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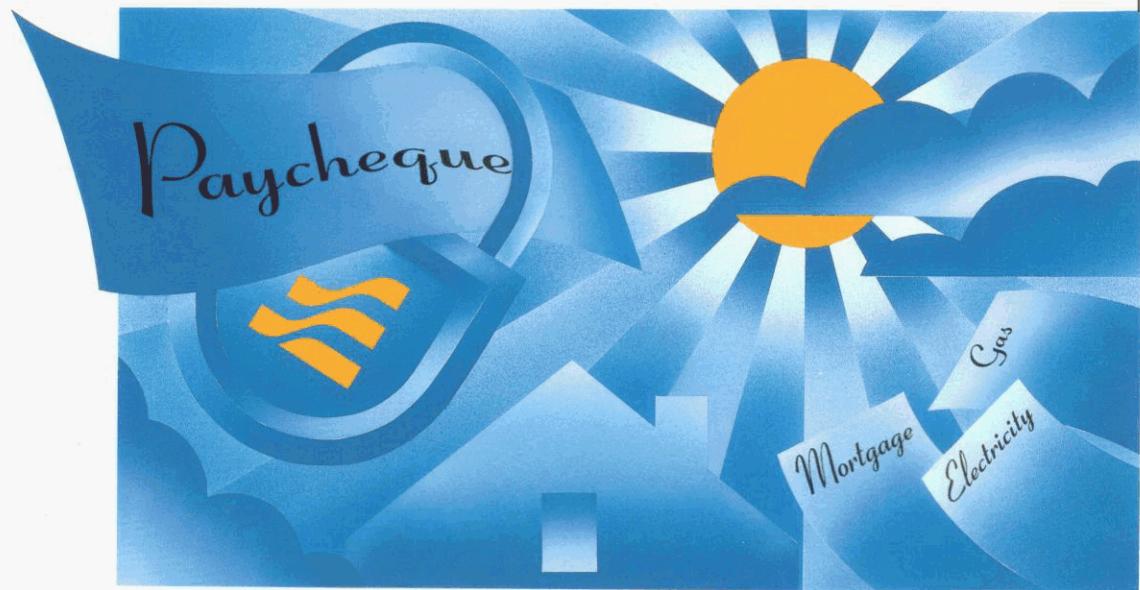
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May 3, 1993
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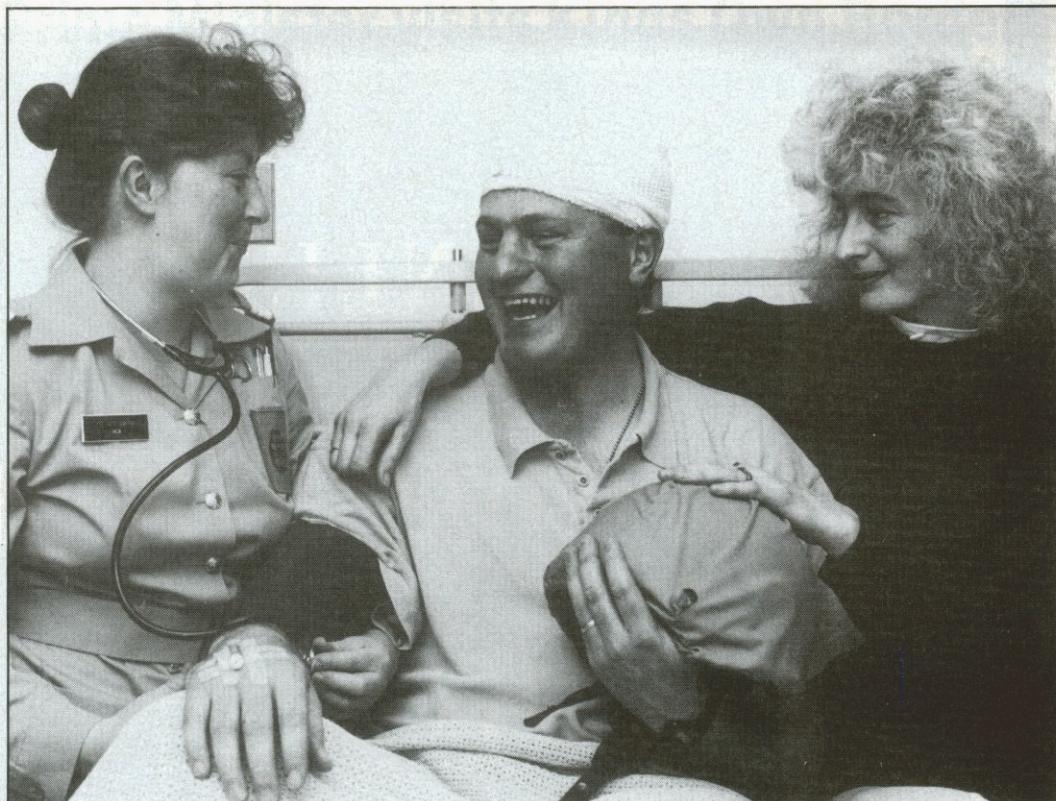
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That's the hole in my helmet . . .



SSgt Pete Bristo shares a joke with his sister, Dyonne Walton (right), and BMH Woolwich health care assistant Pte Ann Smith as he shows them the hole in his helmet

LUCKY TO BE ALIVE

BRITISH military authorities slashed through Army red tape to award wounded photographer SSgt Pete Bristo his UN medal before he was casevacced from war-torn Bosnia on April 6.

SSgt Bristo, many of whose Operation Grapple photographs have been published in **SOLDIER**, was shot in the head by a sniper's bullet on April 5 while he was photographing refugees being escorted from Serbian territory by British soldiers near Turbe, Bosnia.

The bullet hit his helmet, went into it and, miraculously, exited from the top without entering his head. He sustained a fractured skull.

On-the-spot medical attention was given by the Dutch



SSgt Bristo in his UN beret

Army and he was transported to Vitez where he received further treatment from the British Army Mobile surgical team.

The drama was filmed by an ITN crew and later seen by

millions on television news bulletins.

The medal and certificate were presented by Maj Paul Pearson RWF, Deputy Chief Public Information Officer, in an ambulance on the tarmac of Split airport.

Clearly delighted to receive his medal before leaving the war zone, SSgt Bristo said: "Trust P Info to pull out all the stops. I'll be back in Bosnia as soon as I can."

The timing of his injury gives him the dubious distinction of being the first casualty sustained by the Royal Logistic Corps.

The Royal Air Force flew a specially-adapted Mark 3 Hercules aircraft from 24 Squadron at RAF Lyneham, with a medical team on board, to return SSgt Bristo to the United Kingdom.

He received treatment at the Queen Elizabeth Military Hospital, Woolwich and was discharged on April 13 before

● Turn to Page 5

FRONT COVER: Gnr Kev Creton of F Battery, 7 Para RHA can smile. He was coming off duty inside the Romeo one-six patrol base in south Armagh. His battery reinforced the Royal Scots group. See Pages 17-19.
(Picture: Mike Weston.)

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Warriors clock up huge mileage

WARRIOR infantry combat vehicles operating in Bosnia-Hercegovina are to be replaced before they run up too high a mileage.

Roulement of the Operation Grapple Warriors – which provide vital protection for British troops deployed in the former Yugoslavia – has been agreed because of the Equipment Support (ES) implications of continuing in theatre for a further six months.

The current fleet of 45 saw service in the Gulf and the majority of vehicles have now covered up to 10,000km.

If they were to remain in Bosnia for another six months, most would clock up the base overhaul threshold of 16,000km and require complete refurbishment, probably well before the end of the tour.

It is not considered feasible to send overdue Warriors back to Germany in mid-tour, with the consequence that the Grapple Warrior fleet's reliability would suffer.

Warriors not deployed in Bosnia have covered relatively small distances. By replacing the Grapple Warriors on roulement, mileage throughout the Army fleet will be more evenly spread and the need for base overhaul delayed.

This should enable the base overhaul programme – akin to a naval vessel undergoing a refit – to be established before the requirement arises.

Sappers get UN medals

UNITED NATIONS medals have been presented to 38 members of 35 Engineer Regiment who received redundancy notices while serving in Bosnia.

They were given the medals by their new commanding officer, Lt Col John Durance.

Prime Minister visits Kings Own Border



Prime Minister John Major meets members of the 1st Battalion, The King's Own Royal Border Regiment at Ebrington Barracks, Londonderry during his visit to Northern Ireland on April 7. On the right is the commanding officer of 1 Kings Own Border, Lt Col Dennis Flynn

Grapple record set by chilly 61 below

THE coldest temperature recorded by British troops in the former Yugoslavia during the winter was minus 32C (plus a windchill factor which reduced it to minus 61C!).

Other Op Grapple statistics compiled at HQ UKLF reveal that:

- The British Army has driven more than a million miles on humanitarian operations during the past six

months, escorted 448 convoys which have delivered 33,000 tonnes of supplies;

- One in every five British soldiers in Bosnia is a sapper;
- Currently 2,400 British Service personnel are deployed on humanitarian operations in Bosnia. Their average age is 27. They include 50 Service-women;

- Sappers have improved or widened more than 100 miles of

roads and tracks;

- The RAMC has treated 7,000 patients and the RADC 650 dental patients;
- Nearly 4,200 gallons of white paint have been used so far to repaint military vehicles for UN operations;

- The Army Postal Service has handled more than 250,000 lb of mail including 220,000 blueys;

- Every British soldier has been issued with a full set of arctic clothing.



Lt Col John Field (left) welcomes his successor, Lt Col John Durance, to Tomislavgrad

RE, at a ceremony in Split.

Col Durance replaced Lt Col John Field, who took command in March 1990 and had led the regiment in Bosnia-

Hercegovina since the beginning of Operation Grapple.

Col Field has now departed to the sunnier climes of Zimbabwe.

LUCKY

● From Page 3

returning to Germany. SSgt Bristo was sent to Bosnia to cover Op Grapple for *Sixth Sense*, BAOR's weekly newspaper. In the five months he covered the crisis he took more than 10,000 photographs for Army Public Information, many of them in difficult and dangerous conditions.

An exhibition containing many of his Bosnian pictures is being held at the National Army Museum. It will run until early September.

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Commando squadron in triumph of Courage

MEN AND women from 16 Territorial Army units from London District raced against the clock in their annual test of skill and endurance, the Courage Trophy.

Tests of their military training for the 400 participants at Pirbright, Surrey, included a cross-country driving course, timed trailer reversing and wheel changing and a vehicle fault-finding section.

Casualty treatment and first aid knowledge were also given a thorough going-over, as were equipment recognition, radio proficiency and NBC drills.

A five-mile daytime march carrying 35lb of kit, a night navigation exercise, a gruelling assault course and a knockout shooting competition rounded off a tough weekend.

Overall first was 131 Commando Squadron (V), with 10 Paras' D and C teams in second and third place. London UOTC won the women's trophy.

Sappers' road to the woods

SAPPERS from 143 Plant Squadron, The Royal Monmouthshire Royal Engineers (Militia) have built a 675m pathway through an abandoned woodland to enable pupils of a special school in Walsall to use their wheelchairs for nature study.

Squadron commander Maj David Sheldon said: "In the Army, we spend a lot of time training in woodlands, and perhaps take it for granted. But these youngsters simply could not get into the trees near their school. We took on the challenge as a mini road-building problem. The task followed exactly the same procedures - we just used smaller kit."



Scots hit high note in Verden

LCpl Innes Anderson of 1st Battalion, Scots Guards, displays his skills as a Highland sword dancer outside Verden Rathaus, Germany, accompanied by pipers Pipe Maj Iain Mackinnon and LCpl Brian Heriot. They were publicising the once-only festival of music being held in Verden on May 15 which, with more than 150 musicians from six military bands, including the Scots Guards and Gordon Highlanders, will form the centrepiece of the Farewell to Lower Saxony celebrations

Volunteer signallers on parade

MAJ GEN Tony Boyle, Signals Officer in Chief (Army), visited 38 Signal Regiment (Volunteers), at Ripon, meeting officers and soldiers from all five squadrons which constitute the regiment: 46 Squadron (based at Derby and Leicester), 64 Squadron (Sheffield), 70 Squadron, the Essex Yeomanry Squadron (Chelmsford and Harlow), 87 Squadron (Nottingham) and HQ Squadron from Sheffield.

A full day's programme ended with the presentation of the Henwood Spur to Lt Jane Boulton, awarded annually to the regiment's most outstanding subaltern.

New brigade flag raised

A FLAG-raising ceremony to mark the transition of newly-formed 1st Mechanised Brigade from an infantry brigade was due to take place at its headquarters at Jellalabad Barracks, Tidworth on April 22. The brigade will be the first of two mechanised formations to form up in the UK as part of 3 (UK) Division.

Field workshop re-forms at Bordon



Col Stuart Millington, Commander of Equipment Support, UKLF, has a word with LCpl Kate Eden during a parade at Bordon, Hampshire, when 5 Armoured Workshop REME - one of the first Army units to return to the United Kingdom from Germany under Options for Change - was given the new title of 9 Field Workshop REME

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PEUGEOT EXPORT

Guards in Alpine marathon

A TEAM of six men from the 1st Battalion, Scots Guards is to raise money for research into cot deaths by attempting to climb all the major Alpine peaks by October.

Although the peaks have been climbed before, no one has ever attempted them in the same season.

The Scots Guards' target is 67 mountains over 4,000m high between May 1 and the end of October – the equivalent of going up and down Everest 20 times. They aim to raise £1,000 a peak for the Foundation for the Study of Infant Deaths.

Paras save medic from grenade

C Ssgt Tommy Jinks (left) and WO2 (CSM) Colin Wilberforce of 4 Para have received GOC Eastern District Commendations. Colin pulled a TA medic to safety after a live grenade bounced into a safety pit during throwing practice at Catterick last year. He sustained shrapnel wounds to his legs. Tommy, in the control tower, was the first to spot what had happened and gave the warning.



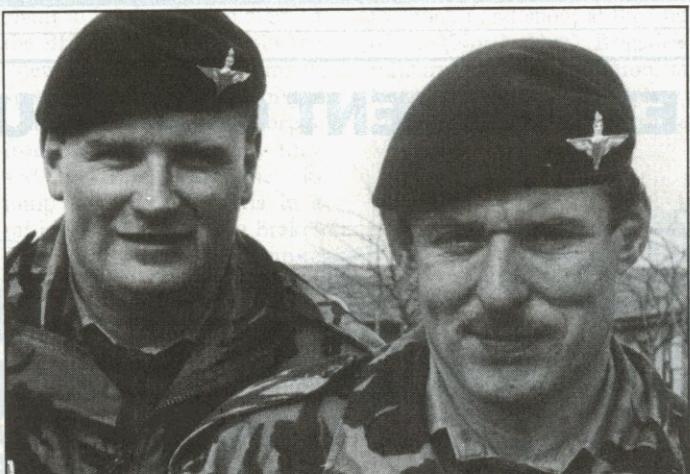
Members of X Company, 6th (Northumberland) Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, tackle a water obstacle on Hexham Common, west Northumberland, during training for Exercise Martial Merlin, the 15th (North East) Brigade annual military skills competition.

RCT bows out at Bielefeld



The formation of the Royal Logistic Corps in Germany and its rebadging from the five corps which have now passed into history took place in Catterick Barracks, Bielefeld, home of 10 Regiment of the Former Royal Corps of

Transport, when Lt Gen Sir Jeremy Mackenzie, Commander of the Allied Command Europe Rapid Reaction Corps, carried out their last inspection and took the salute as the new corps marched past. Birth of the RLC – Pages 14-15.



ABRO launched

THE Army Base Repair Organisation (ABRO), which will provide a complete mechanical repair service to the Army, was launched as a Defence Agency by Armed Forces Minister Archie Hamilton on April 16 during a visit to 18 Base Workshop at Bovington.



Out with the old, in with the new, as commanding officer Lt Col Robin Phayre LI raises the Army Training Regiment (motto: Prepare for War) flag at St John Moore Barracks, Winchester. The flag replaced those of the Light Division at the barracks, which, under re-structuring, now houses one of five Army training regiments



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IN BRIEF

TA ADR squadrons in merger

A FIELD squadron which had a history dating back to Napoleonic militia has lost its battle for existence – disbanded as a result of Options for Change.

After a difficult decision, Territorial Army unit, 212 Field Squadron (Airfield Damage Repair), has amalgamated with its brother squadron, 218, based at RAF Honington in Suffolk.

The resulting unit, 218 Field Squadron, will continue its role in support of the RAF but, from July, will form part of the ground defence for the air re-fuelling tanker fleet at Brize Norton.

United States personnel from RAF Lakenheath and members of Guildford's Royal Grammar School Combined Cadet Force acted as the enemy on Stanford training area when more than 200 men and women from 6/7 Battalion, The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment took part in Exercise Bold Eagle, part of which involved the TA soldiers defending key points such as the airfield's old control tower.

Fifteen members of 6/36 (Arcot 1751) Battery, 40 Regiment, Royal Artillery

Brigade – and brigadier – on the move



LEAVING his brigade in style recently as he handed over command to his successor, Brig Peter Grant Peterkin, was Brig Christopher Drewry, commander 24 Airmobile Brigade in Catterick.

