

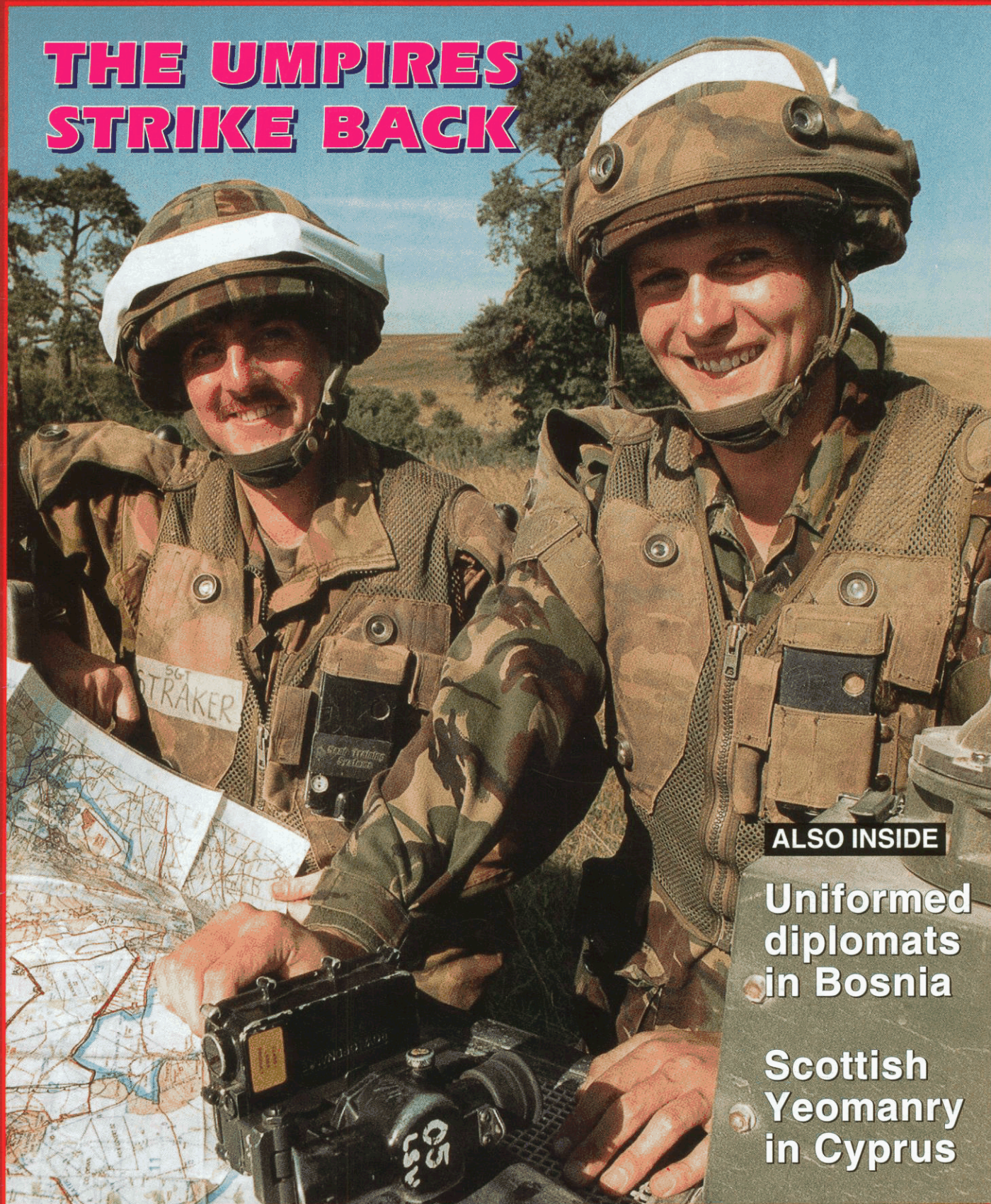
SOLDIER

FORTNIGHTLY MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY

SEPTEMBER 2 1996

60p

THE UMPIRES STRIKE BACK



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diplomats
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Sept 2, 1996 Vol 52/18

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Picture: Terry Champion

Using a Tactical Engagement Simulator (or "God gun"), Sgt Mick Straker and Capt Al Kett of 1RRF umpire a demanding TESEX on Salisbury Plain.

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Army wins cricket festival; tennis results

Soldiers hurt as Cyprus demo erupts

From Anthony Worner in Episkopi, Cyprus

TWO MEN died and two British soldiers were among others wounded when Greek Cypriot demonstrations on the 1974 cease-fire line in Cyprus flared into violent confrontations.

Two incidents took place within Britain's Eastern Sovereign Base Area (SBA), and other confrontations involved British troops serving with the United Nations Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP).

Demonstrators and others sustained gunshot wounds as Turkish troops on the north of the line used weapons to respond to widespread stone-throwing and fire-raising.

A Greek Cypriot, Tassos Isaac, died on August 11 during fighting in the UN-controlled Buffer Zone at Dherinia. Following his funeral three days later his cousin was shot at the same location when he crossed the zone to haul down a Turkish Cypriot flag.

Two British soldiers of 39 Regiment, Royal Artillery, serving with UNFICYP, and two civilians, were wounded in a fusillade of rifle fire from Turkish troops.

A line of blue-bereted British and Austrian soldiers kept the two sides apart, but one man evaded them and climbed the pole flying a flag of the "Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus". Television cameras recorded the moment as he was struck in the head by a bullet.

British gunners Bdr Neil



Picture: Cpl Paul Brownbridge RLC

Now for the good news: Bdr Neil Emery (left) and Gnr Jeffrey Hudson are recovering from their gunshot wounds in the military hospital at RAF Akrotiri

Emery and Gnr Jeffrey Hudson were wounded. Bdr Emery was hit in the forearm by a ricochet and Gnr Hudson by a bullet through buttocks and thigh.

GOOD RECOVERY

After initial treatment on site both were taken to the hospital at RAF Akrotiri where they are expected to make a good recovery.

Trouble first flared on August 11 when Greek Cypri-

ot demonstrators and Turkish Cypriots clashed at several places along the island's cease-fire line following the cancellation of a motor-cycle rally.

Thousands of bikers poured out of Nicosia intent on mischief despite a request by President Glafcos Clerides that the rally be abandoned.

Violent confrontations took place in the UN Buffer Zone on the eastern side of the city

● Turn to Page 16

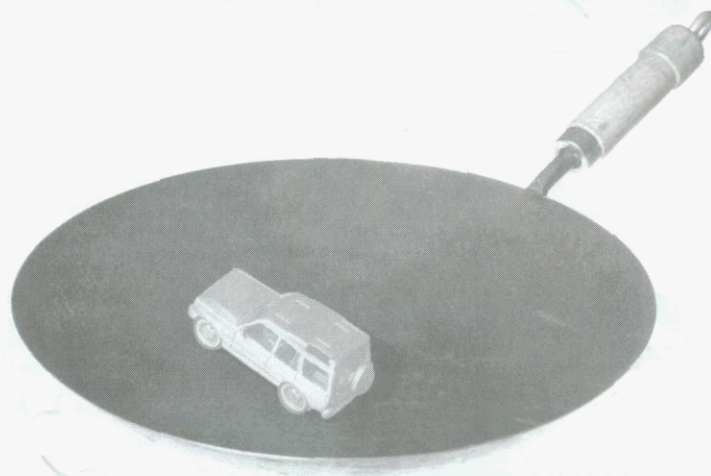
Angola loggies win peace award

BRITISH Army logistic units which deployed to Angola in March last year to create an infrastructure for a United Nations peace mission are to receive a special Wilkinson Sword of Peace.

Soldiers in the ad hoc logistic battalion, BRIT-LOGBAT, under command of 9 Support Regiment

RLC, devoted spare time and resources to helping war-torn communities, and in doing so "engendered a feeling of optimism" among a generation of distrustful Angolans who had grown up at war.

Gurkha welfare officers in Nepal have also won a Wilkinson Sword of Peace. Full story in Page 9.



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AAC helps 'rescue' drifting sapper divers

DIVERS from 25 Engineer Regiment based in Northern Ireland were "rescued" off the County Antrim coast when they took part in a major day-

long air and sea rescue exercise.

But they were never in difficulties. The sappers were helping establish the effects of tides

and winds on small craft in an area where HM Coastguard has to rescue many civilians.

Divers and inflatable boats were left to drift for up to four

hours while rescue services tracked their movements, helped by thermal image equipment in helicopters of 5 Regiment, Army Air Corps.

Chinese general tours Hong Kong Garrison

HONG KONG's future People's Liberation Army (PLA) commander has made an historic first visit to the Territory.

Maj Gen Liu Zhenwu was hosted by the British Garrison after accepting an invitation from Commander British Forces, Maj Gen Bryan Dutton, who visited his opposite number in Shenzhen earlier this summer.

The three-day familiarisation visit was the first by a senior PLA officer and was aimed at providing Gen Liu with an insight into the operations, capabilities and way of life of the garrison and its families.

Accompanied by Chinese military and government officials, he crossed the border at Shenzhen and was flown by RAF Wessex helicopter to Central District.

He was met at HQ British Forces, Prince of Wales Barracks, by Gen Dutton and inspected a guard of honour provided by A Company, the 1st Battalion, The Royal



Gen Sir Jeremy Mackenzie, Deputy Supreme Allied Commander Europe, inspects the 121st Sovereign's Parade at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst on August 9. He is escorted by the Academy Sergeant Major, WO1 Richard McCormack, Coldm Gds (left) and RSM Keith Humphrey.

The Sword of Honour for Commissioning Course 953, from which 250 officer cadets passed out, was JUO Matthew Clifton, who is to serve with The Royal Dragoon Guards.

OC James Loden, who joins The Parachute Reg-

iment, won the Queen's Medal. Guests of honour included Armed Forces Minister Nicholas Soames; the Chief of the General Staff, Gen Sir Charles Guthrie; the Master of Ordnance, Lt Gen Sir Robert Hayman Joyce; and ambassadors and diplomats from Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, Mauritius, Nepal, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka and Trinidad and Tobago.

Maj Francis Hobbs, Gren Gds, the Academy Adjutant, commanded the parade.

● CDS's Intake 17 reunion - Page 30

Gurkha Rifles under the command of Maj Simon Nias.

Gen Liu attended a dinner in his honour in the officers' mess.

He later watched a search and rescue demonstration on HMS *Peacock*, the Royal Navy patrol vessel, visited the Royal Air Force's 28 (AC) Squadron, and enjoyed a curry lunch at Malaya Lines with Lt Col Bijaykumar Rawat, CO 1 RGR.

Gen Dutton said an important building block had been placed in the foundations of a working professional liaison between the two garrisons, and Gen Liu praised the British Garrison for "its well-trained force, good spirits and good manners".

Airborne Welsh

TA TROOPS from 160 (Wales) Brigade completed their annual camp with an airborne invasion exercise in an USAF Hercules. The exercise involved 3 RWF, 2 RRW, 203 Fd Hosp, 53 Sig Sqn, 157 Tpt Regt and 119 Rec Coy.



Maj Gen Liu Zhenwu brandishes his kukri, watched by Lt Col Bijaykumar Rawat, CO 1 RGR, and interpreter Lily King



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Tidworth tankies return to Germany

IT'S BACK to Germany for the soldiers of the 1st Royal Tank Regiment just three years after the amalgamation which marked their return to the United Kingdom.

Commanded by Lt Col Ian Rodley, the regiment, will be established in Barker Barracks, Paderborn by September 9, the date on which it hands over its role with the 1st Mechanised Brigade at Tidworth to The Royal Dragoon Guards.

Three years ago the then 1 and 4 RTRs, based at Hildesheim and Osnabrück, re-formed as the new 1 RTR at Aliwal Barracks, Tidworth.

The regiment completed its UK farewells with a drumhead service and Beating Retreat at Tidworth Polo Club.

The tankies are already looking forward to a busy programme next year which includes trips to Poland, Canada and Cyprus.



Picture: Jim Goff

Barrel-ing along: Maj Hugh Baker RA leads a guard of honour under an archway of guns as soldiers of 29 Commando Regiment, Royal Artillery, marched through Plymouth after exercising their Freedom of the city. The ceremony was attended by Gen Sir Martin Farndale, the Master Gunner St James's Park, who inspected the Colours, represented in the Royal Regiment of Artillery by the guns

Desert Rats head for Poland

Royal visit to animal centre

THE QUEEN visited the Defence Animal Centre at Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire, where she released a carrier pigeon, visited the forge and veterinary hospital and viewed equestrian and dog handling activities.

Her visit to the Royal Army Veterinary Corps' main base marked both the bicentenary of the Army Veterinary Service and the 50th anniversary of the RAVC's arrival at Melton.

ON PARADE: Two hundred ex-Servicemen, led by the Pipes and Drums of the London Irish Regimental Association, took part in a marchpast when the Royal Irish Regiments' Association held its annual parade and remembrance service at the Cenotaph, Whitehall.

THE FIRST British armoured vehicles to cross the NATO alliance's eastern border were doing so towards the end of August in the largest deployment of British troops into a former Warsaw Pact country since the collapse of the Berlin Wall.

The Desert Rats of 7th Armoured Brigade, led by Brig David Montgomery, will practise high-intensity combined arms combat at brigade level, something which has not been achieved since the Gulf War.

Exercise Ulan Eagle 96 will take place in the north-western corner of Poland, 80 miles east of Szczecin (Stettin) near the Polish-German border.

The exercise, from August 30 to September 20, involves more than 3,500 personnel with 490 armoured vehicles including Challenger tanks and Warrior infantry fighting

vehicles, and nearly 750 wheeled logistic and support vehicles.

The 2nd Royal Tank Regiment and 1st Battalion, The Royal Highland Fusiliers will be opposed by the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers supported by a squadron from The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards.

In support will be The Light Dragoons' reconnaissance assets; 40 Regiment RA tactical group; 35 Engineer Regiment group including 26 Armoured Engineer Squadron; 2 Battalion REME; 2 Armoured Field Ambulance RAMC; a Gazelle flight from 1 Army Air Corps; and 76 Brigade Support Squadron from 2 Close Support Regiment RLC.

A 600km supply line from Bergen-Hohne, Fallingbommel and Celle will keep 1,200 vehicles on the move.



What the papers have been saying

THE Household Cavalry is advertising in *Horse and Hound* and *Farmer's Weekly* to find 40 recruits for "ceremonial duties in London". - *Daily Mail*

□ Six acres of land near Army MQs in Ordnance Road, Aldershot, have been cordoned off after the discovery of radioactive waste, believed to be Radium 226 left in the ground when the old REME 43 Command Workshops buried unwanted dials and instruments coated in luminous paint in the late 1940s and early 1950s. - *Aldershot News*

□ The SAS Regimental Association has discovered that the regiment's winged dagger cap badge is neither a dagger nor winged: it is Damocles' Sword of Retribution, surrounded by flames. - *Times*

□ The "hairnet army" is no more. Two Dutch Servicemen on manoeuvres in Italy were sent home because their locks were unacceptably long, signalling the end of Europe's most indulgent military machine. The tougher regime accompanies the end of conscription and the completion of a shift to a professional military. - *Financial Times*.

□ The Pentagon has turned to the MoD for advice on how to protect its Middle East military bases against terrorists. - *Sun*

□ Maj John Whitman, Military Assistant/Director General Individual Training (MADGIT), does not share the military passion for acronyms. - *Guardian*

IN BRIEF

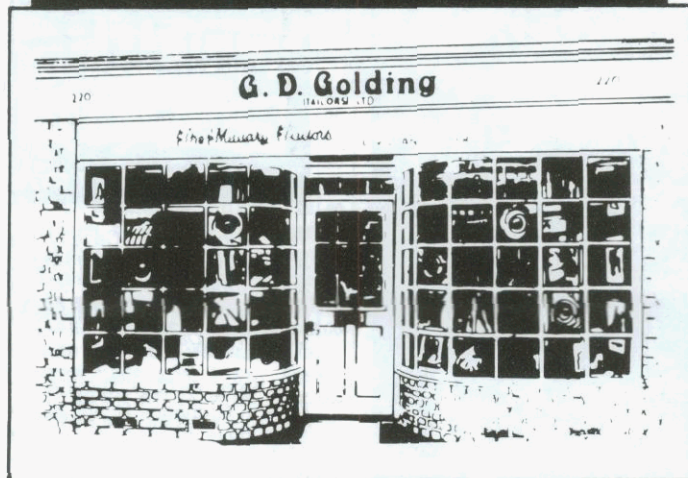
A BATTLE group founded on the 1st Battalion, The Royal Highland Fusiliers completed a live-firing and tactical engagement exercise at BATUS in Canada in preparation for its deployment with 7th Arm'd Bde to Poland.

□ *Dasher*, the military training yacht, has returned to Britain after a nine-month expedition to Africa and South America. More than 150 Service personnel took part in the 13-leg voyage.

□ Brig Ricardo Brinzoni, Chief of Staff to the Argentine General Staff, visited HQ Land Command, where he was greeted by Deputy Chief of Staff Maj Gen Roddy Cordy-Simpson.

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Angola units given special award

UNITS which made up the British Logistic Battalion deployed to Angola in support of a United Nations peace mission last year are to receive a special Wilkinson Sword of Peace.

Under the command of 9 Support Regiment RLC, the hastily assembled BRIT-LOGBAT, pieced together specially for Operation Chantress, succeeded in an amazingly short time in establishing conditions under which the UN peace-keeping force could arrive in theatre and deploy throughout the civil war-ravaged country.

