

NOVEMBER 15  
1993  
EVERY  
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# RED SOLDIERS

MAGAZINE  
OF THE  
BRITISH  
ARMY



46

## MEDICS ON TRACK WITH PEACE TRAIN



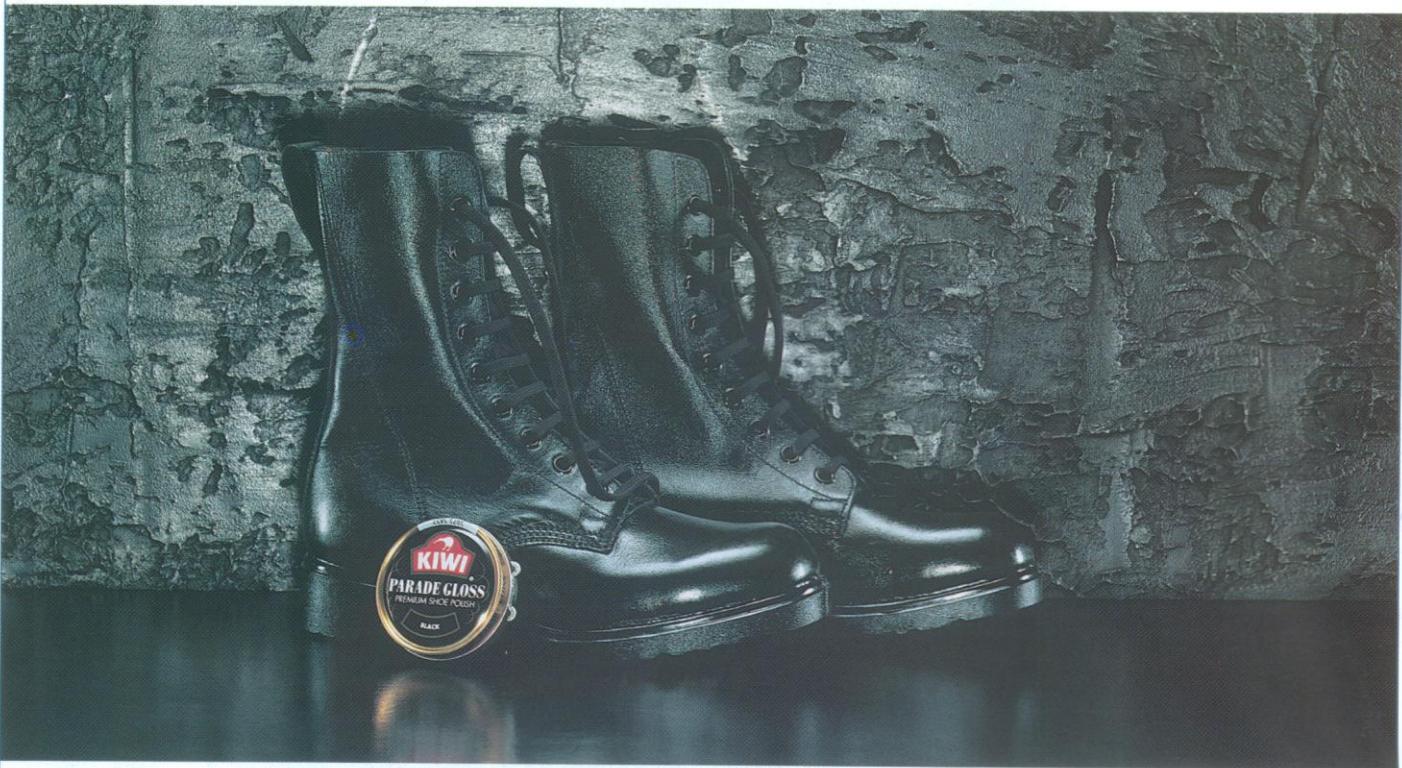
Inside:  
Behind Iraqi  
lines with  
SAS patrol

ALSO  
INSIDE

- All change at Glencorse
- 42 Survey Group feature
- Topping day at Tidworth

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Incorporating the Territorial Army magazine

**November 15, 1993**  
**Vol 49/23**

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# Queen visits sappers at Hameln

HAMELN-based sappers rolled out the red carpet when the Queen, as Colonel-in-Chief of the Royal Engineers, visited them on November 4.

After watching demonstrations and displays of construction work, mine warfare, demolition, bridge-building,

bomb disposal and map-making on the banks of the Weser, the Queen was due to cross the river on board an M2 amphibious bridging ferry to see sappers demonstrating armoured equipment and combat skills.

While the Queen was on

board the M2, it was planned for a combat engineer tractor (CET) to fire its rocket-propelled anchor and pull itself out of the river.

Later, the Queen was making a private visit to the Hameln sappers' annual autumn fair.



## RE to get new family of bridges

Royal Engineers in Germany and the United Kingdom are to have a versatile new bridging system by mid-1997. Pictured above is the Unipower tank bridge transporter, part of the £140m BR90 (Bridging for the 1990s) system. Story in Page 5

# Gulf battle honours approved

GULF WAR theatre and battle honours have been awarded to 17 regiments and corps which took part in Operation Granby.

The Queen's approval for the theatre honour **Gulf 91** and the battle honours **Wadi al Batin** and **Western Iraq** – the latter exclusively to the Special Air Service – were announced by Armed Forces Minister Jeremy Hanley on October 19.

Those awarded the theatre honour will have the right to emblazon it on their Colours, Standards and Guidons.

For the Army Air Corps the announcement brought a double helping of honours: the Queen has approved the retrospective award of the theatre

honour **Falkland Islands 1982** to the corps.

Those awarded the **Gulf 1991** theatre honour are:

### The Life Guards

- 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards
- The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards
- The Queen's Royal Irish Hussars
- 14th/20th King's Hussars
- 16th/5th The Queen's Royal Lancers
- Grenadier Guards
- Coldstream Guards
- Scots Guards
- The Royal Scots
- The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers
- The Royal Highland Fusiliers

The King's Own Scottish Borderers  
The Staffordshire Regiment  
Queen's Own Highlanders  
Special Air Service Regiment  
Army Air Corps

Those awarded the battle honour **Wadi al Batin** are:

- The Life Guards
- 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards
- The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards
- The Queen's Royal Irish Hussars
- 14th/20th King's Hussars
- 16th/5th The Queen's Royal Lancers
- Grenadier Guards
- The Royal Scots
- The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers
- The Staffordshire Regiment
- Army Air Corps

**FRONT COVER:** A "central European guerrilla fighter" threatens a British Army ambulance train during Exercise Flying Scot in Germany. Army medical staff and train crews exercised for a humanitarian aid role. Story and more pictures in Pages 21-23. (Picture: Terry Champion.)

The SAS Regiment has been awarded the battle honour **Western Iraq**.

# Essential Kit This Christmas



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# Transport regiment back from Bosnia



Soldiers from 27 Transport Regiment, Royal Logistic Corps, on parade at Buller Barracks, Aldershot, to receive the United Nations medal from reviewing officer Maj Gen David Burden, in recognition of their six-month deployment in former Yugoslavia. During this "long and testing" period for the regiment, said Gen Burden, its men and women had followed up their tasks with vigour, fortitude, professionalism and humour. Under the command of Lt Col Jim Morrison, 27 Regt was part of the British National Support Element based at Tomislavgrad, with personnel based at Omis as a Transport Support Squadron

Picture: Terry Champion

## Sappers to have new bridges

A £140m contract for a new military bridging system was announced by Defence Procurement Minister Jonathan Aitken on October 26.

Main contractor for the BR90 (Bridging for the 1990s) "family" is Thompson Defence Projects. Planned to enter service with the Royal Engineers between 1996 and 1997, the system includes general support, close support, two-span and long span bridges.

Unipower will supply 8×8 launcher and transport vehicles for the bridges, which will be deployed with RE units in Germany and the UK.

## Pardon Bill

SECOND reading of a Bill to pardon First World War soldiers who were executed for offences such as cowardice was taking place in the House of Commons on November 11.

The Bill, presented by Mr Andrew Mackinlay, MP for Thurrock, seeks pardons for soldiers executed for cowardice, desertion, sleeping at post, throwing away arms and striking a superior officer.

# Rankless award to replace DSO

A NEW "rankless" operational gallantry award is to replace the Distinguished Service Order (when awarded to officers for specific acts of gallantry), the Conspicuous Gallantry Medal, the Distinguished Conduct Medal and the Conspicuous Gallantry Medal (Flying).

The new cross, now being instituted, replaces the second level of operational gallantry awards for all three Services and will be presented at investiture.

At the first level, the Victoria Cross, already available to all ranks, is unaffected by the changes.

In future, however, only the VC will attract a monetary award. Current awards in payment or owed with pensions will not be affected.

Instead of gallantry, the DSO will now recognise highly



successful command and leadership in all three Services. Although open to all ranks, recommendations on behalf of junior officers and non-commissioned ranks are likely to be rare.

The changes, announced by Defence Secretary Malcolm Rifkind on October 18, follow the decision by the Chiefs of Staff that all operational gallantry awards should become "rankless".

At the third level, separate awards for the three combat environments will be retained, with the existing Distinguished Service Cross, Military Cross and Distinguished Flying Cross becoming rankless. All three will be presented at investiture.

Mentions in Despatches, the fourth level, are to be reserved for operational gallantry as a direct result of recommendations from senior officers with recent operational experience.

A new Queen's Commendation for Valuable Services will be used to recognise the wide variety of other services within operational areas until now singled out by a Mention in Despatches. These Queen's Commendations, represented by a certificate and emblem, will be published in the London Gazette but not presented at investiture.



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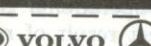
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# PWO guards evidence of massacre at Stupni Do

YORKSHIRE soldiers have had the grim task of seeking to ensure that one day justice will be done in the wake of the latest massacre in Bosnia, writes Alan Patterson.

The tiny Muslim community of Stupni Do, perched high in the mountains some 50 kilometres north west of Sarajevo, overlooked the main supply route used until recently by the British UN battalion to support its most far-flung outpost in the town of Tuzla.

It was unremarkable; the soldiers who passed by on the road through the valley did not even know it existed. But that happy anonymity was shattered on October 23 when Croat gunmen descended from the forest.

When their cruel work was

done only one of the 50 houses remained standing. Sixteen bodies, most of them burnt beyond recognition, were scattered in the ashes of homes.

No one knows how many others were incinerated. Cows' corpses lay in fields; a pet rabbit had been slaughtered.

Three weeks earlier the troops of the 1st Battalion, The Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire handed over responsibility for the northern area of Bosnia to a newly-arrived composite battalion of soldiers from Sweden, Norway and Denmark.

Swedish forces discovered the massacre, too late to prevent it happening but in time to intervene, as Croat militiamen attempted to destroy evidence.

The situation was tense,

with the Croat commander threatening to attack the UN peacekeepers. The Nordic battalion asked for support.

The men of A Company, 1 PWO deployed at six hours' notice in their Warrior armoured personnel carriers.

Approaching the shattered village, after a two-hour drive through the darkness on steep, unmade tracks, they were confronted by armed Croat militiamen blocking their way in a narrow underpass where a railway bridge crossed the road.

The soldiers, led by company commander Maj Roy Hunter, were in no mood to be prevented from reaching their destination or to be forced into time-consuming negotiations. Maj Hunter ordered his 30-ton vehicles up the embankment,

over the disused railway line and on up the road, avoiding the disconcerted militiamen.

As the soldiers of 1 PWO replaced the Swedes, who had guarded the village and prevented any further destruction of evidence, the scale of destruction wreaked two days earlier became clear.

The village had been beautifully located, with stunning views into the valley below. Now all was ruined.

One house, on the lower edge of the village, still stood; a sofa in the living room had been set ablaze but the fire had failed to spread. On a coffee table stood a vase of flowers.

In the cellars were tools, stores of fruit and potatoes for the winter; outside, stacks of firewood.

The Yorkies looked on as military police investigators acting for a war crimes inquiry sifted through the ruins.

The soldiers of 1 PWO counted the corpses in Stupni Do. No one knows how many others may be hidden in the rubble. Some villagers were able to flee and some have been taken by UN troops to the relative safety of other areas.

Over the hills in another valley lay a Croat village put to the torch. In this case Croat soldiers died and the civilian population fled. And so the cycle of agony goes on.

## Commando gunners' OP triumph

TWENTY-SIX observation parties from all over the country took part in the gruelling 28-hour UKLF OP competition held on Salisbury Plain on October 23-24.

Regular Army winners were 148 (Meiktila) Commando Battery RA, with 19/5 Battery RA from Force Artillery AMF(L) the runners up.

East Ham-based 289 Commando Battery RA(V) won the Territorial Army trophy ahead of 307 Battery RA from Nottingham.



Picture: Mike Weston

Putting the last tile in place: (left to right) Mr Alan Lamb of Miller Construction, RBL president Vice Admiral Sir Geoffrey Dalton, and Fd Marshal Sir Roland Gibbs

duce the goods" on time.

The college, which is the RBL's major contribution to resettlement training of Service leavers and members of their families over the age of 16, will have a capacity for 1,000 students on job training courses lasting up to six months to National Vocational Qualification standard.

An annual throughput of

around 1,400 is expected.

The courses provided, which include information technology, business studies and childcare, are designed to meet the current needs of employers.

To meet demand for courses since September last year, the college - which provides a crèche - has been operating in temporary premises at Tidworth, leased from the MoD.

## Topping day at Tidworth

A TOPPING-out ceremony on the roof of the Royal British Legion's £1.4m training college at Tidworth last month signified the advanced stage which, in a very short period, its construction has reached.

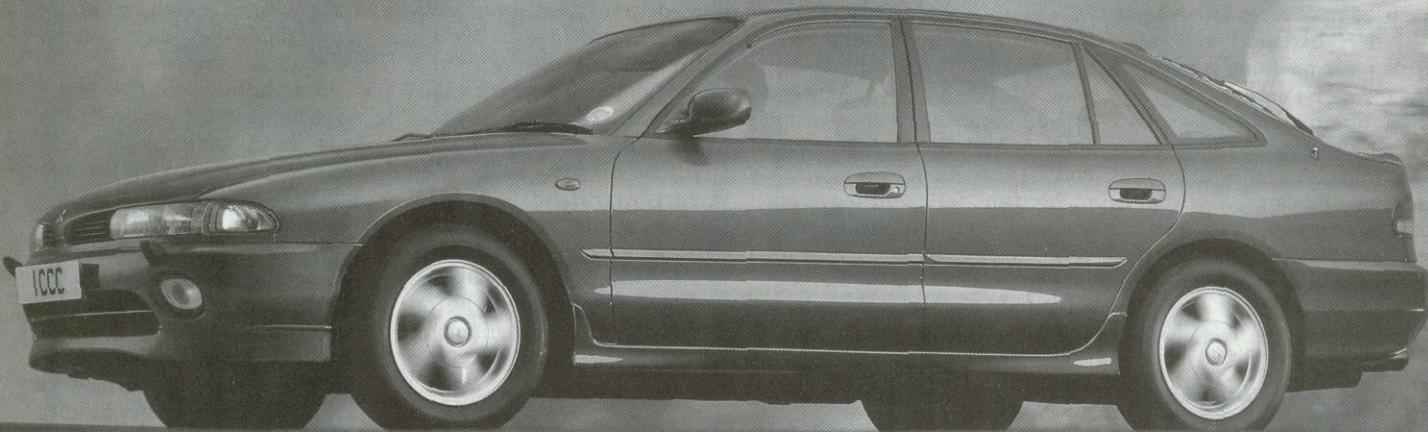
Carried out by the Lord Lieutenant for Wiltshire, Fd Marshal Sir Roland Gibbs, the ceremony marked the completion of the shell of the building.

Due to open early next year, it now has roof and windows and its interior has mostly been plastered. Its glass front, interior fittings and furnishings will follow in the near future.

The Legion project has been made possible by a £1,375m grant from the European Community - conditional upon completion this year.

Between them, commercial property agency Healey and Baker and independent company Miller Construction - supervised at each stage by the MoD - have managed to "pro-

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# Royal Scots give Ben Nevis a face-lift

MORE THAN 80 Royal Scots from Fort George embarked on a high-level hill-clearing exercise.

Members of Charlie Company took a break from training to clean up rubbish left by climbers and tourists on Cairngorm and Ben Nevis, the two most popular mountains in the

Highlands. The company split into two, one assigned to each of the great bens, with large plastic sacks replacing their SA 80 rifles as weapons.

