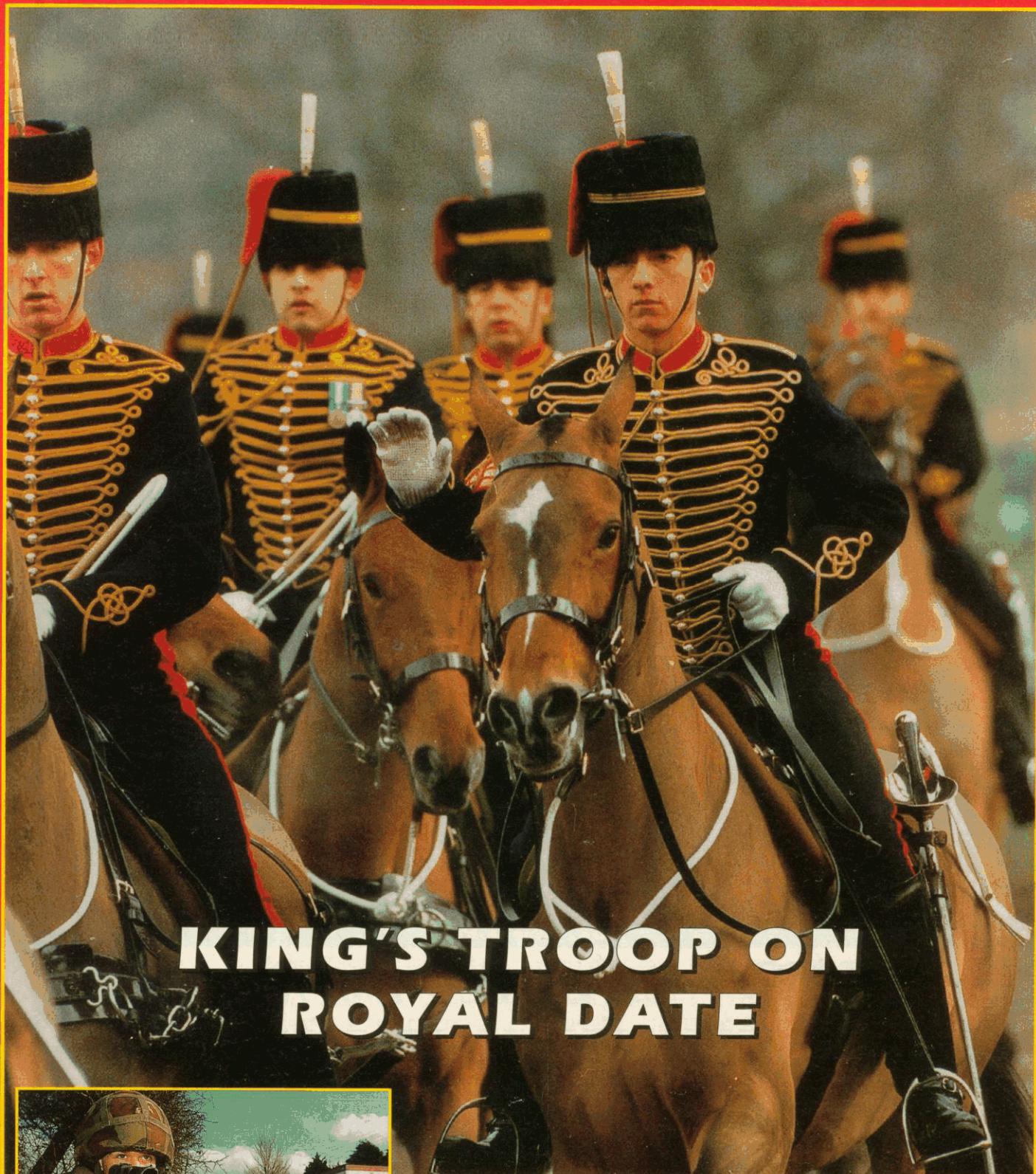


SOLDIER

FORTNIGHTLY MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY

MARCH 4 1996

60p



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Londonderry**

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Incorporating the Territorial Army magazine

March 4, 1996 Vol 52/5

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Men of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Irish Regiment step off a Hercules aircraft at Aldergrove, Northern Ireland as the first of 500 troops redeploy to the Province in the wake of the London Docklands bomb

More soldiers deployed as cease-fire fails

FIVE hundred British troops have been sent to Northern Ireland as a precautionary measure following the explosion of a huge car bomb in London Docklands and the end of the IRA cease-fire announced on February 9.

The soldiers, from the 1st Battalion, The Royal Irish Regiment, had been due to deploy last November on a six-month emergency tour, but remained on standby at their Catterick barracks. The battalion is expected to be replaced in about three-months.

An Army spokesman said the move had been approved by the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland on the advice of the Chief Constable and the GOC Northern Ireland.

"It is to ensure that the Armed Forces are fully able to provide instant support to the RUC should the situation require it. It does not mean a large-scale increase in military patrolling in the Province.

"Two other units remain on short notice to return if required," he said.

Three major units were relocated after the cease-fire: 5 and 40 Regiments RA left in March and April last year and a Royal



Front cover (inset): A soldier of the 1st Battalion, The Staffordshire Regiment supports RUC personnel manning a vehicle checkpoint as security was stepped up around Bessbrook Mill base

Marines unit was moved out in November.

The reinforcements will be stationed at bases in County Armagh and County Fermanagh, bringing to 17,000 the number of troops based in Northern Ireland.

Measures quickly re-introduced in the Province following the IRA bomb attack included the wearing of helmets instead of berets. Helicopters were expected to be seen flying tactically again.

An Army spokesman said

that although soldiers were closely supporting police manning vehicle checkpoints at selected locations including Aldergrove and Bessbrook, troops had not been deployed on patrolling duties in the streets of Belfast and Londonderry.

During the 18-month IRA cease-fire troops based in Northern Ireland were kept busy training and exercising to maintain their operational edge in readiness for any eventuality.

"The over-riding principle allied to our de-escalatory measures has been reversibility," said the spokesman. "In the event of a return to terrorist action, the Army remains able to return to full-scale operations immediately, should the RUC require it."

The deployment of 1 R Irish means that all seven battalions of the Army's largest Infantry regiment are, for the first time, serving in Northern Ireland at the same time.

YOUR 1996 PAY AWARD: The military salary for all ranks up to and including brigadier is to rise in two stages by between 3.2 and 3.8 per cent. Charges for family quarters are to rise by between ten and 25 per cent. Story in Page 5.

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Special award for Op Gabriel

A SPECIAL Wilkinson Sword of Peace has been awarded for the Operation Gabriel mercy mission to Rwanda.

In July 1994, elements of 5 Airborne Brigade deployed in support of the United Nations' mission to the central African country torn apart by civil war.

The brigade's logistic battalion and 23 Parachute Field Ambulance RAMC formed the nucleus of a 600-strong British contingent.

Urgent tasks included medical, engineering and logistic support to relief operations in refugee camps, while 9 Parachute Squadron RE repaired a vital route from Uganda to the camps, restored clean water and power supplies, and assisted in mass burials.

Mobile medical teams were deployed by 23 Parachute Field Ambulance RAMC to combat epidemics and set up a mass vaccination programme.

Nearly 20,000 refugees were later moved out of the camps and into the care of the UN Humanitarian Commission for Refugees by 63 Airborne Close Support Squadron RLC.

"British soldiers in Rwanda displayed outstanding professionalism and extraordinary dedication to resolve the desperate, sometimes harrowing, situations they faced," says the Wilkinson Sword citation.

The award recognises a Joint Service or ad hoc group formed for a special aid operation.

It's a fact

ALMOST 300,000 pairs of boots costing more than £11 million have been issued to the Forces in the past 12 months. The figures cover about 40 types and include nearly 44,000 pairs of combat boots for special operations, including Bosnia, and 51,000 pairs of the new combat assault boot. — Parliamentary reply.



Prince visits IFOR units

The Prince of Wales walks past a line of Challenger tanks during a visit to the Queen's Royal Hussars and the 1st Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers at Mrkonjic-Grad in Bosnia

Quarter charges to rise sharply

CHARGES for Service family quarters are to go up by between ten and 25 per cent in the next stage of a process aimed at raising them to commercial levels.

But the rents of single soldiers and officers have been "de-coupled" from married quarters and will be dealt with on a different basis. All the charges will be staged in line with the 1996 pay award approved by the government.

The new charges, recommended by the Armed Forces Pay Review Body (AFPRB), have been accepted along with a range of pay increases of between 3.2 and 3.8 per cent for Service personnel up to an including the rank of brigadier. Medical and dental officers' pay is subject to a separate report.

The AFPRB also recommended a .5 per cent increase (from 11.5 to 12 per cent) in the X-Factor for Regular forces.

However, the pay award will be staged, the full award less one per cent being paid to all ranks from April 1, the balance from December 1.

Changes to single accommodation charges range from a reduction of £22 a year for grade 4 to an increase of £44 for senior officers.

Rises in families' rents were signalled two years ago when the review body made the first moves to reduce the gap

● **Detailed pay scales and tables will appear in the next issue.**

between civilian comparators and Service equivalents. Last year officers' MQ rents, including water and sewerage, went up by eight per cent, other ranks' by five per cent.

A valuation of the Armed Forces Pension Scheme (AFPS) showed that, over the five years since the last review, there had been a considerable reduction in the relative advantage of Service pensions. Accordingly, the AFPRB recommended a two per cent reduction in the current abate-

ment, from nine to seven per cent of salaries.

Most additional pay, including that for service in Northern Ireland, will be uprated in line with the increase in the military salary. But there will be a substantial jump — from £2.29 to £4 a day — for the basic rate of pay for work of an objectionable nature.

London pay is to be frozen with a view to dropping it altogether in 1997. The AFPRB has asked the MoD to submit proposals for an alternative.

Although present incumbents will be protected, Gurkha service pay will cease from April 1, as will Academy Sergeant Major (Sandhurst) pay.

Food charges, frozen last year, are to go up by 1.3 per cent.

The AFPRB says the combined effect of its recommendations will be a net increase for all personnel.

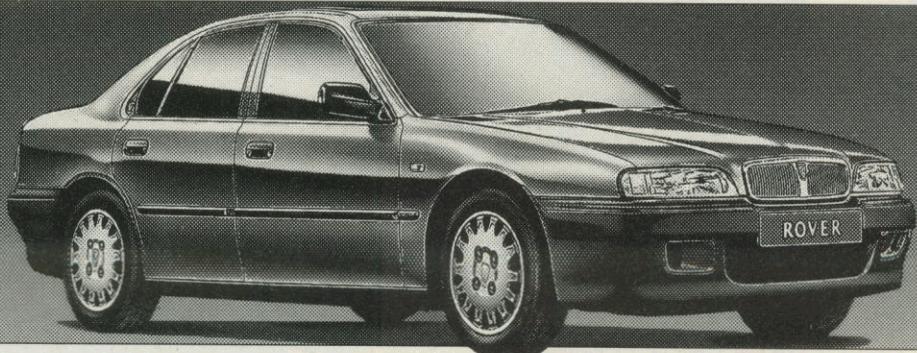


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Guardsmen brothers make history



Irish eyes were smiling at Buckingham Palace on February 3 when three sons of Mrs Nicola Roberts (right) led the Changing of the Guard. On this unique occasion Maj Cassian Roberts (left) and 2nd Lt Fabian Roberts (centre) were on parade with Lt Col Sebastian Roberts on his final changing of the guard before he relinquished command of the 1st Battalion, Irish Guards

Minister watches battle of Copehill

DEFENCE Secretary Michael Portillo watched an attack by more than 100 soldiers on Copehill Down during Exercise Phantom Bugle on Salisbury Plain.

The Army's custom-built "fighting village" was defended by men of the 1st Battalion, The Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire's Infantry Battle Group, which provided the enemy for officers being trained at Warminster's Combined Arms Training Centre to command mixed battle groups.

The Yorkies were supported by C Squadron, Queen's Royal Hussars from Catterick and students from the Milan Anti-tank Division of the Infantry Training Centre, Warminster.

Mr Portillo was shown tactical engagement simulation equipment involving Warrior, Milan and small arms.

It's a fact

RECEIPTS from the sales of surplus armoured vehicles and guns totalled more than £5 million during the past two years. — Parliamentary reply



Mr Portillo, in a Warrior, is briefed by Maj Nigel Lewis RTR

Rush is on to join TA SAS

SOLDIER's cover story (January 22) on the hunt for volunteers to serve in the Territorial Army's two Special Air Service regiments has brought a strong response.

The story, which was picked up by national newspapers and a television news programme, produced a flood of enquiries.

An SAS (V) spokesman said: "Our recruiting team has been working overtime coping with messages left on our answerphone. It's exceedingly good for morale."

Anyone interested in joining the TA SAS should telephone 0171-414 6666 or contact the nearest Army Careers Office.

Around the Houses

A summary of Defence topics from Westminster

College site not settled

WHILE Camberley is expected to be the eventual site for the new Joint Service Command and Staff College, it is likely to be located initially at RAF Bracknell from September 1997.

This is because a works programme for the new college cannot be completed by then, Armed Forces Minister Nicholas Soames said in a written reply. The Bracknell site will be disposed of by the end of 1999.

Proposals were being sought for private sector involvement in the provision of high quality accommodation and other services at the new JSCSC, he said. He did not rule out an alternative site if suitable imaginative ideas were put forward.

First JSCSC commandant will be Maj Gen Tim Granville-Chapman, the current Assistant Chief of the General Staff.

□ □ □

Work to correct braking problems in 824 RB44 heavy utility trucks is due to be completed by the end of this month, said Defence Procurement Minister James Arbuthnott.

Answering written questions from Dr David Clark, he said modifications had been made at the manufacturer's expense in 1992 but continuing braking problems were identified the following year. Modifications had been done by the manufacturer and the rest was being carried out in unit workshops. Cost to the MoD was "less than £1 million".

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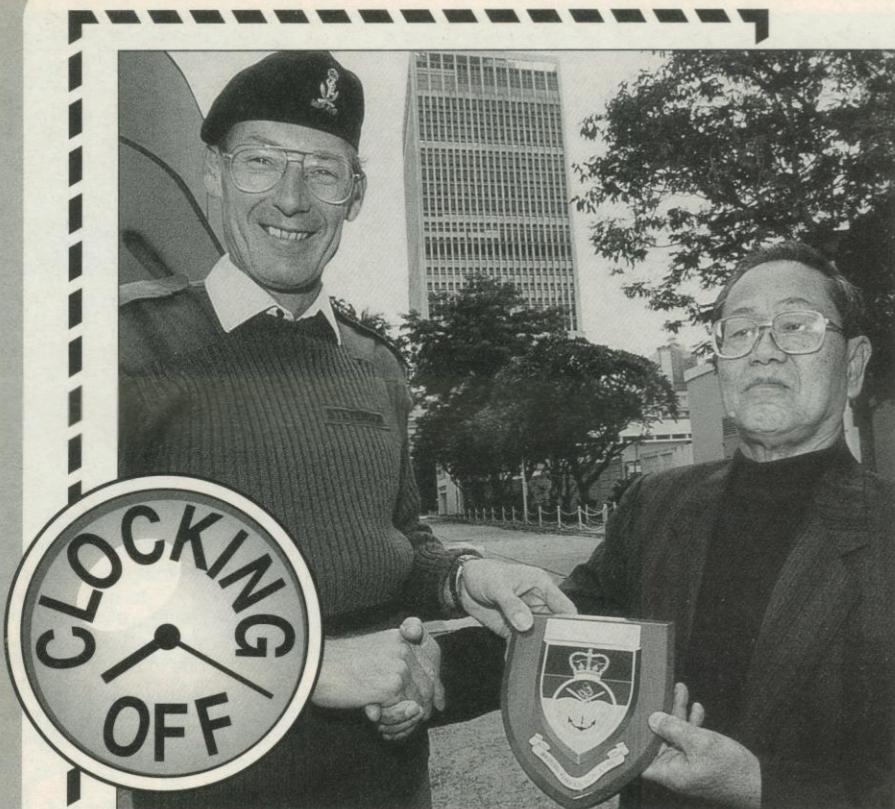
There are no plans to disband the 3rd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, the Armed Forces Minister said in a written reply.

□ □ □

The coroner's report on the fatal fire at the Royal Irish Regiment base at Magherafelt on April 30, 1994 has been delivered to the chief fire officer at HQ Northern Ireland. Since the fire a range of safety measures has been taken.

□ □ □

Forty-nine people were injured, one fatally, during 42,861 military parachute jumps in 1995. The proportion of injuries to jumps was less than half that in 1992 when a similar number of jumps took place.



