

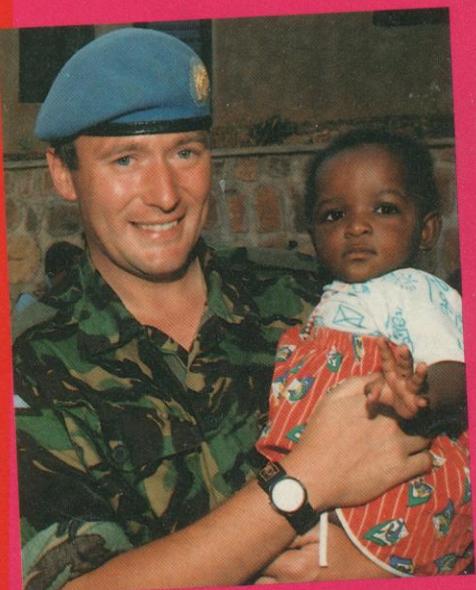
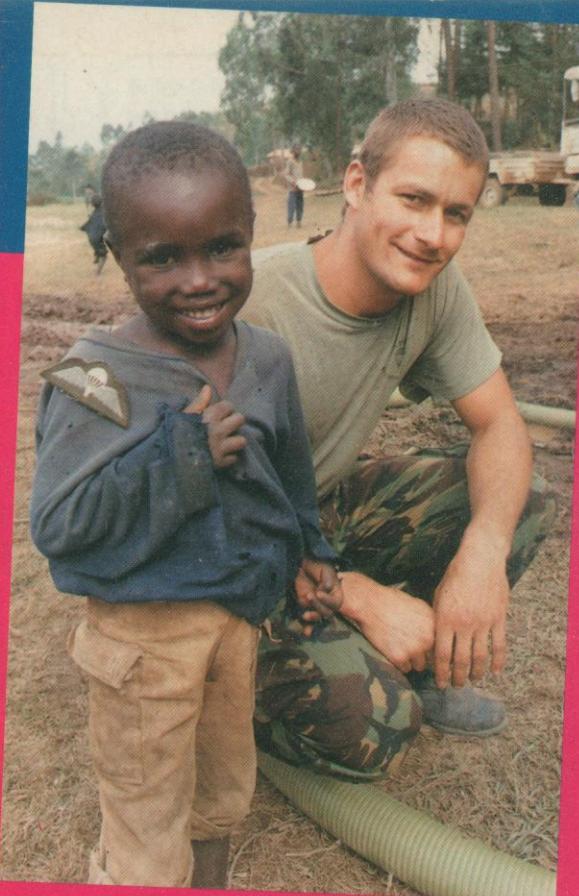
# ARMED FOR PEACE

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DECEMBER 12  
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**December 12, 1994**

**Vol 50/25**

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**FRONT COVER:** Our Christmas cover pays tribute to the countless British soldiers who have comforted suffering children in the world's trouble spots during 1994. And to those at home - supported by their friends and families - who have contributed material comforts for hard-pressed hospitals, orphanages and other good causes.

Pictures: Soldier photographic staff

● **MEDALS:** Gallantry awards and honours won in Bosnia, Northern Ireland and elsewhere appear in this issue. Also, how the Army Medal Office works. Pages 9, 12-13.

● **COLDSTREAM:** Soldiers of 1 Coldm Gds have been active, in unusual ways, in Holland and Munster. Pages 14-15.

● **ENTERTAINING, ARMY-STYLE:** As the

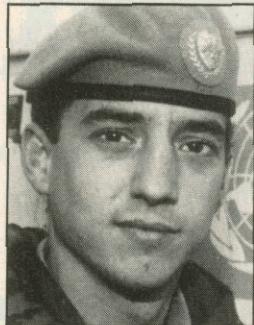
festive season nears we try (unseasonal) recipes from a new book of Army humour and five-star cooking. Pages 20-21.

● **GRAPPLE:** Crucial role of the loggies in Bosnia, RGBW in Gorazde. Pages 24-29.

● **REVIEWS:** Pre-Christmas section of book, video and music reviews, plus HOAY and a prize crossword. Pages 36-41.



Cpl King QCB



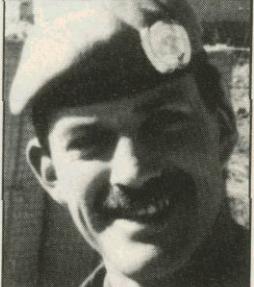
Capt Yorke QGM



Bomb disposal expert Capt Paul Bassett MC



LSgt Waterhouse MC



SSgt Pickford QGM

# Three win MCs for gallantry in Bosnia

THREE Military Crosses and two Queen's Gallantry Medals have been awarded to British soldiers for gallantry while serving with the United Nations Protection Force in former Yugoslavia.

Capt Paul Bassett RE, awarded an MC, had been tasked with the disposal of a mortar round and anti-tank rocket in Gornji Vakuf during intense fighting.

He was not prepared to put his men at risk in the exposed position and successfully destroyed the munitions himself under mortar and small arms fire, says a citation.

Capt Andreas Carleton-Smith RGJ frequently exposed himself to artillery and mortar fire while leading patrols to gain information from the warring factions. He too receives the Military Cross.

On one occasion, while

being shelled, he co-ordinated an attack by NATO aircraft which destroyed an artillery command post, a tank and two APCs threatening the lives of his men and civilians in Gorazde.

LSgt Darren Waterhouse of the Coldstream Guards also receives a Military Cross, only the second to be awarded to a non-commissioned soldier.

Following a devastating attack by Serb forces on a nearby bunker, he exposed himself to heavy small arms fire while giving covering fire as his crew reached relative safety. His speed of reaction, leadership and personal bravery achieved the safe withdrawal of his Scimitar and crew.

Sgt Robert Pickford RE won a Queen's Gallantry Medal for exceptional bravery while clearing an unmarked minefield around a trapped Scimitar. Under direct enemy fire, in

failing light and severe cold he crawled through mud to defuse mines by hand, saving the lives of fellow soldiers.

Acting Capt Robert Yorke, Coldm Gds, was evacuating a seriously injured woman in Krustica when he found his road blocked by Croat soldiers and mines. He cleared the mines himself while under sniper fire earning widespread acclaim and a QGM.

For the first time, citations for awards of the OBE and MBE were announced.

Recipients ranged from Sgt Murdoch Macrury RLC, chief chef at Gornji Vakuf, whose small team produced meals of very high standard even in the thick of the fighting, to Capt Kenneth Lindsay KRH, who commanded the British detachment in Sarajevo and was responsible for co-ordinating distribution of aid to

● Turn to Page 9

**Prize crossword - Page 41**

# NATOLOAN *Elect*

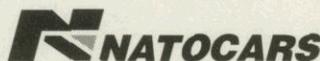
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# Grapple troops await Bihac outcome

HEIGHTENED tension in the Balkans following Muslim successes against Krajinan Serbs in Bihac and other areas did not immediately affect the 3,500 British troops deployed on Operation Grapple.

The fighting in Bihac, in north west Bosnia, was almost 200km from the nearest company of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Gloucestershire, Berkshire and Wiltshire Regiment at Bugojno, and the British sector HQ at Gornji Vakuf.

Combined Bosnian Muslim-Croat offensives against the towns of Donji Vakuf and Kupres were taking place nearer Bugojno but had not significantly affected areas patrolled by 1 RGBW.

The Muslim pocket of Bihac, a declared UN Safe Area, is defended by 1,300 poorly equipped Bangladeshi soldiers. With UN supplies blocked they were effectively hostages.

Central areas occupied by the 1st Battalion, The Royal Highland Fusiliers have been quieter since a Bosnian Muslim HVO and Croat BiH accord.

The Gorazde pocket, in eastern Bosnia, is defended partly by the remaining companies of 1 RGBW and a Ukrainian company. UN soldiers have been put on a high state of readiness after threats of retaliation against UNPROFOR.

British Sea Harrier jets were fired upon after British, American French and Dutch aircraft attacked an airfield used by the Serbs counter-attacking Bihac. UN aircraft destroyed the missile site.

Although the Krajinan Serb leader promised to restrain his troops the Serb threat of all-out war against the UN was being taken seriously.

Serbs forces temporarily detained about 400 UN troops, including 63 British soldiers travelling in separate convoys between Sarajevo and Gorazde. Lt Col Patrick Davidson-Houston, CO 1 RGBW, was among them. One group passed the time playing football with the Bosnian Serbs.

# Naafi spreads Christmas cheer

NAAFI staff have played a part in boosting the morale of British soldiers in Bosnia this Christmas by fulfilling a festive order from the British Logistic Battalion quartermaster.

On the menu were more than 8,000 frozen mince pies, 392 iced Christmas cakes and 600 puddings. Also requested were decorations and one suit, "Father Christmas, for the use

of". Under a separate United Kingdom Land Forces welfare order, dozens of board games are to be sent to forward bases in Bosnia.

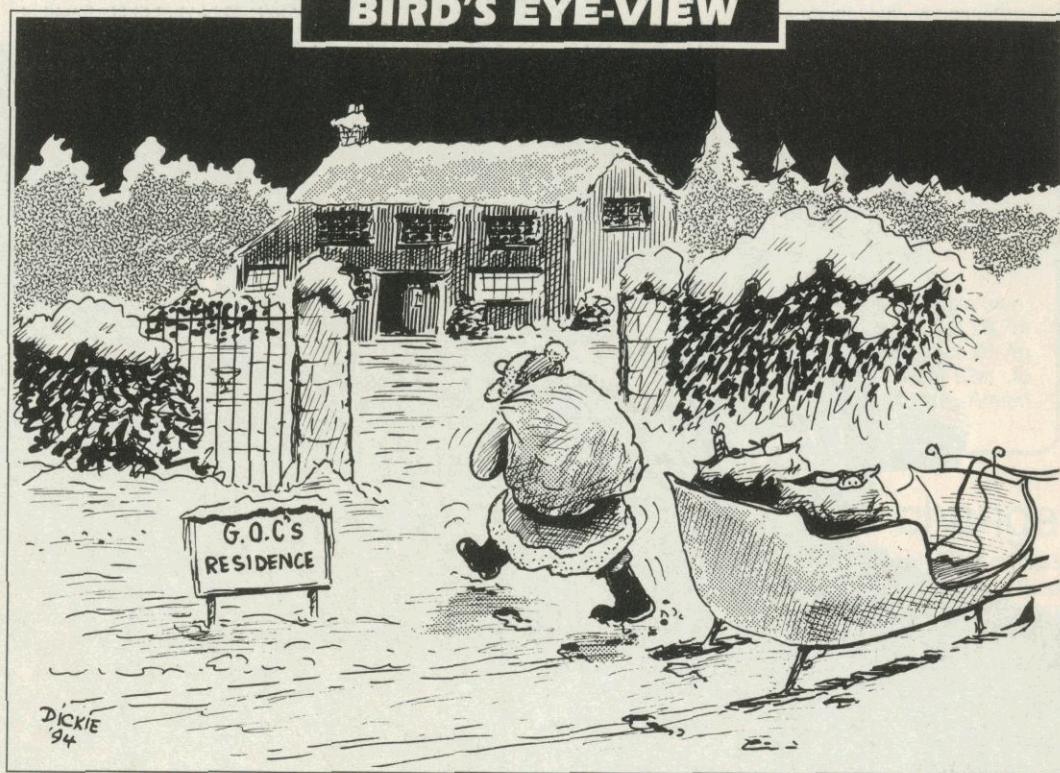
Draughts, dominoes and Monopoly were the most sought after. Least popular was Cluedo.

• The managing director of Naafi, Brig James Rucker, has been replaced as chief execu-

tive by Mr John Busby, former operations director. Brig Rucker asked to take early retirement following difficulties during the introduction of a new computerised centralised food ordering system.

Brig Rucker, a former Queen's Own Hussar, has been managing director for eight years and is due to have a hip operation in January.

## BIRD'S EYE-VIEW



# Gabriel troops return

BRITISH troops who were part of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Rwanda returned to Britain on November 21-22 after a three-month deployment on Operation Gabriel.

The contingent of about 600 was drawn mostly from 5 Airborne Brigade based at Aldershot and was built round 5 Airborne Combat Service Support (Logistic) Battalion and 23 Parachute Field Ambulance, supported by 30 Signal Regiment, 9 Parachute Squadron Royal Engineers, 29 Regiment Royal Logistic Corps and A Company of the 2nd Battalion, The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment, based in Canterbury.

Commanded by Lt Col Mike Wharmby, the contin-

gent provided logistic support to the UN operation in the crucial areas of vehicle maintenance and repair, medical care, bridge and road reconstruction, and transport of both supplies and refugees.

When the contingent deployed in August it had to deal with horrendous conditions and horrific sights. It treated more than 125,200 casualties, delivered 1,583 tonnes of aid and returned 19,561 refugees to their homes. 10 Parachute Workshop REME completed 801 repairs and an Explosive Ordnance Disposal detachment from 33 Engineer Regiment (EOD) completed 95 tasks.

After restoring vital services, the British handed over to a UN contractor, non govern-

mental organisations and aid agencies which will carry on their work.

Before leaving, the paras took part in several charity events, much of the proceeds of which will be given to Spr Robert Copsey who lost the lower part of his right leg when he stepped on a mine.

• During a visit to Rwanda, Chief of the Defence Staff Fd Marshal Sir Peter Inge bet WO2 Richard Brown that he could not build a bridge near Kigali in the limited time he had allowed himself.

WO2 Brown won the bet, and Lt Gen Sir Richard Swinburn, Commander UK Field Army, was ready with a bottle of champagne on behalf of CDS when WO2 Brown arrived at RAF Brize Norton.

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# MQ plan will mean 'better service'

DIFFICULTIES over the setting-up of a trust to manage married quarters have led to a new plan for a tri-Service housing executive to start operating from next April.

The new organisation is seen as an interim measure, with privatisation of the Defence MQ estate still the aim.

Announcing the change of plan in a Commons written answer on November 17, Defence Secretary Malcolm Rifkind said that when difficulties became apparent other options were considered for improving housing and management and transferring the MQs to the private sector.

NatWest Markets, the merchant bank, had been engaged to help develop private sector proposals to realise the "considerable latent value" in the estate for the benefit of Service families, taxpayers and investors.

"Meanwhile, we intend to improve the way in which our married quarters are managed," he said.

Mr Michael Robinson, who had been appointed as chief executive of the Housing Trust, had now

taken charge of planning the formation of the new tri-Service organisation.

"The Defence Housing Executive will assume responsibility for managing the estate and its maintenance on April 1, 1995, bringing together the various separate staffs.

"It will be able to maximise efficiencies and provide a better service to Service families occupying the houses."

Initially an MoD unit, the organisation would "move towards autonomous operation as a likely candidate for privatisation in due course ... I am confident that its establishment will work to the advantage of Service families." (See also Page 20).

Compensation payments to women dismissed from the Armed Forces on grounds of pregnancy so far totalled £32m and were likely to be less than £50m in all,



A summary of Defence topics from Westminster

Armed Forces Minister Nicholas Soames told the Commons on November 22.

"This has come at a bad time for the defence budget. We have done everything possible to keep the payments at a reasonable level in

the interests not only of the defence budget but of the taxpayer," he said.

• • •  
A draft Bill on the future of the Reserve Forces will be published for consultation early in the New Year, Mr Rifkind told MPs.

In the House of Lords Earl Attlee, referring to forthcoming restructuring of the Territorials, made a special plea for TA parachute battalions to retain their support weapons and argued against the recently-formed London Regiment being cut to three rifle companies.

The Earl, a serving REME TA officer whose wife commands a REME recovery company, also urged the MoD not to go ahead

with a proposal to downgrade Reserve decorations for fear of "serious damage to the morale of the TA".  
• • •

Forty patients have so far been examined by the military medical consultant physician appointed to investigate personnel who believe their health has been affected by Gulf War service, Armed Forces Minister Nicholas Soames told Dr David Clark in a written answer.

Dr Clark later asked if members of the Forces are permitted to refuse vaccinations or drugs in any theatre of war.

Mr Soames replied: "The administration of vaccines or the provision of drugs to Service personnel would normally be undertaken on the basis of informed consent. In certain circumstances, refusal to receive treatment could lead to disciplinary action."  
• • •

Tri-Service military music training was expected to cost £8.7m this financial year, "of which £6.7m accrues to Deal and £2m to Kneller Hall", said the Armed Forces Minister.

# Senior officers to go in fresh cuts

UP TO 80 brigadiers and colonels are to lose their jobs in the latest phase of the Army redundancy programme, Defence Secretary Malcolm Rifkind told the Commons on November 17.

Compulsory redundancies may be necessary if there are not enough volunteers from the 192 brigadiers and 453 colonels in the Army.

Up to 30 brigadiers and 45 colonels are sought from the Household Cavalry, Royal Armoured Corps, Royal Artillery, Royal Engineers (less survey and professionally

qualified engineers), Royal Signals, Infantry, Army Air Corps, Royal Logistic Corps, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers and Intelligence Corps.

Up to two brigadiers are sought from the Staff and Personnel Support, Provost, Educational and Training Services, and Army Legal Services branches of the Adjutant General's Corps and up to three

colonels from the Staff and Personnel Support, Provost, and Educational and Training Services branches.

Those who apply for redundancy successfully will be retired not later than November 1 next year while compulsory redundancies will leave not later than March 1, 1996.

Names of those selected will be announced between February 13 and March 13, 1995.

## Record number of graves traced

A RECORD of more than 30,000 individual casualties were traced to grave or memorial locations for members of the public last year, according to the annual report of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

The commission has completed the first phase of computerising its records of war dead by electronically scanning all 1,500 cemetery and memorial registers.

## Maze troops return to Germany

THE FIRST reduction of troops in Northern Ireland since the IRA cease-fire took effect on September 1 has been implemented.

About 150 men from 201 Signal Squadron who were guarding the Maze Prison have returned to their base at Herford in Germany.

Other troops from 39 Infantry Brigade are now guarding the Maze.

The withdrawal has been

made possible by a reduction in the number of requests to the Army from the Royal Ulster Constabulary for support within the Belfast area.

The unit will remain on standby and could be recalled from Germany if required.

Troop levels in Northern Ireland peaked in 1972 at nearly 30,000. Later, as the strength of the RUC rose and the number of terrorist incidents fell, the Army scaled

down its operations and reduced troop levels to 17,500.

Following an increase in violence in 1991, two additional major units deployed, taking the total to 19,000, including 1,400 from the Royal Navy and Royal Air Force.

The 18 battalions deployed in Northern Ireland before the cease-fire remain. About 18,500 Service personnel are currently based in the Province.

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and after you've been discharged. Last year we helped over 1,000 ex-Service families find accommodation. This year it'll be more. In a difficult time, it's one less thing to lose sleep over.

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# MIDs to recognise gallantry

CHANGES have been made to the terms of award for Mentions in Despatches and new Queen's Commendations have been introduced.

Mentions will in future be restricted to the recognition of gallantry in active operations against an enemy.

Existing Queen's Commendations for Brave Conduct and Valuable Service in the Air have been replaced by the Queen's Commendation for Bravery and the Queen's Commendation for Bravery in the Air.

A third commendation for "Valuable Service" has been created to recognise services which, while in an operational

theatre, are not performed in active operations against the enemy.