Capt Neil Moffat said: "In the past we were appalled at the amount of litter left by hill-walkers and mountaineers.

"We're spending eight hours

out there picking up litter, and at the same time raising money for the Army Benevolent Fund by getting local people to sponsor us.

"We'll be going to the top of both mountains, as so much of the rubbish is left at the summits – especially in the ski area of Cairngorm."

Welcoming the Royal Scots' initiative, Badenoch and Strathspey District Council environmental health director Henderson Pollack said: "We are delighted that the Army is doing this, because this is an area of outstanding natural beauty and we need all the help we can get."

## Veterans see 2nd Regiment suspended

NEARLY 250 old comrades travelled to Germany to see the suspension of the 2nd Regiment, Royal Artillery after 92 years of service.

The regiment's departure from the Order of Battle was marked on October 1 by a parade in Loddendeide Barracks, Münster and a weekend of festivities.

Brig Peter Marsh, Honorary Regimental Colonel, took the salute and read messages from the Captains General and Master Gunner St James's Park.

A 25-pounder was driven through the ranks before the 2nd Regiment marched off in slow time to the tunes of *Auld Lang Syne* and the Royal Artillery slow march.

Final act of the weekend was for the commanding officer, Lt Col Janis Kazocins, to hand the regimental flag to Brig Marsh for safe-keeping.

While only two 2nd Regiment batteries will survive intact, the tradition of each will live on. Amalgamating with HQ Bty of 32nd Regiment is 46 (Talavera) Bty; and L (Nery) Bty moves to 1st Regiment RHA with its current manpower and regains Horse Artillery status after 35 years, as does N Bty (The Eagle Troop), moving to 3 Regt RHA.

O Bty (The Rocket Troop) amalgamates with HQ Bty of 1 RHA and also regains Horse Artillery status.



A 25-pounder is driven through the ranks of the 2nd Regiment RA during its final parade

## Gunners mark Rock link

AN HISTORIC alliance between the Royal Regiment of Artillery and The Gibraltar Regiment was struck at a parade on the Rock on October 16. The poor weather did not detract from a ceremony that formally sealed a long-existing bond between the regiments.

The parade was reviewed by the Governor and Commander-in-Chief, Fd Marshal Sir John Chapple, who was

accompanied by the senior regimental representatives, the Master Gunner St James's Park, Gen Sir Martin Farndale and the Honorary Colonel of The Gibraltar Regiment, Maj R Peliza.

Five batteries have earned the honour title "Gibraltar

1779-1783", the dates being those of the Great Siege. Representatives from all five were on parade – the 19th/5th now an amalgamation of two of them and the senior battery of the Royal Artillery. The others were the 21st (from 47 Regt); the 22nd (from 32 Regt) and the 23rd (from 29 Cdo Regt).

Acting as parade adjutant, and the only gunner currently posted in Gibraltar, was Maj Kevin Duhig. Both bands paraded under the direction of the Royal Artillery Director of Music Maj Terry Davis.

Both regiments exercised their rights of Freedom during a march down Main Street.

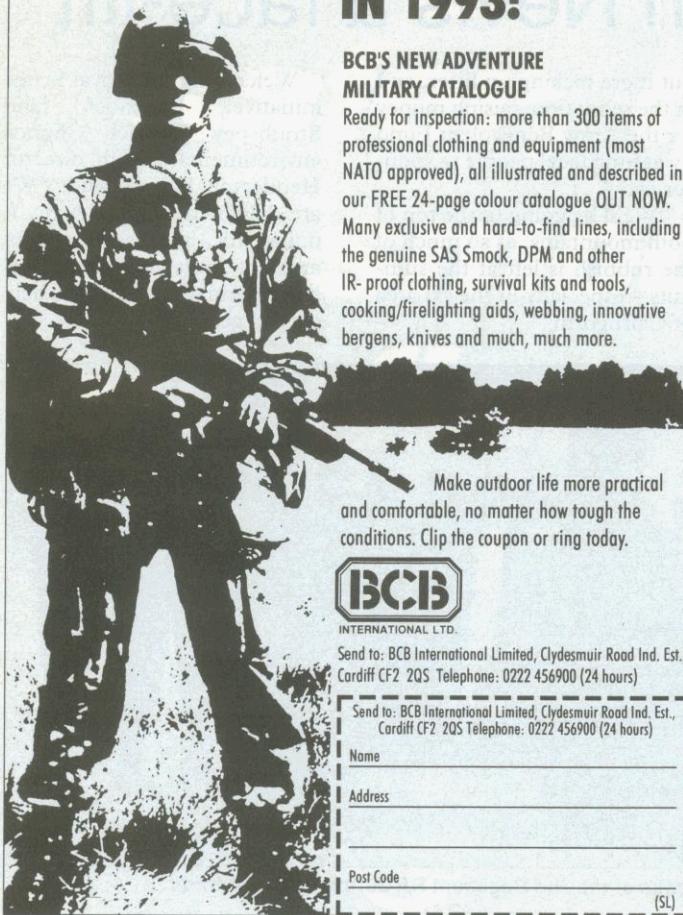
Links between the gunners and the Rock go back to 1704 when the British took Gibraltar and a Train of Artillery (not the Royal Artillery until 1716) was authorised for the garrison, arriving in February 1705. The Gibraltar Regiment, formerly the Gibraltar Defence Force, is much newer, dating back to 1939.



Picture: SAC Jules Hague

The Governor of Gibraltar, Fd Marshal Sir John Chapple (right), looks on as the Master Gunner, Gen Sir Martin Farndale, signs the alliance scroll in Gibraltar

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## Boffins try RAC hardware

Senior representatives of the consortium which was awarded the Army's Project UNICOM contract tried out the hardware as guests of the RAC's demonstration squadron at the School of Infantry.

The project, trials on which have just been completed, aims primarily to provide Army units with one standard computer system covering common planning, administration and quartermastering functions.

Hosted by A Sqn, The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards, the visitors, seen with a Chieftain main battle tank which they took it in turns to drive, were (left to right) David Mann, of the system's software integrators



Logica; Col Tony Boulton, UNICOM project manager; David Scott of Integrated Networks, Northern Telecom, who are providing the communications infrastructure and carrying out the work services in units; and George McNeil of prime contractor Bull Information Systems (UK).

### IN BRIEF

## Yorkshire raiders in fine form

A FOUR-MAN team from the 8th Battalion, The (Yorkshire) Light Infantry finished fifth in the international two-day Reserve Forces Association commando raid competition at Lille, France. Lt Steve Matthews, LCpl Graham Stokes, Pte Scott Powers and Pte Dave Bywater represented 8 LI in a major military event which attracted 33 entries from all Nato countries.



Final salute for the old Glyn Hughes Barracks at Hohne

THE ROYAL Army Medical Corps' flag was lowered at Glyn Hughes Barracks, Hohne on October 8 as the men and women of 1 Armoured Field Ambulance marched away to their new barracks. Their home since the end of the Second World War, Glyn Hughes Barracks, situated just outside the main Hohne camp, was a German field hospital during the war.

Col David Henderson, Commander Medical 1 (UK) Armoured Division, unveiled a plaque in memory of all who had served with 1 Armd Fd Amb in the barracks, and WO1 (RSM) Pete Jefferson lowered the RAMC flag for the final time while a bugler from the band of The Queen's Royal Hussars sounded the Last Post.

The unit marched around the camp and out through the main gate, which was then symbolically closed by Col Henderson.

A second ceremony was staged on the garrison parade square as the medics marched to their new home within the

main camp. Brigade Commander Brig Andrew Ridgeway inspected the parade and took the salute before presenting Lt Col Tom Foster, CO 1 Armd Fd Amb, with a certificate signed by Gen Sir Charles Guthrie, C-in-C BAOR, authorising the re-naming of the new camp, which will also be known as Glyn Hughes Barracks.

A Gulf War medal was pre-

sented to the parents of the late LCpl Gordon McLaren RCT, who served with the Field Ambulance in the Gulf but died in a road accident before he could receive his medal.

• The name of the barracks perpetuates the memory of Brig Glyn Hughes RAMC, who masterminded the enormous medical operation following the liberation of Belsen concentration camp in 1945.

Gen-Maj Rashit Urazmatov, Deputy Chief of Staff of the United Armed Forces of the Commonwealth of Independent States, was shown over a Challenger 2 tank during a visit to 2nd Royal Tank Regiment at Fallingbostel. He was welcomed by the commanding officer, Lt Col Stephen White, and saw soldiers preparing for a United Nations tour in Cyprus.

The Corps of Drums of the 1st Battalion, The Queen's Lancashire Regiment represented the British Army at the Taejon International Exposition in Korea. The QLR drummers have been invited to the 1994 event in Brazil.

# Steve's "Circular" tour

Setting off from Imphal Barracks, York, is Maj Steve Haskins, who, with brother Paul and WO1 Elwyn Pickering, was hoping to prove equal to the Arctic Auto Challenge. The trio – all serving or former RMP members – were due to travel more than 6,000 miles to the Arctic Circle via Paris, Vienna and Helsinki, returning through Europe to London in eight days. Giving Steve a send-off is his CO, Lt Col John Baber.

## And the ladies, too . . .

Proving that they are every bit as determined as their male counterparts are LCpl Julie Kerzwell (left) of ASMT Leconfield, and Sgt Air Engr Flo Shoules, who, with navigator Lt Fiona Sharples RLC, also competed in the Arctic adventure.



# PEOPLE

## "Best" of both worlds

There was a double reason for celebration at Army Training Regiment Lichfield for WO2 Jon Best, CSM for C (AMS) Company. Not only was he on parade to see step-daughter Pte Jennifer Allen RAMC pass out at the end of her phase one recruit training but he received his Long Service and Good Conduct Medal on the same day. Jennifer is currently at Keogh Barracks training as a combat medical technician.



Picture: Essex County Newspapers

## Trolley good show . . .

Happy man surrounded by a happy family is WO2 Roy Hicks of the 5th (Warwickshire) Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, whose 41 years of service with the Army – 39 with the Territorial Army following National Service – were marked by a presentation of a Lord Lieutenant's certificate. With him to share the joyful occasion were (left to right) his daughter-in-law Maxine, grandson Samuel, son Ian (a lieutenant in the Sea Cadet Corps), wife Sally, daughter Deborah, daughter-in-law Pamela, sister Beryl, grand-daughter Danielle and son Gary.

## ROY'S JOY

Colchester Garrison Commander Brig Tony Calder and his wife, Caroline take advantage of the facilities at the £1m shopping complex in the heart of the garrison's married quarters after officially opening the complex. Facilities at the new Naafi shop, which took a year to build, include a bakery and delicatessen.

the garrison's married quarters after officially opening the complex. Facilities at the new Naafi shop, which took a year to build, include a bakery and delicatessen.

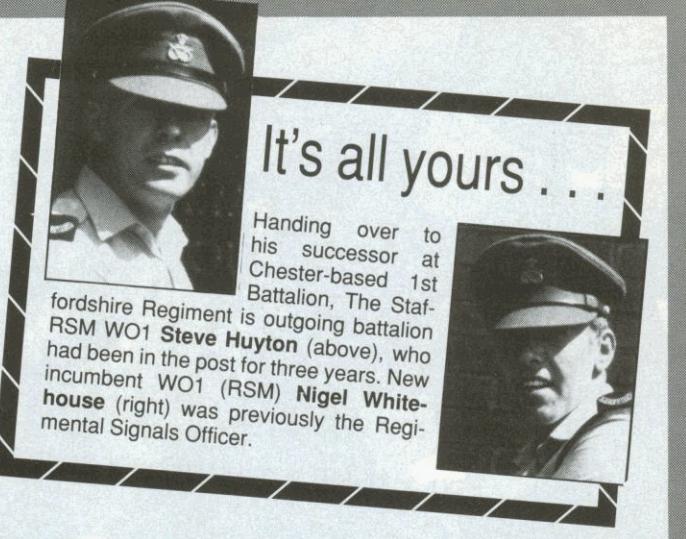


Swapping Services for the day was Col Richard Williams (right), from the Royal School of Artillery, Larkhill. He decided to see what his brother, Gp Capt Andy Williams, gets up to as station commander of RAF Coningsby, and duly took a flight. He was reported to be none the worse for the experience in the back seat of a Tornado F3 aircraft piloted by his sibling.



An old KSLI regimental custom was revived when the Bligny Band of 5th Battalion, The (Shropshire and Herefordshire) Light Infantry (Volunteers) put on a fund-raising concert which featured a French horn once used by the KSLI, the only regimental band in the Army to use the instrument. The French horn was presented to Lt Col Peter Sharland (left), commanding officer of 5 LI, by Geoffrey Archer Parfitt, recently retired curator of the Shropshire Regimental Museum.

## Blow it!



Handing over to his successor at Chester-based 1st Battalion, The Staffordshire Regiment is outgoing battalion RSM WO1 Steve Huyton (above), who had been in the post for three years. New incumbent WO1 (RSM) Nigel Whitehouse (right) was previously the Regimental Signals Officer.

## It's all yours . . .



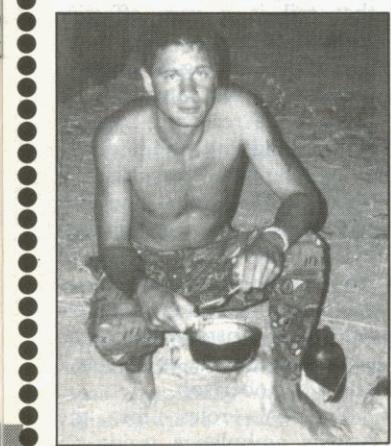
"Delighted to be here and looking forward to getting to know the local community" was the message from Lt Col John Thomas on behalf of his regiment – 30 Signal – as their formal takeover of Gamecock Barracks, Bramcote, was marked by the unveiling of their new sign. The regiment, based at Blandford, Dorset, for the past 33 years, replaces the Junior Leaders Regiment, Royal Artillery, which disbanded earlier this year.



## Female first

The sky's the limit for 24-year-old Hazel Davis, who, having got a taste for the life as a member of the TA's 266 Battery RA, has now signed up as a Regular to become the Army's first female air dispatcher in the Royal Logistic Corps. Hazel, currently undergoing training at ATR Pirbright before joining 47 Air Despatch Regiment RLC at Lyneham, is seen being welcomed into the Regular Army by Lt Col Kate George RLC, from the Army Careers Office at Bristol.

## Medics "Raleigh" to the rescue



When UK-based charity Raleigh International sent an urgent plea to the MoD for assistance in providing medical personnel to deploy on their aid expeditions to third world countries, Col John Tinsley, CO of British Military Hospital, Iserlohn, and the hospital's adventure training officer, WO1 (RSM) Jack Gardener, jumped at the chance. That was how Cpl Robert "Benny" Bennington RAMC found himself on the Namibian-Angolan border, putting his paramedic skills to good use supporting the team of venturers carrying out various projects on the Skeleton Coast and in the Kalahari Desert.

British Military Hospital Iserlohn now has several candidates who have been selected to help on projects in Chile, Zimbabwe, Alaska and Siberia next year.



An Army doctor checks the condition of a casualty. Each carriage can take up to 40 stretcher cases



A medic helps evacuate refugees from a collection point. Coaches fitted with seats are used to accommodate walking wounded and refugees



Words:  
Laurie Manton  
Pictures:  
Terry Champion

# Ambulance trains back on track in peace role

IF COALITION casualty figures during the Gulf War had reached overwhelming proportions, it would have been possible – international sensitivities permitting – for British Army ambulance trains to have collected sick and wounded soldiers from railheads in Syria and Iran.

The three-day journey from Germany to Damascus and Khorramshah would have been made possible by the use of Turkish rail ferries which cross the Strait of Bosphorus.

Since the end of the Second World War, the British Army has maintained a small amount of ambulance train rolling stock in Europe, operated by the Ambulance Train Squadron RAMC (Volunteers).

This Army Medical Services specialist unit had, until recently, ten trains, numbered 330 to 339. They included 335 (BAOR) Ambulance Train, raised originally as part of the Continental TA and manned by expatriates and dependants of Service personnel living on

the Continent.

Now, under Options for Change, the squadron is to become an Ambulance Train Group from April next year. The new group will consist of a headquarters and four trains – 332, 333, 334 and 335.