Eschewing the comfort of his usual staff car, he was towed away in a light strike vehicle – one

of the brigade's newest pieces of equipment – with staff officers and clerks from the headquarters and personnel from the brigade intelligence section providing the pulling power.

As part of Options for Change, 24 Airmobile is moving to Colchester, where HQ and Signal Squadron are already in Goojerat Barracks.

claim to be the first soldiers in the British Army to try out the "new, and somewhat mad" sport of snow speed rafting.

Taking a weekend break from their Hohne base, they slid down the Olympic ski jump at Seefeld, Austria in a rafting dinghy – without brakes or steering – at speeds of up to 110kmh. A parachute, deployed at the last minute, brings proceedings to a halt.

No broken bones were reported.

the march and shoot at the end of 15 (North East) Brigade's military skills competition at Catterick were C Company, 2nd Battalion, Yorkshire Volunteers.

An SOS to help clear an eyesore – several abandoned cars – from a beauty spot in a Brecon Beacons National Park was speedily dealt with by ten members of Prestatyn-based 119 Recovery Company, REME.

As a result of their efforts, four wrecks were hauled out of a river bed at Brynamman, west

Glamorgan, and handed to a local scrap metal merchant.

King Hussein of Jordan, accompanied by Queen Noor, reviewed the Sovereign's Parade at Sandhurst on behalf of the Queen on April 8.

Around 564 officer cadets were on parade, of whom 93 received their commissions.

An environmental day at the Dorbaum training area near Munster involved soldiers from the King's Royal Hussars, 1 Coldstream Guards and 8 Regiment Royal Corps of Transport (now RLC) based at Munster Garrison "digging for victory". They turned out to help with the planting of new trees, completion of an earth bank, removal of dead wood and the creation of nesting hedges.

The Victoria Cross and other medals awarded to Lt Col Wilfrith Elstob while serving with the 16th Battalion, The Manchester Regiment during the First World War have been loaned by Christ's Hospital School, Sussex for permanent Manchesters at Ashton under Lyme.

Narrow winners over their colleagues from A Company in

New unit to provide ground defence for Brize



The two guards from 212 and 218 Field Squadrons (ADR) line up prior to amalgamation. In the background is an armed Tornado. (See lead story above)

Man of the mountains



Climbers plucked off inclement Scottish mountains by rescue dogs have cause to be thankful to an Army officer. Maj **Stuart McNeish** APTC is the man behind the training of the canine heroes of the Search and Rescue Dog Association.

Officer commanding the Joint Service Mountain Training Centre at Kingussie for the past eight years, Maj McNeish is due to take over as commandant of the Joint Service Parachute Centre Lipspringe in August.

He worked with the Canadian rescue services during a posting there, and was

recently invited back to Canada to speak on mountain rescue dog training and assessment methods.

Alsations are traditionally the most popular breed for rescue work, although labradors and collies have also proved their worth.

Any dog will be considered for SARDA if it is physically capable of withstanding intense cold and negotiating difficult terrain, often in deep snow.

Maj McNeish is pictured with Skipper (right), an experienced rescue dog, and Thor, an 18-month-old in training.

Stepping out for breakfast



Lt Col **Dennis Martindale** APTC (right) takes a break during an early morning tour of Gibraltar's famous Mediterranean Steps with Maj **Terry Goulding** and Cpl **Stuart Bensadon**.

The path has recently been refurbished by British Forces serving on the Rock.

Darc Star steps retraced

Expedition leader Lt Col **Philip Neame** shows the **Prince of Wales** where Project Darc Star, the Territorial Army winter assault on Everest got to before appalling weather conditions forced the climbers back just before Christmas. Prince Charles met members of the expedition during a presentation at the Royal Geographical Society in London.



OLD GUNNERS IN THE FIELD

These Royal Artillery In-Pensioners – with a combined age of a mere 1,750 years – were the guests of 14 Regiment RA at Larkhill. Modern weapons, including MLRS, were of particular interest to 100-year-old WO2 **Nick Keating** (right), who served in the First World War with 104th Battery, 22 Brigade in Belgium, France

and Italy, and was awarded the Military Medal. He is pictured with Bdr **Martin Hall** (left) and Gnr **Gary Thelwell** on a 105 Light Gun.

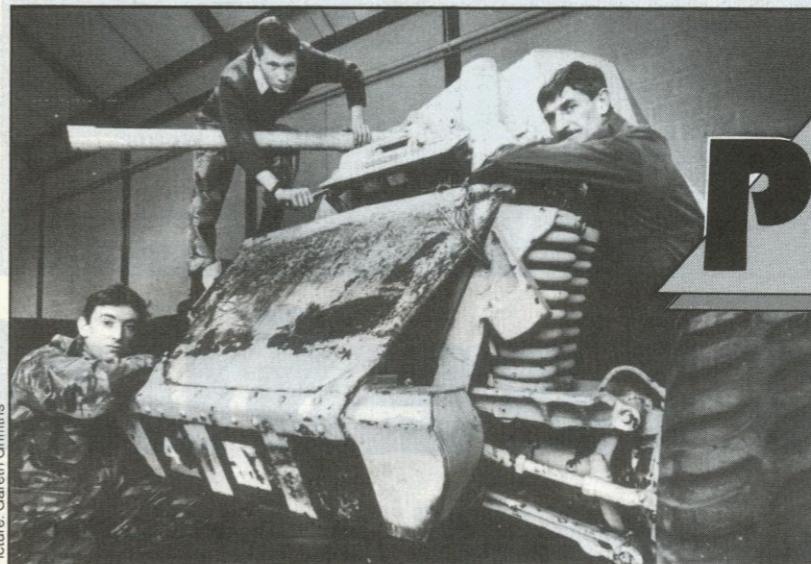
The Chelsea Pensioners' visit, arranged by WO1 (RSM) **Dai Haynes**, was approved by the Queen and included lunch in the WOs' and Sergeants' Mess.



Pictures: Mike Perrin

That's blown it!

Capt **Chris Murdoch** REME breaks the peace at Musgrave Park where he has been serving with the Echelon of the 1st Battalion, Queen's Own Highlanders (Seaforth and Camerons). He is learning the trumpet in his spare time when not on duty as operations officer.



Picture: Gareth Griffiths

Leicestershire-based Territorial Army soldiers Tpr **Andrew Kiddell**, Tpr **Stuart Queen** and LCpl **Jim Owen** from B (Leicestershire and Derbyshire Yeomanry) Squadron, The Royal Yeomanry have got their work cut out. They plan to put this Mark 1 Daimler armoured car back on the road after discovering it parked outside a Swindon TA base. It had been there for more than 20 years.

Fewer than 3,000 of the 7.6-tonne fighting vehicles were made and the Mark 1 model is now very rare. It is hoped the refurbished vehicle will go on display outside the unit's TA Centre in Glen Parva.

Former Booty takes over

Former Royal Marines officer Maj **Peter Appleby** is to command Plymouth-based C Company, 4th Battalion, The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment (Volunteers). He spent 16 years in the Marines before joining the Territorial Army.



Life on the high sea...

Forty-four landlubbers from the 1st Battalion, The Royal Welch Fusiliers temporarily deserted Salisbury crewed the three-masted sailing ship **Sir Winston Churchill** on a voyage in the Channel and, as our picture shows, quickly turned themselves into sail-changing sea-dogs...



Picture: Chris Fletcher

Press gang

Administration at the British Army's press centre in Vitez, Bosnia is the job of LCpl **Karen Manzie** AGC, seen here with **Deefer**.

One of a number of stray animals adopted by soldiers deployed on Operation Grapple, the dog got its name from the old phonetic alphabet – D for Dog. Get it?



PEOPLE



Words:
Phil Wilcox
Pictures:
Mike Weston



Above - The Princess Royal and freshly-unveiled sign
Left - Rain-Lashed Corps? Parade participants put a brave face on it before they form up
Right - Looking ahead - to a future with the new corps, as the parade reaches its climax



Royal Logistic Corps badge



SSgt Roger Dummett accepts his RLC beret from Brig Charles Telfer, late RPC

Hail the Sustainers

THERE IS a well-known Barbra Streisand song in which she exhorts: "Don't rain on my parade."

Those sentiments must have been fairly prominent in the thoughts of both the Princess Royal and Maj Gen David Burden, Director General Logistic Support (Army), as they surveyed the skies over Deepcut, Surrey, on April 5.

As Colonel-in-Chief and host respectively, they were at Blackdown Barracks to mark the inauguration of the British Army's new 20,000-strong unit, the Royal Logistic Corps.

In the event, as around 380 male and female soldiers marched onto the parade square to the soul-stirring beat of Alford's *The Great Little Army*, the earlier monsoon-like

conditions relented, giving way to a brief spell of spring sunshine.

Six groups in all - one from each of the constituent elements of the new corps, plus a Territorial Army unit - formed up, with the imposing RAOC war memorial, inscribed "To The Glorious Dead", as a dramatic backdrop.

In three precise-as-clockwork movements, belying the fact that this body of men and women had had the minimum of time in which to rehearse, the parade presented arms to their royal chief.

Then, in an act of finality, selected representatives of what, until a few hours earlier, had been the Royal Corps of Transport, the Royal Army Ordnance Corps, the Royal Pioneer Corps, the Army Catering Corps and the postal and courier element of the Corps of Royal Engineers, were presented with their new cap badges by their appropriate colonels commandant.

As the familiar, evocative, notes of *Auld Lang Syne* sounded, the soldiers formally became part of a corps which will in future make up approximately 16 per cent of the British Army's manpower.

A thorough inspection of the ranks - accompanied, among others, by Lt Col Ralph Elliott,

officer commanding the parade, and former RCT officer Maj Gen (Retd) Colin Carrington, representative colonel commandant - completed, the Princess Royal addressed the members of the new corps.

"The RLC has a vital role," she said. "You have all worked very efficiently in the past in your own units, often unnoticed."

Now, the process was already under way of working alongside other corps, not least in Bosnia, enabling front line units to function at their best by giving essential support in the field.

"I realise that the amalgamation will have caused regret and sadness among retired and serving members of the old corps, but I am sure that the Royal Logistic Corps' reputation will be a source of pride, and they can look forward to the future with confidence."

If they had mixed feelings, the soldiers taking part in the parade were not showing it as they smartly left the square, to the accompaniment of the new corps' regimental quick march, *On Parade* by Albert Elms.

Indeed, on talking to a cross-section of RLC members across the ranks, SOLDIER found that the consensus seemed to be that, although the ramifications of the amalgamation would take "a couple of



Capt Roger Davies demonstrates a terrorist device to the Princess Royal during her tour of RLC equipment and units

years" to sort out, and it would mean a loss of identity for members of the smaller corps, it was for the best.

It would now be much easier, for example, for a chef to re-trade as a driver and, indeed, vice-versa.

Another benefit would be that all the Army's logistic support services would be under one command and management structure, rather than being much more widely spread.

"This is the future: consolidation and rationalisation is the right way to go as the Army

down. After a brief look round the RLC museum, a reception in the RLC Training Centre sergeants' mess and lunch in its equivalent at corps HQ, she toured a comprehensive display of equipment and units which make up all the elements of the RLC - ranging literally from the butcher and baker to, if not the candlestick maker, the fork lift truck operator.

A packed day for the new Colonel-in-Chief, whose deputies will be the Duke of Gloucester and the Duchess of Kent.

But, for the men and women of the infant Royal Logistic Corps, to quote one soldier, it was a case of waking up on the morning of the parade with the same job, different cap badge.

Formation day events also took place in locations as diverse as Germany, the USA, the Falklands, Northern Ireland and Yugoslavia. Nearer home, a parade planned in Colchester was a victim of the appalling weather, replaced by a hastily-arranged indoor re-badging ceremony, addressed by Col Max Kerley.

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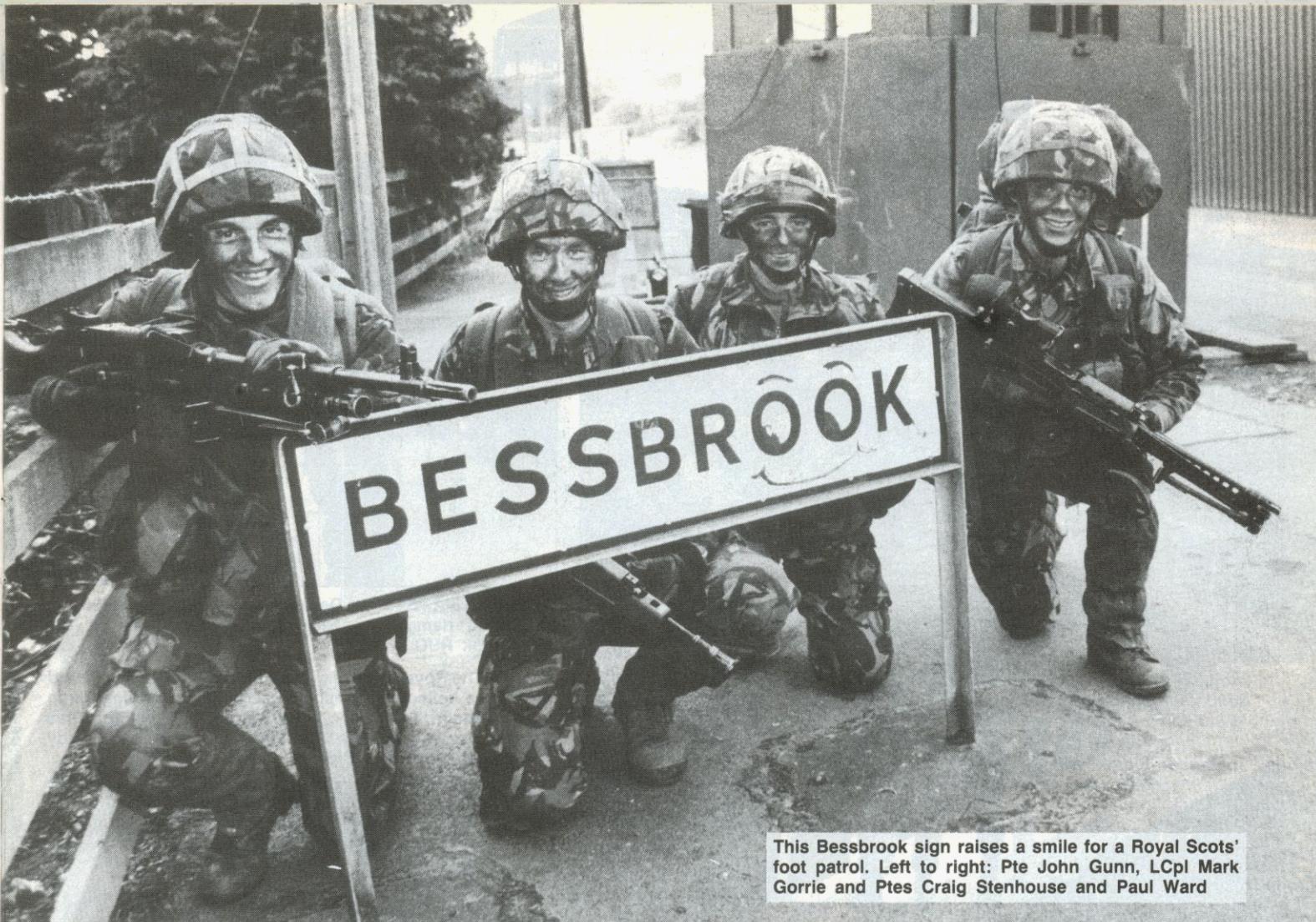
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This Bessbrook sign raises a smile for a Royal Scots' foot patrol. Left to right: Pte John Gunn, LCpl Mark Gorrie and Ptes Craig Stenhouse and Paul Ward

Royal Scots on the receiving end

Words:
Laurie Manton
Pictures:
Mike Weston

THE TRAGIC death of LCpl Lawrence Dickson, murdered by an IRA gunman in the final days of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Scots' tour of Northern Ireland, dampened the joy felt by soldiers at hearing that their regiment had been saved from amalgamation.

Although it was a difficult tour, with the battalion finding itself on the receiving end of a number of terrorist attacks, the Royal Scots were pleased with their efforts in south Armagh.

Said the commanding officer, Lt Col Bill Sylvester: "We were there to suppress terrorism in order to assist the Royal Ulster Constabulary to restore normality to the region.

"Previously, people used to talk about defeating or destroying terrorism. Describing our operation as 'suppression'

might sound a little negative, but you cannot win against terrorism of this nature except through efforts across the whole spectrum of political, social and economic change. Our aim is to suppress it so that other agencies can get to work," he said.

The 500-strong Royal Scots group arrived in theatre with one attached gun battery, F Battery, 7 Parachute Regiment RHA, but at one stage, Col Sylvester had command of more than 1,200 troops. A Main Armagh Roulement Battalion (ARB) locations

included Headquarters and Ops (A) Company at Bessbrook Mill, F Battery at Newtonhamilton, C Company at Forkhill and B Company at Crossmaglen. Additional manpower was deployed to a number of sites, including observation towers across the tactical area of responsibility (TAOR).

