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SOLDIER

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Duke hitches a lift

DUKE the Army dog hitches a lift from his minder, Pte Caroline Hunter, during the Royal Tournament.

This year's show included, for the first time, an all-women display staged by the Army Women's Services Display Team.

The team, which was brought together especially for the show, performed a breathtaking series of stunts involving motor cycles, cross-country vehicles, horses and dogs.

Duke is one of seven dogs looked after by Caroline at the Defence Animal Centre, Melton Mowbray.

"It took about two months to train Duke to stand still on the motor cycle," said Caroline.

"He's quite a heavy dog, but my shoulders are beginning to get used to him!"

Picture: Les Scrivener



5,500 soldiers to go by 1994

FOR THE first time under the Options for Change plans private soldiers will be included in the next phase of Army redundancies.

Phase 2 of the scheme targets 6,500 personnel to go during 1993-94. Of these about 1,000 will be officers – including up to 53 brigadiers and 86 colonels.

The private soldiers who will make up a proportion of the remainder will include more than 1,500 from the Foot Guards and Infantry.

Volunteers are sought in various categories and individuals will be informed during the first quarter of 1993. They will receive up to 12 months' notice and full resettlement assistance.

Full details are included in two Defence Council Instructions: DCI Army 99/92 for officers and DCI Army 100/92 for private soldiers.

Figures for the third phase of redundancies, to take effect in 1994-95, will depend on natural wastage.

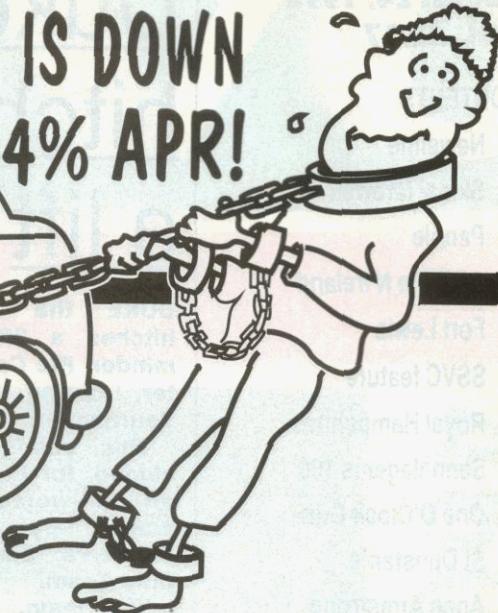
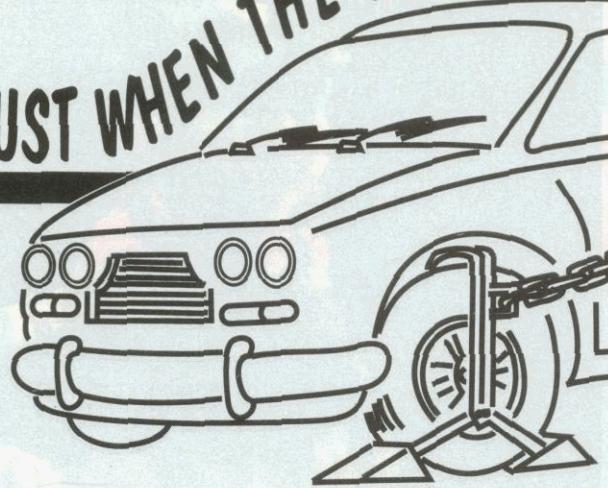
FRONT COVER: The Princess of Wales, Colonel-in-Chief of the Royal Hampshire Regiment, pictured at the final public appearance of the regiment in Winchester. See pages 24-25 and back cover. (Picture: Terry Champion)

New name proposed

A NAME has been proposed for the new regiment to be formed from The Gloucestershire Regiment and The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment (Berkshire and Wiltshire) on amalgamation in April 1994.

Subject to approval by the Army Board and the Queen, the combined regiments will be known as The Royal Gloucestershire, Berkshire and Wiltshire Regiment.

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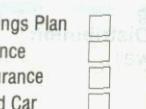
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Weapons find foils terrorists

AN ATTACK on Security Forces in Northern Ireland has been foiled by the discovery of a terrorist weaponry hide dug into a laneway in Londonderry.

Inside the hide was a primed Mark 12 mortar with a warhead containing Semtex explosive. Alongside was a high-powered rifle, fitted with telescopic sight and mounted on a bipod.

Three pairs of overalls, masks and ammunition were also recovered from the scene.

Fifty homes were evacuated for more than three hours while Army bomb disposal experts defused the mortar.

Quick thinking by a young soldier from 2nd Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment saved a baby from choking to death after its distraught mother asked a foot patrol in West Belfast for help.

The soldier saw the baby's tongue was blocking its airway and released it, while his patrol

alerted the RUC who took mother and baby to hospital.

A 15-year-old boy is recovering in hospital after being found semi-conscious on the Black Mountain by a foot patrol from the 1st Battalion, The Scots Guards.

The boy was spotted by the soldiers near Fort Whiterock in West Belfast running towards the mountain and a few minutes later the patrol was stopped by the boy's distraught

father who said the boy was going to kill himself.

The soldiers gave chase and with help from some children found the boy with his wrists slashed and bleeding badly. They gave first aid, brought him down from the mountain and continued to tend him until an ambulance arrived.

The ambulance crew said the boy would certainly have died without the efforts of the soldiers.

Soldier dies, one injured in attacks

TWO SEPARATE shooting incidents in Northern Ireland left one soldier dead and a second seriously wounded.

Gdsm Damien John Shackleton, 1st Battalion, The Scots Guards, was shot by an IRA sniper while riding as top-cover sentry in the back of an armoured Land Rover escorting two RUC vehicles in the New Lodge area of north Belfast.

The 24-year-old soldier, who was married with a four-year-old son, sustained gunshot wounds to the neck and was taken to a nearby hospital, but died 90 minutes later.

The gunman opened fire from the upstairs window of a house taken over by terrorists a short time previously.

At Pomeroy in Co Tyrone, a guardsman operating in the 1st Battalion, Coldstream Guards' tactical area of responsibility was seriously wounded when terrorists opened fire on an Army foot patrol.

Another soldier escaped when a bullet was deflected off his equipment.

In a follow-up operation, members of Security Forces recovered two weapons, magazines, ammunition and a petrol bomb.

Four soldiers were among 21 people injured when two massive IRA car bombs

exploded in central Belfast causing damage to buildings in the Bedford Street area.

The area had previously been hit by a similar bomb blast last January and many of the buildings had not been repaired at the time of the latest incident.

Crack unit on move



Air Vice Marshal Richard Johns takes the salute as 244 Signal Squadron (Air Support) march out of the gates of RAF Brize Norton for the last time. The crack communications unit is moving to Colerne in Wiltshire, where it will form an element of 21 Signal Regiment (AS) which has returned from Germany. The famous "Red Hand Gang" will retain its distinctive tac sign

Last salute for Missile Regiment



Lt Gen Sir Michael Wilkes takes the last salute as Lance Missile launchers led an impressive drivepast on the farewell parade of 50 Missile Regiment, Royal Artillery marking the Morden-based unit's transition into suspended animation after 33 years' service in Germany

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Jobs dialogue with Russians

AS THE LAST bastions of the Cold War tumble, the British Army is forging stronger links with the forces of the Russian Federation.

These include an exchange of ideas on the resettlement of military personnel, a topic high on the agenda of both countries as arms cuts begin to bite.

The new-found extension of the hand of friendship is designed to further good relations already established between the defence ministries and armed services of the United Kingdom and the Russian Federation.

A joint statement on British and Russian defence co-operation was issued by Defence Secretary Malcolm Rifkind and Gen Pavel Grachev, Russian Defence Minister, at the end of the general's visit to the UK.

Areas identified for closer co-operation include arms reduction, control and disposal.

Other developments will establish stronger links at a personal level.

There will be an exchange of students between the Royal College of Defence Studies and the Military Academy of the General Staff of the Russian Federation, exchanges on defence management in democratic settings and encouragement of bilateral military sports contacts.

Drugs test considered

THE Ministry of Defence is looking at a number of measures to aid detection of drugs among Servicemen in all three Services. One measure under consideration is the introduction of random drug testing.

A NEW initiative, Joining Forces for the Environment, aims to increase collaboration in environmental research between the Armed Forces and the scientific community.

The scheme will be managed in conjunction with the Natural



Russian army officers visiting Catterick took the opportunity to probe the secrets of the British Army pace stick, thanks to Sgt Alan Gregory, a provost sergeant with 11 Signal Regiment.

He is pictured (left) explaining to Col Oleg Koptelov (second right) how the stick is used for good measure on the drill square.

The Russians were involved in an inspection of military sites in Eastern District under the terms of the Conventional Forces in Europe (CFE) Treaty.

'Green' initiative

Environment Research Council (NERC) who will act as the recipient for proposals from universities and other research organisations and screen them for scientific merit.

The requests will then be passed for consideration and planning to the relevant Service.

The Ministry of Defence places great importance on the preservation of the environment and already undertakes a wide range of conservation activities.

Contact and co-operation already exists between the MoD and the scientific community, to the benefit of both.

"Our aim is to focus attention on ways in which the Services might be able to help even more," said Lord Cranborne, Under Secretary of State for Defence, "particularly in the area of environmental scientific research."

As the second largest landowner in the country and with one of the biggest skilled workforces, the MoD has a lot to offer. It deploys ships, aircraft and personnel around the globe, and to some of the most inhospitable regions, which by virtue of their very inaccessibility are of particular

interest to environmental scientists.

It is also responsible for the protection and management of more than 200 Sites of Special Scientific Interest found on the defence estate where there are many opportunities for ecological research and survey.

Among recent examples of collaboration between soldiers and scientists:

- Gurkhas have helped the Royal Geographical Society's Rainforest Project in Brunei, including the construction of rope bridges across rivers within virgin rainforest.

- A research project to study land use change and terrain type classification encompassing the Sennybridge Training Area near Brecon has been carried out using remote sensing.

Owl project

Six nesting boxes for barn owls have been constructed from reclaimed wood by two civilian carpenters at 3 Sub Depot, Central Ordnance Depot, Bicester, as part of a scientific project to breed and release barn owls.

- Eco-friendly Sennelager – Pages 26-28



These are the seven British soldiers who were presented with Liberation of Kuwait medals by the Saudi Arabian Ambassador, His Excellency Ghazi Algozaibi, at a ceremony in London. The remainder of the medals will be issued later this year by the MoD to Service personnel who qualified for the British Gulf War medal with the clasp "16 Jan to 28 Feb 1991".

Pictured (centre) holding the medal is Dvr Amanda Tillotson, RCT. The remainder (clockwise from front left) are Sgt Tony Hastie, RA, LSgt Andrew Levesley, 1 Gren Gds, Corporal of Horse Martin Coles, LG, Lance Corporal of Horse David Rees, LG, Maj James Hewitt, LG and Maj Greville Bibby, Gren Gds.

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RAOC peace award

THE ROYAL Army Ordnance Corps Training Battalion and Depot has been awarded the 1991 Wilkinson Sword of Peace.

The Deepcut-based unit has supported the White Lodge Centre in Chertsey, Surrey which helps adults and children suffering from cerebral palsy and a wide range of physical handicaps.

Wilkinson Sword Ltd has, since 1966, made awards to a unit from each of the armed services which is judged to have made the most valuable contribution towards establishing good relations with its local civilian community.

Over the past 22 years, the efforts of the RAOC Training Battalion and Depot have provided much-needed resources for the centre and demonstrated the caring attitude of members of the armed services towards those less fortunate than themselves.

In that time, besides providing manpower and resources, the soldiers raised more than £60,000 for the centre.

The new MoD civilian Guard Service comes into force on October 1. It will be formed from existing non-industrial and industrial Guard Forces at Defence installations.

The Royal Corps of Transport held its last corps weekend at Buller Barracks, Aldershot, last month. The RCT has occupied the barracks site since 1856 when the corps' forerunner, the Military Train, had horse lines in Aldershot. Next year, the corps will become part of the new Royal Logistic Corps.

Cpl Steven Wray of the 1st Bn, The Light Infantry was killed and five other soldiers slightly injured when their Land Rover was involved in a collision with a civilian lorry at Cotton Tree Village in Belize.



'First' for the Depot

Heavy rain failed to dampen the spirits of the first female soldiers to pass out from Depot The Prince of Wales Division at Lichfield, here being inspected by the Director of Infantry, Maj Gen Bryan Dutton.

Under revised training arrangements following Options for Change, the depot is to assume full responsibility for the basic training of recruits to the Army Medical Services and the Parachute Regiment, in addition to the regiments of the Division, from next January



The Deputy Lord Mayor of Bristol, Clr Peter Abraham (right) gets to grips with a general purpose machine gun after launching a new Territorial Army rifle company in Bristol. The new unit to be formed at the Speedwell TA Centre is "B (City of Bristol) Company" of the 1st Battalion, The Wessex Regiment

Missile update

BRITISH Aerospace Defence Limited has been awarded an £11 million contract by the Ministry of Defence to develop and supply modifications to upgrade towed Rapier systems currently in service with the British Army and the RAF Regiment.

The modifications will enable the systems to fire British Aerospace's new Rapier Mk2 missile, which is under production for the low-level air defence system, Rapier 2000.

British Aerospace Defence Limited has delivered the first Rapier 2000 Part Task Trainer

(PTT) to the MoD. The vital training aid produces sophisticated battlefield simulation including state-of-the-art computer-generated images which present highly realistic battlefield emulation.

The Ministry of Defence has awarded a major contract to Seddon Atkinson Vehicles Ltd to supply 174 commercial vehicle tractor units to pull a variety of articulated trailer units in service with the Army, Royal Navy and Royal Air Force.

Malaysia bid

AN eight-man team of climbers for 3 Tank Transporter Sqn RCT based in Sennelager has flown to the Far East with the aim of climbing Malaysia's highest mountain, Gunung Tahan. As preparation, the team, led by 2nd Lt Simon Hirst, climbed Germany's highest mountain, the Zugspitze.

SOLDIER PHOTOS

Changes in prices for SOLDIER photographic reprints will come into effect on September 1.

Black-and-white print prices will range from £4 (7x5in) to £12 (20x16), with £2 per sheet for contact prints and £10 per transparency.

Colour prints will cost between £6 (7x5) and £27 (24x16). Colour contact prints will be priced at £6 and colour transparencies £6 each (£5 each for more than one).

Sizes are approximate and prices do not include VAT and postage.

Orders placed before September 1 will be at current prices.

Full details will be included in an advertisement in the next issue of SOLDIER.

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Fresh RDG chapter as Skins say farewell

FINAL farewell for the 5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards took place at Barker Barracks, Paderborn, when the serving regiment paraded before a contingent of Old Comrades.

The salute was taken by the Colonel of the Regiment, Maj Gen Patrick Brooking, who referred to the regiment's long and glorious history.

"Amalgamation with the 4th/7th Royal Dragoon Guards is not the closure of the book, but the beginning of a new chapter," he said.

The Skins marched from the square for the last time to the strains of "Fare Thee Well Inniskilling", the regimental march of the Inniskillings and also of the new regiment, the Royal Dragoon Guards, which came into being on August 1.

Based in Paderborn, the new regiment is equipped with Challenger main battle tanks and commanded by Lt Col

Johnny Torrens-Spence.

Wearing his new capbadge for the first time, Col Torrens-Spence said it was a momentous day for all concerned.

"The Royal Dragoon Guards springs from two proud regiments with long and distinguished histories," he said. "We do not intend to forget the past.

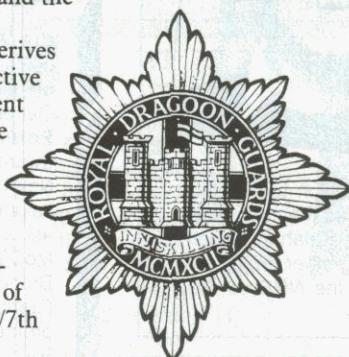
"Indeed, we are carrying forward the best features of each of our parent regiments in the dress, the capbadge and the traditions of the new.

