

# ARMED SOLDIERS

MAGAZINE  
OF THE  
BRITISH  
ARMY



DECEMBER 9  
1991  
EVERY  
FORTNIGHT  
50p



HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND  
A PEACEFUL NEW YEAR

## INSIDE:

**Musgrave bounces back**  
**28 Signal's honour**  
**Chinese in Cyprus**  
**M107 fires last shot**





# THE NEW PEUGEOT 106. THE SURPRISINGLY BIG, SMALL CAR.

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**FRONT COVER** — Main picture: Capt Sarah Yearsley, QARANC, shares some Christmas cheer with Cpl Mark Hilder of 33 Independent Field Squadron RE in the military wing of Belfast's Musgrave Park Hospital. It's "business as usual" in the hospital despite the bomb outrage which left two members of staff dead and ten injured. See Pages 14-15. (Picture: Mike Perring)

Lower picture: Herr Johannes Rau, Minister President of North Rhine-Westphalia, attaches the Fahnenband to the flag of 28 Signal Regiment. See story below.



"What happened to those lovely, traditional unaccompanied Christmases like the Gulf last year, Belize 1989, Falklands 1988, Belfast 1987 . . .?"

## Fahnenband honour for 28 Signal Regt

A RIBBON of honour has been presented to 28 Signal Regiment at Francisca Barracks, near Krefeld, Germany to mark the close relationship between the regiment and the communities of Tonisvorst and St Tonis.

The Fahnenband, awarded by the Minister President of North Rhine-Westphalia, Herr Johannes Rau, is usually given to German military units serving in the region. This was the first time it had been

awarded to a British regiment.

Commanded by Lt Col Arthur Merrick, 28 Signals is the only British Army signal regiment whose role is in direct support of Nato. The award of the Fahnenband is regarded as a considerable honour.

It was attached to the regimental flag by Herr Rau, and will appear whenever the flag is on parade.

Tonisvorst conferred its freedom on the regiment in 1976.

## Options: More details

MORE details about planned amalgamations, mergers and disbands under Options for Change have become available. They give more information about the dates and locations where it is planned the events will take place.

Some minor units not mentioned in last month's House of Commons statement by Armed Forces Minister Archie Hamilton are included.

See list in Pages 8-9:

## Convoy to Smolensk

A CONVOY carrying food and clothes will make a wintry trip to the heart of the Soviet Union in time for Christmas.

Trucks bulging with donations from Berlin Garrison will forge their way through near-Arctic conditions to Smolensk mid-way between Warsaw and Moscow.

Manned by military drivers and volunteers from the British Berlin community, the trucks

● Turn to Page 5

## SOLDIER

Incorporating the Territorial Army magazine, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU. Telephone: Army network: Dial internal code and extension number. Civil network: Dial 0252 347 followed by last three digits of extension number. SOLDIER is published by the Ministry of Defence and printed in the UK for HMSO. Photoset by RSB Typesetters, Worlesdon, Surrey. Crown copyright 1991.

Managing Editor: Chris Horrocks (Ext 2355) • Editor: John Elliott (2356) • Assistant Editors: Laurie Manton (2362), Gordon Skilling (2360), Phil Wilcox (2361) • Picture Editor: Terry Champion (2357) • Photographers: Mike Weston, Mike Perring (2357) • Art Editor: Les Gwyer (2169) • Families: Anne Armstrong (2169) • Librarian: Bill Stroud (2351) • Advertising/Promotions: Bob Wilkinson-Latham (2352 or 0252 347352) • Accounts/Distribution: Janice Follwell (2353)

### SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Annual (25 issues) ..... UK £19.30  
..... BFPO £11.50  
..... Other £25.30

Send UK postal order, UK cheque or international money order expressed in sterling and made payable to SOLDIER. Views expressed in SOLDIER are not necessarily those of the Army or the Ministry of Defence.

Season's greetings to our readers and advertisers. The next issue will have the cover date January 13, 1992

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# Gulf War medics commemorated at Saighton

A SPECIAL Gulf War memorial has been unveiled at Saighton Army Medical Services Field Training Centre in Chester. It commemorates the names of all units which underwent training at the centre before deploying to the war zone. About 700 Army

medics at Saighton for a military and medical skills competition watched Maj Gen Chris Ticehurst, Commander Medical Services at UK Land Forces, unveil the plaque.

During the months leading up to Operation Granby, 2,612 Regular and Territorial medics

and bandsmen brushed up their skills at Saighton.

Commemorated on the plaque are: 33 and 22 Field Hospitals RAMC (Aldershot), 32 Fd Hosp RAMC (Hanover), 24 Fd Hosp RAMC (Catterick), 205 Gen Hosp RAMC(V) (Glasgow), No 4 RAF War

Hospital, 84 Forward Medical Equipment Depot RAMC, 60 Field Psychiatric Team RAMC, and the bands of 13/18 H, SG, Kings Own Border, R Anglian, D and D, LI (Salamanca Band), Green Howards, Cheshire and The Parachute Regiment.

# UDR out in force to stop killings

HUNDREDS of extra troops have been deployed on the streets of Northern Ireland in the wake of a spate of sectarian murders.

Men from the part-time elements of three Ulster Defence Regiment battalions were called on to serve in a full-time role in response to a request from the Royal Ulster Constabulary for additional support. They are from 1/9 UDR, based in County Antrim, 7/10 UDR from the City of Belfast and the Craigavon unit, 2/11 UDR.

This reinforcement was in addition to measures taken by the RUC and the Army to provide an enhanced Security Force presence in areas thought to be most at risk.

Although force levels in Northern Ireland have not changed, the GOC, Sir John Wilsey, made available to the RUC Chief Constable additional military resources by redeploying reserve companies from resident battalions. These were initially sent to the West Belfast area, scene of recent sectarian murders.

Secretary of State for Northern Ireland Peter Brooke announced that an additional 441 police officers are to be recruited to the RUC.

The previous significant callout of part-time soldiers was in 1987, following the Maze prison escape, and involved almost 600 extra men drawn from all nine UDR battalions.



**Special guest at a pass out parade at the Guards Depot, Pirbright, last month was 77-year-old Miss Bessie Penny, who served with the ATS as a waitress at Pirbright during the Second World War. Fifty years on Bessie, who lives at Rothwell, near Kettering, Northants, still has a great admiration for the Guards. So they asked her to be their guest during the parade taken by Lt Col Jeremy Cox,**

**This tea lady's a bit special to the Guards**

**SG. There was also time for Bessie to visit her old billet "near where we used to go dancing in the Scots Guards' mess".**

## Glosters remember

**A SMALL party of soldiers from The Gloucestershire Regiment took part in the Festival of Remembrance in the Albert Hall on November 8 by staging an assault course race in period uniforms depicting the history of the regiment since 1694.**

**This year is the 40th anniversary of the Korean War, during which the Glorious Glosters played a decisive role.**

**The Colours of the regiment were displayed throughout the performance.**

## Convoy to Smolensk

### ● From Page 3

will join an American aid convoy heading for another town near Smolensk.

Leaving Berlin on December 28, they hope to arrive three days later in time to unload their cargo on the day the Russian Orthodox Church celebrates Christmas.

The British initiative – launched by Berlin Help Information Volunteer Exchange (HIVE) co-ordinator Mrs Malvin Sayle – follows discussions with the Russian Orthodox Church in Potsdam on the outskirts of Berlin.

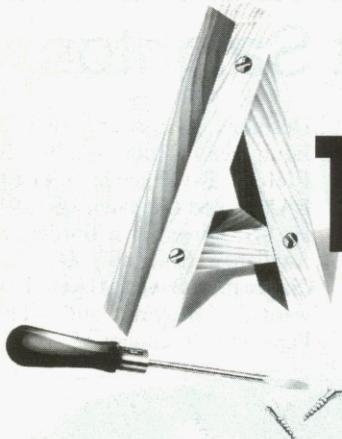
Father Anatolij Koljada, minister at the Alexander

Nevski Orthodox Church in Potsdam, suggested Smolensk cathedral as a destination. Clergy and parishioners will meet the trucks to distribute their cargo to the needy.

Organisers are hoping that donations from members of the British military in Berlin will fill more than 500 individual boxes. A typical box might include coffee, tea, sugar, tinned meat, vegetables and fruit, flour, rice, powdered milk, vitamins, chocolate and warm clothes.

Central sources are helping to some extent, but the bulk will have to come from individual donations.

# ATTENTION



Here is a message for all personnel about to leave the forces. A message aimed primarily at NCOs - whatever their length of service. And which concerns making the most of the skills you've developed in the military.

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It might seem at first like a complete about turn. And of course in some respects it is. Our targets are rather different for a start. And our staff can opt to stay in one place, put down roots, instead of moving around.

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strong atmosphere of comradeship, you'll soon feel at ease within our large, highly profitable organisation. One where your skills will be highly appreciated. Not just your self-discipline, reliability and adaptability. But also your resourcefulness, ability to handle the unexpected and sheer common sense.

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## TAND AT EASE



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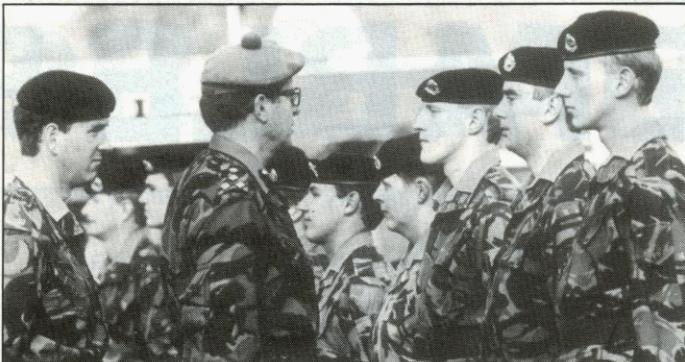
## FORWARD MARCH



**TEXAS**  
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## New RMP unit formed in Northern Ireland



Brig Mark Strudwick, accompanied by Maj Paul Watton, inspects the new company

## Brigade puts new exercise to test

EXERCISE Taurus Canter, a 33 Armoured Brigade command and troop field exercise based on Soltau Training Area, was the first of its type and may become the model for future brigade-level exercises.

Valuable lessons were learned from Taurus Canter, which was planned in just three months to test the Army for its new role in Germany.

Major units taking part were The Life Guards, 3rd Royal Tank Regiment, the 3rd Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, and the Queen's Own Highlanders.

## QRIH on parade

Mrs Jackie Muir, wife of the RSM, plants a cherry tree at the Balaklava Day parade held by The Queen's Royal Irish Hussars at Fallingbostel. Cpl Bobby Russell holds the tree while the Quarter-master, Maj Phil Nunn, looks on.

The 137th anniversary of the Charge of the Light Brigade was celebrated during the regimental parade and families' day. The weekend also marked the first anniversary of the QRIH's deployment to Saudi Arabia on Op Granby with 7th Armoured Brigade.



Maj Gen Rupert Smith (right), GOC 1 Armoured Division, briefs Maj Gen Mikhail Demenkov, Deputy Commander of the Frunze Military Academy, Moscow, on Operation Granby during a six-day visit by senior Soviet officers to the Staff College, Camberley. Hosted by the Commandant, Maj Gen Michael

Rose, the visitors were briefed on the work of the Staff College and given presentations on the Gulf War and Operation Corporate, the Falklands War campaign, by senior commanders.

A Staff College delegation visited the Moscow academy last year.



The Colonel of the Regiment, Gen Sir Brian Kenny, DSACEUR (UK), presented a number of awards for gallantry in the Gulf and for distinguished service during the past year. On parade

A NEW RMP company has been formed. Based in Armagh, 172 Provost Company consists of two officers and 78 other ranks and was inspected at its formation parade by Brig Mark Strudwick (late Royal Scots), Commander 3 Infantry Brigade.

It was at his suggestion the

company was set up, since he wanted to have his own provost support element.

The company, commanded by Maj Paul Watton, RMP, is a successor to 174 Provost Company, currently at Tidworth, which was in Armagh until the brigade was disbanded in 1981.

## Final outing

THE SAPPERS of Iserlohn-based 26 Engineer Regiment deployed together for the final time on a four-week unit training exercise on Achmer Training Area, Osnabrück.

Exercise Stormy Autumn was the last such training opportunity before the regiment disbands in 1994 and was the culmination of two years' effort on the part of the commanding officer, Lt Col Tim Hoddinott, to get all his troops together.

## Soldier killed

ONE SOLDIER was murdered and another seriously injured in a terrorist rocket attack at Bellaghy, near Magherafelt, Co Londonderry.

Pte Michael Boxall (27) of the Ulster Defence Regiment, died in the attack.

Picture: Mike Weston



C Coy, 4 RGJ, weapons at the trail, in the Lord Mayor's Show

## Capital honours 4 RGJ

A TOP honour at this year's Lord Mayor's Show in London went to C Company of the 4th Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets. The company provided a guard of honour at the Mansion House where it was formed 132 years ago.

The company was created as the London Rifle Brigade on July 27, 1859 by the Lord Mayor of London and granted the title "Primus in Urbe", First in the City.

A few days later C Coy gave a repeat performance at the Lord Mayor's Banquet attended by Prime Minister John Major. The Normandy Band of The Royal Green Jackets joined three officers and 60 riflemen, all of them Territorials, who formed the guard under the command of Maj Simon Hill.

## Thousands apply for redundancy

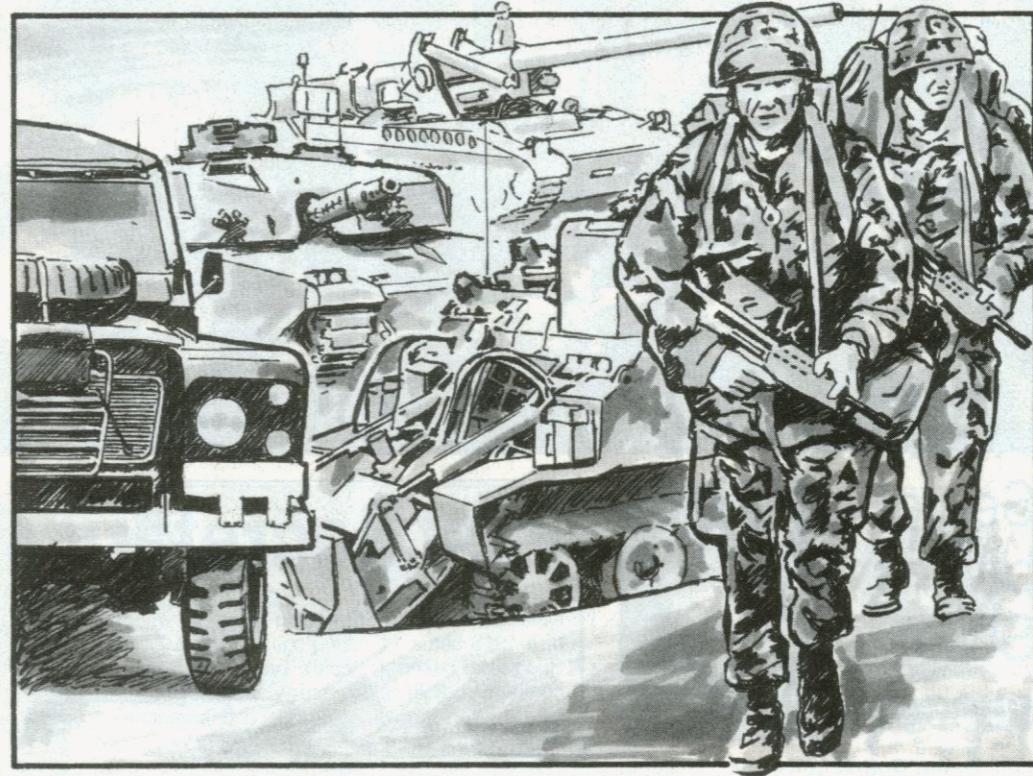
MORE than 5,000 Army personnel, 85 per cent of them NCOs and the rest officers, have applied for redundancy in 1992-93, Armed Forces Minister Archie Hamilton told the Commons on November 8.