The terrain does not change much – wet in summer, wetter in winter – and winter rains saw river levels rise alarmingly, making crossings dangerous. Patrols in the TAOR range in duration from up to several days in the more rural areas to

very short town patrol.

"Weight remains a problem for soldiers when the going gets tough, with most members of a patrol going out for longer than 24 hours finding themselves carrying about 130lb," said Col Sylvester.

Vehicle movement in the TAOR south of Bessbrook is restricted because the narrow country lanes provide too great a risk for ambush and explosion. Troops travel by air.

Up to 200 flights each day from the Army's heliport at Bessbrook have made it the busiest helicopter base in Europe. Everything, from washing-up liquid to portable buildings, is moved by helicopter to the various bases and watchtowers in the area.

The establishment of lookout



Lt Col Bill Sylvester



Pte Ricky Awes and LCpl Alan Pirie use the new raised trackway between sangars at a mountain-top observation post

Royal Scots

From Page 17

towers along the border with the Irish Republic allows surveillance of much of what goes on in the area, hitting the purse of the Provisional IRA (PIRA) who had been using profits from smuggling drugs and other goods to finance terrorist activities.

In the early years of the Troubles, south Armagh gained a reputation for lawlessness that earned itself the media sobriquet of "bandit country".

The area no longer deserves that description, but it does have a small terrorist population which attacks the Security Forces on an irregular basis. As one officer put it, nothing much happens in south Armagh, but when it does it is serious.



Determined looks on the faces of these B Company soldiers waiting to go out on patrol at Crossmaglen

Over the past year, there have been a number of incidents in the area, including the use of a car-mounted directional mortar and indirect fire "barrack buster" mortars launched at SF bases. South Armagh has also had its fair share of blast bomb and anti-armour grenade attacks, abductions and murder.

Four Royal Scots soldiers had a lucky escape in Crossmaglen when terrorists tried to burn down Borucki Sangar with a flamethrower.

The observation tower is 50 yards down a street from the main fortified base in the town and soldiers moving between the two do so at a sprint because of previous attacks by PIRA gunmen and snipers.

One evening, a tractor pulling a slurry trailer positioned itself opposite the tower and began to hose the building with a lethal cocktail of diesel and petrol.

The tractor driver then activated a device which ignited the deadly mixture - turning the pipes and trailer into a crude but effective flamethrower.

On-duty Pte Allen Steel alerted his sleeping comrades and they managed to remove ammunition and weapons from the top floor of the two-storey tower. The soldiers then endured a nerve-wracking few minutes until troops from the



Above - Sgt George Deverick (left) shows Cpl John McDormid damage caused by a mortar bomb at the Bessbrook RUC station



Below - The Royal Scots air reaction force pictured on board one of the helicopter gunships escorting cargo flights into south Armagh. Front row: LCpl Geordie McPheat and Ptes Grant Rumbles and Eck Gourdie; back row: Ptes Toddy Todd, Gary Prior and Ginge Bennett



LCpl Tom Mitchell checks a vehicle passing through Crossmaglen

nearby base arrived to cover their withdrawal.

Pte Steel, LCpl Stephen Mathie and Ptes Jason Nicholls and Peter Johnstone escaped without injury.

In a separate incident, Pte Alec Mathieson escaped with bruises at a vehicle checkpoint after placing his rucksack on a bomb buried in the verge. The terrorists detonated the device by remote control.

Not only did his rucksack absorb the blast, but the main charge of the bomb failed to explode.

At another checkpoint, Pte Cliff Nystrom cheated death when a sniper's bullet shattered his helmet.

The Royal Scots have been pleasantly surprised by the response of the largely-nationalist population in comparison with their last tour in the area, ten years ago.



Above - An RAF Puma helicopter lifts off from the Golf four-zero watchtower while Pte Deek MacGregor and Pte Alan Lawrie provide cover



Below - LCpl Tom Mitchell directs operations outside the scorched Borucki Sangar



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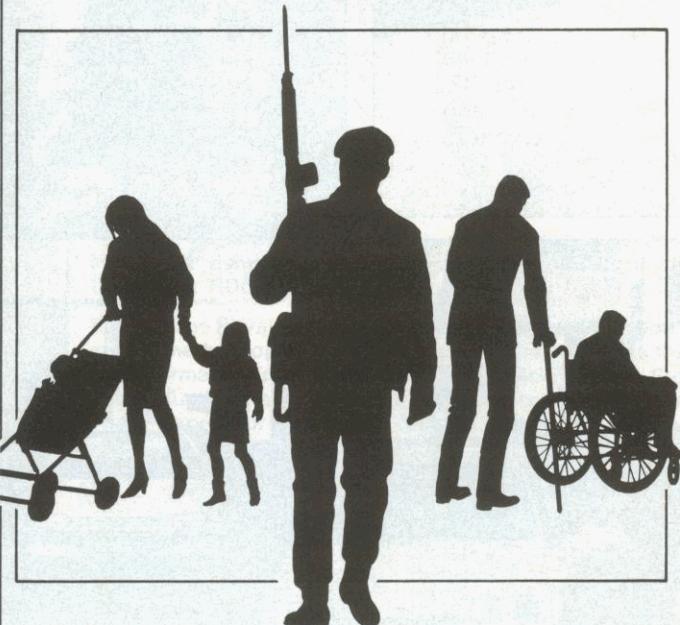
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Writer **Gordon Skilling**
and photographer **Mike**
Perring visited 3 RHA in
Northern Ireland

GUNNERS from the 3rd Regiment, Royal Horse Artillery were paid a generous compliment from an unexpected quarter as they came to the end of their six-month roulement tour in south Armagh.

The chairman of Armagh District Council, Mr George McCartney, a former Royal Irish Fusiliers officer and member of the Long Range Desert Group, told the gunners they were the best regiment which had been in the area.

It could have been a double-edged compliment, but was sincerely meant because the strong emphasis laid on community relations by the Royal Horse Artillery paid handsome dividends.

Like the twin spires of one of the two St Patrick's Cathedrals in this ancient ecclesiastical capital, 3 RHA had a double approach to its tour. Based in Armagh, the gunners' tour was characterised by an imaginative approach to their operational task and a conscious effort to befriend the community.

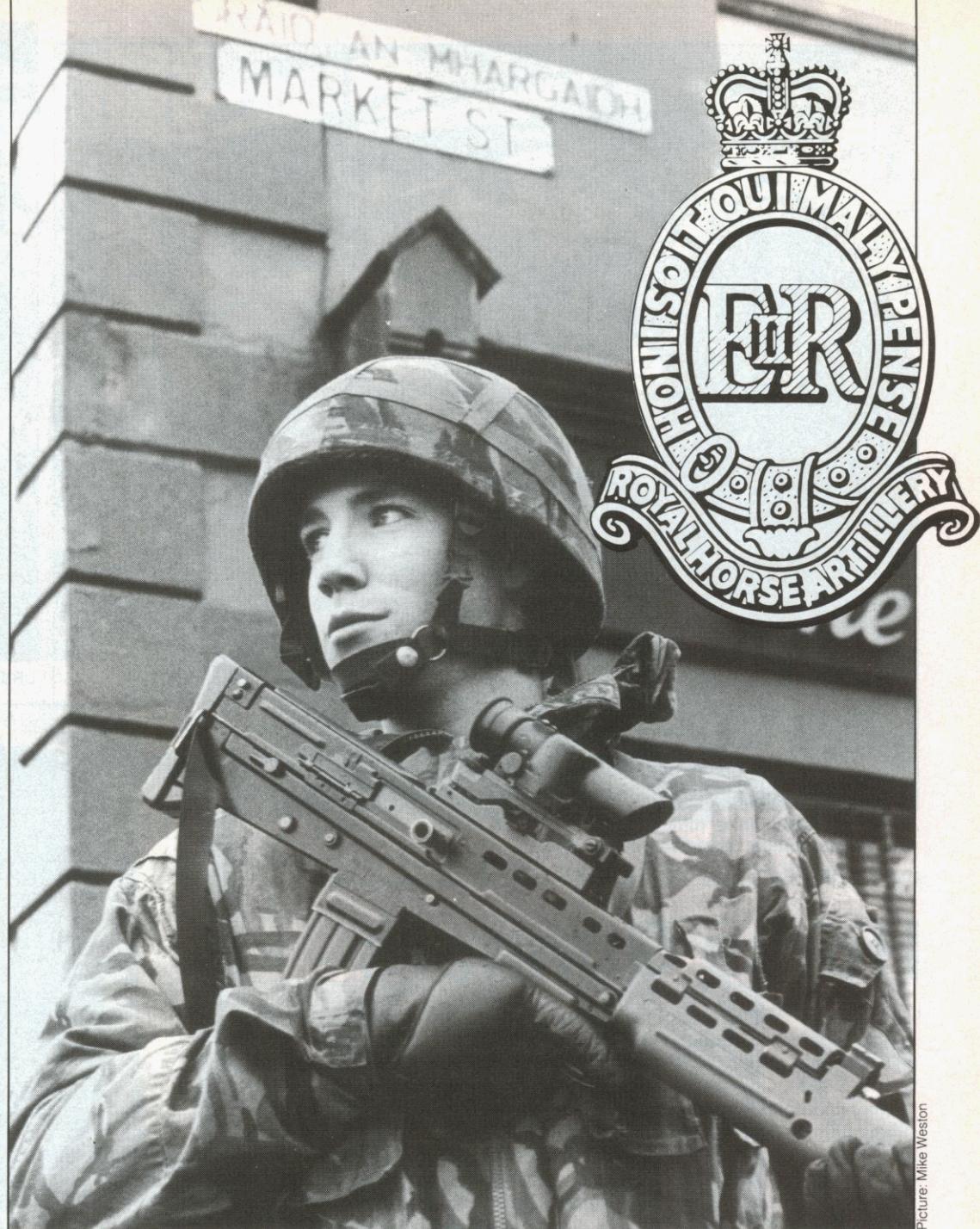
"I wanted soldiers to treat the people here as they would wish to treat their own families," said the commanding officer, Lt Col David Richards.

D Battery made such an impact in its first two months that the community wanted it to stay on rather than move to Rathfriland before Christmas.

When three Mark 15A mortars interrupted the rebuilding of the police post at Keady, the nationalist community was outraged and let soldiers know they had not wished it on them. Perhaps they appreciated one of the teams picking up three people stealing farm machinery - they were wanted for ten other thefts.

The regiment is based in Colchester, having been in Paderborn from 1984 until 1990. During 1991 C Battery was based in Fermanagh for six months, and 11 months later most of them were back with D, J (Sidi Rezegh) and HQ Battery.

D Bty had a particularly unsettling time. After moving from Auchnacloy to Rathfriland, it had to provide a multiple for Warrenpoint, then one for Portadown, then one for a vehicle check point.



Gnr Jonathan Baldry on patrol in Keady

Horse Gunners win the hearts

Battery commander Maj David Shaw was effectively commanding a troop.

C Bty was in Middletown with D Troop in Keady; J Bty was in Bessbrook, manning three observation towers, and reinforcements were provided by a troop from 47 Regiment at Thorne Island and a 1 RHA troop from Tidworth.

For the first two months the

regiment commanded the area which became the Tactical Area of Responsibility for the 8th Battalion, The Royal Irish Regiment. In early December a reorganisation of boundaries meant that the regiment came under three different commands: 1st Battalion, The Royal Scots (J Bty), 3 R Irish (D Bty), and 8 R Irish (C Bty). Headquarters personnel were

correspondingly reduced from 50 to eight, with extra "bayonets" replacing them in January.

"It was very disappointing to become rent-a-battery," said the adjutant, Capt Richard Nugee, who was operations officer during the Fermanagh tour, "but it is one of those things you just get on with."

● Turn to next page



Above - Keeping fit is difficult enough without mortars disturbing your concentration, says WO2 Keith Doyle

Right - Gnr Taff Davies and Cfn Nigel Taylor at Bessbrook VCP

Horse Gunners

From Page 21

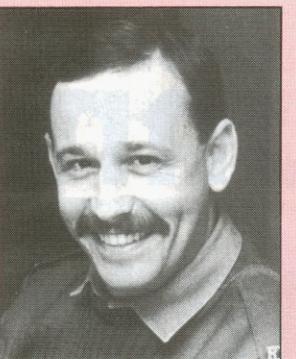
As a regiment, however, 3 RHA did not simply "get on with it".

New concepts were tried – successfully – and translated into buzz words. "Dynamic unpredictability" was aimed at wresting the initiative from the terrorist or forcing a change of plan.

One attack was foiled when three hoax bomb calls were made to draw Security Forces to a 2,000lb car bomb on the Hamiltons-bawn Road.

"It is an attitude of mind," said Col Richards. "You have to treat the unexpected as an opportunity to react as you want. We focussed on applying aggressive skills against terrorists and developing the concept of thinking ourselves into the terrorist mind."

It was a busy tour, with the gunners involved in major incidents such as the mortaring of Keady and Bessbrook, the Bessbrook helicopter crash,



RSM Richard Drewett

able to walk away unscathed.

On arriving at Rathfriland, WO2 "Fras" Dryburgh took a good look at the area and analysed where he would cache anything he wanted hidden. Acting on his conclusions his multiple found a rifle.

"You can help neutralise terrorists by treating the community with respect," said Capt Nugee. "We are not an

and the attack on two teams of the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, when Sgt Garry Robertson and his Quick Reaction Force gave excellent support in getting casualties away and handling the situation before a senior officer arrived.

One of the luckiest men in the battalion was Troop Sergeant Major Keith Doyle, who was training in the multi-gym at Keady when a mortar exploded 20 yards away. Mirrors surrounding the gym were shattered and the building damaged but he was

aggressive regiment; we have it when it is needed but we prefer not to draw on it."

In 3 RHA's first month on duty one character made repeated complaints about aggression.

He had nothing substantial to complain about, nobody rose to the bait and for the rest of the tour nothing was heard from him.

At one post a woman took fish and chips to the guards. They sent her flowers. The Middletown battery gave £1,000 to Children in Need, LBdr Alan Joynes raised £200 for an old people's home while stopping vehicles at a barrier.

The home eventually received £800 in all, and invited the regiment back to plant a commemorative tree.

It was a deeply satisfying event for one of the leading

lights in 3 RHA's community relations offensive, QM (Technical) Capt Terry Worster, who was in Armagh 22 years ago as a lance bombardier.

He had a couple of 25-pounders lined up to fire a Remembrance Day salute, just as he had done in 1970 with two 105 pack howitzers, but it was felt this would frighten local people. This consideration and instances of people apologising to the gunners for the Warrington atrocity were a sign of the times.

"It is a lot softer than in the early 70s, when we had to deal with riots," he said. "In 1970 HQ and D Bty were in Armagh; J was in Crossmaglen and C in Dungannon but since then conditions have improved 100 per cent."

Along with Capt Worster,



LBdr Dave Lamb, Gnr Baron Crutchley, Gnr Lee Cutler and Bdr Douggie McClure at Rathfriland



Above - Lt Col David Richards, watched by Jan Ryan, head of the Liz Anally Old People's Home, Capt Terry Worster and LBdr Alan Joynes, plants a tree to mark 3 RHA's tour in Armagh

Below - Gnr Chris Williams, Craig Davies and Stephen Fletcher take good care of Proxy, who adopted D Troop of C Bty and has been taken back to Colchester with them, with the owner's permission



The arrival of T-shirts signals the end of the tour is near for the men at Middletown

How Eva ensures food is more sweet than sour

IF SOLDIERS could see what Eva Wong can see it would put them off Chinese food for life.

Eva is a laboratory assistant at the quality control section of the Composite Ordnance Depot's Supply Sub Depot at Osborn Barracks, Kowloon, and she sees a lot of life – the life wriggling about in food which suppliers try to sell to the Army.

That this "wild-life" is never passed on to the Servicemen is because Eva is wise to the ways of unscrupulous contractors, who have been known to photocopy labels from genuine brands to put on their own dubious products.

"All rice is infected by weevil eggs, but they only develop at 20-40 degrees," said Cpl David Rollings. "We store them at 12 degrees, which kills them off, and in addition we have a disinfectant to make sure the rice is of high quality."

Quality control is vital in a hot, moist climate, particularly when standards of hygiene and

food preparation can be much lower than those in Europe. If Ordnance quality control like that in Hong Kong had existed in years past, much of the disease which decimated the British Army would have been avoided.

"A lot of soldiers may get bad stomachs, but it is because of what they eat out of local markets," said Master Butcher Sgt Ian Pollock. "We don't accept anything locally because meat inspection is dubious, to say the least."

There is often something fishy about the pork and

eggs – because fish feed is cheaper to give to pigs and chickens!

Everything is checked at the COD depot, from tins which may be rusting inside, to vegetables which may have too high pesticide levels. If something is rejected the contractors have to re-supply it the same day so that units get what they require.

