

SOLDIER

FORTNIGHTLY MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY

AUGUST 4 1997

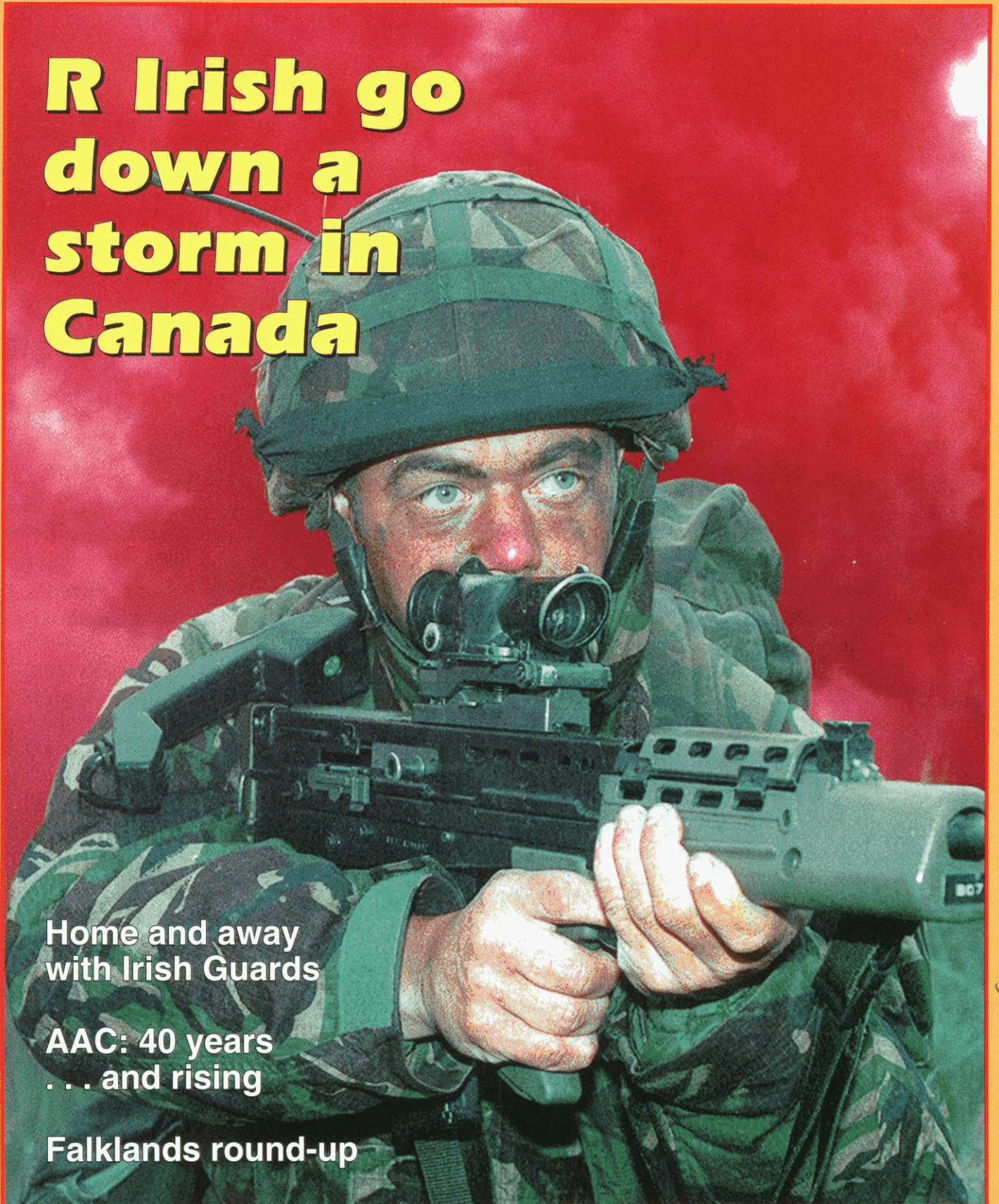
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Picture: Chris Fletcher

New neighbours: Gnrs Bob Enever and Chris Larke, from Aldershot-based 7 Parachute Regiment RHA, exchange views on their temporary accommodation in Tent City.

They and 3,500 other troops from 5 Airborne Brigade were encamped in a sea of tents in a holding area at South Cerney, Gloucestershire, where they were waiting to deploy for a massive parachute

insertion into Scotland on Exercise Pegasus Strike.

They were due to meet up with 500 French paratroopers who were dropping on Otterburn training area in Northumberland.

Logistics at the South Cerney air mounting centre were fully tested, with troops consuming 350,000 eggs and 7,500 loaves of bread before they departed for the north.

No concessions on handgun deadline for soldiers abroad

HANDGUN-owning Servicemen and women based overseas will lose any chance of compensation if they fail to meet the October 1 deadline for the hand-in of weapons banned under new legislation.

A signal has been sent to the Army worldwide warning that the Home Office will not extend the deadline for Service personnel out of the United Kingdom on detached duty.

Headquarters Adjutant General has also warned that any soldiers whose civilian handguns are not handed in by the end of September will be guilty of an offence under the Firearms (Amendment) Act 1997.

And because it is an offence for a Serviceman to have a civilian firearm in his possession without a firearms' certificate (FAC), it is unlawful for any other person in a civilian capacity to handle or have possession of such a weapon, says the signal.

Soldiers who attempt to re-import handguns into the UK after September 30 face arrest.

Col Billy Bowles, from the Training Safety organisation at

Upavon, said September 28 was the last day civilian centre-fire handguns could be fired on Army ranges, allowing two days for the final hand-in.

To help the Armed Forces, the Home Office and Police have agreed that commanders may appoint an officer to make arrangements with local authorities for the hand-in of weapons belonging to personnel deployed away from their home base.

Claim forms

But for the owner to qualify for compensation, the officer has to ensure claim forms have been signed by the FAC holder before the cut-off date. Where soldiers are deployed abroad this is like to take time, so the process should be started as soon as possible.

Service personnel who have civilian handguns abroad will not be eligible for compensa-

tion unless they hold a current FAC issued before October 16, 1996 and can make their own arrangements to hand them in on time. After Sept 30 they should dispose of the weapons before they return to the UK.

The signal says the disposal of private weapons overseas for which the user does not have either a local or UK FAC is likely to prove difficult, and calls for commanding officers to make arrangements with local police authorities.

"An alternative is for the owner of the handgun to make the necessary arrangements with a UK Registered Firearms Dealer with Section 5 authority for their import into the UK or with an appropriate civil club on the Continent," advises the signal.

Some pistol clubs based in the UK have arrangements in place to store weapons and shoot on the Continent.

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Troops exchange fire with indicted war criminal

BRITISH troops – widely reported to be from a Special Air Service squadron – took part in an action to detain two men indicted for war crimes in former Yugoslavia.

The soldiers, serving with the Stabilisation Force, returned fire when former Prijedor police chief Simo Drljaca drew a pistol and shot at them at Omarska in northern Bosnia. One soldier was hit and Drljaca was fatally wounded.

He and the British soldier were taken to Tuzla, where the soldier was treated for a leg wound later described as not serious. Two other men were detained and transferred to the Hague, from where the indictments from the International Tribunal for former Yugoslavia (ICTY) had been served.

Details of the action on July 11 were given in the House of Commons by Defence Secretary George Robertson.

"The injury to our soldier and the death of Drljaca illustrates the grave risks involved in such operations and the courage and selflessness of those involved," said Mr Robertson. "I am sure the House will join me in congratulating and commending the courage and professionalism of the British forces involved. I am very proud of their performance, which was up to the highest military standards."

The action had the specific authority of the NATO Secretary General and the Supreme Allied Commander Europe.

● British troops fired warning shots at intruders who lobbed explosives into a vehicle park at the British base near Banja Luka, apparently in retaliation for the SFOR action.

● Mine menace – Page 9



Picture: Sgt Paul Taylor RLC

The Duke of Edinburgh meets soldiers of the 1st Battalion, The Grenadier Guards at their base in Co Down. Prince Philip, Colonel of the regiment, was making his first visit to the battalion since its

arrival in Northern Ireland earlier this year. He presented several Long Service and Good Conduct Medals and met families of the guardsmen at a children's sports day in the base.

Staffords hurt in drive-by shooting

THREE soldiers from the 1st Battalion, The Staffordshire Regiment were injured in a drive-by attack within 24 hours of the UK Standby Battalion arriving in Northern Ireland.

The 400-strong, Ternhill-based battalion flew to the Province to give the Royal Ulster Constabulary additional support following widespread civil disorder in the wake of an Orange march at Drumcree, Portadown.

On July 11, two days after their arrival, three soldiers from Dragon Company, 1 Staffords were wounded in the

attack on a patrol in the Oldpark area of North Belfast. Two RUC officers, one a woman, were also wounded.

None of the injuries was life-threatening.

Sgt Maj Steve Lane, one of the first on the scene, administered first aid until the emergency services arrived.

Lt Col Jim Tanner, CO 1 Staffords, visited his three soldiers in hospital and reported that their condition was not listed as serious. He said that the incident had hardened the battalion's resolve to assist the police in countering terrorism

and maintaining public order.

Cpl Graham Cox explained: "Within 24 hours of arriving in the Province we were straight into it, out on the streets doing static vehicle checkpoints with the RUC in Belfast, showing a reassuring presence on the ground."

"We've been geared up for it for six or seven weeks, so we were prepared for it."

The Staffords brought to 17,500 the number of troops in the Province. The decision to deploy the battalion was taken by ministers following advice from the Chief Constable RUC and GOC Northern Ireland. Last year two additional battalions were deployed to the Province during the marching season.

The Staffords completed a two-year residential tour in March 1996.

● Drumcree – see Page 19

Two die in tanker accident

PTE Marc Symonds (19) and Pte Stuart Wilson (20), both serving with 3 (Close Support) Regiment, Royal Logistic Corps, based in Abingdon, Oxfordshire, died when their

diesel tanker veered off the road and fell into a ravine near the town of Kljuc in north-west Bosnia. They were serving with the NATO-led Stabilisation Force (SFOR).



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Managing Editor Chris Horrocks 2355 **Editor** John Elliott 2356 **Assistant Editor** Graham Bound 2362 **Picture Editor** Terry Champion 2357 **Photographer** Mike Weston 2357 **Art Editor** Les Gwyer 2169 **Librarian** Gerard Sutton 2351 **Advertising** 2352 **Accounts / Distribution** Janice Heal 2353 **Fax** 2358 **E-mail** solmag @ mail.army.mod.uk

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Answer: AEROBATIC DISPLAY TEAM

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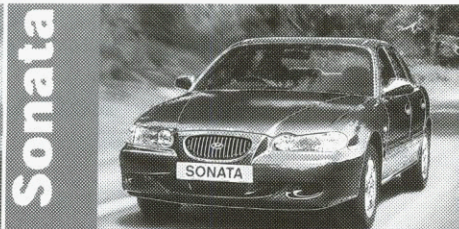
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WHEN ALL YOU WANT IS EVERYTHING

AAC stars in Oasis video

A LYNX helicopter of the Army Air Corps stars alongside rock super group Oasis in a video released to promote the band's latest album.

Viewers of *Top of the Pops* and the music video channel MTV, can see the Lynx, piloted by Maj John Davis, flying above London's Docklands to the heavy beat of Noel Gallagher's latest composition, *D'you Know What I Mean?*

Maj Davis, officer commanding 617 Squadron AAC at the School of Army Aviation, Middle Wallop, and manager of the Blue Arrows helicopter display team, said the band had approached the Ministry of Defence, which had agreed a fee and asked the Army Air Corps to help.

Although the band had to pay the commercial rate, Oasis got good value for their money. Only one Lynx was used, but, thanks to computer and video trickery, fans will see dozens of aircraft apparently flying in formation through Docklands.

Maj Davis said he enjoyed the three days of rather special flying, and, although no great fan of Brit-pop, meeting the band had been a bonus.

Could he confirm any of the



Top team: WO1 Dave Town (left) and SSgt Budgie Ashurst are the best in the land. They teamed up to win the British helicopter championships at Tewkesbury after first re-converting to the Gazelle for the event. The airmen, both helicopter instructors with 670 Squadron AAC at the School of Army Aviation, Middle Wallop, had been teaching pilots to fly Lynx, and had not flown a Gazelle for nearly a year before the competition.

WO1 Town and SSgt Ashurst

more colourful stories about the brothers Gallagher? "No, I never saw any of that," he said. "They were a good bunch of guys. A lot of professionals behaving professionally."

"They were amazed at the military's ability to fly helicopters and, by the end of the

Best in the land

beat off 26 teams, including Royal Navy, Royal Air Force and civilian crews. No strangers to success, they came third in the Moscow world championships in 1994.

A second Middle Wallop crew, WO2 Ginge Smith and CSgt Curly Elstow from 670 Squadron, finished sixth.

three days, they had offered me four more jobs."

But Maj Davis knows a lot more about rotor blades than rock and roll. He and the Lynx have returned happily to routine training at Middle Wallop.

● AAC 40th - Pages 16-17

Around the Houses

A summary of Defence topics from Westminster

RAC tour interval to shorten

AVERAGE operational tour interval in 1996-97 for the Royal Armoured Corps was 25 months, Defence minister Lord Gilbert said in a Lords debate.

He added: "I am afraid it will suffer, as we projected, for 1997-98 with the operational tour interval coming down to 19 months."

"On the other hand, for the Royal Artillery the average is likely to rise from 21 months to 36; for the infantry from 21 months to 23; and for the Royal Engineers from 12 months to 20."

"The RAC will be suffering so much because it will be carrying out a higher than usual number of operational tours in the infantry role in Northern Ireland to compensate the Royal Artillery."

Referring to comments by Fd Marshal Lord Bramall and others about the medical services being "badly stretched", Lord Gilbert said he hoped the MoD would be able to do something about it soon.

Referring to the Defence Review, he said he did not anticipate it would result in a "gendarmierie Army in which there would be no tanks at all".

□ □ □

Recruiting and retention is one of the Government's top priorities, Armed Forces Minister Dr John Reid declared.

Told by Mr Hugh Bayley in the Commons on July 14 that 2 Signal Regiment was 25 per cent under-strength, Dr Reid said the MoD was examining measures to reverse the shortfall, which in the Army was almost 5,500 and could reach as many as 7,500.

But the minister strongly denied that the Services were in decline, saying the Armed Forces offered many opportunities for young men and women to be equipped with skills, training, discipline and character.

● In a written answer on the same day, Dr Reid said the MoD had implemented an Armed Forces Pay Review Body recommendation to raise the other ranks' commitment bonus, payable at the four-and-a-half- and five-year service points, from £2,000 to £3,000. Bonuses had also been targeted at specific groups with skill shortages.

Fresh start on Gulf War illness

THE GOVERNMENT has embarked on what it calls a "fresh start" in its approach to illnesses suffered by veterans of the Gulf War.

Armed Forces Minister Dr John Reid described the new approach as a comprehensive strategy for dealing with veterans' concerns.

He said: "We have a duty to discharge our responsibilities in respect of those who have

It's a fact

One anti-personnel landmine laid by Britain in the Falklands is still unaccounted for and at least 12 were left in Iraq after the Gulf War. - *Parliamentary reply*

served their country. I aim to see we do just that."

The strategy, launched on July 14, promises a £2.5 million research programme into the possible health affects of the vaccines and tablets given to the troops to protect them from chemical and biological weapons.

In particular there would be tests to examine the effect of the simultaneous use of some vaccines, and an examination of the scientific basis for the chemical countermeasures used in the Gulf.

Results of the tests would be published.

Veterans are also promised shorter waiting times for access to the Ministry of Defence's Medical Assessment Programme, which is to be given more resources and assessed to ensure that patient care is in accordance with best practice.

Dr Reid said that an underlying principle of the new strategy would be openness. "The Government will be honest with them (the veterans), listening to what they have to say and engaging in a dialogue."

He said the Government would continue to pay no-fault compensation to sick veterans under the War Pensions Scheme.

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Capt Eddie Currie found time to enjoy the open spaces of Hohne ranges in Germany while 101 (Northumbrian) Regiment RA(V) were on their annual camp. Eighteen teams took part in a gun

detachment competition during Exercise Magpie Spear, with the Blyth-based 203 (Elswick) Battery taking the top three places. The TA soldiers fired 155mm FH70 Howitzers during the exercise.

In brief

THE Army's recruiting function was amalgamated with the Army Individual Training Organisation (AITO) on July 1. As a result of its expanded responsibilities, AITO has been retitled the Army Training and Recruiting Agency (ATRA).

□ The Defence Medical Training Organisation (DMTO), formed last year, was established as a joint Service agency on April 1, with headquarters in Portsmouth.

□ Territorial Army soldiers with Prestatyn-based 119 Recovery Company REME(V) celebrated the unit's 50th anniversary on July 18 when the Staff Band of REME Beat Retreat at the TA Centre in Marine Road.

□ An RAF Chinook flew 143 Plant Squadron (Militia), based at Walsall and Cannock, to Nesscliffe training area where the unit practised moving plant as under-slung loads.

□ Chief of Defence Procurement Sir Robert Walmsley attended a ceremony at Abbey Wood, near Bristol, to mark the creation of a new Defence agency, the Specialist Procurement Services.

□ Slough-based D Squadron, The Royal Yeomanry operated its Fuchs NBC vehicles during Exercise Northern Avenger.

□ Gurkhas training at Church Crookham built footpaths, ponds and classrooms at HMS Mercury, near Portsmouth, where 50 acres of former military base are being turned into an environmental education site.

Sappers' class act counters mines menace

BRITISH sappers serving in Bosnia are at the centre of a major effort to prevent children falling victims to the country's tens of thousands of unmarked mines.

Landmines remain a considerable menace in some areas, and are a particular threat to the lives and limbs of inquisitive youngsters. Refugees returning home for the first time since the war ended nearly two years ago are assessed to be in the greatest danger.

Among NATO Stabilisation Force (SFOR) troops involved in raising awareness are men from Osnabruck-based 21 Engineer Regiment.

