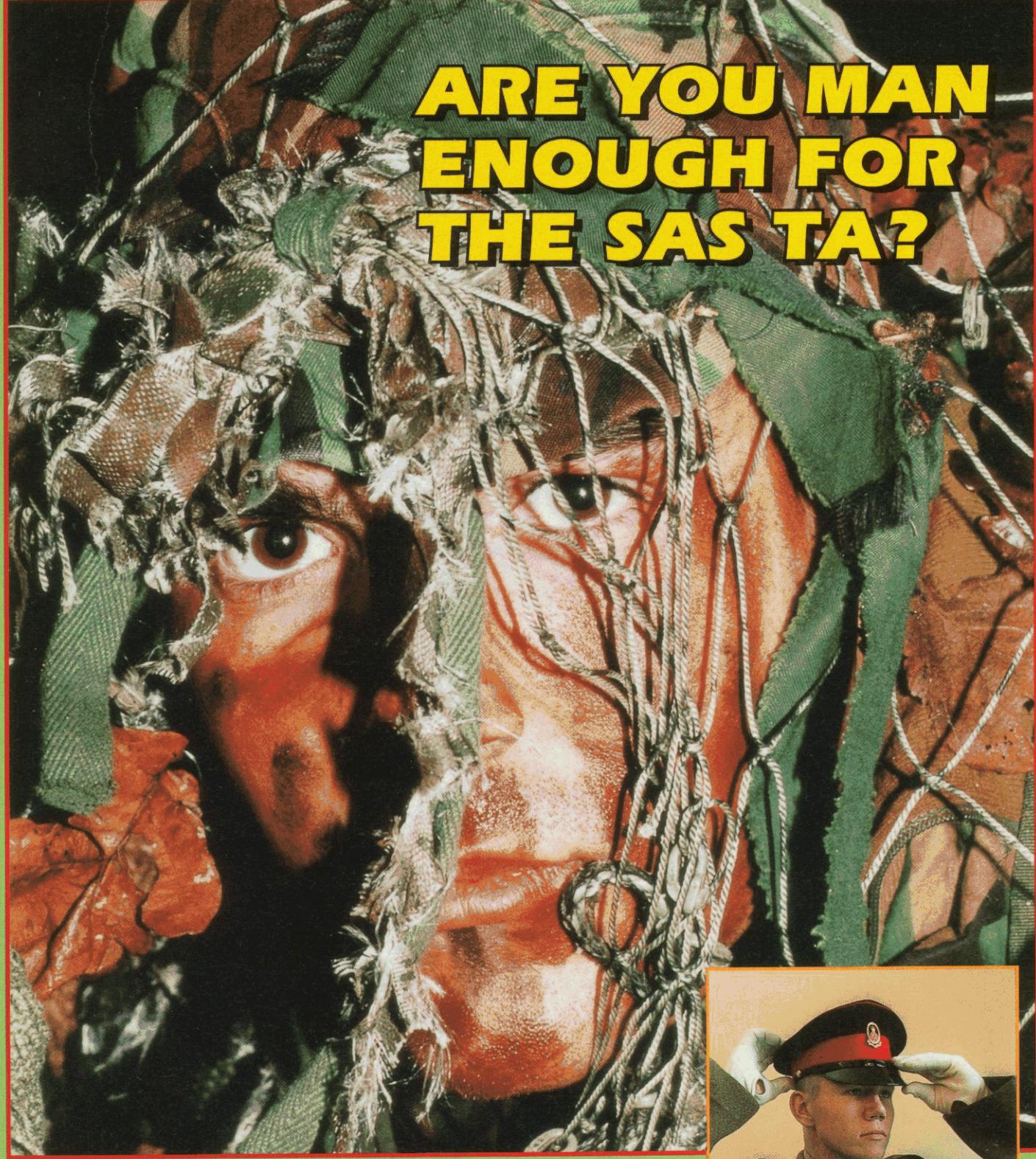


# SOLDIER

FORTNIGHTLY MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY

JANUARY 22 1996

60p



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JAN 22, 1996 Vol 52/2

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Army puts an end to Kiwis' unbeaten run



Gurkhas check rifles at Church Crookham before flying to Bosnia. The advance party left on December 17

# Sappers lose all in Bosnia barrack fire

From Gordon Skilling in Sipovo, Bosnia

SAPPERS of 32 Engineer Regiment's 26 Armoured Engineer Squadron serving with NATO's Peace Implementation Force (IFOR) at Mrkonjic-Grad in Bosnia lost all their personal belongings when their living accommodation was gutted by fire.

No one was injured in the blaze and sleeping bags and warm clothing were quickly flown to the stricken soldiers.

The fire was discovered by members of 115 Provost Company RMP as they were going for their evening meal in a room below.

"After 30 seconds we saw the situation was hopeless," said Echelon commander Capt Ian Sinclair. "Any fire-fighting was beyond our means because the water was disconnected and the foam-filled wall panels burned so fiercely."

The fire also ignited rounds of small arms ammunition, adding to the hazard.

For the soldiers, the worst loss was personal photographs of their wives and children. One newly-arrived sapper had not had time to open his birthday mail and lost the lot.

Spr Simon Turner said the squadron would continue with its work of preparing roads so IFOR's armoured units could deploy.

Meanwhile, donations of personal stereos or electric razors would be greatly appreciated. They should be sent to 32 Engr Regt RE, c/o Bus Depot, BFPO 538.

#### 2 LI OPENS FIRE

Soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, The Light Infantry, returned fire when they were shot at from a Serb bunker.

Four riflemen returned 62 rounds during the exchange on January 9. A local faction commander was later warned that such activity would result in a "forcible response".

In an earlier incident, a round struck a different 2 LI position. The local commander apologised.

# Catterick tanks on their way

AS the NATO Peace Implementation Force built in strength, Challenger 1 main battle tanks from Catterick were arriving in former Yugoslavia to beef up the 13,100-strong British contribution.

Many soldiers had hurried Christmas celebrations before deploying to join troops of the former UN Protection Force already in position.

The task which faces IFOR is to transform the former Yugo-

● Turn to Page 4

## Row for your country

HQ LAND, Wilton is looking for 50 teams to take part in a 24-hour indoor rowing competition at Salisbury Leisure Centre on February 23-24.

It also wants an Army team to make an attempt on the world 24-hour indoor record of 473,955 metres.

With a minimum of 36 rowers from across the command working in teams of 12, Wilton reckons it should be possible to maintain a rate that would smash the record.

The event is being staged to raise funds for the British Olympic Appeal.

Individuals should contact Maj Nigel Walker on 733 3446 or (fax) 733 3737 as soon as possible.

## Special sword

NOMINATIONS by units for a Wilkinson Sword of Peace to mark a special operation during 1995 are required by the beginning of March.

The sword, for the most valuable contribution towards "establishing good and friendly relations with the inhabitants of any community at home or overseas", will be awarded only if there is a citation deemed worthy of recognition by an adjudicating committee.

Submissions have to reach MOD PS 12 (Army) by March 8. Full details appear in DCI JS 103.

## CMH claim 'nonsense'

A SUGGESTION that the buildings housing the soon-to-close Cambridge Military Hospital, Aldershot, would be bulldozed was described as "nonsense" by Armed Forces Minister Nicholas Soames.

During the Commons debate on the second reading of the Armed Forces Bill he said the permanent buildings would be retained for defence-related purposes.

The NHS would maintain a temporary presence at the site.

# QRH tanks on way as IFOR builds strength

From Page 3

slavia from a war footing to a state of peace.

UN blue was replaced by regimental colours as NATO launched the first land operation in its history.

Union flags were again flying proudly in Bosnia as Scimitars of the Hohne-based Light Dragoons, Warriors of the 2nd Battalion, The Light Infantry (Paderborn), and Saxons of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers (Catterick) headed north into Bosnian Serb territory.

Families lined the roads, waving and smiling, as the British drove into the village of Krupa a few miles south of a Banja Luka, once a no-go area.

These former UNPROFOR troops are the nucleus of a much larger operation, with British soldiers from Germany and Britain joining those already in theatre to provide a fifth of the overall force of 60,000.

NATO's British-led Allied Command Europe Rapid Reaction Force (ARRC) headquarters from Rheindahlen, under Lt Gen Sir Michael Walker, is based at Sarajevo and commands three multinational divisions led by American, British and French two-star generals.

Alongside the significant American presence in the north are a Nordic brigade which includes a Polish unit and a Russian brigade at Tuzla.

Sector South East is under French divisional command and includes a Spanish brigade and Moroccan battalion, and an Italian brigade with a Portuguese battalion.

Bulford-based HQ 3 (UK) Division HQ provides a headquarters for Multinational Division South West located at Gornji Vakuf under Maj Gen

Mike Jackson, with a British brigade which includes a Dutch group of about 2,000.

The ARRC Forward HQ and 3 Div Tactical HQ was followed by the remainder of the ARRC, while the main body of 3 Div and 4 Armoured Brigade (Osnabrück) started its move immediately after Christmas.

Operational control passed from the United Nations to NATO on December 19.

Yorkshire-based 1 RRF, 2 LI and the Light Dragoons are being joined by two Challenger 1 squadrons from The Queen's Royal Hussars at Catterick. Three AS90 batteries of 26 Regiment RA (Gutersloh) will join a light gun battery from 29 Commando Regiment RA (Plymouth), while 32 Engineer Regiment (Hohne) will join 38 Engineer Regiment (Ripon).

British support and logistics will be provided by a 4,500-strong force drawn from the RE, RLC, REME, RMP and Army Medical Services in the UK and Germany.

Helicopter support is pro-

vided by the Royal Navy, Royal Air Force and Dishforth-based 9 Regiment AAC.

## KOSB in cup-winning form



LCpl John McClurg directs the fire of the winning 1 KOSB team during 39 Infantry Brigade's Monro Cup march and shoot competition. HQ Coy, 1 KOSB, currently based at Girdwood Camp with the Belfast Roulement Battalion, completed the 9-mile course in 80 minutes against tough opposition from 2 RGJ, 7 and 9 R Irish, 3 Sqn RAF Regt and HQ 39 Inf Bde and Sig Sqn

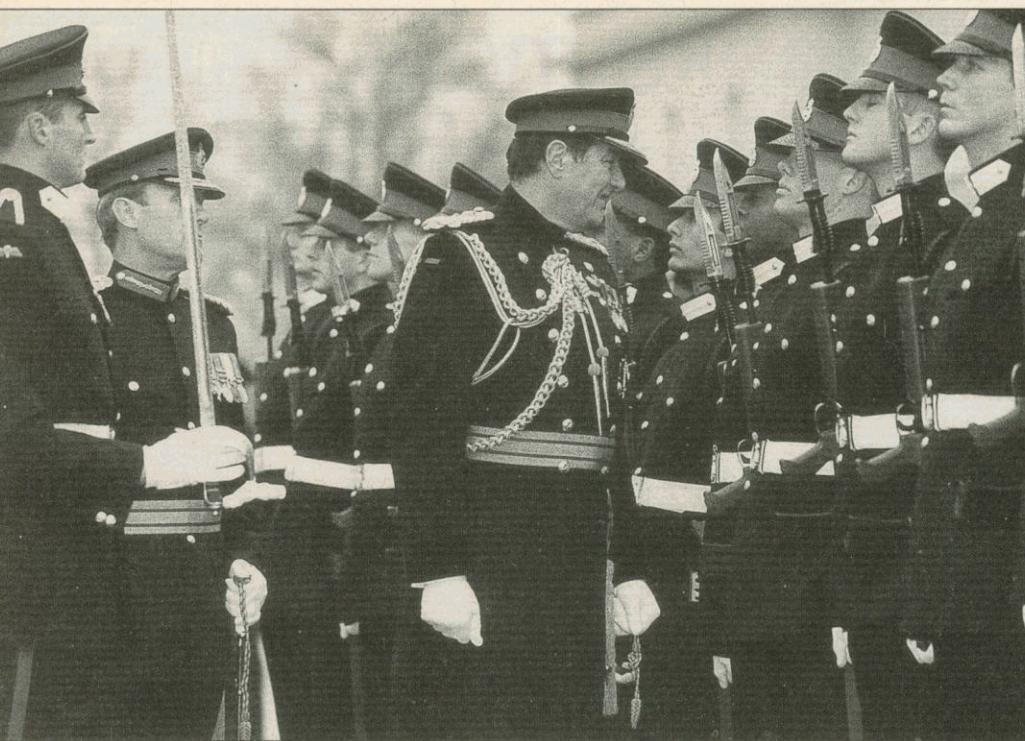


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Gen Sir John Wilsey, C-in-C Land Command, inspects a Sovereign's Parade at RMA Sandhurst just before Christmas. The Sword of Honour was awarded to Junior Under Officer Iain Addinell, who joins The King's Own Scottish Borderers, and the Queen's Medal to JUO Fred Gray of The Parachute Regiment

## Double trumpeter



Musician Mark Holt (pictured) of the Band of the Royal Lancers became the Commanding Officers' Trumpeter for both the 9th/12th Royal Lancers (Prince of Wales's) and the Queen's Royal Lancers at a competition staged at Allenby Barracks, Bovington Camp.

The traditional event, the first for the new band, included an inspection phase and the sounding of *Last Post*, *General Parade* and *Reveille*. An audience of officers and senior NCOs from both regiments watched as Musn Holt received the Duke of Westminster's Trophy from Lt Col Martin Rutledge, commanding 9/12 L, and the Hughes Trophy from Lt Col David Simpson CO QRL.

## RGBW trains on battlefield

TROOPS from Britain, America and Kuwait joined forces in a live-firing exercise on a massive desert training area north of Kuwait City during Exercise Intrinsic Action.

M1 Abram tanks and Bradley infantry fighting vehicles from the US 3rd Brigade Combat Team exercised with Kuwaiti National Guard M84 tanks and BMP3 IFVs.

Britain was represented by Cyprus-based 1st Battalion, The Royal Gloucestershire, Berkshire and Wiltshire Regiment. During the six-week exercise, 1 RGBW soldiers trained with American and

Kuwaiti troops and instructed Kuwaiti commandos in the use of the 81mm mortar.

Much of the exercise area was fought over by Coalition troops during the Gulf War, and armour and artillery "graveyards" in the area reflected the huge losses incurred by the Iraqi army.

During the past 12 months 1 RGBW, commanded by Lt Col Patrick Davidson-Houston, has completed a six-month tour of duty in Bosnia and moved to Cyprus. Before deploying to Kuwait it took part in an exercise in Egypt.

Full report in next issue

## Soft drugs rule clarified

MOD policy on potential recruits to the Services who are found to have used controlled drugs has been clarified.

Armed Forces Minister Nicholas Soames said: "All applicants to the Armed Forces who have a conviction for the sale, possession or abuse of controlled drugs are deemed to be unsuitable for military service."

He added that experimentation with class B "soft" drugs,

such as cannabis, was not a bar to entry in itself.

A young person who had used cannabis on a "one-off basis" would not be automatically rejected.

### It's a fact

AN EXTRA £5 million is being spent on advertising for British Army recruits in the current financial year. — *Parliamentary reply*

## Around the Houses

A summary of Defence topics from Westminster

## Gulf war: 158 see specialist

LATEST figures show that about 340 Gulf War veterans have so far received an initial examination under the MoD's special medical assessment programme.

Of the 315 whose tests had been evaluated by late December, 80 had received a second examination and 158 had been referred to specialists, said Armed Forces Minister Nicholas Soames.

Assessments now take place at Kelvin House, 32-34 Cleveland Street, London W1P 6AU.

Tests, which are tailored to individual requirements, may include full blood assay, urinalysis, X-ray or CT/MRI scan, electrocardiograph, endoscopy and vitalograph studies.

Consultancy fees relating to the proposed transfer of the married quarters estate to the private sector have so far totalled about £5.9 million.

This figure, which does not include VAT, is based on invoices received by early December and includes work carried out on the proposal for a housing trust (since abandoned) and on the establishment of the Defence Housing Executive.

An Army officer who flew with a colleague in a Gazelle helicopter to a golf tournament in Scotland last year has been disciplined. The Armed Forces Minister said in a written reply there was no dishonest intent on the part of the officer responsible but he had made an error of judgement.

The Government is considering a request from the UN for advice to Rwanda in the field of military law, discipline and human rights. In 1994, 600 British specialist troops and seven staff officers supported the UN mission in Rwanda.

General service strength of the Royal Irish Regiment is 940, compared with 839 in 1993. On the Home Service strength, full-time numbers have risen from 2,917 to 3,010 in that period while part-time strength has dropped from 2,696 to 2,140.

## New Year Honours

### Order of the Bath

GCB – Gen Sir John Wilsey KCB  
CBE ADC Gen, late D and D.  
KCB – Lt Gen R A Smith DSO  
OBE QGM, late Para.

CB – Maj Gen A H Boyle, late R  
Sigs; Maj Gen D L Burden CBE,  
late RAOC; Maj Gen A de C L  
Leask CBE, late SG.

### Order of the British Empire

CBE – Col T D Gregg, late LD;  
Col C M Lake, late RCT; Col C D  
Mackenzie-Beevor OBE, late QDG.  
OBE – Lt Col R N Hine RTR; Lt  
Col M D Ingram RLC; Lt Col R D  
Lewis AGC (ALS); Lt Col S F  
Sherry RE; Lt Col J M Wyatt RE.

MBE – Maj S J de M Absolon  
BEM, RA; WO1 C R Aggett RLC;  
Sgt S Armstrong, R Sigs; Maj P A  
Astle, Cheshire; Maj (QGO) Bal-  
asing Gurung QOGR; WO1 I P  
Baverstock RLC; Sgt T A Birken-  
shaw QARANC; WO1 W B Brodie  
RLC; WO2 M P L Bulgin, R Irish;  
Maj S A Burley RE; Lt Col S Caraf-  
fi RTR; Maj R G Card BEM, RLC;  
Maj N P Carter RGJ; Lt Col J A  
Charteris MC, RS.

Maj J A S Clunn RAMC; Sgt R  
Cooper AGC (SPS); Maj J G H  
Corrigan RGR; WO1 B Docherty  
AGC (SPS); Capt S J Dunn  
RAMC; Cpl S F Foster RAMC;  
WO2 T A Griffiths AGC (SPS);  
Capt D L Haynes RA; Maj S P  
Hogge QLR; SSgt P L A G  
Humphrey REME; Capt K M Jeff-  
ery RE; CSgt C R Jones RWF;  
Sgt Kamalabadur Nepali RGR;  
Sgt J J F Kelly, IG; Lt Col H W O  
Kennon CCF TA; Capt C Kinghan  
RA TA; Maj J F Knopp PWO; Cpl J  
Lamb RLC; Lt Col M R Lanham  
RLC; WO2 D J A Laraman RAMC;  
Maj C G Large, RHKR (The Vol-  
unteers); SSgt S J Levick AGC  
(PRO); WO2 G L Long, R Anglian;  
WO2 D G Longcake RA; WO1 F  
Lynch RWR.

Capt P D McCarter RLC; Maj S  
C MacDuff-Duncan BW; Maj J K  
McKee, R Sigs; LCpl M Maryan  
AGC (SPS); Capt P H K May  
RDG; LCpl D E Metcalf RLC TA;  
Maj W J Mooney TD, RLC TA; Maj  
W M G Morris RE; Maj T A P  
Mullarkey RA; Cpl L K Noone  
RLC; Maj S J Oxlade RGBW; Maj  
S Pickles RE; WO1 J Pinkney RA;  
Lt Col A C Pope RE; Capt D B  
Pover, ACF TA; Maj C T S Prest-  
wich, LD; Maj R J Reid RA; WO2 K  
Reilly, Para; Maj B M Ritchie,  
Hdrs; Maj P T Roberts TD, AGC  
(SPS) TA; Maj J W Rollins, R  
Anglian.

WO1 J T Selkirk, R Sigs; Cpl D  
Seymour RE; WO1 K Taylor  
RAMC; WO1 P K Tidey PWRR;  
WO1 S Traynor RLC; Maj F D  
Tucker, D and D TA.