The aim of the depot is to



Eva Wong



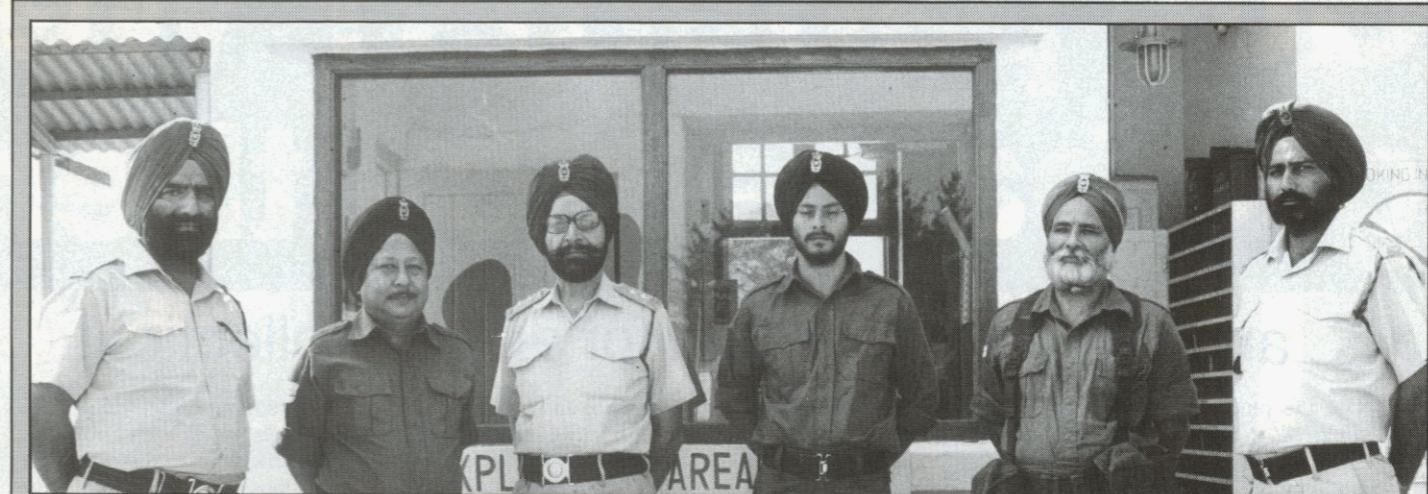
provide what soldiers would get at home. Twice a day it feeds 3,000 soldiers from four different ethnic groups: British, Gurkha, Chinese and Sikh. Not much mutton is eaten by the Chinese, so legs of lamb and goat carcasses are brought in for the Gurkhas.

The depot is unique in several other ways. It has three locations: the Supply Sub Depot with its unique civilian

food chemist; an Ammunition Sub Depot on Stonecutters Island with the only Sikh unit in the British Army, and the main RAOC depot at Blackdown Barracks. It is the only one to make up its own 24-hour ration packs, which allows it to vary contents as required. Gurkha packs are sent to wherever Gurkhas are serving, and 3,000 special packs go to the jungle training



Cpl David Rollings supervises the preparation of 24-hour ration packs



Proud race: SSgt Sarjit Singh, Sgt Hardial Singh, Insp Kanwal, PC Nirmal Singh, Cpl Gujjan Singh and Cpl Manshar Singh

Last of the Sikhs held in high esteem

AS THEIR religion forbids its adherents from smoking, Sikhs have been the best people to guard the Ammunition Sub Depot on Stonecutters Island since before 1959, when the RAOC took over the former Royal Navy Ammunition Depot.

Theirs is a unique group, the last of a long and honourable roll of Sikh units which have served the British Army.

As well as 11 military and 29 civilian personnel, there are 37 Sikhs in the Army Department Police which guards the depot.

The officer commanding,

Maj George Ferguson, holds them in high regard. "They are a loyal bunch who have the character to do the job without questioning, guarding a post for 12 hours with nobody to challenge," he said.

Inspector Tirath Singh Kenwal impresses upon them

the honour which they hold, as well as the responsibility and authority to question senior officers. They are deeply religious, and the depot houses the British Army's only Sikh temple.

"Our tradition is that every morning before the sun rises the Bible has to be displayed,

and just before the sun sets we do the conclusion and put it off to bed," said Inspector Kenwal.

Sikhs from the Punjab settled in Shanghai early in the century and then moved to Hong Kong, working in the naval dockyards. Their future after 1997 is uncertain.

SSgt Trevor Tilley supervises eight women and one leading hand making curtains for married quarters. It is very much cheaper than local purchase.

The staff are all on nickname terms: a predecessor, SSgt Tom Avery, could not pronounce the Chinese names and gave them a list of European names from which to choose.

Furniture is repaired at the Returned Stores Group and either sent back to quarters or sold off.

"We have an auctioneer, so when a vehicle is past repair by REME, or when we have surplus bugles following an amalgamation, local buyers bid against each other," said WO1 Philip Schultz.

There are 483 personnel to carry out the provision, storage, control, accounting and issue of all material needed throughout the Far East's 188 dependent units, from Regular infantry battalions to Gurkha primary schools stretching from Nepal to Beijing.

Soldiers throughout the Far East can sleep easy on a full stomach knowing they are well served by Ord.



Above – Master Butcher Sgt Ian Pollock



Left – Kath O'Connell practises haggling at the Supply Sub Depot's "Chinese Market" Right – Depot Sgt Martin Coffey and storekeeper Chan Wan Pui check the rice

school in Brunei. An ICL Phoenix computer system, introduced in May to manage transport, technical and general spares, as well as clothing, is unique within the RAOC supply management system. The account is "live", and when anything arrives in the depot, it immediately becomes an asset instead of going to "stock" on a different level.

Previously, items could take

up to six weeks before the "receipt" went on to the old computer; today, items go straight from "traffic" to "issues". Instead of one terminal location, there are terminals throughout the depot and whereas the old system needed 16 to manage it, today it is now run by one civil servant and a staff sergeant.

"They have a limited amount of time and money and have to haggle to get the best value," said Depot Superintendent WO1 Bill Gairns.

even language pupils are taught it there. Mock market stalls are set up four times a year for pupils studying Cantonese to learn shopping techniques. Supply Sub depot staff act the role of shopkeepers and only Cantonese is spoken.

Value for money is a concept which permeates the depot –

Gun patterns? We've got barrels of them!

... and there's even room for an 007 collection!

MENTION the phrase "lock, stock and barrel" to the staff at the Pattern Room in Nottingham and it is likely to bring a wry smile to their faces.

Three-and-a-half years ago, that is quite literally what was transplanted overnight when they moved from Enfield – a total of close on 10,000 items ranging from the very first Bren gun to a series of Kalashnikov rifles.

Not that the two-storey, purpose-built establishment – constructed and paid for by Royal Ordnance – is a museum.

As custodian Herbert Woodend, closely connected with the Pattern Room for nearly 30 years, put it: "It is a reference collection, available by prior arrangement for research and study. We are far more interested in acquiring, say, the latest Chinese machine gun than an ancient musket."

With a knowledge built up since boyhood, when his uncle, local gunsmith and keen crackshot, nurtured his interest, Herbert would have little difficulty in dismantling,

physically or technically, either weapon.

The history of the Pattern Room can be traced to 1631, when Charles I stipulated that the Army was to be equipped with standard patterns of arms and armour, based on sample weapons.

Red wax seals were fixed to these approved versions, certifying their acceptability for service and use as the reference pattern for all manufacture from then on.

So the technical information, design details and quality standards on which production was based came from these sealed patterns – and the collection of patterns became known as the Pattern Room.

The practice of physically sealing pattern weapons, with the exception of swords, came to an end in the 1920s.

But the Pattern Room's huge collection of pistols, rifles, cannon, mortars, terrorist weapons and so on – accumulated over the years

from Britain and overseas – has proved an invaluable source of reference to researchers and manufacturers.

Apart from being able to handle the hardware for themselves, approved individuals and groups – having first negotiated the impressive and formidable hi-tech security system of internal and external cameras and metal detectors – can take advantage of the comprehensive library facilities on the premises.

Surrounded by such erudite volumes as Pollard's *History of Firearms*, *The British Duelling Pistol*, *Le Livre des Armes* and *Winchester Shotguns and Shells*, librarian Howard Mitchell explained what else was on offer.

"We have several thousand books, manuals and reports on every conceivable weapon, including the latest underwater assault rifles.

"With more modern items such as, say, some of the aircraft cannon used in the Gulf

War, for which we don't have manuals, it has been known for someone here to dismantle the weapons and more or less write a manual from scratch."

Even older weapons had a modern application, said Mr Mitchell.

The four-barrelled Gatling-type gun from a Russian helicopter, apart from being made from modern materials and alloys, worked on the same basic principle as the hand-operated Gatling gun of the 1860s.

And if someone was working on a luminous sight, for example, all they needed to do was to look at the designs for existing sights, apply modern techniques – and eliminate an entire design stage.

The Pattern Room is also frequently involved in the design of new ammunition types.

Caseless cartridges, the latest technology as used in the new G11 rifle, can be traced back to patents filed in the last century, and, yes, the latest concept of a protective flap to cover the magazine of a soldier's personal weapon, to prevent sand and dust getting in, was also distinctly old hat . . .

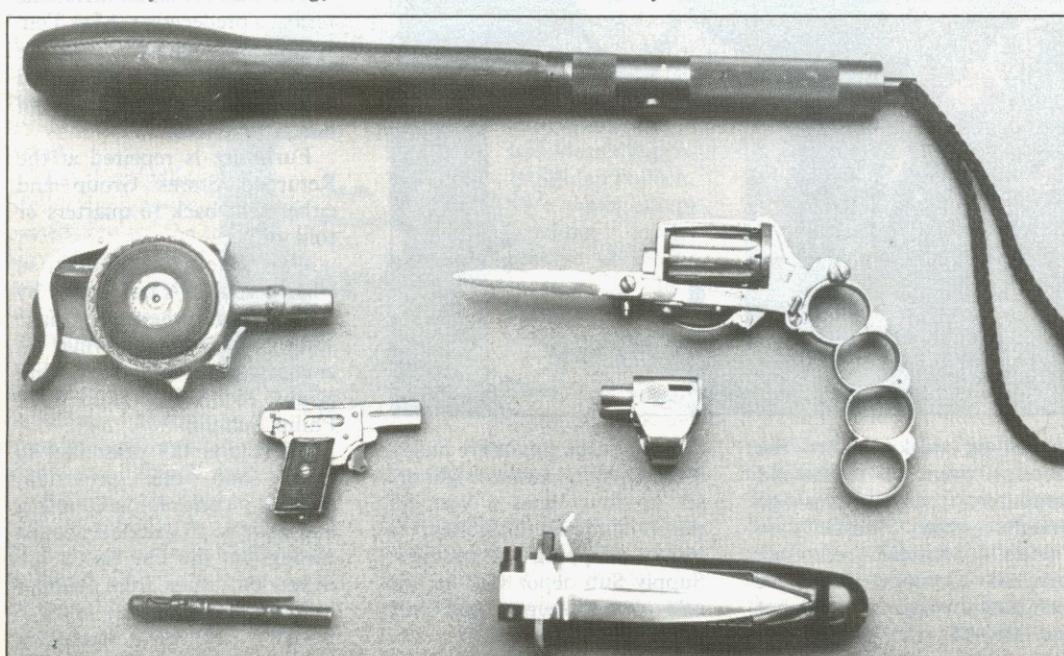
A few yards away, meanwhile, in the main small arms gallery on the Pattern Room's upper floor, assistant custodian Paul Ellis was introducing a small group from RAOC Chilwell to the idiosyncrasies of the new AK74 version of the Kalashnikov.

"We've had most major Army units in here at some time or the other, from the Small Arms School to The King's Own Scottish Borderers," he said.

Members of all three Services, in fact, are frequent visitors, as well as representatives from police forces in the UK and overseas.

Americans in particular beat a regular path to the Pattern Room's heavily-guarded front door.

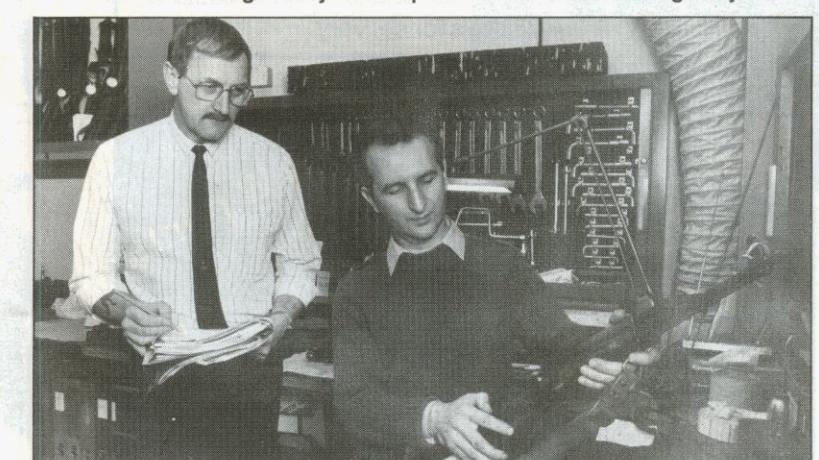
"We have an FBI weapons



Vicious circle (clockwise from top): Belgian truncheon gun, French pinfire knuckleduster pistol, ring pistol, Chinese knife pistol, Stinger lightweight single shot firing device (supplied with pre-load to SOE agents during Second World War), 2.7mm Kolibri pistol, and American rotary cylinder "squeeze pistol", fired from between the fingers



Pattern Room curator Herbert Woodend with the first Bren gun – just one of the huge array of weapons in the small arms gallery



Above – Librarian Howard Mitchell helps designers with a spot of weapon research

instructor and a naval museum curator coming over next week," said Paul Ellis.

"The Americans have been very generous in the past: one guy donated two priceless machine guns, for example. We were delighted."

Not everything in the Pattern Room's collection is as large as machine guns but, in a room just off the small arms gallery – in the affectionately-dubbed "James Bond Cabinet" – are items which, while only a fraction of their size, could prove every bit as deadly.

The tiny 2.7mm Kolibri pistol, for example, operates in exactly the same way as a 9mm Browning – complete with magazine.

And a particularly fiendish French device combines fold-away knife, knuckleduster and

gun.

A selection of antique swords

– as well as the patterns for their present-day equivalents – and bayonets dating back to early "plug" designs shares space in the small arms gallery with weapons which involved less close contact with the enemy.

These include the original Bren ("Br" for Brno, Czechoslovakia, where it originated, "En" for Enfield, the factory where it was made) gun, first fired on September 3, 1937, exactly two years before an event of vastly greater significance . . .

Downstairs, past photographs of Winston Churchill, Capone-like, holding a machine gun and King George VI being shown a Bren gun, two other members of the Pattern Room's

small staff are usually to be found.

Administrative officer Dave Allen, a former Royal Horse Artillery sergeant, whose son is a lance corporal with the new Royal Logistic Corps, said: "If you have an interest in small arms, this is the place to be."

Conservator John Henshaw was wrestling the problem of where to store recently-obtained Gulf items.

Standing amid the humidity-controlled display of support machine guns and cannon, he said: "Our eternal poser is finding space. We keep on acquiring so many examples of the world's weaponry, in the form of 'war booty', that I sometimes wish the British Army wouldn't get involved in so many international punch-ups!"

An MoD employee like his colleagues, he added: "This is a most unusual job. I can say with some certainty that there is more than my lifetime's work here."

Needless to say, Herbert Woodend is proud of the Pattern Room.

"A lot of countries have collections of their own weapons, but a comparatively poor collection from other countries. Ours is the best. It is a unique institution," he says.

● Applications for visits (groups of up to ten persons), use of research facilities or weapon loans should be submitted to The Custodian, MoD Pattern Room, The Enfield Building, c/o Royal Ordnance Plc, Kings Meadow Road, Nottingham NG2 1EQ, tel: 0602 352028/9.

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AGC welcomes its new breed of clerk

AMONG the many fine tunings currently being made to the machinery that drives the modern British Army, one adjustment in particular will directly touch the everyday lives of most soldiers.

The All Arms Clerk is about to become extinct.

In his place will emerge the Military Clerk, a new generation of professional all-rounder groomed to serve in any and every environment.

The catalyst for change was the formation just over a year ago of the Adjutant General's Corps, whose Director General assumed the responsibility for the provision of clerical support throughout the Army.

That decision meant that all soldiers employed as clerks, with few exceptions, would have to transfer to the Staff and Personnel Support branch of the new corps - AGC(SPS) for short.

First in were RAPC and RAOC staff clerks and members of the WRAC not re-badging elsewhere.

At the beginning of April - exactly a year after the birth of the AGC - a total of 597 All Arms Clerks from the RPC, REME and RCT were welcomed on board, swelling to 4,481 the soldier strength of the SPS branch.

The rest will follow on July 1. On that day regimental clerks from the Infantry, Household Cavalry, Foot Guards, RA, RE, R Signals, AAC and RAMC will transfer to the AGC(SPS).

Those who joined on April 1 were welcomed to their new corps at a number of small ceremonies. Each received a booklet signed by Maj Gen Robin Grist, DGAGC, telling them about the corps and the career now open to them.

The Director of the Staff and Personnel Support Branch is Brig Colin Geal.

The evolution of the military clerk - traditionally the most misunderstood and least



appreciated of soldiers - has undergone many twists and turns.

In the last century there was a Staff Clerk Corps, integrated in 1899 with the Supplies Branch of the then Army Service Corps.

