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AUGUST 7, 1995
Vol 51/16

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COVER and Page 21:
The first surrender of the Japanese in the field at Abya in the Sittang Bend: Maj Wako Hisanori of 28th Army hands over his sword before negotiations with Lt Col O C Smyth (left) and Maj J B Mair, CO and 2iC respectively of 1/10 Gurkha Rifles. Lt Bert Corey (centre) interprets. A special section to commemorate VJ Day begins on Page 21.



● **BRAMLEY:** EOD team searches for First World War gas bombs – Page 12-13

● **BISLEY:** Three-medal Gurkha sets a modern record. Plus results. – Page 14-15.

● **DUKES:** TA's 3 DWR put through their paces on Kent ranges. – Pages 16-17.

● **FAR EAST WAR:** Special section to mark the 50th anniversary of VJ Day. Pages 21-32.

● **RESETTLEMENT:** A *Soldier* supplement to help those preparing for their post-Army life in civvy street. – Pages 33-36.

● **HOAY:** Your chance to win £50. – Page 43.



Above and inset: The versatile Longbow Apache helicopter which is to be assembled for the Army Air Corps by Westland and powered by Rolls-Royce engines

Apache wins the air battle

APACHE has won the billion-pound international battle to provide the Army Air Corps with its attack capability into the next century.

Defence Secretary Michael Portillo announced that 67 Apaches will be purchased to replace Lynx in a £2.5 billion order that will provide a front-line of 48 aircraft for the Army, the balance being held for training, trials and in reserve.

The British Army's Longbow Apache, a version of the US Army AH-64D which proved itself in the Gulf, was developed by McDonnell Douglas and will be assembled by Westland at Yeovil. It will be powered by Rolls-Royce engines from Bristol.

Apache was chosen by the Ministry of Defence after fierce competition from the British Aerospace-sponsored Eurocopter Tiger favoured by France and Germany, and the GEC-Marconi Avionics Bell Cobra Venom. Other contenders

were the Italian A129 from Agusta, Boeing-Sikorsky's Comanche and the South African Atlas Rooivalk.

Apache is already in service with the US military and the Netherlands. Britain's version will be equipped with Longbow millimetric fire control radar and with both semi-active laser and radio frequency Hellfire anti-tank guided missiles.

It will also mount CRV-7 rockets and a 30mm chain gun, and will have the capability to carry an air-to-air missile. A decision has not yet been made on the

missile. Mr Portillo said the helicopters would operate in support of the Army's two armoured divisions, 24 Airmobile Brigade and the Royal Marines.

"Longbow radar will significantly enhance Apache's effectiveness and will provide the British

● Turn to Page 5

AAC to get 67 in £2.5 billion deal

Pictures: Westland Group

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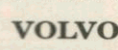
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Gornji EOD busy

AN ARSENAL of mortars, mines, rockets and hand grenades has been accumulated in the Gornji Vakuf area of central Bosnia by members of 33 Engineer Regiment (EOD) Detachment.

Commanded by Capt Chris Jones, the unit, attached to 21 Engineer Regiment, was also involved in the recovery of two reconnaissance vehicles which strayed on to a mined route. One was badly damaged.

The team placed charges along the road, discovering two anti-tank mines in the process.

When not blowing things up, the detachment has been teaching mine awareness at the school in Gornji Vakuf.

Gurkhas recall Ganju Lama's VC deed



Picture: Mike Weston

A highlight of this year's Royal Tournament has been the depiction by Gurkha Demonstration Company members of the incident in which Rfn Ganju Lama won his Victoria Cross in Burma in

1944. Although badly wounded, he knocked out three Japanese tanks singlehanded. Ganju Lama was among 22 holders of the VC who took part in a unique parade before the Queen at Earl's Court

Sarajevo reinforced

AS 1,200 British soldiers joined 500 French Foreign Legionnaires in the hills above Sarajevo, senior United Nations commanders warned the Bosnian Serb army that any challenge to the safe haven of Gorazde would be countered by NATO air strikes.

Task Force Alpha, which took up positions overlooking the Bosnian capital, is a rapid reaction force based on the 1st Battalion, The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment battlegroup.

Led by Lt Col Jeff Cook, CO 1 D and D, it includes two batteries of 105mm light guns of 19 Regt RA, armoured engineer assets from 21 Engr Regt and 32 Armd Engr Regt, and A Sqn HCR.

Its deployment follows the

● **REPAIRS** to Crni Most Bridge on Route Square in Bosnia have been carried out by 1 Field Squadron, 21 Engr Regt. The troop, commanded by Lt Tom Clarke, worked through the night to construct a 180ft Mabey Johnson bridge over the existing one, which was damaged when one of the fighting factions attempted to destroy it with mines.

killing of two French peacekeepers in Sarajevo on July 22.

In a separate move, UN commanders told Bosnian Serb leaders that any attack on Gorazde would be met by air strikes. The town is protected by 196 soldiers of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Welch Fusiliers, 100 Ukrainian soldiers and a detachment of Norwegian Army medics.

● One hundred members of Hameln-based 35 Engineer Regiment flew to Split as part of an advance party for 24 Airborne Brigade which is expected

to deploy to former Yugoslavia soon. The sappers will build a base for the brigade at Ploce.

Headquarters of the British, French and Dutch Rapid Reaction Force, of which Task Force Alpha is a part, have moved to Kiseljak. A party of 120 sappers from Ripon-based 51 Field Squadron RE – a 24 Bde asset – arrived at Split in mid-July.

The remaining 400 members of 35 Engr Regt are expected to deploy at the same time as the main force. Many will be starting a third tour in Bosnia.

● More than 550 vehicles,

240 trailers and 80 containers of equipment belonging to 24 Brigade are on their way by sea to the Adriatic following a two-day operation by 17 Port and Maritime Regiment RLC at Marchwood military port.

Of the brigade, only 1 R Anglian and 3 Regt AAC will deploy initially; 1 LI and 4 Regt AAC remaining in the UK on short notice to move.

Other units making up 24 Brigade include 210 Sig Sqn, 21 Air Defence Battery from Thorney Island, 19 Airmobile Fd Amb RAMC, 156 Pro Coy RMP and 24 AM Combat Service Support Battalion which includes a logistic squadron, REME workshop, Expeditionary Forces Institute canteen and a postal and courier detachment.

● Following the fall of Srebrenica, a UN safe haven, to the Bosnian Serb army, British troops were sent to Tuzla to help the United Nations High Commission for Refugees distribute aid. Thousands of refugees from Srebrenica are surviving in fields and forests around Tuzla.

Ten British Army DROPS vehicles and five 8-tonne trucks laden with aid were driven from Split to Tuzla.

Apache: a potent tank-killer

● Turn to Page 5

Army with a world class capability, a generation ahead of the Lynx helicopter, offering us the right combination of mobility, rapid deployment, reach and firepower," he said.

"It is vital that those who risk their lives should be provided with the helicopter we believe can destroy the highest number

of enemy targets with the least loss of life among crews."

Apache's two-man crew is protected by lightweight boron-carbide armour capable of withstanding 12.7mm armour-piercing incendiary rounds.

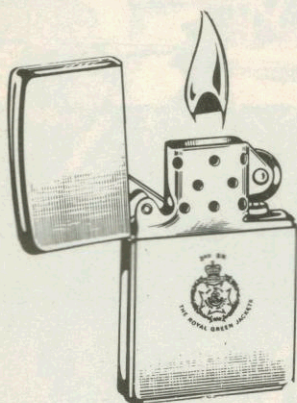
Its engines are mounted six feet apart to lessen the chance of both being damaged at the

same time. In turning it can tolerate three-and-a-half times the force of gravity and operate at night, in fog, rain and poor visibility.

Until recently the prime method of destroying massed armour was by using other tanks. Apache will add a powerful new dimension to the Army's tank-killing capability.

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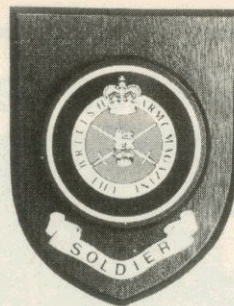
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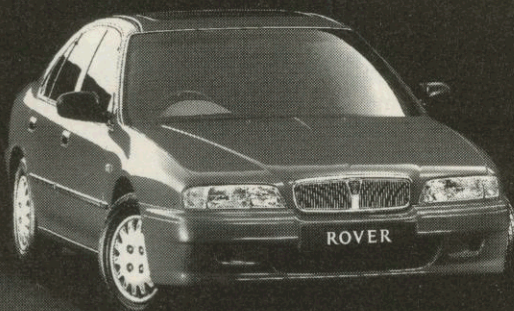
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Call for halt to Gurkha redundancies

REDUNDANCIES of more than 1,000 Gurkha soldiers planned to start this year should be halted to help the infantry's manpower situation, Fd Marshal Lord Bramall said in the Lords.

Speaking in the debate on the Defence Estimates on July 14 he said current commitments meant the Army was still "overstretched and undermanned", with the promised norm of 24 months between unaccompanied tours by this year apparently unlikely to be met, despite the easing of tension in Northern Ireland.

Defence Under Secretary Earl Howe said the size of the Army, currently about 116,000, was expected to rise to 117,000 by April

1996 and to reduce to about 114,000 by the end of the decade after implementation of the Defence Costs Study and Britain's withdrawal from Hong Kong.

Although the infantry, the Royal Armoured Corps and the Royal Artillery had a "small shortfall", overall the Army was not undermanned, he said.

Responding to concern about the Gurkhas, he said that on June 16 the Prime Minister and the Sultan of Brunei had signed an agreement extending the station-



A summary of Defence topics from Westminster

ing of Gurkhas in the sultanate for a further five years from 1998.

"The retention of the garrison will mean that there will always be at least one battalion that is acclimatised and jungle trained."

He paid tribute to the loyalty of the Gurkhas, who "continue to be an integral part of the British Army".

Total expenditure on recruitment to the Armed Forces in 1994-95 was £93,427,000.

In a Commons debate on mili-

tary training on Dartmoor, Mr Anthony Steen called for a review of live firing on the three principal ranges because he said 1994 figures showed they were being under-used.

In answer to a written question, Armed Forces Minister Nicholas Soames said the qualifying period for a UN peacekeeping medal for all NATO countries, including the UK, is 90 days' consecutive service.

A Bill to grant pardons for soldiers of First World War British Empire Forces executed for various offences including cowardice and desertion had its first and second readings.

Air Corps troops Guidon in Northern Ireland

FOR THE first time since it was presented by the Prince of Wales, Colonel-in-Chief of the Army Air Corps, at Middle Wallop last year, the corps' Guidon was trooped through the ranks at Aldergrove, Northern Ireland, home of 5 Regiment AAC.

Taking the salute at the parade with the Director of Army Aviation, Maj Gen Simon Lytle, was Lt Gen Sir Roger Wheeler, GOC Northern Ireland, with CO Lt Col Richard Folkes proudly looking on.

The troops, separated into No 1 Guard of AAC personnel, under the command of Capt James Anderson, and No 2 Guard of REME personnel, led by Capt Adam Dear, marched to music performed by the Band of the Army Air Corps.

Band and troops were inspected by Gen Wheeler, and the musicians gave a recital before the Guidon was marched on - carried by Lt Andy Inman, flanked by WO2s Mike Sinclair and Sean Broad and directed by WO1 Clive Durrant.

Having trooped the Guidon



Islander, Gazelle and Lynx fly overhead as the AAC Guidon is paraded for 5 Regiment in Northern Ireland

through the ranks, the party halted behind the parade commander and the band played *Sunset* as the flags were lowered.

With perfect timing, a fly-past representing the three types of aircraft currently in service with 5 Regiment AAC in Northern Ireland - an Islander, two Gazelles and two Lynx helicopters - roared overhead.

The only element of sadness for the participants and 400 spectators was the death in hospital earlier that day of SSgt Stephen Thompson REME, for whom the flags flew at half-mast during the parade.

Dortmund gunners' farewell

AFTER nearly 50 years of continuous service in Dortmund, Germany, the flags of the Royal Regiment of Artillery were lowered during a farewell parade in the town attended by 5,000 guests.

A guard of honour was provided by gunners from 12 and 16 Regiments RA.

Brig Graham Kerr, Commander Royal Artillery 1 (UK) Armoured Division, thanked the people of Dortmund and referred to the close ties that have grown over many years between the British Army and

the town. He said the British would remember with fondness their long association with Dortmund.

Lt Col Stephen Gledhill, CO 16 Regiment, was presented with the *fahnenband* of the Federal Republic.

His regiment is returning to Woolwich this summer after 20 years based in Germany, while 12 Regiment is moving from Dortmund to Paderborn.

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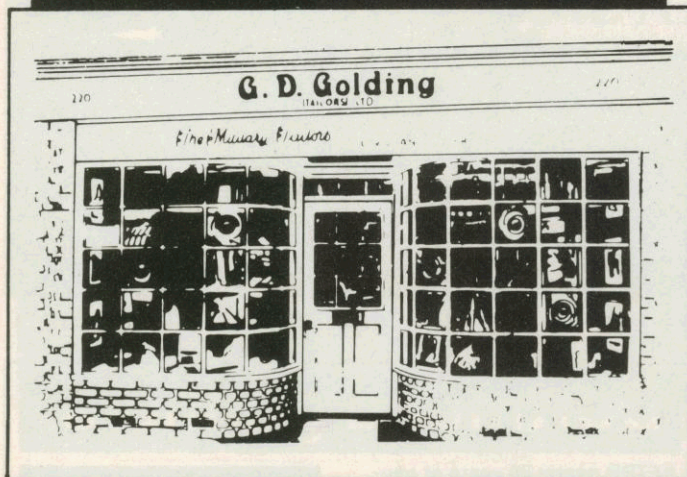
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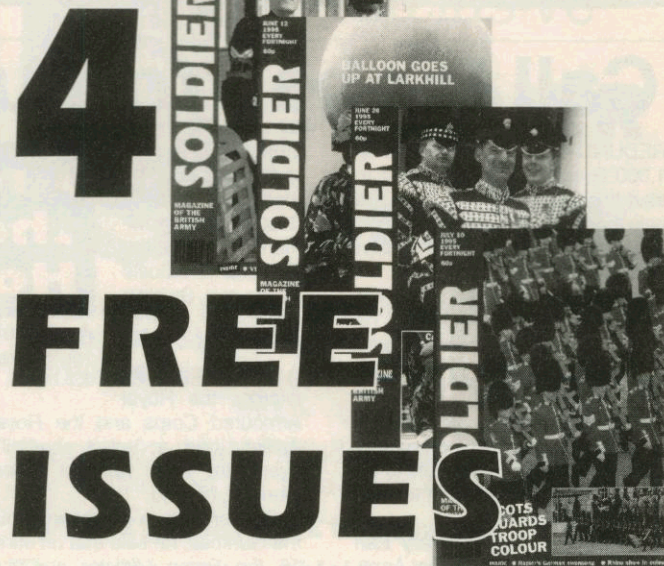
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Cyprus sappers on road to church



Task commander Cpl Steven Thorne (right) briefs LCpls Grant and Munday of 62 Cyprus Support Squadron RE on a new road they are constructing for the people of Kouklia. The squadron, based at Dhekelia, took six weeks using bulldozers to carve the 500m road from a hillside to link the village church to the main road

Ripon sappers mark Freedom with a parade

OFFICERS and men of 38 Engineer Regiment marched through Ripon, North Yorkshire, to the cathedral to exercise the regiment's right to the Freedom of the city.

The regiment's annual Ripon weekend was as hectic as usual, with a concert for families put on by the corps band under Capt Andrew Chatburn. The band also played during the Freedom parade and gave a public performance in Ripon Market Square.

Other features included a display of corps silver valued at £161,000 and escorted from Chatham under the watchful eye of 2nd Lt Mike Pickup, and a Beat Retreat ceremony.

Part of this year's event was the official opening of a new building within Claro Barracks by the representative Colonel

Commandant, Maj Gen A N Carlier. He congratulated those involved in the 15-month construction project, which has provided the regiment with new garages and workshops.



Capt Andy Barr leads the 38 Engineer Regiment Freedom parade through the streets of Ripon to the cathedral

Paras 'take' Otterburn

HUNDREDS of troops from 5 Airborne Brigade parachuted on to "hostile" Otterburn training area in Northumberland, during Exercise Pegasus Fury.

Men of 1 Para, 7 Para RHA, 9 Para Sqn RE, the Logistic Battalion, HQ 5 Airborne Brigade and 216 Para Signal Sqn took part with support from RAF Hercules transport aircraft and the Army Air Corps.

Pegasus Fury was designed to rehearse the insertion of ground forces into hostile territory.

IN BRIEF

Equipment exhibition

UP TO 25,000 visitors from more than 60 countries are expected to attend the Royal Navy and British Army equipment exhibition to be held at Pegasus Village, Aldershot from September 3-8.

The 1st Battalion, The Royal Gloucestershire, Berkshire and Wiltshire Regiment, took up the West Sovereign Base Area resident infantry battalion role in Episkopi, Cyprus, handing over Alma Barracks, Catterick, to the 1st Battalion, The Royal Irish Regiment.

The Rolls-Royce Trophy, awarded annually to the Army Air Corps organisation displaying the highest technical efficiency and flying skills, has been presented to Watisham-based 3 Regiment AAC. Fifteen units based world-wide were involved in the competition.

IN THE PRESS

200,000 flee as floods threaten Dutch dykes
Train crash as the black line
BT chief envies junior doctor's 'relaxing' job
What the papers have been saying

Gender-free fitness tests aimed at matching recruits to the most suitable type of job are to be introduced by the Army. Many potential recruits meet the intellectual standard required but fail the physical tests because they are too fat or lack sufficient muscle. — *Times*

MP Winston Churchill has called for the £100-a-year payment to holders of the Victoria Cross and George Cross to be increased to £10,000 a year. — *Sunday Express*

A Tokyo judge is to decide whether there is a case to answer when former British PoWs seek compensation for the brutality and hardship they endured at the hands of the Japanese during the Second World War. More than 15,000 ex-PoWs are seeking sums of £14,000 plus legal costs. — *Observer*

Of 24 Government departments, the Ministry of Defence is the best at paying its suppliers within the 30-day target. A parliamentary answer revealed that 99.99 per cent of MoD bills are settled on or before time. — *Daily Telegraph*

Oars power

Winners of the Reserve Forces Trophy in the gruelling annual Devizes to Westminster canoe race were two members of the 2nd Battalion, The Wessex Regiment.

Cpl **John Hancock** and Pte **Peter Braithwaite** (standing) crewed one of the two two-man canoes entered by the regiment, beating off opposition from 142 starters, including Reservist teams from the SAS, the Royal Marines and the Royal Engineers.

The other Wessex canoe, manned by LCpls **Steve Brown** and **Tony Smith** (kneeling), also completed the 125-mile race, which John and Peter won in a time of 22hr 24min 38sec.



Well done, Lyanne

First British soldier to receive the UNAVEM III medal as part of the United Nations Mission in Angola was Capt **Lyanne Maclean**, pictured receiving her award from Lt Col **Harry O'Hare**, commander of the British Logistics Battalion deployed in Angola. Lyanne was about to return from Catumbela Airfield to the United Kingdom to attend the Junior Command and Staff course.



HAPPINESS OF THE LONG-DISTANCE RUNNER...

LCpl **James Clunes** of the 3rd Battalion, The Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire, who has received prizes for his cross-country and marathon running prowess, had to put his best foot forward for his latest award – a Long Service and Good Conduct Medal for 16 years with the Regulars. James, based with 3 PWO headquarters in Fulford, is the CO's driver. He received his medal from Col **Teddy Denison**, Honorary Colonel of the regiment.



PEOPLE

Careers mountaineers

It was a family affair when WO2 **Mike James** (left) from Army Careers Information Office Bletchley (Milton Keynes) tackled Ben Nevis, Scafell Pike and Mount Snowdon with fellow soldiers CSgt **Dave Stubbings** (centre), WO2 **John Ritchie** (rear) from ACIO Oxford and Sgt **Mike Smith**.

