

SOLDIER

FORTNIGHTLY MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY

APRIL 1 1996

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Incorporating the Territorial Army magazine

April 1, 1996 Vol 52/7

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Even soldiers on duty have to have their shamrock on St Patrick's Day. Sgt Anthony Murphy of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Irish Regiment, delivers sprigs to soldiers manning checkpoints in south Armagh. Story in Page 7



Introducing the stress busters



The AWS logo

A NEW organisation, the Army Welfare Service (AWS), launched on April 1, intends to provide comprehensive and confidential support to soldiers, their families and the chain of command to minimise the stresses of service life.

The AWS replaces the Army Families' Housing and Welfare Service, responsibility for housing management on mainland UK having been taken on by the Defence Housing Executive – which also came into operation on April 1.

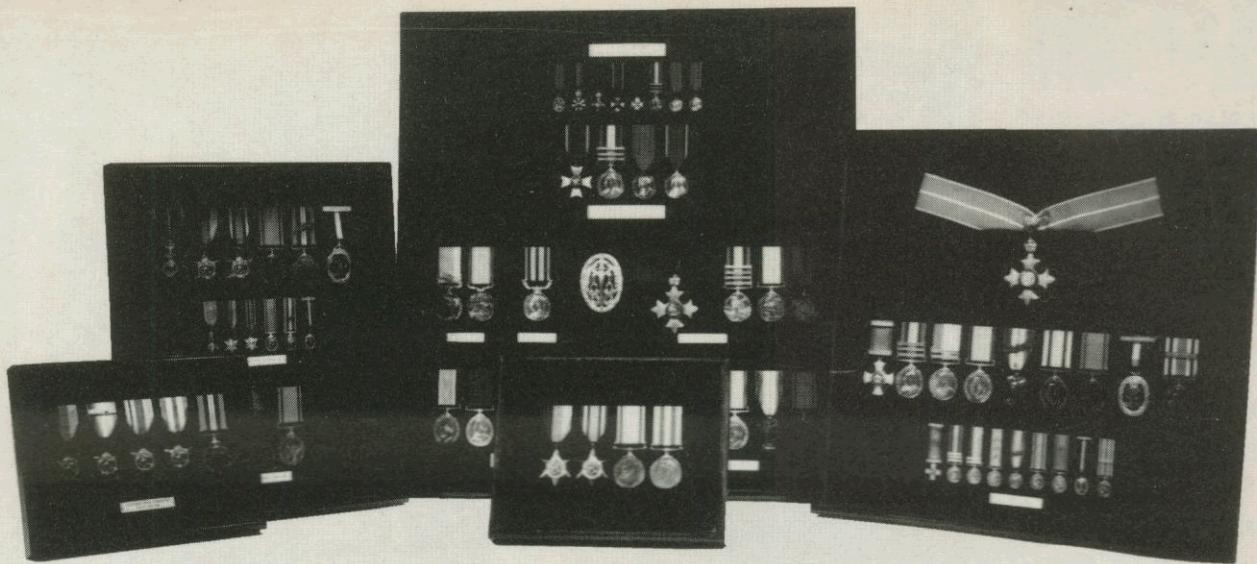
"Now that the dual housing and welfare role, always somewhat nebulous in the past, has disappeared, the AWS has a very clear aim," said Brig (Retd) Bill

Buy a home with an advance of pay – Page 5

Winder, head of the new service. "We can now give priority to individual and community welfare, with people specifically trained for the task."

Pitched initially mainly to married soldiers and their families, the service, based at HQ Land Command, Wilton, near Salisbury, has been developed with confidentiality as its keynote.

● Turn to Page 5



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Fusiliers praised over peace role in Bosnia

SOLDIERS of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers achieved remarkable success in assisting, controlling and monitoring the withdrawal of warring factions in Bosnia.

"They left in the certain knowledge that their contribution to the peace process has been unrivalled," said Maj Mark Hiskett on the battalion's return to its base at Catterick.

The fusiliers played a key part in setting up meetings between factions to finalise the



Hello, Daddy. Kieran (4) beams on being reunited with his father, Fus Kevin Hanbury, at RAF Leeming

borders on the maps at the Dayton peace summit.

They deployed to central Bosnia last August in the blue berets of the United Nations, but immediately reverted to their distinctive regimental beret and hackle when their command switched to the

NATO Implementation Force.

One of their first tasks was the extrication of UN troops from the beleaguered town of Gorazde. The tour ended with the fusiliers assisting Bosnian Serbs to return home.

● Fusiliers help kids – Page 15
● 22 Fd Hosp – Pages 16-17

Welfare service aims to minimise stress

From Page 3

"Any information which is given to an AWS worker may not be disclosed to any third party, other than in the most exceptional circumstances," Brig Winder stressed.

"These circumstances are clearly explained in the Confidentiality Code, available in any AWS office."

AWS teams, headed by a welfare support officer and including social, community, Army welfare and youth workers, will cover every garrison and station in the United Kingdom.

"It is our intention that there will be comprehensive and regular customer consultation at all locations, to ensure that the service provided is what is required and to the right standard," said the brigadier.

A customer charter which includes a simple complaints procedure has been distributed widely and can be seen at any AWS office.

All staff within the AWS will receive initial and progressive training in community or individual support.

A trial extending the AWS services to single men and women is to be made in the Shrewsbury-based 5 Division area.

Services offered by the AWS include:

- Development and management of community facilities;
- Help and support with ideas on community projects or setting up of self-help groups;
- Guidance on family problems;

□ Up-to-date information on resources and services available on or off camp;

□ Advice on financial benefits and services;

□ Liaison with civil agencies, including schools;

□ Assistance with child-care matters, including special needs.

A short video explaining the service in more detail will be available from the Army Families Advice Bureau (AFAB) from April 1.

More information on AWS is available from AFAB on 01722 438227 (civil) or 733 8227 (mil).

The Defence Housing Executive, set up following the failure of the MoD to create a housing trust to administer Service quarters, will begin with a trial programme in Colchester Garrison.

'Loans' will help Army home buyers

INTEREST-free advances of pay for house purchase are to be made available to Army personnel under a new system which will replace the Married Quarters Discounted Sales Scheme (MQDSS).

Known as the Long Service Advance of Pay Scheme (LSAP), it will come into effect on August 1 and is based on a concession already available to the Royal Navy.

Army and Royal Air Force personnel aged 35 and over, serving on pensionable engagements or commissions, will be eligible to apply for LSAP.

Maximum loan will be £8,500, or 182 days' basic pay, whichever is less. It will be interest-free and repayable over ten years of service. If personnel leave the Army before the ten years are up, the balance will be paid from terminal benefits.

RESTRICTIONS

Conditions and restrictions on who can apply for a home loan are awaited. They will clarify issues such as eligibility of personnel who already have a mortgage, and if it is possible for a soldier to buy a property in a different part of the country to where he is being posted.

Meanwhile, there are to be three further MQDSS sale bulletins advertising surplus quarters in England, Wales and Scotland. The last will be issued in early June, with applications to the Joint Service Housing Advice Office at Wilton by mid-July.

Although the privatisation of the Defence estate will not apply in Scotland and Northern Ireland, the MQDSS will not continue in either. As many Scottish properties as possible will be advertised for sale before July.



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Dental corps remembers its fallen



Picture: Mike Perring
Pte Sally Eaton, youngest soldier at HQ and Central Group, Royal Army Dental Corps, reads the names of the corps' fallen comrades from the Book of Remembrance at the Royal Garrison Church of All Saints, Aldershot, as part of the cele-

brations of the RADC's 75th anniversary. "It's an honour to be selected for such a service, I am very proud," said Sally, who joined the Army five months ago as a dental support specialist. Also present was Group Commandant Col Brian Hopkin

Gurkhas' Church Crookham link extended to 1999

THE Gurkha presence in Queen Elizabeth Barracks at Church Crookham has been extended for two years.

Church Crookham, which has been home to Gurkha infantry since 1971, currently houses the 3rd Battalion, The Royal Gurkha Regiment.

The battalion is due to move to Brunei in December and will probably be replaced by 1 RGR from Hong Kong, which is expected to move into a modernised Sir John Moore Barracks at Shorncliffe in early 1999.

It was originally planned to move the Gurkha battalion to Elizabeth Barracks, Pirbright, at the end of this year. Now Elizabeth Barracks is to remain with the Foot Guards.

One of the three Foot Guards battalions currently engaged on public duties will be replaced by a line infantry

battalion. This is to enable the Foot Guards battalion to increase its training for operational roles.

The Foot Guards battalion will continue to provide reinforcements for public duties on a surge basis, and will be based at Elizabeth Barracks, from where it can fulfil the public duties role and undertake effective operational training.

When Britain withdraws from Hong Kong in 1997 the Brigade of Gurkhas will reduce from three to two infantry battalions plus engineer, signals and logistic specialists.

A number of Gurkhas who would otherwise have left the Army will be retained because of temporary shortfalls in certain units.

Most of them will serve in three formed Gurkha rifle companies within British Infantry battalions.

A grand day for the Irish

FOR the first time, all seven battalions of The Royal Irish Regiment marked St Patrick's Day, March 17, in Northern Ireland. The main ceremony was at the R Irish Regimental Depot in Ballymena.

Operational demands meant that soldiers of the 7th Battalion in Belfast held their parade two days early.

The Royal Dragoon Guards, who trace their lineage to the Inniskillings, celebrated the day at Girdwood Barracks, Belfast, while in London the 1st Battalion, Irish Guards received their shamrock from the Queen Mother.

A joint ceremony was held at Catterick for soldiers from 1 R Irish, now in County Armagh, and The Queen's Royal Hussars, in Bosnia, who trace one of their roots back to The 8th King's Royal Irish Hussars.

Also in Bosnia, Brig Freddie Viggers, Commander RA presented shamrock to Irish soldiers serving at Gornji Vakuf.

Around the Houses

A summary of Defence topics from Westminster

Chetwynd future 'is assured'

CHETWYND Barracks, Chilwell, Notts, has "an assured future" and the area will continue to have a significant Army presence in the years ahead, Armed Forces Minister Nicholas Soames said in the Commons.

Speaking in an adjournment debate on the future of the barracks, secured by Sir Jim Lester (Broxtowe), the minister said the headquarters of 49 (Eastern) Brigade and the concentration of engineer resources had a long-term future at Chilwell.

It was announced in December that the five land divisions of the Army Technical Support Agency, including that at Chilwell, would move to Chertsey in Surrey.

□ □ □

The United Kingdom is holding talks with France and Germany on a possible joint venture to meet part of its requirement for multi-role armoured vehicles, Defence Procurement Minister James Arbuthnot said in a written reply.

□ □ □

Discussions on helping the cadet forces will take place between the MoD, the Home Office and the Department for Education and Employment, Mr Soames told MPs.

□ □ □

As part of the enhancement programme for CVR(T) vehicles, including Spartan, studies have been undertaken into the feasibility of replacing their petrol engines with diesel. If it is decided to go ahead, the first diesels will enter service in 1998.

□ □ □

Latest available figures show that 296 Armed Forces personnel were convicted of drug offences in 1994, compared with 513 in 1993 and 612 in 1992. Those subsequently dismissed totalled 112, 152 and 225 respectively.

□ □ □

RAF Bracknell was confirmed as the temporary initial site of the Joint Service Command and Staff College. Due to open in September 1997, it will remain there until a permanent college site is ready at the end of 1999.

Homosexuals 'not compatible' with Services – report

FOLLOWING a special report which showed overwhelming resistance to change by soldiers, sailors and airmen, the Government is to continue to exclude homosexuals from the three Services.

Armed Forces Minister Nicholas Soames told the House of Commons in a written answer that exhaustive and wide-ranging consultation had shown that any relaxation of the existing policy would be likely to have an effect on operational effectiveness.

The MoD's Homosexual Policy Assessment Team (HPAT) survey to collect opinion was targeted at a small number of military units representing combat, support and training elements of the three Services.

Questionnaires, designed by the Centre for Human Sciences at the Defence Research Agency to measure attitudes, were completed anonymously under examination conditions.

A minimum of 170 personnel completed the questionnaire at each HPAT visit during which 18 took part in one-to-one interviews, and 18 were asked to attend a discussion group.

Army locations included in the research were Catterick and ATR Pirbright. In Catterick Garrison, personnel from 19 Mech Bde, R Irish, Kings Own Border, 19 Mech Bde Sig Sqn, 15 Fd Wksp Section, Duchess of Kent Military Hospital, 9 Sig Regt, 5 Arty Sp Regt, the RLC and 24 Fd Amb were involved.

Across all three Services, 1,711 personnel were asked to complete the form. Only one was discarded because it was incomplete. Of the sample, 1,508 were men.

The assessment team warns that because of unavoidable sampling constraints, "some caution might have been required when making generalisations about the entire Service population's opinions on homosexuality from the HPAT survey results alone."

Nevertheless, there was corroborative evidence that the survey results were generally representative and broadly comparable with the 1990 British National Survey of Sexual Attitudes and Lifestyles, the most authoritative undertaken in Britain.

But 83 per cent believed the MoD's policy on homosexuality in the British Armed Forces to be justified, and 77 per cent said the ban should never be lifted.

Most thought it would be difficult to maintain discipline if homosexuals were to serve openly in the Armed Forces.

One soldier said in a discussion group: "It's obvious. If you have two platoons, one with two open gays and three guys who would like to hit them, and another five who just don't like them and don't think they should be there . . . or another with 30 blokes who all seem to be straight; which do you think would be easier to command in combat?"

The HPAT began its work in September last year, and used data on the impact of homosexuality on foreign military and other disciplined organisations. The experiences of American, Canadian, Australian, French, German, Dutch and Israeli armed forces were studied.

More than half the women surveyed considered male homosexuality in civilian life to be acceptable, while 18 per cent thought it was compatible with Service life. These figures were studied.

Since 1990, 117 men and 84 women have left the British Army on the grounds of homosexuality.

ACCEPTABLE

More than a quarter of the Servicemen surveyed considered male homosexuality in the civilian community acceptable, but only nine per cent considered it was compatible with Service life.

Servicemen were less negative towards lesbianism than male homosexuality, but more accepting of civilian lesbians than lesbians in the military. Only 11 per cent considered lesbianism compatible with Service life.

Army locations included in the research were Catterick and ATR Pirbright. In Catterick Garrison, personnel from 19 Mech Bde, R Irish, Kings Own Border, 19 Mech Bde Sig Sqn, 15 Fd Wksp Section, Duchess of Kent Military Hospital, 9 Sig Regt, 5 Arty Sp Regt, the RLC and 24 Fd Amb were involved.

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AGENCIES to deal with primary dental care in the Services and provide medical supplies came into being on March 1.

The Defence Dental Agency (DDA) will take single Service dental care into a tri-Service agency with headquarters in



On top of his game

GOLF was high on the agenda when soldiers from the Hong Kong Logistic Support Regiment climbed in Nepal.

Capt Colin Ridell had no difficulty avoiding the bunkers when he teed off from the top of Rara after he and ten colleagues had scaled the peak in the Langtang Himal region.

Led by Lt John Kerner, RLC, the team planned to climb Naya Kanga (5864m) and Yala Peak (5500m).

An attempt to tackle Yala Peak ended in failure due to the lack of a firm ice crust.

With conditions no better on Naya Kanga it was decided to tackle the slightly lower peaks of Rara (4773m) and Tserko (5011m).

Dental care, medical supplies run by agencies

London and training functions at Aldershot and RAF Halton. It will have 864 military and 179 civilian staff.

The Medical Supplies Agency (MSA) will include the Army Blood Supply Depot at Aldershot, the defence medical equipment depot at Ludger-

shall and 16 medical provisioning points in the UK and overseas.

It will employ 65 military and 260 civilian staff.

Location of the MSA headquarters has yet to be confirmed but will initially be at Ludgershall.



On top of the world: Soldiers from the Hong Kong Logistic Support Regiment on the summit of Rara during their 17-day expedition to the Langtang Himal region of Nepal. Left: Proving that mountain air does wonders for his swing is Capt Colin Riddell, RLC, pictured on Rara

REME terriers praised for support in Bosnia

TERRITORIAL Army soldiers of the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers in Bosnia were praised in the House of Lords during a debate on the Reserve Forces Bill.

"Thank goodness for the Territorial Army!" wrote Lt Col Nigel Williams, commanding officer of 3 Battalion REME, to a TA HQ in a letter read to the Lords by Field Marshal Lord Bramall.

Col Williams said that 30 TA soldiers who arrived before Christmas saved the REME's bacon. In the frenetic activity before changing from United Nations command to NATO, he was faced with a surge of activity and no additional manpower.

"I cancelled Christmas and New Year leave for my soldiers but without the influx of Territorial Army soldiers we would not have coped."

It was essential that there should be pre-training before any deployment, be it operational, peace-keeping or humanitarian.

