 local people watched the unveiling, which was followed by the Band of The Royal Irish Regiment Beating Retreat.

Tiger tales from old Hong Kong

WHAT may well have been Hong Kong's last tiger, a species that had roamed the island for thousands of years, was shot at Stanley in May 1942.

Hong Kong News, an English-language paper published by the occupation forces, reported that the 240lb tiger was killed by Nipponese gendarmes and Indian and Chinese police.

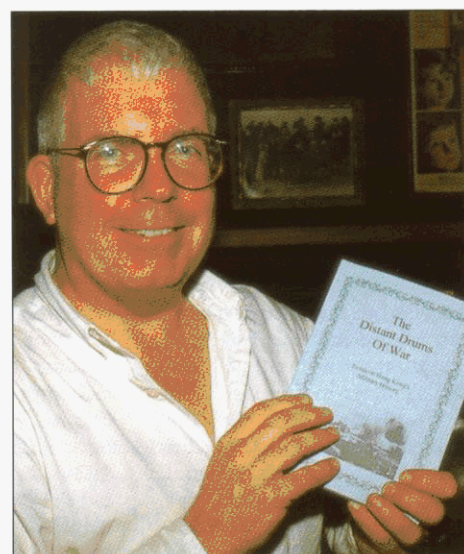
Its skin is nailed to a wall at the Stanley temple and may be seen to this day.

The beast caused a bit of a stir and "tiger fever" continued for weeks.

Reports of sightings in the New Territories persisted into the 1950s and 1960s.

The tale of the Stanley tiger appears in *The Distant Drums of War* by Phillip Bruce, a former journalist who now heads the public relations team at Chep Lap Kok, Hong Kong's rapidly evolving new airport.

Published in 1994, Phillip's "Notes on Hong Kong's Military History" were compiled during the '80s and gathered into *Distant Drums*. Unfortunately, the privately printed softback is not available for general sale.



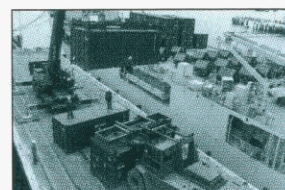
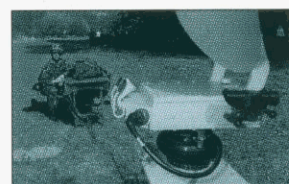
Telling tales: Phillip Bruce with his book

Incidentally, the notes tell us that "Go to Hong Kong!" was a derogatory phrase in common usage during the last century.

It may have been the result of sipping too much "Sam Shui" (or "Samshoo"), a cheap and murderous brew which added to the many health hazards confronting soldiers and sailors in the earliest days of Hong Kong service.

The ingredients, Mr Bruce reveals, were rice, alcohol, tobacco juice, sugar and arsenic. It was said to have a "terrible effect" on the personality.

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DATES

JUNE

4-5: Floodlit Beating Retreat by Massed Bands of Household Division, Horse Guards, 9.30pm. Tickets on 0171 839-5323.

14: Queen's Birthday Parade, F Coy, Scots Guards, Horse Guards (Major General's Review, May 31; Colonel's Review, June 7).

21: Sherborne Military Tattoo, Sherborne Castle, Dorset, in aid of Poppy Appeal and Army Benevolent Fund. Features displays by White Helmets, PWRR free-fall team, D and D Band, RGR Pipes and Drums, 9 Para Sqn RE, AAC helicopters.

28-29: Victorian Military Society celebration of Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee, Historic Dockyard, Chatham.

29: Colchester Garrison County Day, Fingringhoe, including Red Devils and Army tug-of-war.

JULY

4: Evening lecture by Maj Gen Anthony Deane-Drummond CB DSO MC, captured in Italy and again at Arnhem, escaping both times. Airborne Forces Museum, Aldershot. Tickets (£6.50) from 01252 349614.

6: 30 Signal Regiment, open day, Bramcote, nr Nuneaton, featuring White Helmets, R Signals and Brigade of Gurkhas bands, APTC display team (01455 222551).

15-27: Royal Tournament, Earls Court. Tickets: 0171 244-0244.

20: Aldershot Military Museum special events day, from 1.30pm. Details: 01252 314598.

27: Middle Wallop Challenge 97 air show. Tickets: 01980 674421.