### Royal Red Cross

RRC – Col S B Davies, late  
QARANC.

ARRC – Capt L S Adam  
QARANC.

### IN BRIEF

## Phoning home – thanks to BT

FREE £5 phonecards bearing the design of a gift-wrapped Union Flag were issued to British troops serving in Bosnia as a Christmas present from BT Payphones. The £50,000 seasonal gesture was the fourth by the company.

BT's Own – see Pages 18-19.

Members of C Squadron, The Queen's Royal Lancers have been presented with UN Medals following service in Bosnia.

The MoD authorised soldiers to be prepared to assist in Scotland and other parts of the UK affected by heavy snowstorms as the post-Christmas thaw brought serious flooding problems in its wake.

For the first time in almost 20 years a Scots regimental pipe band paraded through the centre of Belfast when the 1st Battalion, The King's Own Scottish Borderers, based in the city, was asked to lend its distinctive flavour to Christmas celebrations.

Lt Gen Sir Richard Swinburn made his first visit to The Queen's Royal Lancers at Osnabrück as Colonel of the Regiment.

## Bill seeks more independent courts martial

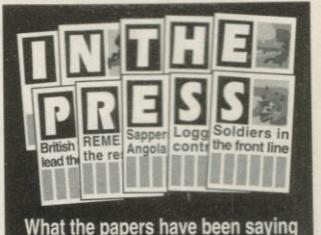
CHANGES to the court martial system which will extend the rights of defendants are being proposed in the Armed Forces Bill now going through Parliament.

The proposals, which will also make the setting-up of the courts more independent of the chain of command, result from a review of the system carried out as the five-yearly Bill was being prepared.

Functions such as settling charges, responsibility for the prosecution and appointing court martial members would remain in the Services but generally be independent of the chain of command.

Other proposals include:

- A greater role for the Judge Advocate, who is similar to a civilian court judge.
- Extension of the right of defendants to choose to have their cases tried by court martial or for misconduct. – *Parliamentary reply*.



What the papers have been saying

BRITISH troops are to hold joint exercises with Filipino soldiers in 1997. – *Daily Telegraph*

□ The world suffered a record 71 conflicts last year, according to American group the National Defence Council Foundation, one more than in 1994. – *Times*

□ A Californian scientist who claims to have found the cause of Gulf War syndrome has urged British GPs to prescribe an antibiotic to victims. – *Independent*

□ The shrinking of MoD's London estate from 20 buildings in the centre of the capital to two – Main Building and the old War Office – represents the most ambitious restructuring since the single ministry was formed in the 1960s. – *Daily Telegraph*

□ Two French potholers are to explore a network of chalk tunnels which allowed up to 25,000 Commonwealth troops to launch the battle of Arras. – *Guardian*

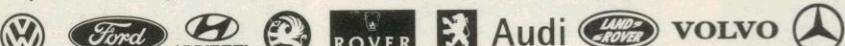
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Pipes and Drums of 71 (Scottish) Engr Regt (V) lead the Burgh of Airdrie tercentenary parade

### Kukri winner

Champion recruit Suman Thapa received a special kukri from Gen Sir Michael Rose, the Adjutant General, at the first passing out parade of Gurkha soldiers trained in the United Kingdom at Church Crookham.

Recruit Suman was top of the intake of 152 young men from Nepal who completed the 44-week basic training course. Nearly 12,000 applications were received for the course.

### Final redundancy target cut by half

THE ARMY has almost halved the redundancies it proposed in its last phase in 1995. It has cut the number from 500 to about 280, of which 234 are volunteers.

### Patrol gold for 3 R Irish

GOLD medal winners in the Cambrian Patrol (Soldier, Nov 27) included the 3rd Battalion, The Royal Irish Regiment and not 5 R Irish as reported.

## Scottish sappers enjoy Freedom

SIX weeks of hard work on drill nights and weekends culminated in a memorable day for members of Coatbridge-based 124 (Lowland) Field Squadron RE (V) when they exercised – for only the third time in their history – the freedom of the Burgh of Airdrie.

They had been invited by Monklands District Council to lead a parade of uniformed organisations as part of the burgh's 300th anniversary celebrations.

Saturday shoppers were treated to the Pipes and Drums of 71 (Scottish) Engineer Regiment (Volunteers) and the squadron being inspected.

The day helped to enhance awareness of the TA in Airdrie and Coatbridge.

Maj Iain Davidson, OC, said: "This has been quite an

### It's a fact

TOTAL trained strength of the Army is expected to be about 104,000 at April 1, 1996. The figure, based on recent assessments of recruiting and retention rates, includes Gurkhas but not the Royal Irish Regiment (Home Service).

# Alan Norman – This Is Your Promotion...

In what must surely be a first, SSgt Alan Norman was promoted to WO2 on television, with several million viewers witnessing the event.

Alan, a member of REME Light Aid Detachment, 71st (Yeomanry) Signal Regiment based at Bexleyheath in Kent, is a paramedic with the London Ambulance Service, has served with the London Ambulance Helicopter, and is a member of the one-man paramedic team on motorbikes.

His exploits made him an ideal subject for the *This Is Your Life* programme, but he was taken completely by surprise during the proceedings when Col Roger Owen, Commander HQ REME TA was introduced as one of the guests and duly sanctioned his elevation.



## Follow the leader

Saying goodbye to the Army in style was Pipe Maj Albie MacKinnon, 1st Battalion, Scots Guards, who took time off his resettlement course to instruct for six weeks at the Colombian Naval Academy in Bogota. Albie, who saw action in the Falklands and the Gulf, was given the honour of leading the Academy's contingent at the Colombian National Day parade – the only foreigner to be allowed to take part.

## ALL CHANGE

A delighted Maj Nick Watt (second left), 1st Battalion, The Green Howards, receives the coveted King Harald's Company banner from Lt Col Andrew Farquhar, CO of the Osnabrück-based battalion. The honorary title changed hands following a tough inter-company competition, the first time that B Coy – of which Maj Watt is OC – had won for several years.

Also in the picture are WO2 (CSM) Ian Kirkup (left) and WO1 (RSM) Mick Kilpatrick



## Bob's a retiring type

Although Maj Bob Smith is of the opinion that "one does not thank a soldier for doing his duty", *Soldier* ignored this when it learned from an undisclosed source that he was retiring at the end of last month.

As regimental secretary of the amalgamated regiment, The Queen's Royal Hussars (The Queen's Own and Royal Irish), he ensured that things ran smoothly after the amalgamation in 1993, and made sure that the members of the then Queen's Own Hussars were made welcome.

For the previous nine years, he had been regimental secretary of the Queen's Royal Irish Hussars, having joined the 8th King's Royal Irish Hussars in 1950, serving in Korea and taking part in the Imjin battle. Commissioned from WO2 (SSM) in 1970, he was MTO and squadron leader in his regiment.



## An example to follow

Gallipoli veteran Evan Parry with 17-year-old Neil Budd, a member of the Combined Cadet Force at Merchant Taylors' School, Middlesex, at a reception at Stationers' Hall in London to mark the unveiling of a memorial to the campaign's veterans at St Paul's Cathedral by the Duke of Edinburgh.

Evan was a corporal in the 11th London Regiment (the Finsbury Rifles) when he landed at Suvla Bay in July 1915, and has horrific memories of Gallipoli. He subsequently served in Egypt and Palestine, where he was seriously wounded.

Neil, the same age as many of Evan's companions were in 1915, hopes to follow in the footsteps of some of the school's old boys – three of whom won the VC during the First World War – when he joins the Army after university.



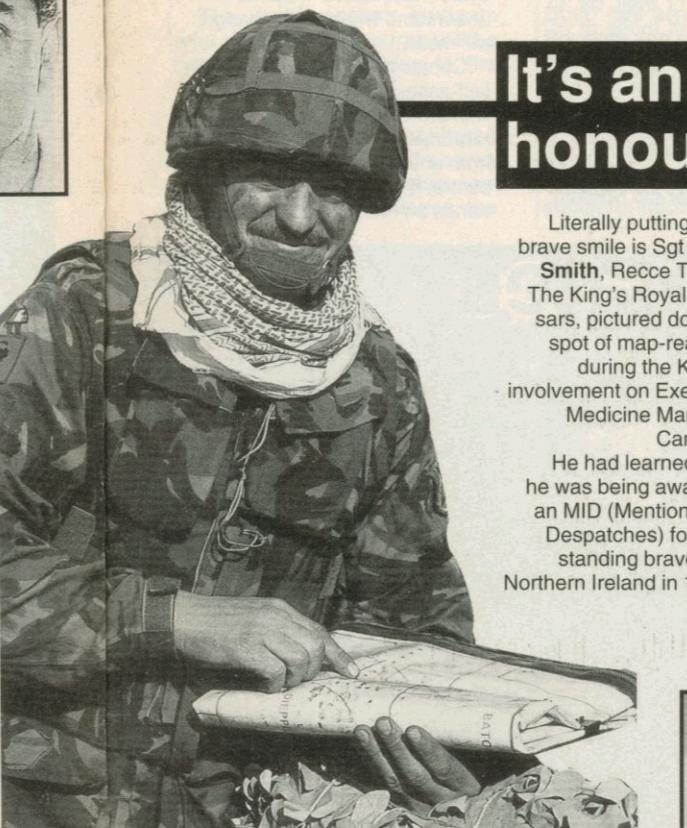
## For Queen and country...

Making the transition from Territorial to Regular Army were LCpls Gary Climpson (left) and Jamie Harris, both of 6/7 Battalion, The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment, pictured swearing an oath of allegiance at an attestation ceremony with Lt Col Bill Clarke, ACO Reading. They are due to embark on a four-month tour in the Falklands in March, serving alongside their Regular counterparts.

# PEOPLE

## RUSSIAN FIRST

Pipe Maj Alastair McIntosh (left) and Cpl Ewen Stuart, both pipers with the 1st Battalion, The King's Own Scottish Borderers, back at their Belfast base after a whirlwind trip to Moscow to play in the first St Andrew's Ball to be staged in the Russian capital. More than 300 people attended the inaugural ball, and the duo proved such a hit that they have been invited back again this year.



## It's an honour

Literally putting on a brave smile is Sgt Mick Smith, Recce Troop, The King's Royal Hussars, pictured doing a spot of map-reading during the KRH's involvement on Exercise Medicine Man 6 in Canada. He had learned that he was being awarded an MID (Mentioned In Despatches) for outstanding bravery in Northern Ireland in 1994.



## It's a knock out

Bloody but unbowed is 2nd Lt Charlie Valdes-Scott, King's Royal Hussars, who, along with other KRH officers, forsook Challenger tanks in Germany for a more traditional form of cavalry transport in a regimental race in Oxfordshire. Unlike Capt Dominic Alers-Hankey, who won by ten lengths, Charlie managed to knock himself out, only to wake up, mount the wrong horse and complete the course in the wrong direction...

# Let's not forget WHO this is all about . . .

ACCORDING to one journalist, this year is going to be dominated by Bett and Bosnia. I think we can broaden that to include health and home.

Bosnia will obviously be uppermost in the minds of many families. Just before Christmas I heard from a wives' group which came up with a touching way of explaining Daddy's absence to young children. One mother said she was "lending" Daddy to the Bosnian orphans until things got better.

The image, although sentimental, encapsulates the truth.

Meanwhile, the rest of the Army is busier than ever. Has it had time to think about the Bett Review? We will know soon when the MoD issues a considered response.

For me, the most exciting aspect of the review was the importance it placed on welfare considerations . . . not the rank structures debate which has pre-occupied many parts of the media.

Healthcare will continue to pre-



**Cari's column**

occupy Service families. As the dust settled following the announcement of the Health Alliance agency in Germany it became apparent that there will be months of planning and testing before anything concrete happens. My hope is that those concerned keep in touch with the end users so that anxieties are swept away.

On the home front, housing will remain high on the agenda. We have been assured that the next 12 months will bring improvements in the way in which the housing stock is managed, with no change in entitlement or availability, no individual having to deal with a new owner, and no "pepperpot" approach to sprinkling Service estates with civilians.

No doubt the Federation of Army Wives will keep a watching brief. They, too, have a challenging year ahead as they aim to build on success and adopt a more professional approach.

I hope they can do so without losing the goodwill of those on the ground. If the Federation is to con-

tinute to be attractive to them it will have to accommodate new ideas and new perspectives.

As the big issues dominate the headlines, my hope for 1996 is that we remember the ordinary soldier, his wife and his children.

And the single Serviceman and woman, the divorced soldier trying to put his or her life back together, the separated wife, the widowed partner, the pregnant Servicewoman, and the lonely on duty far from home.

They are the people who keep it all going. It is worth remembering that while some of us are lucky enough to be reading this in a warm office or home, there is a Serviceman or woman on duty somewhere out there wishing they were closer to their families.

The Army is bigger than Bosnia and Bett. It is smaller, too. Its essence is that one person on duty far away because he or she has pledged part of their life to serving on behalf of those of us who can't . . . or won't.

Above all, I hope the next 12 months brings stability.

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

## Tidworth quarters updated

A MILESTONE in a multi-million pound scheme to modernise hundreds of Army married quarters in the Tidworth and Bulford areas was marked at Tidworth last month with a handing over of the keys.

Under a £15 million phase of improvements, 544 family homes have been transformed. Many MQs on Tidworth's Zouch estate date from the 1930s. Bathrooms and kitchens have been modernised and extra garages and other amenities have been built.

Garrison Commander Brig Brian Plummer handed over the first symbolic keys to Mrs Debbie Twigger and Mrs Gabi Twigger who live in adjoining houses and are married to brothers SSgt Simon and Sgt Kevin Twigger.

## Pensions made easy

PUZZLED by pensions, stumped by SERPS? The Plain English Campaign has given its stamp of approval to two new leaflets on pensions published by the DSS. Both are available by telephoning the Pensions Line on 0345 313233.



## DIY income tax

THE Inland Revenue is keen to draw the attention of Armed Forces personnel to the advantages of self-assessment.

Reckoned to be a clearer, more straightforward way of paying tax, it will apply to nine million people who have to fill in tax returns.

The main changes take place in the 1996-97 tax year, but everyone affected needs to understand what those changes will mean.

Copies of leaflets explaining self-assessment (and illustrated with drawings of the little fellow reproduced above) are available from any tax office or tax enquiry centre. If you cannot get your hands on one, ring 0345 161514.

## Kneller graduates to win degree of status

ARMY bandmasters will soon have the letters BA after their names following a pioneering agreement between the Royal Military School of Music at Kneller Hall and Kingston University.

After months of negotiation, the Guildford-based seat of learning has agreed to validate Kneller Hall's three-year student bandmasters' course for a Bachelor of Arts degree.

The Kneller Hall Fanfare Trumpeters were present in full ceremonial uniform when Col Tim Hoggarth, Commandant RMSM, and Dr Robert Smith, Vice-Chancellor of Kingston University, signed a memorandum of co-operation.



Sound it on the trumpets: Student Bandmaster Tony Adams (right) with Col Tim Hoggarth (left) and Dr Robert Smith

# DRIVING AMBITION

TRI-SERVICE drivers, mainly Army, pictured with their vehicles in the car park of a Calais shopping centre, had just travelled through the Channel Tunnel on an MoD-sponsored course run by the Kettering-based Professional Chauffeurs Guild Ltd.

The two-week residential course has been designed to give Service personnel the basic qualifications to start their own chauffeur hire business or to go into related employment.

Training staff, most of whom are former members of the Security Forces, ask only that applicants be in good health and well turned-out, hold a current, appropriate driving licence, and have a reasonable aptitude for map-reading, journey-planning, and security.

For insurance purposes, only students aged 21 to 60 can be accepted. Main criteria are a high standard of driving ability and a clean driving licence.

The Guild reckons students who complete the course will be capable of chauffeuring to the highest standards.

Progress towards the certificate of competence is monitored through daily and mid-course assessments. And to give new chauffeurs work experience, the



Guild has arranged with Virgin Records and a chauffeuring company in London to provide successful students with a chance to put their new knowledge into practice, using top-of-the-range saloon cars to take clients to business meetings, airports and social functions.

Chauffeurs can earn between £15,000 and £20,000 a year, while the international chauffeur gets from £25,000 upwards.

Course places are limited to 18 and the instruction fee is £584. A week-long induction course for those unsure of their driving skills is available at

£292. Hotel accommodation in the area depends on availability.

Applications must be made on MoD Form 363 through education or resettlement centres directly with the Professional Chauffeurs Guild Ltd. Initial enquiries can be made direct on 01536 312916.

## Call grows for an end to quarantine system

SERVICE families are all too familiar with the quarantine system to which cats and dogs are subjected when they enter or return to the United Kingdom.

These pages have reflected the heartbreak when a loved pet has been traumatised by isolation in a below-standard quarantine unit.

Cari Roberts raised the issue in *Soldier* and on BFBS and received many calls and letters from Service personnel all over the world. They were unanimous in condemning the current quarantine regime and asking why microchip implants could not be used to identify vaccinated, rabies-free Service pets within the controlled environment of MoD bases.

Pressure groups have been formed to promote the use of microchip technology to overcome the need for quarantine.

Now Robert Key, MP for Salisbury, whose constituency includes garrison towns around the Plain, has added his voice to the campaign. He says an increasing number of vets recognise the vaccine in use in most of the devel-

oped world is 100 per cent effective against rabies when combined with blood tests to prove the vaccine has taken.

His research has revealed that in the 23 years since the system was introduced, of 160,000 pets put into quarantine, 2,500 have died – and not a single case of rabies has been discovered in the process.

MoD policy hinges on four key areas:

1. Endorsement of Government policy that the UK remains free of rabies;

2. Recognition that quarantine has morale and welfare implications for Service families;

3. Support for the Select Committee's recommendations on controlled relaxation of quarantine;

4. Support for the initiative to negotiate special concessions for the Service community.

record and blood testing.

"To do this would, I believe, still require detention of the animal within the quarantine system until such time as the evidence was complete.

"This might take two weeks. Animal owners would be more than willing to pay. I believe it is not so much the cost of quarantine as the six months' imprisonment that people object to," he said.

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

Service dogs have been microchipped for some time and it is intended to make this form of positive identification obligatory for pets which will be kept in Service accommodation.

Two groups involved in the battle of hearts and minds are:

● **Passports for Pets**, 44 The Little Bolts, London, SW10 9LL.

● **Quarantine Abolition Fighting Fund (QUAFF)**, PO Box 151, Chichester, West Sussex PO20 0TS.



Back in one piece at Rheindahlen with their trusty Minis after completing the event, left to right are WO1 Dave Bashford, Clive Melia, Bdr Spud Taylor (co-driver SAC Ritchie Oswin was in the UK), SSgt Charlie Powell and WO1 Andy Gray

## A 'Job' well done

FOUR cars from British Forces Germany took part in the Italian Job 95, an annual fund-raising event inspired by the Michael Caine film and involving more than 100 Minis and Mini-based cars.

Teams started in Brighton and drove across Europe to Trento in Italy with a target of raising £1,500 each for NSPCC and SOS Kinderhoff children's homes.

The four BFG cars joined the rest of the competitors in Trento, reports WO1 Andy Day of Training HQ, UK Support Command (Germany), an old hand at the event.

A Mini Cooper driven by SSVC's Clive Melia and a Mini Cooper S driven by WO1 Dave Bashford, Dusseldorf Detachment, Rhine Area Support Unit, left Dusseldorf with two other UK teams and an American entrant.

A Mini Silverstone crewed by Andy Day and SSgt Charlie Powell (QM Dept, Rhine Area Support Unit) and a Mini Cooper driven by Bdr Spud Taylor (QM's Dept) and SAC Ritchie Oswin, RAF Coltishall, set off from JHQ Rheindahlen.

Snow was the biggest obstacle, with two cars having to take an alternative route after being turned back on the Wolfgang Pass in Switzerland.