Their lessons can make the difference between life and death. When Sgt Paul Kerridge took over a classroom at the battle-scarred village school in Drvetine, north of Bugojno, his audience was as young as



Mine man: Sgt Paul Kerridge

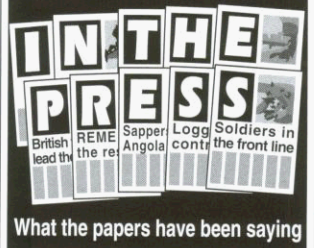
five and six. There are many uncleared mines in the area.

Examples were displayed in the school hall and, with the aid of an interpreter, Sgt Kerridge patiently explained they could be detonated by pressure or a trip-wire.

Sgt Kerridge also put the class through drills in case they do stray into a danger area. Each child was taught to turn round in his or her own footprints, and to retrace their steps exactly, or to crawl away, looking for wires and prodding for mines with a pen or knife.

It's a fact

Of the 386 Challenger 2 main battle tanks ordered from Vickers plc, 36 have so far been delivered and accepted into service. — *Parliamentary reply*



Alliance aid for Russia's sad forces?

NATO leaders are looking at ways to help Russia transform its bloated, wasteful and demoralised forces into an efficient, professional military machine. — *Sunday Telegraph*

□ International peacekeepers in Bosnia were on guard against a Bosnian Serb terrorist offensive after three attacks which followed SFOR moves against war-crimes suspects. — *Independent*

□ Treasury ministers have confirmed they cannot stop the second stage of this year's top people's pay award — including that of senior military officers — as they had suggested they might. — *Times*

□ Brig Charles Ritchie, military attaché in Paris, has been granted a second commission by the Queen as a brigadier in the Royal Company of Archers, her ceremonial bodyguard in Scotland, and is entitled to be addressed by the possibly unprecedented title of "Brigadier Brigadier Ritchie". — *Daily Telegraph*

Welcome to NATO

THREE Eastern European countries were formally invited to join NATO during the organisation's Madrid summit meeting on July 8.

Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic, all previously members of the Warsaw Pact, are to begin accession talks with NATO, with a view to becoming full members on the Treaty's 50th anniversary in April 1999.

Although there were applications from other eastern European countries, Britain supported the American view that only limited expansion was possible at this stage.

● During the summit, NATO nations also signed a charter with the Ukraine.

Climate of complaint has dire implications for the Armed Forces

THERE has been, we are told, a seven-fold increase in the numbers of Service personnel claiming compensation for personal injury.

Several interested groups made predictable responses that today's younger generation is part of a "compensation culture" which encourages individuals to believe they can claim financial recompense for the slightest knock.

I agree, to some extent, but I also think this is a matter which has to be addressed seriously because it might just be possible to prevent the numbers of claims rising even more.

The existence of a "compensation culture" is, in my opinion, a matter of fact rather than speculation. I believe its roots lie in modern education and with the media.

At school, too many children have the elements of competition removed from their lives... they have been encouraged to think that life must always be fair, that they must always be no better or worse than their classmates in performance in the classroom and on the sports field.

Their work has been presented to them in ways which require little effort on their part and, despite all the claims for the curriculum to be based on pupil-directed research, there has been little intellectual rigour and poor direction.

There have also been several cases where parents have sued schools because their children have been injured in the playground.

One school I know has reacted

to the possibility of legal action by producing a complicated mixture of disclaimer forms for parents to sign, erecting large sign-boards in the playground and introducing rules for staff on playground duty that make your average international peace treaty look like a Janet and John reader.

The rise and rise of the consumer programme on radio and television has made a major contribution to the prevailing climate of complaint. Hardly a day passes without some consumer guru advising people to sue if their breakfast-time cup of tea was cold in their holiday hotel. As a result, the small print

in contracts has got more extensive and wide-ranging and insurance premiums have gone up and up.

The Ministry of Defence needs to take this very seriously and its legal staff should seek ways to prevent the problem arising. Perhaps they should take their lead from those schools and the business world.

When a new recruit signs up to join the Armed Forces, there could be some pretty comprehensive small print at the bottom of the form.

The only drawback would be the inevitable outcry from the human rights lobby. With the possibility of changes in the legal system in the offing that, too, should be regarded seriously.

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



Cari's column

Life with the penguins: how one Army family is enjoying the Falklands

"WHEREVER you go as a family in the Forces, you have to make the most of it." Sue Crew's philosophy for adapting to the demands and opportunities of military life stood her in good stead when husband Rick was offered a one-year accompanied posting to Mt Pleasant in the Falklands.

Rick, a staff sergeant with the Royal Engineers, had enjoyed three brief postings in the Falklands so much that when given the opportunity to take up a married accompanied post as resident Clerk of Works, he convinced Sue and children Simon (9) and Anne Marie (11) to give it a go.

True to her philosophy, Sue did make the best of it, and the children settled so well that, at times, it seemed as if the rugged hills and the beaches were their own giant playground.

The year passed so happily, and the children were doing so well at Mt Pleasant's tiny military school, that Sue and Rick asked to stay on. They are now into the 18th month of their tour.

Rick and Sue, both in their thirties and natives of Oxfordshire and Wigan respectively ("chalk and cheese", says Sue) chatter about the Falklands, its charms, challenges and frustrations, as only people who are fundamentally happy with their lot can. Their conversations frequently return to a few themes:

the natural beauty and wildlife, the great environment for children and the active social scene.

"The main thing here is the wildlife," said Rick. "The day after we arrived, the children were sitting on a beach a few miles away watching gentoo penguins hatching their eggs. They wanted to know where the fence was, as if it was a zoo. You don't just see the wildlife here; you're right among it."

"We've seen every type of penguin, sea lions, elephant seals, the birds, and even killer whales."

Excursions

Weekends are taken up with excursions across the moors to nearby beaches or to cottages on outlying islands. But during the week, while Rick is at work and the children are at school, Sue finds that it is not always easy to fill the time. The problem, as she explained, is largely the shops... or rather the lack of them.

"One of my friends and I used to joke about it. She would ring me up and say: 'Fancy a trip to the Lakeside Shopping Centre?' We always seemed to find that funny."

"Of course, there's nothing like that here. There are three civilian shops and a café near the air terminal, and, of course, the Naafi. There's no supermar-

ket either; just the rations store, where, back in the early days, we might really be rationed."

"The shop assistant might say: 'We've had a shipment of plums in. You can have three.' You can imagine how we felt."

But, says Sue, things have improved greatly since then, and she has discovered that the urge to shop can also be satisfied by visits to Stanley, 40 miles away. If the family needs anything special, they order it from the United Kingdom. Letters and parcels arrive on the RAF Tristar twice a week.

The other way to handle the long days was to get a job, something Sue would advise every newly-arrived wife to do as soon as possible. She was fortunate to find one in which she could use her enthusiasm for wildlife.

The tourist board needed someone to run the base travel office, so Sue took on the task of arranging R and R trips to the wildlife lodges and self-catering cottages. Apart from the monthly pay cheque, the job has also given her the chance to travel all over the islands, making friends among the farmers and lodge owners.

After work and at weekends, the family becomes immersed in the life of the community. Sue's smile makes it clear that she values the time spent with new friends. "We're a close-knit com-



Island Crews: Rick, Sue, Anne Marie and Simon

munity, and we all get on so well. People make an extra effort here, and there are all sorts of things going on: parties, pot luck suppers or visits to war-ships, for example.

"There is always something to do and something to get dressed up for."

Rick and Sue believe that the Falklands are a great place for children. Anne Marie and Simon have found a love of nature that they will probably enjoy for the rest of their lives, and the safety of Mt Pleasant and wide open spaces means that they can wander and play without fear.

They both enjoy the small school, and have friends at Mt Pleasant and in Stanley. They talk excitedly about the time their entire school travelled to the remote sheep farming community of Port Howard and joined local children for a few days of classes.

Inexplicably, Simon and Anne Marie even seem to be less

fussy about their food in the Falklands. It may be the absence of a chip shop, but Sue is still puzzled about their appetite for cabbage.

Soldiers enjoy the novelty of having the children around the

base and units often invite Simon and Anne Marie on summer outings or to barbecues.

"Many of them have kids at home," says Rick. "Our children remind them of theirs."

But there are drawbacks to expatriate military life in the Falklands, the most significant being the distance from friends and family. The Crews made the 17-hour journey back to Britain for leave at the end of their first year, but there can be no long weekends back home, or surprise visits to mark a family birthday.

Phone bill

Sue tried to make up for it by phoning home often, but a £73 bill for one month's calls made her realise that the telephone can be little comfort.

The couple agree that the standard of housing could be improved. There are 35 married quarters at Mt Pleasant, and although some of the larger

villas are roomy and have conservatories, the houses allocated to senior NCOs are tiny pre-fabs, originally built for the engineers who constructed Mt Pleasant.

However the little bungalows were recently fitted with new furniture, and Rick has been working on plans for new interior lay-outs, which, if accepted, will make the homes more comfortable.

In spite of these concerns, the Falklands posting has been one the Crews will remember happily. Gibraltar, their next posting, will be nearer their loved-ones, and of course the shopping will be great. But when asked what they will miss about the islands, the family have no shortage of answers.

"I'll miss not having to lock the house and the car," said Rick. "Not having to worry about the children," added Sue. "The fresh air," said someone else. The answers kept coming, but Simon, as little boys will, had the last word. "Don't forget the penguins," he said.

The Crews, one suspects, will never forget the penguins.

● Falklands: Pages 22-25.

Report: Graham Bound
Pictures: Mike Weston



Gurkha sapper Makanbahadur Gurung cradles his 14-month-old son, Prasun, while receiving the traditional Nepalese greeting from his wife, Namaste. They were among the first group of 313 dependants to arrive from Nepal under new term of service for UK-based Gurkhas

Picture: Chris Fletcher

Motherhood 'not a career impediment'

ARMY personnel managers have received written guidance on the management of pregnant Servicewomen and serving mothers with infant children.

According to the policy document prepared by the Director of Manning (Army), the over-riding concern must be for the welfare of mothers and children before and after birth.

The Army also insists that pregnancy and motherhood should be no impediment to career development.

Pregnant Servicewomen and serving mothers have the option of leaving the Army, and statutory maternity leave applies as in civil-

ian employment. But the policy document stresses that pregnant Servicewomen who wish to continue in their jobs are expected to carry out normal duties, "unless to do so involves a risk to her health or that of her baby".

Those who choose to return to their units after normal maternity leave must be allowed to take up their previous post or one with similar seniority, rank and career prospects. But single serving mothers wishing to return to posts outside the UK are to be counselled on the problems that may face them.

The document lists child care and access to the Child Support

Agency as being common complications for mothers posted overseas. A mother who decides to return to an overseas unit would receive no special privileges, and, like her UK counterpart, would be expected to take part in operational deployments.

The briefing paper does, however, stress that there are other options for serving mothers who became pregnant while on overseas postings. They may be able to remain in the same overseas theatre, but transfer to posts in which the work allows more time for child care.

Alternatively, they can consider postings in Britain, which may give

ease of access to families. Any such new posting, says the document, must be "commensurate with the Servicewoman's rank and seniority". It is made clear that no Servicewoman has the right to such preferred postings, but the policy is to grant requests whenever possible.

There is also guidance on child-care.

"Providing care for a child or lone parent is not incompatible with service in the Army," says the policy document. But parents are to be advised that they are expected to make full arrangements for the care of children.

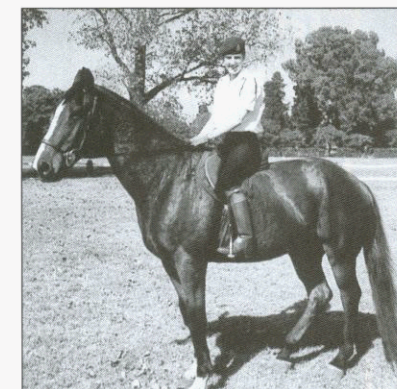
Buenos exchange

A VISIT by four Argentinian Army officers to the Defence School of Languages at Beaconsfield was good news for Capt Rachel Quinn AGC(ETS).

As officer in charge of Spanish language training at the school, she was asked to make an exchange visit to the military-led language school in Buenos Aires.

Promotion within the Argentinian Armed Forces depends on candidates passing English exams, so the school's work is vital.

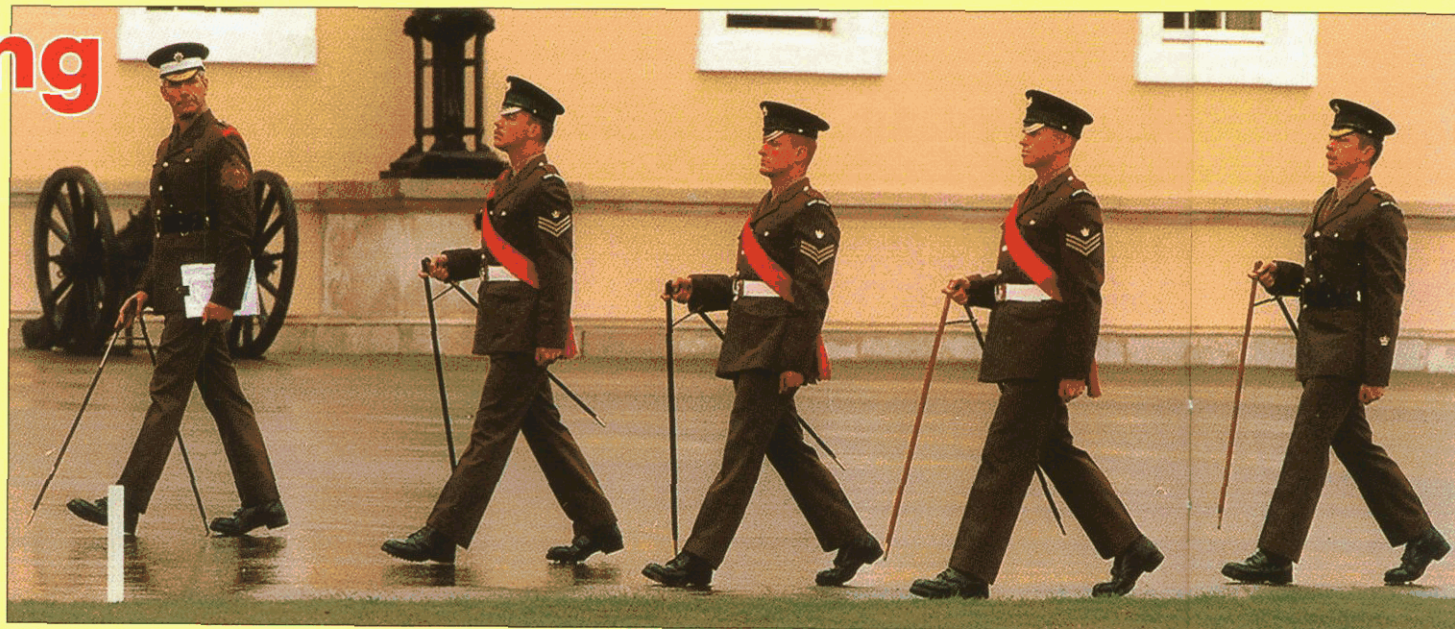
She found highly-motivated tutors providing an excellent service with very limited resources.



Capt Quinn (above) also visited the Colegio Militar, the country's equivalent to the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, and took part in a St George's Day military horse-riding parade.

Setting the pace

W01 Perry Mason, Coldm Gds, one of three judges, checks the pace of No 5 Company, Irish Guards during the world championship pace-sticking competition at RMA Sandhurst. From left to right are CSgt Kenny Fox, CSgt Simon Nicholas, CSgt Paul McCarthy and Drill Sgt David Ryan. Among the teams taking part were two from the South African Defence Force. The winning team came from Sandhurst, which also entered a women's team.



Picture: Mike Weston

PRIDE OF THE SAPPER MILITIA

Maj Jennifer Pride is the first woman to command a squadron of the Royal Monmouthshire Royal Engineers (Militia). The chief designer for a wedding gown business in Cardiff, she has been appointed OC 108 (Welsh) Field Support Squadron (Militia) in Swansea. Her husband, Maj David Washington, currently serving with 160 (Wales) Brigade in Brecon, is also in the R Mon RE(M).



Just plane spit and polish

Question: How do you get a jump jet to shine? Answer: Use plane spit and polish! When Nottingham Territorial Army sappers from 350 Field Squadron RE, which supports the RAF's Harrier force overseas, were given a "retired" Harrier jump jet for a gate guard, they did what any self-respecting soldiers would do . . . they polished it. Which is where (back, from left) Spr Roy Thomson, Spr David Thompson, LCpl Ian Longmate, and (front) Capt Joe Middleton and Pte Tracy Cockersole got into the act ("There's acres to polish," was the unanimous reaction). The aircraft was given to the unit, part of 73 Engineer Regiment, by its Honorary Colonel, Air Chief Marshal Sir Richard Johns, Chief of the Air Staff.



Foreshore frolics



Giving a whole new meaning to all arms skills are two soldiers from Brighton-based Territorial Army units who landed on the resort's main beach during an intensive recruiting drive in West Sussex. Miss Brighton Louise Forshaw

was there to welcome them . . . and get carried away by the occasion. The soldiers came from locally-based units of the Royal Engineers, The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment, the Royal Signals and the Military Police.



Ship to shore

Stepping ashore at Gibraltar after sailing from Devonport via Casablanca on HMS Argyll, their affiliated ship, are three soldiers from the 1st Battalion, The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders. From left are LCpl Stewart McNally, LWEM Stu Knott, Pte Ross Mowuatt, Pte Robert Bain and LStd Taluker.



TAFMIS's flying start

SSgt Steve Apps, a parachute instructor with the Joint Service Parachute Centre at Netheravon, Wilts, freefalls in tandem with Laura Chipperfield, from the TAFMIS team. It was Laura's first jump, Steve's 4,000th. He and fellow instructors Sgt Tony Goodman, Sgt Debbie Ingle and Sgt Geordie Page jumped with seven members of the EDS Defence project team which is installing the Training, Administration and Financial Management Information System into 40 Army Training and Recruitment Agency sites, including Netheravon.