The changes have been introduced following last year's review of gallantry awards.

Most brigadiers and above with operational experience who were consulted believed the old style Mention, covering everything from charging a machine-gun nest to manning a desk or minding the quartermaster's store, was too wide-ranging.

The Mention in Despatches is the British Army's oldest combat award.

In 1843, Sir Charles Napier was the first to make mention

of men below commissioned rank in his despatch on the Scinde campaign.

The custom became regularised in 1919 when, King George V approved the award of a special certificate for people mentioned in First World War despatches.

In 1920 it was decided that a bronze oak leaf should be worn. This has now been replaced by a single, silver oak leaf emblem.

New silver emblems have been introduced for Queen's Commendations: a spray of laurel leaves for bravery, an eagle for bravery in the air, and a spray of oak leaves for valuable service.

# In the picture

ENTRIES for the 1994-95 Army Photographic Competition close on February 3, with more than £4,000 in prizes to be won.

The Army Photographer of the Year award, won last year by WO2 Pete Bristo RLC for his portfolio of Bosnia pictures, will earn the winner a top-of-the-range Nikon SLR camera.

*Soldier* is again sponsoring an "own choice" category.

Details and entry forms for the competition, which is open to the Regular and Territorial Army, MoD (Army) civilians and Army dependants, are available from the Army Photographic Competition, G3 P Info, HQ UKLF, Wilton, Wiltshire SP2 0AG (tel: 0722 433315 or Salisbury Mill 3315).

# NI, Operation Grapple awards

● From Page 3

400,000 people. Both men were awarded an MBE.

Sgt Macrury's conduct and example were a contributory factor in the high morale of the Coldstream Guards company, says the citation.

Latest Northern Ireland awards include a Military Cross for Cpl Andrew Dynes, 9/12th L, and four Queen's Gallantry Medals.

The list contains a number of awards of the new Queen's Commendations for Bravery and Valuable Service and another batch of pre-dated awards from the past two decades, including the first public acknowledgement of the award of the Queen's Gallantry Medal to Lt Gen Sir Michael Rose, now the UN Commander in Bosnia.

In 1980, as commanding officer of 22 SAS, the then Lt Col Rose directed the rescue of hostages held by terrorists at the Iranian Embassy in London.

**For distinguished service in Northern Ireland – October 1993 to March 1994**

**CBE** – Brig A S H Irwin OBE, late BW.

**OBE** – Lt Col E T Bolitho, Gren Gds; Lt Col T W Hambrook MBE, D and D; Lt Col J M W Moody, R Irish; Lt Col S H P Sanderson MBE, RRF; Lt Col (now Col) J H T Short, 9/12th L; Lt Col S D Young MBE, D and D.

**MBE** – Cpl P A Beck, RE; Maj N J R Davies, Gren Gds; WO2 P J Day, R Signals; Maj P A W

Edwards AAC; Maj A D Farrow RLC; Capt (A/Maj) J A G Fenton, R Irish; Maj N R H Fox, Int Corps; Cpl S T Hamilton AGC (PRO); Capt J R Hockenhull, Int Corps; Sgt D L Hughes, Para; SSgt S A Knight, R Signals.

WO1 J K V Lloyd AAC; Maj A J Loudon KOSB; Maj J R St D Mackaness, 9/12th L; Cpl A W McCaig KOSB; WO2 J McKay KOSB; Maj H E McMahon RLC; Capt C J Millings, Para; Maj M A D Newman PWRR; Maj G A O'Sullivan QGM, RLC; Maj C P B Plunkett, R Irish; Capt M Salvage REME; Capt P M Swift RLC; WO1 R W Travers RLC; LSgt D R Wells, Gren Gds; WO2 E T Wilson RGJ.

**MC** – Cpl A P Dynes, 9/12th L. **QGM** – LCpl W Cuckson RLC; SSgt (A/WO2) A N Joy RLC; WO1 R J McLelland RLC; Sgt G W Webb RA.

**MID** – Sgt D I Adkins, Gren Gds; Gdsman R Eachus, Gren Gds; Cpl W S J Eakins, R Irish; Cpl J C Foster, Kings Own Border; Pte A C Hawke, D and D; LCpl D Kinghorn, Kings Own Border; 2nd Lt H R Legge-Bourke, Welsh Gds; Sgt (A/SSgt) S M McGann, 9/12th L; LCpl G B Melton, 9/12 L; Sgt D N Milson, 9/12th L; Maj J P S Routledge, 9/12th L; Cpl R A Stacey, Para; Cpl B A Todd, R Irish; LCpl J Walsh, R Irish; SSgt P R Woods, 9/12th L; Gdsman S G Wyatt, Gren Gds.

**QCB** – LCpl L Beazley, R Signals; LCpl S W Cocking RLC; Capt E A Dunn AGC(SPS); SSgt A E Evans, Int Corps; Cpl E P Flanagan RRF; Cpl M Hurren, R Signals; WO2 S Irving RLC; Sgt S



Capt Gill MID

Lennox, Scots Gds; Pte A L McBain KOSB; Capt A G J McVey RLC; SSgt P A Nicoll, Int Corps; WO2 J M Thompson, Irish Gds.

**QCVS** – A/SSgt A I Barber, Int Corps; Capt (now Maj) D M Bennett, 9/12th L; LCpl P Bird RWF; Maj I P Blewett, D and D; LCpl T E J Brennan RAMC; Maj C R Clark RA; Maj R A B Doak RWF; WO2 R M

Dorney, Gren Gds; Sgt R Gorman, R Signals; Lt Col M J W Grubb LI; Maj P J Grogan, R Signals; WO2 G D E Hathaway, Int Corps; Capt M T Haverty RLC.

Pte C W Hill, D and D; Capt D K Johnson RE; LCpl A I Jones RRF; Capt D F H Jones, D and D; Lt Col R C Lloyd RWF; SSgt (now WO2) G J Lockhart AAC; Cpl M Loughrey RE; Lt S D Marcham, Gren Gds; Capt F D Martin, R Irish; Lt D Moore, R Irish; Maj G M Moynan KOSB; SSgt K D Oliver RRF; Sgt I R Patterson, R Signals; Maj (now Lt Col) P A Pratley MBE, R Signals; Capt S N Price RWF; Gdsman C S Putley, Gren Gds; Maj A W Sexton RRF; Sgt M Spicer PWRR; Cpl D A Whitby AGC(PRO); Lt (A/Capt) J D M Wrench, Gren Gds; Maj D Wroe LI

**RRC** – Maj L Bale QARANC. **ARRC** – Sgt B A Stormont QARANC.

**For distinguished service in the former republic of Yugoslavia – November 1993 to April 1994**

**OBE** – Lt Col A I Finlayson QRL; Lt Col J R Wallace MBE, RLC; Lt Col P G Williams MBE, Coldrm Gds.

**MBE** – SSgt A K Bonney RLC; Maj M P Dodson, Hldrs; Capt H R

A Eaton, Hldrs; Capt K B Lindsay KRH; Sgt M Macrury RLC; Capt A A Pollock, Gren Gds; Maj R J M Porter RWF; Maj M G Tucker, Royal Australian Regt.

**MC** – Capt P J Bassett RE; Capt A M F Carleton-Smith RGJ; LSgt D Waterhouse, Coldrm Gds.

**QGM** – Sgt (now SSgt) R R Pickford RE; Lt (A/Capt) R W Yorke, Coldrm Gds.

**MID** – Sgt N S Crisford, Coldrm Gds; Capt S J H Gill, Coldrm Gds; Capt D E M Guinness, Coldrm Gds; LCpl S J May, Gren Gds.

**QCB** – Gdsman G J Andrews, Coldrm Gds; Cpl J M Henry LD; Cpl L S King RE.

**QCVS** – Cpl P M Impleton RLC; Maj A J B Johnston MBE, Coldrm Gds; Capt E T Legard LD; Capt S J MacKenzie RLC; Maj The Hon R F D Margesson, Coldrm Gds; Maj D J R Martin MBE, RLC; LSgt P W Murray, Gren Gds; Capt D A Poneski AGC(ETS); Brig J G Reith CBE, late Para; WO1 M A Wright-Jones, R Signals.

**The following miscellaneous pre-dated and meritorious awards have also been announced:**

**OBE** – Lt Col (now Brig) J T Holmes MC, late Scots Guards.

**MBE** – WO2 (now discharged) D J Playford BEM, Para.

**QGM** – Cpl (now WO2) T Macdonald, Para; Spr T G C Palmer RE (since deceased); Pte (now discharged) M R Parry, Para; Lt Col (now Lt Gen Sir Michael) H M Rose OBE, Coldrm Gds; LCpl (now Sgt) J Wilson, Para.

**BEM** – SSgt (now WO2) A Brown MM, Para.

**MM** – Sgt (now SSgt) M A McGinty BEM, Para.

**GM** – Sgt (now discharged) T K Morell, R Signals.

**Bronze Star (USA)** – Brig P A Evans OBE, late RCT.



Picture: Mike Perring

Eight Meritorious Service Medals, 259 years' Army service and 91 years' recruiting service – all in one unit. That's the proud record of these chaps from the London Recruiting Staff, pictured at Admiralty Arch. Left to right are SSgt Pete Robinson RLC, WO1 Jim James LD, SSgt Eddie Major RE, WO1 Jim Willock R Signals, SSgt John Brant REME, WO2 Andy Currie RHA, WO1 Paul Richards LG and WO2 Les Griffiths WG.



Colleagues of Queen's Royal Lancer Lt Andrew Dunn, recently returned to the regiment in Osnabrück, claim to be pleased that neither his infantry work in the jungle – nor the fact that he was caught wearing a kilt – seem to have had any adverse effect on him during his recent eight-month tenure as a platoon commander with The Black Watch in Hong Kong...



Waving farewell to the military life – and the Royal Army Veterinary Corps – with appropriate equine accompaniment was Brig Andrew Parker Bowles, who departed in style from Aldershot. He left in a horse-drawn carriage loaned by The Household Cavalry and in the capable hands of CoH Phil Mitchell, escorted by the RMP mounted troop, Aldershot, including Cpl Karen Pattenden, and played out by the Regimental Band of the Adjutant General's Corps.

Also bidding adieu to the Army in flamboyant style was Col Gordon Wilkinson, the only ex-apprentice at the Army School of Catering – out of 140 to be commissioned – to reach the rank of colonel and become its commandant. After 38 years' service, he was driven from the Aldershot school in a Spartan CVR(T) then whisked off in a Gazelle helicopter before settling down to run a retirement home in the area.



Maj Gen Tony Pigott is greeted by Cllr Fred Chipperfield, Mayor of Surrey Heath, on the general's arrival to take command of the Army Staff College at Camberley. A former Coldstream Guardsman and, until his retirement in 1982, a member of the Royal Military Police, Cllr Chipperfield told the general that Surrey Heath had a long association with the Army and the college.

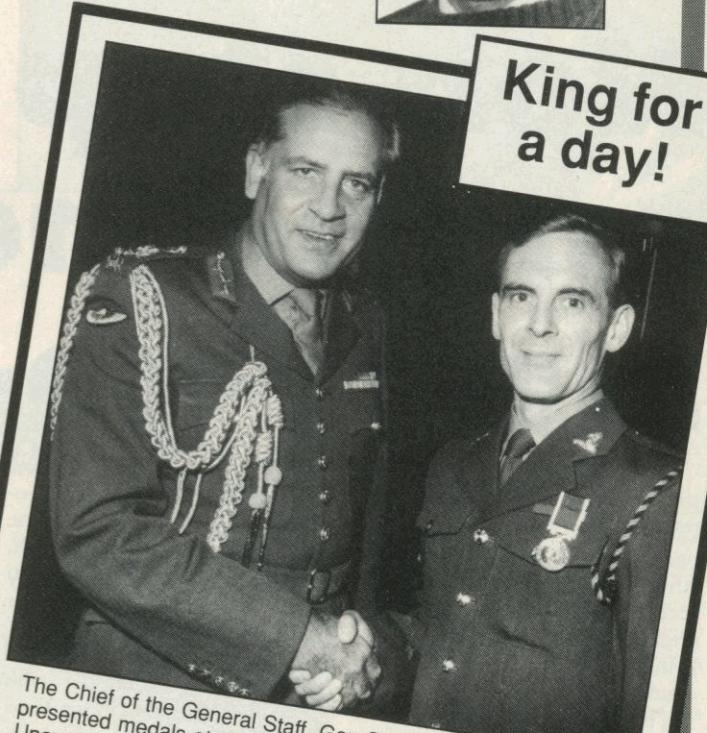


Enter the big guns...

New faces at Army Training Regiment Pirbright are incoming commanding officer Lt Col Nigel Cooke and WO1 (RSM) Ian Roberts, both from the Royal Artillery (7 Para RHA and 59 Battery Commando Regiment respectively).



King for a day!



The Chief of the General Staff, Gen Sir Charles Guthrie (left), presented medals at a ceremony at HQ Doctrine and Training, Upavon to, among others, SSgt Nigel King AGC (SPS), Chief Clerk of the Initial Training Group. Also receiving the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal were Sgt Richard Sinclair RLC and Sgt Hemanta Gurung, 1 RGR, while Mrs Audrey Halsey was presented with an Imperial Service Medal.



Piper's Post

In the spring, Pipe Maj (WO2) Gordon Webster is due to take over as only the ninth holder of the most prestigious piping post in Britain: the Queen's Piper. Until recently Pipe Major of the 1st Battalion, Scots Guards at Windsor, Gordon, who joined the Army as a junior in 1975, will succeed Pipe Maj Brian MacRae, a Gordon Highlander who has been the Queen's Piper for 15 years.



Picture: Worcester Evening News



In the safe keeping of the Territorial Army once again is the silver Drivers Challenge Cup – originally presented to a TA driver 88 years ago! Handing it over to the original unit's successor, 214 (Worcestershire) Battery RA (V), was Simon Everley (right), a relative of the original winner. Gladly accepting it was Lt Col (Retd) Malcolm Harding-Roberts, a trustee of the battery's silver, and PSAO Capt Patric Thomas.

A wartime statement made by Prime Minister Winston Churchill sums up the ethos of medals and their award:

"The object of giving medals, stars and ribbons is to give pride and pleasure to those who have deserved them. At the same time, a distinction is something which everybody does not possess. If all have it, it is of less value.

"There must therefore be heart burnings

and disappointments on the borderline. A medal glitters, but it also casts a shadow. The task of drawing up regulations for such awards is one that does not ever admit ever-perfect solution. It is not possible to satisfy everybody without running the risk of satisfying nobody.

"All that is possible is to give the greatest satisfaction to the greatest number and to hurt the feelings of the fewest."

# Non-stop ride on the medal merry-go-round

EVER since the collapse of Communism and the drawing back of the Iron Curtain, the Army Medal Office has received a steady stream of applications from old soldiers living in former Warsaw Pact countries.

This curious anomaly can be traced to the Second World War when thousands of Poles fled their country in the face of the German invasion. Many reached Britain and served with the Allied armies.

Polish troops fought heroically, especially in Italy, where they captured the monastery at Monte Cassino. At the end of the war, many could not, or did not want to, return to their Soviet-dominated homeland.

Although entitled to British campaign stars and medals, those who did return, or who remained after capture in Russia, were hardly in a position to claim them. As the restrictions of communism lifted, the Polish veterans could ask for the medals that were rightfully theirs.

Based in Droitwich, Worcestershire, the Army Medal Office is responsible for the issue of Army, Royal Navy and Royal Air Force medals, dealing on a daily basis with about 300 different types of medals and clasps.

It has three main divisions. One is responsible for the assessment, award and issue of medals, another deals with claims for Second World War campaign stars and medals, and a third administers long and meritorious service awards and campaign and general ser-

vice medals. A temporary section has been distributing the many thousands of British, Saudi Arabian and Kuwaiti medals awarded for Gulf War service.

Man in charge is Lt Col (Retd) Jim Condon, who described the huge interest in Second World War medals in recent years: "This year we have issued more than 31,000 to ex-Servicemen and entitled civilians such as air raid wardens, the WVS, the Mortuary Service and entertainers."

In all, his staff have issued 43,000 medals so far this year.

The Medal Office receives many enquiries from former members of the Home Guard and holds enlistment papers for more than five-and-a-half million wartime volunteers.

Each application has to be assessed and records of service scrutinised for evidence of entitlement.

For example, the applicant must have served the required number of days in a designated theatre of war.

Checks revealed that one applicant's medals had been forfeited following court martial. Often medals have previously been awarded for which original receipts are held.

It can be a complicated business. Eight campaign stars and nine clasps were awarded in addition to defence and war medals. The maximum

number that could be awarded to one individual was five stars and the two medals.

When called for, service records are sent to Droitwich by the Army Record Office at Hayes in Middlesex, where documents take up more than 78 miles of shelf-space.

Because of asbestos contamination, staff at Hayes were unable to retrieve documents for several months. As a result, the Army Medal Office accrued a massive backlog of applications.

"It wasn't their fault, but we now have 13,000 outstanding applications for medals. I would ask people to be patient," said Col Condon.

Medals are produced at the Royal Mint and delivered to Droitwich for distribution. Many, like the General Service Medal and the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal, have to have a name inscribed before issue.

Mr Michael Neale has the principal responsibility for stamping inscriptions on the rims of medals.

The Territorial Efficiency Medal is oval-shaped and does not fit into the machine's chuck. As a result, every one has to be stamped by hand which is a very laborious process," said Mr Neale.

The British Gulf War Medal also caused problems. Made of cupro-nickel rather than silver, it was harder to work,

**Report:**  
Laurie Manton  
**Pictures:**  
Terry Champion



# Coldstream exercise in spirit of peace



COLDSTREAM Guardsmen, recently returned from peace-keeping duties in Bosnia, found themselves training with soldiers from NATO's former adversaries on Exercise Co-operative Spirit 94.

In the third of NATO's Partnership for Peace exercises, launched in January at the NATO summit in Brussels, troops from five NATO and six East European nations, and Sweden, trained during a four-

day exercise in the Dutch National Park of Veluwe – familiar ground to British paratroopers during the battle for Arnhem 50 years ago.

Three platoons of the 1st Battalion, Coldstream Guards currently based in Munster, took part under command of Maj Mike Vernon.

The three Coldstream platoons were spread among six multinational composite companies for round-the-clock

peace-keeping tasks alongside soldiers from Ukraine, Poland and Lithuania as well as more familiar NATO colleagues from the United States, Canada, and the Netherlands.

The exercise also provided an ideal opportunity for soldiers to mix socially. Language, especially among the East European nations, proved an obvious obstacle.

A two-day familiarisation programme included a day of sporting activities ranging from football to tug-of-war, and an evening of entertainment helped overcome any initial shyness.

Lt Col Hugh Boscawen, CO 1 Coldm Gds, and the tenth member of his family to serve in the regiment since 1768, said: "It would be very easy for us to come here with our wealth of experience and regard it as some kind of international competition. But to do so would be a total misunderstanding.

"As the title Co-operative



Members of the Corps of Drums, Coldstream Guards, herald the opening of Exercise Co-operative Spirit in Holland



2nd Lt David Jones, Coldm Gds, negotiates with a "ringleader"

## And now for something completely different . . .

EIGHTY years ago, the 1st Coldstream took up positions beside the infamous Menin Road on the Gheluvelt ridge.