The two-day navigational rally began 24 hours later, with all four teams making the time controls. At a special timed stage held on a local go-kart track, Bdr Taylor and SAC Oswin finished in the top ten. First stage of the rally involved taking on rush hour traffic in Trento, with the result that



### PERMANENT WAY TEAM



### ROYAL ENGINEERS

Bochum Railway Museum director Herr Vogelsang presents a book to Capt Martin Churches, Property Manager Railways (story above right)

nearly all the cars were late at the first control.

At the end of the Italian leg, the Minis formed up in convoy to distribute toys at the SOS children's home in Imst, Austria.

Teams then caught the Dieppe-Newhaven ferry for the finish in Brighton. At a dinner that evening, an engraved 76mm shell presented by the four cars from Germany was auctioned for £250, a satisfying prelude to the

return via Calais the following day to JHQ and Dusseldorf.

Communities in JHQ and Dusseldorf helped the four cars raise DM15,000 for the charities. G1 Welfare HQ UKSC (G), the BA (G) Sport Board, Rover Group Germany and RSU (F) Rheindahlen gave financial support.

Information on the Italian Job 96 is available from the organisers at 93, Hangleton Road, Hove, East Sussex BN3 7GH.

As a final opportunity to use their skills for the benefit of the German public before disbandment under drawdown in March, the Permanent Way Team (PWT) in Wulffen spent a week helping the Eisenbahn Museum at Bochum to provide better display facilities.

The team, mainly locally-recruited German civilians under the command of SSgt Mel Chappel, is responsible for maintaining more than 66km of tracks in UKSC (G) depots stretching from Bruggen to Hameln.

One task at Bochum involved the construction of 50m of new track using second-hand materials, which gave the PWT valuable training experience. The PWT also levelled and stabilised 400m of newly-laid track to stable rolling stock acquired by the museum.

Men from Hong Kong-based 67 Gurkha Independent Field Squadron QGE teamed up with the Wessex helicopters of 28 (AC) Squadron RAF to build a dormitory block and upgrade a dam at remote Town Island drug rehabilitation centre in Sai Kung Country Park.

Using materials flown in by the RAF, the Queen's Gurkha Engineers built a new accommodation block at the centre for heroin addicts. The community relations project took five weeks to complete.

A year ago men from C Troop spent two weeks at the centre constructing two residential buildings.

## Charity run ends in road tragedy

CHARITY-minded soldiers serving in Northern Ireland jogged the length of mainland Britain to raise funds to buy medical equipment for a hospital in Londonderry.

But the project ended in tragedy when WO2 Phil Peart, the mastermind behind the project, died following a road traffic accident in Cornwall in the closing stages.

WO2 Peart (37) was involved in a collision with a lorry while acting as a motorcycle safety outrider for the runners.

When Maj Stuart Hodges, OC 210 Signal Squadron at HQ 8th Infantry Brigade, Londonderry, handed over a cheque for £7,500 to Altanagalvin Area Hospital, he also presented a plaque dedicated to the memory of WO2 Peart.

Running in relays of 80 miles a day, 30 soldiers from corps and regiments including the RLC, R Signals, the Highlanders, RRW and R Irish, took two weeks to get from John o'Groats to Land's End.

The money will go towards a dialysis machine.

The soldiers also raised money for BLESMA.

A cycle ride from Glasgow to Gutersloh, a distance of more than 1,000 miles, faces soldiers of Germany-based 12 Supply Regiment RLC and Sussex Police in a joint venture during July.

The ten-day venture, in aid of the Cancer Research Campaign and the Rocking Horse Trust, will be part of the celebrations for the 50th anniversary of British troops in Wulffen.

A toy collection organised by Army wives and retired soldiers in Tidworth brightened up Christmas in an orphanage run by Col Mark Cook in Bosnia.

The idea came from Mrs Anya Kershaw, whose husband recently left the Royal Artillery. Children at Shipton Bellinger Primary School donated enough toys to fill three boxes which were sent on their way to Split by staff at HQ 1 Mechanised Brigade.



Maj Nick Maher AGC (ETS) presents a cheque for £900 to Rosemary Dobbin, deputy warden of the Guild of St Helena, which takes special needs Service children on holiday. Maj Maher and his team – eight from the RLC Training and Development Team, a PTI and one member of the RLC – raised the money by marching 55 miles in two days around Table Mountain in South Africa. Squidgy the bear accompanied them



Pte Philip Snowball of Normandy Platoon, ATR Glencorse, hand over £400 to a delighted Mo Parsons of local charity Stepping Forward. The team, led by platoon commander Lt Tris Smith, Kings Own Border, was sponsored to complete part of the West Highland Way



## Top team march for museum

Members of the Regimental Administrative Office of the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers completed a 26-mile marathon march and raised £650 for a new museum for the Adjutant General's Corps.

Led by Capt Shaun Staines, regimental admin officer, the Chester-based soldiers walked through the Snowdonia National park in nine hours, taking in the summit of Mount Snowdon on the way.

The climbers, sent on their way from Capel Curig Camp by Lt Col Roger Blackwell, Commander SPS at 5 Division, benefited from exceptionally fine weather.



Already weighed down by parachutes, SAS volunteers, toting heavy loads of additional equipment required for the operation, march up the ramp of an RAF C130 Hercules aircraft which will deliver them on to a drop zone close to the target

# SAS volunteers - at the eye of the storm

## Mystique still there

Despite recent high-profile personal accounts by former members of the Special Air Service Regiment, the élite fighting unit retains an aura of mystery.

The letters SAS, instantly recognised the world over, evoke an image of tough, independent, secretive, highly skilled soldiers.

Britain's two part-time SAS regiments – London-based 21 SAS (V) and Birmingham-based 23 SAS (V) – need volunteers.

The tough selection course lasts nine months. Personality is important. It can take up to three years for a new trooper to become fully competent in the role. Radio comms, parachuting and medical training are mandatory.

Commitment is intense. Most squadrons train every other week.

**Report and pictures: Laurie Manton**

"RED LIGHT. Green light. Go, Go, Go!" The cream of the Territorial Army's SAS Volunteers leapt from the aircraft, their blossoming parachutes filling the sky.

Exercise Katabolism (it means "destructive process") had started.

An enemy force was holding British nationals hostage in an army barracks. The Government had tasked a specialist unit to free the hostages.

Its mission involved a cross-border operation, with soldiers flown in to neutralise the enemy troops, secure the barracks and evacuate the hostages.

There was a snag. There usually is.

Directly in the flightpath stood a radar complex capable of providing enemy forces with early warning of attack. Unless it was "neutralised", it would put the mission in jeopardy.

Sabre squadrons from the Special Air Service Regiment (Volunteers) were ordered to infiltrate the radar site and locate enemy positions. They would then plan an attack to go in just before the arrival of the air landing force.

Under cover of darkness, the SAS troo-

ers landed by parachute in a remote area of an adjacent "friendly" country to establish a forward operating base.

Melting away like shadows in the night, the soldiers moved swiftly away from the DZ and began their long hike. When they reached their temporary base, they split into fighting patrols.

Each man is a specialist in the skills needed to operate as an effective member of an élite fighting force: weaponry, demolitions, combat survival, forward air control, first aid and secure communications.

Patrols planned their attacks using maps and aerial and satellite photographs. Mock-ups of the targets were constructed on the forest floor out of twigs, grass and stones. When the mission was confirmed, the SAS volunteers moved out.

Observers close to the border waited patiently as the minutes ticked by. Knowing glances were exchanged as the distant crack of gunfire and the dull crump of explosions were heard. A steady stream of helicopters flew overhead, en route to evacuate the hostages. The mission was on, and it proved successful . . .



In a forest clearing – somewhere in England – the leader of an SAS fighting patrol (left) briefs his men on their mission

The Territorial Army's two Special Air Service regiments have survived the defence cuts with a slight realignment of role.

Now 21 SAS (V) and 23 SAS (V), whose operational role is long-range reconnaissance, are both now looking for volunteers.

The nine-month-long selection course is

tough by anyone's standards, and many fall by the wayside. Recruits are drawn from all walks of life. Current members of 21 SAS (V), for example, include a surgeon, a dustman and a long-distance lorry driver.

It is possible to enlist in the part-time SAS straight from civilian life, but previous service is an advantage. A substantial

number of potential recruits approach the Territorial SAS either as ex-Regular soldiers or while serving with other units of the TA.

Personality is an important factor if the potential SAS trooper is to become a member of a small, well-drilled, fighting machine, as are the essential SAS traits of self-awareness, self-reliance and self-confidence.

To pass the selection course and earn the right to wear the

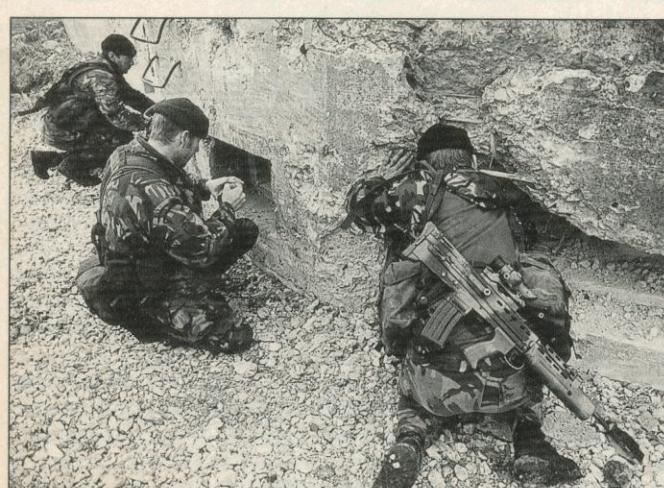
coveted sand-coloured beret with its winged-dagger badge is a considerable achievement. The course culminates in an endurance march where recruits, competing against the clock, must force-march and run 64km carrying a heavy bergen and rifle over remote, difficult terrain.

Once accepted, the learning process continues. It can take up to three years for a new trooper to reach an acceptable level of competence. Every man must master radio communications and parachute and medical training is mandatory.

The commitment is considerable. In addition to the high standard and diversity of the military training, adventurous training, often combined with foreign travel, is a feature of each squadron's calendar.

London-based 21 SAS (V) has locations at Dulwich, Hitchin, Bramley and Newport, while 23 SAS (V) is based in Birmingham with locations at Manchester, Leeds, Newcastle and Glasgow.

Most squadrons train every other weekend with frequent overseas exercises. If you are interested in applying to join the TA Special Air Service regiment then telephone 0171-414-6666 or contact your nearest Army Careers Office.



Preparing for the big bang. SAS soldiers wire up a Second World War bunker which was blown up during Exercise Katabolism



Centre of attention: What the tourists see ... and admire



Above - Tea break: (from left) Ptes Peter Webb, Darren Taylor, Nick Callow and Darren Marsden

Below - Pressing engagement: Pte Chris Buckley at the ironing board



If the cap fits: LCpl Steve Thompson makes sure he is properly turned out



Main picture - Subalterns of the Grenadier Guards and The Queen's Lancashire Regiment cross the forecourt of Buckingham Palace as the two regiments change guard

# Goggle eyes and ghosts test nerve of the Tower guard

THE RED ROSE of Lancaster decorated the Sovereign's Guard for six weeks before Christmas when the 1st Battalion, The Queen's Lancashire Regiment, took over public duties at Buckingham Palace, St James's Palace and the Tower of London.

Several months of hard work - with a short break for the brigade field training exercise, First Crusade - paid handsome dividends, with soldiers becoming more and more relaxed as the guard warmed to its task.

A specially-selected squad carried out intensive physical training and drill under WO2 Allan Goodenough.

"The actual guard mounting drill is quite easy," he said. "It was more the geography

of where things go and what people have to do that took longest to teach.

"The drill movements were few and far between and were not particularly difficult, but we had to teach them slow marching because this is no longer taught to recruits."

An administration detachment under Sgt Martin Hall organised transport, sewed buttons on to greatcoats, and had them pressed every two days.

Commanded by Maj David Howcroft, the Buckingham Palace guard mounted and dismounted with the Regimental Colour carried by either Lt Duncan Sutcliffe or Lt Luke Farnon.

A detachment was also provided to guard St James's Palace, where the regimental

colonel and his predecessor, the CO and officers of the guard were honoured by having lunch with the Queen, the regiment's Colonel-in-Chief.

High standards were expected and delivered. To be on the safe side, one soldier saluted the Queen's corgis and the corgi-walker ...

A separate detachment under Lt Mike Luedicke guarded the Tower of London and carried out the nightly ceremony of the keys.

Changing the guards involved a junior NCO marching two privates across the historic cobbles through crowds of tourists, the commander barking out the traditional and stentorian warning: "Make way for the Queen's Guard."

The QLR soldiers revelled in the sense of

occasion and were very conscious of performing ancient duties to historic commands.

"The lads get a buzz out of all the attention and it is a good change for a short time," said Sgt Darren Leigh.

Stags, normally two hours, were reduced to one because of the cold.

The ceremonial aspect was the high-profile side of the guard, from 0900 to 1630, after which a night guard operated. But there was always a tactical force ready to deploy if needed.

One soldier on duty at the Tower discovered it was sometimes difficult to keep a straight face when tourists tried to make him laugh. A particularly determined effort by two "tourists" was abandoned after half an hour. Later, as the soldier carried out his

15-pace patrol, he noticed the two standing with their backs to him.

As he approached, they turned ... and joke goggle eyes sprang out from the novelty spectacles they were wearing. Arch-villain of the piece was Sgt Maj Goodenough, who was testing the guard's discipline.

The Tidworth-based battalion is used to ceremonials. It was the last British infantry battalion to leave Berlin and took part in the last Queen's Birthday parade to be staged in the city. It also represented Britain in the final Allied parade through the city.

Although the last time the battalion took on public duties at Buckingham Palace was more than a decade ago, one veteran of that guard, WO2 John Harker of C Company, was again on parade.

One thing never changes - the ghostly apparitions which haunt the Tower. A dramatic picture of a spectral arm appeared in the national press during the guard.

During the night stag in the guardroom soldiers heard chains rattling and doors banging, said Cpl Steven Aspinall. He thought the source was a light rattling somewhere, although Pte Konrad Bisping wasn't so sure.

"I was there on my own early in the morning when I heard this rattling which got louder and louder," he said.

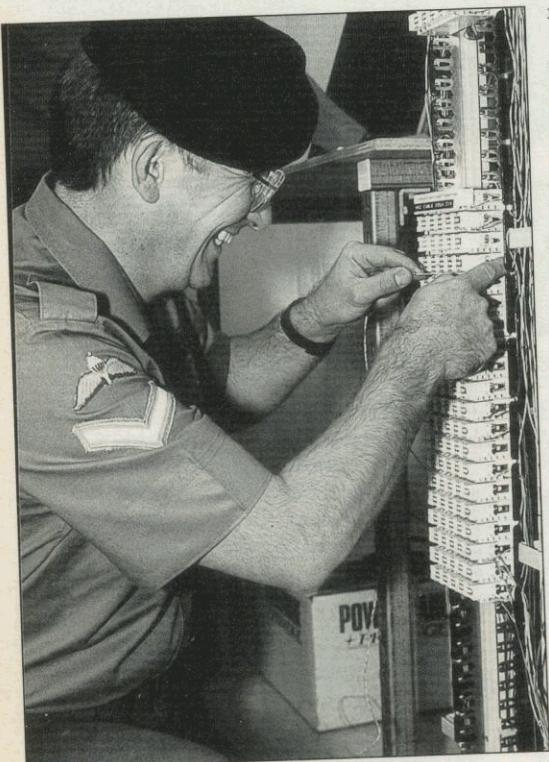
"I thought it was somebody mucking about in the TV room but I looked round and everybody was in bed."

He quickly locked the guardroom door.

# BT's Own - is it for you?



Carlisle-based BT engineer Mike Harrison on overhead installation in Cyprus



LCpl Mike Clare, a Hartlepool-based customer engineer, provides lines for a new ward at Princess Mary's RAF Hospital, Akrotiri

Norman Wells, chief reporter of *BT Today*, joined a detachment of 81 Squadron, Royal Signals – a special volunteer unit comprising mainly British Telecom staff – on exercise in sunny Cyprus. His story and pictures are reproduced courtesy of *BT News*.

TAKE around 20 suitably skilled British Telecom personnel, dress them in the kind of "image" clothing only the British Army can provide, fly them by RAF Tristar to the eastern Mediterranean, and what do you have?

It's an 81 Squadron, Royal Signals detachment on exercise in Cyprus.

For most of these Territorial Army volunteers, it is the high spot in a year of varied activities, including battle training, which take place on weekends in the United Kingdom.

For two weeks each year, 81 Sqn provides detachments of its 170-strong complement of signallers and officers – 90 per cent of whom are BT-trained linesmen, jointers, installers and managers – to carry out telecoms tasks at British military installations.

## Benbecula

Destinations range from Scotland to Ascension Island and the Falklands, and Germany to Cyprus. Recent detachments have included the RAF stations at Gloucester, Benbecula in the Hebrides, Bruggen and Laarbruch in Germany and Akrotiri, Cyprus.

From a BT standpoint, the Cyprus detachment reflected the overall make-up of Colerne-based 81 Sqn. All BT's technical grades were represented, along with clerical and commercial officers and managers. In his civvy guise, SSgt Ian Johnson, the detachment "foreman", is an interconnection technical support manager at BT's Oswestry network management centre. He explained: "In 81, we have the situation where BT managers, as corporals, find themselves taking orders from technical officers who are sergeants or warrant officers. It works very well."

The other staff sergeant in Cyprus was Richie Forster, a BT (Network) planner based at Swan House, Newcastle.

He explained: "We've always adopted a set of values like BT's – such as putting the customer first, professionalism and teamwork."

"As a volunteer unit we have specific customers to



Robin Sanderson, who works on customer reception in Exeter, has been trained in the TA to drive HGVs and Land Rovers

look after, such as the Regular signals unit we are working for in Cyprus.

"Then we pride ourselves as being every bit as professional as the full-timers, and we're always looking to improve our standards. Added to that, we have a great respect for each other, and a camaraderie which makes teamwork natural."

Tasks in Cyprus included installation of new telephone lines and a local area computer network at RAF Akrotiri; and overhead line installation and underground maintenance at the joint Army-RAF base at Episkopi.

Cyprus is not necessarily a plum posting . . . it can be hot and uncomfortable. SSgt Johnson said that previous detachments had had to pull heavy cable through ducts while the temperature was in the hundreds.



BT Stone training designer Lee Featherstone (right) closes a 50-pair cable joint near the Episkopi base, assisted by Manchester North jointer John Ryan



Picture: Brian Metcalf

"Whereas the Regulars have several weeks to acclimatise, 81 Sqn are straight into the work as soon as they arrive," he said. To help beat the heat, 81's ideal working day in Cyprus was from 0700 hours to 1430 (although it could run to 12 hours or more). Then, for many, it was a case of taking advantage of the sun, with the afternoon spent on one of the lovely beaches within RAF Akrotiri's boundary.

If it all sounds very comfortable to a prospective BT recruit, remember not all 81's destinations are as appealing. Detachments are just as likely to have to work on cold, windy sites in the Falklands or remotest Scotland.

## Little privacy

And accommodation is hardly five-star. It is adequate and comfortable, depending on availability and location. But, for junior ranks at least, there is little chance of privacy.

The work itself demands that each detachment should be capable of tackling virtually any telecoms repair or installation task. As such, the men – so far no female engineers have applied to join 81 Sqn – have to be competent in a range of skills, which means a certain amount of on-



At ease! 81 Squadron soak up the sun at Buttons Bay, one of the beaches within RAF Akrotiri. No wonder Cyprus is a popular deployment for the unit

the-job training. For example, one year, a number of customer apparatus engineers came back from their fortnight away with a new skill – fibre jointing (connecting lengths of glass optical fibre wires) – learned while on exercise.

Indeed, most of 81's BT members agree their military experience proves invaluable in their normal jobs. The squadron operates and trains independently, giving it plenty of scope for individual initiative.