Asked what proportion of the redundancies were from specific corps, he said ten per cent were from the REME, five per cent from the Royal Signals and seven per cent from the Royal Engineers.

# TIMETABLE FOR CHANGE

### Planned amalgamations, mergers and disbands January 1, '92 – March 31, '93

Date	Unit	Place	Remarks
Jan 92	53 Field Squadron (Construction) RE	Waterbeach	Re-roles in support of RAF Bruggen
Mar 92	HQ (BR) Communication Zone	Emblem	All units close less Movements HQ
Mar 92	64 Amphibious Engineer Squadron	Hameln	Re-roles as 64 HQ Squadron
Mar 92	30 Field Squadron RE	Iserlohn	Disbands
Mar 92	36 Squadron RCT	Bielefeld	Disbands
Mar 92	64 Rear Combat Zone Workshop REME	Willich	Disbands
Mar 92	27 Squadron RCT	Munster	Disbands
Mar 92	54 Engineer Support and Ambulance Squadron RCT	Lubbeke	Placed in suspended animation. To re-form in 1994 in 27 Regiment RCT
Mar 92	69 Movement Control Squadron RCT	Bielefeld	Amalgamate
Mar 92	70 Movement Control Squadron RCT	Emblem	Disbands
Mar 92	602 Transport Unit RCT	Willich	Disbands. Theatre Engineer Support Group subsumed under 28 Engineer Regiment
Apr 92	303/306 Engineer Park	Willich	Amalgamate
Apr 92	HQ 40 Army Engineer Support Group	Willich	
	HQ 28 Amphibious Engineer Regiment		
May 92	52 Field Squadron (Construction) RE	RAF Bruggen	Disbands
Jun 92	43 Ordnance Company	Minden	Disbands
Jun 92	Supply Depot	Hannover	Disbands
Jul 92	2nd Royal Tank Regiment	Fallingbostel	Amalgamate
	3rd Royal Tank Regiment		
Jul 92	4th/7th Royal Dragoon Guards	Paderborn	Amalgamate
	5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards		
Jul 92	1st, 2nd and 3rd Battalions, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers	Warminster	Merge to form 2 battalions
Jul 92	5 Armoured Workshop REME	Ballykinler	Amalgamate to form 3 Division Troops Workshop
	11 Armoured Workshop REME	UK	Merge to form 2 battalions
Aug 92	1st, 2nd and 3rd Battalions, The Royal Anglian Regiment	Colchester	Merge to form 2 battalions
Aug 92	1st, 2nd and 3rd Battalions, The Royal Green Jackets	Osnabrück	Merge to form 2 battalions
Sept 92	49 Field Regiment RA	Omagh	Disbands. 127 Field Battery moves to 26 Field Regiment RA
Sept 92	1st/2nd King Edward VII's Own Gurkha Rifles (The Sirmoor Rifles)	Dover	Amalgamate
	2nd/2nd King Edward VII's Own Gurkha Rifles (The Sirmoor Rifles)	Hong Kong	
Sept 92	13th/18th Royal Hussars (Queen Mary's Own)	Hohne	Amalgamate
	15th/19th The King's Royal Hussars		
Sept 92	The Life Guards	Windsor	Union
	The Blues and Royals (Royal Horse Guards and 1st Dragoons)		
Sept 92	British Military Hospital Hannover	Hannover	Closes
Dec 92	22 Signal Regiment	Lippstadt	Disbands
Dec 92	The Royal Hussars (Prince of Wales's Own)	Munster	Amalgamate
	14th/20th King's Hussars		
Dec 92	3 Squadron, 13 Signal Regiment	Berlin	Disbands
Feb 93	1st, 2nd and 3rd Battalions, The Queen's Regiment	Colchester	Join to form 2 battalions
	1st Battalion, The Royal Hampshire Regiment	Canterbury	
Feb 93	1st, 2nd and 3rd Battalions, The Light Infantry	Tidworth	Merge to form 2 battalions
Feb 93	27 Field Regiment RA	Paderborn	Disbands except for 6 Battery which moves to 40 Field Regiment RA
Mar 93	20 Armoured Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron	Dortmund	Disbands
Mar 93	5 Armoured Field Ambulance	Munster	Re-roles as a wheeled field ambulance in 3 Division



### Likely timetable for major unit amalgamations, mergers and disbands April 1 '93 – End '97

Date	Unit	Remarks
93	1st and 2nd Battalions The Royal Irish Rangers	Merge to form a single general service Battalion
93	2nd Battalion Coldstream Guards	Placed in suspended animation
93	2nd Battalion Scots Guards	Placed in suspended animation
93	1st Battalion The Cheshire Regiment	Amalgamate
93	1st Battalion The Staffordshire Regiment	
93	The Queen's Own Hussars	Amalgamate
93	The Queen's Royal Irish Hussars	
93	1st Royal Tank Regiment	Amalgamate
93	4th Royal Tank Regiment	
93	16th/5th The Queen's Royal Lancers	Amalgamate
93	17th/21st Lancers	
93	45 Field Regiment RA	Disbands
93	94 Locating Regiment RA	Disbands
93	23 Engineer Regiment	Disbands
94	1st Battalion The Queen's Own Highlanders	Amalgamate
94	1st Battalion The Gordon Highlanders	
94	1st Battalion The Gloucestershire Regiment	Amalgamate
94	1st Battalion The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment (Berkshire and Wiltshire)	
94	1st Battalion The Royal Scots (The Royal Regiment)	Amalgamate
94	1st Battalion The King's Own Scottish Borderers	
94	2nd Battalion Grenadier Guards	Placed in suspended animation
94	2 Field Regiment RA	Disbands
94	26 Engineer Regiment	Disbands
94	1st Armoured Division HQ and Signal Regiment	Disbands
95	1st Battalion 2nd King Edward VII's Own Gurkha Rifles (The Sirmoor Rifles)	Merge to form a single regiment of 3 Battalions
	1st Battalion 6th Queen Elizabeth's Own Gurkha Rifles	
	1st Battalion 7th Duke of Edinburgh's Own Gurkha Rifles	
	1st Battalion 10th Princess Mary's Own Gurkha Rifles	
95	28 Signal Regiment	Disbands
97	One Gurkha battalion	Disbands
97	The Queen's Gurkha Engineers	Each reduce to one squadron
	Queen's Gurkha Signals	
	Gurkha Transport Regiment	



## Jeanne joins gunners

GUNNERS' recruit Jeanne Hall, the elder daughter of Sgt John Hall of the 2nd Field Regiment RA, is following in her father's footsteps. Not only is she joining the Army, but she has been selected as the first female recruit to be badged Royal Regiment of Artillery.

Jeanne is to join the gunners at Woolwich for special to arms training after completing her basic training at the WRAC Centre, Guildford. She will then be posted to a locating battery.

She was recruited by SSgt Lena Elm, WRAC of the Herford Army Careers Office.

• The first 300 Service-women to become members of the Army Catering Corps received their new cap badges at ceremonies throughout the United Kingdom on November 20.

Until now, female chefs – many of whom served with field hospitals in the Gulf War – have been permanently employed by the ACC but cap-badged WRAC.

At present 357 women, about ten per cent of the total Army catering strength, are employed as Army chefs.

## Lynx death

AN ARMY Air Corps helicopter on routine trooping flight crashed near Gortin, Co Tyrone, killing one soldier and injuring four others.

Cpl Matthew Maddocks, 28, a member of the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets, was one of 11 men on board the Lynx helicopter, which was travelling from Omagh to Plumbridge. A Civil Aviation Authority investigation is being held.

# Camel Corps!

No, they've not got the hump! These lads were among 51 trainee soldiers from two junior platoons of the Guards Depot, Pirbright, who volunteered to help out at hard-up London Zoo.

Their three-day stint involved refurbishing and landscaping. In return, a grateful London Zoo laid on highly educational and often hair-raising animal encounters. The young soldiers found themselves feeding sealions and experiencing close encounters with obliging pythons and tigers.



Katie the kite soars to fame



Meet **Katie**, three-year-old star of a forthcoming BBC1 wildlife film on the black kites of Hong Kong's Stonecutter Island. Not to mention her manager, Maj (Retd) **Jim Ades** – who is also manager of all Service married quarters in the New Territories.

Katie is one of a dozen inmates of the hospital and recuperation centre which Maj Ades runs for damaged or destitute wild birds.

Jim spent 40 years in uniform, joining the Army as a boy soldier a few months before the end of the Second World War and spending most of his career attached to airborne units as a REME weapons artificer.

He was with 2 Para for the short-lived Suez invasion in 1956 and also took part in the 1969 landing on Anguilla in the Caribbean.

It was while serving in Jordan in the 1950s that Jim started what was to become a lifetime passion – an interest in the care and welfare of birds.

Later, while stationed in Hong Kong in the mid-1970s, he kept a lot of "feathered friends" on the balcony of his quarters: something Jim admits he could hardly approve of in his present job...

## Secret behind Susan's success



LCpl **Susan Graham**, who is a member of the Regimental Police section of 201 (Northern) General Hospital RAMC in Newcastle, has a secret weapon – her dear old dad. **Robert Graham** was the terror of recruits when he was a regimental sergeant major but LCpl Graham, a Territorial Army combat medical technician, is always smartly turned out. Some say there's a helping hand behind those boots...

## Double value

"At the double" could soon be an order taken literally at 408 (Berlin) Field Troop RE (V). **Anthony Berry** was recently enlisted to join twin brother, **Paul**, a Class 3 combat engineer qualified in watershed and demolitions. Formed in 1985 as the first Continental Territorial Army unit, 408 Troop's role is to form the second field troop of 38 (Berlin) Field Squadron, Royal Engineers.

## Fast Secretary

Defence Secretary **Tom King** takes the wheel of a 1958 Lotus 11 racing car during a visit to Bridgwater-based Natocars on the Somerset company's 25th anniversary. Natocars sells tax-free vehicles to British Service personnel throughout the world.

Nearly half the company's business comes from soldiers based in Germany, chairman **Robert Matthews** told Mr King. They also discussed the influence that the future European Community structure may have on the entitlement of personnel to qualify for duty free car purchase when leaving the United Kingdom.



## DRIVING FORCE!



When Lt Gen Sir **Charles Guthrie**, Commander 1 (BR) Corps, visited 28 Amphibious Engineer Regiment at Hameln to see the new M3 bridging rig, he boarded the amphibian courtesy of a former East Germany Army staff car – a topless Trabant. Gen Guthrie is pictured climbing into the passenger seat.

Three of the German-built rigs were delivered last year to 64 Amph Engr Sqn, and one has already been subjected to 10,000 tank crossings. The M3 is due to replace the Army's 25-year-old M2 bridging rigs.



Brig **Simon Lyttle**, Director of Army Recruiting, was given an unusual send-off on his farewell visit to North West District. Instead of the usual plaque, salver or decanter, he received a hamper of Northern "goodies" – including Cumberland sausage, Cheshire cheese, Lancashire black pudding, Eccles cakes and a

bottle of Merseyside beer – following a lunch at Warrington Town Hall hosted by Lt Col **Bruce Neeves** and recruiting staff from the region. Brig Lyttle is pictured with his hamper and RSM **Gerry Perkins** (right), Sgt **Kevin Sincock**, WG, of ACIO Chester, and (left) Sgt **Mickey Webb**, Cheshire, from ACIO Liverpool.

## Northern delight



JBdsm **Dean Harris** of The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders is something of a local hero in his home town of Leamington Spa, Warwickshire. The 16-year-old, based at Pirbright School of Music, Guards Depot, was presented with a Royal Humane Society Award for his part in preventing a potential suicide. A man who threw himself into the Grand Union Canal in Leamington was spotted by Dean and a friend, who pulled the man out of the water and revived him.

# PEOPLE

## Better late...



Picture: Mike Weston

Gen Sir **Peter de la Billière** plants the customary tree in the grounds of Government House Officers' Mess at Aldershot to mark his departure as GOC South East District.

The ceremony had been somewhat delayed by Gen de

la Billière's involvement in a certain event in the Gulf earlier this year.

As his successor, Gen Sir **Richard Swinburn**, said, the tree planting marked the completion of one of the longest handovers in the history of the Army...



Lt Col **Simon Strickland**, CO 4th Battalion, The King's Own Royal Border Regiment, receives from Cllr **Ted Robertson**, Mayor of Appleby-in-Westmorland, Cumbria, a drum contributed by the town.

The £450 drum is one of eight presented by various sources in response to a plea by the battalion when it initiated a Corps of Drums. Looking on is Maj Martin Holmes, a former officer in the old Border Regiment, who was responsible for raising much of the funding for the drum.

# It's already earned its stripes.



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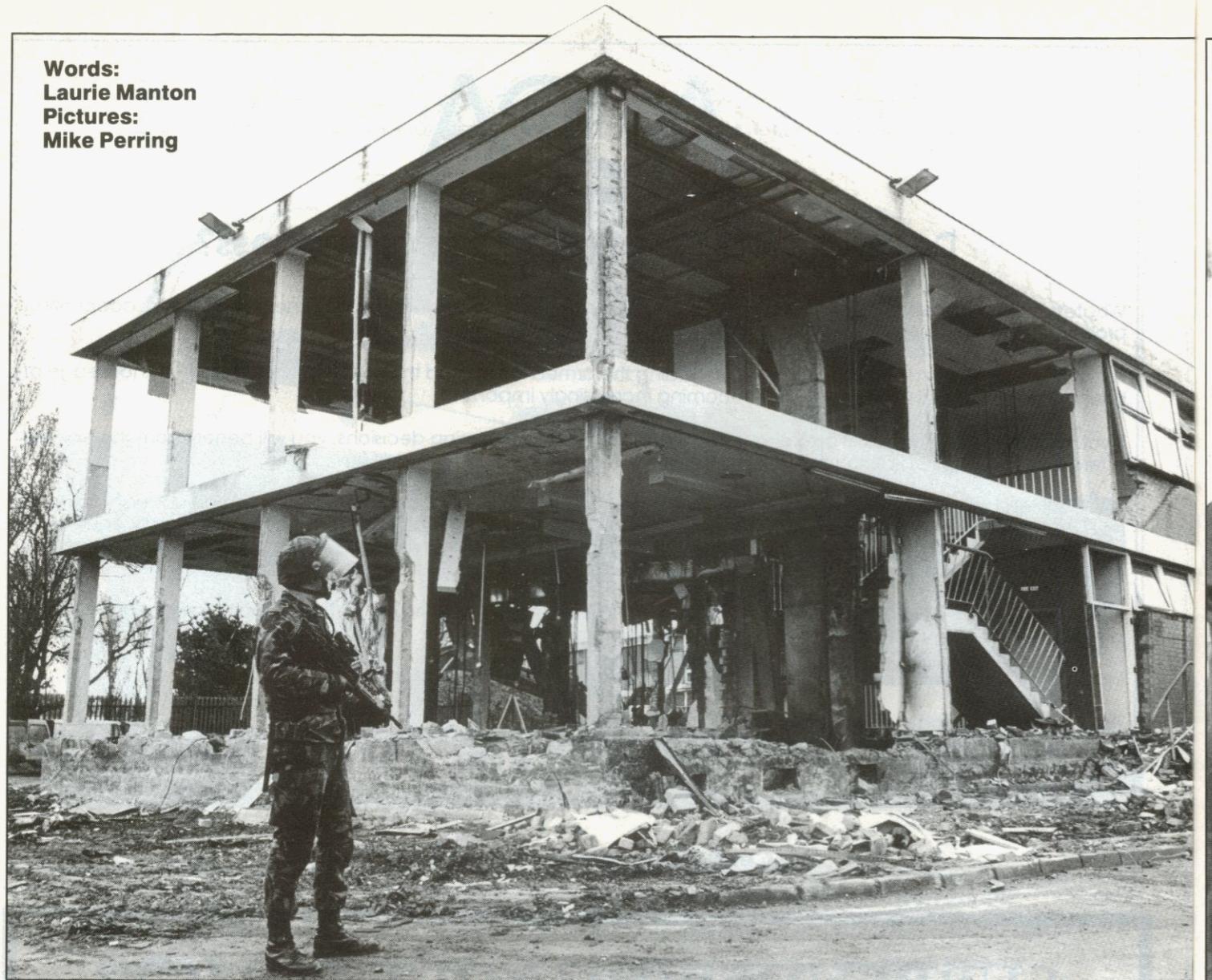
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Laurie Manton  
Pictures:  
Mike Perring



A soldier at the scene of the Musgrave bomb outrage. This part of the hospital will be rebuilt

# BUSINESS AS USUAL AT THE MUSGRAVE

IT'S BEEN a case of business as usual for staff at the Military Wing of the Musgrave Park Hospital in south Belfast where the IRA murdered two soldiers in a bomb attack.