In just 90 days the battalion's professionalism and impartiality created a major shift in attitude in a population universally distrustful of soldiers and security forces.

The battalion combined elements of 36 Engr Regt, 30 Sig Regt, 1 WG, 17 Port and Maritime Regt RLC, 23 Pnr Regt, 27 Regt RLC, 4 Fd Amb RAMC and 8 Fd Wksp REME. Royal Air Force units and the RFA *Sir Galahad* were also involved.

Sappers from 20 Fd Sqn RE lent their technical expertise to several personal community initiatives taken on by the British troops.

The award citation says that by their actions the loggies "gave the people of Angola hope of a more stable future".

● Units of 5 Airborne Brigade last month received a special Sword of Peace for their role in the 1994 UN mission to Rwanda.

Gurkha field helpers win Sword of Peace

FIELD officers working in the hills of Nepal to relieve the hardship of poverty-stricken ex-Gurkhas and their dependants have been recognised by the award of the 1995 Wilkinson Sword of Peace.

Spread across the country, the retired Nepalese Gurkha officers live with their assistants, medics and runners in 23 isolated centres from which they carry out the work of the Gurkha Welfare Scheme.

Many spend 11 months a year in the hills away from their wives and families so that they can serve local communities.

The award was greeted with delight by Col Christopher Lavender, Commander British Forces Nepal and director of the GWS. "It's a very fitting reward for the 26 years that the serving and ex-Service

field officers have put into alleviating the hardship of Gurkha families," he said.

"This is a totally unique scheme and its work gives me more satisfaction than anything I have done in the Army."

The GWS supports nearly 11,000 widows and veterans with a monthly welfare pension of £10, the difference between life and death for many of them.

HARDSHIP GRANTS

Another 40,000 Nepalese benefit from medical care and 7,000 hardship grants are awarded every year.

There is no welfare provision in Nepal, and many former soldiers live up to five days' walk from the nearest road or hospital.

With a headquarters in Pokhara where two British officers work full time, the

GWS employs nearly 240 people and comes under the aegis of British Gurkhas Nepal.

Its hill centres are a focus of community aid for both ex-military and civilian populations. Projects include the construction of mountain suspension bridges, schools and clean water supplies.

The GWS, established in 1969, is the field arm of the Gurkha Welfare Trust, whose patron is the Prince of Wales.

It is the second time in six years that the Wilkinson Sword of Peace has gone to Nepal. The 1989 award was made to British Gurkhas Nepal for its outstanding efforts to relieve suffering in the aftermath of the earthquake which devastated parts of East Nepal and neighbouring North East India in August 1988.



Pipes and Drums and the Lowland Band of the Scottish Division, exercised the privilege of marching through the city with colours flying, drums beating and bayonets fixed. It was the

last time the battalion's Colours, presented in Berlin in 1976, were seen on parade: the following day, new Colours were presented by the Duke of Gloucester.

AAC crew aids rescue

A MAN clinging to a buoy in the middle of Belfast Lough was rescued after being spotted by Army helicopter pilot Capt John Greenacre.

Capt Greenacre and co-pilot SSgt John Fisher, of 5 Regiment AAC, flew down the lough to find a lifeboat, flashing the landing lights on their Gazelle for the boat to follow.

The man was picked up by the lifeboat and flown by RAF Wessex to hospital.

It's a fact

ABOUT 48,000 members of the British armed forces are deployed at permanent stations and on UN peacekeeping operations in Angola, Ascension Island, Bosnia, Brunei, Croatia, Cyprus, Diego Garcia, Falkland Islands, Georgia, Germany, Gibraltar, Hong Kong, Iraq, Italy, Kuwait and the UK.

This list does not include countries where loan service personnel are based, where training exercises are being conducted and where there are minor commitments involving individual Servicemen and women. — Parliamentary replies.

Farewell to old Colours

With Edinburgh Castle dominating the background, a section of The King's Own Scottish Borderers marches down Princes Street. They were among 500 members of the regiment's 1st Battalion who, accompanied by the battalion's

Sappers' remarkable breakfast fe(e)t

Four lads from 3 Royal School of Military Engineering Regiment, Minley, helped with a light-hearted item on television's "The Big Breakfast." Physical Training Instructor WO1 **Geordie Al Hagi** (left) led the trainee engineers in putting four volunteers from the public through a physical training routine to work up a sweat for an item on smelly feet...

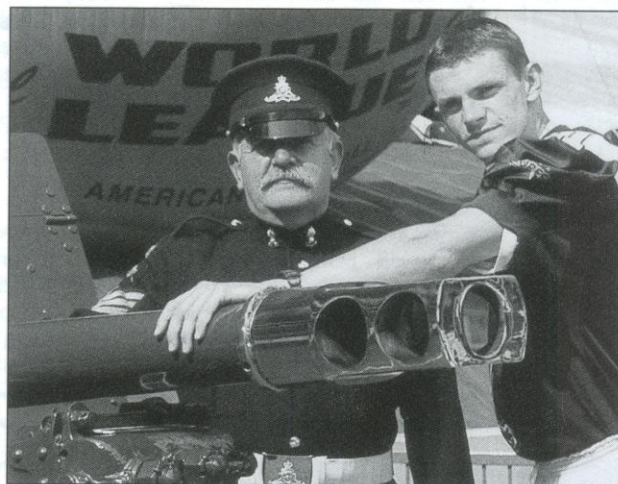
A thoroughly enjoyable experience, said the boys (left to right **Aaron Page**, **Darren Burnie**, **John Lowe** and **Ciaran Gibbons**), who took time off from leave to participate. With them is actress **Melissa George**.



Picture: Chris Fletcher

Sports 'report'

THE World League of American Football World Bowl started with a bang when "Tam the Gun", alias SSgt **Thomas MacKay**, fired his 25-pounder to start the game between the Scottish Claymores and Frankfurt Galaxy at Murrayfield, Edinburgh. Thomas, pictured with Claymore's Wide Receiver, **Scott Couper**, fires the One O'clock Gun from Edinburgh Castle every day.



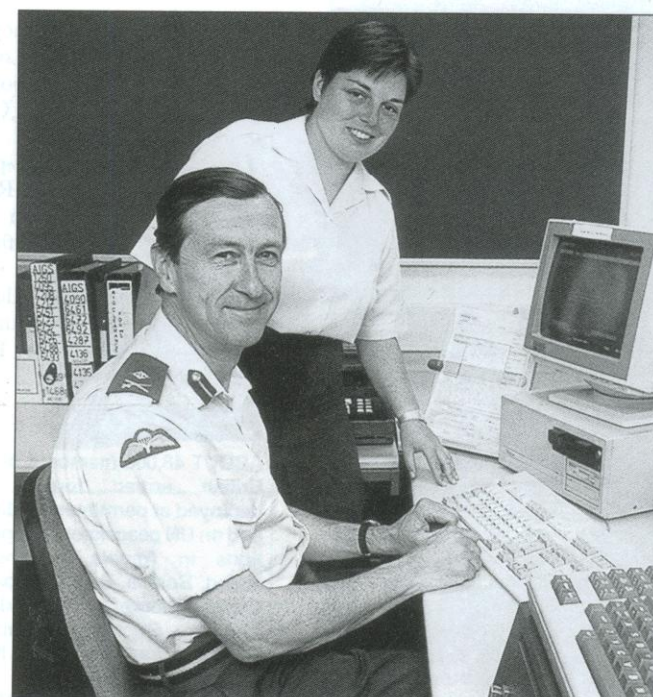
Depot damsels

End of an era as the ladies from the **Army Blood Supply Depot**, Aldershot, dressed up to mark one of the last donations before blood collection at the depot ceased last month. In a change of role, the depot will now obtain its blood supplies from the National Blood Authority. The donor in question was Dr **Sam Rawlinson**.

SILVER SUE

Not only is LCpl **Sue Lewis**, Royal Logistic Corps, an expert in the kitchen for the 1st Battalion, The Coldstream Guards – on tour in South Armagh – she can call upon her pre-Army skills as a silver service waitress at the Hilton Hotel when it comes to serving food.

When not engaged in matters culinary, Sue, who has served from Northern Ireland to the Gulf, can usually be found hotly engaged in her sporting passions of cross country running and volleyball or representing the corps in shooting or hockey.



Key to the cell?

Maj Gen **Nigel Richards**, GOC 4 Division, tries his hand at the keyboard after opening the division's refurbished HQ Comms cell at Aldershot. With him is Sig **Jo Reid**, 251 Signal Regiment.

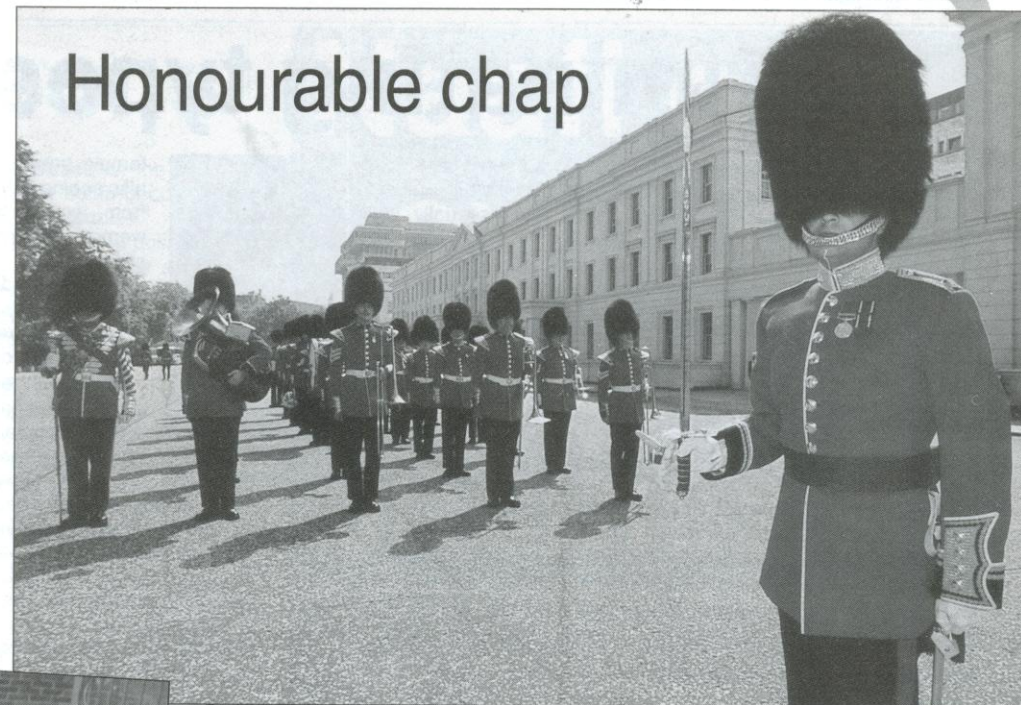


Kid's stuff

Showing a fatherly touch as he meets a child from the Zada Vranjesevich orphanage in Banja Luka, Bosnia, is SSgt **Malcolm Glaysher** of Royal Military Police Detachment 3. Members of the detachment, serving with IFOR, are co-ordinating the repair of the orphanage's roofs, and often drop by to play with the children.

Picture: Mike Weston

Honourable chap



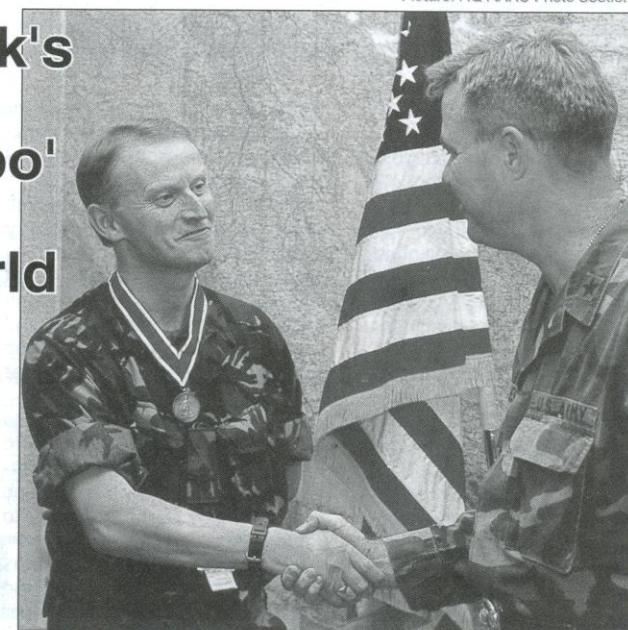
Picture: Sgt Ian Lipiot, London District

Before joining the Grenadier Guards in 1985, Maj **Tim Jalland** spent seven years in the The Honourable Artillery Company. So it was too good an opportunity for him to miss as he greeted the arrival of the HAC Band, which turned out in full strength at London's Wellington Barracks to accompany the St James's Palace detachment of the Queen's Guard. Maj Jalland took over that day as Captain of the Queen's Guard with the men of the Nijmegen Company, which he commands.

PEOPLE

Picture: HQ ARRC Photo Section

Nick's on 'topo' the world



When Lt Col **Nick Rigby** RE, ARRC Chief Geographic Officer, attended the geographic conference held at HQ ARRC Main in Sarajevo, he was somewhat taken aback to be presented with the prestigious Bronze de Fleury medal by Brig Gen **Sylvester**, DCOS of G2/G3.

The medal was awarded by the American Army Engineer Association on behalf of the US Engineer Regiment for supporting the needs of US forces in Bosnia. "Your strong contributions to the US topographic support are recognised to have been given in the best Allied tradition of NATO," Nick was told.

Whole-hearted effort

SSgt **Albert Cranmer** monitors Tpr **David Phipps**'s heart rate during a demonstration of aspects of physical fitness illustrated by a group of recruits at Army Training Regiment Winchester. Four of them were wired up to heart monitors as they undertook a basic fitness run and comparative print-outs of their heart rates were subsequently produced for analysis.



Picture: Terry Champion

Discriminating types and the flutter of pigeons

THERE IS to be an extensive survey, covering all three Services, which will look at the distribution of racial groups. The last time this happened was three years ago when there was a postal survey.

Then, 70 per cent of those sent a questionnaire responded. This time, response will be compulsory. If anyone refuses, or is away, their form will be filled in by a superior.

Information gathered is to be used, not just to get an idea of whether discrimination exists, but to identify areas where recruitment would be better targeted.

Discrimination is an increasingly difficult issue to discuss. A recent Defence Council Instruction (DCI) reminded Service people that displaying or broadcasting material considered offensive constitutes harassment.

This material is said to include posters, computer images, audible error messages, offensive jokes,

photographs, cartoons, emblems or flags and sexually suggestive material.

In other words, if anyone is offended by anything in their environment they can claim to be harassed by the person responsible. It is a nightmare for men, women, persons with a cultural background different from their co-workers . . . need I go on?

People who campaign for equal opportunities say that they can hear the flutter of pigeons coming home to roost. After many years of pushing the whole matter to one side, the British are finally having to deal with the issue.

Interestingly, in the civilian world we are now seeing more complaints of sexual harassment coming from male employees with



Cari's column

female bosses. We're also seeing complaints from women against women. So much for sisterhood.

So what is discrimination? Four main areas are covered by the law: sex discrimination, race relations, equal pay and public order. Other factors to be considered arise from the Treaty of Rome and various EC directives.

The two most emotive are probably those concerned with race and sex. In some cases it's easy to prove that someone has had unfair treatment. Name calling and physical contact are obviously unfair. Or are they?

A couple of years ago, I discovered that a young man with whom I worked felt undermined because I called him "dear". I was mortified. It was a term bandied about by

many people, unthinkingly, and was meant to indicate a kindly sort of comradeship.

Around the same time I was told by a female co-worker that she thought it "disgusting" that I allowed myself to be hugged by my boss – a jolly man by nature – whenever I did something well.

These days I try to be more careful with my language when dealing with young people. I have to say I find the company of older, and less politically correct, colleagues more relaxing.

I don't wish to trivialise the issue. If you have failed to get a job you know you can do simply because you are different from those interviewing you, then you have a right to be angry.

If you come to your workplace every morning through a hail of snide comments and personal remarks about the colour of your skin then it will not be long before you become withdrawn,

depressed and unable to function properly. The way ahead is a difficult one for all of us. The survey will be a good start in identifying the areas which are proving least attractive to various groups of people. Once these have been found, work can start on designing recruitment campaigns which might help redress the balance.

In the meantime we should all be taking the opportunity to look at our own attitudes and approaches. If you work in an environment where joking and banter are the norm, are you sure that remarks you make in jest are received in the same spirit?

Take a look around you. Are you sure the posters, calendars and postcards pinned up on the noticeboards aren't making anyone feel uncomfortable?

Before you pat someone on the back, literally, are you sure that the person doesn't mind being touched? Even a simple gesture,

like a hand placed on the shoulder, can make some people feel distinctly uncomfortable.

And, if you are in a position of authority, now would be a good time to make sure all your team feel at ease.

Is there one person who is unusually quiet or withdrawn? Is there a new recruit who has been told he or she has to run the gauntlet of some initiation ceremony? If so, are they happy to join in, or should you have a quiet word with the older hands about the definition of bullying?

This might all seem very irritating to the older generation, but we have to take it seriously, and it would be better to be seen to be taking the lead in the issue rather than being forced into action.