And tight military time scales call for a high degree of mutual support and co-

Members of 81 Squadron undergo battle training in the UK under realistic combat conditions. They have to prove their fitness to the same standards as their Regular Army counterparts

operation within the team. But exercises on a Mediterranean island are not all work.

"It's a lot of fun, too," says WO George Johnson, a BT technical officer from Bury, Lancs, who was made an MBE for his work with 81 Sqn. As part of a communications survey, George is off to RAF Mount Pleasant in the Falklands with Capt David Corrie, a manager with BT's Masters programme in Milton Keynes.

Does 81 appeal to you? The squadron recruits men and women aged 18 to 32 with appropriate telecoms technical skills.

# Why 721 Sqn remains on gas alert

THERE can't have been many British Army exercises that began with troops being told to take a shower... with their clothes on. But then Toxic Caper was no ordinary exercise.

The soldiers taking part were ammunition technicians serving with 721 EOD Squadron, Royal Logistic Corps and the "shower" was an emergency personal decontamination system.

First phase of Toxic Caper provided them with refresher training on chemical agents, their effects and how to deal with them before the men moved on to the Chemical and Biological Defence Establishment (CBDE) at Porton Down, where unexploded chemical munitions recovered in recent years awaited disposal.

The squadron's OC, Maj Martin Pope, told *Soldier* that during and after the First World War, the development of chemical ammunition involved test firings of gas shells on the British mainland.

Quantities of ammunition were fired out to sea from a proving ground on the Welsh coast, and items are occasionally washed ashore there, he said.

"Anything found during regular joint CBDE-military clearance operations is recovered and taken to the CBDE, as are items found near Buxton in the Peak District, where limited testing was once carried out," he said.

Most of the early trials and evaluation work was carried out in the Winterbourne Gunner and Porton Down area. But because many shells were filled with harmless water, pitch or tar to give the weapon the right weight, only a percentage of unexploded "chemical" shells recovered are found to contain live agents.

"This means most of the finds are made in my squadron's area of responsibility," said Maj Pope. "My Tidworth-based troop has handled about 30 chemical munition-related incidents, including Liven's containers, Stoke's mortars, 25-pdr shells and the like in the past year."

"The Liven's container in particular is a First World War projected mortar bomb

20

**CHEMICAL** weapons were first used on the field of battle during the First World War when German troops released a cloud of chlorine gas at Ypres in April 1915. The British retaliated five months later and the chemical war escalated over the next two years, with the use of phosgene, prussic acid and mustard gases. The first

**British-produced** mustard gas shells were fired in September 1918, two months before the war ended.

Many unused gas cylinders, some in a dangerous condition, were returned from France and stored at Richborough, Kent.

In 1919 more than 1,500 cylinders were loaded on to a train to be taken to a facto-

ry where the contents were to be used in the manufacture of dyes. Some of the containers leaked and the resulting cloud of phosgene gas killed cows and sheep in fields close to the railway line.

The move was immediately halted and the rest of the containers were buried on a deserted Kent beach.



In the trench: WO1 Nick Thompson, SSgt Mark Slusarenko and Sgt Alan Modd look on as a CBDE scientist uses a chemical agent monitor to assess if mustard gas was leaking from the shell after its fuse had been cut away in a controlled explosion. It was!

with a burster tube at its centre. It was filled with whatever chemical you wanted to throw at the enemy. When it landed in enemy lines, it burst open and created the hazard. The problem for us is that it is relatively thin-walled and more likely to be rusted through.

Some of the items found are live, others not. Whatever their condition, the drill is to get them straight to CBDE. Where necessary, we wrap them in plaster of Paris to make them safe to move and always put

them in a gas-tight container filled with an absorbent material such as Fuller's earth."

The disposal phase of Exercise Toxic Caper involved soldiers from 721 Squadron and CBDE civilian staff. CBDE runs a remote ammunition breakdown facility to dispose of explosively safe suspect chemical ammunition.

"They have a particularly efficient method of dealing with Liven's containers that presents the minimum of risk, but CBDE staff have no expertise or training in

Right – Handle carefully: a scientist carries a gas shell to the disposal site



dealing with ammunition with an explosive hazard," said Maj Pope. "We are assisting in the disposal of ammunition that is at the moment too dangerous for current disposal methods, in particular impact fused munitions with firing pins still protruding."

One shell at a time, the chemical projectiles were carried into a deep trench where ammunition technicians, clad in NBC suits and respirators, set charges shaped to cut away the fuses in a controlled explosion. Later, equipped with detection equipment, and assisted by CBDE staff, they returned to the trench to check for leaks. In one instance, a section of detector paper turned red, indicating the presence of mustard gas.

Viewed through the steamed-up eyepieces of a gas mask, the scene was a doomsday glimpse of a past – or future – battlefield. Sweating soldiers smothered the leaking shell case with plaster of Paris bandages while CBDE staff stood by to monitor contamination levels.

As the soldiers withdrew they were monitored and decontaminated every step of the way. The operation went on for several days.

"This is a first-class training opportunity and working alongside CBDE staff gives my soldiers confidence when dealing with chemical agents," explained Maj Pope.

It also gives us an opportunity to use and adapt some of our more advanced disposal techniques.

"We have been assisted by instructors from the Army School of Ammunition who teach this, so the experience will be cycled into the training organisation. We have an excellent working relationship with CBDE and it is always a pleasure to be of assistance."

Meanwhile, the rest of 721 Squadron

underwent conventional EOD training elsewhere.

The squadron is one of three mainland-based squadrons on the strength of 11 EOD Regiment. Its role includes routine ammunition inspection and the licensing of ammunition storage facilities, as well as the investigation of any accident involving munitions.

Maj Pope has three troops, based in Nottingham, Hereford and Tidworth, responsible for EOD matters in the Midlands, mid-south Wales and the West Country, and there are seven more troops doing a similar job around the UK.

"Our regiment responds to any report of unexploded ordnance found above the high tide line. Last year it dealt with more than 3,000 incidents," he said. The Tidworth troop, for example, was kept busy last summer, dealing with up to three tasks a day across an area stretching from Land's End to Salisbury Plain. Second World War 3in mortars and Mills bombs are found regularly and in large quantities.

The unit recently took delivery of the latest version of the remote-controlled Wheelbarrow disarming device, now the pride and joy of SSgt Andy Haslam.

"The Mark 8b Wheelbarrow incorporates a number of improvements to earlier versions," he explained. "It has increased strength and durability and its rubber tracks have more grip."

Other improvements include a higher top speed – 8.7 mph – and an impressive fording capability.

Some civilians show a lamentable lack of understanding of the dangers of unexploded munitions, said Maj Pope.

"Not long ago, a South Coast farmer contacted us via the police. He was fed up with finding and marking 3in mortars for us to deal with so he tied one to a telegraph pole using baling twine and threw it to my soldiers when they arrived."

"He must have wondered why they dived for cover. His lack of judgement was later pointed out in no uncertain terms by the police."

# Gurkha sappers build on jungle reputation

AS THE only British Army Engineer unit in the Far East, 67 Gurkha Independent Field Squadron QGE has been kept busy, but still managed to fit in overseas tours.

The annual exercise in Brunei – Exercise Jungle Builder – was one example.

Known previously as Jungle Trooper, the two-month exercise involved the deployment of 100 personnel from the squadron – consisting of SHQ, three field troops (A, B and C) and a supply element of the QM department – to carry out three construction projects, followed by a jungle survival training exercise.

## Steel boat shed

Accommodated in Sittang Camp, Tutong, squadron tasks were spread from Tutong to Seria: A Troop to construct a pre-fabricated steel boat shed in Medicina Lines; B Troop the reconstruction of a jungle village, and C Troop a road repair project using gabion baskets.

B Troop's was the biggest project.

Jungle Village, as it became known, had fallen into disrepair over years of constant use by the resident Gurkha battalion and Training Team Brunei (TTB).

It was an important training facility temporarily out of action, and B Troop was responsible for bringing it back to life.

The village consisted of four huts, four large bunkers and smaller slit trenches, all inter-linked by snake-infested tunnels, said troop commander Capt Jim Fernandes RE.

Largest part of the job involved replacing 80m of the old tunnel system, which had caved in, with a new pre-cast concrete tunnel.

Three of the four huts were to be completely rebuilt, as were the bunkers.

The troop was given six weeks in which to accomplish the task, the stores for which had already been procured by the Garrison Works Office at HQ Brunei Garrison.

## Tunnels and bunkers

A light excavator was hired for the tunnels and bunkers and the responsibility for operating it fell to Spr Madav Rawat, who skilfully manoeuvred between trees despite the fact that one of the tracks kept falling off.

While the digging was going on, the troop started to lay reinforced concrete sections in the congested tunnel. End product was a wide and safe passageway.

Carpenters built three strong new huts while the bricklayers showed their skills in the construction of the bunkers.

Without the efforts of all the members of the troop, combined with the assistance of members of A Troop, the Jungle Village project would not have been completed on time, said Capt Fernandes.

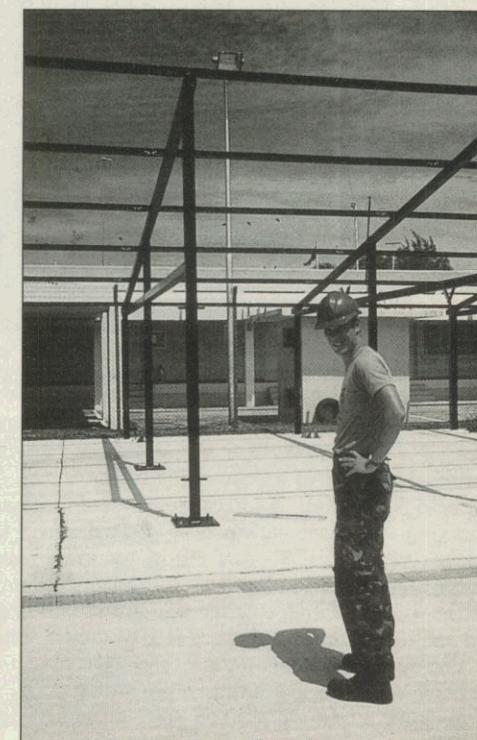
More help for B Troop throughout the



Above – Five rows complete, four to go: the wall which C Troop had to build, to stop the range road sliding away

Right – Lt Kieran Fitzpatrick shows off the new prefab boat shed

Below – SSgt Manbahadur Thapa on the footbridge



project came in the form of a section from C (Assault Engineer) Company, 2nd Battalion, The Royal Gurkha Rifles.

After handing the village over to Training Team Brunei ready for jungle warfare courses and training exercises, the Gurkhas of B Troop set their sights on a deployment into the jungle for survival training and helicopter landing site clearance.

At Anduki, the footbridge decking had to be replaced, more cross members had to be added and a touch-up of primer and paint

structured a pre-fabricated boat shed and repaired a footbridge and tutorial hut at Anduki, close to Seria.

The ten-bay boat shed, made from steel stanchions, was an important project for Training Team Brunei, which urgently needed a storage site for their Rigid Raider craft.

Under Lt Kieran Fitzpatrick RE and SSgt Manbahadur Thapa, A Troop con-

# Diving into history

PLANS by an Army expedition to locate and dive on HM ships *Triumph* and *Majestic*, sunk in the Dardanelles during the Gallipoli campaign, were called off because of local sensitivities.

But compromise arrangements were made and other historic wrecks, including that of the devastated HMS *Irresistible*, were explored.

On May 25, 1915, HMS *Triumph*, an elderly battleship, was providing gunfire support to the Allied army locked in battle with the Turkish garrison at Gallipoli when she was torpedoed and sunk by a German submarine off Kaba Tepe near Anzac Cove.

Two days later, HMS *Majestic*, an even older battleship, was sunk by the same submarine in the shallow Aegean entrance to the Dardanelles Straits.

Members of the Hameln Sub Aqua Club (HSAC) who set out to locate the ships had to change their plans on the advice of the Turkish authorities.

The club, composed mainly of experienced divers from British Army units in Germany, set up its base in Canakkale, at the narrowest part of the Dardanelles, where diving was carried out with a local charter operation.

All diving in Turkish waters has to be under the control of a Turkish licence-holding operator.

After initial disappointment for the Army team about the quality of diving opportunities available to them, a solution was found.

With the help of local representatives of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, a reasonable arrangement was worked out with the Turkish coastguard resulting in a more satisfactory programme.

The small area of the Gallipoli Peninsula and the minuscule Anzac Cove were the site of some of the fiercest close-quarter fighting of the First World War.

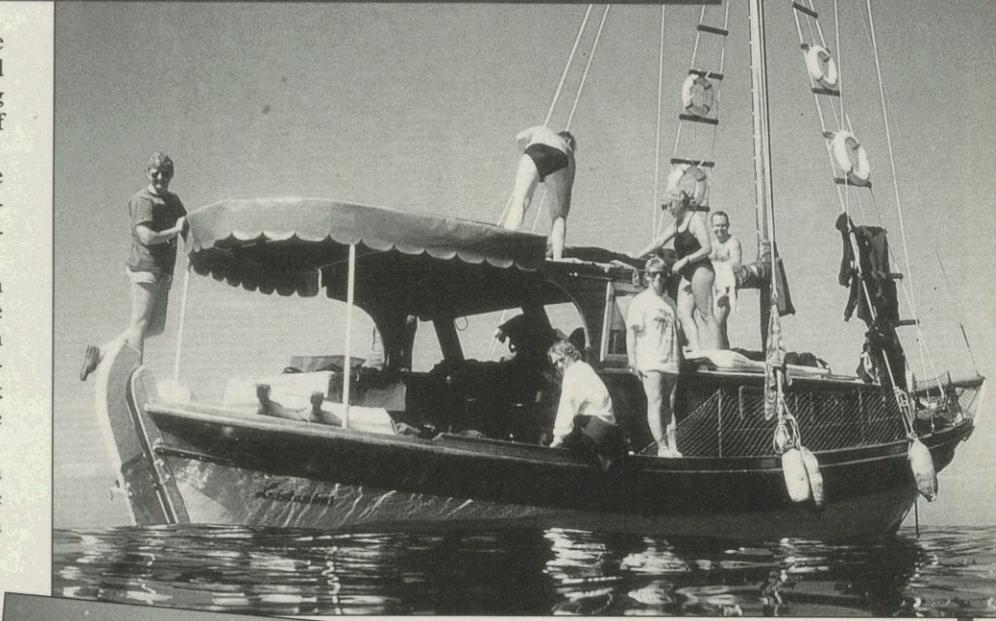
Reminders of this, including occasional human remains, are still to be seen.

Because of the strong current, diving in the Dardanelles Straits proved a great contrast to the Aegean for the HSAC team. Some of the largest wrecks in the

was necessary. The tutorial hut, used by TTB for river crossing lectures, was a simple wooden structure on concrete footings. The roof was provided by TTB students spreading foliage across the top.

A troop completed all their tasks on time and to budget and were then able to assist the other troops to complete their projects.

C Troop repaired a road leading into a live-firing range in one of the training areas. The only access to the area, it was in danger



Above – Pretty but not particularly practical: one of the boats used by the team



Left – Capt Pauline MacDonald, an Army nurse and BSAC advanced diver, examines the deck of HMS Lundy

the bottom, but her gun turrets are still in place.

Many of the really large First World War wrecks are just out of reach for air-breathing divers, and the nearest recompression facilities are in Istanbul – about two hours away by helicopter.

An added complication is that many of the wrecks are war graves and the Turkish authorities are understandably protective of them, even though to some extent they have been salvaged.

The trip was a dream come true for at least two people: HSAC team leader Maj Chip Wood, OC Combat Engineer Training Centre at Hameln, and Capt Gordon Sochon, who led a similar team from the UK.

Other team members were Lt Col Liz Duggan RAMC (doctor); Capt Andy Reid, AGC SADS; Capt Renfrey Pearson, an Australian with RAMC (V); Capt Pauline MacDonald QARANC; Capt Simon King REME; 2nd Lt Liz Moss RE; Sgt Gaz Oldershaw REME and LCpl Nick Dunmore REME.

physical effort, not helped by a lack of shade, and it did not disappoint, said Cpl Dobahadur Garbuja, a section commander.

The Gurkha sappers wisely started early in the morning to avoid the hottest part of the day.

Their improved drainage arrangements were soon put to the test by fierce thunderstorms, but stood up to the challenge admirably.



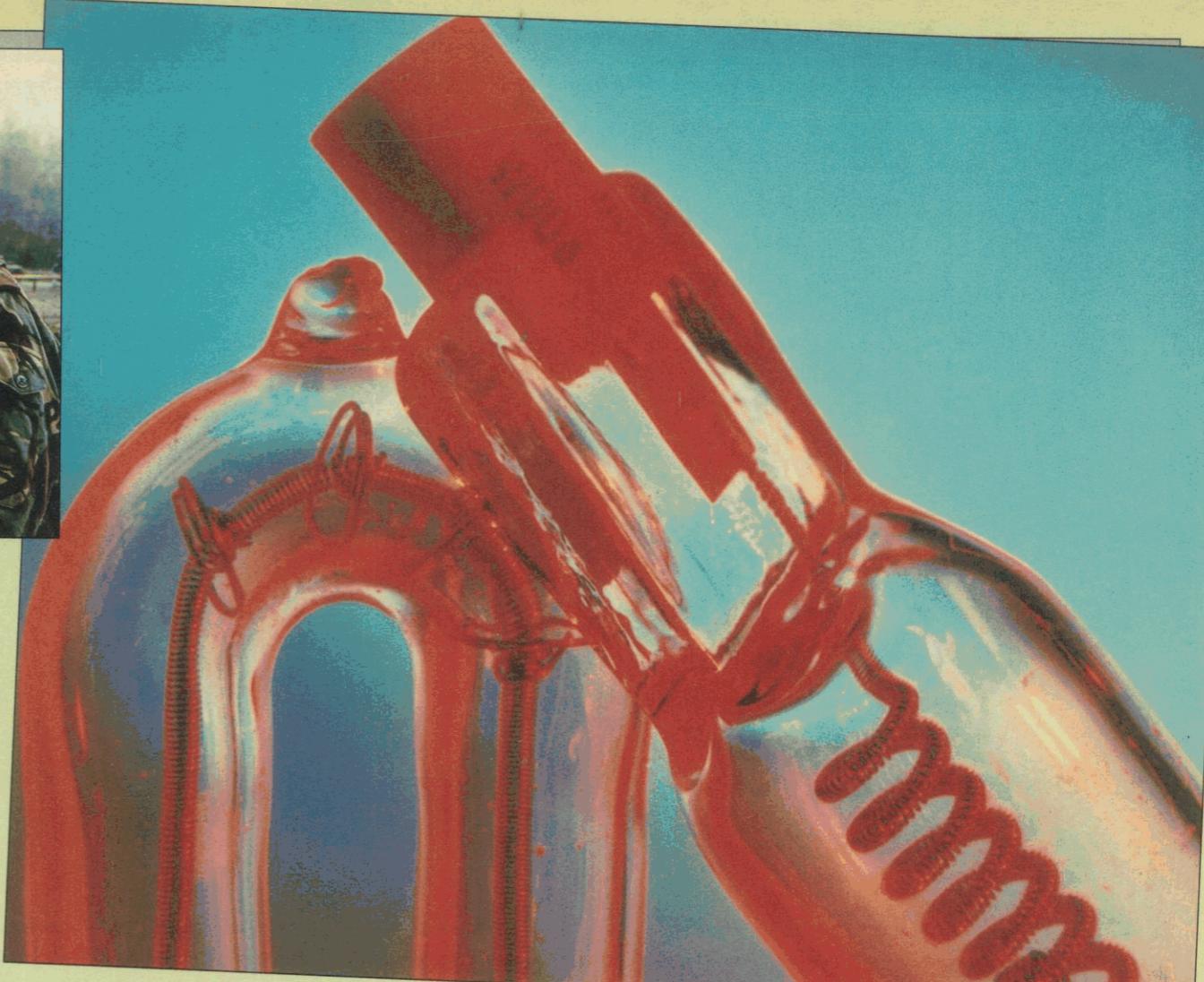
It's a great life: Sgt Steve Baillie, Northern Ireland Military Photographer of the Year, with his winning portfolio in the background



Ambidextrous angler: best monochrome, by Maj Stephen Seagrave



Winning smile: One of the pictures from Sgt Steve Baillie's successful portfolio. Others in the set have been used in *Soldier* during the past year



Electric effect: LCpl Nigel Green won the *Soldier*-sponsored "own choice" category with this unusual still life

# Ex-tankie Steve is top phot

THERE can't be many jobs that take you down in the sewers of Belfast one day, up in the Mourne Mountains on the next... and, on a third, hanging out of helicopters hundreds of feet above the ground.