Clerical training passed from the Royal Army Service Corps to the RAOC in 1965. The "staff" clerk gave way to the "general duties" version, a versatile, many-faceted individual.

"A good clerk is worth his weight in gold," SOLDIER was told when it visited the RAOC school at Sennelager in 1961. "In peace and war he makes the administrative machine run smoothly and saves time and lives."



Above - Col Tom O'Donnell (centre) with newly-badged AGC soldiers at Bordon

Left - Col O'Donnell welcomes Pte Jason Burns (formerly Craftsman Burns of the REME) to the AGC(SPS) at Southern District headquarters in Aldershot

More than 10,000 had passed through the school's doors in the previous ten years.

There they learned the dark secrets of touch-typing, note-taking, book-keeping, filing, message handling and accounting.

Military clerks of the future will be trained at the AGC Training Centre, Worthy Down, where they will attend a number of courses in personnel administration.

These courses will be progressive and will cover leadership, office management, documentation and finance in both peace and war.

Depending on their aptitude, military clerks will also be able to specialise in information technology or management accountancy and acquire civilian qualifications which are very much sought after.

An opportunity exists for soldiers undertaking Military

Clerk Class 3 training to embark on the Level 2 National Vocational Qualification (NVQ) scheme in Business Administration. Completion of the scheme continues into the workplace and the NVQ should normally be achieved within a period of 12 months.

Military clerks will be employed in almost every unit in the British Army in a variety of posts, ranging from the AGC Field Detachment in major field force units to Defence Attaché posts. Many have deployed on operational tours to Northern Ireland and Bosnia in support of their unit or as individuals with specific specialised skills.

Now the Military Clerk is to wear a new cap badge.

And, with a bit of luck, his contribution to the smooth running of his colleagues' careers might even be appreciated . . .

THE BRITISH ARMY IN 1993

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The end of the Cold War has resulted in the crumbling of barriers between East and West. With the slow but steady elimination of weapons that has followed, the composition of our armed forces is inevitably changing. Equipment is also under review, and with the emphasis on a smaller, more mobile and better equipped force, the British Army finds itself in a period of rapid restructuring.

With these changes in mind, a selection of regiments, corps, and equipment is depicted in our collection of "Cigarette Cards".

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AN OLD CONFUSION

WHY DO so many writers of military books fail to acknowledge the fact that The Honourable Artillery Company, not The Royal Scots, is the oldest regiment in the British Army?

Readers may be interested to know that in 1638 a member of the Company emigrated to Boston, USA and founded the Ancient and Honourable Artillery Company of Massachusetts, known as the "Boston Ancients" and is still

the regiment's only "offspring". — **H E G Wallace, Portsmouth**

● The confusion arises because the HAC (which dates from 1537) is the British Army's oldest regiment, although the Royal Monmouthshire Engineers (Militia) is the senior TA regiment and takes precedence. The Royal Scots (founded by Royal Warrant in 1633) is the senior regiment of infantry and has the right to parade on the right flank of all other infantry regiments. — **Editor**

Museum tribute to Irish soldier

FOR SOME time I have been attempting to gather support for the creation of "The Irish National Services Museum".

This would house and permanently record the service of all Irish men and women and their descendants, including those of part Irish ancestry or birth, who have served in the world's military forces, civilian organisations, and so on.

A suitable site might be near the Irish National War Memorial outside Dublin erected after the First World War to the 499,400 men and women from all the 32 counties and four provinces of Ireland who served overseas in that conflict, of whom 50,000 did not return.

I would be pleased to hear from anyone interested in assisting me with this venture.

On another matter, The Essex Regiment used to have as one of its regimental marches *St Patrick's Day*, which was played at functions in commemoration of the thousands of Irishmen who served in the

COLONEL WAS AT THE DRIFT

LT COL A W Durnford, the "mystery colonel" killed at Isandlwana (SOLDIER letters, March 22), had been at Rorke's Drift a few days earlier. He was in command of No 2 column, whose HQ was at Fort Buckingham on January 16, 1879.

He was ordered to take his force up river to Rorke's Drift and on January 22 moved on to Isandlwana, where he was killed. — **M T Nash, Acton.**

ranks of the 44th Foot during the Peninsular War, 1808-14.

Ever since I learned of the regiment's musical tribute to the memory of these soldiers I have had a warm regard for this complimentary custom.

Was this traditional Irish air carried over into the 3rd Royal Anglians as well as the eagle which was in the centre of the battalion's cap badge? — **Wiliam P Behan, 56 North Lane, Aldershot, Hants GU12 4QG.**

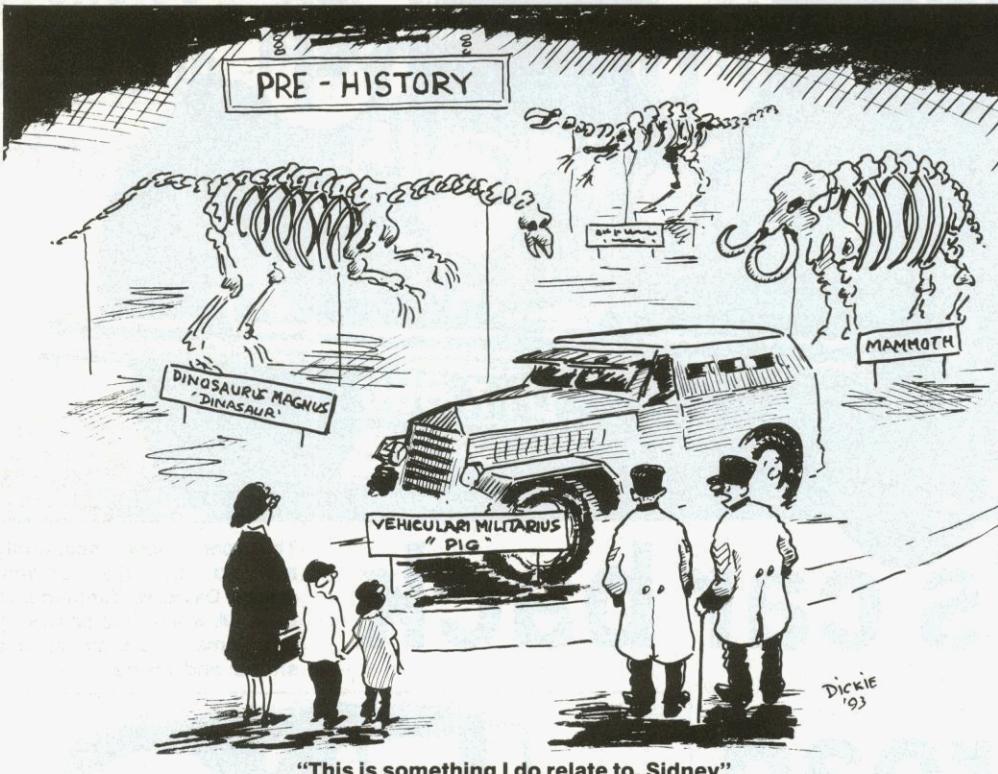
Why RAMC swords are not drawn

CAPT (Retd) W A Ewbank MC RE (Letters, April 5) asks why the RAMC officer never draws swords.

Members of the RAMC may carry swords on parade where this is appropriate. However, the sword must remain sheathed. The same restriction is applicable where personnel from other Arms and Services are on the strength of an RAMC unit if that unit is on parade.

The rationale behind this tradition is to demonstrate that RAMC soldiers are prepared to carry arms to defend themselves but are not prepared to show aggression and this is wholly in keeping with their vocation and demands the same respect as any other regimental or corps tradition. — **Col (Retd) G Banks, Regimental Headquarters RAMC, Aldershot.**

BIRD'S EYE-VIEW



Swan-like Pig turned into an ugly duckling

THE Humber Pig (SOLDIER, March 22) must be one of the few examples of a beautiful swan being turned into an ugly duckling and rendering good service for about 40 years.

The Pig used the chassis and transmission of the handsomest vehicle that I ever met in the Army, the Humber One-Ton Combat. It still stands out today at vehicle rallies.

The Combat was a truck and of a group powered by Rolls Royce engines built on standard components, four-cylinder in the Austin Champ, six in the Humber CT and eight in the Leyland 6x6. These engines were also used for ARV winching.

Each of these vehicles was of an advanced design in its own way and each threw up its own fault.

The Champ reduced its final drive pinion to scrap metal in a small mileage, the Leyland seemed to have weak gearboxes, and the Humber CT was prone to transmission collapses at the wheel stations, which

were accredited to the shaft angles being too great as the vehicle was rarely full-laden.

What better way to load the vehicle than by adding armour!

There followed all sorts of remarkable adjustments on clutch and steering clearances to accommodate the increased loadings. Perhaps this is the origin of its nickname, "Pig".

Most remarkable is the lifespan of those RR engines — almost half a century! Has any other vehicle had such a useful longevity?

Perhaps the Pig is worthy of a memorial of its own in military vehicle history. — **C Pepper, Rickmansworth, Herts.**

WRITING more as an interested observer than an expert I believe the Humber Pig could not have been in service with the British Army in 1945.

The FV 1600 series was probably designed soon after the Second World War but was not taken into service until the

LETTERS

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I've been left out by SA 80!

NO QUESTION the SA 80 is a fine rifle (April 5 issue), but why are the left-handed not catered for?

My Army and rifle shooting days are long past, but I recently had an opportunity to fire the weapon — and to my horror had to do so from the right shoulder. There must be hundreds of left-handed shots in the Army.

I had no problem with the Mark 4 Lee Enfield or the SLR. — **W Bidmead, Hounslow.**

Royal rifles, indeed

IN MY letter headed "Lightning promotion" (March 22) my regiment was given as the King's Own Royal Rifles. It should have read "King's Own Royal Regiment". — **Ex-Cpl Edward Gardiner, Mullion, Cornwall.**

WHAT'S this "King's Own Royal Rifles" (Lightning promotion, Letters, March 22). It's a new one on me. Also, there are no privates in a rifle regiment, only riflemen. — **D Wilson, ex-King's Royal Rifle Corps, Leeds.**

DON'T GIVE UP ON SUEZ

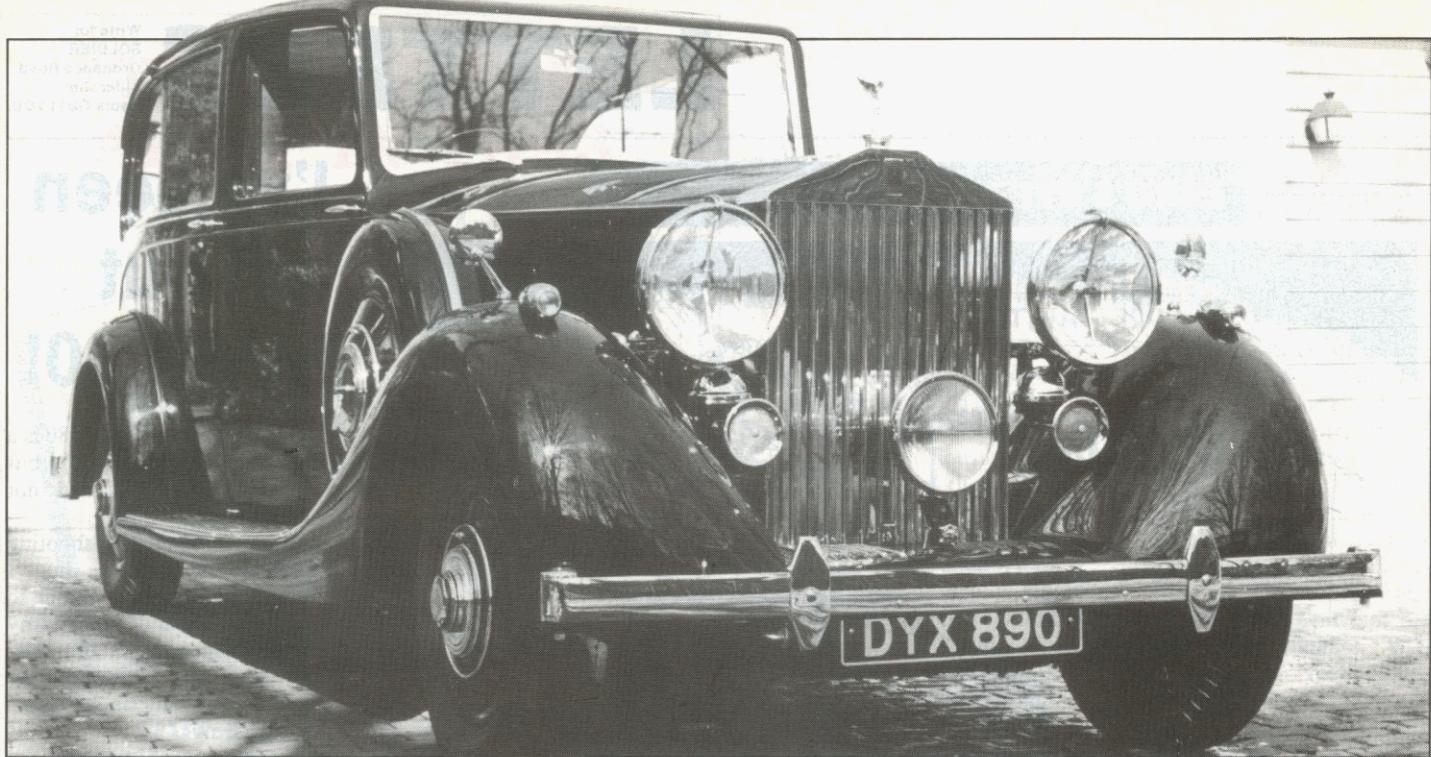
THE COMMENTS of the many who have made representations for a Suez Medal 1951-53 are surely to be endorsed. It seems incompatible that service in the theatre before and after this period appears to have been recognised by an award.

An individual medal need not be struck and those qualifying could be awarded the General Service Medal 1923 with the Clasp "Near East". This would correctly recognise the service undertaken.

I agree with other correspondents who say "Don't give up".

Lobby your MPs. It is their duty to lend a sympathetic ear. If we all do the same we may reap our just reward. — **E Sharpe, ex-Sherwood Forester, Lincoln.**

WE NEED to keep up the pressure on the Government to get them to recognise the sacrifices men made in the Canal Zone. How much would it cost to make a Bar for the General Service Medal Egypt 50-53. Let's have the recognition we deserve. — **Walter Bentham, ex-Lancashire Fusilier, Preston.**



Monty's car back on the road

LAST YEAR Brian Jewell revived a long-standing controversy over how many Rolls Royce cars Fd Marshal Montgomery had on the strength of his Tac HQ in North West Europe (SOLDIER, June 29, 1992).

For years it was the popularly-held belief that "Monty's Roller", now in the safe custody of The Museum of Army Transport, Beverley, was the only car of the marque used by the great man when in command of 21st Army Group.

Then came eyewitness and photographic evidence that there were two Rolls Royce Wraiths and that the second was undergoing restoration by its present owner, David H Timmons, in Columbus, Ohio.

Restoration is now complete and David Timmons is delighted that the four years of painstaking work are finally resulting in recognition.

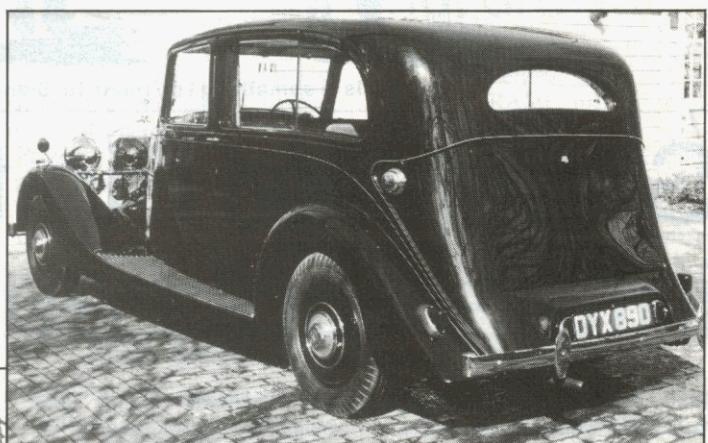
The car made its show debut in January this year at the Classic Car Club of America annual meet in Baltimore where, as David says, "... it scored 99 points to take first place in its class and move immediately to senior status.

"Now it's on to the Grand Classics and Rolls Royce Club national meets."

Since last year it has been possible to piece together more of the history of this car (chassis number WHC 43, engine number G 9 WR).

The new chassis was delivered to the coachbuilders, Windovers Limited of Hendon,

The car, now beautifully restored by the present owner, David H. Timmons, in the USA where it is achieving new fame at classic vehicle shows and meets



The Rolls in its days as Fd Marshal Sir William Slim's staff car. It also carried King George VI when he visited 21st Army Group

for a limousine body to be built to the order of the Maharajah of Gwalior, who had paid a deposit to the dealers, Hendry of London, but because of the outbreak of war was never shipped. Instead, it was stored

until 1944 when it was purchased by the Ministry of War Transport, given the Army census number M 5109233, and allocated to Montgomery for use in North West Europe.

After the war it was returned to England and operated by 20 Coy RASC, based in Regents Park, under the revised census number 16 YF 68.