Fifty years' unbroken service to the garrison at HMS Tamar (now the Prince of Wales Barracks) in Hong Kong came to an end for Mr Hui Pak-chung on his retirement, when he was presented with a plaque by Maj Mike Stevenson, QM (T) of the Queen's Gurkha Signals, which administers the barracks.

Seventy-five-year-old Mr Hui started work as a watch repairer in 1946 at the old dockyard – now the site of Admiralty Mass Transit Station – before relocating to Tamar, where, over five decades, his business has helped hundreds of garrison personnel.

Hello . . .

Territorial Army soldiers in the Sheffield-based Duke of Wellington's Regiment have a new commanding officer in the shape of Lt Col Andrew Drake, a Yorkshireman who will lead the 3rd Battalion, which has more than 500 soldiers in Huddersfield, Halifax, Barnsley and Skipton.



. . . and goodbye

After a long career in the corps, Lt Col Russell "Geordie" Gainford has retired as quartermaster for 2 Signal Regiment, York.

A former Army rugby player and coach, Geordie enlisted in 1959 as an electrician-driver, was commissioned in 1980, and saw service in locations from the Falklands to the Gulf.

"I would recommend the Army to any youngster seeking adventure, a trade and, most of all, job fulfilment and satisfaction," said the contented signaller.



Trying the Browning version

Maj Gen Matan Vilnai, Israeli Deputy Chief of the General Staff, sees for himself what a 50 calibre Browning machine gun feels like as members of 2nd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment Support Company take their turn at demonstrations during the general's visit to 5 Airborne Brigade's Aldershot base. With him is Pte Adam Proud.



Carrying the Colours

Sgt David Rudman, 2nd Battalion, The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment, had the honour of carrying the Regimental Colour in a traditional ceremony held at the battalion's base in Omagh, Co Tyrone, to mark the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Sobraon in India.

The ceremony – in which the Colour is handed to an outstanding sergeant and is allowed to hang for one day in the sergeants' mess – commemorates the heroics of Sgt Bernard McCabe, who rallied the faltering 31st of Foot, one of the regiment's forebears, by raising the Colours on the highest ramparts of Sikh fortifications.



Making his Mark

Former LCpl Mark Lorimer receives a Commander-in-Chief Land Forces Certificate of Commendation from Director Joint Warfare Commodore Rob Stevens.

Mark, now a driver for a millionaire entrepreneur in Poole, Dorset, was a driver for the Joint Warfare Staff based in the town when he saw a post office robbery in progress.

Despite a shotgun having been used in the incident, he and a friend pursued the two offenders, cornering one of them in nearby woods. The miscreants were later sentenced to 28 years' jail between them.



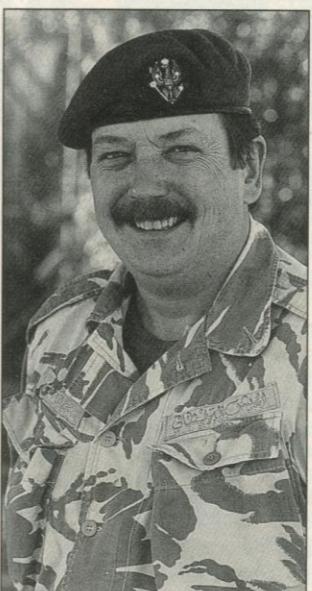
PEOPLE

DROPPING IN . . .

During a visit to TA units in Northern Ireland, Maj Gen Walter Courage (left) took the opportunity to speak to, among many others, Capt Ron Booles, PSAO 253 (North Irish) Field Ambulance RAMC (Volunteers).



Signing in . . .



Gas! Gas! Gulf . . .

During the Gulf War, WO2 Simon Hayes, then with the 14th/20th King's Hussars, was attached to 7 Armoured Brigade as an NBC adviser. Now, five years on and capbadged King's Royal Hussars, he has returned to the region as a member of the British Military Mission Kuwait. Simon is responsible for advising the Kuwaiti Armed Forces on Nuclear, Biological and Chemical warfare survival techniques.



Maj Gen Brian Mayes, Director General Army Medical Services, signs the visitors' book on his arrival at 225 (Highland) Field Ambulance RAMC (V) in Dundee. During his visit, the general presented long service medals to three members of the unit and watched training on a typical drill night for the TA soldiers.

Why MoD is right to risk exposure by telly

YOU will remember the television documentary that followed HMS *Brilliant* around while the crew performed their duties.

At the time I, like many others, was mesmerised. At the end of each episode I wished I was young enough to join up.

Not long after the last episode was broadcast I was in the company of a retired naval officer who had been horrified by the series. He thought it showed sailors in a very poor light.

He will be equally horrified to learn that the MoD has allowed a BBC film crew to record the life and times of the Ministry for a film to be shown later this year. His distress will be the greater for knowing that one of the characters filmed was made redundant halfway through the piece.

I think it was a brave and sensible decision to let the cameras in. It was brave because, whatever is shown, there will be those criticising from the sidelines. It was sen-

sible because now, more than ever, the public needs to learn about the Services.

Ask any civilian what they think goes on at the MoD and you will get a selection of answers ranging from the vague to the silly. I know, because I have tried it.

But I do hope the film is edited dispassionately and that the MoD doesn't get the same treatment as Covent Garden Opera House! The problem with trying to portray a large organisation with many different departments is that it is almost impossible to be even-handed. It is also inevitable that much of the real work that goes on is lacking in visual appeal.

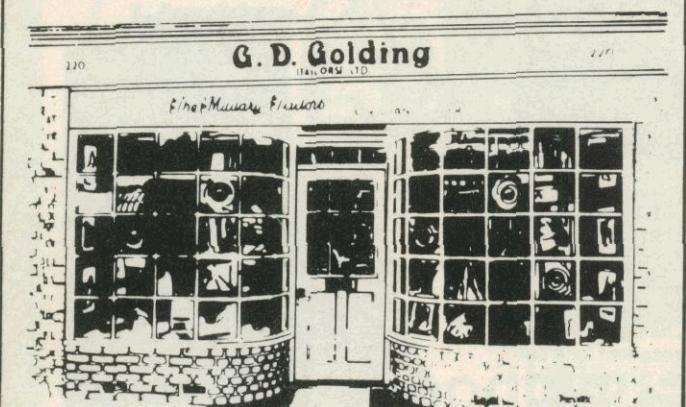
The editor is going to go for impact, so I dare say we will see incidents packed together, compressing time.



Cari's column

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Erskine Hospital puts on its dancing shoes

HIGHLAND dancers all over the world could soon be dancing in shoes made by disabled ex-Servicemen and women in their workshops at the Erskine Hospital, Bishopton, near Glasgow.

The new contract is with Craig Coussins, Britain's largest retailer and wholesaler of dance shoes, who said the Erskine product was in demand in America, Japan and Canada.

Keith Taylor, assistant commandant in charge of the hospital workshops, welcomed the opportunity to make shoes. "We manufacture and repair furniture, do upholstery,

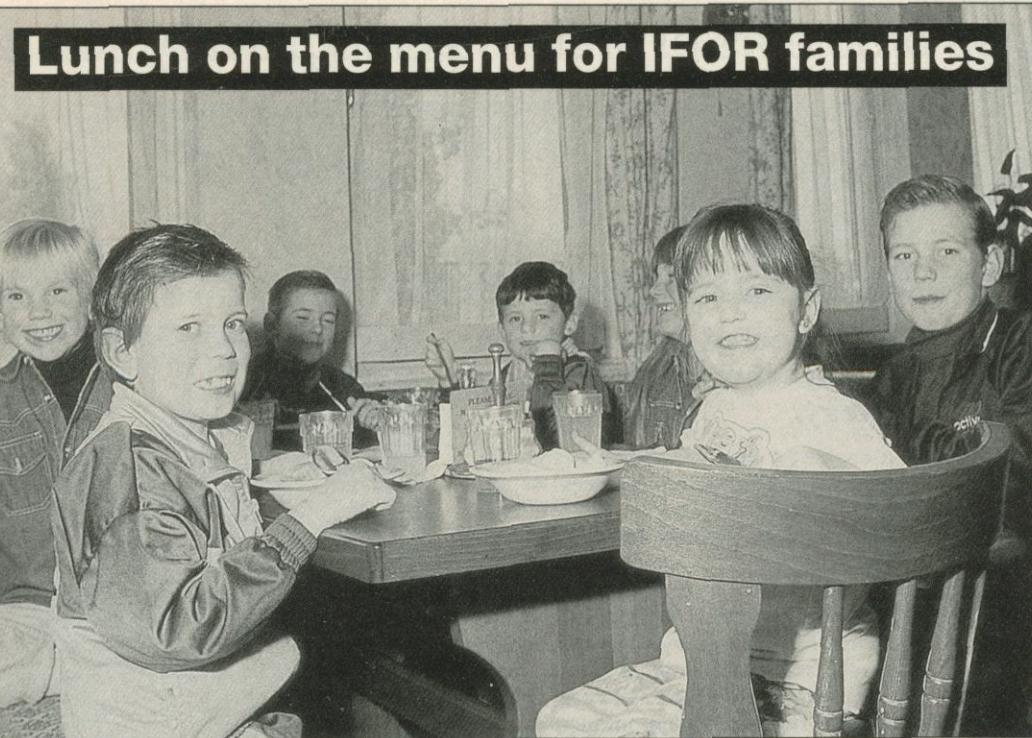
make basketry and cane furniture, do shoe repairs and joinery, and have a good printing operation.

"If anyone else would like to support us by giving us work, we'd be happy to do it."

Frimley Park deal

THE formal contract to create a 99-bed Ministry of Defence Hospital Unit (MDHU) at Frimley Park Hospital, Surrey, was signed on January 26 by the Surgeon-General, Vice Admiral Tony Revell and Mrs Alison Kinlock, chairman of the Frimley Park Hospital NHS Trust.

Lunch on the menu for IFOR families



Children of soldiers deployed with IFOR in Bosnia tuck in to Sunday lunch at Rheindahlen. The event was organised by HQ RASU especially for families involved in the IFOR deployment.

Despite heavy snow and sub-zero temperatures, more than 250 mothers and children travelled from

Mönchengladbach, Viersen and Düsseldorf to tuck into a traditional roast – or chicken nuggets and chips. So successful was the lunch, prepared by RASU Catering Flight, that one is planned for the last Sunday of each month for the duration of the IFOR operation.

Brothers team up with the best

IT is possible to turn life in civvy street into a success story, as thousands of Servicemen and women have discovered in recent years.

Brothers Tony and David Martin took advantage of the Ministry of Defence's resettlement programme and the financial capital awarded on redundancy to carve out their own niche in the competitive world of business.

Tony spent 12 years as a commando, leaving as a lance corporal in 33 Engineer Regiment. Within two years he was the director of a limited company. David, eight years in the Army Catering Corps, also became a director of the company when he left the Army.

Their combined experience and drive, encouraged by the opportunities provided by the resettlement programme, got them off on the right foot.

The brothers' Cirencester-based company, Optimum Self Discovery, specialises in management development. It also provides activity breaks for people who have spinal cord injuries and other disabilities. Projects range from weekends in the Cotswolds to expeditions to Nepal.

Tony and David have seen their business grow from just the two of them. It now supports 14 full-time employees and 80 associates, most of them ex-Servicemen.

The brothers claim part of their



Tony Martin



David Martin

success is because they employ the best, people who have been trained in the Armed Forces.

They pride themselves on the fact that they can operate anywhere in the world, putting together a team to deal with the organisational problems.

This, they say, has been made possible by the professional, highly-motivated, disciplined and flexible qualities of ex-Service personnel. They reckon it's a winning combination.

See announcement on Page 18.

Helping to cope with bullying

FORMER Army wife and estate warden secretary Gill Brown has produced a video and support pack designed to help children and adults cope with the malicious and traumatic problem of bullying.

Aimed at the 6-11 age group, she believes it could be an invaluable source of advice and information for Army wives' clubs and community centres.

If you want to find out more about the pack, contact Gill at A19 Films, 21 Foyle Street, Sunderland SR1 1LE (tel 0191 565-5709; fax 0191 565-6288).

Ex-sapper David puts disability to benefit of others

FORMER junior leader David Player, crippled in a swimming accident in 1991, has formed his own holiday company in Portugal.

Called *Wheeling Around the Algarve*, the company specialises in catering for holidaymakers who, like David, are confined to wheelchairs or in some other way restricted by disability.

David trained as a junior leader at Dover in the 1980s before joining the Royal Engineers. But he broke his neck in a diving accident near his parents' home in the Algarve in 1991, and spent six months in the rehabilitation centre at Stoke Mandeville.

The Royal Engineers Association helped by buying him a wheelchair.

David passed a diving aptitude test in Kiel while with 7 Squadron, 21 Engineer Regiment in Nienburg, but never got a chance to do the course. But he has subsequently qualified for the scuba diving open water diver certificate and can offer diving courses to disabled people.

"My five years in the Royal Engineers undoubtedly helped me cope with the enormous changes that were necessary when I became disabled. My drive, determination and will to succeed were installed and nurtured during my time with the various units I was posted to."

He brings to his specialised travel business a unique understanding of the many variations of conditions that disabled people can experience and, while trying to make a go of the business, is committed to helping others.

● *Wheeling Around the Algarve*, 50 de Outubro 84, Apartado 421, 8136 Almancil, Algarve, Por-

Paderborn jobs show

ORGANISATIONS based throughout Europe will be exhibiting at Resettlement 96 at the Rhine Army Show in Bad Lippspringe, Paderborn, from May 27.

The event is aimed at matching up Service personnel and their dependants with appropriate jobs, training and general advice.

Among those who will be looking for staff at the show are HMS Hospital Services Personnel and Firm Security. The Royal British Legion will be on hand to offer re-training, interest-free loans and good advice.

As the Army tackles problems of undermanning, every soldier has a part to play in projecting . . .

THE RIGHT IMAGE

EVERY officer and soldier will be expected to play his or her part in projecting the image of the British Army under an all-embracing new strategy.

Gen Sir Michael Rose, the Adjutant General, told *Soldier* that he would be responsible for developing and maintaining that image. The project will be co-ordinated by a committee under the Director of Public Relations (Army).

"Everybody will be involved, because what you write in your magazine has an impact, what appears in recruiting campaigns has an impact. How soldiers behave in Bosnia - which of course is an enormous success story - would have a very good impact on our image," said Gen Rose.

"Everybody is involved in this. It is just a question of focusing it and telling the outside world something we already know, that we are an extremely effective Army, that we are very good at doing our job - we are probably the best in the world at peace-keeping - and that we give people extraordinarily good training as young people.

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RECRUITING

Although the Army is seriously undermanned, particularly in the Infantry and Royal Armoured Corps, where much of the 2,500 shortfall is borne, there are indicators that recruiting and retention measures

TELEVISION

Commenting on how the Army was portrayed by television programmes, the Adjutant General said he thought some were very good, some very bad.

"It depends on perceptions and it's



are having some success. The Adjutant General said that in January there had been an upturn in the number of enquiries from people wishing to join the Army. "There is a natural relationship between the number of enquiries you have and the number of people coming through the door."

He said the take-up on the bonus retention scheme was very high.

"If we maintain the figures that we are currently gleaning, I think we will be about hitting where we should."

But Gen Rose warned that it was not just a question of financial measures. Getting the Army back up to its established strength of 104,000 would involve a whole new attitude of mind in which everyone saw it as their business to help recruiting and retention.

The Army had to project itself as a good employer which gave people a career strategy for life, and an interesting and worthwhile time while in uniform.

"We know what we are but we haven't been very good at telling other people what we are. Some of the images that are abroad of the Army, particularly after the redundancy programmes, of us being an industry in decline, for example, are utterly false.

"We are the country's biggest employer. We need to attract something like 15,000 to 16,000 people a year new from the civilian market into the Army."



WOMEN'S ROLE

GENERAL Rose said the Army Board was coming to a view about how it could further open the doors to the appointment of women in different jobs.

"Whether we have a 100 per cent open policy remains yet to be decided. Certainly we are moving down the route of opening more and more doors as we go along. I think there is a cultural factor here at work, which is important, and that is that you have to deal with people's attitudes as they are today."

"You can start off with educational programmes which means that you can be in a slightly different position tomorrow, but it is no good just bringing in measures which will have a counter-effect in terms of people's attitudes if you introduce them too quickly."

"It has to be part of an integration process and part of a cultural change for an educational programme."

something one cannot control, but inevitably we are part of society and therefore we are not going to be able to wall ourselves off from it.

