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Incorporating the Territorial Army magazine

April 19, 1993
VOL. 49/8

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Picture: SSgt Pete Bristol

The Prince of Wales talks to soldiers of The Cheshire Regiment, of which he is Colonel-in-Chief, at Redoubt Camp in Bosnia. The troops had travelled from their base at Vitez to meet the Prince, who was accompanied by Lt Col Bob Stewart (right), commanding officer of the 1 Cheshire Battalion Group

Paderborn joy as Ord troops fly home

WITH A tough six-month United Nations tour behind them, the first British troops to serve in war-torn Bosnia have returned home to Germany, writes Sarah Maddison.

Families waited anxiously at RAF Gutersloh for more than 50 men and women from the Headquarters and Headquarters Company of the British National Support Element (NSE) to complete the final leg of their journey from Split.

Led by Lt Col Malcolm Wood, who commanded the 650-strong NSE in Bosnia, the troops represented almost a dozen different units, the majority from Paderborn-based 5/6 Ordnance Battalion.

Providing vital logistic support to British troops escorting humanitarian aid convoys, the NSE currently has personnel throughout the lines of communication across the former Yugoslavia – from the Croatian port of Split, through to Tomislavgrad, Gornji Vakuf

and Vitez, the Cheshire HQ.

At Gutersloh, Col Wood praised the work of British troops. "Their presence in Bosnia has given a degree of stability to the war-torn country and there is no doubt

that they have helped humanitarian aid reach people who would not otherwise have received it."

He described the situation in Bosnia as difficult and volatile, but added that he and his troops had always had a very clear and precise job to do, which was to support the British force. He said British troops had never failed to be moved by the suffering among the people of the former

Yugoslavia, who were very proud of their heritage.

"You have to remember that you are manoeuvring in another person's war and that makes things hard, but you must concentrate on the job you have to do," he said.

For Col Wood there were also happy memories of the tour, such as the NSE's Christmas carol concert which united Croatian and Muslim children for the first time.

For many troops, including LCpl Caroline Cove, a clerk with the NSE in Sarajevo, the devastation of towns and villages was the hardest thing to accept.

"It just wasn't as I imagined it would be. It was just total destruction, not one building was untouched. I saw many people who were suffering from malnutrition – it was very upsetting," she said.

Now posted to the UK, LCpl Cove received tremendous

OPERATION GRAPPLE

FRONT COVER: Pte Jason Roberts of Corsham-based 9 Ordnance Battalion RAOC unzips his field jacket to reveal "onion skin" layers of the new Combat Soldier 95 clothing. See Pages 15-17 for full details. (Picture: Terry Champion.)

● Turn to Page 5

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Picture: SSgt Pete Bristo

Members of 2 R Irish and other Irish soldiers serving in Bosnia celebrated St Patrick's Day at Vitez in traditional manner after receiving sprigs of shamrock from Brig Andrew Cumming, Commander British Forces. With the blue berets suitably adorned, the soldiers were led by a piper to the junior ranks club where pints of the appropriate beverage were consumed

Troops help in rescue of evacuees

BRITISH troops based in Tuzla helped receive Muslim refugees evacuated from the besieged Bosnian town of Srebrenica by road.

Other soldiers secured an airfield used by French Puma and Royal Navy Sea King helicopters to land seriously-wounded Muslims.

Later, two British helicopters flew into Srebrenica and winched up two injured Canadian soldiers from the roof of the temporary headquarters of Gen Philippe Morillon, and flew them to Tuzla.

Soldiers from C Company, 1 Cheshire have now taken over from B Squadron, 16th/5th Lancers.

The formation of the Royal Logistic Corps has been celebrated in theatre by a series of low-key parades and re-badging ceremonies held at British unit locations throughout the Bosnia and Hercegovina Command.

Already, the first logistic troops have been replaced on roulement and the 1 Cheshire

Battalion Group departs next month.

The advance party of the 1st Battalion, The Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire arrives at Split on April 23, with the main battalion group set to take over on May 14.

The Yorkies are being supported by soldiers drawn from the 1st Battalion, The Gordon Highlanders, 1st Battalion, The Queen's Lancashire Regiment and the 1st Battalion, The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders.

The new sapper presence will be formed by 1 Field and 45 Field Support Squadron of 21 Engineer Regiment, accompanied by 522 Specialist Team Royal Engineers.

The National Support Element based on 5 Ordnance Battalion RAOC supported by 17 Squadron RCT will be replaced by 27 Regiment, Royal Logistic Corps. Operation Grapple is the first overseas operational deployment for the newly-formed corps.



Welcome home, Daddy! Four-year-old Angela Kirkland hugs Sgt Billy Kirkland on his return from Bosnia. Mum Gina, expecting twins, also shows her delight at her husband's homecoming

Paderborn joy

● From Page 3

publicity during her tour, after her fiancé proposed to her on live television on Christmas morning.

And for one little girl – four-year-old Angela Kirkland – the final wait for the RAF Hercules to land at Gutersloh was almost too much to bear. She had travelled with her mother, Gina, from their home

in Paderborn to meet daddy, Sgt Billy Kirkland from 5 Ordnance Battalion.

Gina discovered she was pregnant two weeks after Billy left for Bosnia. Several weeks later she found it was to be twins and broke the news to a "shocked but delighted" Billy by signal. His return is perfectly timed – the babies are due in late June.