The RDG uniform derives from the most distinctive features of its parent regiments: the naval blue hat and cross belt of the 4th/7th and the green trousers of the Skins.

The capbadge follows this theme, with Inniskilling Castle on a cross of St George within the 4th/7th St Patrick's Star.



CO Lt Col Johnny Torrens-Spence (right) presents the new cap badge to soldiers of The Royal Dragoon Guards, Cpl Tony Pickering (left) and LCpl Darren Shaw. Left: The new badge



Maj Gen Patrick Brooking, Colonel of the Regiment, is greeted by Lt Col Torrens-Spence at the final parade of 5 Innis DG at Paderborn

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Shooting stars leave firmament

It's the end of an era for this remarkably successful trio from 42 Survey Engineer Group at Hermitage, shown with the two trophies they won during the recent target rifle championships at Bisley.

All three are due to retire before next year's Bisley, leaving the field clear for others to compete for the Army target rifle long range competition trophy (left), which they have won five times in the last seven years, and the Army target rifle short range competition cup (right).

Maj **Dick Ellis** (centre), driving force behind the success, captained the shooting team in his final year as a Sandhurst cadet in 1958. Both he and Maj **Roger Bailey** (right) were commissioned that year.

Making up a grand total of 78 years' competitive shooting for the Army is the youngster of the team, SSgt **Dave Johnson**, who started his shooting career a mere 21 years ago at Barton Stacey.

Paul's desert mission



Cpl **Paul Turnbull**, a combat medical technician serving with 5 Armoured Field Ambulance RAMC in Munster, is currently working in sunnier climes.

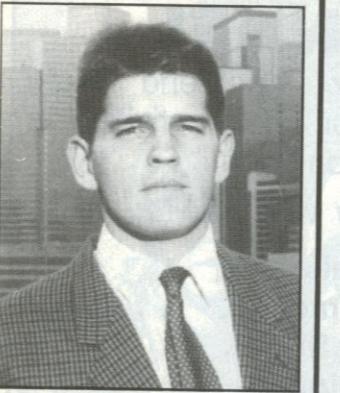
As a member of the Operation Raleigh expedition to Namibia, he is supporting a 15-strong team of volunteers as they trek along the notorious Skeleton Coast of Africa and the Kalahari Desert.

During the ten-week trek, Cpl Turnbull, among other projects, is working closely with doctors and nurses from the NHS as they carry out a free medical service to the locals.



The Navy honours the Army as WO1 **John Manning**, Royal Engineers, of the Joint Services Job Evaluation Team is congratulated on being awarded the Meritorious Service Medal by Commodore **Malcolm Rutherford**, Director of Personnel, Royal Navy. John already holds the MBE for his work with the dependants of the casualties from the Gulf War.

John joins meritocracy



Hong Kong-based Capt **Matthew Petersen** of 1 RRW is the first Serviceman from the Garrison to be attached as an observer to the United Nations Transitional Authority (UNTAC) in Cambodia.

Welsh medics take high road

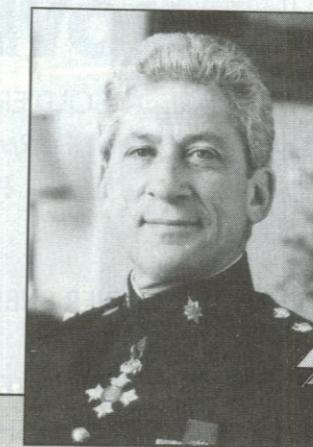


Medics from 203 (Welsh) General Hospital RAMC (V), took up the challenge of the Scottish Highlands for their annual camp.

Working from two sites, Barry Budden on Tayside and Ballater in the Cairngorms, the TA medics – volunteers from all over South Wales – combined adventurous training tradesmen.

Pictured taking a well-earned breather are (from left): Ptes **William Jones**, **Alison Chauncy** and **Helen Gregory**; Cpls **Alison Menzies** and **Sally Menzies**; LCpl **Tony Hampson**. (Front row) LCpl **Angela Fenner** and Pte **Debbie Anning**.

PEOPLE



Almost 30 years after being commissioned into the Worcestershire Regiment, Brig **Ronnie Silk** has been appointed Colonel of his regiment, the Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters.

Before taking command of 143 (West Midlands) Brigade in January this year, the brigadier was Chief of Staff at the Army Staff College at Camberley.

The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters is an amalgamation of the Worcestershire Regiment and the Sherwood Foresters (Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Regiment).



A new march, dedicated to the "cheerful bravery" shown by disabled ex-Servicemen and women in the care of the Royal Star and Garter Home at Richmond, Surrey, has been written by Student Bandmaster **Tim Arnold**, of the Royal Military School of Music, Kneller Hall.

Entitled "Royal Star and Garter", the march was given its first public airing at a gala concert at Kneller in July, with Tim conducting.

"I was surprised to discover that the home did not have its own march," said Tim, who served with the Royal Green Jackets and the Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment before going to Kneller two years ago.

"Now I am hoping that the new composition will become another important element in its military tradition."

Highland fling

Weary, but still cheery sappers **Tina Gibbons**, **Rosalin Green** and **Samantha Hooper** cool off in the waters of Loch Rannoch.

All members of Walsall-based TA Royal Engineers unit 143 Plant Squadron (militia), the girls have been at annual camp in the Highlands of Scotland, where the squadron has been undertaking various engineering tasks and also carrying out a comprehensive training programme.



Tim's Home-spun music

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Second Fusiliers on the march during preparations for deployment

Twelve months into their two-and-a-half year tour of Northern Ireland, the 2nd Battalion The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers were visited by SOLDIER who found the...

Fusiliers on form

IT DOES not take too many paces for the soldiers of A Company, 2nd Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers on urban patrol to reach the heart of the countryside that surrounds Rathfriland.

A tourist guide records that the town which has connections with America's pioneering history – it was the birthplace of the mother of the first white child born west of the Rockies in 1862 – is set on top of a steep hill with five streets with stepped terraces falling away

sharply on all sides. Before the combustion engine, the cheery residents usually walked home, getting out of their traps and carts to spare the ponies.

Now there are fewer ponies and traps, but the soldiers still proceed on foot when making their way back to the Security Force base.

The tactical area of responsibility is almost exclusively rural, says the company commander, Maj James Murray-

**Words: Laurie Manton
Pictures: Mike Weston**

Playfair, but includes the towns of Hilltown, Mayobridge, Warrenpoint and Rostrevor.

"I have troops all over the shop. Here, some attached to the Newry Company, more at Warrenpoint and others at Ballykinler.

"They are mainly involved in establishing random vehicle checkpoints to interdict IRA terrorists transiting the area," he said.

The company suffered a



heavy blow earlier this year when Fus Andrew Grundy was killed by a bomb at the Killeen PVCP (Romeo 15) outside Newry.

When the bomb in a van was driven along the adjacent railway line, he stayed at his post and shouted a warning to his comrades.

"Having lived through the incident, it is burned on our memories.

"It has been a very formative experience in the minds of a lot

● Turn to next page



5 Platoon, B Company at Newry RUC station

Fusiliers on form

From Page 15

of young men," said Maj Murray-Playfair.

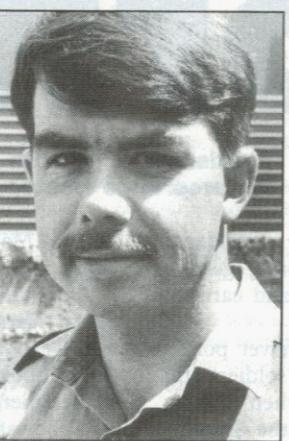
Another company of Second Fusiliers is based at Newry as part of the Armagh roulement battalion.

It is a large area for a company that has routinely heavy static commitments on the ground and includes the Killeen checkpoint.

The old checkpoint has been demolished and a temporary administrative area and defensive position has been established

nearby. Troops continue to operate the Permanent VCP on the road in support of the Royal Ulster Constabulary, while construction work is underway for a new patrol base on the western side of the A1 with a view to monitoring traffic on the Dublin and Forkhill roads.

It is anticipated that the military and police presence on the main vehicle routes through that area



Maj James Murray-Playfair commands A Company

will continue," said B Company's commander, Maj James Bright.

Newry has acquired a certain notoriety as an area attracting high levels of terrorist activity. Patrols operate, primarily, in support of the RUC neighbourhood patrol unit – beat policemen, for want of a better description. With its headquarters based at Ballykinler, the battalion has just completed the first

12 months of a two-and-a-half year tour. Its commanding officer is Lt Col Simon Sanderson. Rotation of duties is the norm. Typically, companies carry out duties at Newry, Ballykinler and Rathfriland interspersed by leave and training.

Families on station are well catered for, having three community centres, a creche, playgroup and a HIVE at their disposal.

Additional facilities include a thriving youth club, gymnasium and pool, and acres of playing fields.

The continuing refurbishment of housing accommodation means the standard of quartering is high.



Sign of the times: Sgt Major James Gregg outside the Convent of Mercy at Warrenpoint



Troops don't hang around when disembarking from Chinook helicopters



In the sangar at Romeo 15 are Fusiliers Aaron Wallace and Phil Marsh, LCpl Neil Whittaker and Fus Shaun Sharkey



Vehicles continue to be monitored at the Killeen VCP. The soldier's SA 80 is fitted with a rifle-launched grenade

Sgt George Jay on joint RUC/Army foot patrol at Warrenpoint



Left - Setting a Claymore mine is just one of the tasks facing this soldier as he strives to qualify for the Expert Infantryman Badge

Above - Specialist E4 Sean Connor with the impressive Mk19 grenade launcher. Its 40mm grenades which can be fired in automatic, blow to a casualty radius of five metres.

Right - The Northwest Guardian post newspaper is staffed by soldiers. Army specialists Michael Kuntz and Paul Valencia check negatives while PV2 Bernadette Paris looks on



Above - Command Sergeant Major Roger Meyer

Right - Col Joseph Wintle (right) compliments the 102nd Engineer Company after the breaching trial



A 102nd Engineer Company combat engineer sets up a wire obstacle for the breaching demonstration



Life's GREAT at Fort Lewis!



DESPITE THE massive draw-down of American forces as a result of the collapse of the Soviet Union and the Warsaw Pact, the sheer size of the US Army is staggering. Nowhere is it more evident than at Fort Lewis, where British infantry units train each winter.

Fort Lewis, Washington State is to be one of the three "hubs" of the US Army into the next century. The others are Fort Hood in Texas and Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

Covering an area of 635 sq miles, Fort Lewis is the second largest in the United States. By 1995, 26,000 soldiers - the most since the Second World War - will be permanently assigned to the post.

The statistics are staggering. Fort Lewis contains 147 ranges, more than 5,000

buildings, 30 miles of railway and 691 miles of roadway.

It is the fifth largest city in Washington state and, currently, 17,000 soldiers, 25,000 dependants, 5,400 civilian employees and 16,700 retired Army personnel rely on Fort Lewis for some kind of support.

A new \$360m military hospital, the Madigan Army Medical Centre, opened earlier this year. With a staff of 2,000, it will treat more than a million patients each year.

Fort Lewis was named in honour of explorer Meriwether Lewis, who led an expedition to the Pacific Northwest.

Founded in 1917 as Camp Lewis, the fort was designated a permanent Army post in 1927. Brick barracks and office buildings were later put up to

supplement the temporary First World War structures already in place.

During the post's long history, it has been home to 14 Army divisions. Fort Lewis also served as a major training centre and staging post during the Second World War, and the Korean and Vietnam conflicts.

Lt Gen H Norman Schwarzkopf of Gulf fame commanded the base in 1986/87.

It is home to I Corps, the 2-75th Ranger Regiment, the 1st Special Forces Group (Airborne) and a number of other non-divisional support units and tenant organisations.

The largest corps unit, 9th Infantry Division (Motorised), has just completed a two-year de-activation programme and will be replaced by the 7th Infantry Division next year.

The Special Forces Group consists of three battalions, one of which deploys to Okinawa, Japan.

Each SFG battalion has 18 "A" Teams manned by the Army's most highly-trained soldiers and equipped with state-of-the-art weapons and equipment.

The soldiers are capable of conducting unconventional warfare, and the group is constantly engaged in foreign internal defence missions, and training foreign armies in basic infantry and special operations in the Pacific theatre.

The popular I Corps Band was formed in 1943 and received 13 campaign "credits" during the Second World War and Vietnam. Among its many decorations, the band includes the Order of the Day of the

Belgian Army for action in the Ardennes, the Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm and, most recently, an Army Commendation Medal, group award for meritorious achievement while assigned in support of Operation Desert Storm.

The base has its own newspaper, the *Northwest Guardian*, which carries news and features of interest to soldiers and their families. Recent editor SPC Ken Blackburn, of the 28th Public Affairs Team, long considered one of the US Army's best writers, this year won the Army Journalist of the Year title and was named US Department of Defense print journalist of the year.

A SOLDIER team which visited one of Fort Lewis's 147

ranges found infantrymen being tested for the Expert Infantry Badge (EIB).

Command Sgt Maj Roger Meyer, sergeant major of 1-33rd Armor, 199th Infantry Brigade (Motorised) explained that he expected a 30 per cent success rate.

"The EIB can only be awarded to combat infantry soldiers holding a military occupational speciality of rifleman, mortarman or anti-tanker. In order to receive the badge, a soldier must pass all 16 test tasks including calling for artillery fire, marksmanship, NBC, first aid and map reading," he said.

The badge is linked to the Combat Infantry badge which can only be awarded during a war. Army medics also have a coveted badge called the Expert

Field Medical Badge.

Elsewhere, the 102nd Engineer Company was defining new ways of breaching an enemy obstacle.

When the company was at the National Training Centre in California last year, its fighting ability was assessed by NTC officials who provide units with a "take-home package" listing in great detail the strengths and weaknesses of the unit. That became the basis of their home station training.

199th Brigade's commander, Col Joseph Wintle, explained that the package included a critique of the 102nd's ability to breach an obstacle and direct friendly forces through the area.

"At the NTC, some convoys missed identification marks and drove into landmines and other

obstacles.

"I am always keen to hear the views of soldiers in my brigade and the 102nd has come up with an excellent method of marking the obstacles," he said.

First Platoon's 1st Lt Eric Price and 1st Lt Joe Staton developed panel markers with arrows which can be placed near the obstacle and down range to warn convoys and foot soldiers where to move.

Said 1st Lt Walter Sweeney: "Now every unit will know what to look for, and where to find the direction panels. They are a lot easier to spot."

Fort Lewis has much to offer British units who visit the base under the Trumpet Dance series of exercises, and the experience can only add to their battle skills.



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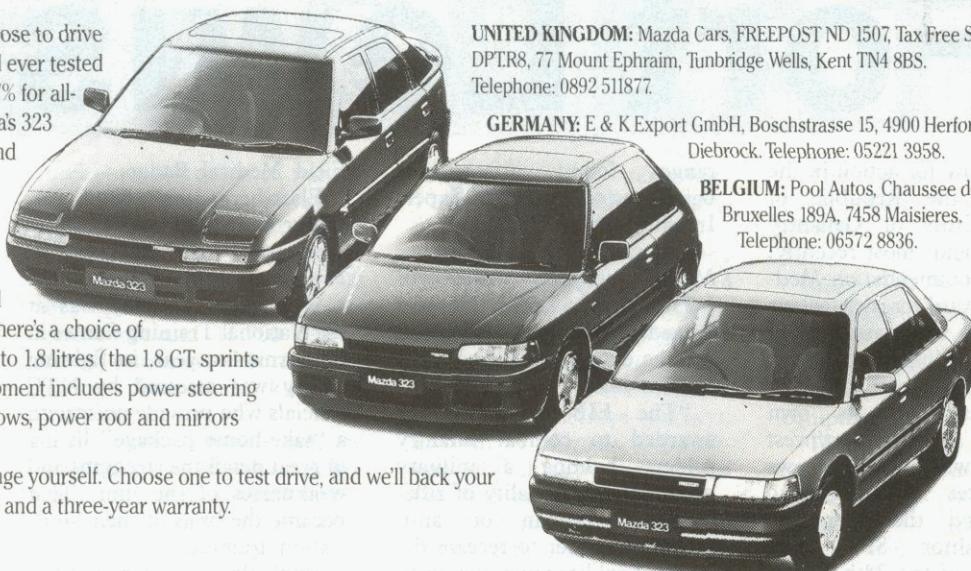
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Writer Phil Wilcox and **photographer Terry Champion** have been finding out how SSVC transmits a nightly helping of Home Front telly – and a great deal more – to garrisons around the world

A SOLDIER switches on the television or radio one evening in his accommodation in Cyprus or Gibraltar.