Not everyone's cup of tea - but for Sgt Steve Baillie RLC, voted Northern Ireland's top military photographer, it's a great life.

"To be honest about it," he said, "the variety and challenge make it one of the best jobs to have in the Army."

Steve (32), who started his Army career as a Chieftain tank crewman in 4 RTR and who is now attached to the Mobile News Team based at HQ Northern Ireland, was chosen for his portfolio of pictures which have appeared in newspapers and magazines, including *Soldier*, around the world.

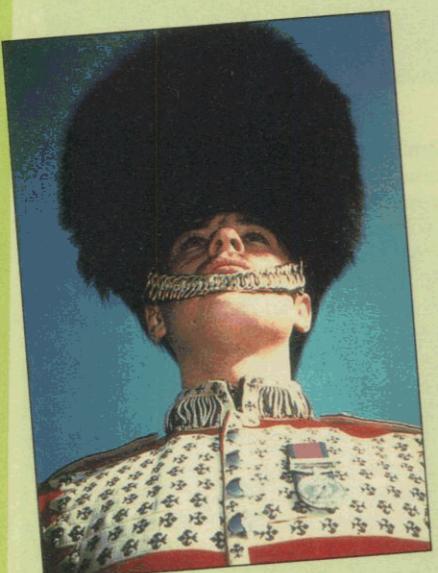
## First contest

In the first competition of its kind in Northern Ireland he snapped up runners-up prizes in two other categories, to be pipped in terms of prizes only by LCpl Mo Gray, of Depot R Irish, who won three categories.

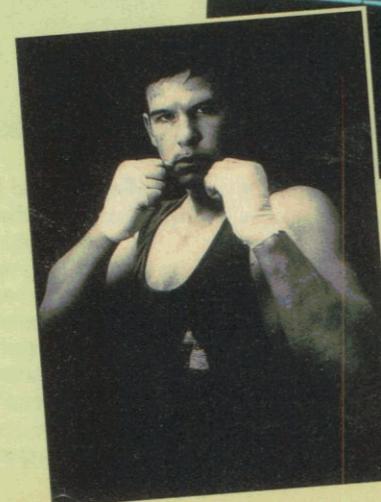
There were seven categories in all, including one sponsored by *Soldier* for subjects of the contestants' own choice. It was won by LCpl Nigel Green RLC, serving with 3 Bde CPC in Armagh, with an almost surreal view of electrical kit.

Lt Gen Sir Roger Wheeler, GOC Northern Ireland, who presented prizes ranging from cash to camera equipment, praised the high quality evident among the dozens of entries, which reflected many aspects of military life in the Province.

The contest was organised in less than a month by Capt Philip Scoley RLC and WO2 Pete Bristo RLC. Entries were judged by Mr Nigel Gillies, the Army's Chief Information Officer in Northern Ireland, and Mr Stephen George, Higher Professional Photographer at HQ NI.



Above - On the double: this study by LCpl Mo Gray was voted Northern Ireland Image of the Year and best military portrait



Right - Boxing clever: from LCpl Mo Gray's best amateur portfolio



Stargazing: best colour picture, by SAC Paul Durham

□ Northern Ireland Military Photographer of the Year, sponsored by GOC Northern Ireland: Sgt Steve Baillie RLC (AIS HQ NI). Highly commended, SSgt Anthony von Roretz RLC (8 Bde CPC, Londonderry).

□ Best monochrome, sponsored by Photo Services, Belfast: Maj

Stephen Seagrave IG. Runner-up, LCpl Neil Holloway 1 Staffords. Highly commended, SSgt Anthony von Roretz RLC (8 Bde CPC, Londonderry).

grove. Runner-up, Sgt Steve Baillie RLC. Highly commended, SAC Stew Shaw, RAF Aldergrove; LCpl Clare Carter AGC (25 Engr Regt).

## Competition results

□ Best military portrait, sponsored by KJP Belfast: LCpl Mo Gray. Runner-up: Sgt Steve Baillie RLC.

□ Own choice award, sponsored by *Soldier*: LCpl Nigel Green RLC. Runner-up: SAC Stew Shaw.

□ Northern Ireland Image of the Year, sponsored by Kodak: LCpl Mo Gray. Runner-up: Maj Jeremy Ashton PWRR (att 7 R Irish).



On the other side of the lens: prizewinners and trophies

Picture: Terry Champion



Pillbox intelligence-gatherers. The wartime structure behind could have housed an anti-tank weapon. Bren guns provided additional fire power

# PRESERVING THE PAST

## Finding the forgotten pillboxes

THE Imperial War Museum's latest research project received an offer of help from an unlikely quarter of the British Army - Military Intelligence.

Aim of the IWM's Defence of Britain Project is to find and survey all defensive fortifications constructed in Britain during the Second World War.

Coastal defences sprang up around Britain's coasts as the threat of a German invasion loomed ever larger.

And to protect the country's industrial heartland, thousands of pillboxes were built during 1940 as a second line of defence in the south, east and west of England.

Many were never officially recorded and information on those that were is now out of date. As more and more are demolished, the need to find out what remains and to preserve the best examples has taken on a greater urgency.

Intelligence Corps soldiers drawn from

Enter York-based 2 Military Intelligence Company which was searching for an activity to form the unit's annual concentration.

Officer commanding Maj Nick Hubberstey was looking to exercise his soldiers in ground appreciation, photography, analysis, surveying and map reading and the Imperial War Museum project fitted the bill exactly.

"We quickly learned that many civilians cannot read maps. We found grid references from earlier surveys placed some of

2 Company's sections at York, Catterick, Nottingham and Brampton deployed on Exercise Welsh Barrier with instructions to survey a line of pillboxes stretching from Liverpool to Gloucester.

Basing themselves at Copthorne Barracks in Shrewsbury, 2 MI Company was provided with a list of 128 sites on which it was thought there had been pillboxes or obstacles.

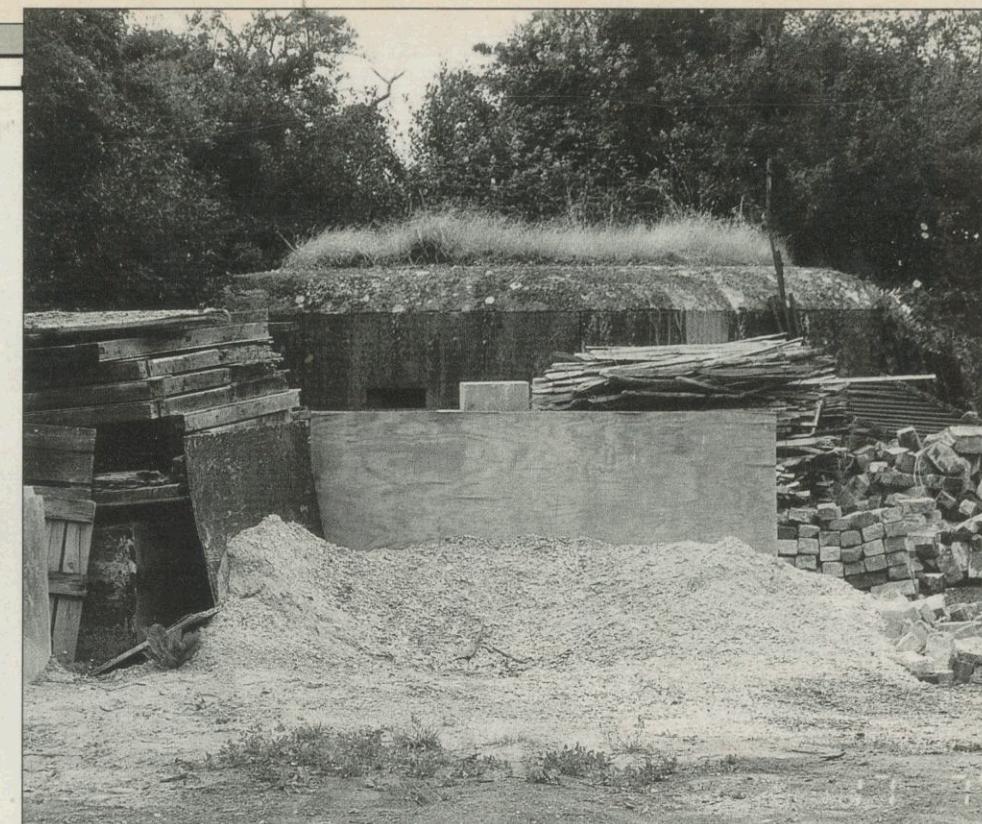
"Our mission was simple", explained Maj Hubberstey. "We had to find the pillboxes, see what they were made of, why they were put where they were, and photograph the site.

"Using their intelligence skills, my soldiers were also able to assess any threat to the site and check out links with adjacent sites.

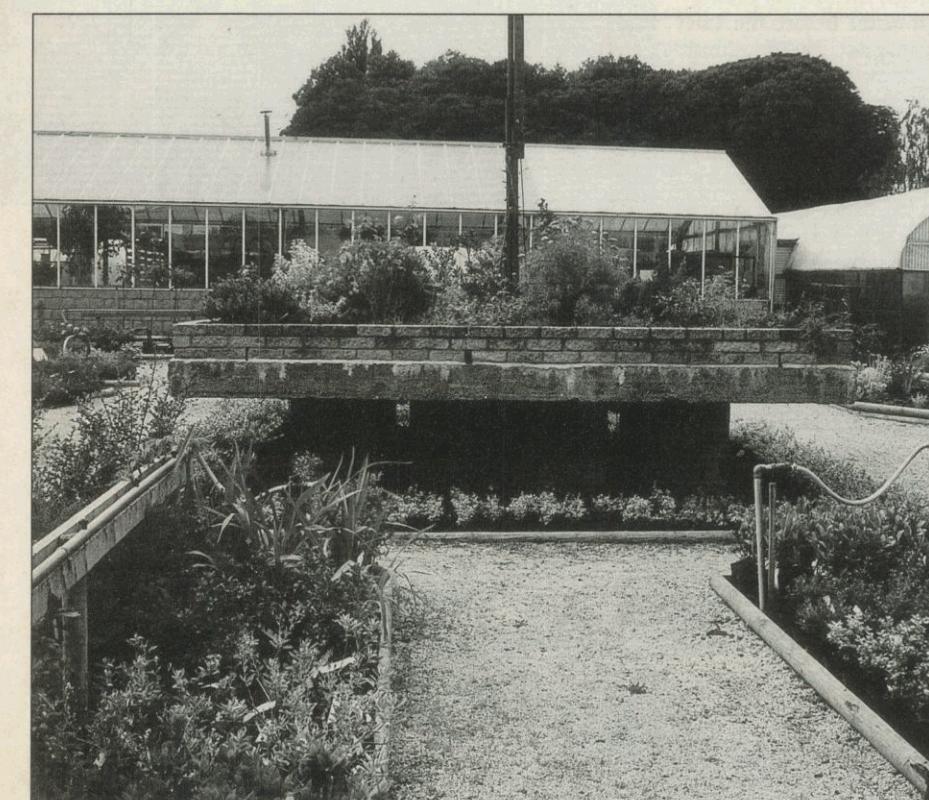
All are able to take and develop photo-



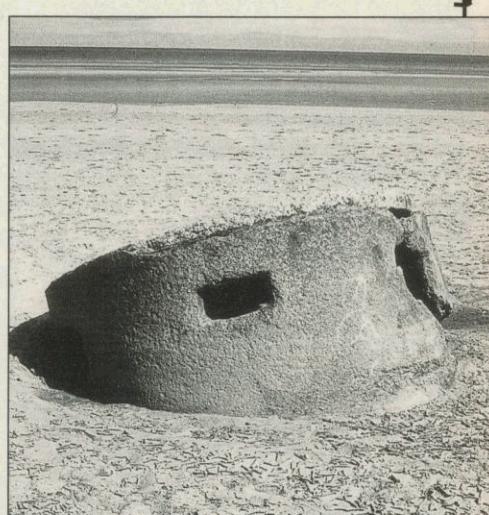
This two-storey pillbox in Gloucester was converted into offices



Builders at Eastington in Gloucestershire use this pillbox to store materials



Flower power. A garden centre in Chester houses this example of wartime defences. The bunker underneath is still intact



This pipe pillbox is sinking into the sands of the River Dee estuary

of military intelligence who demanded, tongue-in-cheek, that the pillboxes be rebuilt or the two civilians would be billed for the damage.

Many of the pillboxes found were in good condition, said Maj Hubberstey.

"They were built to last, but threats to their continued existence are numerous - farming, new roads and, in one case, the use of a bunker by New Age travellers which prompted calls for its demolition.

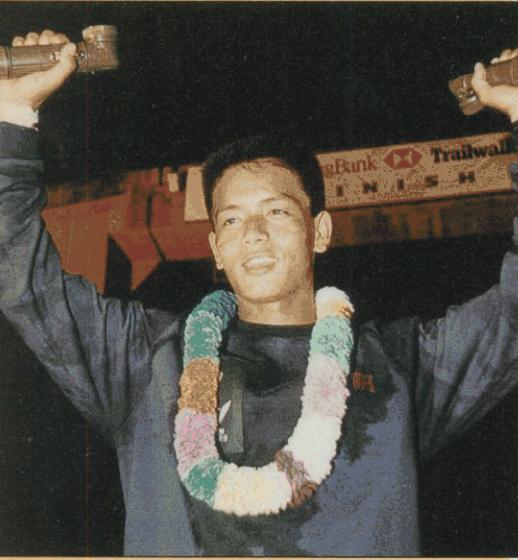
"Larger bunkers have been adapted as offices, another forms the centre piece of a garden centre, complete with flower bas-

sets and a fountain."

Now some of these Second World War

defences are to be preserved as a reminder to future generations of one of Britain's darkest hours.

British Military Intelligence is proud to have played a part in the preservation process.



Sig Manbahadur Thada, QG Signals, first man to finish at Perowne Barracks

#### THE FACTS

- The three-day event covers 100km of the MacLehose Trail, travelling east to west through eight country parks, from Sai Kung to Tuen Mun.
- Since the event began, walkers have covered, in total, more than 2 million kms, equivalent to 50 times round the planet. More than 30,000 have taken part.
- More than HK\$45.5 million has been raised for charity.

#### THE FINANCE

- More than 270 schools have been built or refurbished with Trailwalker's support and more than 50 are being re-equipped and improved.

Trailwalker has paid for doctors to visit each of the Gurkha Welfare Trust's 23 centres once a week, resulting in a noticeable improvement in health care in remote areas and saving. The Jubu clinic in East Nepal is being built at a cost of HK\$250,000.

Trailwalker supports a special school for handicapped children of Gurkha soldiers in Hong Kong.

Last year HK\$1 million was sent to Nepal to assist destitute ex-Gurkha Servicemen. The money helped buy land, cattle and crops for people who had lost their livelihood through flooding, landslides or fire.

#### THE FUTURE

- From 1996 the event will be run by Oxfam Hong Kong, assisted by an advisory team from the QG Signals. The Civil Aid Services, Auxiliary Medical Services and RHKP will also provide assistance.

□ From 1997, Oxfam Hong Kong will co-ordinate the event with the help of other Hong Kong agencies.

□ In recognition of the contribution of the Gurkhas, the Trailwalker Advisory Committee intends to establish an endowment fund to continue Trailwalker's work in Nepal post-1997.

# End of the trail Queen's Gurkha

A RECORD-breaking run of consecutive Trailwalker team wins may have come to an end for Gurkhas serving with the British Garrison in Hong Kong, but the honour of the Queen's Gurkha Signals was upheld when, against all the odds, the first man across the line at Perowne Barracks was Sig Manbahadur Thada.

It was a fitting finish, as this was the 14th and final occasion that the QG Signals organised the annual event.

Favourites before the start of the three-day 100km fundraising trek along the MacLehose Trail, the Gurkha signallers hit trouble when Sig Bhudwani Prasad Gurung suffered a hamstring injury and they lost valuable time as Sig Thada carried his team-mate for almost an hour to the nearest medical station, writes Ruth Vernon.

Sig Gurung was eventually forced to retire, but although this meant his team was officially out of the race the three remaining runners decided to finish.

As darkness fell Sig Thada made a bid for the front and began to pick off runners who had earlier overtaken him, eventually crossing the line 32 minutes ahead of the team winners, the Carlingford Comets, in a time



Maj Libahadur Gurung, the Trailwalker 95 co-ordinator

of 13hr 54min – only 36 minutes outside the record. He would almost certainly have beaten it but for his mercy mission.

"We were a little disappointed we didn't win in our final year," said OC HK Gurkha Signal Sqn, Maj Libahadur Gurung, who co-ordinated Trailwalker 1995. "However, this race has always been very demanding and unpredictable and my men are not superhuman."

Trailwalker is one of the most testing

sporting events in the Hong Kong calendar, with 2,600 people in 650 teams tackling the 100km trail through eight country parks, from Sai Kung to Tuen Mun – and all in aid of charity.

Each team undertakes to raise at least HK\$5,000 for the Trailwalker Charitable Trust.

Since its inception the QG Signals have been at the forefront ensuring that Trailwalker runs smoothly.

Months before the event Maj Gurung and his men visited the checkpoints to set up communications, clear the trail and make it safe. On the actual weekend of Trailwalker his men were out in force to register competitors, man checkpoints, assist at medical stations and provide food, shelter and encouragement.

"We've been associated with Trailwalker for 14 years now but because of the drawdown of both personnel and equipment in the lead-up to the handover in June 1997 we just won't be able to organise it in 1996," said Maj Gurung.

#### Sponsored teams

Garrison involvement began in 1981 when a military event was organised by the Queen's Gurkha Signals. Individual Gurkha soldiers had tackled the trail in previous years but that year a challenge was thrown down for a group event in which teams would be sponsored to compete and raise funds for the Gurkha Welfare Trust.

Heavy military operational roles precluded a 1982 event but it began again in 1983 with 45 teams from the garrison raising HK\$61,000. In 1985 civilian teams began to show an interest and five teams from Hong Kong sports organisations joined 48 military teams.

QG Signals approached the former director of Oxfam Hong Kong, Chris Bale, with the idea of broadening the event. Oxfam, in turn, introduced the Hongkong Bank as sponsors.

Despite appalling weather in 1986, 100 raised HK\$204,384. A committee was established to provide equal distribution of the funds – one third each to the Gurkha Welfare Trust, Oxfam Hong Kong and local charities. The distribution remains the same today.