The "Race to the Sea" had ended and the German Armies were planning to destroy the British Expeditionary Force in the area of Ypres.

Eleven Coldstream officers and 350 men went into action on October 26, 1914. The battle lasted 13 days.

On October 29 the 6th Bavarian Reserve Division attacked the makeshift Coldstream positions under cover of thick fog.

There were no trench lines and the British Expeditionary Force had few machine-guns, no mortars, grenades, flares or wire. Artillery ammunition was reduced to a few rounds a day.

In the event the 1st Cold-

stream was overwhelmed, and several other battalions decimated.

Heroic services were performed by the Gloucesters later that day (and by the 2nd Worcesters on the 31st) but by the end of the 29th the 1st Coldstream had been reduced to just 80 men, under command of the only surviving officer, Lt Boyd, the quartermaster.

Three days later the battalion was back in the line 200-strong, only to lose half that number again the next day. Lt Boyd remained in command.

Eighty years on, the 1st Battalion, Coldstream Guards, now based at Munster, commemorated the battle with a "learn something different" day under Capt Les Winter, the current quartermaster.



Sewing circle: Coldstream Guardsmen try something different

Lt Col Hugh Boscawen, commanding officer of 1 Coldm Gds, explained: "We have a company at BATU in Canada and another on the NATO Partnership for Peace exercise at Apeldoorn in Holland [reported above] as well

as men on, or training for, two separate operational tours.

"I felt that the remainder should have the chance to learn something different.

"The aim was to get the experienced seniors from Headquarter Company to

teach the 150 men not on exercise some of the tricks of the trade we rarely have time to learn now, but which used to be commonplace – and which make life easier in the field.

"We had stands teaching self-help carpentry, battlefield tailoring, how to get Land Rovers patched up and running, makeshift lighting rigs, and those old favourites, how to light the high pressure paraffin lamp and No 2 burner. Simple – but useful."

After a prayer and a short explanation from the CO, WO2 (RQMS) Vince Bell took over.

"We don't want people to arrive in a new place without shelter, light, warmth and transport – and with their clothes in shreds," he said.

LCpl Mark Stubbings, battalion tailor and dressed in 1914 uniform, led the patching

and darning stand. Nearby, SSgt Peter Merritt and his REME team demonstrated how to blow fuses on the generator – and keep the essentials going – lighting rig, kettle and (for the RSM) iron.

CSgt Chris Gatenby ran the transport stand and had a surprising number of sergeants crawling under vehicles.

LCpl Bob Wells showed endless patience teaching guardsmen to pick up pallets with a fork lift truck. Gdsm Denis Todd, the staff car driver, chanced his arm teaching Col Boscawen how to drive an 8-tonne truck.

Lunch presented a new challenge, the battalion having to cook on makeshift burners and steel locker hotplates under the eye of Master Chef WO2 (SQMS) David Harding.

QMSI Jack Goodwin organ-

ised sports with a difference, including pulling a Bedford truck by hand.

Col Boscawen said: "This day has had regimental and family connections. My great uncle, 2nd Lt Vere Boscawen, was killed in that terrible battle 80 years ago, as were two of his close kin. Many other regiments and families suffered.

But their efforts helped to hold the Ypres Salient at a critical moment.

"But this hasn't been a day about ghosts, it's been one with a theme of learning from experience.

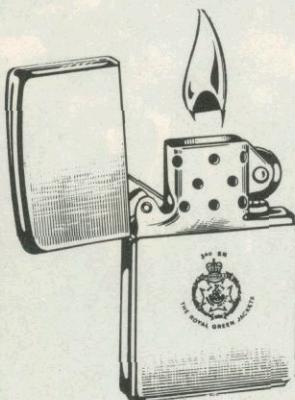
"We have taken a few more steps towards making our soldiers into jacks-of-all-trades who can set their hands to anything – and can handle the unexpected as true Regulars should, like their brave forbears."



Darn it: WO2 (RQMS) Vince Bell inspects the needlework class

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# The Soldier Calendar 1995



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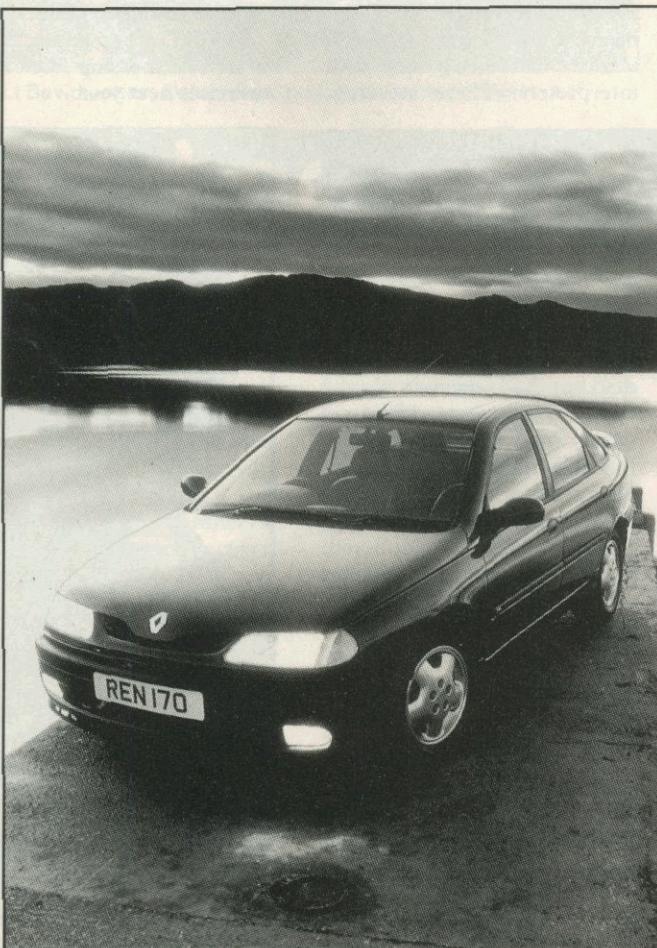
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**RENAULT**

THE NEW LAGUNA BY RENAULT





Master General of the Ordnance Lt Gen Sir Jeremy Blacker (second from right) inspects the data entry device in weapon platform mode within the Air Defence Command Information System. Demonstrating are (left to right) Bdr Colin McQuillan, LBdr Jon Priestley, Sgt Dennis Holding and Sgt Stewart Atkinson of 47 Regt RA

# Decision time for ADCIS

THE British Army's Air Defence Command Information System (ADCIS) has completed its final acceptance tests before a decision is taken for it to enter service with Royal Artillery air defence units early in 1995.

A field trial enacting a 50-hour battle was conducted by 47 Regiment, Royal Artillery at Thorney Island, West Sussex, involving trials staff and managers from MoD. Among the observers was the Master General of the Ordnance, Lt Gen Sir Jeremy Blacker.

The system, designed and developed by GEC-Marconi's EASAMS software systems company, provides weapons control orders to individual air defence weapons platforms allowing the safe passage of friendly aircraft.

It also increases the effectiveness of air defence forces against enemy air operations.

Mission plans of "friendly" aircraft over the battlefield are entered into the system and distributed to air weapon platforms which automatically calculate restrictions placed on them as well as permissible

arcs of engagement.

Communications to platforms from a three-man Battery Control Post mounted in Saxon is by Ptarmigan, and a process which once took more than one hour to complete now takes minutes.

First to receive the system would be 47 Regiment RA, followed by 16 Regt, the TA 103, 104 and 105 Regts, then 12 and 22 Regts over a two-year period.

The Army was very pleased at how the project had developed, said Lt Col Mike Preece, Deputy Project Manager.

"A final decision will be taken early in December and if approved it will provide



**Lt Col Mike Preece,  
Deputy Project Manager**

the Army with significantly enhanced air defence effectiveness and safety for friendly aircraft," he said.

The system was designed to cope with the demands of modern air warfare, under which operators

are forced to make split-second decisions on whether or not to engage any aircraft that enters the zone of their weapons.

As well as improving air defence forces, it would substantially increase the safety of friendly aircraft.

The project has taken six years to complete and provides Rapier, Starstreak and Javelin weapons platforms with weapon control orders which

have automatically calculated restrictions placed on them.

Each order is automatically displayed as an arc of engagement at the time the order is to be applied.

Weapon platforms are equipped with hand-held computers as a data entry device which communicates with the controlling cell via the combat net radio. As all information is digitised, ADCIS permits the exchange of all types of messages, including reports, returns, air activity sightings and logistic information.

At corps level, the air defence cell would be in a truck-mounted container, while at Division and fire control centre level it would normally be in a Saxon. A corps deployment might include four divisions commanding ten fire control centres, each controlling up to 20 weapons platforms.

# Ultrafit Paras earn charity wings

A "good-humoured and keenly contested" charity challenge day, inspired by Maj Steve Burke, OC C Coy, 1st Battalion, **The Parachute Regiment**, raised more than £3,500 for Children In Need and St Michael's Hospice, Basingstoke.

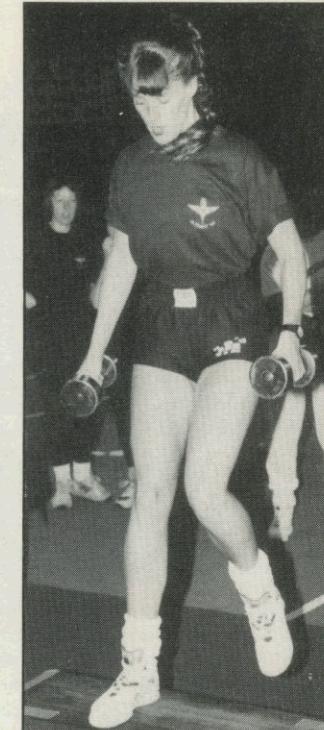
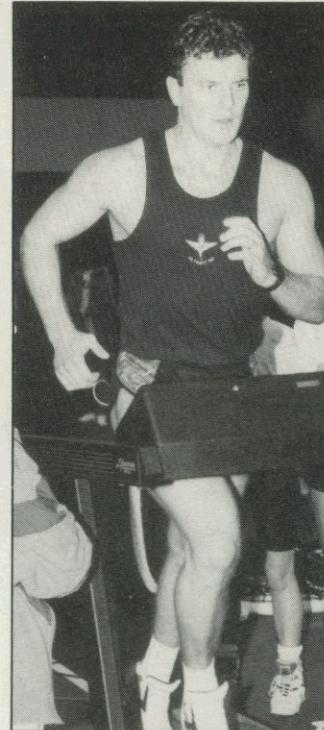
Steve had thrown down the gauntlet to fitness club members and guest teams from a Basingstoke tennis and health club.

Rising to the occasion, teams of five tackled a series of ten fitness stands as part of the Ultrafit Challenge.

Teams included wives and girlfriends, under-20s and veterans of over 35.

The Aldershot-based paras won the overall competition with the fastest time, as well as taking the laurels in other categories.

In addition to the main events, the regiment laid on a



LCpl Gaz Huntley, a member of the winning team, on the treadmill, while his wife, Gillian, is on her way to 100 step-ups with 5kg weights in hand

(about £3,200) to the Berlin branch of the Royal British Legion and £3,600 to the Star and Garter Home in Surrey.

\*\*\*

SSgt Brian James of 14 Berlin Field Workshop, who last year completed an amazing 1,000-mile swim for charity, has presented DM 7,680

(10 - 1!) when they played host to the All Stars Aston Villa team, but it was all worth while. The match raised £475 for DEBRA, a research association for a genetic skin blistering condition in children.

\*\*\*

Preston-based 1st Battalion, **The King's Own Scottish Borderers** were trounced



Member of Parliament Seb Coe joins members of the Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment team who took part in this year's Ascot charity race. So far the regiment has raised £3,000 for the Stroke Association and National Asthma Association. In all, the Ascot event and a dinner produced more than £200,000 for charity. Led by Lt William de Gale (back row, second from left), the HCMR runners finished third. Their commanding officer, Lt Col Hamon Massey, is standing second from the right.

Members of D Coy, the 4th Battalion, **The King's Own Royal Border Regiment** co-ordinated and supervised the Krypton Factor assault course at Holcombe Moor, near Bury, for 100 sponsored teams - some containing donors or potential donors - so that they could raise money for the Anthony Nolan Bone Marrow Trust.

\*\*\*

A small Army Northern Ireland-based vaulting unit, Food Troop, 57 Supply Squadron, 21 Logistic Support Regiment RLC, presented a farewell £1,100 donation to Park View Special School, Lisburn - with which it has had associations since 1969 - before closing its doors for the final time. Its task has been taken over by Naafi.

\*\*\*

Soldiers of **The Queen's Lancashire Regiment** put pupils from North Manchester High School for Girls through their paces on the assault course at Fulwood Barracks, Preston as part of a charity challenge. Money raised will



Aid reaches Bugojno, central Bosnia - with a little help from British soldiers. Inset - John Scourse

## Feeding a need - with the Army's help

AN EIGHT-person team from a Reading-based emergency aid relief organisation is helping to look after 110,000 people in three camps in Rwanda.

Feed The Children (FTC) was set up four years ago and has more than its share of Army connections. When hostilities in the former Yugoslavia were at their height, FTC moved in opposite BRITBATT's main base in Vitez.

Feed The Children (FTC) extended its operation to Bugojno in central Bosnia.

John Hutchinson, who spent 12 years with Airborne Forces, is one of several former British soldiers working for Feed The Children.

"We established close links with the Cheshire, messing with them and keeping our vehicles in the Army compound. Co-operation between us was excellent," said corporate liaison

go towards providing an Ethiopian village with water.

\*\*\*

The Royal Logistic Corps Training Centre, Deepcut put 48 youngsters from Surrey youth clubs through their paces when they competed in the Blackdown Fives military-style competition to raise money for charity.

A week later, it was the turn of more than 100 men and women, representing YMCA, Raleigh International and Target, to try out the centre's

manager John Scourse.

From its Berkshire base, FTC transported supplies across Europe to its warehouse in Split, from where the last stretch to Vitez was completed with an Army escort prior to local distribution.

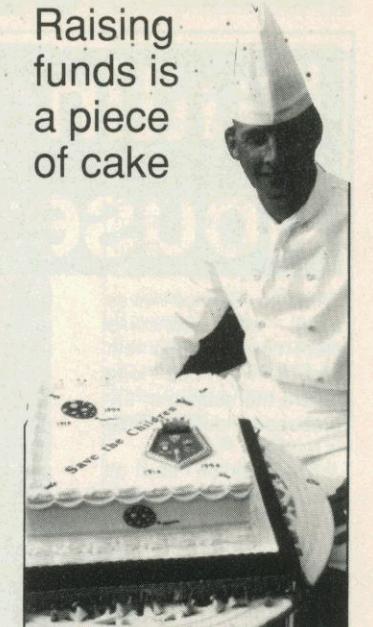
At the UN's request, FTC extended its operation to Bugojno in central Bosnia.

John Hutchinson, who spent 12 years with Airborne Forces, is one of several former British soldiers working for Feed The Children.

"We have always been appreciative of the protection and support of the British Army, and couldn't have done it without them," said John Scourse.

normally excluded as part of the fund-raising activities for the Army Benevolent Fund's 50th anniversary year.

TA soldiers from Wales took part in a clean-up operation organised by Cardiff-based 157 Regiment RLC. Their mission was to remove wrecked, burned-out and rusting vehicles littering beauty spots in the Rhondda and Maesteg areas. Also involved were soldiers from 224 (Pembroke Yeomanry) ES



Despite being in the middle of a hectic six-month tour of Belfast with The King's Royal Hussars, Masterchef WO2 Garry Young - a gold medal winner in the culinary field - found time to pursue his speciality in cake-decorating and came up with this masterpiece, which he handed over to the Save the Children Fund.

Squadron RLC, based at Llanelli and Haverfordwest.

Scrap value of the cars amounted to £1,000, which, with another £1,000 raised by the soldiers, was given to the Macmillan Nurses Appeal.

\*\*\*

A dozen members of 94 Stores Squadron RLC, part of 9 Supply Regiment RLC based at Chippenham, Wilts, ran 234 miles from Swindon to Blackpool in 28 hours to raise £1,700 for special care baby units and the Cheshire Homes Society.

\*\*\*

Attention all holders of unwanted Airmiles vouchers! The **John Aspinall Appeal Fund** is collecting them to send an 11-year-old brain-injured boy for treatment in Philadelphia. Details on 0254 236283.

\*\*\*

Colin and Mary Broad, from the Kids of Wool Appeal, which is trying to improve facilities for children in that area of Dorset, won a tank driving lesson in a charity auction run by the **RAC Centre** at Bovington Camp. The Devonair Wheels Appeal, which supports the disabled, won a similar prize.

# Putting the MoD houses in order

TALK to Service wives about what concerns them most at the moment and it won't be long before the subject of the proposed Housing Trust is raised.

The opinion that all was not well has been widely held for a long time but it's a relief to see it in print and on the TV news.

The interim measure of the setting up of a tri-Service housing executive should mean that all those who have had work on their MQs held up by the decision-making process will be able to get it done.

A number of wives in the UK have told me they have begun to lose patience with the apparent lack of hard information.

It's small consolation for them to be told that they aren't the only ones to be out of the picture.

In these circumstances, where even the decision-makers haven't solved the problem, "rumour control" takes over and conspiracy theories abound.

As it is, it seems that all the "difficulties" referred to by Malcolm Rifkind are technicalities which might have been investigated before the idea was launched.

Let's hope that when those are sorted out, the more human concerns expressed by the "end users", the Service families - such as who their neighbours are likely to be - will be addressed.

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**Cari's column**

their volunteers in Germany to embrace a local version of Victim Support.

They visited a project in Brixton for help and advice. The result is the launch of a Victim Support project in Germany, where it has the full backing of the military police. A significant number have already come forward for training and it looks as though it will be a success.

As with all such projects their success will be a double-edged sword. It is good to know that so many people are prepared to help but depressing to think that there should be a need for such an organisation.

The Services Employment Network (SEN) has issued a warning to those leaving the Forces. Stick to what you know, it says.

The Network says it has had a 300 per cent increase in the number of jobs and business opportunities coming onto its books in recent months.

But many of the approaches are for short-term contracts and temporary work.

A survey by the SEN also indicates that a large number of current Service leavers are looking

for jobs for which there is little or no demand, which means that a significant number are not doing their research before they leave the Armed Forces.

It also means that they haven't prepared themselves properly for the outside world while they've been in uniform.

Times really have changed.

The message to keep training and keep in touch with civilian life must be reinforced at every turn.

There are opportunities to update skills and qualifications. It is no good coasting through a career in the Forces in the hope of doing something you've always fancied when you go outside. Competition is too fierce for that.

Among the hot tips from the SEN of areas of growth in the jobs market are computer analysts, chefs, telecom engineers, and all areas of middle management.

Apparently, among the employers not taking on vast numbers of staff but targeted by many Service leavers are the Post Office and Customs and Excise.

It's small consolation for them to be told that they aren't the only ones to be out of the picture.

In these circumstances, where even the decision-makers haven't solved the problem, "rumour control" takes over and conspiracy theories abound.

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Ex-Service personnel and their dependants from

# Entertaining, Army-style

IT MAY or may not have been common knowledge among readers of *The British Army Review* and other August publications over the past 25 years that "Sustainer" is the pen name of Brig Tank Nash, sometime luminary of the Army Catering Corps (hence the pseudonym).

