

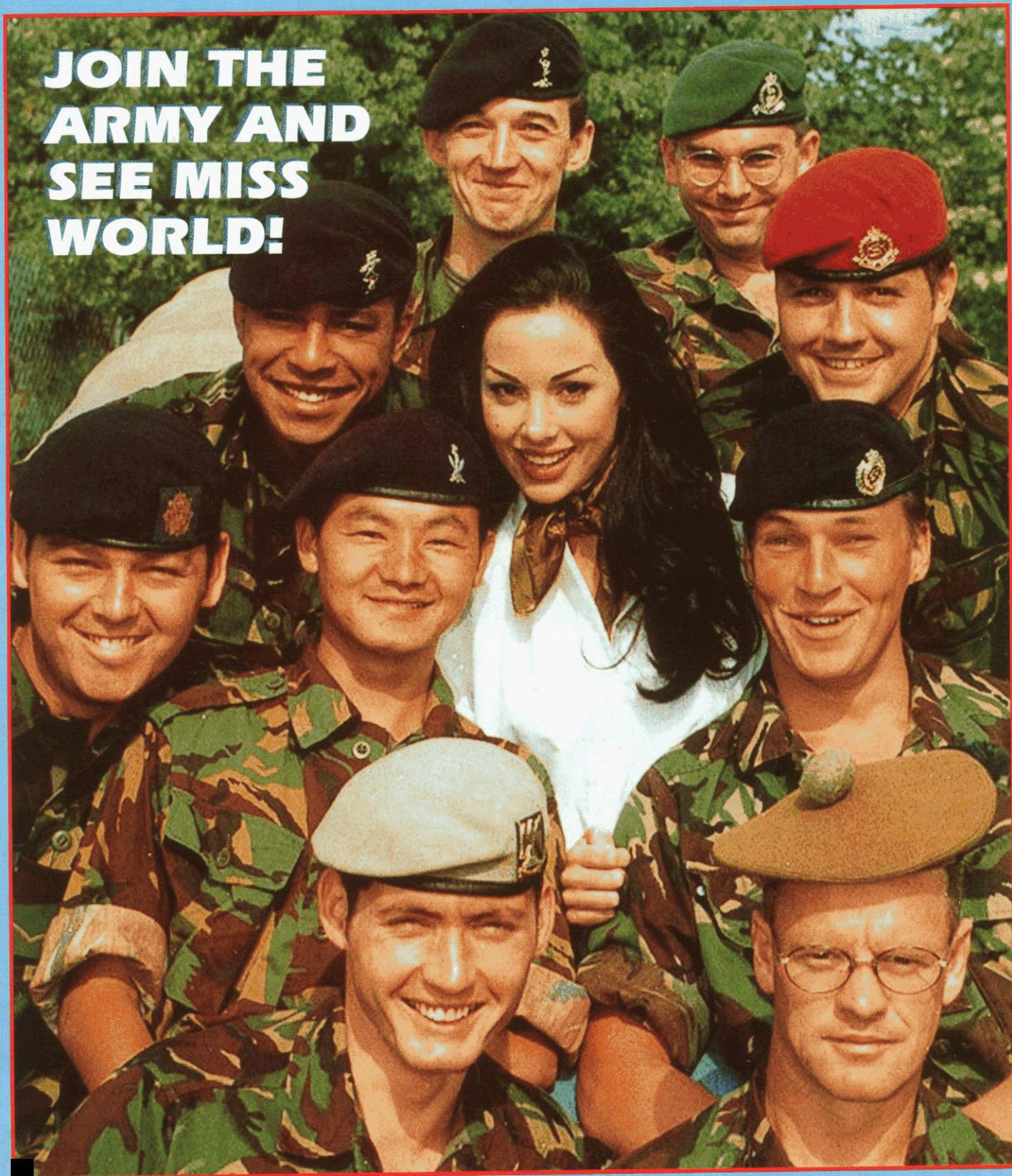
SOLDIER

FORTNIGHTLY MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY

JULY 22 1996

60p

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July 22, 1996 Vol 52/15

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Picture: Mark Owens

COVER: Poise, elegance and beauty... and Miss World isn't bad either. South American Jacqueline Aguilera (19) was the centre of attention when she called on Sipovo-based 1 Mechanised Brigade during a visit to Bosnia to present a Variety Club of Great Britain cheque to a kindergarten at Donji Vakuf

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Living Doll: Cpl Lorna Waud found herself on centre stage when Sir Cliff Richard entertained Wimbledon spectators during a lengthy break for rain. As the entertainer belted out a selection of his old hits, Lorna – on duty as a seating steward – was keeping photographers at bay.

"He got closer and closer to me, then took me by the arm," said a slightly stunned Lorna, who ended up swaying along with Sir Cliff's "backing group" which included top players Virginia Wade, Martina Navratilova and Pam Shriver.

Cpl Waud, who serves with 238 (London) Signal Squadron at Chelsea Barracks, was one of 95 Army personnel among 270 from all three Services who acted as seating stewards during the tournament. It was her third year at the championships, but not, she hopes, her last. She is due to leave the Army after 21 years soon after Wimbledon 97.

Although they wear uniform, a tradition dating back to 1946, all Service stewards are required to take leave during Wimbledon fortnight. London Fire Brigade also provides stewards in uniform.

Mortar attack shows need for vigilance

ARMY bases worldwide were maintaining a high state of vigilance after the mortar bomb attack on Quebec Barracks in Osnabrück on June 28 for which the IRA has admitted responsibility.

There were no British casualties when an explosion occurred within the perimeter of the barracks. The weapon was fired from a van parked outside the barracks.

Brig Richard Dannatt, Commander 4th Armoured Brigade, which has its headquarters in Osnabrück, confirmed that the attack was launched without warning from a white Ford Transit flatbed cargo vehicle with a blue tarpaulin covering its load area.

It was parked on a small metalled road leading to the back gate of the barracks, on the southern side of the camp. The gate was not in use at the time of the explosion.

One round exploded 30m inside the perimeter and another landed between the double perimeter fences but failed to detonate. Damage was limited to windows and private cars parked nearby.

A major investigation is being led by the German authorities.

Quebec Barracks is the home of HQ 4 Armd Bde, which recently returned from Bosnia, and 21 Engineer Regiment. Nearly 700 people work in the barracks.

Osnabrück is the largest British Garrison town in Germany, with six British barracks and 4,900 soldiers. Including families, there are 10,700

British personnel in the town.

Other barracks house the Queen's Royal Lancers, The Green Howards, 4 Regiment RA, 1 Battalion REME and 2nd Field Ambulance RAMC.

Brig Dannatt deplored the terrorist attack, which had also placed at risk the lives of many German civilians living near the barracks. He thanked the German authorities for their outstanding response to the incident, in particular the German Police and Fire and Rescue Service.

An attempt by the IRA to bomb Quebec Barracks took place in June 1988, when four out of five charges laid near a dormitory block were defused.

Benefits seen from married quarters sale

From the Director of Personal Services (Army), Brig Peter Currie

THE SALE of the Married Quarters Estate in England and Wales has attracted some high-profile coverage in the news recently, and the Secretary of State has written to all estate residents to update them on the latest position.

There has been considerable interest in the sale from a large number of bidders who have been whittled down to the best four as the competition reaches its final stages.

But will the sale bring genuine benefits to the occupants of Service married quarters? And will the transfer to private ownership affect those families who value the special nature of "patch" life in a supportive Service community?

The answer to the first question is a clear "yes": £100 million of the proceeds from the sale will be spent directly on improving married quarters across the United Kingdom.

This is a large sum of money – equivalent to a 50 per cent increase in funding for housing improvements over five years – but it is what it will take to bring quarters up to the high standards which Service families deserve.

The independent Armed Forces Pay Review Body will continue to set accommodation charges according to its own criteria, just as it does at present.

COMMITMENT

MoD's commitment to provide houses for all entitled personnel will remain undiluted. There will be no reason why residents should even remember the name of the new buyer; it is MoD, not they, who will be the new owner's tenants, on 200-year leases.

There is one vital tenet which the MoD has insisted on throughout the sale process: the preservation of "patches" in which Service communities can live together.

The message has come from the top: the Chiefs of Staff and Secretary of State have ensured that this much-valued "support system" is maintained.

Some estates may consist of a number of sites, not all of which will necessarily be retained by the Services.

In places this may result in mixed estates, but there is nothing new in that. The point is the

current vacancy rate is far too high. Some 2,500 quarters which are now surplus to requirements, and any future surpluses, will be disposed of more efficiently and more quickly to the new buyers, leaving MoD free to concentrate its resources on the quarters the Services need, not the ones we don't.

Service families then can look forward to substantial improvements in the quality and management of their homes. What other difference can they expect? Remarkably little. Residents will continue to deal solely with the DHE, which will still be entirely responsible for allocating, managing and maintaining the quarters Service families occupy.

The buyer can offer us a swap, whereby we give up a site in return for another site of equal or better quality. Very detailed legal criteria have been laid down to define the acceptability of an alternative site.

These don't just include the standards and number of properties, but travel time to place of duty; suitability for community occupation; the availability of amenities on site and local facilities (such as schools and hospitals); and even employment opportunities for dependants in terms of local job vacancy rates.

MoD has made it clear from the start that the sale will only go ahead on the right terms; terms which satisfy the interests of the Services. The Chiefs of Staff have played a major part in shaping the final proposals and agree that as they now stand they pass this crucial test.

Ministers and Service chiefs agree that the proposals provide a sound basis for real improvements in Service housing which are long overdue.

● Peers' concern – Page 7; Lifestyle – Page 13; Letter – Page 28

Recruits swarm to join Bee Company

A SWARM of bees took up temporary residence at the Royal Irish Regiment base at Kilkeel, home of the 3rd Battalion's aptly named B Company.

The visitors, estimated to be 10,000 strong, moved into a hollow post at the entrance to the base at Mourne Abbey.

"We've always known that B Company was very popular so perhaps we shouldn't be surprised they chose us," said company commander Maj Max Hanlon. "We are looking for sharply turned-out recruits, but 10,000 at one fell swoop is too many for us."

The unit buzzed the local environmental health office and requested that the visitors be hived off to a more suitable location.

Tonisvorst Freedom

SOLDIERS of 280 (UK) Signal Squadron exercised the Freedom of Stadt Tonisvorst during their first public parade since the disbandment of 28 (BR) Signal Regiment last December.

The parade marked the renewal of ties between the German community and the resident Royal Signals unit.

Tonisvorst's Freedom was originally conferred on 28 Regt in 1976 and the Stadt council is to discuss granting the honour to 280 Sqn, in its own right. The squadron, part of LANDCENT Signal Group, is the only British unit in Germany under full NATO command.

It's a fact

Army and Royal Air Force posts in Germany on March 31 1996 totalled 29,500. Running costs for these forces in 1995-96 was £1,340 million. – Parliamentary reply.

Sennelager sappers build a road for the Pope

ROYAL Engineers and range control staff helped transform a field at Sennelager for a Papal mass attended by more than 80,000 people.

A massive platform was constructed on the site used for the

Rhine Army Summer Show, and a road was built so that Pope John Paul II could drive through the huge congregation in his "Popemobile".

Thousands of visitors flocked to Paderborn and Sennelager for the occasion, and the Pope was greeted on the ranges at Sennelager by the Garrison Commander, Brig David Leakey, and Lt Col John Fairhurst, who represented Brig Tresham Gregg, Com-

mander Training Support Command.

Pope John Paul thanked Brig Leakey for the use of the facility. Military exercises on the training area were halted during the Papal visit.

Hussars' Bosnia tour recognised

A BRITISH armoured regiment has received a unique Canadian commendation for outstanding work with NATO peacekeeping forces in Bosnia.



Over to you: Maj Gen Mike Jackson (right) hands over command of Headquarters Multi-National Division South West – the British division in Bosnia – to Maj Gen John Kisely at their Banja Luka HQ

Presidential welcome

MORE than 1,000 men and women from all three Armed Services took part in the official welcome to President Nelson Mandela of South Africa on July 9 at the start of his historic State visit.

Lt Col Nigel Beer, CO QRH, who commanded the battle group in Bosnia, said: "I am extremely proud. This is a fantastic recognition for the work done by every individual in the battle group."

The regiment has been presented with a medallion and a special flag which will fly outside its headquarters for a year. A scroll and citation will be handed over in due course.

Officers and men of the Grenadier, Irish and Welsh Guards were joined by the Queen's Colour Squadron of the RAF and Royal Marines to line both sides of the Mall for

the procession between Buckingham Palace and Horse Guards Parade.

Simultaneous salutes were fired by The King's Troop, RHA, in Green Park and the Honourable Artillery Company from the Tower of London.

Four guards bands and a double standard Sovereign's Escort from the Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment were also involved.



Chiefs of Staff are studying a special review board recommendation that officers as well as other ranks should be eligible for long service and good conduct medals. – Times

□ The Pentagon has confirmed that US and Allied troops in the Gulf War could have been exposed to chemical weapons. A battalion of US combat engineers was within three miles of a bunker containing chemical munitions blown up by the Allies in March 1991. – Guardian

□ British troops are using an area of Bosnia evacuated by fleeing Serbs to test weapons and missiles that are becoming too politically controversial to fire at home. Labour MP Ann Clywd condemned firings by Warrior, AS90 and RAF ground attack aircraft on land leased at Glamoc. – Observer

□ Budget cuts and a management consultancy review have raised fears in curators that they are seeing the beginning of the end for the country's Army museums. – Independent

□ Thousands of former PoWs who claim they lost pay while incarcerated during the Second World War have won a fresh review of their cases. The sum involved 50 years ago was £1 million, and the 14,000 former Servicemen believe it is now worth up to £190 million. – Times

□ Sgt Ian Chilcott of Aldershot-based 216 Parachute Signals Squadron has landed the heaviest carp ever caught, a 49lb 4oz monster taken from Horton Church Lake in Berkshire. – Aldershot News

□ The Swiss Army's squadron of carrier pigeons has been demobilised after 77 years, making way for the advance of electronic communications. – Times



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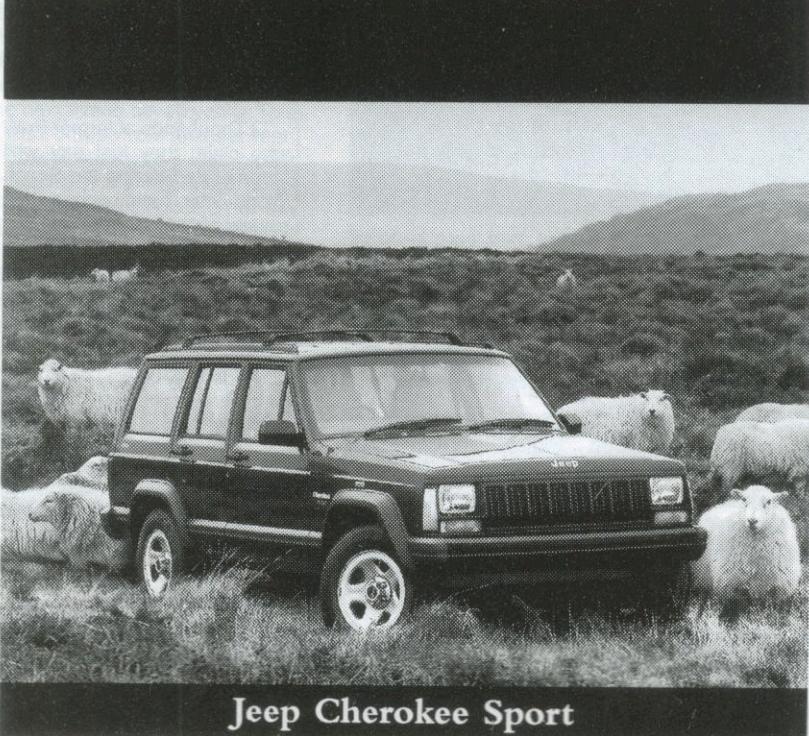
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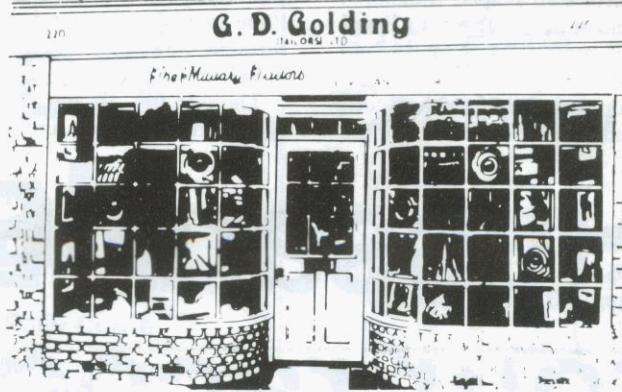


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Picture: Laurie Manton



LCpls Michael Cornish and Tony Evans 27 of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Welch Fusiliers sound the Last Post at the Thiepval Memorial on the 80th anniversary of the Battle of the Somme

Ulster link evokes Somme memories

THOUSANDS gathered at war cemeteries and memorials across northern France to mark the 80th anniversary of the Battle of the Somme.

