

SOLDIER

FORTNIGHTLY MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY

JULY 21 1997

80p

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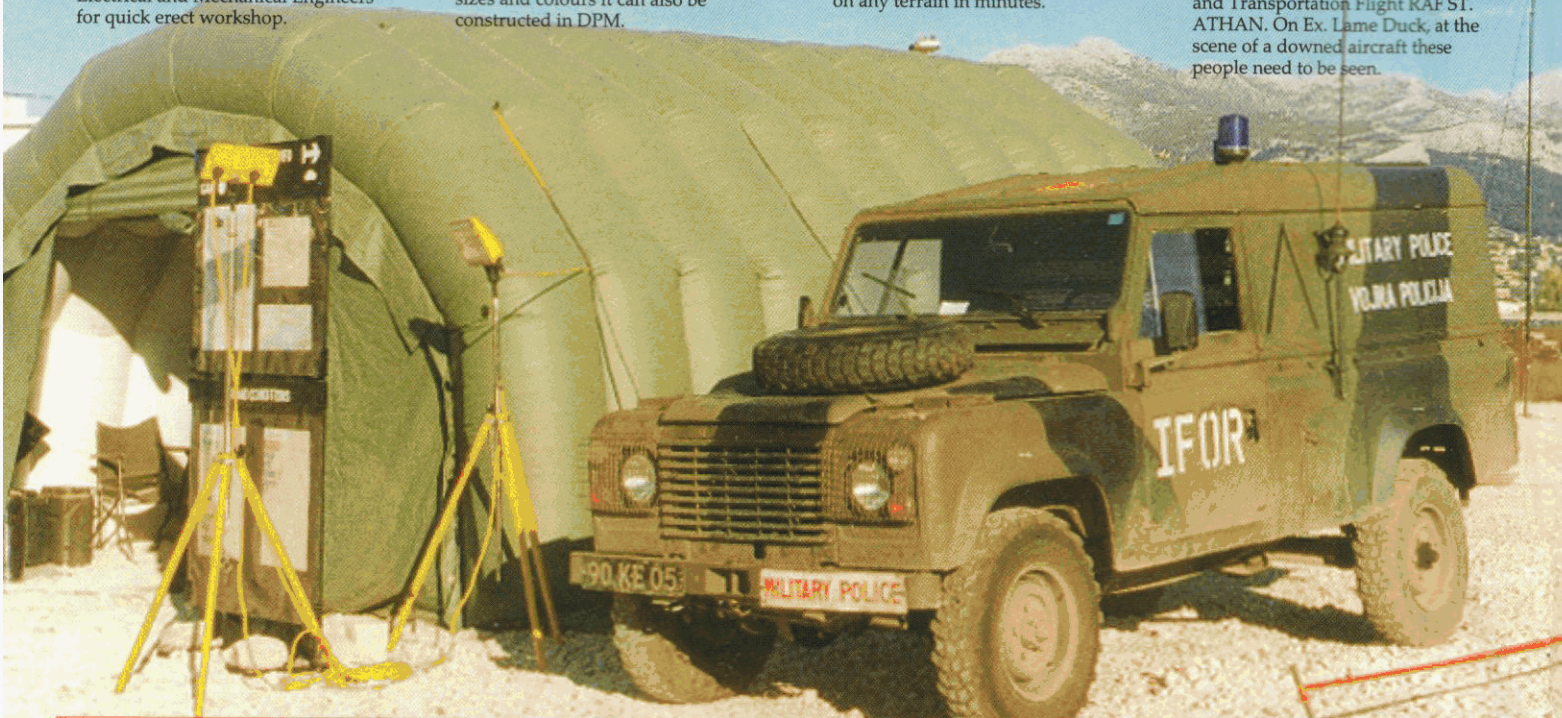
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Incorporating the Territorial Army magazine

July 21, 1997 Vol 53/15

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Picture: Terry Champion

The Standard of the Household Cavalry is paraded in front of the Queen during the Trooping the Colour ceremony on Horse Guards Parade. The Household Cavalry will provide pageantry at the Royal Tournament

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Picture: JSPRS Hong Kong

To the manner born: Pte Gerry Rattray (27), of 1 BW, takes part in the flag-lowering ceremony during the handover of Hong Kong to the People's Republic of China. He is from Aberfeldy, the regiment's birthplace

THE LAST FAREWELLS

From Lynne Shiels in Hong Kong

THREE historic ceremonies marked the final day of British rule in Hong Kong – and the British Army was represented in all of them by the 1st Battalion The Black Watch (The Royal Highland Regiment).

Our last resident infantry battalion in the colony's century-and-a-half of existence played significant roles in the British Farewell Ceremony, the handover to China itself, and the transfer of the Prince of Wales Barracks to the People's Liberation Army.

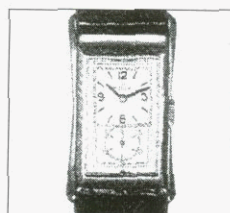
A cast of thousands took part in the British Farewell on June 30 at East Tamar. The one-and-a-half-hour extravaganza included civilian choirs, orchestras and dancers – but the 10,000 spectators reserved their largest cheers for the Military Pageant.

Led by parade commander Lt Col Alasdair Loudon (CO, 1 BW), this spectacular masterpiece displayed the choreographers' art to perfection. It began with a display by the 180 musicians of the Massed Bands and Pipes and Drums. Under the direction of Lt Col David Price, Senior Director of Music Guards Division, these included the Band of the Scots Guards, the Royal High-



Showing the flag: the British Guard of Honour at the handover

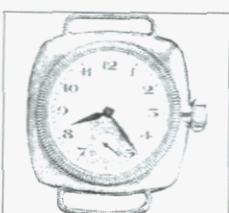
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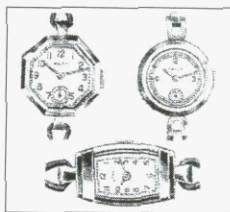
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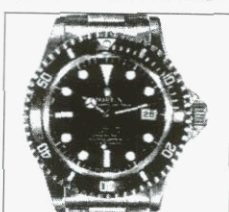
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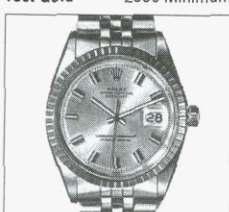
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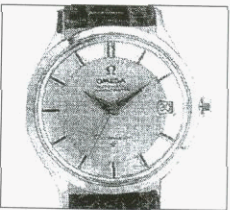
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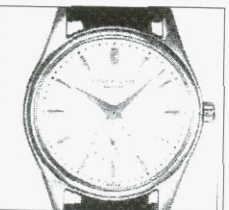
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Crowd-pleasers: The combined Scots Guards and Highland Band at the Hong Kong Stadium on June 25

Last farewells

● From Page 3

land Band, the Pipes and Drums of both 1 BW and the Brigade of Gurkhas, and the Band of the Royal Marines.

The pride of the crowd and participants shone through the heavy downpour as the guards of honour, 80 from each of the three Services, marched with Colours flying.

Current and former members of the British Armed Forces all around East Tamar stood proudly, conspicuous amid a sea of umbrellas, while the Prince of Wales read out a message from the Queen.

The moving Sunset ceremony was particularly poignant for Pte Dave Woodhouse, whose first son was born during 1 BW's tour of the Territory in 1993-94. He and 18-year-old Pte Steven Airzee were the Army representatives in the Flag Party.

As the *Last Post* was played, the flags in the arena, on board *HMV Britannia* – which formed a backdrop to the event – and on nearby *HMS Chatham* came down.

The strains of *Immortal Memory*, played by Pipe Major Stevie Small, could barely be heard over the thunder of the rain beating down on the parade ground.

In the dry of the newly-completed Conference and Exhibition Centre extension, British and PLA bands took turns to

play as 4,000 VIPs arrived for the midnight handover ceremony.

With split-second timing, Prince Charles stood at ten minutes before the hour and on behalf of "the entire British people" expressed "our

Guard mount draws crowd

A CROWD of more than 300 turned up at Prince of Wales Barracks on June 27 to watch the final ceremonial guard mount of the 1st Battalion The Black Watch (The Royal Highland Regiment).

Since the battalion arrived in Hong Kong in February the simple ceremony had become an increasingly popular draw for the public. It was also a "natural" for the media because its Lone Piper provided instant "sound bites".

First official handover event took place in the Hong Kong Stadium on June 27, when 30,000 people gathered for a spectacular programme of military music by the British Forces Massed Bands and Pipes and Drums under the direction of Lt Col David Price. Event project officer was Wg Cdr Barrie Simmonds, senior RAF officer in Hong Kong.

thanks, admiration, affection and good wishes to all the people of Hong Kong who have been staunch and special friends over so many genera-

tions". As the National Anthem played, the Union and Hong Kong Colony flags were lowered for the last time.

The Guard of Honour consisted of 12 members of each Service.

Back at the Garrison the transfer of HQ British Forces, the Prince of Wales Barracks, to the PLA was achieved with a simple and dignified changing of the guard.

The respective 18-strong guards of honour were each in full ceremonial dress. It was evident that the PLA had taken great pains to conform to the British way of doing things.

"The Prince of Wales Barracks is now ready for transfer into your care," Lt Col Jeremy Ellis, the Camp Commandant, said to his opposite number, Lt Col Tan Shang Ai. "May I wish you and your fellow officers and men good luck and successful tours of duty."

Lt Col Ellis said: "I'm extremely proud, not just of this event, but of the work we have done to leave the barracks not only on time, but in immaculate order."

The Guard of Honour, followed by the Gate Guard – with Lt Col Ellis, the last man out, crossing the boundary on the stroke of midnight – marched out of the barracks straight on to the ferry taking them to Kai Tak airport and the last flight home.

Around the Houses

A summary of Defence topics from Westminster

Martin Bell praises the 'best' Army

FORMER television war correspondent Martin Bell, now MP for Tatton, spoke of his "profound admiration" for the British Army during a Commons debate on Bosnia.

Supporting the retention of an international stabilisation force (SFOR) beyond the end of its mandate in June 1998, Mr Bell said although the original United Nations protection role in former Yugoslavia had "failed", it should be remembered that its troops saved 100,000 lives by their bravery.

"I pay tribute also to the dedicated soldiers of IFOR and SFOR," he said. "Having been close to them for all those years, I have come out with a profound admiration for the British Army, which I would now call, from what it has done there alone, the best little Army in the world."

Proposing the debate, Mr Keith Hill argued strongly in favour of the maintenance of a "large and powerful" international military force in Bosnia.

Responding for the Government, Foreign Office minister Tony Lloyd said "we have made it clear that we believe that any follow-on force should be NATO-led and should involve a sizeable US presence on the ground".

Mr Tam Dalyell, who visited his former National Service regiment, the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards, in Bosnia during the Whit recess, argued for unrestricted free telephone calls home for the British Army and for troops to retain the full value of local allowances when deployed from Germany.

□ □ □

Asked whether the existence of the regimental system would be questioned in the Strategic Defence Review, Defence Minister of State Lord Gilbert said in a written answer that full account would be taken of the system's recognised strengths but it would be "premature to speculate" on whether any aspect would be altered.



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Picture: Robert Higson

Not to be sniffed at: Cpl Bobby, the Indian black buck mascot of The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, is shown his Long Service and Good Conduct Medal from handler Cpl Paul Martin to mark 15 years of

loyal service. Bobby, who lives in Coventry with the 5th (Volunteer) Battalion and appears on parades all over the country, was presented with his medal at RHQ in the Tower of London

Service included delivery

A BRITISH Army helicopter pilot and doctor found themselves acting as midwives in the central American jungle of Belize when they had to deliver a baby in their aircraft.

The emergency call to help Mrs Josephine August, whose baby was in a life-threatening breach position, was received by the British Army Training Support Unit Belize.

A Gazelle helicopter of 25 Flight AAC, piloted by Sgt Peter "Buck" Rodgers, flew to the town of Independence with Army doctor Maj Richard Gale on board. Their plan was to fly Mrs August to hospital in Belize City.

But it soon became clear that the baby would be born long before they got there.

Sgt Rodgers landed in a jungle clearing and, with Maj Gale and the pilot acting as midwives, a healthy 7lb 9oz baby was delivered.

Mrs August has named the baby Richard Peter.

● Last year a baby was delivered in the air over the Belize jungle when 25 Flight was called out in similar circumstances.

RSME Minley first to sign up for TAFMIS

THE Royal School of Military Engineering, Minley will be the first site connected to a new computerised training support system for the British Army.

Known as TAFMIS, the Training, Administration and Financial Management Information System will replace more than 30 local computerised and manual support systems currently being used by Army Individual Training Organisation training establishments and the Recruiting Group (formerly the Directorate of Army Recruiting).

Electronic Data Systems Ltd was awarded a multi-million-pound ten-year contract to supply TAFMIS.

The system will simplify and speed up training administration, including scheduling, record-keeping, resource management, the compilation of statistical returns and management planning.

All TAFMIS sites should be in operation by March next

year, with terminals located across AITO's 34 geographical locations and the Recruiting Group's 150 sites.

"I believe the new system will modernise our current way of working very effectively," said the commander of the Combat Engineer School at Minley, Lt Col Neil Sutherland.

Implementation manager Maj Chris Davis estimates the new system will make 12 to 15 per cent savings in time.

IN BRIEF

DEFENCE Secretary George Robertson met Lt Gen Mike Jackson, Commander Allied Command Europe Rapid Reaction Corps, when he visited the ARRC headquarters in Germany.

● The new HQ of the Defence Clothing and Textiles Agency, which supplies the Army with everything from maternity wear to high-tech combat armour, was opened at Caversfield, Bicester, on June 25 by Maj Gen Martin



Women in front line?

WOMEN soldiers may be sent to the front line to fight alongside men under proposals being considered by the Government. — *Express*

□ British scientists believe they have pinpointed a medical cause for Gulf war syndrome in a breakthrough which could force the MoD into paying tens of millions of pounds in compensation. — *Sunday Times*

□ Britons held prisoner by the Japanese in the Second World War are close to victory in the battle for compensation, their lawyers believe. — *Daily Mail*

□ The Government is moving away from the idea of recruiting openly homosexual Servicemen and women, despite Labour's pre-election pledge. — *Express*

□ MoD has agreed to pay £80,000 to a former member of The Parachute Regiment who lost his hearing at the height of a simulated battle on the Otterburn training ground in Northumberland. — *Independent*

Poster appeal has sharp focus

SIX new recruiting posters have been unveiled in a summer campaign designed for the Army by Saatchi and Saatchi Advertising. Catchy headlines include "17-year-old body piercers required" alongside an image of a soldier innoculating a young girl.

The campaign complements Government moves to tackle unemployment and attract high-calibre individuals.

White, Director General Logistic Support.

● Soldiers from 3(V) Staffords are on a two-week training camp at Atterbury, Indiana, with the US National Guard.

● Northumberland-based 6 RRF paraded through Berwick-on-Tweed on St George's Day. Two Tornado aircraft from the regiment's allied Royal Air Force unit, 13 Squadron, flew overhead.

Mission Extraordinary

BRITISH military expertise has, over the past few years, played a key role in helping former Warsaw Pact armies reorganise themselves and move towards becoming fully democratic defence forces.

In particular, senior British officers have had striking success as special advisers on long-term loan to the Latvian and Czech governments, **writes Gordon Skilling.**

The most remarkable posting has been the unique appointment of a British colonel as Deputy Chief of Defence Staff of the Latvian Armed Forces.