What is more certain is that anything written by him appearing in such a journal is, if not the only thing a reader turns to, probably one of the first. The reason is that Tank Nash has that rare gift of being able to transfer to paper with apparent ease a rich sense of humour, neat turn of phrase and sharpness of observation.

Now he has joined another stylish humorist - Henry Stanhope, former defence correspondent of *The Times* - and Brian Jones, a Service *maitre chef de cuisine* from Aldershot, to produce a mouth-watering book called *The Colonel's Table*.

Stanhope calls it "the first manual of five-star Army cooking" and while the title places it firmly at the top table there is no reason why it should not be enjoyed just as much by those who, before the classless society was imposed upon us, were said to be "below the salt".

But then, if this is the publishing equivalent, *nouvelle cuisine* was never cheap. - CH

**The Colonel's Table: Recipes and Tales** by Henry Stanhope and Tank Nash, with food by Brian Jones. Brassey's, hardback, £25.

all over the UK are eligible to apply for intensive courses of treatment to help them overcome or lessen their disability.

"Such disability need not be as a result of service in the Forces," said the centre's administrator, Sqn Ldr Desmond Butters RAF (Retd).

Many patients have suffered strokes, or have complaints such as rheumatoid arthritis, osteoarthritis or multiple sclerosis.

Patients are assessed personally by the consultants in charge and the fully qualified staff and

treatment is individually prescribed, normally for a period of two weeks.

"Improved mobility and relief of pain often result from the treatment," said Sqn Ldr Butters. "The patient invariably leaves with more confidence, having learned the most beneficial ways of living with his or her problems."

The patients stay in modern accommodation in the nearby Gavin Astor House Nursing Home, with its well-appointed bedrooms with private facilities, and spacious and comfortable dining, recreational and lounges.

Carers, normally the spouse, can be accommodated if the patient needs help in bathing, dressing and so on - and they, too, can benefit from the knowledge they acquire during their visit.

Those who might benefit from this service should write to Sqn Ldr Butters for further information.

The address is: The Administrator, Sqn Ldr D J Butters DFC, The Churchill Centre for Rehabilitation and Assessment, Gavin Astor House, Royal British Legion Village, Aylesford, Kent ME20 7NF.

which shouts "Christmas gift" at you without actually spelling it out on the cover.

The idea is to fall into step with Mr Jones's easy-to-follow recipe drills (doing your best to make the results look - and even taste - like the alluring colour illustrations) once you have been amused and entertained by the Army-life stories of Stanhope and Nash.

Just to underline that other ranks need not be put off by the title, the roast stuffed sucking pig and grouse with lentils and walnut sauce jostle for place settings in these pages with oyster and brown beer pie and strawberry ice cream. And the whole banquet is washed down with tips for the accompanying tipple.

The only ingredient which may prove remotely difficult to swallow, despite all the culinary and literary delights contained in its 192 pages, is the book's £25 tab, which for the financially-challenged might mean the difference between *Ragout de Poisson St Omer* and a tin of sardines on toast.

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Currying flavour: Lindsey Champion tempts her dinner-party guests with lamb kebabs, Kashmiri Rogan Josh, spiced vegetables, pilau rice, and naan bread. Their verdict - seconds, please!

Picture: Terry Champion

## IN BRIEF

BOVINGTON's Royal Armoured Corps Centre is putting its Service and civilian drivers through a minibus driver improvement scheme run by Dorset County Council.

Capt Mick Brown, Bovington's MTO, says the scheme will become an important aspect of the Centre's road safety programme.

If you think your job has made you deaf, read the DSS leaflet NI 207 (September 1994). It will tell you if you are eligible for industrial injuries disablement benefit, and how to claim.

Franchise diary date: The Spring National Franchise Exhibition will be held in the National Hall, Olympia, London on March 24-26. Ring the hotline on 0494 813846 for discount tickets and a free information pack. Visitors will receive a free video extolling the benefits of franchising.

practical for a dinner party.

Ice cream is the ideal way to round off a good curry and I chose the hazelnut variety from the book. It was very quick and easy to make - my only criticism being that the recipe did not specify the type of cream required and there was no mention of vanilla essence in the list of ingredients.

The result was delicious, although the nuts tended to concentrate at the bottom of the container.

The final meal was well received by my guests and there was plenty to go round. The food was spicy but not too hot and the individual flavours of the various spices, while distinguishable to the palate, were not overpowering.

aware of their rights. A war disablement pension is compensation for injury, illness, medical condition, or loss of a husband in the service of his country.

Contact the War Pensions Agency helpline on 0253 858858, or the Pensions Department, Royal British Legion, 48 Pall Mall, London SW1Y 5JY.

## Hot favourite to follow the turkey

meal. The only ingredient I had difficulty in obtaining was ground star anise for the kebabs (I eventually found whole ones which I ground myself).

The kebabs were extremely simple and quick to make and I served them as a starter with raita.

If, like me, you are a curry addict and an adventurous cook, it is quite likely you will have most of the spices needed for the

meal. You can prepare them well in advance and put them in the fridge, which also makes them easier to handle when cooking.

The Kashmiri Rogan

Josh I also cooked in advance, allowing the spices to marinate well into the meat. Again it was very easy to follow Brian Jones's recipe "drill" and the resulting curry was excellent.

I preferred to serve the spiced vegetables freshly cooked, although I did blanche the vegetables in advance.

Nowadays, with microwaves and steamers and all sorts of other clever gadgets, it should be impossible to cook stodgy rice, though this is not always so.

The pilau rice recipe in this book is one of the best I have attempted. The spices combined to give that aromatic flavour you associate with fine Indian cuisine and the grains were cooked to perfection.

As an accompaniment to the meal, the naan bread was again very easy. With a large oven and grill I was able to cook three at a time - more

## Veterans 'ministry' campaign - and war pension claims - boosted

A CAMPAIGN by the Royal British Legion for a Government team to look after Service veterans' interests has been renewed in the House of Commons.

Many MPs on all sides endorsed the move by former Minister for the Disabled Alf Morris when the new Parliament

opened on November 16. He rebuked his Early Day Motion calling on the Government "now to respond positively to the Legion's urgent call for a sub-department (of ex-Service affairs) to be established".

The motion referred to "the increasing needs of the UK's ageing ex-Service population and the

## Churchill Centre is there to help

MANY ex-Service men and women with disabilities not necessarily resulting from their time in the Forces may not be fully aware of the practical help available to them and their dependants from the Royal British Legion.

The Churchill Rehabilitation and Assessment Centre in the Legion Village at Aylesford, Kent, has large, well-equipped occupational therapy and physiotherapy departments as well as a modern hydrotherapy pool.

Ex-Service personnel and their dependants from

all over the UK are eligible to apply for intensive courses of treatment to help them overcome or lessen their disability.

"Improved mobility and relief of pain often result from the treatment," said Sqn Ldr Butters. "The patient invariably leaves with more confidence, having learned the most beneficial ways of living with his or her problems."

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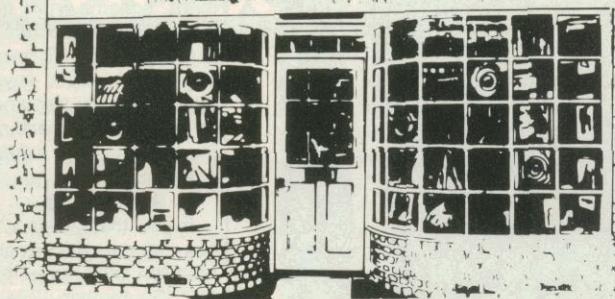
The address is: The Administrator, Sqn Ldr D J Butters DFC, The Churchill Centre for Rehabilitation and Assessment, Gavin Astor House, Royal British Legion Village, Aylesford, Kent ME20 7NF.

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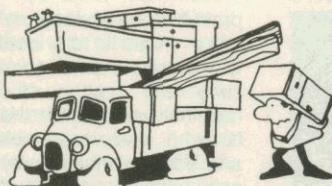


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Quoting ref: Soldier



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S

# Soldiers are there when you need them...



Mike Moore / TODAY Newspaper

## Please be there when they need you

The Army Benevolent Fund provides help to any man or woman and their families if they are serving or have served in the British Army and are in real need. This help is given in two ways: through grants to supplement Corps or Regimental aid and by financial support to over 70 national charities providing for the special needs of those in distress.

Our overall aim is to bring help to the many cases where state assistance is inapplicable, inadequate or unable to meet the immediate need.

Your donation, covenant or legacy will provide invaluable assistance for those who served their country.

Please help them in their hour of need.

To: The Army Benevolent Fund, Dept. SOL,  
41 Queen's Gate, London SW7 5HR

Registered Charity No. 211645

We owe a lot to the soldiers who fought so hard for our freedom and our future and continue to protect us. I would like to make this contribution to help those of them who are in need.

I enclose a donation of £10  £15  £25  Other £ \_\_\_\_\_

Please charge my Access/Visa Card No. \_\_\_\_\_

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Please send me details on making a legacy or how I could donate through Payroll Giving.

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## THE ARMY BENEVOLENT FUND

Remembering & Supporting the Brave



# Russians watch AS90 firing at Larkhill

RUSSIAN, Ukrainian, Czech and Hungarian observers were among officers from 20 countries who watched 1st Regiment, Royal Horse Artillery, fire AS90 at Larkhill on Salisbury Plain.

Under the Vienna accord of 1990, the 52 members of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe must demonstrate new weapons and inspect each other's units.

The Army has ordered 179 of the self-propelled guns, the first British system of this type since the Abbot in the 1960s.

## Loggies abseil for children



Soldiers from Aldershot-based 27 Transport Regiment RLC abseiled down the front of the Aldershot News building and a fire station tower 70 times each – the height of Ben Nevis – in aid of the Children in Need charity. From left to right are Pte Gary Maskell, Pte Stephen Sheriff, LCpl David Bush, Sgt Ruth Haywood, Cpl Bob Link and Pte Val Jones. The event, organised by Sgt Geoff Nuzum, raised £400 for the BBC appeal

## New Chaplain General named

THE REV Dr Victor Dobbin, Assistant Chaplain General (Southern District), has been appointed Chaplain General to succeed the Rev Jim Harkness, who is due to retire in February.

Dr Dobbin joined the Royal Army Chaplains' Department in 1972 and was appointed to his present post in September 1991. He became honorary

## These people were out for blood . . .



It was party-time when staff at the Army Blood Supply Depot in Aldershot put on fancy dress for the Children in Need charity by sponsoring themselves to attract new donors. Pictured are (left to right) Julie Woodhouse (office manager), Lisa Buss (budget manager), Joyce Skidmore (donor attendant), Julie MacKinnon (admin manager), Dr Sam Rawlinson (consultant haematologist), Sister Trish Sutherland, Denise Barrop (CO's PA), Angela Ramsaran (donor attendant); front, donor attendants Linda Collins and Jackie Frame. The ABSD raised several hundred pounds for charity and collected 143 pints of blood on the day

Picture: Mike Perrin

## QLR swots up for its Cyprus tour

BEFORE deploying to Cyprus for a six-month tour the Queen's Royal Lancers went through four weeks of intense training ranging from forced marches to lectures on the geography and history of the ranges and island.

Final exercise was based on the squadron having to deal with incidents on a cease-fire line, including illegal constructions in the UN buffer zone and full-scale civil disorder.

## South Africans at Bovington

THE FIRST contact between the Royal Armoured Corps and the South African Armoured Corps since 1977 took place when a South African team visited the RAC Centre at Bovington.

The South Africans discussed subjects ranging from doctrine to Challenger 2, and offered to present the Tank Museum with four armoured vehicles including the Oliphant main battle tank, and Rooikat and Marmon-Herrington armoured cars.

chaplain to the Queen in November last year.

He is the first minister of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland to hold the appointment.

Mr Harkness, Church of Scotland, was the first non Church of England Chaplain General.

He has been nominated as the next Moderator of the Church of Scotland.

## Who nose!

NO soldier will be without one on March 17 if Comic Relief organisers have their way.

The charity is discussing with the MoD the distribution of their trademark plastic red noses to troops stationed worldwide.

For information packs, send a stamped, addressed A4 envelope (two first class stamps) to Comic Relief, Room D115, Sulgrave House, Woodger Road, London W12 8QT.

# GORAZDE FORCE

THE 1st Battalion, The Royal Gloucestershire, Berkshire and Wiltshire Regiment, commanded by Lt Col Patrick Davidson-Houston, took over operational command of the Gorazde Force, Bosnia, from the 1st Battalion, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment at the beginning of September.

Having completed a smooth rotation with the Dukes, 1 RGBW joined sub-units from Norway and the Ukraine alongside national engineer, logistic and medical assets, to form the UN Protection Force (UNPROFOR) within Gorazde - better known as Gorazde Force.

The Gorazde pocket, designated a UN Safe Area in May 1993, is approximately 25km by 20km and home to 64,000 Bosnian Muslims (8,000 of them refugees) and 300 Bosnian Serbs.

Gorazde Force is particularly involved in the 3km by 20km total exclusion zone (TEZ) established under the Security Council Resolution.

Measured from the centre bridge over the River Drina within Gorazde, the TEZ is an area free of armed Bosnian Serbs and has been the focus of 1 RGBW's main effort.

In it, A Company soldiers, commanded by Maj Ian Harris, man four observation posts (OPs), plus another two



Pictures: Cpl Bob Schoeller, MPC/UKLF

**Lt Col Patrick Davidson-Houston, CO 1 RGBW, shows Gen Sir Michael Rose the site within the Gorazde enclave of a recent attack on a UNHCR convoy which resulted in the death of a driver**

on the west bank just outside the 3km TEZ, while B Company (Maj Patrick Tomlinson) looks after four TEZ OPs plus two checkpoints on the east bank.

**From Maj Steven Oxlaide RGBW in Gorazde**

being addressed by the legal branch at Bosnia-Herzegovina Command (BHC).

Within the 3km TEZ 1 RGBW is actively keeping the peace by a combination of static OPs to observe possible flashpoints in areas

of significant tactical importance, checkpoints to control civilian movement and patrols to bolster confidence on both sides of the confrontation lines.

Violations are reported to UNPROFOR, investigated by UNMO teams and passed to BHC for transmission to the Bosnian Serb HQ in Pale.

Robust and even-handed actions by both rifle companies have helped to develop the

security of the 3km TEZ. Within the 20km zone (a designated area free of heavy weapons) UN Military Observers (UNMOs) have established a patrol programme to monitor heavy weapon violations.

Soldiers from 1 RGBW's Recce Platoon man two OPs in sensitive areas in the south and south-west of the pocket and are preparing to patrol along-

side the UNMOs in out-lying areas as the battalion tries to establish anti-sniper agreements.



**Pte Snee of 1 RGBW mans a post overlooking Gorazde.**



**Above - Pte Paul Jones looks out over the town of Gorazde from his Saxon.**

**Below - Observation Post No 8 at Gorazde**

## Fall in for a shower... but be quick!

GORAZDE Force includes a Ukrainian motorised company, a Norwegian medical company and a French liaison team. UN civil police and UN Military Observers (UNMOs) are also part of the team.

The town itself, about the size of Cirencester, has been devastated by the war. Most

of its inhabitants live in derelict buildings and rely on UNHCR to bring in food and clothing by road.

Bosnian Serb units surround the Muslim enclave. In recent weeks two drivers have been killed in the area.

The battalion itself is entirely dependent on resupply convoys mounted from Kiseljak near Sarajevo, nearly 100km to the west.

With fuel stocks at a premium, restrictions affect the soldiers' daily lives.

To save fuel, showers for 400 soldiers operate for an hour a day every two or three days, the laundry system runs once a week and minimal lighting from a diesel generator is provided at night.

Despite these hardships, morale is reported to be very high, with the troops seeing their task as both challenging and rewarding.

• 1 RGBW also has about 100 men deployed near the Bosnian Muslim and Serb front lines in Bugojno, where fighting continues, while 120 soldiers are involved in logistic support at Kiseljak and Sarajevo.



ing in Bosnia, and 1 RGBW has worked hard to develop good relations with Civil Affairs (political/civil advisors), Red Cross, Médecin San Frontières and UNHCR. Much has already been

accomplished, but with winter fast approaching and rumblings in both warring factions, military and political circles, all members of the Gorazde Force have a great deal of work ahead of them.



**WO2 Stephen Traveller keeps tabs on 1 RGBW**



**WO2 Eddie Kingston**



**2nd Lt Matt Cann**



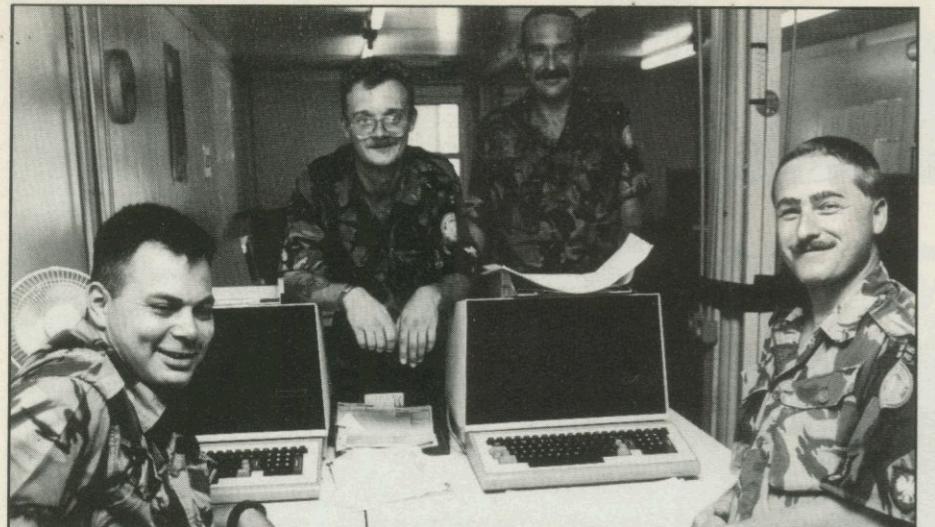
**SSgt Alan Vaughan**

## Battle of the paperwork

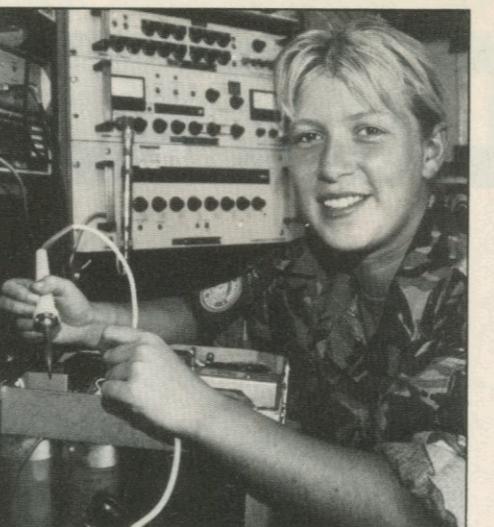
Kiseljak, Gorazde, Sarajevo and Bugojno, while WO2 Stephen Traveller coordinates convoys.

Completing the team are 2nd Lt Matt

Cann, WO2 Eddie Kingston and CSgt Craig Risby, who also establish the best way for soldiers to return to Catterick on rest and recuperation visits.