Making up the team, collectively dubbed the Brunel Bashers after the centre in which ACIO Bletchley is housed, were Mike's wife **Moya** (second left) and daughter **Teresa** James, who stood in at the last minute. They completed the Three Mountains Challenge in under ten hours, contributing £550 in sponsorship towards the £35,000 raised by the charity event.



Paddy's post

New regimental secretary of The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment at Howe Barracks, Canterbury, is Col (Retd) **Paddy Pantan**.

Among his previous posts, Col Pantan commanded the 1st Battalion The Queen's Regiment, was chief instructor of the Intelligence Wing at the School of Service Intelligence at Ashford, Colonel of the Queen's Division and, latterly, OC Manning and Records Office at Exeter.

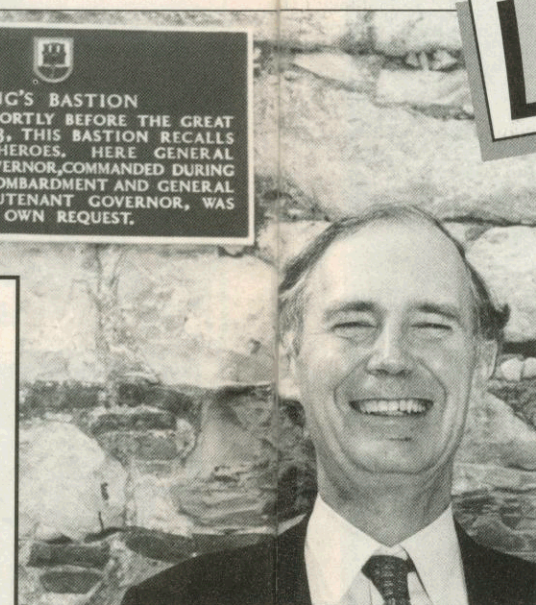
A former Army pilot, his latest venture seems to have had a smooth take-off.



Bastion link

What's the connection between a current lieutenant general and a former lieutenant governor? The King's Bastion in Gibraltar – within whose walls **Gen Boyd**, the Rock's Lieutenant Governor during the Great Siege of 1779 to 1783, is buried – is the answer.

Lt Gen the Hon Sir **Thomas Boyd-Carpenter**, Deputy Chief of the Defence Staff (Programmes and Personnel), was photographed at his great, great, great grandfather's resting place during a visit to Gibraltar.



KING'S BASTION
REBUILT SHORTLY BEFORE THE GREAT SIEGE, 1779-1783, THIS BASTION RECALLS TWO OF ITS HEROES, HERE GENERAL ELLIOTT, THE GOVERNOR, COMMANDED DURING THE FIERCEST BOMBARDMENT AND GENERAL BOYD, THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR, WAS BURIED AT HIS OWN REQUEST.

Mixed "for-tunes" for TA band

These three members of the Band of the 4th Battalion, The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment, (left to right) **Richard de la Rue**, **Peter Blake** and **Reg Bush**, laid a wreath in memory of Col 'H' Jones at the Port Stanley war memorial in the Falkland Islands.

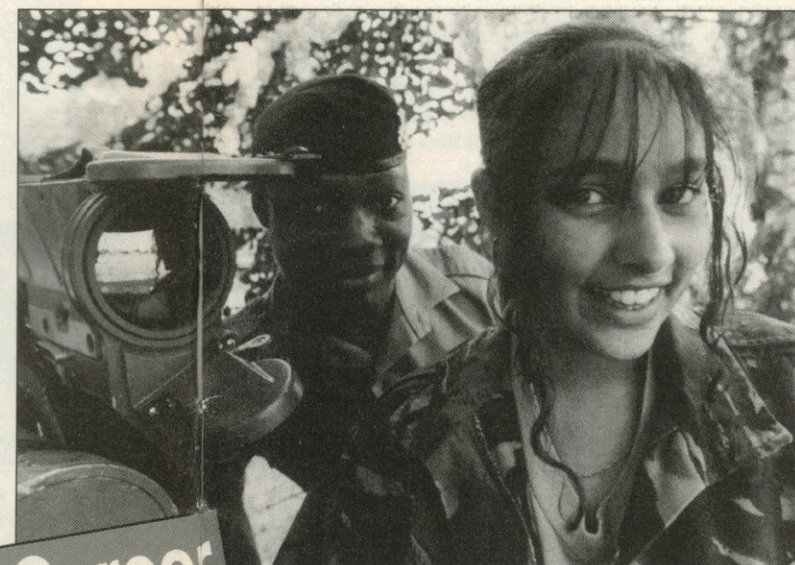
They were taking part in an eventful visit to the Falklands by the Band of the Royal Gloucestershire Hussars, a TA regiment, which was scheduled to provide music for the Falklands Liberation Day parade.

After diversions via Dakar and Montevideo, due partially to appalling weather in East Falkland, the band members eventually reached Mount Pleasant – but, through no fault of their own, too late for the parade...



Career girl

Fifteen-year-old **Harvinder Shergill**, pictured with Cpl **Peter Thompson** of The Staffordshire Regiment, learned about the intricacies of the Milan anti-tank weapon during a week-long camp at Shropshire's Nesscliffe training area. She was among 150 teenagers from the Midlands who are considering a career in the Armed Forces, and who spent five days as guests of the 1st Battalion, The Welsh Guards, experiencing canoeing, an assault course and other military skills.



Open Arms!

Instructors and students at the Royal Logistic Corps Training Centre, Deepcut, line up as Brig **Paul Evans**, Commander RLCTC, opens the new All-Arms Wing with (centre, left) chief instructor Lt Col **David Owen**, and Col **Colin Den-MacKay**, Commandant. More than 3,000 students will use the new wing for courses including quartermaster, fire, health and safety and vehicle specialist training.



Search is on for Bramley's hidden menace

A SMALL part of Hampshire is receiving the very close attention of a large force of Army bomb disposal experts.

Bramley Training Area, near Basingtoke, was once a First World War ammunition depot. It housed chemical weapons such as phosgene and mustard gas shells which had been used to deadly effect on the Western Front.

Many surplus bombs were disposed of by burying them in the grounds of the depot, with, incredibly, no record of the disposal or the location.

Workmen installing a water main along the eastern perimeter of the site in 1987 uncovered a number of cast iron casings. Army EOD experts identified them as liquid phosgene bombs.

The devices, each 2ft long, contained 30lb of the lethal lung irritant. Seventy-eight years ago they would have been fired from crude mortars – known as Livens Projectors – designed by Capt William Livens RE.

During the first four days of Operation Apple, sappers from 49 Field Sqn (EOD), 33 Engineer Regiment (Explosive Ordnance Disposal) unearthed 190

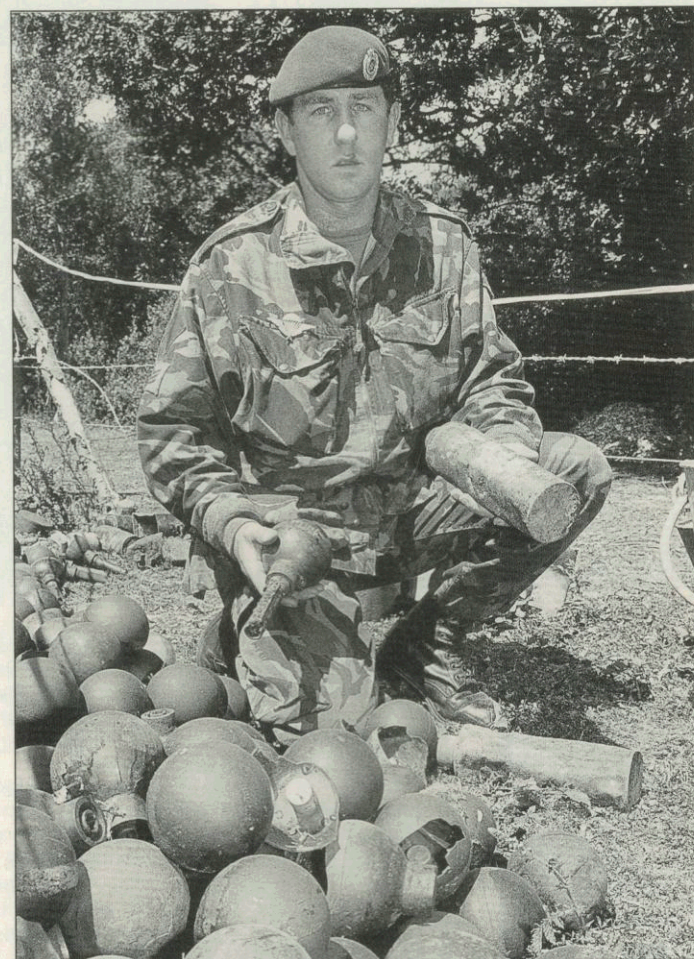
explosive items, including 12 Livens containers, 28 6in shells, seven Stokes mortar shells and 180 grenades.

Five soldiers received commendations from GOC South East District for their work on Op Apple.

Eight years on, the Ministry of Defence became concerned that there may be more chemical munitions buried on the training area. Although they pose little risk to Service personnel or the public, a search and clearance operation – codenamed Cornelius – was ordered. When complete, it will enable the Army to make the fullest use of the training area, as well as reducing the chances of soldiers having to handle deteriorating chemical munitions at some point in the future.

Again, 49 Field Squadron have been called in, as have search sections from 22 Headquarters Squadron (EOD) which are responsible for battle area clearance in the UK.

The squadron's civilian searchers have been clearing scrub from possible burial sites, cordoning off the areas into 50-metre squares, and then using sophisticated mine detectors to



Spr Mark Cunliffe holds a No 73 Mk 1 grenade and a No 74 spherical "sticky bomb" found on a dump site at Bramley

locate buried ordnance. They have pinpointed a number of spots for excavation, and a large quantity of First World War munitions was found lying on the surface of a hollow in woodland on the training area.

The dump included many "sticky bombs" designed to knock out tanks. An outer casing would break to release a glue-like substance to secure the device against the armoured vehicle. An inner charge exploded after a short delay.

In 1987, civilians living near the depot had to be evacuated while chemical munitions were recovered. It is hoped new technology will avoid the need for such disruption during Op Cornelius.

The squadron's operations officer, Capt Billy Dean, told *Soldier* that a personal decontamination station has been established at Bramley in case of accidental leakage of the gas.

"Medics from 4 Field Ambulance RAMC at Aldershot have

deployed in support of us and a medical quick reaction force will be at Bramley ready to respond to any emergency.

"Our soldiers are going to

erect small Baker containment structures – leak-proof tents – over sites suspected of containing the gas shells. They will be protected by NBC suits and

respirators when they dig down to the munitions.

"If phosgene or mustard gas is identified, the men will cover up the bombs and fill in the hole again. Then the small tents will be taken down and a much larger containment structure erected on site.

"It measures 25 by 30 metres and takes about five days to put up. Its size means heavy plant can be used inside the tent," said Capt Dean.

Senior military commander for the operation is Lt Col Peter Hayward-Broomfield. According to the OC 49 Fd Sqn, Maj Rob Marsh, everything is going to plan.

"We are happy at the way the search is proceeding. No chemical munitions have yet been discovered, but my men have found ordnance in an older dumping area, mainly grenades and anti-tank mines from the two World Wars."

The operation is expected to go on until the end of the year.



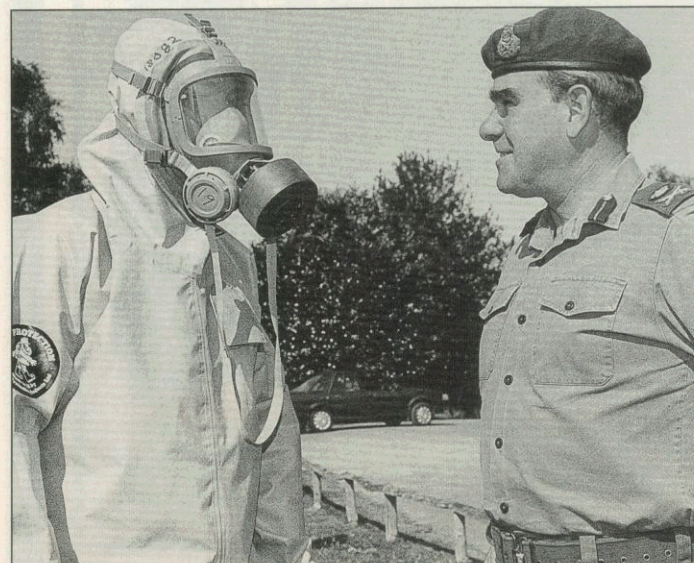
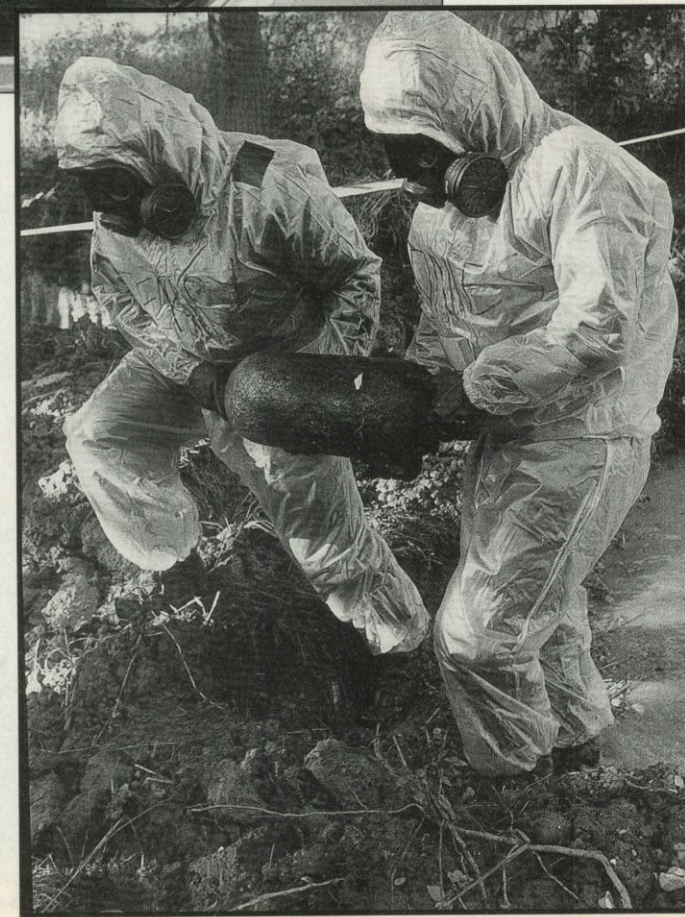
Sprs Mark Williams and Iain Robertson check air filtration units which will



Above: Civilian searcher, Alwyn Clarkson uses a locator, while Erik Grimes plots details for later input into a computerised grid analysis system

Left: Members of 49 EOD Fd Sqn at Bramley. Clockwise from bottom centre are Lt Kate Jackson, Spr Wolf Williams, Spr Sevy Burns, Cpl Mark Ridgeway, LCpl Charles Martell, Sgt Bob Swain and Sgt Taff Rees

Below: Flashback to 1987. Clad in protective clothing, Sgt Dave Percy and LCpl Andre Jones remove a gas bomb from a site at Bramley training area during Operation Apple



Lt Gen Sir Anthony Dennison-Smith, GOC 4 Div, is shown the full protective outfit by LCpl Richard Stevens

Gurkha wins record third Queen's Medal

CAPT (QGO) Dharmendra Gurung is the Army's champion shot for the third time – a unique achievement in modern times, writes Laurie Manton.

The Queen's Gurkha Officer, formerly of 6 GR until last year's reorganisation and now serving with the 1st Battalion, The Royal Gurkha Rifles, is in his last year of service. He beat off a strong challenge from Cpl Robert Doak of 3 R Irish.

During 18 years of competing at Bisley, Capt Dharmendra has never finished out of the top 50 in the Army Hundred. In 1985 he was involved in the only tie in the history of the Queen's Medal, but was placed second after a shoot off.

He has represented the British Army at international meetings, winning three times in Canada and twice in Australia. His final duty before packing his bags and returning to Nepal on retirement is to represent the Army in next month's international skill-at-arms meeting in Brunei.

"He has been the outstanding Service rifle shot of his generation," said the Army Rifle Association's Secretary, Lt Col Paddy Chambers.

The last full-blown Regular Army Skill-at-Arms Meeting took place in 1993. Following a major review of Army shooting



LCpl William Revels, 4/5 Rangers, who won the TA Queen's Medal

policy in 1994, the meeting was abandoned in favour of a shoulder-to-shoulder Queen's Medal competition at Bisley and Pirbright, and mandatory participation by all Regular units in the Tickle non-central competition.

Last year, a new event was introduced. The Army's 50 best shots, selected from district and command skill-at-arms meetings, competed in a one-day event at Bisley to decide the winner of the Queen's Medal.

This year, the number of competitors increased to 75, with an additional 45 marksmen from America, Canada, Oman and, for the first time, the new South Africa, taking part.

While inter-unit events remained in abeyance, the new



Cpl Robert Doak (left), of 3 R Irish, winner of the Roupell Cup, is congratulated by Lt Gen Sir Roger Wheeler, the ARA President

President of the Army Rifle Association, Lt Gen Sir Roger Wheeler, predicted a gradual return to a full number of competitors taking part in the Army Hundred competition.

Col Chambers said: "The importance of good marks-

manship standards, not only to the operational efficiency of the Army, but to the self-esteem of the individual soldier, is being recognised again as the Army appears to be entering an era of low intensity peacekeeping and UN humanitarian operations where use of small arms predominate.

"The Army Rifle Association is pledged to encourage a thriving competitive environment in the Army to enhance these standards.

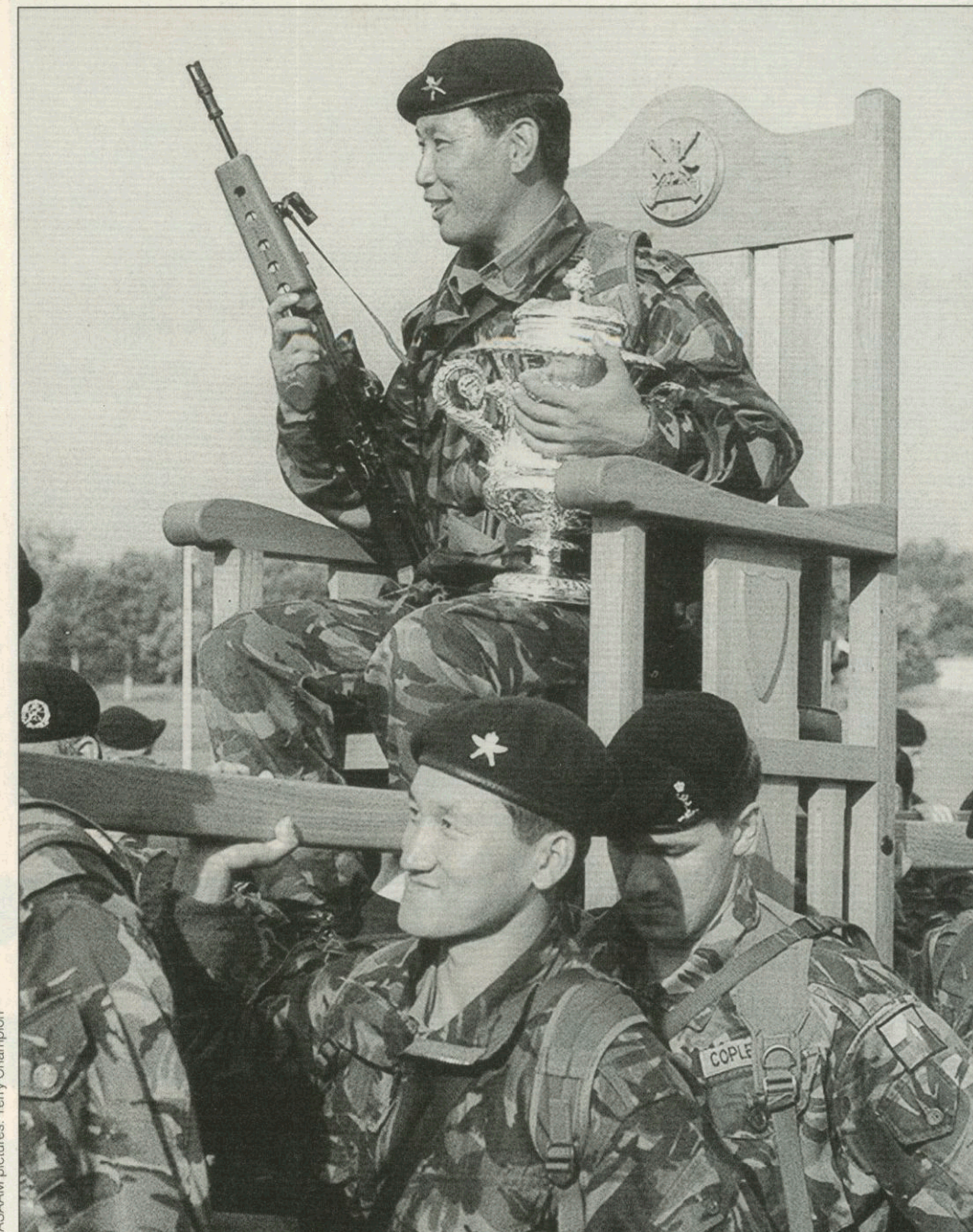
"Although the concept of the central meeting competition is based on individual effort, the shooting still reflects to a great degree the elements of stress, tension and physical effort likely to be encountered in current operational settings.