"I think one has to accept the plus and the minus, but overall I think that the projection we get from television isn't altogether bad."

"The British Isles have a natural interest in things military. How we meet that interest is what is important."

TEAM EFFORT

Talking about the importance of equal opportunities for all, Gen Rose said: "You cannot run an Army if you don't treat

everybody fairly and on an equal basis, because you won't get that team effort.

"It's something that we have always been good at. We have always been non-discriminatory. We have had certain rules in the past about the employment of women, for example, but we are moving away from those and I think that's a good thing.

"We have just issued an equal opportunities directive in the Army. We have launched a number of educational programmes which are now included in places like non-commissioned officers' courses and the educational courses that people have to pass for promotion, such as Sandhurst and the junior division of the Staff College.

"All these things have elements which educate people in what equal opportunities is about. In some ways it was implicit in what we did before . . . we are now making it explicit."

ETHOS

Asked about the effect of rulings made by European courts on areas such as pregnant Servicewomen and the current campaign by homosexual personnel dismissed the Armed Forces, the Adjutant General said: "I don't want to comment on individual findings by European courts, but I think there are two different ethos abroad.

"One is the ethos that has to be the ethos of any armed force: that individuals should willingly subordinate their own interests on behalf of the common military and national good. *Willingly* being the key word.

"And then you have another ethos that seems to be prevalent in society as a whole in which the benefit and the right seems to be emphasised in a way that the duty and the obligation isn't. Yet in any armed force it has to be the duty and the obligation that is emphasised."

"In the alternative ethic the individual or minority group interest seems to be considered on a par if not superior to the common good."

"You cannot run an armed force on that basis, and therefore you do slightly have a clash of ethos. It is something we are thinking about and are we coming to terms with, but of course we cannot introduce that other ethos into the armed forces."

The Army was launching educational programmes so that people realised what was required of them when they joined up.

"My own view," said Gen Rose, "is that this will not in any way reduce or diminish the number of people who come into the forces, nor diminish their interest, because a lot of people want to be in our sort of society. Rather than just get things from society, they want to make a contribution to life. That, of course, is what we do."

Signals school awarded NVQ status

ANOTHER piece in the jigsaw of "civilianising" military skills has been slotted into place thanks to a pioneering initiative at Blandford.

The excellence of the Royal Corps of Signals has been formally recognised with full membership of the Telecommunications Vocational Standards Council (TVSC).

As a result, the Royal School of Signals at Blandford is now an approved centre for the award of National Vocational Qualifications (NVQs), an increasingly vital tool in gaining employment outside the Armed Forces.



Brig Nigel Wood (pictured), the Signal Officer-in-Chief (Army), received the TVSC membership award from managing director Ian Lorimer.

Soldiers who successfully complete their signals training to class 1 standard will be awarded NVQ level three. Some trades will also qualify under the government's modern apprenticeship scheme and links are currently being discussed with Bournemouth and Poole College.

Blandford is also investigating the possibility of management and supervisory awards at levels four and five.

Yugoslavia NATO medal approved

UNITS have been told to prepare medal rolls listing the names of soldiers who qualify for the newly-approved NATO medal with "former Yugoslavia" clasp.

To be eligible for both UN and NATO medals for service in former Yugoslavia, the qualifying period for personnel under one command must have been completed before the start of the other.

Individuals who complete neither qualifying period will not be awarded either medal and, where the qualifying period under UN command is incomplete, it will not be acceptable to make up the shortfall under NATO command.

All belated claims for the medal, which, with ribbon for wear in undress, will be issued in accordance with NATO instructions, will be submitted by the Army Medal Office to the appropriate NATO office.

Yorkies take time off to guard the Regulars

IF ANYONE tries to break into the British logistics compound at Divulje Barracks, Split, they will probably end up being marched to the joint British-Croatian guardroom by Territorial Army soldiers from Yorkshire.

A platoon drawn from the 3rd Battalion, The Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire (Yorkshire Volunteers) is the only formed unit among a significant number of TA and Reservists in theatre, and is responsible for the security of the Peace Implementation Force (IFOR) area.

The diplomatic skills of the part-timers are tested when intruders turn out to be Croatian soldiers, because the British National Support Element which they guard shares a Croatian barracks and airfield.

But the Yorkies know when someone is on the scrounge.

Alongside the 22 soldiers from 3 PWO are two members of the 4th/5th Battalion The Green Howards (Alexandra, Princess of Wales's Own Yorkshire Regiment) (Yorkshire Volunteers) and a section of Regular Pioneers.

At one time the platoon shared its duties with a platoon from the 3rd Battalion, The Royal Gurkha Regiment, but the Gurkhas were transferred to provide security for the ARRC headquarters in Sarajevo.

The Split beat includes a variety of units. Housed within Divulje Barracks are a support squadron, a multinational communications complex, and elements of 38 Engineer Regiment and 9 Army Air Corps, along with RAF and Royal Navy squadrons.



Reports:
Gordons Skilling
Pictures:
Mike Perring



Above - Cpl Craig Murthick, Pte Tom Hicks and Cpl Lee Richardson patrol Divulje Barracks in Split

Left - An IFOR vehicle driver is checked by 3 PWO as it enters Divulje Barracks

Britons stationed in the Croatian port have worked with a Spanish battalion for the past three years, although it is moving to the Multinational Division South East. A Dutch National Support Element is also accommodated within the wire, as is a US Army detachment.

The TA platoon is commanded by former Royal Artillery Regular Capt Joe Shone, who wonders if his is the first TA unit to be deployed in an operational theatre as a non-specialist unit since Korea or Aden.

A support weapons battalion in Britain, 3 PWO's volunteers include a lumberjack, slaughterman, builder, HGV driver, engineering graduate, and a history undergrad-

uate taking a year out. The force is a mixture of ex-Regular and non-Regular soldiers, both employed and unemployed.

There was a quick response to the call for volunteers, and the battalion has a list of soldiers still hopeful they may get a chance to serve in Bosnia.

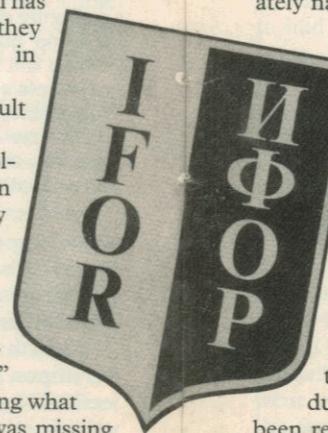
Some, however, find it difficult to get time off work.

Some of the employed soldiers had chosen not to go on the deployment because they could earn more in civvy street, said Capt Shone.

"There is a facility to claim back the difference in wages but the bureaucracy and paperwork involved is a bit daunting."

Cpl Craig Murphy, discovering what Regulars know only too well, was missing his wife and one-year-old daughter. Pte Tom Hicks thought the six-month tour was hard on wives.

But during his ten years in the TA Cpl Lee Richardson has already done one six-month attachment with a Regular unit - in the Falklands with the Royal Engineers. He would recommend it to anyone.



Above - Pte David Gerrish and Pte David Espalargas, with a Spanish BMR armoured personnel carrier, provide a NATO guard at the ARRC

Right - Helping set up the ARRC HQ are Pte Billy Clark, Pte Nick Douglas, Cpl Stan Stanley and Pte Scouse Canavan-Daly



Grub's up... where Torvill and Dean once danced

SQUADDIES eat where Torvill and Dean once skated to an Olympic gold medal to the sensuous strains of Bolero.

The so-called Bolero Bistro, appropriately named by Regimental Catering Warrant Officer WO1 Terry Speak, feeds 400 of the soldiers who support the Peace Implementation Force headquarters in Sarajevo. The Zepra ice stadium, where crowds roared their approval of the world's top skating stars, is now home to members of the Logistic Support Battalion and 7 and 16 Signal Regiments.

An exclusive hotel complex at Ilidza, where many Olympic spectators stayed, was badly damaged during sectarian fighting but has now been renovated to house the Allied Command Europe Rapid Reaction Force HQ which provides IFOR with its command structure.

When the HQ arrived in theatre it was temporarily located in Kiseljak until the Sarajevo site could be prepared. The formation of 1,500 personnel, 60 per cent of them British, can cover an area of one



Framed as they construct the ARRC HQ are Ptes Lorraine McNicol and Amanda Quigley of the ARRC Support Battalion

square kilometre. The HQ would normally set itself up in vehicles and tents, but with several partly-ruined hotels available, it was decided to make use of them.

The mammoth task of refurbishing the hotels was enthusiastically undertaken by Maj Mac McLaren, SO2 Staff Support for

the ARRC and otherwise known as "The Janitor".

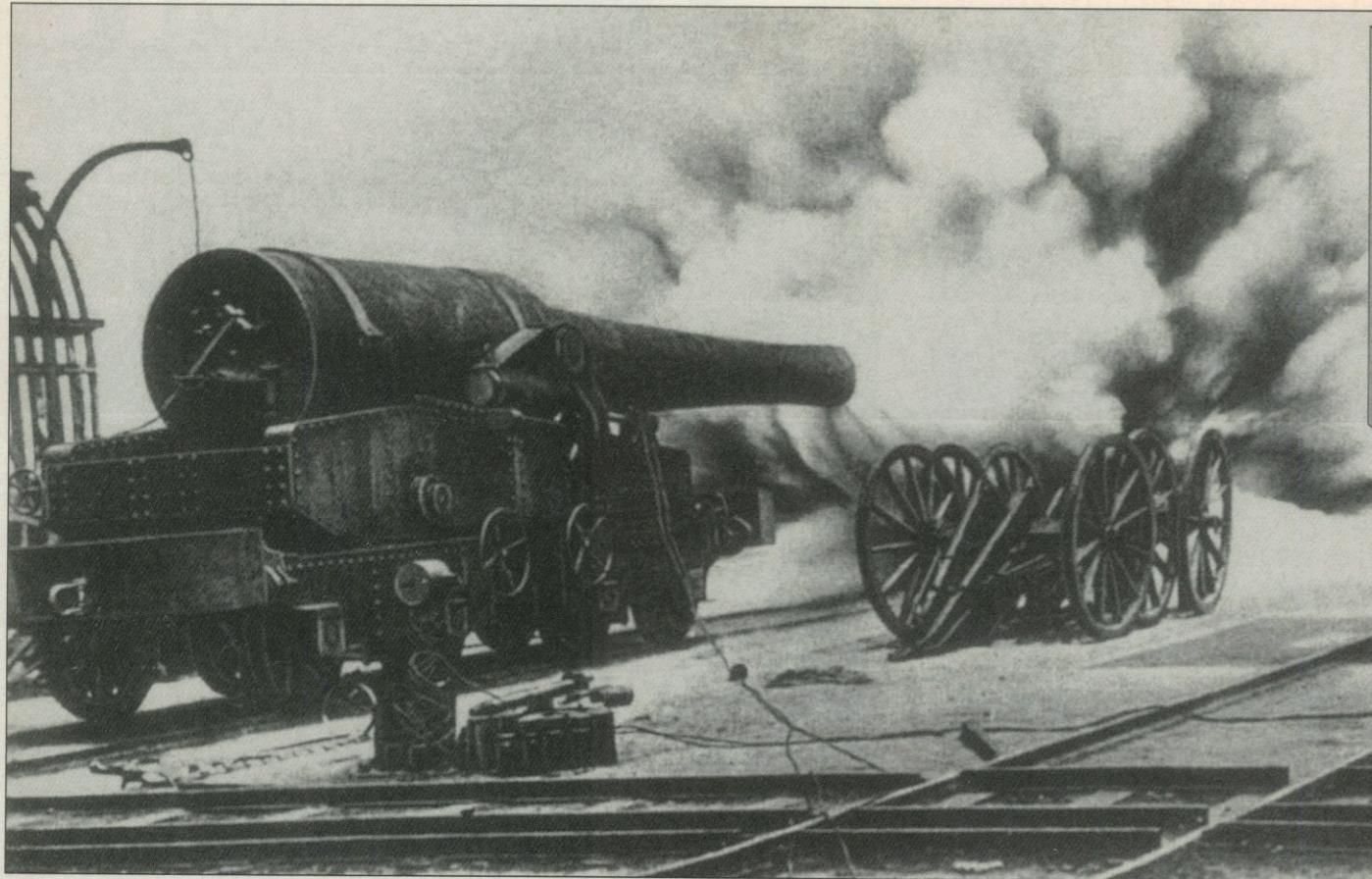
For WO2 John Rosskelly of the Transport Squadron, the decision meant he had to erect only a third of the complex, and the configuration was nothing like anything he had done before.

Instead of a compact, close-knit headquarters, cells are 50 to 60 metres apart.

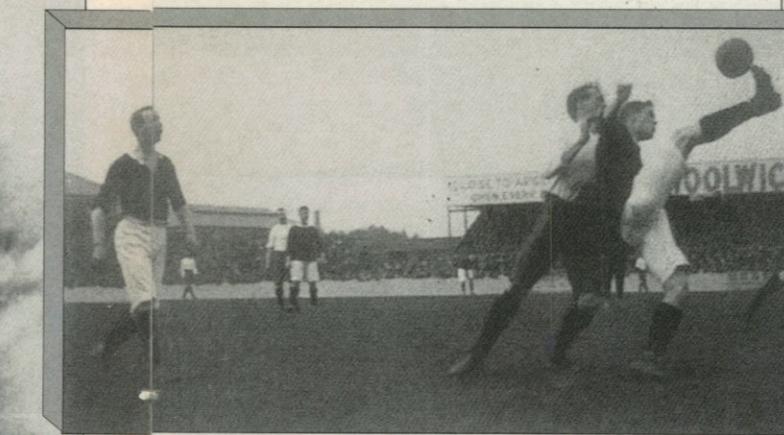
SSgt Chris Robinson had 90 vehicles at his disposal to establish the all-sources cell on top of a semi-permanent hard base.

Tragedy nearly struck when SSgt Robinson and a colleague were putting up picket fences. They had been told the area was clear of mines, but the other soldier stood on one and suffered severe wounds to his thighs and groin.

His foot is expected to be saved, thanks to quick action by medics and a French mobile surgical team.



Once more out of the breech. A huge breech-loading gun being tested at the Royal Arsenal butts, date unspecified



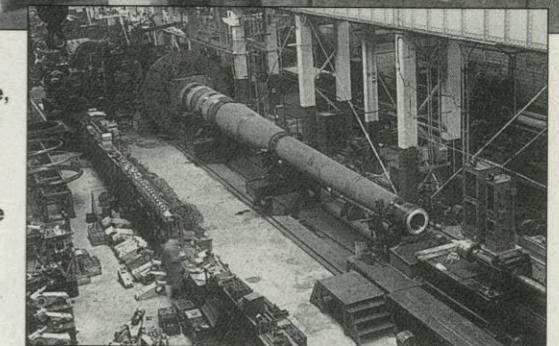
Up the Gunners! Woolwich Arsenal versus Bolton Wanderers at Plumstead, September 30, 1905



Above: Entrance to a secret city. The main gate, Beresford Square, built in 1828

Left: Doing their bit. Female factory staff check shells during the First World War

Right: Over a barrel. The boring mill or heavy machine shop



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Inside the ...

SECRET CITY

FOR MORE than 300 years it was a secret, walled city, harbouring an almost self-sufficient population and kept secure by a ring of steel.

In 1805 the huge ordnance site at Woolwich was named the Royal Arsenal by George III and by 1918 it had become the largest and most concentrated armament manufacturing centre in the country, as well as giving its name to a certain local football club.

Today the Ministry of Defence occupies just 76 of the 1,300 acres it once controlled.

One who saw the arms factory in its prime was Roy Masters, who went to live there at the age of six in 1921. His father, who was a manager there and had himself been born within its walls, went on to become Director of the Royal Ordnance Factories in the Second World War.

In 1989, the year in which it was announced the MoD was to leave the Royal Arsenal, Roy made a nostalgic return to the "city" where he grew up and decided to write its history.

Sadly he died last year before his labour of love reached fruition, but fortunately the



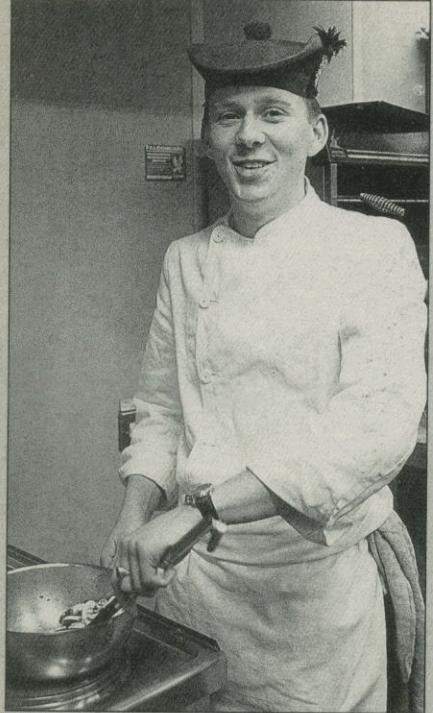
Vanishing empire. General view of the Royal Arsenal, which once occupied 1,300 acres

project has been completed with the help of the chairman of the Royal Arsenal Woolwich Historical Society, Alan Turner.