Col Janis Kazocins, late RA, whose parents came to Britain as refugees after the Second World War, was appointed defence attaché in Riga in 1994 and was then seconded on loan service. It was the first time that a British officer had held such a post in a former Warsaw Pact country.

Col Kazocins has played a key role in developing Latvia's defence policy, including the Partnership for Peace initiative and the question of NATO enlargement. He is frequently to be seen representing Latvia on multi-national committees. The Baltic Peacekeeping Battalion Steering Group is an example.

The United Kingdom team finds itself facing a UK colonel in the Latvian chair and a seconded UK civil servant in the Danish team. It is sometimes hard to remember who is flying what flag.

In the Czech Republic, Brig Brian Holt is presently a special adviser to the Chief of the Czech Defence Staff. When the then Defence Secretary, Malcolm Rifkind, visited the Czech Republic in 1995, a request was made by the Czech Defence minister for a special adviser to assist with the creation of a NATO-compatible headquarters for the Czech Armed Forces.

Brig Dair Farrar-Hockley, now the major general commanding 2 Division in York, was selected and his task quickly expanded to cover almost every conceivable aspect of the Czech Armed Forces. At the grass-roots level, he helped set up an academy for non-commissioned officers, a category of soldier almost unknown within the structure of the old Warsaw Pact.

At a higher level, Brig Farrar-Hockley was asked to address such issues as why a country wants armed forces and how they should be structured to meet the primary objective of territorial defence.

He was able to differentiate between an army with masses of tanks pointing west in preparation for a general war and smaller, rapid reaction forces capable of dealing with the smaller-scale conflicts which will probably feature in the future.

As a former Soviet satellite state, the Czech Republic had little by way of inde-



Above – At Vilnius, Lithuania: Col Kazocins (circled) with Estonian, Lithuanian and Latvian Chiefs of Defence



Left – Col Kazocins (smiling) with Norwegian, Swedish and Latvian colleagues

Inset – Gen Dair Farrar-Hockley: advised Czech Republic

pendent foreign policy. The brigadier helped develop the concept of participating in United Nations or NATO-led operations around the world in reaction to the new world order.

He provided a significant amount of impartial advice on how the Czech Republic should approach her deployment with the Dayton Peace Implementation Force (IFOR) in former Yugoslavia, and the problems they might encounter once there. The Czechs operated within the British-led division in IFOR and are reaping significant rewards from what has been assessed as an outstandingly successful operation.

His successor, Brig Holt, continues this work and has also turned his attention to

the effects of reducing the conscription system currently operated by the Czech Republic. One solution may be to set up reserve forces along a Western model. Britain's fully-rounded defence capability, much of which is not on a professional or full-time basis, is an attractive example, and Brig Holt is in a good position to advise on matters such as reserve forces' liability, how employers view the TA, and how it all fits together.

The role of the special adviser is completely separate from that of the defence attaché, who looks after British military interests. The adviser is much more altruistic and looks at various questions drawing on his personal experience and from the

point of view of his host country.

These purely bilateral arrangements administered by the Directorate for Central and Eastern Europe based in MoD Main Building in Whitehall do not rely on any NATO connection. Britain's approach to the region as a whole is becoming increasingly reactive rather than proactive, and its advice is eagerly sought as an even-handed player and honest broker with a reputation for delivering on promises.

Britain is seen as being an influential player on the world stage, and its assistance with the restructuring of Central and Eastern European armed forces has greatly raised their profile and helped with the improvement of civil-military relations.

Across Central and Eastern Europe, the British Army is heavily involved in the development of good relations with the former countries of the Warsaw Pact, and the attachment of special advisers is only one small element of this programme.

Also worthy of note is the involvement of Gen Sir Garry Johnson, a former C-in-C North West, as chairman of the International Defence Advisory Board, a multi-national group of former senior defence personnel which provides independent advice to the governments of the three Baltic states.

In Poland, the highly successful exercise Ulan Eagle last year is to be followed up by a full brigade exercise, two battle group exercises and two battery-level live-firing camps. Talks are at an early stage for an airborne exercise in Hungary in 1998.



AGGRESSIVE IRON

Carefully does it: Cpl Dean Martin, of the HQ MND(C) team, negotiates the rope assault course during Exercise Aggressive Iron at Vogelsang in Germany

Multi-nationals' joint approach

TEAMS from Britain, Germany, the Netherlands and Belgium competed over three days in the annual military skills exercise, Aggressive Iron, put on by the Headquarters of the Multinational Division (Central) at Vogelsang training area in Germany.

Fears that troops would find the hot weather difficult to cope with proved groundless when the second and third days of competition were played out in heavy rain and even some snow.

Tests included a 16km day navigation course during which teams had to cross a lake, fault-find and carry out maintenance tasks on Germany vehicles, demonstrate timed weapon-handling skills, and "spot" enemy locations for artillery.

A night navigation exercise began with teams deploying into the area by helicopter before completing a 12km course in pairs.

At the end of the second day – which

included a 14km march and shoot – 13 Infantry Battalion (Netherlands) from 11 Airmobile Brigade was ahead, with 1 JP (Belgium) (Armoured Recce) winning the competition for divisional troops.

For the British, 4 Regiment AAC and 24 Airmobile Brigade's Combat Service Support Battalion were fifth and sixth, with 104 Air Defence Regiment RA (Volunteers) in ninth place.

A multi-national HQ MND(C) team, with representatives from all four nations and the only female competitor, was fourth. Cpl Dean Martin (AGC(SPS)), a clerk working in the headquarters, was the United Kingdom representative.

A falling plate competition brought the event to a close, with two teams from 314 Battalion, a German parachute unit, going through to the final.

Maj Gen Rob McAfee, the MND(C) commander, presented trophies to the winners.

Fanfare for Kelly's opening move

OLYMPIC athlete Sgt Kelly Holmes formally opened the refurbished sports pavilion at the Adjutant General's Corps Centre at Worthy Down, Winchester.

Kelly, who is serving in the AGC, was assisted by the Colonel Commandant of the Corps, Gen Sir Jeremy Mackenzie. A fanfare

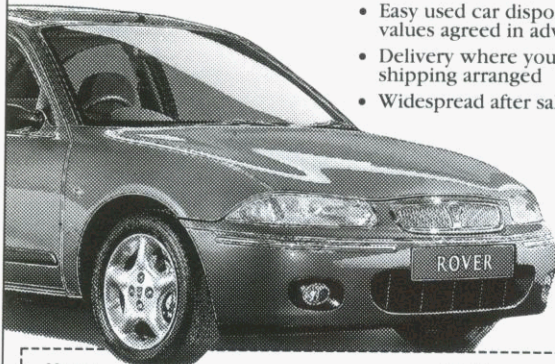
of trumpets from the AGC Band completed the ceremony.

A lounge area was renamed the Thompson Suite after the retiring Director of the Education and Training Services Branch, Brig Allan Thompson, in recognition of his outstanding contribution to Army sport.

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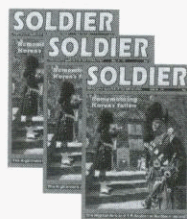


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"And ah'm tellin ye that he's no havin the place till he's signed fer it!"

Chuckle with Chip



"My mum says if you don't stop him messing me about, she'll come down here and sort you out!"



"Following the new Prime Minister's lead chaps, you'd better all relax... and call me Snuffy!"



"In future we really must be more careful how we describe ourselves"

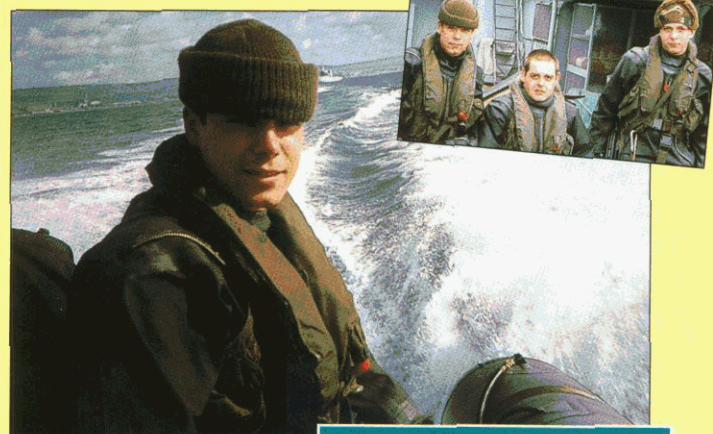


"Next time you invite the Household Cavalry, Abigail... Please specify horses!"

Just for the record . . .

Capt **Mark Mortimer** (left) and **Martin Belamy**, both officers in the 2nd Battalion, The Light Infantry, show off the 23ft boat they will row across the Atlantic later this year. The specially-designed *Salamanca* was unveiled in Majorca, where the two men are training for Sir Chay Blyth's transatlantic rowing race. They aim to break the world record for rowing from Tenerife to Jamaica during a race which commemorates Sir Chay's own transatlantic rowing exploits in 1966.

Picture: Kevin Capon



Three Welsh Guardsmen from Number Three Company got a taste of salt spray when they swapped patrol and surveillance duties in south Armagh for a few days at sea. LCpl **Stuart Threadgold**, Gdsm **Michael Ambler** and Gdsm **Wayne Davies** accepted a challenge to join HMS *Spey* on operations in the waters around the Province. But the relaxed cruise they were expecting was anything but . . . and the trio found themselves taking part in night and day boardings.

They acted as close protection to a naval inspection officer, and found themselves scaling ships' ladders from a rigid inflatable. They all reckoned life on the ocean wave made an interesting change to the close confines of Forkhill and their border observation posts. By way of exchange, three *Spey* matelots will be spending a few days experiencing the joys of working in a Romeo Tower as part of the Armagh roulement battalion. Main picture: Gdsm Michael Ambler; inset, from left are Gdsm Ambler, LCpl Stuart Threadgold and Gdsm Davies.

Hard graft on the Spey



Picture: Sgt Dave Bridges

On course to fly

Five-and-a-half Army pilots were on the first course to join the new tri-Service Defence Helicopter Flying School at RAF Shawbury. The ten students, who had graduated from the Joint Elementary Flying Training School at Barkston Heath, faced a three-week ground school phase before starting their basic helicopter flying on the Squirrel HT1. Taking it easy at the front is Bdr **Euan Laird**; kneeling (from left) are Cpl **Tim Taylor**, Capt **Ross Daines**, Lt **Tim Hayden** RN and national gliding champion Cpl **Derren Francis** RAF, who qualifies as "half" Army because he is being sponsored by the Army Air Corps and will remuster with the Army if he completes the course. Leaning on the nose of the helicopter is SSgt **Alan Rickers** and standing beside him is Sgt **Del Alibocus**.



Joint manoeuvres

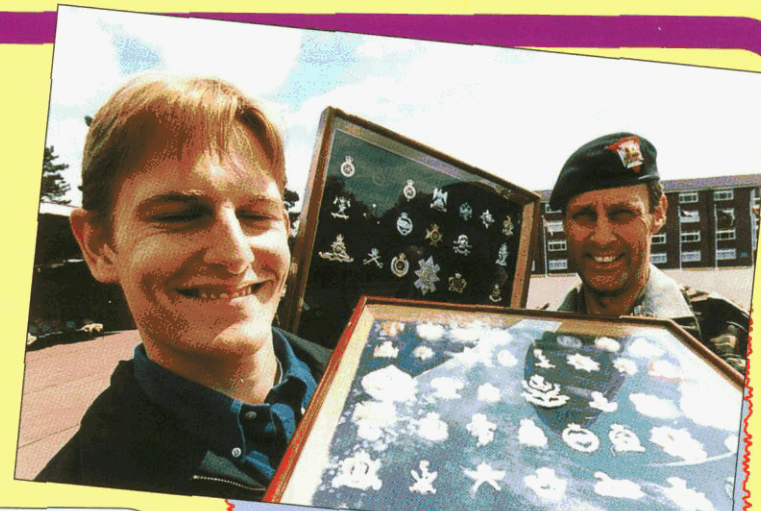
Distance may make the heart grow fonder, but for Pte **Shane** and LCpl **Joanne-Marie Grimes** a joint posting to Croatia means separation is not something they will face for the next few months. They fell in love while serving with the Royal Logistic Corps at Abingdon and got married in February. Now they are serving together with 31 Squadron, 3 Close Support Regiment RLC at Dalma Warehouse in Split as part of the support team for NATO Stabilisation Force (SFOR) troops based in Bosnia. Shane is an HGV driver, while Joanne-Marie looks after the administration of supplies and equipment in storage.

Although the couple see little of each other during the day, they were delighted to be posted together and are planning a holiday in Italy during their R and R . . . without the lads from the squadron.



Terrier on target

Marksman LCpl **Ian Hewitson**, serving with the 6th (Northumberland) Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, won the individual light support weapon match and was declared Master at Arms with the best overall aggregate scores at the 2nd Infantry Division's annual shooting competition. His battalion finished third overall and qualified for the national finals at Bisley.



Birthday puts Lee in the frame

"A birthday present to remember," was 17-year-old **Lee Fryer's** verdict after he had been given a collection of mounted and framed cap badges by Lt Col **Richard Hall**, CO 1st Battalion, The Royal Gloucestershire, Berkshire and Wiltshire Regiment.

Lee was a guest of honour at a pass-off parade at the Army Training Regiment, Whittington Barracks, Lichfield after the Army learned that his prized badge collection had been stolen. Brig **Sam Weller**, who commands the Army in the Midlands, took up the challenge to make good the loss, and Lee duly received his memorable surprise from the reviewing officer as the Corps of Drums of the 1st Battalion, The Staffordshire Regiment played "Happy Birthday" on their fifes.

PEOPLE

Tee for one

Senior store keeper **John Condie**, who has been working for the Army Air Corps for 24 years and is currently with 5 Regiment AAC in Northern Ireland, did very well in the Society of One Armed Golfers 60th world championships at Largs in Scotland after his unit helped him on his way with a ferry ticket and a cheque for £50 presented by CO Lt Col **Peter Roberts**. John, who had several high placings in the competitions at Largs, lost his left arm in a motor-cycle accident 25 years ago.



Picture: Terry Champion

Good company for Alf

Forty members of A Company, 1st Battalion, The Staffordshire Regiment visit ex-South Stafford pensioner **Alf Wright** at the Royal Hospital, Chelsea. Alf served as a bandsman for 35 years after joining at the age of 14. The soldiers, based at Tern Hill, were given a guided tour by ex-Stafford WO1 **Taffy Ivin**, one of the hospital's quartermaster sergeants. In the picture, Maj **Mark Steed** (second left), OC A Coy, presents Brig **Kim Ross**, adjutant of the hospital, with a framed set of regimental caricatures. With them are Alf Wright (centre), CSgt **Steve Worrall** (left) and WO2 (CSM) **Tank Stalker**.

This lady has the write idea

I HAVE had some great responses to my invitation to you to send me your ideas for keeping loved ones in touch with home.

The most comprehensive reply came from a single mum in the south of England who has been writing to Service people based overseas and in the UK and who came up with some top tips. Here is a sample.

"I keep a small notepad with me and if there is anything I hear on the telly, the radio or read in the newspapers I jot it down so that when I come to write I have a few notes of things that are of interest or worthy of discussion.

"Start a few days after posting one letter and by the time you get a reply from the previous one you will be surprised by how much you have written. I tend to think of my letters as a living diary.