All the soldiers had been quite excellent, he said. To a

It's a fact **ON**
January 1, 1979, the Army possessed 870 main battle tanks, of which 620 were deployed in operational units. On January 1, 1996, the figures were 470 and 350 respectively. – Parliamentary reply.

man they were enthusiastic, cheerful and willing. Their motives varied from wanting to do something a little different, to good, old-fashioned patriotism.

Deployment limit
A move to limit TA deployments to six months rather than nine was withdrawn after debate on Bill.

Lord Bramall spoke of the difficulty getting employers to release volunteers and suggested that six months should be perfectly adequate.

Lord Vivian, honorary colonel of a TA unit, disagreed, and said that the honorary colonels and executive council of TAVRA strongly opposed any reduction from nine months to six months.

It was essential that there should be pre-training before any deployment, be it operational, peace-keeping or humanitarian.

All the soldiers had been quite excellent, he said. To a

Several lords expressed concern that reservists who were called up should not have their pensions undermined. Earl Howe said that the field of pensions was very complex with many possible variations, and that informal discussions with the pensions industry, reservists and employers were already under way.



A FIFTH of the MoD's £5 million art collection, including priceless historical items, has been lost or stolen in the last eight years according to a National Audit Office report. – *Guardian*

Lowest paid Armed Forces families are to lose half their staged pay rise in a "double whammy" of rent increases and privatisation, MoD has admitted in answer to questions from Labour MPs. – *Guardian*

Former Far East prisoner of war Ted Maddison (76) won his battle against Barnsley council which sought to jail him for a debt of £1,830 run up in protest over the council's refusal to exempt his war pension when calculating council tax relief. The former gunner spent three years in Singapore's notorious Changi prison. – *Daily Mail*

Embarrassment all round when Army recruiting advertisements were broadcast during a one-off gay episode of *Granada's* dating game show *God's Gift*. The Armed Forces' ban on homosexuals was confirmed in the same week. – *Independent*

Thousands of Gurkhas who fought beside British soldiers in the two world wars are living in "poverty and penury", a symposium in Kathmandu has been told. – *Daily Telegraph*

Colchester brigade on exercise

ABOUT 1,500 troops supported by 200 vehicles and Army Air Corps Lynx helicopters from Wattisham have been taking part in a 24 Airmobile Brigade exercise on Stanford Training Area in Norfolk.

The brigade, based at Colchester under the command of Brig Robin Brims, is part of a multi-national formation assigned to NATO's Allied Command Europe Rapid Reaction Corps (ARRC).

Two Puma and two Chinook helicopters of the Support Helicopter Force RAF from Honington were also involved in Exercise Gryphons Lift.

Orders for dinner?



Picture: Mike Perring

WO2 (SSM) Alan Cross gives a few catering tips to (left to right) Apps Claire Darby, Helen Chambers, Samantha Quigley, Anthony Legg, App LCpl Gary Pyle and App Ruaraidh Bailey.

They are among 65 recruits at the Army School of Catering, Aldershot, who will follow the Army's newly-launched Modern Apprenticeship programme, a high-level training course through Hampshire Training and Enterprise Council (TEC) which works towards a National Vocational Qualification.

Among those who were present at a signing ceremony to mark the partnership between the school and the TEC was Brig Tony Dalby-Welsh, Commander of the Royal Logistic Corps Training Group.

IN THE FRAME



Capt James Scott, A and SH, and Maj Danny Parsonage, 1 Kings Own Border, have received framed citations of the Queen's Commendation for Valuable Service from Brig Roy Wilde, Commander 52 Lowland Brigade.

Capt Scott (left, top) was commended for his work as Operations Officer of 1 A and SH at North Howard Street Mill in Belfast from April to November 1994.

Maj Parsonage (also pictured) was awarded the QCVS for his work as QM (Technical) and QM (Maintenance) of 1 Kings Own Border at Ebrington Barracks, Londonderry, between August 1992 and April 1995.

Both officers are now serving at ATR Glencorse.



"I was in Harrogate during last summer, so I was able to see a bit of him, because he is normally based in Ripon, but now I have been posted to Germany it has been more difficult."

Alec, a member of the APTC serving with 38 Engineer Regiment, runs a rest and recreation centre for the troops in the Croatian town of Pristom, 30 miles west of Split. He is due to end his Army service in October after 22 years.



Despite eight winters in Norway with the Royal Marines, Sgt Matt Barley, a commando on a two-year posting to The King's Royal Hussars in Münster, found he had had previously undiscovered skills and techniques to learn when HQ 4 Armoured Brigade ran a basic winter training course in Bavaria.

One of 11 KRH soldiers and officers on the course at Landhaus Engelhof, Matt was not only handed a snow shovel and taught how to build an igloo; he gained his Army silver qualification at the end of the ten-day package.



Picture: Mike Perring

I CAN'T BLAIR IT!

Television celebrity Lionel Blair is summoned to the start of a busy day's work as a "rifleman" with the 1st Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets, by Rfn Wayne Hellyer. During his few hours in uniform – filmed for a TV programme – he took part in a training exercise on Salisbury Plain, manned a Saxon armoured vehicle and received instructions on weapon firing, before joining soldiers for lunch in the cookhouse.



Picture: Cpl Kevin Jones, RAF

Going great guns

Maj Mick Lane became the first member of The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment to command a 21-gun salute when he acted as firing point officer as Gibraltar marked the Queen's accession to the throne.

The salute was fired by members of Headquarters Company (Thomson's Battery), The Gibraltar Regiment, which re-roled from artillery to infantry in 1991, and with whom Mick is serving as QM.

MALLOCK AND MONTY

No, not a theatrical double act, but sculptress and subject, as Vivien Mallock is pictured with the 2m-high statue of Field Marshal Viscount Montgomery, for which she was commissioned by the Normandy Veterans' Association, and which is scheduled to be unveiled in Colleville-Montgomery in France on June 6, the 52nd anniversary of D-Day.

A second cast of the bronze statue is planned, to be erected outside the D-Day Museum in Portsmouth, together with one of a soldier who took part in the Normandy invasion. An appeal for funds is under way.



PEOPLE

His Army days are "Rover"...

Bidding farewell to the Army, and to Catterick Garrison, in some style aboard a gleaming Range Rover – number plate LR1 – on special loan from the company was the garrison's commander, Brig Peter Lyddon.

It was a case of full circle for the brigadier, who began his Army career as a trooper at Catterick with the 10th Hussars and completed his 33 years' service by overseeing the £100m expansion which has seen the garrison blossom over the past two years into the largest base in the Army.



In the driver's seat

It was just too much of a temptation for Maj Gen Roddy Cordy Simpson, GOC 1 (UK) Armoured Division, when he visited B and C Squadrons, The King's Royal Hussars, who were exercising

on the Dorbaum training area in Münster. He couldn't resist jumping into a Challenger main battle tank and taking a hand at the controls . . .

SSAFA promise to those who served

SSAFA is launching a nationwide campaign to help the elderly in need, and it wants serving personnel and their families to take the message into the community.

It is asking anyone who knows of elderly people in need and with a Service connection to point them in SSAFA's direction.

There is much that the Services' welfare organisation can do to make old age more secure. Unfortunately, says SSAFA, many old people are unaware of the range of services for which they are eligible. Some may never have heard of SSAFA.

In addition to serving personnel and their dependants, the organisation looks after ex-Servicemen and women and their families, which means most of the Second World War and immediate post-war generations.

SPREAD THE WORD

SSAFA's message is: "Spread the word to elderly members of your own family... and that widowed lady in your street who keeps herself to herself."

Many elderly people are in a bad way financially. They were the last generation to retire without an occupational pension, and many, through pride or ignorance, fail to claim benefits to which they are entitled, says SSAFA.

The charity estimates that up to 860,000 people aged over 60 may be eligible for Income Support but have not sought it. Despite successful campaigns by the Royal British Legion, some may not realise they qualify for war pensions.

Recent changes in rules for war widows' pensions have restored eligibility to those widowed for a second time, divorced or legally separated.

And if the problems are not financial, SSAFA may still be able to help. Its 7,000 caseworkers, based throughout Britain, are willing to drop in for a chat with the lonely.

● SSAFA Central Office, 19 Queen Elizabeth Street, London SE1 2LP (0171-403 8783; fax 0171-403 8815).

Racism, homophobia and society

IF YOU were to believe some journalists you would probably have come to the conclusion that the Armed Forces is a hotbed of homophobia and racism.

If this is the case, I urge you to think again. Both issues are emotive and complex areas.

The Services do not exist in isolation. They recruit their members from the ordinary British public and, like it or not, prejudice of all kinds exists in society. It is fuelled by lazy, commerce-driven journalism.

Racism is easy to define when it happens in an overt sense. It's also easy to combat at that level. The colour of someone's skin might prompt name-calling which the offender genuinely believes is light-hearted. When the offended complains it can be stopped.

I don't want to demean the experience of people who have had this kind of treatment but I don't think this is the most hurtful form of abuse suffered by those who believe themselves the target of racism.

The more difficult area is the subtle racism that might go on when decisions are being taken about someone's leadership qualities, for example, and it isn't always the colour of a person's skin that determines how they are perceived. Assumptions are made

about people's cultural identity.

Jewish friends of mine say they are perceived as scheming. Asian friends say that they are seen as élitist and interested only in money-making.

Friends descended from black African and Caribbean families say that people see them as ill-educated and lazy. Their experience



Cari's column

inevitable, it will no longer be good enough to shrug our shoulders and say that that is the way of the world in Service life.

Similarly the debate about homosexuality and the Armed Forces has to be addressed. Homophobia is based on a lack of understanding of the issues on both sides. Homosexual Service people

are hurt by prejudice because it is an attack on their identity.

Campaigners for homosexual rights don't understand that they appear to threaten the cultural identity of the Service person and consequently arouse deep and complicated fears.

Combating this invisible racism will be much more of a challenge than eradicating name-calling and the social isolation of people whose cultural heritage is not Anglo-Saxon or Celtic. It is also imperative that a sensible strategy is evolved.

It's vital because British society is evolving. In the future envisaged by the Bett Review, and in a European context which is

Personally, I would like to see

Campaigners for homosexual rights don't understand that they appear to threaten the cultural identity of the Service person and consequently arouse deep and complicated fears

the removal of homosexuality as a single reason for dismissal. I would like to see the retention of all the rules which would mean the dismissal of someone whose actions compromised the safety or effectiveness of their unit.

This would ensure the dignity of Service people.

It would mean that men and women would no longer have their personal possessions overturned and their friends questioned by their reluctant peers in search of evidence of a particular proclivity.

But the problem with this – and it is a very big problem – is that it would confirm the right of a Service person to lead a life which might include a life partner of the same sex.

This might pose few problems in the United Kingdom.

An overseas posting would mean that the homosexual Service person would expect their partner to be accorded the same rights of access to quartering, medical and dental services and social services as a wife or husband.

If the recommendations in the Bett Review about the definition of entitled partners goes ahead then there will be no reason for refusal.

Following this argument, you can see that a problem which is being portrayed as one of preju-

dice is actually one of administration.

Of course, what you or I might believe is fast becoming immaterial. At least, it is if nothing is being done to address the issues.

Like it or loathe it, Britain now has to operate in the European context and surveys tell us that young people are increasingly defining themselves as European rather than specifically British.

Young people are our future Servicemen and women. While the silver-haired policy-makers shrug off the changes in society it is the young who know how to use European courts to their advantage.

If the Ministry of Defence is to defend itself against huge compensation awards in the future it must come up with a water-tight case in law for retaining its prejudices.

It will not be good enough to say that the cultural identity of Service people is inviolable. It will have to define that culture in order to protect it and that's something that racial groupings and society's minorities have had to do for generations.

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

DEBRA'S POEM

DEBRA Brightley's soldier husband went off to Kenya for 2½ months after spending half the year in Bosnia. So she wrote him a poem to tell him how much she and their two young children missed him.

The family lives in Oxfordshire. We can't print all of it, but Debra's poem, entitled "A soldier's wife", ends:

*I'll stay at home and dream awhile,
Till he comes home to keep.
For this soldier is a special guy,
I'll hold his presence near.
Till he comes home to all of us
We have his memories clear.*

Wives petition Westminster on quarantine

A PETITION calling for changes to the quarantine rules has been presented to the House of Commons by Service families based in Cyprus.

Started by a Royal Air Force wife stationed with her husband on the Mediterranean island, the petition received widespread support from Army and Royal Navy dependants, British civilians based in the Sovereign areas, and the chain of command.

With administrative support from the Federation of Army Wives on the island, 6,000 signatures were collected calling for the abolition of the six-month quarantine regulations.

Cyprus is free of rabies, and dependants based there believe the rules are unnecessarily harsh on families posted back to the UK. With Service pets on the island looked after by British-trained vets, they say the animals would pose no threat on their return.

There is wide support among military families for a new régime of microchip implants to identify pets which live in controlled, rabies-free environments.

As incorruptible identification is a key feature of any potential relaxation, the MoD is advocating use of microchip electronic "tags" for Service family pets.

The Cyprus petition was handed to the all-party animal welfare group which also backs a change in quarantine controls.

War pensions appeals speeded up

British Legion campaign to raise awareness of eligibility for war pensions, 10,000 new applications were received. Many subsequently appealed against DSS offers.

Ellesmere Port RBL centre to close

FUNDING and other problems have forced the Royal British Legion to announce the closure of its training centre at Ellesmere Port in Cheshire.

The centre will cease operations by September 30.

An RBL statement said difficulties created in outside funding and other circumstances, including excess capacity for current needs, lay behind the decision.

They had created a situation where overheads were too great for a diminished ex-Service clientele from the area.

"Regrettably, it is no longer possible for the Legion to use its charitable funds to underwrite the Ellesmere Port centre beyond September 30."

The decision does not affect the RBL's new and expanding training centre at Tidworth in Wiltshire, where a £1 million hall of residence was formally opened on February 15.



CRANFIELD University has won a ten-year contract worth more than £100 million to provide military and defence education and support to the Royal Military College of Science at Shrivenham.

The contract, awarded in the college's 50th anniversary year, will enable Cranfield to continue its programme of academic teaching, support, research and consultancy in science, engineering and related management at RMCS.

● Picture shows Prof Chris Baynham, principal of Shrivenham, and Maj Gen David Jenkins, commandant RMCS, in front of the Rutherford Building, Cranfield University's new investment at Shrivenham.

University's Shrivenham contract



Jean and Peter at his brother's grave

they took photographs. "Because no grass will grow they are experimenting with a kind of ivy to green up a very sad place," said Peter, who left the cemetery angry, confused, saddened, but satisfied that he had had a chance to "meet again" the brother he last saw more than 40 years ago.

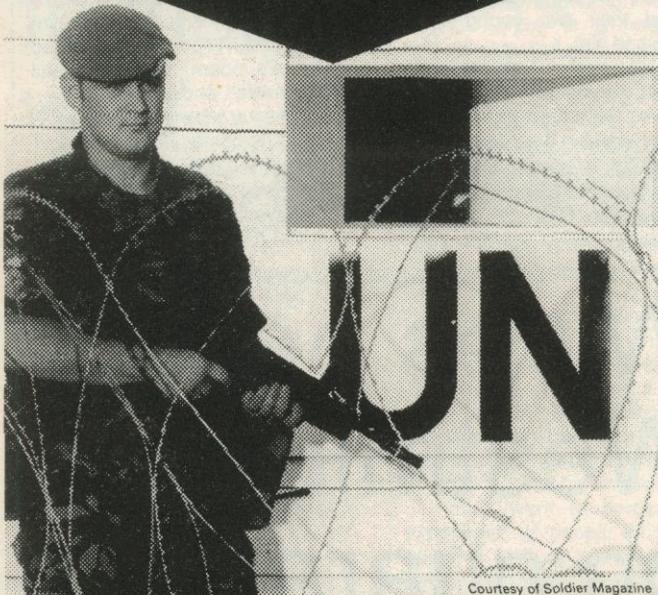
"Our guide, Paul Mills, carried out his duties magnificently; a very kind-hearted man who did his best to explain everything he possibly could under hard, impossible conditions. He even slowed down the minibus so we could look back, possibly for the last time.

Peter and Jean were entertained to tea by the officers and men of 12 (Minden) Battery, 12 Regiment RA who are serving with the UN in Cyprus.

"We have many eyes on us," WO2 Mills told them as he led them through the gates to Dave's grave.

He told them they had only five minutes, and shielded them while

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Courtesy of Soldier Magazine

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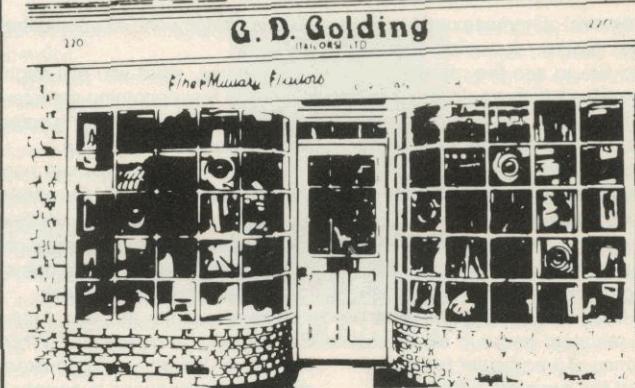
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Lt Col Trevor Minter (centre left), CO 1 RRF, hands over to Lt Col Grahame Flood, CO 1 QLR

Fusiliers dig deep for kids as battalion leaves Bosnia

FORMER officers of The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers have raised £3,500 towards the refurbishment and upkeep of a kindergarten in the shattered town of Mrkonjic Grad.