SEPTEMBER

6-7: Berwick Military Tattoo, The Barracks, Berwick-upon-Tweed.

13-15: Military Survey 250th anniversary, Hermitage.

OCTOBER

7-8: Cyprus Walkabout.

24: Isle of Thanet Festival of Remembrance. Tickets: 01843 292882.

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

WANTED: 7 Coy, Coldstream Guards is looking for a qualified climbing instructor to join an expedition which will attempt to climb the three highest mountains in Mexico in September.

SEARCHLINE

Information sought on British radio operator code-named **Canesecchi**, who operated in the Bergamo-Fonteno area of Italy 1944-45. Rounded up with the local population by German Army searching for the radio, he was not betrayed by the villagers, even under threat. Replies to A W Cregan on 0171 511-8323.

News sought of ex-CSM Ron Har-

rison, A Coy, 1st Devons, India, Malaya, Singapore, Hong Kong 1945-47. Contact Colin Mortimer, 66 High Street, Lytchett Matravers, Poole BH16 6BH (tel 01202 623062).

Mrs L Jenkinson would like to hear from anyone who served with or knew her husband, **5728380 LCpl William John Jenkinson**, killed in action in Normandy on July 10,

1944 while serving with the **4th Dorsets**. Please reply to No 6, Seabrook Road, Dagenham, Essex RM8 3QP (tel 0181 5975016).

D J Stacey, 7 West Lane, Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 3AA, seeks news of old mates from **701 Coy, Army Tpts RASC** which broke up in Brussels, then became **701 Station Maintenance Sect RASC**.

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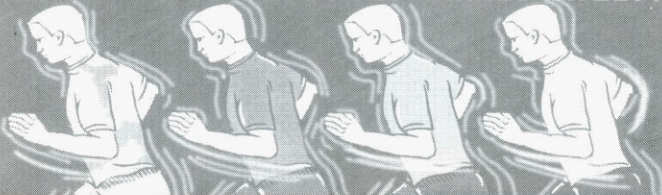
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Name : (Give initials and rank or title)

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Competition No 660 (April 28 issue): First correct entry drawn was from C J O'Connor, of Nottingham, who wins £50. Book prizes go to runners-up Mr G R Howard, of Faversham, Kent, and Mr G E Langley, of Chippenham, Wilts. The ten differences were: light over sign; boxer's right thumb, lower hairline; kangaroo's left arm, right foot; joey's face; rope on left; soldier's cigarette; mouth of woman on left; centre soldier's epaulette.



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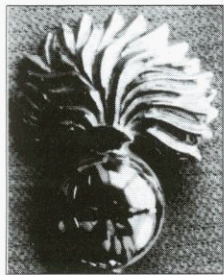
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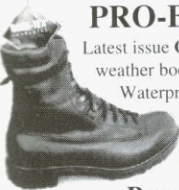


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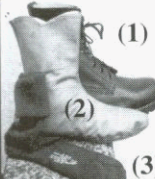
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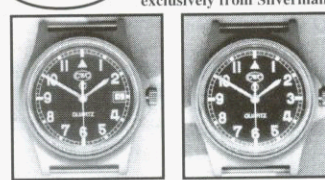
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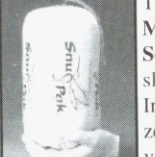
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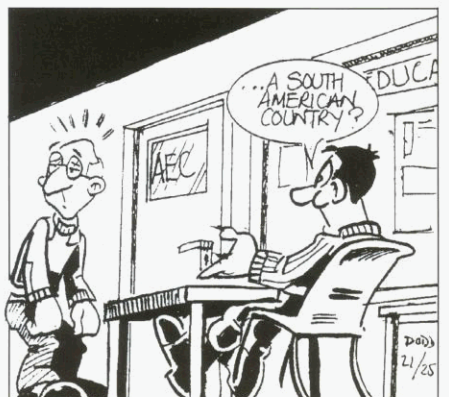
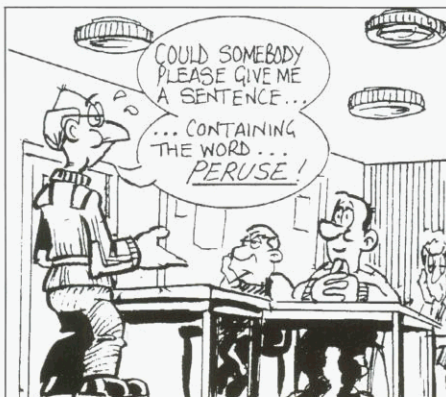
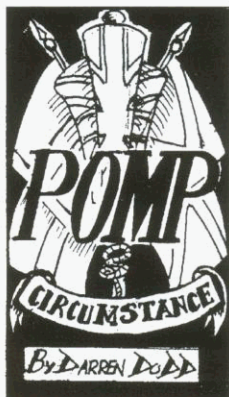
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Picture: Mike Weston