Army medic WO2 Philip

Cross RAMC and ambulance driver Dvr Craig Pantry RCT died in an explosion which swept through the basement recreation room, and injured ten people including a five-year-old girl.

"It was a great shock," said the commanding officer, Col Martin Daly. "But what helped staff cope with the tragedy was the obvious resolve of everybody to be absolutely certain that everything possible was

done. They got stuck in to re-establish services as quickly as possible and to show that, whatever happened, we were not going to be put off or closed down by such an outrageous event."

The wing was flooded with letters and cards from well-wishers horrified by the outrage.

"Mail came from all over the UK and the Irish Republic and fruit and flowers have been delivered to the hospital. The rear party of the 3rd Battalion, The Light Infantry in Belfast had a whip round and raised £790 for the families of the deceased.

"WO2 Cross was my

company sergeant major and typified the relationship between commanding officers and their sergeant majors upon which the Army exists. It set the tone for the whole of life throughout the unit.

"Dvr Pantry was one of five Royal Corps of Transport personnel attached to the hospital," said Col Daly.

The bomb was placed between the military wing and a newly-opened children's orthopaedic ward which was also damaged. The blast wrecked the Army's operating theatre and severely damaged other accommodation including the casualty department and consulting room.

The hospital had to make use of surgical facilities offered by the civil hospital management for a short period, while a new operating theatre was installed.

Fortunately, all the medical records and X-rays survived the explosion, and disruption was limited to the loss of just one day of routine clinics and two days of medical boards.

Damage to the wing meant the whole of the admin corridor has been evacuated while the affected area is rebuilt. Matron, admin officer, and support staff including clerks and the typing pool are now housed in one large open plan office.

Four days after the explosion, the fence surrounding the



Matron Linda Bruce surveys the floral tributes

## Hospital provides specialist help for the Army

THE MUSGRAVE'S military wing is the Army hospital of Northern Ireland. It provides in-patient and out-patient facilities for all Servicemen and women, including soldiers of the Ulster Defence Regiment injured or taken ill while on operations or training.

Facilities include radiology, physiotherapy, laundry and back-up operating theatre.

Medical staff include consultant anaesthetist and surgeon, a physician, and specialists in anaesthetics and surgery.

The nursing staff is headed by the Matron and her team of sisters. The team can be augmented by other doctors on emergency tour.

The community psychiatrist visits regularly and other specialists are always on call to deal with a variety of requirements.

When casualties occur in terrorist incidents, riots or traffic accidents, the victims are normally taken to the nearest civil hospital.

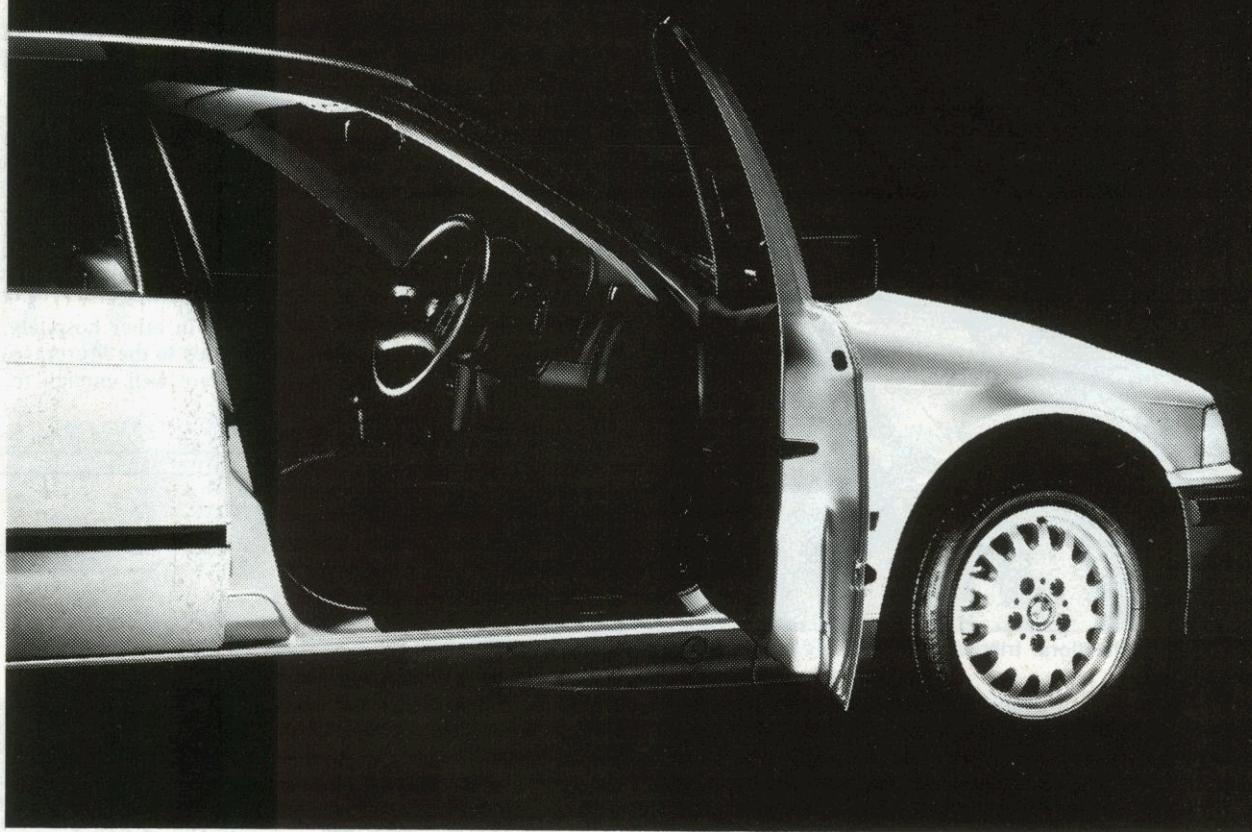
The military wing of the Musgrave is unstinting in its appreciation of the job done by its counterparts, particularly the Royal Victoria Hospital, to whose staff many soldiers owe their lives.

Casualties in other hospitals are transferred to the Musgrave when they are well enough to be moved.



An alternative operating theatre has been set up in the military wing. Sgt Sue Clough and LCpl Debby Ellis check on a patient

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# This Old Contemptible's no hero

## He's just an old devil!

CALL ARTHUR Thairs a first rate musician. Call him an awkward old devil. But don't call him a hero. He doesn't like that, writes **Phil Wilcox**.

Now a sprightly 93, Arthur is one of the few remaining Old Contemptibles and, he believes, the only one in the Aldershot area.

His story could almost be set to music, which in Arthur's case would be more than appropriate . . .

Son of a soldier who fought in the South African War, under-age Arthur went with the British Expeditionary Force to France on August 22, 1914. He was the only trumpeter in 1 Field Squadron, RE at the time.

"As a trumpeter, I didn't go in the trenches at all. But the sappers were building trenches and blowing up bridges. What we were, really, were mounted engineers for the cavalry: each man was issued with a tool (usually a shovel, fork or pickaxe) in his saddlery," he explained.

Then came Mons . . . "It was quite a bellyful," said Arthur, in a masterly piece of understatement. "There were jolly good chaps not much older than me who were killed . . . it



On parade: Arthur displays his medals

hard work, but we enjoyed it."

He revealed why the musicians never practised on Mondays. Apparently the Guards had theatre jobs on that day! "Before films went 'talkie', our band had cinema jobs. We were really civilians in khaki – or in our case, blues."

Having worked his way up to Band Sergeant in the regiment, and served in the Second World War, Arthur frequently conducted Sunday services in Aldershot's Royal Garrison Church while the 25 members of the band were on tour.

By the time he returned to civvy street in July 1945, Arthur's extra-mural activities were going from strength to strength.

"I started Arthur Thairs and His Band, which didn't mean a thing to local audiences. Then I had the brainwave of latching on to a popular tune of the time, *Felix Kept On Walking, Kept On Walking Still*, and from that, the Felix Orchestra was born. I kept it going for years, and I was quite a local celebrity."

Arthur – whose three sons are all ex-sappers – also took to playing the piano for ballet classes and women's keep-fit classes in the area.

"I gave up when I was 80 – too much driving in the dark," he said. "But I still play the organ. I take great interest in that."

And what are his opinions of today's popular music?

"Give me your *Songs at Twilight* and the *Lambeth Walk* any day. Look how long they've lasted," said Arthur.

was awful." However, he and his horse (called Mushroom – and "other names if he trod on my foot") survived the war, Arthur acting as horseholder to a major.

In 1919, he put both his musical and riding talents to good use, joining the Royal Artillery Mounted Band as a lance corporal trumpeter – "with stripe and no pay" – and doing the odd stint in the pit at the Aldershot Hippodrome, playing trombone.

He and his fellow bandsmen eventually started doing "sea-

side runs", receiving band pay of £7 a week plus £3 "digging money" at resorts such as Hastings. They were tipped off as to who the most reasonable landladies were by their opposite numbers in the Horseguards and Guards.

"For three or four years, we played for the Grand National," said Arthur, "then through the Mersey Tunnel to the New Brighton Hippodrome. We would go on a two-week tour, spending two days here, two days there, in places such as Bolton and Sheffield. It was

## Granby II novice divers cool off on Pearl Beach

THE MASSIVE clear-up operation in Saudi Arabia after British land forces had pulled out was a difficult and demanding task for the men of 5 Ordnance Battalion.

But, with a little help from Capt Steve Leech, second in command of 41 Ordnance Company, an enjoyable spare-time activity was found.

One of the main hindrances for 5 Ord – which was deployed to the port of Al Jubail, 700 kilometres south of Kuwait City, as part of

Operation Granby II – was the weather.

From March, the temperature rose steadily, reaching 40C by July and affecting the work routine to such an extent that work had to begin at dawn and stop before the mid-day sun took its toll.

This invariably left the afternoons free, and the unit was faced with the problem of entertaining the soldiers from the 800-strong battalion during off-duty hours.

A number of recreational

facilities were available in the port area, including a small complex known as Pearl Beach. Here, a complete range of water sports equipment was hired or purchased by the Army – including six sets of diving equipment.

As a keen diver – and realising the potential of Pearl Beach – Capt Leech managed to "recruit" nine divers, who set about promoting the sport among the 3,000 troops then stationed in the area.

Such was the response that

more than 200 soldiers were introduced to the sport in the first six weeks – leading to novice diver training courses being set up.

"Diving is a very successful sport in the British Army," said Capt Leech, who has been involved for eight years and is a qualified sub aqua diving supervisor and BSAC club instructor. "I hope that the soldiers whose appetites were whetted in Al Jubail will now go from strength to strength."

# EXPORT

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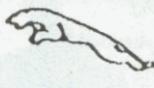
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Col Peter Webster, late R Signals, (front, third from left) and staff pictured outside their new offices

PICTURES: MIKE PARRY

## Meet Blandford's computer compatibility team . . .

# They're setting the standards

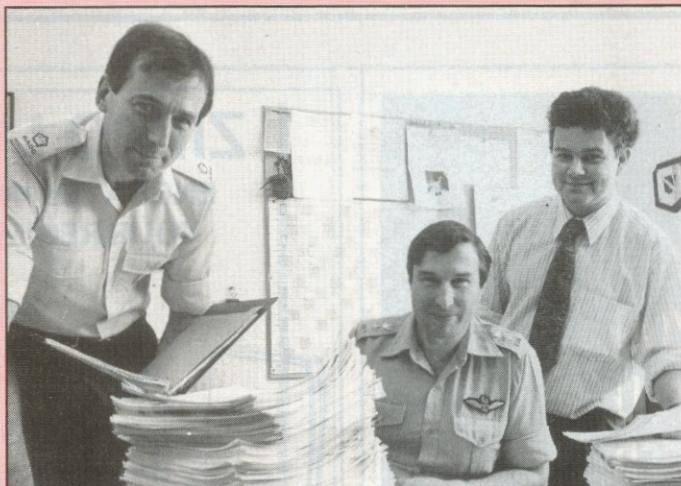
WHEN a soldier becomes proficient in operating one type of computer system, it is less than efficient to sit him in front of a completely different system when he is posted to another unit, writes Laurie Manton.

This lack of human-computer "interface" could mean the loss of hundreds of man-hours, as new arrivals struggle to familiarise themselves with a different set of operating instructions.

As compatibility becomes standard, computer operators will have cause to thank a little-known Blandford unit which is striving to define technical standards for the British Army's future comms and information strategy (CIS).

The Army Communications and Information Systems Agency (ACISA) has also been tasked to make sure the British systems can "share" information with Nato Allies in the new Rapid Reaction Corps.

In its new purpose-built building close to the School of Signals, ACISA is looking to integrate CIS across three main areas - data management, standards and interoperability - and to enable the Army to transfer operational and administrative computer data freely, in peace and war, between its own units and to the Royal Navy and Royal Air Force. The



Commanders and troops who operated computers in the field during the Gulf War will be pleased to know the questionnaires they completed have been put to good use. The results of the postwar survey are proving a valuable source of information for ACISA. Pictured with just a few of the forms are (from left) Maj Tim Tayler RAOC, Lt Col John Lyde RHF and Mr Mark Berry

need for this was clearly demonstrated during the Gulf War.

"Computer system must be able to talk to computer system, and we are here to provide a framework where it can all be pulled together," said Col Peter Webster, who heads ACISA.

"Take Project UNICOM which is being trialled next year. It will look at ways of providing every Army unit with a computing system, and we at ACISA are ensuring that any information generated by unit

computers can be shared by other Army systems.

"This is important because much of that information will be needed for accounting and performance assessment purposes by higher command."

Lt Col John Lyde, RHF, and his team are trying to solve problems of interoperability.

"We have got to get computers to talk to each other and we are striving to ensure that the British Army's interoperability standards are matched to Nato's so that we can work internationally."

"My job is to ensure that the computers you get do what you want them to do. One of the prime functions of my team is to ensure that information currently sent manually - like operational orders and states - can be done by computer. The users don't have to worry about the technicalities, they only have to tell me what they want," he explained.

Maj Clive Owen, RAEC, is involved in data management.

He said: "You connect units by wire, but if they are not using the same data definitions, they will not be able to talk to each other."

"For example, if one system describes a man as a soldier while another calls him a private, then the computers are not talking the same language. We can understand it, but the computer systems can't."

"It's the same with grid references. We can't have one system giving it to six figures while another reproduces only a four-figure grid."

"The Army is looking to link different systems used by artillery, intelligence and logistics. Currently, each has a system but can't speak to each other. They must be integrated, otherwise they end up with an AFV full of different computer terminals, and no room for a crew," said Maj Owen.

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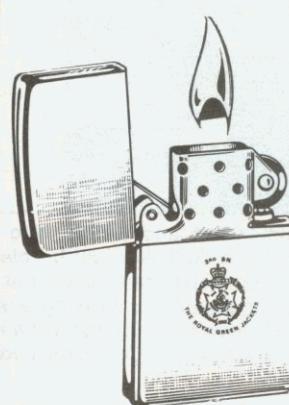


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# THE FINAL ROUND

THE Cheshire and Merseyside Gunners of 32 Heavy Regiment, Royal Artillery closed the book on 25 years of service when they fired the last M107 round from the Bergen-Höhne ranges in Germany.