"If I am feeling crabby or angry, I say so. I don't think the guys expect us to be perfect all the time. I also try to include something in addition to the letter itself and collect pictures cut out of magazines that have inspired an amusing caption.

I stick them on a piece of paper and send them off. Invariably they come back with comment far wittier than my own and help to keep humour alive.

"Those who want to let a loved one know how they feel can send a few small envelopes, each containing a note. Take ten envelopes and ten small bits of paper. On the paper you can write something humorous or loving . . . or just a positive thought.

"Code the envelope on the outside: a smiley face for humour, a heart for love and so on. When the other half is feeling a bit low,

opening an envelope with a special message can be a real boost. You could even get the kids to join in and write their own messages."

I think these are wonderful ideas and the people who get this lady's letters are very lucky. I've sent her a small token of thanks and hope she will inspire some of you to start writing.

Letters are very important to Service people when they are a long way from home.

□ □ □

Someone asked me the other day if I thought the Army had a problem with drugs.

They were, of course, responding to recent reports of soldiers being dismissed from the Service after they had tested positive. I said I thought society had a drugs problem and, when young men and women were recruited, their drug habits were recruited with them.

How I wish other employers and those responsible for the welfare of the young were as assiduous as the Army in weeding out individuals who cannot or will not obey laws regarding drug misuse.

I also believe that we can only combat the problem of drug and alcohol misuse in society as a whole by making it socially unacceptable in the way that smoking and drinking and driving have been made anti-social practices.

Anyone who continues to use illegal drugs while serving in the Forces should be in no doubt that their behaviour is inexcusable and shameful.

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



Cari's column

Best of order

ANTHONY Skipper, Chief Services Liaison Officer for British Forces, has been awarded the Order of Merit of North Rhine-Westphalia to mark his retirement at the end of the year.

The order recognises his successful efforts to maintain good relationships between British Service personnel and their families and the German authorities and people of the region.

Before he joined the Joint Services Liaison Organisation in 1979 Mr Skipper served as an officer in the Brigade of Gurkhas.

Career move

MORE than 350 schoolchildren from across the South found out about life in 5 Airborne Brigade during Airborne Forces weekend in Aldershot.

Traditionally associated with reunions, parades and veterans, the weekend this year focused on youth and the paratroopers of the future.

Maj Matthew Lowe said the brigade was looking for determined and energetic youngsters. "We have plenty of vacancies and hope events like this will encourage people to consider soldiering as a serious, worthwhile career."



Lancers' chaplain breathes new life into 'museum' piece

TAKE one North American pre-fab "flatpack" wooden church. Erect in deepest Norfolk and use for 50 years. Strip out and mothball for two years. Then serve cold to an Army chaplain.

Not very appetising fare, by the sound of it.

"It could not be described as appealing," said Padre Nick Cook, posted to Robertson Barracks, Swanton Morley last December. The 1938-vintage RAF station is the new home of the 9th/12th Royal Lancers, an armoured reconnaissance regiment previously based in Germany.

"The church I inherited had been locked and unused since the boys in blue departed and it was full of

dead flies, cobwebs, memories . . . and not a lot else."

Effectively stripped of all that was useful, this new outpost for the Royal Army Chaplains' Department was going to be a major challenge. In the old days, a Service priest could equip a church through the "system": chalices, candlesticks, you name it, there was a part number.

There are still part numbers, but the stock has long since been sold off or disposed of.

"Local purchase, that's the answer," the Rev Cook was told, only to discover there was no budget to pay for the necessary items. With the end of the financial year fast approaching, HQ 2 Division was contacted. "Yes, Padre," came the reply, "but can you spend it by the end of the week?"

Several months on, Robertson Barracks has a facility it can be

Left: Rev Nick Cook in the refurbished wooden church at Swanton Morley, home of the 9th/12th Royal Lancers

Zivama's chance of sight



Three Household Cavalry soldiers serving in Bosnia are raising money to send two-year-old Zivama Batajic to Russia for an eye operation. From left to right are CoH John Paul Core, LCpl Jason McCauley and CoH Stuart Matthews, who are to run a 100km

relay to raise £2,500 for Zivama. She was born prematurely and blind while her parents were fleeing from Croatia and will be flown to a specialist eye hospital at Kalugi in Russia. The three are all with A Squadron at Banja Luka on Operation Lodestar.

Picture: Sgt Dave Bridges RLC

Millennium project set to transform Tidworth recreational facilities

TIDWORTH is to benefit from an £8-million cash injection from the Army which will provide a new leisure and community centre with state-of-the-art recreational facilities for the whole of the military and civil community.

As part of an on-going investment policy that has already resulted in the upgrade of Alwal Barracks and the Zouch estate, the project will transform redundant military workshops and stores off Ordnance and Nadder Roads in Tidworth into a landscaped park environment for the new centre.

Expected to be open by autumn 1999, the leisure centre will offer a

double sports hall with climbing wall, activity spaces, squash courts, fitness suite, changing rooms, cafe and bar facilities, a 25m swimming pool and diving boards and two shop units.

In addition there will be a Help, Information, Volunteer Exchange (HIVE) for Army families, a library, crèche and playground, family welfare and community centre offices and meeting rooms, offices for MoD and centre staff, all-weather tennis courts and plenty of parking.

Announcing the programme, the C-in-C Land Command, Gen Sir Michael Walker, said the work was timed so that the centre would

open in celebration of the new millennium.

Brig John McColl, Commander Tidworth and Bulford Garrison, said: "There has been a long-standing commitment by the Army to build a new physical and recreational training centre and we are pleased that the project is able to go ahead in a form that clearly benefits the whole community at Tidworth."

"This project builds on a century of association with Tidworth and demonstrates the Army's continuing commitment to the area in a way that will inject new life into the heart of the community."

New appeal procedure for CSA

PARENTS in dispute with the Child Support Agency may now take their complaints to an independent investigator if they are unable to resolve the matter.

Complaints against the CSA should be made in writing to the Independent Case Examiner for the Child Support Agency, PO Box 155, Chester CH99 9SA (tel 0151 801 8800). Letters should contain as much information as possible.

The examiner will not normally look at complaints received more

than six months after individuals have been sent a reply, on behalf of the Chief Executive of the CSA, with which they are not satisfied.

Before complaints are made to the examiner, the CSA must be given the opportunity to settle the issue, and the procedure for this is outlined in the body's charter and a leaflet entitled *How to complain about the CSA*.

If you cannot resolve the matter at local level, you should write to the Chief Executive, CSA, Quay

House, The Waterfront, Brierley Hill DY5 1XA.

If the complaint is upheld the examiner will ask the agency for an apology, and may recommend compensation if an individual has suffered financial loss because of delay, error or wrong information.

Complainants may also contact the Ombudsman at the Office of the Parliamentary Commissioner for Admission, Church House, Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3BW (tel 0171 276 2130/3000).

Gurkha families fly in

FIRST Nepalese families to arrive in the United Kingdom under the Army's new terms and conditions of service for Gurkha soldiers arrived at RAF Brize Norton on July 1.

For many of the 325 women and children on the chartered flight from Kathmandu, it was their first time in the UK.

They were met by their husbands and by Col David Willis, Colonel of the Brigade of Gurkhas, before travelling to their married quarters around the country, including Aldershot, Maidstone, Bramcote, Colchester, Canterbury and Brecon.

HONG KONG

Announced in February, the review of service conditions followed the withdrawal of Gurkhas from Hong Kong and the concentration of most of the brigade in the UK.

Under an agreement between Britain, Nepal and India, 25 per cent of Gurkha officers and soldiers are required to be provided with married quarters. Sergeants and below will be granted a three-year accompanied tour and more senior ranks will be permanently accompanied.

This is in line with the arrangements for married accompanied service in Brunei and Nepal, and arrangements which applied in Hong Kong. New terms provide families with the option of sending their children to UK schools or taking advantage of a new Gurkha Education Allowance to provide continuity of schooling in Nepal if they wish.

**Soldiers are there when
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**...please be there when
they need you**

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

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FOCUS ON

epilepsy

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The Army Benevolent Fund thanks all participants in The Triathlon Challenge for their considerable support for the Fund.

For further information please contact:

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Brig John Smales, Brigadier Reserves, presents Lanzarote triathlon trophies to 2nd Lt Cheryl James (centre) and Pte Toby Hart

SOLDIERS are being encouraged to enter the second Army Lanzarote Triathlon at Club La Santa. The event, staged by the David Lewis Organisation to raise funds for the care of people with severe epilepsy, is aimed at anyone who welcomes a challenge.

Contestants depart on January 8 and return a week later.

Competitors must agree to raise £1,800, of which £250 goes to the Army Benevolent Fund. Organisers need £500 by September 1 so they can make arrangements, a further £500 by December 1 and the balance by March 30.

Younger athletes are eligible for a cadet triathlon challenge, and need to raise £1,500, of

Lanzarote offers hot challenge

which £100 will go to the ABF.

Pte Toby Hart, from 3 Cheshire, and 2nd Lt Cheryl James (33 Signal Regt (V)), received awards for their efforts in last year's event. The presentation was made at HQ Land Command by Brigadier Reserves, Brig John Smales, who has written to all Territorial Army units encouraging them to take part.

Entry forms from 01565 872 613 (see coupon on Page 31).

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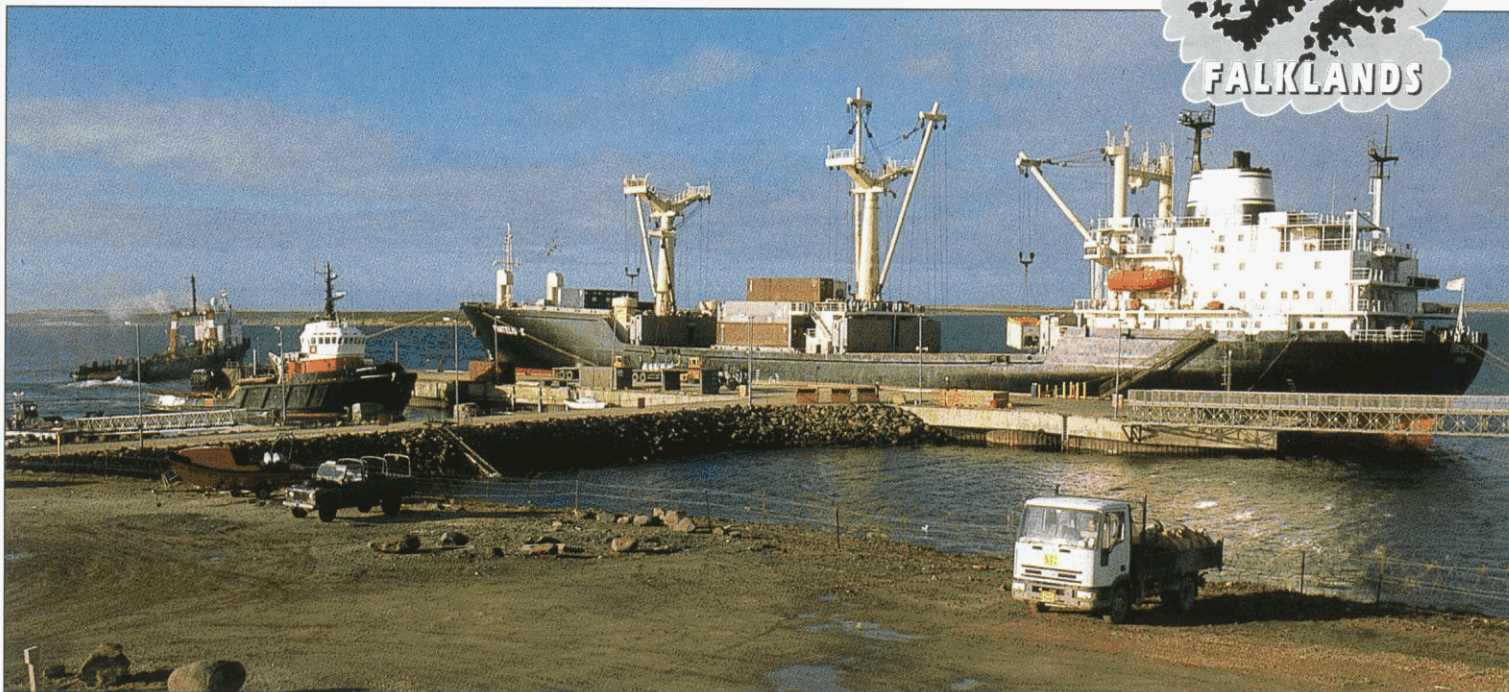
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Mare Harbour, the modern port in the Falklands that replaced the once frantically busy B Slip

Harold and the Port Squadron

WHEN the dock workers of 460 Port Troop, Royal Logistic Corps have time off from the busy routine of loading and unloading the supply ships that shuttle between Marchwood Military Port near Southampton and Mare Harbour in the Falklands, they like to spend it with "Harry", the islander who has become their local patron and an honorary Army port operator.

Sixty-six-year-old Harold Rowlands lives in a small cottage on the Stanley sea-front, enjoying a peaceful retirement. In his front garden is a flag-pole, and when "the boys," as he calls them, arrive for a beer or a cup of tea, he often raises the ensign of 17 Port and Maritime Regiment RLC in their honour.

Harold's friendship with the Army's dockers goes back to the chaotic post-war days of 1982, when a small strip of beach just yards away from his front door became the main point of entry for virtually all supplies arriving on the islands.

In those days, Harold was the islands' financial secretary; a senior civil servant deeply involved in repairing and rehabilitating the war-damaged infrastructure. When his working day was over he went home to the ceaseless noise of B Slip, the tiny gravel landing point that had been taken over and enlarged to cope with a stream of lorries, pontoons and landing

**Reports: Graham Bound
Pictures: Mike Weston**



Harold and his "boys" – from left, Cpl Tam McAuley, Pte Jared Thomas and Cpl Nigel Williams – hoist the 17 Port and Maritime Regiment ensign in his now peaceful garden

craft that were unloading vital supplies from a dozen or more ships anchored in Stanley Harbour.

Such was the volume of freight being moved over the slip, an estimated one million tonnes, that the road leading to it subsided and had to be re-built.

"They had floodlights so that they could continue working 24 hours a day," recalls Harold. "And they caused so much dust in summer and mud in winter that I couldn't use my front door."

Harold remembers an officer of the Royal Corps of Transport, as it was in those

days, visiting one of his neighbours to apologise for the constant noise and disruption. "It's British noise," replied the elderly lady, somewhat indignantly, "and that's a good noise."

Harold did not mind either. In fact he threw his house open to the Port Squadron. "They spent a lot of time at my house, and we got to know each other well. It was a great time."

His hospitality was not forgotten. When Harold travelled to Britain a few years later, he visited Marchwood, and the port operators held a party in his honour.

Today, B slip is peaceful again. A few sailing dinghies lie beached on it. The sophisticated port at Mare Harbour near Mt Pleasant has taken over the work, and the Port Troop has moved there. But

at the side of the old slip Harold and his Army friends have placed a small brass plaque which records the crucial role it played for two busy years.

Harold can use his front door again now, and he often opens it to the soldiers who run Mare Harbour. "They're all good lads, and I enjoy their company. I'd miss them if it ended," he says.

The port troop and their close colleagues, the Royal Engineers Boat Section, who are also vital to the operation of Mare Harbour, are small groups of specialists,

● Turn to next page



THE ISLANDS: 'A HELL OF A TRAIN SET'

BATTLESHIP grey, Air Force blue and khaki do not always mix well, but in the Falklands, where the supply line from the UK is 8,000 miles long, there is no room for rivalry. The South Atlantic is still an operational theatre, and the Army, Royal Navy and Royal Air Force must be completely integrated.