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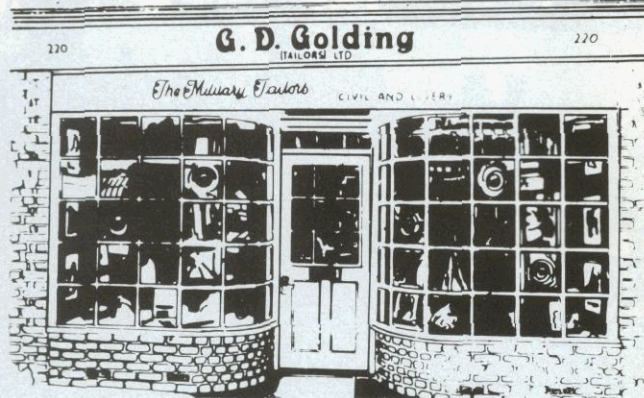
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ADTR march out of Minden

VEHICLES which saw service during the Gulf War formed a backdrop when 4 Armoured Division Transport Regiment held its final parade at St George's Barracks, Minden.

Watched by families, friends and old comrades, commanding officer Lt Col Graham Fox presented the regiment to the Director General of Transport and Movements, Maj Gen John MacDonald, himself a former CO.

Brig Istvan Csoboth, Director of German Army Aviation, paid tribute to the officers and men of 4 ADTR by presenting a *fahnenband*, a commemorative pennant, and thanking the regiment for its contribution to the preservation of peace in Europe.

After a drumhead service the parade marched off to the strains of *Auld Lang Syne*.



Maj Gen MacDonald, escorted by Capt Chris D'Sylva REME, inspects 4 ADTR's farewell parade

The regiment's origins date back to the Maori Wars of 1863. A new 4 Regiment – named 4 General Support Regiment – is to be created at Abingdon on the formation of the Royal Logistic Corps.

Of 4 ADTR's component parts, the old 11 Squadron will disband, but the name of 76 Squadron will survive in 2 Close Support Regiment RLC,

and 19 Squadron will re-form as a tank transporter squadron in the United Kingdom.

About 40 soldiers from 4 ADTR are being trained as tank transporter drivers for the new squadron.

● Soldiers of 33 Squadron RCT marched off the square at Bunde for the last time on February 27. Formed in Aldershot in 1887, the squad-

ron has been based in Bunde since 1965 and deployed with 1 ADTR to the Gulf.

It will live on in spirit in the new 33 Supply Squadron forming at Abingdon as part of the 3rd (UK) Division.

● Members of the RCT serving at Marchwood Military Port held a farewell parade on April 2 before being absorbed into the RLC.



The Duke of Gloucester inspects Pioneers on parade in Northampton after their final Freedom march

Pioneers' final Freedom

JUST a few days before merging into the new Royal Logistic Corps, the Royal Corps of Pioneers exercised the Freedom of Northampton for the last time.

More than 200 men marched

behind the Band of the Grenadier Guards, while, on the steps of the Guildhall, their Colonel-in-Chief, the Duke of Gloucester, took the salute with Northampton's mayor, Councillor Frank Tero.

Earlier, at the Officers' Mess in Simpson Barracks, the Corps HQ, the Duke unveiled a painting commissioned for the occasion from Terence Cuneo, depicting Pioneers at the Normandy landings on D-Day.

Depot in ATR role

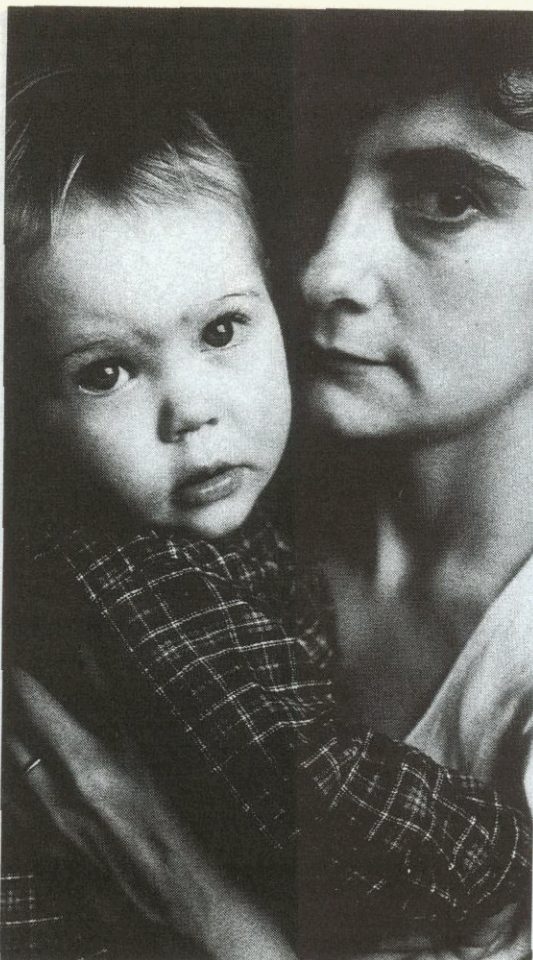
THE ARMY Training Regiment flag replaced those of the Light Division at the entrance to St John Moore Barracks, Winchester on April 2 to mark the establishment's new role.

One of five such training regiments, it has been formed as a result of major restructuring of all adult and young soldier basic training.

In addition to the Light Division, Sir John Moore Barracks will provide basic training for the Royal Armoured Corps, Army Air Corps, Intelligence Corps and the Adjutant General's Corps, including the Royal Military Police.