Cpl Mark Wiseman, the Army's triple shot put champion

Indelible Mark

NINETEEN-stone Cpl Mark Wiseman likes throwing his weight about, and he is exceptionally good at it.

The former Leicester Corinarian, who took up the shot put following an elbow injury, has been Army champion for three years and last year won the Combined Services discus title for good measure.

Mark joined The Staffordshire Regiment in 1989 at the age of 20 before his promise as an athlete prompted a move to the Adjutant General's Corps, allowing him to concentrate on his training.

Early indications of Mark's talent came as a youngster when he held the English Schools cricket ball throwing record.

Now he has added shot, discus, javelin and hammer to his skills. He says he will throw just about anything... but his ambition is to break the Army shot put record of 17.04m. Long overdue for improvement, it was set way back in

1968 by Olympic Serviceman Bill Tancred. Mark's current personal best is 15.26m.

As this profile was being prepared, Mark entered for the Wiltshire county championships and emerged as a triple champion, winning the javelin, discus and shot events. He broke the Wiltshire record with a throw of 14.62m in the shot put. After completing a tour with Headquarters 3rd (UK) Division, he has recently been posted, literally across the road, to the 1st Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets.

"The division was very good in allowing me time off to train," said Cpl Wiseman.

"This year I aim to be even better. I have made significant improvements during training this winter and I plan to compete in Amateur Athletic Association events this summer.

"By the end of the year, I hope to have broken into the top 20 of the national rankings." — LM

Plucky Posh paddlers

TWO members of Peterborough-based TA unit, 158 Regiment RLC, completed the 125-mile non-stop Devises to Westminster canoe race.

LCpl Matthew Everett and Pte Bruce Boxall-Hunt, who finished in 42 hours in their

two-man canoe, were supported by four soldiers from the unit. Everett said: "We were very grateful for the support we received. It was important that we had assistance in carrying the canoe round the 70 locks that we had to pass through."

Sappers wallop airmen to take Jubilee Cup

3 RSME 4, RAF Bruggen 0
IN the final game of the Naafi Jubilee Cup competition at Minley, 3 RSME entertained RAF Bruggen and beat them easily, writes Derrick Bly.

It was enough to claim the trophy for the Army's unit champions.

In cricket weather, and on a bone-hard surface, both teams played entertaining football. The contest was even until a minute from the interval when 3 RSME scored a cracker.

A long ball from Mayers reached Reeves on the left, and his cross was volleyed past RAF 'keeper Armstrong by Shannon to give RSME a half-time lead and three-goal aggregate advantage overall.

The match was virtually decided in the 59th minute when the referee showed the red card to Taylor for an off-the-ball incident with Reeves.

In the 62nd minute, RSME went 2-0 up when Brown and Reeves did all the hard work and the latter's cross was touched home by McNulty.

On 71 minutes, a Finch chip reached Shannon, who cleverly flicked on for Brown to beat his marker and slide home a good third goal. The home side

scored a fourth in injury time through Shannon.

Mayers received the Jubilee Cup from Naafi's Head of Projects and Leisure Planning, Mr Dougie Pullen. Shannon was named Scottish Courage Man of the Match.

HMS Sultan 1, 3 RSME 5

In their opening game of the competition, 3 RSME had to contend with an uneven playing surface and a strong crosswind at HMS Sultan, Gosport.

The sappers opened the scoring through LCpl Ivan Finch in the 15th minute but, four minutes from the break, Sultan drew level.

RSME went in front through Reeves, then put themselves in with an excellent chance of lifting the trophy by scoring three times in the last eight minutes, with two goals from substitute LCpl Macca McNulty and another from Reeves.