Within seconds, he can catch up on the most recent editions of his favourite British "soap" or current affairs programme.

The next morning, back at work, he watches an up-to-date video on anything from NBC training to financial advice.

The fact that he can take these things for granted is a tribute to the work of the Services Sound and Vision Corporation.

Based at Chalfont St Peter in Buckinghamshire, the SSVC aims "to provide broadcasting, training support and entertainment for the British Armed Forces, wherever they serve."

Every week, even the farthest-flung garrison is sent several three-hour cassettes of UK television programmes.

And, through the corporation's radio arm – the British Forces Broadcasting Service (BFBS) – stations as far apart as Germany and Belize are kept up to date on news, sport and entertainment.

Of course, any landline, microwave or satellite link is fallible, but the SSVC has thought of that as well.

All equipment, facilities and systems installed by the organisation are backed up by its own mobile engineers and workshops.

Like Topsy, the SSVC, which this year celebrates the tenth anniversary of its formation from the merger of the BFBS with the long-established Services Cinema Corporation, has "grown and grown".

The advent of satellite broadcasting meant that, once the official go-ahead had been given, it was able to establish TV links to Servicemen in the Gulf within a relatively short time.

Keeping abreast of the times,



Mary-Jane Halser, a BFBS broadcaster, in one of the radio studios at SSVC. "We are on the air from 0600 to 2300 UK time, seven days a week, with a wide-ranging mixture of news, music, drama and sport, 12½ per cent of which is live," she says

There's a lot on the box tonight!

the SSVC's Technology Enhanced Training (TET) Centre offers its services to outside organisations and government departments.

The centre, which incorporates such facilities as interactive video and computer-based training, provides generic training materials for subjects which include management and PC skills and language training.

It can also advise on and provide solutions for customised training packages and

systems specific to the needs of any organisation, said technical training co-ordinator Graham Leckey.

Among SSVC's recent developments is the command, control, communications and information simulator produced for the Metropolitan Police and used in crowd-control training.

"This system undoubtedly will have great potential within the Armed Services as new and more efficient ways of simulat-

ing situations are sought," Mr Leckey said.

Another departure for SSVC has been the establishment of Chaltec, its wholly-owned subsidiary sales and marketing company which operates shops in the UK and, among other services, makes corporate and specialist videos.

Chaltec's profits are channelled into SSVC, in turn enabling the latter to donate financial surpluses to Service welfare

● Turn to next page.

On the box

From Page 21

funds. The Army in Germany, for example, can thank SSVC for at least some of its sailing dinghies, to say nothing of the new washing machines now adorning a barrack block in Gibraltar. And the Federation of Army Wives benefits to the tune of £50,000 each year.

All aeons away from those far-off times in the Fifties when the likes of Lt Frank Bough and 2nd Lt Barry Davies used to broadcast on the British Forces Network, when the thought of putting a man into orbit, let alone a satellite, was pure fantasy and video simply meant "I see" in Latin.

"These days," said Alan Grace, the corporation's Head of Administration (Broadcasting), "we are part of the fabric of Service life in countries in Europe and the Middle East.

"Apart from radio and TV programmes, we supply videos of established or ready-made films. Of course, people still like to go to one of our on-the-spot cinemas. In fact, one of the big successes in the Gulf was SSVC's 'Desert Cinema'. It was a rare night out for the soldiers."

After the Falklands campaign, explained SSVC's publicity manager, former soldier Roger Edward-Jones, thousands of TV sets were given to troops by a grateful British nation.

However, there were obviously no high street dealers to maintain them so, as a perpetual donation, SSVC sent out a permanent maintenance man.

By the time the Gulf War came along, things were better organised. Projects were funded from the outset, with a fully-equipped REME lorry being despatched as a mobile workshop.

Service schools are also beginning to realise the benefits of the SSVC providing them with equipment and back-up, as are security organisations within and outside the Army, who, according to Mr Edward-Jones, are installing hundreds of security devices in the UK and Germany.

The production department at Chalfont can provide official film and video production, training packs and 35mm slide reproduction among its services.

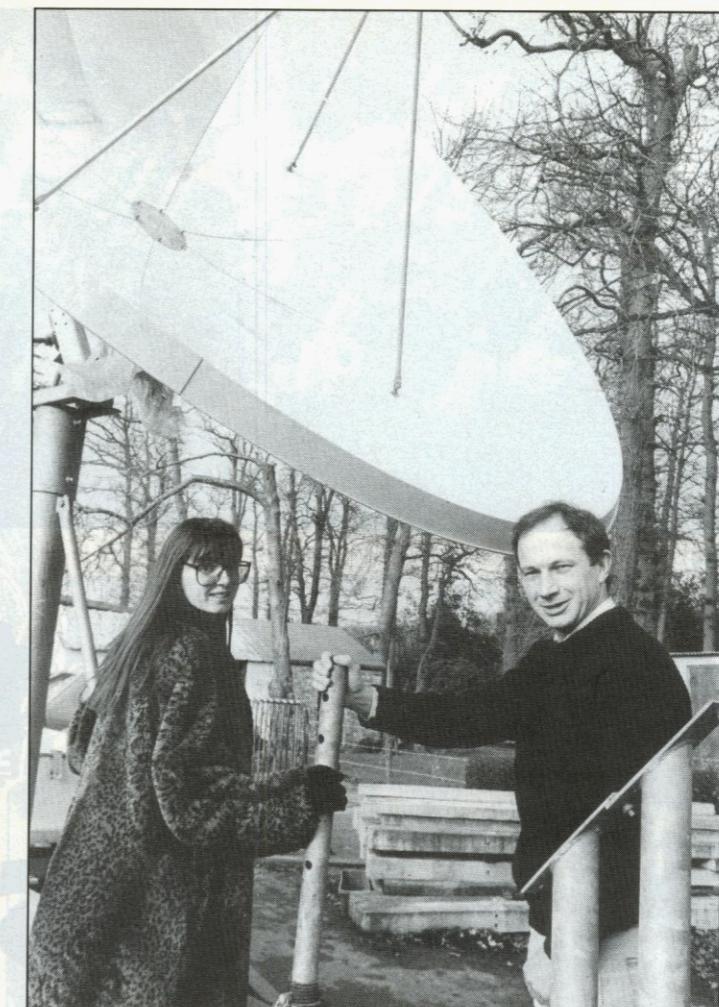
"If an Army unit is holding a training lecture, for example, and has taken slides for that purpose, our film strips and



"Are you sitting comfortably?" Lorna Stevens, one of the SSVC children's television presenters, rehearses a Germany and Cyprus. Behind the lens is Graham Reed



programme for transmission to



Engineer Karen Sweeney and Senior Engineer Bob Martin at Chalfont with satellite dish used in the Gulf. With colleagues Chris Russell and John Bennett they broadcast for BFBS Middle East at the time of the conflict. All have been presented with Gulf Medals

slides manager can reproduce them once or even 20 times within two weeks," said Mr Edward-Jones.

"This could be very useful for, say, a TA unit commanding officer who wants each outlying platoon to have the same message."

On the broadcasting side, Alan Grace feels that one of the most interesting things which the SSVC does is to run programmes in the Far East for the Gurkhas.

"We have developed it to take in all Gurkhas based in Belize, the Falklands and Church Crookham," he said.

"One of our boasts is that one of the first fax machines ever seen in Kathmandu belonged to the BFBS."

Traditionally, the corporation's engineers are the back-room boys and girls who work on the non-glamorous side and are not normally in the forefront of activity, said Colin



David Goldsmith, SSVC's Head of Production (Film and Video)

another carrying a transmitter cabin and another with a 75ft telescopic tower."

It had given him a kick, he admitted, to see at one time a couple of dozen soldiers sitting under canvas watching live TV, courtesy of some spare capacity on the European Space Agency satellite - and some small dishes stuck on sandbags . . .

"Although the antenna

Rugg, SSVC's engineering director. But they had their moment of glory out in the Gulf, when, after a directive from the British Commander, Gen Sir Peter de la Billière, TV pictures were laid on for troops virtually overnight.

"I don't know of any other organisation which could have set it up with such alacrity," said Mr Rugg.

SSVC's deputy director engineering, Brian Scott said: "There was a 'corral' of trailers, including one with a 12ft satellite dish on the back of it,

another carrying a transmitter cabin and another with a 75ft telescopic tower."

Heading the department responsible for the production of all military training films is David Goldsmith.

Currently enjoying his 38th year in the job, his memories stretch from the days of the Army Kinematograph Service through the 1950s to the present, award-laden organisation.

"We make about 75 to 80 programmes a year - the largest amount in Europe," he said.

"Last year, we won 11 international awards, including two grand prix awards where there were 18 nations competing, including China. Without boasting, we are internationally recognised as the foremost in the documentary and training film world."

The film and video production department also produces vast numbers of slides, training packs and training catalogues.

"A lot of people don't realise that we are producing the equivalent of 15 feature length films every year," Mr Goldsmith said.

A significant pointer to the times, perhaps, is indicated by the subject matter of some of the productions: they range from Aids to drug-taking and marriage guidance.

One of the latest releases, *Home From Home*, a video made for the Federation of Army Wives by an in-house producer, aims to introduce Service wives to life in Northern Ireland.

Highlight of the year promises to be *The Gulf Conflict* - a self-explanatory three-part video described by

Mr Goldsmith as "the definitive version" which was due to be shown for the first time at the Admiralty Cinema in July.

"We did the same for the Falklands, in four parts," said David Goldsmith. "We've gone for the key players - all the commanders - using established footage from the BBC, ITN, CNN and so on and a total of 450 hours shot on Super VHS by military personnel which has

so on and a total of 450 hours shot on Super VHS by military personnel which has

had to be transferred to the BETA system."

All seven producers in the department come from different parts of the cinema and TV industry, he explained, providing a combination of experience which worked extremely well.

This year's output includes films on Army traditions, nuclear and biological defence, post-traumatic stress disorder, range safety and the preservation of farmers' fields.

"I think I have been in this place so long that no subject is unusual to me, because the scope is so tremendously wide," said David Goldsmith.

When the organisation began

material available on film. It is a bit jerky, but it has lasted," Mr Goldsmith said.

Black and white 35mm film shot in the Second World War has also survived.

"We know that when we transfer that to videotape it will still be perfect."

In contrast, when videotape was copied, he added, there was a clearly discernible deterioration in quality.

"It's a question of immediacy. A satellite dish will be set up at 4 o'clock in a hotel room and two hours later, the item - shot on video tape - will be on the news.

"Film, however, has to be processed and is nothing like so immediate. Video is cheaper, quicker and only needs single camera units, with no re-takes to do."

Ninety-five per cent of the production department's output is shot on location, although before now an authentic German bar has been constructed in the studio, and the corporation's boardroom purloined to represent a Soviet general's conference room.

All part of the professionalism in evidence at SSVC, which can also boast:

- Dubbing suites, where voice-overs from actor Edward Fox have been known to be recorded one day, and a nuclear explosion simulated on a synthesizer the next;

- Banks of video tape recorders simultaneously copying programmes for overseas;

- Editing suites producing, for example, trailers for forthcoming programmes;

- Workshops making parts for old machines, and a loan pool of audio visual equipment including monitors, cameras and VCRs.

As Roger Edward-Jones said: "Ten years ago, the studios here were empty. Now, our TV and radio facilities are overused: people have to book."

"And if someone in any Army unit suddenly realises that they are going to need a film on, say, health and safety in workshops, why go anywhere else? We are competitive, professional and trustworthy."

Of course, besides the studio facilities at Chalfont, there is the BFBS headquarters in Paddington, not to mention CSE (Combined Services Entertainment), successor to the famous ENSA.

But that's another story . . .



Sadness tinged with pride, as young ...



... and not-so-young ...

Poignant time for Hampshires

IN A FEW short hours brimming with poignancy, the Royal Hampshire Regiment publicly bade farewell to its home city of Winchester last month.

A fiercely proud county regiment, the Hampshires are due to amalgamate with the Queen's Regiment on September 9 to form the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment (Queen's and Royal Hampshires).

Taking the salute outside the Guildhall as more than 800 serving and past "Tigers", led by two 60-strong guards from the 1st Battalion with its Colours, passed along the Broadway, was the regiment's Colonel-in-Chief, the Princess of Wales.

End of the parade was marked by a bitter-sweet rendering of "Auld Lang Syne" by the regimental band and corps of drums.

At a service held shortly afterwards in Winchester Cathedral, attended by more than 1,300 people, the Bishop of Winchester, the Rt Rev Colin James, paid tribute to the regiment in a moving address.

"Rooted in the town and villages of Hampshire, it has instilled a sense of pride in them, both in peace and war," he said.

As the Regular Army had

gradually taken shape, there had been a sense of belonging, a feeling of mutual loyalty and respect between the Hampshires and the county which owned the regiment and supplied its men.

"Apart from retaining their Tiger and Rose symbol when the amalgamation takes place, the regiment will take with it the affection and support of the Hampshire people."

Later, to the obvious delight of guests, the Princess went on a lengthy "walkabout" at the regiment's Peninsula Barracks in the city.

She is to remain as Colonel-in-Chief of the new regiment, which will have two

Words:
Phil Wilcox
Pictures:
Terry Champion

Regular battalions and two Territorials.

The 1st Battalion, to be commanded by Lt Col Mike Reeve-Tucker, current CO of the 1st Battalion, will form at Colchester.

The 2nd Battalion, to form at Canterbury, will be commanded by Lt Col David Wake, currently commanding 2 Bn, The Queen's Regiment, there.

Brig Bob Long, Colonel of the Hampshires, said: "We are united in our support of the new regiment: the amalgamation is a pretty sensible move. But deep down inside all of us, we were a Tiger, we are a Tiger - and we always will be a Tiger . . ."

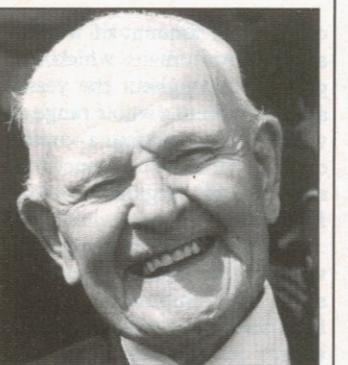


1st Battalion Colours on public show at Winchester for the last time

Nonagenarian Ernie Billett thoroughly enjoyed the day, although he had mixed feelings, and his comments on the amalgamation were unprintable . . .

A sergeant who fought with the regiment at the Somme and Passchendaele and, in his own words, "had a second go at the Boche", serving with the Tigers in the Second World War, he enlisted when he was 15 at the King's Arms in Christchurch, Hampshire.