On his travels

DEFENCE Secretary Malcolm Rifkind laid a wreath at the San Carlos Cemetery during a three-day visit to the British Garrison in the Falkland Islands. He has also visited British forces in Gibraltar.



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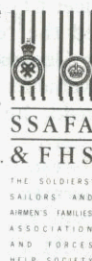
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Gurkhas quit Burma Lines

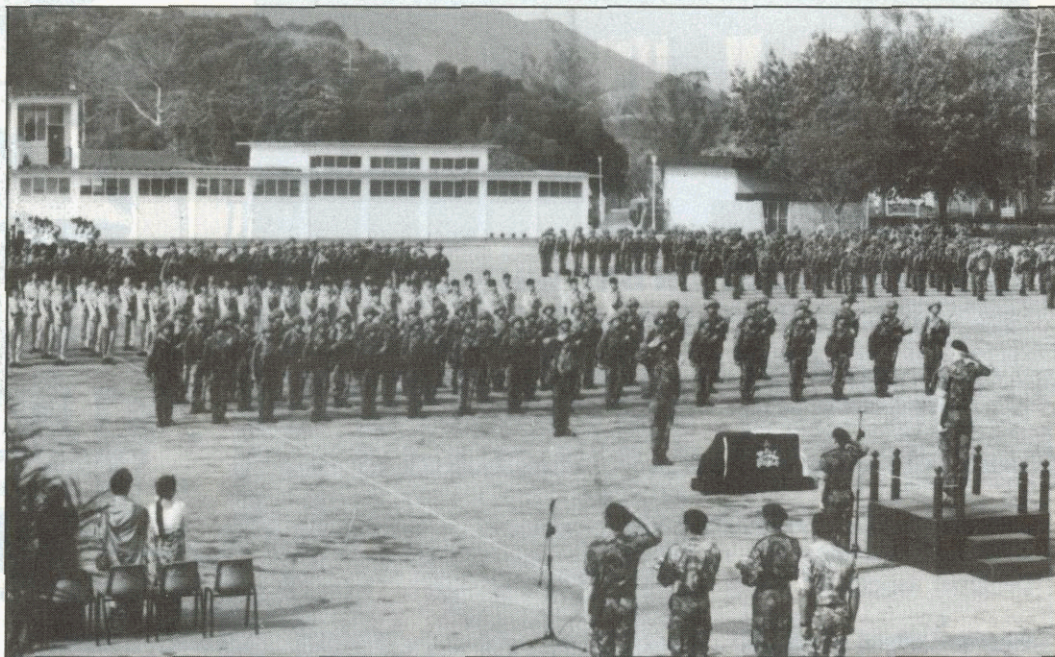
THE ARMY finally relinquished its hold on Burma Lines in the New Territories when the last two occupied married quarters were handed over at a brief ceremony.

Prior to their amalgamation as 2nd Gurkha Rifles, Burma Lines was the last home of 1/2 GR. When 1/2 GR moved out in September, the camp was handed over to the Royal Hong Kong Police, leaving only a small echelon of 2 GR and married quarters as evidence of the Army's presence.

The last of the 163 married quarters are now empty and the name "Burma Lines" has passed into history.

The camp has reverted to its former name, Queen's Hill Camp, the title it bore until the mid-60s when the Army established tented accommodation for troops who had been deployed to man the border.

The last occupants, Capt QGO Rajkumar Gurung and Capt QGO Dambahadur Gurung and their families, handed over their keys to Families Welfare Officer Capt QGO Prabin Gurung and took their farewell of Gurkha Major Jaibasador Gurung as they boarded their transport for the airport and subsequent retirement in Nepal.



Sir Garry Johnson takes the parade as 10 GR line up in four rifle companies for the last time

SLIMMED 10th READY FOR UK

THE 10th Gurkha Rifles has reduced to three rifle companies with the disbandment of D Company. As the remainder of the men of D Company have been absorbed into the three remaining companies, the regiment's strength has fallen from a peak of more than 1,000 to just over 700.

At a disbandment parade at Gallipoli Lines, the Colonel of the Regiment, Gen Sir Garry Johnson, praised 10 GR's handling of the disbandment.

Gen Johnson - a former

Commander British Forces Hong Kong and Major General Brigade of Gurkhas - told them: "The disbandment of D Company marks the start of changes for 10th Gurkha Rifles. I am sure that the regiment will meet these changes confidently and that it will be as good in the future as it has been in the past. The regiment will move to England well trained, confident and fit to take its place in the new Gurkha regiment to be formed in the future."

Gen Johnson also commis-

sioned five new Queen's Gurkha Officers and presented four Long Service and Good Conduct Medals. Forty soldiers from the 1992 recruit intake also conducted their Kasam Khane - "swearing the oath" - formally taking their place as members of 10th Princess Mary's Own Gurkha Rifles.

Fusiliers all at sea

MEMBERS of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Welch Fusiliers based on Salisbury Plain have taken part in an adventure training exercise in which they swapped their landlubber role for life before the mast.

Ignoring the old Army adage "never volunteer for anything" 44 officers and men left the relative comfort of their barracks at Tidworth to crew the three-masted sailing ship *Sir Winston Churchill* on a voyage in the Channel.

Not only were they willing sailors, the Fusiliers actually paid for the privilege of going aloft, working the sails, keeping watch, cooking in the galley and swabbing the decks.