The resulting book, a revealing and appealing look behind the walls of the once secret city, is bristling with intriguing detail

and packed with pictures, some of which are reproduced on these pages.

• **The Royal Arsenal, Woolwich** by Roy Masters. Britain in Old Photographs series, Alan Sutton Publishing, paperback, £7.99.



"Hobby" chef Hldr Dan Watt

'Volunteer' chef enjoyed the job

SEVERAL Highlanders were volunteered for a crash course in cookery to take over duties in the "Victors" – vehicle checkpoints – and release chefs for other duties.

Hldr Dan Watt enjoyed the change from guard duties. Before joining up he had been a chef on the boats which plough between the Orkney islands.

Pte George Redman of 176 Provost Company said: "Highlanders don't just eat haggis at Burns' suppers. They really like haggis and prefer it to hamburgers. The only problem is, it takes three hours to boil."

SSgt John Mullen REME had a phenomenal amount of work to carry out.

"In one month alone we had 150 vehicles, and you can be talking about up to ten jobs on a vehicle," he said.

BRIGADE HQ

His Light Aid Detachment served not only the battalion, but was second line for 176 Provost Company, Brigade HQ, the Brigade Signal Squadron and various other elements.

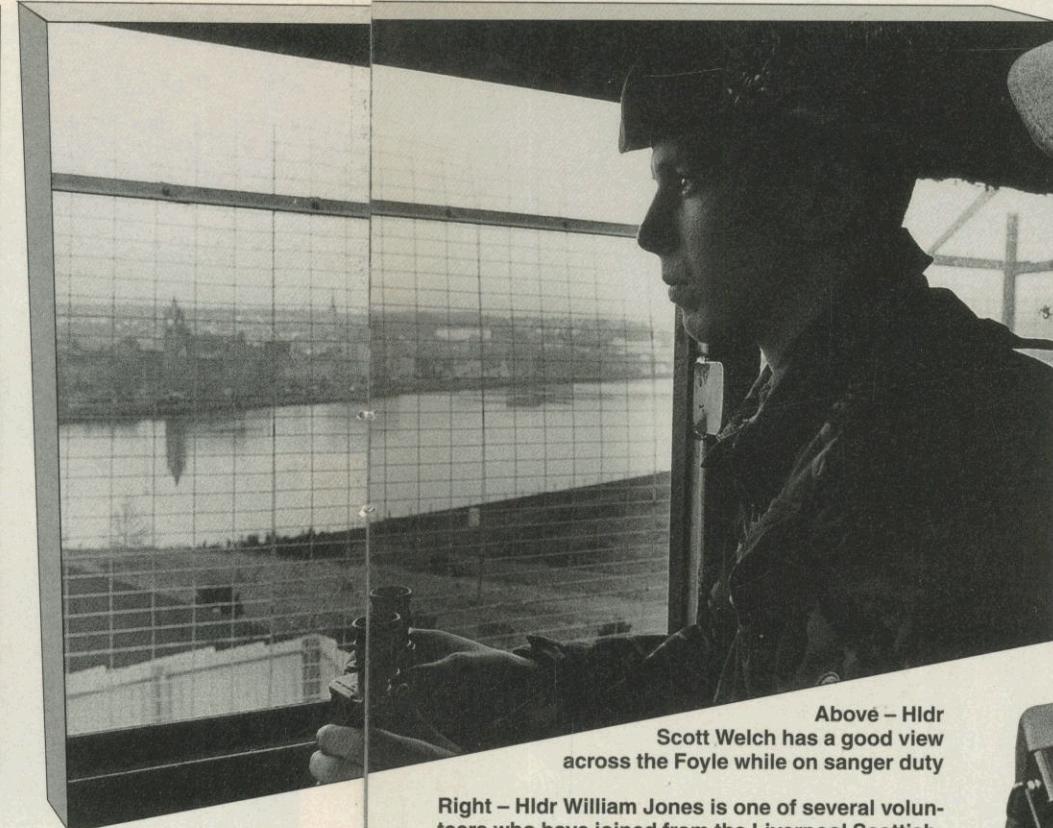
The Highlanders hope that better times lie ahead for the Province. They guarded sappers of 9 Parachute Squadron, Royal Engineers, who removed the Rosemount observation tower and outlying "Victors".

The sappers were keeping their fingers crossed that they would not have to return to build defensive installations again, said SSgt Lindsey Horton of 1 Troop.

His troop demolished the Corsquin vehicle checkpoint where five Kingsmen were killed in October, 1990 when a local man was forced to drive a proxy bomb into the VCP. There are plans to rebuild a pub which used to stand on the site.



A Glaswegian RSM hands over to an Aussie: WO1 Tom Rennie (right) succeeds WO1 Jim Archibald



Above – Hldr Scott Welch has a good view across the Foyle while on sanger duty

Right – Hldr William Jones is one of several volunteers who have joined from the Liverpool Scottish

Highlanders find new challenges as tension fades

THIS feature was prepared before the Docklands bomb on February 9 shattered the IRA cease-fire. It reflects the lower military profile adopted by the Army in response to peace initiatives during the past 17 months.

**Report: Gordon Skilling
Pictures: Mike Perring**

FLEXIBILITY was required of The Highlanders when they arrived in Londonderry for a two-year residential tour.

The 1st Battalion, The Highlanders (Seaford, Gordons and Camerons) was ready for a busy tour to weld colourful and distinguished traditions into a new regiment – but some months before arriving in the Province, cease-fires were announced.

A lower military patrol pattern was adopted in keeping with the perceived levels of threat and the reduced need to escort the Royal Ulster Constabulary on the beat.

Policemen could again carry out their task without being supported by military patrols, so allowing the Jocks to turn their attention to imaginative military and adventurous training schemes – and what they would do with the three weeks' leave

they could now have every four months. In their first year, exciting training was carried out from Canada to Gaerlochhead, while platoon commanders led demanding expeditions to remote regions.

Lt Calum Lane and eight Highlanders followed the 1895 route of the Gordons and Camerons in the relief column to Chitral on the North West Frontier; Lt Philip White took another eight to the Tatra mountains on the Czech-Polish border, while Lt Chris Irving took most of his platoon to Bavaria, where all achieved their para-gliding pilots' certificates.

B Company under Maj Frank Philip plans a six-week exercise in Belize this spring.

The battalion runs a monthly operational cycle for its four companies, A, B, D and Support.

The main requirement is the lot of soldiers since the dawn of time: staggering on – interminable stretches of time on guard, watching in case anything happens.

Even when nothing is expected, guards have still to keep on the alert. This is the main task of one of the operations companies. It moves lock, stock and barrel to a familiar sounding name for Highlanders... Fort George.

From this, the main RUC station west of the river Foyle, detachments are sent to the various posts which are still manned, such as Strabane.

The second operations company essentially covers the guards and duties at the

● Turn to Page 23





Wives give posting their approval

Anne Young, Michele Yarrich and Donald Forsyth relax at "Roaring Meg" on Londonderry's City Walls

THE Highlanders, and particularly their wives, delighted in the community life in Londonderry, and noticed many affinities with local folk.

"People on both sides are so friendly, and go out of their way to help you," said Mrs Michele Yarrick. "Wives should not be frightened and should make the most of future postings here and go out exploring."

The beautiful beaches and great golf courses attracted Mrs Anne Young, who also appreciated the exceptional shopping opportunities.

"There are many shops where you can get goods at half price, and one outlet is great for porcelain," she said.

Families' officer Capt Ron Birnie and the soldiers are still not allowed to walk out at will in the community, but he spends much time helping the

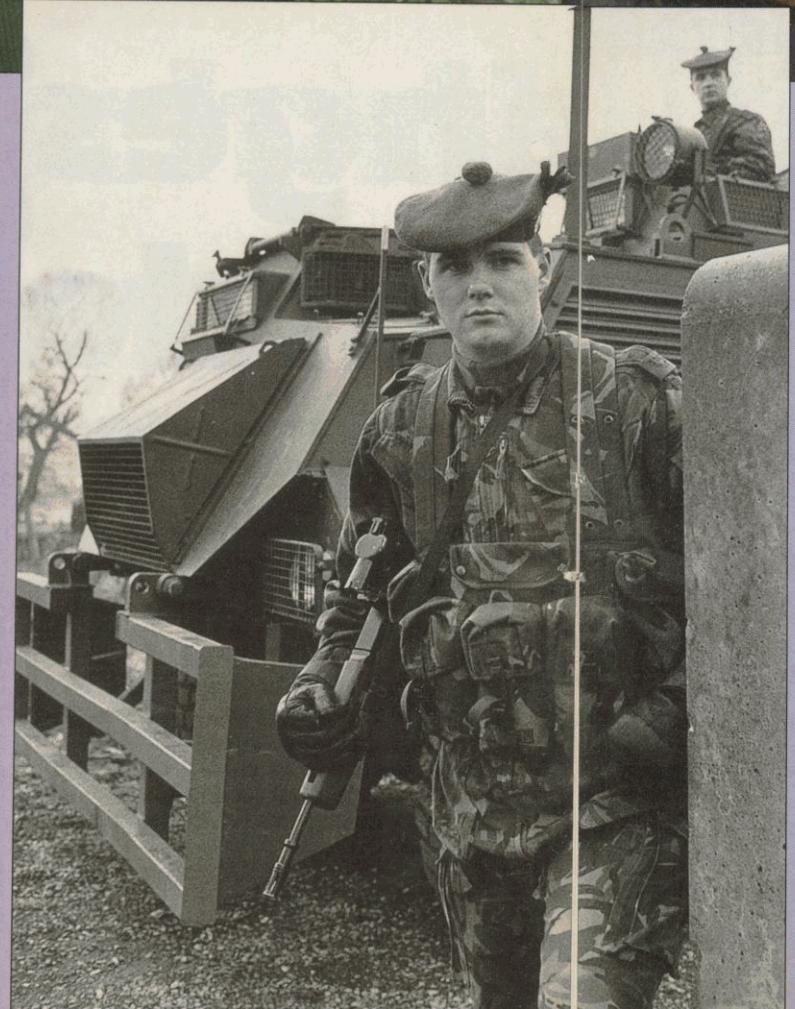
wives to get out and about. He also looks after the families of the brigade HQ staff.

"The wives were very wary at first and didn't know what to expect, but now they are taking the lead and getting involved in the community," said Capt Birnie.

"We have a number of highly-qualified wives, including nurses and child minders, and the majority who want to find work have done so."

One weekend the wives left the children, cooking and cleaning to their men and donned winter woollies and camouflage kit for a rigorous look at military-style expertise.

Pigeon shooting, go-karting and abseiling were also on the menu and Sharron Barker was voted best recruit, while Elinor Shepherd was fastest over the assault course.



All Black Watch: Hdr Craig Howarth comes from New Zealand

Highlanders' new role

From Page 21

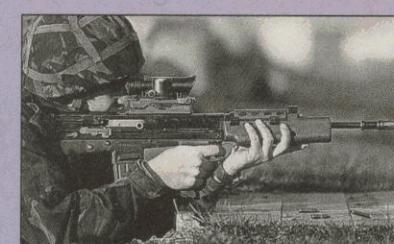
Ebrington headquarters of both the battalion and 8 Infantry brigade. Again, it is a question of mounting guard in sangers. There is some opportunity for military training, and for being with one's family.

During the periods of sanger bashing, Highlanders can look forward to a month of out-of-Province training.

A visit by A Company to Canada for a Medicine Man exercise last year proved stimulating for the Jocks. They provided the infantry element of the Opposing Force and thoroughly enjoyed working with armoured vehicles and tactical engagement simulation equipment, said the OC, Maj Peter Fox Linton.

"I don't know whether it compensates for endless guard duties, but it certainly makes up in some degree for the routine duties which are very much part of life in Northern Ireland," he said.

Part of the life of the new regiment are the inter-company and inter-platoon competitions, and OC A Coy took the place of one of his Jocks in a demanding march-and-shoot com-



No let-up on the Magilligan ranges

petition. He did not lead from the back, but kept well up in front with the platoon he was helping out.

The Queen's Own Highlanders' Murray Shield – a massive trophy – was competed for annually by each company in skills from sport to shooting, while The Gordons held an inter-platoon military skills competition for the honour of winning the Duke of Rothesay's Dirk.

This was presented to the regiment by Prince Charles, who, as *tanist* or heir to the Scottish throne, is Duke of Rothesay and Lord of the Isles as well as Prince of Wales. The dirk is worn by the winning platoon commander at ceremonial functions.

On operations in Northern Ireland there was not the scope of previ-

ous competitions, which were spread over two days and could involve covering a considerable distance and imaginative scenarios with river crossings, insertions and hunter forces.

"Because of our cycle of operations we are unable to be as demanding," said the 2iC, Maj Grenville Irvine-Fortescue, "but we are incorporating Northern Ireland skills in this first year."

A static shoot based on the Annual Personal Weapons Test was followed by an eight-mile march, carrying a log for a fair portion of the way, with the last two miles forced and the last 400 metres carrying a loaded stretcher.

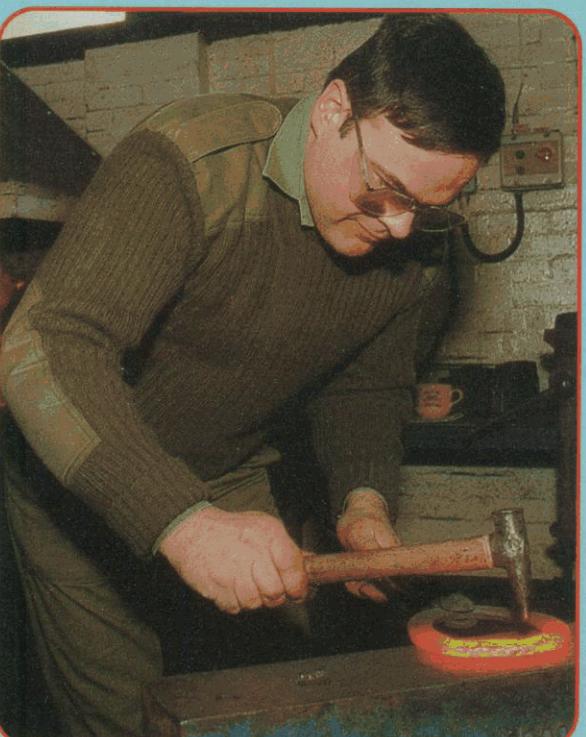
Travelling to the ranges at Magilligan, the view across Lough Foyle reminded many Highlanders of the view from Fort George to the Black Isle.

It was from the Londonderry area in the sixth century that St Columba left to evangelise the Islands and Highlands, including the Inverness area, when the Scots from Ireland colonised what was to become Scotland.