The group's annual camp – Exercise Flying Scot '93 – involved two ambulance trains operating in a variety of scenarios through an area of Germany bounded by Sennelager, Hannover, Hohne and Gutersloh.

Aim of the exercise was to practise and test the military and medical skills of the new group.

"This leaves a very considerable area in which we could be used. The former Yugoslavia and the Balkan regions are obvious examples of where the use of rail to move wounded and refugees could prove invaluable.



**Lt Col Brian Robertson**  
commands the Ambulance Train Group

normal operational deployments.

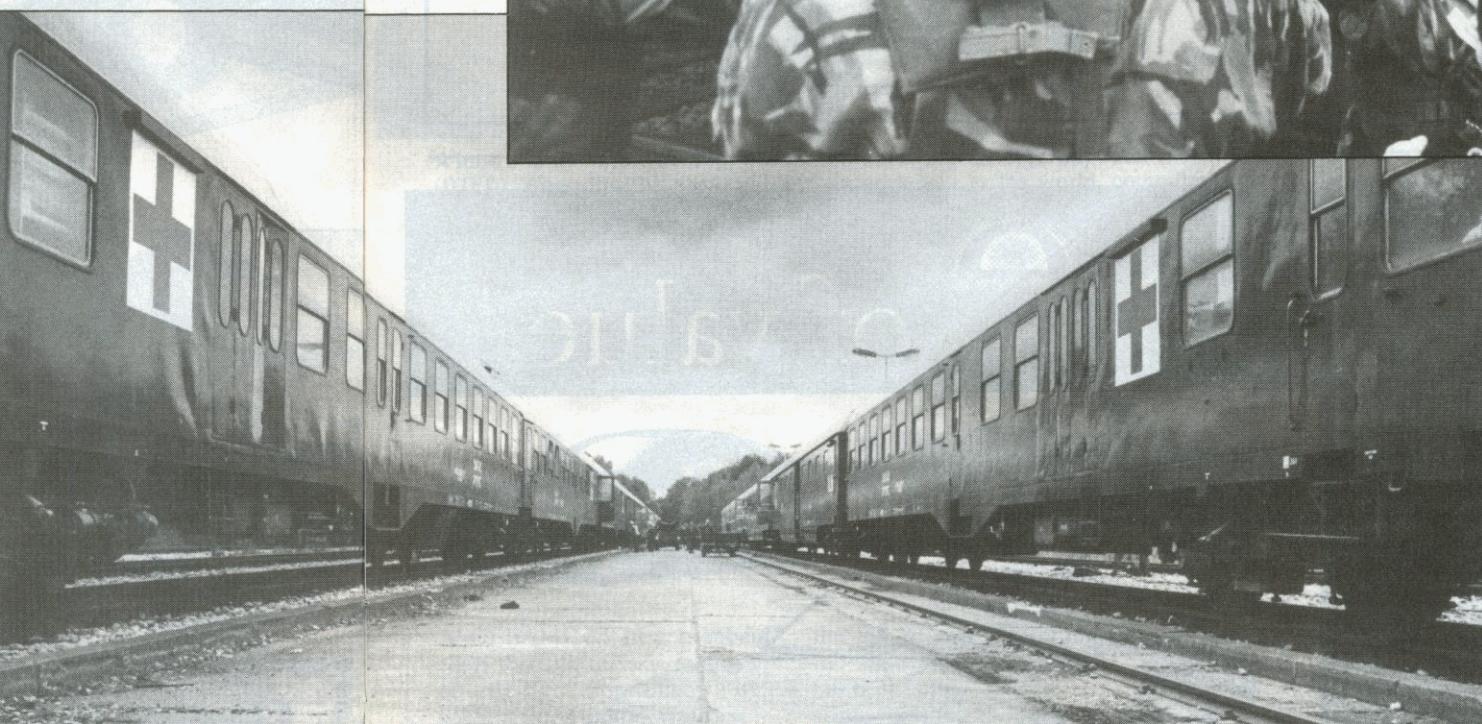
As a result, Flying Scot was based on problems typical of Central Europe and situations such as Bosnia. The two trains were deployed (for exercise purposes) in support of a humanitarian

mission organised by the Ministry of Defence on behalf of the Overseas Development Agency.

Group commanding officer Lt Col Brian Robertson said his ambulance trains can operate anywhere in Europe, with the exception of Spain, Portugal, Finland and Russia.

"We can move casualties in bulk – 500 to a train – and thus release aircraft for carrying troops and ammunition and supplies. One ambulance train can carry the load of two Hercules and a Tristar fitted for the aero-medical evacuation role," said Col Robertson.

Potential roles for the Army's ambulance trains, in



"What has been forgotten is that rail is a very effective method of moving large numbers of people long distances in conditions of warmth and light, while receiving medical and nursing care," he said.

"We can move casualties in bulk – 500 to a train – and thus release aircraft for carrying troops and ammunition and supplies. One ambulance train can carry the load of two Hercules and a Tristar fitted for the aero-medical evacuation role," said Col Robertson.

Potential roles for the Army's ambulance trains, in

addition to straightforward casualty evacuation, include the deployment of medical assets. For example, a train could move a field surgical team.

In crisis intervention and disaster relief operations, the trains could be shunted to a siding to provide the infrastructure for a ward facility alongside a surgical complex.

Col Robertson is ideally qualified to advise on matters of crisis and disaster relief. He was personally involved in dealing with several major incidents, including the Hunger-

ford massacre, Clapham rail disaster and the loss of the *Marchioness* pleasure boat on the Thames.

Exercise observers included Commander Medical BAOR, Brig Chris Callow, and the Chief of Staff, Headquarters Rhine Garrison, Col Donald Ross. Additional personnel were drawn from a variety of units including 1, 3 and 4 Armoured Field Ambulances and 16 Signal Regiment.

In the aftermath of the Charge of the Light Brigade at Balaklava in 1854, the British Army employed ambulance

trains for the first time to move sick and wounded soldiers to a hospital at the rear of the lines. The trains were little more than labourers' wagons being used in the construction of a railway, but the concept of moving casualties by rail caught on.

One of the largest evacuation operations in the early years of ambulance trains, occurred after the Battle of Gettysburg when 15,000 wounded were moved by rail.

During the first battle of the Somme, 33,000 casualties were evacuated on 63 train journeys.

Above – Medics from the Army's specialist Ambulance Train Group lift a casualty into a carriage during Exercise Flying Scot

Left – Identified by the Red Cross, ambulance trains are maintained by 79 Railway Squadron RLC

1902, was funded by Princess Christian of Schleswig-Holstein.

Constructed by the Birmingham Carriage and Wagon Company, it was delivered by sea to South Africa.

It was lavishly appointed and contained a dispensary, burnished brass kitchen, nurses' lounge area and an officers' dining room, but carried only 74 stretchers.

In Britain, a Russian-designed version was in use until the First World War. The static battles in France and Flanders led to many ambulance trains being put into service and shipped across the Channel.

British ambulance trains alone moved more than five million sick and wounded troops during the war.

During the first battle of the Somme, 33,000 casualties were evacuated on 63 train journeys.

# SEFTON THE BLUES AND ROYALS



To mark the death of this popular horse who survived the 1982 Hyde Park bombing, the Warrant Officers' and Non Commissioned Officers' mess of the Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment have commissioned Miss Tessa Campbell Fraser to paint an oil.

A limited edition of prints (20"x24") are available from the address below individually signed and numbered by the artist, several of whose paintings are in the collection of HM the Queen. She is also the winner of the Diana Brooks Prize 1992 and the Chelsea Arts Society Award for Painting 1993.

To order please send a cheque or postal order, for £39.95 inc p&p made payable to: "Central Bank, HCMR", to: Sefton Print, Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment, Hyde Park Barracks, London SW7 1SE.

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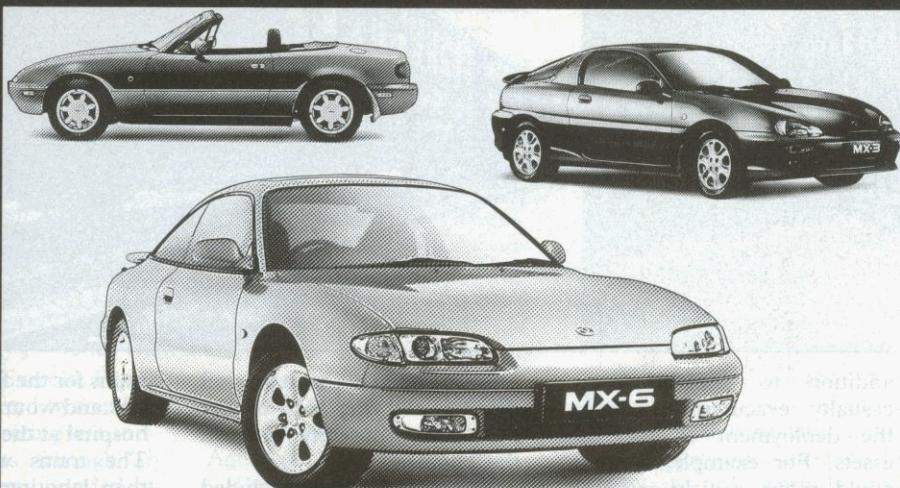
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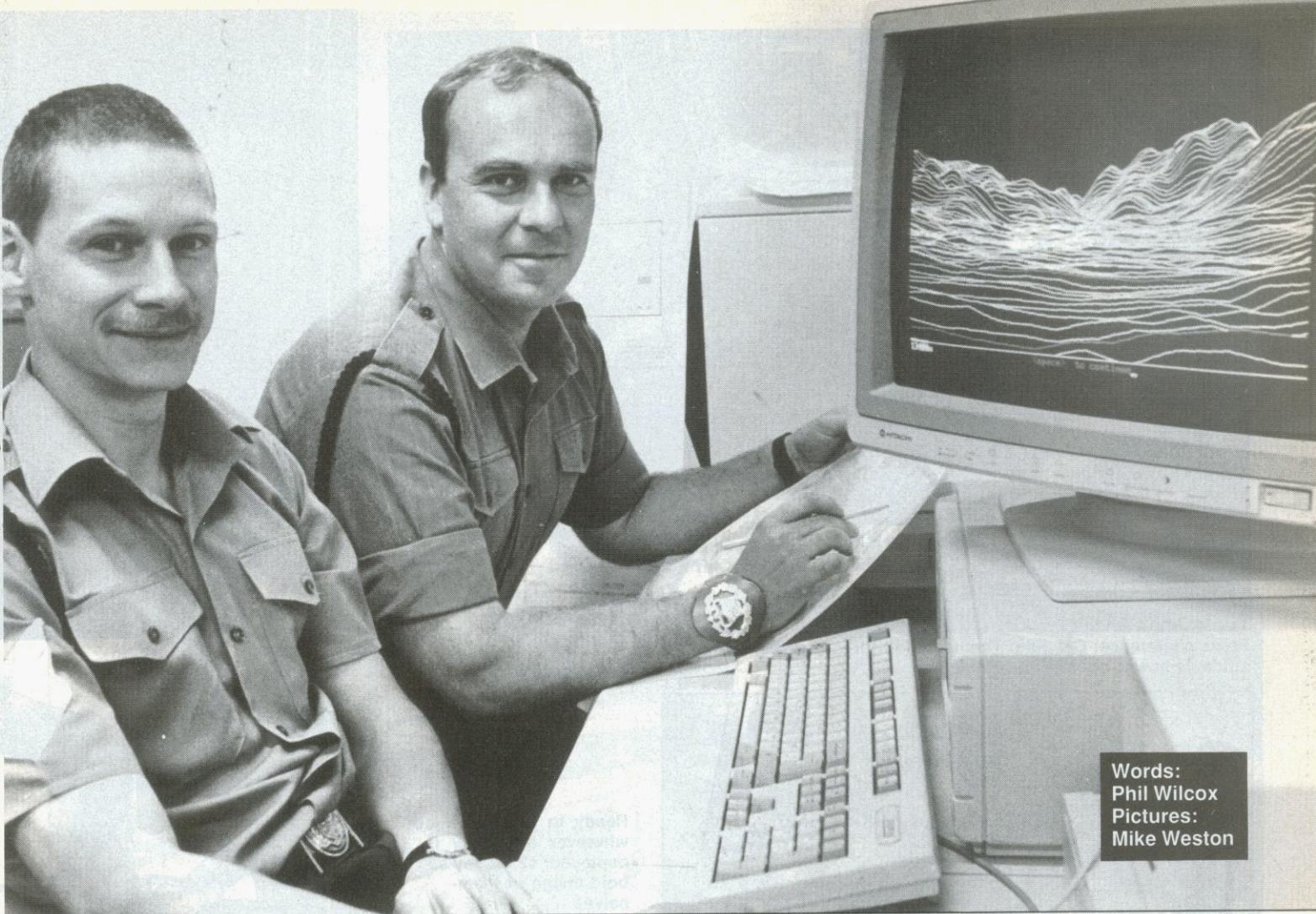
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Words:  
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Pictures:  
Mike Weston

A look into the future as SSgt Michael Forsdick and QMSI (WO2) Peter Richardson demonstrate the wonders of digital terrain elevation data (DTED). When the British Army deploys anywhere in the world, computers using DTED can give an accurate picture of terrain, helping commanders and pilots to select routes or navigate effectively

# New map makers know where they are going

A GLEAMING new bomber roars through the sky, its flight effortlessly controlled by sophisticated digital wizardry.

Built into its cockpit, however, as if to keep a reassuring contact with things more mundane, is a 60lb map box...

As the senior officer at Berkshire-based 42 Survey Engineer Group who imparted that nugget of information testified: "Despite the rise in digitalisation, until people have got confidence, there's still a need for paper."

But, keeping pace with change, staff at the recently-overhauled operation at Hermitage, near Newbury, are preparing for the day in the foreseeable future when

the use of paper maps by the soldier on the ground has been superseded by an electronic equivalent.

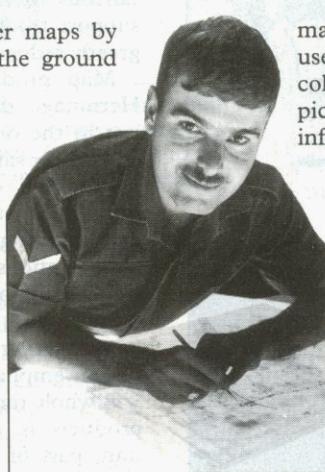
Exit, from the Army at least, cartographers, air surveyors, and field surveyors, to be replaced by the topographic and terrain analysis technicians.

The new topo techs, while retaining many of the old map making skills,

make far more use of computers collecting and depicting geographic information from many sources including satellite images.

Out, too, for the most part, goes the time-honoured theodolite traditionally wielded by a surveyor in the field.

Its upstart successor is the electronic, digital, geodetic global posi-



Seeing the light: LCpl Rick Wood working off photographs for a map revision exercise at Hermitage's School of Military Survey

tioning system (GPS) receiver, capable of retaining satellite information for up to half an hour.

The "tera tech" - terrain analysis technician - uses traditional methods, but, more often than not these days, a computer to manipulate geographic data to highlight aspects of terrain. Information is analysed to assist in the planning of cross country movement, route selection, weapon siting and so on.

Under Options for Change, 42 Survey has also undergone something of a revolution.

One of its two squadrons (19 Topographic) was disbanded in July, to be replaced by 19 STRE, and, despite the simul-

● Turn to next page



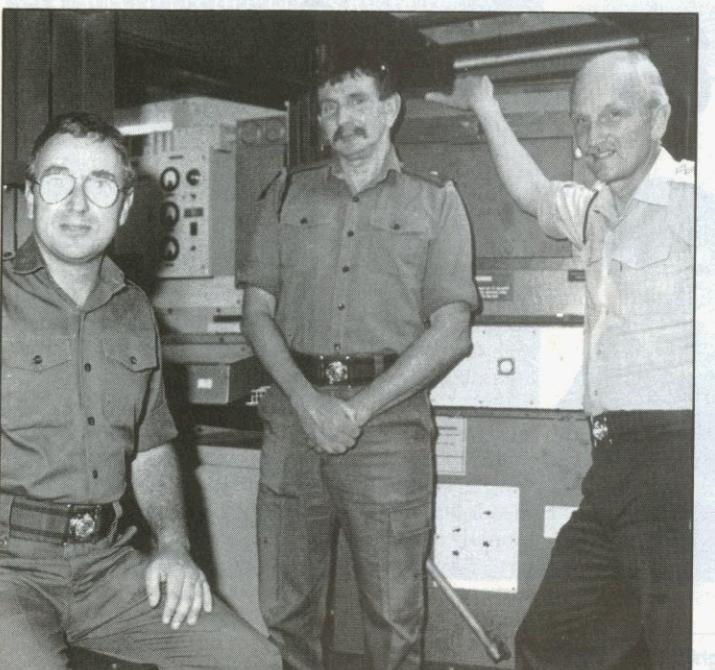
Press conference: Cpl John Thomson (left foreground) shows a group of students how to operate an offset press



Instructor Cpl Dave Griffiths demonstrates the hand-held global positioning system navigation equipment to members of the all-Arms map reading instructor course at Hermitage. The instruments, which can be used equally in Land Rover or aircraft, give a new position every second



Ready to tackle the job wherever the Army is deployed: 42 Survey's bold image of themselves



Cpl Mike Prior, Maj Brian Frost and Capt Chris Cleeton outside the cramped interior of a mobile TACIPRINT simulator at Hermitage, which mirrors the dimensions of the real thing, to be found attached to a four-ton lorry in Bosnia

## New map makers

From Page 17

taneous arrival of a geographic support troop, numbers were greatly reduced.