Said Lt David Natusch, the expedition leader: "It was a great success."

Newport medics on the right tracks



Newport medics rush away another "casualty" during an exercise at Dean Forest Railway's Lydney Yard. Suitably gory railway volunteers littered the track as Cardiff-based 203 (Welsh) General Hospital RAMC(V) laid on an exercise to test its 30-strong Newport detachment in military and medical skills

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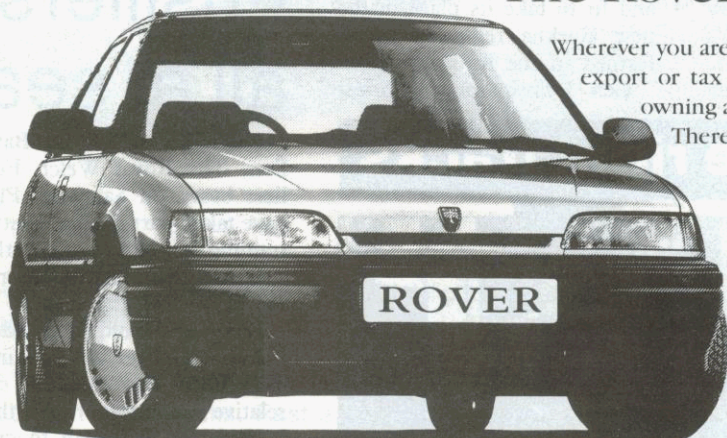
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Flag rises on new RE regiment



Cpl Dave Humphreys has the honour of raising the flag for the newly-formed 3 RSME Regiment at Gibraltar Barracks, Minley. The new regiment, result of an amalgamation between 1 and 3 Training Regiments, Royal Engineers, held a

parade to mark the occasion, inspected by Engineer-in-Chief Maj Gen John Barr. Within the previous two regiments, the roles of 27 and 63 Squadrons will be reversed, with 27 becoming the HQ squadron.

Drivers train for Op Grapple

BOSNIA-bound soldiers from Aldershot-based 27 Regiment RCT have been put through their paces at the Copehill Down FIBUA (fighting in built-up area) training complex on Salisbury Plain.

More than 200 completed five-day packages of training at Copehill Down, the biggest such facility in Europe.

Men and women from 27 Regt are in the process of deploying on Operation Grapple for a six-month tour. The regiment's 30-strong headquarters element under Lt Col Jim Morrison left for Bosnia at the end of March.

The regiment will provide logistic support for Grapple troops and transport humanitarian aid to towns and villages cut off by the fighting.

At Copehill Down, the truckies were instructed by soldiers from C Company, 3rd Battalion, The Parachute Regi-

ment, also based at Aldershot.

The Paras stepped in at short notice between Exercise Phantom Bugle in the United States and a live-firing exercise at Sennybridge.

Tackling the confidence course at Copehill requires stamina and a head for heights. LCpl Andy Purdy, 3 Para, said of the truckies: "They've all done well. It's all about getting them to work together as a team and giving them confidence."

Wessex truckies disband

NEARLY 100 years of service came to an end at midnight on March 31 when 155 (Wessex) Transport Regiment (Volunteers) disbanded under Options for Change.

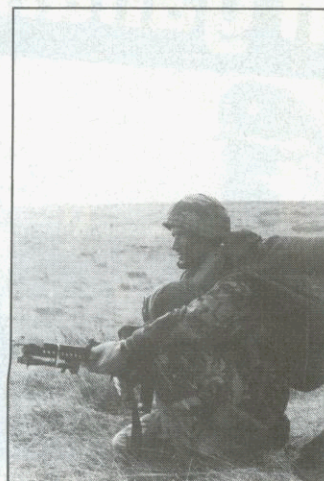
The regiment's flag was lowered for the last time at its Taunton headquarters during a ceremony led by the comman-

SWINGATE GOES OFF THE AIR

The Royal Signals' presence at Swingate, Dover ceased on March 31 with the closure of the Tropospheric Scatter Radio Link station which has provided a communications link between the United Kingdom and Germany.

The station, site of a pioneer radar facility in 1937, has been overtaken by satellite technology.

Swingate's three distinctive towers will remain in use with the BBC and the Coastguard.



Safely on the ground, Pte Kirk Dixon of 4 Para takes stock after floating down to earth

Merging drop for 4 and 15 Para

THE Parachute Regiment's two TA battalions from the north of the UK marked their merger under Options for Change with a joint jump on the Catterick Training Area.

A total of 152 men floated down from three RAF Hercules on a morning of hazy sun on Downholme Moor. They included 90 from 4 Para (HQ Pudsey near Leeds) and 62 from the Scottish 15 Para.

First man out was 4 Para's CO, Lt Col John Gallagher and last man down was Lt Col Steve Cave, the retiring CO of 15 Para. Coincidentally both men joined 15 Para as privates in the 70s.

The jump was followed by an amalgamation parade at Wathgill Camp with the Colonel Commandant of the Parachute Regiment, Lt Gen Sir Michael Gray, as inspecting officer.

Following the merger a reconstituted 4 Para now commands 15 (Scottish) Company as one of its three rifle companies. The other two are 13 Coy Oldham, and 17 Coy Tyne-Tees, with HQ Coy based in Pudsey and including sub-units in Lincoln and Leicester.

The new battalion claims to be one of the widest-spread in the Army, drawing recruits from the English Midlands to the North of Scotland.

In gallant company . . .