The last regiment equipped with this gun, 32 Hy was also among the first to receive it, at Hildesheim in 1966 along with 20 Heavy Regiment at Fallingsbostel.

The M107, a 175mm general support high velocity gun used as a divisional asset to attack depth targets up to 32km away, has not been fired in anger by British gunners, though it was used widely by the Americans in Vietnam and Israelis in Lebanon. The Bundeswehr and other Nato armies are equipped with it.

The M107 was not used in the Gulf War, although the senior gun of 32 Hy Regt, the "City of Chester" – an M110 – fired the first round on the first "raid" by British forces in the Gulf.

As the Americans used the

**Words:**  
Gordon Skilling  
**Pictures:**  
Terry Champion

8in M110, this weapon was taken out of retirement to equip 32 Heavy Regiment so that ammunition would be compatible.

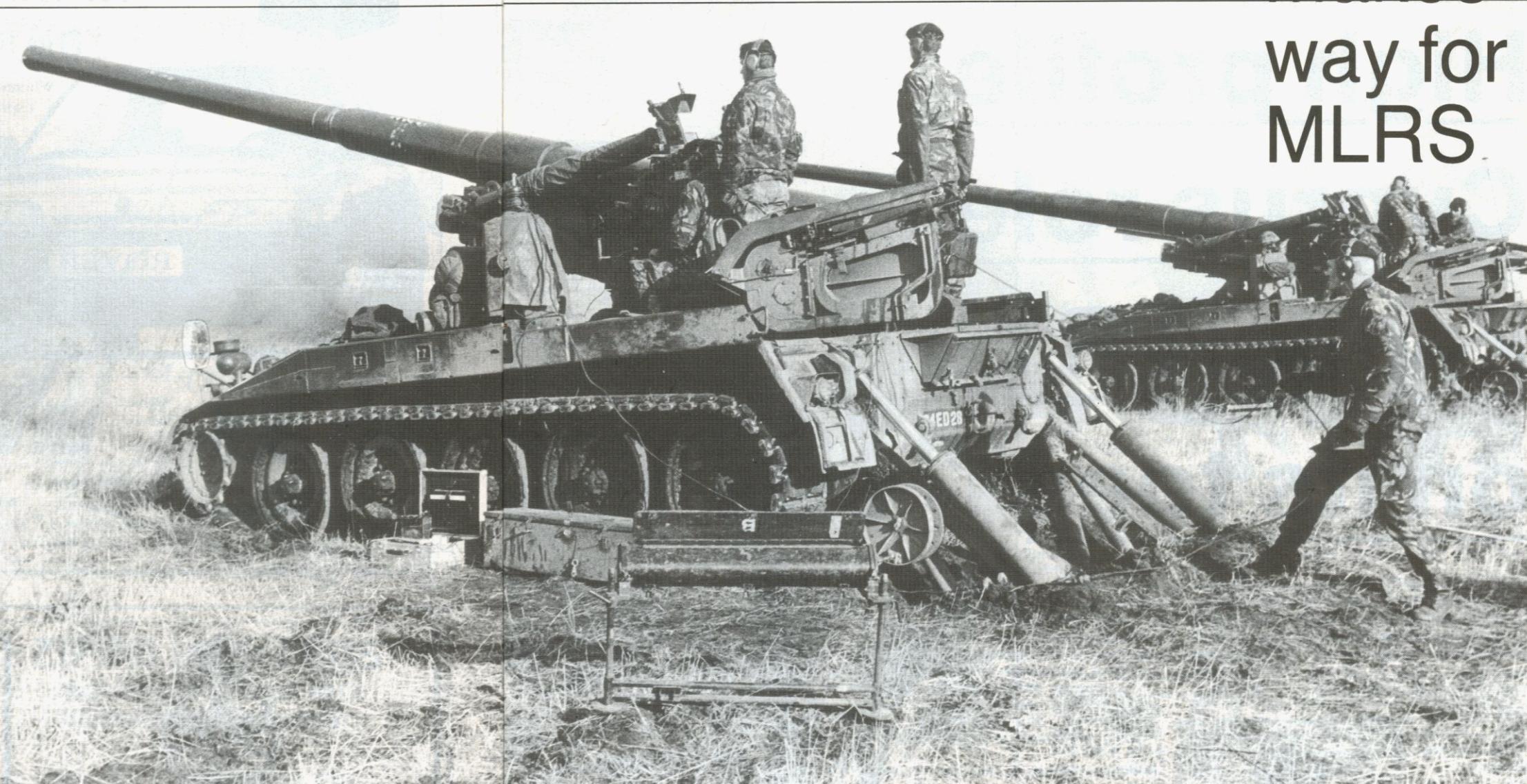
The six M107s each of 18 (Quebec 1759) Heavy Battery and 74 Heavy Battery (The Battleaxe Company) supported by 57 (Bhurpore) Locating Battery fired their last mission at the culmination of a three-week training camp.

The regiment is based in Dortmund but will return to the United Kingdom in 1993 to replace 94 Locating Regiment at Larkhill. Early in 1992 32 Hy Regt will start converting to the Multi-Launch Rocket System (MLRS). (39 Hy Regt has already converted and 5 Hy Regt is doing so.)

Many at Bergen-Höhne had served the gun for up to 14 years and it was an emotive moment as the regimental colonel, Maj Gen Brian Davis – an ex-18 Bty man – and other visitors were invited to fire six of the guns before a final salvo "regiment right" from the senior gun to the junior gun.



A shell is loaded into one of the M107s for 32 Heavy's last salvo



## Gunners of 32 Heavy move into age of the computer

GUNNERS of 32 Heavy Regiment, Royal Artillery, look forward to moving from Second World War technology to the computer age. It will be a dramatic change from the M107 to MLRS and the end of an era, said Battery Sergeant Major Peter Garland of 18 Bty.

For 17 of his 20 years in the Army he has been with 18 Bty and has done every job on the M107.

"There is a great affection for anything with a barrel on. Nowadays, every big gun has a turret and you can't see gunners firing. In days to come, there won't be any barrelled artillery left because it will all be MLRS," he said.

He commented that, despite the nostalgia, his soldiers would be glad to get rid of the M107. Unfortunately, the British firing period at Höhne is in winter, so generations of gunners have had their perception coloured by working in

bad weather. "It is not a particularly popular piece of equipment during winter," said the commanding officer, Lt Col Peter Marwood.

"The men are exposed, they get wet, it is cold and dirty, but many have been serving on it for up to 14 years and will miss it."

The change would not be simply that the three-man crew would be in a cab with a heater.

Moving from a gun to a rocket system means the whole way the regiment operates will change. Instead of working in batteries of six, the soldiers will tend to operate in single vehicles.

The amount of manual work facing the gunners will be considerably reduced because MLRS is push-button computer-controlled. The launchers have on-board navigation, removing virtually all of the physical work, which on the M107 mostly involved moving a shell weighing 147lb and a 60lb charge.

Even more dramatic is the effect of MLRS on the enemy. "The firepower we can lay down will be six times as much as with the M107," said Col Marwood.

"If I am shooting at a target with both batteries of M107, I would only need two of my 18 MLRS launchers to take on that target."

## Drills paid off in Gulf

IF a colonel on a test exercise were slightly tense, it would be understandable. But Lt Col Peter Marwood, commanding officer of 32 Heavy Regiment, Royal Artillery, had no qualms.

Having taken his unit through the Gulf War, he was confident of his gunners' ability to carry out the drills with a well-practised skill.

"Our performance in the Gulf was something to be proud of," said one of his Battery Sergeant Majors, WO2 Peter Garland of 18 Bty. "Everything we had been training on for 20 years worked, and other than movement we changed absolutely nothing."

"Because of the flat terrain and being able to see everything around, we had to spread out over huge distances."

For the last firing of the M107 at Bergen-Höhne ranges in Germany there were six men on



**Lt Col Peter Marwood**

each gun. In the Gulf there were 16 to cope with all the ammunition and resupply vehicles and the need for two sections to each gun.

"With peacetime manning we only go out for a couple of days at a time, retire and rest up in bivouac areas, and go out again. We couldn't do it for long periods, because of the manpower needed to move ammunition," he said.

For Sgt Paul Routley, the main change on exercise over the last 13 years has been in the speeding up of drills.

"We used to have a lot of kit on the gun, but we carry it on a limber now. Using tarpaulins instead of ammunition shelters make it quicker getting in and out of action. A full detachment would be about 11 men, but we work with six on exercise," he said. With MLRS, it will be three men in a computerised cab, and he can't wait!"

# M107 makes way for MLRS

In the second of their reports from Cyprus, writer **Gordon Skilling** and photographer **Mike Weston** feature the 4th Royal Tank Regiment and a transport squadron from Hong Kong

# High profile Cyprus role keeps 4 RTR on its toes

LARGEST element of the British contingent in the United Nations Force in Cyprus is the 4th Royal Tank Regiment. It maintains the status quo between Greek and Turkish Cypriots, and though there is little to report, that is better than the alternative.

It has a high profile, and top brass are ten a penny at Bravo 40, says Tpr Stephen Ward of 4 RTR after a spell at one of the more scenic UN watch towers on the Green Line in Cyprus.

Troopers became blasé as they switch to automatic and trot out for VIPs the standard brief on their "patch" of the Buffer Zone between Turkish and Greek Cypriots.

"We used to salute every UN vehicle we saw, but we stopped after a month because it was daft. We give a normal salute for a captain or below; majors and above have a general salute."

To help the lads, NCOs in the know give a beep on the horn to let them relax.

Soldiers on duty are not

allowed to eat, smoke, read or listen to the radio. Nor do they have (as do the Turks) little sunshades to give them shelter outside their huts.

Any unannounced visitor could cause a minor diplomatic incident, but relations tend to be good and 'phone calls resolve minor situations.

Some keenly-awaited VIPs have been raising temperatures within the regiment: the arrival of wives and loved ones from Osnabrück.

Learning from experience two years ago when they were last on the Line, commanding officer Lt Col Martin Speller decided to put a touch of New Management Strategy into operation.

He arranged for 500 air tickets at reduced rates, then obtained an apartment and a car for each troop. They can be used by off-duty troopers, and wives can visit very cheaply and stay as long as possible.

"On our last tour in 1989 we learned the lesson of getting the correct balance between essential duty and worthwhile time



Tprs Robert Dunlop and Jim McAdam check their water tank

off, and the Jocks' morale remains surprisingly high," he said.

"The apartment is a well-used facility with a swimming pool and a bar beside the pool. It is brilliant," said Cpl Paul Steven.

Physical Training Instructor LCpl David Leighton would normally have taken part but was sitting in his sentry box as a

civilians." Some troopers were positively enjoying being on guard duty. They knew they were missing the Danish Contingent march, a two-day slog carrying 22lb of kit.

That meant a fan, hot meals, cold drinks and the knowledge that he was sitting in the shade while others were out in the sun

member of the camp Security Platoon guarding an entrance to the UN complex. And because he was on a 12-hour stag he was allowed creature comforts denied troopers on the Line.

They deployed two composite rifle squadrons (Cambrai and Arras) and an HQ squadron, leaving behind in Germany a rear party squadron HQ element and a squadron

On an island where diplomacy is so important, some super-fit British soldiers have put a few noses out of joint.

Lt Ivan Jones and members of his detachment (pictured above) from 9 Parachute Squadron, Royal Engineers, took part in the Danish Contingent marches and, after entering late, and without any practice, knocked 12 minutes off the record.

The marches are held over two days in the Troodos Mountains, with competitors carrying 22-25lb of kit and completing 25km a day.

The Danes train hard in the mountainous

climbing up and down Troodos Mountains. Being on guard was a much better idea.

SSgt Steve King pointed out the need for flexibility.

"Our job is to make tanks roll, but when it comes down to basics we are soldiers, and we'll do any role that's given to us.

"That's not boasting: we are professionals adapting to a job. We have been on the streets of Northern Ireland and back in BAOR a vast amount of the boys' time is spent on guard or non-tank work."

The regiment formed new squadrons for their tour as the first UN Roulement Regiment, with the majority of those who served in the Gulf not going to Cyprus.

"There is less opportunity for this now that we no longer spend only three months on the Line," said Capt Barry Quinn,

doing maintenance on the tanks (Rhine and Tobruk).

The 4 RTR tankies sit along an 18km stretch of ground between six battalions facing each other across the Buffer Zone.

Although there is little friction, each side takes advantage of a change-over of unit to make tiny encroachments.

One side tries to establish that UN patrols should be 200 metres away from their line, the other secretly tries to reinstate an old watch tower.

"There is less opportunity for this now that we no longer spend only three months on the Line," said Capt Barry Quinn,

2iC of Cambrai Squadron.

Language can be a problem. Those going on patrol have vocabulary cards to help if they have to check a shepherd's permit or communicate with a guard.

Patrols in Cyprus are much more relaxed than in Northern Ireland, said Cfn Craig Lochrie and Tpr Charlie Martin, passing the wreck of a once-proud Humber.

But they have to be seen, moving about, checking buildings. The aim is to keep tension as low as possible, and the fewer the incidents the better. Even if it is sometimes boring.



## Para sappers put Danes in the shade



Lt Col Martin Speller

# Guardians of safety

SERVICE in Cyprus gives soldiers the chance to show the humanitarian side of their task.

During the Turkish intervention in 1974, thousands of refugees found safety within the Sovereign Base Areas. Some communities survived on the wrong side of the Green Line, and continue to do so, but only with the help of soldiers working for the United Nations.

About 2,000 Greek Cypriots stayed in the "panhandle" to the north-east, while three villages of Maronite Christians remained in the north-west. A Turkish Cypriot community chose to stay in the south-east.

Every week a convoy of Red Cross vehicles driven by Gurkhas sets off with food and other requirements.

Cyprus was designated a safe haven by the UN during the Gulf War, and the British-led emergency co-ordinating committee was kept busy providing resources for its non-essential employees and dependants from Syria, Israel, Jordan, Iraq and Lebanon.

A less hectic time is had by the Farming Warrant Officer of the 4th Royal Tank Regiment.

WO2 Pete Reid has pastoral care over shepherds and farmers in the Buffer Zone who



WO2 Pete Reid must win the confidence of farmers and shepherds in the Buffer Zone

can prove their title to the land. As part of a policy to return eventually to normal life, they have been able to work and graze it under the protection of the UN.

"Crops in the Buffer Zone have failed disastrously in the last three years because of lack of water," says WO2 Reid, "and these people depend on subsidies and any help we can

give. The United Nations' presence gives the farmers and shepherds a great feeling of safety.

"Without us they would be in considerable danger."

## Pulling the wool...

ARRAS the sheep is at the centre of a potentially ticklish diplomatic situation.

Arras became a problem the day a friendly Turkish colonel decided to present the men of 4 RTR's Arras Squadron with one of the woolly creatures.

Turkish custom decrees that the receiver fatten the animal, slaughter it and invite the donor to the ensuing barbecue as a sign of friendship.

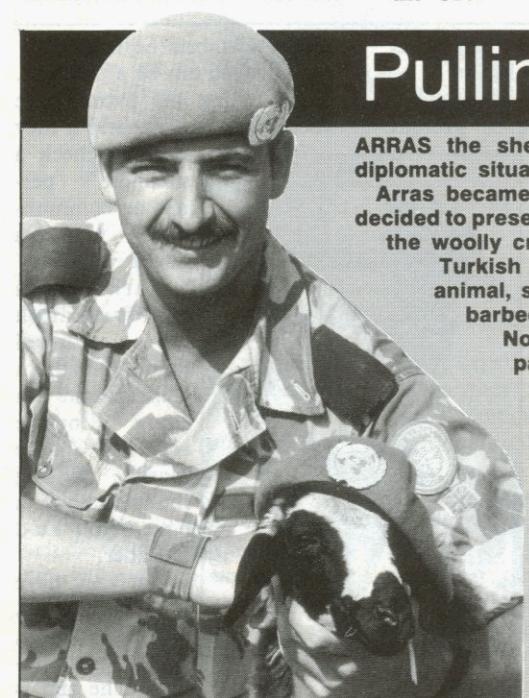
No problem, great idea, thanks a lot, see you at the party in a few months...