Map production *per se* at Hermitage these days comes last in the order of priorities, one officer said.

Provision of vital updated maps and visual data for planning, training and deployment for operations anywhere in the world, support to emergency training and mandatory military training: all are given greater emphasis.

A whole range of geographic products is prepared by the unit, part of whose role is to up-date existing maps, changing them in some way, overprinting more recent information.

Terrain analysis enables features such as slopes and tree

spacing – not depicted on the standard product – to be added.

And, when the latest maps are needed on the spot in, say, Bosnia, they can be printed and duplicated there and then.

Take a bow 13 Topographic (until earlier this year 13 Map Production) Squadron's reproduction, terrain analysis and geographic support troops respectively.

Among other essential functions, the 50-strong terrain analysis team interprets, using digital data, the easiest cross-country routes for troops on the ground in theatre.

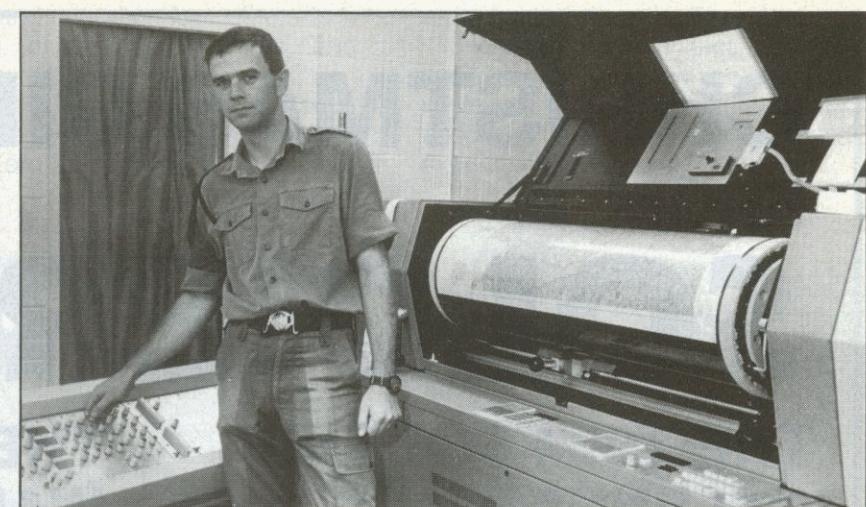
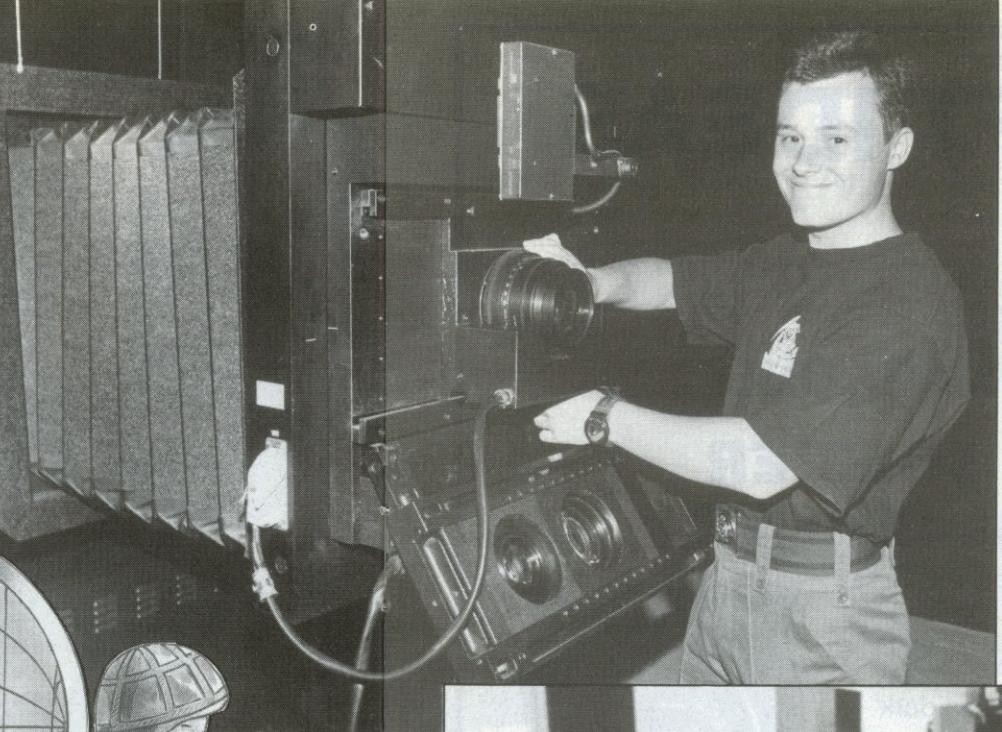
This can vary from singling out roads and bridges which can sustain the weights of vehicles, to perspective views of the terrain and the amount of inter-visibility between two

points. These sometime cartographers, several of whom have already had a taste of service in former Yugoslavia, can also provide radar images of the ground for flight simulators.

"We make sure the map has a permanent finish," said a member of the troop. "It's no good producing a high quality product if it is going to fall to pieces the first time it gets wet."

Using data provided by their sister troop, the reproduction boys – also 50-strong – will add tactical information on new roads and military installations to maps from anywhere in the world.

Using an electronic camera

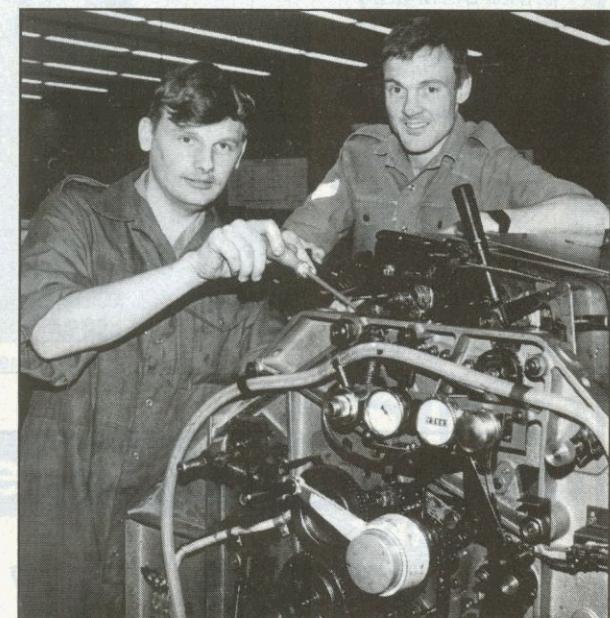


Above – LCpl Ray Powell operates a large scanner which splits a multi-coloured map into four colours. Maps used to be printed in a dozen or more colours, but four are quicker and simpler to reproduce

Left – Spr Simon Wallace (Repro Troop) with a large format camera used to produce basic grey TACIPRINTs, which can then be overprinted in black or colour



Plates from photographs are dealt with in the press room, sometimes ending up, depending on size required, on the huge sheet-fed machines operated by Sprs Paul "Flash" Gough (foreground) and Dave Brown. Paul (sporting the troop's "Grim Repro" logo) earned his nickname when he was struck by lightning while on exercise



Back-up team for when those vital machines go wrong – here or in the field – are REME technicians Cpls Tony Sands and Wayne "Mr Fix It" Carlisle. At the time of SOLDIER's visit to Hermitage they had notched up five trips to Bosnia between them

a mobile map production system housed on the back of a 4-tonner, and the map supply vehicles. Meanwhile, they are also responsible for the war reserve map stocks held in Hermitage.

Contained in a huge warehouse, the troop's war reserve map depot can, at the drop of a commander's cap, supply maps for any urgent British Army or Nato need, at home or abroad.

"A ready-prepared pack could be on a helicopter at a moment's notice," a geographic technician (or, in previous parlance, combat surveyor) from the depot said, proudly.

Also on site at Hermitage is the School of Military Survey, where students from Pakistan,

Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Indonesia sit alongside their British counterparts.

The school, which tutored teams in the art of desert navigation at the time of the Gulf War, trains technicians of all Arms in navigation, map-reading and other specialisms.

It is here, for example, where the mysteries of topographic surveying, using electronic total stations and the aforementioned GPS receivers, are unfolded.

There is little mystery attached to the air of dedication shown by the sappers of 42 Survey, however.

Despite their reduced number, they are manifestly doing their best to maintain the group's aim of "total quality in the provision of geographic information to enable the Forces to plan, train and fight."

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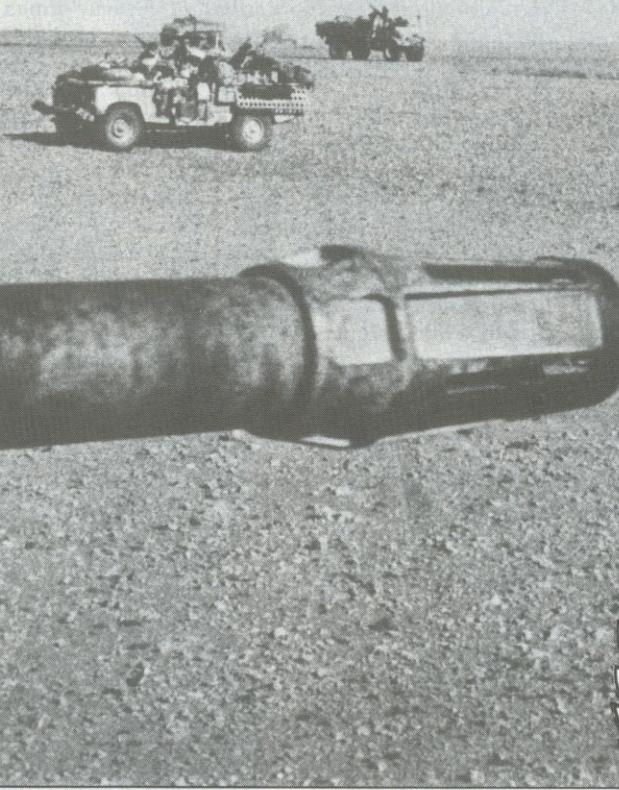
When a young Iraqi goatherd stumbled across an eight-man SAS patrol during the Gulf War, he would have been unaware that his cry of alarm would eventually leave three members of patrol "Bravo Two-Zero"

dead and condemn four others to a month of savage beatings and torture.

When the post-war gallantry honours were announced Bravo Two-Zero became the most dec-

orated patrol since the Boer War.

Sgt Andy McNab (not his real name), who led the patrol, has written a book which graphically describes the ordeal. He talked of his experiences to **Laurie Manton**.



Supported by three Unimog "mother ships", an SAS Pink Panther traverses the flat terrain of northwest Iraq



## Behind Iraqi lines with the SAS

# TRUE STORY OF BRAVO TWO-ZERO

**BRAVO** Two-Zero was given two tasks behind enemy lines, to locate and destroy communication land lines along an Iraqi main supply route and to find and destroy Scud missile launchers.

Each man carried bergen and belt kits containing ammunition, explosives, food and NBC kit weighing about 154lb. On top of that each carried five gallons of water (weighing another 40lb) and two sandbags, tied together like saddlebags and slung round the neck, filled with cache rations.

Years of experience has made SAS soldiers masters of concealment. Nothing is left to compromise a position, old or current.

Bodywaste is collected in plastic bags and the contents carried. One soldier totes a one-gallon plastic "piss can". When full, its contents are emptied into a hole beneath a rock well away from the patrol route.

These measures prevent detection by smell, animals or insect activity.

"If you buried human faeces, it would create animal interest,

and if discovered the ingredients could be analysed. Rice content, for example, would indicate Iraqis; currants or chilli would point to Westerners," explained Sgt McNab.

The patrol's weaponry justified the description, "armed to the teeth". Four men were equipped with M16 Armalite rifles fitted with 40mm grenade launchers. The remainder carried Minimi light machine-guns which can take belted ammunition in boxes of 200 rounds or ordinary magazines.

Every soldier carried a 66mm anti-tank rocket and

white phosphorus and high explosive grenades.

Inserted by RAF Chinook helicopter on the night of January 22, 1991, 100 miles north west of Baghdad, the SAS soldiers were soon in trouble.

They had been dropped in the midst of 3,000 Iraqi troops who, according to Coalition intelligence, should not have been there. Radio frequencies provided for the area were unsuitable and the patrol was unable to establish communications with its base.

And the winter weather had

● Turn to next page

# SAS deployment was biggest since 1945

THE GULF crisis of 1990-91 sparked off the largest operational deployment of the Special Air Service since the Second World War.

As international tension mounted 300 soldiers of A, B and D Sabre Squadrons of Hereford-based 22 SAS Regiment and 15 volunteers from the reserve R Squadron were sent to a holding camp in the desert.

When war broke out on January 17, British Special Forces, including the Special Boat

Squadron, were moved by Hercules aircraft to a forward operating base 900km north west of Riyadh in Saudi Arabia.

Their task was to disrupt lines of communication inside Iraq and to create diversions that would draw enemy troops away from Coalition fronts.

The SAS Group was equipped with two types of Land Rover, the tried and trusted Pink Panthers (Pinkies), and a newer, smaller variant based on the Defender 90

and quickly dubbed "Dinkies".

Heavily-armed Unimog trucks acted as "motherships" in the desert, re-supplying patrols with food, water and ammunition. Motor cycles were also used.

The SAS succeeded in destroying many Iraqi microwave relay towers and communications. Its soldiers also captured an Iraqi officer and his battle maps, giving the Coalition priceless intelligence about Saddam Hussein's troop dispositions.

numbers of Iraqi troops away from the main theatre of operations.

Four members of the SAS died behind enemy lines. The regiment earned 41 awards, including one DSO, three MCs, three DCMS, seven MM, 19 Mentions in Despatches, four MBEs, and two BEMs.

The only SAS soldier to be named in the citations was Cpl David Denbury, a Royal Engineer who was awarded a posthumous MM.

This ploy drew substantial

## BRAVO TWO-ZERO

From Page 21

turned nasty – the worst in the Gulf for 30 years.

Once compromised, the patrol was forced to abandon most of its equipment and withdraw towards the Syrian border, some 170km away.

Bravo Two-Zero was soon under attack by dozens of enemy soldiers and two armoured personnel carriers mounted with heavy machine-guns.

"The Iraqis must have thought we were crazy," said Sgt McNab. "We were just eight, on foot, and legging it straight at them, shooting and screaming."

"It is a natural reaction to be scared and I cannot believe anyone who said they were not. The way to overcome fear is through a mixture of experience, training and knowledge. Our training, which is one of the strengths of the regiment, is a continuous cycle of training and operations."

"In battle it's just a matter of getting on with it. Nobody wants to do it. Nobody wants to go forward because there is a chance you might die. But you know you are going to die if you go back," he said.

Two 66mm rockets were fired, knocking out a truck and disabling one of the APCs. The other withdrew.

The machine-gun on the crippled APC was still being fired so two troopers – Steven "Legs" Lane and Dinger – ran up to it. The rear doors were open (the Iraqis had not battened themselves in) and a grenade was lobbed in, killing them instantly.

As Iraqi reinforcements arrived, the SAS patrol



Sgt Andy McNab joined the Army as an Infantry Junior Leader at Shorncliffe in 1976, serving with the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets on tours in Germany and the United Kingdom. He was "badged" as a member of 22 SAS Regiment in 1984 and was awarded the Military Medal for gallantry during SAS anti-terrorist operations in Northern Ireland.