The largest ceremony, organised by the Royal British Legion, was at the Thiepval Memorial, where a moving service was attended by the Duke of Gloucester and the Northern Ireland Secretary, Sir Patrick Mayhew, whose father fought on the Somme.

The British Army was represented by the Adjutant General, Gen Sir Michael Rose. A

contingent of 120 Territorial Army soldiers from 107 (Ulster) Brigade supported the event.

The North Irish TA Band played, and soldiers of 254 Provost Company RMP (Volunteers) accompanied British VIPs during the wreath-laying.

First World War veterans aged between 97 and 102 attended and five laid wreaths.

They included centenarian Robert Burns, who "went over the top" on the first day of the Battle of the Somme. He paid tribute to fallen com-

rades of the Cameron Highlanders. He was one of only 75 to survive the battle, out of 800.

By the end of the first day, the British Army had suffered 58,000 casualties, including more than 19,000 dead.

At Thiepval, the 150ft high memorial records the names of 72,085 British and South African soldiers who died on the Somme between July 1, 1916 and March 20, 1918 and who have no known grave. It is the Commonwealth War Graves Commission's largest memorial.

Soldiers from 107 Bde were involved in the Thiepval service and another at the nearby Ulster Tower, where brigade commander Brig John Smales laid a wreath. The brigade provided a band, a marching contingent, an honour guard and administrative support for the Somme Association.

The original 36th (Ulster) Division, of which 107 Brigade was the senior brigade, suffered 5,500 casualties in the battle. It advanced further than any other British division but was forced back to its original positions by the second day and withdrawn from the frontline.



Royal walkabout: The Duchess of Kent meets soldiers of The Royal Dragoon Guards at Girdwood Park military base during a two-day visit to Northern Ireland. The Duchess, who is Deputy Colonel-in-Chief of the RDG, is pictured with Lt Col Mark Faulkner, the commanding officer, and WO1(RSM) Barry Port, during a tour of the base

Around the Houses

A summary of Defence topics from Westminster

Concern in Lords over MQs

LORD VIVIAN asked in the Lords on June 19 whether the Government was satisfied that the proposals for the sale of married quarters represented sound financial policy.

Among other peers to voice concerns were Fd Marshal Lord Bramall, who spoke of a "bleak" outlook for Service families at the end of the sale, and Lord Boyd-Carpenter, who asked the Government to reconsider the decision because it would have a "bad effect" on recruiting.

Defence minister Earl Howe said: "Our policy remains to provide the right housing in the right locations for all entitled personnel who wish to exercise that entitlement. This will continue to be the case after the sale of the estate."

He added, in reply to Lord Bramall: "I recognise there are real worries among Service families about the Government's proposals. To a degree, I blame myself for not having reassured them sufficiently because I believe that many of the worries are misplaced."

"The only difference that a Service family will notice after the sale goes through is the upgrading of those properties which badly need attention. In all other respects, families' lives should remain exactly as they are now."

Asked by Lord Shaughnessy whether Armed Forces' opinions had been sought before the decision, the Minister said that Service chiefs had been consulted and families had been kept "in regular touch" with the plans.



Availability rates for Warrior and Challenger 1 have improved considerably over the past three years, Defence Procurement Minister James Arbuthnot said in a Commons written reply.

Answering a question by Shadow Defence Secretary David Clark about battlefield equipment reliability returns, he said both vehicles had consistently achieved availability rates in excess of 90 per cent in Bosnia.

The Multiple Launch Rocket System fleet, modified in 1994-95, showed a slight improvement in availability in the past year.



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Back to basics for RSA gunners

FOR once, the gunners of 14 Regiment, Royal Artillery have had a chance to take part in an exercise of their own.

Normally, the unit, which forms an integral part of the Larkhill-based Royal School of Artillery, trains others to operate the 43-ton AS90 self-propelled gun and 105mm Light Gun.

A rare break in the school's busy training schedule provided an opportunity for the commanding officer, Lt Col David Lewthwaite, to test his own AS90 gun crews by disabling the weapon system's highly accurate computerised fire control system. It allows gunners to hit a target with pinpoint accuracy.

This meant the gunners had



Awaiting orders: A 105mm Light Gun crew stands ready for action on Salisbury Plain. From left are Gns Adam Osbourne, Lee Beaumont and Paul Johnson, and the gun's No 1, Bdr Wayne Donohue

to use compasses, firing tables and directors to work out their target co-ordinates.

Firing was controlled by Sergeant Major Instructor of Gunnery WO2 Robert Hartas, who ensured that quality and

technical standards were maintained and conditions for firing were safe. On an adjacent part of the Salisbury Plain training area, fire missions for a detachment of Light Guns were controlled by Capt Lucy Wood.

Heavy rain soaked the crews as they fired for effect, but did not put them off their aim.

After the exercise 14 Regt went back to ensuring gunners passing out of the Royal School of Artillery are second to none.



The Duke of York inspects soldiers of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Irish Regiment before presenting the battalion with new Colours at Catterick on June 29.

Prince Andrew, who is Colonel-in-Chief, was accompanied by Gen Sir Charles Huxtable, Colonel of the regiment, and Lt Col Philip Baxter, CO of the 1st Battalion. Guests included Gen Sir Roger Wheeler, C-in-C Land Command and

Colours of Irish

Deputy Colonel of The Royal Irish Regiment.

During the ceremony, the old Colours of the Royal Irish Rangers were trooped and marched off. The new regiment

was created in July 1992 on the amalgamation of The Royal Irish Rangers and the Ulster Defence Regiment.

The Chaplain General, the Rev Dr Victor Dobbin, consecrated the new Colours before they were presented to the battalion.

After the parade, the Duke met officers and other ranks and their families, spoke to regimental old comrades and had lunch in the officers' mess.

IN BRIEF

SOLDIERS of 1 Royal Horse Artillery have been training on Salisbury Plain in preparation for the regiment's deployment to Bosnia.

Eight Royal Irish Regiment soldiers, five of them from the 3rd Battalion based at Portadown, were part of a 16-man British team which scooped five major trophies and more than 50 medals in an international marksmanship competition, Exercise Waltzing Matilda, held in Brisbane.

A refurbished training centre for the 19 detachments of the Wiltshire Army Cadet Force was opened at Tilshead, Salisbury Plain, by Fd Marshal Sir Roland Gibbs, the county's Lord Lieutenant.

Company teams from London-based 4th Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets, were placed first and runners-up in the London District Courage Trophy and Shield competition at Longmoor training area. They also won the falling plates competition.

It's a fact

There are 33,300 boys and 6,100 girls enrolled in the Combined Cadet Force in schools. In 1994-95 the MoD contributed £7.4 million to the cost of the CCF. — Parliamentary reply.

Flying visits

You could almost say that, since the 1st Battalion, Coldstream Guards arrived for a tour of duty in Northern Ireland, husband and wife LCpls **Shaun** and **Lisa Fox** have been able to meet only on a "rotor" basis.

Security restrictions on movement have meant that Lisa, based with the battalion at Bessbrook, and Shaun, a section commander at Crossmaglen, have seen each other on three occasions in three months - when either has had to fly to the other's location on duty.



Split personality

Receiving a Joint Commander's Commendation for outstanding work in former Yugoslavia was Capt **Tom Lafferty** of Naafi's Expeditionary Forces Institute.

Tom, being presented with his award by Col **Ian Rees**, spent six months as head of a seven-person team in Split. Working from the Dalma warehouse, they provided much-needed shopping facilities and other amenities for all BRITFOR units.

Tom, who, like the others, had had no previous military experience, underwent a combined arms training course before setting off.



Ever Greens

Pte **William Charles** (sitting, left), a former member of the 8th Battalion, The Green Howards, received a visit from two other members of an exclusive club on his 100th birthday.

Fellow centenarians from the regiment, 102-year-old **Oliver Huskison** (centre) and **Septimus Dixon** (101), joined him to celebrate the occasion and share memories of First World War battles in which they participated with the Green Howards.

William, seen with Sgt **Chris Fleming** and Sgt **Eddie Strickland**, 1 Green Howards, was presented with a new beret and cap badge, a plate and a book by Lt Col **Nick Ryan**, CO 4/5 Battalion.



For whom the staff tows . . .

Being towed out of Wentworth Barracks, Herford, in traditional style by members of his staff in a Scimitar appropriately crewed by members of his former regiment, The Light Dragoons, was Maj Gen **Roddy Cordy-Simpson**, GOC 1 (UK) Armoured Division for two-and-a-half years. He has been appointed as DCOS at HQ Land, Wilton.

Also exiting, in similar fashion (inset), was Lt Col **Richard Shireff**, outgoing CO the King's Royal Hussars, who left the plains of British Army Training Unit Suffield, Canada, in an opposition force Salamander to take up a new post as Colonel, Army Plans at the MoD. His successor,



Bienvenu à Hampshire

Playing host to a delegation of French Army officers when they visited his 4th Division Headquarters at Aldershot was Maj Gen **Nigel Richards**, the GOC. With him is Maj Gen **Pierre Coursier**, Commander Lille District.



Switched on Staffords

Fitting radios to two potential recruits to The Staffordshire Regiment, Matt Smith and Louise Potter, are Ptes **Darren Phillips** (left) and **Andrew Love**. Both Matt and a blindfolded Louise - whom he had to guide around a "mine-field" using the radio - were taking part in a Look at Life week organised by the regiment at its Shrewsbury headquarters to boost recruiting.



Lt Col **Adrian Bradshaw**, will lead the regiment through a busy season of opposition force battles during the Medicine Man series of exercises in Canada.



Personal postman

When Maj **Mike Vokes**, a TA officer with Royal Signals, CVHQ RA serving with the HQ ARRC Rear in Bosnia, was asked by his cousin in Canada to post on a letter from her daughter to ten-year-old **Eneida Bulbul** who lives in Hrasnica, he went one better. Discovering that the badly damaged village is only two miles beyond ARRC Main HQ, he made a small detour to deliver the missive and gifts collected for local underprivileged children.



Greetings from Cyprus

Kingsmen **Gary Harding** and **Steven Becket** and LCpl **Stephen McDermot** of 1 Kings meet Defence Secretary **Michael Portillo** during his visit to Cyprus, where the infantry battalion is one of the two resident on the island.



Taking over as RSM of 208 (Liverpool) Field Hospital (V) this month is WO1 (RSM) **Margaret Shannon**, pictured with outgoing RSM **Andy Parrack** and the unit's Col **Richard Murphy**.

Before taking up the post, Margaret, said to be the first female RSM to be appointed to either a Regular or TA RAMC unit, was based at Aldershot's Cambridge Military Hospital.

The only possible snag she might encounter in her new unit is that she admits to being a fervent supporter of... Manchester United.

PEOPLE



10

Whose finger on the BFG health pulse?

CHANGES in any kind of welfare provision always bring with them anxieties and cautiousness. When the Health Alliance was awarded the contract to provide medical services to families in BFG there was a fair amount of suspicion and rumour-mongering.

The system is beginning to work now and it's becoming clear that, while many people still have worries, families are still being looked after to a high standard. There are teething problems but these seem, to me, to be more to do with administration than treatment.

Both the British Forces German Health Commission and the Health Alliance took up an invitation to appear in a half-hour special *Counterpoint* programme on BFBS and were more than helpful.

Keen to stress the positive aspects of the new system, they said that the cost of maintaining bricks and mortar in Service hospitals is being converted to buying care. This is, clearly, an advantage. Unlike the UK, GPs in BFG are well supported by a central management and their own man-

agers which means that they don't have to be businessmen to run the system. They can concentrate on what they do best – caring for people.

A major advantage is that the Health Alliance can use non-military channels to find staff to cover deployments.

Through their links with Guy's and St Thomas's Hospitals and with SSAFA, they should be able to find the right staff quickly.

Many were worried by the use of German hospitals, which will be introduced gradually. They were concerned that staff might not speak English, maternity arrangements, problem-solving, medical notes, medicines and other, smaller issues that make hospitals more homely.

The Health Alliance say they are aware of the concerns



Cari's column

and are anxious to reassure people that the issues are being addressed.

The Health Commission is the voice of the client – the families – and its role is to monitor the situation. It also intends to make sure that the Health Alliance can fulfil its brief while taking into account local needs.

In some remote areas – I lived in one of them – the nearest hospital was an hour away. The situation exists in the UK... my nearest hospital is nearly an hour away.

The good news is that every family will have advice on a phone number. Their call will be routed through the system until they reach a human voice.

Some concerns remain and will always exist because of the way Service families live under a system where healthcare is provided by the employer.

But it has to be remembered that, with the increasing mobility of workers, many families are living and working overseas with multinational companies who make provision for healthcare.

A fact of life is that any system

of healthcare provision is only as good as the people who use it.

The language has changed. Patients are no longer called patients. They are clients. It may seem like a small matter of semantics but it does reflect a change in emphasis.

Any organisation providing a health service is now accountable to its end-users – even in the UK. In BFG there are now Garrison Health Liaison Committees.

These are places where everyone has representatives who they can lobby. The BFG Health Service meets local Commands and health care staff with strong user representation.

There are people with the power to sort out unsolved problems. It is also a forum to float new proposals.

This is, in my opinion, an excellent way in which to manage change in such an emotive area.

In the pipeline is a BFG Patients' Charter. Whatever critics of such charters may say, this is concrete proof of a commitment to the community. In the UK con-

sumers can use a charter to point to broken promises.

No one is pretending that everything in the garden is lovely and those currently making the system work are aware that they are under scrutiny. As an interested bystander, I have to say I remain impressed by the sensitivity with which all parties are dealing with change.

Sensing, I suspect, that I was taking a rather gung-ho attitude to life overseas, both interviewees from the Health Commission and the Health Alliance pointed out to me that a young wife, new to Germany and separated from her husband by his tour in Bosnia, was unlikely to feel so confident.

If the future of healthcare in Germany is in the hands of people such as this I think we can be fairly confident that needs will be addressed as long as they are made clear by the clients.

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

Housing is THE major concern – AFF survey

HOUSING is the number one concern of Army families based in Germany, according to those who took part in a limited survey conducted by the Army Families Federation (AFF) at the Rheindahlen Show and the Rhine Army Summer Show.

Specific issues focused on the poor standard of quarters, long waits for repairs, rent rises, the sale of the married quarters estate, interest in contract cleaning and long lists for housing allocation.

Equally important to many was the length of operational tours and gaps between tours not being long enough.

Families wanted to be together for the birth of a child, have more flexible travel allocations and, in general, better and more uniform welfare arrangements and advice when their spouse was away from home on extended operational deployments, exercises or training courses.

Other concerns of note were better child care, better medical care (especially for those having to return to the United Kingdom for treatment), more after-school and sports activities for children, a greater variety of jobs and better pay for dependants, a reform of the quarantine laws, dependency status extended to the over-21s.

The winning entries will be used in AFF events.

● **AFF's concern over sale of MoD's MQ estate – see Letters, Pages 28-29.**

Station. And an AFF poster competition for BFG children was won by Steven Evans (12) of RAF Brüggen and Stuart Robinson (8) of JHQ. They beat more than 60 others aged five to 15.

The winning entries will be used in AFF events.

● **AFF's concern over sale of MoD's MQ estate – see Letters, Pages 28-29.**

Worthy school advice

WHEN the Service Children's Education (SCE) came into being on April 1 its headquarters were established at Rheindahlen in Germany.

But the agency also has a headquarters in the United Kingdom... at Worthy Down near Winchester.

It is able to offer advice and information on all aspects of education for Service children, including its provision in the United Kingdom, UK boarding schools, and MoD educational allowances.

The Worthy Down office will also liaise with local education authorities and SCE overseas, provide educational advice to Service personnel and finance branches and help parents with

problems concerning mandatory and discretionary awards.

Mrs Olivia Denson, senior education officer SCE (UK), said: "We are here to provide a high-quality service in response to any questions or concerns about educational matters regarding Service children."