A spokesman for the American Refugee Council who met men of 1 RRF while they were serving in former Yugoslavia said the money would make a big difference.

Members of the regiment in the United Kingdom were given regular updates about the battalion's activities during its six months in Bosnia. Maj Paul Nanson mentioned the kindergarten to former Fusilier officers, who offered to help. The money went through days before the 1st Battalion began returning to its barracks at Catterick.

Only four people were left in the predominantly Serbian town of Mrkonjic Grad when NATO's Peace Implementation Force (IFOR) took over from the United Nations in December. Although people are beginning to move back into the

town, children are conspicuous by their absence.

It is thought that in happier times the kindergarten catered for up to 150 youngsters, and their photographs, drawings and abandoned toys still litter the deserted building.

The money from the Fusiliers will be spent on materials and repair work.

As he handed over the battalion's operation in Bosnia to the 1st Battalion, The Queen's Lancashire Regiment on March 1, Lt Col Trevor Minter, CO 1 RRF, said: "All Fusiliers can be proud of the contribution they have made to this peace."

The Fusiliers arrived in former Yugoslavia last August, and were one of the units to transfer from UN to NATO command following the Dayton peace accord.

Col Minter also paid tribute to the families of his soldiers. He said they had been a bedrock of support and had kept morale high during uncertain times.

MEDICS NURSE HOSPITAL BACK TO HEALTH

A BOSNIAN hospital which treated wounded people from all sides of the conflict through four years of war is itself being nursed back to health by a volunteers from Aldershot-based 22 Field Hospital RAMC.

From the outside, Travnik County Hospital, once the third largest medical facility in Bosnia, looks derelict. After years of artillery bombardment the roof is punctured by shrapnel and shell holes, equipment is wrecked or obsolete, and there is a shortage of drugs.

Incredibly, it has 400 beds and a team of 65 doctors. Of its staff of 150 dedicated nurses, only five have received professional training. It caters for a population of 200,000.

Now volunteers from 22 Fd Hosp's Medical Support Troop at nearby Gornji Vakuf are dropping in to help during their spare time.

IMPROVED

Army surgeon Capt Iain Gibb explained how a 28-year-old man in intensive care greatly improved after the British medics returned with the appropriate drugs to treat the condition. His chances were said to be "not good" when the medics first saw him, but he has now improved sufficiently to be moved to another hospital.

Capt Andy Kemp said the RAMC team sought help from civil, military and charitable bodies. Now Royal Engineers are being brought in to replace 2,500 sq ft of glass, install laundry facilities and fix X-ray machines.

Sgt Dave Everleigh, REME, the medical and dental technician from 22 Fd Hosp, has already mended 15 defunct items, including anaesthetic vaporisers, ultrasound machines, paediatric incubators and six ECG machines.

Medics negotiated with local police over the registering of a Land Rover ambulance, one third of the hospital's fleet. Donated by an aid agency, it has been regularly impeded because it is not registered locally.

Anyone wishing to help the hospital at Travnik should write to Maj Jeremy Rowan, Medical Officer, HQ MND South West, Gornji Vakuf, BFPO 548.

● 22 Fd Hosp feature - Pages 16-17



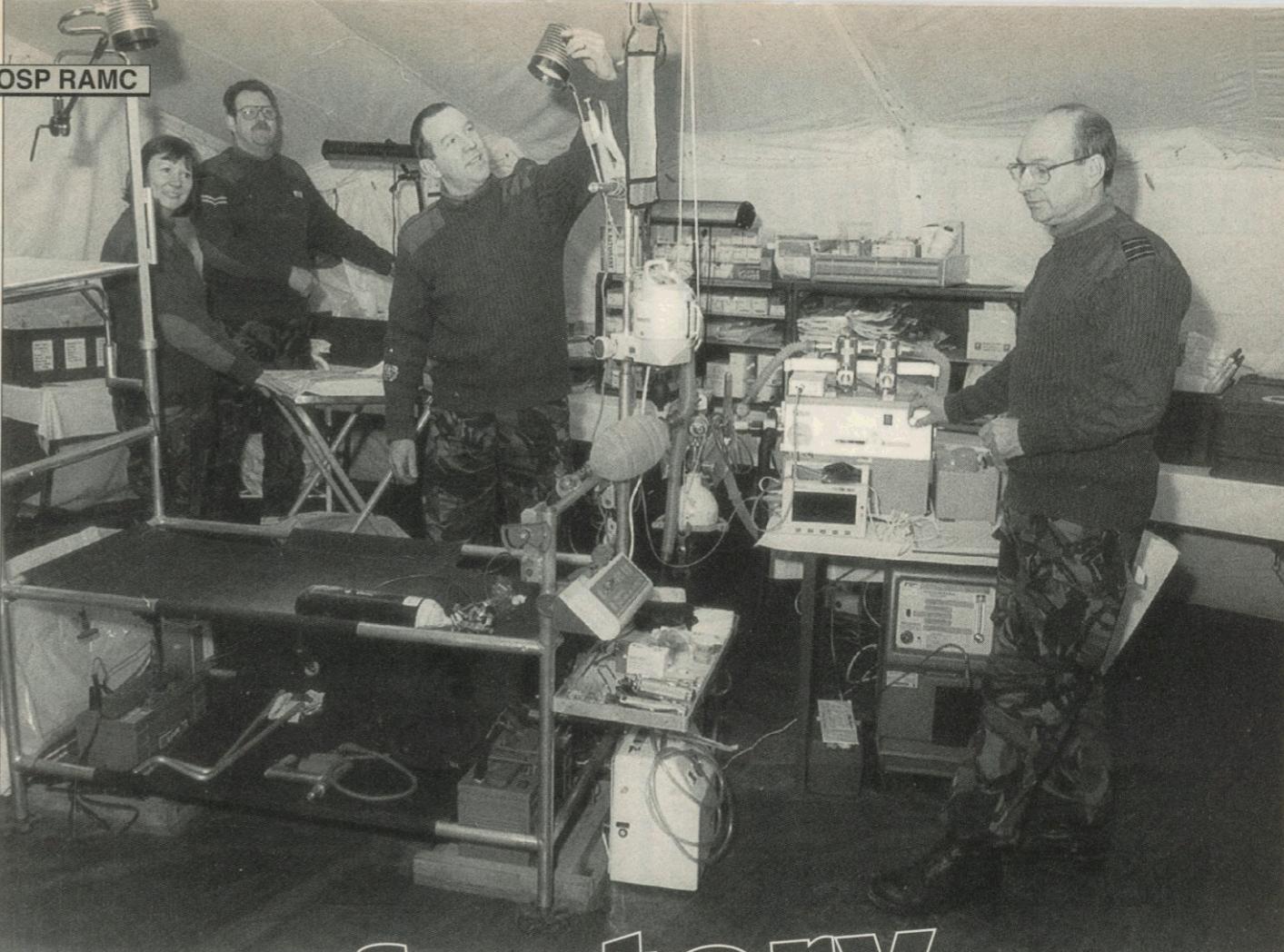
In good hands: Sgt Bob Wickings RAMC cleans and dresses a wound in the treatment room. The patient is LCpl David Doherty RAMC



Open wide: Hospital dentist Capt Jeremy Edmundson RADC and dental technician Cpl Andy Holliday RADC ensure colleague Lt Sarah Baker RAMC is fit for duty



Bright start: Capt Sarah Jones provides a smiling reception for those visiting the hospital



Ready to operate: The theatre crew parades equipment in readiness for an emergency. The crew are Capt Jo Williams QARANC, Cpl George Briggs RAMC, WO2 Dave Marshall RAMC, and anaesthetist Wg Cdr Neil Maguire RAF

Hospital makes its home inside cable factory

IN ITS first deployment as a unit since the Gulf War, 22 Field Hospital RAMC, from Aldershot, has found its Operation Resolute niche in the unlovely setting of a cable factory at the ancient Croatian capital of Tomislavgrad.

It can be a pretty bleak place in winter, with freezing temperatures and winds that rip along the wide surrounding valley in total disregard for the feelings of man and beast.

The unit arrived in early January with sufficient equipment for a 50-bed hospital, plus physiotherapy and out-patients' departments.

It opened its doors for business later in the month.

Now the tents of the main hospital complex are lined up neatly inside a large high-ceiling workshop, with the cookhouse and other amenities housed in another factory building across an open space which sappers of 11 Field Squadron RE are busily turning into a camp for the hospital staff.

Until it is completed, the staff are sleeping in tents inside buildings: in the case of the women, 37 of them in a section of the

hospital complex. In its first three weeks, the hospital saw 218 patients, of whom 50 were admitted to the ward.

About half of these returned to their units and the rest have been sent back to the UK under the theatre holding policy which states that no one should be hospitalised for more than seven days without being repatriated.

Complaints, not unnaturally, reflect the rugged conditions of the country. There are sprains and bruises, problems with backs and lower limbs, joints and ligaments – often old injuries re-asserting themselves.

And, of course, the icy conditions on the mountain roads of Bosnia exact a terrible toll.

The hospital's most serious casualty in the first three weeks was a soldier who had broken three limbs in a road traffic acci-



Looking in: Cpl Rachel Pumford RAMC X-rays Cpl Dave Barnes RAMC

dent. His arrival illustrated the sudden switch to action for which the hospital must always be prepared. One of the daily medical lectures was in progress when the



Getting better: Cpl Chrissie Ridgeway QARANC records Pte Peter Lisle's blood pressure while Pte Lorraine Smith QARANC, serving with 4 GS Regt RLC, takes his temperature

news came through that the patient, who was being flown to the German hospital at Trogir on the Croatian coast, was deteriorating rapidly and would have to be

brought to Tomislavgrad. The lecture audience vanished at great speed to prepare for his imminent arrival.

It is good news for everyone else when hospitals are not busy. For the hospital itself it is a question of maintaining morale and operating efficiency through even the slackest periods. This is especially true at the cable factory where 22 Field Hospital occupies an island of space entirely cut off from the surrounding community.

No one is allowed into Tomislavgrad itself and the only time anyone can leave the gates, apart from authorised duties, is to visit the Royal Engineers' camp down the road to have a shower or use the sappers' gymnasium.

Resources have to be found from within. On the work front there are daily lectures on medical subjects, training programmes for the different departments and plenty of encouragement for individuals to attend

courses. On the social side the unit is lucky to have perhaps the highest proportion of women of any in Bosnia – more than 40 of them accounting for a third of the total strength.

Every night, after the evening meal, an all-ranks club comes into operation in the cookhouse providing a programme of entertainment which recently included a very popular version of television's *Blind Date* presided over by someone answering to the name of Gorilla Black.

In the early stages the business of survival took up a fair amount of time. Without proper ablutions until completion of the camp there were problems procuring water, heating it and then disposing of it.

But for many, who have never known field conditions before or whose previous experience has been only in brick-and-mortar hospitals in Britain or Germany, there is certainly a sense of adventure about the situation.

The cable factory at Tomislavgrad is now the hospital for all British troops in the Bosnian theatre. The commanding officer, Lt Col Brooke Bayley, also has under his command the field surgical team at Sarajevo, which originally went out under 2 Field Ambulance and a medical support team at HQ Multi-national Division South West in Gornji Vakuf.

**Report: Bob Higson
Pictures: Sgt Dave Whitley**

NEW RATES OF OFFICERS' NORMAL RATES TA PAY

OFFICERS' NORMAL RATES

(TA REGS 1978 PARA 7026)

Rank	Service	New daily rates	
		1/4/96	1/12/96
2nd Lt		£	£
Lt	On appointment	35.78	36.12
	+1 year	47.30	47.75
	+2 years	48.54	49.00
	+3 years	49.78	50.26
	+4 years	51.03	51.52
Capt	On appointment	52.28	52.77
	+1 year	60.26	60.84
	+2 years	61.89	62.48
	+3 years	63.52	64.12
	+4 years	65.14	65.77
	+5 years	66.77	67.41
	+6 years	68.39	69.05
Maj	On appointment	70.01	70.69
	+1 year	76.46	77.19
	+2 years	78.36	79.11
	+3 years	80.25	81.02
	+4 years	82.14	82.93
	+5 years	84.04	84.84
	+6 years	85.93	86.76
	+7 years	87.82	88.67
	+8 years	89.72	90.58
Lt Col	On appointment	91.61	92.49
	2/19 years in rank/service	107.57	108.60
	4/21 years in rank/service	110.40	111.46
	6/23 years in rank/service	113.23	114.32
	8/25 years in rank/service	118.77	119.91
Col	On appointment	121.79	122.96
	+2 years	128.34	129.57
	+4 years	131.84	133.11
	+6 years	135.35	136.65
	+8 years	141.36	142.73
Brig		144.87	146.27
		160.99	162.55

QUARTERMASTER CATEGORY RATES

(TA BEGS 1978 PARA 7026)

Rank	Service	New daily rates	
		1/4/96	1/12/96
Lt	On appointment	£ 73.41	£ 74.11
Capt	6 years service	80.05	80.82
Maj	14 years service	84.87	85.69
Lt Col	On appointment	97.08	98.03
	3 years service	98.45	99.41

NRPS OF THE TA/ADMIN STAFF FOR ARMY SECTIONS OF CCF

Rank	Service	New daily rates	
		1/4/96	1/12/96
Capt	On appointment	£ 57.85	£ 58.41
	After 3 years	62.53	63.14
	6 years	67.21	67.86
Maj	On appointment	73.40	74.11
	After 3 years	78.86	79.61
	6 years	84.31	85.12
Lt Col	On appointment	103.27	104.26

THE 1996 Armed Forces Pay Review Body award for Territorial Army personnel ranges from 3.2 to 3.8 per cent (average 3.5 per cent). The full award less one per cent will be paid to all ranks from April 1 and the balance will be added to pay from December 1.

The Review Body recommended that the Reserves' length-of-service increment be increased to 82p at the start of the fifth year.

OFFICER CADETS

		New daily rates	
		1/4/96	1/12/96
		£	£
Cadet	On entry	25.11	25.35

GROUP A NRPS – SOLDIERS' NORMAL RATES Effective from April 1

Rank	On appt	After 3 yrs	6 yrs	9yrs
	£	£	£	£
Pte	29.31	29.41	29.51	29.61
LCpl	33.68	33.78	33.88	33.98
Cpl Class 2	40.59	40.69	40.79	40.89
Cpl Class 1	43.23	43.33	43.43	43.53
Sgt	47.53	47.63	47.73	47.83
SSgt	49.96	50.06	50.16	50.26
WO2	58.81	59.91	59.01	59.11
WO1	67.77	68.87	67.97	68.07

Effective from December 1

Pte	29.59	29.69	29.79	29.89
LCpl	34.00	34.10	34.20	34.30
Cpl Class 2	40.98	41.08	41.18	41.28
Cpl Class 1	43.64	43.74	43.84	43.94
Sgt	47.98	48.08	48.18	48.28
SSgt	50.44	50.54	50.64	50.74
WO2	59.36	59.46	59.56	59.66
WO1	68.42	68.52	68.62	68.72

GROUP B NRPS – SOLDIERS' NORMAL RATES
Effective from April 1

Rank	On app't	After 3 yrs	6 yrs	9 yrs
Pte	29.31	29.41	29.51	29.61
LCpl	33.68	33.78	33.88	33.98
Cpl Class 2	40.59	40.69	40.79	40.89

Effective from December 1

Pte	29.59	29.69	29.79	29.89
LCpl	34.00	34.10	34.20	34.30
Cpl Class 2	40.98	41.08	41.18	41.28

SOLDIERS' SCALE RATES

(TA REGS 1978 PARA 7032)