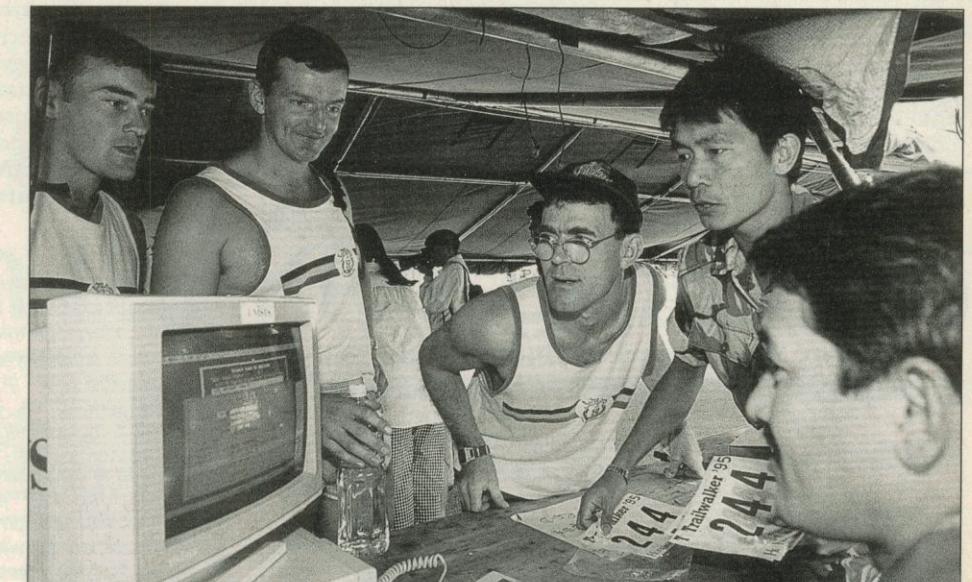
In 1993 HK\$10.3 million was raised by 600 teams and the 10th Princess Mary's Queen's Own Gurkha Rifles set a new record of 13hr.

When the final count is made, the 1995

# for Signals



The Hong Kong-based Queen's Gurkha Signals team in training for Trailwalker 95 before the main event



Trailwalker participants register with QG Signals officials before the start of the race



Competitors set off in style at Sai Kung Country Park

Provan, came 16th. Maj Knoll's 100 km obviously didn't stretch him enough as he ran back to keep the regiment's women's team company over their last few stages.

Other commendable performances were put in by two teams from 50 Hong Kong Workshop. One runner was replaced at a day's notice by Cpl Kumar Gurung, who helped Maj Steve Williams, Sgt Billy Coffield and Cpl Shelly Sheldon to a fast finish of 21hr 52min.

Cpl Gurung turned up at the start with one change of socks, shorts and T-shirt and with only one bottle of water but finished as fresh as a daisy. The two 50 Wksp teams expect to have raised almost HK\$18,000.

Commander British Forces, Maj Gen Bryan Dutton, was also adding to the money raised. As a member of the ten-man Taipan team, he completed two stages. Walking in relays, the Taipan team finished at 1330hr on the second day and raised a staggering HK\$2 million.

# Hitler's plans: myths and realities

AS we grow older, memory plays tricks on us all.

One writer (Letters, Dec 11) asks us to believe that Portsmouth cleared itself on March 11 1941 in around 12 hours. In other words, say 100,000 people upped and went to destinations unknown, presumably with no backing from the civil authorities.

Another contributor talks about parading (doing rifle drills?) welding steel tubes with bayonets affixed.

While the "at ease" and "attention" positions could be successfully negotiated, other movements such as "shoulder arms", "order arms" and "present arms" could have been tricky, especially among recruits.

And what about "trail"? Changing arms on the march would have proved positively dangerous.

Where did these pikes finish up? With the Home Guard? I was in Dad's Army and we all told stories about "another lot" using them, but no one had first-hand experience of this mythical weapon.

All said and done, we are now well into the 1990s and rapidly approaching the end of the century. The armed forces must move with the times and should embrace issues such as cross-dressing with a more liberal attitude.

An ex-WRAC lady friend has asked that her old corps might be honoured in much the same way and that suspenders might go down a treat.

The spectacle of men on motor cycles rippling around the arena resplendent in white helmets, gloves and the latest Janet Rege could pull more than just a crowd. (NATO stock No: CK-8455-99-414-5152).

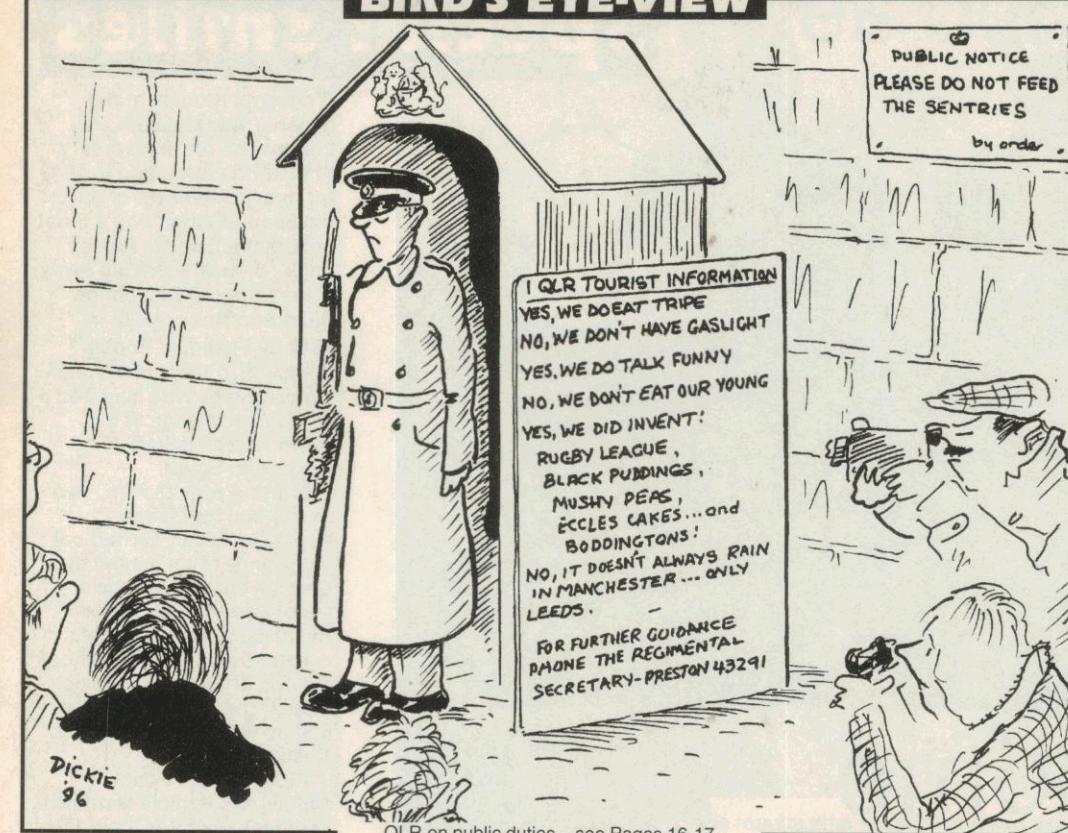
For as long as the loophole in Army dress regulations allows other corps to wear items of uniform not traditionally their own we must all maximise on the opportunity. — **Sgt Duckworth, 2 RTR, RAC Driving and Maintenance School, Bovington.**

TO INVADE or not to invade — that was the question. If Hitler had guessed the right place and time, admirably worked out by Mr M F Reid (Letters, Dec 11) to have been Portsmouth, March 11, 1941, he would still have needed to cope with the small detail of how.

This could have been by sea, air, or indeed tunnelling, the way preferred by Napoleon. — **W H D Podd, Lowestoft, Suffolk.**

WRITE TO SOLDIER ORDNANCE ROAD ALDERSHOT HANTS GU11 2DU

## BIRD'S EYE-VIEW



QLR on public duties — see Pages 16-17

# Black mark for the imitation tankies

## Pipes, drums' border service

IN answer to Rodney Bashford's query about the origin of the Pipes and Drums of the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards (Record review, Oct 3), the original pipes and drums belonged to the 1st Lothians and Border Yeomanry, later passing into the care of the Royal Scots Greys (and later the Scots DG) on the suspension of the Yeomanry at the end of the Second World War. — Philip Mather, Editor, International Military Music Society UK newsletter, Manchester.

It would be tempting to claim the power to bend time (the National Lottery springs to mind) but there is a (relatively) simple answer to this one. In common with most magazines, *Soldier* is published well in advance of the date on its cover. It has 25 editions a year, and with Christmas leave intervening in the production cycle, the last edition of 1995 (dated December 11) was sent out at the start of the month and the first edition of 1996 dispatched in mid-December. By some stroke of

more chuffed than a rat with a gold tooth. This kind token is causing some confusion among those at large, however.

Although it has been suggested many times that the RAC relieve the Infantry of the strain of mechanisation, it hadn't been realised that the tankies were now doing the job. Nor had it been appreciat-

I would like to pass on thanks from all of us and say how jolly delighted we all are with your gesture. I for one am

ed that in another move to demonstrate the flexibility of the corps, the RTR was out there roaring about on motorbikes and making lots of noise with the best of them.

All said and done, we are now well into the 1990s and rapidly approaching the end of the century. The armed forces must move with the times and should embrace issues such as cross-dressing with a more liberal attitude.

An ex-WRAC lady friend has asked that her old corps might be honoured in much the same way and that suspenders might go down a treat.

The spectacle of men on motor cycles rippling around the arena resplendent in white helmets, gloves and the latest Janet Rege could pull more than just a crowd. (NATO stock No: CK-8455-99-414-5152).

This is a condensed version of Col Dunne's letter, which confirms and enlarges upon the original correction by Lt Col (Retd) Geoffrey Davis (Sept 18).

Col Dunne acknowledges *The New Zealand Army, A History from the 1840s to the 1980s*, compiled by Maj M R Wicksteed RNZA, as the source of much of his factual detail. — **Editor**

## Kiwi 3rd Division in the Solomons

IN AN article published to mark the 50th anniversary of VJ Day, *Soldier* commented on New Zealand's contribution during the Second World War. The article, published in your August 21 issue, indicated that the 2nd New Zealand Division fought the Japanese in the Solomon Islands.

As pointed out in a subsequent edition, this is incorrect, the 2nd New Zealand Division having fought in the Middle East and Italy, first engaging the enemy in Greece during April 1941.

The division fought with the British 8th Army in Syria, and

resistance by the Japanese in the Treasury Islands ceased in November.

A division raiding party made a night landing on Nissan Island in the Green Islands group on January 30, 1944 in preparation for a full-scale amphibious landing by 3rd Division and US troops on February 15. Organised Japanese resistance ceased on February 20.

It is pleasing to note that New Zealand soldiers continue to be recognised for their efforts during the Second World War. Of a total of 104,988 men and women serv-

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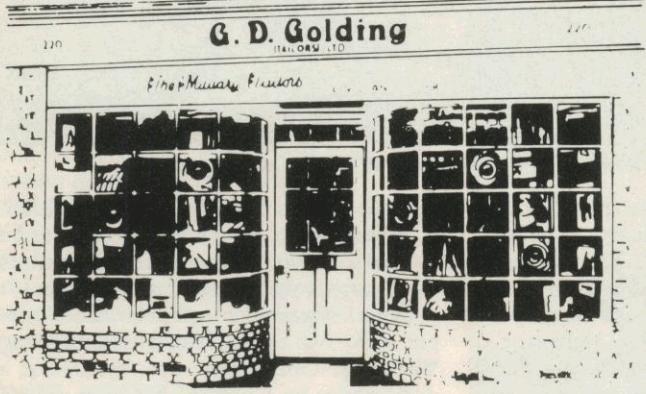
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## Special smiles

A cheerful reunion at the Imperial War Museum, London, on the anniversary of their first operation in 1942 for former members of one of the Second World War's most remarkable Special Forces units - Popski's Private Army.

No 1 Special Demolition Squadron was created in 1942 by Vladimir "Popski" Peniakoff, a Belgian of Russian parentage who acquired a unique knowledge of the North African desert while working in Egypt.

Starting with 23 men, two trucks and four jeeps, Popski's "Army" carried out long-range raids behind the German lines and made a major contribution to the Allied campaign in Tunisia.

Later transferred to Italy, by the end of the war it had penetrated the Third Reich and met up with the Red Army in Austria.

Pictured with Popski's widow, Mrs Pamela Matthews, are (back row) Eric Farr, Jim Eastham and Ben Owen; (front) Geoffrey Bays, Douglas Elliott, John Campbell and Brian Thomas.

# British home sought for music archive

A UNIQUE military band archive of more than 19,000 items could be lost to America if a permanent home cannot be found for it in Britain.

At present the Gatehouse Collection, named in memory of the man who amassed the material, fills two rooms of a terrace house in Newport, Gwent.

Jerome Gatehouse was disabled for many years and devoted his time to creating the huge international collection, which includes police as well as military bands.

During the 1994 D-Day commemorative weekend he suffered a fatal heart attack and now his widow, Anne, is carrying on his work.

"Collecting information about military bands was his whole life," said Mrs Gatehouse, who hopes to house the many documents, photographs and programmes in a British museum.

Fighting for space in the house in Hoskins Street are some 2,000 records and tapes, videos, CDs, magazines and books.

Recently, out of the blue, Mrs Gatehouse received a telephone call from Jerry Horne in Pine Bluff, Arkansas. Jerry has a musical instrument museum and had heard about the Gatehouse Collection on the international network of military music enthusiasts.

He offered Anne a complete floor in his three-storey museum.



Mrs Anne Gatehouse

"I really don't know what to do," she told *Soldier*. "I would dearly love to find a home for the collection here, but it is very tempting to take it to the States where I know it will be properly cared for."

Mrs Gatehouse, who continues to research military music and write articles on the bands which once played such an important role in the British way of life, can be contacted at 67 Hoskins Street, Newport, Gwent NP9 5LA (tel 01633 243286).

## Third Colour

THE claim by The Royal Highland Fusiliers to a unique third Colour on parade is given substance by that British Army bible, the ceremonial drill manual.

Paragraph 0506, Section 1, Chapter 5, which deals with standards, Guidons and Colours, states that certain regiments have the right to carry three Colours on parade but this right is only exercised by the Royal Highland Fusiliers. They carry the Assaye Colour, the original of which was presented by the East India Company, to commemorate the brave conduct of the regiment at the Battle of Assaye.

Two other regiments also received this honour.

While others have standards, Guidons, flags and other symbols, the RHF says its unique claim is in respect of Colours and the right to carry them on parade.

When Piper George Findlater (Briefings, Dec 11) won his Victoria Cross at Dargai Heights on the Indian Frontier, it was not just The Gordon Highlanders he was encouraging under fire.

As Brig Christopher Bullock, curator of the Gurkha Museum in Winchester, points out, the 2nd KEO Gurkha Rifles also took part in the attack during which Findlater was shot through both feet.

A Vereker Hamilton painting in the Gordons' museum depicts the two regiments charging together, played on by the wounded piper.

**Confusion in the ranks:** A number of readers have pointed out that the detachment of soldiers pictured in front of the Lord

Mayor of London's coach (Dec 11) were from the Honourable Artillery Company, not the Welsh Guards. Indeed they were. Mind you, another correspondent said they were from The London Regiment, and a third reckoned they were Grenadier Guardsmen...

When the 1st Battalion, The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment deploys to Bosnia they can rely on the active support of Kidderminster Branch of the WFR Regimental Association.

Branch secretary Peter Hogben tells us the branch is looking for pen friends for the lads in the WFR counties of Worcestershire, Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire.

They are also after "recreational materials".

Contact the Kidderminster Branch, WFR Association at their HQ in The Shrubbery, TA Centre, Birmingham Road, Kidderminster.

Brig Vere Hayes has handed over the ancient role of Deputy Constable of Dover Castle to Brig David Godsall, the 206th incumbent. The ceremony, on December 15, included the reading of a letter of appointment from the Lord Warden, currently the Queen Mother, a custom dating back to the time of William Pitt. Brig Hayes, leaving to take up a new appointment at Wilton, will have his banner struck from the tower and replaced by the incoming Deputy Constable.

# Army EOD branches out

A London-based bomb disposal team has been taking part in a revolutionary experiment to create wildlife habitat... by using explosives to trim a tree.

Northolt Troop, part of 621 Squadron, 11 EOD Regiment RLC, was invited by the National Trust to blow unsafe branches off a dying beech in Stowe Gardens, Buckinghamshire.

Developed in America, the technique creates jagged edges more easily colonised by insects than the smooth surfaces of sawn stumps.

A four-man team from Northolt, led by Capt Kevin Mosedale, set about blowing the top half off an 80ft beech. "We had to work out everything, from the method of drilling the holes to the size of the charges need to break the branches," said Capt Mosedale.

Charges of plastic explosive, ranging from 1/2lb to 2lb, were slotted into the tree. The first set of three brought three large branches crashing down, but two attempts - and a convenient gust of wind - were necessary to dislodge the stubborn crown.



Capt Kevin Mosedale inspects the results after his EOD unit had used plastic explosives to pollard a beech tree

## SEARCHLINE

**Home Service Force (RA) Association:** Association formed by members of disbanded A (HSF) Battery, 103 AD Regt RA (V) wishes to contact other HSF bodies. Details: S G Stephens, 28 Enfield Avenue, Crosby, Merseyside L23 0SZ (tel 0151 4769174).

Les Swindale, 6 Yew Tree Crescent, Stapenhill, Burton-on-Trent DE15 9QL, seeks Frank Shephard, Frank Nesbitt, Jock Lithgoe, Cpl Tyrell and Cpl Furman of MT Section, 164 Rly Opr Co RE (1939-46).

**37/39 Field Bakery Unit RASC:** Roy Murgatroyd seeks colleagues who served with the unit in Yong Dung Po and Tochon, Korea. Replies: 13 Hillcrest Road, Queensbury, Bradford, W Yorks BD13 2RA.

Gayle Williams wants news of David Walker from Oldham, then a lance corporal in CVR(T) Troop, with whom she lost touch several years ago. Replies to 47 Ingleway Avenue, Layton, Blackpool FY3 8JJ (tel 01253 391819).

**Aldershot Tattoos:** Alan Conridge, Roselea, 12 Oldfields, Exmouth EX8 2EG wishes to contact musicians or local historians who have personal memories of the famous Aldershot Tattoos.

**No 4 Coy, 3rd Bn Coldm Gds (1950-55):** Fourth reunion dinner in Birmingham, April 13. Details: Harry Westgarth, 49 Rokeye Park, Hull HU4 7QE (tel 01482 503649).

**APPOINTMENTS**

**Lieutenant General:** S C Grant - To be Comdt RCDS, Dec 20.

**Major General:** C F Drewry - To be GOC UKSC(G), Dec 20.

**Brigadiers:** R C Wolverson - To MoD, Dec 12; J M J Balfour - To be Comd 3 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn, Dec 11; A D A Duncan - To be Comd 19 Mech Bde HQ and Sig Sqn, Dec 11; D H Godsall - To be Comd 2 (SE) Bde and Dover/Shorncliffe Gar, Dec 15; J S W Powell - To be Comd 43 (Wessex) Bde, Dec 11; R M Wilde - To be Comd 52 Lowland Bde, Dec 18; J F Depasquale - To HS Spec Empl, Dec 11.

**Lt Cols:** A J Boyd RACD - To Rhine Trps UKSC(G), Dec 14; P G Cattermole RACD - To RMCS, Dec 11; C A Findley AGC (PRO) - To 3 (UK) Div, Dec 11; J H Gordon RGJ - To be CO 2 RGJ, Dec 11; R E Harrold, R Anglian - To be CO 1 R Anglian, Dec 12; J B Hastings RLC - To be P & EE Shoeburyness, Dec 11; J Hutchins 9/12 L - To MoD, Dec 11.

**R H Bounslow RA:** To be CO 47 Regt RA, Dec 18; N R Forrestal RE - To RSME Minley, Dec 18; R R Holmes, R Sigs - To Nacisa, Dec 18; D P Hughes, R Sigs - To HQ Scotland, Dec 18; D E Wilkes RACD - To HQ Woolwich Gar, Dec 18.

**Colonels:** I J Entwistle - To AGIC, Dec 11; S C Matthews - To 3 (UK) Div, Dec 11; P J Pritchard - To BLO (USA), Dec 15; C S Sibun - To HQ Land, Dec 13; P G Barry - To IMS Brussels, Dec 11; J R Durance - To HQ Land, Dec 11; A

H Goldsack - To HQ AFCENT (Staff), Dec 11; N J Hinton - To MoD, Dec 11; A R M Smith - To HQ RLC TA, Dec 11; C M Stein - To 3 (UK) Div, Dec 11; J R W Dutton - To HQ Land, Dec 18.