"It continues to provide a centre of expertise to evaluate and improve the current rifle and pistol and handling techniques for them.

"In the recent past, improvements to the design of SA80 and the L9 pistol and better zeroing techniques for the rifle and light support weapon have been generated by the expertise of serving competition shooters," he said.



Their biggest fan? Maj Gen Walter Courage, DGTA, meets the team from the soon-to-be-disbanded Royal Hong Kong Regiment (The Volunteers) who were competing for the last time at Bisley



Capt Dharmendra Gurung enjoys the traditional Bisley chairlift accorded to the winner of the Queen's Medal. He has experienced it twice before



Soldiers prepare to fire a competition over the famous Bisley ranges

RASAAM RESULTS

Queen's Medal: 1, Capt Dharmendra Gurung, 1 RGR; 2, Cpl R Doak, 3 R Irish; 3, LCpl G S Roleston, 8 R Irish; 4, LSgt W R T Russell, 1 SG; 5, Cpl S Brier, 4 R Irish; 6, LCpl Prembahadur Baral, 2 RGR.

Roupell Cup: 1, Cpl R Doak, 3 R Irish; 2, LCpl G S Roleston, 8 R Irish; 3, Capt Dharmendra Gurung, 1 RGR; 4, QMSI T Reece, SASC ITC Brecon; 5, LCpl I M Chambers, 1 WFR; 6, LSgt W R T Russell, 1 SG.

Henry Whitehead Cup: 1, Cpl S Brier, 4 R Irish; equal 2, Maj A G McLean, 4 R Irish, WO2 D Delany, 108 Fd Sp Sqn RE, LCpl Beindrakumar, 2 RGR and Cpl A J McNiece, 8 R Irish; 6, QMSI T Reece, SASC ITC Brecon.

Association Cup: 1, Maj A G McLean, 4 R Irish; 2, Capt Dharmendra Gurung, 1 RGR; 3, Sgt G Peacock, 1 RGJ; 4, Cpl R Doak, 3 R Irish; 5, LCpl P Cullen, 3 R Irish; 6, LCpl S P Armstrong, 1 SG.

Graham Trophy (FIBUA): 1, LCpl Prembahadur Baral, 2 RGR; 2, Rfn Hirabahadur Thapa, GDC ITC Brecon; 3, LCpl I M Chambers, 1 WFR; 4, Capt Dharmendra Gurung, 1 RGR; 5, LCpl P Cullen, 3 R Irish; 6, LSgt W R T Russell, 1 SG.

Bullock Trophy: 1, Cpl R Doak, 3 R Irish; 2, Capt Dharmendra Gurung, 1 RGR; 3, LCpl I M Chambers, 1 WFR; 4, LCpl G S Roleston, 8 R Irish; 5, LSgt W R T Russell, 1 SG; 6, LCpl Prembahadur Baral, 2 RGR.

Presentation Kukri: Rfn Hirabahadur Thapa, GDC ITC Brecon.

TASAAM RESULTS

Queen's Medal: 1, LCpl W Revels, 4/5 Rangers; 2, Cpl I Knapperton, 3 PWO; 3, Sgt D Fenwick, 7 LI; 4, Pte A Hazel, 3 PWO; 5, Lt T Ulman, 4 RGJ; 6, CSgt R Bicker, 6/7 PWRR.

Mullens Trophy: Sgt D Fenwick 7 LI; team, 3 PWO.

Yorkshire Volunteers Cup: Cpl I Knapperton, 3 PWO; team, 3 PWO.

51st Highland Volunteers Quaich: Maj A Kent, 10 Para; team, 6/7 PWRR.

TARA Trophy: LCpl W Revels, 4/5 Rangers; team, 3 PWO.

Imperial Tobacco Trophy: Rgr McConaghie, 4/5 Rangers.

Daily Telegraph Cup: 3 PWO.

Army Rifle Association Cup: 3 PWO.

Pistol Match: 1, WO1 L Grace, US National Guard; 2, CSgt C Allen, USNG; 3, TSgt K Stroh, USNG; 4, LTC J Berheim, USNG; 5, Capt D Lord, 10 Para; 6, SFC B Kissenger, USNG. Team: 1, USNG; 2, RHKR; 3, 3 Cheshire.

A G Wise Pistol Cup: Sig P Clarke, 43 Signal Regt.

Noble Trophy: Sgt D Fenwick, 7 LI.

Quartet Cup: 3 PWO.

Tyler Trophy: CSgt R Bicker, 6/7 PWRR.

Wessex Regiment Cup: 3 Hldrs.

The Volongdis: Capt J Tyson, 3 Cheshire.

Simpson Challenge Cup: 3 Hldrs.

China Cup: 7 LI.

Dragon Trophy: 3 Hldrs.

North Irish Militia Cup: 151 SP Regt RLC.

Lord Lieutenant's Trophy: Birmingham UOTC.

Fortuna Trophy: UK team beat US National Guard team by 175 points.

Falling Plates: 6 RRF.

Pictures: David Reynolds



Sandpiper's 10 Para crew. From left: Capt Paul Young, Capt Chris Porteous, Pte Jim Holt, Maj Pete Whitely and SSgt John Pettinger

Sappers sail to peaks win

ARMY teams sailed hundreds of miles and ran three marathons over four days in the annual Three Peaks Race, with the Royal Engineers clinching the military section, **writes Doug McArthur.**

Starting and finishing at Barmouth in Wales, the yachts race to Caernavon, where the runners go ashore to tackle Snowdon, then on to Ravenglass for the run up Scafell Pike, and finally to Fort William for the climb up Ben Nevis. Teams cover more than 390 miles by sea and 73 by land to the top of three of the highest peaks in mainland Britain.

Red berets from 10 Para and an Army dog handling team were among the military entries.

Gales soon claimed the eight-metre *Blue Note*, with runners Yub Raj Gurung and Unmar Jang Gurung on board from the Royal Gurkha Rifles at Church Crookham.

Despite the unsettled start to the race, which is open to civilian crews from all over the world, a sapper team from 3 Training Regiment RE on board *Robo Babe* clinched the Services' Tilman Trophy.

The sappers, skippered by Maj Phil Ashcroft, missed out on the Three Peaks Trophy by just nine minutes as they were beaten into second place in the final run on Ben Nevis.

The TA paras on *Sandpiper* were second in the military section and seventh overall.

Skippered by Maj Pete Whitely, OC Support Company 10 Para (V), and based at Aldershot, the Terriers were fastest on Ben Nevis. The team included Capt Paul Young, Capt Chris Porteous, SSgt John Pettinger and Pte Jim Holt.

WO1 Ray Thornton, from RAVC Melton Mowbray, skippered *Lady of Moyle*, crewed by members of the Army Dog Unit and represent-



Royal Engineers sail *Robo Babe* in rough seas off Barmouth

ing the Army Sailing Association, Northern Ireland. The team had problems with the yacht before the start and was forced to pull out at Morecambe.

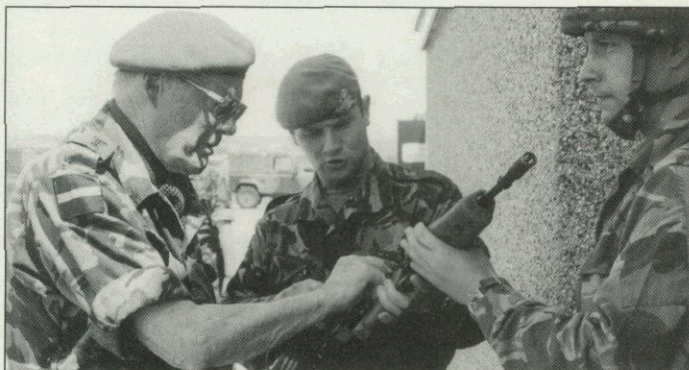
Former commando gunner Bob Beggs and his runners from 29 Commando Regiment Royal Artillery on board *Clarks Active Air* found themselves running the three peaks in boots after their sponsor asked them to trial the new footwear.

After four days of hard running and sailing the yachts arrived at Fort William where the sappers were congratulated on their victory in the Tilman Trophy, which they last won several years ago.

● Military teams are already registering for next year's event, and any unit wishing to take part should contact race secretary Lt Col Colin Walker on 01341 280298.



Discussing the exercise are (left to right) Col Chris Woodhouse, RSM Brian Thomas and Lt Col Tom Bonas, CO 3 DWR



CSgt Murten and Sgt Yates show the Duke of Wellington an SA80 rifle

Wellington warriors grapple with Kent ranges

BOSNIA figured high on the agenda when the part-timers of the 3rd Battalion, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment held their annual camp in Kent – with a little help from Regular colleagues just back from an Operation Grapple deployment.

The battalion's annual inter-platoon competition was set against a Bosnian scenario in which it was assisted by soldiers of 1 DWR newly returned from a six-month tour in former Yugoslavia.

The 3rd Battalion's two-week Exercise Wellington Warriors was based on the Cinque Ports ranges and training areas at Lydd and Hythe.

As a General Reserve and, in war, assigned to NATO's Rapid Reaction Corps, the TA Dukes embarked on a varied training programme to hone collective and individual skills.

Their programme was based on the advanced ranges which the battalion was allocated for three days. They proved so



Cpl Sean Dolan leads a section from A Coy on convoy drills during the 3 DWR inter-platoon competition

popular that many Dukes were happy to give up a rest day to go through them again.

In addition to the ranges,



Cpl Charles Gill and Pte Ian Finch carry a casualty back to the ambulance in the casevac stage of the exercise

Pictures: Mike Perring

Particularly enjoyable was a 24-hour R and R period during which some soldiers visited seaside resorts while others caught Le Shuttle to Paris for a night at the Moulin Rouge. Many took the opportunity to stock up on duty free goods.

A highlight of the camp was the visit by the Colonel-in-Chief, the Duke of Wellington.

The camp was rounded off by a battlefield tour of Fontenay in Normandy where 6 and 7 DWR fought in June 1944.

Commanding officer Lt Col Tom Bonas said the South Coast had provided a new experience for many of his soldiers, who are normally based in the West Riding and South Yorkshire.

"We have had an excellent time and learned a great deal. Setting our exercises around United Nations-type operations proved hugely popular, as well as valuable in gaining the all-round experience we need if we are to be a true General Reserve to the Regular Army."



Manning the intelligence cell at the company command post are (from left) Pte Steven Sanderson, Pte Sarah Hume and Pte Adam Harding

The quality of Mersey

32 Regt RA on land and sea

FROM WET surroundings at Marchwood and Browndown on the South Coast to dry firing on Salisbury Plain – with a crash course in decontamination procedures thrown in for good measure.

That was the experience of 32 Regiment RA, whose soldiers, bar virtually all but a 30-strong element in Bosnia and a team supporting the Phoenix remote pilotless vehicle trial, were involved in the culminating regimental phase of Exercise Mersey Challenge.

The aims of the exercise, named after the Larkhill-based regiment's main recruiting area and whose first four weeks had embraced fortnight-long troop and battery exercises, were to practise movement by land and sea and the deployment of multi-launch rocket systems (MLRS).

With a Northern Ireland tour and individual courses occupying its officers and soldiers since their return to the UK from Germany, this was the first time the ARRC-committed regiment, whose CO, Lt Col Bob Eggar, joined them earlier this year, had exercised in 18 months.

"We took the full administrative chain and echelon element of the staff out into the field, as well as the locating aspects – between 300 and 400 people – leaving a skeleton staff on the gate," said the adjutant, Capt Andy Welsh.

A convoy of close on 100 vehicles had left Larkhill's Roberts Barracks, embarking



LBdr Stocky Stockton and Gnr Jock Canavan, Battle Axe Coy, 74 Battery, with their MLRS at Longmoor

at Marchwood Military Port and disgorging vessels at Browndown, Gosport, to simulate an overseas deployment.

Moving after midnight, the vehicles – ranging from ambulances to the gigantic MLRS – made the short haul to Longmoor training camp.

Their theoretical enemy had adopted an expansionist policy, a similarly theoretical line had been drawn between the north and south of Godalming, and 3 Division

Story: Phil Wilcox
Pictures: Mike Weston

had been tasked with carrying out ARRC's reaction, monitoring events and preventing further incursions.

While the MLRS launchers were camouflaged in their hides, men from various batteries, including MT, medics and refuelling, were taken through the basics of NBC decontamination procedures, both for themselves and their vehicles – a novelty for the regiment.

Sections were cordoned off

to simulate a much larger-scale operation.

In the contamination control area, Sgt Glyn "Taff" Mullet briefed a group of soldiers who, he informed them, would be suffering from dehydration and degradation by this point were the scenario for real.

As their apparel was sprayed, they were warned about the dangers of removing their respirators too quickly, since they would inevitably be surrounded by grossly contaminated vehicles and cam nets, as well as their clothing.

Having helped each other out of their suits (the "buddy buddy" system), they were pointed towards a truck from which, having disposed of their dirty suits in sealed bags, they obtained clean ones, donning them in a suit-change area.

"In the remount area, you will marry back up with your equipment," WO2 Des Forte told the assembled soldiers.

"By the time you leave here, you will be left with no doubt about what state your kit is in. You will be clean, but the vehicles might still have gas on them."

A high-powered decontamination washdown unit was being used to put that right.

From Longmoor, next stop for 32 Regiment was a circuitous night-time haul to Salisbury Plain by way of a rolling



Menacing: MLRS emerges on Salisbury Plain

Below: Suited to the task? Soldiers from 32 Regiment batteries wait in one of the contamination control areas at Longmoor

replenishment of food and fuel at Barton Stacey. Once *in situ*, officers and men concentrated on the technical aspects of the deployment of MLRS and, simultaneously, tested the locating battery's capabilities for the first time on an exercise of any size.

Use of the main training and impact areas enabled the regiment to practise advances and withdrawals, as well as tactical manoeuvres and use of ground, said Capt Welsh.

"It was very demanding, but very productive, and the whole command system was put through quite an arduous test.

"I think the main aim of the exercise – to shake out the cobwebs and remember what it was all about after a long break – was achieved. We managed to cover a fairly broad spectrum, so that one unit was not training in isolation of another. To a certain extent, the soldiers have been reminded of how rusty they all were."

LBdr Andrew Stockton, a driver in Battle Axe Coy, 74 Battery, enjoyed the deployment from barracks to beach.

"The moves by boat were new to us, and broke up the monotony of lumbering

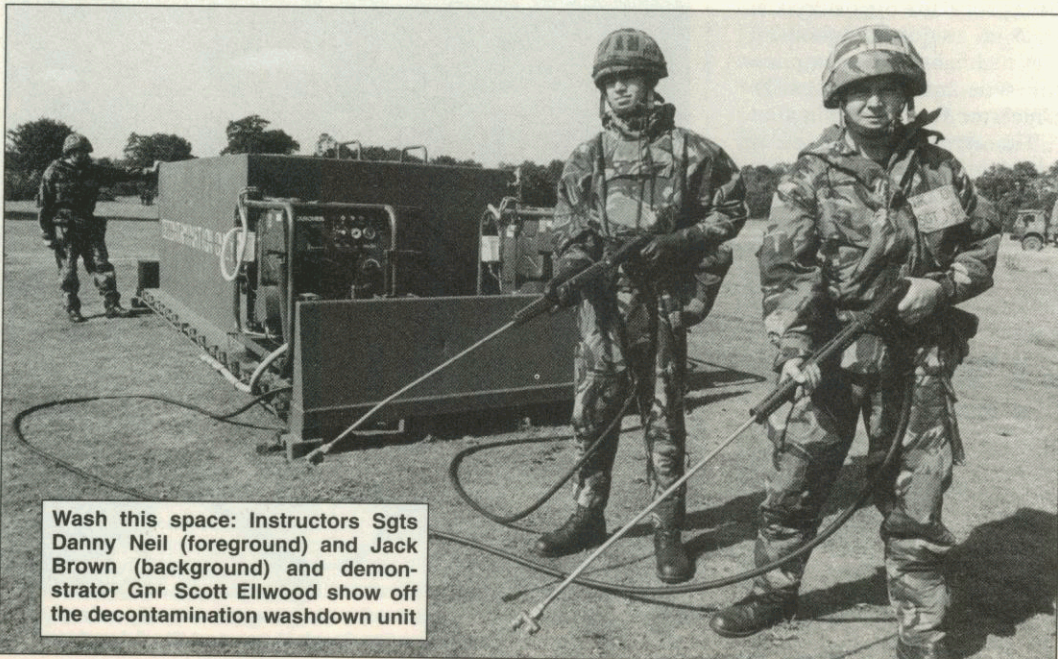


through the woods from position to position," he said.

Maj Byron Drage, the 2iC, admitted he had expected "the odd hiccup", but that things had gone remarkably well, with the minimum of breakdowns.

"It was a good, enjoyable exercise, at the same time being hard work and meaning that people did not get a lot of sleep. But it really laid the foundation for further training, and I think we got the

majority of it right". Next, he added, there would be a frantic week back in barracks, followed by the prospect of some well-earned leave for the men and women of the Merseyside Gunners.



Wash this space: Instructors Sgts Danny Neil (foreground) and Jack Brown (background) and demonstrator Gnr Scott Ellwood show off the decontamination washdown unit



Above – Ammunition is outloaded with JCB assistance from 161 AMB Regiment RLC (V). The supply group practised selection and running of mortar and light gun ammunition sites by day and night during the exercise

Left – The exercise sergeant major, newly-promoted SSgt Bob Jackson, observes the action during the tactical phase of Exercise Log Run



Above – Grim-faced Cpl Allan Walker escorts exercise "infiltrator" WO2 (SSM) Mick O'Rourke out of harm's way. In civilian life, Cpl Walker is a warden at Ash ranges near Aldershot

Left – OCdt Philip Bell (wearing beret) provided a novel background activity towards the end of the exercise. His platoon was tasked to blow up balloons for an end-of-hostilities reception

Southern suppliers slip away in style

GRANTHAM-based 19 Southern Supply Group RLC (V) has just completed its final annual camp at Swynnerton training camp, Staffordshire.

Main activities included an intensive small arms course and section-level shoots for all ranks at Llansilin ranges and individual weapons training on the close quarters battle range and small arms trainer at Swynnerton.

The prime exercise – Log Run – was a four-day field exercise designed to test commanders at all levels in siting and running ammunition

supply dumps against a tight time deadline.