Husband and wife team SSgt Richard and Cpl Paula Oats, on parade together, are interviewed for SSVV when Rheindahlen-based 101 Provost Company RMP renewed its Freedom of the city of Xanten. The couple were among 50 members of the unit, accompanied by the Band of the Hussars and Light Dragoons, who

paraded through the historic Roman city in north west Germany near the Dutch border. The salute was taken by Herr Hans-Jürgen Thiele, the bürgermeister, and the inspecting officer, Brig Ian Fulton, Provost Marshal (Army). It was the third time 101 Coy had exercised the Freedom since it was bestowed 15 years ago.

Grandad's gong

A hundred years ago, Thomas Thompson, an Australian gunner, received his medal to mark Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee. Grandson Richard Thompson and wife Jan, from New South Wales, show the medal to CSgt Nigel Harris, Welsh Guards, on the square at Chelsea Barracks, London, where the medal was presented to Gnr Thompson, one of ten Australian soldiers brought to the UK to celebrate the jubilee.



Kirsty's signal destiny

Kirsty Barre's parents, Timothy and Heather, reckon she was destined for a career in the Army since she was a day old. Now 17 and a sergeant in Shropshire Army Cadet Force, she appeared in the local newspaper, aged 24 hours, with her parents and their colleagues from 94 Signal Squadron, a Shrewsbury-based Territorial Army unit. Heather recalls: "We were the first members of the unit to marry while serving and when Kirsty was born we promised the unit that she'd join when she was old enough." Their daughter joined 95 Sqn on July 1 to prepare for a career with the Regulars. Her ambition is a place at RMA Sandhurst and a commission in the Royal Signals.



Alberta's wet, wet welcome makes Irish feel at home

JUST AS Northern Ireland was experiencing a particularly wet and cold start to the summer, it came as something of a surprise for troops of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Irish Regiment training in Canada to discover they were very much at home with the elements... it was very wet and cold.

The general service battalion timed its stay in Alberta to coincide with the country's worst summer downfalls in living memory. Hail storms and swollen rivers added to the problems, and a major rodeo and stampede officially opened by the R Irish Band was nearly washed out.

Acres of mud had to be compacted before people were allowed in to the rodeo at Wainwright, a curtain-raiser to the bigger, more famous Calgary Stampede, which attracts cowboys from all over the world.

The Bugles, Pipes and Drums of 1 R Irish still managed to be a centre of attention as they played on in the deluge in their brilliant white uniforms, a stark contrast to the mud-splattered rodeo aces and beauty queens.

MACHINE-GUNNERS

During the six-week Pond Jump West exercise, the musicians doubled up as a platoon of machine-gunners. Bugle Pipe Maj George Osborne admitted it was one of the strangest, and wettest, events he had ever played at. "Luckily we had two uniforms with us because they are white and the mud was most definitely not. Apart from that all the Irish tunes seemed to go down well, even with such country music-loving people."

Musical entertainment aside, an intrepid team of soldiers was invited by the rodeo organisers to take a more hands-on role.

Three intrepid Irishmen subsequently entered the mud-filled arena and bravely attempted to catch and mount a bull.

While this excitement was going on Pond Jump West was providing highly developed military training and adrena-



Picture: Sgt Paul Taylor RLC

Prairie cover: a 1 R Irish soldier on the prairie at Wainwright

lin-pumping adventurous activities, including skydiving, white-water rafting and rock climbing.

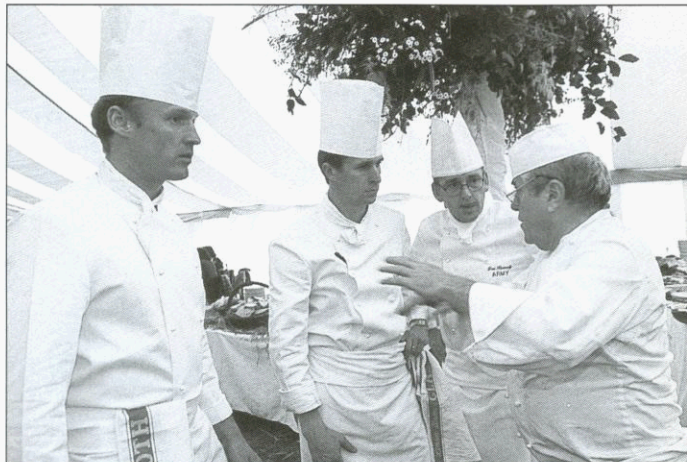
The British Army regularly trains over the huge expanse of Camp Wainwright in Alberta. The former national park is still home to a herd of buffaloes.

Lt Col Jeremy Brooks, CO 1 R Irish, said: "This battalion can be deployed anywhere in the world on operations and that means working in all forms of climate and countryside. Canada offers huge, absolutely deserted, open spaces and a temperature that can change within a five-square-mile radius.

"We've had snow and bright sunshine, which puts soldiers under considerable pressure while they are carrying all their kit and learning new skills."

A four-day R and R package gave troops a chance to visit the sights in Canada.

"Some of the newest soldiers had never been in an aeroplane or travelled out of the UK," said Lt Col Brooks, "so when they came here and within five days were throwing themselves out of an aircraft for free-fall parachuting, or jumping into a raging 50ft torrent of water, they really got to know themselves and found out what they were capable of."



Picture: WO2 Pete Bristol

Cooking up a perfect dish: Three Army master chefs had the privilege of working with culinary legend Albert Roux to feed 400 people in the swish surroundings of Knighton Mill at Broad Chalke near Salisbury. WO1s Colin Slade, Dai Kennedy and Rick Fletcher were helping to prepare a feast which raised about £15,000 for the fight against multiple sclerosis. From left to right are Rick, Colin, Dai and Albert

MS Challenge is a real push-over for Arborfield lads

A TEAM of 11 apprentices from the **Army Apprentices College, Arborfield** took part in the annual Multiple Sclerosis Challenge at Capel Curig in Wales.

Under the rules of the competition, teams of no more than 12 have to push, carry and otherwise convey an MS sufferer in a wheelchair around a demanding 12km course.

The Arborfield lads were encouraged round the course by their "passenger", Steve Davies, despite losing a wheel two-thirds of the way round.

With the weather closing in and adding to the difficulty, the Arborfield lads carried the chair, and Steve, around the remainder of the course and crossed the line first in a time of 1hr 52min, the fastest recorded over three days of competition.

There was an appropriate fanfare when Band Sgt Maj Paul Darlaston of the **Adjutant General's Corps Band** presented a cheque for £1,000 to Esther Rantzen for her Childline charity.

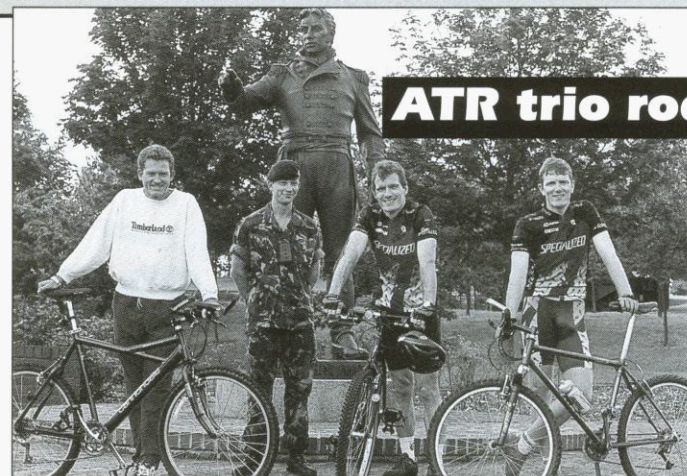
Paul had raised the money by competing in the London Marathon (which he completed in a time of 4hr 50min), and was accompanied to the cheque presentation ceremony by the trumpeters of the corps band.

□ □ □
Soldiers from 152 (Ulster) **Ambulance Regiment RLC (V)** collected £13,000 for Save the Children during their marathon drive through the UK mainland to mark the 50th anniversary of the Territorial Army in Northern Ireland.



Picture: Maj Joe Bright

LCpl Mark Harrison presents two "rain" cheques totalling £100 to Mrs Emma Tweedy from the Wessex Children's Hospice Appeal. Mark, a member of the regimental police at the **Adjutant General's Corps Centre** at Worthy Down, Winchester, won a competition to find a name for the soldiers' dining room and decided to give his winnings to charity. He and his colleagues made the sum up to £100.



ATR trio rode wheelie fast down south

These intrepid Army mountain bikers took part in a 100-mile cross-country dash along the South Downs Way to raise £750 for charities. All serving at the Army Training Regiment, Winchester, they completed the gruelling ride from Winchester to Eastbourne in ten hours. Only 50 out of 140 starters managed to finish the ride. From left to right are Lt Chris Wilson, Lt Mark Milford (who provided the logistic support), Maj Steve Munns and Cpl Maz Marriot.

Kathy's desert dash boosts Mencap coffers

PLUCKY Pte Kathleen Perry braved high temperatures, sand storms and wild dogs when she cycled 508km along the banks of the Nile in a bid to get fit, writes **Clare Considine**.

Kathleen, who was recovering from a training accident, made the journey from Luxor to the Aswan Dam and back again in aid of Mencap and raised more than £1,750 for the charity.

Serving with **C (Cinque Ports) Company, 5th Battalion, The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment** at Hastings, she was one of 110 cyclists to attempt the ride.

Unsung heroes of the event were two soldiers from Suffolk.

SSgt Barry Humphreys and SSgt Nick Lewis, both serving with **3 Regiment, Army Air Corps** at Wattisham, were among the fittest of the group that set off from Luxor, but often ended up at the back of the bunch to look after less robust riders. SSgt Lewis was first to cross the line on the return to Luxor.

The two soldiers managed to raise £4,000 for Mencap, most of which was collected in the weeks leading up to the trip with the help of local schools and businesses.



On your marks: Members of the tri-Service Armed Forces Careers Office and RAF Stafford Personnel prepare to start a fund-raising triathlon which raised £700 for Greenhall Nursery for Children with

Special Needs. The eager soldiers, sailors, Royal Marines and airmen cycled, ran and rowed their way from RAF Stafford to Paris, a distance of more than 330 miles.



Brass section musicians from the Royal Signals Band set up for a special performance in a Belfast home

□ □ □
Pedal power was the means by which the **Nursery Rhyme Playgroup** at Thiepval Barracks, Lisburn raised more than £1,300 for Childline Northern Ireland.

Nearly 100km was clocked up on their bikes, trikes and scooters by 78 three- and four-year-olds. Soldiers on the permanent vehicle checkpoint at the Northern Ireland HQ collected £360 from people entering and leaving the barracks.

□ □ □
Sgt Gary Donnelly and LCpl Mark Palethorpe met paralympians Chris Hallam and John Harris on their 600-mile push around Wales.

Wales's top disabled sportsmen were only too pleased to take a break while receiving administration support and safety cover from the two members of the **3rd Battalion, The Royal Welch Fusiliers**. They helped to raise more than £1,000.

They're hoping for lots of lovely brass

MUSICIANS from the Brass Group of the **Band of the Royal Corps of Signals** made a stop during their tour of Northern Ireland to entertain 12 young adults with mental disabilities in a Belfast home.

The group, based at Blandford, played to celebrate the beginning of the home's charity fundraising for the year.

Last year, 213 Signal Squadron raised more than £3,000 to furnish a multi-sensory room. The signallers hope to work with HQ 39 Infantry Brigade to help fund flats which will give the residents some independence.

Aviators pack a punch at Middle Wallop

Report: Graham Bound
Pictures: AAC Journal

APACHE is coming, and, in the hands of the Army Air Corps, it is likely to be the most powerful weapon system in the British Army.

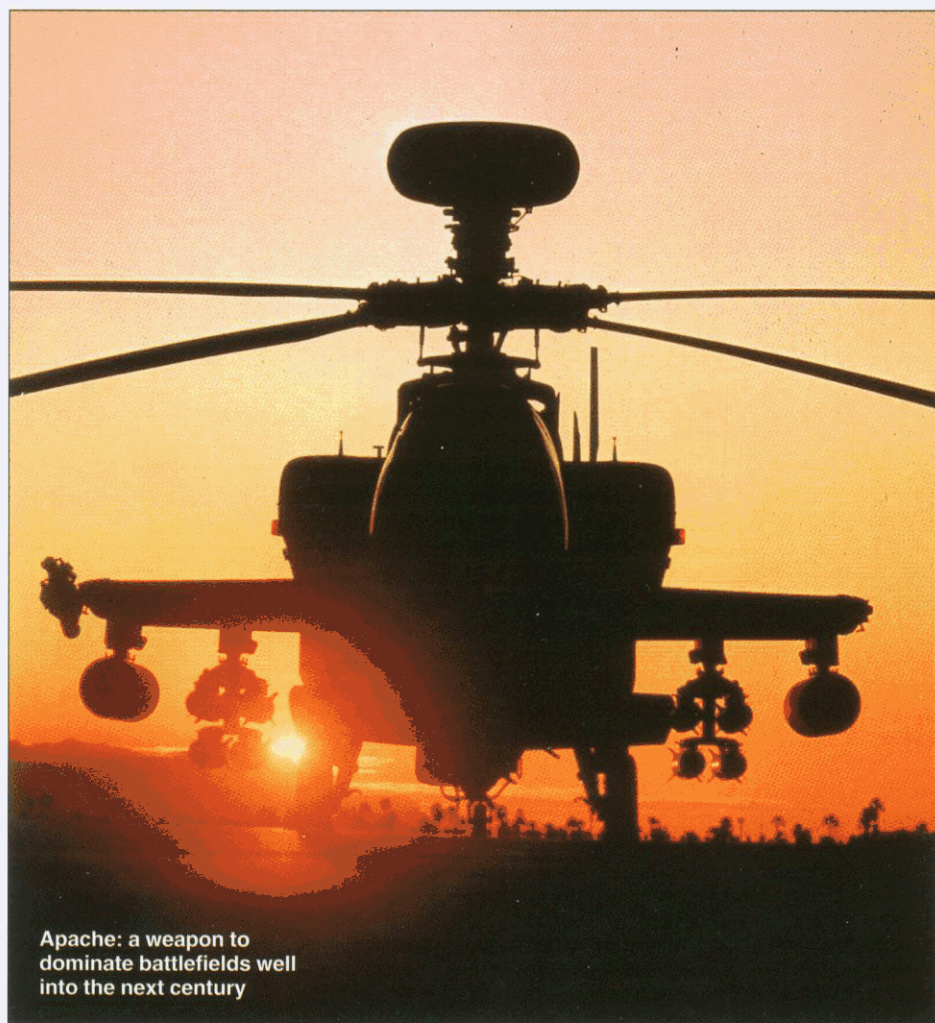
It seems ironic that this battleship of a helicopter, with a devastating ability to engage with cannons and missiles targets in the air and on the ground, will be in the care of a corps which, at its inception 40 years ago, was tasked only to provide liaison and reconnaissance support for front-line ground units.

But the AAC has never stood still. When the first AH-64D Apache Longbow is delivered in December 2000, the corps will simply have reached the latest and most dramatic stage of its evolution into a unit that can match – perhaps exceed – the firepower of the Royal Armoured Corps and Infantry.

Col Charles Blount, the corps' regimental colonel, puts it succinctly: "We were for many years rather like the poor relations," he said. "Now we have definitely come of age."

The corps celebrates its 40th anniversary in September, and Apache will be a slightly late but (at £20 million each) an expensive and very welcome birthday present. When the cake is cut, most people at the Middle Wallop base will be talking about little other than the new super aircraft, but there will be some older aviators remembering with a smile, and perhaps a shudder, the motley range of unarmed, unsophisticated and, sometimes, virtually unusable winged craft that were on the corps' inventory when it took to the air for the first time in 1957.

A few were simply bizarre, and had predictably short lives at Middle Wallop. The Wallis Benson Autogyro and the incredible inflatable Delta Wing, for example, were masterpieces of eccentric design, but belonged on the set of *Those Magnificent Men in Their Flying Machines* rather than in a



Apache: a weapon to dominate battlefields well into the next century

modern army. To paraphrase that famous theme tune, they may have been capable of going up-uppedy-up-up, but they weren't going to do it for the Army Air Corps.

Other aircraft, however, were capable of serious work. The mainstay of operations were the fabric-covered Auster observa-

tion planes, which had been inherited from the defunct Royal Artillery OP and Light Liaison Flights, and did sterling work before being taken over by the much more substantial Beavers. Demonstrating the early promise of helicopters was the tiny bug-eyed Skeeter helicopter. It was flimsy,



The venerable and reliable Auster

but it blazed a trail for the increasingly dominant rotary wing machines.

With the arrival of the versatile Lynx in 1978, the AAC was really able to go on the offensive. The British-built machine was ahead of its time, and suddenly the AAC had a fast machine that could not only carry troops and ammunition, but could also pack a significant punch in the form of TOW Missiles. The Lynx was, and still is, a significant and feared tank killer.

If there were any lingering doubts about the potential of rotary-winged craft, they must have been dispelled during the Gulf War, when approximately 75 per cent of Iraqi armour was destroyed by missiles or cannon fired from helicopters, many of which were American Apaches.

Col Blount describes the Apache as "simply awesome," and he is in no doubt about its future. "It will be the dominant Army weapons platform on battlefields well into the next century," says the colonel.

Since 1957, the AAC has taken its sometimes flimsy, but increasingly effective aircraft into every campaign or operation in which the Army has been involved; as close to home as Northern Ireland, and as far off as the Falklands and the Gulf. Along the way, air crews have gained an impressive number of honours, including the award of the first non-commissioned Distinguished Flying Cross.

Four decades of service and constant development are worth celebrating, and, as

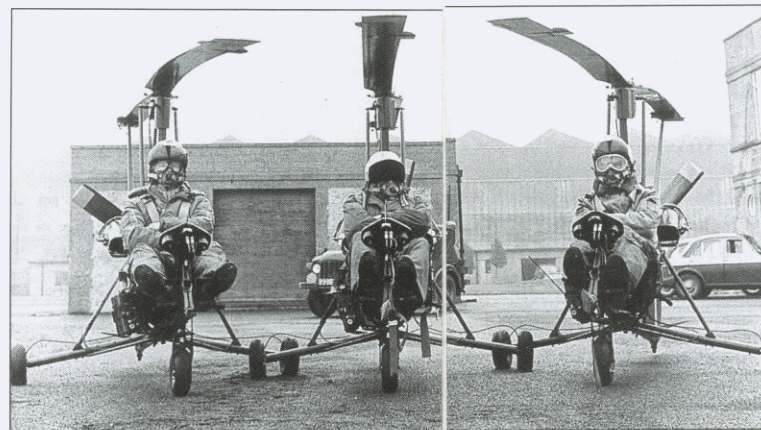
Soldier went to press the corps was busily planning two days of celebrations over the weekend July 26-27.