Picture: Terry Champion



Distinguished company for six RAOC men of distinction. Introduced to the Queen, Colonel-in-Chief of the RAOC, when she paid her final visit to the corps at Deepcut before it became

part of the Royal Logistic Corps were gallantry medal holders (left to right) Maj **Nelson Gunson** (MBE GM), **Peter Gurney** (MBE GM), Lt Col **Alan Glasby** (OBE GM), Maj

Kevin Callaghan (one of only two members of the corps to hold both GM and QGM), **Barry Johnson** (GC) and Maj (Retd) **Michael Coldrick** (MBE GM).

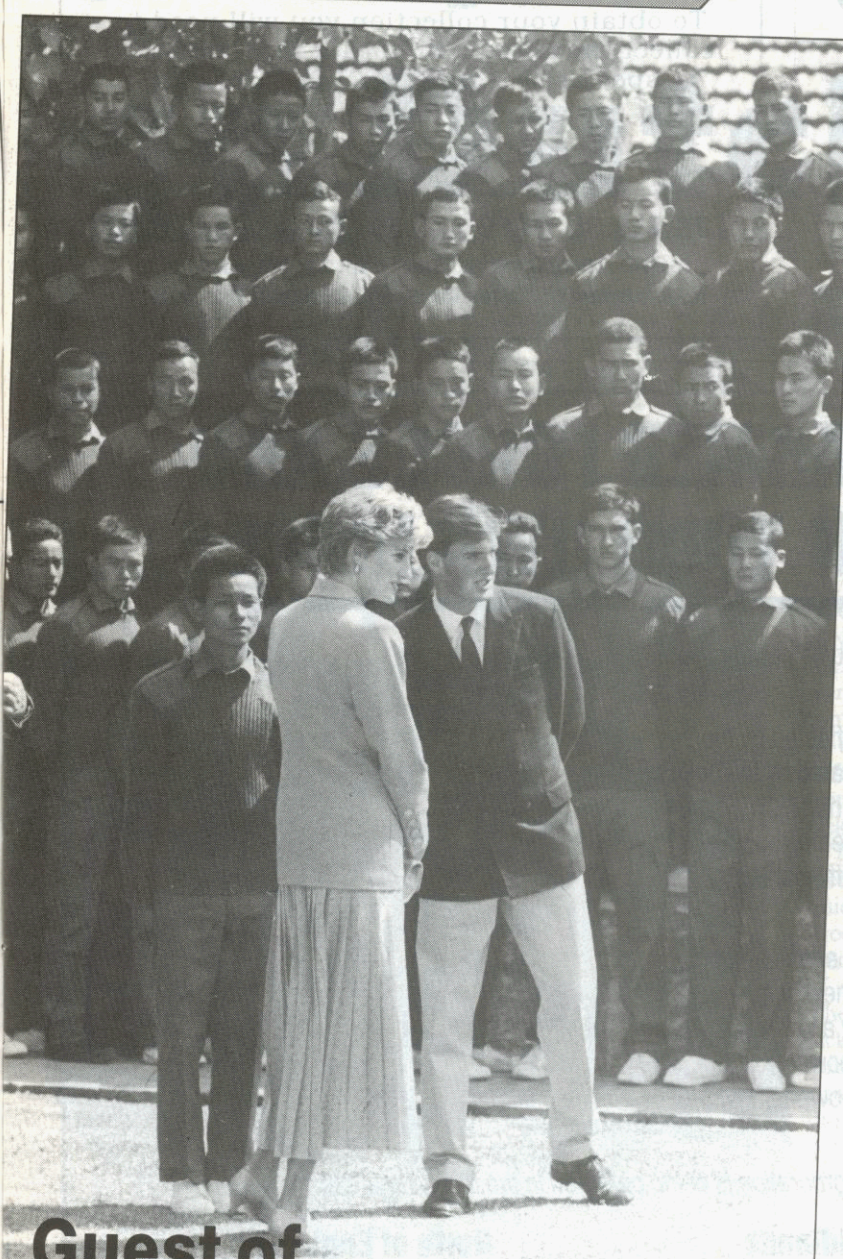


A one-man medal parade

A quick hat trick of medals for WO2 **Norman Dey**, RQMS of 2 Signal Regiment in York, pictured with Maj Gen **Patrick Cordingley**, GOC Eastern District. In one fell swoop he received a Meritorious Service Medal, a ten-year bar to his Long Service and Good Conduct Medal and the Gulf Medal. Due to celebrate 33 years in the Army in April, WO2 Dey has been a gunner all that time, though since joining the Long Service list in 1981 he has been attached to Royal Signals units.



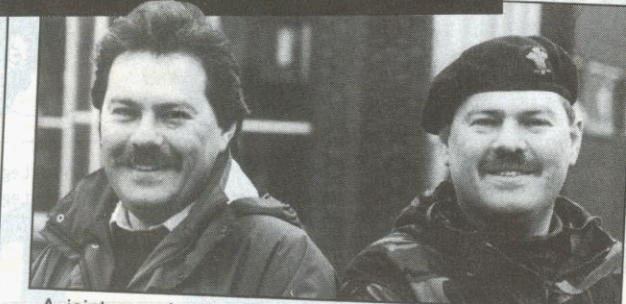
PEOPLE



Guest of the Gurkhas

As part of a busy schedule on a visit to the Far East, the **Princess of Wales** was a welcome guest at the British Gurkha camp in Kathmandu.