Not surprisingly, therefore, the post of Commander British Forces (CBFFI, pronounced C-Biffy by everyone) is rotated through the three Services, and the incumbents, who are each posted to the Falklands for a

year, need to adapt quickly to the operational environment, the isolation and the essential tri-Service ethic.

If that is a daunting prospect, the current CBFFI, Brig Iain Campbell, did not show it during his interview with *Soldier*. The gunner, who arrived in the Falklands following a year-long course at the Royal College of Defence Studies, just glanced through his office window as an F3 Tornado sped by at almost zero feet, and smiled. "The Falklands," he said, "are a hell of a train set."

Brig Campbell conceded, however, that there are some particularly challenging aspects to the Falklands posting, such as the need to make operational decisions rapidly, often without the opportunity to consult Northwood, the Headquarters of the Joint Rapid Deployment force in the UK, which has overall responsibility for the Falklands. "Often we just don't have the time, or there may be communication difficulties," said Brig Campbell.

The senior Falklands posting calls for diplomatic and political

nous as much as it does traditional military skill. The brigadier keeps abreast of relations between Britain and Argentina, the one-time enemy, and he is clearly pleased that considerable progress has been made.

But he points out that although Argentina has renounced the use of force, the country has not abandoned its claim to sovereignty.

With this reality in mind, he is able to reassure the Islanders through his presence on the local government councils. At least once a month, CBFFI

changes his camouflage jacket for a grey suit and drives the 40 miles to Government House in Stanley, where he joins the Islands' Governor and elected councillors as an "ex officio" member of Legislative and Executive Councils.

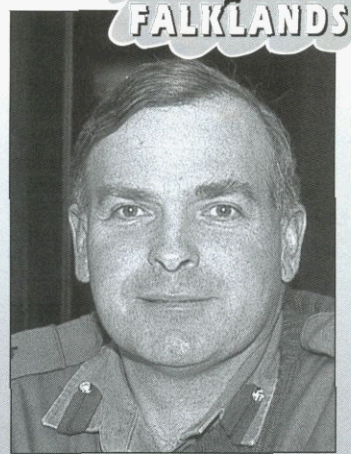
Does he enjoy local politics? "Yes, hugely." The brigadier grins widely to emphasise the point. Apart from the military-related matters on which he can advise, he often finds himself taking an active part in a bizarre mix of heavyweight economic discussions and parish politics.

Recently, the Council debated the distribution of millions of pounds of revenue from an oil industry that they hope will develop off the Islands. They then moved swiftly on to consider the siting of a pelican crossing at the Stanley junior school. "That," said CBFFI, "is the Falklands!"

Relations between the two communities are good; so much so that the Islanders have improved the comforts of Mt Pleasant by funding new married quarters and leisure facilities, such as a 25-metre heated swim-

ming pool. Some of the personnel who serve the normal four- or six-month tours at Mt Pleasant think that the name is something of a wry joke, so anything that can be done to improve their living conditions is appreciated.

But one gets the feeling from Brig Campbell that the Islanders' most valued gift to the three forces is goodwill. "Wherever I go, or wherever the infantry company goes on patrol, everyone is hugely welcoming. They see the real need for the forces to remain here, and their friendship comes from that."



Brig Iain Campbell, Commander British Forces Falklands

Crash alarm!

THE wail of the disaster siren is well known at Mt Pleasant. Whether for exercise or for real, the gut-wrenching racket galvanises the base into action. All too often, though, the siren has heralded a real crash and real loss of life.

Since the tri-Service base opened almost 13 years ago, two Chinook helicopters and two F4 Phantoms have crashed on operations from the base.

Mt Pleasant and the civilian-military hospital in Port Stanley can and do cope with such emergencies, but relatively sparse resources can stretch the garrison and the medical staff to the limit.

As an operational theatre, the risks – although still acceptable – are increased by the need for high-intensity patrolling, the remoteness and the often hostile climate.

Brig Iain Campbell, Commander British Forces, accepts this, but is very aware that the Falklands is off on a very long limb. "The 8,000 miles that separates us from the specialist help that we might need makes my duty of care that much greater," he said.

The brigadier cited a recent near-disaster that high-lighted the risks. "Two of the F3 Tornado fighters were being flown back to the UK, and, 800 miles from Ascension Island, one of them developed a major failure and transmitted a mayday call. We were lucky to get it safely back on the ground.

"At times like that we are reminded that things can change very quickly indeed in the South Atlantic, and when they do we are a very long way from anywhere."

It is not surprising, therefore, that a high priority is given to practising and perfecting the Falklands disaster plan. One such realistic exercise was staged during *Soldier's* visit. Seven miles from Mt Pleasant, a Chinook helicopter, loaded with Gurkhas being deployed on patrol, had "crashed". The RAF crew and the soldiers were "injured or dead".

When the aircraft disappeared from the radar screens that cover the entire Islands, the alarm went up both at Mt Pleasant and at the hospital in Port Stanley. Search helicopters were scrambled, and within 25 minutes the first Sea King had arrived on the

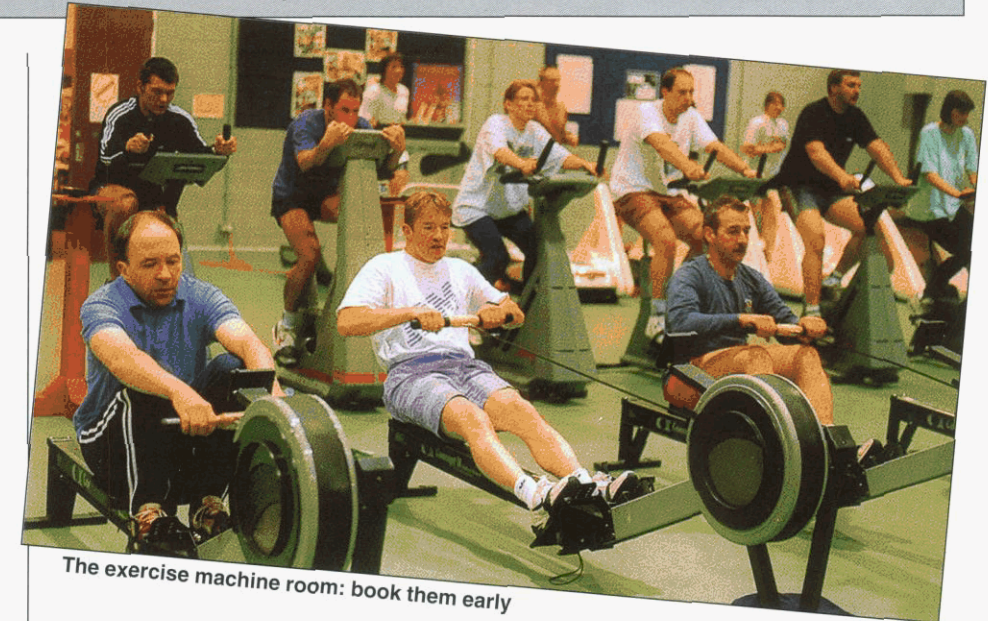


First aid. Master Aircrew Ron Webb treats crash victim Rfn Dal Gurung

scene. Its crew administered first aid, as the large civilian-operated Sikorsky helicopter loaded with a complete emergency medical team was vectored in.

Gurkhas, heavily made-up with fake injuries and blood, feigned death or injury, and were prioritised for evacuation. The "living" were given first aid on the spot.

Other units added to the hubbub around



The exercise machine room: book them early

Good place to get fit

IF YOU want to be sure of enjoying a game of squash in the sports complex at Mount Pleasant, you have to book a court three weeks in advance. Even burning up the imaginary miles on an exercise bike or running machine involves staking a claim 24 hours earlier.

By the standards of most bases, Mt Pleasant is well supplied with sports facilities, but, as Sgt Al Whitcombe, one of the three trainers on the staff, explains, it is the enthusiasm of men and women posted to the Falklands that causes the congestion on the courts.

"You will see more people in our sports facilities than you would at any other base worldwide, simply because there aren't many other things to do when everyone has finished work.

"Most Servicemen and women see that they can benefit from their posting by getting fit. And they do. I would say that 90 per cent of people leave the Falklands in better condition than they were when they arrived."

Sgt Whitcombe believes that the gym and sports hall, which are open to 2200 hours every day, are giving that other traditional military habitat, the bars, a run for their money. "There are 35 bars on this base, but people

are not using them as much as you would expect." Mt Pleasant has six squash courts, a five-a-side football hall which doubles as circuit training area, a hangar-sized gym packed with exercise machines, and (the jewel in the crown) a 25-metre heated swimming pool. Outside (incongruously green

amid the brownish Falklands heath land) are carefully maintained rugby and football pitches.

Good though the facilities are, demand is such that there are plans for the gym to be extended by a third, to provide an area solely for weight training. There are also plans to create an area for martial arts.

But it's not all high-impact sport and iron pumping, as Sgt Whitcombe reluctantly revealed when asked to name the most popular activity in the complex. "Unfortunately," he says in a chilly tone that revealed more than a little disdain for some of his colleagues, "it's the sun beds. If you come down here before breakfast, it looks as if we're giving ten pound notes away."

Coming from a man who could bench press a Land Rover, this sentiment was understandable, but for some it is reassuring that, even in the Falklands, a few things remain the same.



Sgt Al Whitcombe: giving the bars a run for their money



From Marchwood to Mare Harbour. LCpl Efk Fulcher directs vital supplies

Port Squadron

• From Page 17

and, consequently, do frequent tours in the Falklands. They even volunteer for the posting, because, as one said: "you really get to do your job down here." Undoubtedly, it also helps that they have a friend in Stanley.

"When we come back, we know we've got somewhere to go on our days off," said Cpl Nigel Weems, who was on his third tour in the islands. "Thanks to Harry, we've learned a lot about the place and the people, and what happened in '82. It means a lot to us. It's just good to come back."



Life of adventure at Shag Cove

Exploring the Falklands by mountain bike, one of the many adventurous training activities available at Shag Cove

YOU might think that the opportunity to spend valuable R and R days climbing, hiking and splashing about in the cold South Atlantic would have little appeal to the men and women who serve four months or more in the Falklands.

Not so. The queue for the limited places at the Combined Services adventurous training centre at Shag Cove is nearly always long. In part, no doubt, this is because all soldiers are encouraged to use their four days of special Falklands leave to see something of the Islands.

But it is also because the course offers a welcome escape from the formality and discipline of Mt Pleasant, where most live and work.

One can almost feel the shedding of cares as a new group of adventurers boards a bright red Bristow helicopter (nicknamed "Eric") for the daily flight to West Falkland. The last vestiges of stress are shed as the tiny red-roofed settlement is spotted nestling between craggy hills and a sheltered cove. By the time the men and women of all ranks have thrown their kit on bunks and settled down for tea, Mt Pleasant is forgotten.

WO2 Pete Blair, an ex-Sandhurst PTI who is chief instructor and manager at Shag Cove, explained his philosophy over the tea and fresh cookies made by the resident cook, Senior Aircraft Woman Denise Tyrell. "When you get off the helicopter here, all formality goes and rank has no privilege. No uniforms are allowed. We don't force anyone to do anything, but we find that almost everyone is ready to give everything a try."

"Everything" is hill climbing, abseiling, canoeing, mountain biking, archery and hiking to nearby penguin colonies. In the evenings, there are videos (there's no escaping them in the Falklands) and games.

"But," said WO2 Blair, "most people are

● There are less strenuous ways than Shag Cove to spend R and R in the Falklands.

Wildlife lodges offer great opportunities to see Falklands penguins and other creatures, and a few offer excellent trout fish-

ing. There are special rates for Service personnel.

Many farmers are happy to accommodate visitors from MPA. Often, all they ask in return is a helping hand with sheep shearing or farm maintenance.

Some hotels and guest houses in Stanley offer discounted rates to Service personnel. The capital city (little more than a small town) has surprisingly good shopping, fascinating history and friendly locals.

so tired after a day out that they go to bed early."

The islands terrain is not particularly difficult for those accustomed to the fells and mountains of northern England, Scotland or Wales. However, the rock faces are high enough to give newcomers to abseiling a taste for the sport, and the low, craggy hills make for invigorating walking.

With perhaps a gentle dig at his colleague and 2iC, RAF PTI Mo Khan, WO2 Blair claimed that Shag Cove is perfect for the Air Force visitors. "Some of them haven't been in the mountains before, so it's an ideal introduction for them."

The unpredictable Falklands weather is of more concern. "If the wind is blowing too hard – and it does blow hard – we might

have to call off the mountain and water activities. But we can always hike to the penguins or to Scooby Doo Ridge." The latter is a feature shaped rather like a dog that gives a wonderful view over surrounding moors and coast.

WO2 Blair has spent his entire Falklands tour at Shag Cove, and appears to regret not a single minute of it. He says the Falklands climate and environment have been given an unfairly bad name. "When the wind dies and the sun comes out, which it often does, this is simply a beautiful place."

The soldier's enthusiasm seemed to have been picked up by one of his RAF guests. SAC Kate Burns had a face that was glowing red from the breeze, the sun and her own exertion. She had spent the day climbing, mountain biking and improving her archery skills. "Here we are asked what we want to do, not told. And we're all on first-name terms. It's brilliant."

The guest book bears the testaments of many similarly refreshed visitors.

"Many thanks for the best week in four months," wrote one. "The best R and R ever," enthused another.