Above – Master Tailor Stan Hon has to work in three tartans: Mackenzie, Gordon and Cameron

Left – Officers' Mess Manager CSgt Pete Newman had double the responsibility with two sets of regimental colours, silver and paintings to look after before leaving for the School of Army Aviation at Middle Wallop to undergo helicopter training



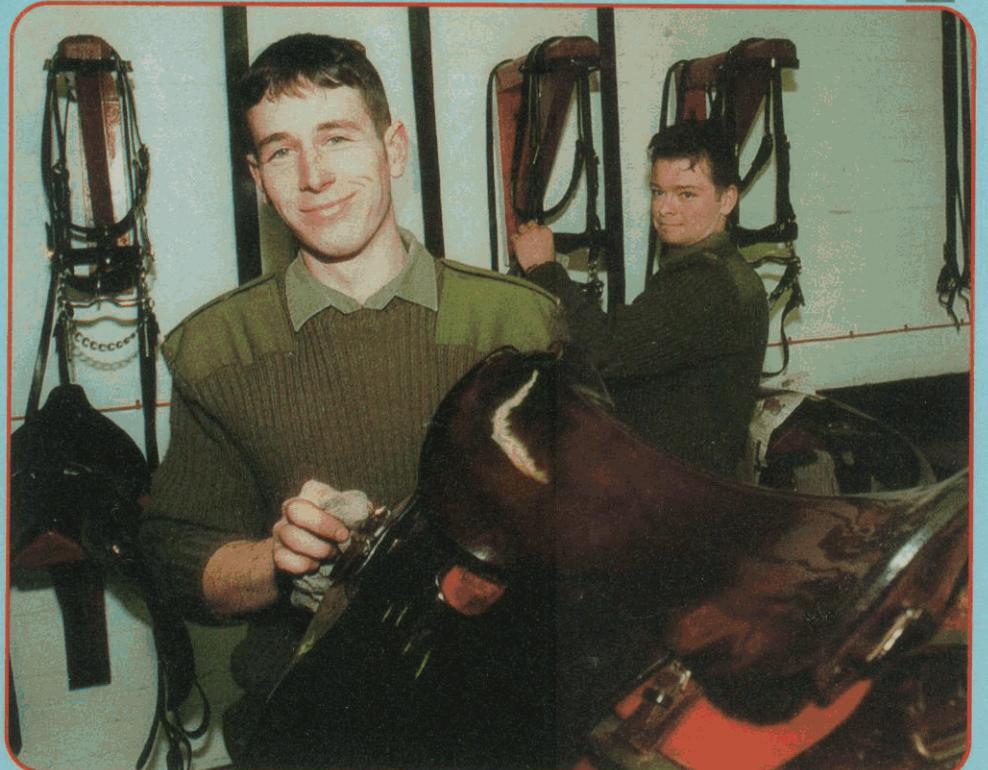
Above - Farrier Gnr Paul Hodgkinson prepares a surgical shoe for a horse which needs additional heel support

Left - Bdr Tony Ayling repairs stitching on the trumpet major's tunic in the tailor's shop

Right - The big moment: King's Troop fires a 41-gun salute in Green Park



Another polished performance



Gnr Bradley Morgan and LBdr Jason Beer clean and polish saddles a day before the Accession gun salute in London's Green Park

BEHIND the immaculate pageantry of the 41-gun salute fired in Green Park on February 6 to mark the 44th anniversary of the Queen's accession to the throne lies a story of patient preparation, constant practice and meticulous attention to the minutest of detail.

When The King's Troop, Royal Horse Artillery appears in public, every uniform, every gun and every animal has had hours of attention lavished on it. Nothing has been left to chance.

The photographs on these pages reflect just a few of the soldiers and some of the chores involved in preparing The King's Troop for a Royal Gun Salute.

With the unit involved in several such high-profile ceremonies every year - the Queen's birthday, the anniversary of her Coronation, and the birthdays of the Duke of Edinburgh and the Queen Mother to name a few - its soldiers and its horses are well drilled in the routines which create one of London's most spectacular military displays.

Tourists who happen across it by accident cannot believe their good fortune.

The day before the Accession salute sev-

eral horses were given a "haircut". Their shining coats are clipped routinely. Particular care was taken with saddles and tackle, "elbow grease" producing mirror-like surfaces on the burnished leather.

Steel on the 80-year-old 13-pounder guns has been polished so often that it gleams like new chrome. All the troop's artillery pieces saw action in the First World War.

Any blemishes on the gold-braided uniforms of The King's Troop are attended to in the tailor's shop at the barracks in St John's Wood, only a cricket ball throw from Lord's Cricket Ground.

As always, the horses come first. Once their early morning constitutional is over and men and beasts have returned to barracks, the horses are groomed, fed and watered before the riders go off to a well-earned breakfast.

And so it was on February 6.

Another Royal Gun Salute executed with perfect co-ordination and drill, the six 13-pounders and their carriages returned to St John's Wood. Another day in the public eye for a unique unit. Another job well done.



Horsey haircut: LBdr Wayne Macleod gives Troy a once-over with the clippers

ARMY OF ADVISERS

Desert group with a mission

FIVE years on from the Gulf War, Britain still has military personnel serving in Kuwait. They form the British Military Mission, commanded by Brig Hamish McGregor, established at the end of the war to provide high-level advice and training.

More than 50-strong, the mission provides a variety of expertise, and has personnel working, many as individuals, within the Kuwaiti Armed Forces (KAF) battle schools, headquarters and training establishments. Most speak Arabic.

Brig McGregor is training adviser to the KAF Chief of Staff. "It is my job to co-ordinate the advice we give on training matters," he said. "My staff serve a two-year accompanied tour. Most ask for a year's extension, so it can't be that bad."

The brigadier considers himself lucky. Kuwait is his third period of loan service in the past nine years. He has also served in Abu Dhabi and Ghana.

"We have two main concerns – to ensure that the KAF basic training package gets off the ground and back to the standard it was before the Iraqi invasion, and that the British equipment being introduced is actually fielded properly in the units."



Brig Hamish McGregor



Maj Martin Fuller, Cheshire, tempts inhabitants of a camel farm with a tasty morsel

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WHILE the blindfolded Kuwaiti recruit proudly stripped his rifle in front of the visiting general, a warrant officer of The Royal Anglian Regiment stood discreetly in the background taking a professional interest in the demonstration.

WO2 Simon Soanes, one of a small army of British advisers supporting the Kuwaiti Armed Forces, was watching a post-graduation parade display of military skills at an army barracks in Kuwait City.

With Maj Martin Fuller, Cheshire, he has been advising the Kuwaitis on recruit training.

"We have three battalions' worth of recruits under training at any given time and I advise their NCO instructors on methods of instruction. Some of them are pretty good," said WO2 Soanes.

"My job here is vastly different from what I would do in the British Army because I'm not part of an organisation that is actually soldiering. I have no command here and cannot tell them what to do. I can only offer advice."

Maj Eamonn Ross KRH is part of the Desert Warrior training team. Based at Jahra with the 26th Al Soor Brigade, he is supported by WO2 Dave Turley, D and D, and WO2 John Parker, Coldm Gds.

They monitor individual training and assist with Warrior familiarisation when Kuwaiti units receive the vehicle.

"Their soldiers train here as commanders, gunners and drivers before moving to 55 Battalion for a six-week package of familiarisation and tactics. This is followed by a company exercise and a live-firing battle run on a desert range," said Maj Ross.

Main difference between the Desert Warrior infantry fighting vehicle (IFV) and the standard British Army version is the American Delco turret which mounts a 25mm cannon and two TOW missiles.

Desert Warrior also has a filtration system designed to cope with desert sand, and air-conditioning which is vital when high summer temperatures rise to a fiery 50 degrees.

Some IFVs have been fitted with the British-manufactured GID 3 NBC detection system, while command variants have Trimble satellite navigation systems. An electronic direction arrow on a dial, guided by the vehicle commander, tells the driver which way to go.

All three men served in the Gulf War, Maj Ross with the 14th/20th King's Hussars.

"I haven't seen anything of the regiment's battlefield sites because our actions took place in Iraq, but I have been to the place, here in Kuwait, where we halted at the end of the war. There is still a lot of dangerous stuff, including discarded ammunition, lying out in the desert," he said.



Desert Warriors: Maj Eamonn Ross and WO2s John Parker and Dave Turley are training advisers

Infantry adviser Maj Tony Trevis, D and D, has a crucial role at Kuwait's Land Forces Institute, which is about to centralise its training assets.

"The Institute had separate infantry, armour, artillery and engineer schools but is about to merge them into a single combined arms training centre. It will probably take two years to achieve," he explained.

Maj Ross is well qualified for the job. Before taking up his post last autumn, he had completed a tour at the Infantry Train-

ing Centre Wales (formerly the NCOs' Tactical Wing) and led a short-term training team which advised Namibia's national defence force.

During the war in the Gulf, WO2 Simon Hayes KRH was attached to 7 Armoured Brigade as an NBC adviser. He had not forgotten the carnage he witnessed on the Mutlah Ridge.

"When I first joined the British Military Mission in Kuwait, I was amazed. A lot has

● Turn to next page

Brits set up staff college



Palm trees line the route to the Command and Staff College in Kuwait. Britons on the staff include (left to right) RAF Wg Cdr Willie Felger, Geoff Coop and Robin Chambers, Lt Col Alistair Reid RHF, Col Geoffrey Sheldon, Sqn Ldr Peter Morris RAF, WO2 Les Brookes AGC, and Lt Col Jeremy Blott RDG

THE BRITISH Army has been asked to establish a command and staff college for the Kuwaiti Armed Forces.

Director of studies and deputy commandant is Col Geoffrey Sheldon, late QLR, who runs the British team invited to set it up.

"I am responsible for the whole project, not only for what is taught, but for advising the Kuwaitis on how it will be run in the future," he said.

His 14-strong team includes nine lieutenant colonel equivalents drawn from the three Services – one Royal Navy, five Army and three Royal Air Force – who are writing and teaching the course.

Administrative support is provided by two majors and two warrant officers.

Kuwaitis are shadowing the posts and eventually the establishment of the college will be about 100.

The first course started this month, after 60 students completed a three-week preparatory study period which included an intensive English language refresher course.

Army of advisers

• From Page 27

been done to clear up the war damage. Hundreds of scrapped vehicles and blown-up tanks have disappeared."

Lt Col Nigel Forrestal is coming to the end of more than three years of service in Kuwait. Now the engineer adviser, he was originally posted in with Maj Alan Jones to advise on the clearance of mines and munitions left by the Iraqis.

Lt Col Nigel Forrestal

The country was split into seven sectors and the two officers acted as independent assessors, keeping a watchful eye on safety standards.

"By September, about 100,000 tons of explosives and five million mines had been cleared," he said.

During the war, Col Forrestal (then a major) was 2iC of 32 Armoured Engineer Regiment, whose role, as part of the Coalition deception plan, was to punch a hole



Happy families at Kuwait's English School: Maj Martin Fuller (centre) with, on the right of the picture, wife Nikita and children, Lottie and Henrietta. On the left are Lucy Jarvis-Bicknell and her children, Oliver and Harriet

through Iraqi defences on the Kuwaiti border.

What they actually did was build a road behind the advancing 7 and 4 Brigades along which supporting formations travelled.

"We were then asked to clear the Mutlah Ridge," he said. "Once we had checked no booby traps had been set, the bodies were removed. Vehicles that could be started were moved out of the way and the rest were bulldozed aside by our Centurion AVREs."

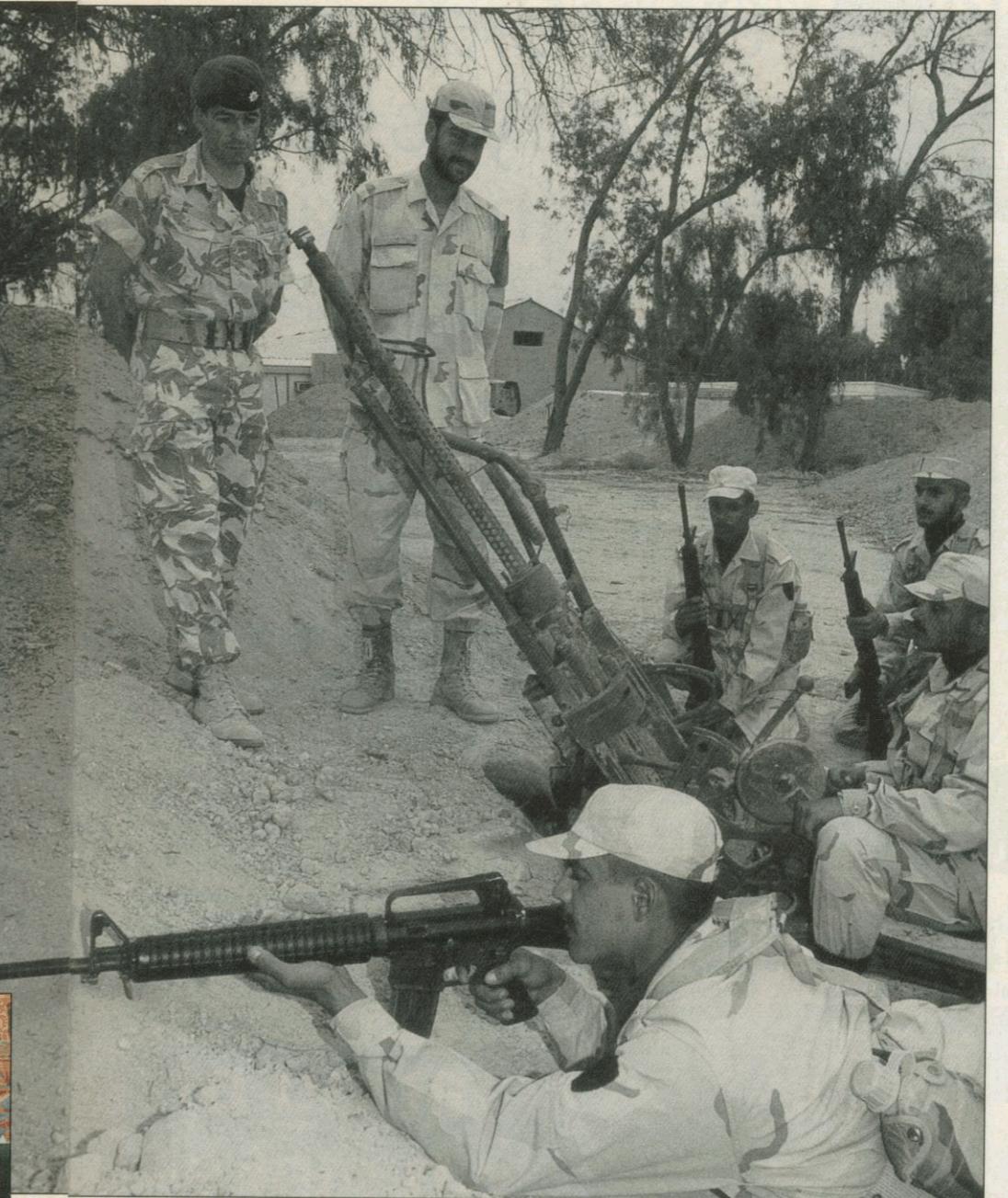
When he returned in 1992, Col Forre-

stal was shocked by the damage he found in remoter areas of Kuwait. "You could see the effects of the rape of the country. It was outrageous. Houses had been ripped apart and every fixture and fitting removed."

It confirmed his suspicions of what he had seen on the Mutlah Ridge.

"Toilets . . . teddy bears . . . they took everything. Our commanding officer insisted everyone looked at it. He wanted us all to see why we had fought the war."

"It produced a roller coaster of emotions, but I am convinced what we did was absolutely right."



Above – WO2 Simon Soanes keeps a sharp eye on recruits rehearsing for a demonstration. The anti-aircraft gun was left behind by the Iraqi army in 1991

Below – A gutted floating hotel provides a backdrop for three Royal Signals personnel serving with BMM Kuwait. Left to right are Maj Paul Robertshaw, Capt Bob Parkinson and WO2 Mick Williams



Gurkhas help push new road towards Mt Everest

SEVENTY soldiers from Hong Kong-based 67 Gurkha Independent Field Squadron, Queen's Gurkha Engineers, have returned to Nepal to begin work on a major road-building project near Mount Everest.

The Gurkha sappers, under Maj Alistair Sheppard, will spend three months assisting the Royal Nepalese Army to construct the first proper road to the capital of the Everest region.

It is the second time the soldiers from 67 Indep Fd Sqn have helped on the Katari to Okhaldhunga road in Sagarmatha, east Nepal. It is estimated that it will take ten years to complete the project.

While in Nepal they will live in a base camp they have built south of Everest.

It's a fact

PAY and conditions of service for Gurkhas serving the Crown are largely governed by the 1947 tripartite agreement between the governments of the UK, India and Nepal.

Under the terms of this agreement, Gurkha basic pay is linked to Indian Army rates of pay.

British Gurkhas do, however, receive a substantial addition to their basic pay which takes into account the cost of living at their duty station.

In the UK, where the tasks carried out by Gurkhas are similar to their Regular counterparts, the addition is calculated to ensure comparability.

British Gurkha conditions of service are also governed by the tripartite agreement and are comparable to those in the Indian Army. They do, however, recognise the unique cultural and religious character of British Gurkha personnel. – Commons written answer.

GOOD WRITING BRINGS ITS OWN REWARD

DOCUMENTS written by members of the Armed Forces and civil servants are eligible for entry in the Plain English Campaign's "Inside Write Awards" for government departments.

The category is for the year's clearest internal government document.

Successful Ministry of Defence entries in the past have included the MoD Manual 2 and an "Effective Writing" booklet.

Organisations which have produced documents which might be considered for entry should send them to Jackie Savage, OMD 6, Room 613, Northumberland House, London WC2N 5BP by May 8. She can be contacted on 0171-218 5776.

Soldiers are there when you need them...