SOLDIER's picture library has photographs of the car in service in 1951 when it was the transport of Fd Marshal Slim.

It is believed the car was "struck off" Army strength in 1955 as being "beyond economical repair".

The next we hear was that it was being used in 1958 by the Associated Portland Cement Company in Croydon under the registration number PNM 891.

Some time in the 1970s it was purchased by "an American travel agent" and shipped to the USA, where it was acquired by David Timmons in the late 1980s.

Some staff cars, like old soldiers, it seems, never die. This one has certainly not faded away or become embalmed in a museum.



A choice selection of schools

IT MAY BE six months away but there is no time like the present to claim your free tickets for the 1993 Independent Education Exhibition, being held in London between October 8 and 10.

Bringing together more than 250 day and boarding schools from all parts of the country, the event is an excellent opportunity for parents to take a close look at a wide choice of private sector education possibilities for their children.

Free seminars will offer parents practical advice and guidance on a full range of relevant issues such as the pros and cons of single sex and co-educational schools.

The exhibition, organised by News International in association with the Independent Schools Information Service (ISIS), will take place at the Business Design Centre, Islington.

Free tickets and advance information are available from Justine Meloy, News International Exhibitions Ltd, PO Box 495, Virginia Street, London E1 9XY. Telephone 071-782 6393, fax 071-782 6870.

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Further information is available by writing free of charge to: BUPA, FREEPOST (NG5152), Nottingham NG1 1BR.

Syllabus was 'completely different'

Posting wrecked my son's GCSE options

Dear Anne

I FEEL it my duty to warn other Army families about moving schools while taking GCSE exams. We don't want what has happened to us happening to other families.

We were posted from Humberside in February. My eldest son is 16 years old in April and doing his GCSE exams this year. In early December we contacted the school he would be going to and were told to bring with us as much of his GCSE work as possible.

On February 24 they said my son could not do his GCSE exams at his new school and that he would have to go back to Humberside to do them.

I phoned the Army's Education Department to see if they could help and was put in touch with the Education Department at our new posting. They tried to match my son's exams, but out of ten exams could match only two.

The syllabus is totally different and as the examinations are all different they can do nothing.

One subject, word processing, is not even offered by his new school. In theory he was not their responsibility so they cannot help with any kind of funding for him to go back. His old school has agreed to take my son back and enter him for the exams there.

We are trying to warn other parents that exams differ from place to place and to check on their

RISING FIVES IN A HURRY

I HAVE urgent advice for parents of "rising fives" who are being posted within the UK or moving back from overseas.

My tip is to contact the education authority of the area to which you are moving, to find out its policy for children in this age group and register your interest.

It is all the more urgent because in the case of one county, Hampshire, the April 23 deadline for applications by parents whose children are due to start school in the 1993-94 year will already have passed by the time you read this.

The Hampshire cut-off date – to help the county budget for extra places – applied to all children whose birthdays fall between September 1, 1993 and August 31, 1994.

Other local authorities may well have a similar policy. Experience has shown that sometimes children who have birthdays in the wrong part of the year are almost six before they are admitted to school.

So to avoid any worry or complications, get in touch with the education department of your prospective area of residence and update yourself on the latest policy.

child's subjects before moving.

My son is one of four children and my husband is the only member of the family working. The cost to keep our son up in Humberside will be high. We have found someone he can stay with, but it all seems wrong to us. If only we had been told about this, something could have been arranged at the time.

We feel very let down. This can be a stressful time for any child. My son didn't need this and could even lose a place at the local

college if he does not get the right grades.

Please inform your readers. We feel alone with this problem – **Lance Corporal's wife, Telford.**

• A spokesman for the Department for Education responds:

The Department fully appreciates the difficulties that can arise if pupils from Service families have to change schools when their parents are re-posted. This is especially so when changes take place midway through a course leading to a public examination such as the GCSE.

Our advice has always been that, as far as possible, all parents – whether in the Armed Services or elsewhere – should consider carefully the timing of career moves so that steps can be taken to minimise the disruption to their children's education.

To this end, we encourage parents to discuss alternative timings with

their employers and hope that, wherever possible, requests of this sort will be given sympathetic consideration.

If such a change of timing is not possible, and clearly is unlikely within the Armed Services, it is usually best for parents to make an early approach to schools in the area of their new home so that they can identify those schools that follow similar courses and syllabuses.

As the Government has taken steps to ensure that parental choice is not fettered by the local government boundaries, there is no need to limit approaches of this sort to schools within the area of the local education authority where the new home will be situated.

Alternatively, parents may wish to consider whether there are relatives or friends with whom their children could live for a short time – either to complete their course in the present school or to start at the new school before their parents move the family home.

In addition, some of the educational changes that the Government has introduced recently should lead to greater similarity in GCSE provision across the country and thus facilitate pupils' mobility between schools.

For example, the introduction of the National Curriculum to the final two years of compulsory education from last September will lead to greater uniformity of GCSE syllabuses in future.

Difficulties associated with transfer between schools should also be eased by the greater emphasis that Ministers have decided should be placed on GCSE written examinations taken by all candidates towards the end of the course rather than on coursework undertaken throughout the last two years.

Safety check-list

A LOOSE-LEAF information pack for those who place or support families in temporary accommodation is available from the Child Accident Prevention Trust (CAPT).

The guide covers the need to target child safety in such accommodation, a check-list and code of standards, a list of helpful

agencies, and sources of information.

Accidents and the Safety of Children in Temporary Accommodation is available from CAPT, 18-20 Farringdon Lane, London EC1R 3AU, at £6 a copy, including postage (£8 to include *Safe As Houses?*, CAPT's research report published in 1991).

SOLDIER to Soldier

Hot off the press

THE Royal Logistic Corps, formed officially on April 5, lost no time in producing its first publication.

Guests and the media who attended the inauguration parade at Blackdown (see Pages 14-15) were given an information pack which contained Volume 1 Issue 1 of the RLC Journal.

It replaces the magazines of corps taken into the RLC and will be published six times a year from editorial offices in Princess Royal Barracks at Blackdown, Deepcut.

Cassino veterans' invitation

SOLDIERS serving in regiments which hold Monte Cassino battle honours will be welcome at the 50th anniversary remembrance service due to take place on May 15 in the Commonwealth Cemetery.

It is the express wish of Monte

Cassino veterans preparing for the "last great gathering" that their successors join them at the service.

Other events organised to mark the anniversary include a veterans' parade and visits to other Service war graves in the area.

Travel arrangements have already been made and anyone wishing to join either by air or coach should contact John Clarke, Hon Secretary, Monte Cassino Veterans Association (The Impossible Victory), 41 Aldermary Road, Manchester M21 2QW (tel: 061-881 4594) as soon as possible.

Fortress Guernsey

GENERATIONS of soldiers have exercised in the Channel Islands – from Roman legionaries to present-day sappers and paras. Not to mention Germans, whose 1940-45 occupation culminated in surrender without a shot being fired.

Now one of the most wide-ranging military conservation projects ever undertaken in the United Kingdom is under way in the Bailiwick of Guernsey.

Officially launched this spring, the "Fortress Guernsey" project is giving visitors increasing access to restored fortifications from the Iron Age right through a millennium of castle-building to the German bunkers and gun

emplacements of the Second World War.

In fact, Guernsey's most famous landmark is military. Castle Cornet was begun in 1206 and was the last Royalist stronghold to surrender in the Civil War. Museums within the castle give a fascinating insight both into the Island's history and display uniforms of Guernsey's own militia.

Now he will represent the organisation as a public speaker.

Sporting exclusive

FIRST running of the new Army sports lottery will take place on September 4, with application forms expected to be available from the beginning of July.

Incidentally, the project is being introduced exclusively for the support of Army sport, and not for adventurous training as stated in our April 5 issue.

Spokesman for the blind

SECOND World War airman Stewart Harris is to be the voice of

St Dunstan's, the organisation which looks after the welfare of men and women blinded in the Services.

Stewart, an independent consultant in the oil industry, joined St Dunstan's when he became blind as a result of privation as a prisoner of war after his Lancaster bomber was shot down over Belgium in 1943.

Now he will represent the organisation as a public speaker.

Crime-busters

BAOR's military police are asking schools and youth organisations to design a storyboard that depicts a crime prevention message.

The winning storyboard (up to eight drawings and captions) will be produced in an SSVC commercial to attract people to the RMP and RAF Police crime prevention stand at the Rhine Army Summer Show.

There are three age groups – 5-9, 10-14 and 15-17 – and the set of drawings and captions should reach Young TV Producer Competition, 101 Pro Coy RMP, BFPO 34 by May 28. Further details from Sgt Harding on Düsseldorf Mil 373.

REUNIONS

● **2nd Bn, The Monmouthshire Regiment:** Annual reunion at The Plough, 27 Museum Street, London WC1A 1LH on May 1. Details from Sam Stapleton on 081-560 2203.

● **Royal Berkshire Regiment 250th anniversary:** Service of thanksgiving and dedication at Holy Trinity Garrison Church, Windsor on May 1 to mark the 250th anniversary of the regiment's formation in 1743. Widows and families welcome. Admission tickets from E Vicary, Hillcroft, School Road, Windlesham, Surrey (tel: 0276 472307).

● **Devonshire and Dorset Regiment:** Annual reunion, in-

cluding march past and service of remembrance, takes place in Plymouth on May 8. Details from secretary of regimental association in RHQ Exeter (tel: 0392 410389).

● **1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards:** Regimental Association annual dinner takes place on May 8 at the Oval Banqueting Suite, Kennington Oval, London SE11 5SS. Details from Maj (Retd) K D McMillan, Home HQ, QDG, Maindy Barracks, Cardiff CF4 3YE (tel: 0222 227611 ext 8213).

● **Cavalry Sunday:** Annual parade and service of Combined Cavalry Old Comrades, Cavalry Memorial, Hyde Park on May 9.

● **201 RCZ Workshop REME (V):** 22nd reunion takes place on May 15 at Chesford Grange Hotel, Kenilworth, Warwickshire. Details and application form from Ron Smith, 6 St John's Place, Waterloo, Liverpool L22 5NP (tel: 051-928 4493).

● **Monte Cassino 50th anniversary:** Would regiments which hold Cassino 1 and Cassino 2 battle honours please note that the 50th anniversary remembrance service will take place on May 15. Serving soldiers wishing to join either by air or coach should contact John Clarke, Hon Secretary, Monte Cassino Veterans Association (The Impossible Victory), 41 Aldermary Road, Manchester M21 2QW (tel:

● **E A G Croucher** wishes to contact any ex-PSLs and cadets of B Coy, 9 Bn, Middlesex (C) Regt 1947-50; A Bty, 1st City of London (C) Regt RA (RF) 1950-55 with a view to a reunion. Replies to Fen Cottage, South Lopham, Diss, Norfolk IP22 2JN.

SEARCHLINE

● **Junior Leaders' Regiment Royal Armoured Corps:** The WOs' and Sgts' Mess wishes to invite all ex-JRSMs to the final Pass Off of the JLR RAC at Bovington on June 18. Contact WO2 (SSM) R C Titchener, JLR RAC, Bovington Camp, Wareham, Dorset BH20 6JB (tel: 0929 403355).

● **E A G Croucher** wishes to contact any ex-PSLs and cadets of B Coy, 9 Bn, Middlesex (C) Regt 1947-50; A Bty, 1st City of London (C) Regt RA (RF) 1950-55 with a view to a reunion. Replies to Fen Cottage, South Lopham, Diss, Norfolk IP22 2JN.



Mr Richard Ward, an ex-Regular officer, TA commanding officer and chief executive of Staffordshire Training and Enterprise Council, receives a National Employers Liaison Committee certificate from Col Tony Griffiths, Chairman of the West Midlands Territorial Auxiliary and Volunteer Reserve Association, in recognition of the support given by staff to the volunteers. Displays were staged by the 3rd (Volunteer) Battalion, The Staffordshire Regiment at a special reception in Wolverhampton

APPOINTMENTS

Brigadiers – P A Flanagan – To HQ Trg Gp R Signals, April 13; G B L Fox RLC – To DS Staff Coll Australia, April 13; H H Ham, R Signals – To MoD, April 13; A R T Hazlerigg RLC – To be OC RAF Mount Pleasant (AE), April 12; D James RRF – To MoD, April 13; N J H Jones AGC(ALS) – To HQ BFHK, April 13; R M S Lester RE – To HQ ARRC, April 14; D N MacGregor-Smith, A and SH – To be CO 3/51 Highland(V), April 13; Sir Andrew Ogilvy-Wedderburn BW – To be CO 1 BW, April 13.

Colonels – M E C Coombs – To RMCS, April 5; K A Mitcheson – To HQ UKLF, April 5; D M O'Callaghan – To MoD, April 5; K P O'Kelly – To HQ BAOR, April 5; D B Waddell – To MoD, April 5; W A Ashley – To MoD, April 5.

Lt Cols – D Aitken AGC(ETS) – To CMETS, April 7; M H Argue, Para – To LSP Abu Dhabi UAE, April 6; R J Brown, R Signals – To Proj Tm Malaysia, April 5; L S Burr RLC – To Dg Svc Sp(A), April 5; C W Gillman LD – To be CO ATDU, April 7; S N Jenkins REME – To Staff Coll, April 5; J E Varney REME – To MoD, April 5; R I Braithwaite RE – To MoD, April 5; A Roland-Price RE – To MoD, April 6.

DIARY

UNTIL MAY 26: Wednesday lunchtime lectures on military nursing history, Florence Nightingale Museum, 2 Lambeth Palace Road, London SE1 7EW.

UNTIL OCTOBER 15: Forces Sweethearts Exhibition, Imperial War Museum.

MAY

18: Public displays and beach assault by Commachio Gp RM, Combined Ops Museum, Cherry Park, Inveraray, Argyll.

29-31: Military Vehicle Trust "Overlord 93" rally on Southsea Common, Portsmouth.

30: Winchester Militaria Society exhibition and fair, The Guildhall, Winchester.

JUNE

8-10: Massed Bands of The Light Division Sound Retreat on Horse Guards Parade, London. Seats £3, £6, £8 from Horse Guards Project Office, HQ The Light Division, Sir John Moore Barracks, Winchester, Hants SO22 6HQ (tel: 0962 888220).

JULY

3: 1 Kings host Open Day to mark bicentenary of Cavalry Barracks, Hounslow (2pm to 6pm) with military music and displays, following presentation of Colours to 1 Kings the previous day.

10-16: Stoke Mandeville Challenge 93, first international ex-Service wheelchair games. Contact Jonathan Powell 071-973 0633.

20-31: 103rd Royal Tournament, Earls Court, hosted by the Royal Navy. Tickets available from box office on 071-373 0100.

AUGUST

1: Military Vehicle rally, Imperial War Museum, Duxford.

6-28: Edinburgh Military Tattoo (credit card and postal bookings from Booking Office, 22 Market Street, Edinburgh EH1 1QB (tel: 031-225 1188).

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

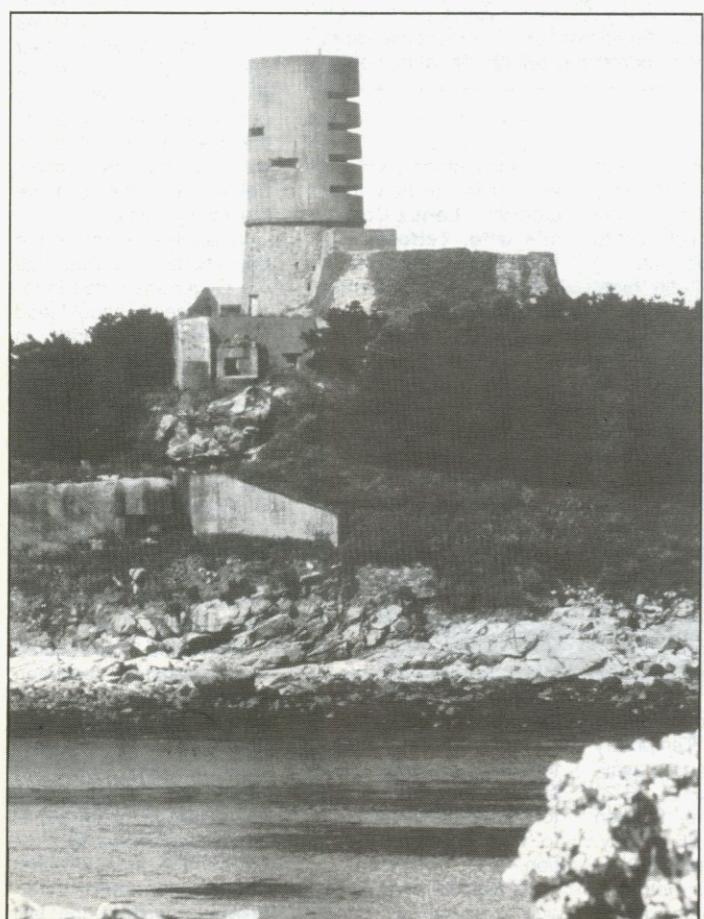
MC and MM holders' luncheon: A church service and luncheon for holders of the MC and MM will be held at Carnforth, Lancs, on October 9. Details from Col D B Long, 6 Main Street, Townend, Warton, via Carnforth, Lancs LA5 9NR (0524 736415).