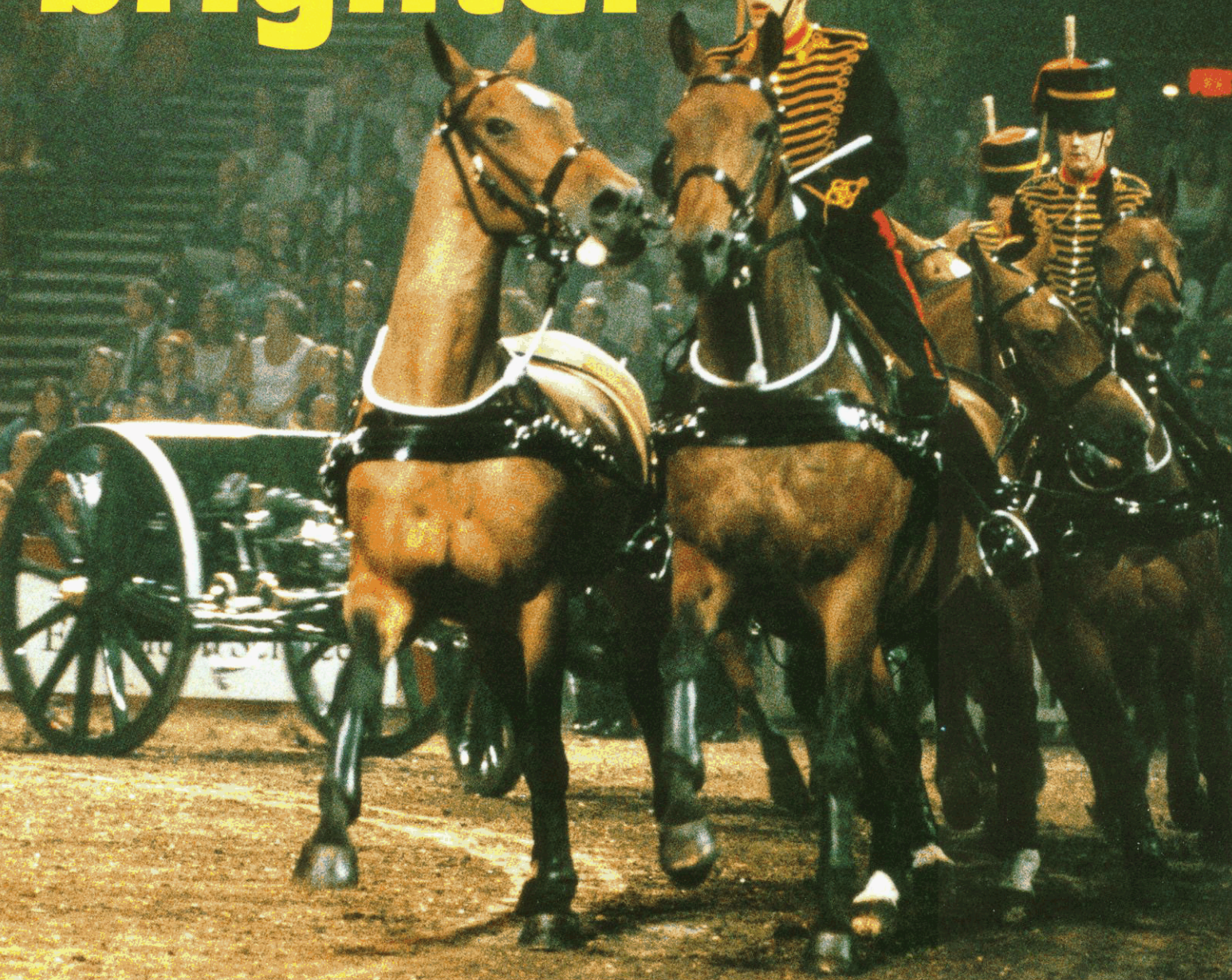
But of course there had to be the one wag who couldn't resist the ribald punning that we had been trying to avoid throughout our visit. "We came out here to Shag, and a wonderful time we had . . ."



SAC Kate Burns receives an archery lesson from WO2 Pete Blair

● More Falklands stories in the next issue

Bigger, better, brighter



THIS YEAR'S Royal Tournament – described as the biggest military tattoo in the world – is set to be the most-action packed show in the long history of the event, with more pyrotechnics and special effects than ever... and a daily appearance by TV's glamorous lycra-clad Gladiators.

With the British Army as lead Service in 1997, the show opens with a fiery celebration of artillery and the power of modern forces, featuring a Spanish "mascleta" of fireworks, rhythmic explosions and percussion. No less riveting will be the displays which illustrate the more traditional pageantry of The King's Troop, Royal Horse Artillery and Household Cavalry.

For the first time, the tournament is being televised by London Weekend Televi-

TV Gladiators reach out to new audience

sion and the show's organisers are confident that coverage will reflect its appeal as a family event.

That appeal is reflected in "The Duel", a daily contest of strength matching Servicemen and women against the Gladiators in what is certain to be an eagerly-awaited main arena event. Soldiers and "Glads" armed with foam-padded "pugil sticks" will

have 30 seconds to knock each other off a 10ft-high platform.

"We want to reach new audiences and attract people across a much greater age group," said a spokesman for the show. "It will really appeal to a family audience and we think it is great fun."

"The Gladiators slot will only be a part of the programme, but it is part of some radical changes."

The BBC lost the rights to broadcast the show after more than 40 years when LWT offered five times as much as the Corporation and promised to give the event a prime-time slot.

Gunners are playing a major part in the 107th tournament. Their main contribu-

● **Turn to next page**



1949: High-speed Bailey bridging was a popular novelty. Teams of 36 constructed bridges across a 40ft "stream", and the first to run a lorry over the finished structure was the winner. It meant manhandling 15 tons and 250 pieces into position in less than ten minutes

Bigger, better

● From Page 21

tion will be in costume, portraying the story of the Royal Regiment of Artillery down the years. Also putting in an appearance will be the electrifying, tank-leaping Flying Gunners motor-cycle display team.

Star billing also goes to a 60-strong team of Maori warriors and dancers of the New Zealand Army which will be performing the traditional *haka* war dance.

The show features music from the Massed Bands of the Household Division, incorporating the Mounted Band of the Blues and Royals and the Bands of the Grenadier Guards, Coldstream Guards, Scots Guards and Irish Guards.

Dogs make a welcome return to Earls Court, with a display team illustrating the ways they have served the Armed Forces.

A grand finale incorporates an indoor firework display and the massed bands performing the *1812 Overture*.

Earls Court will also house the Royal Tournament Experience, an exhibition and activity area open only to show ticket holders. Younger visitors may have a go on the jungle gym – the Army's special children's assault course – ride a simulated rigid-raiding craft, steer a submarine, operate a frigate control room, and drive electric go-karts.

There will also be a chance to meet members of the Armed Forces and see the different types of equipment and vehicles they use.

A special meeting area for veterans, complete with seating, a bar and refreshments, is being provided. It will feature Vetlink, a computer tracing system to help ex-Service personnel trace old comrades with whom they have lost touch.

● No Experience would be complete without *Soldier* magazine, so make sure you drop in to see us at our stand. Promotions manager Sheila Little promises a warm welcome and a range of exciting souvenirs.

Military pageant that shot to fame

ALTHOUGH the first Royal Tournament was staged in 1880, the event had its origins in a display of military exercises staged by Volunteer officers to amuse competitors taking part in the 1878 National Rifle Association meeting on Wimbledon Common.

But the shooters were eager to get away to the delights of Victorian London and the military display was reckoned to be a failure.

However, the Duke of Cambridge saw its possibilities and decided to give it official Army support. Queen Victoria became a patron and, on the principle of Mohammed going to the mountain, the show was "transferred" to London.

Two years later the idea had been devel-



1952: A tent peg is neatly transfixed by Capt G G R Boon of the RASC Horse Transport Training Company, whose riders won the sword, lance and revolver championship

oped to the point where Regular troops were putting on a show at the Royal Agricultural Hall, Islington under the title of the "Royal Military Tournament". It made £500 – a small fortune in 1880 – for Service charities.

Ever since, with time out for war, the tournament has been an annual event on the London entertainment scene. Its aims are still those of 1880 and its programme is strongly traditional. Musical rides, dismantling and re-assembling of guns, gymnastic displays and skill-at-arms competitions have figured in the programme from its earliest days.

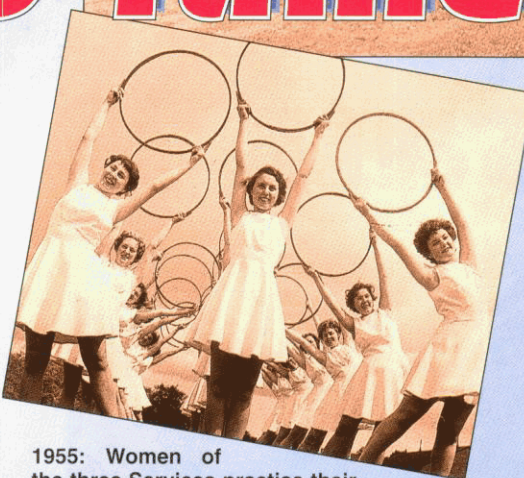
In 1904 *Punch* reported that men of the Royal Marine Artillery unlimbered a gun in "less than no time" and "fired it point-blank" at a line of little girls of the Duke of York's School. It reassured readers that there were no casualties. *Punch's* praise was a trifle ambiguous: "Every display was brought off with miraculous punctuality, within 20 minutes after the time announced in the programme."

King Edward VII opened the show that year. Eight years later, as a guest in the royal box, Kaiser Wilhelm II of Germany made his last public appearance in Britain. Did the traditional depiction of the British Army encourage his dreams of conquest?

On May 17, 1906, the Royal Naval and Military Tournament, as it was by then known, moved to Olympia.

In 1920 the only concession made to the bloodiest war in history was a whimsical conversation with "Old Bill" and a display by machine-gunners.

Not a single petrol-propelled vehicle had yet made an appearance, and seven more years were to pass before the first did so, ironically when horses jumped over a stationary



1955: Women of the three Services practise their display at Hammersley Barracks, Aldershot

motor-car in 1927. Even in 1933, when the signallers gave a purely mechanical display, the programme announced that all motor cycles used in the display had been "kindly lent by the Triumph Motor Cycle Co Ltd".

In 1939, with war looming, the new British Army first made its appearance in the arena. The 3 in mortar, the Bren carrier and the barrage balloon shattered the 50-year-old tradition of historical pageantry.

Since then, every effort has been made to include in the programme incidents in the training and capabilities of modern units. Commandos make cliff-face assaults, parachutists drop from the roof and engineers throw Bailey bridges over "rivers".

In 1950, the Royal Tournament moved to a bigger "theatre", Earls Court, a transfer made necessary by the estimated 100,000 disappointed people unable to see the military spectacular in the preceding three years.



1950: Rehearsal in Regent's Park. Londoners were hypnotised by the sight of magnificent horses towing iron-tired guns and limbers. Each of the six guns was drawn by six horses and the whole of the non-stop series of intricate drills was done at the canter. Guns and limbers were without springs and had to be skidded and bounced around corners

YOU'RE MINE, SAID KING GEORGE VI

WHEN the immaculate mounted soldiers of The King's Troop, Royal Horse Artillery gallop into the arena at this year's tournament, it will be just a few weeks short of half a century since King George VI approved their distinctive title.

Formed as the Riding Troop, RHA, at St John's Wood, London, in 1946 at the express wish of the King, their job was to fire salutes on royal anniversaries and to take part in State occasions such as Remembrance Sunday and the Lord Mayor's Show.

On October 24, 1947, while inspecting the Riding Troop, the Monarch asked the Superintendent, Maj J A Norman, if the unit would like to adopt the title "The King's Battery".

Maj Norman rather cheekily suggested they might be called "The King's Troop", to which King George readily agreed. He is reported to have said: "All right, so long as it's mine, I don't mind what you call it."

The troop performed its spectacular musical drive at that year's Royal Tournament, the first since the outbreak of the Second World War.

Soldier publicised the occasion in its June, 1947, issue, recording that the show also included trick motor-cycle rides, RASC driving displays, naval field gun demonstrations and a

commando cliff raid. Before the war, said *Soldier*, it was the cavalry regiments which stole the limelight, but lack of skilled riders and horses prevented them from entering this first post-war show. Instead, the Royal Army Veterinary Corps, which controlled all riding instruction in the Army, entered for the first time with a trick riding display.

Three hours a week for five months the RAVC team, dressed as cowboys in the show, practised their act. Coached by riding instructor Lt W H Cliff, who had spent 30 years in the Army and arranged eight Royal Tournaments, the team of 13 included only three Regulars, the rest being recruits trained at the RAVC Depot.

Of the horses, only one, Kestrel, had been in a show of that kind before. Fifteen horses were chosen out of 200.

All staging and execution was carried out on a voluntary system. Altogether the 56 previous Royal Tournaments raised more than £500,000 for tri-Service charities.

As a result of a request of the late Queen Alexandra, old war horses who had distinguished themselves at Olympia were pensioned off to the Royal Estate at Sandringham.

Winston Churchill did much to revive the tournament after the First World War.



It's what your right arm's for, lads. Lt Col Johnny Stewart, CO of the 1st Battalion, Scots Guards, reviews his troops at Pirbright as they prepared to do their duty on Big Brew Up day

Army goes way over the top in T-Day assault

FROM the immaculate parade ground at Pirbright to the streaming deck of a yacht in the North Atlantic, from the top of a Welsh mountain to rehearsals for the Trooping of the Colour... they were all at it.

Cuppas were downed for all they were worth to help SSAFA Forces Help break the record for the world's largest tea party, currently a modest 438,552. Organisers say it will be mid-July before they learn how many cups were actually drunk on the day.

SSAFA's Big Brew Up enjoyed the support of the Service community all over the globe, from the Falklands to a joint RAF-USAF exercise in Alaska. The party extended from Bosnia to Boston, Northern Ireland



Playing his part in the Big Brew Up was six-year-old Christopher Kendall, who enjoyed the tea party laid on by HQ 4th/5th Battalion, The Royal Irish Rangers (Volunteers) at Portadown

to Rheindahlen, and Cyprus to Saudi Arabia.

Aim of the game was to raise £500,000 for the charity which supports Servicemen and women and their families.

Mugs in hand, soldiers of The Parachute Regiment abseiled down the Hoover Building in West London to launch the fun and mark Tesco Gold Tea's sponsorship of the Big Brew Up. Sailors taking part in the BT Global Challenge Yacht Race joined in, as did Scots Guards rehearsing for the Queen's Birthday Parade on Horse Guards.

Personnel from the Brecon-based Infantry Training Centre Wales climbed a mountain in foul weather to hold a real "high" tea.

At Battlesbury



Making sure Maj John Underwood's cup runneth over at Abbey Wood were Rear Admiral Paul Thomas, Chief of Strategic Systems Executive, (left) and SSAFA Forces Help national president Vice Admiral Sir Barry Wilson. They were hoping to boost the tea consumption in the Avon and Severnside area to 10,000 cuppas

Barracks in Warminster, 500 men of the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment lined up to drink an early morning cuppa under the direction of RSM Felix Ralph. Senior ranks gave a brief demonstration of drinking by numbers before the battalion was called to attention.

As if to the manner born, the Royal Anglians completed a synchronised lifting of cups and drinking on command, followed by tea-time chit chat. By charging £1 a cup they were hoping to raise more than £500 for the charity.

Main effort in Colchester Garrison on T-Day was cen-



Ex-gunner Sir Harry Secombe and Chelsea Pensioner CSgt John Moran have their tea poured by WO2 (CSM) Mark Brown of the Red Devils parachute display team who dropped in on the Big Brew Up at the Royal Hospital, Chelsea. Other guests included Prince Michael of Kent and actress Prunella Scales

tred outside the Musket Club, St Michael's Estate, where more than 150 Servicemen and families enjoyed tea and buns.

In Germany, more than 16,000 cuppas were served in

55 British military locations. The event was widely reported in German media and local journalists turned up at barracks and airfields to file reports. The national German press agency, DPA, issued

three separate up-dates during the day.

Soldiers from 16 Signal Regiment set up shop outside the popular Radio 90.1 station and took many pledges from enthusiastic German tea-



Lt Col (Retd) Jack Crane, SSAFA Powys branch, and Col Tim Weeks, Commandant ITC Wales, defy the weather on the summit of Pen-y-Fan and cut a celebration cake

High tea on Pen-y-Fan

MEMBERS of the Powys branch of SSAFA Forces Help held a high tea with a difference when they climbed Pen-y-Fan, the tallest peak in the Brecon Beacons.

Gurkha soldiers from ITC Wales provided the muscle for the event, carrying tentage and equipment to the summit and supplying a welcome Big Brew for the hardy souls who made the ascent. Weather conditions at the top tested the toughest as the tea party-goers contended with strong winds, poor visibility and driving rain.

Because the weather was so bad, disabled ex-Servicemen were unable to be flown to the top of Pen-y-Fan to join in. But 658 Squadron from 7 Regiment AAC made up for the disappointment by treating them to a flight over the Brecon area, after which the party adjourned to the Storey Arms in the Brecon Beacons to join SSAFA volunteers in a tea and cakes celebration.

drinkers. A Monchengladbach tea shop supplied a selection of teas for more than 1,000 cups.