Effective from April 1

Rank	Class	Band	Scale		
			A	B	C
Pte	4	Band 1	22.40	22.70	23.15
	3	Band 1	25.09	25.39	25.84
		Band 2	29.13	29.43	29.88
		Band 3	33.61	33.91	34.36
	2	Band 1	28.05	28.35	28.80
		Band 2	32.13	32.43	32.88
		Band 3	36.61	36.91	37.36
	1	Band 1	30.52	30.82	31.27
		Band 2	34.58	34.88	35.33
		Band 3	39.06	39.36	39.81
LCpl	3	Band 1	30.52	30.82	31.27
		Band 2	34.58	34.88	35.33
		Band 3	39.06	39.36	39.81
	2	Band 1	32.59	32.89	33.34
		Band 2	36.67	36.97	37.42
		Band 3	41.51	41.81	42.26
	1	Band 1	35.06	35.36	35.81
		Band 2	39.14	39.44	39.89
		Band 3	43.99	44.29	44.74
Cpl	2	Band 1	37.50	37.80	38.25
		Band 2	41.56	41.86	42.31
		Band 3	46.41	46.71	47.16
	1	Band 1	40.26	40.56	41.01
		Band 2	44.31	44.61	45.06
		Band 3	49.15	49.45	49.90
Sgt		Band 4	44.36	49.66	45.11
		Band 5	48.79	49.09	49.54
SSgt		Band 6	53.61	53.91	54.36
		Band 4	46.92	47.22	47.67
		Band 5	51.32	51.62	52.07
		Band 6	56.17	56.47	56.92
WO2		Band 7	61.99	62.29	62.74
		Band 4	50.17	50.47	50.92
		Band 5	54.59	54.89	55.34
		Band 6	60.53	60.83	61.28
WO1		Band 7	66.49	66.79	67.24
		Band 4	53.50	53.80	54.25
		Band 5	57.90	58.20	58.65
		Band 6	63.94	64.24	64.69
		Band 7	67.47	67.77	68.22

Effective from December 1

Rank	Class	Band	Scale		
			A	B	C
Pte	4	Band 1	22.61	22.91	23.36
	3	Band 1	25.33	25.63	26.08
		Band 2	29.41	29.71	30.16
		Band 3	33.94	34.24	34.69
	2	Band 1	28.32	28.62	29.07
		Band 2	32.44	32.74	33.19
		Band 3	36.97	37.27	37.72
	1	Band 1	30.81	31.11	31.56
		Band 2	34.91	35.21	35.66
		Band 3	39.43	39.73	40.18
LCpl	3	Band 1	30.81	31.11	31.56
		Band 2	34.91	35.21	35.66
		Band 3	39.43	39.73	40.18
	2	Band 1	32.91	33.21	33.66
		Band 2	37.02	37.32	37.77
		Band 3	41.92	42.22	42.67
	1	Band 1	35.40	35.70	36.15
		Band 2	39.52	39.82	40.27
		Band 3	44.41	44.71	45.16
Cpl	2	Band 1	37.87	38.17	38.62
		Band 2	41.96	42.26	42.71
		Band 3	46.86	47.16	47.61
	1	Band 1	40.65	40.95	41.40
		Band 2	44.74	45.04	45.49
		Band 3	49.63	49.93	50.38
Sgt		Band 4	44.79	45.09	45.54
		Band 5	49.26	49.56	50.01
SSgt		Band 6	54.12	54.42	54.87
		Band 4	47.37	47.67	48.12
		Band 5	51.82	52.12	52.57
		Band 6	56.71	57.01	57.46
WO2		Band 7	62.59	62.89	63.34
		Band 4	50.65	50.95	51.40
		Band 5	55.12	55.42	55.87
		Band 6	61.12	61.42	61.87
		Band 7	67.13	67.43	67.88
WO1		Band 4	54.02	54.32	54.77
		Band 5	58.46	58.76	59.21
		Band 6	64.56	64.86	65.31
		Band 7	70.55	70.85	71.30

Super soldiers sought in new recruit drive

IN A new move to boost recruiting figures and alleviate undermanning, a special category of cross-corps "super soldiers" may be introduced into the Army.

With teeth arms currently more than 2,500 below strength, the first step is seen to be attracting school-leavers who could be trained in combined infantry, gunner and tank crew skills.

Project co-ordinator Col April Fulcher, late WRAC, told *Soldier*: "There is a logic to asking a competent soldier to be both a gunner and a tankie. Multi-skilling is a buzzword in industry today. Once these trainees have the core skills, they would switch easily enough from Challenger 2 to AS90, or armoured infantry."

The project throws up an unprecedented opportunity for multi-talented individuals to create a radically new class of military all-rounder, perhaps previously seen, or not seen, only in the Special Air Service. For example, a youngster with tank aptitude who was involved in aqua-sports or parachuting would be encouraged to develop skills as a tank crew-airborne infantryman, or as a tank crew-combat engineer diver.

The super soldier idea emerged last year during a Defence Costs Study think-tank.

Although the Army's specialist corps are not undermanned to any alarming degree, the project team believes the concept could be adapted to, for example, the Royal Engineers and REME, creating a REREME or REMEER sub-category.

When guidelines for the Cross-Corps Candidate Concept '97 (CCCC97) specification have been finalised, they will be circulated for comment among senior commanders.

It is envisaged that normal training modules would be extended for CCCCC97 candidates. Research has revealed that actual instruction could be achieved within the Army's

current training establishment. In the light of wider financial constraints, this feature is thought to carry weight within the MoD.

"Our profile is to take an 18-year-old, male or female, and push them through their chosen multi-syllabus within 18 months. They would then split the following 18 months between field units in their competences.

"By the age of 21 they



Is it a tankie... is it a gunner... no, it's a CCCCC97 super soldier

would be able to drive a tank into battle, operate as armoured infantry in a Warrior-borne battalion, or have adequate skills to reinforce an airborne unit," explained Col Fulcher.

If approval is given in the next few weeks, the first three-year course could start as early as April 1, 1997.

Super soldiers would be multi-capbadged, allowing them to move easily between corps and regiments. They would attract special additional rates of pay to reflect their wider competences. This would be met in the form of a

Work of an Exceptionally Diverse Nature (WEDN) daily rate which bridges the gap between say, the pay of an infantryman and that of an electronics specialist.

"The scheme really is about getting the best out of our personnel," said an MoD spokesperson. "And it is in keeping with the Army's Be The Best slogan."

Gurkha sappers build on Canada experience

GURKHA sappers warmed up for an Operation Resolute tour to Bosnia during a three-month construction exercise at Wainwright in Canada.

Maidstone-based 69 Gurkha Field Squadron QGE, part of 36 Engineer Regiment, completed three major projects and attracted much local media interest. Several newspapers and radio stations were interested in the Gurkhas working on their doorstep and covered many of their activities.

Under OC Maj Tim Treanor, the engineers built a new perimeter road for the camp, constructed an isolation magazine to store damaged ammunition, and replaced 15 large boiler systems within the camp's ammunition compound.

Largest of the three projects was the new 2.5m road, which will allow tanks to bypass the main camp buildings. It involved numerous culverts and slew pads.

The isolation building had to be immensely strong to meet Canadian regulations, with reinforced concrete partition walls and other safety features.

A dozen Gurkhas at a time took part in adventurous training in the Canadian Rockies, including mountaineering, rock climbing, horse riding and white water rafting. One group used the time to build a large wooden vehicle bridge for the Jasper National Park authorities.

The Canadian exercise provided outstanding construction experience for the sappers before their move to former Yugoslavia.

Half the squadron had deployed to Gornji Vakuf in central Bosnia by mid-March, with the remainder due in theatre soon afterwards.



The road project nears completion

FEATURE NEW POSTERS FOCUS ON COMPASSIONATE SIDE OF MODERN SOLDIERING



Picture: Terry Champion

Armed Forces Minister Nicholas Soames and Brig John Milne, Director of Army Recruiting, at the Pirbright launch of the new recruiting posters

It's not about fighting

ARMY
BE THE BEST

The "caretakers" image was shot in Tuzla, the "repairman" in Sarajevo.

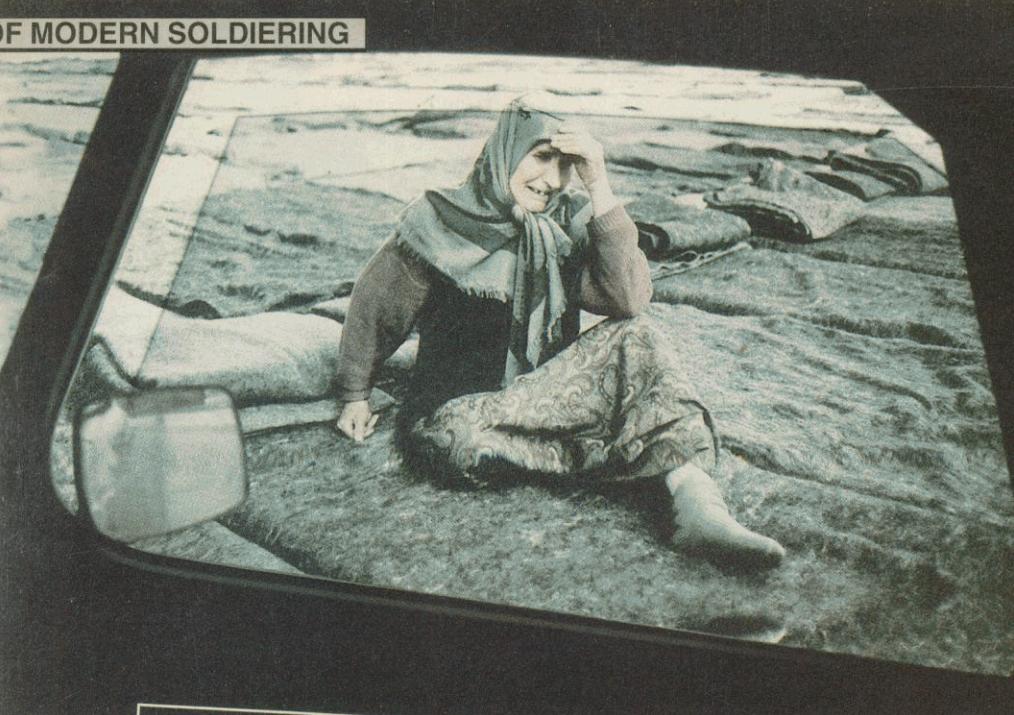
Fighting qualities will always be important, and the Army is keen to recruit men and women who can meet the broad range of challenges with which it is involved.

Among the high-quality tradesmen and women it trains are mechanics, plumbers, electricians, technicians, clerks, chefs, medics, drivers, and engineers.

Latest recruiting figures confirm that young people are responding to the new issues facing the Armed Forces. Enlistments in the Army are up 15 per cent on 1995, and enquiries by 35 per cent.

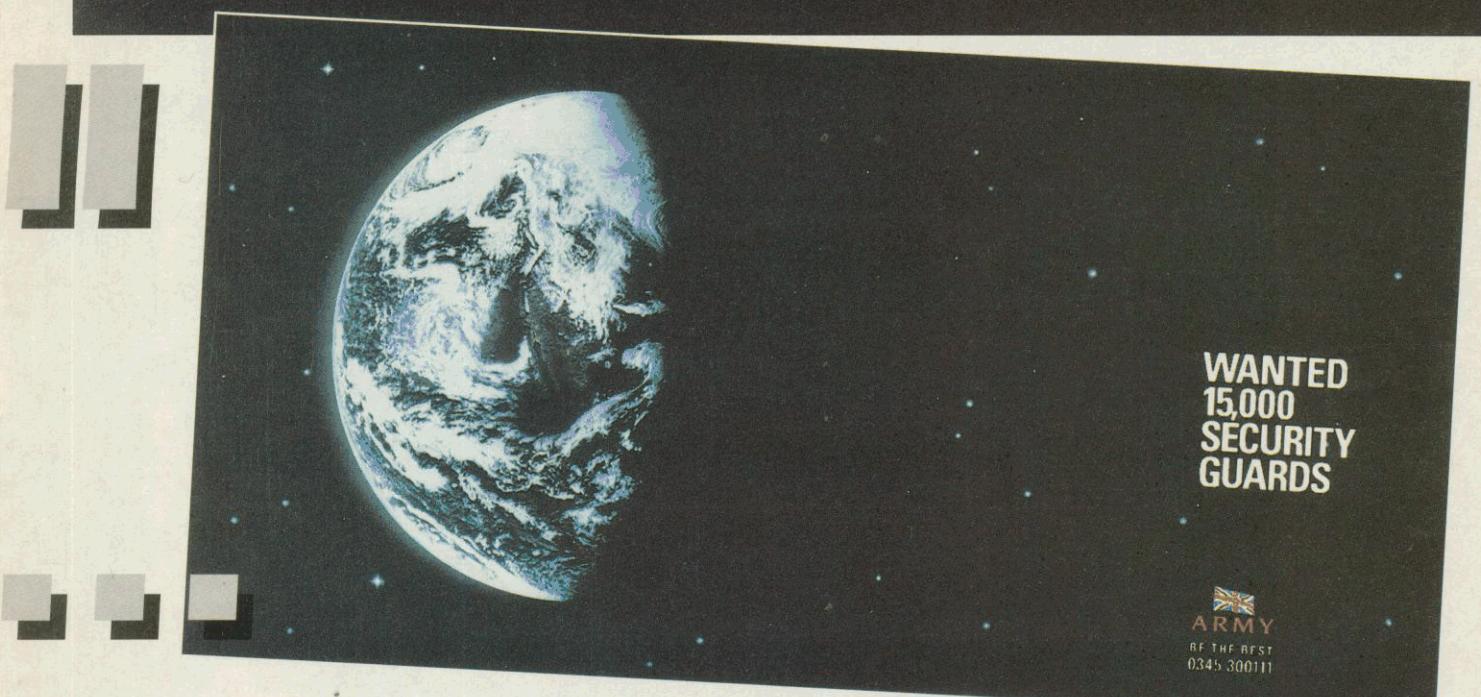
Brig John Milne, Director of Army Recruiting, said: "The Army is very active and has been proven to be extremely effective. This is entirely down to personnel who receive the best training and are recognised internationally to be the best soldiers in the world."

But the traditional qualities of resilience, responsibility and flexibility are implicit in the message for "caretakers", "repairmen" and "security guards". The qualities of British soldiers have been seen to great advantage in all three roles in situations as diverse as Bosnia, Rwanda and Angola.



15,000 CARETAKERS REQUIRED

ARMY
BE THE BEST
0345 300111



WANTED
15,000
SECURITY
GUARDS

ARMY
BE THE BEST
0345 300111



15,000
REPAIRMEN
NEEDED

ARMY
BE THE BEST
0345 300111



Show of arms

OUTSIDE the almost completed room, the electrician was, to put it euphemistically, expressing a mild difference of opinion with his foreman.

"That's just one of the various forms of human violence – perhaps he would like to put on a demonstration in our war gallery," said Nick Boole, head of public relations at the new Royal Armouries Museum in Leeds, tongue firmly in cheek.

He was giving the *Soldier* team a preview of the building, officially opened by the Queen on March 15 and opening its doors to the public on March 30.

Destined to become a landmark on the



The impressive 40m-high "Hall of Steel" at the museum, where more than 3,000 items of arms and armour dominate a tower whose exterior will be illuminated at night

Report: Phil Wilcox
Pictures: Mike Perring

banks of the River Aire, a bell-ring away from the city's parish church, the £42.5m site covers 13 acres and has been designed as "a true national museum, accessible to all."

The building's five galleries and outdoor display areas embrace the development and use of arms and armour and their impact on the world over a period of 3,000 years.

"It became apparent in the mid-1980s that the Royal Armouries could not continue to rely on government grants and had to

adopt a development policy," Nick Boole explained.

The Tower of London has been an attraction in its own right since Stuart times, but there were thousands of pieces of arms and armour that the Royal Armouries were simply not able to display there because of lack of space.

"Part of the problem was solved when we moved our larger artillery objects to a museum at Fort Nelson, the Napoleonic fortress near Portsmouth," said Mr Boole, a former captain in the Queen's Own Hussars who has had connections with the Royal Armouries since leaving the Army in 1986.

"But we had to find another major centre to house the greater proportion of our collection. Most on the shortlist were in the north of England, but Leeds offered the best in terms of site and infrastructure."

With the museum housed in a building six times the size of the White Tower at the Tower of London – where a mere ten per cent of the nation's historic arms and armour have been exhibited until now – the move will enable the Royal Armouries to put far more on display in the Tower in future.

However, Nick Boole pointed out, whereas in London the various aspects were dealt with chronologically, the new museum is laid out thematically, with five galleries telling a coherent story of the history of arms and armour on a global scale.

"War, hunting, tournament and self defence are the main areas, with a fifth devoted to the Middle, Near and Far East," he said. "The entire museum is on a 'freeflow' basis, with no fixed route: we are trying to excite people's curiosity."

"They can take or leave areas as the case may be, but every gallery has an introduction to entice them, such as the recruiting sergeant's fairground-type cry in an initial film shown in the war gallery. After that, people will have metaphorically 'signed up' for a look around at aspects of warfare from Agincourt to this century and technology of the future."

Each gallery also has a mezzanine floor and demonstration area. In the tournament gallery, for example, an authentic combat ring will be put to full use and replicas of arms such as a poleaxe will be handled by the public.

As Nick Boole said: "What's the use of having valuable items stuffed in glass cases where nobody can touch them, if, by simply copying them, visitors can see for themselves what it must have been like to use,



say, a longbow or medieval axe or an 18th century musket?"

Coupled with the "hands-on" approach, the public might also encounter, say, a soldier in Henry V's army in full uniform chatting to one of Marlborough's soldiers on his way to Blenheim and comparing the efficiency of their arms.

Or, perhaps, a wife reading her husband's letters from the home front or a woman relating her experiences in the English Civil War – all, in reality, actors working to carefully authenticated scripts.