**Lt Cols:** A J Boyd RACD - To Rhine Trps UKSC(G), Dec 14; P G Cattermole RACD - To RMCS, Dec 11; C A Findley AGC (PRO) - To 3 (UK) Div, Dec 11; J H Gordon RGJ - To be CO 2 RGJ, Dec 11; R E Harrold, R Anglian - To be CO 1 R Anglian, Dec 12; J B Hastings RLC - To be P & EE Shoeburyness, Dec 11; J Hutchins 9/12 L - To MoD, Dec 11.

**M L Jackson WFR:** To CATC, Dec 16; C A Le Hardy LD - To be MA/AA The Hague, Dec 11; P Lilleyman RE - To MoD, Dec 13; P J Mercer WFR - To be CO 1 WFR, Dec 11; D S B Phipps, R Anglian - To JHQ IT, Dec 11; M S Reid, R

Sigs - To IMS Brussels, Dec 11; J A Ris RE - To MoD, Dec 11; G T Robey, Green Howards - To HQ Inf, Dec 11; R A Rosenhead AGC (SPS) - To AGC Trg Cen, Dec 11; R G Rowe, R Irish - To MoD, Dec 11; I M G Strong, R Sigs - To HQ Londist, Dec 11; J C Walmsley RE - To HQ Strike Comd, Dec 11.

**R H Bounslow RA:** To be CO 47 Regt RA, Dec 18; N R Forrestal RE - To RSME Minley, Dec 18; R R Holmes, R Sigs - To Nacisa, Dec 18; D P Hughes, R Sigs - To HQ Scotland, Dec 18; D E Wilkes RACD - To HQ Woolwich Gar, Dec 18.

**Retirements**

**Colonels:** S J Abate, late REME, Dec 14; C D Parkinson, late RADC, Dec 23; R E Potts, late RACD, Dec 30; J O Crosse, late RAMC, Jan 3.

## DATES

### February

14-16: Royal Marines' Mountbatten Festival of Music, Royal Albert Hall. Tickets 01705 547205.

25: Battlefields Trust study day on "The Common Soldier in British Battles", Europe House, nr the Tower, London. Bookings on 01203 350763.

28: Dedication service for memorial to those killed in the Gulf War, St Paul's Cathedral. Ticket applications (by Feb 12) to PS12(A), Room 6/76, Metropole Building, Northumberland Avenue, London WC2N 5BL.

### March

9: Victorian Military Society fair, New Connaught Rooms, Great Queen Street, London WC2.

### May

4-6: Aldershot Show.

### June

5-6: Floodlit Beating Retreat by Massed Bands of Household Division, Horse Guards Parade.

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

### July

9-20: Royal Tournament.

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

**50th Missile Club RA:** Annual reunion takes place at the Moat House Hotel, Harrogate, on May 18. Anyone who served in the regiment under any of its titles - 50 HAA, 50 Med or 50 Msl Regt - as a Regular, National Serviceman or in an attached support unit, is welcome. Details from A J Todd, 9 The Grove, Heathhall, Dumfries, Scotland DG1 1TN (tel 01387 262378 evenings).

**RAMC/RADC WOs' and Sgts' Past and Present Dinner Club:** 1996 dinner and reunion is to be held on June 1 at Keogh Barracks, Aldershot. Details from WO1 (RSM) G B L Bell RAMC, Army Medical Group Training Group, Keogh Barracks, Ash Vale, Aldershot, Hants GU12 5RQ.

**Infantry Boys Bn/Infantry JLB:** Second annual reunion of ex-Boys, Junior Leaders and permanent staff at Tuxford, Plymouth and Oswestry to be held in WOs' and Sgts' Mess, Worthy Down, Winchester, August 3. For details send sae to Howard Johnson, 35 Maes-y-Sarn, Pentrech, Cardiff CF4 8QQ (tel 01222 891274).

## CLOSURE

Due to the planned closure of **50 Hong Kong Workshop REME** on November 30, 1996, anyone who has made a presentation to the unit and would like it to be returned should contact the Drawdown Project Officer, c/o 50 Hong Kong Workshop REME, Malaya Lines, BFPO 1 (tel 24837652 or 24837657) as soon as possible.

# Errors mar valuable Victorian reference

DURING the 64 years of Queen Victoria's reign her soldiers were constantly committed to active service, against Pathan tribesmen of the North West Frontier, "Fuzzy Wuzzies" in Sudan and other small wars to establish the *Pax Britannica* in the expanding Empire.

Donald Featherstone's book *Khaki and Red* gives a summary of these, amplified by chapters on the makeup of the Victorian Army, its weapons, uniforms and tactics.

More than half the text is devoted to the campaigns and punitive expeditions on the Frontier.

A whole chapter examines the characteristics and fighting qualities of the Pathan tribes. Here, and in the section dealing with the wars in Egypt and the Sudan, chronological tables list all the major battles. The copious illustrations are

**Khaki and Red. Soldiers of the Queen in India and Africa** by Donald Featherstone. Arms and Armour Press £16.99.

mainly reproduced from contemporary issues of *The Illustrated London News* and *The Graphic*.

An authoritative guide to the Victorian military scene? Alas, not quite.

The text is marred by numerous errors and misprints, some due to careless proof-reading, others to the author's misconceptions.

Did Britain "win her colonial wars with the 13-pounder field gun"? This gun, for the RHA, did not come into service until after the Boer War and was first fired in anger in 1914.

The "British Warm" was not a cut-down version of the

infantry greatcoat, but was specifically designed for the mounted arms.

BRYAN Perrett's *Against All Odds* has accounts of 13 famous battles over the past 200 years. It is a collection of stories of heroics and of heroes.

Here are the actions of the 2nd Hampshires at Teboura, Tunisia, in 1942, when the depleted battalion broke through German lines with a bayonet charge, enabling the trapped 11 Bde to escape, and the Royal West Kents' dogged defence of Kohima in 1944, which halted the Japanese advance into India.

The author suggests that a soldier "can fight well because of anger or fear, for the support of his colleagues, out of loyalty to his superiors or his regiment, the urge for revenge or personal glory, or for the most heartfelt of desires - personal survival".

All are powerful reasons for fighting to the bitter end, but the last - apart from fanaticism, perhaps - is surely the strongest of all. - JMB

## HEROISM LEVELLED THE ODDS

**Against All Odds** by Bryan Perrett. Arms and Armour Press, £16.99.

# An extraordinary engine

## B Series powered Army for half a century

BY VE DAY 1945 the total number of motor vehicles in service with the Allied armies exceeded one million.

In the previous year a paper prepared for the War Office Policy Committee reported that on the establishment of an Infantry Division there were nearly 55 different types of category "B" (soft-skinned) vehicles, as well as some 600 types, makes and contracts in the British Army as a whole.

This nightmare of servicing and the need to carry such stocks of spares was made worse by the fact that many of these vehicles were based on civilian types not properly suited to the requirements of a mechanised army.

The position was further complicated by the large percentage manufactured outside the British Isles.

Clearly there was an urgent need to rationalise the supply of military vehicles.

Pat Ware tells the story of the development and service life of the standardised Rolls-Royce "B Series" engines and the first generation of post-war military vehicles which they powered.

The book covers the four sizes of "B Series" units and the main vehicle types: Champ, Land Rover B40, Ferret, Humber one-ton truck and "Pig", Alvis Saladin, Saracen, Stalwart and Salamander, Leyland Martian, Thornycroft Nubian mobile digger and three- and five-ton trucks, and Vauxhall/Albion three-ton truck, as well as other applications of the engines, including bridgelayers, airfield vehicles, mobile cranes, generators and tracked carriers.

"The engine policy was enshrined in the 1947 issue of 'General Staff Policy State-



Pig in the middle. The B Series engine powered Humber APCs which gave valiant service in Northern Ireland

remaining in service for close to 50 years," writes Ware.

Huge sums were also spent on the development of vehicles. More than £1 million was given to Austin as assistance for the Champ project, and a third of a million was spent on rectification work.

More than £1 million was also given to Rootes for the development of the Humber one-ton truck. ". . . the final result was a superb vehicle which was well-liked by the user arms, but unfortunately there were few users".

Many were placed in store and eventually found a useful role after conversion to the Humber "Pig" APC which served the Army well in Northern Ireland for many years.

The large petrol engine came and went, taking the Rolls-Royce "B Series" with it, and gave way to the new uni-

versal diesel. A few crated engines remain but it is highly unlikely they will ever be used.

What occurred in the early post-war years was a bold attempt to standardise a new generation of military vehicles. In retrospect the philosophy appears misguided mainly because of the high cost and lack of foresight in Service requirement.

The choice of big petrol engines was a natural one with no suitable diesel units available, and who better than Rolls-Royce to supply long-life engines? We can all be wise after the event.

The book is illustrated with more than 200 black-and-white photographs, many of which appear in print for the first time, and some 50 full-colour plates of vehicles in service, in dealers' yards or in private ownership. - BJ

## Survivor remembers Stalingrad

**Stalingrad - Memories and Reassessments** by Joachim Wieder. Cassell. £18.99.

THE battle of Stalingrad 1942-43, in which the Russians annihilated the German Sixth Army, was a turning point in the Second World War.

For nearly six months the Russians took everything Hitler's finest forces could throw at the city, before regaining the ground and slaughtering thousands.

The late Joachim Wieder was a senior officer in the battle. He was captured and

survived a Soviet PoW camp, unlike most of the 250,000-strong Sixth Army who died fighting or froze to death following the Fuehrer's order to fight to the last bullet.

Thirty years ago Wieder published his recollections of that terrible defeat in *Stalingrad - Memories and Reassess-*

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# Frenchman who fed the Army

**A Culinary Campaign** by Alexis Soyer. Southover Press, £22.

FEEDING the Army of today is an art in itself. It costs millions and takes highly-trained cooks to produce food that is appetising, nutritious and satisfying to the palates of young soldiers, many of whom prefer a diet of convenience food.

The philosophy of feeding soldiers properly began with Alexis Soyer, a Frenchman and a famous Victorian cook who wrote many books, his most famous, perhaps, being *A Culinary Campaign* in which he describes his adventures in the Crimean war and how his ideas changed military thinking on soldiers' food.

This, the first reprint of his book published in 1857, provides insights into the harsh



An Army cook removes a Dutch apple tart from his field oven. The original "dustbin with a chimney" was based on the brainchild of French cook Alexis Soyer in the Crimea

conditions in which soldiers fed, lived and died in the Crimea.

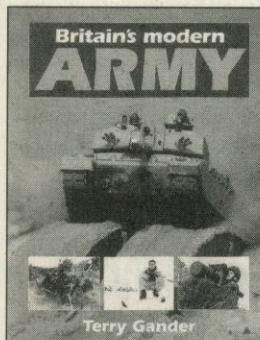
In their introductions, military historian Michael Barthorp

and food writer Elizabeth Ray say it was Soyer who pointed the way to feeding large numbers of men – on and off the battlefield – and which has led

to today's high standard of catering in the British Army. Even today the Army still has in use a version of the Soyer stove, described by Miss Ray as a device originally resembling an "oversized dustbin with a chimney to take away smoke".

The English soldier in the Crimea had an allowance of 1lb of meat a day and a similar amount of bread. He had other rations which, with his water allowance, had to be carried and cooked by him . . . providing he could find fuel.

Alexis Soyer's stove and special recipes developed by the Army changed all that since his invention combined economy with efficiency and could be used in the field to provide hot food for up to 50 men to a stove, supporting Napoleon's point that an army marches on its stomach. - JM



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## Time for a new direction from off-balance United Nations

THE AUTHOR's thesis is based on the concept that the majority of future conflicts will be within (-intra) states, nations versus nations in civil war and ethnic strife, and that the United Nations, established to deal with inter-state conflicts, has been caught off-balance and has been slow to adjust.

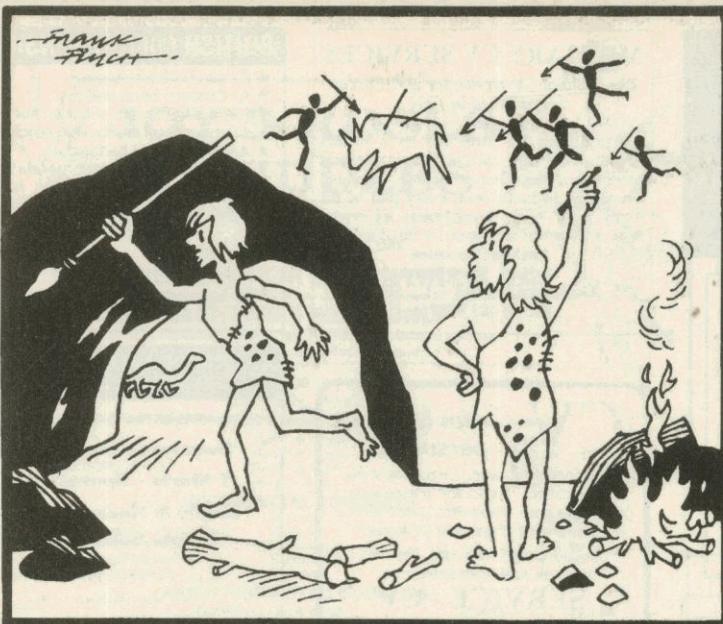
He is particularly critical of the moribund UN military organisation (the Military Staff Committee) saying the UN needs a brain appropriate to the new demands of the next millennium.

His concept that future conflict will be low-intensity (peace-keeping) seems justified by events but he rightly cautions preparedness for mid-intensity

**The Nature of Future Conflict** by Richard Connaughton, Leo Cooper, £19.95.

phases (peace-making) and the need, therefore, for "capability-centred" forces "having the required fighting powers to conduct all the military tasks likely to be called upon to perform".

He considers that operations under United Nations or other agencies (NATO) will be conducted as joint and combined endeavours with single Service training having that objective as its culminating point, indeed training is the key also in UN forces and he proposes that some central UN body will have to address the subject of a common standard with per-



## COMPETITION 628

# HOW OBSERVANT ARE YOU?

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 (awarded book prizes) will be announced in the March 4 issue.

Name : (Give rank or title)

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Competition 625: Congratulations to Rfn Rajesh Kumar Gurung, of GDC, RMA Sandhurst, who wins £50. Book prizes go to runners-up Mrs Geraldine Patrick, of Wadhurst, E Sussex, and Mr W Lawton, of Redhill, Surrey.

haps a staff college for the UN.

He believes the goal is for the UN to have at its immediate disposal sufficient military force to act as a deterrent to be used when an early display of force is deemed to be essential, but accepts that nations are reluctant to contribute to such a standing force for political and financial reasons – even a modest force of 5,000 would cost well over \$1 billion annually.

It is mainly due to the fact that the United Nations is starved of cash that limits its influence and responsibility for this rests with the UN General Assembly.

He discusses the explosive revolution of military technology (MTR) in the past 50 years and cites the 800 guns deployed at El Alamein in

1942 compared with the 72 guns and 12 multiple-launch rocket systems in the Gulf War where one salvo of the Gulf artillery could produce four times the weight of five of the guns at El Alamein.

He rightly identifies the prodigious development in micro-electronics, especially in the gathering and processing of information, and forecasts that "if they are properly managed the whole concept of the future application of military power could be re-cast".

More importantly he stresses that "to optimise progress of MTR, single Service interests will have to be subordinated to a new, joint, occasionally combined, procurement, acquisition and war-fighting process" – this was your reviewer's conclusion 30 years ago when he was Col GS Combat Develop-

ment in MoD, and it is to be hoped that someone takes note of the author's opinion.

He also forecasts that emphasis on reducing risk of casualties will result in funding of unmanned aerial and ground vehicles and enhanced communications, thermal weapon sights and lightweight body armour.

The author also stresses the need for doctrine to keep pace with development – "since time immemorial apathy and ignorance have resulted in equipment being released without the benefit of a related and developed doctrine for its use".

He examines the geo-political scene in the future and probably his most important conclusion is that "The central truth for a better future lies in the resolution of Russia's prob-

lems, for if that is not achieved there will be no peace in Europe".

His overall conclusions can be summarised, firstly that it is reasonably safe to forecast that in the future civil conflict will constitute more than 90 per cent of world-wide armed conflicts, which will create problems for Western planners and the maintenance of balanced force structures; and secondly that there should be a new full-ranging study of the UN to establish a clear statement of what is required of UN membership as the provider of the machinery for the maintenance of peace.

This is a serious attempt to discuss problems of the future and should be compulsory reading for Service colleges and training establishments as well as politicians. – PSN

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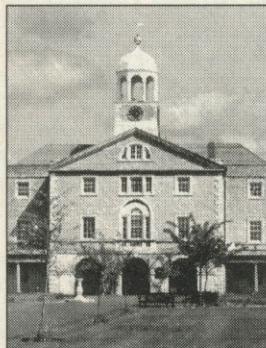


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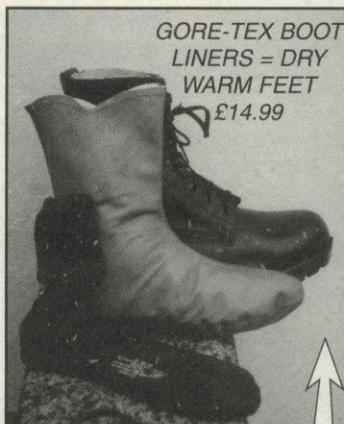
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All correspondence to: Pen Pals, Soldier Magazine, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU.

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**Andrea, 22, 5'4",** brown hair and green eyes. Enjoys socialising, swimming, reading and music (listening and not playing). **P584**

**Attractive brunette, 30s, 5'4".** Enjoys travel, keep-fit, animals, reading, clubs and having fun. Seeking pen pals with a GSOH and a sense of adventure. **P585**

**Hello, I'm Michele, 24, 5'6",** slim build, long blonde hair, green/blue eyes and GSOH. I enjoy working out, pubs, clubs and cinema. Seeking a pen pal aged 25-30, photo appreciated. **P586**

**Tina, 26, 5'4",** brown hair/eyes. I am a separated mum, who enjoys reading, music, walks and the summer!! Seeking pen pals aged 28-33. **P587**

**Ellen, 43, attractive, petite blonde.** Enjoys keep fit, eating out and animals. Divorced, seeking pen pals aged 38+. **P588**

**Janine, 25, 5'5",** slim build, dark brown hair and blue eyes. Enjoys swimming, cinema, theatre, eating out and aromatherapy. Seeking pen pals aged 25-35. Good luck for the New Year, all replies answered. **P589**

**Hi, I'm Lynne, 5'3",** slim with long hair. I like pubs, clubs, cinema, music, sport and enjoying myself as much as possible. If you do too and you are between 24 and 32 then I would like to hear from you. **P590**

**Angela, 21, 5'3",** black, attractive and slim. Enjoys dance music, clubbing, eating out, cinema, holidays and ten pin bowling. Single mum with GSOH, who enjoys having fun. Seeking pen pals aged 19-27, photo if possible. All letters answered. **P591**

**Stuart, 23, 5'8",** brown hair, brown eyes, non-smoker with GSOH. Enjoys motorcycling, travelling, eating/drinking out and keeping fit. Seeking pen pals aged 22-28. **P592**

**Holly, 36, 5'4",** blonde, bubbly nurse with VGSOH. Enjoys dancing, socialising, most sports and horse-riding. Seeking male pen pal aged 30-40. Photo appreciated, but not essential. **P593**

**Sue, 20, 5'2",** brunette shoulder length hair, hazel eyes and slim build. Enjoys all sports, listening to music, films, fashion and designing (interior and clothing). Seeking pen pals aged 20-25. **P594**

**Emma, 17, 5'3",** fair hair and brown eyes. I love music, aerobics and watching late night films. I'm a GNQ Health and Social Care student, seeking a reliable pen friend aged 17-25. **P595**

**Alison, 39, 5'0",** with dark hair and brown eyes. I enjoy meeting people, driving and having a good time. Seeking pen pals aged 28-40. A sense of humour is essential. **P579**

**Mike, 37, 6'4",** Ex-Reg Inf, divorced. Enjoys camping, swimming, music and youth work. Would like to hear from serving females anywhere, perhaps meet during leave. Long letter and photo appreciated. **P580**

**Lorraine, 32, 5'7",** Staff nurse, GSOH, lives in London. Interests include rock/blues and drinking. Seeking genuine male pen pals, aged 26+, at home or abroad. **P581**

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## ARMY SPORTS LOTTERY RESULTS

**DECEMBER 9, 1995**

**Three-way tie for first prize (20 goals, £1,500 each):** LCpl D M Laurence, BFPO 801; WO1 R W Pears, TDT RLC, Deepcut; Cpl D R Wilkes, 7 Signal Regt, BFPO 35.