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

Good news for jobless Terriers

TERRITORIAL Army members who are unemployed in civvy street will not lose benefit simply because they undertake more than 16 hours of Reserve training or duty in a week, when the new Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) comes into force in October.

Introduced as part of the Government's review of social security, JSA, which will replace unemployment and social security benefit payments, is intended to improve the service to the unemployed.

The new allowance is designed to move away from the current confusing system, where an unemployed person might be eligible for two different benefits, from two different departments, each with its own rules.

For TA members, the first £15 a week of their Reserve pay will be disregarded under the JSA. They will also be exempt from the 16 hour per week remunerative work rule which will apply under the scheme.

Without this exemption, JSA would automatically be lost if Terriers undertook duties for more than 16 hours in any week.

The exemption is one of several concessions to normal JSA rules, negotiated by MoD in recognition of the important role which Reservists play in the country's defence capability.

Other concessions include discretionary alteration of the "benefit week" – which normally runs from Sunday to Saturday – so that assessment for earnings from a single training weekend does not

cause loss of benefit for two weeks, and the capability to make advance claims from the first day of attendance at annual camp.

Under transitional protection rules, the amount of contributory benefit received by Terriers should not be affected by attendance at annual camp, since any break in entitlement between April and October 1996 is likely to be less than the eight weeks at which other rules come into force.

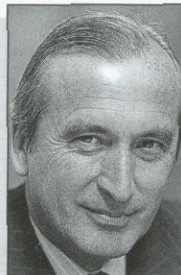
Rules for payment of Back to Work bonuses, which can be paid when a claimant begins remunerative work or has earnings which exceed benefit levels, will apply to TA members.

However, because earnings as a Reservist are exempt from the remunerative rule, the bonus will not normally pay out as a result of these earnings. Training bounty will continue to be treated as capital and not earnings.

Queries relating to personal circumstances should be addressed to the DSS.

However, if a person feels that they are suffering a financial loss under the JSA because they are in the TA, and not because of their personal position, they should refer the matter through their chain of command.

In the frame: Ian Townsend, new Secretary General of the Royal British Legion, who has succeeded Philip Creasey, holder of the post for the past eight years. A former brigadier in the Royal Artillery, Mr Townsend retired from the Army in 1991.



□ The MoD has placed orders worth more than £450,000 with Trading Direct of Harlow for multimedia business skills training courses. They will be used within Interactive Learning Facilities (ILFs) being set up by the Defence Management Training Organisation.

□ *Transferrable skills of Service leavers and their value to the labour market in Lincolnshire were topics of conversation when Air Commodore Nick Hamilton, Director of Resettlement in the Tri-Service Resettlement Organisation, met employers at the county's Training and Enterprise Council.*

□ **A new Sandes Centre has been unofficially opened at Kiwi Barracks, Bulford. It is the third to open in the past four years and the first on the mainland for more than 12 years.**

□ A football match organised as part of a visit by Lancashire Army cadets to The King's Royal Hussars in Germany marked the debut of Münster Wanderers, made up of children of soldiers, whose 9-2 victory whetted their appetite for more fixtures . . .

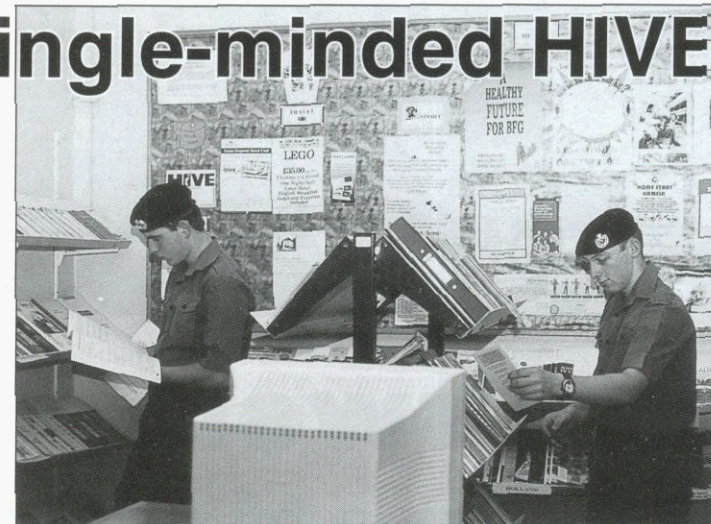
Bindon's single-minded HIVE

BELINDA Shaw and Barbara Dickerson, co-ordinators for the Bindon HIVE in Gordon Barracks, Hameln, are, in common with other HIVES in Germany, going all out to encourage single personnel to use their facilities.

"HIVES (Help Information Volunteer Exchanges) have traditionally been viewed as a cosy meeting place for wives, with the occasional brave married man wandering in to get plugs changed or advice on how to have his phone installed," they say.

"However, there is an enormous amount of information held within the HIVES which is pertinent to helping single Service personnel discover what to do with their free time."

Set up last year in a barrack block, the HIVE is used mainly by soldiers with 28 Engineer Regiment. Both women claim to have lots of ideas on promoting information for single soldiers, from travel to pop concerts and car rallies,



Spr Tony Cooke, 65 Sqn (left) and Spr Mark MacDonald, 23 Sqn (both 28 Engineer Regiment) discover what is new in the Bindon HIVE

lies, helped by the HIVE's new computer database.

"Singles" have traditionally had WVRS ladies to help them with their problems, and there is a close liaison between them and the co-ordinators. However, Belinda and Barbara point out: "Information is a two-way thing, and we would encourage all military personnel not only to make use of their HIVES, but also give them any information or facts they consider useful to single soldiers."

lies, helped by the HIVE's new computer database.

Sharp-eyed and bushy-tailed?

ARMY families in Catterick could be among participants in a military-style reconnaissance. Their quarry, sought as part of a national campaign to save it from extinction, is the elusive red squirrel.

"The Army is eager to hear from anyone who has seen red squirrels around Catterick, recently or in the past," said conservation project officer Max Garrety. Contact him on 01748 875546 or HQ CAFTC, Wathgill Camp, Downholme, Richmond, North Yorkshire DL11 6AH.

WE'RE STILL HERE . . .

DESPITE rumours, it is business as usual, the Regular Forces Employment Association is anxious to point out.

"Both firms on the short list of bidders for a contract to take over third line resettlement from the MoD Tri-Service Resettlement Organisation want us to provide our normal service as sub-contractors," says Derek Lawrence-Brown, head of field operations.

The tri-Service association assists ex-Servicemen and women

to resettlement and find employment, provided they left with an appropriate conduct assessment and served a minimum of three years in the ranks.

Registrants receive personal counselling and local job finding advice, with employment consultants in its 39 national branches liaising with potential employers.

"Since March our full service has been officially extended to anyone who served in the ranks for three years and was subsequently

Naafi gets down to serious business

PARTNERSHIP with other companies in the provision of its retail, leisure and messing services is one of a series of revolutionary projects launched by Naafi, the Forces' official trading organisation.

Introduced by Geoffrey Dart, Naafi's new chief executive, the projects – the Naafi Change Management Programme – also aim to find a formula for running the organisation's shops to "provide a world class value for money service competitive with the best private sector operators."

Naafi's service overseas, and in operational areas such as Bosnia, has been identified as a vital welfare role and will remain unchanged.

The projects, part of the restructuring programme to bring Naafi up to date with modern commercial trading practices, are aimed at assessing its role, looking closely at all areas of its trade – particularly in the UK – and finding ways of returning the company to profitability after loss-making years in 1994 and 1995.

Under one project, three Naafi teams will liaise with local commanders in the UK, Germany and other overseas locations to agree joint business plans covering all areas of the organisation's service at a given location.

Business plans will be in force at every British military establishment throughout the world by July next year, Naafi says.

Defining the requirement for Naafi in the future is a necessity if it is to provide an efficient and effective

service, according to Air Commodore Allan Vaughan, Naafi's director of retail and recreational services and sponsor of the project to develop local partnerships at every Naafi location.

"Without the knowledge of our customer base and its needs we cannot focus on improving the quality of our service," he says.

Another project, for new formula UK shops, will investigate partnerships with other retailers. Solutions will be tested in trial sites using Naafi staff.

Also under the microscope will be the Naafi pub, a feature of Army bases throughout the world.

The way in which clubs might be improved – in particular making them more inviting places to visit – will be examined, and partnerships with companies in the pub and leisure industry, again using Naafi staff, will be considered.

"In the past decade there has been a revolution in both the retail sector and the leisure industry," says Air Commodore Vaughan. "It is certainly the perception of the Services that Naafi has fallen behind what is expected of the customer."

"It is necessary for Naafi to be able to compare itself with the best the high street has to offer. If it does not match such standards, the customer will simply stop coming."

Other projects will cover "radical new ways" of operating the vital food service contract – currently providing all the food the Services eat worldwide – which Naafi is anxious to retain in 1997, and the company's financial services operations. (See cartoon, Page 29).

● An illustrated book commemorating Naafi's 75th anniversary, **Naafi Up, more than just a char and a wad**, which includes memories and anecdotes about Naafi from stars such as Sir Harry Secombe and Michael Bentine, is available from Naafi shops worldwide, price £7.95.



Picture: Terry Champion

Fus Simon Ratcliff and Fus Alan Dobson try new types of NBC uniform for size and comfort

Phew! Fusiliers swelter in the Noddy nineties

ONE of the hottest weeks of a steamier than average British summer may not have been the best time to trial new Nuclear, Biological and Chemical protection kit, but the First Fusiliers took it in their stride.

Four types of "Noddy" suit were given to 16 members of Z Company, 1st Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, to wear for 140 battlefield hours on exercise on Salisbury Plain.

With temperatures edging into the nineties the chosen fusiliers had an unenviable task.

Their role was to provide the raw data in a search for new material which would afford the same or better chemical protection than the current suit, but would be more comfortable and less physically exhausting to wear.

The Infantry Trials and Development Unit at Warminster also assessed the value of a compact third-generation image intensification monocular night vision goggle

and laser aiming device. It was established that although this kit was not particularly comfortable to wear, it gave one platoon in each rifle company a significant advantage over a live enemy, particularly during patrolling and in defence.

The equipment consists of a monocular eyepiece and infra-red torch with a head harness and a laser projector attached to the SA80.

RAPID FIRE

The laser is zeroed to the weapon so that, at night, the wearer can observe the laser and put down accurate rapid fire wherever the beam is pointing.

Other lessons were learned during the Commanding Officer's Field Training Exercise (FTX) and the subsequent Tactical Engagement Simulation Exercise (TESEX).

Most of the battalion was transported sharply back to basic training with their first tactical encounter with TES.

Fusiliers discovered that they could not move without suppressive fire and that to be prone was to be safe while any other fire position was a risk.

The Light Assault Weapon (LAW) ceased to be a burden and became a favourite, and snipers rediscovered their true value.

Commanders suddenly became mortal, and subordinate commanders right down to fusilier level found they had an unexpected opportunity to command as seniors were picked off.

A series of free play "force on force" exercises at company level saw commanders dispensing with the lengthy drills and procedures learned during previous weeks as they developed individual, platoon and company cunning and guile.

The concept of mission command proved its worth as the prizes and prices of applying daring and unconventional manoeuvres were brought home.

Military tribute to Rabbie Burns

THIS year's Edinburgh Military Tattoo was one of the most spectacular ever to be staged on the esplanade of Edinburgh Castle, writes Lesley Edgar.

Against the magnificent floodlit backdrop of the ramparts, more than 700 performers from three continents took part in the colourful musical extravaganza.

The popular tattoo, the 47th to be held, commemorated the bicentenary of the death of Scotland's national bard, Robert Burns, and, while the theme was Scottish, the atmosphere was distinctly cosmopolitan, with performers from as far afield as Africa, America and Asia taking part.

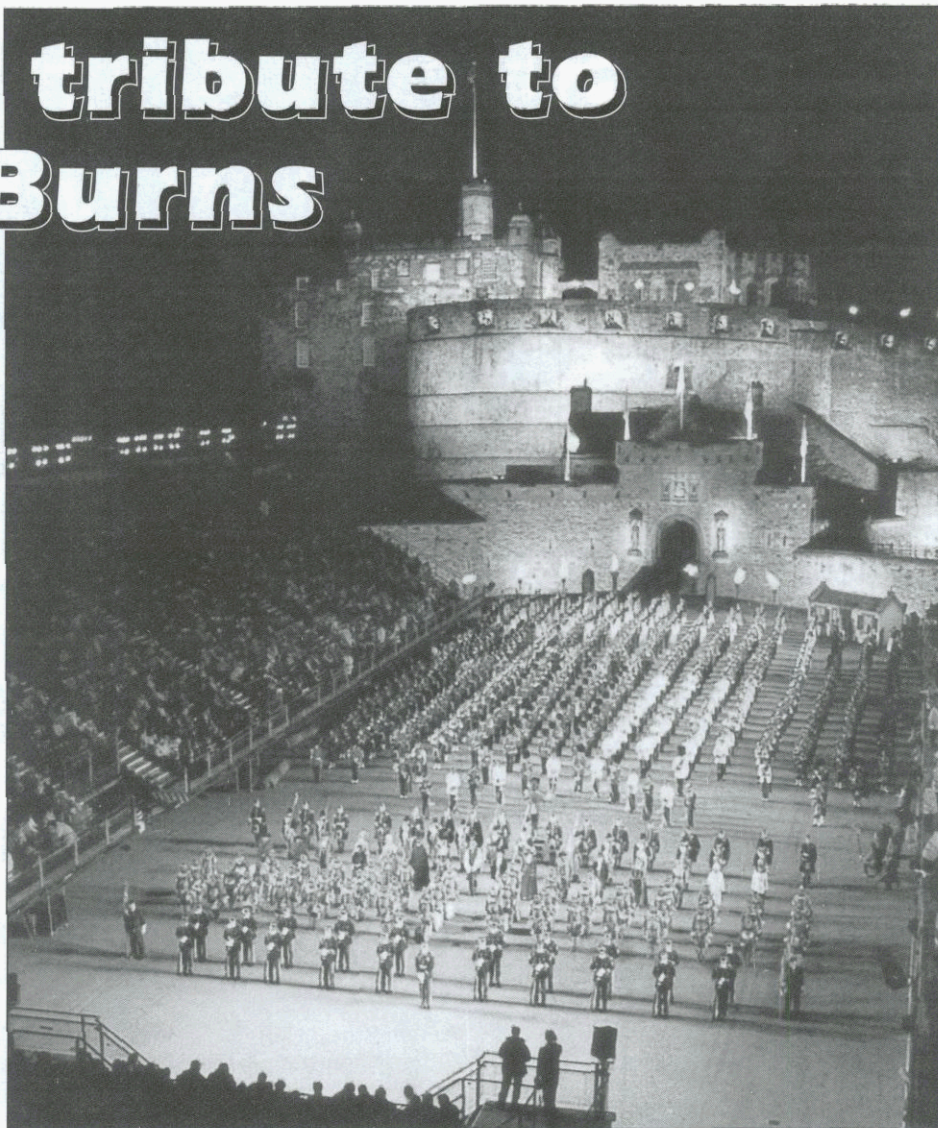
One of the main attractions was the amazing "Zulu Warriors" from South Africa.

To the pulsating sound of drums, 60 warriors emerged on to the esplanade and performed a range of ceremonial dances, accompanied in part by the haunting sound of the Pipes and Drums of The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards playing the theme of the film, *The Last of the Mohicans*. It was hard to believe that back home the dancers are all full-time officers in the South African Police Service.

Soldiers from the United States Army also played a key role. Their world-famous silent drill display team from Washington gave a breathtaking demonstration of their skills using bayonet-tipped 1903 Springfield rifles, which they tossed above and around the head of the drill master.

The USA also provided its premier military musicians, Pershing's Own US Army Band, whose upbeat, Glenn Miller style of music had the audience dancing in the aisles.

Further musical support from abroad was supplied by the Pipe Band of the Hong Kong Police and the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Canadian Regiment which formed



Massed bands perform in the grand finale of the Tattoo on Edinburgh Castle esplanade

part of the massed Pipes and Drums.

No tattoo would be complete without the home team, and the Bands of The Royal Lancers, The Royal Tank Regiment (RTR), The Scots Guards and the Lowland Band of the Scottish Division joined in the tribute to Burns by playing some of his best-loved songs.

They were joined by the Pipes and Drums of The Royal Scots Dragoon

Guards, The Royal Highland Fusiliers, The King's Own Scottish Borderers, The Highlanders, The Black Watch and the RTR.

The show was brought to a poignant close by a lone piper who, high on the castle ramparts, played a composition entitled *The Immortal Memory*, written by the Director of Army Bagpipe Music, Capt Gavin Stoddart, to complete the tribute to "Rabbie".



Members of the South African police force perform a Zulu ceremonial dance



A drum major and pipe major take part in the massed bands' tribute to Rabbie Burns



A musician of Pershing's Own US Army Band plays a Glenn Miller-style number

Take it as 'Red'

FOR the Red Devils, the Parachute Regiment's freefall team, dropping into a packed Wembley Stadium earlier this year will, they say, take some beating.

But as their current season comes to a close, members of the team are looking forward to making a spectacular splash on September 15.

That is when they are set to carry out a water jump into the Royal British Legion's 75th anniversary open day and tattoo at London's Isle of Dogs.

Their Wembley exploit – "the highlight of our year," they say – took place as part of the opening ceremony of the Euro 96 football championship.

Performing in front of a 76,000 crowd and 400 million television viewers, 16 men, each flying the flag of a competing nation, landed on the famous Wembley turf – closely followed by the intrepid team cameraman.