WO2 "Doc" Docherty, Sgt Gareth David, Pte Tim Roadnight and Cpl Rob Lawler were responsible for stock control at the supply squadron's main warehouse



REME optronic technician LCpl Sam Brown repairs a field telephone



Board games, tennis balls and boxing gloves are some of the welfare items being prepared for issue by (left to right) Pte Mick Collard, Cpl Dean Roberts, LCpl Rab Conner and Ptes Nory McNeill and Roland Gordon



LCpl Kevin Bayliss, Pte Simon Athey and LCpl Alison Rice deal with an urgent demand for stores at Split. Behind them, Ptes Graeme Clark and Carl Butler use a forklift truck to move tyres

# Loggies were the bedrock of Grapple 4

EVERY military operation is built on a foundation of logistic support and Grapple 4 was no exception.

The British Logistic Battalion (BRITLOGBAT), commanded by Lt Col Chris Steirn, brought together a

cross-section of sub units to service and support the battalion groups operating in central Bosnia.

Based on the headquarters of 7 Transport Regiment, Royal

Report: Laurie Manton  
Pictures: Mike Perring

Logistic Corps, and with the bulk of its manpower provided by 7 Regiment and 6 Supply Regiment RLC, the 600-strong formation drew personnel from 50 separate units.

Originally set up to carry urgent stores to front line units, the convoys have become so reliable, they are now used to resupply all British Army locations in Bosnia. They also transport anything else that requires a lift north from Split, including troops.

It is a real team effort. A day-long loading operation is followed by an early morning start on the long journey north. At a central point on the route, usually Gornji Vakuf or Vitez, the convoy splits up, small sections of trucks delivering supplies to specific locations.

If all goes well, the convoy reforms three days later for the return to Split, where trucks are refuelled, serviced and reloaded for the cycle to begin again.

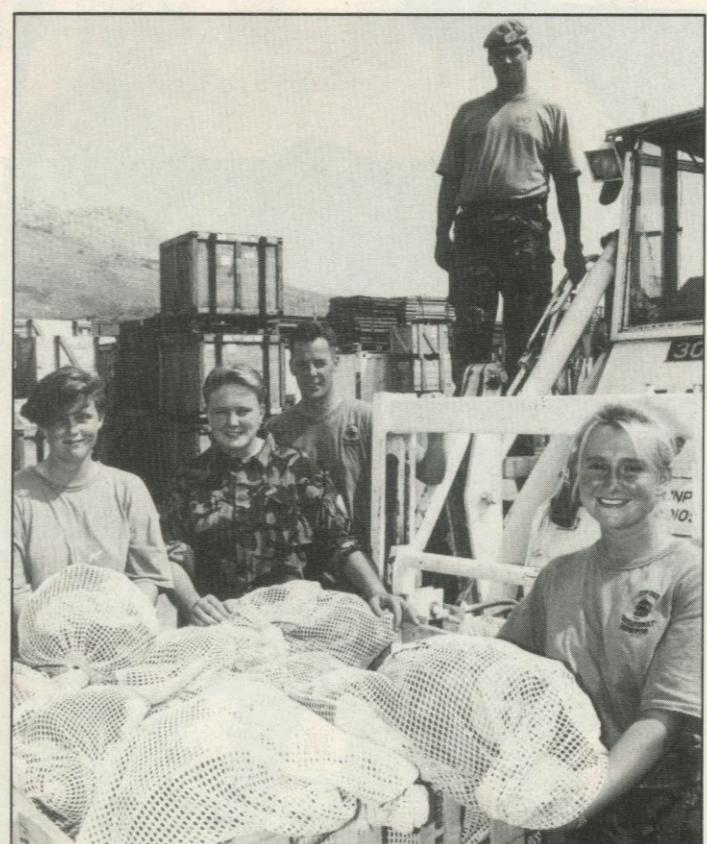
Despite the creature comforts found in modern truck cabs, the work is demanding.

Drivers and vehicles take a pounding on the worst stretches of road... and the job can be dangerous. Cpl Philip Bottomley was killed and a colleague injured when their convoy was ambushed by Bosnian Serbs while they were on a mission to Gorazde.

A petrol tanker was blown up and two trucks burned.



Carrying out second-line repair to trucks at the Koncar factory: Cpl Andy Hosken, Simon Holmes and John Henry, LCpls John Maund and Kevin Clark, and Cfn Mike James, Dave Young, Danny Proctor, Vincent Roberts and Gary Bellot. Inset - ES Company WO2 (AQMS) Paul Doggett REME was in charge of progress and planning of second line repair for all British Army equipment in theatre



Bags of washing are collected by the staff of a mobile bath and laundry unit at Split. Pictured (left to right) are Ptes Jo Porter and Karen Lumb, LCpl Paul O'Sullivan, Cpl Neil Munslow and Pte Traci Elliot

BRITLOGBAT's Supply Squadron on Op Grapple 4 was commanded by Maj Ian Biddle. The composite formation was based loosely on 6 Supply Regiment from Guttersloh and included soldiers from more than 20 other units.

It was responsible for supplying all stores, including items available from the United Nations supply system, required to support BRITFOR.

The squadron also assembled welfare packages - televisions, videos, weight-training equipment and exercise bicy-

cles - before they were moved up-country.

Deployment of mobile bath and laundry units to British bases throughout the region boosted morale.

Shops run by Naafi's Expeditionary Forces Institute did a brisk trade in soft drinks, snacks and souvenirs, selling millions of items during the first three months of the tour.

Other BRITLOGBAT units included a medical squadron, military police, a pioneer labour support unit and a postal and courier detachment.

The Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers also provided a vital service.

Grapple 4's Force Equipment Support Company was based on 6 Battalion REME, whose headquarters are at Bordon in Hampshire.

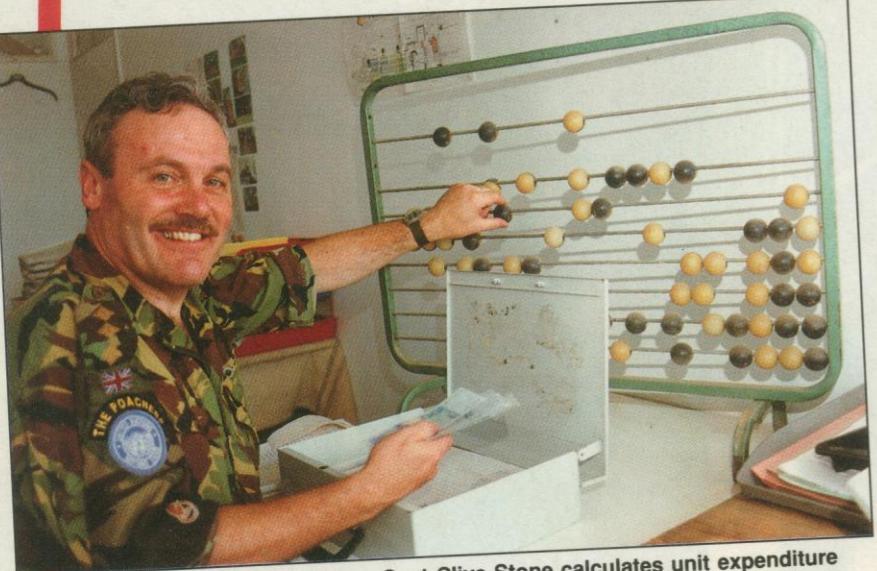
Most of its personnel were

provided by Bordon-based 9 Field Workshop and 15 Field Workshop from Catterick, with additional manpower from Tidworth-based 3 Field Workshop.

Commanded by Maj David Clutson, ES Coy had a forward platoon responsible for changing major assemblies such as engines, gearboxes and power packs which were returned to the main vehicle repair section in Split for repair, testing and reissue.

The section, housed in the former Koncar factory, was staffed by vehicle mechanics, electricians, welders and fitters.

Vehicles damaged by mines were transported directly to the docks for backloading to the UK to prevent them becoming a public spectacle, while crashed vehicles were repaired if possible and returned to service.



Regimental Admin Officer Capt Clive Stone calculates unit expenditure on an abacus. He has been responsible for the pay and documentation of more than 1,500 personnel administered by BRITBAT 1 at Vitez in central Bosnia. The ancient counting frame has been used by a succession of paymasters serving on Op Grapple.



Lt Matt Humphries and Spr Kevin McLeman made friends with a Second World War partisan while building a wooden bridge across a river at Gornji Vakuf. The new structure saved local people from having to make a lengthy diversion.



Pte Anthony Harris was surprised to receive news of his hard-earned promotion from Labour MP Dr Jack Cunningham, who presented him with his lance corporal's stripe. The MP was on a parliamentary visit to 2 R Anglian positions near Jelah in the Maglaj finger.



Army public information officer Capt Jerry McDermott was responsible for broadcasting United Nations news on local radio stations in central Bosnia. The twice-weekly broadcasts by the Vitez-based Grenadier Guards officer were translated by local interpreter Sanja Buha.

# BOSNIA PEOPLE



Pte Gary Pilgrim and Lt Steve Gandy are dwarfed by the massive Tito's Fist, a monument to the late Yugoslav leader which stands on a ridge on the approaches to Gornji Vakuf.

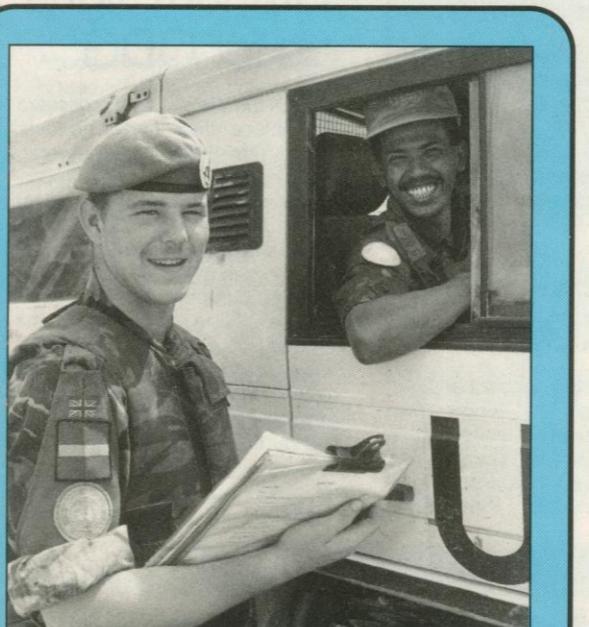


Capt Karen Irvine and Lt Col Elizabeth Duggan (front centre) with the staff of MST Bravo at Vitez. The 25-strong staff, mostly drawn from the Cambridge Military Hospital at Aldershot, provided a surgical facility for troops based at Vitez and in the surrounding areas. Main medical efforts are now concentrated at Zepce which is closer to the forward operating areas of British units.



Pte Karen Lumb RLC holds a four-legged casualty of the civil war. She and other members of the mobile bath and laundry unit at Split are looking after the unfortunate animal.

Responsible for providing spiritual comfort to soldiers at Vitez was Rev Tom Barnfather. While in Bosnia, the Army chaplain, attached to 2 R Anglian, spoke to local religious leaders about their experiences during the civil war. He also set up friendship links between schools in Bosnia and the German town of Celle where the regiment is based.



Pte Steve Sugden of 1st Battalion, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment books in a visiting Malaysian Army soldier driving a Pinzgauer vehicle similar to the type bought recently by the British Army as a replacement for the 1-tonne Land Rover. Pte Sugden could have found himself checking in nationals from any one of the 36 nations currently serving with UNPROFOR in former Yugoslavia.



Cousins Capt Brian Dalton (right) and 2nd Officer Derek Williams met for the first time in 20 years at the Croatian port of Split. Brian, a Royal Signals quartermaster serving with the British Army headquarters, discovered Derek was serving on board the Royal Fleet Auxiliary Fort Grange after a chance telephone call from his father.

Pictures: Mike Perring

## SOLDIER to Soldier

### G Battery's grave puzzle

A GRAVE in the Nicosia War Cemetery is puzzling Cyprus-based G Parachute Battery, Mercer's Troop, 7 Para RHA.

While escorting visitors to the cemetery, also known as Waynes Keep Military Cemetery, they have identified the last resting place of a former member of the regiment.

The headstone reveals only the details "1157619 Bdr Mellor E, 33 Airborne Lt Regt RA, 17 August 1951".

Extensive research through official records and archives has revealed little about Bdr Mellor and G Battery, currently serving with the UN, is anxious to hear from family or colleagues who can volunteer more information.

If you can help, please contact WO2 A Glen, G Para Bty, Mercer's Troop, 7 RHA, Sector 2, UNFICYP, BFPO 567.



Picture: Mike Weston

Bugler Steven Miller and Lt Col Clive Hodges at the memorial headstone to Lt William Forshaw VC

### Kings honour Gallipoli VC

THE LOST grave of one of The Manchester Regiment's 13 VCs has been re-discovered near Maidenhead and its headstone dedicated.

The regiment lives on in the form of The King's Regiment, which sent 50 men with Regimental Colonel Brig Jeremy Gaskell and Lt Col Clive Hodges, CO of the 1st Battalion, to honour Lt William Forshaw VC with a firing party and a service of dedication.

Painstaking research by the Manchester's Museum chairman Capt Bob Bonner established the grave at Touchen End churchyard, near Maidenhead, after the site had been discovered by VC

### Veterans on battleground

OLD SOLDIERS from all over Wales descended on the Dutch town of 's Hertogenbosch to remember comrades lost in one of the Second World War's fiercest battles.

The six-day struggle to liberate the town in October 1944 followed the failure of the Allied ground and airborne operations at Arnhem.

It was the 53rd (Welsh) Division, with its predominantly Welsh troops – including battalions from The Welch Regiment, The Royal Welch Fusiliers and the Monmouthshire Regiment – which was involved in the operation.

Joining the veterans on parade were soldiers from 160 (Wales) Brigade, which also took part in

the battle. Current commander Brig Barry Stevens, who headed a contingent of Regular and Territorial Army soldiers at the commemoration ceremonies, said: "I am always full of admiration when I read the accounts of the battle for 's-Hertogenbosch.

"It was a brilliantly-planned action, carried out with courage, intelligence, flexibility and guts."

### RBL move on NI monument

THE CHALFORD, Gloucestershire, branch of the Royal British Legion passed a motion at its annual meeting directing the National Council to open negotiations with the Government to "erect a monument to the Fallen of Her Majesty's Armed Forces who lost their lives in internal security operations in Northern Ireland and that the appropriate site be the Palace of Westminster".

Anyone wanting to support the motion, which is to go forward to the RBL's county conference and, in May next year, annual conference, should write to The Royal British Legion, County Office, 2 St Anne's Road, Cheltenham, Glos GL25 2SS."

and uniforms. "We have store-rooms full of regimental treasures which we have been unable to display. Now, with the increased space (which includes a new mezzanine floor) we should be able to display everything we want to," said Assistant Keeper Peter Donnelly, who can be contacted on 0524 64637.

### Para band bids farewell

AN audience of thousands watched the last major appearance of The Parachute Regiment Band before it embarked on a tour as resident band in Germany.

The band played at the Remembrance Day service in Aldershot's Royal Garrison Church of All Saints – recorded by the BBC for the *Songs of Praise* programme televised on November 13.

Conductor Capt Ian McElligott kept up flagging spirits with jokes and banter during two rehearsals and filming over seven hours at the church, which was packed with 825 members of other garrison churches, old comrades and 200 serving soldiers.

The band will be based at Paderborn under the administration of 2nd Battalion, The Light Infantry. Due back in Aldershot at the end of April, it is the first band to represent the Infantry on a roster instituted when the number of military bands was reduced.

• The Parachute Regiment's Falklands and Pegasus Bands were amalgamated to form a single band under the change.

### Graham signs up for QDG

WHEN the Welsh Cavalry decided to replace their battle honours board, they turned to the experts, 65 Field Park Squadron RE.

But what Sennelager-based 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards didn't know was a former member of the regiment would do the signwriting. Graham Stockton, who left the QDG in the mid-1970s and settled in Germany, spent 70 hours making the board and completing the intricate lettering and artwork to record the regiment's honours earned over 300 years.

### Les's medal offer is free

FORMER RAMC soldier Les Powell, a Second World War veteran who served in Egypt and Greece, is offering to mount medals free of charge for "ex-Servicemen on lower income". He charges only for materials such as ribbons and pins, plus VAT and postage, and can be contacted on 0270 505466.

## DIARY

**Now open:** The Right to Serve exhibition, history of women in the Army, National Army Museum, Chelsea.

### FEBRUARY

15,16,17: Mountbatten Festival of Music featuring Massed Bands, Corps of Drums and Fanfare Trumpets of Royal Marines, Royal Albert Hall, in aid of Malcolm Sargent Cancer Fund for Children and Service charities. Tickets enquiries on 0705 547205.

### JULY

18-29: 105th Royal Tournament, Earl's Court.

## SEARCHLINE

### • Battle School Training

80 Reserve Division, Balliol School, Sedbergh (now Cumbria), early 1942. If anyone has information of the training school and staff, please contact S Barrington, 6 Barford Close, Spaxton, Somerset TA5 1AE.

• Hannah M Robins, 4 Daston Close, Broadway, Worcs WR12 7BN (tel: 0386 853194) wishes to contact former penpal ex-Sgt/Drum Maj **Timothy Lawrence Outten Cassap** 24159057, 1 R Hamps Corps of Drums, HQ Coy, last known Connaught Barracks, Dover.

• **Sikh executions, Maler Kotla, 1872:** G S Aujalay, GPO Box 226, Rangoon, Burma seeks family or regimental details of an incident involving Deputy Commissioner Cowan, when 50 Man dhari Sikhs (Kookas) were executed on Jan 17, 1872 at Maler Kotla, Ludhiana District.

• **VE Day BBC TV programme:** Producer seeks photographs taken on or near VE Day and the reminiscences of people in the photographs. Contact Jenny Abbott, Room GO28, Kensington House, Richmond Way, London W14.

• E Bennett wishes to contact former 156 D/R Section, 19th Air Formation Signals personnel. Ring 0923 771832.

• Tony Lyons, The Post Office, Newton Tony, Salisbury SP4 0HF, wishes to contact anyone who attended an NBC Officers course at **Winterbourne Gunner** in late 60s/early 70s, particularly October 1969 course, and instructors.

• **503 Field Company RE:** Ex-members wanted for proposed reunion. Contact L E Peasland MM, 35 Frobisher Way, Goring by Sea, Worthing, West Sussex BN12 6EX (tel: 0903 232728).

## MILITARIA

• Gordons memorabilia: Gordon Highlanders memorabilia sought to decorate function room used by local Gordons OCA. Contact J S Spindley, 30 Jennys Lane, Ravenstone, Coalville, Leics LE67 2AP.

• Researcher wishes to contact and interview 8th Army veterans who took part in the battle of Wadi

## APPOINTMENTS

**Brigadier** – R D O'Lone – To be DA/MA Pakistan, Nov 14.

**Colonels** – J D Fielden – To be DA Bangkok, Nov 7; C D Lunn – To MoD, Nov 14; D H Keenan – To BMATT Zimbabwe, Nov 18; D W Smith – To UKSC(G), Nov 28.