In each gallery, interactive computers can be used by visitors for designing a suit of armour, re-enacting historic battles or simply accessing information.

Historical and topical subjects are both tackled in the hunting gallery, in which, in a reproduction of an Edwardian gun-room, the life of a gamekeeper in the 19th century is depicted and, elsewhere, harpooning and elephant and tiger hunting and the conservation issues which they raise are illustrated.

In the self-defence gallery, a modern laser-simulated gun range and fixed-pivot

crossbows fired at a stylised medieval scene can be used under supervision.

Outside, in the first authentic tilt-yard to be built for over 400 years, regular jousting demonstrations will be held, using hunting dogs, falcons and hawks. Livestock will be housed in stables and kennels in a menagerie.

In a craft court, an armourer, gunsmith and leather worker will demonstrate their skills.

"Inevitably, it is going to be, to a degree, a case of 'taste and see' here initially," said Mr Boole.

"We will be refreshing it as a museum all



Above – Former cavalryman Nick Boole, the museum's head of publicity, with the museum and its "Hall of Steel" providing a powerful backdrop

Left and below – Old and new: Royal Armouries Museum staff put the finishing touches to Agincourt archer and Duke of Wellington's Royal Regiment soldier displays respectively



MUSEUM MUSINGS

□ RESEARCH has predicted that an estimated 750,000 people, more of whom will be women than men, will visit the Royal Armouries Museum in its first year.

□ THE museum is the first arts project to be launched under the government's Private Finance Initiative in which state aid is matched with private capital

□ A BANK of 30-plus screens in a modern newsroom in the museum shows constant news footage on issues as diverse as Bosnia and the future of the Bengal tiger

□ SMALLEST item on display is a bronze Chinese helmet dating to 350 BC

□ LARGEST is a life-size Indian elephant covered in 142kg of armour, captured at the Battle of Plessey

□ IF visitors simply watched all the film footage on show, it would take them five hours before they even started to look around...

the time, updating the demonstrations and altering some of the films, for example. I hope the building will be here at least as long as the White Tower, which dates back to 1078."

The same tower and its displays will be the next project for the Royal Armouries, where its transformation is expected to take at least until 1998.

"William the Conqueror, bless him, didn't have to deal with fire regulations," said Nick Boole.

And his own future?

"As a cavalryman, I wouldn't mind running the stables," he chuckled.



It's a *KIT!*-astrophic success

A FUNNY thing has happened in the otherwise serious world of military technical publishing. Its staid ranks have been breached by a magazine which has the lads chuckling over their tool boxes, writes John Elliott.

Anyone who thinks equipment maintenance manuals have the impact of your average BR timetable has obviously not seen a copy of *KIT!*.

For the enthusiast whose bedtime reading includes the grey tomes normally devoted to dissemination of official information, it is a magazine straight out of the *Beano* school of journalism.

This is not a slur. The *Beano* tag comes from a man uniquely qualified to comment. It is the word editor Lt Col (Retd) John Ray uses to describe *KIT!*, a whimsical, cartoon-strewn quarterly which slaps home its messages with the subtlety of a hand grenade.

Since it first appeared four years ago it has found favour with all ranks and cap-badges, spreading the gospel of good maintenance in a simple, digestible form which contrasts starkly with other detailed and esoteric official publications.

According to Col Ray: "The powers that be in REME felt that the British Army's phlegmatism could be stirred by a motley assortment of cartoon characters telling them what they should and shouldn't be doing."

They were right.

The *Beano* factor is not altogether coincidental. Maj Alan Powell REME, who was tasked in mid-1991 to get it up and running, thought of the title and designed the *KIT!* logo with more than a passing pla-

giastic reference to the satirical magazine *Viz!*. Another important influence was the long-established American Forces' *Preventative Maintenance Monthly*, which, despite its less than snappy title, years ago discovered the value of sugar-coating mechanical doctrine with a coat of humour.

As 10,000 copies of a trial issue were distributed, it was apparent that *KIT!* was not going to be an introverted equipment support magazine for REME consumption only. It would appeal to all users, especially junior NCOs and soldiers responsible for care and maintenance of Army equipment.

Col Ray, a former REME officer, became involved during the preparation of issue No 2 after taking voluntary redundancy. Before assuming the editor's chair, he was involved in equipment management in HQ Quartermaster General's Department at Andover, where the *KIT!* office is located.

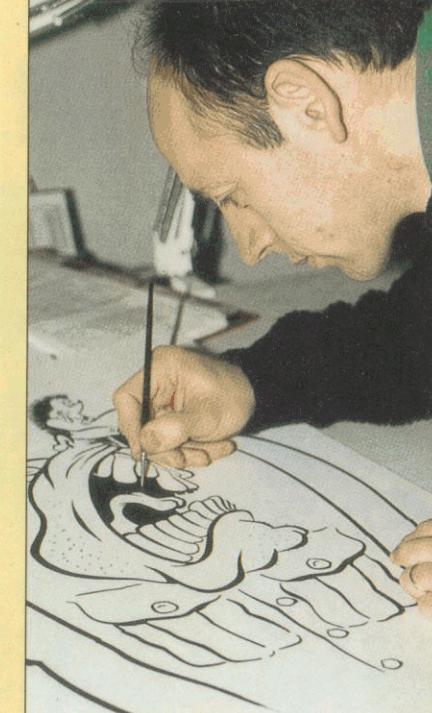
tionately fewer. Mugs and pocket tool kits emblazoned with the *KIT!* logo have become cherished items since they were offered as prizes for a quarterly puzzle competition.

The publication's influence is further extended by the reproduction of its pages as 35mm slides and posters.

John Ray says it is difficult to assess the impact of the magazine, but he was delighted to report that since the inclusion of a tip on aligning oil and fuel filters on the Warrior CV8 engine there had been no further instances of engine failure attributable to loose filters. Before the *KIT!* piece appeared these had been averaging about three in every two-month period.

The saving of just one £57,000 Warrior engine would cover the costs of producing nearly three complete issues.

Now there's a funny thing.



Steve Hutchings puts the finishing touches to another cartoon

CARTOONIST WITH THE SQUADDIE'S TOUCH

ARMY humour seems to come naturally to Steve Hutchings, which is as much a surprise to him as it is a blessing to the man who commissions his drawings. Steve, it transpires, has never had any formal contact with the military.

Yet the 41-year-old graphics artist is the man behind *KIT!*'s brilliant cartoons.

Working at his drawing board in the offices of DSP (Doug Slaughter Partnership) in Maidstone, Kent, Steve sketches to order.

Editor John Ray faxes him the text, technical drawings of vehicles and equipment, and his suggestions for illustrations.

The rest he leaves to Steve, who drafts the artwork, adds his own touches of humour and returns the page to Andover for final approval.

Despite the cartoon format, accuracy is essential. Steve's drawings have to be technically correct so that they do not undermine the credibility of the message.

"I've never even been in the TA," said Steve. "When I first started I was a bit worried that I wouldn't connect with the military sense of humour. But it seems to be going well."

"I have to make sure I don't get too carried away and guard against making the cartoon characters a bit too silly. I add the speech bubbles to lighten it up."



Lt Col (Retd) John Ray, editor of *KIT!*

QMG publishes the magazine through the Army Technical Support Agency.

Issue No 14 hit the streets last month with a print-run of 33,000, distributed free to most Regular and TA units. Major units receive 100 copies, smaller outfits propor-

Paras take on the Para-mount country

WHEN the 700 men of the 1st Battalion, The Parachute Regiment learned they were heading for the wilderness of America's Washington State to take part in the well-established Trumpet Dance series of exercises, rumours of bear wrestling in the backwoods and lazing on "Baywatch" beaches abounded.

But not for long. When the exercise aircraft touched down near Seattle, the sight that greeted the soldiers in red berets was reminiscent of home.

"It's more like Bordon than Bordon," said Pte Adie Glasgow.

He was right. Fort Lewis, which boasts the largest military camp in the United

States, covering a massive 56,000 acres, looks a bit like Hampshire. The incessant rain (Seattle boasts an average 310 days of rain a year) took a bit of getting used to, but when the rain clouds lifted for a few minutes in the second week the wait was worth it – overlooking the military camp is the aptly named Mount Rainier, the famous peak that graces the opening credits of every movie made by Hollywood's Paramount Pictures.

As well as stunning views, Fort Lewis offers unrivalled facilities for range and live-firing experience, and the varied programme meant that the Aldershot-based troops were able to put all their weapons and infantry skills to the test in a



Report: Susi Coulthard Pictures: Chris Fletcher

variety of terrain and scenarios, culminating in a dramatic live-fire battle group exercise on the Cascade Mountains and upland desert of Yakima military range in central Washington State.

They encountered an assault course that resembled a logger's nightmare: hundreds of felled trees tangled into death-defying obstacles with names such as Belly Buster, and a 40ft scramble net euphemistically called The Tough One.

Pte Daniel Roe reckoned it was the most challenging course he had ever done, and the most exciting.

A highlight of the trip for the British paras came when they met members of the US Army's Special Forces, who showed them their state-of-the-art weaponry and equipment systems.

"They seem to have a different type of gun for every possible task, whereas we just have SA80 to contend with,"

Left – Team photograph of A Coy, 1 Para on a US Army Bradley APC

said Pte Pete Stone. "It makes you green with envy when you see the kit the Americans have got, but then you realise that actually we are probably the better soldiers on the ground because we rely on skills and flexibility rather than technology and hardware."

The paras completed countless firing exercises on the Fort Lewis ranges before heading for the 20ft snow drifts around the foothills of Yakima.

Pte Jonathan Barnes said there was so much advanced technology on the ranges that once the action began it was possible to believe they were fighting a war on enemy lines.

Many of the battalion's younger soldiers used a four-day break from training to explore the continent, taking advantage of cheap air fare deals. While some set off for the sunshine of California or Las Vegas's bright lights, most headed north to Canada to try their luck at snowboarding.

It was also a chance for those under 21 to escape briefly the USA's rigid licensing laws. "Six weeks is a long time to go without a beer," was how one soldier put it.

All the paratroopers made the most of their "frontier" experience, and never missed an opportunity to get off camp to



Above – A four-man patrol on manoeuvres in the Fort Lewis training area. In the background are the Cascade Mountains which include Mount Rainier, immortalised as the Paramount Pictures logo

Left – LCpl Michael Reading is instructed on an automatic grenade launcher by Sgt Alan Rudolf, an instructor with the US 1st Special Forces Group

ever made ever made," he said. "America is just brilliant."

The men of the 1st Battalion will be back in America in May when they take part in Purple Star, the biggest airborne exercise since the end of the Second World War. Based in North Carolina, they will find the weather drier and warmer than Seattle, but nevertheless be grateful for the perfect preparation provided by Trumpet Dance.





Sketches of life in the Province

THE WORK of the British Army in Northern Ireland figures high on the agenda of former soldier Robin Watt, now a full-time artist based in Shropshire. He is producing a record of military operations in the Province immediately before, during and after the cease-fire and hopes to get it published within two years, writes Laurie Manton.

"I feel it is important not only to depict accurately the nature of the soldier's task, but also to record the conditions and atmosphere in which he operates," he said.

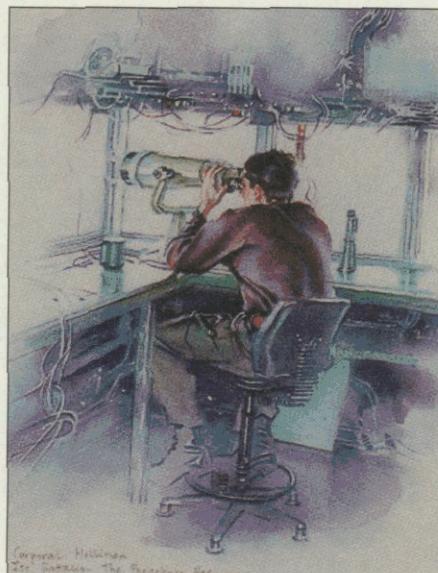
His illustrations are in the form of rapid field sketches in graphite and paintings in watercolour, ranging from foot and mobile patrols and vehicle checkpoints to heliborne operations and surveillance.

There are also city scenes and townscapes, including Enniskillen, Clogher, Newton Stewart and Strabane. Landscapes of hill farms, rivers, peat banks and border loughs were sketched in remote parts of Co Fermanagh and Co Tyrone.

Robin's most recent work includes a major commission for the 1st Battalion, The Parachute Regiment to mark the battalion's last tour of duty in Belfast.

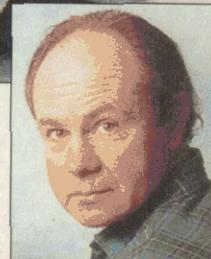
"It consists of 26 watercolours, many

depicting landmarks familiar to soldiers who have served in Northern Ireland during recent years. They include North Howard Street Mill, the Springfield Road



Watchkeeper: A 1 Para corporal in an OP somewhere in west Belfast

The poster says it all as a soldier of 1 Para takes part in the last daylight patrol in Belfast.



and Lower Falls, Fort Whiterock and the Peace Line," he said.

Robin Watt retired from the Army in 1993 to concentrate on painting. He lives with his wife and family in the Welsh Marches, and concentrates in particular on animal painting and equestrian scenes.

The former Royal Hussars officer has exhibited with both the Society of Wildlife Artists and the Society of Equestrian Artists. His first one-man show was staged at the National Army Museum last year to coincide with the publication of his vivid account of his experiences as a watchkeeper and soldier-artist with 7 Armoured Brigade in the Gulf, *A Soldier's Sketchbook* (Soldier Jan 9, 1995).

Maj Gen Patrick Cordingley described Watt's paintings as "powerful reminders of dramatic and peaceful moments, in many ways far more vivid than the written word or photographs".

Watt's military background qualifies him perfectly to capture the ethos of soldiering in Northern Ireland.

During his Army career, he completed eight tours of duty in the Province, including three in Belfast and others in Fermanagh, Tyrone and Armagh.

CHESHIRE

Cheshire Military Museum

Open 1000 -1700 all year except 22 Dec to 02 Jan.

Special art and Yeomanry exhibition for 1996.

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

DORSET

ROYAL SIGNALS MUSEUM

Blandford Camp, Dorset DT11 8RN. Telephone 01258 482248. Open 10.00-17.00 Monday to Friday all year, weekends 10.00-16.00 (June to September). Admission: Adults £2.00, OAPs £1.50 and children £1.00.

HAMPSHIRE

ALDERSHOT MILITARY MUSEUM

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

Aldershot Museum takes a behind the scenes look at daily life over the past 140 years in the Home of the British Army. Photographs, models and displays - including a recreated 1900 barrack room - tell the story. A second gallery explores the local history of Aldershot and Farnborough. Guns and armoured vehicles are displayed outside.

Open daily: Mar to Oct 10.00 - 17.00 Nov to Feb 10.00 - 16.30 Adults £1.50, OAPs and children £1.00.

AIRBORNE FORCES MUSEUM

Browning Barracks, Aldershot, Hants. Telephone 01252 349619. The story of Airborne Forces from 1940 to the present day. Open Monday to Sunday 10.00-16.30. Admission: Adults £2.50, children and OAPs £1.00.

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.

THE GURKHA MUSEUM

Peninsula Barracks, Romsey Road, Winchester, Hampshire SO23 8TS. Tableaux, dioramas, shop and mail order. Open Tuesday to Saturday 10.00 - 17.00 (last admission 16.30) and Bank Holiday Mondays. FREE PARKING. Admission: Adults £1.50, children/senior citizens 75p.

ARMY PHYSICAL TRAINING CORPS MUSEUM



Fox Lines, c/o ASPT, Queens Avenue, Aldershot, Hampshire, GU11 2LB.
Telephone: 01252 347168
Open Mon to Fri 09.00 - 16.00. Weekends and Bank Holidays by appointment only.

Royal Hampshire Regiment Museum & Memorial Garden

Serle's House, Southgate Street, Winchester, Hampshire SO23 9EG. Telephone (01962) 863658.

Memorabilia of The Royal Hampshire Regiment from 1702-1992.

Open Mon to Fri (all year, except Christmas/New Year) 1000-1230 and 1400-1600. Apr to Oct, Sat, Sun and Bank Holidays 1200-1600.

Admission Free.

RAMC Historical Museum

Keogh Barracks, Ash Vale, Nr Aldershot, Hampshire GU12 5RQ. Telephone (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. Includes an ambulance display and the Corps Memorial Chapel.

Open Mon to Fri 0830 - 1600. Evenings and weekends by appointment.

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 PWRR. Entrance fee as per Dover Castle. Entrance to museum free.

LANCASHIRE

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.

THE LANCASTRIE 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.



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 60's £1.15.

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

SCOTLAND

THE BLACK WATCH MUSEUM

Balhousie Castle, Hay Street, Perth PH1 5HR. Telephone 0131-310 8530. Open Mon-Sat 10.00-16.30 (May to Sept, closed last Sat in Jun), Mon-Fri 10.00-15.30 (Oct to Apr). Admission free (all donations to museum fund).