The surprise score gave 3 RSME a two-goal start (the competition is decided by number of goals scored) over RAF Bruggen.

Cpl Reeves received the Scottish Courage Man of the Match award.

● In the opening fixture, Bruggen beat Sultan 3-0.

Students take revenge

CS U-21 15, Eng Students 45

MORALE in the Combined Services Under-21 team was high as they assembled at RAF Brize Norton for the final game of the season, writes Nick Cooke.

England Students, however, had a strong team and, following their defeat by CS U-21 less than two weeks earlier, they were seeking revenge.

Hard tackling by the back row of Cpl Mat Price, AB Jeff Annal and SAC Nick Burnett kept Services in the game for the first 15 minutes, but England finally opened the scoring with a penalty.

Two minutes later, the England forwards powered over for a try before taking a strangle-

hold on the game. Wagstaff went around full back Spr Pete Griffiths at electrifying pace.

Services raised their game and Spr Pete Griffiths converted a penalty.

England extended their lead when quick ball to Wagstaff saw him cross the line wide out. A penalty to the students extended their half-time lead.

Mne Gareth Williams replaced Griffiths, MEM John Bucksey went on for Price in the back row and Mid Paul Laidler took over in the second row from SAC Dave Maddern. Hooker Fus George Kemble went on for SAC Mat Mason.

Pressure earned the Services a penalty, and, in a rehearsed move, Spr Ben Hughes



Picture: Mike Weston

Action from the inaugural Army women's rugby match between the British Army (UK) and the British Army (Germany), hooped shirts

Pulsating plate adds final touch to festival occasion

THE Deloitte Touche Army seven-a-side rugby competition was played in glorious sunshine at the refurbished Aldershot Military Stadium, writes Roger Thompson.

It provided a fitting end to a season when both the Senior and U-21 XV's had won the Inter-Services championships. Results from the divisional preliminary competitions had suggested that a traditional 2 Sig Regt v 7 (Para) RHA final

was likely, but neither was impressive in the early rounds, their players looking jaded.

This year, the winners of the Army Rugby League nines, 1 Para, were invited to participate, and Hampshire Colleges provided a demonstration of women's tag rugby.

And the first game of Army women's rugby was played, under the auspices of the ARU, when Army Women (UK) took on a team from Germany.

The weather, variety of rugby and colourful tented village provided a festival atmosphere.

As hinted in the preliminary games, 2 Signals were dumped in the quarter-finals by 7 RHA, who came good for one match only in the stadium. The gunners were, in turn, beaten 14-12 by the Royal Welch Fusiliers — the Army XV finalists — who went on to the final.

In the other half, 4 GS Regt RLC cruised into the main final against little opposition.

The RWF ran hard and tackled harder until they were overcome by the sheer pace of Sgt Graham Bland, returning to rugby after a long injury, and Cpl Mark Botten, a Combined Services player this season. The loggies won handsomely, Cpl Glen Hunt catching the eye with an individual try. SSgt Paul Stanley, recently promoted to B1 star, refereed the final.

Match of the festival was the Plate Final, with 1 Para, representing Rugby League, being supremely fit, hard and aggressive and Gurkha soldiers in green blazers and regimental ties to a man applauding as the Officers' Mess, 1 RGR took the field in green and black.

Led by Rob Abernethy, the Army and Combined Services full back, they played wonderful sevens against a 1 Para team which ran and handled crisply and hit everything that moved.

It is not often that the tea tents empty for a Plate Final but this year the crowd, partisan to a man, roared on their favourites. After a match where the lead constantly changed hands, the Gurkhas won 22-18.

To stage an Army sevens competition of 26 games, a demonstration tag match and a women's match in eight hours requires superb organisation and hard work. Lt Col Peter Andrews masterminded the day, while Lt Gary Smy, SSgt Braddock APTC and their soldiers from RLC Deepcut provided direction and muscle.

The Germany side, captained by Eddie Hatton, tackled hard throughout and were unlucky to face such an experienced UK side.

At the final whistle, the cynical were left to ponder on what was a highly spirited and skilful game of rugby football.

Women's rugby is on the map but needs enthusiasm off the field if it is to grow.

Women (UK) 10, Women (G) 0

The first Army women's representative match was held in conjunction with the sevens.

Although it has taken three years to get women players on to the park, there is no doubt it

was a great success that will be repeated in 1998.