CHRISTMAS ISLAND REUNION:

All ex-Service and civilian personnel on the island from 1956-60 are welcome at a reunion at The Bull and Bush, 1 Kew Road, Richmond, Surrey on September 18-19. Contact Jim Cooper on 0903 232108.

GREEK VETERANS 1940-41:

Third reunion of Army/RN/RAF veterans to be held at Clacton in October. Pilgrimage to Greece to unveil memorial being arranged. Details from Edwin Horlington, 163 Walton Road, Walton-on-Naze, Essex (tel: 0255 677178).



A German lookout tower in Guernsey

BOOKS IN BRIEF

Better Than Riches by Frederick Devereux Pile. Personal insight into the life of a tank crewman with 1 RTR in the Second World War. The author ended his 28-year Army career in the rank of colonel, with the MC. Pentland Press, casebound, £14.50.

Behind Bamboo by Rohan D Rivett. Classic Australian war story of years spent as a Japanese PoW by a journalist captured in the fall of Singapore. Penguin, paperback, £6.99.

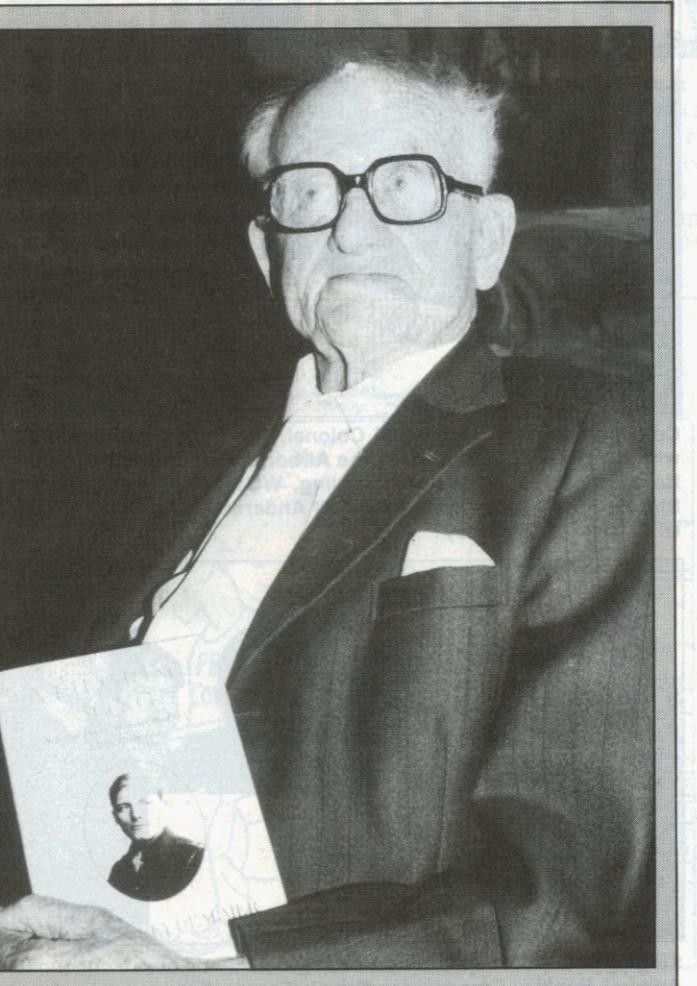
The Making of a Royal Marine Commando by Nigel Foster. Revised and updated version of popular and brilliantly-illustrated work by a former member of the Intelligence Corps. Sidgwick and Jackson, hardback, £20.

The Horizon by Douglas Reeman. Set in Gallipoli and Flanders, the third novel in a Royal Marines family saga. William Heinemann, hardback, £14.99.

In Spite of Dungeons by S J Davies. New paperback edition of this acclaimed book by the chaplain to the Glorious Glosters, relating his experiences as a prisoner-of-war of Chinese Communists in North Korea. Alan McFarland and Co Inc (Shelving Ltd), hardback, £25.95.

The US Civil War Military Machine by Ian Drury and Tony Gibbons. Gloriously-illustrated, large-format survey of the weapons and tactics of the Union and Confederate armed forces. Dragon's World Ltd, 26 Warwick Way, London SW1V 1RX, hardback, £25.

Two brief biographies: **Spice of Life** by retired QC Tony Cripps, who was interned in Sweden as a Territorial in the Leicestershire Regiment in the Second World War (54-page hardback, £5.75); and **The Long Trek** by C W Jervis, telling of experiences in the Ox and Bucks (32-page paperback, £2.99). Both published by Stockwell, Torrs Park, Ilfracombe EX34 8BA.



The West's gulf of misunderstanding

IT WOULD be useful for readers tackling *The Gulf Crisis – An Attempt to Understand* to be reasonably informed about Arabism and in particular the 1991 Gulf War if they are to follow and appreciate it.

But there are parts that will be crystal clear to all: that the Palestine problem has become a permanent insult to the Arabs, a thorn in their side and a symbol of their weakness in the face of Israeli power.

This book lists these and countless other reasons "that made the Arabs hate Israel", says author Ghazi A Algoosaibi, Saudi Arabia's Ambassador to the UK. He goes on to say that the same factors have created a similar "hate" between the Gulf Arabs and Saddam Hussein.

In describing the Iraqi dictator's psychological make-up, the author considers that "every achievement accomplished by Saddam Hussein has been based on adventurism of one type or another." It is the "customary, natural style" of

Geared up to the SAS

DO YOU KNOW why sandals are never worn in the desert by the SAS, or for that matter any other British soldier?

The answer, according to a new book about the regiment, is that feet can become sunburned through the open thongs and, in addition to that painful condition, insects can bite them and even burrow into toes and lay eggs.

This little gem of information can be found in *Weapons and Equipment of the SAS*, which is claimed in the publisher's blurb to be "far more than a simple compendium of specifications . . .".

But that in fact is what it seems to be, enhanced by a number of full-colour, but static library pictures. In fairness the illustrations could

Nothing Remains but to Fight by Ian Knight. Greenhill Books, £19.95.

hardly be otherwise since the SAS play the game close to their chest when it comes to publicity. Fortunately there are no pictures of bug-bitten feet.

Those with an interest in weapons and their capabilities and uses will no doubt find this a riveting read, but it reveals little about a regiment which, although famous for many exploits, stays tight-lipped when it comes to operations and weapons.

Author Peter Darman tells little not generally known about this outfit and his chapter

Verse from the Somme

Centenarian Geoffrey Dearmer, last surviving poet of the First World War, has frequently seen examples of his work included in anthologies over the years.

But to mark his 100th birthday, a special selection of his poems, *A Pilgrim's Song*, has been issued, partly as a tribute to his contemporaries who were killed in action.

A friend of George Bernard Shaw, Kipling, Masefield and Graves, Mr Dearmer fought in Gallipoli in 1915 as a Fusilier subaltern, landing three days after his younger brother died there.

• A Pilgrim's Song by Geoffrey Dearmer, compiled by Laurence Cotterell with a foreword by Prof John Stallworthy. John Murray (Publishers) Limited. £12.95.

Return to Rorke's Drift

COUNTLESS conflicts have taken place since the battle for Rorke's Drift, when an heroic "thin red line" beat off an attack by hordes of Zulus.

Although it happened more than 114 years ago it still intrigues many, particularly author Ian Knight, whose interest was first aroused when as a small boy he was taken to see the film *Zulu*. This interest has, over the years, developed into a passion and in *Nothing Remains but to Fight*, Knight hurls himself into the story he says has never before been fully and accurately told.

He reels off facts and figures, names and places and considers Rorke's Drift one of the best-known military incidents in the history of the British Empire, with 11 VCs being won in the short action. It is arguable that the modern-day reader could, after a little thought, name a number of equally heroic incidents and battles in which the Army has been involved.

His story is a fascinating account, differing, he says, in many respects from others he considers to be exaggerated. It is well-written, well-researched and a good read, not just for the military historian, but for those who just like a good tale well told. – JM

Nothing Remains but to Fight by Ian Knight. Greenhill Books, £19.95.

introductions do not exactly sparkle to spur the reader on. "The SAS must have proper clothing to enable them to fight in any terrain . . . SAS troops are trained in the use of a wide range of support weapons . . . The SAS has, since World War 2, employed a variety of maritime and amphibious vessels . . . The SAS is the world's most effective hostage rescue unit . . ." – JM

Weapons and Equipment of the SAS by Peter Darman. Sidgwick and Jackson, £20.

DRIVEN TO SUCCESS BY AN OFFICER'S TIMELY ADVICE

HANDS up all those who can play the piano? Right. You, you and you report to the cookhouse sergeant.

It wasn't quite by this time-honoured method of selection that Harold Bridges found himself elected one of three cooks responsible for feeding 300 men, but because he had completed a two-week light duties stint in the sergeants' mess following a bout of mumps, his superiors considered him ideal for the job.

Mr Bridges, now 92, tells this story, among a few others, of his 18 months' Army service in Germany just after the First World War.

His culinary experience did little for his future – he doesn't mention how the diners got on – nor did his time as an infantryman with the King's Liverpool Regiment have much effect on his life to come, but it was his service with the RASC to which he switched because

he could drive, which really showed him the road to security and success.

Now the lad from Lancashire tells his story, paying tribute on the way to the advice of an Army officer. – JM

As I Remember written and published by Harold Bridges.

MONTY AND OTHER MEMORIES

IT IS RARE to come across an autobiography combined with an historical account written in the third person.

When he went for the interview he passed all the tests but was turned down because of a speech impediment.

However, *Soldier of the Sixth*, the story of his career with the Royal Warwickshire Regiment, which he joined as a boy in 1925, will be of interest to all who served in that famous regiment and to many others wanting to learn about life at all ranks from boy soldier to

west and the head of a charitable foundation.

Orders for one or more copies at £10 each (free delivery UK) should be addressed to the author at AIR 90, Luneside, Burrow, Via Carnforth, Lancs LA6 2RJ (cheques to Harold Bridges AIR 90, crossed A/C payee only). Army Benevolent Fund to benefit by up to £2.50 per sale when specified by purchaser.

major. Many of the names he mentions will mean little to those outside the regiment.

Others are universally famous, such as Fd Marshal Montgomery.

He knew Monty well, having served with him in India in the early Thirties, and speaks glowingly of his skills as a military tactician, describing him as "the greatest and most brilliant field commander of all time – excluding no one."

But while Jim confesses to having "crossed swords" with

Sutton Publishing, Phoenix Mill, Far Thru, Stroud, Glos GL5 2BU, £7.99.

Stick and String by Terence Tinsley. Well-written, autobiographical account of life as an officer in the Bengal Sappers in the Second World War. Buckland Publications Ltd, Barwick Road, Dover CT17 0LG, hardback, £9.95.

Military Lessons of the Gulf War edited by Bruce W Watson. Revised paperback edition of the 1991 analysis based on corroborated research by an international team of military and political contributors. A useful reference work. Greenhill Books, £8.95.

When the Nation Was In Need by Martin S Putney. Remarkable and informative story of the 6,500 black women who volunteered to serve in the segregated US military during the Second World War. Scarecrow Press Inc (Shelving Ltd, 127 Sandgate Road, Folkestone CT20 2BL), hardback, £14.99.

The US Civil War Military Machine by Ian Drury and Tony Gibbons. Gloriously-illustrated, large-format survey of the weapons and tactics of the Union and Confederate armed forces. Dragon's World Ltd, 26 Warwick Way, London SW1V 1RX, hardback, £25.

Two brief biographies: **Spice of Life** by retired QC Tony Cripps, who was interned in Sweden as a Territorial in the Leicestershire Regiment in the Second World War (54-page hardback, £5.75); and **The Long Trek** by C W Jervis, telling of experiences in the Ox and Bucks (32-page paperback, £2.99). Both published by Stockwell, Torrs Park, Ilfracombe EX34 8BA.

Monty a couple of times, the great man never bore him malice.

In fact, shortly before he died, he invited Jim to his home, where they talked over their regimental memories.

This is really what this book is – a long, but very interesting résumé of one man's memories of his life as a soldier for 36 years. – JM

Soldier of the Sixth by Major Jim Pickering. Pentland Press, £14.95.



Tom Hughes at Dharan, Nepal, with the AGC Centre cheque

AGC trekkers put Tom back on the road

SEVEN members of the Adjutant General's Corps Centre at Worthy Down have returned from the Himalayas where they trekked around the Annapurna Circuit in Nepal. While in Nepal they visited the Tom Hughes Home of New Life and presented a cheque for £4,000 to the orphanage.

Tom opened his orphanage in Dharan in 1972 after serving 12 years in the Royal Army Pay Corps. He currently cares for more than 20 children whose

ages range from four to 18. Last year his Land Rover was damaged beyond repair in an accident. A replacement vehicle was needed, but as funding of the orphanage is totally dependent on voluntary contributions this was not going to be easy.

The Himalayan team from the Adjutant General's Information Centre heard of his plight and decided to help. Funds were raised by individual sponsorship donations



Col David Parker, Regimental Colonel, The Parachute Regiment, with a giant cheque raised for the Airborne Forces Security Fund. Behind him are WO2 Tinny Dawling, WO1 Mike Smith, SSgt Al Storey, SSgt Ian Taylor and Cpl Taff Anderson, five of the 12 men who raised the money



Singing policeman Cpl Kenny McNaughten hands over a cheque to Admiral Rankin, Commander British Forces Falkland Islands

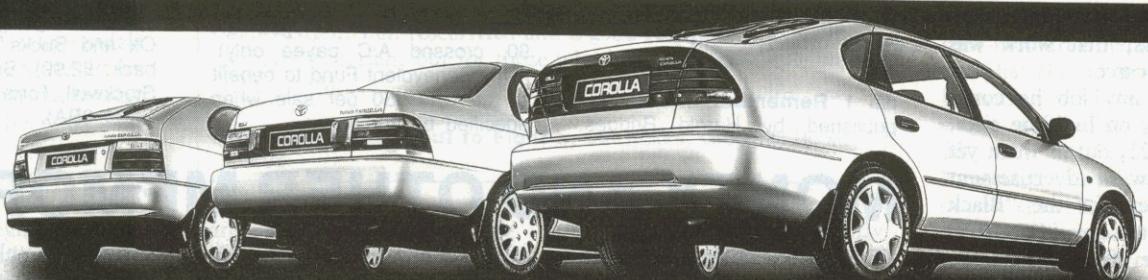
from local businesses and ex-RAPC members, and a donation from Land Rover.

The Annapurna team members consisted of Maj Simon Leadsom, Capt Derek Quirk, WO1 Norman Pinchen, SSgt Steve Jervis, Sgt Allan Lyles, Mrs Carol Mason and Miss Val Cookson.

★ ★ ★
A team of 12 members from

5 Airborne Brigade's Logistics Battalion, led by WO1 Mike Smith, successfully undertook a gruelling 206-mile charity march from Aldershot to Arnhem - each man toting a Bergen containing 30lb of kit.

Their five-day tab, which accumulated more than £2,500 for the Airborne Forces Security Fund, culminated in a moving ceremony of remem-



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Name: (Give rank or title)

Address:

More than one entry can be submitted but photocopies cannot be accepted.

The first correct entries drawn will be the winners. No correspondence can be entered into.

The names of the winner of the £50 first prize and two runners-up will be announced in the June 14, 1993 issue.

**WIN £50
COMPETITION 561**

Competition No 558:
Congratulations to Mr M Crabb, of Stevenage, Herts, who wins £50. Book prizes go to runners-up SSgt S Dobbs, TQMS, 1 ADTR RCT, BFPO 46, and Mr L Matthews, of Canvey Island, Essex.



brace attended by thousands of veterans and their families.

Singing Corporal, Kenny McNaughten (**B Company, 1 Kings**), a regimental policeman attached to the Falkland Islands Joint Service Police Unit, persuaded 16 fellow policemen and company members to join him in harmony on a two-night tour of the messes and clubs in RAF Mount Pleasant. Their combined splendid voices produced more than £360 for charity.

Proving that one-armed bandits can sometimes bear useful fruit is a very pleased Christine Roberts, chairperson of SSAFA Service Committee, Aldershot Garrison.

Members of 27 Transport Regiment, RLC (formerly RCT), collected just under £280 from six months' accumulated profits from their hired fruit machines.

As a thank you gesture for their support, they nominated the military division of SSAFA as their chosen charity. The money will go to Servicemen and families.

"We normally donate 80 per cent of our annual fund-raising efforts to SSAFA's ex-Service side, and retain the balance for in-Service purposes," said Aldershot service committee treasurer Lt Col (Retd) John Woodliffe. "It doesn't often happen that a unit hands over something to us: it will be invaluable."

Sharing Mrs Roberts's delight are (front to back)



Fund-raising is well under way for The Clair Wallis Trust Appeal, the charity chosen by **A Company, The 1st Battalion, Yorkshire Volunteers**, for their latest year-long campaign. The treatment re-

quired by Clair, a four-and-a-half-year-old who has cerebral palsy, can be administered only at the renowned Peto Institute in Hungary. Helping her to

achieve that goal will be the proceeds (more than £1,000) of a sponsored march from Guisborough to Scarborough – the first of several events planned over the 12 months – which company members completed in a creditable 9½ hours.