Then wives started arriving from Germany and got wind of the plot. It spoiled a lovely tea set up at Bravo 18 by WO2 Joe Logue and the Arras Squadron HQ staff. A "Save Our Sheep" petition was started.

Meanwhile, Arras shadows OC Maj Howard Murray about like a dog, which does not impress WO2 Logue. He thinks his OC is going soft on sheep and sees his lamb chops not going up in smoke.

Their options for change are limited. If drastic cuts go ahead, there will be a serious falling out with wives. On the other hand, a gesture of international friendship should not be spurned.

The solution may lie in a surreptitious visit to the Naafi, as long as the guests don't get a piece stamped "New Zealand"!



Arras the sheep sincerely wants to remain part of the 4 RTR clan, but is suspicious as Cpl Chris Dow feeds him up

## 4 RTR's peaceful English quarter

SOUTHERNERS tend to have a split personality when they join 4th Royal Tank Regiment. Recruiting mainly from Scotland, the regiment is proud of its pipe band, its tartan, and its Scottish identity. And if Greeks and Turks can't get on, they could look at how Sassenach interlopers prosper in 4 RTR.

Tribal loyalties are no problem to Englishman SSgt Steve King, who was converted after a recruiting tour in the Highlands.

He married a Lochaber lass, bought a house there and looks forward to retiring to the area.

"About a quarter of the regiment is English, and if the

## Borne on the wind

THE north wind shall blow – and Cypriots shall have flour, fruit, vegetables and anything else they have ordered through the Red Cross.

"North Wind" is the name given to the visits made by Capt Derek Jourdan and SSgt "Bella" Ritchie of 4th Royal Tank Regiment Humanitarian Team to deliver stores to Greek Cypriots and Maronite Christians who remain in the Turkish north of Cyprus; "South Wind" takes them to Turkish families in the Greek Cypriot south.

The visits are made under the auspices of the United Nations and several truckloads of supplies are periodically driven by 34 Transport Squadron of the Gurkha Transport Regiment. A UN policeman and interpreter accompany the team.

After distributing the stores they discuss any problems which need resolving, either on the spot or during the next visit.

Grateful hospitality awaits them in each village.



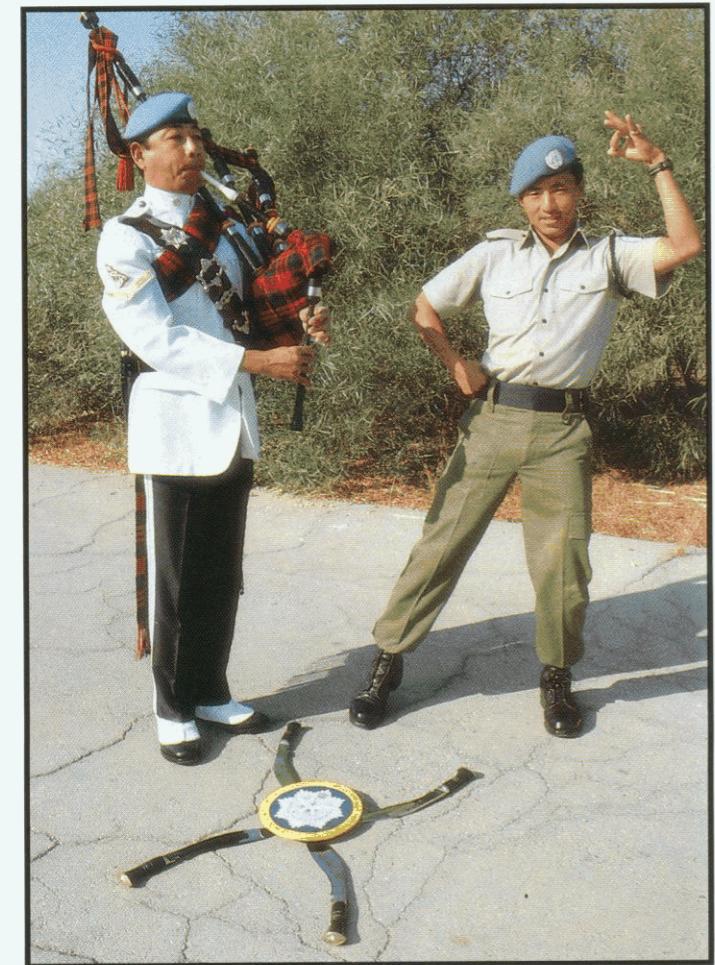
Cfn Craig Lochrie and Tpr Charlie Martin show the flag

# Squadron delivers taste of the Orient

THE VIP arriving in Cyprus was confused when he was picked up by a Chinese driver wearing a blue beret. This hadn't been covered in his briefing. Was he, the visitor asked delicately, part of ChineCon?

The driver inscrutably informed him he was a British soldier.

Such soldiers have a high value: the social calendar in Cyprus dramatically changed



With competition from Kukri dancers and the dragon team, LCpl Laldhg Limbu of the Gurkha Transport Regiment's 64 Transport Squadron has not been getting too many engagements.

Not that he's a mediocre piper. Fresh from his pipe major's course at Edinburgh Castle, he could play you four pibroch - and spell them *pibaireachd* if necessary. Perhaps if he could get the Kukri team to do the Lochaber broadswords trade might pick up?

A quick practice with Dvr Harka Rai, however, brought the others out in revolt. Kukris are not as long as claymores, and anyway, they can earn much more in their spare time doing the Kukri dance at parties.

for the better when 34 (UNFICYP) Transport Squadron arrived on the scene.

Only seven of the 130-strong squadron are British, 41 are Chinese from the Hong Kong Military Service Corps and the remainder are Gurkhas. It was not long until the community realised that they have exciting culinary combinations to offer.

"They are very popular," said 2iC Capt Colin Vooght. "You're just not in till you've

had a Gurkha or Chinese party. As well as cooking, we supply Lion or Kukri dances."

The drivers come from The Gurkha Transport Regiment in Hong Kong, which is supplying troops to the UN for the first time.

Drawn from ten units and wearing five cap badges, they would normally provide transport to the Hong Kong Garrison.

The Gurkhas of A Troop, commanded by Lt Padambahadur Gurung - known as PB - supply all UN contingents with fuel, rations, and water, and also have the rather unpleasant task of taking away their sewage. Fuel and ration runs are made every two days, but the troop is on 24-hour call to provide water or deal with any hygiene problem.

B Troop, under Capt Wu Sin Ying - Raymond is his adopted name - deals in local domestic tasks with buses and cars, including VIPs.

"We have an advantage in having hired vehicles, because whenever they require maintenance or repairing for more than three hours, the hire firm has to give us another vehicle so that we can cover our tasks without delay," he said.

"We double-man the vehicles because the Gurkhas are

out on the Line in the middle of nowhere, and they are not used to such long distances after working in the confines of Hong Kong," added Capt Vooght. "In some places it is very hairy up in the mountains on extremely narrow tracks not built for big vehicles."

All the load-carrying vehicles take a lot of punishment from continuous driving over rough terrain. The workshop section has to work miracles to fix them because there is no replacement budget.

Spending his days mending vehicles is Cpl Pitam Gurung, who has made good friends among the other UN contingents.

Working with Cpl Jez Laity could be a problem ... something always seems to go wrong when he is on duty crew.

"They call me 'Jinx' because we always get loads of work in: priority one vehicles like Uaggi sewage vehicles, water bowsers, or the fire engine which we have to get back on the road quickly."

Brits, Gurkhas and Chinese are making the most of this unique posting, each in their own way.

Many Cypriots speak some English, but for the Chinese and Gurkhas, this does not always work. They have basic

English, but are not used to the variety they hear from Cypriots or other UN contingents.

"This is a new working environment for us as it is the first time we have left our normal station for a long period," explained Capt Vooght. "In the first month, the soldiers needed to take time to familiarise themselves with the roads. Signs are not in their mother tongue, not even in

English, nor are they always clear, so most drivers work by memory."

A posting with the Gurkha Transport Squadron brings its own language requirements: Capt Vooght has fought his way through the Cantonese course, while OC Maj Mark Underhill also speaks Gurkhali.

The cooks try to provide one national meal a day for the drivers, the *bhat* for the

Gurkhas, or a mixture of Chinese food with lots of fried rice and noodles. The mess is always packed on Thursday nights for the curry.

Commanding officer Lt Col Paul Gilham relieved some of the culture shock when he timed a visit from Hong Kong to coincide with the Chinese mid-autumn Moon festival. He arrived with boxes of their favourite Moon cake.

Although 10th Princess Mary's Own Gurkha Rifles assisted the UN during the 1974 emergency, this is the first time that the Gurkha Transport Regiment has been in Cyprus.

"Of the 82 Gurkhas in the Squadron, 39 took part in Operation Granby, so we have been away many times and travel quite a lot," said Lt PB.

The Chinese, however, are not such seasoned travellers. "At the beginning they found it totally different," said SSgt Kong Kim Hung. "They were in a new area, with new jobs, but after a couple of months they were feeling homesick."

One of the most appreciated members of the troop is Sgt Tang Chi Keung, who arranges recreational trips.

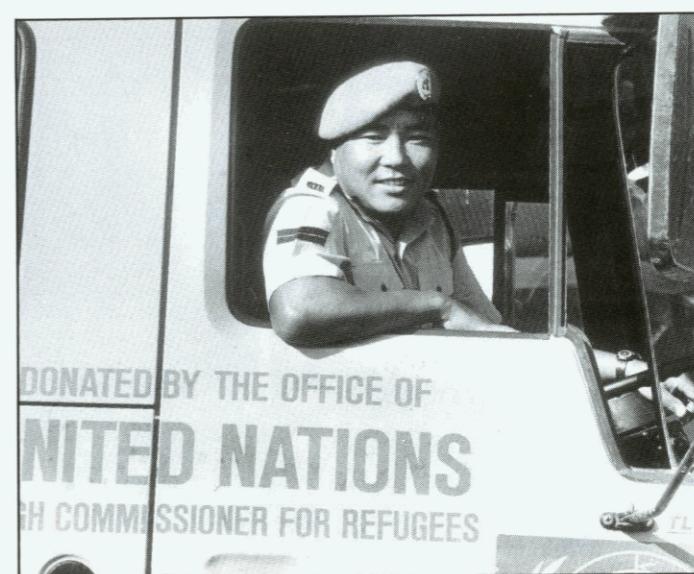
The drivers are very keen to expand their limited horizons. One clerk ignored the language problem and jumped on a train to see Europe during his leave. Others have been to the Holy Land and Egypt. Some discovered sea-sickness but will go home with pictures of themselves on camels to show the family. They will also proudly display their blue and white ribboned UN medal.



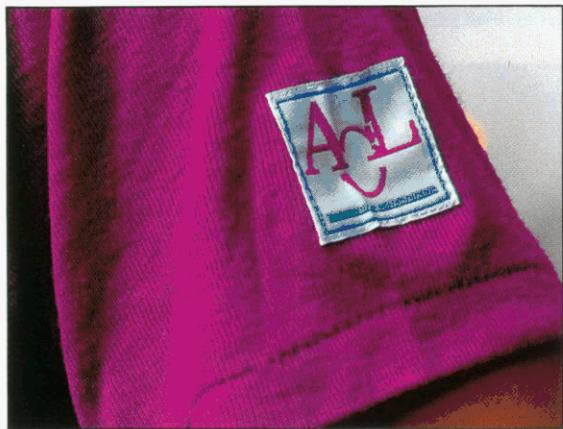
A popular attraction off duty is the Hong Kong unit's colourful Lion dance team



Dvrs Bhim Rai and Hum Raj Grg fill an UBRE tanker to resupply the Line



Cpl Dilliraj Sunnak sets off to deliver to an enclave of Greek Cypriots



# "Next to the Skin" Clothing for Active People

One feeling guaranteed to spoil your outdoor activity is the "chilling" sensation of perspiration drying on your skin.

Just the end of an activity or a drop in temperature can produce this miserable discomfort.

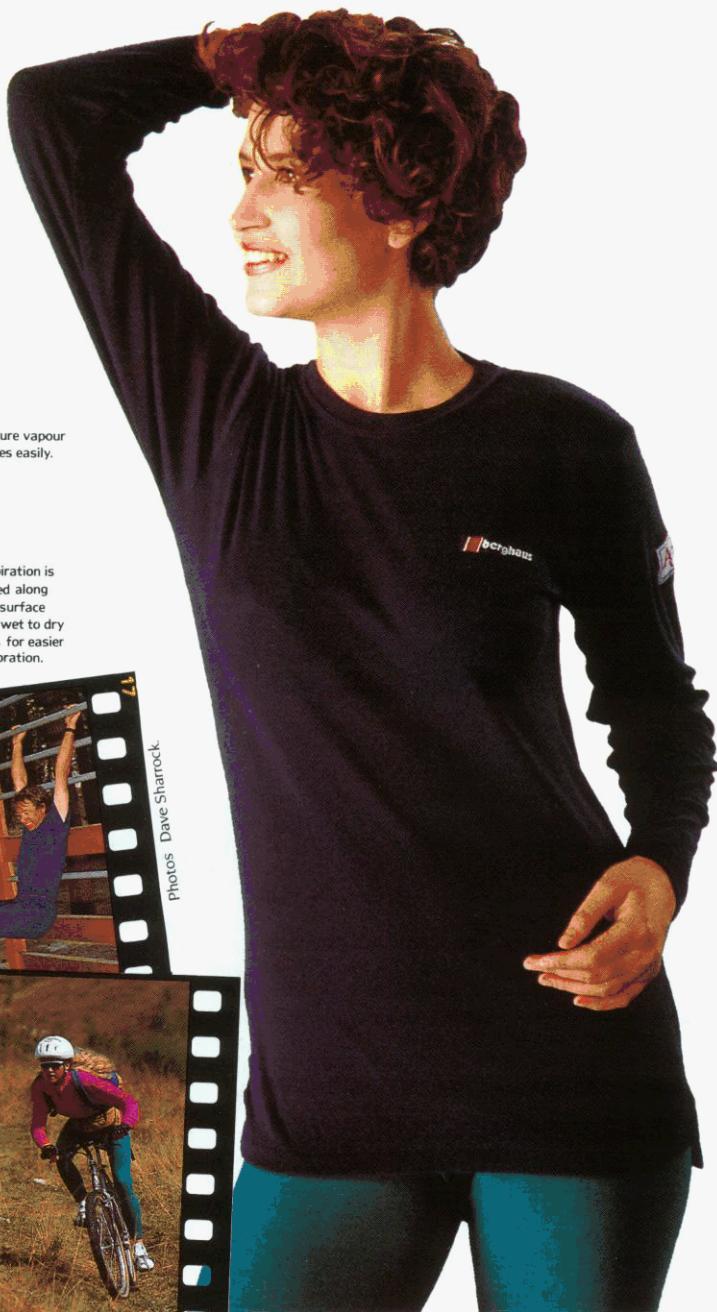
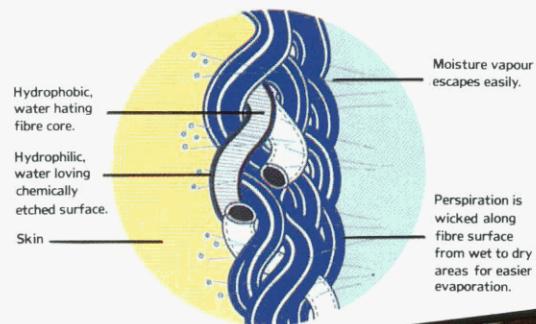
To virtually eliminate this situation Berghaus has developed the Active Comfort Layer (ACL) which allows moisture vapour to pass easily and transport body perspiration away from the skin.