The main event will be Sunday's Wallop Challenge, a tri-Service competition of aerial skills ranging from parachuting to aerobatics. On Saturday the corps will parade its recently-acquired Guidon, or Colours, and during the evening the airfield will echo to the unfamiliar sound of a concert, appropriately called Music in the Air. And yes, the band will be playing *that* tune.



An early failure: the Inflatable Delta Wing

Those magnificent men... autogyros were an early experiment



Army air Corps helicopters past and present. From the top: Lynx, A109, Gazelle, Scout, Alouette, Sioux, Skeeter

Not the same without Drummie

I AM writing in support of Cpl McKenna's letter (May 26) about a bandsman taking over as the drum major.

I was a drummer for ten years and worked alongside Cpl McKenna for six or seven years. The thought of a bandsman taking "Drummie's" place at the front of the corps of drums would not even have entered our heads.

It's just not the done thing; the only time a bandsman would get the chance to march in front of a corps of drums on parade would be on St George's Day, and that is for about ten minutes, with the drum major just behind him.

What would this so-called bandsman do when on exercise? I hope that he would have been to Brecon to do the SF platoon commander's course, because that's what the drummer's job is. He would have to be very qualified, infantry-wise.

It just wouldn't be the same having a bandsman in charge of a corps of drums. — **Fus Buckley (ex-1 RRF Corps of Drums), Recce Platoon, Battle Group Main, 2 RRF, Gornji Vakuf, Op Lodestar, BFPO 548.**

Our mutt Mutley

I READ the letter (June 23) which said Mutley, the dog promoted second lieutenant by the RTR in Northern Ireland, was picked up by members of 2 Queens because he was half-starved. Not so.

I was serving with The Queen's Lancashire Regiment in Girdwood Barracks, Belfast in 1987 from January to July. Our call sign picked up the dog and took him back to Girdwood Camp where we fed and looked after him.

It was 1 QLR which named him Mutley, so he rightly belonged to 1 QLR originally. — **Cpl J Malone, B Coy, 1st Battalion, The Green Howards, Osnabruck.**

BIRD'S EYE-VIEW



Army Air Corps celebrates 40 years — see Page 16-17

He took a powder — to Malaya

YOUR story (Lifestyle, June 9) about the tri-Service catering platoon in Gibraltar brought back memories of my first posting abroad. It was in 1949 to the Little Bay hutted camp on the Rock.

Attached to our cookhouse was an Army Catering Corps training school run by a corporal to train regimental cooks.

I have never seen so much potato powder (called "Pom") turned into all sorts of things which ended up on our plates.

We wished the school could have gone to Aldershot, but no chance.

Then an order came round calling for volunteers for Special Forces for Malaya and I put my name down just to get away from the potato powder. — **Ken Williams (ex-RE and Special Forces), Scottish Veterans Residence, Edinburgh.**

Points in Question and For the Record are on Page 32

Train-spotting was best part of our day

LIKE many former Hong Kong wallahs among your readers, I have followed the farewell series with great interest. One item in particular brought back vivid memories — the piece about former Bdr Paul Piggott and the Crest Hill observation post.

Between 1954 and 1956 I spent many duty periods on Crest Hill observing the rail crossing into China at Lo Wu. In those days the highlights of our day were when the Kowloon-Canton trains were slowly pushed across the river bridge.

Passengers had to disembark in all weathers, walk over the border, then reboard the train on the other side. I enclose a photograph I took in 1954 of the Lo Wu rail crossing from Crest Hill. It was taken by the simple method of placing the aperture lens against a focused tele-



Jim Jacobs's "telescopic" photograph

scope; getting the aperture right was a bit hit and miss, given the basic equipment.

A Canadian friend wrote to say many of his countrymen were greatly impressed by the

military bearing of all on the farewell parade in that tropical downpour on June 30. One Canadian journalist, asked what most impressed him on the final day of colonial rule, said: "Oh, the British military, of course. They sure did it with some style."

Hear, hear. Well done to all concerned. — **Jim Jacobs, Fareham, Hants.**

● More Hong Kong farewell special comment on Page 32

Gloster Hill

REFERENCE a "hill in Korea" (Letters, June 23), I remember the cross while serving with 1 Dorsets in 1954-55. It appeared to be an improvised memorial.

The feature on which the cross was erected was known to all Commonwealth Brigade units as Gloster Hill. — **G W Stone, Isle of Wight.**



Picture: Sgt Paul Taylor RLC

Troops from the 1st Battalion, Grenadier Guards go through public order drills at their Co Down base in Northern Ireland. They were involved in maintaining order during the Orange march on the Garvaghy Road in Drumcree

Four battalions help stem Drumcree riots

THE BULK of main battalions of infantry were on hand to assist the Royal Ulster Constabulary during disturbances which broke out around a weekend march by Orangemen on the Garvaghy Road at Drumcree, Portadown.

Main military support was provided by troops from the 1st Battalion, The Cheshire Regiment, the 1st Battalion, Grenadier Guards, the 1st Battalion, The Royal Scots and the 1st Battalion, The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders under the command of 3 Infantry Brigade.

Royal Engineers, Royal Army Medical Corps and Army Air Corps elements were also in support, operating from the brigade's base in Mahon Road.

Lt Col Andy McDowell, CO 1 RS said: "We have all undergone lengthy and thorough

training for this role, but obviously we regret that it should be necessary for us to be here at all."

Troops started to arrive at the Mahon Road base five days before the proposed march along the Garvaghy Road, each unit setting up its own camp in tentage or borrowed portable cabins and establishing an operations room working to the joint RUC/brigade ops room.

The inside of the already crowded Mahon Road base reached capacity by the weekend when RUC mobile support units were drawn in from around the Province.

From midday on the Friday, troops were deployed on the ground to support the RUC as they assumed "cordon" positions around Portadown. Then the waiting game began as deadlines for a decision on the proposed march passed by.

Troops relaxed, rested and kept abreast of an increasingly tense situation by watching television news bulletins. Army caterers prepared hundreds of packed lunches as soldiers worked around the clock on patrols and to provide protection for the RUC at vehicle checkpoints.

In the early hours of the Saturday morning, troops and police moved on to the Garvaghy Road in preparation for the day ahead.

In the riots which followed, soldiers from the Cheshires, Grenadier Guards and A and SH came under attack.

Lt Col Bryan Watters, CO 1 Cheshire, described what his soldiers faced over the next few hours. "We were confronted at one point by about 300 rioters throwing rocks, petrol bombs, bricks, iron bars and other missiles. The rioters were using

shop front grills as shields and seemed well organised and orchestrated.

"The soldiers behaved magnificently, showing extreme self-discipline in the face of all the provocation. They kept steady and I am very proud of them."

Soldiers from 1 Cheshire remained on the streets, assisting the RUC and protecting the withdrawal of other troops, until Monday morning, when they returned to their base at Ballykelly.

Nationalist and Republican anger at the Secretary of State's decision to allow the Orange march down the Garvaghy Road spilled into street rioting and attacks on Security Forces around the Province. Troops from other regiments supported the RUC in dealing with the situation as it developed.

Micks, muddy rats and Colours

Report and pictures:
Chris Fletcher

THEY were caked in mud and had not washed or shaved for several days. Jungle rats, the size of well-fed guinea pigs, invaded their rain-soaked camp every night to search, scurry, scavenge and devour carelessly-placed webbing.

Wet, humid nights on the African equator were punctuated by myriad jungle sounds; some recognisable, others worryingly not.

Suspended between trees, hammocks hung 4ft above the rat-infested ground. The 150 soldiers from the 1st Battalion, Irish Guards had acclimatised to the sweltering Kenyan conditions and were well on their way to making Exercise Mono-Prix a memorable one. Rats and all.

This was a far cry from their world-famous duties of Changing the Guard at Buckingham Palace and Trooping the Colour on Horse Guards Parade.

The battalion had deployed to Kenya on their month-long exercise and were looking back on their earlier period of low-level tactics and endurance training as solid preparation for working in the rarefied atmosphere which they experienced at high altitude.

In the jungle they were confronted with some of the most inhospitable surroundings imaginable. The weather had fallen into predictable patterns; fine in the mornings and torrential rain in the afternoons, often carrying on into the evenings. The

resulting ochre mud bath had long since ceased to offend.

Firing on the vast open plains of Impala Farm ranges provided unparalleled opportunities for attacks and assaults to be executed using live ammunition. Full-scale attacks using all available weapons – mortars, anti-tank and heavy machine guns – went ahead without the constraints associated with the small training areas in the UK.

A car from a local scrap dealer was the target for the company's anti-tank gun. It did not last long.

It was not all work, however, as the adventurous training package included a choice of white water rafting, game drives, climbing Mount Kenya, and even a camel safari.

A few guardsmen helped National Park wardens clear little-used tracks ready for the next tourist season while the town of Nanyuki benefited from an increase of trade prior to the Guards returning to Pirbright in Surrey. Some healthy bartering saw intricate African wood carvings exchanged for pen knives, razors and trainers.

Thoughts turned quickly, however, to the next date in the battalion's diary, the presentation of Colours by the Queen, the regiment's Colonel-in-Chief.

Muddy combats and kevlar helmets were replaced by scarlet jackets and traditional bearskins when the eighth set of Colours to be presented to the battalion since its formation in 1900 were unfurled in the quadrangle of Windsor Castle.

The Micks, as they are affectionately known, were fresh-faced and without a speck of the African bush about them. Medals gleamed and polished boots slammed into the ground in response to barked commands.

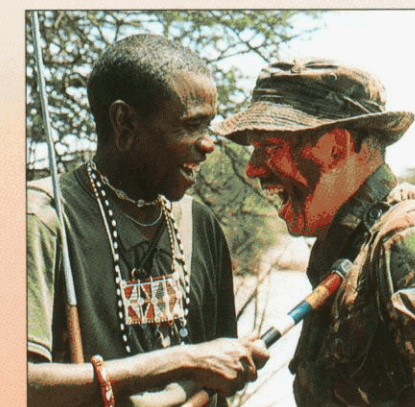
More than 250 members of the battalion paraded with their Colonel, the Grand Duke of Luxembourg, and their Irish



The old battalion Colours are ceremonially marched off parade past the Colonel of the Regiment, the Grand Duke of Luxembourg



A tense moment for Drummer Jeffrey McCaffery deep in the jungles of Kathendini in the foothills of Mount Kenya... and, below, a more relaxed time at a garden party in Windsor



Friendships were soon forged between the troops and the locals. Here LCpl Colin Reid shares a joke with Titipano, a Masai tribesman



An Irish Guardsman, having put down supporting fire with his 51mm mortar, races to a new position on the high ground



The Queen, Colonel-in-Chief, inspects the 1st Battalion, Irish Guards

Campito: home to the loneliest men on the islands

PERCHED on a rocky peak a thousand feet above San Carlos Water, and accessible only by helicopter, is Campito, the loneliest and smallest unit in the Falklands.

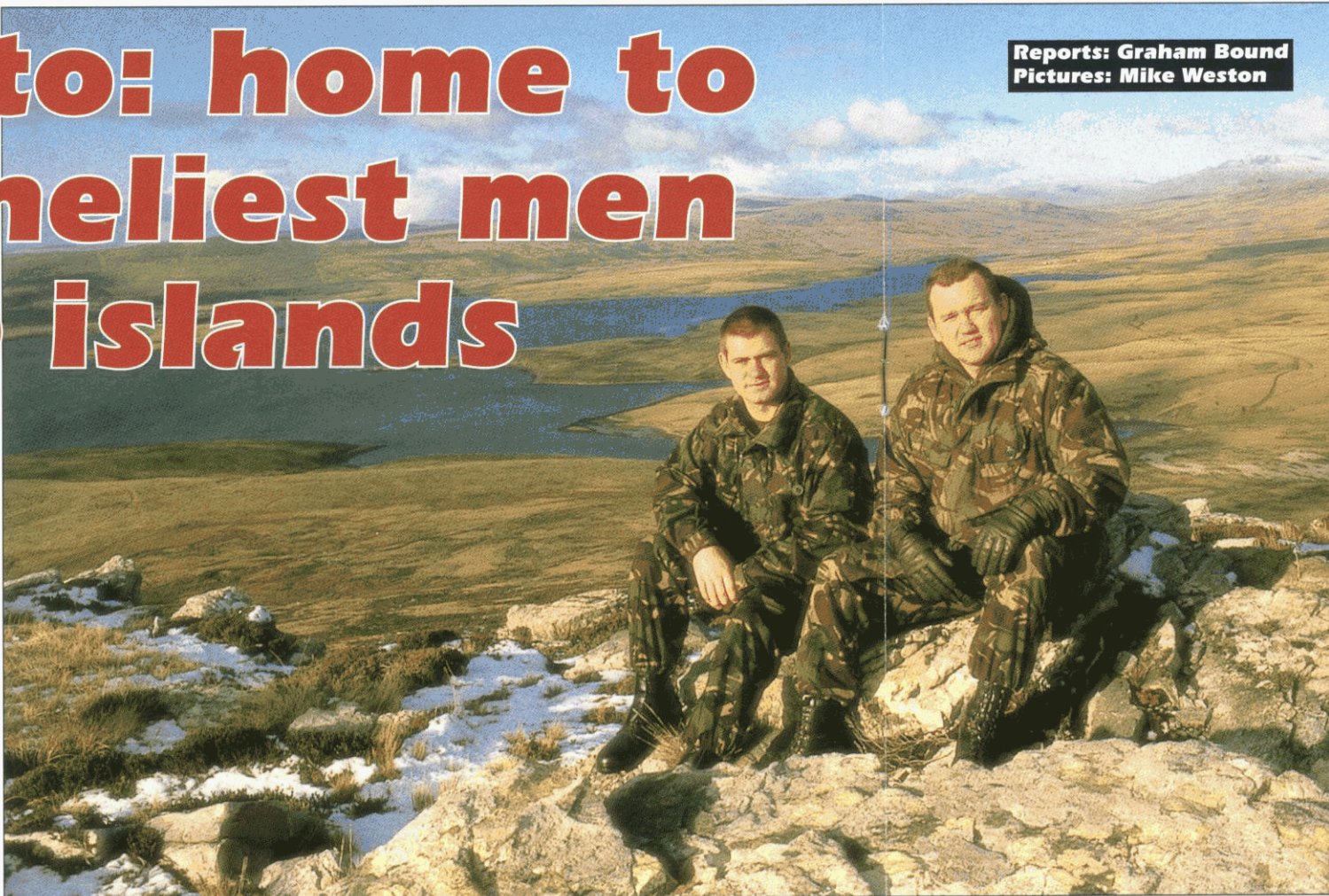
Inhabiting just one cabin, much of it packed with radio equipment, three men of the Royal Signals, the most senior of whom is a corporal, maintain the vital communications between radar sites and other out-stations scattered around the islands.

Not a lot happens at Campito. The most notable entry in the base journal of recent weeks was the death from old age of the cat, Argie, who lies buried among the boulders near the front door. Mt Pleasant sent a replacement mouser to Campito, (bearing the unpromising name Slug) but he was taking a while to adjust to Portakabin life, and peered wildly from behind a bank of electronic equipment.

Cpl Andy Giffen, LCpl Ben Ansell and Sig Neil Watkin, on the other hand, appeared to be happy and sane enough. All were serving six months on the mountain, and throughout that time none expected to visit Mt Pleasant more than once or twice.

Clearly there had to be some charm to this tiny station tied to concrete anchors to prevent it being blow off the mountain. It soon became clear that Campito's virtues were informality and independence. The job gets done, so no one back at HQ bothers the men in their mountain eyrie. Campito is a little like MASH, but without the nurses.

"It's great," enthused the man in charge, Cpl Giffen. "We don't need to wear uniforms except when senior officers visit. And



Cpl Andy Giffen and Sig Neil Watkin enjoy isolation at Campito, high above San Carlos Water

we get a supply flight every day that brings in the food and the videos.

"At least one of us has to be on duty at any time to change the frequencies that keep the radio net secure, and check that the aerials haven't blown down."

Amazingly, the three do not appear to get on each other's nerves. "None of us has any disgusting habits," explains Sig Watkin. "We don't even smoke. And we have a small weights room and a computer to keep us busy when we're off duty."

Domestic duties are shared among the three, and they take pride in their cooking.

"At first all we could do was beans on toast, but now we're making Sunday roasts," said Cpl Giffen with a quick glance at the oven where something aromatic was baking.

The other very real benefit to life on Campito is that there is nowhere, absolutely nowhere, to spend money, and with all the vitals of life brought in daily by helicopter, no one misses the shops. "I've only spent £80 so far, and that went back to Mt Pleasant for the beer fund," said Cpl Giffen. "When I get back to the UK, I'll pay off a loan."

Sig Watkin, though, was being positively

Reports: Graham Bound
Pictures: Mike Weston

profligate. He admitted to spending £70 a month.

The Campito Three are not the only ones who live in the mountains. The radar stations are just as isolated, and somewhat higher. But they are much larger bases, and life on them is well within the normal military system.

There is a jokey camaraderie between the mountain-tops. Several times during *Soldier's* visit to Campito, the VHF radio crackled into life, and a mock-sinister Brummie accent said: "We are considerably higher than you."

Higher perhaps, but hardly happier.

All quiet on the southern front

SGT Dave Aaron of the Royal Military Police says that the amount of work which he and his 49 tri-Service colleagues face varies according to the units that have been posted to the Falklands.

He is not prepared to name names, except to say that the base has been very quiet since A Company, 1st Battalion, The Royal Gurkha Rifles arrived to serve as the resident infantry company.

"They've got a great reputation, and we're happy to have them here," said the sergeant, who has just completed two years as an instructor at the RMP Training Centre in Chichester.

While the island is not dry, there are strict controls on drinking.

No consumption is allowed in the several miles of wide corridors (known as streets) which connect the accommodation blocks, and messes. And only beer is served in junior ranks' bars. Cans are sold open so that they cannot be stored.