During the cathedral service attended by Princess Diana, he was one of three representatives of the regiment who were

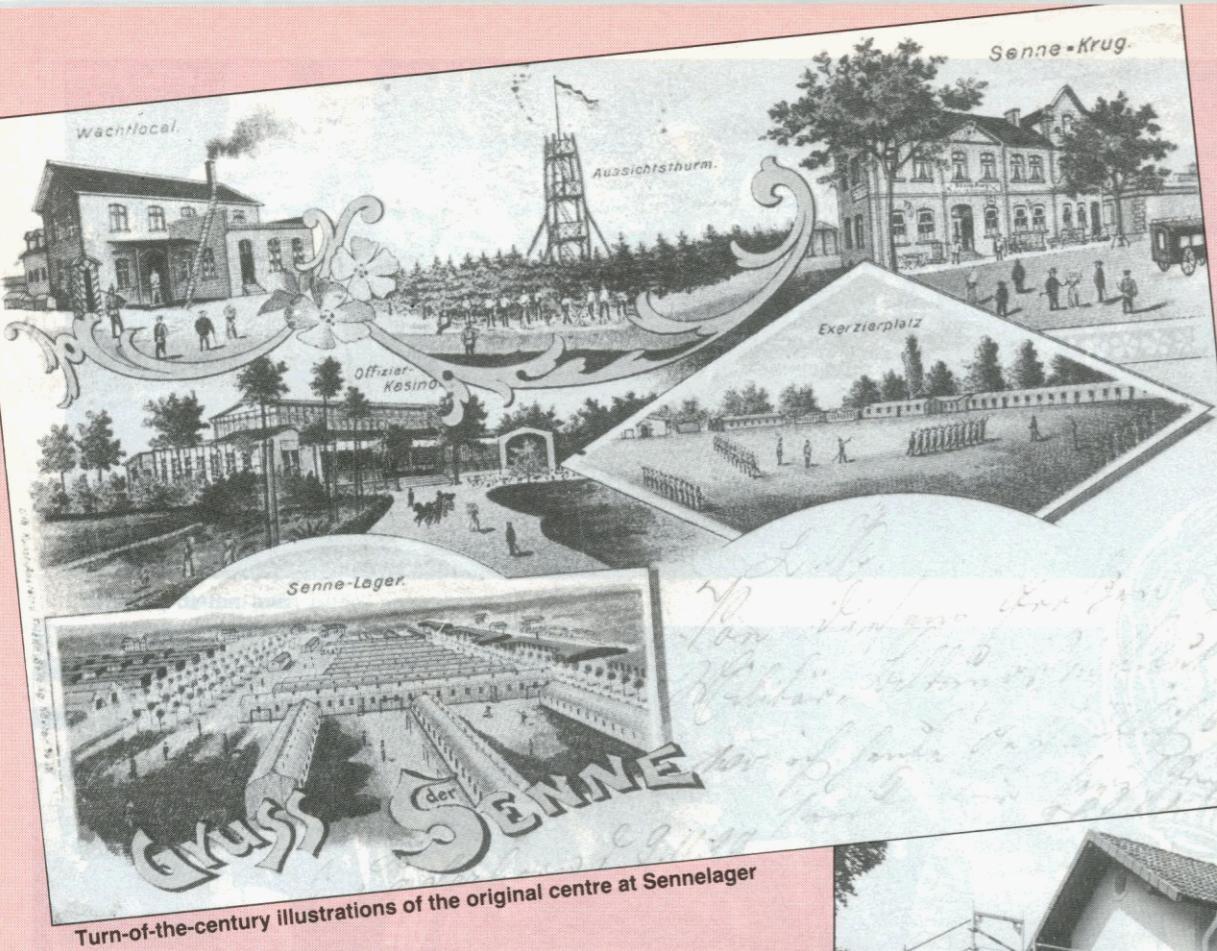


chosen to turn over a page in appropriate Books of Remembrance, to the sound of the Last Post.



... take part in their regiment's final public parade

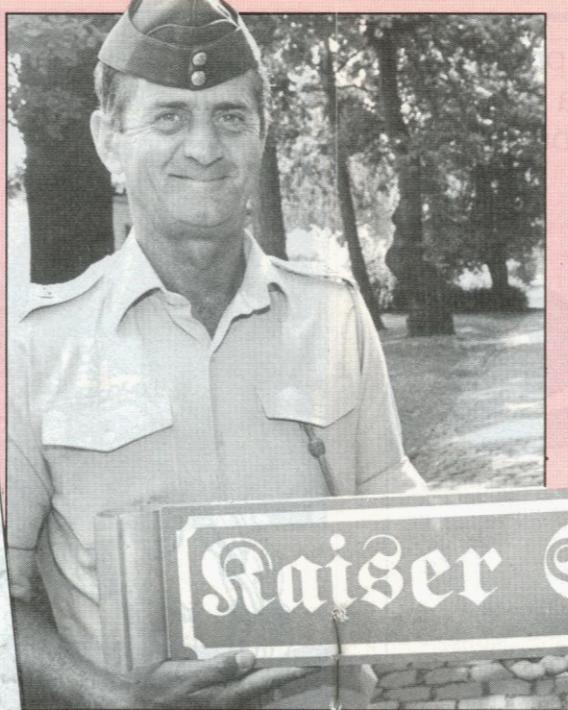
Left - The Princess of Wales with Brig Tim Glass, late Royal Hamps and former CO of the regiment. These days, as Director Public Relations (Army), he is more used to working behind the scenes with the press than being spotlighted by them . . .



Turn-of-the-century illustrations of the original centre at Sennelager



... and now. The original guardroom at STC, which dates back to 1910, and the present day, almost identical, building. Pte Liz Finney and Cpl Peter Gay (3 Armoured Ambulance) add a bit of 1990s authenticity



Maj Chris Brown, STC centenary projects officer, displays one of ten road signs which he commissioned as part of the celebrations. Six new names have been created and four old names revived, mainly in the original Prussian script, on blue



Deputy Commandant Ken Laight with range map

Eco-friendly Sennelager

THE ECOLOGICAL Earth Summit in Rio gave a good indication of just how far the western world still has to go in its efforts to help the green cause across the globe.

Much nearer home, north of Paderborn in Germany, the Army's Sennelager Training Centre (STC) might be able to teach the rest of the world a thing or two.

Currently celebrating its centenary, the centre owes its origins to a local innkeeper and three other investors who bought shares in the poor and sandy terrain - with a

grave-digger turning over each piece of land as it was purchased . . .

The objective was to create a "German Aldershot" - a training area based on the British Army manoeuvre ground there and at The Curragh.

In July 1892, soldiers of the Buckeburger Jager, forerunners of many thousands of troops of all nationalities, were the first to train there.

Their commandant, first of a long line of German officers leading up to 1945, was

Words: Phil Wilcox
Pictures: Mike Weston

Generalmajor von Trotha, predecessor by 98 years of the present holder of the post, Brig Colin Groves.

Over the century, Sennelager's 120 sq km of training area and ranges have witnessed phenomena such as local farmers towing metal targets for the Germans to practise shooting, not to mention secret tank snorkelling experiments carried out in a man-made basin.

But perhaps the most remarkable fact is that, despite (or, more accurately, because

of) the vast amount of warlike activity by humans which has gone on throughout the years, alongside them a whole range of wildlife, flora and fauna - much of it virtually extinct in surrounding regions - has flourished.

"Sixty per cent of the area is wooded, the rest is open space and, with minimum use of fertilisers and the cleanest water in Europe, it's an absolute gift for wildlife and nature," said Maj Chris Brown, 1 QLR, a former Chief Range Officer at Sennelager.

"A hundred years ago, this

was just a huge sandy area, with expanses of wild heather, no trees and no people," he explained, "but in time several villages, including Sennelager itself, grew up."

After the First World War, the training area was little used until the late 1930s, when there was an increase in military activity.

An expert ecological panel, set up in the 1980s, acknowledged that the military presence had helped to preserve the present natural environment.

"Apart from several endangered plant species which thrive on the nitrogen-free, high grade mineralised and good irradiated soil, there are

numerous types of insects and more than 100 species of nesting birds which have all but been wiped out - except in the training area," said Maj Brown.

The black stork, thought to have been extinct for over a hundred years, was now breeding in small numbers at Sennelager.

And a startled officer on an early morning fishing expedition at one of the training area's man-made "pioneer" lakes recently reported the sighting of a baboon to Range Control . . .

"Of course, with this being

an ongoing and very busy Nato range, I need to be a professional soldier first and a conservationist second," Maj Brown said.

"If the Army needed to knock down some trees so the soldiers could fire in a particular direction, for example, then down they would come."

Meanwhile, as project officer for the training centre's centenary, he has been ensuring that some at least will survive.

Among other ideas which he

● Turn to next page



Ruined building at Haustenbeck, the "ghost village" on the ranges which suffered a similar fate earlier this century to Salisbury Plain's Imber village

Sennelager

From Page 27

recently enjoyed seeing come to fruition were the planting of two willow trees by the WRVS beside the commandant's lake and an avenue of 100 linden trees near the abandoned Haustenbeck village in the middle of the ranges.

Due to leave the Army later this year, former Para Maj Brown said: "The last 46 years here demonstrate that it is possible for a military establishment and an ecological sanctuary to exist side by side. And it is a pleasant thought that, whatever I do in the future, those trees will outlast me."

The centenary celebrations were all part of cementing the already cordial relationships with the local community, explained deputy commandant Lt Col Ken Laight.

"The BAOR Training Centre has been formed to assist formation and unit commanders in the difficult task of maintaining a high standard of imaginative and up-to-date training.

"Never before have such training facilities been available in any theatre: they should form the cornerstone on which the future training of the Rhine Army will rest . . ."

With in excess of 75,000 infantry soldiers passing through each year, working the ranges for 46 out of 52 weeks, the place was rarely quiet, he said.

With the advent of computerised simulation training, he could see the time coming when there would be no wholesale moving of vehicles and no noise or inconvenience to the surrounding population.

And the wildlife, which is contained in the centre of the firing areas and is therefore out of range, would flourish even

Each day at one o'clock precisely, 'Tam the Gun' carries on a popular tradition maintained in Edinburgh for more than 130 years

Bang on time!

AS CROWDS of tourists wait expectantly, cameras at the ready, SSgt Tom McKay of 105 Air Defence Regiment RA checks his stopwatch with British Telecom in his quarters situated on the lower defences of Edinburgh Castle.

In his foreword to the BAOR Training Centre manual in 1945, he wrote: "The quality of the British Army has never been higher. The standard must be maintained. But we must face drastic economies. Moreover, the British Army of the Rhine is passing through a difficult and testing time due to changeover in peacetime conditions.

After inspecting his uniform in the three-quarter length mirror on the wall just inside the outside door, Britain's only District Gunner marches up the well-worn steps of the ancient fortress to the Mills Mount Battery, writes George Robinson.

At five minutes to one, the white-gloved gunner loads his 25-pounder QF Howitzer with military precision, elevates the barrel and fires the 50-year-old

Nine years later the city council decided that the citizens could use an audible



A crowd gather as, at 12.55, SSgt McKay loads the Howitzer



SSgt Tom "Tam the Gun" McKay continues the long tradition firing Edinburgh's unique time gun

first official performance in June 1861.

Three hundred of the capital's most distinguished citizens gathered outside the observatory with one eye on the time ball and the other on the Castle. At one o'clock, as they scrutinised their watches, not a sound was heard from the battlements.

The fuses which had been supplied by Woolwich Arsenal were faulty and the VIPs left without touching the bottles of wine provided for the historic occasion. The guests turned up at the same time the next day, but again the One O'Clock Gun failed to fire.

This time it was not the artillery's fault as the ball had not dropped far enough down the mast to trigger the mechanism.

On the third day Calton Hill was deserted, but at one o'clock exactly, a loud bang was heard from Master Gunner Finlay's 24-pounder on the Half Moon Battery, while at the same moment the time ball dropped down the mast.

The experiment was a success and other towns and cities in the United Kingdom wanted their own time guns.

The overhead cable hanging over the east end of the city was dismantled after 18 months, much to the relief of the citizens as it kept snapping, and an electric wire was installed by Messrs Ritchie, the firm who supplied the clock.

In 1895 the time service was moved from the observatory on Calton Hill to the newly-built Royal Observatory in the Blackfords. The gun was still under the supervision of the Master Gunner at the Castle. During the First World War the time signals were discontinued in deference to the soldiers recovering from shell shock in the city's hospitals and sanatoriums. After the war the service was resumed using an 18-pounder field gun.

During the Second World War the gun was towed away to defend the coast against enemy attack but as soon as peace had been declared the One O'Clock Gun was back in action fired by District Gunner Bob Thomson. Bob was succeeded by Sgt Peter Currie, an Old Contemptible who had won the Military Medal serving with the Royal Artillery at the Battle of the Somme.

He was followed by Sgt

Taylor, who had the honour of firing the gun at the centennial celebration in 1961. Cpl McCarthy took over the duties in 1968 and three years later the gun was moved to Mills Mount as the Half Moon Battery had been weakened by a mysterious explosion during a performance of the Edinburgh Military Tattoo.

In 1972 a real character arrived at the Castle to take over the gun. Dixie Deans, a former Battery Quartermaster Sergeant, was not given to suffering fools or tourists gladly and when an American visitor asked the gunner what time the One O'Clock Gun went off, Dixie politely replied "Two o'clock, sir!"

The present District Gunner, SSgt Tom McKay, took over the firing and maintenance of the gun in 1979. "Tam the Gun", as he is known in the regiment and at the Castle, is aware of his responsibilities as District Gunner. A keen amateur military historian, he takes a pride in carrying out a tradition which, except for two world wars, Sundays and public holidays, has been maintained in the Scottish capital for more than 130 years.



Bob Fullard, ex Royal Scots, prepares lunch under the supervision of Pam Durie



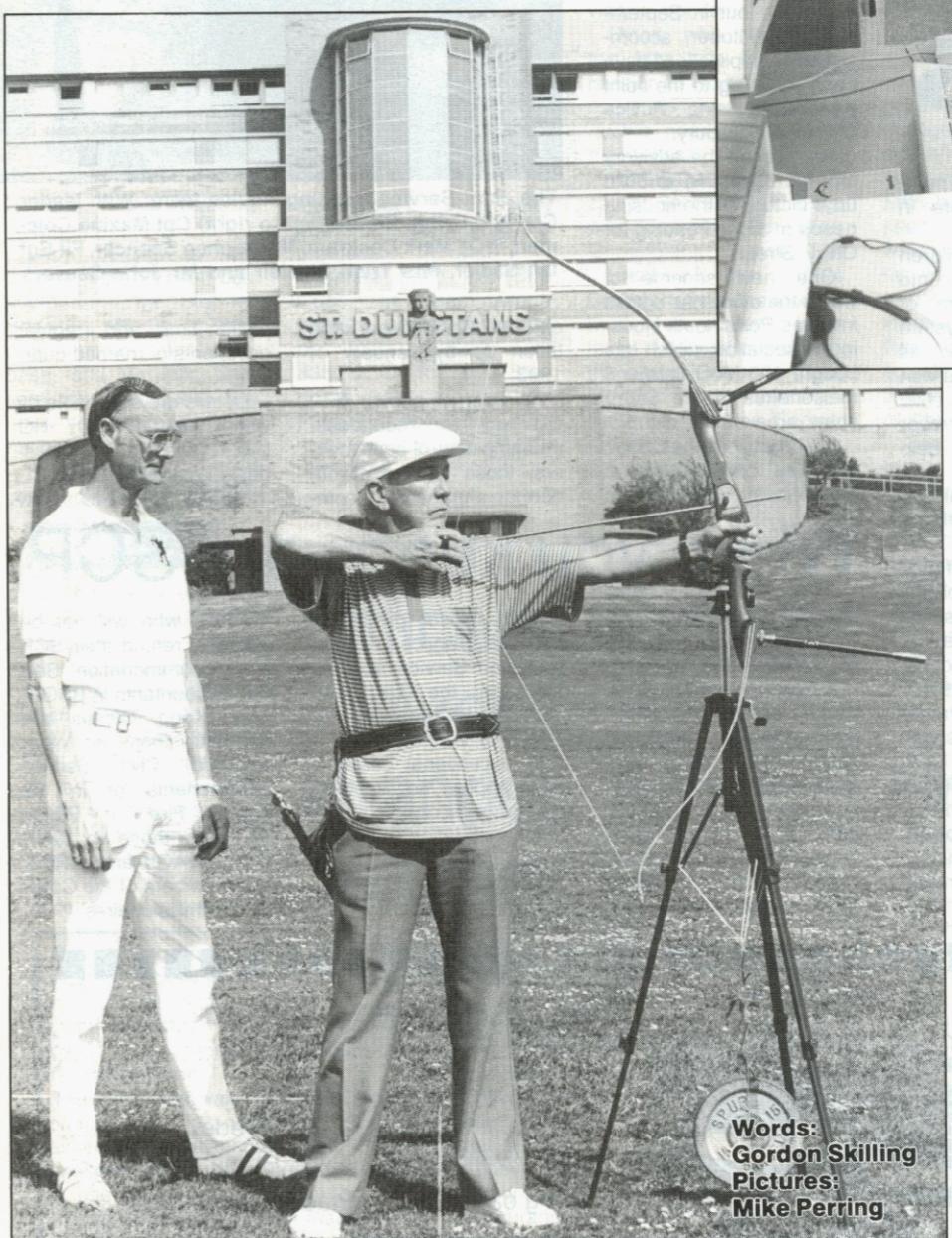
Geordies Ernie Brown and Reg Goding have framed most of the paintings in St Dunstan's



Ralph Preece restores a chair: the highest standards are set - and met - in the handicraft department



Rfn Steve Pendleton, 2 RGJ, makes progress on a computer after losing his sight and a leg in a helicopter crash. Janis Sharp helps him to a new career in counselling



Jerry Lynch, a former Cameronian, draws a bead with the help of Ernie Elliott, ex RAF

Training helps blind soldiers rebuild their lives

St Dunstan's sheds light on a dark world

SAPPER Gary Lomas was blinded while clearing mines with 33 Engineer Regiment (EOD) after the Gulf War, but thanks to an organisation at Brighton he is now studying for university.