A Special Educational Needs section is run by education officer Helen Davitt, while Roy Taylor runs the Parental Assistance and Advice section.

The address is HQ SCE(UK), Building 31, HQ DGAGC, Worthy Down, Winchester, Hants SO21 2RG. Telephone numbers are (civilian) 01962 887945 (fax 887963); (military) Worthy Down 2945 (fax 2963).

Boarding allowance eligibility extended

Calls in the red

BOSNIA-based troops from Tidworth and Bulford will soon be able to phone home from a traditional British telephone box.

The smart red kiosk was donated to 215 Signal Squadron at 1st Mechanised Brigade Headquarters, Tidworth, by David Wildman of Sovereign Motors, Tidworth.

Painstakingly restored by 215 Sqn soldiers left behind to look after family welfare and keep the unit ticking over, the kiosk was sent to Bosnia to add a home flavour to the welfare telephone system used by Tidworth soldiers to contact their families.

Unicorn Kiosk Restorations of Rainham, Essex, helped out by providing new windows and paint for the box.

Soldiers from 215 Sqn have installed a new 200-line telephone exchange for the town of Sipovo.

REVISED Boarding School Allowance regulations have made it possible for the children of Service personnel to remain in full-time education until age 19 if their course lasts up to three years or nine academic terms.

This includes hostels not run by the college.

Onus for visiting the accommodation to ensure that it is satisfactory has been placed firmly with the Service parents.

They will be required to sign a certificate to that effect when they request approval for the college to be added to the MoD's Admissible Schools List under the Boarding School Allowance scheme.

The rules, which come into effect on August 1, have also been simplified to let children over the

Food contract liaison team in the spotlight

MEDIA attention fell on the contract for food supply to units and schools in Germany when the Army Liaison Team (ALT) held an open day on its new premises. The event was reported on SSV's *Scene Here* programme.

The liaison team, part of 12 Supply Regiment RLC, acts as an intermediary between customers – units and schools – and the holders of the contract, Naafi. Based at Naafi headquarters at

Kempen, it tackles problems arising from food supply, working closely with both customer and supplier.

ALT's move into new offices gave team members a chance to promote a wider awareness of their work. The new office facilities were formally opened by Col Richard Bugler, Commander Logistic Support, HQ UKSC(G) and Mike Ford, Naafi's European Distribution Manager.



Eating disorders help available

A MOTHER whose teenage son struggled for years to beat the illness anorexia has opened a clinic to treat young people suffering from eating disorders.

Mrs Penelope Baily has founded the Newmarket House Clinic in Norwich to provide caring and structured treatment for 12 to 20-year-old sufferers. The clinic can be contacted on 01603 452226.

Maj Gen Jonathan Hall, GOC Scotland, and his wife Sarah opened the first HIVE – Help Information Volunteer Exchange – in Scotland on behalf of the Army Families Federation. HIVE co-ordinator Lorna Robotom (centre) presents Gen Hall with a plaque to mark the occasion.

HIVEs, organised by Service wives as information and advice centres for families, act as focal points for voluntary activities within the military community. The new office in the community centre at Dreghorn Barracks, Colinton, Edinburgh, will welcome families into the garrison and act as a centre for employment and training opportunities. It will also provide a link to other support agencies, offering a comprehensive and confidential service to Army families in Scotland.

Scottish HIVE ready for buzzzy workload



SOLDIER Guide to Museums for the Summer Holidays

CHESHIRE

Cheshire Military Museum

Open 1000 -1700 all year except 22 Dec to 2 Jan.

Special art and Yeomanry exhibition for 1996.

The Castle, Chester CH1 2DN. Telephone (01244) 327617. Small charge & disabled access.

CORNWALL

DUKE OF CORNWALL'S LIGHT INFANTRY MUSEUM

The Keep, Bodmin, Cornwall PL31 1EG. Tel: 01208 72810

257 years of a proud County Regiment's history. Includes an outstanding military reference library.

Open Monday to Friday 0900-1700 and Sundays in July/August

DORSET

THE MILITARY MUSEUM OF DEVON & DORSET

The Keep, Bridport Road, Dorchester, Dorset DT1 1RN Tel: 01305 264066

A renovated museum with new displays using IT & CD Rom technology. The exhibits draw together the military history of Devon & Dorset units over 300 years. This allows the imagination freedom to recreate the world the soldiers and families lived and fought in. Spectacular views from the battlements. Open Mon to Sat 09.30 to 17.30

HAMPSHIRE

The Royal Hussars Museum

Peninsula Barracks, Winchester, Hampshire SO23 8TS. Telephone (01962) 828539.

Open Tues to Fri 1000 - 1600 Sat, Sun & Bank Holidays 1200 -1600. Admission Free.

RAMC HISTORICAL MUSEUM

Keogh Barracks, Ash Vale, Aldershot, Hants GU12 5RQ Tel: 01252 340212

The museum tells the story of the medical care of the Army from the formation of the Standing Army in 1660 until the present day. Also an ambulance display and the Corps Memorial Chapel.

Open Mon to Thurs 08.30-16.00, Fri 08.30-15.30. W/E & evenings by arrangement. Groups welcome.



ALDERSHOT MILITARY MUSEUM & RUSHMOOR LOCAL HISTORY GALLERY

Evelyn Woods Road, Queens Avenue, Aldershot GU11 2LG Tel: 01252 314598

Abounds with stories of great battles, gallant actions and deeds of bravery. Here you have a unique opportunity of witnessing the daily life of both soldier and civilian through the past 140 years, as Aldershot and Farnborough grew up around the camp. Guns and armoured vehicles are displayed outside.

Open daily: Mar to Oct 10.00-17.00 Nov to Feb 10.00-16.30 Adults £2.00, children/OAPs £1.00 Shop, car & coach park. Group visits by arrangement



ARMY PHYSICAL TRAINING CORPS MUSEUM

c/o ASPT, Fox Lines, Queens Avenue, Aldershot, Hampshire GU11 2LB Tel: 01252 347168

APTC history since 1860 including development of physical training in the Army, APTC international and Olympic sportsmen, evolution of athletic equipment and instructors' dress etc.

Open Mon to Fri 0900-1600. Weekends and Bank Holidays by appointment only.

Closed 8 August to 2 September and 12 to 31 December 1996

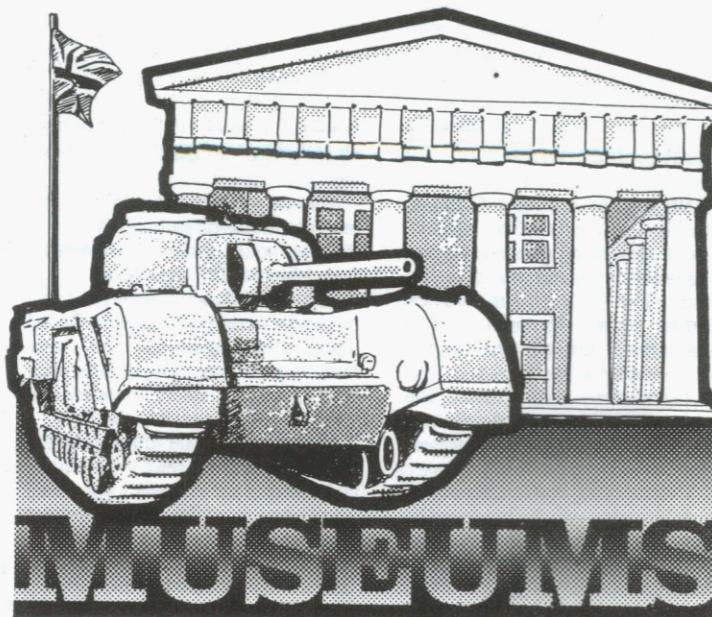
AIRBORNE FORCES MUSEUM

Browning Barracks Aldershot, Hants GU11 2BU Telephone 01252 349619

See the largest collection of Airborne weapons and equipment ever put together.

The story of Airborne Forces from their formation in 1940 to the present day.

Open Monday to Sunday 10.00-16.30. Last admission 15.45. Special group visits can be made by prior arrangement. Admission: Adults £2.50, Children, senior citizens, serving/ex members £1.00. Groups by arrangement please.



KENT

THE PRINCESS OF WALES'S ROYAL REGIMENT AND QUEEN'S MUSEUM

Open all year 10.00 - 16.00 winter 10.00 - 18.00 summer.

Over four centuries of living history, over 200,000 visitors last year. Exhibition includes: World War One trench experience; Interactive videos of World War II; Medal display and the story of the Victoria Cross (56 awarded); one of the largest portable Drum displays in the army for hire; the story of the 12 forebear regiments of the PWR. Entrance fee as per Dover Castle. Entrance to museum free.

INTELLIGENCE CORPS MUSEUM

Templer Barracks, Ashford, Kent TN23 3HH Tel: 01233 657208

History of British Military Intelligence from Queen Elizabeth I to the present day.

Open Tue & Thur 09.00-12.30 and 14.00-16.30. Prior telephone call advisable. Museum closes after 30 Sept 1996

THE QUEEN'S LANCASHIRE REGIMENT

Incorporating the collectibles and archives of The East Lancashire Regiment, The South Lancashire Regiment, The Loyal (North) Lancashire Regiment, The Lancashire Regiment, Militia, Volunteers and Territorials.

Fulwood Bks, Preston, Lancs PR2 4AA. Telephone 01772 260362.

Open Tuesday to Thursday 09.30-16.30, or by appointment less public holidays.

SURREY

MUSEUM OF THE ROYAL ARMY CHAPLAINS' DEPARTMENT

Bagshot Park, Bagshot, Surrey GU19 5PL Tel: 01276 412845

Housed in the former residence of the Duke of Connaught

Open Monday to Friday 10.00-12.00 & 14.00-16.00. Closed weekends and August when centre in recess. Admission free.

LANCASHIRE

THE LANCASHIRE FUSILIERS Regimental Museum

Discover the history of this famous British Regiment from its foundation in 1688, and its connection with Wolfe, Wellington and Napoleon.

Open: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday Saturday, 09.30 to 16.30. Admission: Adults £1.00, OAPs & children 50p Wellington Barracks, Bolton Rd, Bury BL8 2PL Telephone: 0161-764 2208. PARTIES BY APPOINTMENT

SUSSEX

THE QUEEN'S ROYAL IRISH HUSSARS MUSEUM

Sussex Combined Services Museum, The Redoubt Fortress, Royal Parade, Eastbourne BN22 7AQ. Tel: 01323 410300

Open 4 April - 5 November 1996, 1000-1730 Admission: Adults £1.80, family ticket (2+2) £5.00, under 16/over 60s £1.15.

For further information phone Major P J Timmons 0171-414 8782.

NEWHAVEN FORT

Fort Road, Newhaven, E Sussex, BN9 9DL Tel: 01273 517622

Restored Victorian fort holding a military and wartime collection and D-Day exhibition. The Dieppe raid, the Sussex Yeomanry and the Royal Observer Corps.

Open daily 01 April to 29 September and weekends during March and October 10.30-18.00 Admission charge.

TYNE & WEAR



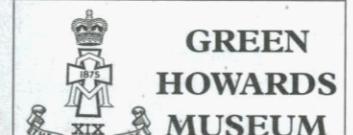
15th/19th THE KING'S ROYAL HUSSARS AND NORTHUMBERLAND HUSSARS

"A Soldier's Life", Newcastle Discovery, Blandford Square, Newcastle-Upon-Tyne NE1 4JA. Tel: 0191 232 6789

Many other interesting Galleries within the Museum

Open Mon-Sat 10.00-17.00 and Public Holidays excluding Good Friday, Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day Open Sun 14.00-17.00

YORKSHIRE



GREEN HOWARDS MUSEUM

Trinity Church Square Richmond, N Yorkshire Tel: 01748 822133

This famous North Yorkshire Regiment was founded in 1688 and its campaigns from 1690 onwards are illustrated with original uniforms, gallantry awards medals, Regimental silver and many other relics, including interactive video of WW1 and CD Rom. Also some of Richmond's historic civil plate.

Open daily Apr to Oct 9.30-16.30 (Sundays 14.00-16.30) Mar, Nov-Mon to Sat Feb-Mon to Fri 10.00-16.30 Closed Dec & Jan Admission Charge

To feature in the next Museum Guide in September 30 1996 edition contact:

SOLDIER Magazine, Ads Department, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU.

13th/18th ROYAL HUSSARS (QMO) REGIMENTAL MUSEUM

Cannon Hall Museum & Country Park, Cawthron Nr Barnsley Tel: 01226 790270.

Gives a synopsis of the Regiment's History from 1715-1992 including involvement at Waterloo, Balaklava (Charge of the Light Brigade), World War 1 & 2, Malaya and today's Regiment, the Light Dragoons.

Open Tue-Sat 10.30-17.30, Sun 12.00-17.00 and Bank holidays. Closed Good Friday & Christmas.

SCOTLAND



THE ARGYLL & SUTHERLAND HIGHLANDERS

The Castle, Stirling FK8 1EH Tel: 01786 475165

The museum contains fine displays of Silver, Colours, Uniforms, Medals, Weapons, artefacts and a World War 1 trench and dioramas with commentaries. Entry free-donations welcome.

Open Apr-Oct, Mon to Sat 10.00-17.30, Sun 11.00-16.30. Oct-Apr 10.00-16.00.



THE BLACK WATCH MUSEUM

Balhousie Castle, Perth, Scotland Tel: 01738 621281 Ext 8530

Two and a half Centuries of Treasures of The 42nd/73rd Highland Regiments

Open May to September Mon to Sat 10.00-16.30 (Including Public Holidays)

October to April Mon to Fri 10.00-15.30 (Closed 23 December to 4 January inclusive)

WALES

SOUTH WALES BORDERERS MUSEUM

The Barracks, Brecon, Powys LD3 7EB. Telephone (01874) 613310. 300 years of history. Zulu wars. Large medal collection and armoury. Open Oct to Mar (weekdays only) and Apr to Sept (daily), 0900 - 13.00 and 14.00 - 17.00.

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Degree of learning in the front line

SOLDIERS on operations in former Yugoslavia have earned a double first in Army education, writes Gordon Skilling.

They are the first to be awarded the National Vocational Qualification (NVQ) Level 3 in Supervisory Management through a new Army scheme, and the first to complete them on operations.

Their certificates are the first fruits of an ambitious scheme to credit soldiers' leadership and management skills.

The new management NVQs are closely linked to NCOs' Education for Promotion courses leading to the rank of sergeant and warrant officer. They are also, uniquely, available to soldiers of every cap badge.

Developed by the Directorate Educational and Training Services Branch (Army) with the Institute of Management and Salisbury College, the scheme allows all NCOs attending promotion courses access to an NVQ. Potential sergeants can work towards Level 3 in supervisory management while potential WOs focus on Level 4 in management.

The scheme takes account of previous experience as well as the Military Management Studies course work in promotion courses. Candidates must also complete an additional NVQ module including work-based assignments and evidence, finance and health and safety.

Officers of the AGC(ETS) are being



Right: Operational Education in Former Yugoslavia: Lt Col Chris Caswell (Commander ETS) Cpl Ian Tolson, 32 Engr Regt; Cpl Tim Caley, 9 Regt AAC; Maj Gen Mike Jackson, Commander Multi-National Division (SW); Cpl Gordon Barnes, 60 Arty Spt Sqn, Cpl Graham Sheridan, 4 GS Regt RLC and Capt David Williams, AGC(ETS) instructor

trained as assessors for the on-course elements of the programme.

A fee of £25 or £35 is charged, as against the £600 it would cost a civilian.

With guard duties, exercises, training and operational and emergency tours to contend with, soldiers can find it virtually impossible to attend a college for one night a week over an extended period.

Under the new Army scheme, they will be able to gather elements of their qualifications in any location, and continue it if necessary on another continent.

Professional skills of, for example, military chefs and electricians have long attracted civilian qualifications, but teeth arms

have until now been unable to capitalise on their skills. The ability of infantry to capture a "bushy-topped tree" has not always been recognised by civilian organisations as useful. Nor has the Royal Armoured Corps' skill in destroying enemy tanks or the Royal Artillery's expertise in bombardment.

"Soldiers have skills which people are not aware of, such as being very good at working in teams and organising groups, making decisions under pressure and meeting tight deadlines," said Lt Col Chris Bristow, Education and Training Services commander at HQ 4 Division in Aldershot.