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Photos Dave Sharrock.

For further information please write to:

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## Voice your views on education

A MAJOR consultation exercise is under way on the future of Service Children's Schools (SCS) in North West Europe during the post-Options for Change period.

A discussion paper entitled *School for the Future*, which will be widely available, calls for a

wide-ranging debate.

Chief Executive Ian Mitchelson says SCS has made certain assumptions about what parents serving in NW Europe want from education for their children.

"Before we go ahead with our plans we want to test whether we have made the right assumptions."

## Redundees to be given MQ priority

I HAVE been trying to clarify various statements that redundant Service personnel will be given priority in the allocation of married quarters during their last six months as well as preference on the sale of discounted MQs.

The position, according to the Ministry of Defence, is this:

### Will "redundees" have priority allocation of MQs?

The MoD says: Currently, it is the intention to afford any priority for the allocation of MQs to redundees. Indeed, it is our intention, in cases of equal circumstances, to give preference to Servicemen who are remaining in the Army. That said, local commanders will do their best to help everyone, taking individual circumstances into account.

### Is an officer/soldier entitled to a MQ if he has less than six months to do at his new station?

The MoD says: An officer or soldier is not normally permitted to occupy a MQ unless he has a reasonable expectation of continuing to serve in the station for at least six months. It is under consideration to introduce a reduced qualifying period of three months.

Thus a Serviceman with only three months to serve would be eligible, but not entitled, to a MQ. This would not necessarily be at his duty station. Staffing is

well advanced on the three-month reduced period, but is not yet complete.

### Can a redundant have retention rights on his MQ if he has nowhere to go?

The MoD says: On leaving, Service personnel will have no entitlement to retain a MQ. He or she will retain the entitlement while in the Army, and should a family wish to remain in a current MQ, normal rules for retention will apply (they will become irregular occupants).

Where there are special circumstances involving hardship, the GOC may delay legal action to repossess the MQ for normally up to 61 days. It is immaterial whether or not the Serviceman has been selected for redundancy. He will pay mesne profits at a rate not greater than the original quartering charge during this period.

### If an irregular occupant has financial problems does he/she have to pay the mesne profits, which is the amount charged by the

IT IS worth bearing in mind that Boarding School Allowance ceases on the date a parent leaves the Army. So an August 1, 1992 leaving date means no September fee will be forthcoming, or a Septem-

"That is why we hope parents, teachers and anybody interested in the schooling of Service children will take the opportunity to make their views known," he explained.

● Windsor School in Rheindahlen, Germany, has been supplied with 20 more IBM-compatible micro

computers. Half will be dedicated for use in business and information studies, the other half will be used on the pilot B Tech course.

Windsor School, which had excellent A Level results, was the only SCS school to enter candidates for computer studies.

In my ...

## Expert insight

**AN EXPERT on housing should be appointed by the Ministry of Defence to advise Service families facing redundancy, or leaving the Army at the end of their engagements.**

**Better still, a small, dedicated and mobile team – working from a bus or caravan display unit – could be put together to provide housing options and practical support. After all, local authorities and voluntary housing organisations are appointing specialists in this field, and regularly advertise new posts.**

**One other thought on the sometimes rocky road to a successful civvy career – while the 28-day resettlement course offered to Service personnel is of great value, it falls far short of the 28 weeks of training offered to miners facing redundancy – or the 52 weeks available to some steel workers.**

... view

### MoD if the occupant has to stay in the MQ after discharge?

The MoD says: Mesne profits are not rent. An irregular occupant of a MQ is charged mesne profits at a rate equivalent to full market rents from the first day of irregular occupancy, but in cases of hardship (see above) mesne profits are charged at a rate not more than the original quartering charge for the first 61 days, and thereafter at a rate equivalent to the full market rent.

If the family cannot pay the charges, they may be entitled to Housing Benefit which they will be advised to claim.

On the issue of a Service family vacating the MQ before discharge if made

redundant, Queen's Regulations are specific in stating that the discharge of a soldier is not to be finalised until he has vacated the MQ he is occupying in cases where the soldier is seeking to terminate his colour service by premature voluntary release.

This does not apply to other forms of discharge, including redundancy, whether voluntary or not. A MQ should, however, be vacated on or before the officer's or soldier's last day of service, after which date, if he still occupies the MQ, he will become an irregular occupant.

This remains the official position – we will, however, interpret it as generously as we possibly can.

## Maintained schools booklet

ber 15 departure just the assistance for that term.

The *Directory of Maintained Boarding Schools in England and Wales*, issued by the State Boarding Information Service and covering 45 grammar and

comprehensive schools, is available from Mr Frank Bickerstaff, Secretary, Boarding Schools Association, Watendlath, Baghill, Warlingham, Surrey CR3 9LT (tel: 0883 624717). Please include 38p SAE.

## Dover house list shock

LETTERS complaining about the treatment of Service families by local authority housing departments continue to drop into my mailbox. This extract from a letter written by a warrant officer serving in Cyprus is the latest:

"My wife and I were born in Kent and planned to settle in Dover on completion of my 22 years. With this in mind I applied to Dover District Council 14 years ago and was put on their housing list.

"In accordance with their regulations I have faithfully re-registered every year since. I am sure you can imagine my shock at receiving the attached letter. It seems my 14 years on Dover's list count for nothing."

The letter from Dover's senior lettings officer says:

"Thank you for your letter dated October 10 concerning your rehousing prospects.

"In view of the housing shortage in this area the Council has had to consider its policy with regard to the rehousing of ex-Servicemen. To clarify this, Service applicants are not considered for housing until discharge as they are adequately housed and have no priority under the points scheme.

"Our ability to provide accommodation after discharge is dependent on whether an individual qualifies for 15 additional points or if this is sufficient to boost their priority to be actively considered for vacant properties.

"Because of gratuity and pension rights some former Servicemen are reasonably well placed financially to consider purchase. Therefore, the 15 additional points only apply if the gratuity received is less than £15,000.

"I hope this explains the current situation to you and I am sorry I cannot give a more favourable reply.

"Your registration card is returned herewith."

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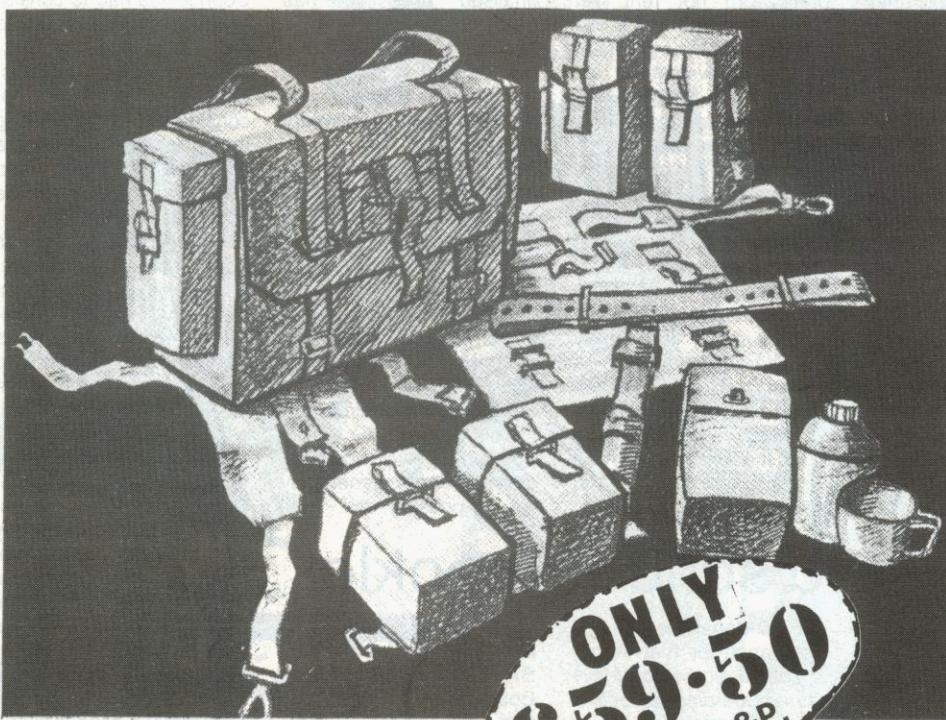
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# Soest HQ jumps to boost Romania appeal

STAFF and their families from Soest-based HQ 6 Armoured Brigade were among 11 first-time parachutists who raised DM2,650 (more than £900) for the Romania Calling Appeal.

Nine of the novices completed the introductory course at the Joint Services Parachute Centre, Bad Lippspringe by leaving the aircraft at 2,000ft on a static line. But Mrs Lyn Fogden and Mrs Julia Roberts elected for tandem descents from 12,000ft with experienced parachutists.



Pictured awaiting their first descent are (from left) Mrs Rebecca Nixon, Brig Chris Elliott, Cpl John Gibb, Pte Ken Phillips, Mrs Sharon Budding, Miss Emma Fogden, Cpl Martin Witty, Cpl Rob Willsher and Mrs Jenny Willsher



Sgt Doug Ralph of the RAMC and Lorna Wilson abseiled down the side of Woking Borough Council civic offices 11 times in 30 minutes,

raising £200 in the process.

Doug and Lorna – both student environmental health officers training with the council – were taking part in the sponsored event as part of the Mayor of Woking's charity.

Based at Keogh Barracks, Mytchett, Doug is attached to the council for three years as part of his training.



Terriers from 55 Company, RAOC, based at Heston, Middlesex amassed a total of £1,700 the hard way to help the Jade Scanlon Appeal.

Six-year-old Jade, the daughter of Senior Aircraftsman Paul Scanlon from nearby RAF Uxbridge, has been having treatment for cancer over the past three years, but Paul and wife Debbie are trying to raise funds to send her to Mexico for non-toxic therapy.

The nine 55 Coy members, led by SSgt Ken Smith,

covered a distance of 60 miles from Brighton to Heston, in alternating stages of 10 miles cycling and five miles running.



Early on a beautiful sunny morning in Belize, 81 competitors took off on a 10km race around the infamous "Butcher Radar" route to raise money for the Child Care Centre charity in Belize City.

Sixty-nine runners completed the course, raising a total of 1,407 Belizean dollars: more than expected and a satisfying outcome for organiser, WO1 John Smith (78 Ord Coy RAOC).



Sgt Clive Cooper presented the proceeds of Iserlohn-based 26 Engineer Regiment's open day, a cheque for DM1,000, to SSAFA chairman Mrs Jacqueline Hodinott.



Abseilers Lorna Wilson and Sgt Doug Ralph pictured with (left) instructor Sgt Andy Gallagher, also RAMC and based at Keogh Barracks, and the Mayor, Cllr R L Williams

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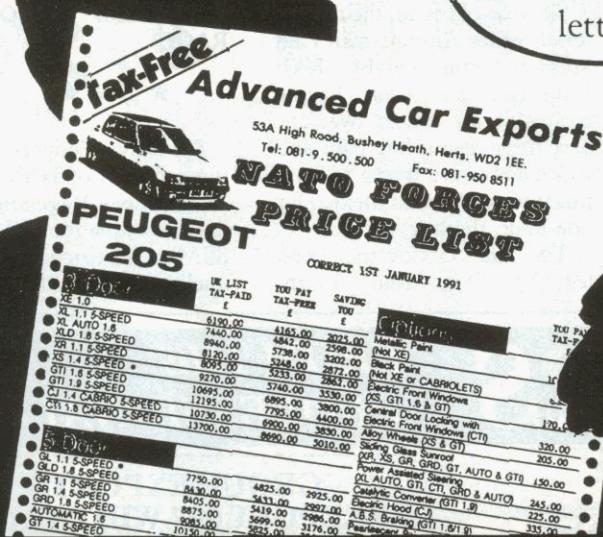
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## SOLDIER to Soldier

### Wembley, here we come . . .

An SOS has been issued by two charities for assistance in producing the largest patchwork quilt in the world.

Expected to take up to two years and raise £5m for the Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital Fund and the Royal Marsden Hospital Children's Cancer Unit, the project aims to create a textile portrait of Britain in the 1990s.

The decorative image of the quilt will be achieved through people embroidering their names on to each patch. Consisting of over a million patches, the quilt will depict themes such as sport, politics, commerce, arts and the media.

It is hoped that the final product will be large enough to fill Wembley.

Further details are available from: "The Biggest Quilt in the World", 66 New Bond Street, London W1Y 9DF.

### Gurkhas in battlefield pilgrimage

TWO parties of Gurkha soldiers visited First World War battlefields in France to find the graves of kinsmen who died at Neuve Chapelle in 1915.

The weekend visits were arranged by the English Language Wing of the tri-Service Defence School of Languages at the Royal Army Educational Corps Centre, Beaconsfield.

Information on 30 graves – the only known Gurkha graves on the Western Front – was provided by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. The casualties were from the Indian Meerut and Lahore divisions, which fought at the Front in 1915-16.

The visits were supported financially by HQ South East District, the Liaison Office of the Brigade of Gurkhas and the RAEC Central PRI fund.

Among its many courses, the English Language Wing prepares Gurkha soldiers for a variety of technical trade qualifications ranging from Combat Engineer to Mortar Section Commander.

Group leaders accompanying the soldiers included Capt Sue Diggins RAEC.



Picture: Ron W Bostier

**Veteran Desert Rat Reg Smith (centre)** receives a new set of medals from Maj Len Jenkins of Bovington Camp. Watching is fellow Desert Rat Ted House, who organised the gift of medals in time for Remembrance Day. Reg sold his 1939-45 Star, Africa Star and 1st Army Bar, France and Germany Star,

Defence Medal and War Medal when he fell on hard times soon after the Second World War. Ted heard about Reg, a resident of Bridport's Sidney Gale House, having to part with his medals and arranged for him to be presented with a replica set after contacting the Ministry of Defence through SOLDIER.

### Know your nicknames?

Try your knowledge of regimental nicknames in this seasonal quiz set by Megan C Robertson. (Answers on Page 40.)

To which regiments have the following nicknames been applied?

1. The Bird Catchers.
2. The Cherrypickers.
3. Nobody's Own.
4. The Death or Glory Boys.
5. Pontius Pilate's Bodyguard.
6. The Welsh Tankies.
7. The Have-a-cake Lads.
8. The Emperor's Chambermaids.

### SEARCHLINE

● **10th Battalion The Gloucestershire Regiment:** Family history researcher seeks information and photographs of Pte Fred Dunn, who served in the Burma campaign. Contact G J Parker, 61 Birchgrove Road, Birchgrove, Swansea SA7 9JR.

### DIARY

#### 1992 DATES

**May 8-10:** Middle Wallop International Air Show, Stockbridge, Hants.

**June 13:** Queen's Birthday Parade. Colour Trooped by 1st Battalion, Grenadier Guards.

### MILITARIA

● **Latin American Military History:** Terry Hooker, publisher of *El Dorado*, the international journal of the South and Central American Military Historians Society, wishes to contact anyone with an interest in the subject, particularly those with knowledge of unit insignia used by West Indian, Central or South American armed forces of any period. His address is 27 Hallgate, Cottingham, N Humberside HU16 4DN.

● **The Miniature Armoured Fighting Vehicles Association (MAFV)** was formed to encourage the building of model military vehicles. Its magazine, *Tankette*, is published six times a year. For membership details send a stamped addressed envelope to Gary Williams, 15 Berwick Avenue, Heaton Mersey, Stockport, Cheshire SK4 3AA.

**July 8-28:** The Royal Tournament, Earls Court (Box office tel: 071-373 8141).

**July 17-25:** Nijmegen Marches, Holland.

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

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# Deckchairs, gentlemen, please . . .