TYNE & WEAR

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

"A Soldier's Life", Newcastle Discovery, Tyne & Wear Museums, Blandford House, Blandford Square, Newcastle-Upon-Tyne NE1 4JA. Telephone 0191-232 6789. Open Mon to Sat 10.00 - 17.00 and Public Holidays (excluding Good Friday, Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Years Day).

THE ROYAL WELCH FUSILIERS

Caernarfon Castle, Caernarfon, Gwynedd LL55 2AY. Tel: 01286 673362. Open 9.30-16.00 Mon-Sat (until 24 Mar 96) and daily 9.30-18.30 (25 Mar to 26 Oct 96). Entrance to museum free. Admission to Castle: Adults £3.80, senior citizens and children £2.80, family ticket (2 adults & 3 children) £10.00.

WARWICKSHIRE

THE QUEEN'S OWN HUSSARS MUSEUM

Lord Leycester Hospital, High Street, Warwick CV34 4BH. Tel: 01926 492035. Open winter 1000-1730 & summer 1000-1700

(closed Mondays and Christmas Day). Admission: Adults £2.50, OAPs & students £1.75 and children £1.25.

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

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.

1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards

Cardiff Castle, Duke Street, Cardiff, South Glamorgan CF1 2RB. Telephone: (01222) 222253. Open: Sun, Mon, Tues 10.30-16.30 & Weds 10.30-13.30 (Oct to Apr). Sun, Mon, Tues 10.30-17.30 & Weds 10.30-14.00 (May to Sept). A very fine example of a cavalry museum.

To advertise in the next **SOLDIER** Museum Guide (July 22 edition) please contact:

Emma Reeves on
01252 347352
Mil (722) 2352

Military band collection support grows

A SUPPORT group for the unique Gatehouse Collection of military band memorabilia has held its first meeting to ensure the future of the material in Britain.

There had been a danger that Anne Gatehouse would be forced to send the historic 19,000-piece collection, painstakingly put together by her late husband, Jerome Gatehouse, to America for safekeeping.

Now the support group, chaired by Col Peter Walton, secretary of the Army Museums' Ogilby Trust, and including Maj Gordon Turner from the Royal School of Music at Kneller Hall, will help Mrs Gatehouse to find a way of preserving the photographs, slides, recordings, histories, programmes, magazines and books packed into her terraced home in Newport, Gwent.

WORLD WATCH

An occasional series on what other armies' journals are saying

From *An Cosantoir* magazine (Irish Defence Forces): Gen Ratko Mladic, Bosnian Serb military leader, quoted on indictments against him and Dr Radovan Karadzic by the International War Crimes Tribunal in the Hague: "I do not have time to talk to paid scribblers. When the American generals who served in Vietnam, or the British officers who devastated the Falkland Islands, agree to appear before the War Court, I will voluntarily go to the Hague."

From the *Green Book* (Association of the US Army annual review): There is concern throughout the Army about the shortfalls in modernisation and long-term research and development. The concern is justified. Money is tight. — Gilbert F Decker, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Research, Development and Acquisition.

From *Connect*, newsletter of the Irish Defence community: Graffiti seen at the 9th Precinct Police Station, New York: "We the willing, led by the unknowing, are doing the impossible for the ungrateful. We have done so much for so long with so little, we are now qualified to do anything with nothing." (Quoted by Father Colm Savage).

Anne wants the collection to be housed in South Wales and treated as a growing archive rather than a museum.

The support group is looking for others to become involved with a charitable trust to be set up for the Gatehouse Collection, and to help with its preservation.

Anyone who wants to know more about it can contact Anne Gatehouse at 67 Hoskins Street, Newport, Gwent NP9 5LA (tel 01633 243286).

New cadet force links Avon counties

A NEW Army Cadet Force area forms on April 1 when the City and County of Bristol ACF succeeds the old County of Avon ACF following local government reorganisation.

Clifton's famous suspension bridge appears on the badge, symbolising the force's links with Somerset and Gloucestershire. It was designed by former cadet officer Lt Col John Givens.

Former cavalrymen from all over the world are expected.

Cavalry Old Comrades to salute prince

CROWN Prince Frederik of Denmark will take the salute and lay a wreath at the Combined Cavalry Old Comrades annual parade and memorial service at the Cavalry Memorial in Hyde Park on May 19.

The occasion is the 72nd anniversary of the unveiling of the memorial to all ranks who gave their lives.

Sponsors of this year's parade will be The Blues and Royals, and the parade itself will be commanded by the regiment's Colonel, Gen Sir Desmond Fitzpatrick.

Five bands will take part, trumpeters from The Life Guards will sound the *Last Post* and *Reveille*, and the *Lament* will be sounded by Pipe Major Ian Hutton of The Royal Dragoon Guards.

Former cavalrymen from all over the world are expected.

50 YEARS AGO

From *Soldier*, March 30, 1946

BRIDGING THE RHINE

The South Bridge, one of Cologne's life-lines across the Rhine, lies rusting in the water. Soon it will have been raised, the channel cleared, and a new steel girder bridge erected by the Royal Engineers under 151 Railway Construction Company RE.

25 YEARS AGO

From *Soldier*, April 1971

BEAUTIFUL WALES

Sappers are nearing the end of a "Herculean" ten-year project to restore the once-beautiful lower Swansea valley, so damaged by the smelting industry during the last two centuries that grass ceased to grow and birds avoided it.

APPOINTMENTS

Maj Gen: C G Callow — To be Director General Defence Medical Training, Feb 5.

Colonel: W A Ashley — To HQ Land, Feb 26; G N Donaldson — To HQ Catterick Gar, Feb 26; J S K Swanston — To be Commander Med Londist, Feb 27; C A Atkins — To be CO 7 Dental Gp, Mar 6; J H Hardy — To be CO 5 Dental Gp, Mar 11; D S Jolliffe — To be CoS MOD AMD, Mar 11; R C Menzies — To be Commander Med HQ Land, Mar 11; R S Jeffrey — To be Dental Officer UK Sp Unit, SHAPE, Mar 20.

Lt Cols: K G Lawson

AGC(ETS) — To HQ 2 Div, Feb 26; A T D Lerwill LI — To MoD, Mar 1; A V Pedder RA — To be CO RA Range Hebrides, Feb 26; A M F Potter, R Irish — To BMATT Zimbabwe, Feb 26; P R Sharpe REME — To HQ ARRC, Feb 26; J E Watson RA — To be CO Aberdeen UOTC, Feb 26.

T J Blad RE — To MoD, Mar 4; A C G Blanch PWO — To be OC BATLS Kenya, Mar 9; A M Boyle, R Sigs — To Royal School of Signals, Mar 4; J H Jenkins AGC(ETS) — To HQ Training, Mar 4; J N Morris RWF — To be CO 3 RWF, Mar 6; R A Mount REME —

To School of Eqpt Sp (A), Mar 4; J P J O'Sullivan RE — To MoD, Mar 4; G Taylor RE — To RE Air Sp Gp, Mar 4.

Retirements

Brigadiers: J J Gaskell, late Kings, Mar 1; R N Lennox, late RAOC, Mar 1; D G Sharp, late AAC, Mar 1; M Smythe, late RA, Mar 1.

Colonels: P G Bibby, late RRF, Feb 27; T C L Drake, late AGC(SPS), Mar 1; D M Gill, late RE, Mar 1; N R C Hoyal, late RAEC, Mar 1; W J R Hughes, late RE, Mar 1; R J R Symonds, late RA, Mar 1.

REUNIONS

Defence NBC Centre Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess: Past and Present dinner, May 11. Details from Sgt A Millward, DNBCC, Winterbourne Gunner, Salisbury, Wilts SP4 6HU (01722 436248).

201 (RCZ) Workshops (V) REME: 25th anniversary reunion, May 11 at Kenilworth, Warwickshire. Details from Maj Ron Smith, 6 St John's Place, Waterloo, Liverpool (0151-928 4493).

RGJ Association (London Branch): Cup Final night reunion, August 31 at Royal Fleet Club, Plymouth. Details from Peter Wye, Pet-a-Pat, 349 Old Road, Clacton-on-Sea, Essex CO15 3RQ (01255 437484).

RASC Jersey Boys: Reunion at the Riverside Hotel, Kenilworth, on May 17-19. Details from Joe Gutteridge, New Horizon, 6 Tudor Way, Bridgwater, Somerset TA6 6UE (01278 422806).

43rd (Wessex) Recce Regt RAC: First reunion of reformed old comrades association takes place on May 18 at the Patchway, Bristol. Details from secretary Alan J Dracup, 26 The Meads, Downend, Bristol BS16 6RQ (0117 9761980).

74 Medium Regt RA: Annual reunion at TA Centre, Brighton, on June 1. Details from Ron Somers, 104A Lee Road, London SE3 9DE (0181-8526716). New contacts unable to attend will be included on newsletter mailing list.

Armourers and Artificers Weapon: Armourers' Association reunion to be held at Victory Ser-

vices Club, London, on June 22. Details from Chris Dennis, 18 Willeslea Road, Bevere, Worcester WR3 7QP (01905 755334).

Royal Engineers Rowing Club: A 150th anniversary reunion will be held for past and present oarsmen and women at Henley Royal Regatta on July 5. Details from Lt Col J M Heron, 73 Engr Regt (V), TA Centre, Wigman Road, Bilborough, Notts NG8 3HY (0115 9293924; Mil 745 8302).

497 and 496 Squadrons, Royal Marines: Combined reunion, August 31 at Royal Fleet Club, Plymouth. Details from Peter Wye, Pet-a-Pat, 349 Old Road, Clacton-on-Sea, Essex CO15 3RQ (01255 437484).

R Company Boys, R Signals (pre-1942): Reunion planned in London in September. Ex-members asked to contact John

Dadswell (1939-42) on 01993 771755.

DMED, Ludgershall: Second reunion at Ludgershall, Andover, on September 13-14 for all who trained there, including TA, National Service and civilian staff. Details from C Mason, Lanville, Grange Road, Ellesmere, Shropshire SY12 9DQ (01691 622300).

Staffordshire Regiment: Annual reunion on September 14 at Whittington Barracks, Lichfield. Details from RHQ, The Staffordshire Regiment, Whittington Barracks, Lichfield, Staffs WS14 9PY (send sae).

219 Signal Squadron (Tripoli), 245 Signal Squadron (Benghazi), 235 Signal Squadron (Malta), 1959-65: Reunion planned September 27-28 in the Midlands. Contact R F Andrews, Moorings, 7 The Heath, South Tankerton, Whitstable, Kent CT5 3HJ.

SEARCHLINE

5384821 Pte F Hockley: Maj (Retd) J Jeans, of Unit 1, 88 Milson Road, Cremorne Point, NSW 2090, Australia would like to hear from anyone who has and would be prepared to part with a home video of the BBC television series *In the Company of Men*, which has not been released on video commercially.

Barbara M Culleton wishes to hear from **headquarters staff, HQ Auxiliary Units (September 1941-May 1942)**. Replies to her at 5 Wrestwood Close, Bexhill on Sea, East Sussex TN40 2LW.

DATES

April

13-14: British Army (Germany) show jumping and hunter trial two-day event, Moosdorf, sponsored by 1 QDG.

21: Surrey Military Collectors Society militaria fair, Donyngs Recreation Centre, Linkfield Lane, Redhill, Surrey.

May

3-5: Rheindahlen Show.

4-6: Aldershot Show.

25-27: Rhine Army Summer Show, Paderborn.

25-27: Overlord 96 military vehicle rally, Southsea, Hants.

11: RBL 75th anniversary Big Band dance, Dunstable (tickets 01582 603326).

11-12: International military culinary competition, St Omer Barracks, Aldershot, 1000.

June

5-6: Floodlit Beating Retreat by massed bands of Household Division, Horse Guards, 2130.

15: Queen's Birthday Parade, Horse Guards. Colour trooped by 1 IG (rehearsals June 1 and 8).

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

July

5: RE Rowing Club 150th anniversary row-past and reunion, Royal Henley.

9-20: Royal Tournament.

21: Oxon-Bucks RBL gala day, Stonor Park nr Henley-on-Thames. Details on 01865 53151.

September

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

November

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

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

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MILITARIA

International Military Music Society, secretary Eileen Pearson, 76a Lawrence Road, Hove, W Sussex BN3 5QD.

Corps of Drums Society, secretary R J Davenport, 50 Station Road, Halstead, Sevenoaks, Kent TN14 7D.

Piobaireachd Society (for serious students of Highland bagpipe history), c/o The College of Piping, 16-24 Otago Street, Glasgow G12 8JH.



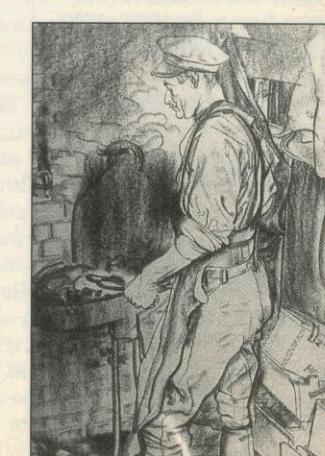
On target in France

Great War art on sale at NAM

THIS year's 80th anniversary of the Battle of the Somme is to be marked by an exhibition of First World War art at the National Army Museum, Chelsea, during the summer.

Besides the work of well-known artists such as Augustus John and Eric Kennington (whose charcoal study "Farrier at his forge" is reproduced, right), the exhibition includes pieces by many "unofficial" war artists, three of them women. Most were serving members of the British Army.

The exhibition runs from June 20 to July 14 and all exhibits will be for sale.



CLOSURES

Due to the withdrawal in June 1997, the **Flying Kukris RFC** is now in its final season. Anyone who has donated plaques, shields or photographs and wishes them to be returned should contact Sqn Ldr A C Birkett, Borneo Lines, Sek Kong Station, Hong Kong, BFPO 1 (00 852 24837163; fax 00 852 24881127).

George E Smith, 18 Violet Close, Cherry Hinton, Cambridge CB1 4YB, has the Military Medal of 44144 Gnr (A/Bdr) A Neaverson RGA, Burton on Trent and wishes to return it to him or his family.

James Walters of Ontario, Canada, is trying to discover the whereabouts of, or family of,

For the record...

Chefs, not cooks

IN YOUR article "British Army a matchless asset" (Feb 19) the word "cook" was used. Although the article rightly praised the work we are doing in Bosnia we would like to point out that we are *chefs*. A chef is a professional and a cook an amateur. — **The chefs of RLC (Cat) Att 52 Bty, 26 Regt RA, Op Resolute, Glamoc, BFPO 538.**

• We were quoting the words of Armed Forces Minister Nicholas Soames, but we take the point. — **Editor.**

Our Spartan

IN YOUR article "D-Day in the Balkans" (Feb 5) you published a photograph described as being of a Light Dragoons Spartan belonging to 5 Troop. It belonged in fact to Recce Troop, 2 HQ Squadron, 32 Engineer Regiment. A small point but I felt it necessary to put the record straight. — **LCpl D Waller, 2 HQ Sqn, 32 Engr Regt, Op Resolute, BFPO 551.**

Light Brigade

HAVING just seen your Aug 21, 1995 issue I notice that the review of Volume 6 of *A History of British Cavalry* by the Marquess of Anglesey states that the British Regular Cavalry was represented at the Charge of the Light Brigade at Balaclava by three regiments — 7th, 13th and 14th Hussars.

My regiment, the 11th Hussars, also took part — indeed, Lord Cardigan, an 11th Hussar, led the brigade on October 25, 1854. The others were 17th Lancers, the 1st The King's Dragoon Guards, and, making up the brigade, the 13th Hussars. — **J W Bell, Middlesbrough, Cleveland.**

• Our information is that the 13th Light Dragoons and 17th Lancers were in the front line, the 11th Hussars and 4th Light Dragoons in the second and the 8th Hussars in the third. — **Editor.**

I READ with absolute amazement of the amount of money — £6,000 — saved by Cpl Darren Barton during a six-month tour in Northern Ireland (*Soldier*, Feb 19).

My pay for the **whole** of the Second World War was approximately £500. When I was called up to the Lancashire Fusiliers I was paid the sum of 14 shillings a week, from which was deducted seven shillings to be paid to my mother, and which eventually increased to four shillings

Can I re-enlist?

(20p) a day. After service in the Middle East and Normandy I returned to civvy street with a gratuity of £84. I believe the going rate now is about £50,000 for pregnant Servicewomen and other claimants.

If the Army is now recruiting again would *Soldier* please inform me where to apply for enlistment. — **Frank Dawber, Hyde, Cheshire.**

• Three points arise from this interesting comparison. 1, Has inflation been taken into account? 2, Average compensation (not gratuity) paid to 342 officers discharged between 1978 and 1990 because of pregnancy stood at £16,678 on February 5 this year. 3, The Army has never stopped recruiting — 15,000 entrants are needed in more than 100 trades every year (see Pages 20-21). Sadly, though his skill and experience would prove invaluable, Mr Dawber is probably over age! — **Editor.**

The 'folly' of social engineering and PC

surprisingly, by naval wives before females were allowed to serve in HM warships.