A pilot scheme started in February at 77 Army Education Centre in Aldershot and 15 AEC at Bicester produced a clutch of soldiers who received their certificates from Education Secretary Gillian Shephard.

Having proved the concept, the programme was launched worldwide on May 1, with soldiers being able to participate in the UK, Germany, Cyprus, Gibraltar, Hong Kong, the Falkland Islands, Canada, and in former Yugoslavia.

There are some 40 Army Education Centres operating the scheme, and the average portfolio to qualify for NVQ management qualifications takes three to four months to complete.

"In 19 years in the branch this is probably the most exciting development in military education I have seen," said Lt Col Bristow.

One of the attractions is that the scheme recognises practical experience and proven skills rather than performance in examinations.

"An NVQ is not something you fail," said Maj Paul Yarrien, Group Education Officer at 77 AEC.

"You may not achieve the level of competency required or need more experience or practical



Education Secretary Gillian Shephard, flanked by David Knapp and Dr Mike Hallé of Salisbury College, with the first soldiers to receive the Army's Management NVQ certificates. On the right is Lt Col Mark Filler, HQ Director Educational and Training Services (Army). Holding their NVQs are (clockwise from left) Bdr Scott Caswell, 7 Para Regt RHA, Aldershot; Cpl Philip Heddon, 27 Regt RLC, Aldershot; Cpl Michaela Barwick AGC, Army School of Catering, Aldershot; SSgt Marcus Gibbons, REME Staff Band Drum Major, Arborfield; SSgt Anthony Counsell, 4 GS Regt, RLC, Abingdon; and Cpl Minbahadur Limbu, 28 AEC, Church Crookham



Students at 77 AEC in Aldershot link management studies to their Education for Promotion course

Soldiers will have a portfolio of qualifications when they leave which an employer will understand exactly

work, but the skills that you have achieved are formally recognised."

This was the first major opportunity that the Infantry and other teeth arms have had to tie their range of skills to subjects recognised outside the military community, said Maj Yarrien.

"Now all soldiers can have a nationally-recognised qualification which mirrors activities outside the Services," he said.

Management NVQs are designed for career soldiers and are seen as the core of the qualifications structure, explained Brig Allan Thompson, Director of Educational and Training Services (Army) at Worthy Down.

"The trunk of the tree is the management NVQs and all the others are attached to that," he said.

"Soldiers will have a portfolio of qualifications when they leave which an employer will understand exactly because it will be in civilian-speak. Along with certificates from City & Guild, BTEC and other bodies, it will list what they can do and what they have done in civilian terms."

Army management training has now been endorsed by the Institute of Management, the country's leading professional body in this field.

There is a further development. Corps such as the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, Royal Engineers and Royal Signals have had their own specialist NVQs for several years.

Brig Thompson is also investigating the possibility of creating general NVQs in

Army 'tecs get their own award

LATEST NVQ to be instituted is for members of the Special Investigation Branch of the Royal Military Police.

The award, in investigation management, follows three years' of co-operation between senior representatives of the AGC(RMP), civil police, Post Office and British Telecom.

As well as five senior military police officers being trained to provide management control for the scheme, assessor training is on line for 24 junior officers and warrant officers, while up to 48 NCOs are working towards Investigation NVQs at Level 3 or 4.

The investigators, based in Britain, Germany and former Yugoslavia, hope to attain their awards by October.

Masterminding the scheme is Col Terry Scriven, Provost Marshal at HQ Land Command at Wilton.

He is also a qualified assessor and City and Guilds external verifier.

The Provost Marshal HQ has been awarded approved centre status for carrying out the investigation NVQs.

"These national awards will help the SIB maintain its exacting standards and enable us to attract high-calibre recruits into the profession," he said.

The working group which established the investigation NVQs is now drafting a Management of Investigation NVQ at Level 4/5, which should become available later next year.



Col Terry Scriven, Provost Marshal HQ Land

security and information technology. Army training is being examined to discover what NVQ credits can be awarded from the vast range of courses available, and a database is being established showing what civilian qualifications may be achieved from military courses.

Lt Col Mark Filler, staff officer overseeing the introduction of the management scheme, said NVQs helped with resettlement, retention and recruitment.

"People are perhaps not considering the Army as a career because they do not see there being opportunities to get civilian qualifications."

"The management NVQ is a very significant element in countering this, and we are taking steps to ensure that the soldier has a greater opportunity for accreditation of computer skills."

Since the project started in May there has been an 80 per cent uptake of the management NVQ, with up to 4,000 NCOs a year expected to benefit from it.

Welsh Terriers show 'double' commitment

FORGET for a moment that the unsettled state of Andovia sounds suspiciously like a well-known market town in the south of England.

Picture instead a breakdown of its communications infrastructure in the border area with hostile neighbouring state Chiltonia – both, in turn, former members of a large federation of four states.

Bowing to international pressure, the British Government has authorised the deployment of some Territorial Army engineer units to assist with repairs.

Eager men and women from the Royal Monmouthshire Royal Engineers (Militia), senior Reserve regiment of the British Army and the only one to boast a double Royal in its title, prepare to go in.

Acting on a report from Allied Command Europe Rapid Reaction Corps (ARRC) forces situated on the confrontation line with Chiltonia, they take advantage of a temporary lull by the Chiltonian army for re-grouping and rest and enter the fray.

Their likely tasks embrace everything from lines of communication bridging to demolition, water supply, route maintenance and other construction undertakings.

Switching from theory to reality, the Welsh unit's sappers are, in fact, taking part in Exercise Militia Foray in Hampshire.

An integral part of the UK's support for NATO, the 850-strong regiment, which can trace its origins to 1539, is tasked these days with being part of the country's contribution to the combat and construction engineering support for the ARRC.

The skills of the regiment's sub-units, whether carrying water supply equipment

across Hawley Lake to construct a brigade water point – a task carried out by 225 (City of Birmingham) Field Squadron – or the removal of 9,000 tons of soil from the butts during redevelopment of a rifle range at Longmoor by Walsall-based 143 Plant Squadron, were fully tested by the field exercise.

"In line with Army policy, the heavy plant is hired these days, saving machines lying idle for long periods," said one of the regiment's officers, as diggers looking for all the world like huge toys were operated by the engineers.

"This is an ideal site because it is self-contained, enabling us to train newcomers without risk to civilians, and gives the guys plenty of operational time."

Other members of the squadron were coming to the end of a four-day project which should be their legacy for some time in the future:

a slip road on the narrow approach to Longmoor's training area which had involved felling trees and laying and crushing several layers of stone.

box wagon to help with the camp's training, Lt Scott Spenser and his team were constructing a demonstration defensive position house.

"The more evil you are in preparing it, the better-defended it will be," he said, as the edifice was shored up inside with railway sleepers, sand-filled oil drums, old ammunition boxes, barbed wire and double layers of sandbags, with timber to take the weight and "mouseholes" for the soldiers to move speedily between buildings.



Sgt Allan David Williams, LCpl Darrell Jones and Spr Mohsin Ali work on the FIBUA demonstration house at Longmoor

Welsh Terriers show 'double' commitment



Picture: Mai John Charles

Hard at it: Plant Troop 108 (Welsh) Field Support Squadron (Militia) at Longmoor FIBUA complex during Exercise Militia Foray

Elsewhere, a crew from 100 Field Squadron (Cwmbran-based, with troops at Cardiff and Bristol), who hours earlier, at midnight, had been stripping out an extra-wide Bailey bridge at Hawley, was enthusiastically laying – with the aid of a bridge crane operated by 108 Fd Sqn – a heavy girder overbridge. When installed, it would reinforce the road surface so it would be capable of bearing the weight of anything up to a tank transporter.

"The most difficult aspect of the entire

exercise is making sure that everyone gets the right amount of sleep, so that they can carry out their duties and enjoy themselves as well," said an officer.

Another, watching a group of sappers as they prepared to all but demolish a splendid practice bridge at Longmoor, mused: "I've been on 18 camps with the regiment, in some odd places, with odd meals and some odd experiences, but I reckon this has to be one of the most enjoyable."

The men and women taking part, with

their various squadron symbols, whether crows, horned hares, blue boars or Celtic crowns, would quite possibly agree.

Post script: As the exercise drew to a close, members of 100 Fd Sqn rescued a potential suicide.

Becoming suspicious of a parked car, they discovered a man slumped inside, smashed the windows with their rifles, removed him and laid him in the recovery position before he was taken to hospital by the emergency services.



Left: On a roll: Spr Kevin Hayes (foreground), LCpl Kevin Smith and Cpl Philip Gillon, 143 Plant Sqn, moved approximately 600 tons of earth in building an invaluable slip road

Right: Getting ready for the big blow: soldiers from the Royal Monmouthshire Royal Engineers (Militia) underneath the bridge at Longmoor training area



Left: Sgt Jackie Porter, 108 (Welsh) Field Support Squadron, pictured on the exercise, operates a mean crane when not working as a lifeguard at Swansea Leisure Centre

Right: Transforming the butts at Longmoor shooting range: members of 143 Plant Squadron with their big toys





Gunners from 43 Bty, 47 Regt RA weigh in for the Bataan Memorial Death March in New Mexico

Clean sweep for 47 Regt – again

TWENTY men from 43 Battery, 47 Regiment RA, beat more than 1,000 US Special Forces, Airborne and Rangers to make a clean sweep for the sixth year running in the Bataan Memorial Death March.

The unusual event, held at the top-secret White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico, where the first atomic bomb was tested during the Second World War, commemorates the deaths of nearly 20,000 US Servicemen after maltreatment by Japanese captors following their surrender at Bataan in the Philippines.

British gunners became involved in the march when a US exchange officer entered a team from his British battery six years ago. Since then the artillerymen have kept on winning the 26-mile marathon through the scrubby desert of the missile range.

STORMED INTO LEAD

In the two main categories of heavy (carrying 35 lb) and light (light scales) the gunners stormed into the lead and won easily.

"All I want to do now is get some scoff and get my head down," said an exhausted Gnr Anthony Boyle on finishing.

Many of the US, Germans, Slovakian and Singaporean teams had spent months training, while the gunners had completed a week in the Brecons and two weeks acclimatising to the 90C heat and 5,000ft altitude at Fort Bliss, Texas.

Team captain and current US exchange officer Maj Don Fryc was overwhelmed by his team's effort and professionalism.

White Sands organisers are keen to boost the numbers of participants to 2,000, so any unit wishing to take part next year – even if it is only to give the 47 Regt gunners a run for their money – should contact Maj Don Fryc, 43 Bty, 47 Regt RA, Thorney Island, Hants for details.

In August, the first stage of a total transformation of the Army's manning and career management and administration of pay and pensions begins in Glasgow.

Staff in the MoD's Manning and Record and Pay Offices already based in the city's Kentigern House will form a "mini" Army Personnel Centre (APC) – forerunner of the much larger APC due to be launched as a Defence Agency in the building in December, and to become a single unit in July 1997.

Maj Gen David Burden, Director General of the APC and Chief Executive Designate, spoke to *Soldier* about the new organisation.

Glasgow's paper-scarce centre

AS THINGS stand at the moment, Maj Gen David Burden explained, a network of 19 offices in nine separate locations in England and Scotland as far apart as Exeter and Glasgow carries out the functions of Military Secretary (at Stanmore), Manning and Record and Fixed Centre Pay Offices, and the Army Pensions Office, writes **Phil Wilcox**.

"It makes enormous sense to bring all of these offices together in one up-dated, properly equipped and trained new centre, to give manning and career management staff the sort of facilities they would expect for the British Army," he said.

Centralising the service, with its computer support in the same location, would, apart from making it more efficient, save a considerable amount of money.

"The idea is that the APC will both manage the careers and be the Regimental Pay Office for everyone across the Army, both officers and soldiers.

"Ultimately, everything at the centre will be automated, using office automation tools and electronic document management. A letter will come in, it will be scanned and filed without the desk officer seeing the letter itself.

"If one wanted to post somebody, the details would be typed on screen and the letter automatically printed, folded, signed and so on just by pressing a button.

"We are talking about a 21st century, paper-scarce office."

In August, Kentigern House will be re-configured so that existing staff can adapt

to the working practices of an Army Personnel Centre in a "mini" form.

The functions – as opposed to the bulk of the staff – of the other English sites will be progressively moved into the configuration between December and July. Recruitment is currently in progress.

"Apart from the 'single site' aspects, one main advantage of the transfer will be that the different centres will be able to learn from the best aspects of each other's procedures.

"All of them have been centres of excellence: the challenge will be to emulate that and share the best practice across the whole Army."

However, Maj Gen Burden added, "we cannot do this alone. We are going to have to take with us our customers: the chain of command and all serving officers and soldiers, both Regular and Territorial."

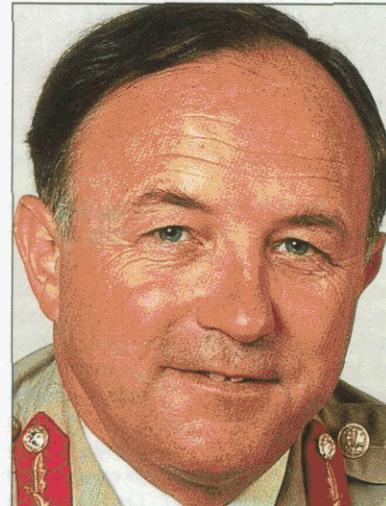
When the APC is complete, he said, it will have a modern suite of offices, served with the best in information technology and responding as quickly and compassionately as possible to the needs of the British soldier.

"We are not doing a total 'big bang'. There will be trial periods for the new technology and we will be learning by our mistakes."

Refurbishment of the building, with all IT working, is scheduled to be completed by April next year.

And the motto which Maj Gen Burden would like to see adopted by the Army Personnel Centre?

What else but "Serving the soldier"?



Maj Gen David Burden, Director General Army Personnel Centre



Water, water everywhere... a test of skill, strength and confidence during A Company's inter-platoon competition

Fast work

FOR THE first time in more than ten years British soldiers returned to the South Pacific to take part in military training on the main Fijian island of Viti Levu.

Exercise Vakatotolo (Fast) Coral, named after the speed in which it was set up by Capt Tony McClelland of HQ British Forces Hong Kong, took just four months from planning to deployment and culminated in 130 men from A Company of the Hong Kong-based 1st Battalion, The Royal Gurkha Rifles flying south to Fiji for a five-week training period.

The opportunity to exercise in the South Pacific could not have come at a more appropriate time. Fijian expressions of interest in a British military return to the island had coincided with the cancellation of a planned Hong Kong Garrison exercise in New Zealand. MoD and Fiji rapidly gave the green light to the project, and both parties hope it will become an annual event.

For company commander Maj Simon

in Fiji

Report: Ruth Vernon Pictures: JSPR Hong Kong

Nias, who first visited Fiji in 1984 while serving with The Cheshire Regiment, there were two main aims: to conduct live firing from individual to section levels, and to foster and improve relations with 1 RGR's hosts, the Republic of Fiji Military Forces (RFMF).

Maj Simon Nias, OC A Coy, with Lt Arthur Rawaya, commander of 4 Platoon, B Coy, 3 Fijian Infantry Regiment



"Both were achieved by the end of the exercise," said Maj Nias. "The men spent a long time in the field and enjoyed the opportunity for extensive live firing, which we just don't do in Hong Kong.

"Our hosts were most supportive and we

went home with a marvellous sense of achievement."

During the first three weeks A Coy completed a package of live firing at Tova Peak, a volcanic area on the north-east coast where hilly savannah provided open ground for realistic training up to company level. The Gurkhas later moved south to the Nabukavesi and Labau ranges in an area of tropical rain forest which offered cover for jungle training.

On an island famous for sun, sea and sand, the Gurkhas experienced most unseasonal weather.

"We saw nothing but torrential rain," said Maj Nias. "As we spent most of our time in the field it became pretty uncomfortable."

As the exercise drew to a close the Hong

● Turn to next page

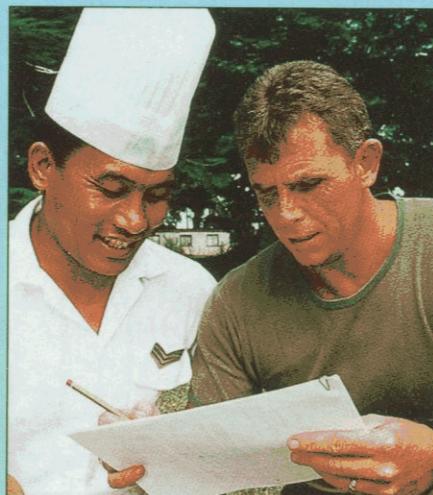


Above: It's a fair cop. TMP Sgt Paul Campbell gets a taste of his own medicine while training Fijian military policemen

Right: WO2 Jim Dibben checks for hits made by LCpl Zec Buadromo of Fiji's Counter-Revolutionary Warfare Squadron during a basic sniper course



Lt Johann Ursing, an A Coy platoon commander, with LCpl Bavai of the RFMF



Fast work in Fiji

From Page 21

Kong-based soldiers were able to enjoy adventurous training including scuba diving and white water rafting.