The unit used palletised simulated ammunition moved around a divisional ammo dump by JCB units operated by the TA Volunteers.

The exercise consisted of several phases, including NBC and transport tasking within a humanitarian aid operation scenario. The soldiers found themselves tested in their technical trade skills as well as their ability to defend themselves from attack.

Following the exercise, a leadership package of hill walk-

ing was completed in the Peak District National Park.

As a result of the reorganisation of TA Logistic Services, 19 Group is due to disband in November. Its successor supply regiment, 166 Logistic Support Regiment RLC (V), will form on the skeleton structure of the previous unit, but many officers and soldiers are moving on to other units, trades and disciplines within TA Logistics. During its three-year existence, 19 Group has held annual camps at Okehampton and Wyke Regis.

The commanding officer, Lt

Col John Turner, himself about to be posted to an RLC (V) Liaison Unit, summarised his three years in command.

"It has been brilliant to see the unit knit together from the three separate former district ordnance companies, undergo a historic capbadge change and still fulfil its training aims very competently," he said.

"Sadly, wider scale considerations have overtaken us and many of us have to move on, but the core skills and experience will remain to ensure a smooth start for 166 Regiment."



**50th Anniversary
commemoration**



BURMA: THE CAULDRON

THERE can be few more poignant or powerful exhortations than the Greek epigram on the memorial to the 2nd Infantry Division at Kohima:

*When you go home
Tell them of us, and say,
For your tomorrow
We gave our today*

Naga head-hunters who had fought for the British brought the great monolith from their hills and would accept no payment for their work.

It was their way of expressing appreciation to the Allies for clearing the Japanese invaders from their country.

On top of Pagoda Hill the Camerons'

Memorial recalls *Lochaber No More*, and nearby, the small patch where the Royal West Kents were ready to fight to the last. The jungle, the other enemy, soon healed over the scars on the landscape, but the mental scars remain with many veterans.

Kohima, just over the Indian border from Burma, was the furthest the flag bearing the rising sun cast its baleful shadow.

In its wake, 300,000 Allied prisoners of war suffered unspeakable degradation, disease, malnutrition and brutality during slave labour. Whereas some four per cent of prisoners in German camps died, nearly a third died at the hands of the Japanese.

While Europe was celebrating victory

over the Nazis, another round was being played out in the Far East.

It was by no means expected to be the last round. The Commander, Field Marshal "Uncle Bill" Slim, warned that while all armies talk of fighting to the last man, only the Japanese actually did so.

The catalogue of disasters which beset the British had started at Hong Kong, which capitulated on Christmas Day, 1941.

The fall of Singapore two months later has been described as one of the worst and most humiliating defeats in British military history.

The untrained and wrongly-equipped 17th Indian Division, including the 2nd King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry and the 2nd Duke of Wellington's Regiment, ceased to exist as a fighting force for a while after it was chased over the Sittang in late February 1942.

In desperation, the one bridge was blown on February 23, stranding two brigades on the far side.

The KOYLI regimental history tells of desperate soldiers building rafts from anything they could lay their hands on – all the boats had been destroyed by Royal Engineers.

The timely arrival of 7th Hussars and 2nd Royal Tanks, plus 1st West Yorkshires and 1st Cameronians, helped cover the retreat back from Rangoon and into India, over the trackless hills of Upper Burma, leaving Mandalay, crossing the Irrawaddy river.

It was, in the words of the American General "Vinegar" Joe Stilwell, "a hell of a licking".

A counter-attack in the Arakan failed disastrously but the first foray of Orde Wingate's Chindits, though costly, had some success in establishing the principles of a long-range penetration group causing chaos behind enemy lines.

A second descent, largely by glider, was more successful in March 1944 and strongholds such as Broadway, Aberdeen and the White City were established.

Lt Norman Durant and his column of 1 South Staffs did not realise they were digging in at the White City at the same time as a Japanese unit. Realisation dawned with the morning and the battle soon followed.

In the fierce hand-to-hand fighting Lt George Cairns, attached from the Somerset Light Infantry, was seen struggling with a Japanese officer. Although his left arm had been hacked off, Lt Cairns killed his adversary, picked up the sword, charged on



Above – Units of the 2nd Division finally cleared Mt Popa of stubborn Japanese resistance on April 20, 1945

Left – Devonshires sign captured Japanese flags on Nippon Ridge after the Imphal struggle

Below – Patrols set out across flooded paddy fields to clear villages near the Pegu Canal of Japanese soldiers



and killed and wounded several more enemy before he, too, fell dying.

His citation for the Victoria Cross was lost in the crash which killed Gen Wingate, but it was awarded posthumously several years later.

The Chindits sapped Japanese strength just as they launched their major offensive to break into India. Battles at Imphal and

Kohima in early 1944 were the turning point, when the Japanese were finally fought to a standstill by the besieged British, Indians and Gurkhas.

At Kohima the 4th Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment – a TA unit – held on for 13 days and nights as the Japanese tried to advance to Imphal.

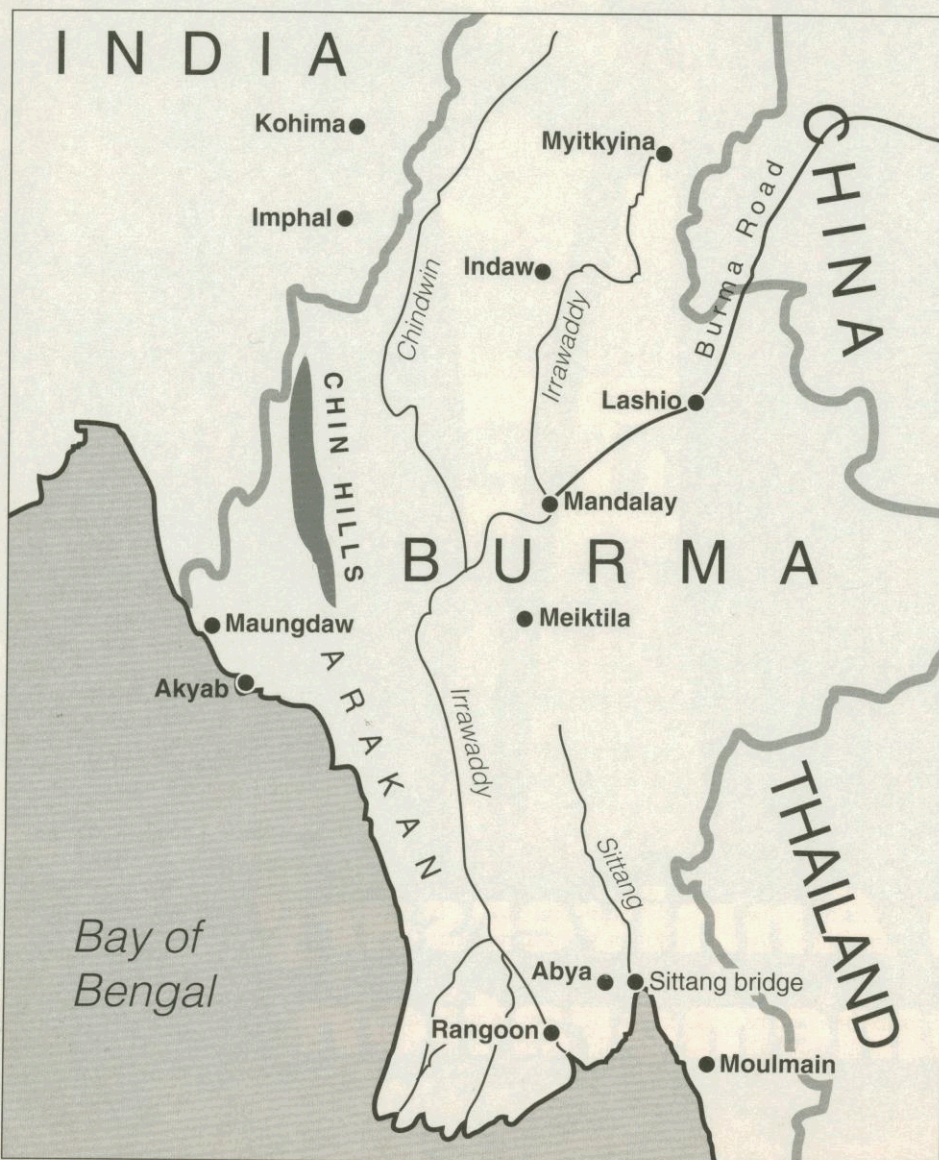
Some of the most bitter fighting took

place there, but it turned the tide.

The 14th Army did not finish the job; it was withdrawn to prepare for the invasion of Malaysia and Japan, and it was left to the newly-created 12th Army to see the end of the fighting in Burma.

The 17th Indian Division returned to the scene of their disaster at the Sittang three-

● Turn to next page





Chindit sartorial elegance from Brig Michael Calvert, Lt Col N Shaw and Maj J Lumley at Mogaung, which was reported by the Americans to have been captured by the Chinese. It had been taken after bitter fighting by the Chindits, and Brig Calvert signalled that 77 Bde had taken umbrage. A signal came back from Stilwell's staff asking for the location of "Umbrage"

BURMA

● From Page 23

and-a-half years earlier to confront a now humbled enemy.

They had been killed in their thousands as they tried to break out across the river after their plans had been discovered.

Only the success of the atomic bomb brought them to that first surrender on the river, then at Rangoon itself in front of Lord Mountbatten and Gen Slim.

The army in Burma was the largest formed in time of war. Nearly a million strong, it held the longest front, from the Bay of Bengal to the borders of India and China, and fought through some of the most difficult and inhospitable terrain in the world.

Its soldiers won 101 battle honours, unsurpassed by any other campaign in the Second World War. It elicited 29 Victoria Crosses, the largest number awarded in any Army theatre.

Of the 300,000 PoWs taken by the Japanese in south-east Asia, more than 100,000 had died by August 15, 1945.

Small wonder that when an RAF aircraft buzzed the Rangoon gaol, the PoWs quickly wrote "Japs gone" on the roof.

Then, to emphasise the point and prove it was not a trap, they added the famous rider: "Extract digit."

Retreat from Sittang

SAFE on the other side of the River Sittang when it was blown in February 1942 were Sgt James Prentice and Rfn John McCartney of the 1st Battalion, The Cameronians (Scottish Rifles).

They were part of the ill-fated 17th Indian Division which lost two of its brigades when the bridge at Mokpalin was blown in a vain attempt to halt the lightning Japanese advance into Burma.

The battalion was tasked with guarding the only line of retreat and were continually outflanked.

The Japs were always in front of us," said John. "We had to maintain the road for motorised infantry but the Japs went round us with their mules and made road blocks, which you had to fight through."

This was before elements of the famous 7th Armoured Brigade arrived. When a squadron of 7th Hussars landed at Rangoon it was to save the



Cameronians Sgt James Prentice and Rfn John McCartney

infantry's bacon on countless occasions because it had the power to push through the road blocks. But they could still not move off the road.

The only thing which kept them going was the thought of the enemy catching up.

When the invaders were finally halted the Cameronians formed two of the Chindit columns which flew in behind the enemy

lines to cause havoc.

Both James and John went on courses to learn how to work with the mules, the only practical way of moving equipment on the ground.

Just before the battalion flew out, John went down with malaria. He missed the campaign and became a military policeman. James was evacuated after being injured in the leg by shrapnel, and he, too, became a policeman.

Key dates in the Far East war

1941

December

- 7 Pearl Harbor attacked
- 8 Japanese invade Malaya; Britain, USA declare war on Japan
- 10 HM ships *Prince of Wales* and *Repulse* sunk in South China Sea
- 18-19 Japanese attack Hong Kong
- 25 Fall of Hong Kong

1942

January

- 16 Japanese invade lower Burma
- 23 Japanese landings in New Guinea, Solomon Islands; air raids on Rangoon
- 31 Japanese capture Moulmein

February

- 3 Japanese bomb Port Moresby and Java
- 15 Singapore surrenders; 85,000 British and Commonwealth troops taken prisoner. British troops in Burma withdraw to Bilin River
- 23 British blow Sittang River bridge, stranding two brigades
- 28 Japanese invade Java

March

- 7 Japanese take Rangoon
- 19 Gen Slim takes command of British and Commonwealth troops in Burma; Gen Stilwell takes command of western Chinese armies

April

- 17 British engineers destroy Yenangyaung oilfields
- 29 Japanese occupy Lashio. Burma Road cut off
- 30 British withdraw beyond Irrawaddy

May

- 1 Japanese take Mandalay
- 15 British retreat across Burma-India frontier

June

- 4-7 Battle of Midway; Japanese land on Aleutian Islands
- 17 Limit of Japanese advance at Sumprabum

August

- 7-8 US landings on Guadalcanal and Tulagi

September

- 21 Start of first Arakan offensive to capture Akyad airfield

November

- 16 US/Australian assault on fortress of Buna, New Guinea

December

- 21 British and Indian troops cross into Burma at start of the Akyad offensive

1943

Feb

- 14 First Chindit raid across the Chindwin River

Mar

- 17 Japanese counter-attack on Arakan front

Apr

- 18-20 Chindit survivors return across Irrawaddy

May

- 14 Allied offensive in Arakan fails



Pearl Harbor to Tokyo Bay

AS the Japanese carried out their devastating bombing of the US fleet in Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, further attacks were launched on Malaya, the Philippines and Hong Kong.

This blitzkrieg inflicted a series of humiliating defeats on the Allies and forced the longest retreat in British history.

Allied strategy on land was to keep China in the war and re-open the Burma Road from Mandalay to supply China,

where the American Gen "Vinegar Joe" Stilwell commanded Chinese Armies trying to free northern Burma.

American naval air power eventually turned the scale by destroying the Japanese fleets and the Australians held on in New Guinea, but it took two years of bloody island hopping in the Pacific and the dropping of two atomic bombs to force the final surrender of Japan in Tokyo Bay on September 2, 1945.

August

- 25 Mountbatten appointed Supreme Allied Commander South East Asia

September

- 8 First repulse of Japanese by Australians in New Guinea
- 30 Australian commando raid sinks seven ships in Singapore

October

- Burma-Siam railway finished

1944

January

- 9 British capture Burmese port of Maungdaw

February

- 4 Japanese offensive on Arakan front. Allies forced back to India
- 13-25 British counter-attack in Arakan: Battle of Admin Box

- 25 British rout Japanese at Ngakyedauk Pass, Burma

March

- 1 Chindit 16th Brigade crosses Chindwin
- 15 Start of Japanese offensive on Imphal and Kohima

- 24 Orde Wingate killed
- 26 British troops retreat to Imphal after stalling Japanese advance

- 29 Siege of Imphal starts

April

- 4 Start of Japanese assault on Kohima
- 20 2nd Div relieves Summer House Hill garrison, Kohima

- 28 US/Chinese troops advance towards Myitkyina

May

- 8 Japanese attack Fourteenth Army in Manipur Hills
- 10-11 Chinese advance across Salween River

- 16 Last Japanese troops cleared from Kohima Ridge
- 22 Imphal Plain relieved. Japanese withdrawal

June

- 2 Chinese siege of Myitkyina
- 3 Battle of Kohima ends
- 9 Allies advance on Japanese central front

- 22 14th Army relieves Imphal after 88-day siege
- 27 Chindits retake Mogaung

August

- 10 Allies complete conquest of Guam
- 27 Last Chindits evacuated to India

October

- 20 Gen MacArthur returns to Philippines
- 24-6 US crushes Japanese fleet in Philippines

December

- 15 14th Army links up with Stilwell at Indaw

1945

January

- 3 Akyab, Arakan, taken by Allies
- 21 Ramree Island, Arakan, assaulted
- 22 Burma Road to China re-opened

February

- 19 US Marines land at Iwo Jima

March

- 4 Meiktila captured
- 8-20 Battle for Mandalay

April

- 1 US lands on Okinawa

May

- 1-3 Gurkha paras land near Rangoon, sea-borne attack by Indians

June

- 9 Gen Slim moved from command of 14th Army, which transferred to India to prepare for invasion of Malaysia. 12th Army formed in Burma

- 15 Victory parade in Rangoon

August

- 4 Japanese slaughtered trying to break out across Sittang
- 6 Atomic bomb on Hiroshima
- 9 Atomic bomb on Nagasaki; Soviets declare war on Japan

- 15 Emperor Hirohito broadcasts surrender to Japanese; offensive operations suspended
- 22 First contact of Japanese army offering to surrender

- 24-26 Discussions and surrender of Sittang area Japanese to Brig Miles Smeeton, 63 Bde and 1/10 Gurkhas at Abya

- 28 Surrender of 28th Army in Rangoon

September

- 2 Government surrender to Gen MacArthur in Tokyo Bay
- 12 Surrender in Singapore
- 15 Formal surrender of Japanese Burma Area Army in Rangoon
- 16 Japanese surrender in Hong Kong



Lucky Sir Eric drew Rangoon in the lottery of life

TO GRADUATE in engineering then join the Army and blow up bridges was not the way Sir Eric Yarrow saw his career developing as a young man.

Nor did he realise he would have to sink ships his family's firm had built for the Burmese.

But he joined the Royal Engineers and arrived in Burma just as the victorious Japanese Army was swamping British and Indian forces.

Sappers had to blow the main bridge across the river Sittang in a vain attempt to halt the tide in February 1942. Two brigades of the 17th Indian Division were stranded on the wrong side with most of the artillery and transport.



Sir Eric Yarrow

"I had to deny the Japs transport, railway lines and ships, and of course we had to blow up all the tanks we had because they couldn't go any further," said Sir Eric.

While he was passing through a deserted Rangoon, a civilian policeman gave him keys to some shops and he helped himself to bundles of shirts and socks.

The retreat continued several hundred miles back to India where the Japanese were eventually broken at Imphal and Kohima.

By the time the exhausted soldiers had reached India it was said that one quarter had malaria, one quarter dysentery and one

quarter were killed or wounded. Sir Eric said: "The division was all set to go to the Middle East with its vehicles painted light desert brown when we had to switch to the Far East.

"I was very lucky, because I left Calcutta bound for Singapore but was diverted to Rangoon. Two earlier brigades went into Singapore and were captured when it surrendered."

Destroying the Irrawaddy flotilla was one of his tasks during the retreat.

"We (Yarrows) had built quite a number of ships for the old Irrawaddy Shipping Company. It was rather quicker blowing them up than building them," he said.

"When I got back to Yarrow Shipbuilders I said: 'I've blown up a lot of your ships -

what about a commission" and they said: "Why didn't you blow up more?"

Sir Eric, who progressed from acting unpaid lance corporal to major, finished his service clearing mines from the Dutch coast before returning to shipbuilding. He became chairman and a director of Yarrows.

Scottish industry has come to the aid of the Burma Star veterans and is providing a Boeing 747 for them to fly south for the ceremonies. BP has donated £7,000 towards the cost of fuel.

● As president of the Burma Star Association in Scotland, Sir Eric's military connections still stand him in good stead.

He uses the numbers of his units in the National Lottery and has won three £10 prizes.



Helping Charles Peall (standing) to dispatch the Burma Star journal are (foreground, clockwise from left) George Multon RAF, Cyril Shrubbs RA, Eric Perkins RN, Devonshire Ernie Faulkner, whose address is Mandalay House, Burma Court, Burma Road, London W16, and Bob Sawyer RWF. Seated in the background is Air Vice Marshal Sir Bernard Chacksfield, chairman of the Burma Star Association

Terror of close combat

YOU could say that Ross Stuart was lucky to be fighting in Burma. His troopship was torpedoed passing through the Straits of Gibraltar in December 1943 and by rights he should have been left to drown.

But a Dutch ship stopped - completely against the rules because it was in grave danger - and picked up survivors.

"Hand-to-hand fighting with the Japanese was sheer, unadulterated terror and I still have nightmares about it," he told *Soldier*. "My legs didn't know if they were lead or rubber."

The Japanese bayonet was much longer than the Lee Enfield "pig sticker" which could hardly open a tin of bully beef - what Tommies usually used it for.