**Lt Cols** – R D Abbott, R Signals – To SHAPE Staff (BAE), Nov 8; J J Cargill SG – To HQ LANDCENT, Nov 11; P R Cobley, Para – To be CO 4 Kings Own Border, Nov 7; D A Johnson REME – To be CO REME Wg RSA, Nov 11; S A Lane AGC(SPS) – To DSPSA, Nov 7; D

## REUNIONS

• **17 (Corunna) Bty RA:** All ranks reunion at Corunna weekend in Gutersloh, Jan 13-14. All past members encouraged to attend. Details from SSgt N C Sedgewick, 17 (Corunna) Bty, 26 Regt RA, BFPO 113 (tel: Gutersloh Mil 333 (010 49 5241 106333).

• **160 RGT RCT Reunion Club:** Reunion dinner on Jan 14 at WOs' and Sgts' Mess, PWOG Barracks, Grantham. Details from PMC on 091 2631207.

• **4 Coy Coldstream Guards 1950-55:** Third reunion dinner, Birmingham, April 8. Contact Harry Westgarth, 49 Rokey Park, Hull HU4 7QE (tel: 0482 503649).

• **F (Sphinx) Parachute Battery, 7th Para RHA** will celebrate Akhl Medhel Day on April 28-29 in North Camp, Aldershot. Former members of "Yellow Dog" who wish to attend should contact WO2 Nobby Clarke, F Para Bty, 9 Para RHA, Lille Barracks, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2NQ.

• **Polar Bears:** 143 Fd Regt RA reunion luncheon, May 27. Contact T Weller, 8 Seapoint Road, Broadstairs, Kent CT10 1TH (tel: 0843 861660).

• **669 Squadron AAC:** Past members sought for reunion weekend at Wattisham Airfield, July 8-9. To include predecessor

N McGregor-Smith, A and SH – To HQ AFCENT (Staff), Nov 7; S C McLean AGC(Pro) – To be Comdt RMP Trg Cen, Nov 7; A R M Smith RLC – To Exch Appt USA, Nov 11; M J Cronin, Int Corps – To MoD, Nov 14; M R M Eliot QDG – To MoD, Nov 14; A H Goldsack REME – To MoD, Nov 14; B Hewitt, R Signals – To be CO 16 Sig Regt, Nov 16; R E L Hodges, Kings – To BATUS Main, Nov 15; D J Le Cheminant RLC – To ASMT, Nov 14; I D McNab REME – To MoD, Nov 14; J P van Lare RAMC – To 1 Armd Fd Amb, Dec 2.

units 669 Sqn RAF, 1912 Light Liaison Flt, 12 Independent Flt, 131 Flt RASC and 131 Aviation Flt RCT. Details from CoH Knowles, 669 Sqn, 4 Regt AAC, BFPO 41 (or c/o Wattisham Airfield, Suffolk IP7 7RA after January 20).

• **Old Cottonians:** 1995 London reunion planned for former pupils of Bishops Cotton School, St Mark's Road, Bangalore, South India. Details from Mrs Pat Mamprin, 27 Osborne Court, Cowes, Isle of Wight PO31 7QS (tel: 0983 292328).

• **Combined Services Association drumhead thanksgiving service:** Crewe, Cheshire, August 20. Organising secretary J G Davies, 6 Mavor Court, Flag Lane, Crewe CW1 3BL.

• **2nd Bn Coldstream Guards (Aden 1964-65):** Reunion for those who served in Aden to be held in London on September 15. Details from Maj F P Horsfall, Staff Superintendent, House of Lords, London SW1A 0PW (tel: 071 219 3213 or 081 882 6072).

• **56 Signal Squadron (V) Eastbourne:** All ranks past and present, and wives, annual reunion dinner, October 14 (previously arranged for Oct 7). Details from PSAO, 56 Sig Sqn (V), TA Centre, Seaside, Eastbourne, E Sussex BN22 7NL.

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## In the 'little red book' as a good example ...

I HAVE read with interest the letters on the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal and the Meritorious Service Medal.

The original idea for the LS and GC pre-supposed that all other ranks lived up to the rep-

utation bestowed upon them by the Duke of Wellington, so an incentive had to be given to rise above this.

One thing that has stood me in good stead and helped with employment in civvy street is

my little red book which gives me an exemplary character, a term that an employer readily understands. Had anyone gone clanking into an interview with a chest covered in medals, including the LS and GC,

MM, and so on, it could have been embarrassing, unless of course the job in question had been for a commissionaire outside the local bingo hall. – **Ron Bishop, chairman, Chalford Branch, RBL.**

## Burma Campaign's forgotten Africans

### Royal Scot was ready to move

IT IS to be hoped that the young Royal Scot soldier pictured on exercise on the right side of your front cover, August 8 issue, was not called on to move anywhere in a hurry – he has no laces in his boots!

I enjoy your magazine very much – and take this opportunity to wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. – **Lovat Galloway (ex-Cameron Highlander), Durban 4001, S Africa.**

● An optical illusion. Unlike his colleagues, the soldier's boots were laced up the inside of the overlapping placket. Your seasonal greetings are reciprocated. – **Editor.**

IN REFERRING to your excellent feature on the Chindits OCA anniversary (July 25), may I bring to your attention the fact that the expedition included 3 Bde, seconded from the 81st West African Div, the 6th, 7th and 12th Battalions, Nigeria Regiment.

Mike Calvert referred to them in his book *Prisoners of Hope* (Jonathan Cape, 1952). You will find reference also on the Wingate Memorial, Victoria Gardens, SW1 and Sandhurst Indian Army (3 Ind Div)

Memorial. It is a fact generally forgotten that African soldiers outnumbered the British in many areas in Burma during that campaign.

The Chindits reunion was a splendid occasion and our patron the Prince of Wales, who was there all afternoon, charmed and uplifted us.

There is a video of the occasion – very interesting for the remaining Chindits like myself. – **Denis E Arnold MC (ex-major, 7 Nigeria Regt), Bromley, Kent.**

## Jumping the gun

I AM sorry to disillusion the London Scottish (*Soldier*, November 14) but they were not the first TA soldiers to gain their Dutch parachute wings at the Paracentrum Texel.

Chick Nelson, ex-15 Para (V) and now 144 PFA, and I attended the centre in June and I gained my wings on June 28. The weather was excellent, which enabled the completion of all the necessary jumps in two days of parachuting.

I highly recommend the course, which is taught in English, and the staff are friendly and efficient, being mostly former Dutch commando troops or, in one case, an ex-Red Devil. – **Colin Shackel RA(V), Bexleyheath, Kent.**

## THE BEAGLES OF WAR

ON THE subject of cavalry transportation (Letters, June 27) I was in 76 Div Troops RASC, 52 (L) Div in Scotland in 1942 when we were assigned a detail to move the equipment of a mountain artillery unit transferring from Edinburgh to Blairgowrie and on to winter quarters at Delgarno Castle 15 miles on by road.

It was quite a sight when the horse boxes pulled in with the

horses' heads sticking out. I was particularly amused to see the gunners recognise their mounts with a friendly pat before helping to offload them.

They loaded them up with various items such as gun wheels and panniers of ammo and set out to walk to their overnight stop, while we took their heavy gear.

I recall a mounted officer enquiring about the welfare of

a pack of beagles we carried. They were in the charge of a "beagle corporal" who reported all well apart from one sick hound.

I believe the unit, which dressed in a plus-four type of trouser with peaked hats, went to the Middle East to join 1 or 3 Div.

But what happened to the beagles? – **J C McCarthy, Liverpool L26.**

## Fate of old fort on Isle of Wight

YOUR correspondent A J Jewell (October 31) asked for more information about Fort Victoria, Yarmouth, Isle of Wight, where he was trained in 1941.

According to *Solent Papers* No 2: *The Needles Defences*, by A R Cantwell and P Sprack (1986), from 1941-43 the fort was the home of 72nd Coast Training Regiment RA, followed by 129th Light AA Regt RA, whose 40mm Bofors guns were placed on barges and towed to Normandy after D-Day as anti-aircraft defence for the Mulberry Harbour at Arromanches.

A further unit at the fort from May 1944 was HQ No 42 Water Transport Unit RASC, also Normandy-bound.

The Army gave up the fort in 1962 and the barrack blocks were demolished in 1969. The casemates still survive but some have been converted and there is a small museum.

Regarding HM submarine *Thetis*, which Mr Jewell also mentions, she failed to surface on builders' trials on June 1, 1939 with great loss of life (see *Observer's Directory of Royal Naval Submarines 1901-1982* by M P Cocker (1982)).

She was raised and re-commissioned as HM submarine *Thunderbolt*, being lost for the second and final time after depth-charge attack by the Italian motor anti-submarine boat Cicogna on March 13, 1943 off Sicily. – **M P Cocker, Cleveleys, Lancs.**

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# RM salute to Army fighters

THERE IS always a danger with books in the current oral history fashion to gain a somewhat parochial impression of a campaign, and to lose sight of the vast scope of an operation and the numbers of men involved.

The risk has been especially apparent in some of the recent books published to mark the 50th anniversary of the Normandy landings.

Maj Gen Julian Thompson has overcome the problem in *The Imperial War Museum Book of Victory in Europe* by incorporating a large number of photographs taken during the campaign, showing the great extent of the operations. There are, in addition, some excellent reproductions of paintings and sketches by war artists.

The author has made this very much the story of the British Army's part in the north-west Europe campaign and American readers may feel it is a little top-heavy in this respect.

However, the book is by a Royal Marines retired senior officer who is using British archives and personal documents, and there are plenty of American historians who have put the emphasis on the US Army contribution.

The oral history treatment makes the book a little difficult to review. It would be easy to

approach it from this angle but it would be neglectful not to draw attention to Julian Thompson's pertinent and fair observations on the campaign.

For instance, when considering Montgomery's decision to use the overworked 50th, 51st Highland and 7th Armoured Divisions in Normandy, rather than fresh formations, the author makes a point of absolving the fighting units from most of the blame for not achieving all the objectives within the planned timetable.

"At least two of the divisions, 51st and 7th Armoured, seem to have been ill-prepared", he writes, "to adapt themselves to the very different terrain in Normandy (as compared to that of the desert, Sicily and Italy). They were slow and unwilling to take risks.

"However, it would be grossly unfair to lay the blame for the slow rate of progress... at the door of these two divisions. There were many other factors."

Some common misconceptions are corrected in this book, for example that Allied casualty rates in the Second

## Six pages of book, video and music reviews start here



Berlin, July 1945: a British soldier studies the remains of a Nazi coat of arms at the entrance to the bombed-out Chancellery

World War were always lighter than those suffered in the earlier conflict against Germany.

In fact, over the 77 days of the Battle of Normandy, the Allied armies had a daily average of 2,723 casualties, exceeding by 502 the daily rate inflicted on the British Army,

including the Royal Flying Corps, in the Third Battle of Ypres.

Was Arnhem a bridge too far? Was it too ambitious a plan to drop the 1st Airborne Division so far ahead of XXX Corps that it was impossible to establish the vital link-up? The author thinks not: "the 'island' formed by the Waal and Lower Rhine was a cul-de-sac. If

Arnhem bridge was not included in the plan, there was no point in going at all".

The failure at Arnhem is attributed to other well-rehearsed and documented reasons.

To return to the oral history element of the book, through which there are a number of quotes from letters written by Maj C K "Buster" King, commanding A Company of the 2nd Battalion, the East Yorkshire Regiment, the reader gains an insight to this obviously agreeable and gallant officer, and it is with sadness that we read on page 251 that he was killed in the last few days of the war.

He was a Regular soldier with 18 years' service. He was wounded in the Ethiopian campaign of 1941 and, on recovery, he volunteered for airborne forces.

"It was the airborne's loss, and the E Yorks' gain, that he injured his leg parachuting, and was returned to his unit. He was exactly the type all too often creamed off by the airborne divisions, to the detriment of 'normal' infantry."

The author obviously feels that the infantry was a deprived arm of service during the Second World War. Although a Royal Marine himself, he has made this book a tribute to the PBI, to those in tanks, and to the other fighting corps of the Army. - BJ

## Forty minutes of bloody history

IF YOU have a special interest in the battle of Culloden Moor of 1746, then *Like Hungry Wolves* will probably add to your understanding of the last pitched battle between armies in Britain.

But should your memories be confined to those of school history lessons, then it might be as well to tackle other books on the subject first to refresh your knowledge of the Jacobites and their defeat by the Duke of Cumberland, third son of George II, before delving into this detailed narrative.

For author Stuart Reid

makes few concessions to the historically and militarily disadvantaged reader.

He concentrates not on the "myth and distortion" he claims surrounds the aftermath of the defeat of the Young Pretender, Charles Stuart, but on the build-up to the battle and on the conflict itself.

We are told the fight lasted about 40 minutes and cost the English 50 killed and 259 wounded.

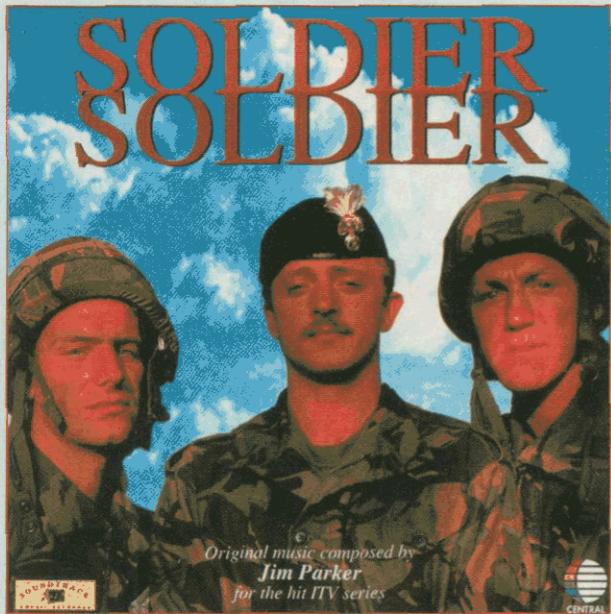
By comparison the Jacobites, outnumbered and outgunned, were slaughtered. Reid estimates that at least 1,500 died.

This is a well-produced book with superb colour illustrations of the uniforms of the soldiers who fought in the battle which "changed the face of Scotland for ever".

There are also 100 engravings and paintings which will be of interest not only to the informed reader, but to those who just like to browse through an attractive book. - JM

**Like Hungry Wolves – Culloden Moor 16 April 1746** by Stuart Reid with plates by Gerry Embleton. Windrow and Greene, hardback, £35.

**The Imperial War Museum Book of Victory In Europe. The North-West Europe Campaign 1944-1945** by Julian Thompson. Sidgwick and Jackson, hardback, £25.



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# DID CHURCHILL ERR OVER 51st?

ON THE morning of May 15, 1940, Winston Churchill received the first indication that French morale at the highest level was cracking. It came in a conversation with the French premier.

"We are defeated; we have lost the battle," declared Paul Reynaud.

Saul David writes in *Churchill's Sacrifice of the Highland Division*: "From here on, as the military situation worsened, Churchill was forced into an intricate game of political chess, with the 51st (Highland) Division as a pawn, as he tried desperately to persuade the French to continue the fight."

The book is essentially an account of the exploits and tribulations of the soldiers of the Division from its arrival in France in January up to its disintegration on June 12, 1940.

To this historical record, compiled from interviews with survivors, war diaries, letters and official documents, has been added the political background in Britain and France which led Churchill's alleged

decision to "sacrifice" the Highlanders in the hope of persuading the French to fight on by demonstrating that Britain was standing firm.

But, as the author points out, the Battle of France was already lost.

It cannot be refuted that 1940 was a horrible year in Europe outside Germany. It was also a year of frustration and futile effort, not least for the British Army.

By the end of February, the men of the Highland Division were set to work digging an anti-tank ditch in a system of defences known as 'The Gort Line', after the name of the BEF commander.

"In effect, it was a poor man's extension of the Maginot Line," writes David. "... Unfortunately, most of the sweat being shed by the BEF was likely to be for nothing as the Allied armies north of the Maginot Line never intended to stand on this defensive position..."

Following the shock German drive into the Low Countries and France came

the so-called miracle of Dunkirk, from where more than 224,000 British and 110,000 French troops were evacuated.

However, there were 160,000 British remaining in France, mainly line of communication troops, and the 51st (Highland) Division - the only British formation still in the front line.

"The role of the Highland Division was to hold the extreme left of the Somme position, with its flank on the Channel, under the command of Gen Besson's French 3rd Group of Armies."

It is difficult to see how the Division, if it were to remain in France, could have been under any other command. The British Expeditionary Force by then existed virtually in name only and, after all, this was Gen Besson's area.

The French politicians and commanders were using every opportunity to accuse Britain of treachery and matters were made worse when Britain refused to send RAF fighter planes as requested by the French government.

"... How could the 51st Division be released from French control, let alone evacuated, without this being seen as the last straw? ... Churchill ill was playing a dangerous game. He and his Cabinet were prepared to sacrifice soldiers... 'to sustain French morale', but they were far less willing to do so with the RAF...

T E Lawrence, of Arabia fame, who was considered a hero by many and a charlatan by others, is hardly mentioned, except to explain that he commanded some Arab irregulars.

The U-boat war of 1917-18, in which hundreds of Allied ships were lost, merits just over half a page of text and five maps... and so the entire war is covered in this digest form.

This large-format paperback will suit those who like their history in small doses. - JM

## Mapping out the war

SEEKERS of background information about the 1914-18 war such as A-level students will find *The Viking Atlas of World War I* both interesting and useful.

As well as maps it is full of dates, photographs, information about the size and type of military units involved in more than 60 battle locations, including the war at sea and in the air, and provides a fund of facts and general knowledge.

This is fine for those who want only a limited knowledge and do not want to plough through acres of type.

Its 190-odd pages cover the entire war and include more than 100 maps and a similar number of photographs, which unfortunately do not leave a lot of room for detail. The "Air War 1914-1917", for

example, is told in about 550 words and takes up two pages, including three colour maps and a photograph of a Royal Navy pilot who downed a Zeppelin and won the VC.

T E Lawrence, of Arabia fame, who was considered a hero by many and a charlatan by others, is hardly mentioned, except to explain that he commanded some Arab irregulars.

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*The Viking Atlas of World War I*  
by Anthony Livesey. Viking, £20.



British Armed Forces special vouchers - originally introduced to beat the black market in Germany

## BAFs fixed fiddlers

DON'T be misled by *British Armed Forces Special Vouchers*, the somewhat prosaic title of Theo van Elmp's informative book about BAOR currency - this is a tale of big bucks.

The vouchers (BAFs for short) were introduced by an alarmed British Government in 1946 to beat the black market.

In those immediate post-war days fiddles were rampant in BAOR. The locals wanted food and goods; and some soldiers - plus others with easy access to Naafi clubs and shops - were major players at "flogging" supplies

for marks which they converted to sterling at favourable rates.

Troops were then paid in marks and being extremely sharp and poorly paid - a private on the lowest rate was on four shillings (20p) a day - were quick to seize the chance to make extra cash.

It was a nice little earner but the scale of the problem led to the issue of BAFs, similar in appearance to Monopoly money, which could be spent only in official shops and clubs.

Value of the notes ranged from threepence (about 1p) to £1 with coinage reduced

to plastic tokens of a penny and halfpenny, neither of which can be measured on today's financial scale.