Rfn Steve Pendleton of the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets, lost his sight during operations in Northern Ireland last year.

With the support of St Dunstan's Ian Fraser House at Ovingdean near Brighton, he is determined to rebuild his life, as a social worker.

In the last few years several young Servicemen have found new hope at St Dunstan's, founded in 1915 to help First World War casualties come to terms with their disability.

At Ovingdean they mix with veterans of earlier wars, some of whom have only recently lost their sight.

The effects of malnutrition and tropical diseases – even gassing from the First World War – can take years to destroy the eyes.

Of the 41 new people who arrived at St Dunstan's last year, 11 were losing their sight because of their experiences in POW camps in the Far East.

"Being blind is not the end of the line for a Serviceman or woman," said Lt Col David Bray, manager of Ian Fraser House. "They are going to live a satisfied working life and retire at the end of it."

Under the training officer at Ovingdean are six instructors. Among unrivalled facilities are a swimming pool and holiday

Ray's symbol of hope

TIME hangs heavily for a newly-blinded person. So when Ray Hazan from St Dunstan's first makes contact he takes with him a braille watch.

It is the first aid to independence, and with it comes hope.

Ray knows from experience. He was blinded by a parcel bomb in Northern Ireland while serving with The Royal Anglian Regiment. He also lost one hand and part of the index finger on the other, and was partially deafened.

The training facilities at Ovingdean are just the first step for the blinded ex-Serviceman. St Dunstan's London headquarters controls an organisation whose welfare officers visit each St Dunstaner family twice a year.

In Britain there are 654, of whom 636 attribute their blindness to service in the Second World War or since. Eighteen served in the First World War. Another 385 blind veterans live overseas.

facilities for couples. Nearby in Brighton, Pearson House is a residential home for elderly but fit St Dunstaners. It has a nursing wing which cares for the bedridden.

Steven Pendleton, who lost a leg and most of his sight in a helicopter crash in Northern Ireland last year, is being prepared to take on the modern world with the help of computers. Voice boxes costing £800 allow him to "read" what he types. He has access to typed or printed material through a document scanner, a recent development which has opened up many new employment possibilities in offices.

Because of their age, not all men and women going to St Dunstan's can be

trained for full-time employment. Newcomers are helped to adjust and given braille and typewriting lessons. Older people are encouraged to take up a craft.

"The hardest part is getting employers to give them a chance to prove what they can do," said computer instructor Janis Sharp, as Steve learned to master the technology by attempting to correct nursery rhymes in which she had deliberately introduced mistakes.

One of her pupils was now with American Express, another in computer programming and a third had his own physiotherapy practice. She was sure Steve would fulfil his ambition of becoming a social work counsellor.

Among the old guard is Jerry Lynch, who had the top of his head blown off in 1944 as he approached the Belgian border with the 9th Battalion, The Cameronians. The same thing happened to his late uncle, Danny Lynch, with the Munster Rifles in 1915. Both were trained at St Dunstan's.

"Our patrol was pinned down in a ditch and we were called back to allow a mortar barrage," he said. "The first man made it across a road but a sniper had lined up and was waiting for me."

The bullet went into the back of his head and out of the top. His uncle had a silver plate inserted into his skull; Jerry was one of the first to have a titanium plate. He jokes he has more scrap value now.

After his initial training, Jerry was a

occupations such as boot repairing, joinery, poultry farming and market gardening. Today, St Dunstaners include lawyers, chartered accountants, managers and ministers. One former boy seaman became a university professor.

Women who served in the Land Army or munitions are also eligible.

For the blind, learning how to live at home is a vital process in which wives can help. Couples can stay in training flats at Ovingdean as they both gain confidence.

"Partners have to learn not to be over-protective," said training officer Christine Dickens, "while the blind must learn to be independent, and discover when to go for help."

When Bob Fullard, blinded in 1945 while serving with the Royal Scots, returns to St Dunstan's it is the only time he is allowed to do the cooking. At home, his French wife prefers to do it herself.

After training at St Dunstan's, Bob spent 20 years as a civil servant in the Treasury. He also took a degree in French – in France.

Accepting that their sight will not return is a major hurdle for new arrivals. During and after the world wars there was a great camaraderie among blind soldiers rebuilding their lives together. That remains so with the older St Dunstaners, who encourage the younger members.

"It all depends on the individual," says former gunner Ralph Preece, who was hit near the German border in March 1945. "At 20 you are more resilient."

He has never seen his wife, two children or four grandchildren but is not complaining. "You may be blind, but you can still touch!"

shopkeeper for seven years. He married, started a family, then retrained at St Dunstan's as an engineer and worked as an electrostatic paint sprayer.

Made redundant, he returned to train in braille shorthand and worked for Barclays Bank for 13 years as a telephonist. He competes at archery against sighted competitors and is a keen jazz drummer.

St Dunstan's began in a house in Regent's Park, London, given by an American financier in 1915 and named

after a large clock bought from St Dunstan-in-the-West, Fleet Street.

The organisation was founded by Sir Arthur Pearson, publisher of the *Daily Express* and *Evening Standard*, who devoted himself to working for the blind after losing his own sight in 1913. He achieved astonishing results with blinded soldiers during the First World War, returning many to society as independent, working citizens.

In that first year 51 men learned

Help is at hand for lone parents

WHILE IT may be surprising to some that the Army has quite a number of serving lone parents – both men and women – it merely underlines the fact that the Services are not immune from general social trends.

Change in society is illustrated by:

- The Children Act, laying down that parental responsibility is still shared after marital separation;

- The increasingly acceptable trend for couples to live together before marriage; and

- The Sex Discrimination Act, ruling that Service-women should continue to serve after Statutory Maternity Leave.

In 1989, when there were 153,386 divorces in England and Wales, 17 per cent of families with dependent children were headed by a single parent.

In 1990, 200,000 births were outside marriage

(28.3 per cent) and more than 1.9 million were in one-parent families.

Next April the Children

Support Act comes into effect, with the aim of providing a better system of maintenance for all children in accordance with society's belief that a child has a right wherever possible to financial help from both parents.

This law will apply to Service parents both at home and abroad.

The Ministry of Defence is developing new policies to encompass these social changes, including a review of marital categories.

Meanwhile the National Council for One Parent Families, 225 Kentish Town Road, London NW5 2LX, can help and advise not only lone parents – those who are widowed, separated or unmarried – but also welfare groups and advisers.

As a result the advisory team is beginning to build up a picture of the housing needs of those heading for Civvy Street.

One new scheme of which the office has details involves Portsmouth Housing Association, which has bought 108 MoD flats and maisonettes in the Stanshaw area of the city.

Half that total has been allocated to the Ministry of Defence for Service and

ex-Service nominees, to be taken up by January 1, 1993.

In order of priority they will go to redundants, manning control point leavers, those leaving at the normal engagement com-

pletion time, and irregular occupants of married quarters.

Details are obtainable by writing to JSHAO, HQ UKLF, Old Sarum, Salisbury, Wilts SP4 6BN.

Meanwhile, two new

leaving but is there to help, however large or small the problem.

Centre head Cdr Bob Cribb, RN urges anyone needing advice to phone on 0722 336222, ext 8350-1, or to send their completed application form, available from units.

Details are also in DCI JS 61-74, 1992.

JSHAO faces a huge challenge in helping those

Housing Advice Centre's busy team.

They belong to two civilians from Kennet local authority – Mr Stephen Spencer, who is at work programming the database, and Mr John Seavers, who brings with him many years' experience in housing.

Details are also in DCI JS 61-74, 1992.

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One student spoke of the difficulty of applying for a grant when he had not lived in the UK for 16 years.

Another mentioned that he and his colleagues were not always kept informed of changes in the British education system. He was supported by teacher Peter Sainsbury, who had not seen excellent leaflets which would be relevant for his seven-year-old son.

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Most need an overdraft, which banks generally will allow up to £400 without charging interest.

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LI jealously guards its sash distinction

ON THE subject of Light Infantry serjeants' sashes, from the adoption of the first pattern tunic in 1855 the regulations laid down that infantry officers should wear their sashes over the left shoulder and tie them on the right hip; infantry serjeants were to wear them in the reverse manner.

It appears, however, that from this date the serjeants of the 13th Light Infantry tied their sashes on the right hip.

A vast amount of research was carried out in my late regiment to discover the reason for this; none was ever found.

The custom certainly owes nothing to the performance of the 13th Foot at Culloden, Killiecrankie or Jellalabad. The serjeants' custom remained unofficial until authorised by an Army Order of 1865.

With the introduction of the fifth pattern tunic in 1902, infantry officers changed to a waist sash tied on the left hip.

Officers of the Somerset Light Infantry (the successors to the 13th) decided to disobey this order and wear the sash tied on the right side to conform to their serjeants'

Albert Ball VC and the Croix de Guerre

IN reply to Mr D Wilson (July 27) about the decorations of the RFC pilots Maj McCudden VC and Capt Ball VC, as well as those decorations listed for Maj McCudden he also received the Russian Order of St George as in fact did many Allied flyers during the Great War.

Regarding the list for Capt Ball, I can find no trace of his being awarded the Croix de Guerre.

Chaz Bowyer, the air historian and writer, makes no mention of it and does not include it in the list of his decorations in his definitive biography, *Albert Ball VC*.

It is not included in the list of

custom. After many petitions this somewhat illogical deviation was finally authorised by an Army Order of 1931.

When the Somerset Light Infantry and the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry amalgamated in 1959, authority was granted for both the officers and serjeants to tie their sashes on the right hip; similarly on the formation of the Light Infantry in 1968 the same authority was given.

Today Light Infantry offic-

ers do not wear sashes but our serjeants continue to tie theirs on the right.

This custom may be totally illogical and its origin unknown but it remains a distinction that identifies our serjeants from those of the rest of the infantry; as such we guard it jealously. — Maj Hugo White, late Somerset Light Infantry, Light Infantry County Secretary (Cornwall), The Keep, Bodmin.

Queen Victoria's command

INFORMATION contained in correspondence on the "Right Way to Wear a Sash" is interesting, but not complete.

The honour to wear the sash on the left shoulder was granted over 100 years before the Somerset Light Infantry amalgamated with the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry.

After the battle against the Afghans which resulted in victory by Gen Sale's brigade at Jellalabad, Queen Victoria granted the following honours to the Somerset Light Infantry (13th Foot):

● The cap badge would contain a mural crown in the shape of a fort above the Light Infantry Bugle, the whole being topped by a scroll bearing the battle honour Jellalabad.

● Furthermore, all warrant officers and serjeants would have the honour to wear their sash on the left shoulder, the only regiment in the then British Army to do so. — Alex C Tiller (ex-Somerset Light Infantry 1936-46, 1st and 2nd Battalions), Castle Cary, Somerset.

Low-level para drops

YOU REPORTED (July 27) that the Parachute Regiment is trialling a low-level technique to allow them to drop from between 350ft and 400ft.

The airborne landings at D-Day and the Rhine crossings were from 400ft, although some of us were dropped higher because the US pilots went up to avoid the flak on the Rhine.

Previously all my balloon jumps were at 800ft.

Compared with today's, our parachutes were old-fashioned — and believe it or not, we were volunteers — at two shillings (10p) a day. — Bob Tanner (ex-7th LI Para Bn, 6th Airborne Div), Mill Hill.

Confusion over PoW figures

MAY I REFER to the letter from Sir Andrew Gilchrist (July 27) regarding details included in his most interesting book.

There would appear to be some confusion regarding the number of prisoners captured by the Japanese.

The accepted number of British PoWs taken is 50,016, of whom 12,433 died in captivity and 37,583 were repatriated. Many of the latter subsequently died as a result of their suffering.

It is understood that in addition to the British, there were 120,000 Australian, Canadian and Dutch PoWs. — Harold Payne (President, National Federation of Far Eastern Prisoner of War Clubs and Associations), Tunbridge Wells.

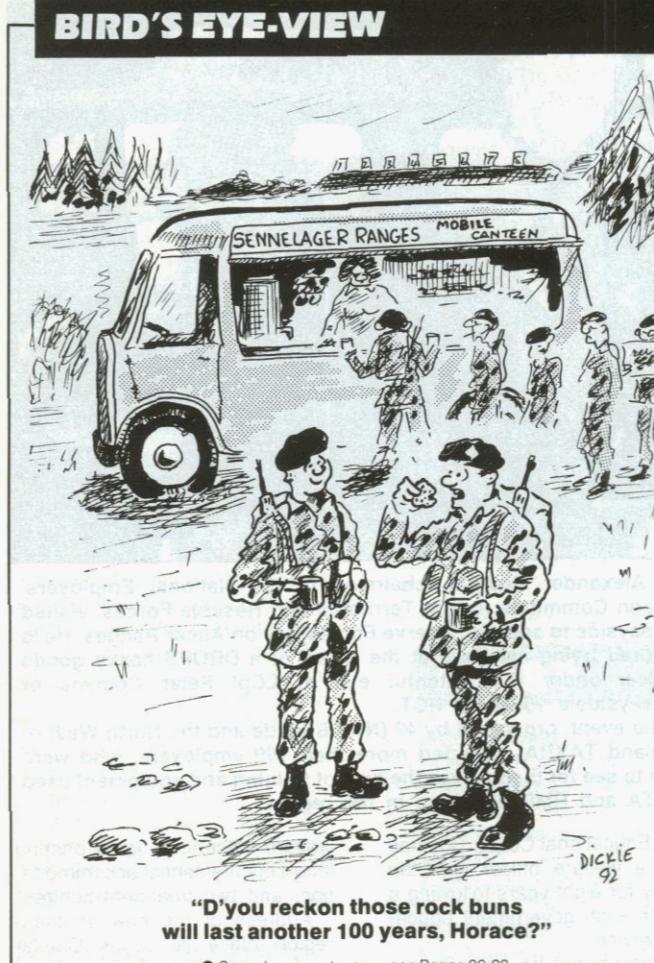
● Furthermore, all warrant officers and serjeants would have the honour to wear their sash on the left shoulder, the only regiment in the then British Army to do so. — Alex C Tiller (ex-Somerset Light Infantry 1936-46, 1st and 2nd Battalions), Castle Cary, Somerset.

IN YOUR feature (July 27) dealing with the merger of The Royal Irish Rangers with The Ulster Defence Regiment you refer to the significant Irish role in the history of the British Army.

That role is even more significant than your feature would indicate: in Wellington's time two-thirds of the Army was Irish, twice the proportion indicated in SOLDIER.

You also fail to record that Wellington, the first ever field marshal, was himself an Irishman.

The Duke was also the only Irish prime minister of the UK and paid tribute to his Irish soldiers in the House of Lords in 1829 when he said: "Yes, my Lords, it is mainly to the Irish Catholics that we all owe our proud pre-eminence in our military career."