Management of the Army and Royal Air Force suffers similar disciplinary and moral difficulties.

The *Soldier* interview with the Adjutant General, Gen Sir Michael Rose (March 4) has caused me some anxiety. Our nation's legal system, our law and order, education, even our Armed Forces are, among other cherished institutions, based on Judaeo-Christian ethics.

Those of us who subjected ourselves to the discipline of learning a craft are well aware of the difference between theory and practice. A professional trainer early in his or her career learns the unpalatable truth, the Shakespearian wisdom: "You cannot make a silk purse out of a sow's ear".

The Royal Navy has discovered the lesson known since the Garden of Eden — that healthy men are attracted to healthy women, ensuring the continuance of the species. The hierarchy was warned of this, not

folly, as has political correctness.

One sincerely hopes and prays that our Armed Forces will remain a bastion of stability, high standards imbued with common sense, the latter quality not always being apparent in the products of social science courses. — **C T Wareing (retired senior training adviser, management, supervisory and safety), Redditch, Worcestershire.**

The *Birmingham Post* (Jan 4) contained on its front page a picture of a battered slip of a girl police officer, the victim of violence. The plain fact remains that women are not suitable for front-line or "rough-house" policing duties.

Those of us who subjected ourselves to the discipline of learning a craft are well aware of the difference between theory and practice. A professional trainer early in his or her career learns the unpalatable truth, the Shakespearian wisdom: "You cannot make a silk purse out of a sow's ear".

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SOLDIER COMPETITION RESULT

In the February 5 issue of **SOLDIER** we tested your knowledge on Britain's Modern Army. Despite a large response, only one reader answered all three questions correctly. Congratulations to Mr C Reeder, of Tadley, Hants, who wins a copy of Terry Gander's book, *Britain's Modern Army*.

For the others who took part, here are the correct answers:

- 1 What is the Army Air Corps' oldest aircraft type?
THE CHIPMUNK
- 2 Pick the odd one out: Scimitar, Sultan, Scorpion, Sabre, Spartan, Samaritan, Striker
SCORPION - it has been retired, all the others are in service
- 3 What cap badge do members of the former Royal Pioneer Corps wear now?
ROYAL LOGISTIC CORPS

Thank you to all those who took time to enter our competition. The remaining nine books will be donated to a Services charity.

ONCE again there is mention of a "King's Corporal" (Don Smith, Letters, Feb 19).

This has been debated time and time again and to my knowledge it has never been proven in records that a soldier was promoted such by the King on the battlefield.

What is more likely is that there was an NCO of the Household Cavalry on attachment with his unit — and he was kidded.

After the Battle of Waterloo the Prince Regent declared himself Colonel-in-Chief of The Life Guards (and RHGs) and for their distinction in the battle, sent a consignment of crowns to be worn above all the NCOs' stripes as an extra adornment for the occupation of Paris.

These crowns are still worn

BIRD'S EYE-VIEW



"This could be the opportunity we've been waiting for, Les."

Army recruiting campaign — see Pages 20-21

New slant on 'myth' of King's Corporal

today above all NCOs' stripes in The Life Guards (and Blues and Royals) and being Household Cavalry are more likely to be "King's Corporals". — **A W Rowlinson (ex-LG), Colwyn Bay, Clwyd.**

• This old chestnut just won't go away. A trawl through the Soldier archives reveals conflicting evidence. In 1885, we are told, LCpl A A Edwards, Rifle Brigade, was promoted Queen's Corporal by Lord Wolseley for gallantry weathering a storm in the garrison boat at Harwich.

However, in a Parliamentary answer in October 1944 the War Minister, Sir John Grigg, said there was no factual basis for any such rank and the Imperial War Museum has always concurred.

Soldier's 1983 correspondent Mr Kempshall, who probably came closest to providing living proof, took the view that King's Corporal was an appointment rather than a rank — and therefore transitory. — **Editor.**

I SAW THE KOHIMA EPITAPH UNVEILED

ALTHOUGH I cannot argue over your article regarding the origin of the Kohima Memorial epitaph, like Mr A J Andrews (March 18) I have to disagree about the wording.

Having served with the Dorsets through the battle I was one of the men who represented our battalion when the memorial was unveiled by Gen Slim in October 1944. All regiments were represented.

The original memorial bore the words: "When you go home/Tell them of us and say/For your tomorrow/We gave our today".

Good luck to your magazine. It keeps us old soldiers in touch. — **B J Cuttle, Poole, Dorset.**

Korean ribbon anomaly

ON MAY 8, 1951, the President of the United States conferred the Presidential Unit Citation on 1st Glosters and C Tp 170 Ind Mortar Bty RA for their outstanding action on the Imjin River, Korea.

Eight months earlier, on September 29, 1950, the President of the Republic of Korea awarded the ROK Presidential Unit Citation to all units of 27 British Infantry Brigade for holding a critical sector on the Nakdong River, and for the subsequent offensive breakout from the river line.

Today all serving members of the successors to 1 Glos (1 RGBW) and of 25/170 (Imjin) Bty RA are rightly permitted to wear the US Citation emblem.

However, wearing of the South Korean Citation ribbon, by those so entitled, was disallowed.

Today only the Argylls remain of the 27 Bde sent to Korea. I believe today's Jocks would be delighted and proud to wear the emblem of the citation awarded to their predecessors.

I realise that approval for wearing collectively-earned foreign insignia is a rarity in this country, but I fail to understand why one received approval while the other did not.

Maybe Whitehall could explain this anomaly. Or, as in the quest for a Suez GSM, would it be stated that the original government papers on the subject cannot be traced? — **Jim Jacobs, Fareham, Hants.**

Stirring it up

PART of Ron Bishop's letter (Feb 5) has caused a lot of arguments between me and my mates.

Is he saying that the Royal British Legion rejected support for a proper medal for Suez 1951-54 because they were getting a rake-off from buckshee gongs and advertisements? That is the way I read it.

If this is true it might be better left unsaid. — **Len Oliver, Colchester, Essex.**

Da Vinci, de Mole, and the savage rabbits

NOW largely taken for granted, armoured fighting vehicles have played an important, sometimes crucial, role in many 20th-century conflicts.

The tank was a British-originated weapon, this nation's forces being the first to develop and use it in action. Furthermore, the British were world leaders in mechanised warfare until the early 1930s when financial stringency caused the loss of this leadership.

The Light Tank Mark VI was the only type of tank ready for production when rearmament started in 1936. By the outbreak of the Second World War it was obsolescent.

In the densely-written *Men, Ideas and Tanks*, J P Harris surveys the history of British tank philosophy and development to 1939 and discusses the individuals who influenced the production, advancement and exploitation of the vehicles.

He presents new interpretations of popularly-held conceptions and draws from hitherto unexplored primary sources.

The early armoured vehicles were wheeled (there was a British patent for a steam-powered one in 1855, pre-dated by four centuries by Da Vinci's "secure and covered chariots"). A pre-First World War attempt at a tracked military vehicle was offered to the British War Office by Australian Lancelot de Mole in 1912, but shelved.

Post-war claims and counter-claims as to who first put forward the concept of the tank led to a legal action between H G Wells, whose story *The Land Ironclads* was published in 1903, and Col Ernest Swinton, who had been credited as the prime mover of the adoption of the tank in the *Morning Post* of September 21, 1916.

The author contends that Swinton's role in the tank's development was relatively

ment that by September 15 1916, some 30 tanks, out of 60 sent to France, were ready for the weapon's first action in the Battle of Flers-Courcelette on the Somme. By November 20 1917 more than 300 tanks were leading five infantry divisions of Third Army's III and IV Corps into the attack at Cambrai.

Some ambitious plans for the use of tanks were proposed for the Western Front. One, prompted by the German offensive of 1918, was for a proportion of the tank force to lie up in concealed positions and to emerge "like Savage Rabbits from their holes" to make immediate counter-attacks.

The "Savage Rabbits" concept was attributed to Lt Gen Ivor Maxse, commander of XVIII Corps, generally regarded by historians as one of the BEF's leading tactical thinkers. The author tells us that it seems only a very small proportion of the available tank force was used in this way.

The idea was considered impractical but at a dinner party given by the Duke of Westminster on February 15, 1915, the idea was revived and put to Winston Churchill, then First Lord of the Admiralty, who set up the Admiralty Landships Committee.

It was a remarkable achieve-

ment abandoned because of financial restrictions. The story of British armour has been told many times and in many ways, ranging from vivid personalised accounts by participants to objective histories.

This book, however, is different in that it discusses the innovative aspects, not so much in technical detail as in the way the tank has influenced military thinking and how politicians have regarded it as something of a tool to be picked up when expediency dictates or shelved when economies appear to have greater priority. – JBM

High life amid the horror at Little Bloomsbury-on-Kwai

WE COULD be forgiven for imagining that the flood of reminiscences from ex-PoWs on the Railway of Death in Thailand must surely have dried up by now. But not so, as Stephen Alexander's book bears witness.

In 1939 the then 21-year-old undergraduate was reading medicine at Peterhouse (Cambridge). On the declaration of war he immediately volunteered and was commissioned second lieutenant in 135 Battery (Hertfordshire Yeomanry)

RA. His unit arrived in Singapore just three weeks before the humiliating surrender.

Well-educated and widely read, Alexander takes a line markedly different from the run-of-the-mill accounts of the horrors of the jungle camps.

He had his share of those horrors – beatings-up, malaria, dysentery, jungle ulcers, malnutrition, slavery with pick and shovel on the railway track.

But he does not focus on these all-too-familiar sufferings, instead devoting pages to

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intellectual debates among the coterie of like-minded pals – "Little Bloomsbury-on-Kwai" as he terms them.

They talked interminably, he writes, of politics, religion, literature and especially poetry. He and his pals managed to scribble their own efforts, some revealing real talent, others merely doggerel, all of

which are faithfully reproduced throughout the book.

Since all written material was strictly tabooed by the Japs on pain of beatings, they must have gone to great lengths to conceal them.

Surviving ex-prisoners (of whom this reviewer is one) would have welcomed more of the nitty-gritty of those dark days and a little less of poetry and the rest.

As might be expected from such an intellectual type, his writing displays considerable

literary talent, which is why it differs from most of the corpus of Kwai memoirs.

Fifty years later the author and his wife revisited the scenes of his incarceration.

This gave him the inspiration for the odd title of the book. He does not acknowledge it, but this is a parody of Edmund Spenser's *Sweet Thames run softly till I end my song*. He visualises (in verse) Sweet Kwai running softly past the graves of those who did not come home. – JMB



The official illustrated history of the Cambridge Military Hospital, Aldershot, by Anne Pitcher was launched by the Director General Army Medical Services, Maj Gen Brian Mayes (right), at the Royal Army Medical Corps Historical Museum, Keogh Barracks. On the left is Brig Martin Daly, last CO of the hospital.

Anne (centre) worked at the CMH for 30 years as a bedside tutor in the children's ward.

Sadly the Cambridge is now consigned to history, but this illustrated work, which contains many *Soldier* photographs, is a worthy memorial to its important role as part of both the civilian and military communities since 1879.

The Cambridge sent staff to almost every campaign from the Boer War to the Gulf War. Many stories are recalled in the 40 pages of this A4 size, softback booklet; the heroism of RAMC personnel

Photographs capture CMH's historic role

nel and nursing sisters in South Africa at the turn of the century; the pioneering work in plastic surgery during the First World War; the secret treatment of Hitler's deputy, Hess; how D-Day casualties were in the CMH within 12 hours of the landings; the 23,000 accident and emergency patients treated in 1994; the 35,000-signature petition to save the Cambridge.

Aldershot will be poorer for its loss.

● Copies of the booklet, price £5, are available from the RAMC Historical Museum, Keogh Barracks, Ash Vale, Aldershot, Hants GU12 5RQ the trust fund of which will benefit from all royalties.

RAF stage and screen disc is best for years

Music/Rodney Bashford

Stage to Screen. Band of the Royal Air Force Regiment. Conductor: Flt Lt D W Compton. Bandleader CD BNA 5122 £12.00, cassette £7.60 as above.

this particular programme which includes John Barry's *Out of Africa*, the fine atmospheric music for *Miss Saigon* which deserves more recognition from service bands, *Gabriel's Oboe* from the film *The Mission*, Walton's music for *The Battle of Britain*, and John Williams again with themes from *Star Wars* and *Superman*.

The small screen, as well as *Soldier Soldier*, gives us *The Brittas Empire* and that sadly nostalgic little tune which follows those three old reprobates living out their autumn in *Last of the Summer Wine*.

The European Song Contest of 1994 is memorable only for an electrifying display by the Irish troupe in *Riverdance*. Much of the atmosphere is caught in the conductor's arrangement for the band.

Barrie Hingley's march *Ad Astra* refers to the RAF motto of course, and welcome at any time. But can I welcome yet another *633 Squadron and Dam Busters March*? Because of the quality of the remainder of the music I will suffer gladly.

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Sappers in the South

THREE Royal Engineers – Maj Andrew Mills, LCpl Martin Silk and Spr Paul Hirst – are back on dry land after successfully completing an unusual exercise: the recovery of a 35ft yacht from South Georgia to Cape Town.

The yacht, *Wild Flower*, had been abandoned in Grytviken in April 1994 by her owner, Australian Anne Lise Guy, after storm damage had forced her to give up her attempt to sail solo around Antarctica.

Maj Mills – based at RHQ RE in Kent – received a letter from friends in South Georgia asking if he knew anyone who might be able to help with the recovery.

"The project was irresistible," he said, "but it was only after a couple of months that I dared to raise the idea with the two crew. I had sailed with LCpl Silk in two Fastnet campaigns, and Paul had crewed with us on the corps yacht *Right Royal*, so I knew them both to have the skills and character for the task."

Maj Mills inspected the yacht in November and compiled a list of the equipment needed to repair her. The mainsail was returned to the UK for attention and the Fitter HVAC course in Brompton made a new gas system.

By early December, all the gear, bought at the owner's expense, had been dispatched to the Falklands, the trio (all members of the RE Yacht Club in Chatham) flew south and Exercise Southern Ocean was under way.

"We had a great welcome from the



In control: LCpl Martin Silk deep in the Southern Ocean



Back on terra firma: Spr Paul Hirst, LCpl Martin Silk and Maj Andrew Mills

sapper detachment on South Georgia," said Maj Mills. "While the doc, Jeremy Black, trained us up as paramedics, Capt Nigel Williams's lads, along with the divers from HMS *Endurance*, asked to help with the rebuild of *Wild Flower*, and we soon had an impressive gang of tradesmen available at a moment's notice."



Wild Flower, subject of the exercise, moored at Grytviken

LCpl Silk, 36 Engineer Regiment, who, as mate and bos'n, found himself responsible for most of the hardware, discovered that, after sailing halfway round Antarctica and spending 18 months alongside in Grytviken, the yacht needed a great deal of attention.

"While Maj Mills went to work on the rig and Paul fixed up the accommodation, gas system and sails, I tackled the engine and electrical and safety equipment," he said.

"There was no safety apparatus, as most of it had been washed away during the voyage from Australia, so we had to fit a life raft, lights, flares and satellite beacon, and straighten out the deck rails which were badly buckled."

Eventually, after 400 hours' work, the three set sail.

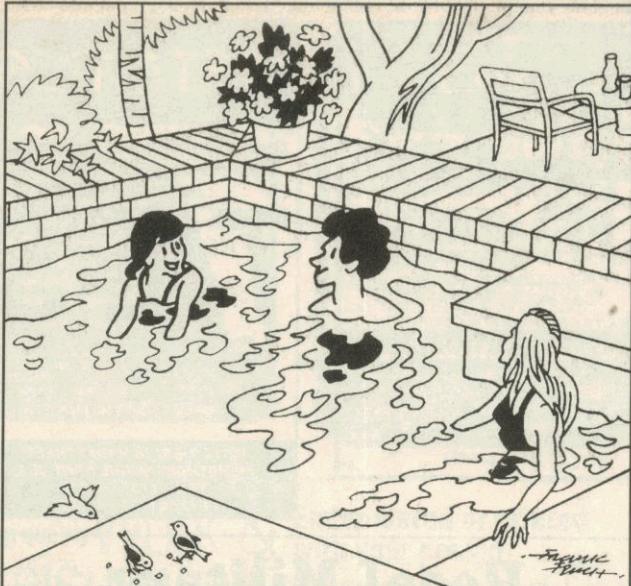
Spr Hirst, from 1 RSME Regt, said: "Slipping out of Grytviken, we were truly on our own. The first week was expected to be cold and windy, and we were not disappointed. Sleep was impossible because of the violent motion, and cooking was also difficult."

"Once we passed out of the Roaring Forties, the weather improved and it was possible to have a wash and repair equipment."

Soon, however, a howling easterly gale brewed up and waves crashed aboard. One column of water, as high as the mast, swept Spr Hirst from the helm.