British soldiers were at an immediate disadvantage and had to be issued with the long Mark 1 bayonet used in the First World War.

"During the battle at Kohima the Japs were literally yards away, and when a grenade landed among us we would frantically scramble to fling it back."

He remembers the situation being so desperate that one unit of Gurkhas went to the front line with no ammunition. Only six returned.

When the British were fighting their way back into Burma, his unit camped on the hill where the Gurkhas had died.

"It was dreadful. We were scuffling against skulls and limbs and bush hats," he said.

Ross Stuart joined the Royal Scots on his 18th birthday and arrived with the 2nd Infantry Division in January 1944.

This was the only British division; each of the Indian divisions had a British battalion to stiffen them. They were eventually to fight the Japanese to a standstill, but in the early days they were often overwhelmed and had to flee.

Japanese treatment of prisoners appalled the Allies. A KOSB friend of Mr Stuart's was taken prisoner but lived to tell of how the wounded were bayoneted. Some were tied to



As well as shells and bullets, soldiers had to fight against disease

trees with barbed wire and used for bayonet practice, others secured to bunkers in the vain hope that the British would not attack them.

Others being led away were shot in the back as they crossed a river - Ross's friend fell into the water, pretended to be dead, and managed to make his way back to the British lines. He was mistaken for the enemy and seriously wounded by machine-gun fire.

During the fighting in the Arakan, Ross went out on a silent recon patrol. When they returned one man was missing - a Regular soldier who had been abroad for seven years and was due to be repatriated soon. "Our company immediate-

ly sent out a fighting patrol, and instead of creeping in, we went crashing through looking for trouble. We didn't find the Japs, but we found our mate - buried up to his eyes with the sand stamped hard round his face."

Ross was in India preparing for the invasion of Malaysia and Japan when the war ended.

When he returned to Britain a sympathetic RSM, also a Royal Scot, helped him cope with the return to normal Army life.

"I hadn't heard NCOs shouting for four years and couldn't stand it, so he got me a cushy job in an Army office in Edinburgh until I was demobbed."

As vice president and welfare officer for

the Burma Star Association in Scotland, Ross knows well what veterans have had to put up with.

In the past three years there has been an increase of 25 per cent in the number of welfare cases. Many are due to old wounds, sickness and malaria.

"There are more suicides among British ex-Servicemen who served in Burma than in any other theatre of war," he said.

Many could not cope with the stresses and strains of the conditions and ended up in the Deolali camp - the word has passed into the English language as meaning "not well in the head".

When he first arrived at the huge transit camp in Bombay, the barbed wire enclosure guarded by MPs contained some 15,000 men.

Ross remembers the diseases and natural hazards to which soldiers were prone: snakes, scorpions, ants, leeches, scrub typhus, malaria, dysentery, black water fever, sand fly fever. There were more casualties from disease than shells and bullets, he said, except at Kohima.

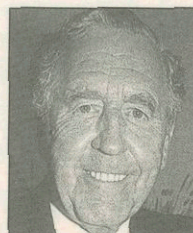
Soldiers preferred Indian boots because they had a solid tongue which kept out leeches. Puttees were also worn to keep out the blood-suckers.

"There was a story in *Picture Post* about an aircraftman complaining he hadn't had leave for four months," said Ross. "Our company wrote off that we hadn't had our boots off for six weeks and would he please shut up!"

Even the Japanese hated Burma because of conditions in the jungle. Disease, like the myriad mosquitoes, was everywhere.

"Casualties were so high that you were not allowed out of the front line unless your temperature was more than 103 degrees. At 101 you were taken out of the firing line and dealt with ammo or the wounded, but by 103 your head was swirling and you didn't know your left from right."

Ross still gets malaria - it is something he has to live with.



Ross Stuart, RS

STARS OF THE EAST

THE BURMA Star Association was officially formed on February 26, 1951 with 2,000 members. The numbers have risen and topped 18,000 when 200 new members signed on the dotted line at its VE Day stand in Hyde Park in May.

The association's aims were laid down by Lord Louis Mountbatten and Fd Marshal Lord Slim, who felt there was something special in the spirit of the men and women who fought in Burma.

It seeks first to continue the comradeship which was so strong on the battlefields of Burma, where the men and women of the 14th Army felt forgotten.

As they were so far from home, they looked to each other, building up a special comradeship which still survives.

The association is also a welfare service to help members and their families in time of need. In the past three years there has been an increase in the number of cases.

The association is non-political and non-sectarian and has permanent representatives from the three Services on its council.

Their proud badge is a copy of the Burma Star medal. It bears the royal cipher in the centre, with the special

permission of the Queen. The distinctive Burma Star tie cannot be mistaken for any other. Its background of dark green represents the jungle of Burma and its motif is the golden pagoda of Rangoon, where the formal surrender of Japanese troops in Burma was signed.

The association's first remembrance parade was organised and financed by

the South West London Branch and took place on Horse Guards Parade on October 12, 1958. Its first president was Fd Marshal Lord Slim, who was succeeded on his death in December 1970 by his son, Viscount John Slim. Lord Louis was the association's first patron until his murder in August 1979. He was succeeded by the Duke of Edinburgh, while his eldest daughter, Countess Mountbatten of Burma, Lady Brabourne, became vice patron.

Only those who were awarded the Burma Star medal or the Pacific Star with Burma Clasp may join. Although total membership in the 180 British and 20 overseas branches has remained roughly level, some 500 members die each year.

It is the hope of the "old hands" that the welfare organisation will continue when they are gone. But not forgotten.





Arakan – where victory became possible

FIRST crack in the aura of Japanese invincibility in Burma appeared during the second Arakan offensive which began in December 1943 and continued until April the following year when the Allies were forced to send reinforcements to Imphal.

The first Arakan counter-offensive was launched in September 1942 in the hope of restoring morale shaken by the humiliating British retreat from Burma in early 1942.

Its aim was to take the Mayu Peninsula

and airfields at Akyab from which the Japanese could threaten Chittagong and even Calcutta. But it failed conspicuously when the Japanese outflanked the 14th Indian Division in the jungle, and the Allies were forced at the end of March to retreat to their original start line.

The 14th Division suffered enormous casualties and never returned to front line duty, spending the rest of the war as a training division in India.

But the heroic and costly example of the Chindits and the determination of a new commander to reorganise and retrain the 14th Army began to stem the tide. British soldiers were taught to cope with a hostile and unhealthy environment as well as the Japanese. Morale soared.

A second offensive was launched in the Arakan at the end of the year and, although 15th Corps was halted and the 5th and 7th Indian Divisions outflanked, they were resupplied by air and prevailed after months of fierce fighting. The formations broke through to make contact in February 1944, trapping the Japanese. Units of 15th Corps breached the critical Maungdaw line.

The last enemy strongpoint was abandoned on the night of March 18-19 and the 14th Army had won its first battle. The effect on morale was out of all proportion to the scale of the battle – victory now seemed possible.

The advance on Akyab was about to be resumed when events at Imphal and Kohima dictated otherwise.



LCpl T Watson brings in a Japanese sniper captured near Pegu



Ptes Smith and Gunliffe of the Suffolks mortar Japanese positions during the return to Arakan

Roll-call of VCs

Havildar **Parkash Singh**, 5/8th Punjabs; Havildar **Gaje Ghale**, 2/5th Gurkhas; Lt **Alec George Horwood** DCM, West Surreys att'd 1st Northants (posthumous); T/Maj **Charles Ferguson Hoey**, MC, 1st Lincs (post); Naik **Nand Singh**, 1/11th Sikhs; Lt **George Albert Cairns**, Somerset LI att'd South Staffs (post); LCpl **John Harman**, R West Kents (post); Jemadar **Abdul Hafiz**, 3/9th Jats (post); T/Capt **John Neil Randle**, 2nd R Norfolks (post); A/Sgt **Hanson Victor Turner**, 1st West Yorks (post); Capt **Michael Allmand**, Indian Arm'd Corps att'd 3/6th Gurkhas (post); Rfn **Tulbahadur Pun**, 3/6th Gurkhas; Rfn **Ganju Lama** MM, 1/7th Gurkhas; T/Maj **Frank Gerald Blaker** MC, HLI att'd 3/9th Gurkhas (post); Naik **Agans-**

ing Rai, 2/5th Gurkhas; Subedar **Netrabahadur Thapa**, 2/5th R Gurkhas (post); A/Subedar **Ram Sarup Singh**, 2/1st Punjabs (post); Sepoy **Bhandari Ram**, 16/10th Baluchs; Havildar **Umrao Singh**, Indian Artillery; L Naik **Sher Shah**, 7/16th Punjabs (post); Lt **George Arthur Knowland**, R Norfolks att'd No 1 Cdo (post); Jemadar **Prakash Singh**, 14/13th Frontier Force (post); Naik **Gian Singh**, 4/15th Punjabs; Naik **Fazal Din**, 7/10th Baluchs (post); Lt **William Basil Weston**, Green Howards att'd 1st W Yorks (post); Rfn **Bhanbhagta Gurung**, 3/2nd Gurkhas; Lt **Karamjeet Singh Judge**, 4/15th Punjabs (post); Lt **Claud Raymond**, RE (post); Rfn **Lachhiman Gurung**, 4/8th Gurkhas.

For our tomorrows . . .

WHAT was once a colonial administrator's tennis court at a pleasant hill station in Assam is today the unlikely focal point of a battlefield on which the Japanese invasion of eastern India foundered.

At Kohima, a small garrison of administrative troops, some Nepalese soldiers, two companies of the Burma Regiment and a battalion of the Assam Regiment – reinforced at the last moment by the 4th (Territorial Army) Battalion, The Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment and a company of 5/7th Rajputs – was cut off by the speed of the Japanese thrust from the Chindwin into the sub-continent.

So too was the 4th Corps, 50 miles to the south at the enormous forward administration base at Imphal.

But it was the heroism of the little force at Kohima, which should by all logic have been consumed within hours, that held the seeds of Japanese defeat.

Led by a colonel considered too old to command a brigade in Wingate's special force, Kohima's 2,500 defenders dug themselves in on the ridge beside the town

and for two weeks in April 1944 fought it out, inch by heroic inch, against the 20,000-strong Japanese 31st Division, one of the most formidable in the Imperial Army.

For 13 days from April 5 they held their ground in the steep-sided town in the Naga Hills, fighting the Japanese across the tennis court and gardens outside the District Commissioner's bungalow in one of the fiercest and most continuous close-quarter battles of the century.

After two weeks of attrition, the dwindling garrison, resupplied from the air, was forced into an ever-shrinking perimeter, finally less than 400 yards across and completely overlooked by the enemy.

The Kohima garrison held off an entire Japanese division, regiment by regiment, enduring 25 full-scale infantry attacks supported by mortars and artillery.

Relief came on April 20 from units of the British 2nd Division, first from the 1st Royal Berkshires, then two companies of the 2nd Durham Light Infantry, who dug themselves in amid the shambles of the ear-

lier battle. The 1st Royal Welch Fusiliers joined them in bitter close-quarter fighting.

The confined battleground was by now a charnel-house, hundreds of dead British and Japanese, and mule carcasses, lying in advanced states of decomposition where they had fallen.

The surviving West Kents had the appearance of ghosts:

"... the dead lay unburied. Little squads of grimy and bearded riflemen stared blankly at the relieving troops; many were too dazed to realise that they were saved, and too tired to believe their sleep-starved eyes..."

From then until May 31, and supported by units of the 5th and 7th Indian Divisions, the soldiers of 2 Div fought for the town and ridge and the heights commanding them.

After nearly two months of the most bitter fighting of the war, 2 Div troops broke out down the road to Imphal on June 1. By June 3 the battle was over, the inexorable advance of the Japanese war machine brought to a halt.

Throughout April, May and June the 4th Corps at Imphal resisted the Japanese 33rd Division's repeated heavy attacks from the south while attempting to thrust north against the Japanese 15th Division. By holding Imphal, 4th Corps prevented the Japanese getting the supplies and men necessary to break the Kohima defences.

Finally, on June 22, units from Imphal and Kohima linked up to break the long and desperate siege.

Overstretched Japanese supply lines snapped under Allied endurance. The tide had turned.

From then on the Japanese army would experience nothing but retreat and defeat. Ten thousand were killed as they fled from India.

Today, a Cross of Sacrifice stands in the centre of the reconstructed tennis court at Kohima.

Close by is a cherry tree used as a sniper's post by the Japanese. Both sniper and tree were obliterated, but an offshoot from the original was replanted and is in good shape.



Born in Manhattan and raised in Brooklyn, New York, John Knowles went to Canada just after his 18th birthday in June 1941 to join the Royal Canadian Air Force.

On receiving his wings in July 1942, he was posted to Britain as a sergeant-pilot.

Commissioned as a pilot offi-

cer, he was posted to India, arriving by sea in March 1943, and was sent to 146 Squadron, Royal Air Force, which was flying Hurricanes initially out of Chittagong and, later, Feni and Comilla.

After service with the Chindits, he and other members of his battalion were flown from

"Broadway" on the night of May 18, 1944 to Comilla, from where they were sent by train to Bangalore.

He was invalided back to Britain by sea, arriving in January 1945.

Discharged in Montreal in October of that year, John remained in Canada, where he

worked in the public service for more than 30 years, holding a number of posts, including a stint as a Canadian Consul and Trade Commissioner in Chicago.

On retirement in 1977, he took up an appointment as a senior UN official, working all over the Third World until settling in Cyprus in 1989.

CHINDIT FROM BROOKLYN

John Knowles, who volunteered for the Burma Campaign for "the sheer adventure of the thing", was a Chindit with a difference. For a start, he was American. . .

Here, the former airman recalls some of his experiences as a jungle soldier – including an encounter with Gen Orde Wingate himself.

MY FRIENDS and I from 146 Squadron, Royal Air Force, had been relocated to a place called Baigachi, somewhere north of Dacca, when a call came round asking for volunteers to go as air liaison officers with the Army's long-range penetration columns operating behind enemy lines.

So, as a newly-promoted flight lieutenant, I volunteered, and was attached at first to the 4th Battalion, The Border Regiment, 23 Brigade. I did one training exer-

cise with them and was re-assigned to the 2nd Battalion, The Queen's Royal Regiment (Royal West Surreys), 16 Brigade, under Bernard Fergusson, which was about to go in, and with whom I remained throughout the campaign.

We were trucked 90 miles down the Ledo Road, from where we kicked off, on foot, over the Chin Hills on February 5, 1944.

Gen Wingate saw us off with a prayer service and led a couple of rousing hymns.

We were the only brigade that marched (or, more precisely, climbed, slithered and generally struggled our way) in – the rest being flown in about a month later by the First Air Commando.

One day I was told to take a casualty pony

and ride to Brigade HQ, a few miles back up the track where I was directed to a "basha" hut (on stilts). To my surprise, I came face to face with Orde Charles himself.

He was seated at a table, and after the usual courtesies (limited on my side to "Yes sir, no sir, three bags full sir") he pointed to the floor, which was totally plastered with maps under a clear plastic cover, and asked: "Where are we?"

Instead of responding to his one-upmanship by telling him I hadn't a clue, I foolishly made an ass of myself by asking for his permission to get down on my hands and knees.

He snapped: "Never mind! We're here!", pointing, and ordered me to carry out a reconnaissance to determine if a particular area, already pre-selected from the air, would be suitable for a landing strip of 1,000 yards or so.

We duly went there, approved the location, and hacked out a short strip at one side of what later became our "Aberdeen" stronghold.

One memorable night in April, we trapped a long Japanese truck convoy on its way to the Imphal front, bottling them up in a 1,000-yard stretch of road, one side of which we had mined and booby-trapped, at Milestone 22 from Indaw.

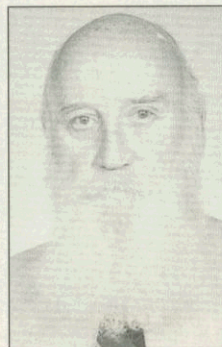
In the ensuing battle, we burned, shot and blew up large numbers of enemy soldiers for a loss of four men, whom we buried before we left.

A couple of weeks later, another Chindit column found that their bodies had been dug up, suspended by the feet, and used for bayonet practice by the Japanese.

When we came out, having walked 1,000 miles through the worst possible country, I weighed only nine stone, about 16lb more than my full equipment load – and I'm 6ft tall!

I don't think anyone can fully capture the flavour of the campaign.

A few things spring to mind, as clear



John Knowles



Pack up your troubles!

Friction with Gen Stilwell taxed the Chindits in northern Burma as well as the American Brig Frank Merrill's Marauders. Americans demonstrate a man pack to carry a .30 machine gun for quick action in the jungle



Above – Chindits prepare to fire a 3in mortar, a particularly effective weapon

Left – Chindits prepare the airstrip at Broadway



today, more than half a century later, as at the time they happened.

● The way, for instance, that we had to struggle through the Chin Hills, cutting zig-zag trails up the incredibly steep slopes for the mules, then manhandling their loads uphill ourselves.

● Carrying a wounded soldier up a slope

under fairly heavy small arms fire, only to have him die at the top . . .

● Cooking with the water we were sleeping in, or vice-versa.

● Throwing a grenade into a crowd of chattering Japs trying to re-group in the dark, and waiting for the "boom" that never came. . .

● Losing a man killed by a free-falling 50lb bag of mule feed because he failed to follow instructions to get behind a tree.

● The awful day when we learned of Gen Wingate's death and realised just how very much we depended on him.

● And finally, the slow realisation that something very basic had happened to us inside.

Something had burned into our souls, that made it possible for us to bear the burden, and which somehow set us just a little bit apart from everybody else, but would still take years to mature into the knowledge that, like the anointed members of some strange priesthood, we were once and forever Chindits.

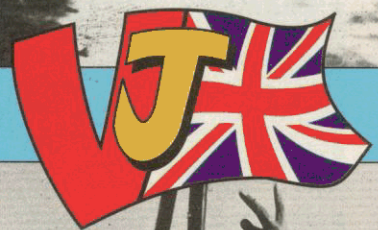
You will appreciate why I consider my Army days, tough as they were, as far and away the most rewarding part of my military so-called career.

I felt that I was finally making a genuine contribution, and I really loved my regiment, The Queens, Second of Foot in the British Army Order of Battle – notwithstanding the fact that our battle honours included burning the White House in the War of 1812.



Above: Meiktila fell after a lightning thrust across the Irrawaddy. Soldiers are pictured storming a village

Below: Natives such as Naga headhunters were invaluable as guides but also fought the hated invaders





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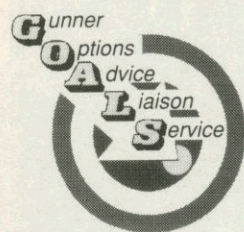


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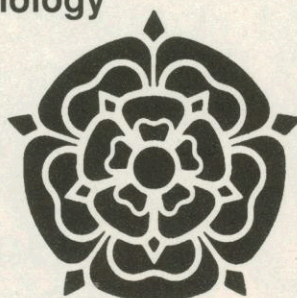
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RESETTLEMENT does not begin when a soldier decides to leave the Army. It is, in the words of the experts, a "whole-career" process.

It is no longer unusual in the civilian world for someone to have several career changes during a working life, and forward-thinkers prepare for this by gaining experience and qualifications that will fit them for other jobs in the future.

Soldiers who leave the Army after 22 years are only half-way through their normal working lives, so they need to think the same way as their civilian counterparts.

When they get to civvy street, they are likely to be fighting for the same jobs.

The Individual Education and Training Scheme (IETS) exists to help Service personnel who want to improve their qualifications throughout their time in the Armed Forces.

Up to £140 is available for all Regular soldiers through the Individual Refund Scheme (IRS). Advice on suitable courses and how to claim can be obtained from AGC (ETS) personnel.

More and more employers are

recognising National Vocational Qualifications (NVQs) in addition to the traditional GCSEs and A levels.

NVQs are based on the skills needed to do a job in the workplace and not on classroom learning. They require evidence of competence and experience in the workplace, and are best completed while in the job.