They were in the middle of a vast military base packed with tents, buildings and vehicles.

(After the war, intelligence reports confirmed that the eight-man patrol had accounted for 250 Iraqi casualties – mostly in this final firefight.)

Tpr Steven Lane, 27, died of exposure and exhaustion after he and "Dinger" had swum across the freezing Euphrates to make their escape.

Tpr Bob Consiglio, 24, was last heard providing covering fire. He was hit in the head by a

round that ignited a phosphorous grenade in his webbing and died instantly.

Sgt Vince Phillips, 37, one of the missing trio, became separated from Cpl Chris and Tpr Stan, and died of exposure.

Stan was captured and Chris was the only man to escape. In seven days, starving and massively dehydrated, with his feet cut to ribbons, he reached the Syrian border and was handed over to the British Embassy at Damascus. He had walked almost 150 miles on two packets of biscuits and some polluted water.

Andy McNab was discovered by Iraqi soldiers and imprisoned with Dinger and Stan at an interrogation centre. Mark, wounded, was held and tortured elsewhere.

It helped the men that SAS training includes briefings from former Colditz, Korea and Vietnam POWs, but Andy remembered with a shudder a former American officer who visited the SAS base at Hereford to recount his experiences as a prisoner of the Vietcong.

Bald as a result of the shock of his ordeal, he had wept openly in front of a subdued audience of Special Air Service soldiers as he told how his teeth had been ripped out and every major bone in his body broken.

Andy and his colleagues were tortured ferociously: beaten and whipped, deprived of clothing in freezing conditions, handcuffed and blindfolded.

In Andy's case, part of a tooth was extracted with pliers by an Iraqi dentist. He was less than impressed when the dentist admitted to having worked in Guy's Hospital, London, for nine years.

"I was blindfold and handcuffed and they started hitting

me with what felt like a metal ball on a stick, like some sort of medieval mace. It thumped into my neck, arms and kidneys with terrible precision.

"I was screaming my head off and thought I was going to die. It just carried on. Hour after hour, day after day, beating after beating.

"They found new ways of hurting me. A red hot spoon was rubbed over a sore on my leg. The stench of burning flesh made me retch and I howled like a dog," he remembered.

Eventually Andy McNab reached his lowest ebb. Lying naked in his cell, he wanted to end his life.

"I was slowly dying. Your body tells you. The cell was awash with my urine and excrement. It covered me."

The human body has an amazing capacity for soaking up punishment, but how do people cope with pain?

"There is a stage where the physical abuse of torture is counter-productive and it makes the prisoner stubborn in his resistance."

"What you have to do is accept the fact that they control your body and there is nothing you can do about it. What they are after is your mind and the information it contains. So if you can control your mind, you have won," said Andy.

His most depressing moment came when he realised that he would have to abandon his cover story (that he and his men were the crew of a downed Search and Rescue aircraft).

"We were in adjacent cells and were beaten in a rotation system.

"You could hear the guards moving from cell to cell beating



The final team photograph of patrol "Bravo Two-Zero" on the ramp of a Chinook helicopter. Front row (left to right) Cpl Chris, Tpr Mark and Dinger. Second row: Tpr Bob Consiglio (posthumous Military Medal), Tpr Stan, Sgt Any McNab (Distinguished conduct Medal) and Sgt Vince Phillips (posthumous Military Medal). Back row: Tpr Steve Lane (posthumous Military Medal)

up members of the patrol.

"I was most scared when I knew it was about to come. I could hear the door bang. It was warped and they had to kick it to open it. You could hear the bolts being drawn, them kicking it and shouting and hollering. That used to scare me."

The human body has an amazing capacity for soaking up punishment, but how do people cope with pain?

"There is a stage where the physical abuse of torture is counter-productive and it makes the prisoner stubborn in his resistance."

Soon after the war ended, the four men were repatriated and evacuated to an RAF hospital in Cyprus where they underwent a debrief for post-traumatic stress disorder.

Said Andy: "You have to remember that the SAS Regiment operates worldwide so the events in the Gulf were not the first traumatic incidents we had experienced, and we were not badly affected mentally."

"It was probably much harder on our wives and girlfriends who had been told we

were missing in action, but sworn to secrecy.

"We had all lost comrades before but it was difficult to cope with the deaths of three of our patrol. It's like losing a relation because best friends in the Army are a much more intimate relationship. Hardly surprising if they'll die for you."

Sgt Andy McNab had hepatitis, ruptured muscles in his back, a dislocated shoulder, burns on his thighs, scar tissue on his kidneys and loss of dexterity in both hands. Within six months, he returned to duty with B Squadron 22 SAS Regiment at Hereford.

He was awarded the DCM in the Gulf Honours.

In February this year, the four-times married soldier bought himself out of the Army. He said it was for the



love of a woman, his bride of five months – Jilly – and a desire to become, in his own words, "slightly immature" for a couple of years to catch up on lost youth and enjoy foreign travel... peacefully!

Before the interview ended, Andy McNab revealed an untold story of the Gulf War to make a point about the SAS.

"Over the years, the regiment has often been described as an army of killers," he said. "That is wrong. By the very nature of our work, we actually save more lives than we take."

"After an SAS attack on an Iraqi communications base deep in Western Iraq, our soldiers, while withdrawing, saw a badly-wounded Iraqi survivor.

"Realising he would die without medical help, the patrol went back for him. They stabilised his condition, carried him back to the British lines and handed him over to a hospital before returning to base."

A good example of why the regiment is called "Special".

\*Bravo Two-Zero by Sgt Andy McNab. Bantam Press, £14.99.

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The 1994 Soldier Calendar is now available, and at only £6.80 for 12 full colour military prints is sure to be in demand.

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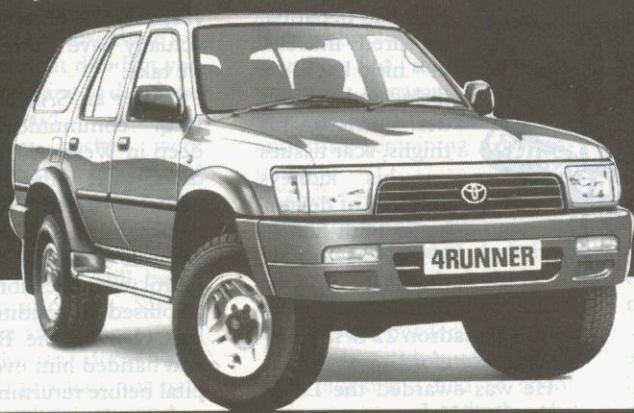
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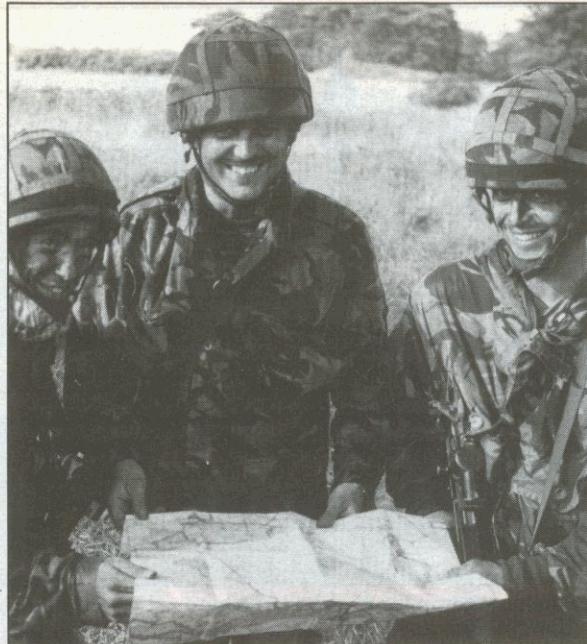
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LCpl Steven Burton, Lt Paul Laycock and Pte Duncan Mortimer, all of 8 LI, plan their next move



CO 3 DWR, Lt Col Julian Fox, is led away, protesting his innocence

# Yorkshire Volunteers

## mix it on Merlin

THE 8th (Yorkshire) Battalion, The Light Infantry (Volunteers) and 3rd Battalion, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment (V) spent their two-week annual camp at Stanford Training Area, Norfolk, in September. It culminated in a free-play field training exercise (FTX), Merlin Mix, run by HQ 15 (NE) Bde.

**Words:**  
Tony Robson  
**Pictures:**  
Chris Barker

The scenario was based on a European country splitting into three mini-states - "Norfolk", "Suffolk", and "Stanta". Norfolk and Suffolk both had the best interests of Stanta at heart and in due course had to cross the borders to assert the rights of their poor neighbour.

Their conflicting territorial claims resulted in a predictable head-to-head between the two battalions.

The action was enlivened by the participation of the "Stantan Irregulars" in the form of a platoon from the 1st Battalion, The Parachute Regiment briefed to fight anybody who came within range.

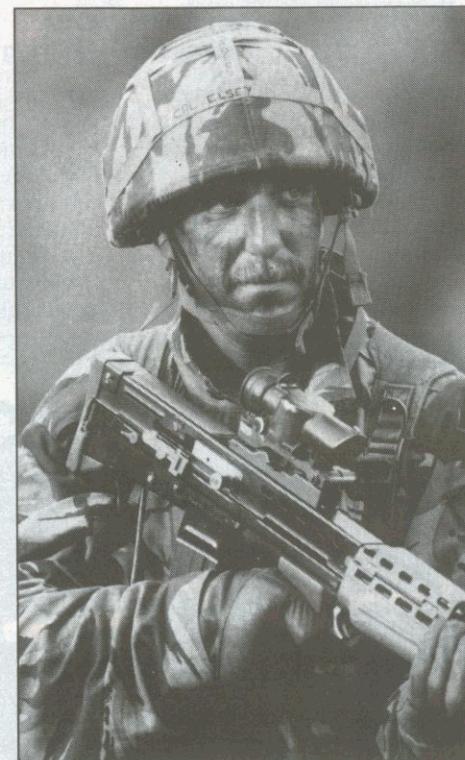
Maintenance of good order and discipline devolved, as always these days, to the UN Monitoring Forces who

were provided by the Brigade Specialist Training Team, resplendent in blue helmet covers.

The exercise lasted three days and provided a wide range of tactical situations to test the battle skills of the troops and the political skills of the commanders. These included an assault, river crossing, helicopter operations and prolonged FIBUA battle.

Both battalions entered wholeheartedly into the spirit of the exercise, to the extent that an interesting and innovative variation on testing the chain of command was brought into play.

Instead of the commanding officer of 3 DWR being killed, wounded or posted, he was detained by the UNFOR team for investigation of some pretty wild accusations regarding his conduct of the war.



Cpl Peter Elsey, 3 DWR on guard



Pte Adam Lord (left) and Cpl Mark Machon, both of 3 DWR



Capt Stuart Garnham, 2iC 3 DWR

He was duly led away, protesting his innocence in a convincing middle European accent.

COS HQ 15 (E) Bde, Maj Hugo Fletcher, PARA said: "The exercise aimed to give soldiers a taste of the complexities of a modern deployment. Everyone faced three potential

enemies, which gave plenty of scope for error, and which thoroughly tested the chain of command and stressed the importance of a good passage of information."

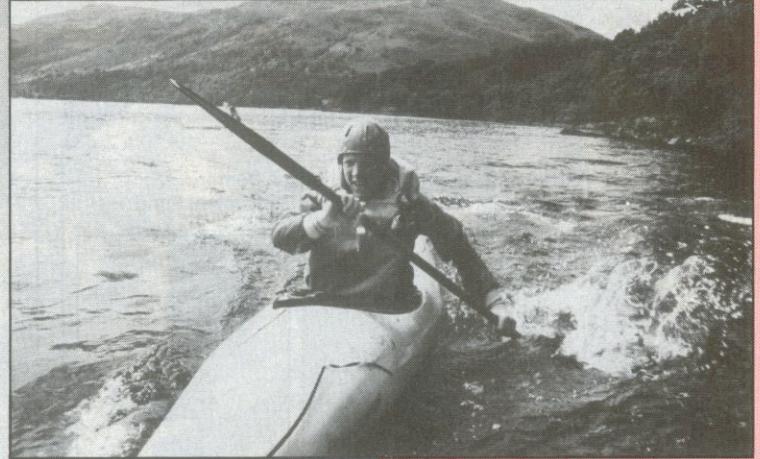
He added: "At the end of it all, everyone felt that the old Cold War 'us versus them' scenario was much easier."



Pressing needs: Sgt Darren Leigh, QLR, instructs Burma Platoon in the art of ironing combats



Typically Scottish backdrop for Normandy Platoon out on the ranges as Cpl Colin Howard (foreground) gives instruction to Pte Robert Link



All part of the life at Glencorse: Pte Buchan, Gordon Highlanders, indulges in a touch of adventurous training on Loch Lomond

Proud players: pupils from Glencorse's piping and drumming wing at Milton Bridge Camp parade for the camera at the ATR's barracks. Camp Commandant Maj Jim Schroder (centre) says that, since they only attend for six months, the most they can hope for is a good basic grounding, but he has been pleased with results. Pipe Maj (WO2) Bruce Hitchings BEM (foreground, right) says: "We've got the best of the best here."

"This is one unit, and we all work together to the same end. It isn't the Scottish Division Depot with King's tacked on."

Both he and Maj Channer were pleased with the quality of troops going through under the ATR system.

"At first, it was disappointing not to see the guys going through to the end of their training, but passing them on to their respective battalions," said Maj Dennis.

"But we certainly achieve our aim in providing them with basic military skills: we place a lot of emphasis on getting the handover right (to phase two training), so there should not be a second bout of homesickness and unsettled feelings."

With everything from hill-walking to windsurfing, canoeing and sailing, with rugby, soccer and a "growth industry" in fishing (where all ranks can get to know each other) virtually on the doorstep, there are worse places for an instructor or recruit to be based.

Certainly, there should be no need for any recruit to take the desperate measure adopted by some former incumbents at the barracks, then known as Greenlaw.

They dug a narrow 100-yard tunnel in order to escape.

Mind you, it was being used as a Napoleonic prisoner-of-war camp at the time . . .

# Small is beautiful at ATR Glencorse

ON A COLD day in May, around 200 recruits assembled at Glencorse Barracks near Edinburgh for 28 days' preliminary drill.

They camped on the ground adjoining the barracks, a skittle alley and vaulting bars were provided for their amusement, and, in the absence of anything more substantial, used a large marquee as a canteen.

Before anyone starts scratching their head in bewilderment, it should perhaps be explained that the events described relate to 1878 and not more recent times.

But three common denominators still apply: the weather, the recruits – and Glencorse.

In recent months, this historic Army site has seen its

Words: Phil Wilcox  
Pictures: Mike Perring

fair share of changes.

Scottish Division and King's Division companies now find themselves housed side by side, and, since May, Glencorse has had a new role – as one of the five Army Training Regiments formed that month.

In January it is due to take on the additional responsibility of

being host to one of the new Recruitment Selection Centres (RSCs).

None of these factors appears to faze Lt Col Gavin Douglas, Glencorse ATR's commanding officer.

"The switch from the old 21-week course to the ten-week ATR system has worked well," he said.

"Of course, it was extremely hectic in the lead-up to the ATR earlier this year. King's Division started the first-ever ten-week course: until February we had been running courses of both lengths in tandem."

At that stage, Lt Col Douglas explained, the number of recruits hit a figure of about 480 (11 platoons), spilling over into nearby Milton Bridge camp.

It had since steadied down into four Kings and four Scottish platoons, and would increase to a total of five per company next year.

Results had been very encouraging, he said, even though many people had said the new system would not work.

"You have got recruits here for a relatively short period of time, in a very heavily supervised regime."

"It is a very difficult period for them, but I like to think

that, by the end of the ten weeks, we have turned a civilian, with all his accompanying lack of, and dislike of, discipline, into a fairly outstanding product by the time he moves on to phase two for further training."

Glencorse was a small enough place, he added, for him to get to know all the faces.

He could also stay in touch with each platoon, attending their major events throughout the training period.

As he put it: "Small is beautiful."

The reduction in the length of courses had meant a faster pace of life for the training staff, the CO said.

"They now have a series of four ten-week courses, with the rest of the time involved either with block leave or preparing for the next intake.

"Sometimes, a training team will finish a course on a Thursday and start a new one on the following Monday – a further ten weeks, with seven working weekends."