As well as in occupied Germany the vouchers were used at various times in Austria, Trieste, Japan, Singapore, Egypt and finally in East Berlin, where they were withdrawn from circulation in 1979.

This detailed and authoritative book is a must for enthusiasts and collectors. - JM

*British Armed Forces Special Vouchers* by Theo van Elmp. Elran Press, paperback, £19.50.

The refusal, without French acquiescence, to give the Navy the go-ahead resulted in the bizarre situation of unit commanders, even at this late hour, being uncertain as to when an attempt would be made to evacuate the men.

By now it was too late to save the Division from surrender to Rommel's 7th Panzer Division and 10,000 Highlanders from spending the next five years in prison camps.

On the cliff above St Valéry-en-Caux there stands a granite memorial in honour of the 51st (Highland) Division's desperate but, in the event, futile attempts to keep a British

Army presence in France after Dunkirk.

In the author's view: "It stands out as a tragic example of how the individual soldier suffers needlessly from the miscalculations of his political masters."

This is a provocative book, but it should be remembered that what, in hindsight, often appears to have been a serious error of judgement can seem at the time to be the only option available. - BJ

*Churchill's Sacrifice of the Highland Division: France 1940* by Saul David. Brassey's, hardback, £19.95.

# History fills 500 glorious pages

• Six copies of this book to be won – see Page 41

THE BRITISH Army has been remarkably successful over the centuries, losing only one major war, the War of American Independence (1775-83). In that time it has been active in all parts of the world, serving the empire builders and at home shaping the internal destiny of Britain in civil war and revolution.

It must have been difficult to present a comprehensive and balanced account of soldiering through the ages in just under 500 pages, but that is what has been achieved in *The Oxford Illustrated History of the British Army* by its general editor, Dr

David Chandler, who was Head of the Department of War Studies at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst from 1980 to 1994. The associate editor is Dr Ian Beckett, to whom many of us have been grateful for his indispensable reference, *Riflemen Form: A Study of the Volunteer Rifle Movement*.

There are 20 contributors to the book, each writing on their

## Life on a knife edge with the Resistance

IAN Wellsted sets a cracking pace from the first page of *SAS with the Maquis* with his story of three months behind enemy lines from June to September 1944.

He started to write his account by Christmas of the same year but, sent to Germany for the battle of the Rhine, was forced to delay completion until November 1945.

Even then, because of the numerous war books around the time, it was not published. Now, 50 years later and much to his surprise, his story about A Squadron 1 SAS and the time with the Resistance is available.

And what a good read it is – a fast-moving tale which would leave any war adventure film trailing far behind with its excitement.

He was prompted to join the SAS after a chance meeting with the legendary Paddy Mayne, who led an attack Tripolitania in 1941, destroying 24 aircraft, shooting up the officers' mess with Tommy-guns and

pulling out the control panel of the one remaining aeroplane with his bare hands

Nine months later, fully trained and totally captivated by thoughts of danger and adventure, he was to find himself parachuting into the mountains of central France.

From then on he and his companions lived on a knife edge blowing up railway lines power lines, blocking roads and telecommunication destroying enemy vehicles railway engines and trucks, demolishing factories, rescuing Allied air crew and many other activities.

But they didn't get away with it completely, with two killed, eight wounded and 14 missing out of a total of 150.

His story finishes with the revelation that his wife, on seeing him again, greeted him with the news that she wanted a divorce. – JM

**SAS with the Maquis** by Ian Wellsted. Greenhill Books, hardback, £17.95.

# At last, a full tribute to the Recce Corps

THE FEW months covered by the 1940-41 period saw the raising of more unconventional and specialist arms than at any time in the history of the British Army: Commandos, Airborne forces, Mountain troops, Special Air Service, and the Reconnaissance Corps.

Maj Gen Julian Thompson has suggested that these élite forces "creamed off" many potential junior leaders to the detriment of infantry regiments, as the standards required for private soldiers in the new units were equal in motivation and ability to those for NCOs in conventional infantry.

Be that as it may, the specialist soldiers of the Second World War have left a legacy of exploits akin to that inspired by the "adventurers" of the Royal Flying Corps in the First World War.

It therefore seems remarkable that only now the first comprehensive history of the Reconnaissance Corps should be written and published.

Richard Doherty's *Only the Enemy in Front* is the story of the short-lived corps whose purpose was to probe enemy positions and send back information on the strength and activities of his forces.

The work of reconnaissance is as old as war itself but the new corps raised the art to new levels. The author records how the Reconnaissance Corps was formed in January 1941 following recommendations of a committee under the chairmanship of Gen Sir William Bartholomew, which had the brief of enquiring into the débâcle of the BEF in France.

raphy of recommended reading to complete this attractively produced book which is extensively illustrated in both colour and black and white.

It is not overpriced at £25 and will make an appreciated Christmas present for anyone interested in the history of the British Army. – BJ

**The Oxford Illustrated History of the British Army**. General Editor David Chandler, Associate Editor Ian Beckett, published by Oxford University Press. Hardback £25.00.



Raising the dust: A motor-cycle company of the newly-formed Reconnaissance Corps ("the cavalry of the mechanised forces") trains in Northern Ireland in 1941

One recommendation was that, as an interim measure, each "high establishment" infantry division be allocated a motor-cycle battalion as a reconnaissance unit.

It was soon realised that motor-cycles were not the ideal vehicles for the role and that some sort of armour would be needed, notably the Humber Light Reconnaissance Car that served the Corps well through its existence, and later complemented by heavier Humber and Daimler scout and armoured cars.

Nevertheless, the performance of the regiments showed the qualities of adaptation and courage for which "the Recce" was to become famous.

Tunisia was the corps' next area of operations, and it was there the 56th Reconnaissance

Regiment had the distinction of being the first of the corps' units to serve in a true recce role.

At the time, the exact role of the new corps had not been decided by commanders and "The three recce regiments committed to the desert campaign had been sent to fight in conditions entirely unsuited to them".

With such a new and, as it turned out, short-lived corps, it is little wonder that matters as seemingly trivial as insignia should be difficult to resolve. The selection of a cap badge seems to have been an agonis-

ing process, as was the choice of head-dress. On January 1, 1944 came a change from khaki to black berets, but there was at least one instance of a recce regiment unofficially adopting the green beret of the Commandos.

One cannot expect much humour in a history of this kind. However, there is one episode that raises a smile. On the Ganget-Geilenkirchen road in Holland in December 1944, mine clearing "gained popularity when detectors indicated a series of mines which turned out to be wireless sets and champagne".

The "cracking about" in Germany after the Rhine crossing in March 1945 was not the easy run-up to victory which has been so often depicted.

"Even in the midst of defeat German soldiers, including Volksturm or home guard, had to be regarded with respect."

The demise of the Reconnaissance Corps had been decided upon before the final shots of war had died away. "Regiments faded away in the winter of 1945-46... By the summer... the Corps existed in name only with all regiments disbanded or in suspended animation... On August 1, 1946 the Reconnaissance Corps was finally laid to rest."

The book is a fitting tribute to all those who served in this "emergency only" corps. – BJ

**Only the Enemy in Front (Every other beggar behind...): The Recce Corps at War 1940-46** by Richard Doherty. Tom Donovan, hardback, £19.95.

## Army story comes to life on small screen

PRODUCED entirely independently from the *Oxford Illustrated History of the British Army* is a video entitled *The Official Story of the British Army - A Thin Red Line*.

Made by SSVC and Castle Communications in conjunction with the Ministry of Defence and with the full co-operation of the British Army, this two-hour film is exactly as the title says – the story rather than an official history.

With an introduction by the Chief of the General Staff, Gen Sir Charles Guthrie,

and narration by John Simpson, the video takes the viewer through the key phases of the Army's evolution, guided by distinguished military historian Richard Holmes.

The soldiers themselves play key roles – in interviews as well as in action in archive footage, some of which was released only recently.

In both black-and-white and colour, we are given an armchair spectacular with visual presentations of such great episodes

as Waterloo, the Somme, Normandy and the Gulf.

Each copy comes with an informative booklet bringing the viewer up to date with the Army of today and the future – complete with all the regimental titles.

Contributions from sales will directly benefit Service charities.

**The Official Story of the British Army - A Thin Red Line**. SSVC and Castle Vision, CVI 1852. Available from W H Smith, price £14.99.

## BOOKS IN BRIEF

A selection of the following books, also recently received by Soldier, will be reviewed in forthcoming issues:

**The History of British Military Bands – Volume One: Cavalry and Corps** by Maj Gordon Turner and Alwyn Turner. Start of trilogy by father and son includes The Parachute Regiment and The Brigade of Gurkhas and comes complete with compact disc. Spellmount Publishers, Stapehurst, Kent, hardback, £60.

**Chain Mail: The History of the Duke of Lancaster's Own Yeomanry 1798 – 1991** by John Brereton. Picton Publishing, Chippenham, Wilts, hardback, £39.50, plus £3.50 p and p.

**The Berkshire Yeomanry: 200 Years of Yeoman Service** by Anthony Verey, Andrew French, Simon Frost, Stuart Sampson. Alan Sutton Publishing, hardback, £12.99.

**Jai Sixth! 6th Queen Elizabeth's Own Gurkha Rifles 1817-1994** by James Lunt. Leo Cooper, hardback, £18.95.

**Remember with Advantages: A History of the 10th, 11th and Royal Hussars 1945-1992** by Henry Keown-Boyd. Leo Cooper, hardback, £18.95.

**A History of the British Cavalry 1816-1919 Vol 5: 1914-1919** by the Marquess of Anglesey. Leo Cooper, hardback, £40.

**In the Trade of War** by Jim Allan. Dramatic story of the war against the Japanese by a founder member of the Burma Star Association. Parapress, hardback, £16.95.

**Not Ordinary Men: The Battle of Kohima Re-assessed** by John Colvin. Leo Cooper Pen and Sword Books, hardback, £18.95.

**Wingate and the Chindits: Redressing the Balance** by David Rooney. Re-assessment by former Sandhurst senior lecturer. Arms and Armour, hardback, £17.99.

**The Fighting Wessex Wyverns** by Patrick Delaforce. From Normandy to Bremerhaven with the 43rd Wessex Division. Alan Sutton Publishing, hardback, £16.99.

**Badges of the Worcestershire Regiment**. Available at £25 plus £2.50 p and p from the author, R W Bennett, 16 Grayshott Lavers, Lindford, Bordon, Hants GU35 0QB.

**World Encyclopaedia of the Tank** by Christopher Chant. International history. Patrick Stephens Ltd, Yeovil, hardback, £25.

**Silent Heroes: The Bravery and Devotion of Animals in War** by Evelyn Le Chêne. Souvenir Press, hardback, £15.99.

**The Red, The White and The Grey** by Elaine Scott. Paperback novel based on author's Second World War experiences in The Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service. Excalibur Press, 4-6 Effie Road, London SW6 1TD.

**Five Years to Liberty** introduced by Murray Maclean. The war poems of John Buxton 1940-45. Pentland Press, Bishop Auckland, paperback, £8.50.

**A Teenager's War** by Ron Tucker. Story of para who survived Sword Beach. Spellmount, hardback, £16.99.

**Rommel In his Own Words** edited by Dr John Pimlott. Greenhill Books, hardback, £17.99.

**Across the Lines** by Donald Gurrey. Axis intelligence and sabotage operations in Italy, 1943-45. Parapress, Tunbridge Wells, hardback, £15.95.

**The Long Journey** by James Nuttall. Comprehensive account of the author's wartime experiences as an RASC driver. Excalibur Press of London, paperback, £9.95.

**My Moving Tent: Diary of a Desert Rat** by A A Nicol. Second World War reminiscences. The Pentland Press, hardback, £19.50.

**A Life's Journey** by Tom Stokes. Contrast between rural England and the horrors of Dunkirk and the Battle for Europe. Owl Books, Wigan, paperback, £6.95 (or from author, 25 Kingsbury Avenue, Bolton, BL1 5NR p and p inc).

**Destination Kwai** by Jack Shuttle. Tucan Design and Print, Heighington, Lincoln, softback, £4.50.

## VIDEOS

**Silently to War**. Story of the British military gliders of the Second World War and the men who flew them, told by the survivors, with rare archive film. From Glider Pilot Regiment Film Project, COS, 65a King Street, Knutsford, Cheshire WA16 6DX. Price £12.99 plus £1.50 p and p. Profits to Glider Pilot Regt Benevolent Fund, Airborne Forces Security Fund, Army Air Corps Fund.

**Tribute to Bravery**. Isandlwana and Rorke's Drift. Infantry Films and TV Dept, Warminster. Price £9 from Curator, South Wales Borderers and Monmouthshire Regimental Museum of The Royal Regiment of Wales, The Barracks, Brecon, Powys, LD3 7EB (Tel: 0874 613275).

## Oh, to be digitally re-mastered . . .

**Aldershot Tattoos 1932-1938 Massed Bands**

WHAT, I wonder, would the participants in these tattoos have made of "You will be digitally re-mastered in 1994 and issued on compact disc"?

Not much I'm sure, for even this old sodger (having reviewed records for nearly 25 years, and 60 years later) is still not fully acquainted with the process.

Anyway, here we are, every man jack complete from head to toe in full regimental ceremonial dress, bearskins, busbies, helmets, breastplates, spurs – the lot.

A pity the troops of today can't get a glimpse of us. But hear us you can, and if you listen very carefully Acting Bandsman R Bashford is playing 23rd (or 24th) horn – in two of them at least.

On Rushmoor Arena we gathered for weeks on end each year to trudge up and down that mostly sodden turf.

The Aldershot and other tattoos, as with more recent ones, were a far cry from their origins in the Dutch word Taptoe, when all beer taps were turned off and troops returned to

**RECORDINGS**  
**Rodney Bashford**

camp. In 1938 I remember a fantastic representation of the Field of the Cloth of Gold, and searchlights being two a penny in those days, the lighting effects were stunning.

The music hardly matters. Everything well known, for what matters here is the sound, and the memories evoked.

For those who were not there you must imagine a 1,000-strong band in full dress, probably tired, most of us hungry (and longing for our generously allotted rock-cake and char), a two-mile walk back to barracks, equipment cleaned for the morrow, and finally a very hard bed. Ah, those were the days.

Mostly marches, of course, with a few unknowns thrown in, corps of drums, pipes and drums, and Friedemann's *Slavonic Rhapsody No. 1* for finale. Not only for collectors but anyone wanting a glimpse of the past. My one wish is that the engineers could re-master the performers on this disc. Especially me.

● From FAME, PO Box 608, Hailsham, Sussex BN27 3UN, price £9.95 Inc.

## LLOYD WEBBER TONIC

## The Durhams

Band of the 7th Bn The Durham Light Infantry  
Conductor: Bandmaster J Seddon  
Bugle Major: C W Green

IT'S A long time since these pages reviewed a disc by a TA regiment, so it is good to welcome the Burma Band of the Light Infantry to the studios, along with two old friends in Mr Seddon and that imposing figure who led the Light Infantry displays for many years, Bugle Major Green – he of the Merv Hughes moustache.

So you can rely on a generous ration of bugling in true Greenjacket style.

They are involved from the start with a fanfare for band and bugles, *Durham Cathedral* by Mr Seddon, and a march, *The Durhams, a Tyrol Troop* by this old rifleman, the bugle pops *High on a Hill* and

*Lonely Bugler*, and of course the finale.

The band alone plays the march *Barnard Castle*, and on the lighter side a selection from *Les Misérables* and a symphonic portrait of Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber.

Sir Andrew, as a very young lad, once sneaked me a gin and tonic in, of all places, the Methodist Central Hall, so I'm all for him.

*Evening at Pops* is a medley of extracts from the film music of John Williams. *The Day Thou Gavest* and the two regimental marches (how good to hear *The Light Barque* again) end a well-played programme from Chester-le-Street way.

● From Band Office, TA Centre, Picktree Lane, Chester-le-Street, Co Durham. Cassette £7, CD £10.25, both inc, or from Music Masters.

# HOW OBSERVANT ARE YOU? COMPETITION 601

# WIN £50

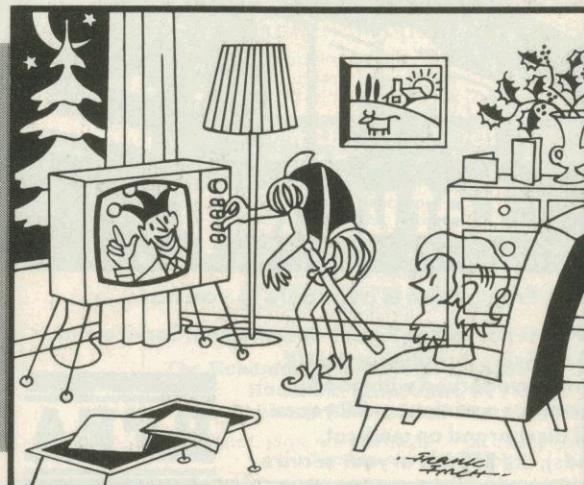
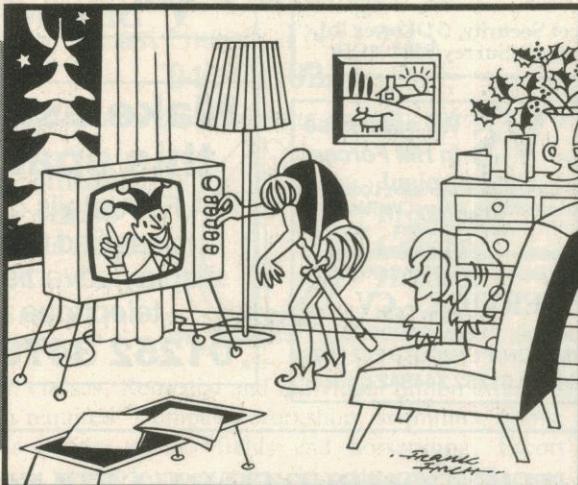
The pictures here are from our Frank Finch cartoon archives. Find ten differences in detail and you could be £50 richer or win a new book. Circle the differences in the right-hand picture, cut out the whole panel, add your name and address and send to HOAY 601, *Soldier*, Ordnance Road, Aldershot GU11 2DU by December 30. 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.

The names of the winner of the £50 first prize and two runners-up will be announced in the February 6, 1995 issue.

Name: (Give rank or title)

Address:



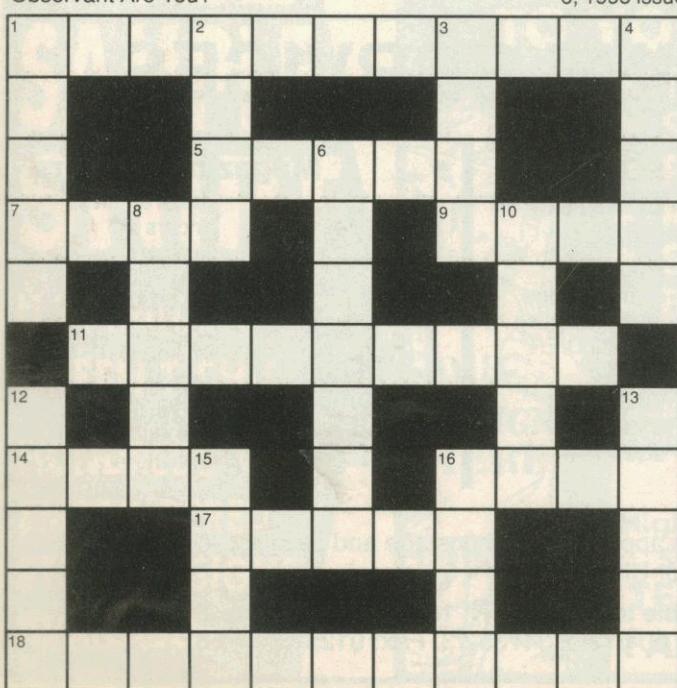
Competition No 598 (October 31 issue): Congratulations to Mr B Thackray, of Croydon, Surrey, who wins £50. Book prizes go to runners-up Joyce V Baldock, of Maidstone, Kent, and Capt G Harrison, of Portsmouth, Hants.