Nine RFMF soldiers were attached to A Coy for the live firing, and 31 other Fijians took part in the final training phase, a 36-hour inter-platoon competition.

Of the 3,600-strong RFMF, almost 600 are on peacekeeping duties in Kuwait and the Lebanon, so they have an on-going need for training. The chance to exercise with the Gurkhas was warmly welcomed by senior Fijian officers who have long valued contacts with the British Army.

Many, including the RFMF commander, Brig Gen Ratu Epeli Ganilau, went to RMA Sandhurst and trained in the United Kingdom.

RFMF liaison officer Capt Sotia Poni echoed A Coy's sentiments when he explained how well the training had gone. "We couldn't have asked for a better group of people. The rapport between Gurkhas and Fijians has been excellent, and the nine soldiers who trained with the company benefited enormously."

"They had the chance to handle weapons new to them, adapt to a different style of training, and to take part in live firing, which we don't practise very often."



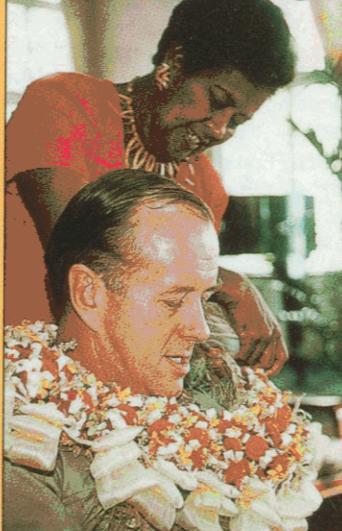
Above: Soldiers of A Coy on patrol in the Nabukavesi area

Left: Mess officer WO1 John Mackin sorts out the menu with Sgt Dev



Maj Gen Bryan Dutton, Commander British Forces Hong Kong, talks to Gurkhas during a weapons demonstration at Nabukavesi

Floral honour revives links



BRITISH Army links with Fiji were warmly revived when Maj Gen Bryan Dutton, Commander British Forces Hong Kong, was entertained by the 212 Union Jack Club, an association formed by the 200 ex-Servicemen and 12 ex-Servicewomen recruited from the South Pacific island in the early 1960s.

Gen Dutton told them: "Your presence at that time was greatly appreciated. You had style, you genuinely inspired great respect and you are remembered with great affection." Among those at the

reception was Akuila Vaniqi who served for 22 years with the RAOC, and Josesa Ravu, 22 years with The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment. Seven of the 212 Fijians who left Suva for the United Kingdom in November 1961 eventually served with the SAS.

In a traditional Fijian welcome, Gen Dutton was greeted with the special garland, known as a *salasalu*, reserved for honoured guests. It was placed round his neck (left) by Soweri Vula, whose husband spent 21 years in the Royal Signals.

and as they don't often have the chance to train at our level they really enjoyed their time on the ranges. Many of my men had never experienced night live firing, so our time on both the north and south coasts was invaluable."

The exercise was also a lesson in self-sufficiency. When A Coy deployed, it took 8,000lb of freight. RFMF stores at the Gurkhas' base in Queen Elizabeth Barracks at Suva, the island capital, were limited, and it was left to quartermaster Maj John Hunt to organise supplies and facilities ranging from transport to goats and chickens.

Mess officer WO1 John Mackin ex-

plained: "We brought nothing with us except compo rations, so our first priority was to set up contracts with local food suppliers." His team - Sgt Dev, LCpl Khem and Rfn Padam - are experienced in setting up kitchens in the field, a task made more difficult by the constant rain. The team still managed to serve 135 meals a day throughout the exercise.

Vakatotolo Coral wound down with an inter-platoon competition in the Nabukavesi region, south-west of Suva. In dense rain forest 12 eight-man sections carried out command tasks including a river crossing, navigation test, stretcher race,

river assault course and march and shoot.

Much of the assault course was washed away when the river flooded dramatically one night. "The guys huddled under their ponchos brewing up and trying to keep dry," said platoon commander Lt Johann Ursing, who had the chance to catch up with Fijian officer Lt Arthur Rawaya of 3 Fijian Infantry Regiment. The two passed out together from Sandhurst last year.

Villagers were much amused by the antics of the soldiers and gathered to applaud them as they raced through their tasks. Sgt Surendra Gurung was asked to break off from the competition to help a woman in the advanced stages of labour.

He got the woman and her husband into a truck and drove in heavy rain down dark winding tracks to get them to hospital in Suva. Having made sure mother and infant were doing well, Sgt Gurung returned to

Nabukavesi in the early hours of the morning and continued with the exercise.

Visitors during the last week included Maj Gen Bryan Dutton, Commander British Forces Hong Kong, and Lt Col Bijaykumar Rawat, CO 1 RGR.

The importance attached to Gen Dutton's visit was reflected in an invitation to call on the President, Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara. He also met the commander of the RFMF, and attended a Beating Retreat ceremony by the Gurkha Pipes and Drums and RFMF Band at Queen Elizabeth Barracks.

Col Peter Barry, the UK's Defence Adviser in New Zealand, summed up: "There was a totally positive response from the Fijians when the exercise was suggested. We were pushing at open doors, particularly as the Fijian military admires the standards of British Forces and wants to operate along the same lines."

Warriors and time travellers

SIGHTS and sounds of the American Civil War were vividly re-created on a Virginia farm when more than 5,000 re-enactors, 150 cavalry and 30 artillery pieces gathered to fight some of the battles of the Wilderness campaign of May, 1864.

Acres of period military encampments, including hospitals, were laid out in a field. Among them were the sutlers, travelling salesmen of the Civil War.

The site of the re-enactment battle was similar to the original battle-ground, Saunderson's Field, a large open space encircled by dense woods.

Spectators felt like time-travellers, nowhere more so than when walking through Union lines where camp fires smouldered as the Northern soldiers slept on beds of straw, their dark blue uniforms ripped and caked in mud. Early that morning, the re-enactors had taken part in a raid on enemy positions in the woods.

What makes grown men put on uniform and campaign through a long season of re-enactments across several states?

Scott Turner, a "sergeant" in the 7th Wisconsin, thought many people found it exciting to shoot guns and run around a battlefield. "But, I guess, most of us eventually realise we are trying to represent the deeds of our ancestors," he said.

"It can cost about \$1,200 to get kitted out properly. This includes uniform, haversack and a musket which costs about \$400."

Report:
Laurie Manton
Pictures:
Mike Weston

Dave Roberts, a consultant on civil war history and re-enactment, has appeared in several Hollywood films, including *Glory*, *North and South* and *The Blue and the Gray*.

In the epic *Gettysburg*, he appeared as an extra in 27 scenes, each time as a different character. "I believe there is a need for everyone to find their roots. This is why people turn to re-enactment. It gives the men taking part a chance to have an identity to draw from," he said.

"My great-great grandfather fought in the war and his 18-year-old son was shot and killed by a sniper after the Battle of Franklin. One relative was bayoneted and lay wounded on the battlefield at Pea Ridge, another lost a limb at Gettysburg and then joined the navy."

Battlefield re-enactment is a worldwide phenomenon. More than 60,000 people, including many in Singapore, Australia, India and Japan, relive old wars. Almost 17,000 re-enactors took part in one event in America.

Authenticity plays a big part. According to the organisers, one of the most frequently asked questions is: "How do you know when to die?" Re-enactors understand the battles in which they are fighting and, depending on the situation, decide whether they should fall or not. If they are positioned in front of an artillery piece or a volley from an infantry group, they know they should become casualties to be historically accurate.

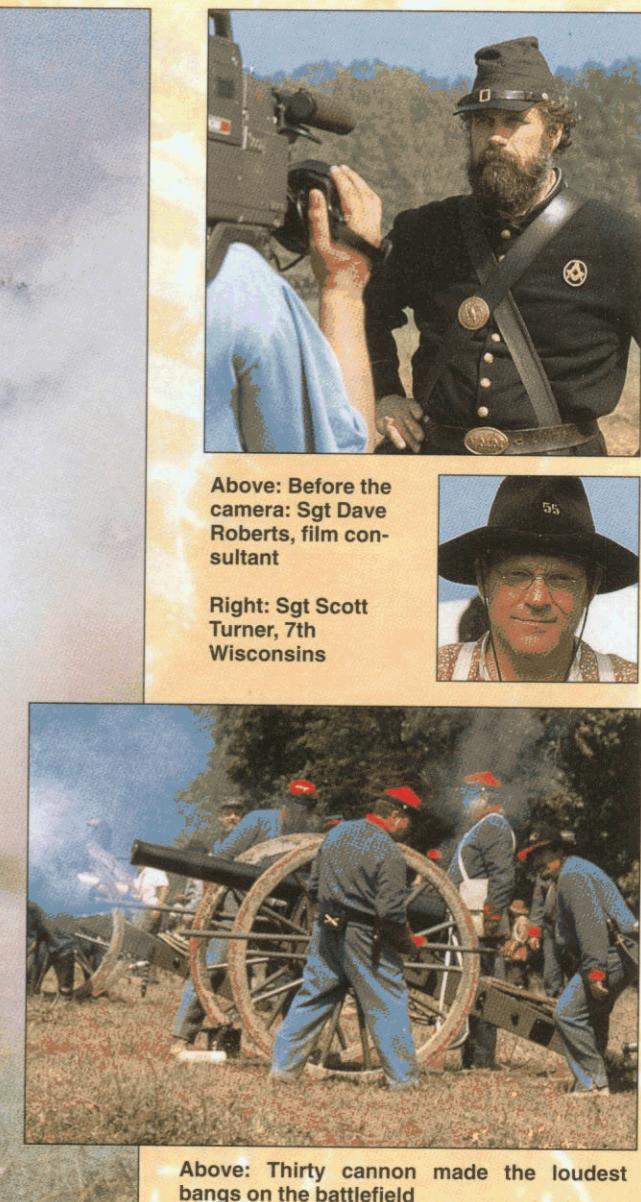
"When I started out in 1974, re-enactors wore dungarees and polyester jackets. Now they wear the correct uniform, cut in the right weight of material," explained Dave Roberts.

Digging for battlefield relics in the National Parks is prohibited, but many antique shops in the area sell Civil War memorabilia. On sale are boxes of used ammunition, cutlery, buttons and horseshoes. One establishment was selling rings said to have been found on the battlefield.

Ten years ago, historians concerned at irresponsible development formed the Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites, which buys property or negotiates for its protection.

Already the APCWS has acquired more than 4,000 acres of land at 37 sites across 11 states. With almost 10,000 members, it is now the foremost organisation dedicated to the preservation of battlefields.

Left: No modern automatic weapons for these Confederate soldiers. Their muskets had to be reloaded after every volley



Above: Before the camera: Sgt Dave Roberts, film consultant

Right: Sgt Scott Turner, 7th Wisconsin



Above: Thirty cannon made the loudest bangs on the battlefield

Left: Union soldiers advance into the smoke



Left: No modern automatic weapons for these Confederate soldiers. Their muskets had to be reloaded after every volley

BLOODY MARYE'S HEIGHTS

THERE is a length of sunken road flanked by a high stone wall on the outskirts of Fredericksburg, Virginia. The open ground in front of it was once known as the "bloodiest place on Earth".

In the space of an afternoon, 9,000 Union soldiers were killed or wounded as they tried to reach the road.

The area around Fredericksburg suffered as much as any during the American Civil War. Four times the opposing armies clashed in bloody battles in and around the town. In December 1862, a proud Union force – the Army of the Potomac – met with disaster in a pitched battle at Fredericksburg.

The 110,000-strong Northern army, led by Ambrose E. Burnside, crossed the Rappahannock River to seize the town and push on towards the Southern capital, Richmond.

Opposing Burnside was Gen Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia, numbering only 75,000, but enjoying sound leadership and the protection of a fortified ridge, Marye's Heights, west of the town.

After taking the town, Burnside ordered 40,000 of his troops to make a series of frontal assaults against the ridge.

Confederate cannon on the heights and infantry several ranks deep on the sunken road at its base poured fire on to the Union forces attacking across half a mile of open ground. Time after time they were repulsed. When the battle ended after dusk Burnside's army had suffered one of the most one-sided defeats in American history.

The Civil War is remembered with fervour in America, its story taught in school from third grade onwards. Children attending a presentation on the battle at the Fredericksburg Battlefield Visitor Centre were deeply moved on learning of the suffering endured by soldiers and civilians.

A museum displays relics of the fighting ... a pocket bible which stopped a musket ball, a shoe transfixated by a bayonet.

Much evidence of the war remains in the 6,000-acre Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania County Battlefields Memorial National Military Park which encompasses the sites

of four major battlefields, including Chancellorsville and the Wilderness.

A striking memorial to the 15th Regiment, New Jersey Volunteers, is one of several on the Spotsylvania battlefield.

Beyond is the Bloody Angle, part of a heavily-defended salient. Twenty-four Union brigades were hurled against this small sector of the rebel line. Bitter fighting raged for 20 hours as the two sides fought muzzle-to-muzzle, artillery firing at point-blank range.

The dead, four-deep, impeded operations. In some places, bodies were piled like sandbags to provide cover.

Fredericksburg and the surrounding area became the graveyard of the four major Civil War battles. After the war, the Federal government established a national cemetery for the Union dead on Marye's Heights. The remains of nearly 16,000 Northern soldiers, most unknown, are buried there.

They occupy in death the hill they failed to take in life.



Class act...

Army antics: Children from local schools enjoy themselves atop a Saxon during a cross-community open day laid on by The Royal Dragoon Guards at Girdwood Barracks, north Belfast. With them are LCpl Dave Marsden (front) and Cpl Liam Wilson

RETURN TO RORKE'S DRIFT

UOTC to build hall for Zulus

ALMOST 120 years after the Zulu Wars, British soldiers will return to the site of the battle of Rorke's Drift in Kwa Zulu Natal when they travel to South Africa next month.

But unlike their predecessors in 1879 - a 153-strong group made up predominantly from the 2nd Battalion, 24th Regiment of Foot, who fought hand-to-hand with more than 4,000 Zulus - this will be a peaceable affair.

A party of 34 officer cadets from Southampton University Officers' Training Corps, with the assistance of six Regulars from the Royal Engineers and The Royal Regiment of Wales will be working side by side with young Zulus in Project Scholastic Acorn.

The 1st Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Wales, whose forefathers earned a breastful of VCs in the battle, is throwing its weight behind the project, aimed at building a much-needed community hall, as "a token of friendship

and goodwill." Rorke's Drift is now a small community in one of the most depressed regions of Kwa Zulu Natal: the hall is 50 yards from the battlefield site.

Capt Rob Dickinson and Sgt Mike Norris from 1 RRW, based at Ballykelly, Northern Ireland, are joining the £130,000 expedition.

They will carry out major administration tasks for the project, which has the approval of the Prince of Wales, President Mandela and the King of the Zulus, and organise a rest and recuperation package for the cadets during the four-week building phase.

Training in construction techniques and block-laying for the project, with the help of the Royal Engineers, began in October. The hall at the Shiyan Secondary School will have a capacity for 500 students, with toilet and washrooms, electricity supply, a stage and a kitchen.

Training in construction techniques and block-laying for the project, with the help of the Royal Engineers, began in October. The hall at the Shiyan Secondary School will have a capacity for 500 students, with toilet and washrooms, electricity supply, a stage and a kitchen.

"We have designed it as a



Laying plans: 2nd Lt Matt Wilkinson, Masters student at Southampton University (Project Scholastic Acorn co-ordinator/manager); Lt Col Andy Harris, CO Southampton University OTC (project leader); JUO Jo Campbell, expedition photographer; and Maj Terry Curran, senior instructor, RSME Construction Wing, at a preparatory bricklaying weekend at Chatham

and the students will build it with the aid of local unemployed Zulus," said project leader Lt Col Andy Harris RE.