Now in their 33rd year, the Red Devils, who are self-funding and are actively seeking a sponsor, have packed a whole lot of other events into the past few months.

UNITED STATES

As well as completing more than 80 displays in the UK and Europe, they participated in three air shows in the United States, keeping their international image alive in front of well over a million spectators.

The team is made up from 25 men from the Regular battalions of the Parachute Regiment, two attachments from 7RHA and a female attachment from the Royal Signals.

Planning is already under way for the 1997 season, with displays scheduled during the winter months for the middle east and Australia, where, as one of their events, the Red Devils are due to jump into the first Formula 1 Grand Prix of the year, in Melbourne.

Apart from the physical side of the job, the team does not overlook the vital element of regimental recruitment.

Before the end of the year, they will be publicising the Paras in the form of lectures, demonstrations and school trips.

Information on the Red Devils' displays and parachute courses and, indeed, potential sponsorship: tel (civ) 01980 678212 or (mil) 732 8212.

Picture: Cpl Paul Brownbridge RLC



Greek Cypriot bikers are ushered away from Agios Nikolaos after being prevented by soldiers of 1 Kings from direct contact with armed Turkish forces. The demonstrators started a large fire before leaving the base

Brit gunners wounded in Cyprus demo

● From Page 3

where demonstrators closed to within yards of Turkish troops. But soldiers from 39 Regiment RA eventually restored order and ejected the bikers without serious injury to anyone.

Trouble also broke out further along the cease-fire line when demonstrators forced their way through police road blocks to enter Britain's Eastern Sovereign Base Area which contains Dhekelia Garrison and a signals establishment at Agios Nikolaos.

NARROW STRIP

There, where there is no Buffer Zone – north and south are separated only by the narrow strip of the base's "Corridor Road" to Agios Nikolaos – hundreds of demonstrators started fires and hurled taunts and rocks at Turkish troops. Turkish Cypriots responded from the far side of the symbolic wire.

Sovereign Base police, although heavily outnumbered, did their best to intervene. Shotguns were fired, injuring one demonstrator severely. Four

others plus two SBA police officers were slightly injured.

Another confrontation incident took place when 200 bikers broke through the gates of Agios Nikolaos and found themselves facing Turkish troops beyond the Black Knight checkpoint near Famagusta.

Rapid thinking by Maj Tim Cain, commander of A Company, the 1st Battalion, The King's Regiment, resulted in a platoon of Kingsmen joining SBA police between demonstrators and Turks. After starting a large fire that spread into the north, the bikers appeared relieved to back off.

More violence was initiated outside the Dhekelia SBA in the village of Dherinia, scene of similar incidents during bike rallies in 1993 and 1995. It was here that Tassos Isaac died of injuries after he became caught in barbed wire and severely beaten.

Ten Austrian soldiers serving with UNFICYP and more than 60 demonstrators were injured.

Londonderry march passes without incident as infantry stands by

TROOPS kept a low profile in support of the Royal Ulster Constabulary as a weekend of Apprentice Boys and Black Preceptory marches passed with little incident.

Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, The Cheshire Regiment and the 1st Battalion, The Highlanders, supported by 25 Engineer Regiment, stood by after the sappers, based at Massereene Barracks, Antrim, had sealed off a disputed section of the march route on the order of the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland.

The Highlanders and Cheshires, both under the command of 8 Brigade at Ebrington Barracks in Londonderry's Waterside, had been required to provide back-up to the RUC at a proposed Nationalist rally in protest against the Apprentice Boys march.

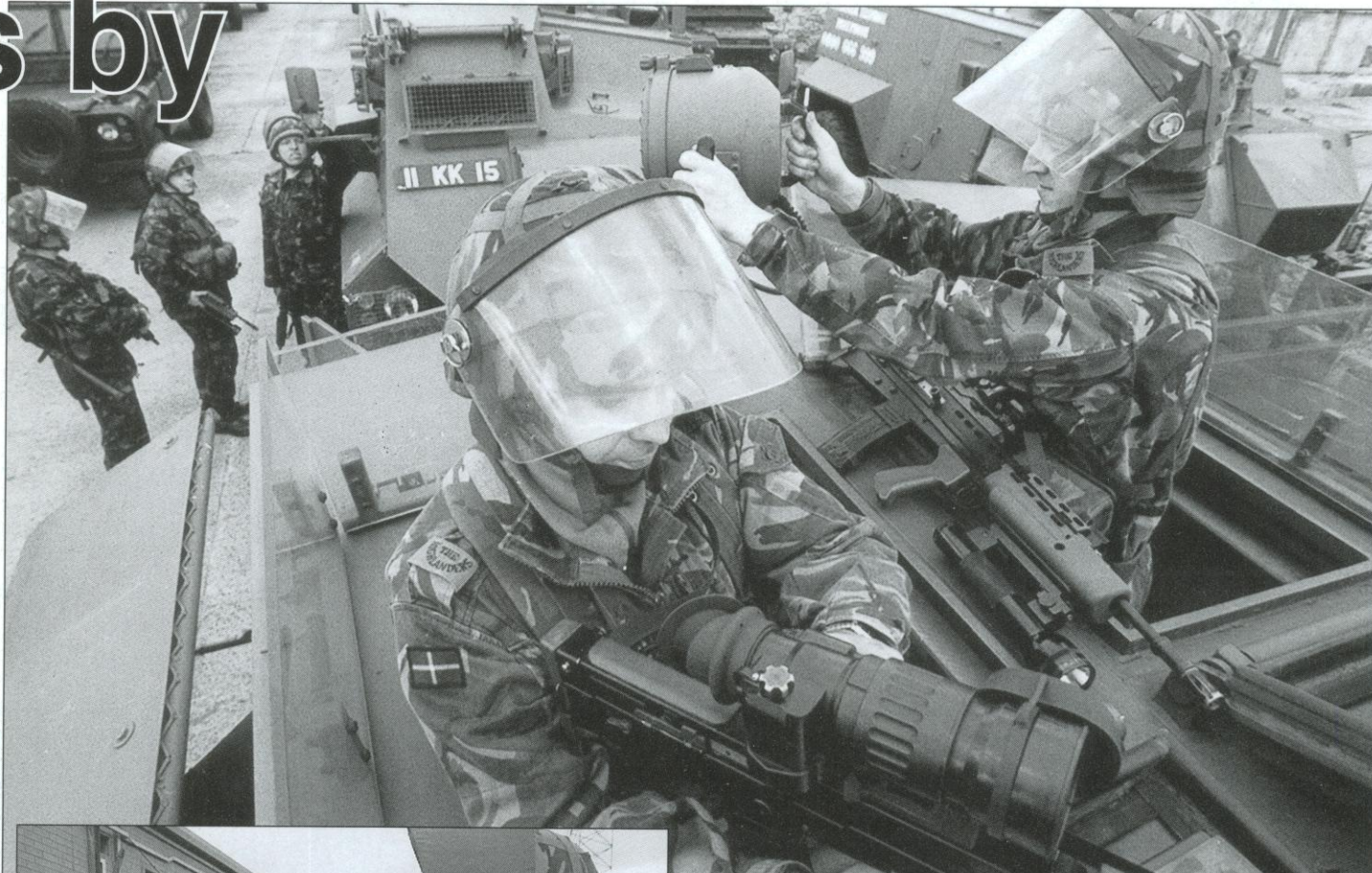
FEARS UNFOUNDED

Elsewhere around the Province, troops were ready to assist the police where necessary. In Belfast, fears that there might be violence at a city-centre rally to mark the 25th anniversary of internment dissipated when the march passed off without incident.

The Scots Guards and 42 Regiment, Royal Artillery stood by with the 7th Battalion, The Royal Irish Regiment.

Meanwhile, the 1st Battalion, The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment, which had flown to Northern Ireland with the Spearhead Battalion during what became known as the Drumcree Stand-off in July, returned to the Province and remained on standby at Aldergrove in case extra troops were needed. After ten days 1 PWRR, which is permanently assigned to GOC Northern Ireland, returned to its home base in Canterbury.

The Highlanders have been stationed in Londonderry for



Above – Hldrs Henry Barr and Bob Martin make ready as the 1st Battalion, The Highlanders prepares to support the RUC in Londonderry



Left – Cpl Steve Walker and 2nd Lt Chris Sommers of the 1st Battalion, The Cheshire Regiment are relaxed as they stand by

the past 18 months, while the Cheshires arrived in theatre a few weeks ago to begin a two-year tour.

As Londonderry prepared for the Apprentice Boys march on August 10, The Highlanders moved to support the RUC on the city side of the Foyle, with the largely nationalist Bogside and Creggan Estates, as well as the Protestant Fountain Estate, and the ancient city walls within their area of responsibility.

For the Cheshires, their patch was on the so-called west

bank of the Foyle, an area embracing the predominantly Protestant Waterside district which was the start and finish point for the march.

The Highlanders arrived in Londonderry soon after forming on the amalgamation of the Queen's Own Highlanders and the Gordon Highlanders.

The battalion has formed many friendships throughout the community, and recently helped construct a new building for Foyle Search and Rescue, a cross-community group which provides a rescue

service on the river. During the disturbances in the aftermath of the Orangemen's march at Drumcree, 1 Hldrs were called upon to provide active support to the RUC as nationalists rioted in the Bogside.

Commanding officer Lt Col David Stewart said: "In the 18 months we have been on duty here in support of the RUC we have made many friends across the community."

"We want to see peace for everyone. The Highlanders have proved themselves to be experienced, professional and dedicated soldiers who know their duty and will carry out their role to the best of standards."

The Cheshires are based at Ballykelly in Co Antrim following a two-year home defence tour stationed at Cambridge.

Lt Col Bryan Watters, CO 1 Cheshire, said: "Although we have only just arrived in Northern Ireland we have completed very thorough training for our role in support of the RUC."

"We are very pleased to be able to return here and to renew friendships made at Ballykelly and Limavady before and after the horrific attack at the Droppin' Well bar."

"As a battalion we bring enormous experience to the Province through service here in the past and in our roles elsewhere in the world."

The battalion last served at Ballykelly in 1982 when a terrorist bomb at the Droppin' Well killed 17 people, eight of them soldiers serving with the Cheshire Regiment as well as two Army Catering Corps personnel.

Pictures: MNT (NI)

Courtesy of Soldier Magazine

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18



WHEN soldiers of the 30th of Foot stepped off from their position at the battle of Waterloo, Wellington remarked on the clear square they left behind them - defined by the heaps of French dead who had failed to break their square.

As their successors, the soldiers of 1st Battalion, The Queen's Lancashire Regiment left their positions in former Yugoslavia in August they left behind many friends.

They also left behind a population now looking to the future and to the practicalities of rebuilding their war-ravaged country.

Arriving in Bosnia at the end of February 1 QLR quickly befriended Serbs returning to the devastated Anvil round Mrkonjic-Grad, Sipovo and Gornji Ribnik.

The people were still in deep shock. The military security of the area was established without difficulty and the main effort quickly changed to helping the community.

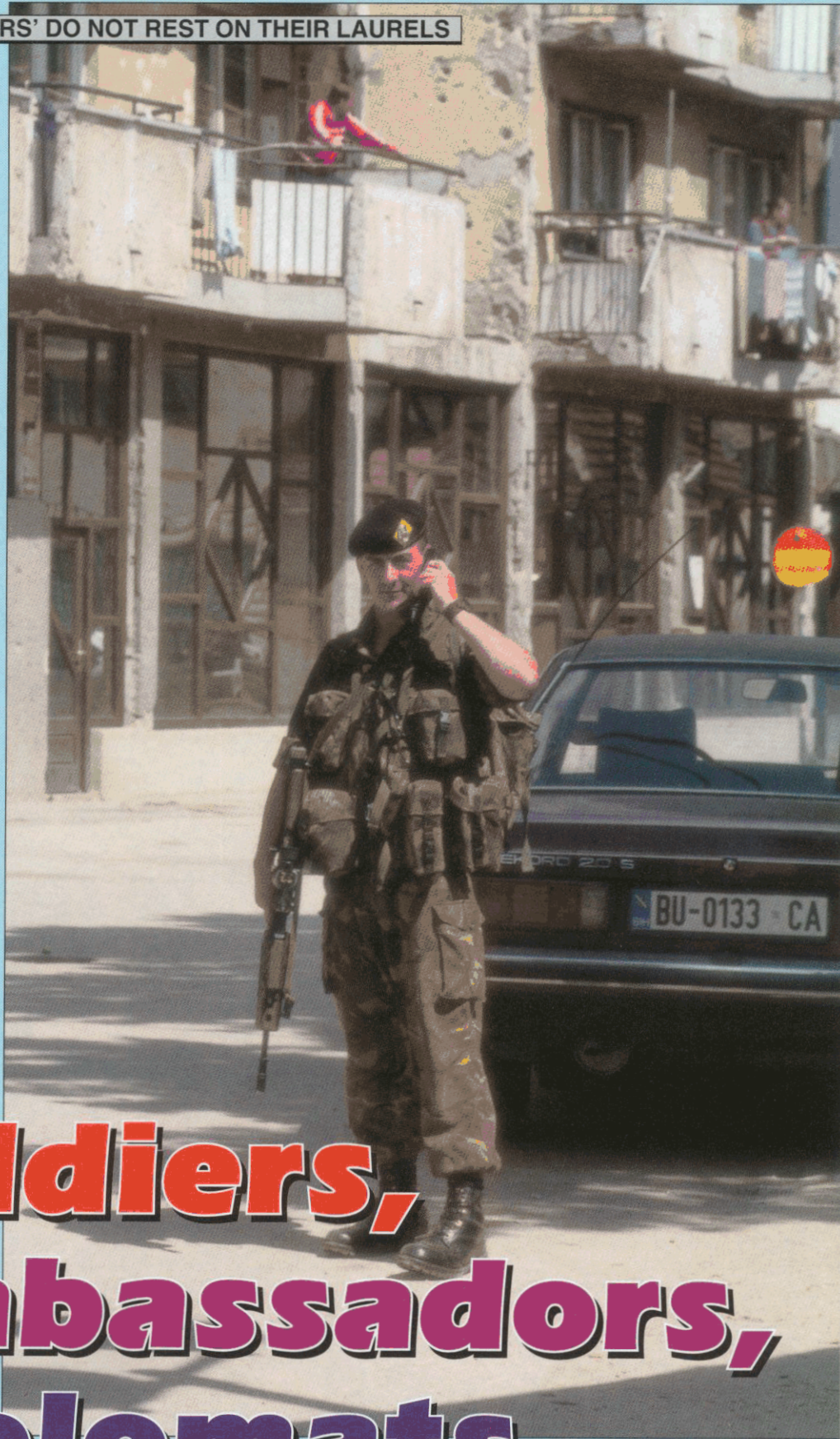
"It was an immensely enriching stay because we were contributing to people who had real, elementary needs and we felt we were really helping them in very tangible way," said the commanding officer, Lt Col Grahame Flood.

A huge swathe of Bosniac Muslim and Croat Federation territory to the south of the Anvil had no significant IFOR presence until May, when 4 Armd Bde units took over from 1 Mech Bde and the 1QLR changed location.

The newly-arrived 1st Battalion, The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters took over 1 QLR's area of operations as their Warriors were considered rather large and unsuitable for some of the political sensibilities in Federation areas.

The Federation is one of the building blocks for the future and relations between the communities were variable so 1 QLR was tasked with taking its Saxons to facilitate the peace process and the return to normality.

Battalion HQ and A Company moved into the premises vacated by the Multi-National Division South West when it moved to Banja Luka, while C Company



Soldiers, ambassadors, diplomats

**Reports: Gordon Skilling
Pictures: Terry Champion**

operated in 1 WFR's area from Krupa south of Banja Luka, and B Company returned to the school in the Vitez pocket which was the main base for the first infantry battalion in Op Grapple 1.

People were slightly puzzled. They understood IFOR was reducing its level of

activity, so the first job was to overcome some latent hostility and convince people that the British presence was compatible with a lower military profile.

"Reaction varied from 'hostile to neutral' and it was a major achievement to move this to 'neutral to friendly' in a very short period," said the CO.

There was no need for a major presence

● Turn to next page

Social patrolling in Gornji Vakuf requires different weapon handling, as Cpl Andy Robertson demonstrates



QLR 'fixers'

● From Page 19

in towns, so soldiers were able to cover more ground and visit more people in the outlying villages and surrounding hills.

Day-to-day liaison with local communities and non-governmental organisations featured strongly in the Queen's Lancashires' daily life as they sought to pull cultural fault-lines together in preparation for the September elections.

One major breakthrough was arranging for an HVO Croat brigade commander to meet his local Bosniac (BiH) counterpart, the first time in 18 months. After a very amicable meeting both agreed to meet again without the need for IFOR to be present.

When B Company moved into Vitez much of the infrastructure had returned to normal but there were problems for displaced Muslims because the roads were blocked with tree-trunks and mines.

After clearing the road and starting daily patrols, the soldiers could tackle the difficulties of getting permission for Muslims to visit graves of the loved ones they had to leave behind when they were ejected from the Croat pocket.

Much animosity lingered round the former confrontation line, but on balance OC B Company felt that an IFOR tour was more interesting than an UNPROFOR tour.

Interviewed in Vitez, Maj Duggie Brown said: "My job has far more dimensions than it would have had in Grapple."