Accidents on the 40 mile-long, largely unsurfaced, road that links the base to Port Stanley are a major preoccupation for the police, who frequently close the road if weather conditions make it more dangerous than normal.

Crime is not such a problem, with the emphasis on prevention, and advice on security.

Mt Pleasant policemen and women need to co-operate closely with their civilian counterparts in Port Stanley. All

are sworn in as special constables with the local force, a measure which gives them jurisdiction over the several hundred contractors employed at Mt Pleasant and the islanders who often pass through the camp.

One member of the military police unit is permanently based in Stanley.

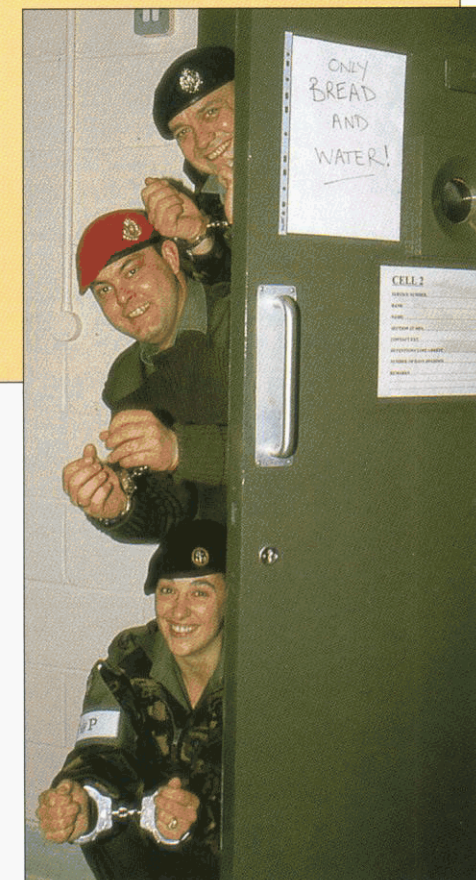
The relationship is valued by the civilian Chief of Police, Superintendent Ken Greenland; hardly surprising, considering that the chief is himself an ex-RMP major,

who liked the Falklands so much that he stayed on.

But, despite the friendship, Sgt Aaron is happy that military and civilian units police two quite different communities. "The gap is good. If we lived on top of Stanley, we might spoil the town, and relations would not be so good. Then we'd really have our work cut out."



Sgt Dave Aaron of the RMP: in charge of the joint Service Police Station



Cops in cuffs: from top Cpl Gary Cocks (RAF), Cpl Taff Johnson (RMP) and LWren Reg Dawn Paffe test their own kit

Training – the best-kept secret

THE population of the Falkland Islands is a little over 2,000, spread over an area two thirds the size of Wales. There is one Falklander to the square mile, whereas in Wales, a sparsely populated area by British standards, there are 248 people to the mile.

This means the Army can exercise over the vast expanse of challenging land without much risk of upsetting the islanders. The RAF also loves it because Tornado pilots can enjoy ear-splitting low-level flying, often in conjunction with Army exercises, without pro-

voking storms of protest.

"If you fire a rifle around here, you are not even going to kill a sheep," said Lt Col George Kilmer, Chief Staff Officer Plans and Land Component Commander at Mt Pleasant. He was observing a company-scale exercise on the vast Onion Range, 30 miles from the main base.

"Nowhere else can a company have this sort of space handed over to it, and simply be ordered to 'crack on'. If you stand here you can shoot in almost any direction and you're not breaking

the range safety rules. A company or platoon here has more space than in any other training area that I know of."

Lt Col Kilmer believes the intensive training is vital to morale. "When you come here, you may be miles away from your family, but there is this excellent training, and few routine duties. Even the junior commanders are given considerable responsibilities and left to get on with their jobs.

"This is one of the best-kept secrets in the British Army."



Lt Col George Kilmer enjoys his square mile of space

THE Falklands are such a unique place that, over the 15 years British troops have been based there, they have developed their own vocabulary. These are some of the words and unofficial abbreviations that any "fing" (Falklands New Guy or Girl) needs to learn.

Words a fing has to learn before he can bumble into the bondu

Gozomie bird - RAF Tristar
Timmy - Tristar passenger aircraft
Tommy - Tristar tanker
Sydney - Sea King helicopter
Eric - Bristow helicopter
Wokka - Chinook helicopter
Bimble - a walk or day out from Mt Pleasant
Bimble box - picnic lunch
Beasties - PTIs or other

keep-fit people
Bondu - The Falklands countryside
FING - Falkland Islands new guy/girl
FOG - Falkland Islands old guy/girl
SCOF - Squadron Catering Officer
SLOPS - Station Logistics Ops (Caterers)

Falkland Islanders also have their own vocabulary. The "camp", for example, is their word for the countryside and sheep farming settlements.

If an islander calls you "Che", consider yourself lucky. The word, derived from Spanish, simply means "mate" or "pal".

However, if he or she calls you a "When-eye", it might be time to shut up and shove off. That less-than-polite word derives from the habit that some Service people have of talking about their travels and adventures in a rather lofty way. For example: "When I was in Hong Kong..." or "When I was driving tanks in the Gulf..."

Not quite Nepal

IN THE weak light of a Falklands winter morning, the platoon of Gurkhas appeared as tiny dots. They moved in a broken line through the fields of boulders that are strewn across the steep mountainside leading into the huge basin of the Onion Range.

The distant "pop" of a mortar tube and the whistle of a phosphorus bomb travelling in a low arc heralded its explosion amid a cloud of dense smoke in the boggy peat near the "enemy" trenches. Then there was the alarming stutter of live rounds being fired from a general purpose machine gun across the route of the advancing Gurkhas.

Men of 2 Platoon, A (Delhi) Company, 1st Battalion, The Royal Gurkha Rifles, part of the 180-strong infantry unit that shoulders the main responsibility for land defence in the Falklands, had been existing in the bleak and damp environment for almost 24 hours without support or shelter, sending out recce patrols against a live



CSgt Hitmon Gurung on exercise

"enemy" that had now been withdrawn and replaced with sandbagged targets and plywood silhouettes; a wise move, because

the Gurkhas' advance on the targets was horribly efficient.

Showing no sign of the fatigue that they must have been feeling after a night in the open and a long march, sections leap-frogged each other, laying down intensive rifle fire and launching Milan and 66mm missiles, before individuals moved in to lob grenades and clear the "enemy" with close-quarter automatic fire.

Through the crescendo of live firing and explosions echoed strange Gurkhali cries and orders. Only occasionally was a shouted phrase punctuated with an English word or two. Usually, the word was "fire!"

No wonder the Argentines, back in 1982, dropped their weapons and ran from the top of Mt William when they realised that the men from Nepal were advancing.

The tough exercise was a reminder that, despite high-tech air and naval defences, the security of the Islands still relies on the traditional skills of the foot-soldier. It was also a vivid reminder that Falklands terrain is no easier to traverse than 15 years ago.

Superior boots, clothing and webbing in the Combat 95 range have given the soldiers better wet-weather protection but the often saturated terrain still makes travel difficult, and works against some weapons. Mortars, for example, can dig themselves deeply into the earth after just a few rounds, and the soft earth can also render shell and mortar bursts relatively ineffective.

But there is a soft spot of another kind which the Gurkhas are quite happy about. That is the place they occupy in the feelings of the Falkland Islanders. Back in 1982,



Soldiers from 2 Platoon A Coy, 1 RGR emerge from the cover of a gully on Onion Ridge

the locals were impressed that men who had no connection with the islands, should come to their aid.

Today's Gurkhas are happy to maintain

the relationship, and have ample opportunity to do so when they patrol the huge tracts of land between the isolated sheep farming settlements. The foot patrols, each lasting up to a week, are an important part of the defensive strategy, and the troops carry live ammunition.

But, almost as important, the missions enable the Army to meet people and reassure them that their freedom is being defended.

According to Lt Devlag Gurung, who commands 2 Platoon, the settlement patrols are the most popular aspect of the Falklands tour. The welcome at the homesteads is invariably warm. "They give us whatever accommodation they can provide, and we sometimes help them with farm work."

More welcome, though, is the Gurkha cooking. "We usually give the Islanders a meal," said Lt Gurung. "But if we made our food the way we like it, we might lose a few friends." Careful control of the curry powder ensures that relations remain sweet.

The four platoons of Gurkhas rotate through a series of key tasks on a weekly basis. Apart from settlement patrols, they provide a quick-reaction force that is

always ready to move at short notice. Simultaneously, another platoon will be training and exercising, while a fourth will be involved in routine duties around the main base at Mt Pleasant.

Ten weeks into the four-month tour, OC Maj Gavin O'Keefe was happy about the way his Gurkhas had adapted to the Falklands, despite the cold early winter weather. "There is a misconception that we only work in the jungle," he said. "But when the boys have had an opportunity to climatise, we get on very well anywhere."

Well, almost anywhere. The occasional seaborne patrols to the outer islands had not gone down at all well - "came up" is perhaps a more appropriate phrase in this context. Gurkhas, it seems, do not like ships.

"The boys go some very funny colours and get horrendously seasick," explained Maj O'Keefe with a sympathetic smile.

When asked how the tour has gone, Lt Gurung still sounds a little cautious. "So far so good," he said. "We're enjoying ourselves, everyone is very busy and morale is high."

So long as no one mentions ships, it should stay that way.

Heat's on in Gurkha kitchen

SINCE the arrival in the Falklands of A Company, 1st Battalion, The Royal Gurkha Rifles, things have got hotter in the extensive kitchens of the junior ranks mess at Mt Pleasant.

Not only do the 17 chefs, led by WO2 Terry Grantham, need to produce three meals a day for up to 750 junior ranks and civilian staff, and a daily evening menu of five European dishes, but they now also need to give the Nepalese soldiers a choice of spicy Gurkha curries or *bhat*.

Fortunately, the Gurkhas took along their own chef, who advises those less used to preparing Nepalese food. As a result, the food is so good that many non-Gurkha members of the mess are developing a taste for it.

The Gurkha challenge is just one aspect of the complicated logistical operation that keeps those in the Falklands fed. Most supplies arrive in the Falklands by ship, after a



Reading from the same kukri book: chefs Pte Simon Taylor, Sgt Mombahadur Gurung and Pte Mark Reeves prepare to feed the junior ranks

month-long voyage of more than 8,000 miles.

Fresh food, such as fruit and the essential spicy ingredients of the Gurkha *bhat*, arrive courtesy of the RAF air bridge, while a locally-owned market garden in nearby Stanley provides lettuce, tomatoes, cucumbers and peppers.

Keeping the massive Mt Pleasant larder well-stocked, is a major challenge for the planners. It means ordering supplies almost three months in advance and spending around £47,000 each month. "Planning is more important here than at any other Army base. If someone doesn't

order enough of something, we'll make do somehow, but it could be a nightmare," said WO2 Grantham.

A (probably apocryphal) story is told around Mt Pleasant that illustrates well the way catastrophic catering cock-ups can happen. Legend has it that an RAF Hercules arrived at Mt Pleasant loaded to the roof with soft pink toilet paper, because someone gave the suppliers the wrong computer reference number.

If the story is true (and it is a big if), it would be interesting to know what the Gurkha *bhat* tasted like for the next few weeks.



Live GPMG fire from Rfn Bir Thapa, Support Coy, gives added realism to an exercise



Maj Gavin O'Keefe: "We get on very well anywhere"

Bald truth of the plumed warriors

TO USE the word "complete" in the title of any book, let alone one about such an illustrious institution, might seem a hostage to fortune.

Authors and editors often have to make agonising and controversial decisions about both the accuracy and the inclusion of detail. In a chronicle of less than 200 pages containing almost as many illustrations (some from *Soldier*) and covering 340 or so

Through Fifteen Reigns: A Complete History of the Household Cavalry by J N P Watson. Spellmount Publishers, hardback, £30.

years, how "complete" this history is remains for others, better qualified, to judge.

What sets this volume apart from others, we are told, is that it embraces both the wartime and peacetime records of all three incorporated regiments of The Household Cavalry – The Life Guards and The Blues and Royals (Royal Horse Guards and 1st Dragoons) – since its foundation in 1660 as Charles II's personal mounted bodyguard.

In this age of television and tourism, the popular image of this corps today is a glamorous one, with its high-profile ceremonial, musical and equestrian brilliance in the presence of the Queen.

While paying tribute to that role, Maj Watson's well-ordered book goes much further, chronicling the regiments' versatility and adaptability as fighting



Above: Household Cavalry Musical Ride marks the launch of J N P Watson's history of the regiment. Right: The author, who served with the Blues in Cyprus and the Guards Independent Parachute Company at Suez



Pictures: Terry Champion

forces over three centuries, from Sedgemoor to the Gulf, though overseas duties were often constrained by the *alter ego*.

Maj Gen Sir Desmond Langley, a former commander of the Household Division (who, incidentally, lent his considerable historical knowledge and eye for detail to the book's preparation) notes in his introduction that "the conflict between the operational and public duty, or ceremonial, roles was detrimental to the

efficiency of the Household Cavalry for much of its life", a circumstance happily resolved since 1945.

Despite its avowed comprehensiveness this book is certainly no dry recitation of events: it is entertaining as well as informative.

We learn, for example, of the intriguing Christmas ceremony of Hanging the Brick, carried out in The Life Guards' NCOs' mess; of the aristocratic origin of "going bald-headed

for it"; and that the only reigning sovereign since 1821 not to be Colonel-in-Chief was Queen Victoria. She was certainly not amused when her Life Guard failed to turn out to pay her compliments one day as she drove through The Horse Guards' Arch.

The Guard's punishment, it is said, was 100 years of "Four O'Clocks" – turning out dismounted at 4 pm each day. The sight became such a tourist attraction that the extended sentence is now well on the way to its second century. – CH

Division, who fought with maniacal zeal in the battle for Normandy.

There are a few photographs, including Winston Churchill as a young man at Omdurman and Maj Blondie Hasler, leader of the Cockleshell Heroes, whose exploits are given nine pages in this 240-page book.

While the text gives only condensed versions of the events it lists, the accounts provide swift, accurate insight for readers who are only mildly curious about military history.

It is written in a racy, gung-ho style, crammed with adventure and heroism, and zips along, which contributes to an easy, interesting read. – JM.

Racing along in the front line of battle

WITH the millennium creeping ever closer – it's less than 1,000 days away – military historians have been writing furiously about battles and heroic deeds of the past 100 years.

David Eshel is of this group, his latest book being *Bravery in Battle: Stories from the Front Line*.

It starts with Kitchener and

Bravery in Battle by David Eshel. Arms & Armour Press, £17.99.

his battles with the Khalifa, through to the four-day Yom Kippur war of 1973 when the Syrians attacked Israel. In between are 21 other accounts, including stories of Japanese kamikaze pilots of the 1939-45 war and of the 12th SS Panzer

Days of Glory
Band of the Royal Lancers
Conductor: Capt D Burton

THE DISC'S title alludes to the Death's Head Motto – the cap badge of the regiment, always referred to as The Motto, which has Or Glory in a scroll beneath it, writes **Rodney Bashford**.

The American composer John Cavacas just happens to have written a march of that name to give the programme a lively start.

As the first disc of a newly-formed band, the regimental music is rightly given an airing, plus a few items with pertinent titles of a cavalry nature.

The marches of the 9th/12th Royal Lancers, and that of the Dorset Yeoman-

New band, new glory

ry, a new regiment with a new march by Capt Burton appropriately named *Casterbridge*, along with *Stable Jacket*, another new regimental march for the QRL by this one-time Lancer, lead to a suitably-titled *Salute to Glory* by T W Milford, *Roar of Armour*, *Lancers' Farewell*, and *The Galloping Major*.

There is theme music from *Mack and Mabel*, *Reilly Ace of Spies*, *Strike Up The Band*, the *Midway March* by John Williams, and *Summer's Lease* by Nigel Hess, composer of many TV tunes, this one featuring a piccolo trumpet. *A Song*

for *Ina* is well played by Cpl Andy Craze.

Feelin' Free and *Lonely Bugler* by the ubiquitous Sammy Nestico, and an attractive *Cornish Overture* by David Harris, complete this very welcome unfamiliar programme, with the almost obligatory setting of *Last Post* for band and bugle, this time of course, *Cavalry Last Post* and the Welsh cradle song *Suo Gan* with trumpet.

● **Bandleader CD BNA 5137 price £12.60 from Sound & Picture Co, PO Box 177, Dorking, Surrey, RH5 5FE.**

Has total warfare priced itself out of business?

IT is fascinating to learn that Alexander the Great was presented with armour used in the Trojan War 900 years earlier.

Alexander is said to have worn it in battle until it was so damaged it had to be replaced. Warriors of the early medieval *chansons de geste* did not appreciate new weapons.

"Quite the contrary; often the best weapons were considered to be the old ones which supposedly had belonged to famous heroes now dead." What a contrast to today when weapons systems can be out of date before they enter service.

The *Oxford Illustrated History of Modern War* draws together studies of conflict since the Renaissance. Editor Charles Townshend, Professor of International History at Keele, starts from the premise: "Somewhere between the 16th and 18th centuries an historic change took place in the military power of European states." This collection of 18 chapters by academics from several countries begins with the defeat of the Ottoman besiegers of Vienna in 1683.

Such a complex work is not light reading. Charles Townshend prepares the ground by explaining how modern war is the product of three distinct kinds of change – administrative, technical, and ideological.

A view of the administrative aspect since the 17th century is contributed by John Childs, Professor of Military History at Leeds University, who takes us back to sieges which often went on for a very long time. The siege of Ostend, for example, lasted from 1601 to 1606.

Campaign admin was always bound up with economics and in the 17-18th centuries the burden of maintaining an army was transferred from homeland to occupied territory. Prof Childs tells us: "Making war pay for war was institution-

The Oxford Illustrated History of Modern War edited by Charles Townshend, published by Oxford University Press, hardback £25.

alised by the contribution system which diverted the economic resources of captured territories to the support of the occupying troops."

The technical aspect of war is focused on the rapid acceleration of scale. The headlong race by great powers to deploy increasingly expensive hardware has had a profound effect on the conduct of war over the past 50 years.