Brig David Bromhead, Colonel of The Royal Regiment of Wales, and a descendant of Lt Gonville Bromhead

VC, added: "In 1879, both our nations grew to have a mutual respect; they both showed incredible courage, fortitude and resolve in the face of adversity. These qualities are reflected in the determination and attitude of the soldiers

taking part in this project."

The present King of the Zulus and Chief Buthelezi, both of whom are descendants of Zulus who took part in the battle, will return to Rorke's Drift for a symbolic meeting with the soldiers.

to submit teams for the Liverpool international half marathon being held on August 25.

Organisers say that, apart from raising funds for local charities, there will be a Services Challenge trophy, competed for on a team basis.

Units may enter as many runners as they wish, with their top four finishers counting towards the trophy.

Further information and entry forms: tel 0151-650 6989 or Bill Sergeant on 0151-724 3171.

Members of the 1st Battalion, Coldstream Guards, who recently started a six-month tour in South Armagh, completed 22 gruelling laps of the headquarters block and heli-pad at their base at Bessbrook Mill to raise sponsorship cash for St John's Hospice in Newry and the Army Benevolent Fund.

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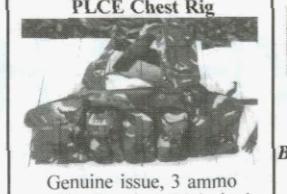
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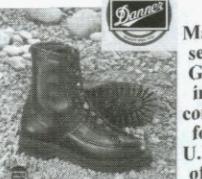
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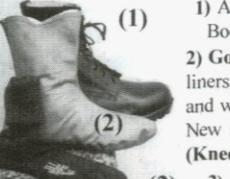
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Engineers pave way for John

A partially-disabled former sapper, John Guest, now has a driveway for his car, thanks to the combined efforts of Nottingham-based 129 HQ and Sp Sqn (V), the RE Association and SSAFA.

Working at weekends and in the evenings, members of the squadron, which had been approached by the corps association, provided the muscle power to lay the driveway so that John is now able to park his car nearer to his house and out of the way of vandals.

The RE Association provided most of the financial help, while SSAFA obtained plan-



In Chaucer's footsteps: Three members of the newly-formed Army Welfare Service raised more than £1,500 for the NSPCC by walking Chaucer's Pilgrims' Route from Southwark to Canterbury. SSgt Mark Jackson (AWS Deepcut), Sgt Sharon Armsby (AWS Dover), and the driving force behind the idea, SSgt Graham Bartram (AWS Woolwich), completed the journey in two days. Left to right are Mark, Graham, NSPCC appeals manager Loretta Bresciani, and Sharon

ning permission and additional funds.

Soldiers from Lisburn-based 39 Infantry Brigade and Signal Squadron have donated £1,000 towards the cost of creating a multi-sensory room

for 12 young adults with severe mental disabilities in a Belfast home. The money was raised by sponsored walks in the Mourne and mountain biking in Wales.

Army units are being invited



Q: Why do Servicemen and women who died during the years 1919-21 and 1946-47 qualify as war dead?

MY father, though not a Regular, was retained in the Army of Occupation until 1921. His unit guarded the Kaiser Wilhelm Bridge in Kolin.

He and many others had returned as fit for active service after having been wounded or gassed. Some subsequently died and were quite likely buried in war cemeteries. This may have happened again after the Second World War. — Capt George Lewis, Milford Haven, Dyfed.

It is correct that the cut-off date for the First World War is August 31, 1921 and for the Second World War December 31, 1947, although hostilities ceased on November 11, 1918 and August 14, 1945 respectively.

The extension was introduced after the First World War to make allowance for a considerable number of casualties who had died after Armistice Day from wounds or sickness sustained as a result of service during the true war period, and therefore attributable to the war.

The date in August 1921 which was chosen was the one on which the state of hostility officially came to an end. The same principle was applied following the Second World War, when an arbitrary cut-off date giving an extension of like duration was selected. — (Miss) Beverly A Webb, Information Officer, Commonwealth War Graves Commission, Maidenhead.

• A similar reply to Miss Webb's has also been received from Thierry Laroche, of Neufchateau, Belgium.

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Cameronian cadets' re-badging 'sad'

I AM writing to you to express my concern over the imminent re-badging of the Cameronian Cadet Units in Lanarkshire and East Kilbride.

As a former Cameronian cadet and a member of the Cameronian Club in Glasgow I know there are many others who share my feelings of great sadness that these heirs of a proud and honourable tradition will be absorbed into

another regiment, however fine.

Although the Cameronians themselves chose to march into history it seems a matter of great regret that the inheritance of a long and glorious tradition, and a significant part of our national story, is being eradicated from the military scene.

Surely it would be possible to retain at least one or two

units to carry on the name and to keep alive the ideals and traditions of a great and unique regiment.

At the cadet level rationalisation cannot be such an overriding priority that it must mean yet another proud name disappearing from the roll call.

Is it, even at this late date, impossible to reconsider this decision? — Stewart Ferguson, Glasgow.

INSIDER'S VIEW ON THE MQ SALE DEBATE

Why families need to live near Army bases

I HAVE followed with interest the debate started by the excellent Cari Roberts about the sale of married quarters.

With the exception of a first-class article by Rachel Johnson in the *Daily Telegraph* (June 5) I have seen no realistic examples of families accompanying units. In 1976-78 I was quartermaster of the 2nd Battalion, Coldstream Guards during an accompanied tour in Northern Ireland.

One of the factors that made it a magnificent battalion was that the families were with us. The battalion group strength was well in excess of 600, more than half of whom were married accompanied.

The married quarters were in three separate estates within about 20 miles of Ebrington Barracks in Londonderry. Each had its own community centre, where families met for functions and activities, run part-time by NCOs and wives who did a superb job.

diers can be a darned nuisance. Enough said! — Maj (Retd) Peter Horsfall, London N14.

Turn to Canada for Army recruits

I WOULD like to bring to the attention of Brig John Milne, Director of Army Recruiting, that there is a large supply of manpower right here in Canada.

In order to be accepted for the British Forces, recruits have to have parents or grandparents who were born in the UK.

All that would be required is an advertisement in prominent eastern and western Canadian newspapers to start a flow of recruits. — James B Cummings, Victoria, BC.

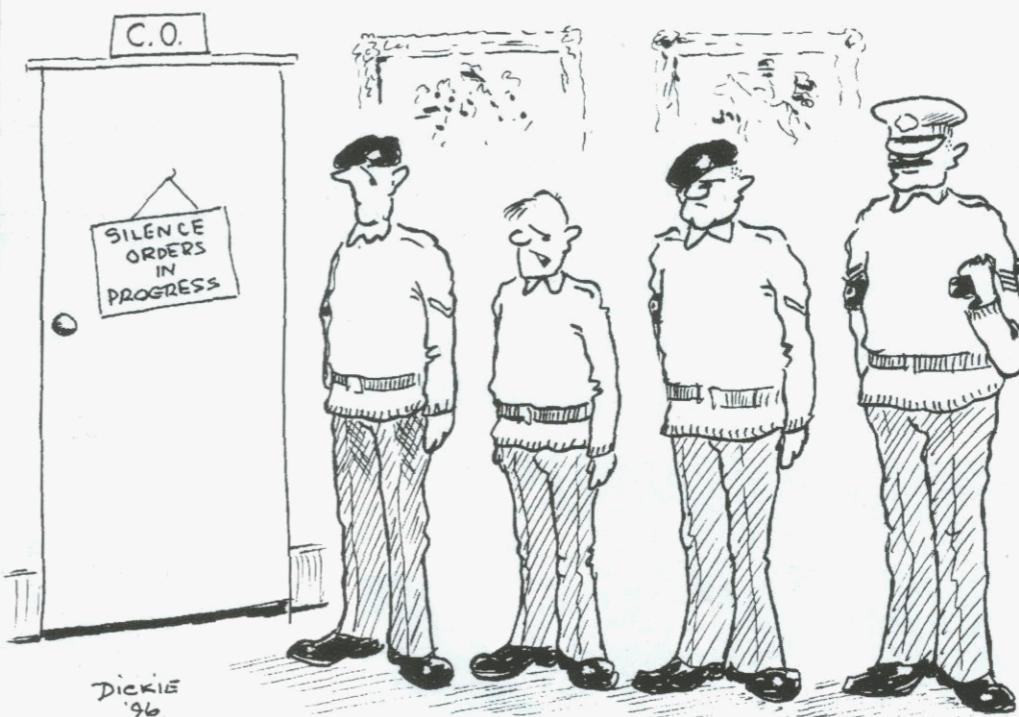
For the record...

Battle honours

IT WAS stated (Feb 19) that the QLR has more battle honours than any other regiment. However, my reckoning is this: The Queen's Regiment (351), Light Infantry (277), Royal Green Jackets (253), QLR (203). — R G Coster, Verwood, Dorset.

• We were referring to emblazoned battle honours. — Editor.

BIRD'S EYE-VIEW



"All I said to the RSM was... 'Did he get NVQ credits for shouting?'"

NVQs awarded on operations — Pages 16-17

Hill 235 bugle not Glosters'

I HAVE been asked to comment on the letter (July 8) concerning the bugle allegedly found on Hill 235 in Korea.

Maj Walwyn of C Coy decided on a route march and asked me to take the drums along. When we got back to our billets, the adjutant, Capt Farrer-Hockley, told me to pack up the instruments to be sent back to Kure in Japan.

Mindful that there might be the odd military funeral, I retained two bugles. Dmr Eagles had one in his haversack on 235 and I used this on the last morning.

He tells the story that he put a 36 grenade in it as a booby trap when we left the hill. I know of no other bugles in anyone's possession in the battalion.

On mobilisation for Korea in August 1950 all regimental property — drums, bugles, white buff accoutrements — was sent to the depot for storage.

I took the G1098 drums, flutes and (Canadian) bugles to Korea. We met up with an advance party at Suwon in

mid-November and were a couple of days sorting ourselves out.

Maj Walwyn of C Coy

Our readers are getting younger



I AM eight years old and like reading about soldiers because my big brother is in 1 Staffords, who are going to Hong Kong later this year. It would surprise him if my picture appeared in the magazine. — Alexander Venables, Stoke-on-Trent.

Lee would be thankful.

Best wishes to all your staff and to everyone who reads the magazine. — Mr J Grieves, 25 Manor Place, Upperby, Carlisle, Cumbria, CA2 4LP.

bugle has no connection with the battalion up to April 25, 1951. Afterwards? Who knows how it came on the scene? — P E Buss, Drum Major, 28th/61st, (1947-57), Dover.

Article put Charlwood on the map

A FRIEND recently passed me a copy of *Soldier* dated December 11, 1995 which included a reprint of an article from the December 22, 1945 edition regarding the village of Charlwood in Surrey.

I lived there all my life until 1990.

At the time the original article appeared I was serving with the Royal Engineers at No 1 Civilian Internment Camp at Neumunster, north-west Germany.

One can imagine my pleasure and surprise when I opened my copy of *Soldier* and found the article.

Thank you for this reprint. It has enabled me at last to prove to my children and grandchildren that Charlwood was actually mentioned in your magazine as having been involved in the Second World War. — L E Skinner, Burgess Hill, West Sussex.

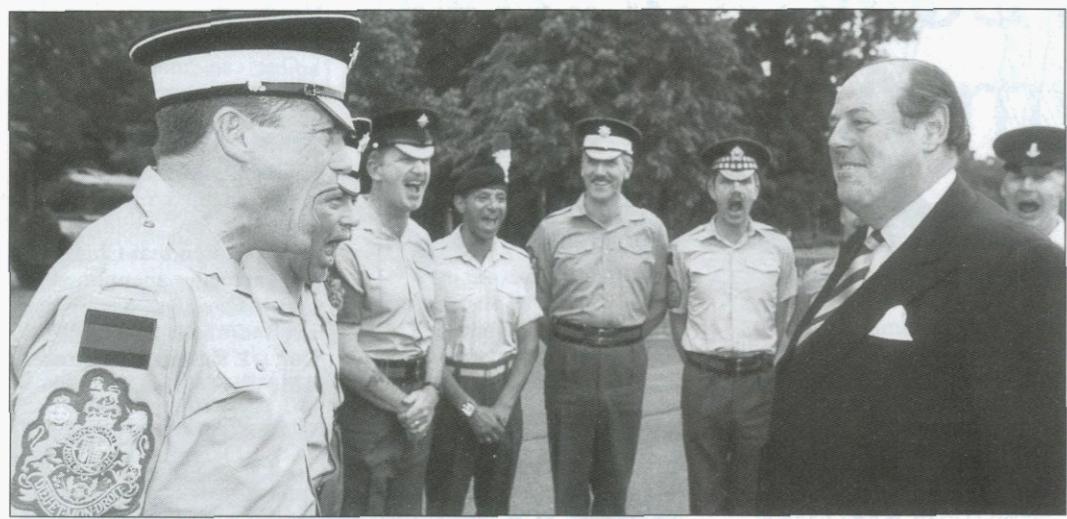
Anglians' new museum open

BBC foreign correspondent and veteran Bosnia reporter Martin Bell wore his trademark white suit to open the museum of The Royal Anglian Regiment in the Land Warfare Hall of the Imperial War Museum at Duxford.

The project is the culmination of an 18-month appeal to raise more than £270,000.

Lord Bramall, President of the Board of Trustees of the IWM, and Maj Gen Patrick Stone, Colonel of the regiment, also made speeches during the formal opening.

Appeal patron Gen Sir John Akershust said the new museum had received tremendous support.



Picture: Chris Fletcher
A roar of RSMs: Regimental sergeant majors demonstrate their vocal range to Armed Forces Minister Nicholas Soames. More than 140 attended the RSMs' convention at RMA Sandhurst on June 26

WORLD WATCH

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

From *Army* newspaper, Australia: Defence capital will be redirected to the sharp end as 1,200 civilian posts are abolished by 1998.

From *Connect*, newsletter of the Irish Defence Community: The full words are sought of an Emergency period song heard being sung by an elderly gentleman in Tipperary. It begins with the line "When I went up to the Curragh in 1941" and the chorus runs: "One of the oul' Reserves; One of the oul' Reserves; Three pints a day as extra pay; One of the oul' Reserves".

Numbers are up for Army vehicles

ENTHUSIASTS will have spotted two types of registration numbers on British Army vehicles.

The reason dates back to September 1993 when a new military vehicle census system was introduced to make it easier to keep track of military assets. Previously, vehicle registrations were issued manually, noted in handwritten registers and logged on to the SALOME computer system.

When SALOME was replaced by the ingeniously named Management of Equipment Res-

ources, Liabilities and Information Network (MERLIN), numbers were issued in blocks by the system. Under the old system they consisted of two figures, two letters and two figures – eg 31 FJ 45. New plates carry two letters, two numbers and two letters.

David Eason of the Chilwell-based Directorate of Supply Management says the new registration – eg AA 00 AA – allows more permutations. Old numbers will fade away as vehicles are replaced or go out of service.

Infantry legs it as cavalry gives chase

FIVE horses managed to catch the three-strong Infantry relay team in the annual 22-mile cross-country Man v Horse Marathon at Llanwrtyd Wells near Sennybridge.

Overall, the Army trio finished second to a team of national standard fell runners who beat all the horses and won £2,500.

LCpl Ian Cain PWO (123 Army Youth Team), Maj Roy Hunter PWO (ATR Glencorse) and Cpl Rod Leach, Hldrs (also Glencorse) ran the three legs in turn, being passed by the first horse and rider after 12 miles.

Bookmakers William Hill, the sponsors, offer a £10,000 purse to the first individual runner to beat the horses. The closest anyone has got is four minutes behind the first four-legged competitor.

WEEKLY WAR: The Tank Museum launched the first of its weekly firepower and mobility displays on July 4. The programme, every Thursday, runs until September 19 and includes armoured vehicles being put through their paces and choreographed tank battles.

And, for the first time, visitors will also be able to ride in armoured vehicles. Details on 01929 405096.

Calling London . . .

AFTER THE PHARAOHS Britain's decision to withdraw the Army from Egypt turns the spotlight on the great Tura caves near Cairo. For three years soldiers have been working and living inside the hills from which limestone blocks were quarried to build the Pyramids. The vast caves have been used to store millions of pounds worth of stores and ammunition.

Organised by ex-Leading Stoker Harry Rubins, the unusual tribute involved a coachload of 1 RUR veterans on board an Irish Ferries boat out of Belfast, and a Brittany Ferries vessel crossing from the mainland.

Relics, some 4,000 years old, were uncovered daily.