"I do radio broadcasts, negotiate with demonstrating school children and religious gatherings, deal with mayors once a week plus the chief of police, the International Police Task Force, European community monitors and non-governmental organisations."

Although there were 12 sections in the company, three were effectively away on courses or leave so Maj Brown operated a nine-day cycle in an effort to give the sec-

Above – B Company hears the Waterloo Day citation being read before being presented with their laurel leaves

Below – Back to school for Queen's Lancashires CSM John Harker, Cpl Mike Higginbottom and Cpl Paul Lignum after helping renovate a school



tions something different to do each day.

At least three patrols operated on any one day, with one in Vitez being followed by one in one of the villages.

With A Company based in Gornji Vakuf it was a cycle of five days each on guard, quick reaction force, and Bugojno.

"Social" patrolling with the SA80 pointing to the ground instead of held into the shoulder was a new concept, although even



Lt Col Grahame Flood presents Padre Charlie McCartney with his GOC's Commendation for service in Northern Ireland

that was too aggressive for people in Prozor who did not want any armed patrols.

"It took a bit of getting used to having your hands free but once in the swing of things it came naturally," said Pte Keith Atkins of A Company's 3 Platoon.

"At first you could not walk straight down the street in Gornji Vakuf because of the rubbish, but the town has been cleaned up and the people are very friendly – sometimes we were invited into bars."

In the hills overlooking Krupa Sgt Graham Jordan, Platoon Sergeant of C Company's 11 Platoon spent two weeks each in two hamlets and at company headquarters.

They, too, had their invitations. Daily patrols were sent out among the Serbs and one old couple gladly took any rations the platoon did not use, and reciprocated by giving the soldiers vegetable quiche, bread and fresh milk each day.

One of 21 Kingsmen attached from 1 Kings and 13 from 5/8 Kings, Sgt Jordan had a previous tour with 1 QLR as a corporal.

As well as military and economic progress, there were also successes on the sporting and cultural fronts, with football matches and local weddings to which NCOs were invited. People are glad that



The Brigade Logistic Support RV Troop is ready and able at all hours

IFOR is present, and fear a return to fighting if IFOR leaves.

The Queen's Lancashires were ready to suppress conflict if it broke out again, and as they celebrated Waterloo Day they could reflect on how steadfast they had been that summer's day in 1815.

Wellington granted the 30th and 40th of Foot the right to encircle their badges with a wreath of laurels. In recent times, Capt Roy Zaman could remember only one time, in 1982, when the battalion was unable to have laurel wreaths sent from RHQ to tie to the colours. That had been in the Falklands, where he had plundered a local laurel bush to provide the goods.

This year, Sgt Andy Dickson of the Rear Party made sure the wreaths arrived.

Back in Tidworth, 1 QLR has four weeks' leave then can look forward to a command post exercise in Australia and a B Company exercise in Botswana, while the remainder of the battalion concentrates on conducting trials for the new Bowman generation of signals equipment.

The Bosnia experience has added several new pages to the regiment's history in an unusual role.

"We are prudent military men with the capacity to react strongly if we need to, but we are also great fixers and middle men even down to the lowest level," said Lt Col Flood.

"We have some superb ambassadors for our country called private soldiers who did a great job relating to the local community and working to a joint vision of peace we all want for Bosnia."

Business as usual . . . almost

IT WAS not what you would have called a proper hand-over when the HVO marched out of the sawmill in Sipovo and the Royal Logistic Corps moved in.

There was no quarter guard to welcome the new arrivals from 21 Close Support Squadron of 4 Close Support Regiment, based at Abingdon.

In fact, the loggies were standing by with six men with rifles at the ready and another six with fire extinguishers in case the former occupants tried to burn down the mill.

As an extra insurance, the First Fusiliers had their Milan platoon deployed round the perimeter.

Like so many of the locations used by the Army in former Yugoslavia, the sawmill was

devastated. In fact, the advance party had spent New Year's Eve clearing the hard standing so that they could put up tents.

It would be a long, hard winter, with three lavatories – only one of which worked – and three showers to cater for 200 soldiers.

The mill was immediately dubbed Key-hole Camp ("21 today; I've got the key of the door, never been 21 before"). The key is also, of course, the tactical symbol used on military maps to denote a logistic unit.

Commanded by Maj Adrian Taplin, the squadron would normally have supported a brigade, but was called upon to support the Multi-National Division South West.

● Turn to next page



Lt Rachel Leighton tends the REME pond

Business as usual

● From Page 21

"We would usually have 256 to support a brigade, but in Bosnia we had 200 so we were supporting a whole division with fewer soldiers than for a brigade," said Maj Taplin.

The area to be covered was sizeable – 11,500 sq km – so the squadron had small detachments dotted all over in Vitez (QLR), Jajce (26 Regt RA), Gornji Vakuf (QLR), Mrkonjic Grad (RE and WFR), Banja Luka (HQ MND SW), Glamoc (C Sqn Light Dragoons), and Bos Petrovac looking after the QRH.

Within Sipovo, a Brigade Logistic Support RV Troop received stores from the Divisional Log Spt RV in Kupres, and acted as a control point where stores were collated and re-configured into unit loads before being sent off. It controlled the back-loading of any unserviceable kit, while logistic support detachments provided points of contact for units supported by the squadron and gave advice to unit quartermasters on all matters logistic.

About 200 tons a day were broken down into unit loads and pushed out to individual units. The troop would normally only hold 4,000, but in Bosnia 10,500 different items were demanded and were sent out when they were needed, day or night.

The fuel troop had 14 troop tankers, each of which held 12,000 litres of petrol or diesel. Weather conditions were bad and drivers had to travel to two bulk fuel installations, one in Vitez and one in Lipa.

The troop worked 18-20 hour days to ensure units had what they needed.

Combat Support Troop had 28 DROPs vehicles to deliver supplies directly from the

Stores Troop, which held all the fast-moving technical spares from the smallest washer to vehicle body panels.

Up to 9,000 separate items could be held, and all were traced by the Provision Control and Accounting Cell.

Among the squadron's responsibilities was an Expeditionary Forces Institute which supplemented EFIs at Split and Banja Luka.

The squadron, which recently returned to Abingdon, is normally part of 3 Close Support Regiment but was under command of 4 Close Support Regiment in Kupres.

It would normally support 1 Mechanised Brigade in barracks and in the field, but returned to UK shortly after 1 Mech Bde took over as the British brigade in Multi-National Division South West.

Behind 21 Sqn was 33 Sqn in Lipa, running the divisional supply area, and 60 Transport Squadron at Kupres.

This force has been replaced by 3 Close Support Squadron of 1 General Support Regiment from Gütersloh, while 7 Regt from Sennelager, based at Split, is due to return to Hullavington in October.

The loggies of 3 Squadron found the sawmill changed out of recognition when they took over. Green-fingered people such as Stores Troop commander Lt Rachel Leighton had taken plants from the local river to create a thriving pond outside squadron HQ.

"We were keen to make things as homely and as normal as possible," she said, "and if that meant digging a pond, it helped to make the tour go by."

The soldiers were doing a very similar job to that in Abingdon, but the fact that they were in a different country under different circumstances added spice to the job. Essentially it was business as usual... but in a very unusual setting.



LCpl David Miller and Cfn Lee Fasham

ROADS in former Yugoslavia are not kind to vehicles. Ask the men and women of 15 Field Workshop REME in Sipovo who since April 29 have been mending mangled machines.

They probably did four months' work in the first six weeks in theatre, and instead of having four Foden recovery vehicles, the much-enlarged recovery sections have 22.

Mechanics are not desperately over-worked, but every moment of their working days are spent turning spanners or out with the soldering iron, said Major Mark Pearson, OC.

The long journeys from the Adriatic coast into deepest Bosnia meant that each vehicle was clocking up huge mileages but they were failing in the normal course of events.

It was not for the engineers to apportion blame, but speeding was clearly responsible for a significant number of road traffic accidents.

Other accidents were acts of God. One task was reporting on the Salvation Army's new Land Rover.

Albert Brown, who runs the Red Shield club in Detmold, was doing such a good job that he now has a team helping him provide a soup kitchen in town. But their vehicle rolled on the bad roads and the REME had to write it off.

The workshop is based at Sipovo, along with 6 Battalion REME Tactical HQ.

The present deployment of a full close support company in the north and a full general support company in the south is more cohesive than the previous mix-and-match operation which had to be carried out by 3 Bn REME from Germany, said Maj Pearson.

During Op Grapple 7, 3 Bn deployed a 178-strong equipment support company which was made up of elements from both the close support and general support companies.

The remainder of the battalion deployed



Cpl Michael Simson, Sgt Pete Butler and Sgt Tony Ellison work on a 432 fuel tank

Nights (and days) of the road

from Paderborn in December 1995.

Two of the five companies of 6 Bn replaced this formation: 9 General Support Field Workshop based in Split, and 15 Close Support Field Workshop in Sipovo with 187 soldiers including an optronics platoon borrowed from Split.

To provide repairs to all tracked vehicles and major assemblies there are a number of forward repair teams based in Sipovo, but also various detachments in the outstations.

The largest detachment is a combined forward repair team and recovery detachment in Gornji Vakuf, which is seven-strong.

At Sanski Most, the furthest-flung detachment, there are five craftsmen and the other posts at Banja Luka, Gornji Ribnik and Bos Petrovac have three each.

Because units at Mrkonjic Grad are a comparatively short 40-minute ride from Sipovo, it is covered from HQ.

The experience is very good for young soldiers straight out of training in Catterick, who gain valuable experience on a

much greater variety of equipment than they see in North Yorkshire.

Most of the forward platoon have already done a tour in Gornji Vakuf, and after one summer off are back in theatre.

"Those who came here on Grapple 4 have come out with their mates so that made quite a difference," said Maj Pearson.

"We have about eight people who were here on Grapple 6, mainly single soldiers, who are all volunteers to return."

Experience shows that if mechanics are worked too hard and too long they make mistakes, and make the job longer.

"If they bend the clutch putting it in or do damage when they are tired the job takes twice as long, so by staging it and giving rest everything is getting out by the time people request it," he said.

The forward platoon and recovery sections have duty crews on standby in a cab ranking system. Sometimes they have to go out at seven at night, returning at three in the morning.

It is all part of the job.



Leap-Year proposal too late!



PERHAPS it was his striking good looks, perhaps it was his macho soldier image, perhaps it was the way he cleared rubbish with his tipper wagon – something certainly attracted the girl to Cpl Roy Christie.

It wasn't his brilliant wit, because she hadn't even spoken to him when she sent a friend to ask if he was married.

A section commander with the DROPS section of 6 Battalion REME's 15 Field Workshop, Cpl Christie has become quite a feature of life in Sipovo.

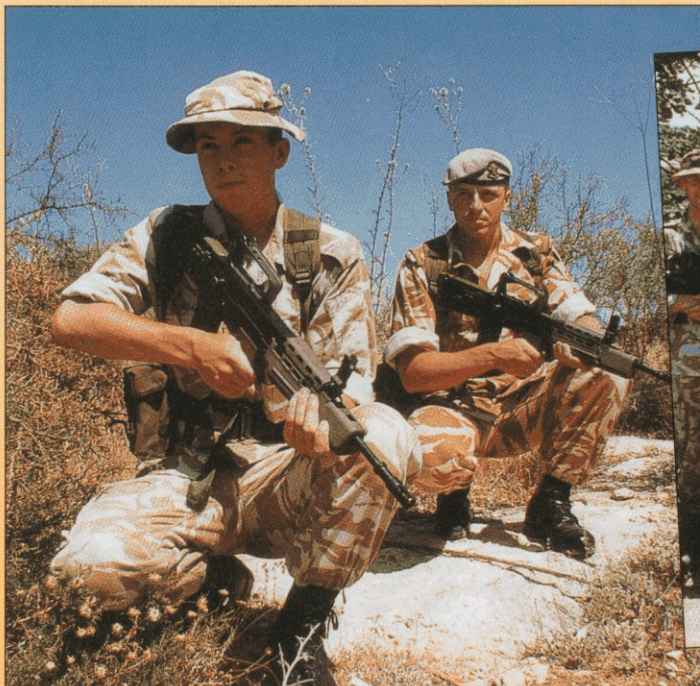
He allocates his days off to carrying out G5 community aid projects, and any spare time he has, is liable to be spent helping the town get back on its feet.

"I clear anything from rubble to house refuse, and one of my tasks was to unload civilian boilers so that they could heat the hospital," he said.

"The people of Sipovo are very grateful for what we are doing and there is a warm response from them, but I was surprised to get a proposal."

It did not come to anything. Cpl Christie married a German lass seven years ago and misses her in Catterick, particularly when they had to be apart on their wedding anniversary.

"I showed the Sipovo girl my wedding ring and that was it," he said.

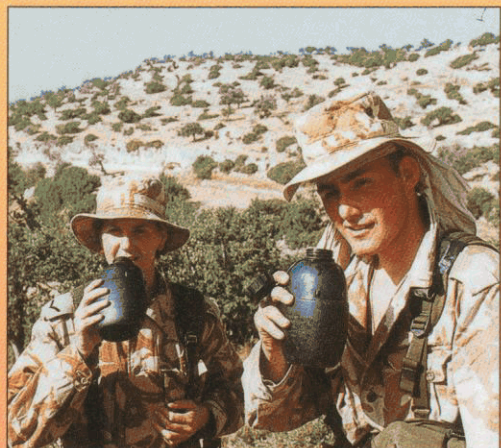


Above – Eyes front: Tpr Peter Botheroyd (left) and Lt Neil Potter



One for the scrapbook: A group of Scottish Yeomanry soldiers pauses during field training

Below – Thirsty work: water replenishment for LCpl Melanie Connelly and Trp James Watt, both from HQ Squadron



Cyprus is a hit for Scottish Yeomanry

ANNUAL camp provided a radical change of scenery – and climate – for the Territorial Army soldiers of The Scottish Yeomanry.

A composite squadron made up of six troops from the regiment's locations at Edinburgh, Ayr, Cupar and East

Kilbride deployed to Cyprus to take part in Exercise Lion Star. In all, 116 soldiers flew by RAF VC10 trooper from RAF Leuchars to the sun-drenched Mediterranean island for a two-week camp. For some it was the first time they had flown or been out of Scotland.

They had to adapt quickly to heat and conditions during the first week of field training in the scrub around Paramali. The programme involve setting up observation posts (OPs) and completing recce patrols. There was also some exhilarating tactical flying in a Wessex helicopter from 84 Squadron based at nearby RAF Akrotiri.

On hand was Arms and Explosives Search (AES) dog Sam with handler Cpl Danny Morgan RAVC from the dog unit based in Cyprus. Sam was a great favourite and never failed to find hidden weapons.

Then it was on to the ranges at Akrotiri where the soldiers were able to improve their shooting skills, including firing at night, in preparation for a field firing exercise at Dhekelia. They were helped by NCOs from the District Specialist Training Team (DSTT) based at Army Headquarters in Edinburgh.

The part-time soldiers took full advantage of water sport opportunities and enjoyed a package of activities including yachting, windsurfing, water-skiing and scuba diving.

Other sporting fixtures included "inter-cavalry" football and rugby matches against The Queen's Royal Lancers, who were also in Cyprus. Hon-

ours in both matches went to the Regulars. There was an excellent joint barbecue at Radio Sonde Camp, where the Lancers were based.

The Scots had a chance to explore the island, some heading for the beaches while others drove to the Troodos mountains or visited historical sites of Roman and Greek origin.

Maj Iain Thornton-Kemsley, squadron leader of B Sqn, who had spent six months planning the deployment, said: "Although the regiment has soldiers serving in Bosnia and shortly there will be some attached to The Argyll and

Sutherland Highlanders in the Falklands, this was the first opportunity for us as a whole to deploy abroad.

"It is a sign of our readiness that, only four years after the regiment was formed, we are in a position to undertake demanding training of this type with a full complement of soldiers. Apart from the heat, which took a little getting used to, this was a thoroughly successful camp which everyone enjoyed."

Official visits were made by GOC Scotland, Maj Gen Jonnie Hall, and Colonel of The Yeomanry, The Duke of Westminster, who watched the soldiers going through their paces.



In command: Maj Iain Thornton-Kemsley

Pillars of the community: Tpr Roderick Craik, LCpl Peter Stephen and Trp Mark Rhodie in front of the ruins of the Temple of Apollo

**Report: John Boyes
Pictures: John Boyes and Cpl Paul Brownbridge, HQ BFC**



One man and his search dog: Cpl Danny Morgan RAVC and Sam



Flying Scotsmen: soldiers wait to board a Wessex

Moulded for success

SOLDIERS ON horseback. Soldiers kneeling in prayer. Soldiers carrying skis. Rhinos, mythical dragons, helicopters. . .

A small family-run organisation, with strong military connections, has tackled them all.

Now in its 26th year of producing commemorative and presentation figurines for the British Army is Peter Hicks Associates, based in Seend near Devizes.

**Reports:
Phil Wilcox**

Produced mainly in cold cast resin bronze, the figurines are hand-cast and hand-finished by a small team on the premises, from original sculptures, some lovingly made a few yards away in the eponymous founder's tiny studio.

"We try to undertake most commissions," said David Hawkins, Peter's son-in-law, an engineer by profession, but very much involved in the creative side of this, quite literally, cottage industry.

"We range from tiny (9 to 10in high) military figures, cast in metal and then hand-painted in authentic, meticulously-checked regimental colours, to bronze and silver figurines and presentation pieces, produced from the resin moulds, and silver-plated items."