And how has the arrival of members of the King's Division alongside their long-entrenched counterparts at Depot Scottish Division panned out?

"There is a good atmosphere and a certain amount of flexibility, with English and Scottish staff moving between the two companies," said Maj Channer.

His equivalent – who came to Glencorse with seven colleagues from Depot The King's Division in York – said:



History is made at ATR Glencorse near Edinburgh as it holds its first joint Scottish Division/Kings Division pass out last month. Commanding officer Lt Col Gavin Douglas (left) witnessed the parade, which was inspected by Brig Colin Groves. Next to the CO is Lt Vance Kahn, on exchange from 1st Recruit Training Battalion, Kapooka, Australia

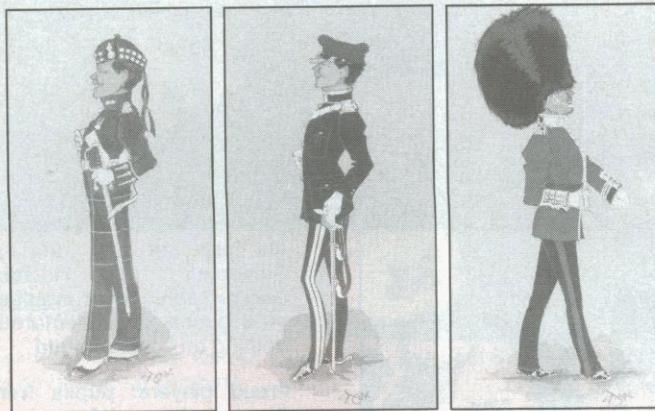
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7. The Queen's Own Hussars
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9. 9th/12th Royal Lancers (PoW's)
10. The Royal Hussars (PoW's Own)
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12. 14th/20th King's Hussars
13. 15th/19th The King's Royal Hussars
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16. Royal Tank Regiment

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17. Royal Regiment of Artillery
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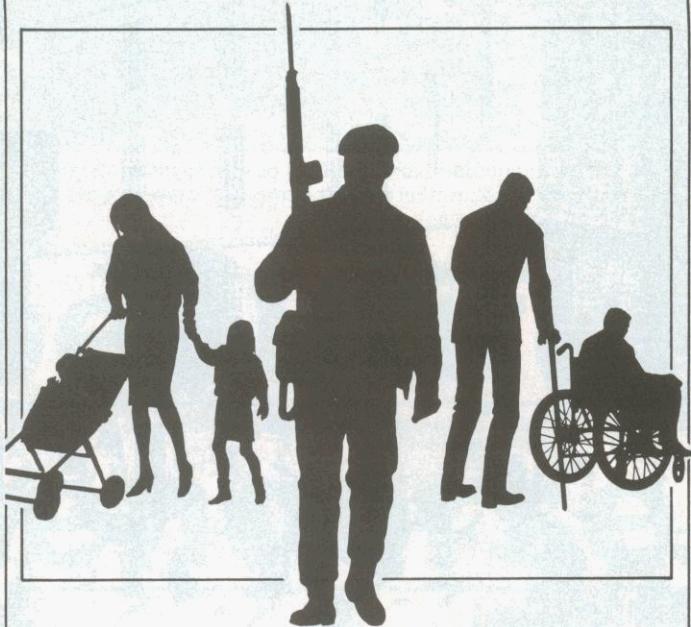
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# Double tops – and still counting

SCORING for a local school – a grand total of 696,126 points in 24 hours, to be exact – were eight members of 160 Provost Company, Royal Military Police.

The Aldershot-based unit raised more than £1,000 in a darts marathon held in the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess.

Two teams each played for two hours at a time with the aim of raising funds for Grange School for Mentally Handicapped Children.

Lt Col John Nelson, Provost Marshal and commanding officer of RMP Southern District, threw the first three darts to get the event off to a flying start.

Twenty-four hours later, organiser SSgt Chris Martin and his seven somewhat jaded colleagues declared that their marathon efforts had been more than worthwhile.

★ ★ ★

**Royal Green Jackets** Lt Richard Lupton and LCpl Ian Staples offered hours of invaluable training and supervision when members of the British Police Expedition Club carried out a high profile "controlled descent" from the Marmara Hotel in Istanbul.

Given coverage on 16 television channels, the event resulted in a flood of offers for help for the Anthony Nolan Bone Marrow appeal.

The club, which is dedicated to planning and participation in expedition-type events and travel, acknowledged the importance of tapping the "vast range of skills and expertise" available in the Armed Services.

★ ★ ★

Eight members of 1st Battalion, The Gloucestershire Regiment are planning to compete in four international marathons next year on behalf of the Sight Savers charity.

Picture: Mike Weston



Lt Col John Nelson prepares to get the 160 Pro Coy darts marathon under way, with team numbers (left to right) WO2 Gerry Russell, SSgts Steve Rowley and Rick Dennis, WO1 Brian Mitchell, SSgt Baz Downer, Sgt Tony Metcalf, SSgt Chris Martin and Sgt Dusty Kemp



The soldiers, who are due to participate in events in Egypt, London, Vancouver and Mombasa, hope to accumulate £4,500 needed to help 300 children who have sight problems regain full vision.

Details from Cpl J Willes on 0748 873318.

★ ★ ★

Lt Col Nigel Lampard, commandant of 3 Base Ammunition Depot RLC, helped to further relations with the German community by donating a cheque for DM1,684 to Herr Heinz Kirschner, local co-ordinator for the German Red Cross.

The money, raised at the sommer fest held by 3 BAD in Bracht, will be spent on helping to establish a day centre for

disabled children and adults in the area.

★ ★ ★

**The Royal National Lifeboat Institution** has thanked members of the Armed Forces, who donated a total of £27,000 during the past year.

"We are confident we can count on this support in the future," said director Lt Cdr Brian Miles RN, "and wish all those concerned well when they carry out their difficult and often dangerous duties around the world."

★ ★ ★

Children from schools and youth clubs from all over Cleveland took part in a charity assault course competition

## Polar hero cheques in

When polar adventurer Dr Mike Stroud (left) dropped in to ATR Lichfield to give a presentation to the officers and SNCOs about his recent travels he was given a presentation of his own.

A cheque for £426 – the result of personal contributions by members of the Officers' and WOs' and Sergeants' Messes at the ATR base – for the Multiple Sclerosis Society, his chosen charity, was handed over by Sue Croft, herself an MS sufferer.

With them is Sue's husband, CSgt John Croft of The Cheshire Regiment.

organised by 122 (Green Howards) Army Youth Team.

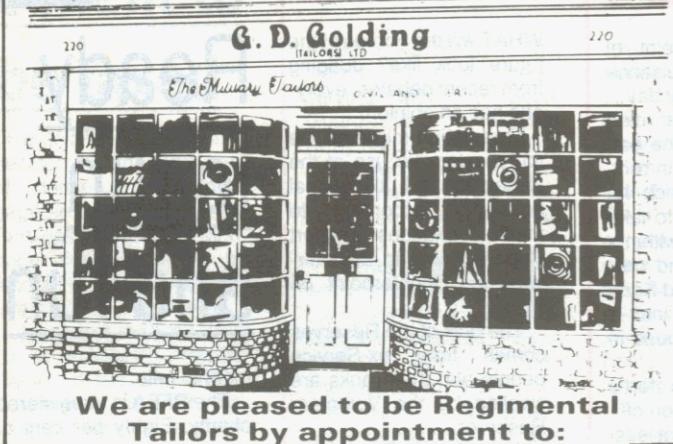
Money raised from the two-day event, which took place on a specially constructed assault course in a recreational park, will go towards the locally-based Leigh-Ann Johns appeal.

★ ★ ★

**Bristol University Officers' Training Corps** combined adventurous training with raising money for local charities during the summer.

Twenty-five officer cadets drummed up £1,000 for cancer research by getting sponsorship for their first parachute jump, while others raised cash by competing in the Bristol half-marathon, a swimathon and a 'red nose' parade.





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# Camo fashion is the uniform of flattery

IN HER letter (November 1) Mrs P J Barlow asked why the Ministry of Defence cannot prevent civilians wearing items of Armed Forces uniforms.

Much as I appreciate and, to a large degree, share her thoughts, I have to make the following observations.

When selling off surplus uniforms which may no longer be serviceable, an MoD ban on sales to civilians would merely push such sales abroad and we would see British uniforms worn by non-Britons instead.

To prevent manufacturers selling MoD-pattern clothing direct to the surplus trade would reduce its quantity production and thus serve to increase the unit price, probably resulting in quality garments becoming unaffordable for the MoD.

Quite a lot of surplus equipment and clothing is actually bought from high street shops by Regular and TA soldiers and cadets.

As an Army cadet more than 20 years ago, my first DPM

suit and my first set of '58 webbing came from a surplus shop – there was no other way to get hold of such things.

As an ex-soldier of both the British and Rhodesian armies, I managed to hang on to both patterns of camouflage uniform – good, hardwearing clothing ideal for my walks in local woodland where I go to watch fallow deer.

I also use my old '58 pattern belt and pouches to carry my flask and my poncho. These pouches have been camouflaged after the old Rhodesian practice.

My issue DPM combat smock has long since worn out and I have replaced it with one bought from a surplus store in civvy street – am I not entitled to wear it because I was not formally issued with it? Where else would I obtain one?

There are many copies of international camouflage patterns available, some for the current paintball craze. Do we then ban copies of British DPM as well, while permitting

## SUEZ EFFORTS APPRECIATED

I MUST on behalf of all ex-Suez member of the forces thank Col Pip Newton for carrying on with his search for the truth and justice in our fight for an award for the 1950/53 veterans who fought terrorists in that theatre.

We are extremely glad that Col Newton has not given up the fight and maybe his persistence will encourage many more ex-Suez persons of all ranks and all Services to keep on with the pressure for justice to those of us who had the job of holding our end up in Ismailia and other Canal areas. Long may Pip Newton keep

on with his search, which will benefit personnel who served with him in the Canal Zone. Well done Colonel. – Walter Bentham, ex-Lancashire Fusiliers, Preston.

## Farewell to Dad's Army?

I WAS interested to see in your article on Frimley (October 18) that the cadets were wearing 1958-pattern equipment.

This normally has to be borrowed, begged, purloined, or – at worst – purchased by members of the ACF, who would rather do this than use the hated, issue, 1937 pattern.



● Hermitage mapmakers – see Pages 17-19

## Prince is entitled to wear Canadian medal

ON THE subject of the Prince of Wales's right to wear the Canadian Forces Decoration (Letters, September 20), Canadian Armed Forces make no distinction between Regular

and Reserve Force service when awarding medals, decorations and commission scrolls.

I left the British Army in March 1967 (RASC/RMP) and enrolled in the Canadian RCEME(M) in June that year. I was given full credit for time served in the British Army towards earning Canadian honours.

The Prince of Wales would be entitled to wear his CD due to his service in the British Forces (Royal Navy) and to his appointments – Colonel-in-Chief and Honorary Colonel of regiments. I hope this solves the puzzle. – Maj (Retd) A Evans CD, Ontario.

## DCM RULING REGRETTED

MANY ex-Servicemen will share the deep regret I feel at the announcement that the Distinguished Conduct Medal is to be replaced by a new medal to be open to all ranks.

Surely this cannot be comfortable? The Army Dress Committee should have a rethink. – J Robinson, Chat-ham, Kent.

Can it be confirmed that at long last the 1958 equipment is to be issued to the ACF and that the 1937 is to be relegated to where it belongs – the many repeats on television of *Dad's Army*? – Maj D A Bower, Regimental County Secretary, Light Infantry Office (Durham).

AN EX-SAPPER who recently visited the War Room collection and sound archive in Harrogate recollects seeing by the roadside outside Tobruk in 1942 a corpse in a sitting position.

It was dressed in British Army uniform and held a plac-

# LETTERS

Write to:  
SOLDIER,  
Ordnance Road,  
Aldershot,  
Hants GU11 2DU.

## One battalion, two capbadges

WHEN I enlisted at Slough in the Bucks Battalion of the Ox and Bucks Light Infantry TA, the Regulars wore the Stringed Horn, the present LI badge, while we wore a black Maltese Cross, with NCOs wearing black chevrons and so on.

Were we the only mob with two capbadges?

Another query: at the age of 79 on November 16, am I the oldest standard-bearer in the Royal British Legion? – R J Shears, Leicester.

## British at Fort Lewis

I ENJOY reading articles in SOLDIER about British troops training at Fort Lewis in Washington State, USA.

When the Royal Anglians were here one year they trooped the Colour in the Tacoma Dome. The ceremony was attended by many British people living in this area. – Michael Franks, Graham, Washington.

## Not a mention

IT WAS a shame that your article "Abingdon loggies bound for Bosnia" (October 18) omitted to mention 81 Postal and Courier Squadron who are also part of 4 General Support Regiment RLC.

It was particularly galling as 81 PC was the first squadron from the regiment to deploy in theatre.

I hope you will allow me to set the record straight. – SSgt B Breen, Det 81 PC Sqn RLC, Op Grapple 3.

● A similar letter has been received from Cpl Gench, of the same squadron. – Editor

## GRUESOME WARNING

ard which read: "DON'T LET THIS HAPPEN TO YOU".

Our visitor assured me that it was a genuine corpse and was left there for some weeks!

Do any readers remember seeing this gruesome and distasteful warning? – Brian Jewell, Harrogate.

## SOLDIER to Soldier

## Edinburgh highlights

A 60-MINUTE videotape of this year's magnificent Edinburgh Tattoo includes the final public appearance of the military bands of the seven infantry regiments of the Scottish Division.

Cassettes are available from the Tattoo Office, 22 Market Street, Edinburgh EH1 1QB. The PAL version (UK, Europe, Australasia) costs £12.99, the NTSC version (USA, Canada, Japan), £16.99. Orders should include postage at the following rates: UK £1.15; Europe £2.20; USA/Canada £3.80; Australasia £4.25.

## Lessons in living history

MILITARY museums in Winchester, Aldershot and Middle Wallop are involved with Defence of the Realm in a project aimed at tens of thousands of GCSE history students in Hampshire.

Children will be able to visit all the museums at discounted prices to help them understand the Napoleonic wars, Britain and the Great War, and the era of the Second World War.

The museums of the Royal Hussars, Light Infantry, Royal Hampshires, Brigade of Gurkhas and Royal Green Jackets at Winchester have been signed up, as have the Airborne Forces Museum at Aldershot and the Museum of Army Flying at Middle Wallop.

## Memorial to despatchers

VETERAN air despatchers are attempting to raise £8,000 for a memorial to colleagues shot down over Arnhem in September 1944.

Many of the 264 RASC air despatchers killed while resupplying airborne forces during Operation Market-Garden have no known graves. The remains of those that have are buried at 13 different locations.

Now the Dutch have offered a memorial site close to Oosterbeek cemetery.

It is intended to unveil a stone and bronze monument during the 50th anniversary commemoration ceremonies next September.

But time is short, so honorary treasurer Mr R A Clancy is appealing for donations to be sent to him at 108 Penrhyn Road, Far Cotton,

## BFBS 50th anniversary journey across Europe



A team of broadcasters and Servicemen is celebrating the 50th anniversary of the British Forces Broadcasting Service (BFBS) by re-tracing the footsteps of the service's early broadcasters.

Seen with "Gladys", a mobile broadcasting truck used in the early days, are five of the six-man team who are re-creating their predecessors' progress from Algiers through Sicily, Naples, Campobasso, Rome and Austria and Germany, broadcasting live from each

## Radio team follows in 1944 footsteps

location. Team leader Rory Higgins (left), a BFBS broadcaster for ten years, with (left to right) Cpl Duggy Dugdale REME; Cpl Kieron Parker RAF; Sgt George Mensforth REME and David Bailey, ex-WO2 REME, set off from the museum in a

modern version of Gladys. They and Territorial Army captain Bill Blake, a fluent Arabist, are also due to spend ten days in Bosnia and Croatia, providing a local service to the troops deployed with the United Nations.

## APPOINTMENTS

**Colonels** – D Bunney – To be Regt Pmr RPO York, Oct 11; M G R Hodson – To MoD, Oct 12; J G H Robertson – To MoD, Oct 13; D Kirkwood – To be Ch Pmr APO (Offrs Accts), Oct 11; C H White – To be Comd HQ BVO, Oct 11; K Skempton – To HQ UKLF, Oct 18.