Alan Forrest of the University of York says that since 1945 the concept of total war, which dominated strategic thinking after 1918, has changed completely, due to the creation of a

narrow military-industrial base providing weapons too expensive to be produced quickly, in mass, by industry.

Martin van Creveld of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem reminds us that since the Second World War, out of 100 conflicts worldwide, most have been between political entities which were not states, fought by forces that cannot be called armies, and without the benefit of modern weapons.

Alan Forrest encourages us to believe that this sort of patriotism stems from a revolution in 1789 which held out the promise of a new order based on liberty and equality, and that by 1792 launched France into a 20-year war, the first total war of the modern era, we are told.

The expense of technological sophistication over the past 50 years means wars are now fought by "entities" with more or less basic weaponry, and not by forces of major states.

Richard Holmes, Professor of Military and Security Studies at Cranfield University and presenter of BBC TV's *War Walks*, observes that Jean de Bueil in the mid-15th century *Le Jouvencel* proclaimed: "It is a joyous thing, a war."

Perhaps we have come full circle back to the time of the Crusades. – BJ

No end to a century of land conflicts

FIRST picture to greet, if that's the right word, readers of George Forty's *Land Warfare* is one showing the remains of a German soldier in the 1914-18 war.

Not a pretty sight, but then this encyclopedia covers every war and military event since 1900, listing facts and figures on death and destruction throughout the 20th century.

The first of three sections gives a year-by-year account of wars, uprisings and outrages from the Boxer Rebellion of 1900 to the Oklahoma City car bomb of April 1995.

The middle section, which makes up the bulk of the book, is an A to Z of weapons and a

The Encyclopedia of 20th Century Conflict – Land Warfare by George Forty. Arms & Armour, £25.

survey of the world's foremost military powers over the past 100 years.

Part three contains potted biographies of more than 150 military personalities, starting with one Abd el-Krim, an anti-French Moroccan partisan leader, through to the Russian Marshal Georgi Zhukov. It is interesting to note that while Gen George Patton of the US Army rates 49 lines, our own Monty gets half that amount.

What of the future? Col Forty doesn't hold out much hope, listing active terrorist groups and sabre-rattling countries and their ability to wage war. A chilling forecast. – JM

Game show looks for lively ladies

❖ A TV show described as "Gladiators meets military-themed adventure sports" is looking for women soldiers to take part.

They should be fit and "up for an exciting day out". *Who Dares Wins* involves sport and outdoor activities such as rock-climbing, abseiling, parachuting, paint-balling and white-water rafting. A pilot episode has been shot at the Army School of Physical Training in Aldershot.

Interested in taking part? Ring Christina Ericsson of Live TV on 0171 293 2390

Shorncliffe's Canadian ties

❖ Canadian soldiers buried in Shorncliffe Military Cemetery, at Folkestone, were remembered when 300 youngsters from 12 schools on the Channel coast laid posies on graves in a ceremony dating back to 1919.

Buglers from the 5th Battalion, The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment sounded Last Post and Reveille from a ridge high above the cemetery.

At the outbreak of the First World War, 40,000 Canadians trained in the Folkestone area.

Reunion marks soaraway single

❖ Remember *Amazing Grace*, the single released by the Royal Scots Greys to mark their amalgamation into the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards? It became a world-wide hit and sold more than 20 million copies. You may be surprised to learn that it all happened a quarter of a century ago, prompting a 25th anniversary reunion of those involved. The date: July 26; the venue: Queen Victoria School, Dunblane.

Veterans' farewell to Charlie Chester

❖ Charlie Chester, broadcaster and *Forces'* comedian, was given a military send-off by some of the old soldiers who were his most avid listeners. His coffin, draped in a Union flag, was flanked by standard bearers from the *Italy Star* Association and the *Royal British Legion* on his final journey to a crematorium near Canterbury. Chester, a wartime favourite with the *Services* and longtime presenter of *Radio 2's Sunday Soapbox*, died at the age of 83.

Change of command?

❖ A Belgian soldier running a British Army WOs' and Sgts' mess ... whatever next?

While HQ ARRC and ARRC Support Battalion were deployed in Bosnia, the mess back at headquarters in Rheindahlen was run by Adjt Chef (RSM) Michel De Coster, a member of the Belgian Army. A unique occurrence?

Hussars on Guidon parade



Pomp, pageantry and circumstance at Cambrai Barracks, Catterick as soldiers of the Queen's Royal Hussars receive their new Guidon from their Colonel-in-Chief, the Queen Mother, who was accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh.

The Queen Mother met members of the regiment and old comrades while Prince Philip, Deputy Colonel-in-Chief, visited the Hussars' state-of-the-art tank park to see their Challenger main battle tanks.

Music was provided by the Band of the Hussars and Light Dragoons. The parade was the final mark of the QRH's amalgamation which took place in

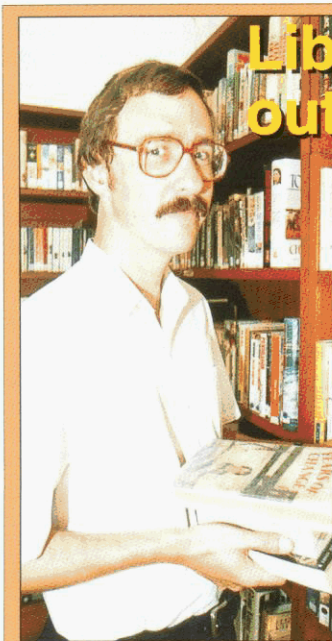


1993. Until now the regiment has had two Guidons, one from the Queen's Own Hussars, the other from the Queen's Royal

Irish Hussars. Taking the salute with the Queen Mother and Duke is Maj Gen Richard Barron, the Regimental Colonel.

Pictures: Chris Barker

Library runs out of shelf life



Martin Whittle booked his place in military history ... by being the last librarian of the British Garrison in Hong Kong.

MoD librarian Martin applied for a job in Gibraltar, so was a little surprised to find himself considerably further east. When he arrived in the colony in 1992 he was responsible for four separate libraries around the garrison, plus two overseas.

Most of the 60,000 books on his shelves were sold off, although a large donation was made to the Community English Language Laboratory in Hong Kong, an organisation which promoted the learning of English in the territory.

Veterans return to Ypres battlefield

TWENTY-FIVE veterans of the First World War, aged between 99 and 108, made a pilgrimage to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the Battle of Passchendaele. They also attended a service at the Dover War Memorial, where the Army was represented by Brig David Godsall, commander of the Dover/Shorncliffe Garrison.

50 YEARS AGO

From *Soldier*, August 1947

SET FOR THE TOP

There are not many people who can claim to have been colonels before they were subalterns. One of them is Princess Elizabeth, who at the age of 16 was Colonel of the Grenadier Guards - two years before she became a second subaltern in the ATS (her ATS rank is now junior commander).

25 YEARS AGO

From *Soldier*, August 1972

LANDSLIDE RESCUE Sappers from 54 Support Squadron RE and Irish Guardsmen serving in Hong Kong moved in to help local fire authorities following a series of landslides in the colony caused by a 30in deluge of rain in the space of three days. Many deaths and injuries were reported.



Maj Gen Robin Short, Director General Army Medical Services, salutes the RAMC memorial after unveiling it at a drumhead service at Keogh Barracks, Aldershot. Gen Short was accompanied by Brig Martin Daly, Representative Colonel Commandant RAMC, and Monsignor James O'Sullivan, the corps padre.



Gurkha statue takes shape

Work is well advanced on the statue of a Gurkha soldier to be cast in bronze and erected near the Ministry of Defence in Whitehall.

The figure, a copy of one sculpted by Reginald Goulde in 1924 for memorials in India (pictured left), is to be unveiled on December 3 by the Queen to commemorate the Gurkha soldiers who have served the Crown for the past 182 years. Philip Jackson, one of the UK's leading sculptors, is directing the project with the use of Goulde's original model.

The Gurkha Brigade Association Trust (GBAT) set out to raise £250,000 to pay for the statue without affecting the fund-raising efforts of the Gurkha Welfare Trust which helps those in need in Nepal. A fifth of the cost is being donated by members of the serving Brigade and by Gurkha Regimental Trust Funds.

Donations to the GBAT, PO Box 167, Fleet GU13 0GQ.

Running ...

IF you want a free weekend in the Big Apple, read on. Tusk Force, the UK charity which fights for the protection of endangered wildlife, wishes to send a team of 100 runners to compete in the New York Marathon on November 2, and is offering free flights, accommodation and race entry in exchange for £1,500 or more in sponsorship. Last year 11 soldiers from 2 PWRR raised £9,000. It's first come, first served, so if you want to know more, ring Emma Thomson on 0181 743 8855 for a brochure, or fax your details to her on 0181 743 6655.

... free

SEARCHLINE

WOs' and Sgts' Mess, 1 Para wants to create a rogues' gallery of past RSMs of No 2 Commando, 11th SAS, 1st Parachute Battalion, and 1 Para. Photographs (preferably 6in by 8in) or enquiries to the PMC, WOs' and Sgts' Mess, 1st Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, New Normandy Barracks, Evelyn Woods Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2LZ (01252 347640). Requests for return of original photos will be honoured.

George Snell (ex-Cpl RAOC laundry), seeks copy of a squadron or group photograph of **Plant Troop, 73 Sqn RE, Christmas Island, March 1961-March 1962**, taken at the time. Expenses met. Contact 0151 474 3440.

Former members of **91 Telegraph Operating Section 1941-46**, or relatives, sought by J Simpson, 12 Heatham Park, Twickenham TW2 7SF, whose father served in unit.

D Mayhew seeks news of **Maj F A (Tony) Cronk**, last seen as a lieutenant in 1948-50 when serving with **Gurkha Fd Sqn RE (Trg)**, then **67 Gurkha Fd Sqn RE**, Malaya. Replies to 1 Croft Villas, Craft Road, Ashford, Kent TN24 8AY.

164 Rly Opr Coy RE personnel

DATES

AUGUST

11-31: Last Post for the Raj exhibition, Gurkha Museum, Winchester.

15: Soldiers of the Raj special exhibition opens at the National Army Museum, until 1999.

SEPTEMBER

6-7: Berwick Military Tattoo, The Barracks, Berwick-upon-Tweed.
13-15: Military Survey 250th anniversary, Hermitage.

OCTOBER

12: Military Historical Society annual exhibition, National Army Museum.

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

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

Andy's pot luck



Lt Andrew Pettey (above), a TA nursing officer with 202 Field Hospital (Volunteers) based in Birmingham, found more than he bargained for while training in Gibraltar ... £2,000 worth of cannabis floating in the sea.

He spotted the package, attached to a buoy, while canoeing off the Rock, and told the authorities. Police divers were called in to search the area.

Jock Lythgoe, Frank Guilder, Cpl Furmur, Capt Tyrell, Frank Sheppard and MT staff sought. Contact L Swindale on 01283 538322.

H Haworth seeks news of **Alma Careswell**, enlisted ATS (Pay Corps) and transferred 1944 to AA battery at St Ethel Bergs School, Harrogate. Replies to 01252 372777.

Any ex-APTC instructors living in the North East (York) Branch catchment area of Yorkshire, Northumberland, Durham, Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire who have not been contacted by the corps for any length of time are asked to get in contact with Capt (Retd) Rocky Holling, Hammersley House, 27 Blenheim Road, Barnsley S70 6BA (tel 01226 207046).

A matter of Intelligence

"I WAS late for D-Day", Dirk Bogarde writes. "I landed at D+4 or 5... late getting across because, to everyone's appalled horror, a day or two before the whole operation was to eventually start, it was discovered that the 21st Panzer Division had moved east of Caen."

"That was a bit too near, and no one had any idea if the information was correct. It was part of my job to try and look through piles of earlier photographs of the area to see when these unexpected German tanks had arrived."

"Also, to check for signs of the 88mm guns they had and which terrified us, with good reason. This took days. By the time they had been traced, only a few days before the landings, and in scattered array – not in formation but bivouacked under trees and in barns in the area – my colleagues had taken off for war."

The mess at Odiham, Hampshire, the airfield where he was working and from which he was waiting to be flown across the Channel to join them, was deserted.

On the night of Monday, June 5, just after midnight, Bogarde heard "the distant roar of a thousand, thousand planes begin to fill the sky."

Four or five days later, he was bundled, with his photographs of the area, and his handgrip, on to a Dakota, sitting in "hunched, amazed silence" as he saw a great plume of black smoke over Caen, and watched the ships below – "an armada in dismay and disarray" – before the plane "crashed, clattered, bounced and skidded" along the metal landing strip prepared by the Royal Engineers.

He dug himself a slit-trench and rigged up a tent on the edge of a road at Sommervieu. During the night, he and his colleagues were strafed by aircraft aiming at the landing strip and surrounding planes.

"One moment the calm, the rules and regulations of Odiham airfield: meals in the mess, towels in the washrooms, a telephone for picking up, flowers on the tables, and 60 minutes later one was crouched in the sandy walls of a sunken road praying to live."

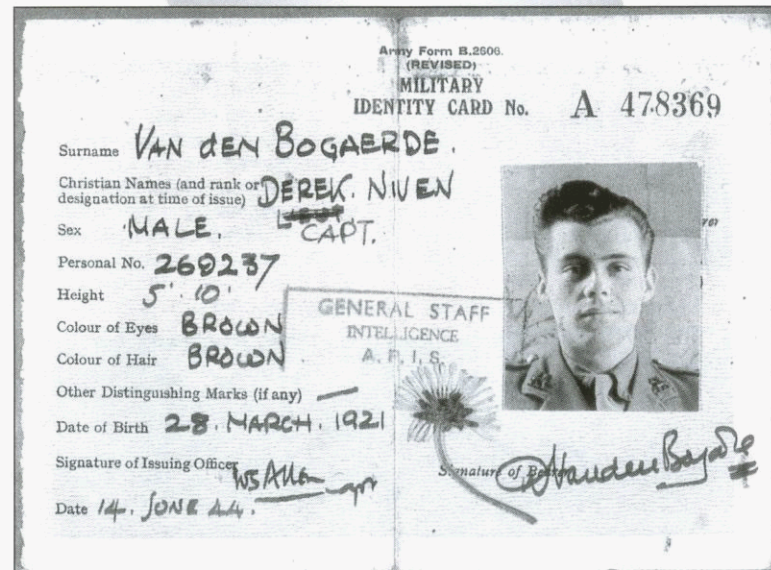
The sight of a huddle of ground-sheeted bodies at the edge of the Sommervieu airstrip was not to be the youthful Bogarde's last near-miss brush with what he calls "unspeakable death".

Driving in a sensitive area in a jeep as part of a small convoy, he was "more con-

Dirk Bogarde, one of the British film industry's all-time luminaries, was commissioned into The Queen's Royal Regiment.

Nicknamed "Pip" because, as a green youth sent to Le Cateau Lines in Catterick to join the Royal Signals, his ineptitude with anything to do with valves, wires, frequencies, transmissions or "the total absurdity of the Morse code" had his exasperated instructor saying that was precisely what he gave him, by 1944 he was with the APIS (Intelligence) section at Medmenham, Buckinghamshire.

In *Cleared for Take-Off*, the final volume of his autobiography, he recalls some of his wartime experiences.



Dirk Bogarde's war-time military ID card: the pressed daisy is one he picked from the lawns of Dover Castle on his way to take the ship to Calais in 1944

cerned with whatever information I had to impart to the Brigade Intelligence Officer at the next destination."

Without warning, there was an "almighty roar" and the jeep ahead blew up, sending shards, a wheel, and smoke, flame and dust into a ball of confusion.

Moving too fast, or not thinking fast enough to be able to stop, Bogarde and the driver crashed into the turmoil. He remembers someone shouting "Mines!", then falling over a bank into a field, blood covering his hands and face.

In a nightmarish scene, a "ravaged head" beside him, ripped from its torso, begged to be killed. Mercifully, before Capt Derek Niven van den Bogaerde – to use his proper name – could load his revolver, someone else did what he had been asked to do.

It was a later encounter, though, which

etched itself so deeply on the 23-year-old's mind that he alludes to it with reluctance, and only briefly, in the book.

Travelling through occupied Germany, he and a Royal Air Force colleague from APIS drove into the huge barracks at the airfield on the heath outside Lüneburg and set up their tents: the last stop, they were convinced, before Berlin.

"One morning, we decided to visit a camp which had just been abandoned by the Germans," Bogarde writes.

"Apparently it was a vast place, and my friend felt certain he would find a pair of Zeiss Ikon binoculars there. The few Germans who remained were, apparently, unarmed. I said I'd go with him, to see if I could get some jackboots. I rather fancied myself in a pair."

The two men had no other reasons for going, apart from the fact that Bogarde's colleague had "liberated" a very smart pale grey Citroen car two days earlier, and felt that "a run would be fun".

"We had a map, but strangely enough the Germans had never feared an invasion as we in England had. We'd removed all our signposts. They had left theirs intact. We gratefully followed the black and yellow signs to Bergen-Belsen. Where we lost our boyish laughter forever," Bogarde recalls.

With a year still to expire on his demob number, and being a specialist, the future Rank star found himself being dispatched to India in 1945 and, the following year, to Batavia as a "draft of one".

The next job on his agenda, he was certain, was to join the others who had already started work on Operation Zipper: the fall of Singapore. "So I'd be in the war for quite a while yet."

His journey from Liverpool to Bombay aboard the camouflaged *Carthage*, and his subsequent escapades in Intelligence in India are recalled in the book.

Bizarre

But a bizarre experience in Java best describes the hazards of his chosen military career. It was a lesson which his father drummed into him as a child which stuck with him, and paid dividends: "Observe, notice, compare and keep silent."

He observed so hard and became so fascinated by detail, he says, that, not only did it enable him to get a job in Intelligence, but he ended the war holding a post in Java as the ADC to the GOC, Gen Hawthorn.

"One day, some months after we had lib-

erated the civilian camps, got rid of the bestial Japs, and settled down to 'holding the ring' during the revolution, I opened the Old Man's mail," Bogarde recounts.

One item was an invitation to a fancy dress party at the Curaçao Club to celebrate the liberation. It was to be a masked ball, and the general was implored to spend a few moments of his "precious" time judging the costumes.

Bogarde knew that, since he "hated all that kind of nonsense", the senior soldier would refuse out of hand, but the general's secretary said she was certain he would adore it. It would be "colourful, amusing, and make a break for him."