A trophy for Sandhurst's platoon compe-

tition was a recent commission, created with the firm's characteristic attention to minor details such as sashes, cuffs and buttons.

Typical of this precision was what David Hawkins considers to be his most unusual commission to date: an exact scale copy of a high velocity missile for the commanding officer of a Royal Artillery regiment.

"The revolving head at the end had to be exactly the same, and the fins proved difficult, but I think we managed it," he said.

By far the most difficult item the team has undertaken was a silver centrepiece of a mounted Royal Military Police NCO in the act of tent-pegging, commissioned by the RMP to mark the disbandment of its Mounted Troop last year. The model was cast in four pieces and then made up into one piece of 8½ kilos of silver, with the featured horse having to be hollow in the centre to keep the weight down, David Hawkins explained. Trimmings such as reins were made from leather, to give added flow and flexibility.

Associated with the firm for some time



David Hawkins works on a figurine in the firm's tiny studio

have been two experts, sculptor John Huggins, who specialises in bronze, and David Tucker, who has undertaken most of Peter Hicks's silver work.

A Territorial Army member for 15 years, David said: "I have always been a jeweller or a silversmith, and passionately interested in things military.

"Peter and I seemed to 'gell' after we first met, and I have worked with the firm ever since."

Although no records have been kept, he and David Hawkins estimate that he has created 200 real silver centrepieces for "most of the British Army except the Adjutant General's Corps", and practically all of the Royal Family.

Both agree that the commission which touched everyone in the firm the most was an evocative figurine for the 2nd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment of the two Falklands Campaign VCs – their commanding officer, Lt Col 'H' Jones, and Sgt Ian McKay of 3 Para.

"It was very emotional: the figures were mounted on a piece of rock specially flown from Goose Green, inset into a walnut base," said David Tucker.

Helicopters, in his opinion, are the most complicated and time-consuming objects to model.

"They involve drawing, drawing and drawing until every double and triple curve is just right, and, on the silver versions, we put bearings in, so the rotors rotate. The Army Air Corps can't get enough of them."

Customers supply initial photographs and information on potential commissions, then, before a sculpture is cast, give it a final inspection.

Less expensive silver items are made

Other firms in the business of supplying the Armed Forces with commemorative and giftware include Birmingham-based J M Bickerton, a manufacturing jeweller's established in 1963, and pewter manufacturer A R Wentworth (Sheffield) Ltd, set up in 1949.

BROOCHING THE SUBJECT

RUN BY Mike Bickerton, his wife Shirley and son Stephen, with a staff of four craftsmen, the Birmingham firm is situated in the heart of the city's jewellery quarter.

The regimental side of the business started when a woman asked Mike if Bickerton's could make a marcasite regimental brooch for the 14th/20th Kings Hussars.

Instead, since the firm does not make marcasite jewellery, Mike jokingly remarked that they could make her a "one-off" diamond brooch in the style of the 14th/20th's badge.

"To our amazement she ordered one, which she collected around four weeks later," says Mike.

"A fortnight later, when she returned and asked us to make another one for her friend, the lady informed us that there was a difficulty in obtaining reasonably-priced, good quality regimental badges, and she knew of several members of the regiment who could be interested in brooches of various types."

Mike Bickerton contacted the Regimental Secretary, leading to a good trade with the 14th/20th's PRI shop making items such as brooches, tiepins, signet rings and cufflinks.

"Since they have amalgamated with The Royal Hussars, with whom we also used to do business, to become The Kings Royal Hussars, we produce items for all three badges," he says.

DIRECT DEALING

Other customers for the firm – which only deals direct with regiments or individuals, as opposed to retailers – have included the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards and, more recently, the Royal Logistic Corps, whose "quite complicated" badge has been transformed into a lady's brooch.

"We have come through the amalgamations of the last few years easily," Mike Bickerton claims. "In fact it now means that we supply the new design brooch while still producing the old regiments' brooches."

"In the case of the Light Dragoons'



A craftsman at J.M. Bickerton's assembles a Royal Logistic Corps brooch

formation, we believe that we actually produced the first 9ct gold brooch of the new design badge before the uniform badges were available!"

Now Bickerton's are slowly moving towards their goal of having every regiment's brooch in stock in 9ct gold.

A touch (mark) of pewter . . .

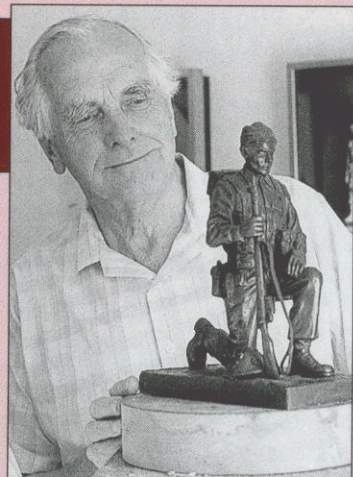
A R Wentworth (Sheffield) Ltd is an independent privately owned company which manufactures a range of pewter giftware in the centre of Sheffield, from where it is distributed to customers, including regiments, throughout the world.

All of the firm's products – individually created to traditional standards of quality – carry its touchmark which proves their authenticity.

Wentworth's range includes traditional items such as tankards, hip flasks and goblets, some incorporating decorative additions in brass.

More recent developments have included contemporary designs including perfume bottles, clocks, bowls and condiment sets. Individual names, regimental badges, special events and so on can be engraved on the pewter as commissioned.

Founding father can't stop working



Although he effectively delegated the running of the business which he founded in 1971 to his daughter and son-in-law, Prue and David Hawkins, five years ago, Peter Hicks still likes to keep his hand in, working as a freelance for them.

He served in Normandy during the Second World War, when The Hampshire Regiment had been converted to tanks, ending the war as a major.

Son of a military artist, Peter resigned from his job as advertising manager with a large company when he was 50 and started working in a woodshed in his garden, at first making plaster figurines from

rubber moulds and hand-painting them.

Despite the odd sale to Harrods and Aspreys, business was slow.

Then, in 1975, the secretary of London's Army & Navy Club was shopping in a Bournemouth store, saw one of Peter's figures, and commissioned him to do a pair of bronzes.

More than 20 years on, the Watchkeeper and the Peacekeeper, complete with rifle, are still there.

"It was never our intention to mass-produce, and we have stuck to that," said Mr Hicks. "There is one sculpture and an original

mould: replicas of silver items can be made in resin bronze for people who want them."

He is immensely proud of the figurine of a kneeling soldier, called *Prayer Before Invasion* (in picture), which he produced in 1994 for the D-Day commemorations.

Surprise, surprise for Alex

ALEXANDER Venables, aged eight, wrote to *Soldier* asking you to publish his picture in order to surprise his "big brother" ("Our readers are getting younger", July 22).

It was indeed a surprise for 19-year-old Pte Matthew Venables, from Stoke-on-Trent, serving with C Company, 1st Battalion The Staffordshire Regiment (Prince of Wales's) to see his younger brother in the magazine.

It was made all the more pleasant as C Company has recently deployed to Northern Ireland in response to recent events.

Matthew had not seen his younger brother for six weeks and, as Alex says in his letter, the battalion is due to move



Big brother is watching you: Pte Matthew Venables, reading *Soldier*, surrounded by colleagues from C Coy, 1st Staffords

to Hong Kong in the near future.

I believe it would be even more of a surprise for Alex to

see a picture of his brother in your next issue – and enclose a photograph. – **Capt A Hadfield, 1 Staffords.**

For the record ...

Victoria Cross

FURTHER to Maj R R McFaulds' letter (August 5), the RAMC, like all regiments and corps, is justifiably proud of its VCs but it would be unwise to enter into the argument of which cap badge has the most.

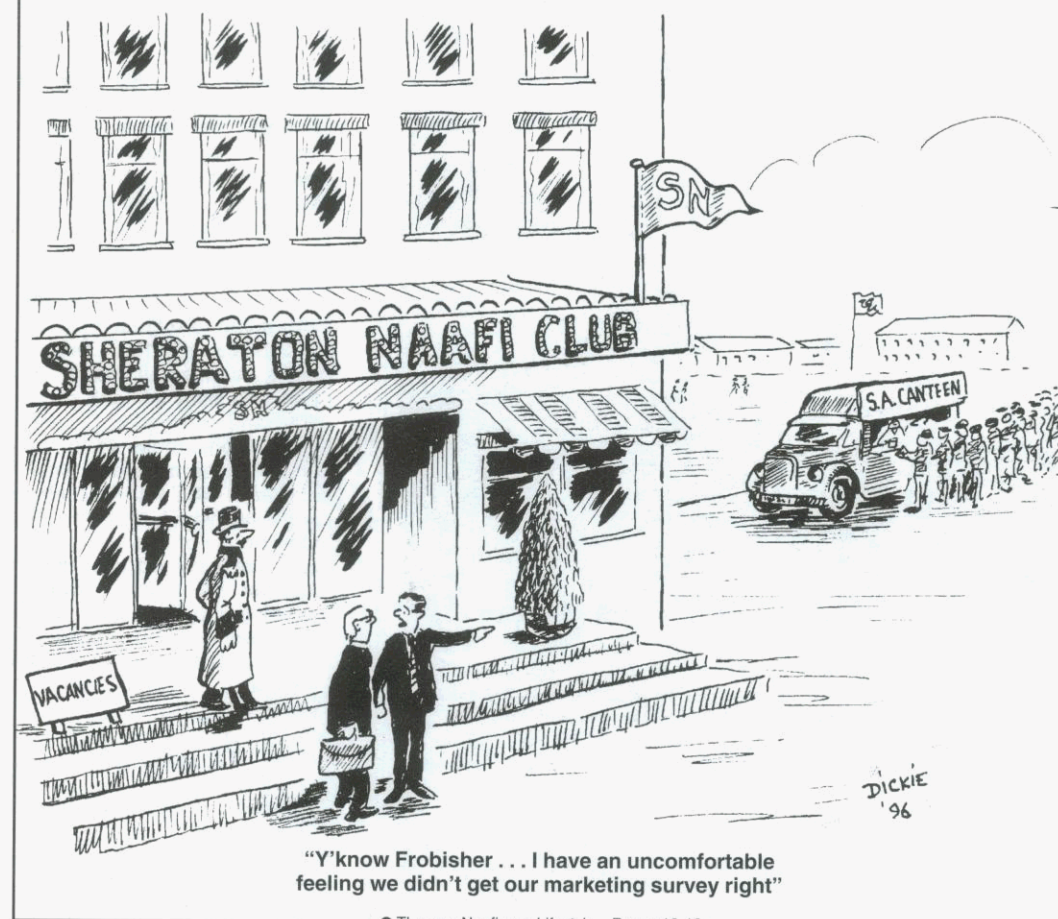
The RAMC does not lay claim to this. If one was to use the encompassing title of Army Medical Services, which traces its history back to 1660 and includes the RAMC, then 29 VCs have been awarded, plus, as Maj McFaulds states, two bars.

If only considering the RAMC, which was not formed until June 23, 1898, then only 13 VCs and two bars have been awarded.

Martin-Leake was not a member of the RAMC when his initial award was made but a surgeon captain in the South African Constabulary. – **Capt (Retd) P H Starling, Curator, RAMC Historical Museum, Keogh Barracks, Aldershot.**

CAN I draw your attention to a third VC and bar, Capt Charles Upham, 2nd New Zealand Expeditionary Force, who was related to the Chavasse family. – **R G Hazell, Sydenham, London.**

BIRD'S EYE-VIEW



• The new Naafi, see Lifestyle – Pages 12-13

Falklands film was 'unfair' to Col H, VC

IN the Channel 4 film, *Falklands Battlefield Tour*, the guide seems, quite unfairly, to cast doubt on the tactical good sense of Lt Col H Jones VC in leading a group to rush the Argentine trenches when he says to the tour party: "I'll let you decide whether the Colonel's action tactically took ground, swung the battle or changed the outcome of the battle itself."

The film is wrong in saying that the group comprised only H and his bodyguard. The battery commander states in the Spencer Fitz-Gibbon book, parts of which were used in the film: "I was the second person behind H; Sgt Norman and Cpl Beresford were a bit further back... I literally was ten or 15 yards from the trench [where H fell]."

Only one bullet hit H; from the front right, the autopsy found. The battery commander ("I stood there as a spectator, before retreating") would not have been able to cover the trench whence the bullet came because his SMG would not fire.

"It is Cpl Abols [DCM] who finally tips the balance," says the film. But Abols owes his position to H, according to his quote in the Fitz-Gibbon book: "The Colonel shot off round to the right ['Follow me', he had shouted]."

"He went round to the right, got half way up the hill – then he shot forward, got killed – and... everybody seemed to be in a position where they could all fire together." Abols's 66mm LAW was particularly effective

H's prone presence among the enemy trenches seems to have quietened them, the men fully withdrawn into them, their will to fight undermined, as H's VC citation states.

"I don't believe that our position would have been tenable... had the Argentinians fired at us," said the battery commander. – **Michael Meadmore, London W12.**

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POINTS IN QUESTION

Q: Did any British unit take part in a bayonet charge during the Second World War and has any since?

On November 21, 1941, the 2nd Bn The Black Watch (RHR) was involved in the break-out from Tobruk to link up with the Eighth Army. B Coy had moved off towards their objective without the expected tank support and ran into heavy fire.

They went in with the bayonet. They and the following companies suffered heavy casualties against a machine-gun battalion, small arms fire, mortars and shells.

Pipe Maj Rob Roy, who with Pipe Sgt McNichol played *Highland Laddie*, *Lawson's Men* and *Black Bear* during a second wave, was wounded three times.

When tank support arrived, the assault continued and the objective was taken. Eight officers remained out of 32 and 100 men out of 600. It was December before reinforcements arrived. – **Bob Lambert, Newcastle upon Tyne.**



BETWEEN the wars, when medals were as scarce as currants in Naafi currant buns, we wore our military accomplishments on our sleeves.

My photographs shows, from left, Spr Frank Cox and me, (sporting our Good Conduct and Service stripes), Cpl Dix and Spr Paddy Harris. The head-dresses were borrowed for a few buckshee akkers.

We were on our way to the Far East "outposts of Empire"

STRI PES

and having a leg-stretch from HMT Lancashire in Port Said.

But what has happened to GCs and other emblems such as skill-at-arms, tradesman, and marksman?

Search as I may through your editions with their excellent photographs of troops on parade, these badges seem to be conspicuous by their absence. Are they now obsolete? – **J V Lewis (ex-WO RE), Longfield, Kent.**

More evidence on Korea bugle

I REFER to the letters about the bugle found by a colleague from the 1st Battalion, The Gloucestershire Regiment near Hill 235 in Korea (Jim Jacobs, July 8 and ex-Drum Major Buss, July 22).

I think you should know that the bugle which Drum Major Buss sounded during the early hours of April 25, 1951 was not the Corps of Drums regulation issue.

Before I left for Korea in October 1950, my brother-in-law, Pte Gerald Harris, had given me a bugle that he said was "surplus to requirements". I cannot remember the type, but it was used by me at the Inauguration of the United Nations Cemetery in Pusan in early April, 1951.

I was one of three buglers: the other two were from The Royal Northumberland Fusiliers and The Royal Ulster Rifles.

I am still not satisfied that the bugle was the one in question because at the end of the

battle the IO, Lt Henry Cabral, told Cpl Cooke and myself to join him in firing off random shots to let the enemy think we were still a fighting unit.

Before we started out I placed a phosphorus grenade in the bugle bell and threw them into a shallow trench. I did not stay around long enough to see the results.

In any case, this was at the top of the hill and I understand the bugle was found at the bottom. – **Tony Eagles, Gloucester.**

Imjin Battery

I WAS puzzled by a reference in *Soldier* to Imjin Battery of the 19th Regiment Royal Artillery.

I served in the RA in Korea and while I do remember the 45th, 14th and 20th Field Regiments, I cannot recollect the 19th. Is my memory playing tricks? – **J B Evans, Koon-awarra, New South Wales.**



Picture: Terry Champion

Golden appreciation: All smiles as Fd Marshal Sir Peter Inge, Chief of the Defence Staff, accepts an engraved Dartington crystal bowl from the Italy Star Association. Presenting it to him in his office in the Ministry of Defence are (from left) national secretary Maurice Cheadle and his wife Hazel, watched by Nancy and Graham Swain (national

secretary) and Col Wallace Pryke, the president of the association. The bowl, engraved with a likeness of the Italy Star, was an expression of gratitude to Sir Peter for his support to the Second World War veterans. There was cause for a double celebration because it was given to him on Mr and Mrs Cheadle's 50th wedding anniversary.

Class of '56: Didn't they do well?

INTAKE 17 had much to celebrate when it marked the 40th anniversary of its passing out from RMA Sandhurst.

For the Class of '56 – the 17th after the end of the Second World War – has done well. Its numbers include the Chief of the General Staff, Fd Marshal Sir Peter Inge, and Black Rod, Gen Sir Edward Jones.

Brig Peter Sincock, a member of Intake 17, took the best part of a year to track down those who passed out on July 26, 1956, and their instructors. Among the 113



Picture: Mike Weston

Intake 17: John Ashton, Claude Galfiero and Gen Sir Edward Jones, Gentleman Usher and Serjeant at Arms of the House of Lords

who enjoyed a champagne reception and a tour of the Academy were Lt Gen Sir Anthony Mullens, three major generals and a brigadier.

They came from all over the United Kingdom, and from as far

away as the United States, New Zealand, Malaysia, Malta, Nigeria, Ghana and Sri Lanka.