...please be there when they need you

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

Our overall aim is to bring help to the many cases where state assistance is inapplicable, inadequate or unable to meet the immediate need.

Your donation, covenant or legacy will provide invaluable assistance for those who served their country.

Please help them in their hour of need.

Send off NOW for full colour poster
HEADRESS BADGES OF THE BRITISH ARMY TODAY
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To: The Army Benevolent Fund, Dept. SDR, 41 Queen's Gate, London SW7 5HR

We owe a lot to the soldiers who fought so hard for our freedom and our future and continue to protect us. I would like to make this contribution to help those of them who are in need.

I enclose a donation of £10 £15 £25 Other £_____

Please charge my Access/Visa/Charity Card No. _____ Expiry Date _____

Please send me details on making a legacy or how I could donate through Payroll Giving.

Please send me A2 colour posters showing cap badges of Today's Army. I enclose £_____ (£2 per copy inc. p&p).

Signature _____ Name _____

Address _____

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Data Protection Act: We may occasionally wish to contact you about our work. If you would prefer that we do not, please tick the box Registered Charity No 211645

THE ARMY BENEVOLENT FUND

WRITE TO

SOLDIER ORDNANCE ROAD ALDERSHOT HANTS GU11 2DU

Sam Browne's Cavalry is still a force in Pakistan

I MUST take issue with John Brereton on one point in his article on the evolution of the Sam Browne belt (*Soldier*, Feb 5).

It is true that 12 Cavalry (Frontier Force) is how the unit appears in official documents but the Pakistan Army still knows it by its old name.

The Military Historical Society's annual tour last year was to India and Pakistan and we were present in Islamabad on March 23, Pakistan Day. The five infantry regiments marched past, each 400 strong, a 20-by-20-man block.

The armoured arm was represented by three regiments only and amid the strident Urdu rhetoric of the commentary came very clearly the words "Sam Browne's Cavalry".

The other two regiments were the 6th and the 13th Lancers, both of which, coincidentally, were "Duke of Connaught's Own" regiments before Pakistan became a republic in 1956.

In that year, British royal

titles were dropped but not, of course, Sam Browne's.

This year, the society will be taking a party to India, Nepal and Burma in October. Details may be obtained by writing to me. — John Gaylor, 30 Edgeborough Way, Bromley, Kent, BR1 2UA.

Browne braces

I WAS surprised that no mention was made of the wearing of a double Sam Browne in the form of braces by officers of the 43rd/52nd (Oxf and Bucks).

Are there any other regiments who wear Sam Browne braces? — E H Lewis, Llanstadwell, Pembrokeshire.

The wearing of this sash makes me see red...

GOOD for Sgt Duckworth and his letter (Jan 22) about the infantry and the Royal Signals wearing black coveralls, which have always been part of the Royal Tank Regiment's dress.

I think the most abused item of regimental dress is the red sash of the infantry.

This is worn by warrant officers and sergeants of most regiments of the infantry to indicate their full rank — as do the arm badges of cavalry regiments, the Royal Engineers, the Royal Artillery and the Royal Signals.

But it should not be worn by corps to distinguish a drill instructor or orderly sergeant.

If they need a sash they should wear their own colour,

as with colour sergeants in the Royal Air Force.

I am also amused by the flight of the cap badge towards the left ear when worn with the beret.

If this trend continues, will we some day see the famous backbadge of The Gloucestershire Regiment worn at the front of the beret? — Ralph Martin, Northampton.

I helped build bridge in Cologne

THE Diary pages (Feb 5) contained an extract from *Soldier* 50 years ago regarding a bridge in Cologne.

As a sapper, I worked on the Dusseldorf Freeman bridge, and on the Patten bridge in



Four men died in this attack



Charlie Coy attacks the Bureau Sanitaire, January 1952

does not warrant recognition. — **Walter Bentham (ex-Lancs Fusiliers), Preston.**

MAY I congratulate you on your article (Feb 5) on the campaign for an award of a medal for the Suez Canal Zone 1951-53.

Auberon Waugh put the case very well, and with Col Pip Newton, Len Oliver and many more of us who served in that theatre of conflict, continues the fight to be recognised.

The picture accompanying the article showed Charlie Company of my battalion of the Lancashire Fusiliers making a bayonet charge at the Bureau Sanitaire in Ismailia.

It was during this attack that four members were killed and nine wounded — so no one can tell us who were there that it

Bring home our dead? No!

IT IS a disgrace even to think about bringing back the bodies of fallen soldiers for a national heritage cemetery (Letters, Feb 5). Does John Clarke, of the Monte Cassino Veterans Association, mean all remains from the First and Second World Wars, Korean War and all the other conflicts in which we have served?

These men and women died in the cause of freedom. They are at rest in a little piece of

Museum gives us the facts about Italy campaign

HAVING visited the D-Day Dodgers Exhibition at the National Army Museum, London, I thought the following facts would be worth passing on.

Operation Husky, the invasion of Sicily, was the largest assault landing carried out by the Allies during the Second World War.

About 180,000 Allied soldiers went ashore there on July 10, 1943, compared with 130,000 troops in Normandy on D-Day, June 6, 1944.

The invasion forces consisted of the 15th Army Group, which comprised the British Eighth Army and the US Seventh Army.

They were transported to Sicily in a fleet of 3,000 vessels and became the first Allied formation to gain a foothold on the continent of Europe.

The invasion of mainland Italy began on September 3, 1943, with the Eighth Army landing at Reggio di Calabria and another on September 9, at Taranto. The main landing took place at Salerno on September 9 with the US Fifth Army, which consisted of the British X Corps and the US VI Corps. The subsequent battles — Garigliano, Cassino, Sangro, Anzio and Argenta are just a few of the many.

Allied casualties totalled 313,000. Total British and Commonwealth casualties were 148,000, of which 89,000 were British. — **E E Hemmings (late RE), Hove, E Sussex.**

Britain and their graves are tended with loving care. — **Bryan Rowlands, Liverpool.**

OUR DEAD of two world wars lie in hallowed and honoured graves, safe in the company of their comrades, where they fought and died. May they rest in peace.

No John, you are wrong on this one, old comrade. — **Harry Ellis (Monte Cassino veteran), Halstead, Essex.**

RBL wants YOU on its Poppy Chain

SOLDIERS and their families are to be asked by the Royal British Legion to support a 75-mile "Poppy Chain" aimed at raising £4.7 million for its work in the Service and ex-Service community.

The chain, which will stretch from Cromer to Great Norfolk on August 25, is one of several events planned to mark the Legion's 75th anniversary.

Event co-ordinator Bruno Peck (Fundraising Dept, RBL, 48 Pall Mall, London SW1 5JY) wants

units, soldiers, families and friends to get together to sponsor the 132,000-yard long chain at £36 a yard. Bruno has posters and special sponsor forms.

Other events include a service in Westminster Abbey on July 11, a muster of standards, an RBL family day at Ironbridge in Shropshire, and a sponsored London-to-Paris bicycle rider.

The party culminates with the annual Poppy Appeal on October 28, Festival of Remembrance on

November 9 and a carol concert at the Guildhall on December 17.

On the local front, RBL's South Bedfordshire group tells us they have arranged a 75th anniversary Big Band dance in Dunstable on May 11 and a parade and church service in Luton on May 12. Ring 01582 603326 for dance reservations; 01582 504377 for parade arrangements.

OXON-BUCKS RBL has a gala day planned at Stonor Park, near Henley-on-Thames, on July 21.

for the local history society and Mr Underwood has offered to have copies made for £15 plus postage. Contact him at 1 Madocke Road, Sedbury, near Chepstow, Gwent NP6 7AY (tel: 01291 623316).

Essay prizes

THE 122-year-old US Naval Institute is inviting entries for its eighth annual US Marine Corps essay competition. Winners will be published and receive cash prizes.

Typewritten and double-spaced entries of no more than 3,000 words should explore current issues and/or new directions for the Marine Corps and be submitted by May 1. Include address, telephone number and a biographical sketch and send the lot to Editor-in-Chief, *Proceedings* (USMC Contest), Naval Institute, 118 Maryland Avenue, Annapolis MD 21402-5035.

The video has been edited into a record of "The Last Weekend"

Beachley's last weekend

LOCAL historian Keith Underwood took his camcorder along to the last grand reunion of the Beachley Old Boys' Association before the Army Apprentices' College at Chepstow closed in 1994.

He filmed the march-past in the streets of Chepstow, Beating the Retreat, the band and fireworks displays, and old boys reminiscing in the museum, workshops and the chapel.

Mr Underwood's late father, WO1 Arthur Underwood RE, was a much-loved character at the college. He arrived at Chepstow in 1937 and stayed on as an instructor until just before his death in 1978 at the age of 76.

There have been fatal accidents. Innocent people have been killed. Don't try to bring that souvenir weapon home.

50 YEARS AGO

From *Soldier*, March 2, 1946

(First birthday issue)

DANGEROUS SOUVENIRS THERE'S a "flap" on in the UK about firearms which have been smuggled home by soldiers from overseas theatres. These weapons are falling into the hands of criminals. They are also falling into the hands of people who don't know how to handle them.

There have been fatal accidents. Innocent people have been killed. Don't try to bring that souvenir weapon home.

25 YEARS AGO

From *Soldier*, March, 1971

FLOURISHING TERRIERS

NEW life has been infused into the Territorial and Army Volunteer Reserve by the Government's decision to expand this 50,000-strong force by 10,500 men. A second yeomanry armoured car regiment and 77 company-strength sub-units with an infantry role will be raised, plus 20 unit headquarters.

University pulls out of SSVC TV

The Open University will no longer broadcast to students in the Armed Forces via SSVC Television. When the new academic year started the university reverted to a VHS tape service because it could no longer afford the cost of transmission.

OU's Russell Copley said: "I very much regret the university has been forced to come to this decision, driven by a need to reduce our costs to match our income."

The decision was confirmed in January, leaving SSVC little time to mount a rescue operation. Steve Myles, Controller of SSVC TV, said: "We are in discussion with other educational broadcasters to bring in a raft of programmes that will benefit an even wider cross-section of the audience."

REUNIONS

RM Condor, Arbroath: Reunion proposed for all RM, RA, RE, RN and RAF personnel who served at Arbroath. Send sae to Dave McCaig, 21 Priory Crescent, Arbroath, Scotland.

Coldstream Guards (1950-55): 4 Coy fourth reunion dinner in Birmingham on April 13. If you served in the 3rd Battalion between 1950-55 and would like to attend, contact Harry Westgarth, 49 Rokeby Park, Hull HU4 7QE (01482 503649).

Military ball and reunion: Combined Services charity ball and reunion at the Oakley Centre, West Street, Crewe, April 20. Details from J G Davies, 6 Major Court, Crewe CW1 3BL (01270 257092).

159 (Welsh) Fd Amb RAMC (TA) 1939-47: Reunion in Swansea on April 24. Details from Frank Margates, 41 Summerland Park, Upper Killay, Swansea SA2 7HX (01792 208720).

Commando Association: 50th annual reunion in London on April 27. All members welcome. Second World War commandos eligible but not members are invited to apply for details to the General Secretary, Commando Association, PO Box 1544, Clacton-on-Sea, Essex CO16 7HB.

Combined Ex-Services Association of Bridlington: 15th annual conference and reunion, Bridlington, June 14-16. Tickets (£6.50)

from Ticket Secretary, 17 Hustler Road, Bridlington YO16 5RN.

Middlesex Regiment (DCO): Annual reunion will be held at the Victory Services Club, Seymour Street, London W2 on May 11. Details from Ron Morris, 38 Traps Lane, New Malden, Surrey KT3 4SA (0181-949 7605).

APTC Association (York Branch): Annual dinner on May 17 in Imphal Barracks, York. Details from Capt D Holling ACF, Hammersley House, 27 Blenheim Road, Barnsley S70 6BA (01226 207046).

Polar Bears: Final reunion luncheon of 143 Fd Regt RA planned for May 18. Details: T Weller, 8 Seapoint Road, Broadstairs, Kent CT10 1TH (01843 861660).

RCT Corps UK/BAOR football: Reunion planned at Prince William of Gloucester Barracks, Grantham, Lincs, June 7-8 for all Regular and ex-Regular personnel who represented the RCT at football. Details from WO1 Geordie Holden, HQ RLC TA, Coldharbour House, Prince William of Gloucester Barracks, Lincs NG31 7TJ.

Staffordshire Regiment: Annual reunion on September 14 at Whittington Barracks, Lichfield. Details from Regimental Headquarters, The Staffordshire Regiment, Whittington Barracks, Lichfield, Staffordshire WS14 9PY (please send sae).

APPOINTMENTS

Maj Gen C B Q Wallace to be Chief of Joint Operations in the rank of lieutenant general, Feb 1.

Major Generals: Maj Gen C L Elliott to be Director General Individual Training, Feb 12; Brig G A Ewer to be Assistant Chief of the Defence Staff (Logistics) in the rank of major general, Feb 16.

Brigadiers: M G Douglas-Withers – To be Dir RA, Feb 3; P A D Evans – To MoD, Jan 29; M J Strudwick – To be Dir Inf, Jan 29; T Cross – To MoD, Feb 5; S G Midleton – To MoD, Feb 5.

Colonels: G J Yeoman – To MoD, Jan 29; J C Campbell – To MoD, Feb 5; R N Coleman – To PM S and S, Feb 5; R A Bencini – To UK Sp Unit SHAPE, Feb 12; K J Hadfield – To MoD, Feb 12; C M

Sexton – To Staff Coll, Feb 12.

Lt Cols: W E Brewin, R Sigs – To R Sch of Sigs, Jan 29; D N Challes RA – To RMCS, Jan 29; D L Connell, Hldrs – To MoD, Jan 29; N B Josling RLC – To HQ Land, Jan 29; B K Martin, Para – To JPS, Jan 29; A V Pedder RA – To be CO RA Range Hebrides, Jan 29; J H O'H Pollock IG – To be CO 1 IG, Jan 29; J T Smith, R Sigs – To HQ Land, Feb 3; M R Toms RLC – To HQ Land, Jan 29; A J Loudon KOSB – To MoD, Jan 29. P M Davies RE – To be CO 33

Engr Regt (EOD), Feb 5: A W H H Macleod RE – To RE MRO, Feb 5; R A H Self RA – To MoD, Feb 5; M G A Barratt RGBW – To MoD, Feb 5; D M Lampshire RLC – To MoD, Feb 5; J A Terrington, R Sigs – To MoD, Feb 5.

G R Coward AAC – To be CO 1 Regt AAC, Feb 13; G M V Gillett RA – To Arty Dev Div, Feb 12; R D Lewis AGC (ALS) – To HQ 4 Div, Feb 12; R A Martin REME – To be Co 1 Bn REME, Feb 16; R F Robinson RLC – To be CO 21 Log Sp Regt RLC, Feb 12; P Snow

RLC – To HQ Chilwell Station, Feb 18; C M I Tennent KRH – To JHQ IT, Feb 12; B W McCall REME – To MoD, Feb 12; J R C Saville REME – To HQ REME Trg Gp, Feb 12.

Retirements
Brigadier: N P S O'Connor, late RA, Feb 1; C D Parkinson, late RADC, Dec 23.

Colonels: M K Goldschmidt, late R Anglian, Feb 1; R A Stewart, late Cheshire, Feb 1; D B Waddell, late RAOC, Feb 1; P Whitemoore, late R Sigs, Feb 1.

DATES

Until April 28: George Rodger Second World War photographs, Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery.

13-14: British Army (Germany) show jumping and hunter trial, Moosdorf, sponsored by 1 QDG.

March 2: Taking of Pegasus Bridge, a talk by Maj John Howard DSO, Airborne Forces Museum (details: 01252 349619).

9: Victorian Military Society fair, New Connaught Rooms, Great Queen Street, London WC2.

April 21: Surrey Military Collectors Society militaria fair, Donyngs Recreation Centre, Linkfield Lane, Redhill, Surrey (details: 01737 552304).

May 4-6: Aldershot Show.

25-27: Overlord '96 military vehicle rally, Southsea, Hants.

11-12: International culinary event and open day, St Omer Barracks, Aldershot, 1000.

June 5-6: Floodlit Beating Retreat by Massed Bands of Household Division, Horse Guards, 2130.

15: Queen's Birthday Parade, Horse Guards Parade. Colour trooped by 1 IG (rehearsals June 1 and 8).

29-30: SSAFA Lincolnshire fund-raising event at Air Day, RAF Waddington, Lincoln.