## Bandstand Favourites

Band of The Blues and Royals  
Conductor: Maj R G Tomlinson

THIS one, of course, is slightly horsey in bias, though much to the taste of a bandstand audience.

That master of the fanfare Sir Arthur Bliss gives the programme a rousing start, with a rousing march – *Blazes Away* – to follow.

A favourite with brass bands, and now with the military, is Rossini's show-stopper for two lady singers, *Duet For Two Cats*, with much caterwauling, miaowing, and eye-scratching to comical effect. Wearing wow-wow mutes, the soloists (cornet and trombone) put it across in great style.

The rousing stuff is nicely wrapped up with *Children of the Regiment, Sounding Brass*, the *Post Horn Gallop*, and a trumpet and band arrangement of the *General Salute*.

## Airmobile Infantry

Band of The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment  
Conductor: Bandmaster K Hatton

THE 24th Airmobile Brigade is a helicopter-borne force of three infantry battalions, of which the regiment is part.

The roar of a helicopter leads into a fanfare, *Airmobile*, by Mr Hatton as introduction to three items from films which featured helicopters in one way or another, past, present and futuristic in shape – *Thunderbirds, Where No Man Has Gone Before*, and that

seemingly everlasting opening sequence to *M.A.S.H.*

Other pieces vaguely airborne are *Jet Set*, a trumpet trio by Terry Kenny, *Ride of the Valkyries* (of Vietnam horror), *Recces Flight* (march of the Army Air Corps), *Those Magnificent Men*, and at a push the great march *Berliner Luft*.

David Marshall, now with the Coldstream, is responsible for *The Raiders March* which uses John Williams's tune from *Indiana Jones* for a band and drums sequence.

The corps of drums itself features in *Music Box Dancer*

and a medley of folk dances called *Jigs*.

Tunes from the film *Top Gun*, Mansfield's *The Red Cloak*, and a *Symphonette for Band* by Frank Erikson complete this very attractive programme, rounded off by the marches of the Royal Berkshires, The Wiltshires, and the DERR, with *Rule Britannia* thrown in to remind us the regiment once served as marines.

● From PRI, 1 DERR, Bourton Bks, Catterick Camp, N. Yorks DL9 3AD. Price £8.50 for CD, £5 for cassette, both inclusive.

# And just for a change!

## Marching with the Salvation Army

Hendon Citadel Band  
Conductor: Stephen Cobb

SINCE it is my 21st anniversary as your reviewer of records made by Army bands I will claim indulgence from the Editor and include this one.

After all, Army is in its title, and the SA band often play where others cannot reach – like wet and windy street corners when, as an old fair-weather player myself, my heart goes out to them.

So, fall in behind one of the finest brass bands in the country, tambourines at the ready and enjoy 16 stalwarts of the SA repertory.

The mere names of the composers make SA history – Eric Ball the greatest, then Erik Leidzen, Ray Steadman Allen, Norman Bearcroft, Harold Scotney, A S Raikes, W Broughton, Bramwell Coles. Ah, Bramwell – how many Salvationists bear that honoured name.

The names of the marches? Why worry. Have a bit of *Joyful News, Fighting for the Lord, and Regions Fair* for a change.

● From Bandleader, 7 Garrick Street, London WC2E 9AR and dealers, price CD £10.50, cassette £7.

# Cavalry party

## The 1991 Royal Tournament

Producer: Maj Michael Parker  
Musical Director: Maj R G Tomlinson

AS always the musical content of the Royal Tournament manages to conjure up the electric atmosphere of the occasion itself, a Royal Armoured Corps party this year which must have been most colourful with all those cavalry uniforms, topped by the presence of the mounted band of The Blues and Royals.

The pipes and drums of five regiments were there, including the 1st Bn, Scots Guards – 21 regiments represented in all.

A most impressive opening scene is an antiphonal melange of trumpet and drum flourishes, a joust to ancient tunes, salute to the victor and triumphal march, using every available resource including organ, all cobbled together by Roger Tomlinson to spectacular as well as musical effect, no doubt. Sorry I missed it.

Mozart, who died 200 years

ago, is celebrated with an extended medley of his most popular melodies.

The Musical Drive by the King's Troop RHA is performed to suitable tunes, and The Blues and Royals do their stuff to *Aida* and *Parade of the Tin Soldiers*.

The RAF Police Dogs and the Field Gun Competition are also suitably accompanied, with the house band (R Signals) giving a medley of lively music for the interval.

Showpiece is *The American Civil War* with Don Fellows giving excerpts from Abraham

Lincoln's speeches. The pipes and drums lead the Grand Finale with *Amazing Grace*, followed by the Intermezzo from the *Karelia Suite* by Sibelius, the *Montagues and Capulets* by Prokofiev, and, since most of the participants were from old cavalry regiments, *Boots and Saddles*.

It has to be said that this is a studio and location recording, not from an actual tournament, but I think you'll find it benefits musically.

● From Bandleader or dealers, price £10.50 for CD, inclusive.

# Remember St Valery

TO remember the events at St Valery in 1940 the Pipes and Drums and Massed Bands of the Scottish Division performed a Beating of Retreat in London and Glasgow in 1990, with of course a ceremony at St Valery.

A cassette of the music and

two fine brochures of the events are available from Maj D Balfour Scott, The Castle, Edinburgh EH1 2YT.

The cassette £5.50 and each brochure £2.50, just a tenner for all three, the proceeds of which go to the Army Benevolent Fund Scotland.

# Guides to warfare, from the Bronze Age to the Gulf

FOUR recently-published reference works would complement each other well on the bookshelf of both the serious student of warfare and the general interest reader.

Two former Royal Tank Regiment officers, Kenneth Macksey and William Woodhouse, have produced *The Penguin Encyclopedia of Modern Warfare*, covering in 373 pages events from 1850 to the present day, with Operation Desert Storm included under the heading "Persian Gulf wars".

This compact guide has a useful cross-referencing system to aid research; a chronology; and 80 maps and diagrams, some of them by Les Gwyer, now Art Editor of *SOLDIER*.

For readers who prefer to study their military history beside a coffee table, the authoritative text of the large-format *Guinness Encyclopedia of Warfare* is balanced by nearly 500 photographs, maps and diagrams in mono and colour.

A team of specialist writers covers the Bronze Age chariot to the helicopter gunship and the imperialist campaign of the Egyptian Thutmose III in 1481 BC to the 1991 Gulf War in a manner that is both instructive and pleasing to the eye.

*The World's Armies* estimates that there are 20 million regular soldiers globally and 30 or more separate wars raging, affecting tens of millions of people.

This glossily-illustrated, nation-by-nation, large-format review of military might includes analytical commentary and tables listing principal items of equipment in service.

No serious student of

## Are you wearing Goretex Y-fronts?

Meet Gadget Man, one of the illustrations by Bryn in *The Backstabber's Guide*, a cynical, irreverent, scurrilous and perceptive handbook on how to succeed by nefarious means.

Edited by Annie Jones – alias officers' wives Annie Musgrove and Catherine Jones – the hilarious soft-back contains a section on The Army and the subject of the cartoon is described thus under the sub-heading, "The Infantry Officer":

"In every regiment there will always be one 'gadget man' – a walking advertisement for every conceivable snazzy gadget for the 'combat environment'.

"He will sport everything from Goretex Y-fronts to a handy device for making gloves out of live rabbits (the Marigold Combat Con-  
Y Liner)."

The Army backstabber



has "an air of being permanently cool, calm and collected. Is always in the know, knows what's what, who's who, and who is doing what to whom."

No ambitious officer should be without this machiavellian manual, nor should any aspiring civil servant, barrister, policeman, stockbroker, journalist or Churchman.

*The Backstabber's Guide* by Annie Jones. Owl Press, PO Box 315, Downton, Salisbury, Wilts SP5 3YE, £4.99.

## BOOKS IN BRIEF

### Inside the British Army

by Antony Beevor. Well-informed and superbly written study, revised and updated for this paperback edition to include new material on the Gulf conflict, the end of the Cold War and Options for Change. Thoroughly recommended for insiders and outsiders alike. Corgi, £6.99.

**The Letters of Thomas Hope** by William Ellis-Gardener. Horrors of the First World War recounted in fictional correspondence home from the trenches. The Book Guild, hardback, £11.50.

**Battalion at War** by Michael Moore. Well-researched documentary of the 1st Cambridgeshire's tragically heroic role in the Battle of Singapore, 1942, written by the son of a participant. Gliddon Books, Norwich, softback, £6.95.

**Pipes, Kukris and Nips** by Lt Col (Retd) G M Forteath. Recollections of an officer in the old Indian Army, told with humour and affection. The Pentland Press, hardback, £14.50.

**Defence Terminology** by R G Lee. Brassey's, softback, £10.95.

## Tribute to the 'other' heroines

WHEN we think of Second World War heroines, it is those who were flown into occupied France who come first to mind – women such as Odette Churchill, who was awarded a George Cross.

In *Heroines of World War II*, Eric Taylor has deliberately omitted the better-known names to concentrate on those who have not been given the tributes they deserve.

As far as service with the Resistance is concerned he chooses Diana Rowden, the SOE agent executed at the Natzweiler concentration camp, and Pearl Witherington, who was more or less forced into circumstances that required her to command a 3,500 strong Maquis force responsible for killing 1,000 German troops and forcing the surrender of a further 20,000 in the autumn of 1944.

But as the author tells us: "It must be remembered that . . . by the end of the war, 37 other women agents were working in Nazi-occupied France and scores of other SOE agents were serving in all theatres of operations."

The women agents of the SOE are but the tip of the iceberg in Eric Taylor's book. Other heroines include:

● **Joanna Stavidi**, the acting matron of British 97th General Hospital in Crete who elected to stay with her wounded rather than be evacuated;

● **Margot Turner**, another nurse, who survived horrendous ordeals of shipwreck and a series of Japanese PoW camps;

● **Eveline Cardwell**, a Yorkshire farmer's wife and "The first civilian heroine of the Second World War", who captured a German "paratrooper" who turned out to be a baled-out airman – but Eveline was not to know that at the time when the Press needed a heroine;

● **Sgt Joan Mortimer** and other WAAFs who carried on



Far East heroine: Brig Dame Margot Turner, Matron in Chief and Director Army Nursing Service, accompanies Princess Margaret at the opening of the QARANC Training Centre at Aldershot in 1967

with their duties when Biggin Hill was targeted in 1940; and

● **Cpl Joan Pearson** and the other women who rescued RAF crewmen from burning planes.

The book is a long-needed tribute. That it has been well researched can be verified from the list of references, which makes it the more surprising to read some eyebrow-raising statements: that a Merlin XXX engine was fitted in Westland Lysander aircraft taxi-ing agents in and out of France; that the George Cross is "the country's second highest award for courage"; and that V1 "doodle bugs" fell to the ground when the "propeller had revolved a pre-set number of times".

Even so, there is much about the war to be learned from the book; facts that have not before been publicly aired – for instance, that 3,076 British nurses lost their lives; and that the notorious Milice Française, doing the leg work for the Gestapo in rooting out the Resistance, had 10,000 regulars and 80,000 auxiliaries working against their countrymen. – BJ

**Heroines of World War II** by Eric Taylor. Robert Hale, hardback, £16.95.

He examines the problems of logistics and their solutions

## BOOK REVIEWS

# Blunder book puts laughs before detail

THE Oxford Dictionary defines "blunder" as "a stupid, clumsy or foolish act".

This probably covers a great number of the incidents in *The Guinness Book of Military Blunders* but hardly accounts for the many cases of arrogance or incompetence which are also included.

Perhaps a better title would have been "Military Incompetence", since this would also cover the many cases of physical incompetence which also appear here; Ludendorff's toxic goitre, which probably caused his indecision and doomed the German offensive of 1918, is omitted.

The use of "Guinness" in the title implies by usage completeness, but this is far from the case. For example, no mention is made of Gen Sir Julian Byng,

GOC 3rd Army at the Battle of Cambrai, who lost many thousands of men because he ignored intelligence reports which did not fit in with his preconceived ideas, or Maj Gen Bennett, GOC 8th Australian Division in Malaya in 1942 who, like his boss Lt Gen Percival, did not believe in anti-tank obstacles to stop Japanese tanks.

But all the well-rehearsed cases of incompetence such as Buller, Raglan, Elphinstone, Townshend (who was knighted after the disaster at Kut) are included, plus dozens more.

The publishers' press release suggested that the book looks at these matters "in an entertaining and thought-provoking way". Sadly the author, Geoffrey Regan, has perhaps placed more emphasis on the entertainment aspect and both overstates and understates cases, so readers should be prepared to check details.

For example, Regan decries the Athenian trireme boats but ignores the fact that their use won the Battle of Salamis in 480 BC, and in the account of Brig Gen Reginald Dyer's action at Amritsar in 1919 makes no mention that Sunday April 13 was an important Sikh festival, which caused thousands of pilgrims to flock to the city unaware of Dyer's proclamation that assemblies of more than four would be fired upon, whereas Regan claims a meeting was called in open defiance.

But the most obvious weaknesses are the absence of a bibliography and that only a very few of the quotations are attributed, which devalues the authority of the book. Anyone interested in the subject would do well to read Norman Dixon's *On the Psychology of Military Incompetence*, which is well-documented and authoritative. – PSN

**The Guinness Book of Military Blunders** by Geoffrey Regan. Guinness Publishing Ltd, £11.99.

# LETTERS

## Army key to bright future

### WHAT PRICE FREEDOM?

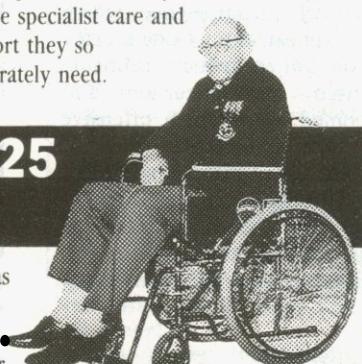


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Thank  
YOU!

S1

MAY I contribute a few words of hoary wisdom from an old reuddee to all those young men and women who are now faced with a whole new way of life.

After 15 years' service with the colours I left the Army in 1960 when the third battalion of my regiment went into suspended animation as a result of the Reduction of the Armed Forces Act 1959. The second battalion is to follow in 1994.

I arrived in civvy street like a newborn babe. There were none of the support and advisory services which are to be provided now and as for the Forces resettlement office of those days, all I can say is that as an ex-drum major with "exemplary" conduct rating, the best job offered to me was an ice cream van franchise!

For a few months I was in the depths of despair, loneliness and bewilderment, until I found a home from home in the Fire Brigade and went on to serve in that disciplined organisation for another 25 years until I had to retire on medical grounds with the rank of divisional officer.

My Army experience was the secret of a successful career in the training departments of the service, which Winston Churchill once called "the fourth arm".

One thing I would urge all those young (and not so young) people to do when they have to leave their unit is to make a beeline for the nearest branch of their regimental association

and join it. My own regimental association has been a wonderful source of strength and pride to me over the past 30 years and has reinforced what a sergeant major said to me in my youth: "There is no such animal as an ex-Guardsman, lad. We join for life."

May I wish you all good luck. May you be blessed with good health and fortune in civilian life and realise that your military experience will prove to be your greatest asset in the years to come. I did. – Rod (Spot) Baker, formerly Drum Major, Grenadier Guards, Gomersal, W Yorkshire.

## Veterans revisit Garden

YOUR article about the Paras' visit to Arnhem for the Market Garden anniversary (October 28) prompts me to write about another commemorative visit to Holland.

In Operation Market Garden I was with a bridging platoon RE, 50th (N) Div, 30 Corps and this year with other members of the Market Garden Veterans Association went to Nijmegen and Eindhoven.

We took part in a silent march to Eindhoven Town Hall, where a torch was lit from a flame that had been carried from Bayeux, Normandy. – James F Hodgkinson, Wigan.