Of the 220 cadets who passed out on the day, many left the Army soon afterwards and 26 are known to have died since.

Salute to the heroes of Kohima

SECOND World War veterans remembered their titanic struggle at Kohima when they returned to York for the 52nd anniversary of the first significant defeat inflicted on the Japanese by British soldiers.

A small garrison defied overwhelming odds in an heroic defence of the Naga hill station, 2,500 soldiers defying the 20,000-

strong Japanese 31st Division for 13 crucial days. For nearly two months of the most bitter combat of the war, 2 Division troops fought for Kohima and its heights.

Taking the salute at the traditional march past after a service in York Minster was Maj Gen Dair Farrar-Hockley, commander of the current 2nd Division, whose forebears had a decisive role in halting

the Japanese advance into India.

To preserve some of the veterans' memories, they were invited to hang their mementoes on a "Tree of Life". These "leaves" – a verse from a poem, humorous story or just some words of hope and encouragement for the future – were later collected and incorporated into the Kohima museum's archives in Imphal Barracks.

50 YEARS AGO

From *Soldier*, September 1946

HIGHBURY HIATUS

Gone is the day when mighty Arsenal can field a reserve team of internationals. No longer can they be reasonably sure of winning either Cup or League, or both, as in the middle Thirties.

Last season was a straw in the wind. It saw Arsenal struggling to maintain a central place in the League: There is a small matter of £160,000 debt in bank overdraft and mortgages... and the disappearance from the active scene of international stalwarts who were the keystones on which Arsenal built their house of success, such as Eddie Hapgood (now manager of Blackburn Rovers), the racing right wing figure of Alf Kirchen and slashing, dashing Ted Drake – now on the staff.

25 YEARS AGO

From *Soldier*, September 1971

'PRIVATE' SOLDIERS?

Walled gardens are in and big open gardens are out as part of privacy for residents of Army married quarters in estates now being planned and remodelled for the future by the Department of the Environment.

Traffic is being routed round pedestrian-only areas, but extra garages and car parking spaces are being built to satisfy the requirements of the growing number of car-buying families among today's professional soldiers.

Rock-solid alliance

THE Gibraltar Regiment and the Royal Engineers marked their alliance at a parade and ceremony in Gibraltar.

Gen Sir John Stibbon, Chief Royal Engineer, and Col Bob Peliza, Honorary Colonel of The Gibraltar Regiment, exchanged scrolls, and members of 127 (Sussex Yeomanry) Field Squadron (V), 78 (Fortress) Engineer Regiment (V) and the Gibraltar Regiment, accompanied by the Band of the Corps of Royal Engineers, marched together in the parade.

Members who have not booked for the Gallantry Medalists League muster at Worthing and Lancing on September 13/15 should contact Maj D F Covill, Ladycroft House, Alresford, Hants SO24 0PQ.

Nottingham nostalgia for Capt Bob

50 years on: A solemn Bob Foulds (below right) leads South Notts Hussars veterans in Nottingham

HALF a century – almost to the day – after leading the gunners of the South Notts Hussars, the horror of their war in North Africa still fresh in their minds, through the streets to receive the Freedom of Nottingham, Capt Bob Foulds was at the head of the parade again.

This time, as the honour's 50th anniversary was marked, there were few of the men present who fought alongside him in Africa and through Europe to the Rhine.

But, carrying on the proud traditions of his old unit were 100 members of the Territorial Army's Bulwell-based 307 (South Notts Hussars) Field Battery, in vehicles towing huge 155mm Howitzers.

"I led the parade the first time in 1946 and thousands of people thronged the streets to see us," said Capt Foulds, now 75.

"Being given command of the parade 50 years later is the honour of a lifetime."

It was at "Knightsbridge", a featureless stretch of sand in the Western Desert, where 600 South Notts Hussars began the unit's most heroic action of the Second World War.

Outnumbered and surrounded by German tanks with superior firepower, the Nottingham soldiers were ordered to stand and fight to protect beleaguered British forces trying to regroup.

Bob, a gunnery sergeant at the time, having enlisted as a TA soldier in 1939, was in Cairo training to become an officer.

He watched in horror as a mere 50 of his comrades struggled home from the battle in a convoy of battered trucks.

Seventy-six men had died at their guns, hundreds more overrun and taken prisoner.

Pride of place in Nottingham's Market Square for the modern parade went to two of the 25-pounder field guns with which the unit's brave forerunners fought at Tobruk and El Alamein.

Leading the way, ahead of serving TA representatives of the unit were members of the South Notts Hussars Association.

An emotional and evocative day for Bob, who served throughout the war until his demobilisation the same year as he led the memorable parade.



Picture: Gareth Griffiths

APPOINTMENTS

Major General: M D Jackson – To be Director General Development and Doctrine, Aug 5

Colonels: J H Crosland – To be Defence Attaché Belgrade, Aug 1; R J York – To be DG Logistic Support (Army), Aug 9.

Retirements

Brigadiers: A J Schuler, late R Sigs, July 31; J Q Winter, late Para, July 31; R C Wolverson, late IG, Aug 6.

Colonels: C H White, late RLC, July 31.

REUNIONS

Royal Regiment of Fusiliers: Annual fusilier gathering, September 28-29, at Somme Barracks, Catterick. Includes open day on Saturday with displays, evening programme. Sunday: drumhead service, family lunch, static displays. Details from Maj Macey, 1 RRF, Catterick Garrison, North Yorks DL9 4LD (tel 01748 874810 or regimental area secretaries).

Malta-Cyprus 1955-1959: Any ex-National Service officers who served with the Somerset Light Infantry are invited to a second reunion. Contact David Williams on 01278 683022.

SEARCHLINE

Argenta Gap: Researcher wishes to contact anyone from 78th Division, 5th Corps or 8th Army who took part in the battle of Argenta Gap in Italy, April 1945. Replies to Dr Rino Moretti, Via Vandini, 4-44011 ARGENTA (FE), Italy (tel/fax 0039 532 804498).

Sandhurst Comprehensive (1969-1974): Were you one of the first year intake at the Sandhurst Comp? A reunion is planned for September and the organisers have been unable to locate all former pupils and staff. If you had a son, daughter, brother, sister, or neighbour who attended the school then you are asked to contact Angela on 01734 732225 or Mandy on 01252 871586.

Association of Artificers RA: The 50th post-war reunion will be held at the Royal School of Artillery, Larkhill on October 19. Details: W E G Woods, 49, Marl-

Canal Zone (1953-55) veteran Duncan Price (3 GHQ Sig Sqn) wishes to hear from other veterans on developments in the campaign for a Suez medal. Replies to him at 7 Burda Street, Mayfield West, Newcastle, New South Wales, Australia 2304.

DATES

September

7-8: Farnborough 96 airshow.
7-8: Berwick Military Tattoo. Proceeds to SSAFA.
8: Winchester militaria fair and exhibition, Winchester Guildhall.
15: RBL 75th anniversary grand tattoo and reunion, West India Docks Quay, Isle of Dogs, London. Details: 0171 735-4091.

October

6: Aldershot militaria exhibition and fair, The Maltings, Farnham, Surrey.

November

16: Classic military band concert, Band of RAF College Cranwell at Cranwell in aid of SSAFA. Details: 01406 425550.

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

Jack's club

NEW name for the all-ranks club at the Joint Services Mountain Training Centre at Camp Morfa, Gwynedd, is the Churchill Club – in honour of Lt Col Jack Churchill, first commandant of what was known originally as the British Outward Bound School.

Camp administration officer Lt Col (Retd) John Cannon, said: "Most of the buildings are named after mountaineers, and we felt that it would be an appropriate gesture to mark the memory of the centre's first leader."

Standard procedure

SURREY West Branch of the British Korean Veterans Association will be dedicating its new Standard at the Aldershot Garrison Church on October 20.

Rooms have been reserved at the Lakeside International Hotel, Frimley Green for the previous night and a dinner-dance has been arranged. Details from Terry Adkins on 01483 768791.

borough View Cove, Farnborough, Hants GU14 9YA (tel 01252 512065).

1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards Association. Annual dinner and reunion will take place in Cardiff on November 1. More details on 01222 227611 ext 8213.

25th Fusiliers, East Africa, 1917: To commemorate the 2,500 men who served with the 25th Fusiliers in East Africa, May 1915-Jan 1917, it is intended to mark the 80th anniversary of the end of the campaign with a wreath-laying at the memorial to Lt Wilbur T Dartnell VC in the foyer of the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane, London, on January 12. Provisionally there will also be a service at the memorial to Capt Frederick Courtney Selous in the National History Museum. Serving and former Fusiliers welcome. Attendance by tickets only from Secretary, 25th Bn OCA, 17 Shaftesbury St, London N1 7HR (0171 336-0921).

Desert Rat who survived even the newspapers

COMMAND of the Desert Rats in the Gulf almost ended prematurely for Maj Gen Patrick Cordingley.

When the Range Rover in which he was travelling overturned after being hit by an Arab civilian's car in the autumn of 1990 a military police driver in a back-up vehicle thought it was an assassination attempt.

The police driver in turn rammed the Arab's car to deter further attack. Cordingley was cut and bruised and needed physiotherapy before he could continue his duties commanding the British Army's 7th Armoured Brigade. He admits to suffering even now from his injuries.

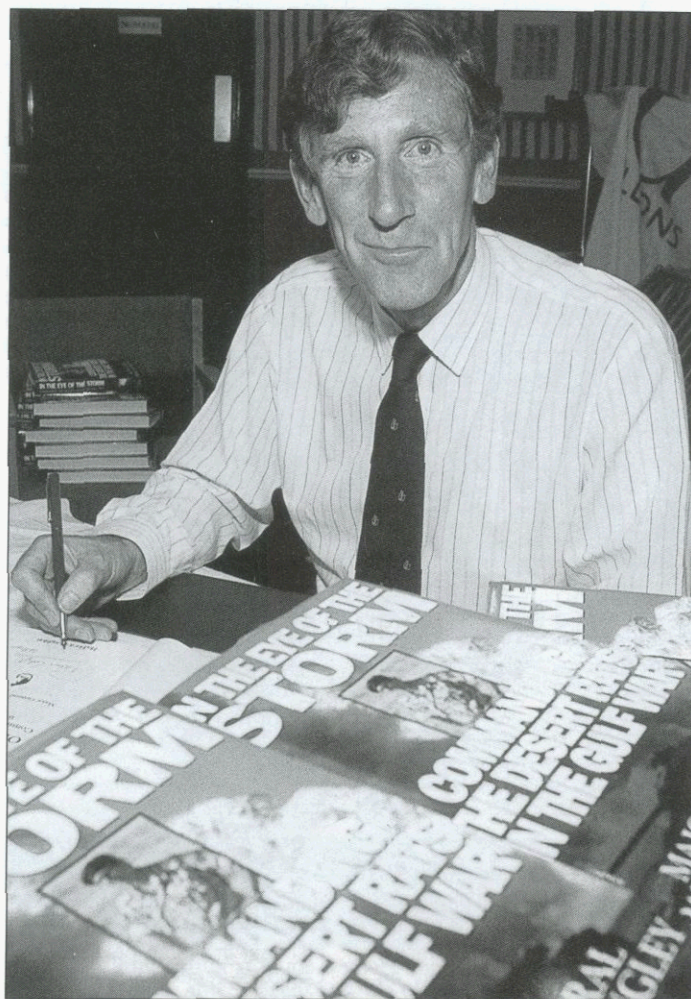
In his book *In the Eye of the Storm*, Cordingley recounts the story behind the equipping and deploying of his formation to Saudi Arabia, and how he (then a brigadier) and his men came to terms with life in the desert.

It soon becomes apparent that the general is very wary of journalists, an understandable concern since remarks he and his staff made about casualties at a press conference in November 1990 almost cost him his command – and scared most of the nation to boot.

Cordingley's statement that he expected casualties to be heavy was a direct contradiction of the MoD's official line, which said they would be light.

The resulting newspaper headlines quoted the brigadier as warning the British public to prepare for a bloodbath, and there were calls for his dismissal from people in high places. He was defended by his senior commander, Gen Sir Peter de la Billière, who warned him never to speak out of turn again.

Disappointingly, there is



Signing off: Maj Gen Patrick Cordingley autographs his Gulf War books at Dillon's bookstore in Trafalgar Square before taking up his appointment with the Sultan of Oman's Armed Forces

little description of the fighting, not that one would expect to find a brigade commander at the sharp end of battle.

That said, the minutiae of higher command and decision-making described in the book is fascinating.

And it is interesting to learn that Cordingley personally intervened to stop the abuse of Iraqi prisoners-of-war by British troops making up the prisoner-handling force.

After a tip-off by one of the brigade's warrant officers, he threatened to court-martial the detachment commander if he heard of one more instance of a prisoner being mistreated.

The book is dedicated to the memory of six soldiers of 7 Armoured Brigade who died in the Gulf.

Maj Gen Cordingley has now handed over command of the York-based 2nd Division and is learning Arabic before starting a period of loan service as Senior British Officer with the Sultan of Oman's Armed Forces. – LJM

Bell is mightier than the sword

In Harm's Way by Martin Bell. Penguin paperback, £6.99.

POOR pun though it may be, it was close to being a case of "for whom the bell tolls" when BBC TV war reporter Martin Bell was hit by shrapnel while covering a battle in Sarajevo.

He tells of this and countless other incidents in his autobiography *In Harm's Way* – subtitled *Reflections of a War-Zone Thug* – a revised version of which is now out in paperback.

The incident had a lot of footage on the news as his cameraman continued filming while he writhed on the ground and others rushed to his aid.

Bell's writing is as his war reports: factual, incisive and full of interest. But unlike his screen time, where he is restricted to short "takes" for the camera, he provides a telling account of war reporting at the sharp end, examining the media's role, methods and morality.

Having reported wars for more than 30 years – he was with Brig Cordingley's Desert Rats in the Gulf – this one-time acting sergeant in the Suffolk Regiment is well qualified.

Until the incident in Bosnia luck had been on Bell's side. After all, apart from his time in combats he always wore his famous lucky white suit with a silver dollar in his pocket...

He points out the injustices and tragedies of the war, even reporting on TV of the hazards faced by the Royal Engineers using unarmoured vehicles in what he called the world's most hazardous war zone.

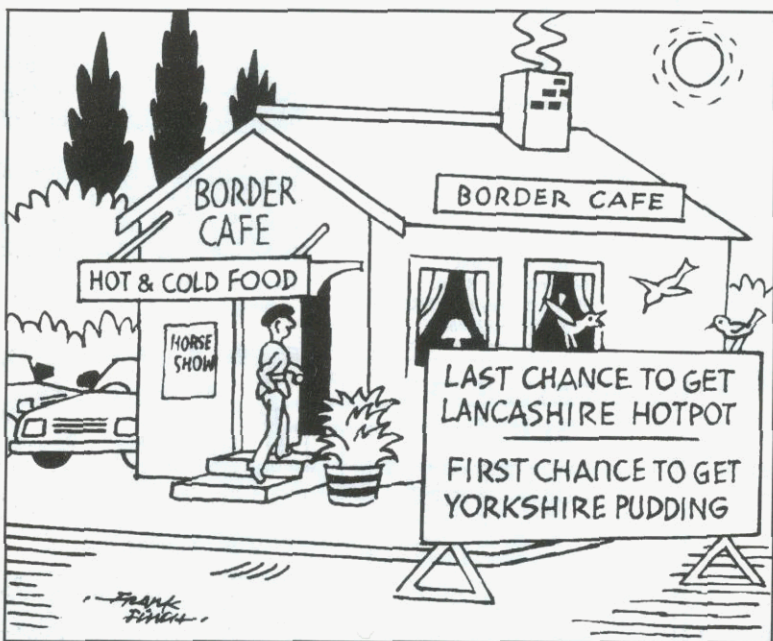
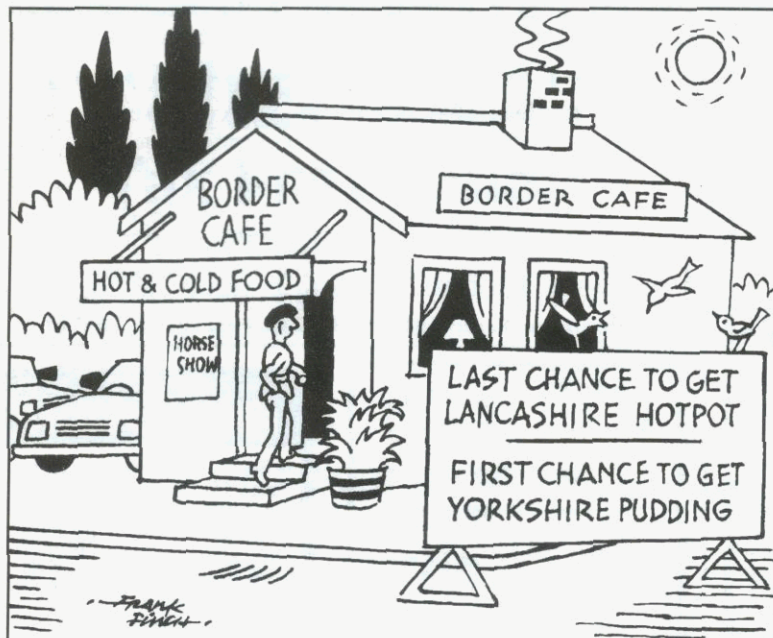
"They were risking their lives to increase the UN's security, but no one was paying any attention to theirs," he writes.