Delaying a decision on NVQs until the last year of service may well be leaving it too late.

TWO YEARS

The Army's comprehensive formal resettlement programme begins two years before the end of a soldier's engagement, or when 12 months' notice has been given.

Soldiers who have served more than five years are eligible for:

- Advice and counselling from an AGC (ETS) resettlement officer at a Career Advice Board and/or a Final Resettlement Board;

- A five-day familiarisation attachment with a civilian company or organisation;

- Briefings organised by the Tri-Service Resettlement Organisation (TSRO);

- Up to 28 days of resettlement training;

- Assistance from the MoD Services Employment Network (SEN) with job-finding.

Informal resettlement advice from an ETS officer is available to any soldier on request, irrespective of length of service. Anyone who has served for three years or more may register with the Regular Forces Employment Association, which last year found jobs for nearly 5,000 Service leavers.

By drawing attention to all factors that may affect a move to civilian life, the resettlement board aims to help the soldier plan his or her resettlement strategy. Issues include employment, housing and children's education, and finance.

Advice is given during TSRO briefings and training courses. TSRO staff arrange a variety of briefings, from one to three days and covering job-search skills, career and occupation options, personal finance and briefings on regional opportunities.

Training Courses

Three types of training are available to leavers:

1. Resettlement Centre Courses;
2. MoD-sponsored courses;
3. Civilian attachments.

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Resettlement centres

There are two main Resettlement Centres (RCs) in the United Kingdom – at Aldershot and Catterick. They offer more than 80 courses, some lasting up to 28 days, and are provided at no cost to Servicemen and women.

MOD-sponsored courses

A number of MoD-sponsored courses are run by colleges throughout the UK. They cover a wide range of management, self employment, craft and technical subjects. The cost of these courses has to be met by the student, although the Individual Resettlement Training Costs (IRTC) grant can help.

Civilian attachments

Civilian attachments provide great flexibility for those wishing to take a course not directly provided by the MoD. Quality, however, cannot be guaranteed in the same way as MoD-sponsored or resettlement centre courses.

FINDING EMPLOYMENT: WHERE TO GET HELP

A number of MoD-sponsored agencies offer advice and support.

The Service Employment Network (SEN) is the focal point for job-search, job-matching and advisory agencies supported by the MoD. Leavers are eligible to register with the SEN if they have at least five years' service, or are disabled.

The Regular Forces Employment Association has 39 branches in the UK offering a free service to men and women from the non-commissioned ranks of the Regular Forces. The RFEA helps ex-Servicemen and women to find jobs and to make the transition into civilian life. A minimum of three years' service is required.

The Royal British Legion (RBL) has a number of facilities offering employment and training,

including the RBL Attendants Company Ltd (RBLA), training centres at Ellesmere Port and Tidworth, and the Small Business Advisory Loan Scheme. Details of all these services can be obtained from Unit Resettlement Officers, or by contacting the RBLA Head Office.

The Corps of Commissionaires aims to provide permanent, contract and temporary employment for men and women of all ages, ranks, and qualifications who have served in the Armed Forces.

Jobcentres are run by the Employment Service. Your unit resettlement officer can tell you how to get in touch with the Employment Service before release. You will be offered an interview with a client adviser, who will discuss local employment prospects and vacancies that suit your experience and qualification.

You will be offered advice on the schemes run by Jobcentres, including seminars, workshops and Jobclubs, and given details of the benefits to which you are entitled.

ADDRESSES/CONTACTS

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LIFESTYLE AND THE CARI ROBERTS COLUMN
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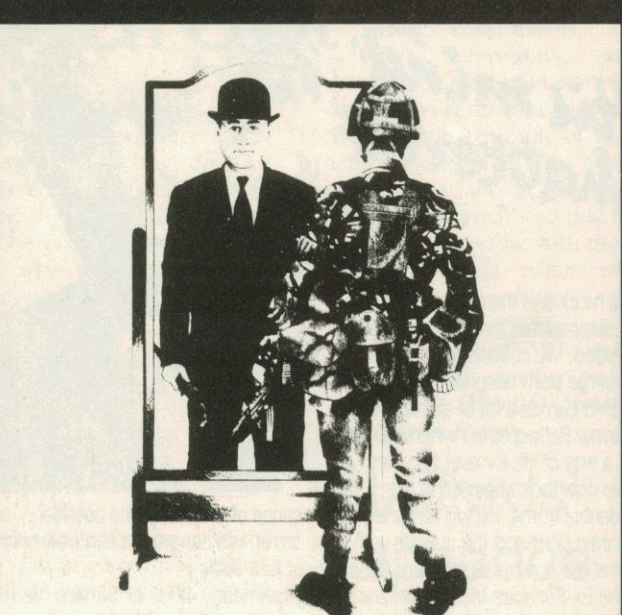
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● From Page 35

Isaac Newton Road, Arborfield,
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725 2478; civ 01734 763478.

**Royal Logistic Corps, Logistic
Employment Network**, Dettingen
House, The Princess Royal Bar-
racks, Deepcut, Camberley, Surrey
GU16 6RW. Tel Mil 722 5889; civ
01252 340889.

Regimental Associations –
Corps and regimental associations
are a valuable source of assistance
during resettlement and all leavers
are advised to make early contact
with their own association.

Royal British Legion, 48 Pall
Mall, London, SW1 5YJ. Tel 0171
973 0633.

**Joint Service Housing Advice
Office**, HQ Land Command, Old
Sarum, Salisbury, Wilts SP4 6BN.
Tel Mil 733 8228; civ 01722 438228.

SERVICE LEAVERS' SUP- PORT TEAMS (SLSTs)

Service Leavers' Support Teams
are part of Division/District and

Brigade G1 staffs. They help all
Service leavers and their families
to negotiate the transition to civilian
life, acting as a focal point and,
where necessary, directing them to
the appropriate agencies for
career, financial, housing and wel-
fare advice.

SLSTs liaise closely with District
G1 PS staffs over conditions of
Service queries, and if necessary
seek advice from MOD staff
branches. They can also provide
information on local training and
job opportunities.

SLST contacts:

- HQ 2 Div, York – 01904
662140
- HQ 49 Bde, Chilwell –
01159 572010
- HQ 4 Div, Aldershot –
01252 347109
- HQ 24 Bde, Colchester
01206 782891
- HQ London District – 0171
414 3402
- HQ 5 Div, Shrewsbury –
01743 262239
- HQ 160 Bde, Brecon –
01874 613431/228
- HQ 42 Bde, Preston –
01772 260277/273/255
- HQ Scotland, Edinburgh –
0131 310 2353
- HQ Northern Ireland –
01846 608853.

Housing: the other resettlement element

For those close to the end of
engagement it is essential that

housing is included in the resettle-
ment decision. It is all too easy to
consider the fundamental ele-
ments – employment and accom-
modation – in isolation.

For the past three years the
**Joint Service Housing Advice
Office (JSHAO)** at Old Sarum has
been providing comprehensive
information on the range of hous-
ing options open to Servicemen
and women.

Staff organise regular "Housing
– the Options" presentations at
Regional Resettlement Centres.

The crucial questions of housing
are usually where to live and
whether to rent or buy. For many
people, short term rental is a sensi-
ble initial solution while they are
actually looking for jobs or house-
hunting.

Private sector rental is expen-
sive, but much cheaper than buying
the wrong house in the wrong area.
JSHAO has geographical lists of
members of the Association of
Residential Letting Agents.

Many Service personnel seek to
rent through a local authority or
housing association. The JSHAO
database contains details of all
councils in the United Kingdom,
and details of their policies, lists of
associations and other local infor-
mation.

JSHAO has nomination arrange-
ments with some housing associa-
tions who have bought surplus
married quarters. Further releases
under this scheme are announced
as they become available.

*'His mind
shattered'*

As he closed the door behind him
and stepped into the street, the bomb
exploded. We collected him after his
discharge from hospital.

A bomb can do a lot of damage in
a narrow Belfast street where danger
was a way of life for over 25 years.

We now look after him in our
residential home. He will never leave it because of his fear of the outside.
His brain connects the outside with pain, terror and danger. He can now only
look at the outside world from the safety of four walls.

The Ex-Services Mental Welfare Society has nearly 4,000 ex-Service men
and women to look after and there are more still on the waiting list.

Please do help. We have need of every penny urgently.



**They tried to give more than they could.
Please give as much as you can.**

To protect those concerned, this is an amalgam of several such case histories of patients in our care.

EX-SERVICES MENTAL WELFARE SOCIETY

Dept. S, Broadway House, The Broadway, Wimbledon SW19 1RL. Telephone: 0181-543 6333

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Awards in Australia

THE GRANTING of the 1939-45 Star to military personnel who served in the defence of Darwin against Japanese raids (Letters, April 3) is only part of a review of Australian Defence Awards.

This inquiry in 1993 recommended the introduction of two "new" medals and a number of changes, some of which were:

- Those who served in Syria only and not west of Suez should receive the Africa Star.

- Service by civilian members of the AWLA, NAR, CCC and some VAD within Australia should result in the award of the new Civilian Service Medal 1939-45.

- Members who served overseas between 1945 and 1975 should receive the new Australian Service Medal 1945-75 with the following clasps: Japan (1945-47), Korea (1953-57), Malaya (Labuan Is 1951-57), Thailand-Malaysia Border (1960-64/66), Ubon (Thailand 1962-68), PNG (1951-75), Kashmir (UNIPOM 1948-75), West New Guinea (UNTEA 1962-63).

- Aircrew and nurses who took part in evacuation flights of wounded from Vietnam 1964-73 should receive the Vietnam Medal.

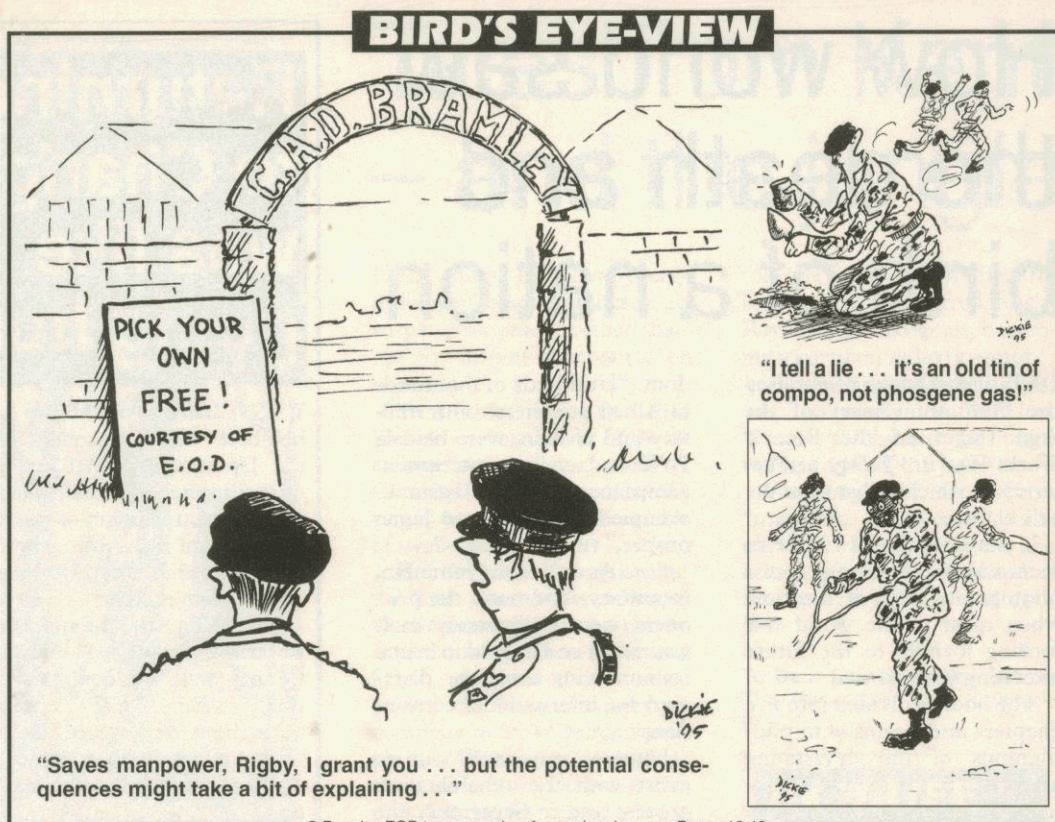
This is only a brief list of the main changes that may be of interest to your readers. — **J C Henley, Zillmere, Queensland, Australia.**

Medal makers are in touch

YOUR article on unofficial medals raising £200,000 for good causes (July 10) proves that Award Productions are in touch with what former Servicemen want.

There is a genuine desire among old soldiers to have something to commemorate their service other than the red hardback booklet I was given after five years with the Colours (three in the Suez Canal Zone) and seven years on Reserve, 1948-53.

Recently, I too bought a National Service Medal. No matter what the MoD says about it being unofficial, more and more "old sweats" will be wearing the ribbon with pride. — **C E Smith (ex-RE), Tadley, Hants.**



Goose Green review on target

YOUR REVIEWER BJ, writing about Spencer Fitz-Gibbon's denigration of Goose Green (July 10) made the very fair comment: "something of this kind could have been written about almost any battle in history".

Absolutely on target!

Perhaps Fitz-Gibbon should ponder over Theodore Roosevelt's famous words:

"It is not the critic who

counts nor the man who points out how the strong men stumbled, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better.

"The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by

dust and sweat, and blood; who knows the great enthusiasms, the great devotions, and spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievements; and who, at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid critics who know neither victory nor defeat."

Colonel Jones VC spent himself in a worthy cause. **Brig E D (Birdie) Smith, Sidmouth, Devon.**

Staffords' capbadge

IN your capbadge feature "Order of Battle" (July 10) the version given for The Staffordshire Regiment is actually its collar badge.

The collar badge is indeed the emblem universally used by the regiment for notepaper, on barrack signs and so on.

The capbadge is just the Knot (with Holland backing) surmounted by the Prince of Wales's plumes and incorporating a coronet and the motto *Ich Dien*. — **A J McBain, Stowmarket, Suffolk.**

I, too, am a Suez veteran, having served with 3 Field Squadron, 22 Engineer Regiment, MELF.

I am awaiting delivery of the Suez commemorative medal, which I will keep with pride next to my National Service medal, both of which I had to purchase.

I was proud to do my bit for my country but what I do get uptight about is the fact that I have to wear my medals on the same side as people who have no military background and sometimes have obtained their medals third-hand.

So I say more power to the people who are trying to get official recognition for a Canal Zone award. — **J J Hogan, Hornchurch, Essex.**

THE amount given to charities from the sale of commemoratives is very commendable, but is there any vetting to ensure that medals are given only to those eligible?

If not, at the next "do" we could see a volunteer bomber pilot with "proof" that he has served his country in Normandy, BAOR, Suez, Arctic and so on, when not being at sea or banged up as a PoW.

Couldn't the companies producing mementoes go in for tie pins, badges or signet rings to prevent confusion? — **Suezvet (name, address supplied).**

I HAVE read with interest in recent editions of *Soldier* the correspondence on the issue of a Suez medal.

How world saw the death and birth of a nation

ONE of the books celebrating the 50th anniversary of the final stages of the Second World War is *VJ Day in Photographs*, which is just what the title claims.

It is a selection of 100 or so memorable official and press photographs shot at the time when most of the world was looking joyfully to the future after long years of war.

The book is divided into five chapters and begins with photographs of the devastating aftermath of the atomic bombing of Nagasaki and Hiroshima and the celebrations in Allied countries when it was prematurely reported that the war against Japan was over.

The first caption tells us that on the morning of August 10, 1945, a day after the second bomb was dropped, news swept the Allied countries of Japan's surrender.

"Crowds of jubilant Servicemen, Servicewomen and civilians took to the streets, spreading the news and staging impromptu celebrations... Unfortunately, the news was premature and a tense few days ensued, with several more 'false alarms'..."

The second chapter looks at the exuberant scenes in America, Britain, Australia, New Zealand, China and the Philippines when the confirmation of peace was announced.

We are reminded in the text that Japan eventually declared an official end to hostilities on August 14, finally accepting the Allied ultimatum issued nearly three weeks previously in Potsdam. So the first official day without war - VJ Day - was August 15.

The Japanese surrender and its signing, presided over by Gen MacArthur on board USS *Missouri* at anchor in Tokyo Bay on September 2, is the highlight of the book.

With the surrender came the liberation of prisoners-of-war and the book has deeply moving photographs of some of those suffering people shortly after regaining their free-

dom. "Hundreds of thousands of Allied prisoners, both military and civilian, were held in PoW and civilian internment camps located across Japanese-occupied East Asia and Japan proper," runs the text.

"... As well as the inhuman, insanitary conditions, the prisoners were deliberately malnourished and treated in brutal fashion with complete disregard for international conventions..."

"Nurses were sent out to assist with the rehabilitation process and in September the first prisoners began to return home to their loved ones."

The chapter concerned with the restoration of peace, the destruction of Japanese weapons and the rebuilding of the country's economy and society is the happiest part of the book.

"The Allies were to remain until 1952... To the surprise of many, things went exceedingly smoothly."

Finally comes the settlement of accounts.

"The International Military Tribunal for the Far East was set up in January 1946. Its hearings lasted three years, tried thousands of individuals, and were held across the region in places where the Japanese had perpetrated their crimes."

"The big show trial, however, was in Tokyo. It began in June 1946 and in the dock were 28 Japanese deemed to be their war leaders. It ended in November 1948; two had died and one had been declared insane, seven were hanged, 16 imprisoned for life, and two jailed for shorter terms."

When the War Crimes Trials ended in late 1948, few could have foreseen Japan's rapid economic revival and acceptance as a respected member of the international community.

This book graphically portrays the birth of a new nation. - BJ

VJ Day in Photographs edited by Christopher Westhorp. Salamander Books, paperback, £4.99.

Returning to Changi was like going home

WAS Changi PoW camp a hell-hole where prisoners of the Japanese Imperial Army were subjected to brutality and general maltreatment, or was it some sort of rest centre where they recovered after working on the death railway?

According to Lionel de Rosario in *Nippon Slaves*, Changi was, by comparison with other PoW camps throughout Asia, more like a "low budget holiday camp", despite its notorious reputation.

After working for months on the Siam-Burma death railway and the famed bridge over the River Kwai where, like thousands of others, he suffered appalling hardship, he and his fellow prisoners considered that returning to Changi "was like going home".

He says: "Although food was rationed, it was provided every day. There was electric light and piped water which contributed to our cleanliness and good healthy conditions."

He says he can't understand how the place got such a bad name. "My memories of Changi have never been



Home from home? A picture recording the liberation of Changi gaol, Singapore. It was dreadfully overcrowded, but for the author it was preferable to the appalling hardship of the Death Railway in Burma

unpleasant," he writes. The implication is, of course, that life in the jungle and on the death railway was so bad that anything was better.

Certainly a photograph of de Rosario taken soon after his release from internment shows him looking smart, fit and well fed; nothing like many Allied soldiers who were in a shocking

state of ill health at the end of the war with Japan.

When the Japanese invaded Singapore the author was a 20-year-old civil servant and a member of the Singapore Volunteer Corps. He was a PoW for almost four years.

Like many such accounts it is at times harrowing, but it has lighter moments which de

Rosario recounts in an easy style.

It would be interesting to know what other former internees of Changi thought about the place. - JM

Nippon Slaves by Lionel de Rosario. Janus Publishing Company, London W1N 7RE, hardback, £14.95.

Tales from Kent - and the jungle

IT IS unwise to believe everything you read. Far better to suspend judgment rather than opt for instant acceptance or rejection.

That is not to say that Phil Sharpe's revelation in *To Be A Chindit* about a con trick on Churchill and other senior officers is untrue. It just takes a bit of swallowing.

He tells how, while guarding the Kent coast at Dymchurch, the Somerset LI was so poorly armed that its Bren guns and light machine-guns were passed on from company to company to fool Churchill and senior officers, on an inspection tour, into believing the unit was better armed than it actually was.