Many players showed a high level of skill and both teams provided a spectacle for an enthusiastic, if initially sceptical, crowd. Several women on both sides had played for civilian clubs, were fit, and wanted to attack with the ball.

The UK were fortunate to have the experienced Maj Sue Ellis AGC (a Welsh international) and Capt Wendy Kirby, a renowned Scottish hooker, on their side. They also had a physically dominating back row where Margaret Fowers caught the eye.

Wendy Kirby and Sue Ellis combined well in the front row of a six-person scrum to supply ample ball to the UK backs who ran strongly and with determination. App Clare Heathcote (R Sigs), scored an excellent try (her first), powering up the wing and breaking tackles.

The Germany side, captained by Eddie Hatton, tackled hard throughout and were unlucky to face such an experienced UK side.

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Women's rugby is on the map but needs enthusiasm off the field if it is to grow.

Lee on brink of England debut

FORMER soldier Lee Bradbury, top scorer for the Nationwide League Division One side Portsmouth last season, is on the brink of England international status.

After joining the national Under-21 squad but sitting out the match against Georgia in April he was hoping to be on the teamsheet for the European championship game against Poland in Katowice on May 30.

Lee, a former 1st Battalion, The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment private who featured in a *Soldier* Interview in our March 31 issue, was voted Portsmouth's player of the season after scoring 17 goals in his first full term with the club.



On their way to their tour of the South Pacific are the British Army (Germany) rugby team and officials, being seen off by Gill Biddlecombe of Rover, one of their major sponsors.

Latest results from the New Zealand leg of their

itinerary were a 29-29 draw against ATG Waiouru and a 25-20 win against Cordite RFC. They were then scheduled to play against 1 RNZIR, with a final match in New Zealand against the New Zealand Army being a daunting prospect.

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A big day for the triathlon

THIS year's Army triathlon championships are to be an integral part of the London triathlon on September 21.

The event, to be held in the London Docklands, aims to be the largest in this country, with 5,000 competitors.

Maj Bert Appleton, of the Army Triathlon Association (ATA), sees the move as an opportunity to broaden the appeal of the sport.

"The race is to be televised live and is attracting widespread media interest. We have ensured that our race maintains its integrity while at the same time gaining a great deal in terms of profile," he said.

First-time triathletes who may wish to enter the half-distance race of 750m swim, 20km cycle and 5km run are being targeted by the ATA. Major and minor units are strongly encouraged to enter teams of four for the full distance race of 1,500m swim, 40km cycle and 10km run.

There will also be the chance to enter relay teams of three, with each individual completing one discipline at the full distance.

Maj Appleton also has high hopes for the Army squad.

"Last season the Army won the Jersey International, had several athletes in the world championships and are the current inter-Services champions," he said.

"We are confident that 1997 will see more success, as we are representing Britain at the European club relays in July."

Entrants are advised not to do so by replying direct to the organiser, as they will pay the full amount of £38.

One of the main sponsors is SSAFA Forces Help, and the ATA hopes that all athletes will support the charity.

Entry forms from: WO2 Charles Jenkins, WOs' and Sgts' Mess, RAF Brampton, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire PE18 8QL.



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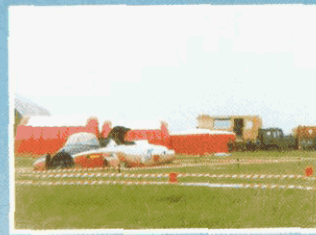
Urgent request from the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers for quick erect workshop.