Capt Keith Meakin (Unit Families Officer, 27 Regiment), who presented the cheque, Lt Col Woodliffe and Aldershot Garrison social worker Matthew Sampson.

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14/28

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Closing date for receipt of applications: Friday, 21st May 1993.

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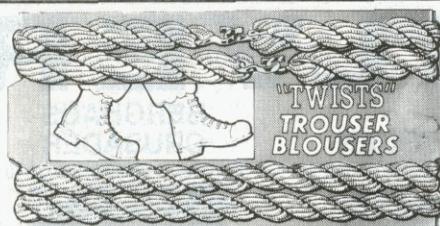
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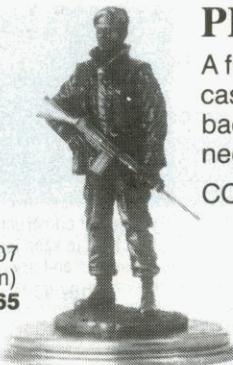
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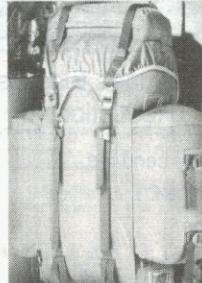
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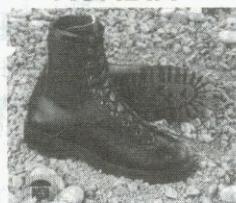
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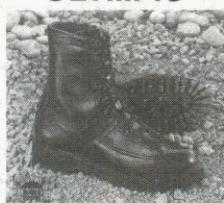
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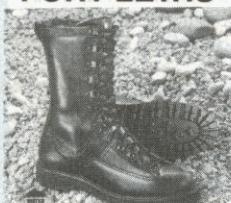
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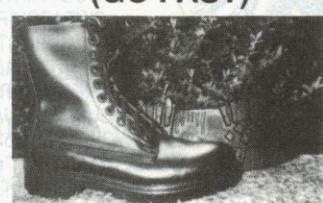
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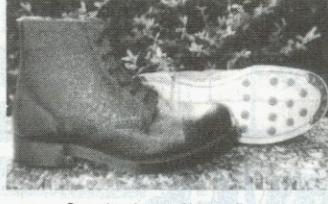
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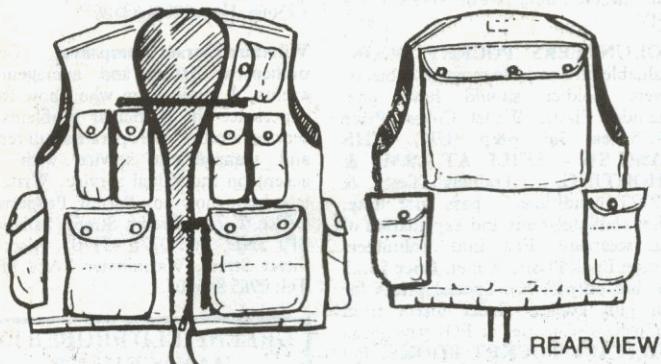
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Hermitage's dark horses see the light

WINNERS of the UKLF Major Units squash competition are 42 Survey Engineer Group from Hermitage near Newbury.

Even a power failure at Winchester which interrupted their final against SEME

Southerns on target for record

SOUTHERN District won the prestigious Inter-Command/District small bore target rifle match at SEME Bordon on March 19, notching up a match record of 3,067 (out of a possible 3,200).

Southern's tally bettered by ten the previous best set by Northern Ireland, who finished as runners up on this occasion on 2,872.

Scotland and Wales and Western were third and fourth. BAOR did not enter a team, and London and Eastern Districts withdrew from the competition.

Highest individual scores were shot by Capt Cameron Ferguson (REME, 393) and WO2 Tony Cheese (Int Corps, 392), both members of the Southern team.

AGC Worthy Down won the UKLF Inter-Units small bore target rifle final at SEME Bordon on March 27 by a substantial 40-point margin.

But only four points separated the next three teams - 2 Yorks, 3 RRW and London UOTC - with third place being decided on a tie break and the use of the .25 graduated gauge.

Cpl Haynes (AGC) returned the highest individual score of 386, one ahead of Cpl Pugh (3 RRW(V)).

Entries were down a third from 1991-92. Of the 103 teams which entered, 15 were from the Regular Army, 72 from the TA, 14 from UOTCs and two from apprentice colleges.

Bordon could not prevent them winning the title for the first time.

The survey team roared into an unbeatable 3-0 lead, and although SEME won the fourth match before the courts were plunged into darkness, victory had been secured.

Survey were led to the championship by their No 1, WO2 Derek Hatton, who wears the REME badge and coaches the REME corps team. Spr Scott McInnes, winner of the Army Under-25 championship at the first attempt, has also made a considerable impact on the team.

Their next opponents, in the Army final to be played in Germany, will be the BAOR champions.

• The 4th Armoured Division squash championships were won by 1 A and SH, who beat firm favourites 4 ADSR 3-2 in the final.

Super Seven storm home with trophy

7 Para RHA 20,
7 Signal Regt 11

NOT EVEN torrential rain could loosen 7th Parachute Regiment, Royal Horse Artillery's vice-like grip on the Schweppes Army Major Unit Cup.

They claimed it for the fourth consecutive year after beating the brave challenge of 7 Signal Regiment by a goal, two tries and penalty goal to a try and two penalty goals. It was the Horse Gunners' sixth cup final success in the past seven years.

Heavy rain before the match - the pitch markings were washed away and had to be redrawn - and drizzle throughout created treacherous conditions in which the control of the vastly experienced 7 RHA side was always going to tell.

Army representatives in the side were Capt Andy Deans, SSgt Paul Simon, Sgt Dave Coghlan, Capt Julian Brammer, Bdr Jim Fowers, 2nd Lt Dave Dahinten and Lt Gareth James.

Steve Pyle ran in an interception which Howard Graham converted. Graham also converted a penalty goal before WO2 Martyn Lewis added another try.

For 7 Signals, John Merritt scored a try and Dave Hammond kicked two penalties.

Combined Services 3,
British Police 15

A winning margin of five penalty goals to one just about summed up an uninspiring match at RAF Halton.

None of the Services' current internationals - Underwood, Rodber and Wainwright - were available to defend the Securicor Trophy, at stake in this annual fixture.

Army representatives in the side were Capt Andy Deans, SSgt Paul Simon, Sgt Dave Coghlan, Capt Julian Brammer, Bdr Jim Fowers, 2nd Lt Dave Dahinten and Lt Gareth James.



Capt Steve Pyle runs in for a 7 RHA try after making an interception. In support are Army players Sgt Dave Coghlan and Bdr Jim Fowers

Picture: Mike Perrin

Three-goal gunners take title



Picture: Mike Perrin

Maj Ian Jolly (centre) on the attack, as he helps 32 Regiment RA on their way to a 3-0 victory over Headquarters Northern Ireland and 15 Signal Regiment in the Major Units hockey finals at Aldershot. The Minor Units final was won by 6 Armoured Workshops REME, who beat the Army Apprentices College Chepstow 5-2

Angling fixtures in the net

A FULL programme of events for 1993 has been drawn up by the Army Angling Association (Game) which was formed to promote game angling and fly fishing. Membership details are available from Capt M J Garvey RAMC on Catterick Mil 3095.

Challenge Cup back at Hameln

28 Engr Regt 1,
Trg Regt RE 0

IN ANOTHER all-sapper football final at the Military Stadium in Aldershot, Hameln-based 28 Engineer Regiment retained the Wilsons Hogg Robinson Army Challenge Cup for the fourth successive year by defeating Training Regiment RE (now 3 RSME Regt), writes Derrick Bly.

The game failed to reach the heights 28 Engr deserved to cap their memorable achievement, and the mostly sapper crowd of 500 saw an untidy match.

A penalty four minutes before the interval broke the deadlock. Cpl Simon Angel brought down LCpl Shaun Shannon and Cpl Bomber

Brown scored from the spot.

Sgt Norman Naife and LCpl Lee Innes went close for the Minley side, and 28's goalkeeper, LCpl Andy Taylor, had to be at his sharpest to keep the defending champions ahead.

Best chance of an equaliser fell to SSgt John Mathis minutes before the final whistle. A free kick reached substitute LCpl Andy Cruikshank who found Mathis, but his header flashed into the arms of Taylor.

The trophy was presented to 28's jubilant skipper, Cpl Jim Lind, by the country's leading marksman Guy Whittingham, the former Army and REME

forward now with Portsmouth. Man of the match, chosen by

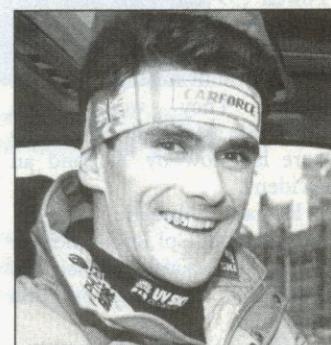
ex-Cpl Steve Welsh, now skipper of Peterborough, was Cpl Bomber Brown. Brown, for the second time in three years, received the Bill Wilson Memorial Trophy.

1 Gordons 2,
1 D and D 0

Goals by Cpl Joe Harper and Pte Robertson gave the 1st Battalion, The Gordon Highlanders a 2-0 victory in the final of the BAOR Infantry Cup competition played in Berlin.

Their opponents were the 1st Battalion, The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment.

The Gordons are due to meet 1 PWRR, the UK winners, in the Infantry Challenge Cup Final at Buller Barracks, Munster on April 28.



Impressive Hutchison

BRITISH mogul skier Capt Hugh Hutchison RE (above) boosted his chances of selection for next year's Winter Olympics at Lillehammer by finishing 11th and 12th at the FIS freestyle Europa Cup competition held on Oberstdorf glacier in the German Alps.

British team selection requires 20 FIS points before a men's mogul competitor can be considered for the Lillehammer team, and Hutchison's results brought his tally to 29.

Easy does it as three coast to ABA finals

AFTER an absence of three years from the finals of the ABA championships, the Army will be represented by three boxers at the NEC, Birmingham on May 5.

Cpl Chris Bessey (27 Regt RLC) stopped Scottish champion Joe Townsey in the second round of a one-sided welter-weight contest in the British semi-finals at Gateshead on April 13.

But lightweight LCpl Vinny Powell (59 Ind Cdo Sqn RE) and heavyweight LCpl Steve Burford (REME) made it to the finals without raising a glove in anger. They were given walkovers after their opponents were laid low by 'flu and an accident.

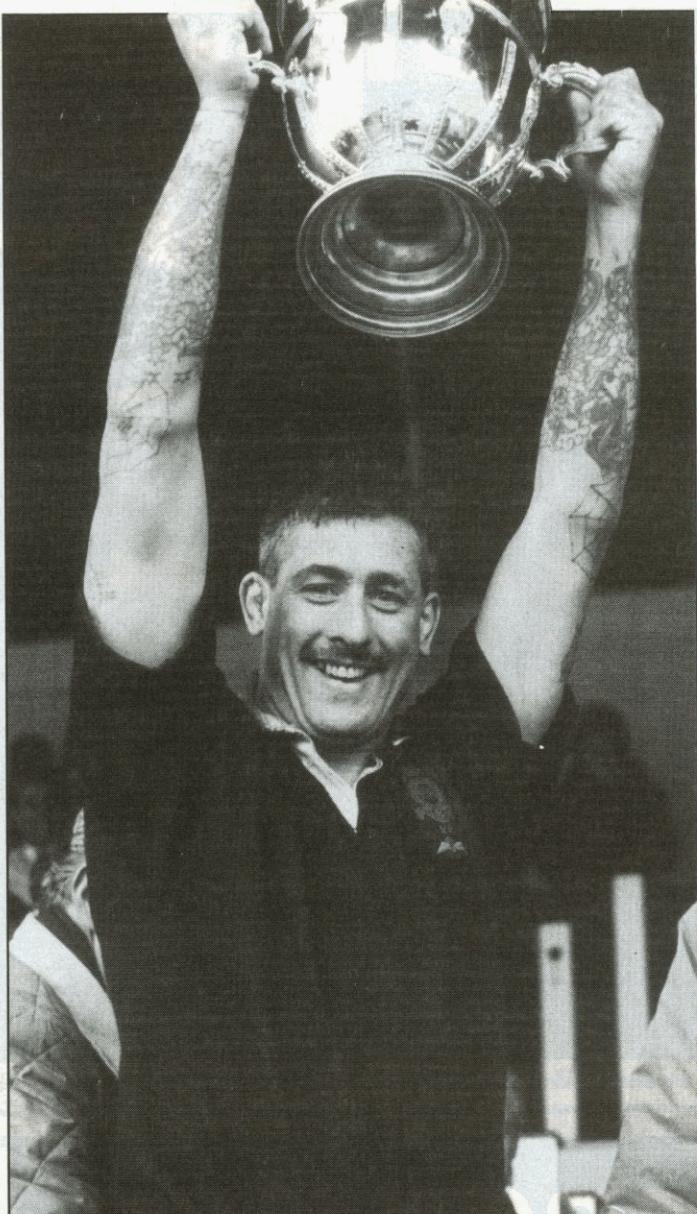
Royal Marine lightweight Cpl Rob Wileman (Royal Navy) also reached the finals by knocking out his opponent.

All four Servicemen have put themselves firmly into the frame for selection for the Commonwealth Games in Toronto next summer.

In the England semi-finals at Oxford on April 3, Pte Bob Basford (1 Staffords), stopped in the second round by international featherweight Alex Moon, was the only casualty.

Powell, Bessey and Burford all won convincingly to make it the Army's best return at this exalted level since Keith Howlett and John McLean reached the finals in 1989.

Powell's punching power discouraged Kehoe (Midland Counties) after a close first



It's ours, again!

Sgt Andy Symes holds the Schweppes Army Major Units Challenge Cup aloft after 7 Para RHA had won the competition for the fourth year in succession. Sgt Symes, who is being made redundant, scored a fine try. Report and picture in Pages 48-49

round and the sapper was awarded a unanimous points win.

Bessey set a blistering first round pace to gain revenge on England international Paul Burns (NW Counties). Burns, who beat Bessey last year, came back strongly in the final round but could not prevent the soldier from taking a unanimous verdict.

Burford disposed of the awkward Neil Simpson in impressive style, the referee having to stop the contest in the second round to save the Midland Counties champion from further punishment.

Wins for Cpl Darren Fox (RAF) and Cpl Rob Wileman (RN) made it one of the most successful nights for Combined

Services boxing for many years.

● Pte Sam Boreham (1 PWRR) won his NABC quarter-final at Milton Keynes, defeating James, the 1992 Class B champion.

Boxing for Bosnia

A "Boxing for Bosnia" show put on by WO2 Mick Dawson of 5 Regiment RA at Dortmund received superb support from the garrison and messes as far away as Dulmen and Hohne.

Featuring boxers from 5 Regt, 16 Regt RA, 32 Regt RA, 1 D and D, 28 Signal Regt and 4 ADSR, and a display by the Dortmund Kiwoo No Karate Club, the evening raised £6,900 towards medical supplies for Bosnian and Croatian refugees.

New pair win the Waterside

ARMY canoeists achieved outstanding results in the Waterside series of marathon races on the Kennet and Avon canal.

The event, celebrating its 25th year, consists of four separate races held fortnightly from the beginning of February, with series prizes being decided on total times for all four competitions.

The new doubles pairing of Capt Duncan Capps (4 GS Regt RLC) and Sgt Alan Heath (Engr Resources, Long Marston) began well by winning Waterside A (Great Bedwyn to Newbury, 14.5 miles) and coming second in the second race (Newbury-Aldermaston return, 18 miles).

But their rudder snapped after eight miles of Waterside C (Pewsey Wharf-Newbury, 26 miles) and they had to carry their boat the next seven miles until the support crew could find a new part and get them back into the water. Even so, they managed sixth place.

Capps and Heath went on to win the final race (Devizes-Newbury, 35 miles) to take the overall doubles and Inter-Services trophies.

Two newcomers to the Army team, Cpl Jim Ross and LCpl Andy Began (both RE), in only their second season together, paddled superbly throughout the series to finish third double overall.

They became stronger as the distances increased and were second in the final two races.

BAOR hold off RAF(G)

THE ANNUAL basketball match between BAOR and RAF(G), probably the last to be played in its traditional form, was won at RAF Gatow by the British Army.

After taking an interval lead of 33-21, and extending it to 47-29, BAOR had to contend with terrific pressure exerted in the closing stages by the airmen.

BAOR eventually held on to win 57-48.

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SOLDIER



New corps meets new Colonel-in-Chief as the Princess Royal inspects members of the Royal Logistic Corps taking part in its formation parade at the Princess Royal Barracks, Blackdown, Surrey. Soldiers serving with support units currently in Bosnia, as well as troops in Germany, Northern Ireland, the Falklands, Cyprus, Belize, the USA, Hong Kong, and other parts of the UK, were also celebrating becoming members of the RLC. Story and more pictures in Pages 14-15.

Picture: Mike Weston