Officialdom responded by sending out a PR man "to set the record straight".

But all ended well for the sappers on that mission when it was brought to a rapid end with just one casualty.

This is a thought-provoking, humorous and informative book from Bell, for whom understatement is a telling weapon. – JM

In the Eye of the Storm: Commanding the Desert Rats in the Gulf War by Maj Gen Patrick Cordingley. Hodder & Stoughton, hardback, £18.99.



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

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Competition No 641 (July 22 issue): Congratulations to Paul Ashlee, of Canterbury, Kent, who wins £50. Book prizes go to runners-up WO1 M Brown, HQ(UK) NSE, Op Resolute, BFPO 544, and Mrs B Wright, of Tring, Herts.



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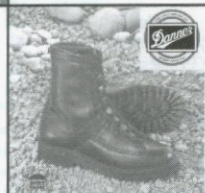
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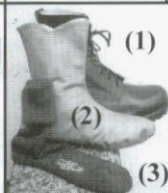


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AUGUST 3, 1996

First (617 runs, £2,500): SSgt J J Green, MCTC, Colchester.

Second (579 runs, £1,250): Cpl P L Bowes, BATLSK, BFPO 10.

Third (561 runs, £750): Maj P A Brown, SHAPE, BFPO 26.

Fourth (553 runs, £500): Cpl P J Farrow, HQ Episkopi Garrison, BFPO 53.

Fifth (539 runs, £400): Cpl C E Beazly, Dhekelia Det RMP, Cyprus, BFPO 58.

Sixth (531 runs, £300): WO2 D R Owens, RPO Chester.

Seventh (530 runs, £200): Capt M Brown, HQ UNFICYP, BFPO 567.

Eighth (523 runs, £100): Cpl M A Thomas, 22 Regt RA, Kirton in Lindsey.

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Fifth (352 runs, £400): Cpl D J Riseborough, 35 Engr Regt, BFPO 31.

Sixth (347 runs, £300): WO1 A G Liddicoat, 32 Engr Regt, BFPO 30.

Seventh (346 runs, £200): Cpl M A Thomas, 22 Regt RA, Kirton in Lindsey.

Eighth (343 runs, £100): SSgt G Caisley, 42 Svy Engr Gp, Hermitage.

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Blistering Boyce launches himself to title

Youngest winner: 2nd Lt James Boyce serves for match point in the men's singles



Picture: Mike Weston

SOME of the best tennis seen for many years was provided by this year's Army tennis championships at Aldershot, writes **Roger Thompson**.

With likely finalists in Bosnia and elsewhere, the men's singles was up for grabs.

A popular winner would have been Sgt Eric Simpson (APTC) who, arguably, played the most consistent tennis of the week. However, he never got back into a rain-interrupted semi-final poised at 3-3 and eventually lost 7-6, 6-3 to 2nd Lt James Boyce (16 Regt RA).

The final offered a divergence of styles. The well-drilled Maj Alan Butterfield (AGC) playing measured but penetrating ground strokes against a flamboyant Boyce who put his opponent under pressure with every crashing shot.

Each point saw the hard-hitting Boyce launching himself, often acrobatically, to find the angled volley or thumping the ball deep to the service line.

Butterfield's dependable play ensured no points were lost through unforced errors, while he produced increasingly searching topspin lobs to test Boyce's nerve.

While Boyce blitzed the ground around Butterfield's feet, the latter increasingly forsook the lob to drive the ball back to bisect Boyce's unguarded flanks.

Anything less than

precision tennis from Boyce found Butterfield well-positioned to pass the advancing gunner.

One game endured 14 deuces as each player fought to consolidate at a critical stage in the match. It was won by Boyce who went on to take the title and become the youngest Army men's champion since the Second World War.

The women's challenge for the ATS Cup saw one of the most accomplished fields of recent times.

In the semi-final, Cpl Clare Whitney (RLC) drove her opponent, Capt Lorna Wood (AGC) back on to the service line with a barrage of thumping, two-handed shots to win in straight sets and set up a final against Cpl Helen McChlery.

In glorious sunshine, Whitney

showed that degree of nervousness accepted from a two-times champion poised to win her third crown.

McChlery, supremely fit, might have recognised her opportunities, but she was unable to combat Whitney's power as she clobbered the ball from all angles.

Whitney's performance, more physical than graceful, was highly effective, and her 6-1, 7-5 victory brought considerable applause from an appreciative crowd.

In the veterans' singles and handicap, 61-year-old Maj Clyde Aylin adopted a McArthur-style strategy of "I will return" and did just that.

In a remarkable feat of endurance, he went on to win both titles, each going to three long sets and requiring four hours on court.

This year's championships, sponsored by Vickers plc, was held, probably for the last time, on the Army Lawns at the old Royal Aldershot Officers' Club.

Plans are now well advanced to create a tennis centre of excellence as part of the Army Sports Complex with 12 new hard courts collocated with the four indoor courts already in existence.

Ironically, many of the watching pundits considered the grass to be in the best condition for more than a decade.

The case for retaining the grass is difficult

to make: sporting progress and Army nostalgia have seldom marched hand-in-hand. Once again, the budget seems likely to win in straight sets but, ironically, this time for the good.

Army tennis championships

Singles, men's: 2nd Lt J Boyce, RA. **Women's:** Cpl C Whitney, RLC. **Veterans:** Maj C Aylin.

Doubles, Inter-Corps: Maj A Butterfield, AGC and WO1 S James, AGC. **Men's:** Sgt E Simpson, APTC and Lt R Holah, RA.

Women's: Sgt H McNair, R Signals and Lt L Wood, AGC.

Veterans: Brig B Reeves and Maj A Hilton.

Mixed: Lt L Wood and Lt R Holah.

Most promising player: LCpl Dunstone, REME

Terry's all gold

DESPITE having his training interrupted by a six-month tour of duty in Bosnia, Maj Terry Gyorffy won the Inter-Services individual decathlon title for the fifth time in succession.

Ignoring the wet and windy conditions in Portsmouth, the 31-year-old Gyorffy soon established a lead.

The scores remained close after the 100m and long jump, but victories in the shot and high jump and a solid performance in the 400m took Gyorffy to a 300-point lead after the first day.

The Army team at this stage held a marginal lead over the Royal Air Force with Gyorffy ably supported by Cpl Trevor McSween from 34 Sig Regt (V)

Army Nicks cricket crown from RAF

THE Senior Inter-Services cricket festival at Uxbridge saw the Army team lift the title with powerful batting against the Royal Navy and the strongly-fancied Royal Air Force, writes **Rupert Ross-Hurst**.

Having won the toss, the Army bowled out the Royal Navy for what was always going to be an undefendable total on a typically fast and true Vine Lane wicket.

Both the Army bowling and fielding were exceedingly tight, being rounded off with a superb spell of bowling (3-1) from LCpl Martin Hutton (RDG).

After an early disappointment when Capt Adrian Grinonneau (R Anglian) was bowled first ball, Sgt Nick Palmer (AAC) and Lt Chris St George batted with ease, although it has to be noted that the Navy bowled very straight. Palmer's innings of 78 not out earned him the Man of the Match award.

Royal Navy 124 (Hutton 3-1). **Army** 128-2 (Palmer 78 no, St George 32 no). Army won by 8 wickets.

Army v RAF

Both sides having defeated the Navy, the Army-RAF



Jubilant Army cricketers celebrate taking another RAF wicket during the Inter-Services final

match was the one which decided the championship, with the RAF keen to extend their winning sequence to a record-breaking fifth year. On current form, they started as favourites and, although without their first line opening bowlers, their batting looked stronger than ever.

Having won the toss, the Army fielded first and fine

bowling by spinners Matthews, Carr-Smith and Thompson, backed up by exceptional fielding, was a major factor in restricting the run-rate.

A magnificent bout of fast bowling by Pte Blagrove in a six-over spell after lunch in which he clean-bowled the RAF middle order was decisive and earned him the Man of the Match award.

Mark Bray played a courageous innings of 66 before retiring hurt having broken his arm when he had scored only 16; he was the RAF's top scorer and the main contributor to what was not a formidable total.

Army openers, Sgt Steve Bunn (RE) and Grinonneau laid the foundation for a match-winning partnership between Chris St George and Nick Palmer who dominated the RAF bowlers. Cpl Tony Pick (RE) hit the winning runs which clinched the victory that the Army thoroughly deserved.

Palmer's 78 not out against the Navy and 101 against the RAF secured him the Man of the Series trophy.

This performance was the high point of the Army season, during which the squad was only once outplayed (by Sussex), and was thoroughly merited due in large part to the outstanding captaincy and per-

sonal performance of Chris St George who takes over next season as captain of the Combined Services XI in succession to the RAF's Andy Spiller, whose last representative match this was.

Caps were awarded to Adrian Grinonneau, Cpl David Thompson (1 Kings Own Border) and Pte Blagrove.

RAF 240-9 (Blagrove 3-51, Matthews 2-38, Hutton 2-21). **Army** 241-3 (Palmer 101, St George 53 no). Army won by 7 wickets.

Army v Civil Service

A good opening stand of 75 was broken only by a silly run-out from which the Army batting never really recovered against the Civil Service at Bath. Only Chris St George batted with any skill or authority thereafter and not enough runs were made. Indeed, the cardinal sin of not batting out the full 55 overs was committed.

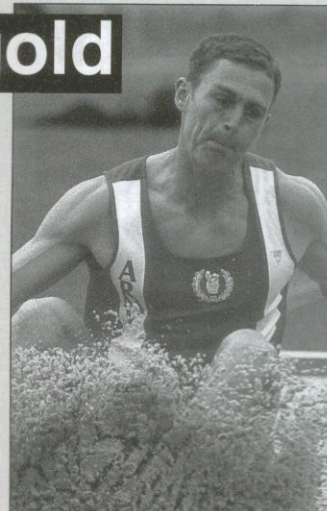
High-class bowling by Capt Paddy Logan (AAC) and Capt James Carr-Smith (Royal Yeomanry) could not prevent the Civil Service reaching the meagre total required in the 53rd over.

Army 191 (Grinonneau 53, St George 42 no). **Civil Service** 192-4 (Logan 3-24). Civil Service won by 6 wickets.



Powerful performance: Cpl Claire Whitney won a third singles crown

Picture: Mike Weston



Maj Terry Gyorffy

and LCpl Dave Hall, 4 Gen Sp Regt RLC, who was competing in his first inter-Service competition.

Gyorffy started the second day with a quick 110m hurdles.

Equally good performances by the RAF decathletes closed the gap to a little more than 100 points, but the Army team pulled away again in the discus with steady throws all round.

In the pole vault Gyorffy, current Army champion, was in a class of his own. He entered the event with only one other competitor still in the competition and comfortably cleared 4m.

More solid throws in the javelin increased the team's lead to 800 points with Gyorffy's individual total more than 600 points ahead of the opposition.

Inter-Service decathlon

Individual: 1, Maj T Gyorffy, REME, 6,258pts; 2, Sgt G Ingram, RAF, 5,674; 3, Cpl Frank Chapman, RAF, 5,339; 4, LCpl Dave Hall, RLC, 5,269.

Team: 1, Army 16,162pts; 2, RAF 15,521; 3, Royal Navy 14,799.

Picture: Mike Weston

DIVERS SAVE FACE FOR ARMY

Lt Charley Cheong-Leen powers her way through the water during the inter-Services swimming championships. But, despite a late surge, she could manage only fifth place in the 400m freestyle final.

There was a disappointing performance by the Army swimmers who

won only four of the 25 events, finishing well behind the overall winners, the Royal Air Force, who also won the water polo.

The saving grace was the performance of the Army diving team, who won all four events. Sgt Amanda Davies took top honours in the women's

springboard and firm-board competitions, while Cpl Neil Wilson raced away with the men's events. As a result, the Army divers won the Inter-Services Diving Shield and Davies and Wilson were awarded the Tina Childs Cup and the Mike Kempson Cup, respectively.



Picture: Mike Weston



Picture: Peter Clarke

Trolley good idea: Army skydivers practise their formation work on the ground

Best of British

BRITISH Army sports parachutists are cock-a-hoop after their team virtually swept the board in the formation class at the national skydiving championships.

Army skydivers won gold medals in the four-man junior and intermediate events and the eight-man senior event, and a silver medal in the eight-man intermediate which took place at Hibaldstow on Humberside.

As a result, the eight-strong senior team, which includes a woman, was selected en masse for the British squad and will represent Great Britain at next year's world championships.

This unparalleled success for an Army team is particularly creditable because the soldiers were jumping against top civilian teams consisting of professional parachute instructors and coaches.

Army team manager, Maj Andy Allman, said the win had involved great personal and financial sacrifice for his team.

"Every soldier contributed around £6,000 of their own money towards the cost of

training jumps, equipment and transport. We had no commercial sponsorship, but individuals received support from their units and Army training organisations," he said.

Such was the dedication of the skydivers, they had all given up their annual leave allocations and free time to work on a two-year programme of training designed to win the national championships. This included a spell of training with the US Army team who are the current world champions.

Robbo to take on world

Cpl Robbo Robinson confirmed his place as one of the Army's top multi-discipline athletes by coming third in the national duathlon (cycling-running) championships at Swindon and being selected for the Great Britain team.

Serving with 22 Engineer Regiment, the sapper will represent Great Britain at the world championship in Italy later this month when he will

Maj Allman said that next year's world championships will form part of the World Air Games, dubbed "The Aviation Olympics".

"The team's win was the first since 1983 and we hope to stay champions for some years to come," he said.

The ten-strong Army team consists of Maj Andy Allman and Mark Davis, Lt Sarah Laughton, WO1 Brian Dyas, Sgts Andy Scott, Karl Lester and Chris Allen, LCpl Aide Green, Gnr Lee Love and Pte Lee Pugh.

ride the amazingly light Metal Matrix bicycle developed by the Defence Research Agency, Farnborough.

At just 12lb, it weighs up to 6lb less than those of his competitors and should help him shave valuable seconds off his performance times. He is also being supported by Unipower Limited who designed the Royal Engineers' new BR90 bridging vehicles.

Nicky foils them all

ARMY women's champion, Lt Nicky Chester, demonstrated why she is a force to be reckoned with at the 1996 Inter-Services fencing tournament.

Nicky lifted the Inter-Services foil and épée championships to go with her Army titles in the same disciplines.

She was also named as women's Champion-at-Arms and Master Swordswoman.

The Army men's foil and épée champion, Lt Col Neil Sutherland (RE), won the inter-Services foil title.

The remainder of the team had mixed results, although there were runner-up spots in the women's foil for Cpl Sonia Greaken (29 Regt RLC) and in the Master Swordsman event for SSgt Paul James (1 RSME).

Army championships

Men

Sabre: 1, QMSI M Stott; 2, SSgt D Wilsher; 3, Lt Col W Stanton; 4, SSgt J James; 5, Cpl I Stewart; 6, Cpl Steve Cadman. **Foil:** 1, Lt Col N Sutherland; 2, Capt J Griffiths; 3, Lt Col N Campbell; 4, Maj N Makin; 5, Lt R Anderton-Brown; 6, OCdt Jones.

Épée: 1, Lt Col N Sutherland; 2, Lt Col N Campbell; 3, Lt R Anderton-Brown; 4, Capt I Rand; 5, Lt T Bateman; 6, Sgt P Sell.

Senior Champion-at-Arms: Cpl S Cadman. **Most Improved Fencer:** A/T Griffin.

Women

Sabre: 1, Capt Jackson; 2, Sgt Edwards, Capt Jones.

Épée: 1, 2nd Lt Chester; 2, Lt Harrison; 3, Capt Jackson;

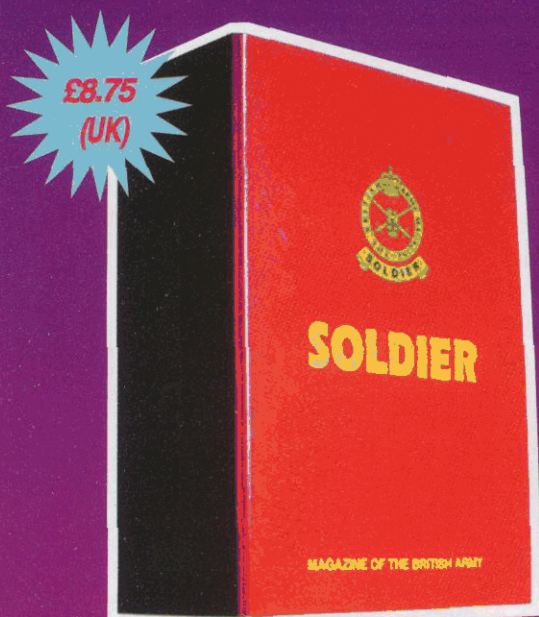
Foil: 1, 2nd Lt Chester; 2, QM Walker, Capt Jackson.

Champion-at-Arms: 2nd Lt Chester.

Caroline selected

Rower Capt Caroline Kirman, Int Corps, has been selected to represent England in a home international match, following a strong performance at the national championships. Caroline won silver in the coxless pairs and the coxed four event.

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SOLDIER



Members of the 8th Battalion, The Royal Irish Regiment set out from Portpatrick in Scotland to return to Bangor in Northern Ireland after making the first crossing of the North Channel by jetski. The 46-mile round trip should raise some £2,000 for the charity Disability Action

Picture: Sgt Steve Baillie