In JHQ Rheindahlen, Maj Gen Rob McAfee, Commander MND(C), served early morning tea outside the main headquarters. By close of play the HQ's count was nearing the 700 mark. RAF Bruggen got through 600.

Upbeat on the Rock

NEARLY 100 Territorial Army Royal Military Police found a new beat on the Rock of Gibraltar when they took part in a Marble Tor exercise.

Based at Holywood, Co Down, the men and women of 254 Provost Company RMP (V) combined military skills training and adventurous sports with the opportunity to police the Rock while working with the permanent Joint Service patrols.

It was the first time the RMPs had been to Gibraltar, said officer commanding Maj Mike Glover.

"It was a great lift to morale and, therefore, efficiency. I've been told by other units that a camp such as this one lives on for up to three years.

"This is also the only time in the year that we get to operate as a formed unit, and it tests our admin, training and organising. Nothing happens spontaneously and I think that it also gives the guys a much more relaxed social environment than back at home in Northern Ireland."

The military policemen agreed to take on the restoration of a recently-discovered military cemetery. Capt George Spurling, a detective inspector with Manchester CID, explained: "We



Above – Capt George Spurling, a Manchester detective inspector, investigates the entrance to a military graveyard, now part of Maria Quiros Couto's garden
Top – Nursery nurse Julie Bailie was nominated 2iC of a platoon during the exercise in Gibraltar

decided to do a little bit of research and discovered that one of the unmarked graves was of particular interest to the RMP because it contained the remains of a provost marshal named William Oxlough, who died in 1849.

"Then we found out he was born in Ballymena in 1779, so that sparked everyone's interest because of the Irish connection."

As part of the Military Aid to the Civil Community (MACC) task, the company began the process of clearing weeds and rubbish from the cemetery, and it hopes that other RMP units on Marble Tor exercises will help to restore the masonry.



Maj Mike Glover, OC 245 Pro Coy

Left – Buswoman's holiday: Pauline Furey, a theatre nurse at the Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast, accompanied 254 Pro Coy to Gibraltar to cope with minor injuries. She serves with 204 (Northern Ireland) General Hospital RAMC (V)



Nothing to do with Glosters

JOHN Curtis mentions a cross on Hill 504 in Korea (June 23 issue). This is nothing to do with the Glosters (my regiment), or indeed any unit of 29 Brigade.

A map of the Kapyong Battle area will show 504 as the right flank of 27 Brigade in that battle (held by 3 RAR).

The origin of this cross remains a mystery, although someone must know. – **Sam Mercer, Streatham, London.**

Racing certainty

I READ that British single-handed yachtsman Pete Goss received a Legion of Honour for risking his life rescuing from the high seas a Frenchman taking part in the same race. Well deserved, I am sure.

But why did the Frenchman get one too for surviving, which is a natural thing to do, isn't it? – **Suezvet (name and address supplied).**

Infantry's Drummies: guardians of tradition

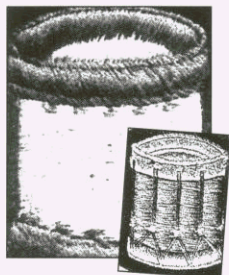
AS the drum major of my battalion, I support the point made by Cpl McKenna (May 26) about bandmen wearing the badge of appointment of the drum major.

I spent 12 years in the Corps of Drums before my appointment, carrying out all forms of ceremonial, mostly to do with more than 300 years of tradition. A drum major's task is not just to lead a battalion, "drums beating, Colours flying and bayonets fixed." The Drummie must be steeped in tradition, dates of battle honours and so on, so that they can be carried into the future with pride.

Bandmen who wear the badge of the drum major only ever lead the band on parades and do not carry out any of the other tasks required by the prestigious drum majors of the

Infantry and Household Division.

I would be interested in responses from other drum majors within the British Army, especially the Guards, concerning bandmen wearing the drum badge and four chevrons.



Worn with chevrons: Drummer badge and, inset, Household Division version

This letter is not intended to alienate bandmen, but to emphasise the point that with hundreds of years of tradition behind them, drum majors are respected by all ranks for their knowledge, bearing and high standards on and off parade.

Recently I took my Corps of Drums to Sarajevo to celebrate the Queen's Birthday Parade

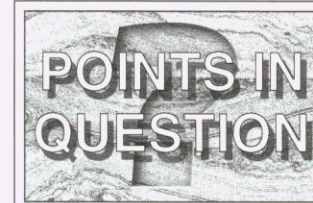
Soldier welcomes letters for publication from all readers, whatever their status. Letters must be brief, typed or written clearly and include the correspondent's name and address in block capitals, not necessarily for publication. Anonymous letters will not be considered. Acceptance or rejection of letters is the decision of the Editor, who reserves the right to edit for length, clarity or style.

(a bit of history in the making) and was interviewed by press and television reporters who wanted to know more about the history of the drum major and the various items of ceremonial dress that go with the appointment – bearskin, mace, sash and sword to name a few.

I wonder how a bandman would have responded to those questions? – **Drum Major R G Whitworth, 2 RRF, Gornji Vakuf, Op Lodestar, BFPO 548.**

Recruiting for the Legion

IT seems a little odd that your immensely improved magazine should publish a quarter-page advertisement (May 26) for a book detailing conditions of service, and where and how to join the armed forces of a for-



Service numbers

I HAVE been following the correspondence on service numbers with interest and can add my own experience.

When I was called up in March 1940, I was "persuaded" to join the RAPC and signed up. I was eventually badged and given the regimental number of 7669474.

When I joined Western Command and the British Expeditionary Force pay office I found myself with chaps from the RADC, RAMC, RAOC and so on, whose members had the "7" starting figure.

I was told that this numbering was proper to the Regular Army (pre-war). I retained this number on transfer to the RASC until discharge in 1946. When I rejoined the Reserve I was re-numbered with a 222555835 serial until discharge from the TA in late 1965.

I understand the pre-war recruitment to the RAPC was opened to Regular soldiers who had to have a first class Certificate of Education, and on acceptance were made corporals. This explained why I found the office being run by NCOs and few privates.

As late as 1942 recruits were being enlisted for seven years and promoted to corporal. Wartime intakes stopped this recruitment. – **J C McCarthy, Liverpool.**

For the record . . .

No RASC

R J Shears asked (For the Record, May 26) why there was no mention of the Royal Army Service Corps in the Collectors' Series article on the Adjutant General's Corps.

I have been waiting for someone to reply that the RASC became the Royal Corps of Transport and is now a component of the Royal Logistic Corps. I hope this clears up the query. – **N H James, Birmingham.**

Lion in Chelsea

This exotic Lion Dance costume is part of a collection of militaria donated to the National Army Museum in Chelsea by the now disbanded Hong Kong Military Service Corps. The relics, which include uniforms, flags, drums, medals, photographs, paintings... and a rickshaw... were dispatched to London before Hong Kong was handed over to China at midnight on June 30.



How Army bush medics won over doubting Dany

WORKING with British soldiers in remote areas of Kenya has given Dany Hancock a new outlook on the Army.

When she learned that her aid organisation, SAIDIA (Samburu Aid in Africa) would be involved with the Army she thought the soldiers would be "pompous, authoritarian and difficult to talk to and work with."

But three weeks in the bush with 2 Armoured Field Ambulance

RAMC from Osnabruck in Germany radically changed her mind. Now 27-year-old Dany, who had no previous first-hand experience of the Services, is a big fan.

She met the military medics while they were taking part in Exercise Sharp Point 97 (see *Soldier*, June 9), a wide-ranging immunisation programme in support of the



Dany: impressed

Kenyan health department.

Much of it took place in the remote and hostile province of Samburu, reached by an uncomfortable 14-hour road journey from Nairobi.

In an account of her time with 2 Armd Fd Amb, Dany describes the teamwork, adaptability, determination and humour of the characters she worked with.

"... the exercise was tremendously hard work and, at times when morale got a little low, the banter and camaraderie of the men and women came through and couldn't fail to improve the situation. I thoroughly enjoyed being involved with the project.

"The enthusiasm and professionalism, particularly of those in the ranks, has changed my rather sceptical opinion of the Army. I hope the unit looks back on Sharp Point with a sense of pride and achievement... they certainly earned it.

"There are firm plans for a fourth Exercise Sharp Point next year, though a different Army unit will be involved. If they have anything like the tenacity, determination and sense of humour of 2 Armoured Field Ambulance they can't fail to do a good job."

Double act

A DISTINGUISHED father and son joined forces in York's Museum Gardens for the Royal Salute to mark the Queen's official birthday.

Maj Gen Dair Farrar-Hockley, GOC 2 Division, whose headquarters are in York, was joined by his father, Gen Sir Anthony Farrar-Hockley, formerly of The Parachute Regiment, who inspected the King's Division Waterloo Band and soldiers of 3 RHA who fired the salute. Father and son also spoke to Second World War veterans in the crowd.

50 YEARS AGO

From *Soldier*, July 1947

WAX LEADERS

Monty's likeness is one of the most looked at in the military section at Madam Tussaud's Waxworks in London. Others on show include Fd Marshal Lord Alanbrooke, Fd Marshal Lord Jumbo Wilson, Fd Marshal Lord Alexander and Fd Marshal Lord Wavell. Monty is the only one depicted in battledress.

25 YEARS AGO

From *Soldier*, July 1972

HEROES OF THE QE2

Capt Robert Williams RAMC led a team of four Servicemen who parachuted into mid-Atlantic to board the QE2, which had been threatened with a bomb attack unless a £135,000 ransom was paid.

The military EOD experts included SSgt Clifford Oliver, of 22 SAS, and two Royal Marines. Grateful passengers made a collection of £631.40 and US\$1,096 for SSAFA.

Tankies keep it in the family

BROTHERS, fathers and sons and troop sergeants... they all got into the act at a parade to mark the end of Phase One training at ATR Winchester.

Set to join 1st Royal Tank Regiment at Paderborn in Germany is Tpr Paul Wooley, whose father, Derek, served 22 years with the regiment, ending as RSM.

Completing the link was Sgt John Staley, Paul's troop sergeant at ATR Winchester. He served under Paul's dad in Germany.

Brothers Stuart and Scott Carrigan, whose father is a Royal Artillery sergeant, were in the same intake and will also join 1 RTR after more training at Bovington Camp in Dorset. From the top are Derek, Paul, Sgt Staley, Scott and Stuart.

● COL Derek Bristow, Commandant of Cambridgeshire Army Cadet Force, has been appointed a Deputy Lieutenant in the county.

Garrison's final brush with destiny

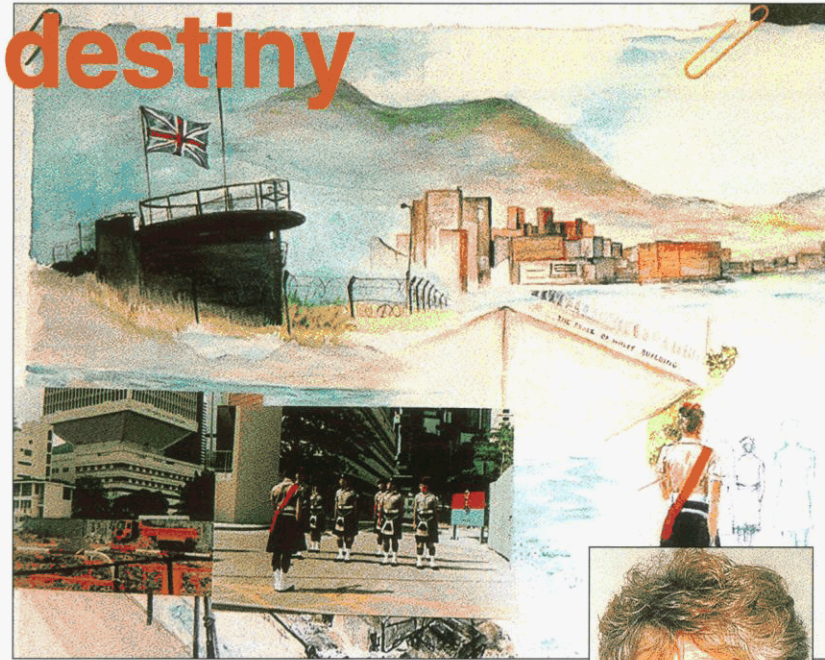
FINISHING touches are being put to a painting to mark the final days of the British Garrison in Hong Kong.

West Country artist Anne Came, who was commissioned to produce paintings reflecting the Army at work with the Peace Implementation Force in Bosnia, was sent by the Ministry of Defence to Hong Kong.

Her painting, fast taking shape, will draw on elements from all three Services. When finished, it will be submitted to the MoD for a decision on whether it will be turned into a commemorative print.

An observation post overlooking the border near Lo Wu appears at the top of the painting, soldiers of the 1st Battalion, The Black Watch – last resident infantry battalion – are beginning to emerge on

the canvas, and the Prince of Wales Building will be prominent. Queen's Gurkha Signals, REME, RMP and the RLC's posties will also be featured.



Above: Photographs and jottings help as the Hong Kong painting by Anne Came (inset) takes shape

Balkans book is best seller

EVERY copy of *The Balkans Survival Handbook*, a cartoon book published to raise funds for charities working in former Yugoslavia, has been sold.

Featured in *Soldier* (Jan 20), the handbook (also known as "IFOR, Nema Problema!") was a compilation of two cartoon series: "The Smarter point of view" by Capt Lee Smart, R Signals, and "Foame and Partr's" by Pte Richard Parts.

Richard's main character, Lt Styreen Foame, was based on "Tom", originally created for

Soldier by Kevin Lyle. The initial print of 2,000 has been sold through the Connect charity and Naafis, and an updated SFOR reprint is a possibility. Lee Smart tells us almost all the money raised (more than £6,000) is being re-directed to help children or paraplegics in Bosnia.

TROOPS from 1 Regiment, Army Air Corps at Gutersloh, Germany played host to members of 202 (Acton) Cadet Detachment RE. During their week-long visit the cadets also called on 2 CS Regiment RLC and The Royal Green Jackets.

SGT Mick Moore and fellow chefs from the 2nd Battalion, The Light Infantry based in Northern Ireland, cooked up a feast for children from Clifton House Special Care School in Bangor. The Army was helping out with the Littlewoods Kids Out Scheme sponsored by Bangor Rotary Club.

SEARCHLINE

Any ex-APTC instructors living in the North East (York) Branch catchment area of Yorkshire, Northumberland, Durham, Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire who have not been contacted by the corps recently are asked to contact Capt (Retd) Rocky Holling, Hammersley House, 27 Blenheim Road, Barnsley S70 6BA (tel 01226 207046).

Denis Stephenson is preparing a brief history of the 17th Field Squadron, Royal Engineers, 3rd British Infantry Division, from June 6, 1944 to May 8, 1945, and wishes to contact ex-members of both the squadron and the brigade. Replies to him at 16 Whitby Avenue, Eston, Middlesbrough TS6 9NH (tel 01642 469264).

APPOINTMENTS

Brig: B D Wheelwright – To SVC Adviser Pakistan, June 12.

Colonel: D A Tickner – To HQ SP Comd (Germany), June 9.