● Sennelager centenary — see Pages 26-28

Role of Irish 'even more significant'

If anyone doubts the proportion of Irish in the Army of the early 19th Century it is worth noting that the 1811 census recorded the population of Ireland as almost six million against ten million in England and Wales and less than two million in Scotland.

Scottish, as well as English, regiments contained large numbers of Irishmen — in some cases the majority in a regiment were Irish — whereas Irish regiments had few interlopers.

It is also worth noting that the recruiter in Ireland rarely had to resort to the trickery needed in Britain to induce young men to join the Army; the red coat was a mark of honour in Ireland when it was a badge of shame in England.

Ireland's "more than its fair share of field marshals" in the Second World War was,

BAOR squadron in RCT parade

IN YOUR article "The Long Goodbye" (July 27) about the RCT TA Jubilee Parade there is an omission.

It was mentioned that soldiers from all UK units took part, but nothing about the 13 soldiers, men and women, from 213 RCT (V) Transport Squadron BAOR in Germany, who were also on parade.

For those present it was a moving occasion as it was to be the last time some of us would be in uniform with the TA.

After seven years and a few false promises 213 has been disbanded.

The article mentions the Gulf

War, during which at one point 213 were the only RCT transport unit in BAOR. The kilometres driven and the tonnage carriage figures are amazing.

Most of the diehards in the squadron have found places with the remaining units in BAOR, DASU (RAVC V), 335 Ambulance Train (RAMC V), and 171 Vehicle Platoon (RAOC V). As far as I know there are no transfers to the Engineers.

I would like to wish all ex-213 members well in their future careers with the TA. — R Cookson, Netherlands.

Monty's Rolls and a 'film-star' driver

IN THE article "Tracking down Monty's other Rolls" (June 29) there was a brief reference to the smaller green vehicle.

In 1947, while serving with 647 Coy RASC (WT) at Holy Loch, Argyll, I was sent on a Potential NCOs' course at Leith Fort, Edinburgh, with 641 Coy RASC (MT).

This unit had a large motor pool, among which were staff cars, mainly Humbers. But in one garage was a small, fairly square, green Rolls Royce of around 1937 vintage. It was used as the official car of the GOC-in-C, Scottish Command,

who at the time was Gen Sir Gordon Macmillan of Macmillan Blt.

The ATS woman driver in the pool who drove the Rolls Royce had film-star looks.

She was outstanding in battle dress, which looked very like officer-type barathea, and wore brown boots. She was obviously a lady of great power and influence.

While I have no proof that this Rolls Royce had Monty connections I cannot help wondering how many green Rollers the Army may have had at that time. — L M C Brown, Uckfield, E Sussex.

Gulf War medal fatigue

A CORRESPONDENT of mine in the USA has sent me a copy of a press advertisement in which a medal manufacturer is offering for sale Desert Storm medals commissioned by the governments of Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates.

My American correspondent wonders if the Gulf War is eligible for inclusion in the Guinness Book of Records as "the shortest conflict getting the greatest number of medal awards"! — Richard Doherty, London-derry.

If the 18 nations who contributed naval, military and air force contingents were each to issue a medal for those who participated, would there be room to wear the appropriate ribbons? — Owen A O'Neill, Sheffield.

● Campaign medals offered by Coalition partners, including those presented by British Commonwealth governments and the USA, are designated by the Ministry of Defence as keepsakes and may not be worn. — Editor

SOLDIER to Soldier

Trust signals Ultra SOS

AN INTERNATIONAL appeal has been launched to raise £7 million to save Bletchley Park, the home of Allied code-breaking activities in the Second World War.

Aim of the Bletchley Park Trust is to preserve the Milton Keynes site from potential redevelopment and set up museums of wartime cryptology, computing, radar and air traffic control.

The Trust has asked the Government, which owns the site jointly with British Telecom, to donate it to the nation as part of the national heritage.

The first electronic computer, Colossus, was developed at Bletchley which, with its operations, took the code-name Ultra after Church called it his "ultra-secret".

Warfare show 'sneak peek'

WHEN EUROPE's largest gathering of historic military vehicles took place at the Imperial War Museum's Duxford site on August 2, visitors were treated to a sneak preview of the new Land Warfare Exhibition Hall.

Featuring more than 50 tanks and other military vehicles and 40 artillery pieces, the exhibition, which will be officially opened later

this year, traces the development of military equipment from the First World War to the Gulf.

Meanwhile, more than 450 vehicles travelled to Duxford for the August rally from all over Britain and Europe.

Oldest vehicle on show was a rare FWD truck built in 1917 and one of the most modern a 1987 Iraqi self-propelled gun captured in the Gulf War.

Other Iraqi equipment on show included tanks, an APC and an example of the infamous Scud missile mounted on a mobile launcher.

City tribute to Alamein

EVENTS TO commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Battle of El Alamein will include a service in Winchester Cathedral at 3pm on Saturday, October 24, anniversary of the second battle.

Visitors will be attending and about 1,500 veterans, their families and friends are expected. The service will be open to all.

The Royal Hussars Association is sponsoring the event, supported by Service and ex-Service organisations.

On October 14 the Queen will attend an Eighth Army Association service in Westminster Abbey. The battle will be commemorated in El Alamein itself on October 25.

Alton office for society

THE EX-SERVICES Mental Welfare Society has set up a new southern region office in Alton, Hampshire, run by Maj Roy Brook.

Formerly serving with the Royal



Picture: Bob Peedle

Sir Alexander Graham, chairman of the National Employers' Liaison Committee for the Territorial and Reserve Forces, visited Merseyside to see the Reserve Forces Day on Altcar Ranges. He is pictured trying his hand at the wheel of a DROPS heavy goods vehicle under the watchful eye of LCpl Peter Comyns of Merseyside's 156 Regt RCT.

The event, organised by 42 (NW) Brigade and the North West of England TAVRA, attracted more than 150 employers, who were able to see for themselves the type of training and equipment used by TA and RMR members in the region.

Army Educational Corps, Roy has been a welfare officer with the society for eight years following a spell in local government education service.

He was previously based at the society's Wimbledon head office. A welfare officer has now been appointed to cover the Greater London area within the radius of the M25 motorway, previously part of Roy's area.

Founded in 1919, the society is the only organisation specialising in helping men and women of all ranks suffering from psychiatric disability who have served in the Armed Forces or Merchant Navy.

It has a network of visiting

Chindit meets his match . . .

FORMER Chindit commander Brig Michael Calvert came face-to-face with a formidable group of people the other day – holidaying schoolchildren in

welfare officers, a home offering long-stay residential accommodation, and two treatment centres. Address of the new southern region office is: Julius Caesar House, 66 High Street, Alton, Hants GU34 1ET (tel: 0420 542812).

ADVENTUROUS soldiers are being challenged to break out of jail on Saturday September 5 to raise money for the Spastics Society as well as win prizes.

Teams of two or more, suitably attired in prison garb or fancy dress, will attempt to get away from Reading Prison within 12, 24, 36 or 48 hours without spending money on transport – and keeping within the law.

In 1990, for example, a team which included RAF personnel got to Johannesburg within 48 hours and raised £1,242 for people with cerebral palsy.

Details of how to enter are available from Renae McDonnell on 0628 778897.

APPOINTMENTS

Brigadiers – J H Almonds – To be Comd HQ Trg Gp R Sigs, July 31; N F Wood – To be Comd HQ UKLF, July 27.

Colonels – N R C Hoyal – To HQ DETS (A), July 20; E T Hudson – To MS MoD, July 20; C F P Horsfall – To DETS (A), July 31; T W Payne – To be CO ASTS, July 27; P R Rostrom – To HQ UKLF, July 27.

Lt Cols – R Z A Ciaglinski AGC (ETS) – To CMETS, July 20; P E Dennison, Para – To HQ RAO, July 22; H C G Gabby, 5 Innis DG – To HQ DRAC, July 20; I H Johnson, RE – To Army Air Appts (Strike Command), July 20; S C Matthews, REME – To be Comd HQ REME Corps Troops, July 20; P S Murray, AGC (ETS) – To HQ DETS (A), July 20; H M Osborne, Para – To IMRO (S), July 20; C R

Romberg, RA – To be CO 29 Cdo Regt RA, July 20; R J Sandy, RE – To HQ UKLF, July 20; R C Lloyd-Williams, LI – To Mod, July 20; C E Cooper, D and D – To be OC BATUS Kenya, August 1; G G Davies, RCT – To MoD, July 27; A L D De Hochedepied Larpen, RRF – To MoD July 27; E A Smith, AGC (ETS) – To AES UK, July 27; S P B Stevens, RA – To ORIO Posts Brit Appts (USA), July 27; E J Torrens-Spence, 5 Innis DG – To be CO 5 Innis DG, July 27; R T Hoole, R Sigs – To be CO 28 Sig Regt (Northag), July 27.

Retirements
Colonels – A C F Smith, late RAOC, July 22; O P Brady, late RAOC, July 31; W H Clements, late R Irish, July 31; G E Vaughan, late RCT, August 1; P B Webster, late R Sigs, July 31.

DIARY

Until October 18: Falklands War exhibition at the National Army Museum, Royal Hospital Road, Chelsea. Admission free.

Until November 29: Assignment Falklands exhibition depicting the role of the sappers during the war, Royal Engineers Museum, Brompton Barracks, Chatham, Kent.

AUGUST

7-29: Edinburgh Military Tattoo (credit card hotline tel: 031-225 3661 or Tattoo Office, 22 Market Street, Edinburgh EH1 1QB).

SEPTEMBER

5-6: National wargames championships, Royal Horticultural Hall, Elverton Street, London SW1.

6-13: Farnborough International Air Show.

12-13: Wessex Regimental Tattoo, Devizes, Wiltshire.

OCTOBER

4: Aldershot Militaria Society exhibition and fair, The Maltings, Farnham, Surrey (details from 0252 716303).

31-November 1: Fourth Birmingham International Tattoo, National Indoor Arena (ticket hotline: 021-200 2222).

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

REUNIONS

● Staffordshire Regiment: Annual reunion, September 5, Lichfield.

● Ex-Services Reunion Concert: Fairfield Hall, Croydon, September 5-9; Cliftonville/Margate, including trip to De Panne, France.

● Grenadier Guards Association (Shropshire Branch): Annual dinner-dance, Nantwich, September 12. Details 0743 363688.

● RAVC Association: Details of the annual reunion, to be held on September 26, can be obtained from Regimental Secretary, RAVC, Defence Animal Centre, Melton Mowbray, Leics LE13 0SL (tel: 0664 63281, ext 45).

● RE Darland Boys: 12th reunion, September 12, Brompton.

● Hong Kong, Singapore, Ceylon Stations 1924-1948 (Royal Artillery): Reunion on September 12 at Terminus Hotel, Eastbourne. Details from Cpl D A Knight, Ward 23, Royal Hospital, Cumberworth, Lincs LN13 9LF (tel: 0507 490661).

● RASC Jersey Boys: Reunion scheduled for September 19-20.

Contact Joe Gutteridge on 0278 422806.

October 23. Details from Regimental Secretary, Home HQ, QDG, Maindy Barracks, Cardiff CF4 3YE.

● Royal Regiment of Artillery Association (Exeter Branch): Annual dinner-dance, October 31, Countess Wear Lodge Hotel, Exeter. Details from D A Goodheart, 20a Burnthouse Lane, Exeter EX2 6BH (tel: 0392 78321).

BARI GRAVES

● Bari Commonwealth War Graves: A memorial ceremony will take place at Bari Commonwealth War Graves on November 21-22 (not September 21-22 as previously announced). Anyone wishing to attend should make their own travel arrangements. Further details from the Honorary British Consul, David Gavan, Via Montenegro 19, 70121 Bari, Italy.

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A great life, by George

IF YOU don't know what a sewar is read George Hogan's *Oh, To Be a Soldier!*

Within a few pages you'll discover it is a Hindi word for pig and was what his grandmother called his grandad. All in good humour, of course.

Now 89, George, a former deputy editor of *SOLDIER*, tells his story of 70 years with the Army, 27 of them as a Regular with The Royal Hampshire Regiment in which he graduated from bandboy to major.

His has been a life saturated with militarism. His grandfather and father were soldiers and George followed in their footsteps, becoming a boy soldier in 1918.

Two years later he was in Ireland experiencing all that a posting there entailed.

He went on to serve on the North-West Frontier, Palestine, Egypt, Malta, BAOR and many other places.

When he left the Army he rejoined, so to speak, as a military journalist with the British Army News Service and later this magazine. His book is a good read. - JM

Oh, To Be A Soldier! by George Hogan. Merlin Books, paperback £13.95, hardback £16.95.

Magnificent men and machines

FOR THE average reader military aviation before 1914 is rather difficult to comprehend as nothing much in the way of aircraft existed.

Fiction writers and a few intrepid pioneer aviators had been providing an exciting picture of the shape of things to come, but apart from balloons and later airships, there were few flying machines. In *Winged Warfare* Michael Paris tells a story which will appeal to those with a special interest in the subject. - JM

Winged Warfare 1859-1917, by Michael Paris. Manchester University Press, £35.

Action man who lived a nightmare

IF IT'S TRUE that "a man's gotta do what a man's gotta do", then John Masters did all of that and a whole lot more in his 68 years.

Described variously throughout John Clay's biography of him as brilliant, selfish, competent, arrogant, self-confident, alert, tough, ruthless, brutal and much-loved, it's as well that Clay is a trained psychotherapist, for others might have found difficulty in unravelling the story of this Indian Army soldier and top-class writer.

No ordinary mortal, Masters, himself the son of an Indian Army officer, was an all-action man for the whole of his life, the impetus and ambition to be better than the next man stemming from his early schooldays in England.

In the race and class conscious climate of those pre-war days his Anglo-Indian blood proved a stigma at a junior school in Cheltenham, at Wellington and later at Sandhurst and stimulated him to the toughest decision of his life: either to carry to safety 50 badly wounded men who would slow down the rest of his group's escape, or abandon them to the Japanese. He did not hesitate. "Shoot them", he told the doctor.

It was a nightmare that was to haunt him for the rest of his life. At the end of the war he returned to the UK and a staff job at Camberley, but he was disenchanted with life in England.

That did not stop him excelling at everything he did. Later he admitted that "in 1933 I disliked or despised more things and people than I loved

or admired". Not being aware of the ground rules at Sandhurst he was thought to be supercilious and paid the price with a college rebuke for acting above his station when all his belongings were thrown out the window and his room wrecked.

While this was a slight setback for his ego, it taught him a lesson in humility which was to stand him in good stead when he joined the Long Range Penetration Group - the Chindits.

Even so, he was still considered by some to be an outsider and somewhat coarse, while others found him warm and friendly.

But it was in Burma that he was faced with the toughest decision of his life: either to carry to safety 50 badly wounded men who would slow down the rest of his group's escape, or abandon them to the Japanese. He did not hesitate. "Shoot them", he told the doctor.

It was a nightmare that was to haunt him for the rest of his life. At the end of the war he returned to the UK and a staff job at Camberley, but he was disenchanted with life in England.

So he went to the USA and became an American citizen

RECORDS

RODNEY BASHFORD

The Standard of St George
St George's Band, Royal Regiment of Fusiliers
Conductor: Bandmaster CC Attrill

HERE ARE 20 more from Bandleader with pride of place given, of course, to Alford's march of the band's and the disc's title.

These cannot be called great - yet - though Mr Attrill no doubt has hopes for his two. They are *Carisbrooke* and *Vectis*, both with Isle of Wight connections.

Others with hopes, however doomed, are E B Smith with *Sovereign's Banner*, E Maxwell

with *Sounding Brass*, and Albert Elms with *Wembley Way*.

Those that have made fame, if not greatness in every case, are *National Emblem*, *Marche de la Gendarmerie Belge*, *The Red Cloak*, *New Colonial*, *El Abanico*, *Gladiator's Farewell*, *Voice of the Guns*, *Marche Lorraine*, and *Grandioso*.

Slightly tentative performances of some fine marches, several of them worthy of the attention of collectors.

● From Bandleader, CD price £12, cassette £7.60 inc p and p.