Wild Flower eventually arrived in Cape Town 24 days and 3,600 miles after leaving Grytviken, allowing a delighted Anne Lise Guy to continue her voyage, with crew, to Australia.

"The three of us thank all those from across the corps who helped out, particularly the lads of 34 Field Squadron and the South Georgia detachment, not forgetting the Royal Signals, the RAF and the Royal Navy," said Maj Mills.



COMPETITION 633

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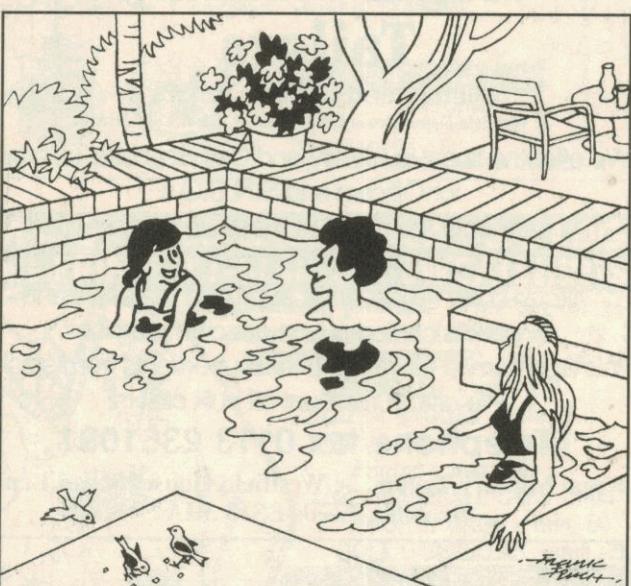
These pictures are from our Frank Finch cartoon archives. Find ten differences in detail and you could be £50 richer or win a new book. Circle the differences in the bottom picture, cut out the whole panel, add your name and address and send to HOAY 633, Soldier, Ordnance Road, Aldershot GU11 2DU by April 19. Do not include anything else in your

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

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Competition No 630 (Feb 19): Congratulations to Capt C Coull, Training Regiment and Depot RLC, The Princess Royal Barracks, Deepcut, Surrey, who wins £50. Book prizes go to runners-up Mr John Bushell, of Chesham, Bucks, and LCpl Alfred Everist, B Squadron, The Light Dragoons, BFPO 30.

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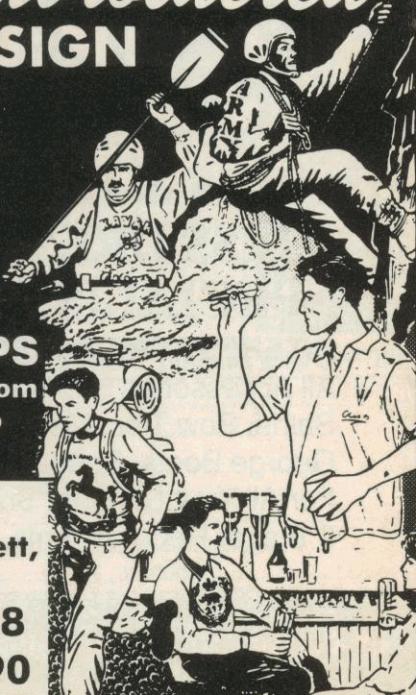
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Tracy, 32, 5'3", red hair and brown eyes. Loves playing unusual sports, cinema, pubs, clubs, music and horror books/films. Single mum with sense of adventure, seeking pen pals aged 28-36. Genuine replies only. **P653**

Ruth, 25, 5'10", brown hair and blue eyes. Enjoys swimming, walking and socialising. Seeking non smoking pen pals aged 25-30. **P654**

Heidi, 20, 5'4", long brown hair and brown eyes. Enjoys clubbing, pubs, music, especially swingbeat, hardcore and jungle. Seeking pen pals aged 19-25, must be a good laugh. Please send a photo if possible. **P655**

Sally, 36, 5'5", blonde hair, brown eyes, divorced, GSOH, very attractive, bubbly personality. Interests include reading, theatre, swimming, wining/dining, meeting new and interesting people. Seeking pen pals aged 40-52. **P656**

Sharon & Jackie, 27 & 31. We both enjoy walking/hiking, going on holiday, the occasional night out, spending time with our families and writing and receiving letters. Seeking pen pals aged 27-35. **P657**

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Donna, 5'8", auburn hair and Clare, 5'7", blonde hair. Interests include horses, eating out, social events and clubs. Seeking pen pals aged 20 plus, with GSOH. Photo appreciated, all replies answered. **P661**

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D8

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D3

ARMY SPORTS LOTTERY RESULTS

MARCH 2, 1996

First prize (19 goals, £2,500): CSgt A Goy,
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Three-way tie for second prize (18 goals,
£833.33 each): Sgt M Caldwell, ITC
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15-way tie for fifth prize (17 goals, £66.67
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Dykes, Lowland Band, BFPO 36; Cpl A S
Gilbert, 9 R Irish, BFPO 808; Sgt G
Hargate-Brown, 11 Signal Regt,
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MARCH 9, 1996

Four-way tie for first prize (15 goals, £1,250
each): WO1 C A Brown, Dover &
Shorncliffe Admin Unit; LBdr S M Hayzen-
Smith, 12 Regt RA, BFPO 16; Sgt R W
Stanley, RSA, Larkhill; Sgt S M Thorndyke,
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D4

D3

D3

Army warm up at Kingsholm with 70-point thriller

Gloucester 39, Army 31

THE ARMY eventually gave their supporters plenty to cheer about in a thrilling game of rugby at Gloucester, writes **Roger Thompson**.

The match, the first between the two clubs since 1977, was arranged to provide a severe test for the Army in the run-up to the Inter-Service championship at Twickenham.

Gloucester fielded a very strong side including full and A internationals who featured prominently in a high-scoring game.

Gloucester were 25-5 up at half time, mainly through penalties, but the Army gave a hint of their mood when Capt Howard Graham (22 Regt RA) finished off a sustained move by forwards and backs.

Lt Paul Knowles, in excellent form, was fed swift rucked ball by Capt Simon Pinder (1 DWR) and split the Gloucester defence with searing acceleration. Fast hands from Lt Charlie Waggett (QDG) found Graham on the left wing and he squeezed in at the corner.

Seven minutes after the interval aggressive work in contact by the Army back row, growing in confidence and faster to the break down,

Millfield run ragged

Combined Services U-21 71, Millfield OB 10

COMBINED Services U-21 put on a display of running rugby against Millfield Old Boys that reminded spectators how import style can be when winning, writes **Tom Wye**.

With only one more game before the big one against England Students at Twickenham on March 30, the final score of 71-10 was just the confidence boost the team needed.

Eleven tries were run in by Services, two of them by the dynamic Fus Kemble. Spr Green and Rfn Taylor also got two each, Spr Griffith being

enabled the ball to reach Lt Brian Johnson who sliced through a fragmented defence to score close to the posts. Knowles converted.

Six minutes later Lt Rob Abernethy (RGR) entered the attack outside the constantly improving Cpl Andy Sanger (1 RSME) and sprinted in to close the gap to 25-17.

Although Gloucester scored an excellent try close to the posts, the Army continued to attack from all parts of Kingsholm.

The pack was at last playing corporately hard, and sensibly, in the dungeons of ruck and maul while responding to the tenacious Simon Pinder's exhortations.

This combination proved effective and, thanks to merciful passing by Cpl Giles Powell (QDG), Spr Rob Hunter (3 RSME) took a straight ball at full throttle to clatter over at the posts. Knowles converted.

Graham came in off his left foot to score his second, and with Knowles again adding the conversion, the final score was 39-31.

Both teams left the field to a warm reception. It was an exceptional game of thrilling

Clay shooters approved

CLAY pigeon shooting has been recognised by the Army Sport Control Board as an official sport, which means competitions can be arranged on a more regular basis and courses subsidised.

Cfn Smith, attached to the Scots Guards, played well and did his selection prospects the world of good.

This was a sound display of running rugby and the selectors will have been pleased with both the style and the spirit of the team. Inter-Service rivalry has gelled into a formidable unit.



Airmen prepare for enduro campaign

Above: Riders and a support team from Wattisham-based 4 Regiment AAC will be contesting the British enduro championships for long-distance, off-road competition motor cycles.

The riders, helicopter pilots Cpl Graham Wayman (left), Capt Richard Stubbs (third from right), and Sgt Phil Carr (right) will use Honda XR250Rs selected from a batch of 100 recently supplied to the MoD.

WO2 Wayne Buckley (second from right), 13 times the Army enduro champion, and ATpr Doug Pye (fourth from left), also serving at Wattisham, will be joining the 4 Regt team for some events in the eight-round enduro series.

Ian's yeoman effort

Left: Tpr Ian Proudfoot of the Croydon-based Kent and Sharpshooters Yeomanry took part in one of Europe's toughest motor cycle endurance events, the Ronde de Touquet in Normandy.

More than 800 riders tackled the three-hour race over a 16.5-mile course on the deep sands of Le Touquet beach.

Despite very cold weather, more than 300,000 spectators lined the track to watch the 21st running of the race.

Olsson leads bob defence

THERE were thrills, spills and a close finish at the British Inter-Service bobsleigh championships at Lillehammer in Norway before the Army prevailed for a second successive year.

Army, Royal Navy and Royal Air Force entered four two-man bobs and the competition was decided by the combined timings of the best three

The two men have already won the British national title

Winger Smith sets RAF back on their heels

Royal Air Force 0, Army 2

THAT old cliché "a game of two halves" accurately summed up the 1996 Carrington Cup clash between the Army and the Royal Air Force at RAX Uxbridge, writes **Derrick Bly**.

The airmen played the best football in the first 45 minutes and created numerous chances that sweeper SSgt Kevin Parkins and goalkeeper SSgt Nigel Wiscombe did well to counter.

In the 32nd minute the RAF did get the ball into the Army net, only for an offside flag to cancel the effort.

A clear chance from six yards just before the interval was headed straight into Wiscombe's grateful arms.

Coach QMSI Pat Russell replaced the out-of-form Sgt Paul Murgatroyd with Cpl Shane Smith who made all the difference in the second half. His cultured left wing play and ability to beat his marker caused immediate anxiety in the RAF defence.

The deadlock was broken in the 69th minute when a corner by SSgt Alan Higgins reached Smith who blasted a tremendous shot in through a crowd of players.

Five minutes later the Army went further ahead when LSgt Paul Fagin found LBdr Gary Tootill and his superb cross-field pass put LCpl Jim Strouts clear to score with an inch-perfect right-foot shot.

Cpl Lee Innes was unlucky not to make it three in the closing minutes when his shot cannoned off a post.

Youths take title for fifth season

Army Youth 3, RN Youth 0

THE ARMY youth football team won the Inter-Service trophy for the fifth consecutive year with a 3-0 win over the Royal Navy at Portsmouth.

Despite a frantic pace it soon became clear the Army were the more organised, but it was a surprise that there was no score before half-time.

Spr Robert Dennett (3 RSME) and Pte McIlvouge (1 Cheshire) missed badly after Sig Ginge Watt and Sig John Galliford (both from AA Coll Harrogate) had made chances.

But seven second-half minutes produced three goals as the Army hit a purple patch which decided the match. Pte Steve Kerr (9 Supply) released McIlvouge to score.

Then Pte Gaz Maskil (27 Regt) let in Galliford who was brought down in the area. Galliford converted the resulting penalty before Dennett hit the third with an outstanding drive from 25 yards out.

Combined Services Youth 0, FA Colts 7

A Combined Services Youth team which included nine Army footballers, was soundly beaten at Portsmouth by a Football Association Colts side made up of youth players from mainly London's league clubs.

The FA XI took the lead through Jamie Evans of Spurs in the 11th minute of a game played in ideal conditions.

But the FA Colts were three up by half time and completed the rout with four more after the break.

Holmes and Tole lead the way, but the RAF gain revenge

THERE was an epic battle for the Royal Navy-hosted Inter-Service cross country championship at Plymouth as the Royal Air Force pulled out all the stops to regain the senior men's title, writes Eric Turner.

Last year the Army surprised the airmen, ending an RAF stranglehold that had seen them win 25 of the previous 26 races.

Sgt Kelly Holmes led the Army women's team to victory over a fast, energy-sapping course, and rising star Highlander Jimmy Tole did the same for the Army juniors. But the senior men lost a desperately close race by just four points and the veterans were pushed back into third place.

Kelly Holmes delayed a warm weather training trip to South Africa, part of her Olympic preparation, to compete, and, with the in-form Sgt Sue Sharp and SSgt Mel Bradley, made a formidable team.

Holmes won easily, despite a fall, and Sharp finished an excellent second. The result was a foregone conclusion as Army runners packed into six of the top nine places. Bradley was fourth, Pte Niki Hawkins fifth, Pte Alison Armstrong sixth and Pte Lisa Yates ninth.

Hldr Tole, who won the Army junior title in February while finishing an amazing sixth in the senior race, took complete control at Plymouth, leading Army runners into the first five positions. Pte Mick Lister was second and Pte Tomo Thomas (Princess Marina Coll) third.

Five of the Army juniors were selected for the annual Combined Services match



Leaders in the Inter-Corps cross country race at Deepcut. The front three (left to right) are winner Cpl Alan Shepherd (61), WO2 Ray Keeney (3), who was fourth, and runner-up Bdr Barry Stoddart (81)

against the ECCU, British Universities and Polytechs, also at Plymouth, with Tole finishing third.

The Army veterans, champions for the past two years, missed three of their best runners and had to settle for third behind the RAF and Navy.

SSgt John Lennon was first home for the Army in seventh place.

In the senior race, Scottish international Lt Cdr Chris Robison (RN) and Sgt Mark

Nolan wins GB recognition

LCPL David Nolan (1 RRF) has progressed in just 2½ years from a unit-level 400m runner to full Great Britain international status.

He made his debut during the GB v France indoor international in Glasgow, running a leg in the 4 x 400 relay. With the outcome of the match hinging on the relay,

the squad held on for a narrow win to give Britain overall victory.

● Territorial Army postie WO2

John Fidler (86 PC Regt RLC)

won the national 3,000m 45 age

group title at the British indoor

veterans championships in Birm-

ingham. Grantham-based Fidler

won in 9min 13sec.

Fusilier ready for Olympic return

WREXHAM-based sprinter Marcel Gray, a part-time soldier serving with the 3rd Battalion, The Royal Welch Fusiliers, is hoping to make the British Olympic team in Atlanta.

It would not be his first experience of athletics at that level. At Los Angeles in 1984 he ran

Loggies dominate Deepcut circuit

A CHALLENGING but popular cross country circuit faced nine men's and six women's teams at the fifth Inter-Corps cross country championships hosted by Training Regiment and Depot RLC, writes Steve Lonn.

SSgt Mel Bradley (AMS) dominated the women's race, leading throughout. Coached by former Army athlete Bill Bailey, Bradley is in the form of her life and deserves her selection to run in the British Athletics Federation world cross country trials, another stepping stone on the way to a serious attempt to break the 2hr 50min barrier in the London Marathon on April 21.

A superb RLC team retained the title when their four scorers finished in the top six. The Royal Signals finished second, nine points ahead of the AGC.

In the men's race, Cpl Alan Shepherd (AMS) coasted to his third consecutive victory in this event. Having just won the Army title by a huge 43-second margin, he is going from strength to strength.

Bdr Barry Stoddart (RA) held off a strong challenge from SSgt Derek Graham (REME), who went from fifth in the final 300m to within a vest's thickness of silver.

RLC strength in depth again shone through as all eight scoring runners finished in the top 20, allowing the loggies to retain both men's and women's Inter-Corps trophies.

The Infantry, winners in 1994, packed well to hold off a resurgent APTC.

With the next venue going to the victors, all will be back at Deepcut in 12 month's time.

for Jamaica, winning a silver medal in their 4 x 100m relay team.

Born in Croydon, Fus Gray (see picture in opposite page) moved to the Caribbean with his parents when he was ten and still holds the Jamaican schools' 100m record of 10.29sec. He went on to gain a



Above – On the ball is former All Black international Rugby League captain Kevin Tamati, pictured with Army players and officials during the first level two ARL coaching course at Aldershot. Kevin is now with Super League club Warrington. On the right, wearing glasses, is Ted McNamara (RL staff coach) and behind him Sgt Tony Curtis, director of Army coaching.

Below – Great Britain sprinter Fus Marcel Gray (centre) of the 3rd Battalion, The Royal Welch Fusiliers, limbers up with fellow battalion athletes CSgt Keiran Hogan (left) and LCpl Ian Hansen. See story opposite.





SOLDIER



The guns of 52 (Niagara) Battery and 127 (Dragon) Battery of 26 Regiment RA group demonstrated their awesome power in front of Bosnian dignitaries when two troops of three guns each fired 30 rounds at the Glamoc ranges in central Bosnia. It was the first live-firing of AS90 in the Balkans.

Picture: Mark Owens