In the event, Capt van den Bogaerde was duly ordered to go and represent him, with a note of apology and a case of whisky.

Violence

"I was not at all pleased about this," the actor says. "The island seethed with barely suppressed violence. From landing in Java in September 1945 until the end of October 1946, we lost 1,377 men in my division, and this was supposed to be peacetime."

"So it was right to be slightly alert during a jeep journey through the night, even within the perimeter, to judge a bloody masked ball. I had no choice but to go: orders are orders, and my general was a tough nut."

He did suggest, however, that Bogarde took a "mate" to provide "covering fire" if need be, so Bruce Barker, who worked in the office next to him, was delegated.

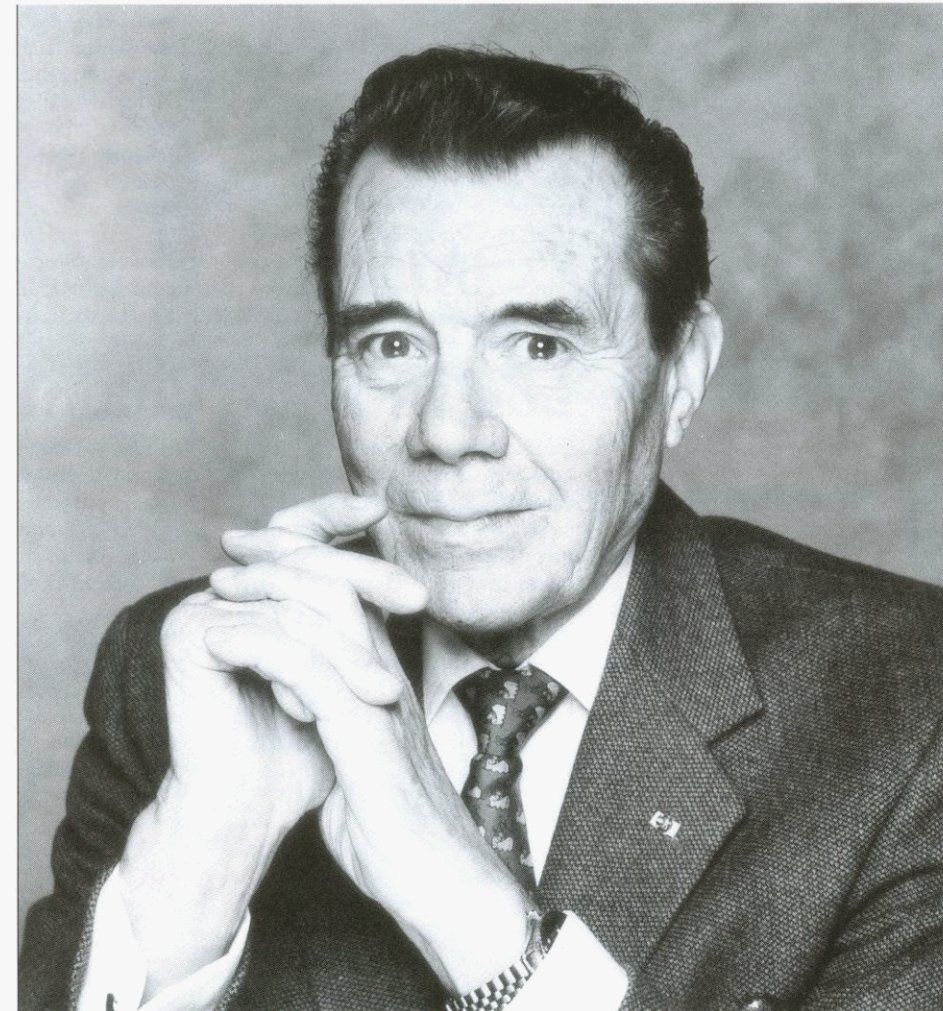
The club was a fair distance out of town, but within the perimeter, so Bogarde felt fairly secure. On arrival, a record was playing at full blast through a Tannoy system as they swung the jeep round on the forecourt and stopped.

"A hurrying crowd of oddly dressed people, harlequins, bullfighters, devils and so on, came tearing down the steps of the club, arms waving, cheers ringing. They were all in extraordinarily beautiful and complex masks."

"A tall man, apparently our host, dressed in flowing robes of red and gold shimmering in the night shook us by the hands, and asked where the general was. I explained, offering the wrapped case of whisky and the note. If there was a change in the man's expression, it was impossible to see, because he was masked as some Indonesian god or something."

The host suggested that the two men followed him to a private room out of the house for a drink, while the "marshals" got everyone into line to start the parade. He then left, to "get some ice and water" to go with the drinks.

It was a small room, next to the ballroom, empty except for two bamboo chairs



Dirk Bogarde: actor, author, soldier

and a small table. The two men began to drink a Scotch apiece, as, through the closed door, the music roared even louder.

It was getting stiflingly hot, the windows, on examination, were locked and the shutters bolted. The door to the ballroom was also locked, the key still in the lock at the other side.

"I suddenly got a sweep of fear. A panic attack. 'Let's get out,' I said. We did, by Bruce chucking the little marble-topped table through the window, then I unbolted the shutters."

Without a word, the pair ran "like bats out of hell" for the jeep, as a tumble of people came racing down the steps of the club shouting and waving their arms.

"Someone fired a shot," Bogarde continues. "It was a crimson Very light, which arced gratefully above us and crashed into the trees. We raced and bounced down the drive, shrieked left on to the mortar-pocked main road."

After about ten minutes, the men were able to ponder on why windows and doors had been locked, the music turned up to full pitch, and concealing masks worn. It

was then that Bogarde remembered he had left his cap in the room.

On returning to the general's heavily-guarded palace, Bogarde found him sitting at his desk and found to his astonishment that his chief was not at all surprised about the goings-on. He explained that it was all probably a set-up job to kidnap him and hold him to ransom: it had been vaguely rumoured in Intelligence for a month.

The following morning, the general's secretary appeared at the open door to Bogarde's office, rummaged in her bag, and threw his cap on his desk...

Coming back to London after completing his service, Bogarde signed a contract with Rank, enjoying a highly successful film career before settling in France for 20 years until his eventual return to the capital.

Given a leading actor who could match his reputation, his wartime activities have all the makings of a film in themselves.

Now sadly laid low by the after-effects of a stroke, Dirk Bogarde recently had his sixth and latest novel, *Closing Ranks*, published in hardback by Viking at £16.99.

Cleared for Take-Off is published by Penguin, paperback, £5.99.

Packing in Sek Kong memories

IN the final part of your Hong Kong farewell series which featured Sek Kong I was surprised to see no mention of what was a unique unit, 81 Company RASC (Pack Transport).

I was there when it was first formed as a troop towards the end of 1949 with British offi-

For the record...

Pte Speakman VC

Contrary to Ken Forsyth's letter (July 7), Pte William Speakman was not KOSB attached to The Black Watch when he won his Victoria Cross on Nov 4, 1951.

Pte Speakman joined The Black Watch on Aug 10, 1945 and served with the 1st Battalion for six months in 1946 before going to Trieste for a year. He returned to the 1st Battalion, The Black Watch until he went to Korea with a large number of volunteers.

He served there with The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders until they left Korea, when he was attached to The King's Own Scottish Borderers.

He rose to the rank of sergeant and left the KOSB in 1969. At present he is living in South Africa. — **Lt Col C G O Hogg, Regimental Secretary, RHQ, KOSB, Berwick-upon-Tweed.**

cers and NCOs and Hong Kong other ranks. After six horses were taken on from the Hong Kong Jockey Club, the first consignment of 50 mules arrived from Australia early in 1950.

Most had barely seen a human before they were rounded up in the bush and shipped to Hong Kong. After a second batch from Australia, the unit was made up to company strength of about 120 by a draft from Pakistan. These had been bred for the Pakistan Army, handled from foaling and were much less of a problem to break and train.

One particular memory is of recruiting other ranks in villages in the New Territories. We sat at a table in the village hall and on the wall behind us were two portraits, side by side: one of King George VI and the other of Chairman Mao.

Apparently the local Chinese were hedging their bets.

The company was still at Sek Kong when I left in 1952 but later moved to Lo Wu, where I was able to make a short visit in 1964 while stationed in Singapore. It was finally disbanded in 1975. — **Maj (Retd) R A Hill, Melton Mowbray.**

Life with the Volunteers

THANKS for the series of fascinating articles on the withdrawal from Hong Kong.

Of particular interest was the piece (July 7) on the Volunteers. I was posted to Hong Kong in 1975 as a UK-based civil servant in the MoD and, having served in the Territorial Army in the UK, wanted to continue some sort of military service.

I enlisted in the RHKR(V)

and was privileged to serve for two very happy years, first as a trooper and subsequently as a corporal in Training Squadron.

I was one of the few expatriates to serve as an other rank at the time, but very much enjoyed the experience and the opportunities to see parts of the New Territories not normally accessible. — **Ian Wilder, Farnborough.**



Service numbers

Regarding the correspondence on numbers, the 1942 introduction of the eight-digit numbers is interesting. I enlisted in 1941 and had a regimental number 2991964 (A and SH) when we started to get recruits with the new eight-digit 1400-plus numbers. They were known to all as the Two O'Clock Soldiers. — **Maj P H Bolton, Military Knights of Windsor, Windsor Castle.**

Nazi saboteurs

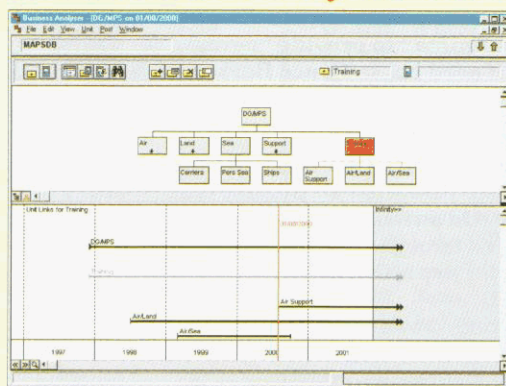
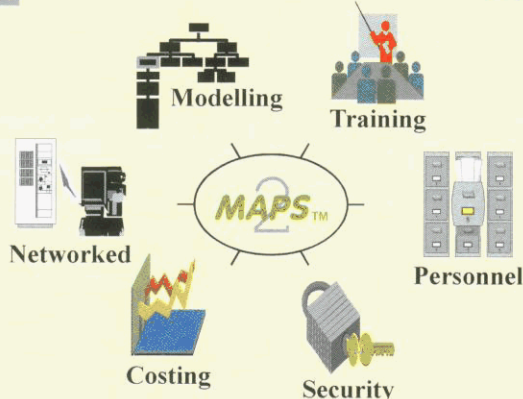
I agree with your correspondent (July 7) about piano wires stretched across the roads. It happened to one of our despatch riders in the Sennelager area and, as luck would have it, no serious damage was caused.

One of the worst things were the girls who spread VD among the troops. At one stage hospitals were so full that a convent was used. Another mystery to me and my colleagues at the time was how our vehicles were robbed on the stretch from Cologne to Bonn, despite the tarpaulins being tied down. Clever thieves. — **P Beaton, Clacton-on-Sea.**



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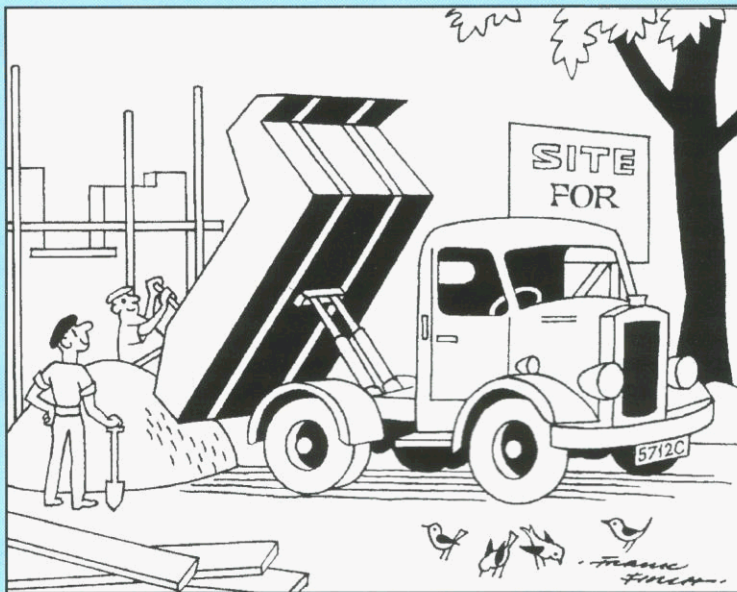
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else in your envelope. More than one entry can be submitted but photocopies cannot be accepted. The first correct entries drawn will be the winners. No correspondence of any kind can be entered into.

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Competition No 664 (June 23 issue): First correct entry drawn was from Mr B Mear, of Yeovil, Somerset, who wins £50. Book prizes go to runners-up Maj (Retd) W S Hudson, of BTC, BFPO 805, and Mr Stephen Gallagher, of Old Kilpatrick, Glasgow. The ten differences were: top of lorry tank; tree to left of house; steering wheel; headlight; letter N; right-hand runner's eyebrow; back of lorry; runner 2's right hand and left leg; shadow in road.



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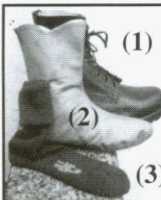
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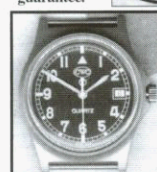


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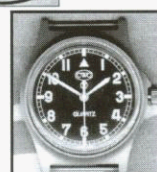


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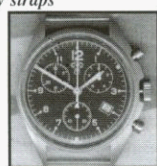


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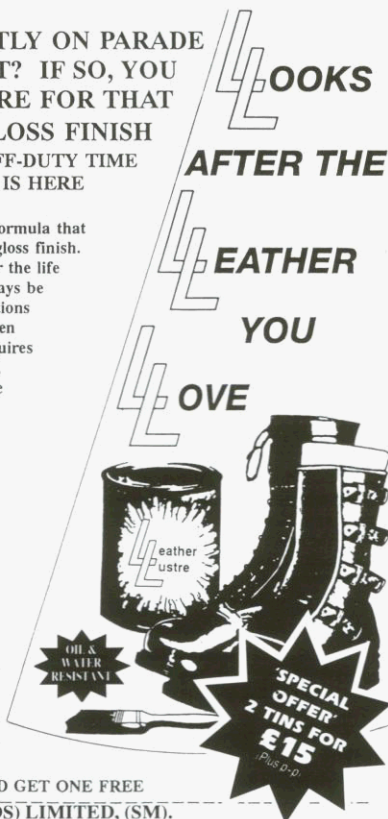
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Notices

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Charities:

1. The Soldiers' Widows and Widowers Fund
2. The Single Soldiers' Dependants Fund
3. The Soldiers's Widows and Widowers and the Single Soldiers Dependants Common Investment Fund

Scheme for the amalgamation of the charities.

Reference: R-M-233533-45641-SC

The Commissioners propose to make a Scheme for these charities. A copy of the draft Scheme can be seen at BUILDING 43, TRENCHARD LINES, UPAVON, NR PEWSEY, WILTS, or can be obtained by sending a stamped, addressed envelope to: The Charity Commission, Woodfield House, Tangier, Taunton, Somerset TA1 4BL quoting the above reference. Comments or representations can be made within one month from today.

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JULY 5, 1997

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Second (357 runs, £1,250): Lt Col Neeves, HQ 1 (UK) Arm Div, BFPO 15.
Third (355 runs, £750): WO2 RG McDowell, Cyprus Log Unit, BFPO 57.
Fourth (351 runs, £450): Spr Farmer, 28 Engr Regt, BFPO 31.
Fourth (351 runs, £450): Maj TY Scarlett, Bowman Mil Team, Blandford.
Sixth (349 runs, £300): WO2 DM Forthear, Army Apprentice College, Arborfield.
Seventh (348 runs, £200): Capt RB Bayston, Petroleum Centre West Moors.
Eighth (346 runs, £100): Cpl AP Ingledew, 5 Regt AAC, BFPO 808.

JULY 12, 1997

First (394 runs, £2,500): WO2 B Mullen, RMA Sandhurst
Second (388 runs, £1,250): Capt J Tate, 21 Engr Regt, BFPO 36.
Third (375 runs, £625): Capt J McClung, 7 Tpt Regt RLC, BFPO 39
Third (375 runs, £625): SSgt A Powell, 92 Ammo Sqn RLC, Kineton.
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Seventh (365 runs, £150): SSgt NM Trigg, 2 RTR, BFPO 38.
Seventh (365 runs, £150): SSgt MC Turner, 3 FD Wksp REME, Tidworth.

CHARITY COMMISSION

Charity: The Army Benevolent Fund.
Scheme regulating the charity.
Reference: CVA/211645/35401/SC.

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Paddlers on rough water ride

DAYS of torrential rain ensured that even the most experienced paddlers at the Army canoe slalom championships were faced with a severe challenge.

The Tryweryn at Bala, north Wales, was at its highest for ten years, providing exceptional white-water conditions.

A high incidence of missed gates and competitors failing to complete the course were an indication of the conditions. The torrent eased slightly for the Canadian doubles and unit team events, but the continued failure of paddlers to finish the course marked this down as a championships that will be remembered for many years.

The winners of the Canadian doubles title, Maj Colin Calderwood, from the Royal School of Artillery, and Maj Paul Hepworth, serving at the Army School of Catering, have been invited to join the England squad after a series of excellent results in major civilian events.



Majs Colin Calderwood and Paul Hepworth winning the Canadian doubles event. Both have been invited to join the national squad

Results

Men's kayak, 2nd Lt Pete Francis (AGC(ETS), AAC Arborfield). **Canadian singles**, Maj Paul Hepworth (RLC, Sch of Catering). **Women's kayak**, Capt Claire Foxley (AGC(ETS), HQ 24 AB

Bde). **Veterans' kayak**, SSgt Shane Wright (R Signals, 14 Sig Regt). **Canadian doubles**, Maj Colin Calderwood (RA, RSA) and Maj Hepworth. **Unit team**, 5 Regt RA (Sgt Tony Harris, Sgt Duck Dunne and LBdr Daz Hall).