Lt Col: J F J Allen RLC – To BLO France (Metz), Jan 1; M H Auchinleck, Scots DG – To HQ LANDSOUTHEAST, Sept 30; R M Baker RLC – To DG Log Sp(A), Aug 18; A W Brown REME – To ATSA, July 21; G C Cardozo RDG

– To SACLANTREPEUR, July 7; R M Chisnall, R Anglian – To PJHQ(UK), Sept 1; M D Eyre REME – To DGE(A), Sept 21; B M Gorski RRF – To MoD, Nov 11; M J Grubb LI – To HQ Inf, Sept 10; M D Ingram RLC – To ABSDA, Aug 11; A V Malkin, Para – To RMA, July 24; P W Middlemiss KOSB – To MoD Bonn, Jan 1, 1998; J Mulroy REME – To

DGE(A), July 28; R C B Nutting LD – To BDLS Canada, Dec 10; D J Rodger REME – To DHSA, July 28; R P Russell PWRR – To MoD, Sept 1; D J Ryder AGC – To AFPA, June 30; A J Tabor LD – To CO Cambridge UOTC, July 7.

Retirements
Colonel: C P McMillen, late RAPC, June 21; A E Thompson, late R Anglian, June 11.

DATES

JULY

15-27: Royal Tournament, Earls Court. Tickets: 0171 244-0244.
20: Aldershot Military Museum special events day, from 1.30pm. Details: 01252 314598.
27: Middle Wallop Challenge 97 air show. Tickets: 01980 674421.

SEPTEMBER

6-7: Berwick Military Tattoo, The Barracks, Berwick-upon-Tweed.
13-15: Military Survey 250th anniversary, Hermitage.

OCTOBER

7-8: Cyprus Walkabout.
12: Military Historical Society annual exhibition, National Army Museum.
24: Isle of Thanet Festival of Remembrance. Tickets: 01843 292882.

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

Best of Friends

MEMBERSHIP of the Society of Friends of the National Army Museum is not without its privileges. As well as a visit to the Ceremony of the Keys at the Tower of London in September, the friends have been given an exclusive invitation to the Georgian headquarters of the Honourable Artillery Company at Armoury House in the City on the same evening.

The society strays further afield than London... it has arranged a special SOFAM tour of "Wellington's Spain" – taking in Salamanca, Badajoz, Talavera and Fuentes de Onoro – in the autumn.

Details of the society from the National Army Museum, Royal Hospital Road, London SW3 4HT.

REUNIONS

Royal Anglian Regiment: Annual reunion at Oakington Barracks, near Cambridge, July 20. Tickets from RHQ or regimental associations.

Brotherhood of Veterans of Greek Campaign: Reunion at Clacton on Oct 3-5. Details from E Horlington, 163 Walton Road, Walton-on-Naze, Essex CO14 8NE (tel 01255 677178).

Scots Guards: Serving and former members and families welcome to annual regimental gathering at Broomhall, Dunfermline, Fife, on Sept 7. Details from Neil Crockett on 01383 721530 or RHQ on 0171 414 3334.

Tunisia: Reunion visit for veterans of 1942-43 Tunisian campaign to include battlefields and cemeteries. Details from Oliver Wright, 1 Denham Close, Maidenhead, Berks SL6 4RN.

Visit SOLDIER at The Royal Tournament 15th - 27th July

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A national heritage

ALTHOUGH English armies have been engaged in warlike operations for many centuries it is widely accepted that a regular standing English army under the control of Parliament was not created until 1689 and, with the Act of Union with Scotland, this became the British Army in 1707.

It is often not appreciated,

however, that many of the regiments and corps of the British Army significantly pre-date 1689.

There are perhaps three important features which, taken together, distinguish the British Army from all others.

It is perhaps a paradox that for a nation which is inherently peace-loving and has traditionally viewed the existence of a standing army as a necessary evil, our Army has an excellent record.

Although it has lost a number of battles it has lost only one war – the War of American Independence (1775-1783). A second more important feature has been the geographically narrow recruitment pattern of the Army. This has produced a regimental structure in which regiments are associated with relatively small geographical areas, forging strong ties between communities and regiments which have survived two world wars and which now span many generations.

The third factor is that the British Army has traditionally been apolitical, although it has played a political role and has responded to the demands



of the national interest as perceived by successive parliaments.

Our regimental and corps museums are in most cases to be found quite properly at the centre of their traditional reg-

imental recruiting areas, or adjacent to the corps training depot. Their collections reflect the history and characteristics

of our Army at three broad levels: army, regimental and individual.

They demonstrate the development of the Army, its weapons, clothing and equipment and the historical background to its employment throughout the world over 300 years.

Within that framework are shown the actions of one particular regiment or corps, its triumphs and disasters, its customs and trophies.

Finally, the museums show the individual contribution; the courage, endurance, pride and comradeship of the people of the town or county who, over many years, have "gone for a soldier".

Objects and archive material available to the public through these museums represent a national, local and family heritage that is beyond price and, as witness to the collective and individual courage and sacrifice of generations of men and women, have a memorial role not found in other types of museum.

Cheshire

Cheshire Military Museum

Open 1000 - 1700 all year except 22 Dec - 2 Jan.

Special Art & Yeomanry exhibition for 1997.

The Castle, Chester CH1 2DN
Telephone: (01244) 327617
Small charge & disabled access

Cornwall

DUKE OF CORNWALL'S LIGHT INFANTRY MUSEUM

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Cornwall PL31 1EG.
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Hampshire



ROYAL HAMPSHIRE REGIMENT MUSEUM & MEMORIAL GARDEN

Serle's House, Southgate Street, Winchester, Hampshire SO23 93G.
Telephone: (01962) 863658
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Keigh Barracks, Ash Vale, Aldershot, Hants GU12 5RQ
TEL: 01252 340294

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Open Mon to Sun 1000 - 1630.
Last admission 1545.

Special group visits can be made by prior arrangement.

Admission:
Adults £2.50. Children, senior citizens, serving/ex-members £1.00
Groups by arrangement please.



ALDERSHOT MILITARY MUSEUM

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Nov to Feb 1000 - 1630
Adults £2.00, children/OAPs £1.00
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Group visits by arrangement**



The Gurkha Museum

Peninsula Barracks,
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RAMC HISTORICAL MUSEUM

Keogh Barracks, Ash Vale, Aldershot,
Hants GU12 5RQ. Tel: 01252 340212

The museum tells the story of the medical care of the Army from the formation of the Standing Army in 1660 until the present day. Also an ambulance display and the Corps Memorial Chapel.

Open Mon to Thurs 0830-1600, Fri 0830-1530. W/E & evenings by arrangement. Groups welcome.

Kent



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Open 7 April - 7 November 1997,
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Tyne & Wear



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Winter 1000-1730
(Closed Mondays and Christmas Day)
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Yorkshire



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This famous North Yorkshire Regiment was founded in 1688 and its campaigns from 1690 onwards are illustrated with original uniforms, gallantry award medals, Regimental silver and many other relics, including interactive video of WW1 and CD ROM. Also some of Richmond's historic plate.

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Yorkshire

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Yorks S75 4AT. Tel: 01226 790 270.

"Charge" gives a synopsis of the Regiment's history from 1715 to the present day and uses the latest audio visual techniques to depict life at Camp Balaklava after the Charge of the Light Brigade. Follow the story through the Peninsula, Waterloo, The Crimea, South Africa, WW1 and WW11, Malaya and the Regiment of today, The Light Dragoons.

Opening hours:

Tuesday - Saturday: 10.30am - 5.30pm
Sunday: 12 noon - 5pm
Closed Mondays but open Bank Holidays
Closed Good Friday & Christmas period

Wales

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To advertise in the next museum guide, ring 01252 347352

Adding to the Gurkha legend

EXTRAORDINARY fighting skills and courage in battle have given the Gurkhas a fearsome reputation.

These disciplined warriors have won countless decorations for gallantry including 13 VCs. They have also earned the respect of all other armies, particularly those at the wrong end of their kukris.

In the case of the British, that respect has been mutual for at least 182 years. In the war between Britain and Nepal in 1814-15 each army was so much in awe of the fighting qualities of the other that the two nations became blood brothers.

Gurkhas have fought and died for Britain in almost every major campaign since and have served in many theatres.

In the Second World War nearly a quarter-of-a-million volunteers came down from the hills of Nepal to lend their strength to the Allied campaigns against Germany and the Japanese.

Brig E D (Birdie) Smith, author of *Valour: A History of the Gurkhas*, is well qualified to write about bravery, especially in the context of these soldiers. Although he lost his right arm in a near-fatal helicopter crash in Sarawak in the 1960s, he went on to command the 1/2nd King Edward VII's Own Gurkha Rifles in Borneo,



Picture: Mike Weston

A soldier of 3 Platoon, A Company, 1st Battalion, The Royal Gurkha Rifles on exercise in the Falklands

Brunei and Hong Kong.

His description of one battalion's role in the Falklands affair typifies the Gurkhas' legendary reputation. He recalls that before the 1/7th left to join the task force pictures appeared in the national press showing the men sharpening their kukris and waving them around menacingly.

He writes: "Inevitably it was not long afterwards that stories about the 'wicked Gurkhas' appeared in the Argentinian media: the fact that such a reputation was well known in advance by their adversaries played no small part in the almost bloodless victory the 1/7th achieved in the Falklands."

In the event the battalion,

Valour: A History of the Gurkhas by E D Smith. Photographic material from The Gurkha Museum coordinated by Lt Col Mike Broadway; maps by Derek Stone. Spellmount Publishers, hardback, £24.95.

ordered to capture Mount William as the Scots Guards took Tumbledown, was frustrated and

disappointed in the "anticlimax" of the Argentinian surrender. They had travelled all that way without being able to prove that they could still cut the mustard.

Acknowledgement that they could come from the Argentinians themselves.

"One report claimed that when 300 of their soldiers fled from the Scots Guards, they ran into the Gurkhas' advance patrols," Smith writes, "whereupon they immediately turned round and ran back to surrender to the Scots Guards."

The heavy programme of redundancy following Options for Change hit the Gurkhas as

much as any but with sound leadership and self-discipline, they took it well.

Those who served in the old Indian Gurkha Brigade and in the post-1947 Brigade of Gurkhas, the author notes, will be watching with pride and anxiety the progress of The Royal Gurkha Rifles, as well as the three squadrons integrated into their respective parent corps.

"What has not changed," he adds, "is the Gurkhas' attitude to soldiering and their loyalty to the British Crown. Their warcry of 'Ayo Gurkha!' has caused terror on many battlefields. Their motto, 'Kaphar hune bhandha morne ramro' (It is better to die than be a coward), is the reason why this book is called *Valour*."

Brig Smith's handsome tribute can only add to the Gurkha legend. — CH

War Walks: From Agincourt to Normandy by Richard Holmes. Now in paperback, the best selling book of the TV series covering six battlefields in the "fatal avenue" of northern France and Belgium. The author is director designate of reserve forces and cadets in the MoD. BBC Books, £10.99.

Imperial War Museum Book of the Somme by Malcolm Brown. One of the best books on the subject, now in paperback. Pan, £8.99.

IN BRIEF

Two recent additions to Leo Cooper's Battleground Europe guides series in paperback: **Walking the Somme** by Paul Reed (£10.95) and **The Hindenburg Line** by Peter Oldham (£9.95).

Old Photographs of Hong Kong by David Cuppleditch. Timely collection of visual nostalgia, though very little of it is military. Alan Sutton Publishing, paperback, £9.99.

US Infantry Weapons of World War II by Bruce N Canfield. Comprehensive, 300-page large-format guide with profuse illustrations. Andrew Mowbray Publishers, hardback, £31.99, available from Gazelle Book Services Ltd, Lancaster (tel 01524 68765).

SAS: Behind Enemy Lines by William Fowler. Covert operations past and present, with specula-

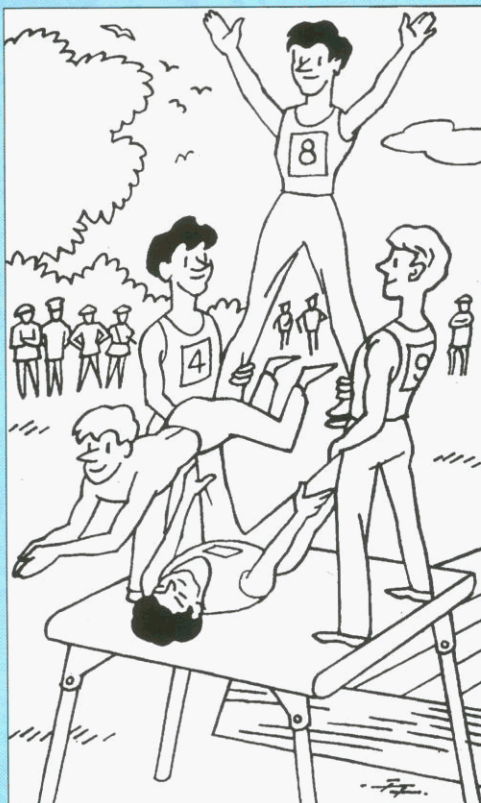
tion about the future, by former TA officer who served in the Gulf. HarperCollins, hardback, £14.99.

Close Quarter Battle by Mike Curtis. Tales from 2 Para and the SAS, sub-titled "The explosive story of 15 years under fire". Bantam Press, hardback, £16.99.

There's No Home by Alexander Baron. Second novel in a Second World War trilogy, this deals with a British infantry company taking R and R in Sicily. Robert Hale, hardback, £16.99.

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COMPETITION 666

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The names of the winner of the £50 first prize and two runners-up (awarded book prizes) will be announced in the September 1 issue.

Competition No 663 (June 9 issue): First correct entry drawn was from Mrs C Sorrell, of Braintree, Essex, who wins £50. Book prizes go to runners-up Mr T E Bell, of Birmingham B32, and Mr R R Dawson, of Bristol.

The ten differences were:

"Escalators" sign; item under woman's arm; pocket of third man on escalator; right-hand sleeve button of clothes assistant on left; tie of assistant on right; jacket price, pockets; shirt under figure 16; cigarettes in packet; shape of biscuit packet.

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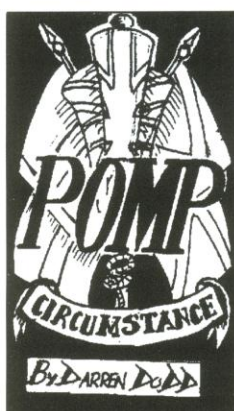
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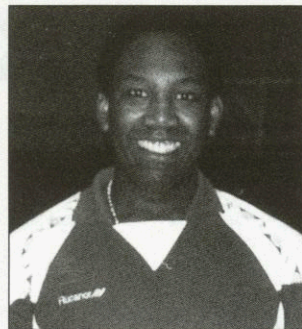
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WO2 Dave Williams (left) and SSgt Dave Corbin

Net calling

ARMY volleyball will be the poorer when two stalwarts of the game, WO2 Dave Williams and SSgt Dave Corbin, eventually hang up their boots.

With a trunkful of representative honours between them, the two men are now nearing the end of their Army careers, a milestone which was recognised when the Crown Services Volleyball Association made special awards to them to mark ten years of commitment to the game.

Williams and Corbin started playing volleyball for their regiment, the 9th/12th Royal Lancers, in 1982, since when they have won five Army inter-unit medals, eight BAOR championship medals, and 13 divisional or district medals.

Selected for the Army in 1986, they collected 300 caps between them, competing in the English National League for the Army under the guise of the Warriors. They were in the side which won the National Division 4 title in 1995.