## nicknames quiz answers

- 1, The Royal Scots Greys (now The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards) or the 1st Royal Dragoons (now The Blues and Royals), both for capturing French "Eagles" during the Napoleonic Wars.
- 2, The 11th Hussars (now The Royal Hussars), from their crimson trousers.
- 3, The 20th Hussars (now 14th/20th King's Hussars), because unlike virtually every other cavalry regiment they had no special title!
- 4, The 17th/21st Lancers, from their "motto", the skull and "Or Glory" cap badge.
- 5, The Royal Scots, who on hearing that the French

Regiment d'Picardy claimed descent from the Roman Legion which guarded Christ's tomb, declared that *they* would not have fallen asleep on duty! 6, 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards, who recruit in Wales.

7, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment, who in Napoleonic days sent out their recruiters with oatmeal (or haver) cakes which they used to entice men to sign up.

8, The 14th/20th King's Hussars, who captured a silver chamberpot belonging to Joseph Bonaparte during the Peninsular War.

# HOW OBSERVANT ARE YOU?

The pictures below differ in ten details. Find them and you could be £50 richer or win a new book. Just circle the differences in the right hand picture, cut out the whole panel, add your name and address and send to HOAY 527, SOLDIER, Ordnance Road, Aldershot GU11 2DU by Jan 17. Do not include anything else in your envelope.

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

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

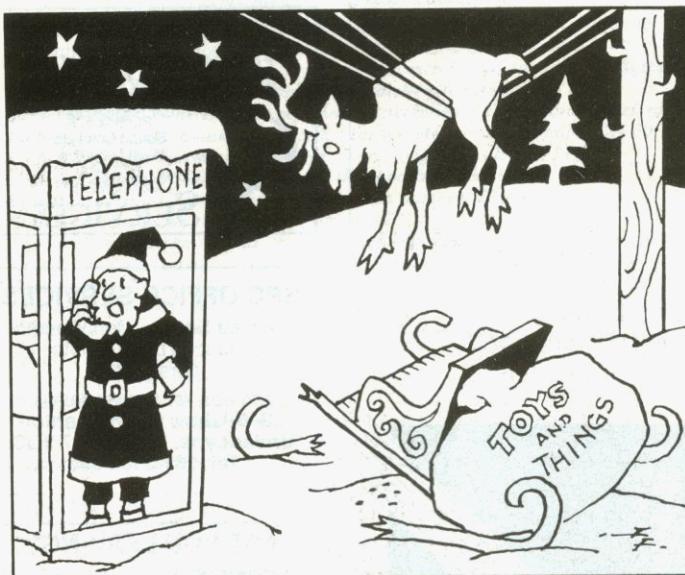
The names of the winner of the £50 first prize and two runners-up will be announced in the February 10 issue.

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**Competition No 524:**  
Congratulations to Mrs N Easton, of Petersfield, Hants, who wins the £50 first prize. Book prizes go to Mrs M Else, c/o 36 RSME Sqn, Brompton, and Mrs Alger, 111 Pro Coy RMP, BFPO 30.



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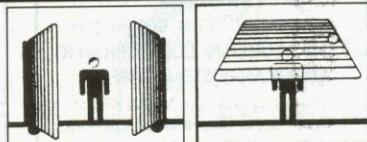
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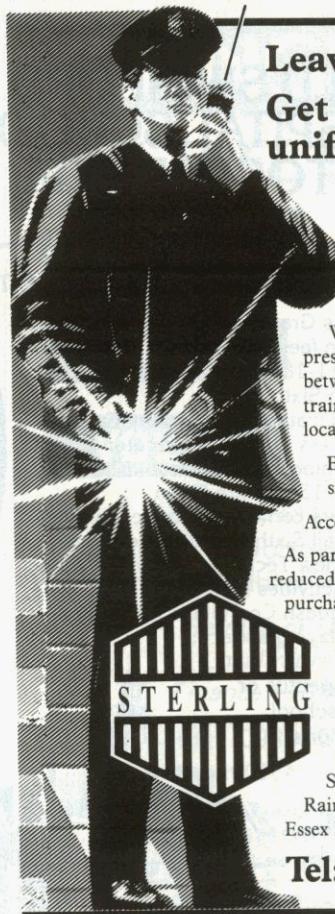
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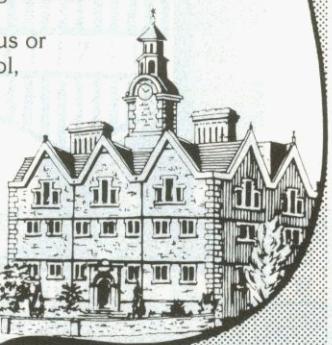
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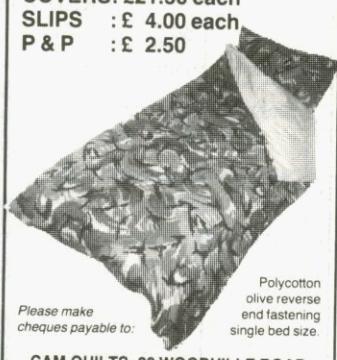
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seeks male pen pal, 30 plus.

Will send photo.

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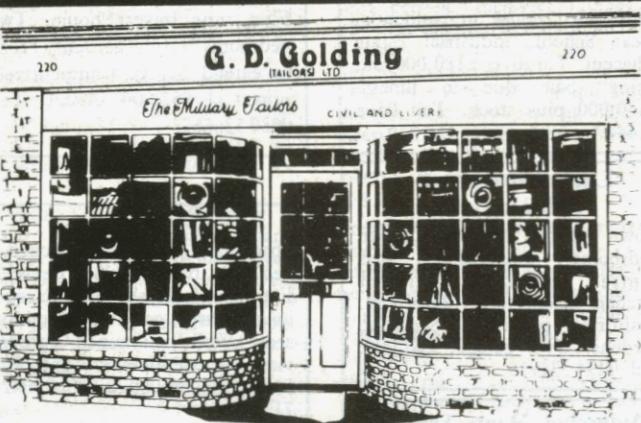
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INTER-UNIT CROSS COUNTRY

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# BAOR units dominate relay race

DVR Garry Wadsworth anchored 1 Armd Div Signal Regiment to a record fourth consecutive victory in the Army inter-unit cross country relay championships run in crisp autumn conditions at Rushmoor Arena, Aldershot, last month.

But he was chased all the way by SSgt John Lennon from FOD Dulmen who brought his team in second overall and first in the minor units' competition for a record fifth year.

Wadsworth's time of 16min 9sec over the three-mile course was the second fastest of the day, beaten only by Maj Glen Grant's 16.04 for 13th placed HQ UKLF.

Nearly 500 athletes in 125 teams took part in the traditional curtain-raiser to the Army cross country season, with men, women, veterans and juniors making a mass start.

Leaders at the first handover were 7 Para RHA, but the BAOR-based 1 ADSR and Dulmen took control on the second leg.

The gunners of 94 Loc Regt RA slipped into third overall (and second major unit) to push Dulmen's B team into fourth place, followed by 1 PWO, Ord Sqn Cdo Log Regt, 3 Para and



SSgt John Lennon brings FOD Dulmen home

7 Para RHA.

FOD Dulmen in fact entered a third team and ended up claiming first, second and fifth places in the minor units race. The commando loggers were third and Depot Para fourth.

BAOR teams have dominated the relays for several years. Third placed 1 PWO won the event four times between 1983 and 1987.

The women's race was won by York Garrison, with the WRAC Centre second, Admin Unit Duchess of Kent Barracks third and Berlin Inf Bde fourth.

Depot Queens Division won the veterans' event, with 94 Loc Regt RA second and Depot Para third, and 8 Signal Regt took the junior honours ahead of Princess Marina College and the Chepstow apprentices.

## Cyprus rugby event draws in more teams

BRITISH soldiers serving in Cyprus long ago imported the game of rugby to the Mediterranean island, and the military bases at Akrotiri, Episkopi and Dhekelia have continued to spread the faith.

In recent years the game has grown rapidly on the island, and the Leptos Estates tournament, now in its tenth year, attracts Service clubs from across Europe. United Kingdom teams included the REME side and St Athan RFC, and

there were also Fijian and New Zealand Services XV's from UN duty in the Sinai. The Fijians retained the trophy.

● The 24 Airmobile Brigade rugby sevens held at Catterick was dominated by the 1st Battalion, the Gloucestershire Regiment which won both the main and the plate competitions.

The Glosers, who fielded two sides, beat 1 Green Howards in the main final and 1 DERR in the plate decider.

INTER-UNIT CROSS COUNTRY

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RAPC winners (from left to right): Lt Col Alan Lees, SSgt George Frith, Sgt Mark Moore and SSgt Ian Birrell

# Pay Corps signs off in fine style

THE ROYAL Army Pays Corps almost made a clean sweep at the Army South East badminton championships.

The RAPC is responsible for organising Army badminton and their headquarters at Worthy Down near Winchester has been the home of Army badminton since 1967.

Due to the forthcoming amalgamation of the RAPC into the Adjutant General's Corps in April next year, this was the last chance that RAPC players had to display their talents under their present cap badge. They went out in style by winning all but one of the competitions they entered.

The men's inter-unit doubles final was an all-RAPC affair with team partners Lt Col Alan Lees and SSgt Ian Birrell narrowly defeating their RAPC teammates SSgt George Frith and Sgt Mark Moore.

There was a turn up for the book when Alan Lees, at 46, swapped partners to join SSgt Frith for the men's open doubles final and went on to win that too. To complete the RAPC's winning streak South-

ampton-based LCpl Suzanne Power (RCT(V)) paired up with Frith to gain the mixed doubles title.

For Col Lees, secretary of both Army and Combined

## Lift for hang gliders

ARMY success over hot favourites and holders RAF in the Inter-Service hang gliding championships has given the sport a real boost.

Led by WO1 Dave Fenwick, Para, the Army convincingly beat the RAF into second place.

Fenwick was the individual champion in the Army's own event, held in conjunction with the Inter-Services competition. He also scooped the open class, with Maj John Aldridge, RE, second.

The Joint Services Hang Gliding Centre - based at Cwrt-Y-Gollen Training Camp, Crickhowell, Powys - is running courses throughout the year for Service personnel, their dependants and MoD civilian employees.



Sgt Mark Lewis REME prepares for takeoff

# Naife double troubles Oxford

Oxford University 1,  
An Army XI 3

FIELDING a side with little or no experience of representative football, the Army comfortably beat an enthusiastic and skilful Oxford team, writes Pat Massey.

Two first-half goals in two minutes from Naife put the Servicemen in control and although the undergraduates pulled one back before the interval, a splendid Davis volley from 25 yards kept the Army on top in the second half.

Farnborough Town 3,  
Combined Services 2

Combined Services opened their season on a wet and windy night at Farnborough which the home side, attracting national attention for its drive towards the Football League, won a highly entertaining game by the narrowest of margins.

Army colleagues Bdr Steve Bates and Cpl Dave Maynard scored for Services after Farnborough Town had taken a two-goal lead, but the home side deservedly went ahead in the closing minutes when Graham Johnson picked up a half-hit clearance and lobbed SI Nigel Wiscombe (APTC) from 35 yards.

The Infantry 5,  
APTC 0

The Infantry beat a weakened APTC side 5-0 at the Tidworth Oval, with Sgt Tom O'Brien (R Irish) scoring twice, and WO2 Steve Wilson (QO Hldrs), LCpl Tosh Williams (Cheshire) and Pte Paul Hosie (RS) adding the others.

The Infantry 1,  
Royal Signals 1

A late equaliser earned the Infantry a 1-1 draw against the Royal Signals in an evenly contested game at the Tidworth Oval. In the fifth minute Cpl David Coleman scored from the penalty spot to put Signals ahead, but LCpl Ian McDonald (Cheshire) scored the equaliser just before the final whistle.

# Austria makes it so tough

AFTER taking on Austria, the Army boxing squad should find the rest of the season a doddle, writes John Elliott.

The European national team, responding to the Army's visit to Worgle in Austria a year ago, paid the Servicemen the dubious compliment of putting out a very strong squad for their match sponsored at the Army Boxing Centre in Aldershot by PCL Services Ltd.

The result was a 6-4 victory for the Austrians and a night of heroics by the frequently out-gunned soldiers. Four of the visitors had been on the books of former East German clubs, including three vastly experienced men with more than 300 bouts between them.

Featherweight Remo Szarata, matched with Cpl Neil McCallum (10 Corps Tpt Regt RCT), was one of them. His awesomely simple technique consisted of ignoring the England international's punches, picking his moment, and unleashing his own bombs.

McCallum had no answer to Szarata's power punching and was retired by his corner midway through the first round.

There were hard-won points wins for Fus Danny Greenslade (1 RWF) and the impressive Pte Loz Roche (1 LI), and



Picture: Mike Perrin

second round victories for LCpl Jeff Ollerhead (1 Kings), who survived a furious opening onslaught before he got his own right hand working, and LCpl Lee Innes (1 Trg Regt RE), who swept aside Hans Schmid with a barrage of ramrod-straight punches.

But it was a right hook that finally undid Schmid, who failed to beat the referee's count.

LCpl Joe Rajcoomar (1 DERR) battled valiantly against Manfred Dimter, six times the Austrian bantam-weight champion in a replay of their meeting a year ago.

This time, though, the result was more clear cut, Dimter's heavier punch twice forcing

Rajcoomar to take standing counts.

There was a baptism of fire for young light-welterweight Spr Tommy Winspear (36 Engr Regt). He was outpointed over three two-minute rounds by Hannes Slazburger, who has appeared in the European junior championships.

Never overawed, Winspear revealed depths of strength and courage as he chased the vastly more experienced Salzburger to the final bell.

Spr Chris Whittaker (38 Engr Regt), who last boxed for the Army as a member of the Army Catering Corps, lost on points to East German David Wolf, whose documents revealed he had notched up an amazing 122 competitive fights, and Pte John Dowling (2 Para), a novice this time last year, also lost on points against Georg

Fus Danny Greenslade (right) on the receiving end. He went on to beat Austria's Anton Friedl on points

Schonauer, another Austrian with European junior experience.

LSgt Dave Abbott put everything into squaring the contest in the final bout of the night, but lost a desperately close split decision to East German trained Hans Wallant, a heavyweight making his 92nd appearance in the ring.

**Fly** – Fus Danny Greenslade beat Anton Friedl, pts (m); **bantam** – LCpl Joe Rajcoomar lost to Manfred Dimter, pts (u); **feather** – Cpl Neil McCallum lost to Remo Szarata, retd 1; **light** – Pte Loz Roche beat Willie Goller, pts (m); **light welter** – Spr Tommy Winspear lost to Hannes Salzburger, pts (u); **welter** – Spr Chris Whittaker lost to David Wolf, pts (u); **light middle** – LCpl Jeff Ollerhead beat Hans Paulhuber, retd 2; **middle** – LCpl Lee Innes beat Hans Schmid, fbc 2; **light heavy** – Pte John Dowling lost to Georg Schonauer, pts (u); **heavy** – LSgt Dave Abbott lost to Hans Wallant pts (m).

## Amph sappers retain title

BY TAKING the first four places in the 4 Armoured Division modern triathlon championships, 28 Amphibious Engineer Regiment ensured they would retain the title.

And they achieved it with virtually a new team, only Capt Rupert Dash and BAOR champion Sgt David Turner remaining of the old guard. Spr Murray McGregor was beaten

into fourth place by Capt Ian McDougall, but looks to be a star in the making.

McGregor is the BAOR 50m crawl champion and a capable runner, and is making real progress with the 9mm pistol.

The 28 Amph squad has more strength in depth in the form of LCpl Darren Aitchison and Spr Gilbert Davey.

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Sol/9/12/91

After 25 years in service with 32 Heavy Regiment RA, the M107 fired its last salvo on Bergen-Hohne ranges in Germany before making way for MLRS. There to watch was drama student Alison Hewitt (inset), who has been adopted by the gunners as their regimental pin-up. See Pages 22-23.

Pictures: Terry Champion

# SOLDIER