Obvious question: why try to fool the one person who could have helped improve the unit's defences? It reads like something from *Dad's Army*.

He says the "battalion's best effort" was to fire at a low-flying aircraft causing only "superficial damage".

That was lucky for the gunners and the 'plane since it was British and carrying an RAF VC hero to his home town for a civic celebration.

War Office orders at the time, says Mr Sharpe, stipulated that no aircraft should fly below 3,000ft in the coastal area. He adds that "no one had

told the pilot". Soon after this incident he transferred to the Royal Corps of Signals, becoming a corporal radio operator.

He embarked for India and was eventually drafted into Wingate's Chindits for jungle warfare against the Japanese.

He thought Wingate to be a "maverick, autocratic and abrasive, brutally energetic and a man of vision well ahead of his time". It is lively reading. - JM

To Be A Chindit by Phil Sharpe. The Book Guild Ltd, hardback, £15.

IN BRIEF

Burma Victory: Imphal, Kohima and the Chindit issue, March 1944 to May 1945 by David Rooney. Timely paperback reissue of the original written in 1992 with the help of Burma Star Association, which benefits from sales. Arms & Armour, £10.99.

Warpaths: Travels of a Military Historian in North America by John Keegan. Leading sage turns his long-time fascination with the continent into an engrossing historical travelogue. Hodder & Stoughton, hardback, £20.

Marlborough as Military Commander by David Chandler. Reissue of the classic study by the former Head of War Studies at Sandhurst. First published in 1973. Spellmount, hardback, £25.

Guns of the Elite by George Markham. Revised and updated edition of well-illustrated analysis of special forces firearms from 1940 to the present. Arms & Armour, hardback, £19.99.

The SAS: Savage Wars of Peace by Anthony Kemp. Account of the regiment's colonial campaigns and counter-terrorist activities from 1947 to the present, now in paperback. Signet, £4.99.

Daring to Win: Special Forces at War by David Eshel. Heavy on drama, light on technical detail, a non-definitive account from 1918 to the Gulf, first published in 1992. Arms & Armour, paperback, £9.99.

CRUEL REALITY IN COLD STATISTICS

IT WILL BE no consolation to the thousands who suffered and are still suffering, and who were bereaved, and indeed will make it no less difficult to forgive and forget.

But there will be many, particularly among the younger generations, who will be asking at this time just *why* the Japanese felt compelled to treat their prisoners of war as brutally as they did.

It is a question that has been addressed before, and without being in any sense an apologist David Smurthwaite touches upon it again in his admirable *Pacific War Atlas 1941-45*.

The Japanese were expected to fight to the death. "The corol-

lary of (their) abhorrence of being captured," he writes, "was their deep revulsion for anyone who had allowed himself to become a prisoner of war."

"This revulsion was worked out, against both military and civilian prisoners, through physical punishment which embraced many states from beatings to torture and execution."

In his summing-up chapter Smurthwaite, Assistant Director of the National Army Museum, reels off cold statistics which leave no room for doubt about the horror of man's inhumanity to man in this particular theatre.

The Japanese took nearly

200,000 Allied prisoners, most of them men and women captured in the early months in Hong Kong, Malaya, the Philippines, Sumatra and Java.

"Of 20,000 members of the United States forces captured in the Philippines in 1942 nearly half died in Japanese camps."

"Of the 60,000 Commonwealth prisoners of war who struggled to build the Burma-Siam railway, over 12,000 died before its construction was completed."

"Of the 2,500 Commonwealth prisoners held in 1943 at Sandakan Ranau in North Borneo, only six survived."

Some were worked to death to support the empire's war

economy. Other fatalities were due to "deliberate neglect, the inability to provide an adequate diet and medical supplies, and to calculated and deadly brutality".

Of the 2,040 people subsequently convicted at war crimes trials held by the British and Americans, 428 received the death penalty.

Though it includes an authoritative and detailed textual re-examination of the war from both sides, by its nature this book is much more than that: it has 60 excellent full-colour maps showing troop, ship and aircraft movements.

An instructive opening chapter puts the Pacific theatre in its

historical context, from 1918 onwards.

If there is a major criticism it is of the use of photographs, some of which by a quirk of layout are reduced to postage-stamp size to fit into margins, almost as an afterthought.

For example, in the paperback version an aerial picture of dozens of ships in Adak Harbour in the Aleutians in August 1943 measures just 3.4 by 3 cm. Perhaps there should be a free magnifying glass with each copy of the book sold! - CH

The Pacific War Atlas 1941-45 by David Smurthwaite. Published by HMSO for the National Army Museum, hardback £22.50, paperback £10.95.

Wrong-footed by Green Howards' crowning glory

OUR feature on the capbadges of the post-Options British Army (*Soldier*, July 10) included the wrong version for The Green Howards.

Mind you, it is a mistake that has been made by better qualified judges than ourselves. The "wrong" capbadge (surmounted by a crown rather than a coronet) was incorrectly worn by the regiment for almost six years in the 1950s.

It should then – as now – have been surmounted by the coronet

of Princess Alexandra, who originally designed the badge using her cipher, "A", entwined with the Cross or Dannebrog of the Danish Royal Family. The date 1875 refers to the first occasion on which the



RIGHT



WRONG

princess became associated with the regiment – the presentation of new Colours to the 1st Battalion in Sheffield. The Roman numeral XIX denotes that the Green Howards was once the 19th Regiment of Foot.

The badge has been worn by the regiment, in one form or another, since 1882, except from 1958-70 when the Yorkshire Brigade capbadge was adopted. During this period, the regiment's badge was worn as a collar badge on the lapels of soldiers' uniforms.

Lt Col Neil McIntosh at RHQ in Richmond, North Yorkshire, said the badge bearing the Queen's Crown, worn 1952-58, was issued for wear following an administrative error in the War Office.

ACF officer pays tribute

DRIVEN by a strong sense of the need to remember the sacrifices of those who have given their lives to their country, Army Cadet Force officer Henry Buckton decided to do something about it.

He wrote to eminent people in many walks of life – from the Church to the theatre and the military to the media – and canvassed their thoughts on the subject of remembrance.

The result is *The Royal British Legion Golden Book of Remembrance: A Tribute to Those Who Served*. Contributions from the great and the good were so plentiful that a sequel is already planned.

When the book was launched at the Imperial War Museum on July 12 the gathering included new Defence Secretary Michael Portillo, Lord Privy Seal Viscount Cranborne, Fd Marshal Lord Bramall, Gen Sir John Hackett, Gen Sir Peter de la Billière, comedian Michael Bentine, broadcaster Raymond Baxter and Sebastian Coe MP.

Royal Observer Corps historian 2nd Lt Buckton, 6 LI, currently platoon commander with the Somerset Cadet Battalion, Light Infantry ACF, told *Soldier* there were also to be regional launches with Michael Denison and Leslie Thomas among the guests.

The book, with a foreword by former gunner captain Hammond

SOLDIER to Soldier

Innes, costs £14.99, £2 of which goes to the RBL. It is available from bookshops or direct from the publishers, Ashford Buchan & Enright, PO Box 20, Leatherhead, Surrey, KT24 5HH.

Did you know?

DEFENCE land holdings in the UK amount to an area the size of Northamptonshire;

● **On April 1 there were 233,000 people in the Armed Forces;**

● **About 395,000 people are employed in industry and commerce in the UK as a result of defence expenditure;**

● **Armed Forces rescue co-ordination centres saved 1,336 people last year.**

These and many other facts and figures appear in the Government Statistical Service's UK Defence Statistics 1995, available from HMSO.

Sung like a trooper

AFTER sitting through a recording of more than an hour of unexpurgated Second World War "can-

teen songs", a member of the *Soldier* team was bemused not so much by the number of undeleted expletives but by the apparent link between these barrack-room ballads, a postwar Defence Secretary, and the Intelligence Corps.

The songs are a collection of 25 released on compact disc and cassette under the title *Come On Lads*... with the warning: "Contains uncensored material which some may find offensive".

An understatement – for example, the track entitled *The Firth of Forth* repeats the "F" word 34 times, and as the disc was a recent album of the month on BBC Radio 2, this song must have been transmitted as one long bleep.

The politician is Denis (now Lord) Healey, who served at Anzio with the sappers, whose reminiscences provided some of the words and tunes, and whose son Tim researched and produced the recordings.

But where does Intelligence come into this? The clue is in the notes to *Ode to a Gezira Lovely*: "A version of this ode appears in an Imperial War Museum document, *Army Songs*, compiled by the Intelligence Corps at Eighth Army HQ in Italy, 1944". Can anyone explain the corps' role here?

Come On Lads... performed by Sods' Opera is available on CD (BEJOCD-7) at £10.99 and cassette (BEJO-7) at £6.99 from Beautiful Jo Records, 86 Marlborough Road, Oxford OX1 4LS (tel: 01865 249194), cheques payable to "Honest Jo Music Distribution".

The Royal British Legion bene-

fits from sales and the recordings are also available from RBL Homebuy, Freepost, Cressage, Shrewsbury SY5 6BR (credit cards 01952 510053).

Capital radio

LONDONERS have been able to tune in to the Royal Tournament thanks to BFBS.

The Forces' broadcasters set up a mobile studio at Earl's Court for a month-long stint involving six hours of local programming. The west London coverage took in Army barracks at Chelsea and Knightsbridge as well as 3,000 Service personnel based at Earl's Court for the duration.

And Londoners living in the Earl's Court area also enjoyed the transmissions if they happened to tune in to 107.8FM.

Gunners' tall tales

GUNNER tales and other examples of the rather "oblique humour" associated with the Armed Forces is given full rein (or is it reign?) in *Egg Banjos From Around The World*, a softback selection of short, humorous stories being sold to raise funds for the Gunner Heritage Appeal.

Chief beneficiary of the appeal is the proposed National Museum of Artillery to be built in the Royal Arsenal at Woolwich.

Among the gunner contributors to *Egg Banjos* is Sir Harry Secombe.

According to editor Duncan Smith, the book takes its name from the fried egg sandwiches which power the British Army. It is available from Homestead Publications, c/o West Cottage, Top Street, Pilton, Somerset BA4 4DF, price £4.50 including p and p.

Duncan, at the same address, wants more gunner anecdotes for his next compilation in aid of the appeal. Anyone wishing to find out more about the project – or make a donation – should contact the Chief Executive, Gunner Heritage Appeal, Royal Artillery Barracks, Woolwich SE18 4BH.

HALF-YEARLY PROMOTIONS

Brigadier

The following colonels were promoted to substantive brigadier on June 30:

Group A Corps

A C Figgures, late REME, Comd ES HQ Land; I P Inshaw, late RAO, Comd BOD/Bicester Gar; M Kerley QGM, late RLC, Comd CSSG(UK); D M O'Callaghan, late 16/5 L, Brig (W) DOR (Land); C K Price, late 14/20 H, Ch Jt Ext Aff Div/JSLO HQ UKSC(G); R Pridham OBE, late RE, Comd RSME Chatham; R E Ratazzi CBE, late RCT, Comd CSSG(G)/Gütersloh Gar; M P S Shaw, late R Signals, Comd 11 (ARRC) Sig Bde; W E Strong, late RA, DA Riyadh; J A Thorp CBE, late RE, Comd 15 (NE) Bde; J P Weller MBE, late WFR, Comd 143 (WM) Bde; H R G Wilson, late IG, Comd 49 (EM) Bde.

Group B Corps

C F P Horsfall, late RAEC, Comd ETS HQ Land; N A Mackereth, late AGC(SPS), DSPS(A); T E O'Donnell OBE, late RAPC, Comd AGC Trg Cen/Winchester Gar.

Colonels

The following lieutenant colonels were promoted to substantive colonel on June 30, with seniority from June 30:

Group A Corps: N S Alderman OBE, Staffords, COS HQ Dlnf; S R B Allen, Scots DG, COS HQ DRAC (des); D R Bill RE, Col ASD 1; A F Birtwistle OBE, QLR, AD (Land) (A) DFD; J Blake R, Signals, Col (W) AD CIS (Pol) ACDS (CIS); C Blount AAC, COS/Regt Col HQ DAAvn; R W Bugler RLC, Ch Log Sp HQ UKSC(G) (des); C M B Coats RA, Col ASD 2 (des); A B S Collings OBE, D and D, Col (W) DACOS G3 CIS HQ Land; P C Cort REME, Col ES 12 DGES(A).

M J Crabbe REME, Col (W) ES

31 DGES(A); J A Daniell OBE RGJ, DACOS G3 Ops 1 HQ Land; T R Dumas OBE, RA, DA Amman (des); R J Evans OBE, R Signals, Col DI 24(A) DIS; A J Faith OBE, RA, Chief Pol Sect Pol and Reqmts Div SHAPE (des); H M Fletcher OBE, Para, Regt Col Para; N P Gaskell LI, Col Trg HQ Dlnf (des); J C W Gillman OBE, LD, Comd RAC Centre/Bovington Gar (des); D J P Griffiths RLC, Comd Log Sp HQ Londist. T E Hall RTR, SO Ops Div IMS HQ NATO; H H Ham, R Signals, Col (W) PM/SP; R I Harrison OBE, RLC, D (D Log (Mov)) ACDS (L); C A Hewitt MBE, RLC, D (D Log (Coord/O)) ACDS (L) (des); J P Hoskinson OBE, RE, Col Engr 1 E-in-C (A); J N R Houghton OBE, Green Howards, DACOS G3 (O and D) HQ Land; R A Hyde-Bales RE, Col RSME (Minley); D R F Innes RE, ACOS G3/G4 HQ UKSC(G).

P T Innocent, R Signals, Col Sigs 34 DGCIS(A); D H Keenan OBE, R Irish, Dir Studies Zimbabwe Staff Coll/D Comd BMATT; J A Kirkwood OBE, KOSB, AD Cts (Jt Ops) ACDS (Ops/Sy); N P Knudsen REME, Col (W) DDHS 2 DHSA; N C D Lithgow BW, Col PB 2; C D Lunn RA, Col MS 2; D A Lynam MBE, R Signals, Col (W) PD/JOCS CDI; A R R McAslan RE, Col (W) LSOR 5 ACDS OR (Land); J C McColi OBE, R Anglian, COS

HQ 1 (UK) Armd Div. A C Mantell OBE RE, Comd Engr 1 (UK) Armd Div; S C Matthews REME, Col (W) E Man HQ Land; P C C Molyneux RA, AD Def Prog 2 D Prog; M O'Donoghue AAC, Col (W) DDOR 7; I D O Rees RLC, DACOS G1 HQ UKSC(G); A S Ritchie RA, COS HQ 3 (UK) Div.

R J Sandy RE, Col Engr 4 E-in-C (A); M Smith OBE MC, RGJ, D Comd 39 Inf Bde; C E M Snagge RGJ, ACOS G2/G3 HQNI; D H R Stephenson LI, AD (DIO) B; M E A Syms OBE RLC, Comd HQ RLC TA; T N Tyler REME, Col CRIT 3, Col Army Plans 2 (July 21).

P D Verge RLC, Col Log Sp Svcs HQ Land; M C Wardley, Int Corps, Col DIS (Plans) DGIGR; A J G Wight OBE MC, WG, AD (ROW) JPS/DACOS J8 (East) PJHQ; P G Williams OBE, Coldm Gds, DCMO HQ UNPROFOR; H C G Willing RGJ, Chief Pol/Reqmts Pol Div HQ AFCENT (des); D R d'A Willis RGR, Col Bde of Gurkhas; M D Wood MBE, RLC, DCOS HQ 3 (UK) Div; D J B Woodd KRH, DACOS G3 Ops (Fd Army) HQ Land; S D Young OBE, D and D, D Comd HQ BRITFOR.

Group B Corps

P J Bryant OBE, AGC(ALS), Col ALA NW Europe; M W Craig AGC(APS), Regt Pmr RPO Glasgow; G M Simmonds OBE, AGC(ETS), Col (W) PM UNICOM.

APPOINTMENTS

Colonels: A C Farmer – To HQ Land, July 7; C A C Heron – To be Comd JACIG(AE), July 3; P B Williams – To be BLO USCAC, July 3.

Lt Cols: C J Murray RLC – To be CO 8 Arty Sp Regt RLC, July 3; D C Parkinson Para – To be CO 4 Para, July 3; S I Green AGC(ETS)

– To HQ UKSC(G), July 14; J A J Nelson AGC(PRO) – To MoD, July 10; N P Parker AAC – To HQ UNFICYP, July 10; M G Tindall RA – To HQ Londist, July 10; S Caraffi RTR – To Staff Coll (DS), July 10.

Retirements

Colonels: P R Ievers, late RE, July 2.

SEARCHLINE

Royal Military Police Association (Birmingham Central): Branch reunions held on first Saturday of every month at Birmingham United Servicemen's Club, Cough Street, Birmingham, noon for 1230 hours. Details from branch secretary Mrs Irene Oliver, 46 St Mary's Road, Harborne, Birmingham B17 0HA (tel 0121 427 8008) or new members/PR secretary D J Holdsworth, 103 Edish Road, Kitts Green, Birmingham B33 9RN (tel 0121 628 5388).

71st HAA Regiment RA: Following their successful second dinner reunion at Woolwich in June, the 71st HAA Regt RA OCA is planning its next dinner in June 1996. For details, contact Eric Dunkley, Popinjays, Little Norton, Norton Sub Hamdon, Somerset TA 14 6TE or Jack Clarkson, 10 Heights Way, Armley, Leeds, W Yorks LS12 3SN.

Cornwall School, Dortmund ex-pupils and teachers sought for

reunion in July 1996. Contact Sharon Selman (née Stephenson) on 01622 743100 (home) or 01622 773265 (work).

September 1976 intake, Nicholson Troop, 40 (Wardrop Battery), JLR RA: Anyone interested in a 20-year reunion is asked to contact Malcolm (Taff) Davies, 45 Lon Masam, Tycoc, Swansea SA2 9EX.

Anyone who served with the Gurkhas during the Malayan Emergency (1957-59), or 15 Section, 199 Battery, 68th Regiment RA and spent time in Ipoh, Perak, and recalls National Serviceman Lbdr Frank Storey, from West Hartlepool, and Regular soldier John "Badge" Cullen, from Deptford, is asked to contact Ann Storey, 59 Sidaway Street, Cradley Heath, West Midland B64 6HJ (tel 01384 410695 after 6pm).

East of Hamburg, 1945: Karl-

Heinz Böttger, of Lilienweg 3, 22850 Norderstedt, Germany, seeks information on which division or regiment occupied the area east of Hamburg after the city surrender on May 2, 1945. He has a black-and-white photograph showing a vehicle bearing a sign showing 87 in a halved rectangle.

Alan Robinson (ex-platoon sergeant and CSM) wishes to contact former members of E, F, and K Companies, 2nd Cadet Battalion, The Middlesex Regiment ACF (Uxbridge or Rayners Lane 1943-47). Replies to 43 Rudsdale Way, Prettygate, Colchester, Essex CO3 4LP (tel 01206 549617).

D L Prior wishes to hear from anyone called up in January 1940 to Woolwich and then to Preston Park, Brighton (A Battery, 74 Med Regt RA), Dorking and Sevenoaks. Replies to 140 Cressingham Road, Reading, Berks RG2 7LN.

REUNIONS

Birmingham Association of Far East Prisoners of War Association: VJ Day service, St Martin's-in-the-Bull Ring, Birmingham, August 20 at 1830 hours.

Crewe VE/VJ drumhead services, reunion: Including Burma Star Association service, August 20. All Colours, Standards and members welcome.

18 Tpt and Mov Sqn RLC (formerly 43 Tpt and Mov Sqn RCT): Reunion for past and present civilian, military staff at Digbeat Camp, Shorncliffe Barracks, Folkestone on August 26. Details from Sgt Peter Summerell (tel 01303 225044) or Mr Adam Brint (tel 01303 225054).

Royal Army Veterinary Corps Association: Annual reunion at Defence Animal Centre on September 30. Details from RHQ RAVC, DAC, Melton Mowbray LE13 0SL (tel 01664 411811).