"That was a highlight of my career," recalls WO2 Williams. "We had been in Division 4 for years and thought we would never get out of it."

The Warriors have retained their place in Div 3 with the support of the two Lancers.

In 1989, the first year of Combined Services volleyball, both players were chosen for the squad, with Corbin serv-

ing the first ball in a competitive CS match. Williams has been the only Army player to be consistently selected for the Services, picking up 18 representative caps on the way.

Both men were introduced to the sport after they joined the Army, and find it "travels" well. In 1987, the 9/12th was posted to Cyprus, where they patrolled the Green Line in Ferret armoured cars.

"We would stop at an out-post for a drink and a rest, and we'd get a volleyball game going using an old net, or just a line on the ground," said Williams.

He is Training WO for the Royal Yeomanry at the Duke of York's HQ, London; Corbin works in the recruiting office at Charing Cross. Both are due to complete 22 years in the Army in the next 18 months.

They play for a club in Dulwich and are involved with coaching. Both make a point of attending Army volleyball events to look out for emerging talent. If they spot a likely player, he is put in contact with a civilian club and invited to Army training programmes.

Retirement from the Army will not cut WO2 Williams's links with the sport. He will be settling in the Bedford area and has already put a marker down with the National League outfit at Milton Keynes.

Sails pitch

As part of a publicity drive initiated by Army Sailing Association Vice Commodore, Maj Gen Peter Besgrove, who recently handed over the helm to Brig Robert Gordon, this feature is the first of an occasional series on Army sailing activities.

THE ARMY Sailing Association (ASA) was formed in 1947 to co-ordinate sailing as a sport in the Army and represent the interests of Army sailing at Service and national levels.

A confederation of individual members and independent clubs, the ASA promotes the interests of Army sailing of all disciplines. It will put special effort into nurturing new clubs, where appropriate, when they first form.

Underpinning all this is the responsibility the association has to the Army Board to act as the regulating authority of an Army activity undertaken by serving soldiers.

The offshore element of the ASA is active in providing adventurous sail training to any soldier who wants to give the sport a try. It uses a Sigma 38 yacht, *Redcoat III*, which has had significant racing successes since its purchase more

than two years ago. Other benefits include the award of Royal Yachting Association qualifications, which are also military qualifications.

Corps and regimental yachts provide an excellent facility to get into the sport: unit sailing officers will have details. Also, the Joint Services Adventurous Sail Training Centre in Gosport plays a considerable part.

Traditionally, the ASA dinghy sailing season starts at Easter, when the weather is beginning to warm up. The Army dinghy team is based on a squad system, with members training and racing throughout the winter.

Six members of the squad took part in the southern area qualifier of the UK dinghy team racing championships and were knocked out in the semi-finals by the winners, who included two Olympic medal-winners.

Windsurfing events are usually held at Portland.

Sailing is taken seriously in the Army, says Capt (Retd) Alan Healey, secretary of the ASA, and is an excellent way to give soldiers experience in leadership and discipline.

"It is a great form of adven-

ture training. You get a soldier out at sea on one of the big yachts or a dinghy and he or she has a lot of fun. But they also have to be aware of the dangers, and that is good training for their day job.

"We have more soldiers wanting to sail than we have boats at the moment. But they are well catered for, each corps has its own yacht and there are many Army sailing clubs with dinghies and windsurfers to learn on."

He can be contacted on Aldershot Mil (722) 3572.

STOP PRESS: The Army took the honours during a dramatic Services Offshore Regatta. Story in the next issue.



Kranick and Flamingo (foreground), the British Kiel Yacht Club's 56ft wooden yachts, cross-tacking in the Kiel Fjord

Fun, but no holiday, in Baltic

SAILING is easy, as everyone knows. Blazer and white trousers, a cooling drink at hand... In real life, and at the Adventurous Training Centre (Kiel) in Germany, it is not exactly like that, writes Tony Clatworthy.

The experience of offshore sailing should be on every military person's list of things to do. Being aboard a small yacht during bad weather, able to live in close quarters with others, making decisions that will affect all aboard, producing a hot meal in less than ideal conditions and being able to smile after getting soaked are all part of the game.

But it is not all doom and gloom: there's more to a course at ASTC(K) than

meets the eye. Participants can be sure of modern, fully-equipped and well-maintained yachts, ideal for learning to sail or improving their skills. Experienced instructors make full use of modern teaching techniques.

Best of all, a course at the centre could be a passport into one of the fastest-growing sports. One Kiel student found himself in the Southern Ocean taking part in the BT Global Challenge.

Situated on the Baltic coast, ASTC (K) is the centre of excellence for all offshore sailing by members of British Forces Germany and UK-based units. Recognised as a Royal Yachting Association (RYA) sea school, it offers a

comprehensive range of RYA practical and shore-based courses. A wide selection of one-day courses in diesel engine maintenance and sea survival are available.

The centre is able to charter a wide range of offshore yachts from the British Kiel Yacht Club, which can be used for courses or adventurous training expeditions. Yachts available are twelve 31ft Swedish Hallberg Rassy yachts, each capable of carrying a crew of six including a skipper, and used for courses and unit-run expeditions.

Two Rustler 36ft ocean-going yachts are available for units.

Flamingo, a 56ft wooden yacht built in 1935, has been

Victory victories

FOR the fourth year in a row, the Army won the Victory Trophy Inter-Service dinghy team competition.

Although the Army won all their races on the first day of the event, hosted by the Civil Service on Littleton Lake, Surrey they had to fight hard.

They maintained an advantage through the second day, but the result depended on the last race against the Royal Navy.

The Army ended in first, third and sixth positions in the vital race, enough to win the match and trophy.

Army team: Col Nick Ross, Lt Col Bruce Burnett, Maj Debs Kershaw, 2nd Lt Matt Sargent, Sig Stuart Southan and Spr Lloyd Hamilton.

Gunner first in modern pentathlon

CAPT Craig Manley (RA) won the Army individual modern pentathlon championships, staged for the first time at the new centre of excellence at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst.

Second place in the men's event went to WO1 Rob Coulthard (APTC).

The women's individual title was retained by 2nd Lt Penny Grayson (AGC), who received

her trophy from 1976 Montreal Olympic gold medal winner Capt (Retd) Jim Fox.

Army unit champions in the multi-disciplined sport, which combines fencing, swimming, shooting, running and riding, were 7 Para RHA, with Sandhurst in second place.

Unit winners in a biathlon competition held at the same time were 3 RSME. Cpl D Hutton (3 RSME) won the

individual category, and 82 Training Regiment were the junior unit winners.

The Army has a close relationship with the sport's national governing body and the competition at RMA attracted many members of the Great Britain squad.

SSgt Bernie Moss (Camberley Mil 2043) would like to hear from anyone interested in taking up the sport.

Cricket

The Army lost to British Police by 89 runs in a 55-over match when they were bowled out on a drying wicket at Imber Court.

Chasing the Police's 245-8, the Army batted after a storm had soaked the pitch and were dismissed for 156 (Lt R Wilby (36 Engr Regt) 84 not out).

Rain put an end to the Army-Hampshire 2nd XI match after just an hour of play at Aldershot and the county on 50-1.

Wet weather also curtailed Combined Services' game against Cambridge at Portsmouth.

York signallers shake off showers

CONTINUOUS rain failed to dampen the spirits of athletes taking part in the Army inter-unit championship at Aldershot.

"Despite the inclement weather, every event took place, although it was obvious from the start that no records were likely to be broken," said Army athletics secretary Maj (Retd) Peter Lyons.

York-based 2 Signal Regiment won the major units title for the umpteenth time in recent years, but was closely challenged by an up-and-coming Royal School of Signals team.

The signallers included several apprentice tradesmen and women who were allowed to compete in senior events for the first time following a recent

change in the rules. After winning the minor units championship for the past five years, BAD Kineton athletes suffered disappointment in the final when they were soundly beaten by ATR Pirbright.

Top women's unit was Headquarters York Garrison.

Major Unit
1, 2 Sig Regt; 2, R Sch of Sigs; 3, HQ Aldershot Garrison; 4, 7 Para RHA; 4, 1 (UK) ADSR; 5,

RMA Sandhurst; 6, 2 CS Regt; 7, 1 Scots Gds.

Minor Unit

1, ATR Pirbright; 2, BAD Kineton; 3, 216 Para Sig Sqn; 4, ATR Bassingbourn; 5, HQ 4 Div; 6, 3 Fd Amb; 7, 6 Sup Regt.

Women's Unit

1, HQ York Garrison; 2, R Sch of Sigs; 3, HQ Aldershot Garrison; 4, BAD Kineton; 5, 7 Tpt Regt; 6, 2 CS Regt; 7, 21 Log Sp.

Golden girl Kelly to leave Army

SGT Kelly Holmes, one of the finest athletes ever to compete in the colours of the British Army, is to leave the Service to concentrate on her running career.

Holmes, the 1,500m Commonwealth champion and British record-holder, is handing in her uniform at the end of the current athletics season.

Her decision to make athletics a full-time career follows a series of sparkling performances during which she claimed two track records, including the elusive British 1,500m mark.

Making her international comeback in Leeds, following injury in the 1996 Atlanta Olympic Games, she bettered her own 1,000m

record time, shaving 3/10ths of a second off the 1min 32.55sec she posted two years ago. At Sheffield two weeks later she obliterated Zola Budd's 12-year-old 1,500m record, breaking four minutes for the first time. A member of the Adjutant General's Corps, Holmes won the race in 3min 58.07sec. Significantly, her time was five seconds faster than anyone else in the world had run this year and she is a firm favourite to win the World Championship title in Athens soon.



Leaving: Kelly Holmes

In February, Sgt Holmes told *Soldier* she wanted to stay in the Army, but the pressures of trying to combine military service with her international athletics career in the new era of professional sport led to her change of heart. "The Army has been very supportive to me over the past couple of years," she said.

Recently Holmes has been employed as a roving ambassador, visiting schools, universities and civilian groups to talk about the Army. She has also

fronted a challenge programme aimed at introducing schoolchildren to the sport.

She is due to leave the Army in late September.

Army Athletics Association vice chairman Lt Col Isabel McCord said: "Kelly has been a tremendous ambassador for the Army and we wish her the best of luck in everything she attempts in her new career. We will all be willing her on to the gold medal at the World Championships which she so deserves."

"She has done a super job in recruiting and, of course, for Army athletics. Her support for the sport at all levels has been absolutely tremendous."

Para Andy wins Welsh 1000

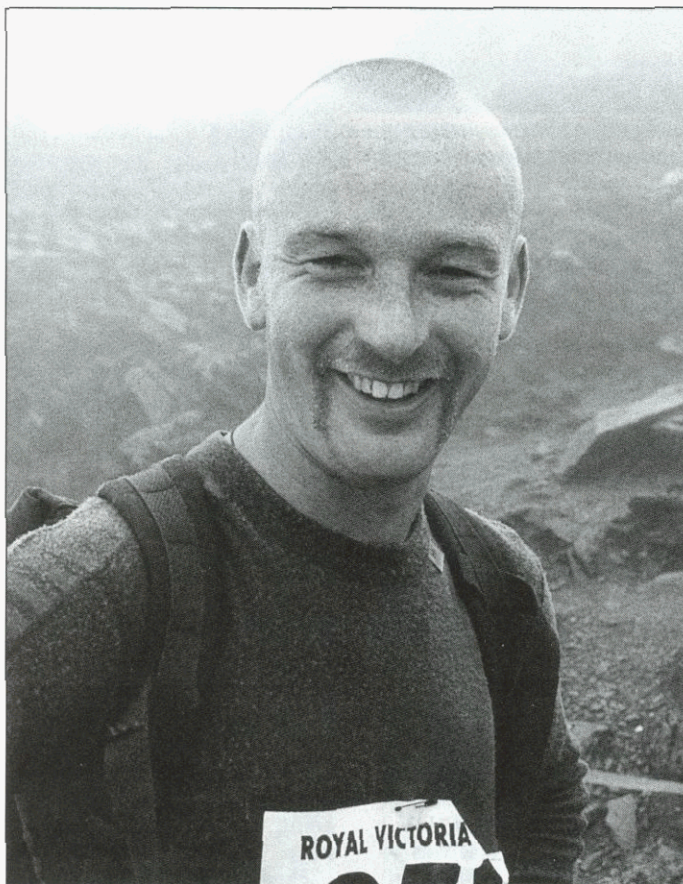
CPL Andy McIntyre of the 1st Battalion, The Parachute Regiment won the Welsh 1000 race, one of the toughest fell-running events on the calendar, in remarkable style.

He battered his way through driving rain, strong winds and poor visibility to record a time of 4hr 24min, exceptional in the conditions.

McIntyre held off the usual strong challenge of the Gurkha contingent from the Brecon-based Infantry Training Centre (Wales) to take the individual honours, but the Gurkhas strolled to the team title as their three scoring competitors finished in the top five.

Fastest woman runner on the mountains was Capt Alison Falcon (240 GS Sqn RLC (V)) and fastest veteran was WO2 Ciaran Horgan (3 RWF (V)). Team prizes went to the Gurkha Demonstration Company at ITC Wales, and to 2 RRW (V) in the Territorial Army category.

The women's team award



Handy Andy: Welsh 1000 winner Cpl McIntyre

was won by Alison Falcon's 240 GS Sqn.

Regular and TA soldiers from all parts of the United Kingdom gathered in Snowdonia for the annual event started 30 years ago by Wrexham-based 3rd (Volunteer) Battalion, The Royal Welch Fusiliers. It is now organised by the Gorphwysfa Club and Headquarters 160 (Wales) Brigade, with three civilian and one military class.

Sixty Army teams of three set off from Aber, near Bangor, on the north Wales coast. Car-

rying map, compass and basic mountain safety equipment in a small rucksack, they raced from checkpoint to checkpoint across 31km of some of the bleakest and most rugged mountain terrain in Wales.

The course took in Carnedd Llewelyn and Carnedd Daffyd and finished on the summit of Snowdon itself.

Over the years the race for top honours has usually been hotly contested by the Gurkhas from Brecon and the part-time soldiers of 2 RRW from Cardiff.

Veterans in South Africa

NEW British veterans 10,000m champion Capt Steve Lonnen is one of 11 Army athletes now in Durban, South Africa to take part in the world veterans' track and field championships.

Lonnen, OC Depot Management Services at BAD Kington, won the national 10,000m title in 32min 4sec in wet and blustery conditions at Blackpool last month.

Also in the Durban team, and also serving at Kington, is Depot Quartermaster Maj Clive Osbourne, runner up to Lonnen in the Army marathon last year.

More than 5,000 athletes, ranging upwards in age from 35 years for women and 40 for men, will be taking part in the ten-day event. Competitors include many Olympic, world and European champions.

Also in the Army team are Maj Peter Marsh (tour manager), Maj David Gibson, Capt Terry Hall, Keith Donkin and Lyn Higgs, WO2 Karen Mitchell, SSgts Jackie Gilchrist and Jeff Baker and LCpl Sean Malone.



Capt Lonnen

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SOLDIER

Sharp-eyed observers will have noticed an unusual addition to the Queen's Colour trooped by F Company of the 1st Battalion, Scots Guards on the Queen's Birthday Parade last month. It was a wreath in memory of members of the regiment who fell during the battle for Tumbledown Mountain in the Falklands 15 years ago. F Coy was formed when the 2nd Battalion went into suspended animation in 1993. The Colour was presented to the 2nd Battalion in 1988.

Picture: Terry Champion