Hello brother . . .



A joint exercise in more senses than one took place in Wales when, as part of an assessment of more than 60 candidates in the lieutenant-to-captain tests organised by 160 (Wales) Brigade, Dwr Cymru Welsh Water allowed their Felindre water treatment works near Swansea to be "defended" by the Territorial Army. The other joint aspect was the involvement of twins Maj **John Thomas** (Ops officer with 4 RRW, and one of the examining officers) and **Huw Thomas**, who is based at Dwr Cymru's Swansea office.

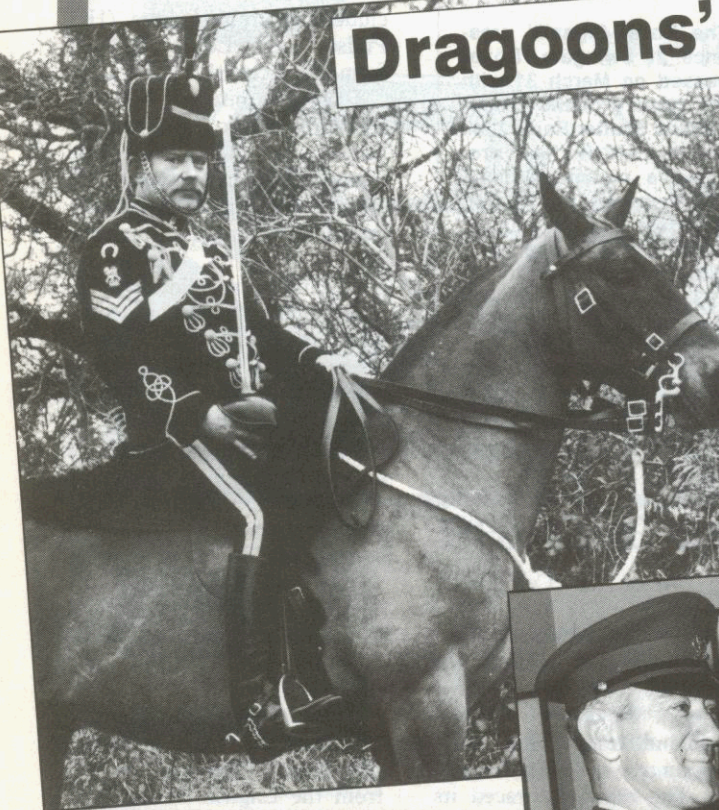
A time to remember

Two significant anniversaries within a few months for Sgt **Mick Lord**, helicopter weapons instructor with 656 Squadron, AAC, at Netheravon. A veteran with the squadron - he flew with them in the Falklands campaign - he and many ex-members of the unit held a South Atlantic reunion last year after much painstaking tracking-down. This time, the occasion for Mick, holder of the 1992 Ferranti Trophy for AAC Aircrewman of the Year, was 656's golden jubilee flypast and parade. See also **SOLDIER** to **Soldier**, Page 34.



Dragoons' double

News of a BEM award to Sgt **Graham Fox** of the Light Dragoons (formerly of the 15th/19th The King's Royal Hussars) has particularly delighted his uncle, **William (Paddy) Fox**, who was awarded the BEM as a staff sergeant in 1975. He asks if it is rare for two members of the same family in the same regiment to receive the same medal. Graham's father, **Patrick**, enlisted in 1940 for the duration and the family service in the regiment totals 72 years. It could have been more, but Graham's son, **Danny**, chose the Royal Engineers and is now serving in Bosnia. Pictures show Paddy when he received his BEM in 1975, and Graham, last 15/19 H farrier and first Light Dragoons farrier.



Anglian's return



Full circle for Maj **William Burford**, quartermaster to Leicester-based TA unit, the 7th Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment, and his wife **Susan**. Both Leicestershire folk, they have now returned to their original stamping ground - via Buckingham Palace, where William was the proud recipient of an MBE for service to Queen and country. Before joining 7 R Anglian, Maj Burford served with the regiment's 3rd Battalion for 28 years.



Sgt John's an old sea dog

Chelsea Pensioner **John Judge** (80), was a Boy First Class, Royal Navy, before enlisting in the Army at the outbreak of the Second World War. He joined the 43rd Divisional Signals at Devonport, retiring eventually in 1965 as a sergeant. Seen practising his old signalling skills on board HMS **Marlborough**, watched by the ship's commanding officer, Commander **Peter Eberle**, John had written to the Royal Navy to see if it would be possible to go to sea for a day.

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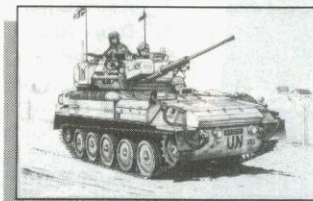
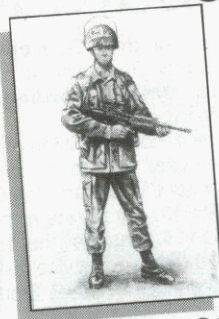
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Sol/13

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LEAVING THE ARMED FORCES AND WANT TO OWN YOUR OWN HOME?

A unique new scheme can now help you buy a home of your choice at a price you can afford.

A national initiative for service personnel affected by the 'Options for Change' Review is being operated by the Joint Services Housing Advice Office (JSHAO) in conjunction with three housing associations. Under the scheme you can buy a share in the home of your choice as an affordable alternative to renting.