50 YEARS AGO

From *Soldier*, July 1946

D-DAY veterans of the Royal Ulster Rifles paid their respects to fallen comrades when two cross-channel ferries stopped in the water off the coast of Normandy on June 6 so that the old soldiers could lay wreaths in the water.

Organised by ex-Leading Stoker Harry Rubins, the unusual tribute involved a coachload of 1 RUR veterans on board an Irish Ferries boat out of Belfast, and a Brittany Ferries vessel crossing from the mainland.

Both ships hove-to over the site where HM Gunboat Locust buried crewmen killed in battle. The Locust, built as a Yangtse gunboat, was shelled for 21 days as she lay off the beaches after landing and escorting men of 9 Brigade, including 2 RUR.

Harry, who served on board the Locust, laid wreaths at Ranville for two naval telegraphists killed landing by air with the Combined Operations Bombardment Unit which, under an Army officer, "spotted" for the Royal Navy's guns.

The Ulster veterans also dedicated two new memorials during the pilgrimage to Normandy.

25 YEARS AGO

From *Soldier*, July 1971

RAIN, SUN AND SMILES Three battalions of The Light Infantry stood stoically in steady rain as they prepared to receive their first Colours from their Colonel-in-Chief, the Queen Mother. But as she drove on to the parade field at Colchester the sun broke through to match her radiant smile. Colours were presented to the Light Infantry Volunteers and the 2nd and 3rd Battalions.

NEWLY appointed mayors of Wandsworth, Kensington and Chelsea attended their first official function with their local Territorial Army unit, 31st Signal Regiment (V), at Southfields, London, when they were entertained by the commanding officer, Lt Col Robert Weston, and senior officers.

Twelve of the regiment's soldiers are returning after six-month tours in Bosnia, two volunteered for a second tour, and more are heading for duty with the peace implementors.



Italy stars on parade

This new standard of the East Hants branch of the Italy Star Association 1943-45 flew proudly over Portsmouth Guildhall for three days while the Second World War veterans held their annual lunch and parade. From left are Ted Packer, who donated the standard; Syd Leech MM, chairman of the East Hants branch;

branch secretary Don Cooke; and committee member Ray Clovier.

Nearly 200 old soldiers and their wives sat down to lunch with guests including the Lord Lieutenant of Hampshire, Admiral of the Fleet Sir Henry Leach, the Lord and Lady Mayoress of Portsmouth, and Col Wallace Pryke, national president.

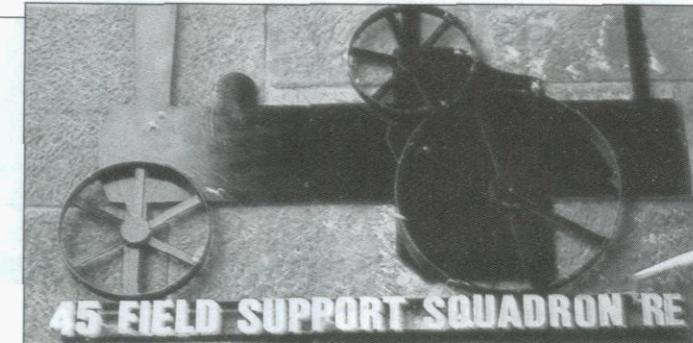
Nienburg's steam sappers leave mark

FINAL farewell to Nienburg from 45 Field Support Squadron RE came in the form of a metal plaque attached to the town's Blue Bridge, rebuilt by the unit after the Second World War.

The plaque is in the shape of the squadron emblem, a steam traction engine.

Formed during the Boer War to operate traction engines, the unit has maintained its long link with steam.

It has a cherished 1916 Fowler traction engine which appears regularly on unit parades and displays and is lovingly looked after



The traction engine emblem of 45 Fd Sp Sqn RE, attached to a bridge at Nienburg

by the squadron's artisans. The Steam Sappers are part of 21 Engineer Regiment which left Nienburg in the spring at the end of a 46-year association with the German town.

The regiment is now based in Quebec Barracks, Osnabrück.

Soldiers at the School of Electronic and Aeronautical Engineering (SEAE) at Arborfield were so fed up with the blank walls in their restaurant that they commissioned art students from Windsor to brighten the place up.

East Berkshire College came up trumps with five large papier mâché murals depicting tanks and soldiers. The project worked both ways . . . it counts towards the students' final BTEC 3D design course examinations.

APPOINTMENTS

Major-General: Brig J P Kisely MC – To be GOC 1(UK) Armoured Division in the rank of major general, June 3.

Colonel: T J Minter – To SHAPE, June 3.

Retirements
Colonels: S B Davies, late QARANC, June 30; D N Faithfull-Davies, late RAMC, June 30; D P Fleming-Jones, late RADC, June 27; S F N Miller, late RADC, June 27.

DATES

July

14: Para spectacular; Southsea Common, in aid of Airborne Forces welfare. Free entry.
21: Oxon-Bucks RBL gala day, Stonor Park nr Henley-on-Thames. Details on 01865 53151.

21: Aldershot Military Museum special events day, 1.30pm (01252 314598).

28: Tank Museum battle day, Bovington.

August

14-26: Gurkhas at Gallipoli, 80th anniversary exhibition, Gurkha Museum, Winchester (01962 842832).

September

7-8: Farnborough International 96 airshow.

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

October

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

November

16: Classic military band concert, Band of RAF College Cranwell at Cranwell in aid of SSAFA. (details: 01406 425550).

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

■ Friends of Harry "Poppy" Ellis have been wondering if two British soldiers nicknamed Poppy were associated with the Force 142 raiding parties and Greek Sacred Squadron during the Second World War.

Our story about the Sacred Squadron (Diary, May 27) named him as Harry "Poppy" Harris. The error is regretted. We can confirm that there's only one Poppy Ellis . . .

REUNIONS

15th (Scottish) Infantry Division (1939-46): Drumhead service to mark 50th anniversary of disbandment of 15 Div takes place at Redford Barracks, Colinton, Edinburgh, September 14. Associated units and secondevents welcome. Contact Harry Holder, Manchester

SEARCHLINE

If anyone has a copy of a *Daily Express* story headlined "Jets swoop over the Somersets in Malta" and published August-November 1956, they are asked to contact David Williams, Somerset LI reunion organiser, 29 Knowle End, Woolavington, Bridgwater, Somerset TA7 8JH (01278 683022).

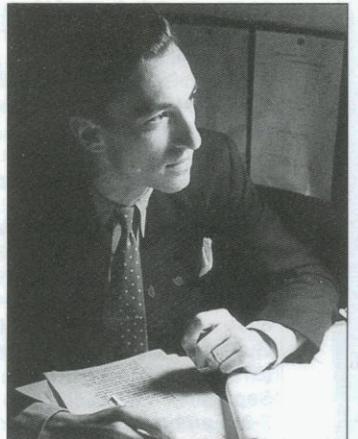
Eddie Holdaway wishes to hear from anyone who served with 148 RAC Regiment, stationed at Aldershot on D-Day, the precise date the regiment landed in Normandy. Mr Holdaway was a gunner in Capt Storey's tank, 148 RAC. Replies to 54 Stepney Green Court, Stepney Green, London E1 3LL (0171 790-1242).

Mr M Gonzalez wants to hear from

any readers who served in Cyprus in the late 1940s, early 1950s and who have a photograph of the train which ran between Nicosia and Famagusta. He wishes to loan the photograph or have it copied at his expense. Replies to him at Jahan, Kingston Deverill, Warminster, Wilts BA12 7HA.

■ Readers who enjoy the Peninsular campaign exploits of dashing infantryman Richard Sharpe may be interested to learn that the Sharpe Appreciation Society and Fan Club incorporates the archives of the South Essex Regiment. The fan club has the backing of the TV series producers, Carlton Television and author Bernard Cornwell. The address is PO Box 14, Lowdham, Nottingham NG14 7HU.

A GRACE-FUL BOOK OF BFN MEMORIES



Raymond Baxter, BFN Hamburg's production manager



Barry Davies, BFN sports reporter who became BBC TV's top football commentator

Tim Gudgin, a BFN Hamburg "Early Bird" presenter, now reads sports results on *Grandstand*

Stars in their ears

Right: Dorothy Lamour interviewed for BFN by Chris Howland on her arrival in Hamburg

Story of British Forces Broadcasting in Germany.

For many ex-Servicemen and women and their families, this book will bring back vivid memories of life and radio entertainment in BAOR. Radio

was a must in those days... there wasn't much else in the way of entertainment other than the camp cinema and the Naafi.

So BFN, successor to a radio station set up in a former harem in Algiers in 1944, was launched to fill the gap for Servicemen based in Germany.

Most of BFN's own output was "needle time" and listeners deluged the station with requests for records and dedications.

To give an idea of the problems – and the fun – involved in producing radio programmes, Grace has delved into his vivid memory and the recollections of former broadcasting colleagues to produce this history of Forces' broadcasting in Germany.

His narrative is star-studded with hundreds of names, many of them "big time" and world-famous... Hollywood icon Dorothy Lamour, who got the thumbs down



Alan Grace

from the troops (apparently she was ill, but insisted on going on stage), Duke Ellington and scores more.

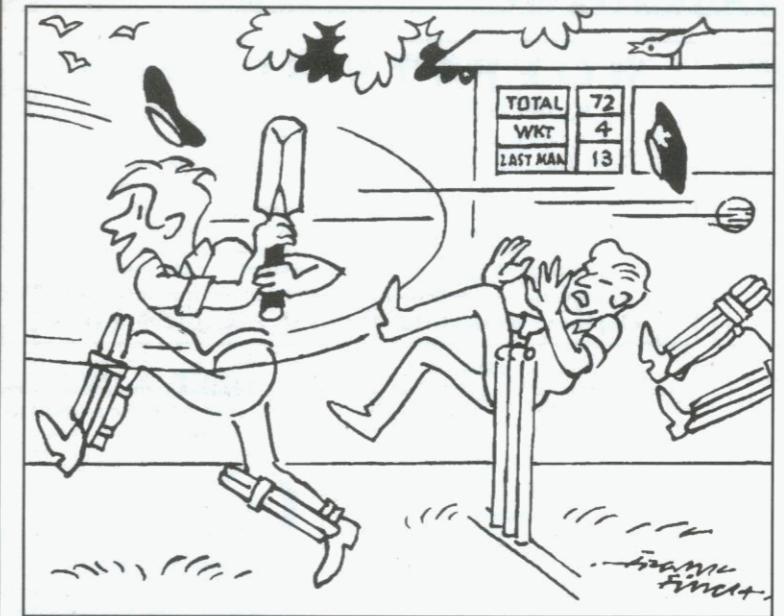
All were heard on BFN at one time or another and this book is almost a *Who's Who* of Service broadcasting from Germany.

With all those stars of stage, screen and radio to bring back the memories,

This is the British Forces Network by Alan Grace. Alan Sutton. £14.99.



Joanna Lumley appears as a guest on BFPO's "Take Five" with Stephen Withers



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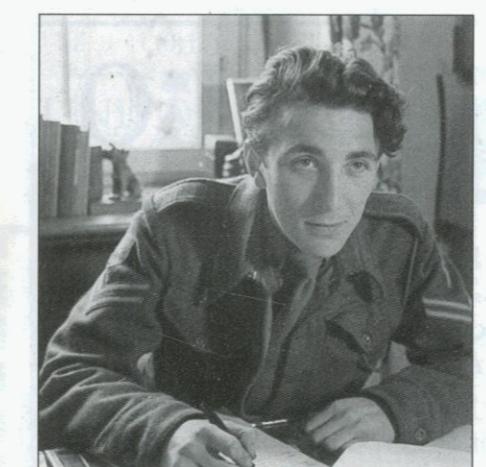
These pictures are from our Frank Finch cartoon archives. Find ten differences in detail and you could be £50 richer or win a new book. Circle the differences in the bottom picture, cut out the whole panel, add your name and address and send to HOAY 641, Soldier, Ordnance Road, Aldershot GU11 2DU by August 9. No correspondence of any kind can be entered into.

The names of the winner of the £50 first prize and two runners-up (awarded book prizes) will be announced in the September 2 issue.

Name: (Give rank or title)

Address:

Competition No 638 (June 10): Congratulations to Mr E B Byatt, of Hayes, Middx, who wins £50. Book prizes go to runners-up Mrs P Keeley, of Haywards Heath, W Sussex, and Maj J Wilson RMP, 101 Pro Coy RMP, BFPO 40.

Leon Griffiths, scriptwriter for "Services Spotlight". He went on to create *Minder*, the top television series

"What's on BFN?" squaddies would ask, while Service wives and families were already tuned in for an earful of entertainment, information and education, for such was the policy of BFN. BFBS followed that line.

But this is more

than a leisurely stroll down memory lane.

Alan Grace also tells

of behind-the-scenes

dramas, a common

occurrence in the

high-pressure world of

broadcasting.

While BFN relayed

popular BBC productions

from the Light Programme

and Home Service, it also produced its own shows which

proved extremely popular with readers will recall with pleasure the outpourings of BFN, later to become BFBS and now under the umbrella of the SSV group.

While BFN relayed popular BBC productions from the Light Programme and Home Service, it also produced its own shows which proved extremely popular with



Lale Andersen after one of her many recordings for BFN in the Hamburg Musikhalle

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3. The Dortmund Station Officers' Mess Fund Scheme for the distribution of the funds.

Ref: VCW-4948-CD(T)

The Commissioners propose to make a Scheme for these charities. A copy of the draft Scheme can be seen at 16 Regt RA, Woolwich, London or can be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to Woodfield House, Tangier, Taunton, Somerset TA1 4BL, quoting the above reference. Comments or representations can be made by August 22.

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Sixth (431 runs, £300): Maj M J Haslam, 203 (W) Fd Hosp (V), Cardiff.

Seventh (429 runs, £200): WO2 G T King, 105 Regt RA (V), Edinburgh.

Eighth (421 runs, £100): WO1 I Parker, HQ 2 Div, York.

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Second (529 runs, £1,250): Cpl S D Watson, HQ ARRC, BFPO 40.

Third (526 runs, £750): Lt Col A M Phillips, ITC Wales, Brecon.

Fourth (520 runs, £500): SSgt C R A Holcombe, 251 Signal Sqn, Aldershot.

Fifth (519 runs, £400): Cpl J Workman, 1 RS, Colchester.

Sixth (511 runs, £300): Capt A A Cameron, 3 Hldrs (V), Elgin.

Seventh (510 runs, £200): Sgt G E C Ford, 16 Regt RA, Woolwich.

Eighth equal (504 runs, £50): Lt Col S P Harris, JFOS, Wilton.

Eighth equal (504 runs, £50): Sgt E A Pearson, Army Apprentice College, Harrogate.

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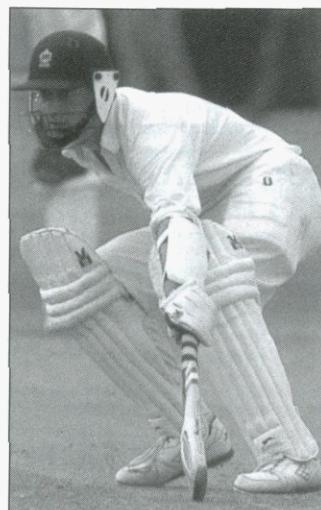
D3

Arresting performance

BRITISH Police were too strong for the Army in a 55-over match at Aldershot, winning by 87 runs in a high-scoring game.

The police side included several Minor Counties regulars and two players with experience in the first-class game.

They gave the Servicemen a lesson in league-style batting, running up a total of 293 which was always going to test the Army resources. Capt Paddy Logan (5 Regt AAC) deserved his figures of 3-66.



Capt Adrian Grinonneau turns for a second run during his innings of 70 against British Police at Aldershot

HQ QMG leads fleet

REME's annual sail training week in the Baltic attracted five teams from the United Kingdom enabling the organisers to fill the nine available Halberg Rasse 31s at Kiel.

Sponsored by Peugeot Export, the event featured six legs, including a long overnight passage.

HQ UKSC(G), skippered by Sgt Nigel Broadbent, were first to finish the opening Kiel-Sonderborg leg, followed by HQ QMG (Lt Col John Haverson), 7 and 2 Battalions REME. The QMG and UKSC(G) yachts also arrived first in the second leg.

Brisk winds up to 35 knots greeted the crews for the Abenra-Faaborg passage, and again HQ QMG forged ahead. ES 1 Div and HQ UKSC(G) exchanged second position on

British Police 293-7 (Logan 3-66). Army 206 (Capt Adrian Grinonneau (2 R Anglian) 70).