12 Bn Devonshire Regt (6th Airborne): 49th annual reunion dinner at the Devon Motel, Exeter bypass (Matford Roundabout) on October 7. Details, for those who served 1940-45, or families, from Mrs Ada Follett, Rosemount, Exmouth Road, Exton, nr Exeter, Devon EX3 0PQ (tel 01392 874596).

5 Kings/2 T Force OCA: Annual meeting October 23-26. Details from secretary R Walker, 15 Wedgwood Road, Barlaston Park, Stoke on Trent ST12 9BB.

South Notts Hussars Association: Reunion dinner, Nottingham on November 11. Details from Col A J Haines, 54 Rivergreen Crescent, Bramcote, Notts NG9 3ET (tel 0115 9285371).

1996

Coldstream Guards No 4 Company: Fourth annual reunion dinner will take place in Birmingham on April 13. Anyone who served in the 3rd Battalion between 1950-55 is welcome. Details: Harry Westgarth, 49 Rokeby Park, Hull HU4 7QE (tel 01482 503649).

DIARY

Until the autumn: *Soldier* 50th anniversary exhibition, National Army Museum, Royal Hospital Road, Chelsea. Admission free.

SEPTEMBER

2-3: Berwick Military Tattoo in aid of SSAFA.

7-10: Disabled Ex-Services Invitation World Games, Gateshead Stadium.

17: Winchester and District Militaria Society fair and exhibition, Winchester Guildhall, 1000-1500 hours.

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

50th ANNIVERSARY EVENTS

Imperial War Museum

London at War exhibition; Home Front Memorial Gallery roll of honour; special film season.

Channel Islands occupation and liberation exhibition.

From August: Victory in the Far East display.

Until August 31: D-Day to Victory exhibition.

VJ Day – AUGUST

12-19: VJ week in Pwelli, Wales (tel 01758 614066).

19: Open-air service in central

London; Tribute and Promise parade, central London; fireworks display along the Thames.

20: Tribute throughout the nation, including services in Belfast, Cardiff, Newcastle upon Tyne and Edinburgh, and culminating with a Beating the Retreat and Sunset ceremony in these cities and London.

22: Fleet Veterans' Parade, Edinburgh Place, Hong Kong.

26: South Bedfordshire RBLs celebration, Dunstable (tel 01582 663166).

28: Liberation parade, Cenotaph, Hong Kong.

29: Battlefield tour, Hong Kong.

30: Beating Retreat on Stonecutter's Island, Hong Kong.

VJ Day

SEPTEMBER

2: Royal Hong Kong Regiment (V) disbandment parade.

2-3: Berwick on Tweed floodlit military tattoo.

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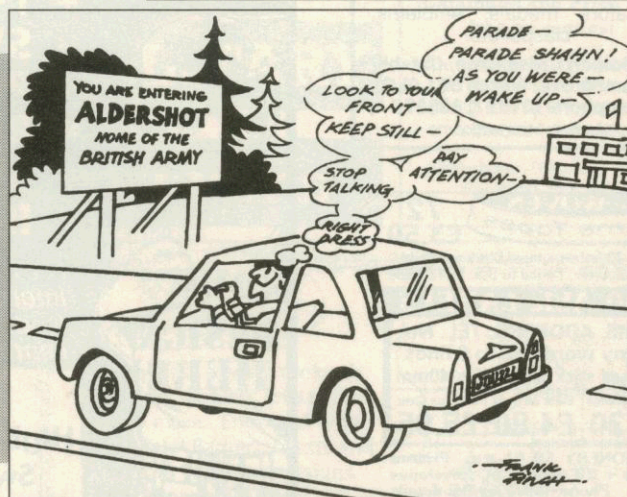
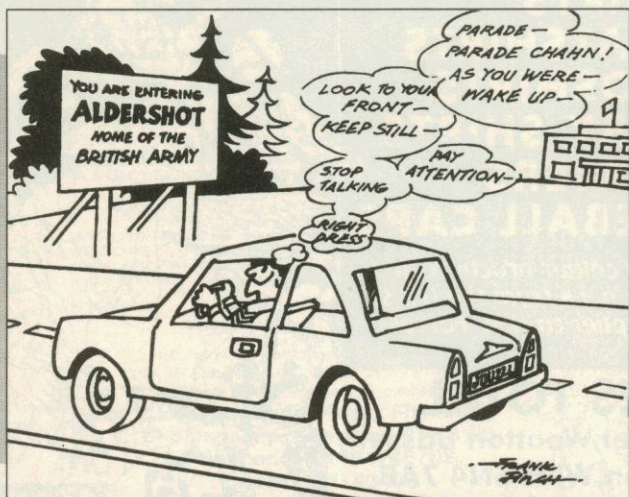
The pictures here are from our Frank Finch cartoon archives. Find ten differences in detail and you could be £50 richer or win a new book. Circle the differences in the right-hand picture, cut out the whole panel, add your name and address and send to HOAY 617, Soldier, Ordnance Road, Aldershot GU11 2DU by August 25. Do not include anything

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

The names of the winner of the £50 first prize and two runners-up will be announced in the September 18 issue.

Name: (Give rank or title)

Address:



Competition No 614 (June 26 issue): Congratulations to Sgt Sandra Elliott, ACIO, Newcastle Upon Tyne, who wins £50. Book prizes go to runners-up Mrs D Porter, of London W5, and Mrs S Presley, of London WC2N.

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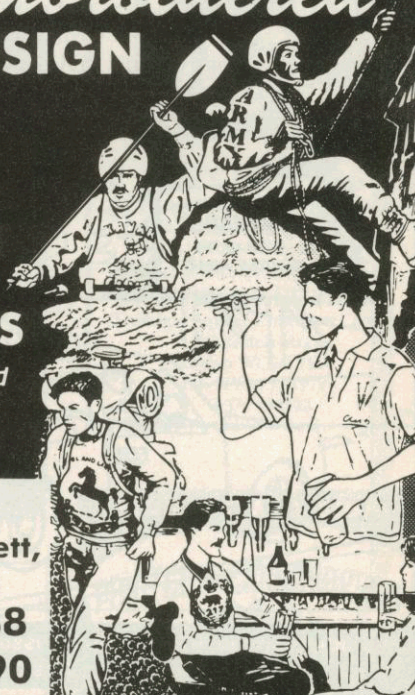
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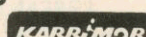
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D6

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Sheila, 29, 5'6", attractive, slim, brunette. I enjoy going to the gym and eating out. I would like reliable pen pals aged 27-35. Photo appreciated but not essential. **P463**

16/95

Georgina, 23, 5'3". Interests: writing letters, cinema, music, sport and playing pool. I would like pen pals, male or female, aged 23+. **P464**

16/95

Jules, 29, 5'9", brunette with green eyes. Enjoys: social and quiet life, wine bars, country pubs, days out, learning tennis, listening to Phil Collins, Enya and some jazz. Seeks correspondence with servicemen aged 30+. **P465**

16/95

Elaine, 24, 5'4" with hazel eyes and light brown hair. I enjoy nightclubs, pubs and cinema. I have a 5-year-old daughter and work in a restaurant. I would like pen pals aged 22-30. **P466**

16/95

Joy, 39, 5'9", slim with short hair. I enjoy: going to local pubs, cooking, dancing, music and concerts. I am a fun person and a good talker and listener. I would like pen pals aged 38-44. **P467**

16/95

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The 1 RHA 640kg team on its way to winning for the Army at the Inter-Service championships at RAF Benson

Horse Gunners pull their weight

SIX months of sweat and hard graft paid off for the 1st Regiment, Royal Horse Artillery tug of war team when they won two Inter-Service titles at RAF Benson near Oxford.

Based at Assaye Barracks, Tidworth, the 1 RHA team were successful in the 640kg and 680kg competitions and were runners up in the 600kg event at RAF Benson last month, so securing the coveted Combined Services Champi-

onship title.

Three days earlier at Larkhill the Horse Gunners had won

at two weights in a fiercely contested Army championships.

One end against the Royal Irish Regiment lasted more than four minutes – an eternity in tug of war terms.

The 1 RHA squad has been working hard since January,

competing in the Wiltshire and Dorset Training League. They won the 620kg and 660kg competitions in the first military event of the summer at the Aldershot Show, and went on to win the 3 (UK) Div, 4 (UK) Div and Royal Artillery cham-

pionships. Their immediate reward has been a place in the Royal Tournament competition and an invitation to the prestigious Braemar Games in September.

This season the team has won 18 titles at four weights.

IN BRIEF

Clay pigeon squad

A SEARCH is on for serving personnel of a reasonable standard to form an Army clay pigeon/clay target shooting squad. The move follows approval by the Army Rifle Association.

Three disciplines – English sporting, compact sporting and English skeet – will be shot by the team, which has been promised support at official shoots and for training costs by Browning (UK)

Ltd and Kent Cartridge Ltd.

Anyone interested should write to Capt J W Giggins RLC, 16 Regt RLC, St George's Barracks, Arncliffe, Bicester OX6 0PP.

Squash

The 39 Engineer Regiment team, last year's runners-up, beat SEME Bordon in the Army Major Units squash final at ATR Winchester. The championship decider went to the last seed and the last game.

Golf

Adam Mathieson won the Chairman's Trophy at the annual Scots Guards Association (Fife Branch) golf meeting.

Polo

The Army meet the Royal Navy at Tidworth Polo Club on July 29 to contest the Rundle Cup, high point of the military season. Players will also compete for the coveted Indian Cavalry Polo Trophy

and the Douglas-Nugent Cup.

The Indian Cavalry trophy, presented in 1988, is for matches between the Combined Services and a visiting international side – this year from America.

Regain, a Services-supported charity for people who become tetraplegic as a result of sporting injuries, is to benefit from a prize draw on the day.

Entry fee to the polo ground at Tidworth House, Tidworth, on the day is £10 a car.

Two-ton Chris leads by example

TWO superb centuries by skipper Lt Chris St George (Coldm Gds) set the Army up for fine victories over the RAF and Royal Navy in the Under-25 Inter-Services 55-over cricket festival at Vine Lane.

St George took full advantage of the RAF's decision to insert the Army on a blisteringly hot day, scoring 103 in a total of 269-8. Lt Richard Smith (32 Regt RA) added 50 in a 152-run partnership with his captain.

Pte David Matthews (17 Port and Maritime Regt RLC) and Capt Ben Langman (RDG) bowled superbly to peg the RAF back, and Lt Lacky Monro (Hldrs) and Spr Jim Knowles-Pfeifer (33 Engr Regt (EOD)), with 4-33, finished them off for 210 to give the Army victory by 59 runs.

With the strong Navy team having beaten the RAF on the first day, the championship rested on the final game.

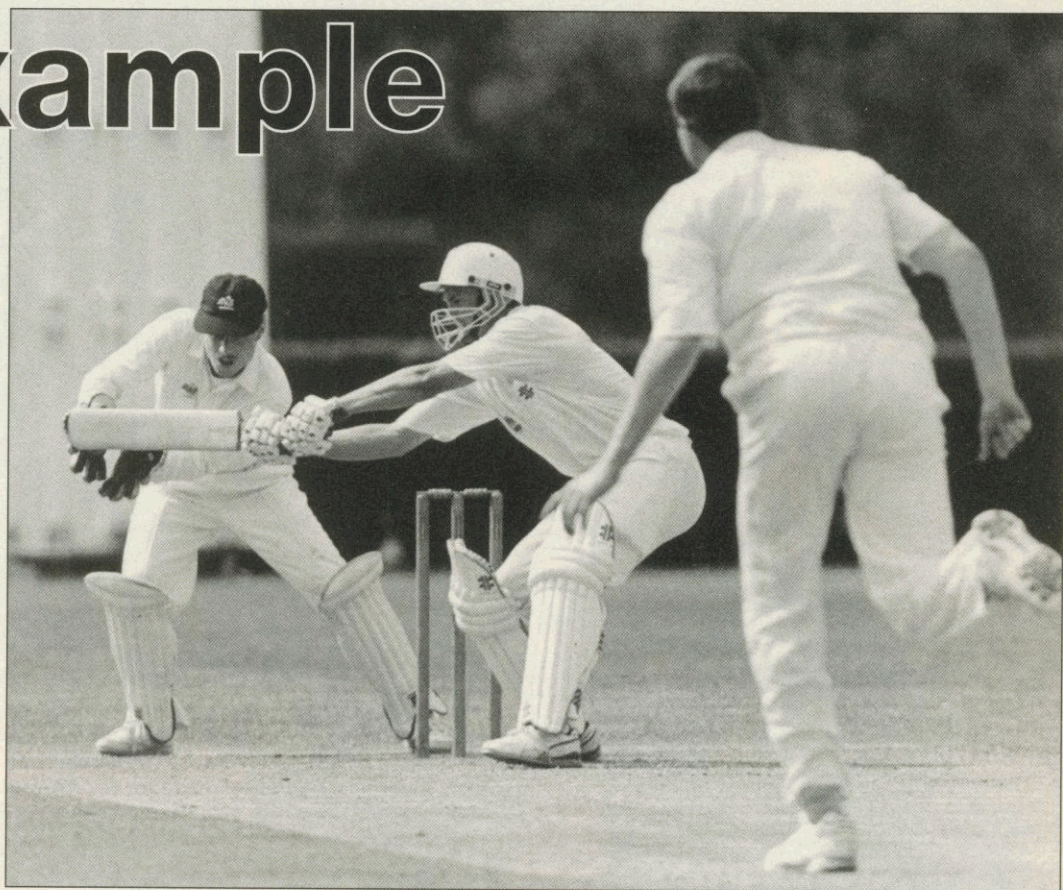
Despite losing two quick wickets, the Army recovered through a tremendous knock of 134 from St George, who was well supported by Cfn Steve Hole (SEAE Arborfield) with 33 and Knowles-Pfeifer with 34. Coincidentally, the Army posted 269-8, exactly the same score as the previous day.

Wynne (89) and Croft (62) batted the Navy into contention before St George put himself on for the first time this summer, wrapping up the innings with 4-33. The Navy were bowled out for 236 in the 52nd over to give the Army victory by 33 runs – and the championship.

A fine innings of 67 by Jim Knowles-Pfeifer put the Army junior side on course for a 116-run win over the touring British Army (Germany) team in the first game of the Under-25 festival at Aldershot.

With Steve Hole compiling 63 and Richard Smith 42, the Army were eventually dismissed for 251 (Bewick 5-50). BA(G) were bowled out for 135 in 48 overs, Lt Chris Winter (Coldm Gds) scoring 40.

The tourists were managed for the last time by former Army and Combined Services



Lt Chris St George, captain of the Army Under-25 cricket team, chases a wide one against Buckinghamshire

player WO Vic Nurse who is about to retire.

Chris St George had a good day against Hereford, winning the toss and scoring an undefeated 123 in his side's 55-over total of 273-5. Lacky Monro contributed 64 and Hole 32.

The Army recorded an exciting 13-run victory as Hereford's positive batting produced 260 in their 55-over reply. On the

final day of the festival, Buckinghamshire, always a strong side, piled on 294-7 in 55 overs after an opening partnership of 146. Knowles-Pfeifer was the best of the bowlers, returning 3-46 from 11 overs.

David Matthews scored a 54-ball 28, top score in the Army's disappointing total of 117, conceding Bucks victory by a massive 177-run margin.



These four runners from The Royal Scots, based at Fort George, were second in the Regular Army section of the Welsh 1000 peak race which takes in four mountains over 1,000m high on a gruelling 23-mile course from Aber to the summit of Snowdon. From left are Capt Murray Cown (2nd, 4hr 48min); Capt Kenny Douglas (22, 5hr 45min); LCpl Tam Harlow (50, 6hr 20min); and Pte Scott Hale (13, 5hr 13min)



Kelly sets hot pace

SGT Kelly Holmes AGC (pictured above) set an English record when she won the 800m in 1min 57.56sec at the KP National Championships in Birmingham, last month.

It was second fastest by a Briton and the quickest in the world this year, confirming Holmes's blistering early-season form and making her a very strong medal contender for the world championships at Gothenburg, where she will attempt both 800m and 1,500m races.

Her great run at Birmingham narrowly missed bettering Kirsty Wade's British record of 1min 57.42sec.

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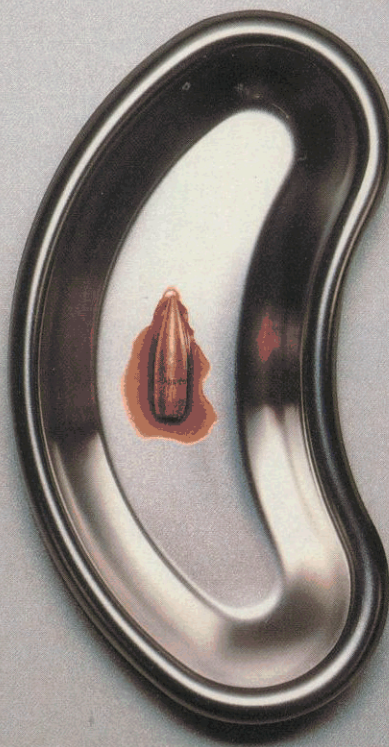
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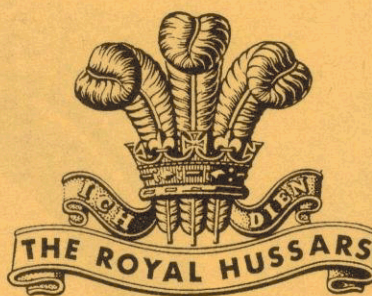


SOLDIER
The British Army Magazine

The King's Royal Hussars came into being on December 1, 1992 following the amalgamation of The Royal Hussars (Prince of Wales's Own) and the 14th/20th King's Hussars. The KRH uniform takes its character from the best parts of the constituent regiments, including the crimson trousers and unique brown beret of the Royal Hussars and the capbadge of the 14th/20th King's Hussars.

The new capbadge incorporates a Prussian Eagle Sabel, royally crowned and grasping in one claw a gold sceptre, in the other a golden orb. The cypher "FR", also in gold, is picked out on the eagle's breast.

The regimental quick march is "The King's Royal Hussars". The Royal Hussars originally formed in October 1969 on the amalgamation of the 10th Royal Hussars (Prince of Wales's Own) with the 11th Hussars (Prince Albert's Own). The 14th/20th King Hussars formed in 1922 from the 14th King's Hussars and 20th Hussars. Shared battle honours include Waterloo, Sevastapol and El Alamein.



The Royal Hussars
(Prince of Wales's Own)



14th/20th King's
Hussars

The Light Dragoons



SOLDIER
The British Army Magazine

The Light Dragoons were formed by the amalgamation of the 13th/18th Royal Hussars (Queen Mary's Own) and 15th/19th The King's Royal Hussars on December 1, 1992. The new uniform reflects a number of features from the parent regiments. A diamond-shaped South Africa flash of the 13th/18th is worn on the left sleeve by other ranks, while ranks between full corporal and WO1 wear the Royal Crest or cypher of the 15th/19th.

An elephant surmounted by Assaye is worn on the shoulder belt. The capbadge incorporates the monogram LD encircled by a wreath of laurel and surmounted by the Crest of England, all upon a Maltese Cross. It also incorporates two mottos, the 13th/18th's *Viret in Aeternum* (It will flourish for ever) and the 15th/19th's *Merebimur* (We shall be worthy).

The regimental march is "Balaklava". The 13th/18th itself had originally formed in November 1922 when 13th Hussars, which took part in the Charge of the Light Brigade, amalgamated with 18th Royal Hussars (Queen Mary's Own). The 15th/19th formed in April 1922 on the amalgamation of 15th The King's Hussars with 19th Royal Hussars (Queen Alexandra's Own). Battle honours shared by the two regiments include Balaklava, South Africa 1899-1902, Mons and Caen.



13th/18th Royal Hussars
(Queen Mary's Own)



15th/19th The King's Royal
Hussars