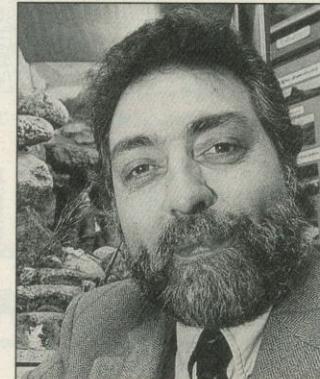
July 9-20: Royal Tournament, Earls Court.

21: Oxon-Bucks RBL gala day, Stonor Park nr Henley-on-Thames. Details from County Field Officer on 01865 531515.

November 16: Classic military band concert, Band of RAF College Cranwell at Cranwell in aid of SSAFA Lincolnshire. (details: 01406 425550).

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

Lonely hero of Isandlwana



Model-maker Geoff Dickson (above) has given a diorama of the lone soldier's last stand at Isandlwana to the South Wales Borderers Museum in Brecon. The detailed model (left) is based on R T Moynan's painting "The last of the 24th at Isandlwana", a copy of which hangs in the museum.

It portrays the soldier who, following the annihilation of his regiment by the Zulus in January 1879, retreated to a cave and fought off attack after attack before he was killed by rifle fire. The following day B Coy, 2/24th's epic defence at Rorke's Drift began.

SEARCHLINE

Men of B Coy 198 Fd Amb RAMC who survived captivity in Singapore are asked to write to Frank Seabrook, 35 Downs Avenue, Chislehurst, Kent BR7 6HQ (0181 4678016). He was a member of the B Company from January 1940 until the unit went overseas.

Hospital food: The Royal Victoria Country Park at Netley, near Southampton is holding a "Then and Now" display in August-September. The organisers are also interested in food served in field hospitals and life in the mess. Former hospital staff, patients and cooks who can help with memories (good or bad), photographs or memorabilia are asked to write to historian Patrick Kirkby via the Royal Victoria Country Park, Netley Abbey, Southampton, Hants SO31 5GA (01703 455157).

145th Infantry Brigade: Author commissioned to write a history of the 145th Infantry Brigade wishes to contact former members or relatives of members from either World War or inter-war period. All help will be acknowledged in book. Replies to Peter Caddick-Adams, Hurcott Manor Cottage, Hurcott Hall Farm, Hurcott, nr Kidderminster DY10 3PH (01562 863235).

El Adem Radio Service (TEARS) 1958-70: John Moir (01271 862334) seeks former presenters, controllers, technicians, librarians and listeners.

Plant Troop, 73 Sqn RE, Christmas Island, 1961-62: George Snell (ex-Cpl RAOC laundry) seeks copy of squadron or group photograph taken at time. Will meet expenses. Tel 0151 2844601.

HONG KONG CLOSURES

Due to the disbandment of the HKMSC on December 31, 1996, the WOs' and Sgts' Mess HKMSC will close in July. Anyone who has made a presentation to the mess and would like it returned should contact WO2 (YoS) Steve Bertram, Vice Captain CGS, Hong Kong Gurkha Signal Squadron, Stonecutters Island, BFPO 1.

Fund wound up
The fund subscribed to by the British officers, WOs and sergeants of 1st Battalion, Malaysia Rangers (1963-66) has been wound up. The balance will be presented to the National Army Museum for the purchase of a suitable item to be included in a new exhibition to commemorate the service of British personnel with the battalion.

Combined Services Golf Soci-

Ardennes analysis a real page-turner

(for the wrong reasons)

ADOLF HITLER was being briefed on September 16, 1944, when he suddenly exclaimed: "Stop! I have come to a momentous decision. I shall go over to the counter-attack!"

With that he strode over to the map, seized the pointer from the astonished briefing officer, indicated the appropriate location and declared to the assembled officers: "Out of the Ardennes - with the objective, Antwerp!"

The incident is described in *Hitler's Last Gamble: The Battle*

of the Bulge, December 1944 - January 1945.

Hitler's Last Gamble: The Battle of the Bulge, December 1944 - January 1945 by Trevor N. Dupuy, David L. Bongard and Richard C. Anderson Jr. Published in UK by Airlife Publishing, hardback £19.95.

Its principal author is Col Trevor Dupuy, a veteran of the Burma campaign, a former professor of military science at Harvard, and former director of the military history programme at Ohio State University. He is also founder and president of the Dupuy Institute in McLean, Virginia.

"... Hitler's plans for the

so, it was a pretty alarming time for the Allies.

Of particular interest to British readers is the explanation for Eisenhower's decision to place substantial US forces under Montgomery's command, and the authors' assess-

ment of the latter's alleged "ineptitude".

"Bradley and Patton both disliked Montgomery, and (somewhat unfairly) considered him to be an overly cautious - indeed timid - commander, whose procrastination they believed would prolong the war."

"This was based in part on Monty's record, from 1942 on, of avoiding offensive operations unless he had an overwhelming preponderance of strength."

"This opinion had been reinforced in the previous six months, first by Montgomery's delays in breaking out of the Normandy beachhead, and second, in reinforcing the airhead at Arnhem."

If Eisenhower had reservations about Montgomery at this time (December 19, 1944), they did not prevent him from placing the US Ninth Army, and that part of the US First Army that was north of the German penetration, under Montgomery's command as part of his 21st Army Group.

The book is an extensive analysis of the Ardennes campaign, with potted biographies incorporated in the text. Such treatment can be confusing for the reader: it may have been preferable to have opened the book with an overall account of the campaign and then gone on to describe the numerous small-unit actions.

There are good maps, but with such detailed narrative it is necessary to be continually turning pages in order to consult the relevant ones. - BJ

Lowland calling-card

ANOTHER new title for band buffs to cope with, the band belonging to three regiments of the Division while the pipers are "borrowed" from the three - the Royal Scots, Royal Highland Fusiliers, and the KOSB. Sounds a messy business, but that's the way of things these days.

Their first recorded programme for publication is, as it should be, in the nature of a calling card. This is what we are, this is what we sound like, and this is our kind of music. Scottish of course, but not aggressively so and with several attractive offerings from well known composers.

There are two pipe sets, and I have said before that the titles of pipe tunes are mostly beautiful but sometimes mystifying to us sassenachs. Here we enjoy the pastoral and maritime tributes to *Colin's Cattle* and *Shoals of Herring*, while wondering what Mrs McPhereson of Inveran did to achieve immortality in crotchetts and quavers. Pipers also contribute to two melodious tunes with band accompaniment, *Bonnie Black Isle* and *Misty Morn*.

The band alone plays the marches *Holyrood*, *Pentland Hills*, *Cross of St. Andrews* by Capt. Jones, *Dunedin*, the *Regimental Marches*, and with *Scot*

MUSIC / Rodney Bashford

● **Edinburgh Castle - The Lowland Band and Pipers, Scottish Division.** Conductor: Capt G O Jones. Bandleader CD BNA 5115 £12.00 and cassette £7.60.

land the Brave fore and aft of the programme just to ensure you haven't misread their calling card.

Special arrangements are *Will Ye No Come Back Again*

TA recording fit for heroes

IT IS always good to hear of a Territorial Army band bold enough to enter a recording studio. This is a rare enough occurrence, for by the very

Highland Heroes
Band, Pipes and Drums 51
Highland Brigade
Conductor: Bandmaster G Abernethy, Pipe Major: P Snaddon. Bandleader CD BNA 5120 £12.00 or cassette £7.60.

justification. Mr Abernethy provides a *Cornet Ceilidh* medley and a setting of *Last Post*, and Malcolm Arnold's *Scottish Dance No. 1* makes a hesitant appearance.

Not, as I have implied, a faultless performance but still a pleasant enough background for a ceilidh of your own.

and *Ye Banks and Braes* by Cy Payne, *A Hebrides Suite* by Clare Grundman, *Festoso* from a *Caledonian Suite* by Michael Short, and *Edinburgh Castle* by Laurie Johnson, who has captured so much of Britain in music and is responsible for the *This is Your Life* tune.

Can be safely recommended to all Scots, and others who appreciate a little Scottish now and again.

TA recording fit for heroes

Heroes and titles such as *El Alamein*, *Scotland the Brave*, *Eighty Army* by Eric Coates, *Battle of the Somme*, and *Heroes of St Valery* justify the disc's title, while tunes like *Ye Banks and Braes*, arranged by Percy Grainger, *The Morning Light*, and *Happy We've been a' the Gither* need no

Packed with battle excitement, this book, describing the exploits of British mercenaries in Bosnia, will be a good read for followers of fast-moving - not to mention brutal - action stories and it is fair to assume that some of the accounts may

be exaggerated in the telling. The main character is a Geordie called Kit whose chequered Army career included several changes of regiment before a failed attempt to join the SAS. An affair with an officer's wife led to a sudden return to civvy street and he



Multiple Launch Rocket System: *Britain's Modern Army* has scale drawings and a table of specifications

THOROUGH LOOK AT TODAY'S ARMY

ANYONE looking for a reasonably comprehensive, single volume to reflect the state of the British Army as it is now need look no further than Terry Gander's latest book.

And one suspects that the 50-plus pages devoted to the Organisation and Roles of the Army of the late 1990s, even for some of those involved in making the changes work, will help to make the pieces of the jigsaw fit.

Among the 224 large-format pages you will find, under the Weapons and Equipment section for instance, more than just a dramatic photograph of the Multiple Launch Rocket System doing its business in the Gulf War: you will see 1:76 scale drawings and a table of specifications.

The author explains that some of what he has presented

in this book is likely to be superseded fairly soon because the equipment and organisational changes which started in 1980 and which he has reflected are still going on.

Indeed, he says that some people have yet to experience the effect of many of the recent changes.

"Things were never straightforward for the Army," he writes.

"What are currently difficult times for many will no doubt be looked back upon as a period of opportunities and relative calm."

"The future holds the prospect of new equipment, new international roles, new training methods and, perhaps, even more places to visit and experience..." - CH

Mercenary in Bosnia

have been exaggerated in the telling.

War Dogs by Keith Cory-Jones. Century, hardback, £15.99.

joined the French Foreign Legion, only to desert. He was ripe for

recruitment as a

mercenary and took "work" in Mozambique for a few weeks.

It was here he learned the rudiments of the mercenary's trade without killing anyone. That came later, and apparent-

ly he became very good at it, being quoted by author Keith Cory-Jones as saying: "I've shot blokes right in front of me... not just once or twice, but many times - but that's work."

Currently Kit, who is in his early thirties, is living in the north of England with his family and with no thoughts of returning to Bosnia.

He's had his share of the killing fields, he says. Time alone will tell. - JM

BOOK BRIEFS

A Vatican Lifeline '44 by William Simpson. Much-decorated former Glasgow Territorial gunner's first-hand account of a Vatican underground which helped protect Allied escapees and Jewish refugees in Nazi-occupied Rome. Leo Cooper, hardback, £17.95.

The Test Valley Tapestry. Depicting and explaining the picturesque panels of a tapestry created by hundreds of Hampshire people, including many from the Service community, this book includes photography by the School of Army Aviation. From the Chief Executive's Office, Test Valley Borough Council, Beech Hurst, Weyhill Road, Andover, Hants SP10 3AJ; £12 (limp cover), £15 (casebound).

Buckle For Your Dust! by Greg McCauley. Vietnam miniature wargame book, the title being a US colloquialism meaning "fight very hard". A4, 64 pages, soft cover, from Paddy Griffiths Associates, 22 Callendar Close, St Nicolas Park, Nuneaton, Warwickshire CV11 6LU, price £6.50 inc p and p.

A Highlander Goes to War by Peter Grant. Once a Cameron, always a Cameron. Valuable memoir of the war against the Japanese and a moving tribute to the Forgotten Army. Pentland Press, Soham, Ely, Cambs; hardback, £12.50.

Thiepval, Somme by Michael Stedman. Historical and geographical guide aimed at the battlefield visitor, with maps, diagrams and photographs, many of them contemporary. Leo Cooper, paperback, £8.95.

The London Gunners Come to Town by Bertha and Chris Reynolds. Life and death in Hemel Hempstead in the First World War through the eyes of a child, her father, and a soldier. More than 300 illustrations and maps, plus 1,000 names, in 288 pages. CODIL Language Systems Ltd, 33 Buckingham Road, Tring, HP23 4HG. Paperback, £9.95 plus £1.50 p and p.

Hellfire Tonight by Albert Martin. Highly readable diary of a Desert Rat, with a foreword by a Rifle Brigade contemporary, Lord Hailsham. The Book Guild, hardback, £14.95.

Return With Honor by Capt Scott O'Grady with Jeff Coplon. Shot down by a missile at 27,000ft on June 2 last year, F-16 pilot O'Grady eluded the Bosnian Serbs for six days and nights before being rescued by US marines. This is his story. Bloomsbury, hardback, £14.99.



A far cry from carving joints to sawing up timber for Pte Gary Gass, who used to work as a chef. Now he is helping KOSB colleagues build an adventure playground in Northern Ireland

KOSB turn combat skills to peaceful purposes

SOLDIERS from the 1st Battalion, The King's Own Scottish Borderers have put the finishing touches to an exciting new cross-community project on Northern Ireland's north Antrim coast.

The community centre provides a rural haven for young people from two communities which have witnessed much of the bloodshed and violence of the past 25 years.

Although only an hour's drive from their homes, the Breen Centre is a world away from nationalist Bawnmore and the predominantly loyalist Rathcoole.

The KOSB stepped in when developers of the centre at Ballycastle discovered quotes for construction of an adventure playground were wildly beyond their budget.

For the Scottish soldiers it

was a chance to use skills developed for war-time in a peace-time role with a community spin-off.

The old farmhouse had been empty for many years until a school used it as a residential centre. That too fell into disrepair until the Rathcoole Self-Help Group began six years of fund-raising to turn it into a haven.

The whole project has cost about £150,000, and so much care was taken with the renovations that the group has been approached by tourists asking if they can stay.

Final touch was an adventure playground in the grounds of the centre, but the cost of having it constructed commer-

cially was beyond the group.

Maj Greville Ramsey of 1 KOSB said the battalion had just arrived for a six-month tour of duty in Belfast when the plea for help arrived.

"Fortunately, we have soldiers within the battalion who are trained as assault pioneers, so we were able to get straight down to the task at hand. We used timber from the area and a lot of sweat.

"In a war situation the soldiers would be using these skills to build obstacles for the enemy. Here we have been using the same skills to construct something that young people are going to get a lot of pleasure from. That has been important to us," he said.

Finance school goes top of class

HIGH marks were scored by the School of Finance and Management at the Adjutant General's Corps Training Centre at Worthy Down near Winchester in recent examinations for the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants.

The school's overall pass rate for Service personnel and civil servants was 91 per cent, compared with a national average of 48 per cent.

The results confirm the superb reputation enjoyed by the school, which has maintained consistently high standards since it was established in 1970.

IN DEMAND

Members of the AGC are encouraged to study for professional examinations to prepare them for accounting duties with the Management Accounting Services of the Army, whose expertise is increasingly in demand across the Ministry of Defence. With the firm base of professional qualification, career prospects for qualified candidates are excellent.

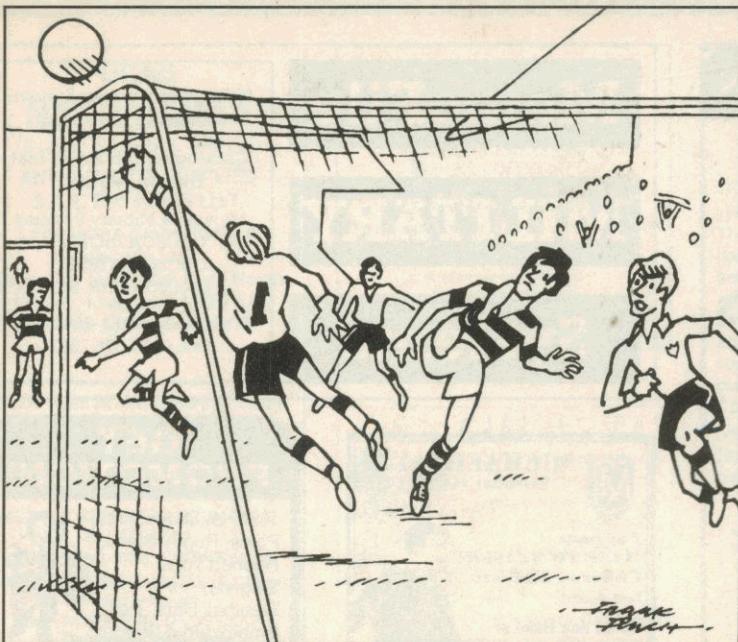
The School of Finance and Management, which has four military instructors among the 17 lecturers, incorporates the best civilian practices with the way the Army does business. It also prepares students for the Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators examinations, with equally impressive results.