**Lt Cols** – M R Bromley Gardner QRH – To HQ Wales and WDist, Oct 11; B J Burgess RLC – To RLC MRO(N), Oct 11; P J Hryhoruk, R Signals – To HQ AFCENT (Staff), Oct 11; D G V Morley AAC – To HQ DAAC, Oct 11; A H Steele RE – To 12 Engr Bde, Oct 11; J A C Bazzard RA – To MoD, Oct 18; A C G Blanch PWO – To MoD, Oct 18; F M Freeman RTR –

To JWS (AE), Oct 18; A J Grey, R Signals – To HQ BAOR, Oct 18; M D Ingram RLC – To 4 Armd Bde HQ Sig Sqn, Oct 18; M H Lewington RLC – To be CO 3 Close Spt Regt, Oct 18; M A Lloyd RWF – To RMCS Shireham, Oct 18; N F Mulliner RE – To MoD Oct 18; R A Nicholls RE – To MES(Wks) UK, Oct 18; I M Ross RLC – To HQ Scotland, Oct 18; S M Siddall, R Signals – To MoD, Oct 18.

## RETIREMENTS

**Colonels** – W G C Bowles, late 14/20 H, Oct 13; T H English, late RAPC, Oct 16; P C Pearson, late R Signals, Oct 25; N G D Robinson, late RRF, Oct 25.

## SEARCHLINE

● **Pte Edward Downend, 13056660**, last heard of in 175 Coy, Pioneer Corps, shortly before D-Day, 1944. Writer M Eudier of Barbeville, Normandy, would like to invite Mr Downend to a 50th anniversary celebration in France. Anyone who knows his whereabouts is asked to contact the Military Attaché's Office, British Embassy, 35 rue du Faubourg Saint-Honoré, 75383, Paris CEDEX 08 (tel: 1 42 66 91 42 ext 3250).

● **K D Doolan 14418584**: Mrs G O Doolan (12 Monsal Grove, Fairfield, Buxton, Derbyshire SK17 7TF) wishes to contact anyone who served with her late husband,

K D Doolan, originally from Grantham.

● **17 Coy/Sqn RASC/RCT 1965-70**: Ken Smith is trying to arrange a reunion of members of the unit from its time at Hilden, Germany and Ripon, North Yorkshire. What happened to Geordie Preston, Scouse Roberts, Percy Prior, SSM Lyle, SSgt Scott, Sherbie Herbert, Taff Davis, SSM Smiler Johnson, Paddy Norton and Steve Buckley? Replies to Hill Cottage, Church Lane, Langtoft, Driffield, N Humberside (tel: 0434 605252 weekends).

● **Arnhem PoW Bristow**: Harry Boardman, 15 Naseby Court,

Hampden Road, Prestwich, Lancs M25 5LG (061-773 6696) wishes to find out what happened to an old mate who was a PoW at Arnhem. Soldier Bristow was ex-151/156 Para Bn.

Collins, 2 Glebe Court, Pilton Road, Wadenhoe, Peterborough PE8 5SU (tel: 0832 720761).

● **Ex-Driver 164 Rly Opr Coy RE (1939-46)** would like to contact MT personnel: Frank Sheppard (despatch rider), Jock Lythgoe, Cpl Furmer and any others. Please contact L R Swindale, 6 Yewtree Crescent, Stapenhill, Burton-on-Trent DE15 9QL.

● **West Cappel, May 29, 1940**: Members of No 2 Coy, 1 WG who took part in this action are asked to contact R E Lewis, Gen Sec, Welsh Guards Association, Maindy Barracks, Whitchurch Road, Cardiff CF4 3YE. Also ex-WG not already members of the association.

● **Eddy Docker**: Address of Eddy Docker, last known to be living in Nuneaton area and selling central heating, sought by Jim Chambers, 20 Rickleton VC, Washington, Tyne and Wear NE38 9ET.

● **Korean War veterans**: Researcher wishes to contact veterans who were transported between Pusan in Korea and Kure in Japan on the Hong Kong-registered MV *Poyang* in 1951. Contact Jim Jacobs, 15 Angus Close, Fareham, Hants PO10 6BA.

● **Tom Price**: Would anyone knowing the whereabouts of Tom Price, who served with Clive Turtle at the Army School of Catering 25 years ago, please contact Mr Turtle's daughter, Mrs Sharon Hodson, of 63 Cray Valley Road, Orpington, Kent BR5 2EY (tel: 0689 8333445), who is organising a reunion.

## MILITARIA

● **Military collectors**: Military Heraldry Society, Crown Imperial Society (history, traditions, regalia of Crown forces) and Indian Military Historical Society are looking for new members. Contact for all three societies is the Publicity Officer, 37 Wolsey Close, Southall, Middx UB2 4NQ.

## 247 Pro Coy RMP (Berlin) disposal

Anyone who presented property to the WOs' and Sergeants' Mess or the Corporals' Mess of 247 Pro Coy RMP in Berlin, due to disband in July, and who has lost touch with the unit, is asked to contact WO1 (RSM) R W Godwin at 247 Pro Coy RMP, BFPO 45 (tel: Berlin Military 4114).

## DIARY

### NOVEMBER

UNTIL Nov 23: "Battledress Broadcasters" exhibition, National Army Museum.

13: Royal British Legion Festival of Remembrance, Royal Albert Hall. 13-14: Salisbury Military Society annual exhibition, Red Lion Hotel, Milford Street, Salisbury.

14: Remembrance Day service and parade at the Cenotaph.

26: New permanent gallery, The Victorian Soldier, opens at National Army Museum, Chelsea.

27: TA open day, Duke of York's HQ, Chelsea.

### DECEMBER

8: First SSAFA Central London Christmas carol concert at Royal Military Chapel (The Guards' Chapel), Wellington Barracks, Birdcage Walk, London, 7.30pm. Tickets: 081-673 7280, 081-539 4114 or 071-735 1597.

10-16: Annual London exhibition of the Armed Forces Art Society, Lady Butler Galleries, National Army Museum, Chelsea.

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

## REUNIONS

● **Air Formation Signals**: Past members of 2, 4, 15, 18 and 19 Air Formation Signal Regiments now meet in reunion. If you served with Air Formation Signals (or Indian AFS) and would like further details, contact Lt Col P F Soward, Royal School of Signals, Blandford Camp, Dorset DT11 8RH.

● **Royal Pioneer Corps Association**: Officers' dinner, Bicester, November 8; Field of Remembrance, Westminster Abbey, 1100 hours November 11; Cenotaph parade and service, Whitehall, 1000 November 14. Details from RPC Association secretary, 51 St George's Drive, London SW1V 4DE (tel: 071-834 0415).

● **2 Fit AAC "Last Supper" disbandment function** will be held at Airfield Camp, Netheravon, Wilts on December 17. Further details from Sgt Tomlin, Bulford Mil 8214 (civil: 0980 668214).

● **Inns of Court and City Yeomanry Association**: Annual reunion and dinner (preceded by AGM) will be held at 6.30pm on November 13 at 10 Stone Buildings, Lincoln's Inn, London EC1.

Association will parade for Remembrance Service in Lincoln's Inn at 10.45am on November 14. Details from Tom Taylor, Pine View, Haslemere Road, Witney, Surrey GU8 5QA (tel: 0428 683757).

● **RA Association Exeter Branch**: Annual dinner dance and reunion takes place on November 20 at the Countess Wear Lodge Hotel, Exeter. Details from Don Goodheart, 20a Burnthouse Lane, Exeter EX2 6BH (tel: 0392 73862).

● **2nd Battalion, South Wales Borderers**: Unveiling of commemorative stone at Asnelles, Normandy, and reunion lunch take place on June 5. Contact Islwyn Edmunds, 22 Nottage Mead, Porthcawl, Mid-Glamorgan CF36 3SA.

● **17 (Corunna) Bty RA All Ranks reunion**: Corunna celeb-

bratory weekend, Gütersloh, January 14-15. All past members encouraged to attend. Details from Regimental Headquarters, Viewfield Road, Aberdeen AB1 7XH (tel: 0224 318174).

Aberdeen on June 25. All ex-members encouraged to attend. Details from Regimental Headquarters, Viewfield Road, Aberdeen AB1 7XH (tel: 0224 318174).

● **6th Guards Tank Brigade Workshop REME**: A reunion and memorial service will be held at Lenham, near Maidstone, Kent on June 25-26 for ex-members and relatives to mark the flying bomb disaster at Charing Heath, Kent on June 24, 1944 in which 52 Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers were killed. Details from Norman Rutt, 1 Headington Road, Earlsfield, London SW18 3PR (tel: 081-946 0064).

● **160 Tpt Regt RCT(V)**: Second annual reunion dinner, August. All past SNCOs welcome. Details from PMC, 8 Bamburgh Drive, Rosehill, Wallsend, Tyneside NE28 6JX.

● **The Gordon Highlanders**: Bicentenary to be celebrated in

# D-DAY COAST FROM THE AIR

INTENSE interest is building up to the 50th anniversary of D-Day next June. Celebrations of one of the most significant events in the history of this country are keenly anticipated by the survivors of those momentous days.

Newspapers are serialising veteran's stories, Hollywood is reportedly planning a re-enactment of the landings, and floods of new books are expected to hit the shops between now and next June.

Getting in early on this literary wave is Stephen Chicken, a serving RAF officer, with *Overlord Coastline - the Major D-Day Locations*.

His book tells a good deal of history about D-Day with a special emphasis on what can be seen today at the landing sites. It is packed with details about the Normandy beaches: where to go, how to get there.

He has included some excellent photographs of German defences along the whole of the Normandy coast.

There are a number of aerial views taken by the RAF at the time of the invasion and pictures of tanks, guns and other weapons used by the Allies and the defending Germans.

This is a well-researched book and will be most useful for those visiting the Normandy battlefields. It is also an excellent guide as to the what, when, where and how of the D-Day invasion. - JM

*Overlord Coastline* by Stephen Chicken. Spellmount Ltd, £11.95.



GULF commander Gen Sir Peter de la Billière (left) studies a new full-colour book on British warfare history with publisher Avril Evans and photographer Alan Symes.

The two men had a special role in the production of *I Vow To Thee My Country*: Alan, of the Central Office of Information, because he took some of the pictures, and the general because he wrote the foreword.

of the European ceasefire monitors in former Yugoslavia are included.

Each page has been sponsored and all proceeds will go towards the upkeep of the Royal Star and Garter Home for disabled ex-Servicemen and women at Kingston-upon-Thames.

*I Vow To Thee My Country*, Seagull Publishing, hardback, £30 inc p & p.

# Machine guns and their merits

THE VERY title, *The Machine Gun - A Modern Survey* puts this new book in the no-no category so far as coffee-table reading goes.

But it probably has a place on the bookshelf as a reference source, ready to settle arguments as to the merits of the various models - in other words, their killing power.

He starts with the Maxim gun, following it up with the Gatling and Browning versions, then German, Chinese,

Spanish, Czech, Israeli, Brazilian, Swiss, Italian, the American and many more.

The rate of fire on some models is given as 6,000 rounds a minute, with others ten times slower.

But these figures are really meaningless as it is unlikely that any single-barrel gun can actually discharge 600 rounds

a minute, let alone 6,000, as there are none around capable of withstanding more than extremely short bursts of fire.

This book is likely to excite only those with a current or past professional interest in the subject. - JM

*The Machine Gun - A Modern Survey* by Terry Gander. Patrick Stephens, hardback, £19.99.

# WAR, PEACE AND THE FUTURE

READING any history of mankind gives the impression that there has always been a perpetual condition of low-level warfare in all societies, with irregular episodes of intense conflict.

Of course, that is a somewhat misleading and pessimistic interpretation; an optimist could equally call the overriding condition one of uneasy peace.

What is war? John Keegan's *A History of Warfare* shows this is not the simple question it may seem.

"I hope I have called into doubt that there is a simple answer... or that war has any one nature," he writes. "I hope, too, that I have cast doubt on the idea that man is doomed to make war or that the affairs of the world must ultimately be settled by violence."

In reviewing a book of such scope, one inevitably will be accused of neglecting at least one vital aspect, probably more. To begin with the author examines the "warrior culture" passed down through generations, with such examples as the Polynesians of Easter Island and the Maoris, the Huns, Ephthalites, Bulgars, Avars, Mongols, Tartars, and Manchus.

From the book's introduction, which is autobiographical, John Keegan makes repeated references to the Prussian, Carl von Clausewitz, the author of *On War*, written after the Napoleonic Wars in which he served.

Clausewitz has been termed the ideological father of the First World War; Basil Liddell Hart placed at his door responsibility for the general command's philosophy of the

largest possible offensive with the largest possible numbers of men as the key to victory.

This was the first war in which the British Army suffered more fatalities from missiles than from sickness.

The book is as much a history of weaponry as of motivations and executions of war, and the author quotes Churchill: "What was gunpowder? Trivial. What was electricity? Meaningless. This Atomic Bomb is the Second Coming in Wrath!"

Not that Keegan shares this belief, pointing out that in the past it was judged that a war's benefits outweighed its cost, but now costs clearly outweigh the benefits. Since August 9, 1945, he points out, nuclear weapons have killed no one.

"The 50,000,000 who have

died in war since that date have, for the most part, been killed by cheap mass-produced weapons and small-calibre ammunition, costing little more than the transistor radios and dry-cell batteries which have flooded the world in the same period."

Unlike many historians, mil-

itary or social, John Keegan is essentially an optimist, as is shown in his conclusion: "Politics must continue; war cannot. That is not to say that the role of the warrior is over.

"The world community needs, more than it has ever done, skilful and disciplined warriors who are ready to put themselves at the service of its authority.

"Such warriors must proper-

peacemakers have much to learn from alternative military cultures, not only that of the Orient but of the primitive world also."

Which, surely, is what the wider study of military history is all about. - BJ

*A History of Warfare* by John Keegan. Published by Hutchinson, hardback, £20.

# History of the Lancers updated

ON JUNE 25 this year the 17th/21st Lancers ceased to exist. Succumbing to the euphemistic Options for Change, they were joined with the 16th/5th Lancers to form The Queen's Royal Lancers.

In 1968 Col Val ffrench Blake, CO of the 17th/21st in the Second World War, published his history of the regiment, which appeared in the Hamish Hamilton/Leo Cooper "Famous Regiments" series.

Now this author has given us *The 17th/21st Lancers 1759-1993*.

As the title reveals, this brings the story up to the present day - well, almost, for when he completed it, the amalgamation had not taken place. Those who have perused the earlier volume will find that the present work is no more than a reprint with only a new final chapter, an extra appendix (charting the armour deployed since 1939), some fresh illustrations and a sym-

thetic foreword by John Keegan.

There is also an index (sadly lacking in the "Famous Regiments" volumes).

As before, and in the same words, we trace the origins and campaigns of the two regiments that came together as the 17th/21st Lancers in the Defence cuts of 1922 - precursor of Options for Change.

The 17th began life as Light Dragoons in 1759, becoming Lancers only in 1823. The 21st emerged from the 3rd Bengal European Light Cavalry, transferred to the British Army in 1858 on the demise of the Hon East India Company.

First as 21st Light Dragoons, then Hussars, it was not until 1897 that they were retitled Lancers, the last regiment to be so designated.

Naturally, the author devotes much space to celebrated actions: the Balaclava "death ride" in which the 17th won three VCs; the charge at

Omdurman by the 21st, gaining them an equal clutch of VCs, and the subtitle "Empress of India's."

Embellished with 25 illustrations and six maps, this updated history will be welcomed by those unacquainted with the original volume, long out of print.

"The 17th/21st Lancers exemplifies the regimental system at its best. Its friends

will wish it a splendid new future in its incarnation as The Queen's Royal Lancers" (Keegan).

And Old Comrades will rejoice that the famous Death's Head motto (capbadge) is retained, with the addition of crossed lances. - JMB

*The 17th/21st Lancers 1759-1993* by R L V ffrench Blake. Leo Cooper, £15.95.

# Panorama of a grim horizon

STUDENTS of the First World War - and those with a general interest in the subject - can gain insight into the "war to end all wars" from a new book.

*Panorama of the Western Front*, by John Laffin, concentrates on the battle area which stretched from the Belgian coast near Ostend to the Swiss border in an unbroken line of trenches and barbed wire.

It was more than 400 miles long, but did not run in a straight line as is often popularly imagined, but zig-zagged its way across Belgium and France.