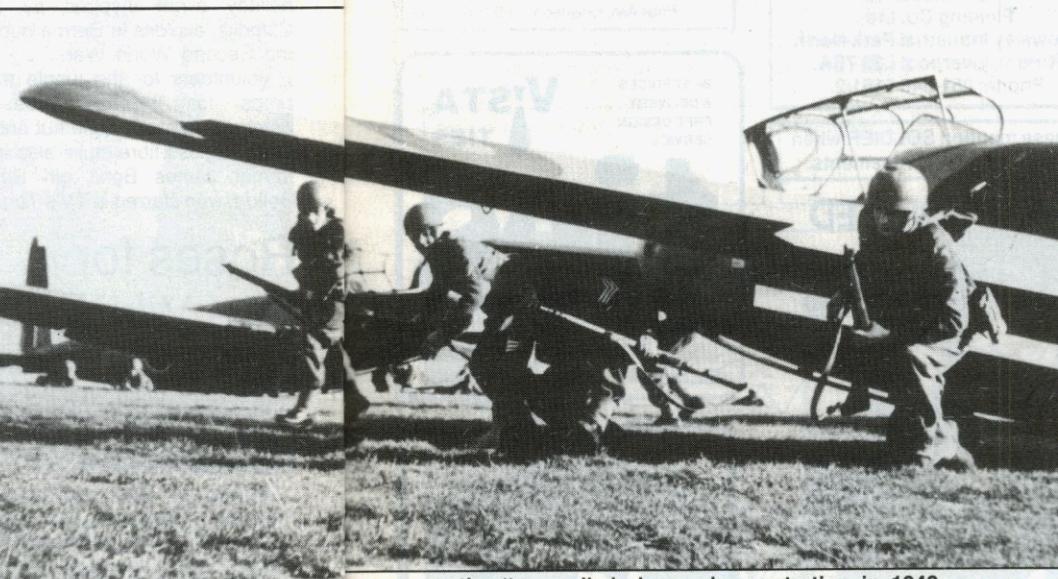
'Parachute, swim - but don't go in by glider!'

DID YOU know that Jackie Coogan, Hollywood child star of the silent screen and one-time husband of the wartime pin-up and film goddess Betty Grable, was a lead glider pilot supporting the Chindits in Burma in 1944?

Unless they have seen him recently as Uncle Fester in "The Addams Family" on TV, younger readers will probably never have heard of Coogan, but every wartime Serviceman will have heard of Grable, she with the long legs and saucy twinkle.

These side-lights are revealed in *Silent Wings at War* by John Lowden, a wartime US Army glider pilot who has put together a collection of memories of 39 of his fellow US pilots who took part in seven major airborne missions.

Lending support to his story is Walter Cronkite, the celebrated journalist and broadcaster who has written a fascinating foreword in which



Airborne troops leave their glider to engage the "enemy" during a demonstration in 1942

he tells of his personal experience as a glider passenger in Operation Market Garden.

Cronkite writes in glowing terms of these brave men, many of whom were on a one-way ticket to death.

Cronkite had volunteered to

parachute in with the 101st Airborne, the Screaming Eagles, to get his story, but on arrival at headquarters was told he was going in by glider.

Having seen what had happened in Normandy when

IN BRIEF

Cog in the War Machine by George R Gosling (Gozzi). Lighter side of a Second World War soldier's story told in 130 contemporary cartoons by an artist now better known for his water colours. Nimrod Press Ltd, 15 The Maltings, Turk Street, Alton, Hants, softback, £6.60.

Archaeology of the English Civil War by Peter Harrington. Town and island defences, castles, manor houses, sieges, works, forts, re-used sites and battlefields, with a selective list of places to visit. Shire Publications, softback, £3.95.

Crete: The Battle and the Resistance by Antony Beevor. Paperback reissue of this former 11th Hussar's well told and widely praised account of the island's Second World War experience. Penguin, £6.99.

Trial by Fire by Harold Coyle. The American "military adventure novelist" bases his latest tale on a Mexican revolution which destabilises the US border. Viking, £14.99.

The Unnecessary War by Patricia Meehan. Previously untold chapter in the story of Whitehall's relationship with the German opposition to the Nazis. Sinclair-Stevenson, £18.99.

Museum's reminder of much-lamented spirit

LATEST of the Imperial War Museum reprints in their coverage of the response of the individual to 20th Century conflict is *Rupert Brooke's Death and Burial*.

How right he was, for few do not know the sonnet "Soldier", written in November 1914, which is reproduced in this book, together with the other four sonnets written at the same time, which starts:

*If I should die, think only this of me:
That there's some corner of a foreign field
That is forever England . . .*

The corner of a foreign field in which he was buried is on the island of Skyros, he having succumbed to an infection caused by an insect bite which resulted in pneumonia.

On the lower plinth of the tomb is inscribed: "You were the darling of the Graces and Muses but you chose willingly to die that all might enjoy freedom."

Herbert Asquith, son of the Prime Minister, wrote:

hundreds of gliders had been wrecked on landing, many impaled on spiked posts, he wanted to opt out of the mission.

It was only the thought of being labelled "chicken" by colleagues after volunteering that persuaded him to take his place in the Waco glider.

His description of the flight and crash-landing highlights the skill and bravery of this group of soldiers - American, British and many others.

Lowden was decorated many times for bravery as a glider pilot with the 1st Allied Airborne Army. His story links with those of other glider pilots, glider and armour infantrymen, paratroopers, a chaplain and a fighter pilot, giving an insight into the qualities it took to join such a rare and special breed of men. - JM

Silent Wings at War, by John L Lowden. Smithsonian Institution Press, £13.95.

*What dreams are buried in that island shadow
What songs unsung!
Bird note and bugle in the whispering olives
And voice for ever young.*

As Peter Miller comments: "Sentimental stuff perhaps but we have to remember that before the world experienced the horrors of Gallipoli and the Western Front, a spirit of high adventure and Homeric glory was widely felt."

"It was a spirit that infused much of the poetry of the early days of the war, including Brooke's own sonnets."

This is a spirit we could do with today and we are grateful not only to the museum for reminding us but also to Martin Taylor of the Department of Printed Books for his perceptive introduction. - PSN

Rupert Brooke's Death and Burial: Facsimile reprint with other pieces. Imperial War Museum, £14. Limited edition of 300 numbered copies (DPB 92-2).

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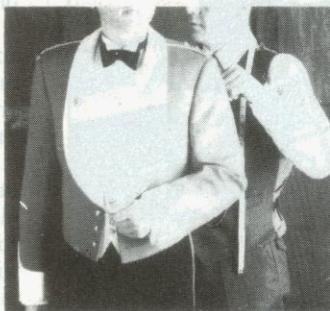
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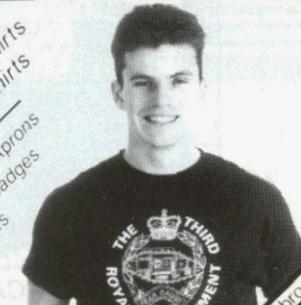
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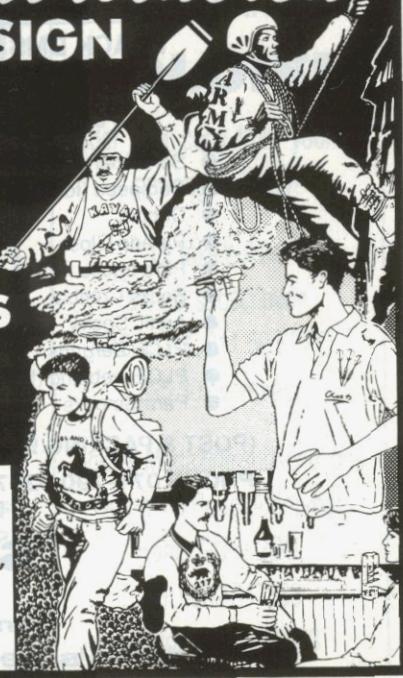
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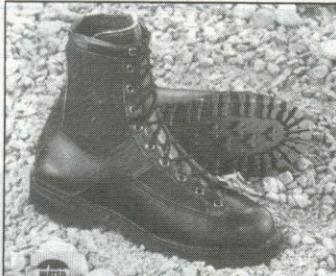


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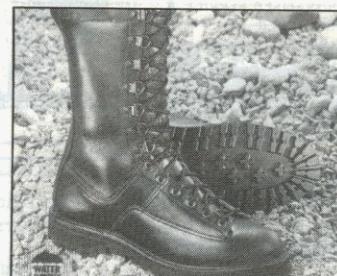
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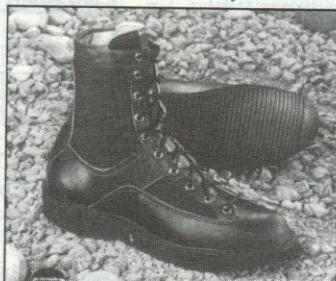
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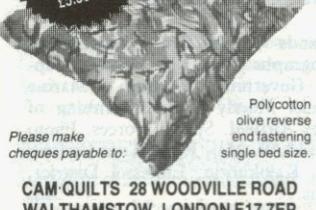
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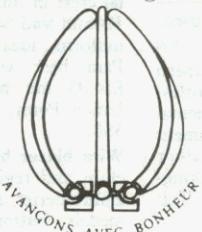
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I am a 27-year-old secretary. Interests: swimming, socialising, cooking. I am 5'3", long light brown hair and pleasant personality. I would like a soldier pen pal, 23+, to write to in my spare time. **P178**

Linda, divorced, 43. Blonde hair, blue eyes, 5'2", cuddly. Nice soldier to write to around same age. Son of four and four grown teenagers not at home. Sense of humour, fun loving, homely. Photo appreciated. **P179**

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Kim, 20 years old, single, 5'8", told good looking. Enjoys socialising and travelling, mainly abroad because the beer is cheaper! Seeks fun loving single soldier 22+ to write to. All replies answered. **P181**

Hi, single lady aged 25, 5'6", from Army background. See soldier to correspond with, tall aged 24/30, serving anywhere, for friendship/relationship. I like all kinds of music, cinema and travelling. Photo appreciated. Write soon. **P182**

Pam, 42, divorced, 5'4", fair hair, hazel eyes. Likes most music, photography, walking, travelling, also homely. 2 teenagers. Needs lovable companion, fun loving male with sense of humour. Photo appreciated, will do same. **P183**

My name is Jacquie, I am 38 years old, medium to rare, very female, upset when overdone. I would like to hear from a very caring humorous man who isn't afraid to put words on paper. **P184**

If you are aged between 37 and 45 and you would like to correspond with an attractive, intelligent lady then I would be pleased to hear from you. **P185**

Wanted, one very special tall man aged between 30-40 to mend this broken heart of mine. I'm 35, slim, shapely, educated, home owner, sincere and attractive. Fair hair and blue eyes. Please write soon, I'm waiting. **P186**

Bored? Me too! Scottish female (22 and single) would like to hear your views on life, music, cinema etc. Twenty something servicemen with humorous dispositions only need reply! **P187**

Hi, I'm tall (5'10"), long dark hair, slim, 31 and a mum. I like enjoying life, action and lazy days. I'd like to write to a soldier from British/European/Foreign forces - even a few lines! **P188**

Hello is there anybody out there who would like to correspond with a young at heart 32-year-old divorced woman with many interests. Looking forward to your reply. **P189**

Hey, Soldier! I'm Fiona, 18, brunette, single and would love to write to you if you are 18-25 with a brilliant personality and enjoy receiving lots of letters. Do you fit the bill? Photo appreciated. **P190**

Me Jane, you Tarzan. Would you like to swing through the trees with me? Attractive lady, 30ish, would like to write to a nice man 30ish to 40ish. Non-smoker. Photo please. **P191**

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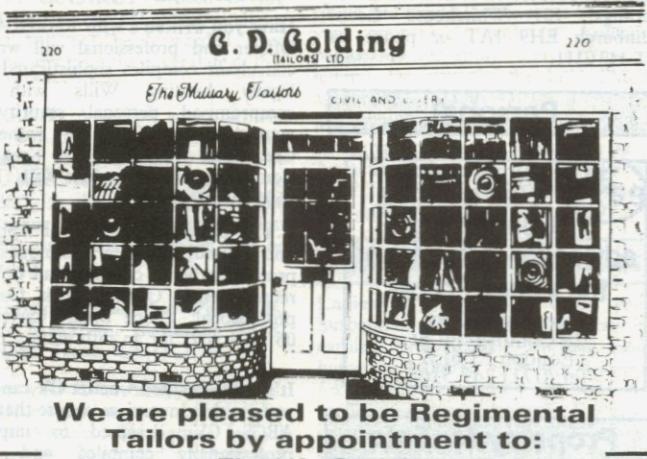
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R Signals power to stylish win

THE FOURTH inter-corps tug of war championships, hosted by REME at SEE Arborfield, were dominated by the Royal Signals.

Drawn largely from 7 Sig Regt, 2 Sig Regt and Royal School of Signals, the powerful squad won the 560kg, 600kg and 680kg classes in good style.

The RAOC, represented by FOD Dulmen, won the 640kg, despite being tired from a hard week's activities at the Royal

Tournament. A moment of history was attained by the Army Medical Services, represented by the RAMC Trg Gp and RHQ RAMC, whose squad contained the first QARANC to pull in tug of war.

Sgt "Dinger" Bell achieved this distinction - having been recently re-badged QARANC from the RAMC.

He takes to his new corps a silver medal, won in the 560kg class.

Akabusi's bronzes

FORMER APTC warrant officer Kriss Akabusi left the world athletics stage in style at the Barcelona Olympics.

He won bronze medals in the 400m hurdles, beating the British record with a time of 47.82 sec, and in the 4x400m relay.

He has promised a final British and European season as a final farewell to those who have supported him.

• Serving Army representatives in other events had little luck in Barcelona. Modern pentathlon com-

petitor Capt Dominic Mahony (Life Guards) could only manage 36th place individually, after disappointing shooting and fencing performances, though he and his two colleagues finished sixth overall in team standings.

Sabre hope Cpl James "Willie" Williams (Depot Regiment, RE, Chatham), in his first Olympics, ended the competition in 32nd place in the individual event. The men's sabre team of which he was a member failed to qualify for the finals.

RCT tennis triumph

THE RCT celebrated its 80th anniversary in fine style by winning the Army lawn tennis league for the first time in its history - and in its last year before the formation of the new Royal Logistic Corps.

Formed in the early Sixties, the league gained official recognition in 1968, the instigators being the then President of the Army Lawn Tennis Association, Maj Gen Pat Turpin, late RCT, and Lt

Col John Walters, Chairman of the Army lawn tennis league.

The general donated £20 from his own pocket and the cup is to this day affectionately known as "The Turpin Cup".

During the Army championships, current players, along with the chairman of RCT Tennis, Lt Col (Retd) John Hambleton and Lt Col (Retd) John Walters visited the general at his home in Guildford.

BFHK join the elite

AS THE new season gets under way, the British Forces Hong Kong football team takes its place among the elite of the Colony's soccer community.

A hard-won second place in the Hong Kong second division last season earned the Forces the right to play against the professionals in the first division this season, against

such notable names as South China, Eastern and Ernest Borel.

There is tremendous interest among Chinese football fans as to how the Forces XI - from all three Services - with their British style of play, will fare against the Hong Kong professionals, says team manager Maj Peter Smurthwaite.

REME surfers celebrate

IN THEIR regiment's 50th anniversary year, REME windsurfers celebrated by picking up most of the prizes in the widely-expanded 1992 Army Windsurfing Championships at Weymouth.

On the first of four days of events, REME became the first corps team champions by winning the inter-corps team championships after beating the RA team in the final.

Eight corps teams had entered the competition, and it proved to be not all plain sailing

for the eventual winners, having to dispose of Royal Signals and RAC on the way.

The performances of Cpl Dave Tindall and LCpl Nick Scott dominated the series.

A new event - the inter-corps team event - with 12 teams of four windsurfers competing was also won by REME, who again beat the gunners in the final.

Heavyweight Army windsurfing champion was Nick Scott, lightweight champion Mark Lewis (APTC).