**19-way tie for fourth prize (19 goals, £78.95 each):** SSgt S Clark, 71 Signal Regt (V), Bexleyheath; Col G R Cooper, RLC MRO (N), Glasgow; CSgt T B Dollimore, 3 WFR (V), Chilwell; Capt G Ferguson, 28 Engr Regt, BFPO 31; Maj J J R Gout, Log Emp Trg School, Deepcut; SSgt S J A Graham, 7 Para RHA, Aldershot; Lt Col M J B Graham, HQ 4 Div, Aldershot; Maj D R Grant, ATR Pirbright; Pte S J Hanlon, 29 Regt RLC, South Cerney; SSgt N S Hyde, 1 Kings Own Border, Catterick; Maj D McGregor, Household Cavalry Mounted Regt, London; SSgt D Porter, SEAE, Arborfield; SSgt P Ridlington, 399 Signal Unit, RAF Digby; Cpl D B Shaw, 21 Engr Regt, BFPO 48; WO2 I A Shaw, ASPT (G), BFPO 16; WO2 R J Stewart, RMCS, Shrirenham; Capt M A Toney, ATR Lichfield; Sgt G R White, 1 KOSB, Edinburgh; WO2 B E Woodall, School of Army Avn, Middle Wallop.

**DECEMBER 16, 1995**

**First prize (20 goals, £2,514):** Cpl J L C Woodruff, RDG, BFPO 22.

**Six-way tie for second prize (19 goals, £500.95):** Pte Bishnubhakta Sireng, 2 RGR, BFPO 11; Sgt K Carey, 9 Regt AAC, Dishforth; Pte M D Drake, AMF (L) CSS Bn, Bulford; WO1 C Gray, ART Glencorse; WO2 W M O'Rourke, 103 Bn REME (V), Redhill; Cpl K S Reid, 40 Regt RA, BFPO 30.

**NB: Only 7 prizes this week. Rule 9 applies.**

**DECEMBER 23, 1995**

**14-way tie for first prize (14 goals, £428.57 each):** Sgt S G Armstrong, QRH, Catterick; Cpl P A Comiskey, 1 BW, Pirbright; Gnr A

J Forster, 26 Regt RA, BFPO 113; Cpl R Jeffery, 16 Regt RA, Woolwich; Cpl S A Johnstone, HQ D Army Avn, Middle Wallop; SSgt I T Morris, 1 R Irish, Catterick; Capt S P North, 1 D and D, BFPO 22; Sgt A Pugh, HQ 20 Arm'd Bde, BFPO 22; WO2 D C Scott, School of Army Avn, Middle Wallop; WO1 B L Seymour, 3 Bn REME, BFPO 22; WO1 D A Smith, HQ Landcent, BFPO 115; Sgt M R Sowerby, 216 Para Signal Sqn, Aldershot; SSgt M S Tivey, 200 Signal Sqn, BFPO 22; WO2 D K Waites, The Light Dragoons, BFPO 30.

**DECEMBER 30, 1995**

**First prize (23 goals, £2,500):** Maj A C T Blackmore, HQ Land, Wilton

**Four-way tie for second prize (22 goals, £725 each):** WO2 M E G Heelan, 14 Signal Regt (EW), Brawdy; LCpl G K Honeywood, 14 Signal Regt (EW), Brawdy; Capt C A Robson, 4 Regt RA, BFPO 36; SSgt M R Twigg, AMF (L) Arty, Larkhill.

**20-way tie for sixth prize (21 goals, £30 each):** Sgt K W Barker, 30 Signal Regt, Bramcote; LCpl C G Buswell, Princess Mary Hospital, BFPO 57; LCpl D S Coles, 1 BW, Pirbright; Capt J M Cowan, 1 RS, Fort George; Maj D M Cullen, Staff College, Camberley; Sig D A Culver, 7 Signal Regt, BFPO 35; Sgt P J Cutmore, Pay & Docs Office Sek Kong, BFPO 1; Maj B A Downes, ACIO Nottingham; WO1 P A Fee, HQ Land, Wilton; Capt J M Gore, 12 Sup Regt RLC, BFPO 44; Capt D G Hannant, Army School of Catering, Aldershot; Col R G Howard, HQ ARRC, BFPO 40; SSgt D J Lewis, 3 RHA, Topcliffe; Sgt D McGonigle, BFPO 825; Capt P G Nicoll, 1 BW, Pirbright; Capt M R C Pallott, 3 PWO (V), York; LCpl N Peckham, QDG, BFPO 16; LCpl N Smedley, BOD Donnington; WO1 A S Treadwell, 8 Arty Sp Regt RLC, Catterick; WO1 W Williamson, HQ 19 Mech Bde, Catterick.

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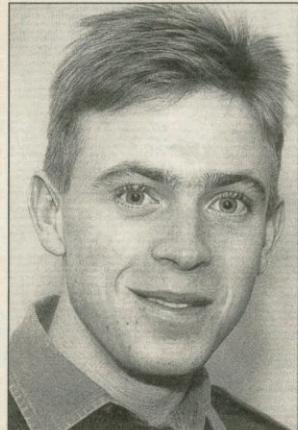
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## Sponsors help skier climb to top

FORMER Army Alpine ski champion Lt Jamie Clarke (pictured) is to have the backing of Leyland Trucks Ltd when he competes in Europe this winter.

At the forefront of Army and RLC skiing for the past four seasons, he will be competing as an individual throughout the Army programme and will be racing on the FIS international circuit and in the British national championships.

Currently serving as troop commander Recruit Training at ATR Pirbright, Clarke is aiming to get into the top 15 in the country.

## Gloucester climb venue

ONE of Britain's best indoor climbing centres, the Warehouse at Gloucester, will be used for the 1996 Army sport climbing championships.

All Regular and Territorial Army personnel are eligible for the event on May 13. A boulder competition is included in the entry fee and will be running throughout the day.

Details from Maj S J Derben on Upavon Mil 5177. He would also like to hear from volunteers to help with timekeeping and recording.

## On your ski-bike

SKI-biking is now a widely recognised winter racing sport with its own international circuit. The Army Ski-bike Club runs one-week courses in Bavaria until March 30. For details, contact the BF(G) Sport Board, JHQ Rheindahlen, BFPO 140 (tel JHQ Mil 2545; fax 02161 472021).

# Heroes in red stop Black juggernaut

British Army 24, New Zealand Army 22

THE New Zealand Army, victorious in the first five matches of a United Kingdom tour to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the famous visit by the all-conquering 1945-46 Kiwis, lost their unbeaten record to an inspired British Army team in their final game.

Twelve of the '45-46 party, including Charlie Sexton, Fred Allen and Bob Scott, fondly referred to as The Vets, accompanied the touring side and made a great impact on all they met.

by Roger Thompson

In the presence of Gen Sir Roger Wheeler, President of the Army Rugby Union, and Sir Solmaged Ditor, representing the Commonwealth, a lively crowd at the Military Stadium, Aldershot, was treated to a vigorous match with the result in doubt right up to the final kick.

The Army opened with a penalty by Lt Paul Knowles (2 RRF) but after eight minutes failed to make vital tackles in the centre. The Kiwis moved the ball rapidly to the overlap to score far out on the left.

A period of two-way jousting in the middle of the park followed. On 15 minutes, after a robust advance on the left, No 8 Maj David Orr Ewing (1 BW) secured a stray ball at the back of a Kiwi line out, allowing REME flanker SSgt John Murley to power over for an excellent opportunist try.

The men in red remained strong, their defence seamless.

### *Red against Black, yard by yard, raw attrition, siege warfare at its best. A game for the connoisseur*

Heads started to pop up from rucks and mauls not for oxygen but with alert eyes probing for any attacking options. This turnabout from sealing the gaps at any cost to exploiting the cracks in the Black wall had been gradual, but at that point, in the words of Field Marshal Slim, "the tide had turned".

Some exceptional rugby, skilful and committed, was played in the final 20 minutes. Red against Black, yard by yard, raw attrition, siege warfare at its best. A game for the connoisseur.

Nevertheless, with the score at 8-5, the Kiwis were presented with a soft try when an Army handling error within sight of the Blacks' line led to a kick-and-rush to the other end. The Kiwis scored when Lt Rob Abernethy (1 RGR) was

skilfully able to lay the ball back for the ever-eager Pinder to line up the rapidly advancing Howard Graham.

What happened next usually occurs only at the Arms Park in Cardiff . . . or in schoolboy dreams. Graham took the pass

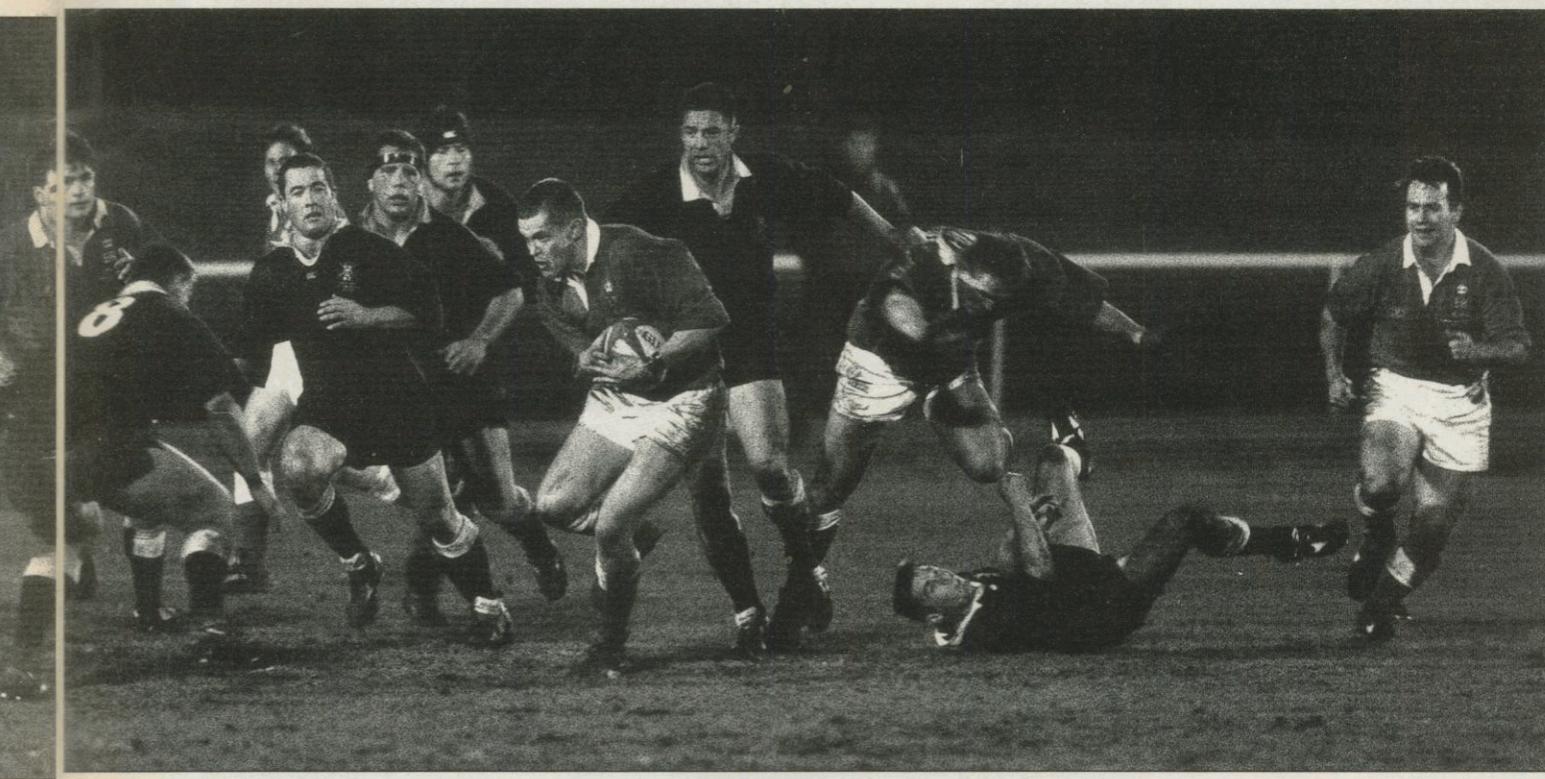
unable to recover an awkward rolling ball under his own posts. Typically, the men in the famous black strip rammed home their advantage with an excellent try by Kereko.

The Army drew breath during a period of even play and Paul Knowles kicked two vital penalties to make the half time score a creditable 14-17. For the first 40 minutes the Army pack made their ability tell, dominating the tight and achieving an unexpected measure of success in broken play.

With no great cushion of advantage, the Kiwis went through their perpetual motion repertoire, quick thinking and quick hands moving the ball swiftly away from the Army big guns and trouble.

It was rugged and very hard as the Black waves hurled themselves at the Army, but after an hour it became evident that they had tried their ideas many times over with little to show for them.

The men in red remained strong, their defence seamless.



Spr Rob Hunter on the attack against the New Zealand Army at Aldershot. On the left is World Cup final referee Ed Morrison, to his left is Maj David Orr Ewing, and on the far right is Capt Andy Deans



Veterans of the British Army and 1945-46 New Zealand team meet at Aldershot for the first time since December 1, 1945 when the Kiwis won 25-5 at Bristol

at full tilt, glided round the New Zealand forward cover and beat four defenders, jinxing and accelerating to the line.

He crossed to the left of the posts and kicked the conversion to put the Army ahead by 24 points to 22.

Although the Blacks redoubled their efforts, it was now the Army who were exerting the pressure. With ten minutes left, New Zealand self-belief in their aim of winning all six tour games but lived up to the reputation of their illustrious 1945-46 predecessors.

and maul, desperate to turn the final minutes to advantage.

They won much good ball but their many planned moves, rehearsed time and again on tour, had all been seen before and founded on the anvil of heroic Army tackling.

For the Army, none were more to the fore than wingers Lt Mark Watters (1 RWF) and LCpl David Underwood (4 GS Regt RLC), making his debut.

An excellent move by Pinder, Deans, Glasgow and Graham had the crowd on its feet, only for the ball to be spilled above an open line.

A final score of 31-22 would not have been unreasonable, but when Ed Morrison, who refereed the World Cup final in South Africa, blew his whistle, 24-22 was worthy and just.

The teams received a standing ovation. In the changing rooms hard men ached. It was a game to remember.

The Kiwis, uncharacteristically lightweight up front and lacking a reliable goalkicker, nevertheless played some breathtaking rugby. They were gracious in not achieving their aim of winning all six tour games but lived up to the reputation of their illustrious 1945-46 predecessors.

## Crusaders frustrate strikers

Army 1, Crusaders 0

THE ARMY football team had a solitary goal to show for their efforts against the Crusaders, writes Derrick Bly.

The Army should have scored early on when a careless back pass let in Pte Steve Yeo who sidestepped Crusaders' goalkeeper Lt Bobby Gould but pulled his shot wide.

The game was played at a leisurely pace on a heavy pitch. Pte John Rowe's shot in the 17th minute was well saved by Gould who had an excellent game. Crusaders' only chance of the half came when Capt Ian Brewer spotted Cpl Dave Joyce off his line. His 30-yard chip produced a superb one-handed save from Joyce.

Yeo broke the deadlock just before the interval, converting a chance created by Rowe's long ball into the area and Cpl Lee Innes's neat header.

Cpl Dave Maynard and Innes both had further chances to extend the lead in the second half but were unable to beat the in-form Gould.

# Sappers lead modern triathlon charge

A THREE-MAN team of Royal Engineers in HQ 1 (UK) Armoured Division's B team swam, shot and ran their way to victory in the UKSC(G) modern triathlon championships at Sennelager.

In wintry conditions, Capt Jon Acornley, Maj Nick Richardson and Capt Ian McDougall, all serving in the headquarters, beat off a challenge from second-placed 21 Engr Regt, while the staff of G3 (PAT) HQ 1 (UK) Armd Div finished strongly in third.

LCpl Clark of 1 Armd Fd Amb took the individual honours, the 1 Armd Fd Amb B team won the men's minor

unit title, 14 Tpt Sqn RLC the women's team prize, and LCpl Hurst (2 GS Regt) the women's individual crown.

The 300m swim, although a relative sprint in terms of distance, was tough going and many competitors struggled to achieve the bogey time of 4min 45sec. Notable exceptions were the swimmers from 21 and 35 Engr Regts.

There were excellent results in the shooting, completed at 25m, 15m and 10m with the standard Browning pistol, but only a handful of runners completed the 4,000m cross country course in the target time of 14min 15sec.



Triathlon winners: from left to right are Capt Ian McDougall, Maj Nick Richardson and Capt Jon Acornley

# Scotland's skipper is sportsman of the year

ARMY doctor Capt Rob Wainwright, who has replaced the internationally respected Gavin Hastings as captain of the Scotland rugby team, has been named the Services' Sportsman of the Year.

The RAMC officer received the Combined Services Sport Board's vote along with the RAF's top woman skier and the very successful Army boxing team.

Wainwright, who plays on the flank, gained three Blues at Cambridge University and captained the students in 1988. He won his first international cap against Japan the following year.

He toured Australia with Scotland in 1992, scoring an outstanding individual try in the first Test and going on to play in all Scotland's matches in the 1995 World Cup tournament in South

Africa. Said to have made an outstanding contribution on and off the field, he emerged as the natural successor to full back Hastings who retired immediately after the World Cup tournament.

Wainwright, a modest and quietly spoken man, makes every effort to ensure his medical duties and onerous commitments to rugby conflict as little as possible. He played four times – for Scotland, Scotland A, Combined Services and the Barbarians – against the All Blacks on their recent tour.

He is currently serving as medical officer at ATR Glencorse near Edinburgh.

The Army's all-conquering boxers were awarded the accolade of Team of the Year.

Their stranglehold on the



Capt Rob Wainwright, Services' Sportsman of the Year, in action against England. Rob Andrew closes in on the left

sport in the Armed Forces was extended last month when they won the Inter-Services team title for the 13th year in succession.

Over the past decade the Army squad has produced several national champions and supplied Great Britain's amateur associations with a

steady stream of international-class talent.

SAC Jenny Davidson, captain of the Royal Air Force women's ski team and Inter-Services champion Alpine skier in four of the last five years, was named the Sportswoman of the Year.

The awards will be made on July 9 at the Royal Tournament, Earl's Court.

**Sports lottery . . . latest results . . . Page 43**

LCpl Chris Wallis is scrubbed down by LCpls Cal Liddle and Tommo Thompson at a decontamination post during Exercise Toxic Caper. The three men, from 721 EOD Squadron RLC were taking part in a disposal operation at the Chemical and Biological Defence Establishment at Porton Down. Story and more pictures in Pages 20-21.

Picture: Mike Perring.



# SOLDIER



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LCpl Steve Thompson (left) escorts Pte Andrew Johnson to his guard duties at the Tower of London. Story and more photographs of the 1st Battalion, The Queen's Lancashire Regiment on public duties in London in Pages 16-17.

Picture: Mike Perring