The Germans named it the Western Front to distinguish it from their eastern front against the Russians, the Allies later adopting the name for themselves.

Supporting his well-written

narrative, Dr Laffin has illustrated his book with numerous double-page spread photographs and drawings of the entire length of the Front, pinpointing most of the famous battle areas.

The pictures overlap, making the story easy to follow and to see why neither the Allies nor the Germans could get round the end of the line

● Turn to next page

# BOOK REVIEWS

## From Page 37

and attack from the rear – the North Sea and the Royal Navy being at one end and Switzerland at the other.

Many of the photographs and drawings have a similar look, except those showing the more mountainous region at the Swiss end.

But wherever the troops

found themselves there was one feature common to everywhere – mud. It's not like that now, of course, the area being as verdant and prosperous as when these illustrations were first produced. – JM

**Panorama of the Western Front**  
by John Laffin. Alan Sutton, hardback, £14.99.

## IN BRIEF

**Waterloo Letters** edited by Maj-Gen Herbert Siborne. Number 25 in the Napoleonic Library series of re-published classics comprises the writings of the editor's father, Capt William Siborne of the 9th Foot. Greenhill Books, £19.50.

**Three from the USA: The 51st Again!** by Barry W Fowle and Floyd D Wright (White Mane Publishing Co Inc, hardback, £19.50) telling the story of the 51st Combat Engineer Battalion, who took part in D-Day; **A Doughboy with the Fighting 69th** by Albert M Ettinger and A Churchill Ettinger (White Mane, hardback, £19.50) – stories of the First World War; and **Don't Bunch Up** by William Van Zanten (Archon, hardback, £20), a Marine's tale from Vietnam. All three available from Jerboa-

Redcap Books, PO Box 1058, Hightstown, NJ 08520, USA. Prices include surface postage to the UK.

**Disputed Frontiers: A Prelude to Conflict** by Reg Herschy. An examination of the world's unresolved frontier disputes by a former member of the Royal Army Educational Corps. Book Guild, hardback, £12.95.

**Fighting Fit: The SAS Fitness Guide** by Adrian Weale. According to the blurb, this large-format paperback will "help you get fit, lose weight, gain self-confidence and discover new levels of toughness in yourself". Sounds like the answer to everyone's dreams. Worth a read, if only for the entertainment value. Chapmans, £9.99.

# Waspish humour in a good cause

IT DEPENDS largely on your sense of humour whether you enjoy *The Stars' War*, a compilation of stories by celebrities who served in the Second World War, were called up for National Service, or who entertained the Forces.

More than 40 "stars" have contributed recollections of their time serving or working with the Services to raise money for the West Midlands Autistic Society.

Though not all are meant to be humorous, some of the stories will create a chuckle, like Leslie Thomas's 100-word piece on the day a wasp flew up his nostril while he was on parade and being inspected by the late Fd Marshal Sir John Harding, then GOC Malaysia.

Michael Bentine's three pages on the time he saw the ghost of an RAF pal hours after he had been killed in a raid over Britain is also nicely told.

George Melly's yarn follows the style of his singing, laid-back and casual, informing one and all that he joined the Navy for no other reason than that he found the uniform "more amusing".

Arch Goon Sir Harry Secombe tells of the time he was treated for dysentery after reporting that he had lost his glasses ... and so the stories come tumbling out. Total trivia, but all in a good cause.

Among the starry contributors are Norman Wisdom, Bob Monkhouse, James Herriot, Prof R V Jones, top egghead at Bletchley where they broke the German Enigma code, stargazer Patrick Moore and football greats Tom Finney and Sir Matt Busby. – JM

**The Stars' War** edited by Hugh Morgan, with profits going to the West Midlands Autistic Society. Images, £7.95.

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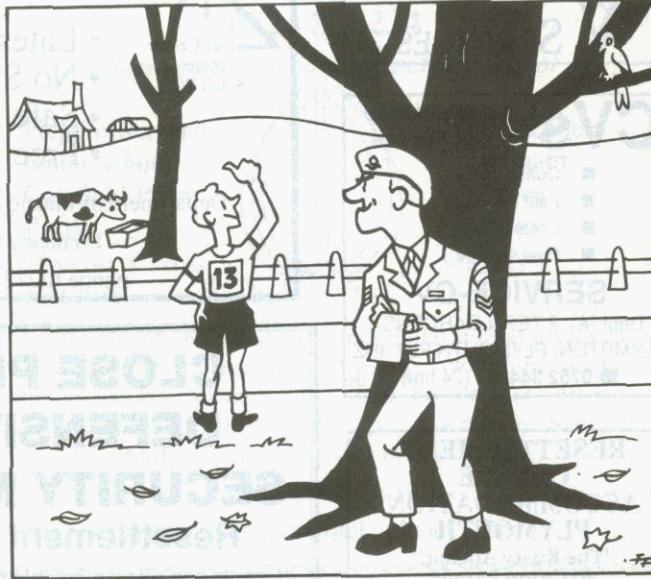
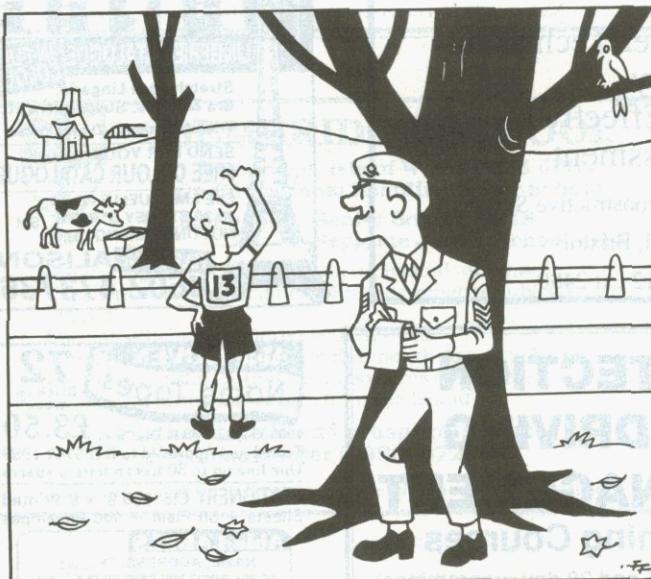
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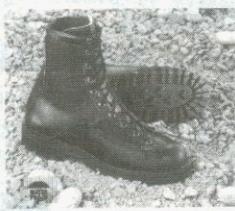
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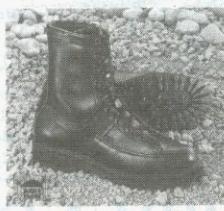
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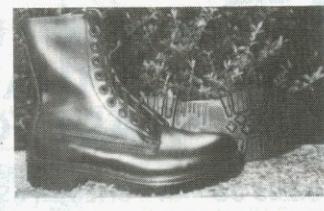
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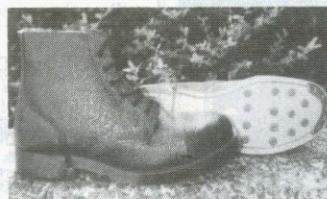
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# Met go down to Army in penalty shoot-out

## Met Police 4, Army 5 (after penalties)

THE ARMY got the better of a penalty shoot-out against the Met to win the annual Grenadier Guards Challenge Trophy match after the sides had been deadlocked at 2-2, writes **Derrick Bly**.

Fielding their strongest side of the season, the Army played some neat, attacking football in the opening half and went ahead when SSgt Davies scored following good work by Sgt Tony Wright.



LCpl Bryant heads the ball off the BAOR line during the match against mighty Borussia Monchengladbach at Wortham Barracks in Bracht



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# Borussia's big guns pound plucky BAOR

## BAOR 1, Borussia 3

BORUSSIA Monchengladbach, fresh from a 4-1 win over MSV Duisburg in the German Bundesliga, fielded a star-studded team containing Danish, German Under-21 and Georgian internationals for the fixture against BAOR at Wortham Barracks in Bracht.

The famous German side included eight of the team who had beaten Duisburg and scored after five minutes when Danish striker Neilsen blasted an unstoppable volley past 'keeper Cpl Blakey.

But BAOR, who included debutants Cpl Service and SI Simpson, matched Borussia for the next 30 minutes and, with a little more composure, might have scored twice. Pte Holt and man of the match Sgt Murgatroyd were a thorn in the side of the professional outfit

with their probing runs.

Two more outstanding strikes by Neilsen and Max put the visitors three up by half time.

Holt produced a brilliant save from the Borussia 'keeper after the break, and the BAOR side eventually pulled one back when Pte Yeo came on for the tiring SI Adam.

## BAOR 3, R Signs (UK) 1

Holt, LCpl Lockwood and SSgt Rothery scored the goals that earned a 3-1 win for a weakened BAOR side over the Royal Signals (UK). Sig Banbrook scored for the tourists.

In previous games this season, BAOR lost 3-0 to Sheffield United, beat the Army (UK) 5-2 and lost 3-2 to the Polish Army. Highlight of the squad's season is a tour to Kenya in the New Year.

Davis had earlier forced the Police 'keeper to save sharply when he lost his marker after being put through by SSgt Alan Higgins.

Army 'keeper SSgt Nigel Wiscombe was unsighted when Nicholson equalised for the policemen with a flicked header, but skipper SSgt Kevin Parkins restored the Army lead from a corner set-piece.

The visitors were back on terms in the 64th minute through substitute Pendry, a score-line which neither side

could improve in normal time. The nearest the Army came to a winner was five minutes from time when a Higgins free kick was flicked on by Parkins, only for Strouts to nudge it wide.

Parkins, Collins, Higgins, Strouts and Maynard were the successful Army penalty-takers.

The challenge trophy was presented to winning skipper Kevin Parkins by Maj Gen Brian Pennicott, chairman of the Army Football Association.

# George singled out for acclaim

WHEN the Wales and Western District Army cross country relay championships were held on Nesscliff Training Area, near Oswestry, the main focus of attention was starter Capt (Retd) George Crump.

George sustained an injury that ended his promising Army athletics career many years ago, but far from putting him off, it inspired him to devote much of his life to the sport he loved as a coach and administrator.

Recognition of his contribution was marked at the end of the event when George was called forward to receive a plaque in recognition of his services to Army cross country. His work on behalf of the sport was recognised at the highest level in 1980 with the award of the MBE.

The plaque was presented by Col Peter Cook, Chief-of-Staff, HQ Wales and Western District.

George is due to retire from his job at the Army Apprentices College at Chepstow. Since he began work there in 1962 he has in his spare time coached hundreds of Army runners and organised countless athletic meetings for both the Regular Army and the TA.

For 12 years he was president of the Welsh Cross Country Association, organising the 1976 world cross country championships in Chepstow.

The Wales and WDIST event was won by a team from Preston, with Base Ordnance Depot at Donnington second and teams from the Apprentices College, Chepstow, finishing third and fourth.

## Longmoor finals

FINALS of the Army cross country championships are to be held at Longmoor Training Camp, Bordon, on February 2. The senior race will incorporate the Inter-Unit championships (Major and Minor and veterans' team), and the Army senior and veteran individual championships.



Pictured with Capt George Crump are Wales and Western District cross country winners (standing) Spr Mark Denslow, Sgt Eddie Walsh and (kneeling) WO1 John Boyle, with App Tdsm Jon Morgan

# Consistent Regulars contain TA challenge

THE REGULAR Army retained the Gilbert Trophy at the Inter-Services long range small bore championships on Ash Ranges, Aldershot, with the Territorial Army second, the Royal Air Force third and the Royal Navy fourth.

In damp, cold conditions the Regulars won both prone-standing-kneeling and long-range matches and were second in the 50m competition.

Although Combined Services improved on last year's showing, they still lost the annual match against the English Small Bore Union shot on the same day, and in the other concurrent competition, the Regular Army completed a clean sweep over the Police

Athletic Federation by winning all three matches.

Winner of the Inter-Services individual championships for the Wilkinson Sword was Capt Cameron Ferguson (REME) (1,950 out of a possible 2,000), a point ahead of Cpl (W) McGregor of the RAF. WO2 Tony Cheese (Int Corps) was third, Pte R Williams (TA) fourth and Maj Peter Underhill (D and D) fifth.

Underhill won the Army small bore championships, also shot on Ash Ranges, after a very close competition with Lt Col Alan Glasby (RLC).

After the first stage, shot centrally over 25 yards, Underhill led Glasby by four points. But Glasby won stage two to draw level, with Ferguson

close behind in third place. Stage three had to be postponed because of fog, but was completed in cool, damp and windless conditions two days later.

Glasby took the lead after the prone by a point, but Underhill reversed the positions with a commanding 12-point lead during the standing, and by dropping only four points to Glasby in the final kneeling phase, maintained his lead to win the match and the Army small bore target rifle championship by eight points.

Three newcomers – Capt Richards, WO1 Blackburn and SSgt Partington – were selected to join the Army squad for the Inter-Services championships.

# Veterans on world stage in Vienna

THE ARMY Rowing Club, sponsored by GNI Inter-Commodities, sent a 12-man team to the world veteran rowing championships in Vienna.

Competing in the A (27 to 35) and B (36 to 42) age group categories, the Army veterans entered ten events in eights, coxed and coxless fours, coxless pairs and double sculls, and recorded several fourth and fifth places against strong international competition.

Racing, held over two days on the eight-lane 1,000m course used for the 1991 world championships, was of a high standard despite strong winds.

Best results were achieved in the smaller boats. The B coxless four broke the Joint Services regatta record by a second, and a B double scull comprising Maj Tim Park and Maj Jerry Allen lowered the JSR record by three seconds while finishing fourth in their final.

The B coxed four, who came sixth in their final, also lowered the Joint Services record.

The B coxless pairs (Maj Paul Marsden/Maj Les Edwards and Maj Max Heron/Maj Julian Lyne-Pirkis) recorded identical times of 3min 47sec – four seconds outside the Services' record.

The eights were not as competitive. Dynamo Moscow included several former Soviet internationals and led the way in the B final although the Army eight maintained a good lead over Masters Italia throughout the race.

The eights competition also included exceptionally fast German and Croatian crews.

Next year the Army veterans hope to be among the medals when the championships are staged in Holland.

Details of Army veteran



Above – The Army's veteran (36-42) eight on course in Vienna  
Left – Majs Tim Park and Jerry Allen in the double sculls



rowing opportunities can be obtained from Maj Max Heron on MoD Main Building 82377, and on Army rowing in general from Maj Tim Park on Warminster 2641.

## Red and gold

THE PARACHUTE Regiment's Red Devils won gold medals in both the four-way senior and intermediate competitions at the British parachuting championships at Weston-on-the-Green, Oxfordshire.

# REME rules roost, again

REME retained the Inter-Corps hockey title at Aldershot, beating the Adjutant General's Corps by five goals to three, writes Alan Healey.

In all, seven corps took part in the tournament to get the Army season off to a cracking start.

The Matchmaker fair play trophy was won by the Royal Logistic Corps, who not only played the game in the right spirit but also fielded the best-dressed team. The RLC also had some success on the field, finishing as runners up to the Royal Engineers in the plate final.

In the semi-finals of the

main competition, REME overcame the Royal Signals 3-1 and AGC defeated the Infantry 3-2.

Col George Gadd, who umpired the final, received the Charlie Wood Memorial Salver for his outstanding contribution to the Army Hockey Association over many years.

The AHA is the first in Army sport to be awarded Sportsmatch sponsorship under the government initiative to match pound for pound any new appropriately justified commercial sponsorship – in the AHA's case that of insurance brokers Bain-Clarkson.

First match of the Army senior side's representative season was against Lusitanians at Aldershot on October 26.

The Inter-Corps indoor tournament was taking place at RAF Newton on November 5, followed by the Inter-Services indoor championships at RAF Cosford on November 18-19.

The Under-21 trials are scheduled for Aldershot on December 4-5.

The venue of this season's Inter-Services tournament, from March 9-11, has not yet been decided, but the Army's domestic finals, both Major and Minor Units, will be at Aldershot on March 30.



Mr Charles Langhorne (right) of Sportsmatch, presents a cheque for £2,000 to Col George Gadd, a vice-president of the Army Hockey Association, watched by AHA secretary Capt Alan Healey

Picture: Owen Munford

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A profusion of capbadges hints at Glencorse's new role as an Army Training Regiment. Young recruits to the King's Division have joined those of the Scottish Division at the barracks near Edinburgh for their initial training. Story in Pages 26-27

Picture: Mike Perring