Do-it-yourself Shared Ownership (DIYSO) enables you to purchase between 25% and 75% of your new home. For the remaining percentage you can pay a low rent to the housing association. As your earning power increases you can become a 100% home-owner in your own time - should you wish to do so.

The scheme, sponsored by the Housing Corporation, is being operated in the following areas:

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North British Housing Association



Onions are a-peeling as 2,000 go Dutch

IF YOU look a little closer, you might just spot that the soldier sharing your slit trench looks different. Outwardly, there might seem little of note, but that's not surprising, because it's what he is wearing under his coat that sets him apart.

More than 2,000 troops world-wide have been chosen to

prove the final version of the British Army's new combat outfit.

Over the next two years, Combat Soldier '95 will see troops switch to wearing a series of layers of clothing instead of the standard shirt, pullover and combat suit.

The Dutch Army call it an

"onion skin" system because the layers can be peeled off as required.

At skin level, soldiers will wear a T-shirt in summer or a field shirt in winter. The latter is effectively a zipped roll-neck Norwegian shirt of the type that British soldiers have been buying privately at their own expense for a number of years.

Over this will be worn a lightweight combat suit which can be topped with either a fur-pile liner or a Gore-Tex stashaway jacket and trousers.

The outfit is completed by a new quick-drying, wind-proof field jacket that incorporates a number of innovative ideas. The mid-thigh length jacket with taped buttons is made of ripstop material to increase durability. It carries a concealed hood and has map pockets.

At this stage it is planned to carry badges of rank on the front of the lightweight and field jackets only.

According to the Army's Director of Clothing and Textiles, Brig Richard Kirby, the poor standard of combat clothing issued for a number of

years led to soldiers spending hundreds of pounds buying their own kit.

"Quite frankly, this was very unsatisfactory, but we believe that Combat Soldier '95 is a winning package," he said.

"The final troop trial is being carried out to fine-tune the uniform, for sizing, to confirm cosmetic elements and that it is soldier-proof. The Norwegian

● Turn to next page



A soldier models the mid-thigh length field jacket and gaiters



The fur-pile liner comes complete with built in wrist warmers



Above – This combat glove comes with an fire-resistant inner contact glove which improves tactility when operating equipment



Right – The combat assault boot is displayed by a soldier wearing a T-shirt and a lightweight combat jacket. The new boot which requires little wearing-in, incorporates partial speed lacing

This prototype Gore-Tex stashaway jacket is moisture vapour permeable

Onions

● From Page 15

shirts and T-shirts (more than 1½ million have been ordered) have already come into service and the first of the new combat assault boots will be issued later this year."

Brig Kirby admitted that the Army has had terrible difficulties over the years in getting the right sort of boot for its soldiers.

"Getting the right boot for one requirement is not too difficult, but to find one boot for several roles is a problem," he said.

"We have now created a whole range of boots for soldiers including jungle and desert boots. The combat assault boot for temperate conditions is several stages above the usual quality, and we are intending to purchase a cold, wet boot for use in Bosnia or cold, wet conditions by next winter."

The combat clothing has been enhanced by the introduction of improved combat body armour which has an armoured plate front and back to provide a high level of protection for the heart and its surrounding arterial system.



The project manager for Combat Soldier '95 is Lt Col Alan Forestier-Walker, 7 GR. He told SOLDIER that two essential items of kit failed to find funding for introduction into service.

"These were gaiters for infantrymen and fire-resistant

AFV crewman suits. Fortunately they have been fully developed and included in the trial. We can only hope that funding is restored in time for them to be included in the final package when it enters service," he said.

The combat clothing is being



Above – This prototype gaiter offers lower-limb protection against thorns and wet grass

Left – The Norwegian shirt has been tried and tested by a generation of Service men and women

trialled by the Royal Green Jackets in Norway, Cyprus and the Falklands as well as in Northern Ireland and Germany. It is also being worn by gunners, signallers, a squadron of Queen's Royal Lancers, the RAF Regiment and a company of Royal Marines.

Dress sense in war and peace



The British Army's first ever combat suit was revealed in October 1949. The blouse is zippered, but there are buttons just in case. Sleeves could be rolled up when required

THE Second World War highlighted the British Army's need for a uniform that would stand up to the rigours of the battlefield. The existing battle-dress uniform offered no protection against the wet, while the greatcoat was criticised on grounds of weight.

What the fighting man needed, said Army commanders, was a combat suit which was rainproof and would not prevent evaporation of sweat from the body; which kept out the cold in winter and yet was not too hot in summer; which was inconspicuous and would stand rough usage.

In 1949, the Ministry of Supply produced the British Army's first purpose-made combat suit of airborne-style smock, trousers, high leather boots, a poncho, a peaked ski-cap and a short greatcoat similar to the wartime jeep jacket.

The theory behind the new suit was its comparison to a hot

water pipe. If a pipe was lagged with two or three layers of tightly-wrapped paper, the heat would still escape by conduction through the paper. But if cotton wool or sawdust is stuffed between the paper and the pipe, little air pockets are created which prevent the heat escaping.

The Korean war proved an ideal testing ground. During its first winter (1950/51), troops were kitted out with an extraordinary array of equipment including Finnish felt-lined boots and a Kapok coat.

Unfortunately, soldiers' movements were hindered by the bulky outfit weighing more than 50lb, so priority was given to producing a more suitable uniform. By November 1951, troops were being issued with a new combat suit that weighed 30lb less. This included Mukluk boots, predecessor of the type recently issued to British soldiers in Bosnia.