Army hold on to golf trophy

BEAUTIFUL weather, a well-prepared course and strong opposition awaited the Army and Royal Air Force teams at Sennelager (British Army) Golf Club at the Rover-sponsored Inter-Services (Germany) championships.

Holding a 5-3 lead from the first day, the Army dropped the first two singles matches on day two before fighting back to start the final session with a one-point lead. They went on to retain the trophy with a closely-contested 10½-9½ victory.

In brief

● WO2 Dave Rollins (216 Para Signal Squadron) won the 21-35 age class in the British orienteering championships.

● Details of an Army downhill mountain bike weekend in September are available from LCpl Jim Hatton on Marchwood (727) 8342.

● The Armed Services Masters' swimming competition is to be held on Oct 3. Details: Lt Col (Retd) C J Scotcher on 01865 273015.



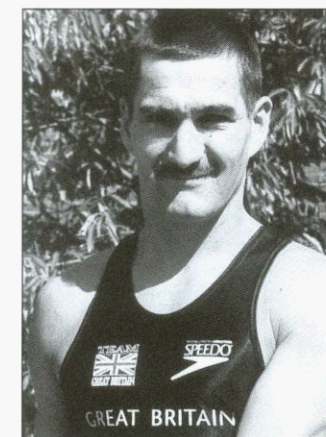
Goal! SSgt Rab Marshall (7 Signal Regt) cannot prevent the first score by 39 Engineer Regiment in the final of the Army water polo tournament at RMA Sandhurst. The sappers won the match 21-17

Picture: Mike Weston

On-form Stu takes GB title

INTERNATIONAL triathlete and duathlete SSgt Stu Dinwoodie (47 Air Despatch Sqn RLC) recorded an outstanding victory at the British national triathlon championships at Ellesmere, Shropshire.

Wet, windy and cold weather conditions were far from ideal for the one-mile swim in Mere Lake, 25-mile cycle ride and



SSgt Stu Dinwoodie

10km run, and Dinwoodie, competing in the 35-39 year age group, was up against several contenders for the world championships in Australia later this year.

But he started with a personal best of 21 minutes in the swim, followed by a sub-60min cycle and a run time of 36min, a performance good enough to give him the national title by just 40 seconds over his nearest rival.

The Army triathlons are being held in conjunction with the London triathlon on September 21, and any military personnel who want to enter should contact WO2 Charles Jenkins, WO's and Sgts' Mess, RAF Brampton, Huntingdon, Cambs PE18 8QL.

On track to double delight

THERE was double joy for Army athletes at the Inter-Services, held at HMS *Temeraire* in Portsmouth. The men's team retained their title with a nail-biting win over the powerful Royal Air Force squad, while the women finished comfortably ahead of their opposition.

The men's event was decided in the final relays, run in drenching rain, with the Army

winning both 100m and 400m baton races to edge just four points clear of the RAF, 169 to 165, with the Royal Navy back on 50.

Victory for the Army women was already assured before the relays, but their dominance was confirmed by excellent wins in both the 100m and 400m. It meant they had regained a championship con-

ceded to the RAF last year.

Despite less than ideal conditions, Sgt Sue Sharp bettered the Inter-Services 5,000m record with a new best time of 17min 43.01sec. The only other I-S record to fall on the day also went to a member of the Army women's team, Pte Donita Benjamin, who extended the long jump record by 12cm to 5.92m, still 30cm

down on her own personal best.

Sgt Michelle McBride broke the Army women's 400m hurdles record with a time of 1min 05.86 while finishing second.

Unusually, the championships, sponsored by Johnson Controls, were hosted by the Army at Portsmouth because the track at the military stadium in Aldershot was due to be renovated. It will be ready for next season.

Maj (Retd) Peter Lyons, secretary of the Army Athletics Association, said: "Basically, we won the championships on the track. We knew that if it came down to the relays we would win; we were confident."

He was full of praise for the support given to the championships by the Royal Navy. "They couldn't have been more helpful," he said.

The Inter-Service trophies were presented to the two team captains, Sgt Alvin Walker and SSgt Steff Paul.

Inter-Services results (Army finishing positions)

Men
100m: 1, Pte Thomas, 10.93sec; 2, LCpl Nolan, 11.04sec. **200m**: 1, Sgt Vincent, 22.07sec; 2, Pte Thomas, 22.11sec; **400m**: 1, LCpl Nolan, 47.21sec; 3, Sgt Blade, 49.99sec. **800m**: 3, Cfn Rayner, 1min 56.26sec; 4, OCdt Mayo, 1:57.57. **1,500m**: 2, OCdt Mayo, 4min 05.29sec; 6, Cpl Cain, 4:10.31. **5,000m**: 1, Cpl Shepherd, 14min 39.11sec; 3, Spr Rankin, 14:57.28. **110m hurdles**: 2, Cpl Tomkinson, 14.88sec; 4, Maj Gyorffy, 16.36sec. **400m hurdles**: 2, Cpl Beaumont, 54.55sec; 5, Spr Belcher, 58.24sec. **3,000m steeplechase**: 1, Cpl Palmer, 9min 23.89sec; 2, Cpl Harwood, 9:26.91. **4x100 relay**: 1, Army, 41.85sec. **4x400m relay**: 1, Army, 3min 18.03sec.

Hammer: 3, Cpl George, 40.92m; 4, Sgt Dobson, 36.92m. **Javelin**: 1, WO2 Mullen, 63.32m; 3, Cpl Oliver, 55.86m. **Pole vault**: 3, Maj Gyorffy, 4.10m; 4, SSgt Killen, 3.60m. **Long jump**: 2, Sgt Walker, 7.16m; 4, Maj Gyorffy, 6.61m. **Shot**: 2, Cpl Wiseman, 14.90m; 3, SSgt Killen, 13.49m. **High jump**: 2, Cpl Pearce, 1.90m; 3, Sgt Oakes, 1.90m. **Triple jump**: 1, Sgt Walker, 15.26m; 4, Sgt Oakes, 13.53m. **Discus**: 2, Cpl Wiseman, 46.10m; 4, SSgt Killen, 39.68m.

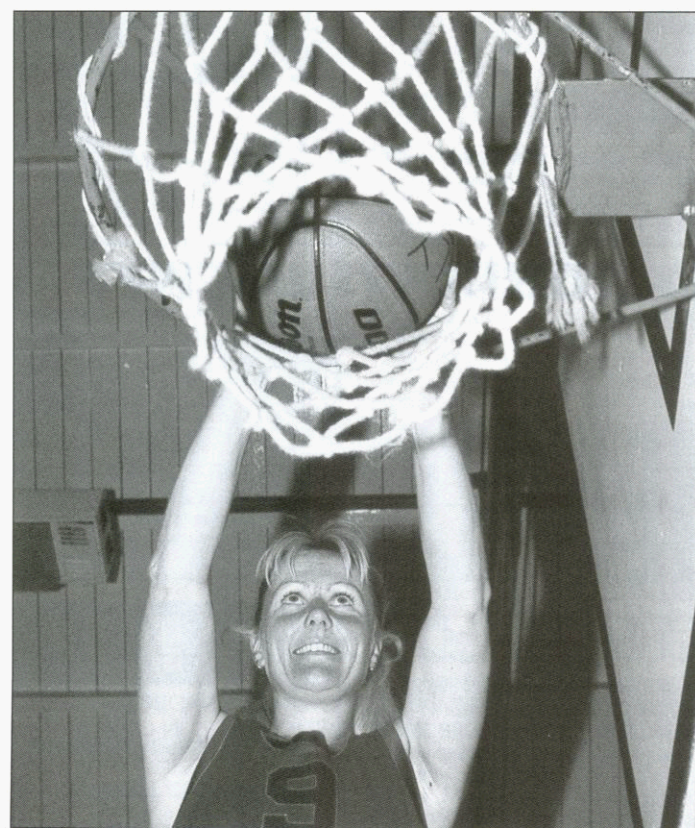
Women
100m: 1, Pte Benjamin, 12.81sec; 5, Pte Hannah, 13.70sec. **200m**: 1, Sig Michalska, 26.25sec; 5, Sig McKenzie, 28.67sec; **400m**: 1, Sig McKenzie, 1min 00.5sec; 3, Sgt McBride, 1:02.31. **800m**: 1, Sig Morris, 2min 20.80sec; 3, Cfn Hawkins, 2:24.00. **1,500m**: 1, Sig Morris, 4min 59.05sec; 2, Cfn Hawkins,

4:59.13. **5,000m**: 1, Sgt Sharp, 17min 43.01sec (I-S and Army record); 2, Capt Higgs, 17:58.53.

100m hurdles: 2, Sgt Paul, 17.03sec; 3, Capt McKinney-Bennett, 18.28sec. **400m hurdles**: 2, Sgt McBride, 1min 05.86sec (Army record); 3, Capt McKinney-Bennett, 1:08.76sec.

4x100 relay: 1, Army, 50.47sec. **4x400m relay**: 1, Army, 4min 13.70sec.

Javelin: 3, LCpl Rigg, 34.62m; 4, OCdt Hemmings, 33.74m. **Long jump**: 1, Pte Benjamin, 5.92m (IS record); 4, Capt Carpenter, 4.67m. **Shot**: 2, Capt Moore, 10.27m; 3, Pte Bateson, 9.73m. **High jump**: 1, SSgt Paul, 1.59m; 2, SSgt Gilchrist, 1.56m. **Triple jump**: 1, SSgt Paul, 10.19m; 2, Capt Carpenter, 9.73m. **Discus**: 1, Cpl Terry, 39.96m; 2, Sgt Read, 34.82m.



Rising star: Cpl Keeley Henderson-James (AGC(RMP)) shows the form that earned her Combined Services basketball colours this season. A squad instructor at the Royal Military Police Training School, Chichester, Henderson-James has played for the Army for the past five years. Earlier this summer she was in the Army side which beat the Royal Navy convincingly but lost 47-49 to the Royal Air Force.



Pte Jane Warboys

So far, so first for Jane

PTE Jane Warboys won the gold medal at her first attempt at a triathlon when she entered the 5 Division championships.

The 19-year-old ammunition storeman, currently serving at BAD Kinton, crossed

the line just four minutes behind the fastest male competitor after a 250m swim, 10km cycle ride and 5km run. Now she plans to take athletics seriously and has joined the local Banbury Harriers club.

7 RHA strides to title

SOLDIERS from 7 Parachute Regiment RHA teamed up to win the punishing Land Command Walkabout in the Shropshire hills and qualify for the gruelling inter-Service Cyprus Walkabout in October.

Southampton UOTC finished a close second, with Territorial

Army battalion 3 RWF from Wrexham third and 1 QLR fourth. The first four will take part in the Cyprus event.

There was a disappointing entry, with just 13 teams running and marching the 40-mile course. Contenders set off from Nesscliffe training camp

early in the morning and had to find nine checkpoints on a route that took them as far south as the Stiperstones, 12 miles away.

The race was organised by Shrewsbury-based HQ 5th Division and 174 Provost Company RMP from Donnington.

Dramatic sea battle ends in triumph for Army team

ONE of the most dramatic and challenging Services offshore regattas for years ended with the Army taking many of the honours, including the overall team trophy.

Very heavy stormy seas in the main leg, the overnight offshore race from Gosport to Guernsey, stretched the sailing skills of the amateur sailors to the limit. When the race ended in the early hours of the morning, 11 of the 34 competitors had retired or failed to finish.

One yacht, the *Parthia*, skippered by Lt Col Andy Anderson, had to call for the Alderney lifeboat when she was knocked over near the Casquets and three of the crew went overboard briefly. Two suffered mild hypothermia and a third received slight injuries.

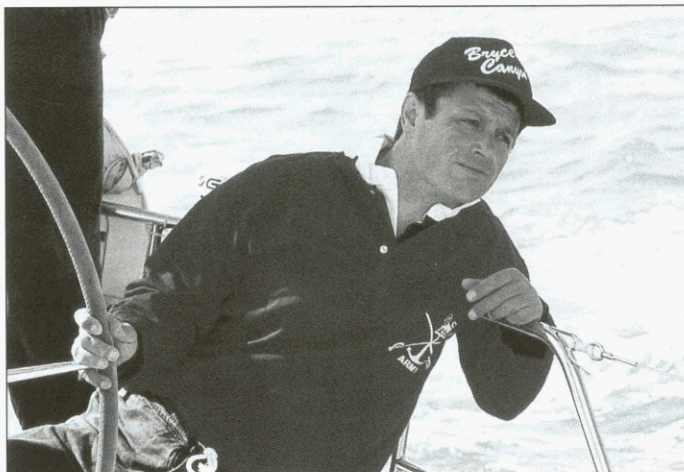
The craft, attached to the Royal Artillery Yacht Club, sprung a leak and was towed into Alderney by the lifeboat.

Early in the race, *Flashlight*, a Royal Navy yacht, retired when she lost a mast and briefly had a man overboard. And *Kudu Nsanga*, representing an Army field ambulance unit, called the Coastguard when she lost her rudder.

Lt Jeanette Critchell injured her arm when she was thrown across the cockpit of the small *Callista*, entered by the Adjutant General's Corps.

Maj Leslie Coney, the Royal Ocean Racing Club member of the regatta series committee, said the fact no major injuries or losses were sustained in such taxing conditions showed that safety procedures had worked well.

"We have an excellent relationship with the Coastguards. They have worked extremely hard on our behalf. We must also thank the lifeboat crew from Alderney," he said.



Above: Maj Nick Bate and (right) *Redcoat*, which picked up class honours, pictured in calmer seas than those experienced in the race

The imaginative decision to present the award for outstanding seamanship to the crew of the Alderney lifeboat was widely applauded at the presentations in Guernsey.

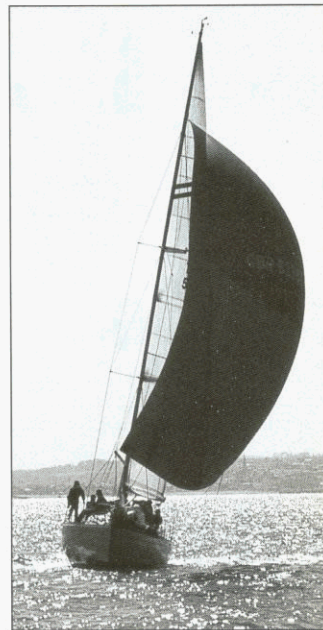
This year's event was organised by the Army Sailing Association for the Joint Association of Service Yacht Clubs. The Army, Royal Navy and Royal Air Force entered teams in all three divisions and many units and individuals entered craft in a range of classes.

Prizes were presented by Gen Sir Michael Walker, C-in-C HQ Land, recently appointed Admiral of the ASA. He reminded people that, with

300 competitors, the offshore regatta was one of the largest tri-Service events in the sporting calendar. He also praised the quality of seamanship in the conditions.

One of the happiest men at the gathering was Maj Ben Archer, captain of the Army team and skipper of *Kukri*, the Army's largest team boat entry. As well as the main Inter-Services team trophy, he and his crew also won two race honours.

It was never easy for *Kukri*. "We arrived at the roughest part of the course at the roughest time. Water was washing up from the well all over the deck. Maj Archer described the seas



as the worst he had ever been in.

Redcoat, the British Army's medium-sized Sigma 38 racing yacht, picked up class honours, when, under skipper Maj Nick Bate, it was the first Sigma across the line.

First home, after about 16 hours, was one of the smaller class entries, *Kingfisher*, skippered by Lt Col David Peerless, commander of the Support Service at HQ 4th Division in Aldershot. He described the race as the biggest he had won in a lifetime of sailing.

Offshore regatta prize-winners

Special trophies: Holroyd Smith Trophy for special merit, Steve Shaw, coxswain, Alderney lifeboat. Camper and Nicholson Trophy, *Kukri* (Maj Ben Archer). Victoria Marine Trophy, *Rapana* (Cdr Mike Shrivess RN). ASA Boat Cup, *Placuna* (SSgt Paul Anderson). Braganza Cup, *Sea Nymph* (Lt Cdr Langrishe RN). Northshore MG 346 Trophy, *Spirit of Daedalus* (Lt Phil Cogdell RN).

Divisional: 1A (large racing) –

1, *Kukri* (Sultan of Jahore Trophy); 2, *Lord Portal*, skipper Sqn Ldr Tony Chilvers RAF (ASA Trophy). 2A (medium racing) – 1, *Redcoat*, Maj Nick Bate (Biggin Hill Trophy); 2, *Gauntlet*, Lt Cdr Mickey Broughton RN (ASA Cup). 2B (medium cruiser) – 1, *Sealion*, WO Ian Kane (ASA Cruise Cup). 3A (small racing) – 1, *Kingfisher*, Lt Col David Peerless (Trieste Cup); 2, *Rapana* (Societe Regates Du Havre Trophy). 3B (small cruiser)

– 1, *Kittiwake*, Lt Col Stuart Caruthers (Eagle Trophy).

Individual winner: *Kingfisher* (Royal Ocean Racing Club Trophy).

Inter-Service team: Army (Madden Bowl).

Overall team results: 1, Army (*Kukri* 9, *Redcoat* 10, *Placuna* 15 (total 34 points); 2, RN (*Chaser* 22, *Gauntlet* 15; *Rapana* 12 (49); 3, RAF (*Lord Portal* 17, *Red Arrow* 23, *Dosnia* 21 (61)).



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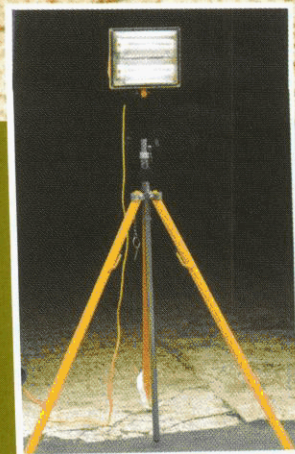
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Having been paraded through the ranks of the 1st Battalion, The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment, the old Queen's and Regimental Colours of The Queen's Regiment and The Royal Hampshire Regiment are marched off the square at Howe Barracks, Canterbury to be laid up. New Colours were presented to the battalion by Queen Margrethe II of Denmark, Colonel-in-Chief of the PWRR, which was formed in 1992 on the amalgamation of the Queen's and Royal Hampshires.

Picture: Chris Fletcher



SOLDIER