Paraglider rescued

MEDICS and six personnel from the 3rd Battalion, The Royal Irish Regiment based at Rathfriland, Northern Ireland, took to the air in an RAF Puma helicopter to locate a paraglider who had crash-landed on Eagle Mountain in the Mourne.

The pilot had broken his ankle. After being treated by Ptes Peter Morrison and Steve Wornock he was taken to the hospital at Downpatrick.

Lt Stewart Reid, platoon commander, said the man could have died in the mountains if he had not been able to use his mobile telephone to summon help.



COMPETITION 631

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

The names of the winner of the £50 first prize and two runners-up (awarded book prizes) will be announced in the April 15 issue.

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Competition No 628 (Jan 22 issue): Congratulations to Miss M Hook, of Brentwood, Essex, who wins £50. Book prizes go to runners-up Mrs P J Donald, of Halstead, Essex, and Rfn Jaynarayan Roka, BR GR A Coy, Queen Elizabeth Barracks, Church Crookham, Hants.

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Kathleen, 25, I am deaf, 5'3", with fair hair and green eyes. I enjoy horses, dogs, art, reading about the paranormal, walking and cinema. Would like to hear from pen pals, especially Scots, aged 26 plus. **P621**

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Belinda, 20, 5'5", brown hair and blue eyes. Interests include football, cricket, golf, reading, pubs and clubbing. I am a first year university student studying International Relations. Seeking pen pals aged 18-27. **P623**

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Rhiannon, 18 in March, 5'3", slim with dark brown hair. My music tastes are varied and I enjoy driving, films and meeting people. I am an accounts office assistant who would like to write to anyone aged 18-22. **P631**

Nicola, 29, 5'6", and slim build. Interests include horse riding, reading, travelling, keep-fit and music. Seeking pen pals aged 30 plus who have a GSOH, caring nature and enjoy a laugh. **P632**

Val, 37, divorced, 5'5", with blue eyes. Interests include aerobics, live shows, eating out, music and cinema. Likes people who make her laugh. Looking for pen pals aged 34 plus. **P633**

Gillian, 35, 5'8", strawberry blonde hair, blue eyes and GSOH. Excellent cook and loves Thai food. Enjoys eating out, swimming, reading and having a good time. Would like to write to pen pals aged 35 plus. **P634**

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Jennifer, 29, 5'2", slim, blonde hair and blue eyes. I am a nursery nurse who enjoys spectator sports, animals, music and the countryside. Would like to write to Servicemen in the UK or abroad, aged 27 plus. **P636**

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Bessey ready to meet the best in Europe

WITH two more international scalps on his belt, Army light-welterweight Cpl Chris Bessey (27 Regt RLC) is in good form as he prepares for the European boxing championships in Denmark at the end of March.

In his last two outings for England, Bessey has beaten Irishman Declan Higgins and South Africa's Victor Kunene. Kunene is currently rated eighth in the world.

A good showing at the Europeans would more or less guarantee Bessey, indisputably England's No 1, an inside track to Olympic selection. There is, however, a chance that he may have to meet Army team-mate Cpl Vinny Powell (3 RSME), who has entered the Welsh championships.

Another Army boxer likely to be in contention for the Welsh team is light-middleweight Gdsm Kevin Short (IG), a former ABA champion.

Three soldiers successfully negotiated the Combined Services-London match, effectively an England quarter-final, at Bethnal Green. Pte Peter Charlton (1 PWRR) became the Army's first light-flyweight to reach the national semi-finals with a brilliant performance against strongly fancied Leroy Harris, until then rated the best in the country.

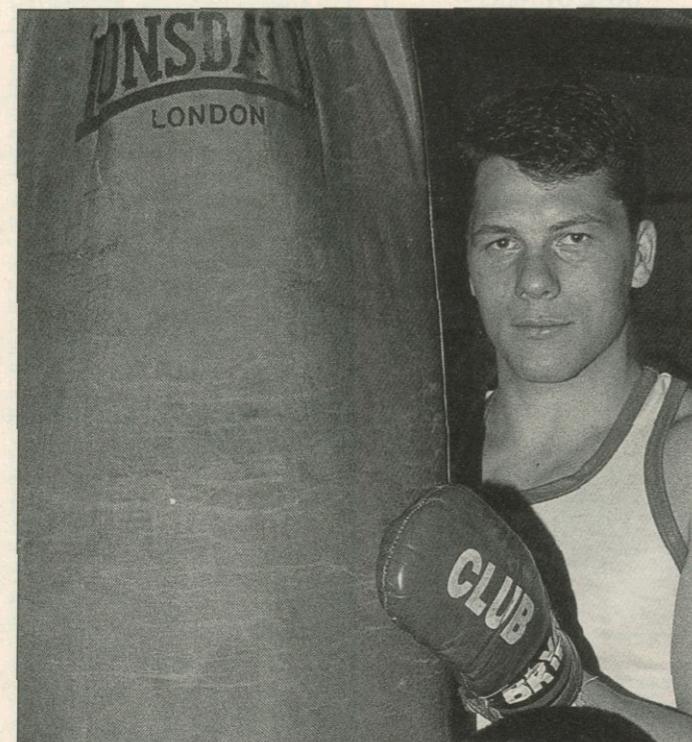
Welterweight LCpl Jason Gardner (Int Corps), also available for Scotland, stopped Repton's Tony Cesay in the second round, while super-heavyweight Spr Danny Watts (36 Engr Regt) struggled to beat Lynn's Harry Senior.

A standing count sustained by Senior in the second round swung the bout to the big sapper's advantage.

All three were due to box on the England semi-final bill at HMS Nelson, Portsmouth, on February 20.

The Army's other three boxers in the Combined Services team, Pte Kevin Bennett, Pte Daren Dugan - a very plucky last minute replacement - and LBdr Vinny Jones, failed to get past London opposition.

Bennett (7 Tpt Regt RLC) went the closest, losing a cracking contest against Repton's Kelvin Wing on a desperately tight decision.



Cpl Chris Bessey: on course for the Olympics

Cec's World Cup dream comes closer to reality

LCPL Cec Mason failed to win the women's international skeleton race at Königsee last month but saw her lone bid to establish a women's world championship series take a giant step towards fulfilment.

Mason, currently based in Herford, Germany with 1 (UK) Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt, has persuaded the Swiss, German, British and Canadian teams to host a series of international women's races next season.

The international body governing bobsleigh has agreed that points won at these races

Modern pentathlon puts past behind

ARMY modern pentathlon, which has provided the backbone of British teams at the Olympic Games in the modern era, is seeking to develop a new generation of talent at its centre of excellence at Arborfield.

Best known of the Army's modern pentathletes was Sgt Jim Fox REME, who won an individual bronze medal in Mexico and a team gold medal at Montreal in 1976.

Promoted captain, he later

ran the training centre at Arborfield, where his success inspired a conveyor belt of international talent, including Maj Dominic Mahony, late Life Guards, Cpl Peter Hart, late REME, Cpl Shaun Morgan, late RE, and Lt Craig Manley RA, now serving with 7 Para RHA.

The Army's remarkable consistency in the multi-discipline sport has provided the GB team with at least one member at every Olympics

from 1912 to the present era.

But no sport survives on its history, and SSgt Bernie Moss, who runs the Army Modern Pentathlon Centre at Arborfield, is keen to arrange trials for anyone with potential.

He points out that it is not necessary to have ability across the whole modern pentathlon range of five different events - .177 air pistol, epee, 300m swim (200m for women), show jumping and 4,000m run (2,000m for women) - and

that excellence in other disciplines such as swimming, running or triathlon can be developed. The Army modern pentathlon championships are to be staged at Arborfield on March 10, and it is hoped to organise modern biathlon (run/swim) and triathlon (run/swim/shoot) events at district level.

Contact SSgt Moss at the AMPTC, c/o Gymnasium, Hazebrack Barracks, Arborfield (tel Mil 725 2214).



Army star: Sgt Jim Fox pictured before the 1976 Montreal Olympics

Martial arts

IF YOU are involved in martial arts, or want to do so, make sure you register with the newly-formed Army Martial Arts Association (AMAA).

The body, approved last year by the Army Sport Control Board, covers judo, Korean and Chinese martial arts, karate and other disciplines.

For more information, contact AMAA secretary Maj Robert Howells AGC (ETS), DETS(A), Bray House, Worthy Down, Winchester, Hants SO21 2RG, or the Sport Control Board.

Boxing

B COMPANY won the first novice boxing competition held by the 1st Battalion, The Highlanders since amalgamation. The battalion is currently on a two-year tour in Londonderry.

LCpl Moore (B Coy) was judged to be the best boxer on the night.

Wallace and Clarke inspire triple triumph

Tervit at SEME Bordon (729 5657).

Army teams

Men: Sgt Gary Clarke REME, Maj Robbie Robinson RLC, Capt Tim Ibbot RLC, Sgt Nigel Hissey RE, Sgt Ginga Whiteman AGC, SSgt Tony Perger APTC.

Women: OCdt Karen Wallace RMAS, Cpl Julie Blades AGC, Cpl Julie Horobin RLC, Lt Louise Warack AGC, Lt Col Maggie Thackway AMS, SSgt Linda Comyns AGC, Cpl Brenda Cooper, R Sigs.

Veterans: Maj Billy Ratcliffe, Brig David Leakey, late RTR, Maj David Ryder RLC, Maj Stewart Gray RLC, Capt Jim Inglis RE, Capt Tam Tervit REME.

U-25: Pte Chris McQuilkin RLC, LCpl Nigel Simpson REME, Sig Marcus Lobb, R Sigs, Cpl John Duncan REME, Gnr Ben Ian RA, LCpl Andrew Black RLC.

The women's match turned on a fine performance by OCdt Karen Wallace, who is in her first month at RMA Sandhurst and is obviously a star of the future. The fact that she was able to step straight in at No 1 altered the whole balance of the team and gave the Army women an advantage they pressed home.

In the men's championship, Sgt Gary Clarke REME achieved a first and notable victory over Sgt Jim Lord RAF. It was the first time for many years that Lord has been beaten at representative level, and Clarke's performance inspired the other members of the team.

It was the first time since 1985 that the Army has won three competitions at the Inter-Services.

Any players under 25 who want to sharpen up their game are asked to contact Capt Tam

With a little more experience, the Army might also have picked up the Under-25 trophy as well. Although the Royal Air Force took the match 4-1, games were close enough for it to have gone the other way.

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Services quickly went 14 points behind as the talented Exiles' backs ran in two tries at Osterley Park. But they kept their heads up and responded with a fine try of their own through fullback Pte White.

It looked as though the 1995

Soldiers smash five past Glo'ster

one back. The win moved the Army into a strong second place in the championship table, a point behind Dorset who have already lost to the Army and played two games more. Sussex, on six points with the Army, have also played two games more.

Army XI 2, Fire Services 2

With almost half the current senior squad unavailable, an understrength Army side did well to hold English Fire Services in a highly entertaining draw.

Man of the match SSgt Alan Higgins fired home a penalty in the last minute to level the scores after the Army had twice fallen behind. LCpl Darren Glenister scored the first Army goal.

Young bloods shake the Exiles

Irish Exiles 40, Combined Services U-21 14

SIX Army youngsters were called up by Combined Services for the Under-21 rugby match against Irish Exiles, with another three on the bench, writes Tom Wye.

Services quickly went 14 points behind as the talented Exiles' backs ran in two tries at Osterley Park. But they kept their heads up and responded with a fine try of their own through fullback Pte White.

It looked as though the 1995

margin of 70 plus points might be repeated as the Irish crossed the Servicemen's line three times in quick succession at the start of the second half, and to make matters worse they kicked all the conversions to open up a daunting 40-7 lead.

But just when a cricket score looked on the cards, Combined Services' spirit restored itself and the Exiles were pushed back throughout the final quarter. Fus Miles, replacing injured scrumhalf Pte Cunvin, scored a try during

this period to narrow the gap.

This was never a classic, with the pitch often resembling a battlefield and both sides having to make numerous substitutions. The Irish had three players booked for foul play while the visitors retained a clean sheet on that score.

But it was a gutsy performance from the Services, with the selectors learning much about the credentials of the players, and the players finding out what rugby is like at this very competitive level.

Lottery boost for Army's Olympic athletes

MORE than £43,000 was awarded in grants by the Army Sports Lottery during the last quarter of 1995, including financial support for seven overseas tours.

Six individual grants included £1,000 towards the expenses of athletes preparing for the Olympics in Atlanta this summer.

Among the more ambitious sporting trips helped by lottery cash were the Royal Signals cricket tour to Barbados

(awarded £3,700), the RAC Centre rugby tour to the USA (£5,000) and the 50 Hong Kong Wksp REME rugby expedition to New Zealand (£5,000).

Closer to home, the lottery helped REME tennis players travel to Portugal (£700), 4 Regt AAC footballers to tour Germany (£1,000), the QDG rugby XV to visit Wales (£2,500), and the Army Real Tennis and Rackets Association to play in France (£380).

Biggest of the lottery's miscellaneous grants was £3,500 towards a cricket scorebox at Burton Court, London.

Aldershot Military Stadium should be ready for a hot summer with the purchase of an ice machine (£600); £400 went to football training facilities at Middle Wallop; and £1,770 was given to 7 Para RHA for the initial purchase of Rugby League kit.

Other grants included £3,400 to Army Modern Pen-

talton for fitness testers, £684 to SHAPE for an artificial cricket pitch, and £126 to Army athletics towards the cost of measuring equipment.

The lottery's "league table" of top punters per unit is now headed by 1 (UK) ADSR, some distance ahead of a group which includes the QDG, 16 Sig Regt/RASU, HQ ARRC, 28 Engr Regt, 35 Engr Regt, ACIOs/AFCOs, HQ Land, AGC Centre and 4 R Irish.

Shepherd and Holmes shrug off icy conditions

CPL Alan Shepherd (2 Sig Regt) kept his feet on a snow and ice-covered course at Longmoor Training Camp in Hampshire to win the senior men's title at the Army cross country championships.

He finished 43 seconds ahead of SSgt Rod Finch (7 Para RHA) who recently got himself back into international contention with a fine indoor run for Great Britain against Russia in Birmingham.

WO2 Ray Keeney (4 AB Log Bn) was third, Cpl Kenny Butler (BAD Kineton) fourth and Bdr Barry Stoddart (4 Regt RA) fifth.

Shepherd is currently in excellent form and pulled away from the rest of the field at the end of the first of three laps on the testing 9.5km championship course.

Finch, just ahead of Keeney, did enough to finish in second place with one eye on another prestige indoor race. At Birmingham three days later he competed in a 3,000m event during which Kenyan ace Moses Kiptenui narrowly failed to regain his world record.

In sixth place at Longmoor was Hldr Jimmy Tole, a youngster from the 1st Battalion,

The Highlanders, and the first junior to figure in the senior top ten for several years.

WO2 Jeff Martin (21 Sig Regt), five-times the Inter-Services marathon champion, showed a welcome return from long-term injury to finish tenth.

Sgt Kelly Holmes (AGC Worthy Down), well into her pre-Olympic preparations, won a keenly contested women's race ahead of Sgt Sue Sharp (RMAS). Sharp, returning to Army competition after a gap of some years, made an immediate impact, finishing just in front of the in-form SSgt Melanie Bradley, representing the combined RMPTS and SEME team.

SSgt John Lennon (25 Engr Regt) ran a fine race to take the veterans' title while finishing 23rd overall.

Kineton kept up the form they showed in the relays by taking the Major Units title well ahead of 2 Signal Regt and third-placed ITC Catterick.



Sgt Kelly Holmes (692) leads the field during the Army cross country championships at Longmoor. She went on to win the race

Picture: Mike Weston

ATR Glencorse won the Minors' race with Depot R Irish in second and ATR Winchester third.

Women's Services Northern Ireland got the better of AGC



An uphill struggle for competitors in the Army cross country championships as they tackle a snow-encrusted incline at Longmoor, Hants

Picture: Mike Weston



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British Military Mission members in Kuwait include (rear, left to right) WO2 Mel Mellor, Hldrs, Sgt Al Morgan RMP, Sgt Nat Cole DWR, Sgt Dave Barker and Sgt Steve Mott of Kings Own Border, and infantry adviser Maj Tony Trevis, D and D; front: Pte Arij Khanafi KAF, Sgts Wilf Baxter DWR, Danny Langthorp DWR and Steve Porter, Kings Own Border. Tanks and APCs in the background, including dozens of Chieftains, were captured by Iraq and returned to the Kuwaiti Army after the war. Story in Pages 26-28

Picture: Mike Weston