LCpl Nick Scott on his way to victory

Arborfield college takes cup

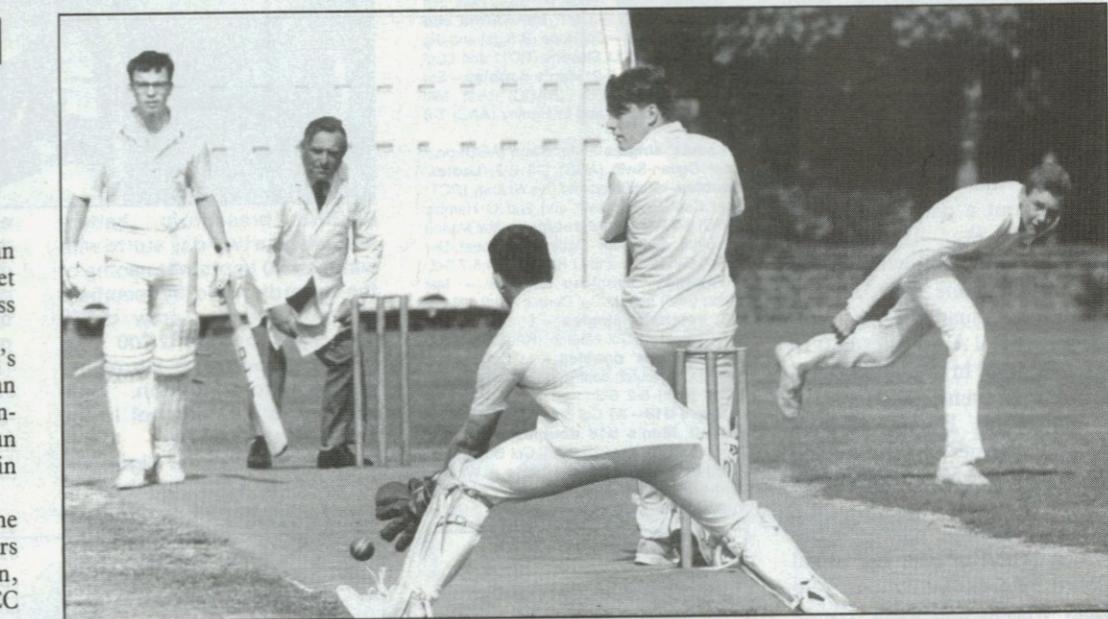
WINNERS of a close final in this year's Army Junior Cricket Cup were the hosts, Princess Marina College, Arborfield.

AT LCpl Mark Wilding's score of 72 and AT Sgt Ian Young's four-wicket tally contributed to PMC's 21-run victory over AAC Harrogate in a 35-over match.

Other competitors in the three-day event were JLdrs Bramcote, JLdrs Bovington, AAC Chepstow and ACC Aldershot.

Result: PMC 194, Army Apprentices College Harrogate 173.

Spot the ball: AT Mark Ball (PMC) on his way to making 37 not out against ACC Aldershot in the first round of the Junior Army cricket championships



Picture: Mike Weston

Five-day festival takes its toll

OUTCOME of the Army U25 cricket festival was: won two, lost two, drawn one.

The drawn match was the opener, at Aldershot against Combined Public Schools of Western Australia where the Army team, chasing a total of 133 all out in 50 overs. The Army's reply was again effective, with 2nd Lt Tom Nicholson (Gren Gds) scoring 38 and Cpl Nick Palmer (AAC) 40. Best performance of the day was 6 for 27 by Lt Alastair Houldsworth (REME).

An easy win, again rain-affected, followed the next day at Tidworth where after a late start the Army overhauled Wiltshire's 45-over total of 161 for 5 by six wickets.

At Bovington the following

day, BAOR, in their final match of a short European tour, struggled to reach a total of 133 all out in 50 overs. The Army's reply was again effective, with 2nd Lt Tom Nicholson (Gren Gds) scoring 38 and Cpl Nick Palmer (AAC) 40. Best performance of the day was 6 for 27 by Lt Alastair Houldsworth (REME).

In a competitive match, the Army U25 XI had a disastrous start at Marlow the next day. Playing against Buckinghamshire U25, the side was 25 for 4 before Capt Tony Wilby (RE) put in a lacklustre and uninspiring performance the

following day at Normandy, Guildford. They never looked like reaching the 200 for 9 in 55 overs amassed by the National Fire Service, against whom 2nd Lt Patrick Logan (AAC) took 7 for 25 in 11 overs, including a hat-trick (all bowled).

• The Army U25 team came out on top in the three-day inter-services festival, hosted by the RAF at Vine Lane, winning the final match - where they had scored 221 for 8 in 55 overs against the RAF - with five overs to spare.

Howzat! Watts foiled by injury

IN SPECTACULAR weather, more than 110 competitors in the 1992 Army tennis championships at Aldershot played 285 matches in 14 events.

However, the tournament, sponsored by Sun Alliance, got under way with a shock.

Eight times Army singles winner Capt Nigel Watts with a plaster cast on his arm as a result of a cricket injury, was forced to withdraw from the competition.

This opened up the draw and some rapid re-jigging took place. The singles event had already started and it was not possible to re-seed the draw, giving those in Watts's half a golden opportunity for greatness.

Rising star Sig Paul Tague, left without a partner, teamed up with Pte Trevor Fox (RAOC) and, following some frantic telephone calls, Lt Bill Herlihy persuaded AAC colleague Lt Col Andy Westcott to partner him in the inter-arms and corps event.

Maj Julia Dixon, Watts's regular partner in the mixed doubles, took pity on Capt Nigel Berragon (RAOC) and offered him a partnership which lasted until a semi-final defeat by eventual winners Maj Gary Mason and Capt Kirsty Ogden-Swift.

This year's tournament incorporated the Junior Army championship for the first time.

Apprentices from the Princess Marina College at Arborfield provided all the finalists in the under 18 singles - where AT Cpl David Bough beat AT David Bloss - and the under-18 doubles, with AT LCpl David Harris and AT Allan Tate beating Bloss and Bough.

Finals day saw victory for Sig Paul Tague in the Army singles championship and some surprises in the doubles events where Tague, partnered by the relatively unknown Cpl Jim Hope R Signals easily defeated the RCT pair of 2nd Lt Dean Stevens and LCpl Mark Boulton in the inter-arms and corps event.

Tague stimulated Pte Trevor Fox (RAOC) to a surprise victory over the well-established pair of Maj Alan Butterfield and Lt Bill Herlihy in the open doubles.

No such shocks in the ladies' events, where the return of Kirsty Ogden-Swift to the tennis scene and the discovery of 2nd Lt Lorna Hamby augured well for the inter-Service competition at Wimbledon.

Full results:

Singles - Sig Tague (R Sigs) beat Sgt Simpson (APTC) 6-3 6-1; **Inter-Arms and Corps doubles** - Cpl Hope (R Sigs) and Sig Tague beat 2nd Lt Stevens (RCT) and LCpl Bolton (RCT) 6-0 6-2; **Men's doubles** - Sig Tague and Pte Fox (RAOC) beat Maj Butterfield (RAEC) and Lt Herlihy (AAC) 7-6 7-6.

Ladies' singles - Maj Dixon (AGC) beat Capt Ogden-Swift (AGC) 6-3 6-3; **Ladies' doubles** - Maj Dixon and Dvr Whitney (RCT) beat Capt Ogden-Swift and 2nd Lt Hamby (AGC) 6-3 7-6; **Mixed doubles** - Maj Mason (R Sigs) and Capt Ogden-Swift beat Dvr Welch (RCT) and 2nd Lt Hamby 6-4 5-7 6-2.

Veterans' handicap singles - Maj Hilton (retd) beat Lt Col Dennis (retd) 1-6 6-2 6-3; **Veterans' singles** - Lt Col Hughes (AGC) beat Lt Col Nouth (RAOC) 6-3 3-6 6-2; **Veterans' doubles** - Lt Col Hughes and Lt Col Nouth beat Brig Reeves and Maj Hilton (retd) 6-2 6-3.

Men's U18 - AT Cpl Bough beat AT Bloss 6-0 6-3; **Men's U18 doubles** - AT LCpl Harris and AT Tate beat AT Cpl Bough and AT Bloss 7-5 6-2; **Men's plate** - Winner, SSgt Baldock (REME); **Ladies' plate** - Winner Maj. Wood (AGC).



Picture: Mark Southwell

ENGINE breakdown, battery failure and a two-day storm with winds of 50 knots were some of the hazards faced by members of the tri-Service crew of TS Trenchard on the 2,700 mile Puerto Rico-Boston leg of her journey from Boston, Massachusetts to Liverpool in the Tall Ships Race.

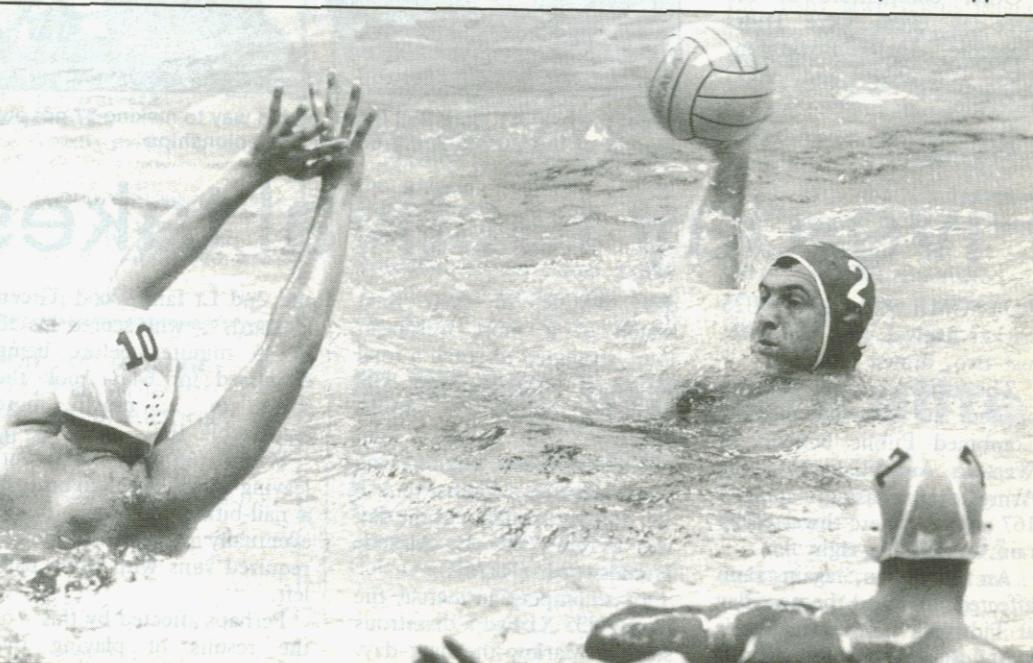
Pte Cara Wright (R Sigs), one of the four Army members of the team, had had no previous

experience in sailing, but said:

"It was brilliant. I loved every minute of it, though some of it came as a bit of a shock, and quite a few of us said our prayers during the storm."

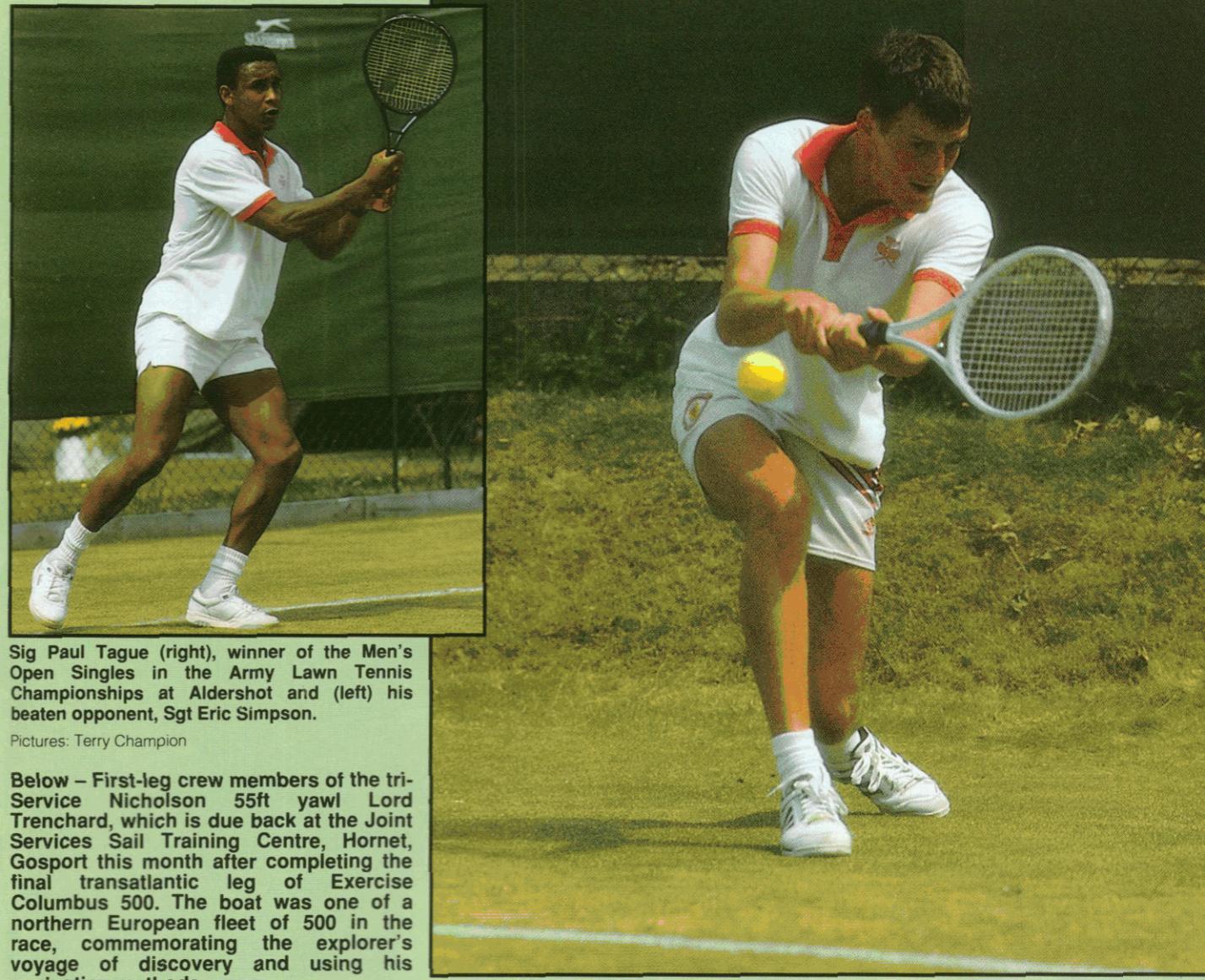
She is pictured with (left to right): Maj (retd) Simon La Salter; Tpr David Woods (17/21 L); and WO1 Kevin Timmins (Int Corps).

● See also picture opposite.



Picture: Mike Weston

On the attack at the Army senior water polo championships at RMAS were eventual winners 36 Engineer Regiment (dark caps), shown on the way to a 24/2 rout of 16 Sigs in a preliminary match. Final score, against 21 Eng Regt, was 22-2. Also competing were 16 Sig Regt and School of Signals.



Sig Paul Tague (right), winner of the Men's Open Singles in the Army Lawn Tennis Championships at Aldershot and (left) his beaten opponent, Sgt Eric Simpson.

Pictures: Terry Champion

Below - First-leg crew members of the tri-Service Nicholson 55ft yawl Lord Trenchard, which is due back at the Joint Services Sail Training Centre, Hornet, Gosport this month after completing the final transatlantic leg of Exercise Columbus 500. The boat was one of a northern European fleet of 500 in the race, commemorating the explorer's voyage of discovery and using his navigation methods.





Members of the Corps of Drums of 1st Battalion The Royal Hampshire Regiment perform at a reception held at Peninsula Barracks after the regiment's emotional farewell parade and service in Winchester. See Pages 24-25.

Picture: Terry Champion

SOLDIER