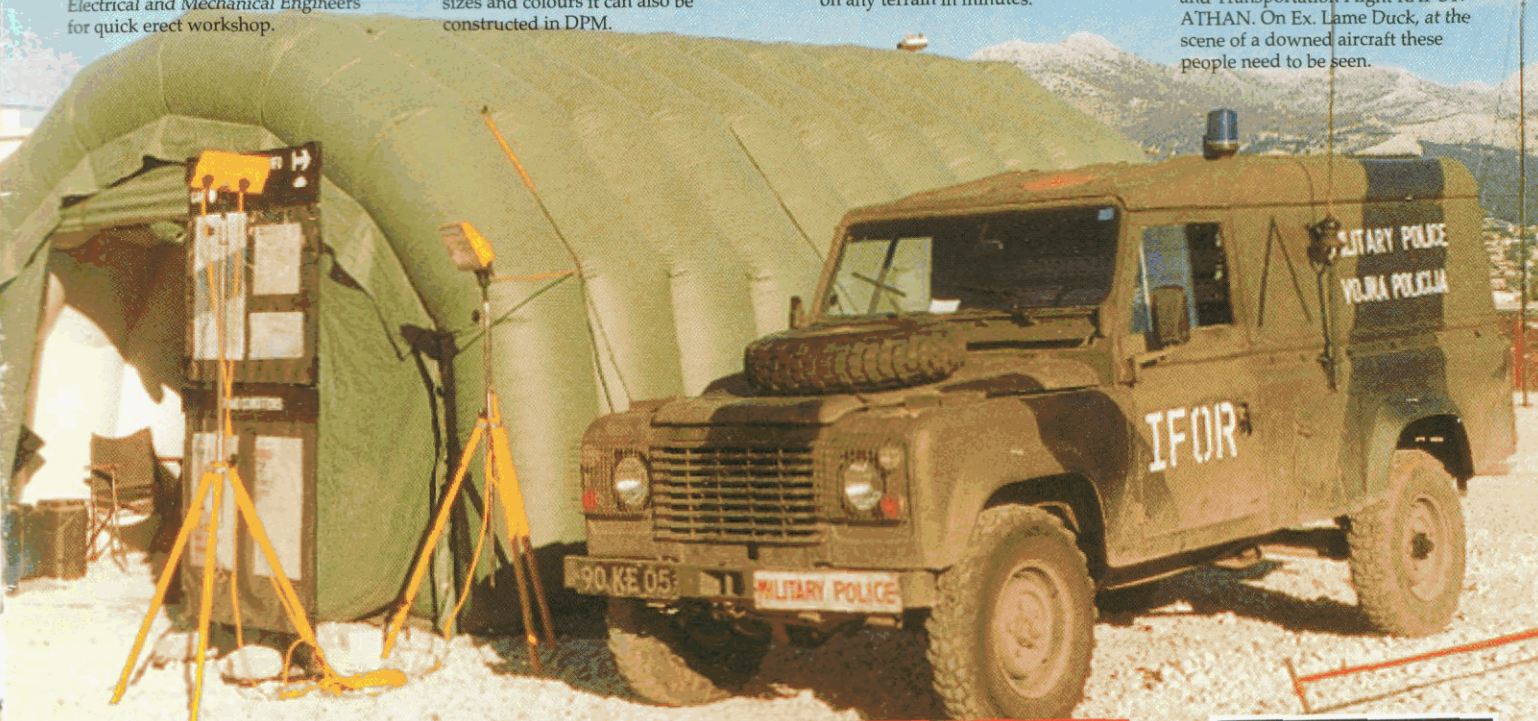
Unit can be made in a multitude of sizes and colours it can also be constructed in DPM.



Unit can be erected in any weather on any terrain in minutes.



Royal Air Force Aircraft Recovery and Transportation Flight RAF ST. ATHAN. On Ex. Lane Duck, at the scene of a downed aircraft these people need to be seen.



WHEN YOU NEED INSTANT COVER, ERECTED IN SECONDS WHICH IS LIGHT YET STRONG, FLEXIBLE YET ROBUST AND DOESN'T INCREASE IN WEIGHT WHEN WET, YOU'LL FIND AIRESHELTA THE IDEAL SOLUTION.

KNITE LINK LIGHT SYSTEM

Aireshelta's revolutionary new lighting system 110V, 220V or 240V, 36 watt compact fluorescent lights with tripod will give you extensive floodlighting capacity with minimum energy consumption. Each lamp consumes only 36 watts. The light output is better than a 500 watt Tungsten equivalent, with up to 50% more usable light and up to 20% larger footprint than any other similar system. It is also cold to the touch. Each element is able to give you 5000 hours of life.

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Ready for lift-off: A Royal Air Force Chinook heavy-lift helicopter hooks up a light gun and vehicle from G Battery, 7 (Parachute) Royal Horse Artillery, before delivering the equipment back to Sipovo, Bosnia, following a three-day deployment by the battery at Banja Luka.

Picture: Sgt Dave Bridges RLC

SOLDIER