Cambridge University v Combined Services

Combined Services lost by 45 runs to Cambridge University in a three-day match played on a decidedly "dodgy" fenland pitch at Queens College.

A skilful knock of 55 by Capt Christopher St George (2 Para) was the highlight of the first day after both sides had struggled on the first innings.

A two-run lead was rapidly extended by Kent's Will House after he had been badly dropped before scoring.

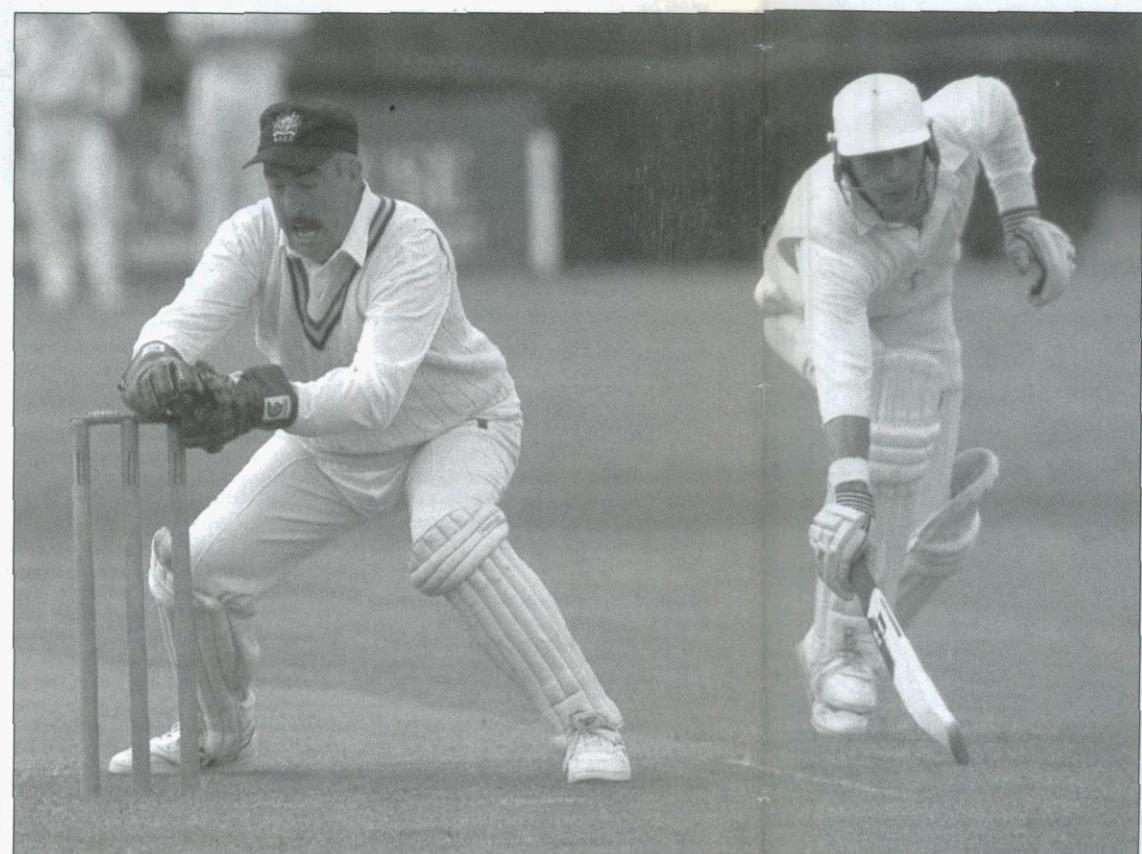
Other chances went begging and the Servicemen were left to accumulate 353 for victory.

At 225-2 the game was there for the taking, but a collapsing middle order put paid to any scent of victory and Combined Services were bowled out 45 runs short.

Combined Services 212 (St George 55, LCpl M Hutton (RDG) 39) and 307 (Cpl A Pick (38 Engr Regt) 69, Sgt N Palmer (2 (Trg) Regt AAC) 44). Cambridge University 214 and 350-8 dec.

Oxford U v Combined Services

Fine batting and bowling distinguished the Services'



Pictures: Mike Weston

Sgt Nick Palmer, who made 37, gets home before Det Con Steve Grattan (British Police) can remove the bails

performance in their three-day game against Oxford University at The Parks.

The students made a sporting declaration on the first evening and were surprised

when Services responded with 405-4 against their strongest attack.

RAF batsmen Lumb (170) and Bray (161) shared an opening stand of 329.

Will Kendall replied with an undefeated 206 as Oxford engineered a declaration and a run-chase.

Good university bowling undermined the Servicemen who were left to snatch a draw from the jaws of victory.

Oxford University 230-7 dec and 344-5 dec. Combined Services 405-4 dec and 145-8.

ment RA (Sgt Ian Pollard).

Day five consisted of two Olympic triangle courses.

The final leg, back to Kiel, determined which yacht was going to finish third overall and also winner of the special Eileen Simpson Trophy. ES 1 Div got away well but lost the wind, as did UKSC(G), and HQ QMG again finished first. Next were 7 REME who made good progress on their own course.

Two of the last three stages were sailed under spinnaker, a pleasant ending to the week.

Prizes were presented by the new Rear Commodore (Germany), Lt Col Andrew Craig, with overall ratings ending with HQ QMG in first place. HQ UKSC(G) were second, 7 REME third just ahead of ES 1 Div, and 2 REME fifth.

Skipper Lt Col John Haverson (HQ QMG) is presented with the Eileen Simpson Trophy by Lt Col Andrew Craig



Skipper Lt Col John Haverson (HQ QMG) is presented with the Eileen Simpson Trophy by Lt Col Andrew Craig

almost every tack until the former went slightly off course allowing Maj Alan Cook at the helm of the Support Command entry to finish in front.

The 2 Battalion yacht (SSgt Jim Tough) was fourth, and there were fine efforts to finish with HQ QMG in first place. HQ UKSC(G) were second, 7 REME third just ahead of ES 1 Div, and 2 REME fifth.

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ROYAL Engineer crews took the top places in the Pathfinder Trophy Inter-Services competition held within the Isle of Jura Scottish Peaks Race.

Goold Finger, a lightweight Whitbread 27, and Redcoat, the Army's Sigma 38, provided the sailing element of the gruelling two-day event which involves teams of runners from each yacht scaling three peaks.

Captains Graham and Mike Scott and Cpl Robbo Robinson teamed up in Goold Finger,

co-owned by Maj Phil Ashcroft and Capt Mark Johnson-Ferguson, while Maj Andrew Mills skippered Redcoat with runners Maj Peter Riches and Cpls Phil Phillips and Chris Vincent on board.

Scott and Robinson were quickest through Oban, giving Goold Finger a start ahead of the fleet, closely followed by Redcoat, for the 16-mile beat to Salen on the Isle of Mull.

Among the first to reach Mull, the runners from the two



Winning smiles: The Royal Artillery golf team with the Inter-Corps Irish Rangers Bowl at Royal Liverpool. From left are WO1 (RSM) Sid Trench, SSgt Colin Akri, WO2 (RQMS) John Chilvers and LBdr Sammy Crooks

Loggy wins as open returns to Hoylake

CPL Sean Stevenson (RLC) beat Sgt David Sandby (AGC) in a high-quality final at the Army golf championships played over the Royal Liverpool course at Hoylake near Liverpool.

There was never much in a



The Redcoat crew in calm waters. Back row (left to right) are Cpl Chris Vincent and Lt Col Max McNamara (team manager); front, Cpl Phil Phillips, Maj Peter Riches and Maj Andrew Mills

desperately close match, with Stevenson finishing one up. The championships, returning to Royal Liverpool Golf Club for the first time since 1932, attracted 64 of the Army's best golfers. The 1940 championship would have been held on the Royal Liverpool, an Open course of history and tradition, but for the Second World War.

Maj Martyn Allen (RE) and WO2 Ian Gray (RLC) reached the semi-finals of the championships, Capt Jerry Oliver (RLC) was named as the most improved player, while Cpl Rory McIntyre (Int Corps) and WO1 Sid Trench (RA) finished first and second in the plate competition.

Royal Liverpool also hosted the Inter-Corps championships involving 16 teams

A wonderful recovery by the Army resulted in their winning the final three singles matches to claw back a huge Royal Air Force lead and triumph in the Rover-sponsored Inter-Services (Germany) event at Bruggen.

After the opening fourballs had been shared 2-2, the RAF dominated the fourball better ball session to take a 5-2 lead. But the Army players gained confidence when they lost no more ground in the second round of fourballs.

Although eight points were at stake in the final session of singles matches the RAF needed just three to retain the trophy.

With fortunes fluctuating all over the course, a finish of Ryder Cup excitement built up as the RAF failed to get the half they needed from the last four matches.

Former Army champion LCpl Jim Taylor kept his nerve in the final pairing after reaching the 18th one hole up and received the trophy from Mike Cooper of Rover.

Freefallers make first drop on Falklands

A TEAM of very experienced British Army parachutists completed the first official jump on to the Falkland Islands on June 16 during a rehearsal for a series of displays.

They leapt from a Royal Navy helicopter at 10,000ft above Mount Pleasant Airfield, land-

ing in deep snow at the military base before putting on a display at Goose Green, scene of bitter fighting in 1982.

Making the historic freefall were Maj David Tyler RLC, OC Ordnance Squadron in the Falklands and a member of the Army team with 600 jumps to

his credit; Capt Stephen Marsh AGC, the next OC Joint Services Mountain Training Centre at Kingussie, with 550 jumps; WO2 Dougie Young, 1 Para, sergeant major at the Joint Services Parachute Centre at Netheravon and an international competitor with 3,800

descents behind him; WO2 John Williams, R Signals, next sergeant major of the Joint Services Communications Unit in the Falklands, 500 jumps; and team leader LCpl Gerald Clarke, full-time instructor of the RLC Silver Stars display team, with 1,500 jumps completed.

Horse Gunners triumph at a canter

LIPPE, venue for the 1995 world championships, hosted the Army and British Army (Germany) orienteering championships last month.

After protracted negotiations, organisers secured the use of three maps used during the world event. Diestelbruch, near Detmold to the west of Lippe, was chosen for the training event; Koterberg, a hilly area near Holminden, for the first day; and Beckerberg, a wood to the south of Barntrup, for the Day 2 competition.

Despite the fact that many of the organisers, led by Capt Gez Hill, were affected by Bosnia duties, more than 200 competitors travelled from the United Kingdom to swell the final entry to 353.

The technical and physically demanding courses at Koterberg tested all the runners, Maj Duncan Francis of 7 (Para) RHA winning on the A course in 74min 57sec. SSgt Fewkes, also of 7 RHA, won the B race.

Not surprisingly, the Horse Gunners led the Major Units category at the end of the first day, just 13 seconds ahead of



The winning 7 (Para) RHA orienteering team plot their courses on Day 2 of the Army championships

RMA Sandhurst. UK Force Arty built up a winning 42-minute lead over Staff College in the Minor Units event, while in the women's race 3 CS Regt RLC finished a massive two hours in front of RMA.

Day 2 was a team event, with times added to the first day results to produce overall winners.

With attention centred on the 7 (Para) RHA-Sandhurst battle, the gunners pulled away

to stretch their lead to 15 minutes. In the Minor race, 216 Para Sig Sqn improved on their third position of Day 1 to finish first, but were not quick enough to overcome the UK Force Arty lead. Staff College also ran faster than Force Arty but again could not close the gap on the overall winners.

And although the Sandhurst women's team were almost 30 minutes quicker than 3 CS Regt, there was little chance of

their overturning the huge deficit from the first day.

Results

Major Units – 1, 7 (Para) RHA; 2, RMA Sandhurst; 3, HQ NI and 15 Sig Regt. **Minor Units** – 1, UK Force Arty AMFL; 2, Staff College; 3, 216 Para Sig Sqn. **Women** – 1, 3 CS Regt RLC; 2, RMA Sandhurst; 3, 3 R Irish.

BA(G) section: **Major Units** – 1, 12 Regt RA; 2, Rhine Army Area Sp Unit. **Minor Units** – 1, 24 Tpt and Mov Regt RLC; 2, 4 Bde HQ and Sig Sqn.

IN BRIEF

DESPITE a six-month tour in Bosnia as they prepared for the new season, the 19 Regiment RA tug of war squad has produced some remarkable results.

At the 4th Div and UK Land Command championships they swept the board in the 560kg, 600kg, 640kg and 680kg events.

Winning ways: Delighted with their success in winning the women's section in the gruelling Welsh 1000 peaks race in Snowdonia are (from left) Cpl Sandra Thompson, Cpl Billy Brett, Lt Katrina Reynolds and Cpl Tina Whalen of 1 Squadron, ATR Bassingbourn. The training establishment's two men's teams finished 15th and 67th.

They were runners-up at 620kg and 660kg at the Aldershot Show, and semi-finalists at 600kg and 640kg at the Windsor tournament.

□ Winners of the annual Army Medical Services (Germany) athletics meeting were 3rd Armoured Field Ambulance. A good entry included athletes from 2nd and 3rd Armd Fd Amb and BMH Rinteln, and the overall result was in doubt until the final event.

□ More than 300 children took part in a major five-a-side football competition hosted by 5 R Irish at its Ballykelly base under Northern Ireland manager Brian Hamilton's project to promote mini-soccer in the Province.

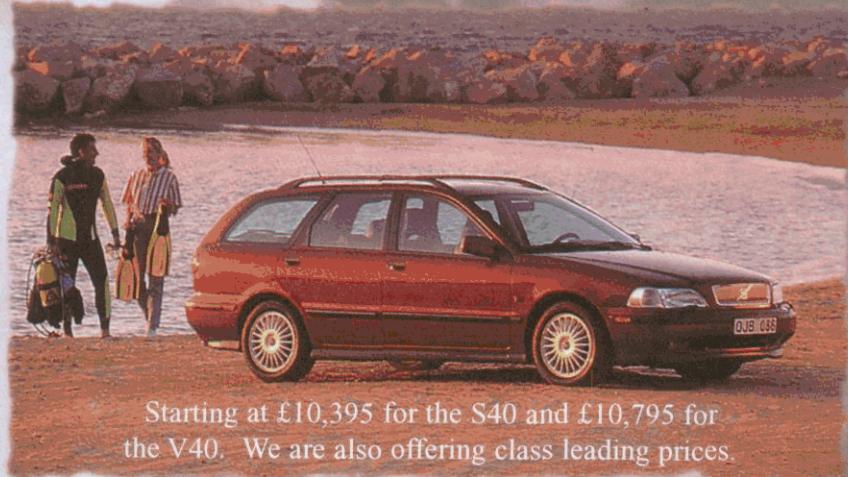




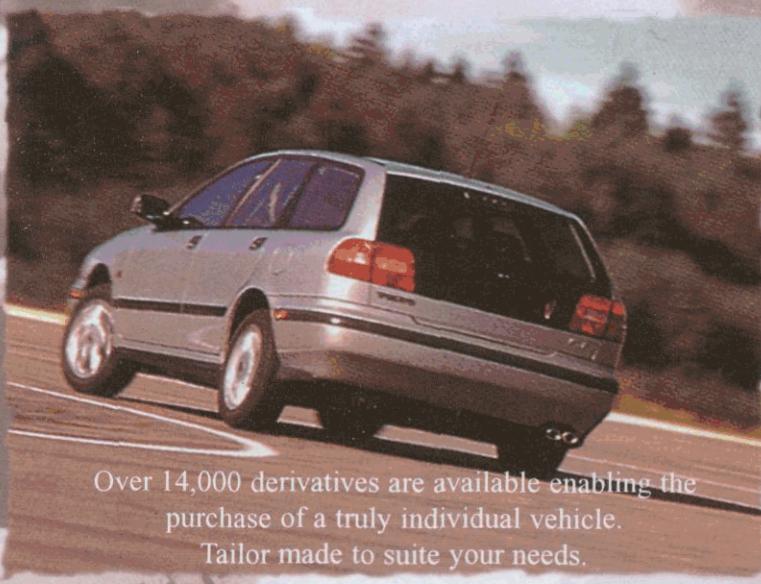
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Maj David Tyler RLC flies through the air with the greatest of ease while making the first official parachute jump on to the Falkland Islands. The picture was taken 10,000ft above Mount Pleasant Airfield. Story in Page 42.