## SQUARE BASHING

Why not enter our special Christmas Crossword – you could win one of six copies of *The Oxford Illustrated History of the British Army*

Complete the crossword grid, cut out the whole panel and send it with your name and address firmly attached to Crossword, *Soldier*, Ordnance Road, Aldershot GU11 2DU by January 6, 1995. Do not include anything else in your envelope – this competition is entirely separate from "How Observant Are You?"

The first six correct entries drawn will win a copy of *The Oxford Illustrated History of the British Army*. No correspondence of any kind can be entered into. The names of the lucky six winners of this superb book – kindly donated by Oxford University Press – will be announced in the February 6, 1995 issue, with the answers.

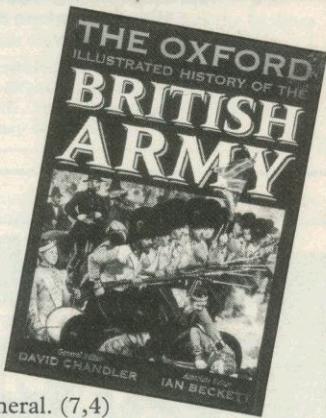


### ACROSS

1. Slim ace hero is becomingly general. (7,4)
5. "Forward the \_\_\_ Brigade! Was there a man dismay'd?" – Tennyson. (5)
7. Whiff of foreign money? (4)
9. One cat will explode. (4)
11. Commander of body of men interrupted by tax inspectors. (9)
14. British Rail goes one way, then another for a cup. (4)
16. Quiet, I say, quiet troop carrier. (4)
17. Proficient, commercial exercise elbowed in the middle. (5)
18. Former French friend off to the country for a trial. (11)

### DOWN

1. Border parade. (5)
2. Weapon's handle found in Achiltibuie. (4)
3. Retrograde alternative for part-time soldiers on shift-work. (4)
4. Three points added to my opposition. (5)
6. Zig-zag rode to Yugoslavia. (7)
8. Ancient Scandinavian right in Wellington's finest. (5)
10. Inside agent ate Etherington's grinders. (5)
12. A higher position gives a smell of the end of the war. (5)
13. Manoeuvres zero back on cutlery. (5)
15. Armed conflict over mister officer's overcoat. (4)
16. Holy man goes back on thanks for figure. (4)



● Crossword compiled by Catherine Marshall

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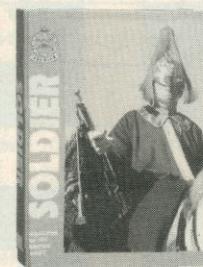
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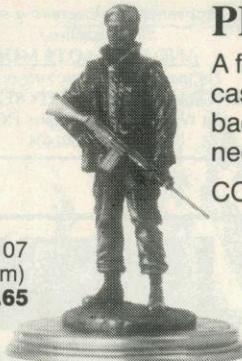
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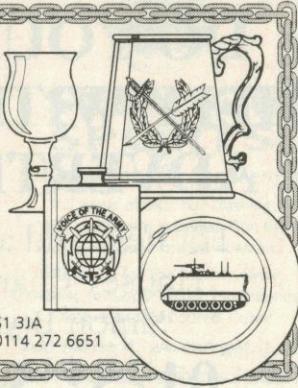


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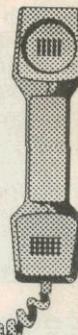
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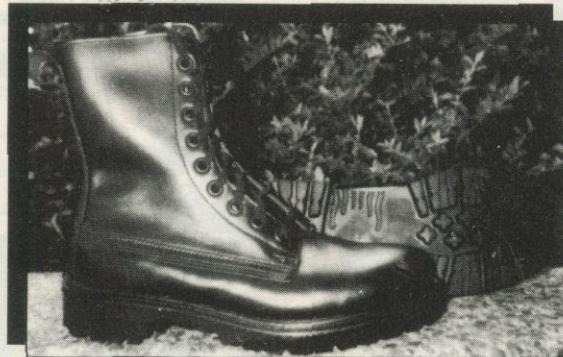
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25/94

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25/94

**Sharron**, 31, 5'6", brunette, blue eyes. Interests: cinema, reading, music and theatre. I'm separated with two children and would like pen pals aged 28-35. P137

25/94

**Hi**, single mum from Brum. I'm 27, 5'9" with fair hair and blue eyes. I enjoy keep fit, swimming, pubs and clubs. P138

25/94

**25-year-old NCO**, interests include keep-fit, pubs and clubs. Would like to hear from any 20 to 30-year-old females with similar interests. P139

25/94

**Cheryl**, 31, 5'3", attractive, gsoh. Interests include: swimming, long walks on the beach, countryside, pubs, clubs, eating out and good company. I'd like to hear from honest, single, soldiers 28-42 with gsoh. P140

25/94

**Joanne**, 31, 5'10" with brown hair and blue eyes. I live with my young son and have a passion for fast cars. I enjoy walking, reading and writing letters and have varied tastes in music. P141

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**Jane**, 27, 5'5", slim with short fair hair. I enjoy: walking, keep-fit, reading, pubs and listening to most music. I'm a vegetarian and would like to hear from soldier aged 25-35. P142

25/94

**Tess**, 38-year-old graduate, tall, slim, attractive, professional. I'd like to hear from professional men aged 35-45 with gsoh. My interests include: dining out, reading, theatre, cinema and the arts. P143

25/94

**Roz**, 38, 5'5", slim with light brown hair. Would like to hear from a sincere, caring gentleman who has a sense of humour and a young outlook on life. P144

25/94

**35-year-old** divorced mother. Interests: aerobics, swimming, cinema and eating out. I'm a genuine, caring person with a gsoh and would like to hear from soldiers home or abroad. P145

25/94

29-year-old, single female, auburn hair, slim, 5'3". I work as a florist in Merseyside and my interests include step aerobics, watching bands and meals out. P146

25/94

**Long blonde hair** and eyes of blue, a sense of humour, will I write to you? Drop me a line, photo too. Just be sincere and honest, that will do. P147

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## Gurkha on target in Canada



Capt Dharmendra Gurung (1 RGR) was overall rifle champion at the Canadian Forces skill-at-arms and Canada Rifle Association competitions in Canada in which the British Army rifle team took part. The team returned weighed down with silverware, their only disappointment being in not retaining the international match title.

## Eas-SEE does it!

THE School of Electronic Engineering retained the Southern District (East) FA six-a-side trophy at Aldershot.

Arranged by WO2s Alf Aikman and Ken Sanders-Fox of Vehicles and Weapons Branch, Chertsey, the competition attracted 26 entries and a high standard of play. In seven hours of football, only two cautions were dished out, both in the final stages.

Aldershot-based 7 Para RHA beat ATR Pirbright 7-6 on penalties in the quarter final stages, only to be beaten in the semi finals by 3 RSME.

SEE beat 17 Port and Maritime in the other semi final to set the stage for a thrilling final with 3 RSME.

After 20 minutes the score stood at two goals and three corners each. A further three minutes each way produced victory for SEE on corners.

## Sappers fastest at Tweseldown

MAJOR Unit winners at the Army relay championships at Tweseldown, near Aldershot, on November 12, were 28 Engr Regt, followed by BAD Kineton and 2 Para.

ITB Ouston won the Minor race, with ATR Bassingbourn second and ASPT third.

Eighty-six teams and 327 runners took part in wet, overcast conditions.

There was some doubt about the timings, but the top ten were established. Fastest laps were recorded by:

Senior men - 1, Cpl Palmer, 1 RSME (15min 04sec); 2, Cpl

Cairns, ATR Bassingbourn (15.22). Junior men - 1, A/Sgt J Vessey, 1 RSME (16.40); 2, Pte C Busby, 1 Royal Scots (17.00). Women - 1, Cpl S Bradley, 160 Pro Coy (18.24); 2, Sig S Morris, 8 Sig Regt (18.54). Veterans - 1, SSgt J Baker, ATR Bassingbourn (16.59).

## Bradbury's treble strike sinks county

### Army 4, Middlesex 0

THE ARMY opened their account in the South West Counties Championship at the Military Stadium, Aldershot by trouncing Middlesex 4-0, writes Derrick Bly.

Hero of the match was PWRR striker Pte Lee Bradbury who scored three superb goals after the home side had adapted more quickly to wet, windy conditions which made ball control difficult.

Middlesex should have gone ahead in the eighth minute when a slip by Sig Joe Collins let in Leyton Wingate striker Fleming, but SSgt Nigel Wiscombe was quickly off his line to smother the shot.

At the other end LCpl David Hope had a fierce drive tipped over and then limped off, to be replaced by Sig Jim Strouts.

The Army took the lead in the 35th minute when a SSgt Alan Higgins corner was neatly

headed in at the far post by Strouts, and they went further ahead on the interval when Bradbury smashed the ball into the roof of the net after Strouts and Bambrook had opened up the defence with 25-yard cross-field passes.

Five minutes into the second half Bradbury was quickest on to an intended back-pass to score the Army's third.

SSgt Micky Johnson replaced the injured Pte John Wills and Wiscombe made an important double save to keep his goal intact. Higgin, Bradbury, Bambrook, Johnson and McHugh wove neat patterns going forward while LSgt Paul Fagin and SSgt Kevin Parkin were dominant at the heart of the Army defence.

Bradbury completed his hat-trick in the 77th minute, receiving from Higgins and hammering home an unstoppable right foot shot.

Cpl Zak Fazakerly scored on the hour, while Cpl Steve Reeves converted a penalty shortly before the end.

THE RE were somewhat flattered by the score-line in an overly-physical contest at the Tidworth Oval. Indeed, the result could have been reversed if the Infantry had enjoyed the same good fortune as their opponents.

SGT Bill Bailey (2 Sig Regt) laid claim to the title of top Army "vet" runner with a superb performance in the British and Irish veterans cross country championships at Silkworth, Sunderland.

He finished seventh overall in a field of 102 packed with former international and Olympic competitors, and in doing so helped England to victory in the M40 age group.

As Bailey had just returned from a holiday in New Zealand after winning medals at the World Veterans road running

## Army rallies round



SSgt Joe Bain slithers his way to the BAMA award in mid-Wales

THE ARMY was well represented on the 1994 Superwinch hill rally in mid-Wales when SSgt Joe McBain (101 Engr Regt EOD) and co-driver Capt Bernie Stevens (65 Petro Sqn RLC), and Maj Alan Paramore (RLC Ashchurch) with co-driver Maj (retd) Derek Hunter (REME), competed in atrocious weather conditions over difficult countryside.

Both teams took part in

standard class works Vauxhall Fronteras. Having set a scorching pace, Paramore had to retire with head gasket failure, while Bain - despite retiring on the first day - finished fourth on the Sunday run and collected the British Army Motoring Association award.

One other military crew, Jason Brunsdon and Brian Dymond, both of 14 Regiment RA, were forced to retire with engine problems.



Muddied but unbowed: from left to right are Lt Col Glen Grant, Capt Alex Rodgers and Sgt Bill Bailey

## Bailey leads as veterans shine in mud

championships in Canada, his gutsy run through the mud and rain of the North-East was all the more remarkable.

Lt Col Glen Grant (MCTC Colchester), representing Wales, endorsed his class and consistency by finishing ninth, just 16 seconds behind Bailey.

He was the second Welshman home.

Capt Alex Rodgers (40 Cadet Trg Team, Preston) was the first Northern Ireland man to finish, crossing the line in 13th place. He has just qualified for the veterans, and is sure to feature for some time.

While the Army men's team is exceptionally strong, there is room for development in the women's section.

SSgt Betty Gash, serving at RMAS, started the season well with a second place in the Surrey veterans cross country championships and should hold her place in the Army senior team.

Veterans (men over 40, women over 35) interested in cross country, road running or track and field, should contact Capt Terry Hall on London District Mil (763) 2273 or 071-414 2273.

Pte Pickers (7 Tpt Regt RKC) won the Soldier Shield for the best Regular private soldier. SEME and 9 Sup Regt RLC won the major team trophies.

## Plain sailing for German garrisons

DESPITE the fact that only two garrisons managed to fill two boats each, and that Hohne Garrison was not able to take part at all, the second inter-garrison (Germany) sail training week, sponsored by Lambs Navy, was a great success.

Only Rhine and Osnabrück, with the support of Münster-based 1st Battalion Coldstream Guards, managed to man two yachts each at the event, which started in the area of Strander Brucht.

Rhine A crossed the line first on the opening day, followed by Herford, Gütersloh, Paderborn, both Osnabrück yachts and Rhine B.

Three races were held the following day, with competitors in the compass race starting in reverse order of the previous day's results.

Winners were Herford in 1hr 51min, followed by Gütersloh (1.53), Rhine A (1.56), Osnabrück (2.2), Paderborn (2.8), Rhine B (2.9), and Osnabrück B (2.11).

Osnabrück A led the next event - on a match-race course - from start to finish.

Paderborn, the team from the QDG, crossed the line first in the third race, held on an Olympic course with a finish in Sonderborg. A length behind was Osnabrück A.

Winds of force two and glorious sunshine the following

## On course

BEST individual rider at the Army motor-cycle championships held at Longmoor training area was Lt Richard Luedicke from 27 Regt RLC. He won the Norton Trophy.

WO2 Bill Buckley (7 Bn REME) was the best Regular Army rider, and the best novice was SSgt Hobbs of ACIO Southampton. Pte Pickers (7 Tpt Regt RKC) won the Soldier Shield for the best Regular private soldier. SEME and 9 Sup Regt RLC won the major team trophies.

day saw Osnabrück A overtake Herford's lead, to sail into a 20-minute lead.

The sixth and last race, held the next day, was again won by Osnabrück A - making Osnabrück Garrison the winners of the week.

With Rhine A and Herford both having 11.75 points, the committee had to go back to the highest discard, making Herford runners-up.

## RLC skiers start with high hopes

WITH THE 1995 race season fast approaching, the Nordic and Alpine ski teams from Gütersloh-based 1 General Support Regiment RLC are training hard.

The Alpine team will be led by Lt Jamie Clarke, ex-national junior squad and former Army champion.

In January, the team, trained by former British champion Peter Kuwall, will compete as guests in the Royal Artillery championships in preparation for the divisional and Army championships, and hopefully, the Inter-Services in Tignes in February.

Leading the Nordic skiers will be Lt Dave Mason, with 2nd Lt Paul McClellan, team captain designate, already proving to be a serious challenger to more experienced members of the team.

• The Great Britain 2 bobsleigh, which included Sean Olsson and George Farrell, finished a disappointing 15th in the first FIBT World Cup four-man competition at Calgary on November 19. Former soldiers Mark Tout and Lenny Paul were in the GB 1 bobsleigh which finished third, just hundredths of a second behind winners Germany and Canada in second place.

# Aussie rules, OK

## Tactics of Balaclava fail to subdue confident visitors

IN FRONT of the biggest crowd for some years at the Aldershot Military Stadium the Army and the Australian Combined Services fought out an incompromising and frequently unceremonious game of rugby contrasts, writes **Roger Thompson**.

The Army started well, confidently weathering a number of flamboyant Australian attempts to drive the ball, league-style, down the centre. The defence, led by James, Wainwright and Denham, tackled strongly and the Army was able to take maximum psychological advantage from a series of scrums, shunting the Australians ignominiously rearwards.

Whether through frustration or a "wider" interpretation of the laws under pressure, the Australians conceded a string of penalties enabling WO2 Steve Powley to give the Army an early 12-point lead.

As well as dominating the scrums, the Army, through Dahinton and Wainwright, invariably gained first touch at the line-out, only to lose possession because of inadequate support play.

Indeed it was poor ball retention and loose kicking from the hand and restart which allowed the Australians to launch a progression of powerful attacks. As the visitors grew in confidence, so the pattern of the game changed.

The Army commenced a series of bull-runs off the set pieces reminiscent in concept and execution of Balaclava. "Green jerseys to the left, green jerseys to the right", yet into the jaws of the defence repeatedly sprinted the lone red shirt.

Like Cardigan, the Army persisted until the back row



All out effort as the Army forwards stand up to Aussie pressure at the Military Stadium, Aldershot



Gareth James (2 Sig Regt) and Andy Deans (3 Para) move to intercept an Australian attack launched by scrum half Reis

was exhausted; it had battered itself to bits and from mid-way through the second half could neither attack nor defend. Ball handling became pedestrian and retention, at every ruck and maul, became even more difficult.

This tactic was desperately frustrating because the Army threequarters looked sharp on the counter-attack.

Howard Graham ran gainfully from the back on a number of occasions but missed the best chance of the match to slip the ball inside to Tony Glasgow arriving at speed with the Australian line

open. Steve Bartliffe frequently ran elusively infield from the right wing, causing the defence all sorts of trouble in a series of side stepping counter attacks but in general the Army backs had to scavenge for the ball to demonstrate their ability.

After half time the Australians established a clear pattern of attacking play, launching themselves towards the Army line with wave after wave of forwards and backs taking flat ball and gaining ground.

It was all very predictable but excellent spectators' rugby and the applause was general.

ous. In one-to-one situations the Army defence fared well, but too frequently the obvious insertion of Smith from the wing or Barnard, a gifted straight running full back, caused momentary confusion, which was sufficient.

One such foray enabled McRae, a bustling centre, to score a well-deserved try which was converted by Scott.

The Army pack, under pressure tracking an increasingly elusive ball, infringed repeatedly, enabling Scott to kick six penalties and, single-handed, overhaul the Army score.

This Army side has too many captains and no generals – failure was rapidly reinforced as the pack pounded the centre of the park when the evidence suggested Glasgow had the guile and speed to launch both Bramble and Bartliffe on their separate wings, with every chance of success.

There were some encouraging signs but overall this was a disappointing result. Maybe it is time to give the kaleidoscope a really big shake.

Asked for a post match comment, an astute Australian reflected: "The Pommies' trouble is too much flat beer and not enough flat ball". Maybe he had a point.

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A mid-Operation Grapple R and R break at Split gave soldiers from 5 Field Squadron RE a chance to test their sea legs. Lining the deck of sail training yacht *Sabre* are (left to right) Maj Henry Bradshaw (skipper), Fit Lt Andy Maguire RAF (first mate), Spr Jason Tranter, Cpl Roy Harrison, LCpl Stephen Gill, Sprs Jason Metcalfe and Stuart Mills, LCpl Nicholas Spencely, Spr Kevin Brogan, LCpls Justin Ballam and Craig Chandler and Spr David Hollinshead. More Grapple faces in Pages 28-29.

Picture: Mike Perring