By 1955, troop trials in BAOR were under way to proof the combat suit which had only seen service in Korea, and an improved version of the Korean combat uniform in cotton-sateen went on general issue.

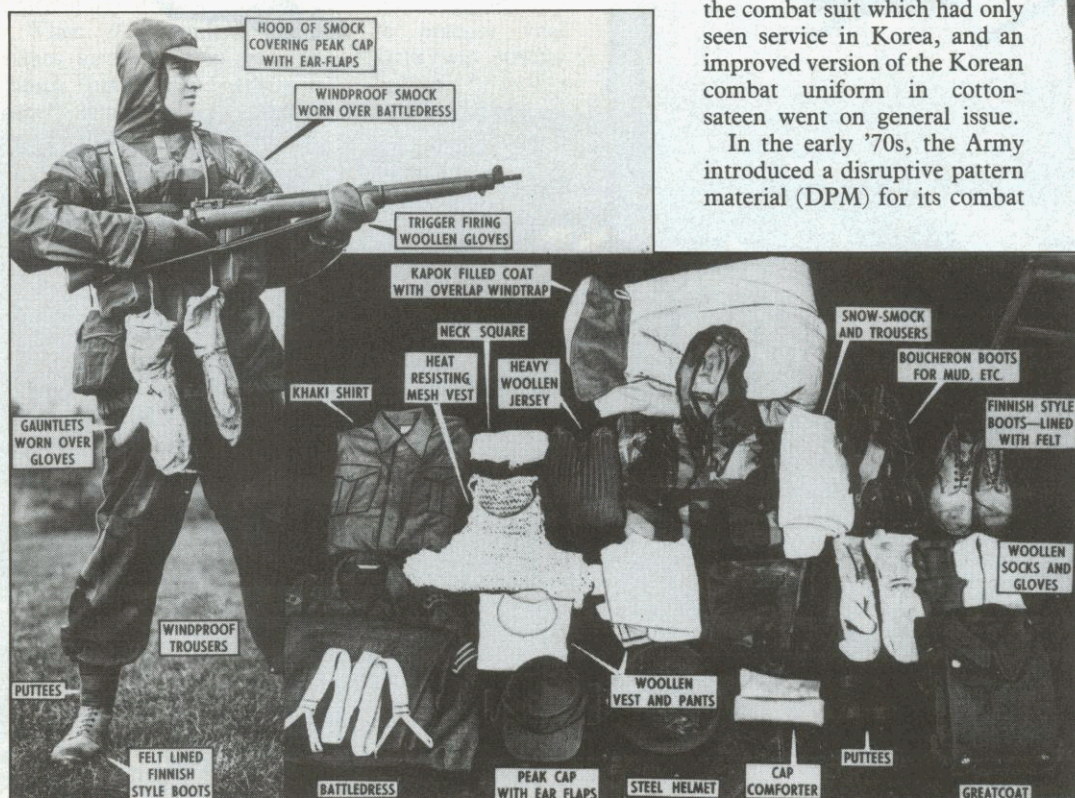
In the early '70s, the Army introduced a disruptive pattern material (DPM) for its combat

dress which was resistant to infra-red beams which could reveal men and machines in darkness. Plans were also announced for a high-leg combat boot.

Korean war experiences still influence Army uniform. The British Army's adoption of rank badges worn on the front of combat uniform instead of on shoulder epaulettes has its origins in the decision by Canadian officers serving in Korea to wear their badges of rank just above the solar plexus to aid speedy recognition.



November 1951 saw the introduction of a new combat suit for troops serving in Korea. Here a parka is worn with hood extended. Mukluk boots and dangling gauntlets complete the ensemble



Here is a lay-out of the full winter kit as issued to British troops in Korea in 1950. The soldier on the left is wearing most of the items, the total weight of which is about 50lb. Note that there are two kinds of boot – the Finnish felt-lined type, and the "boucheron" type for mud



Gimme shelter: forward artillery observers Bdr Chris Blewitt, Capt Joe Shone and Gnr Jimmy Edge, 19 Field Regt RA, try to ignore a keen wind on Bodmin Moor



Above – Sgt Charles Torkington, a Gazelle pilot of 657 Sqn, notched up 4,000 flying hours during Exercise African Eagle. He receives the congratulations of OC Maj Neale Moss (left) and CO, Lt Col Pat Lawless (right)

Left – 9 Regt Lynx helicopters assemble on Keevil Airfield, the reconstruction base

9 Regiment's long hop



Thirsty Lynxes arrive at Wilsworthy Camp on Dartmoor for the attention of the waiting fuel bowsters

IN AN overcrowded world space for any kind of military training is at a premium. Room for manoeuvre is a practical problem that involves everyone, not least the Army's only aviation battlegroup, from 24 (Airmobile) Brigade.

When 9 Regiment AAC sallies forth from its base in North Yorkshire and gathers in other elements of the battlegroup, a great deal of distance is required to add realism to the exercise, writes **Robert Higson**.

The second and most recent battlegroup exercise (named African Eagle in honour of the Zimbabwean origins of the CO, Lt Col Pat Lawless) staged across virtually the whole of England to achieve its objectives.

From Dishforth, North Yorkshire, a staging area was established at Nesscliff in Shropshire, and then a forward operating base on the edge of Dartmoor in Devon.

After a couple of days attacking targets on Bodmin Moor and on the sands of Braunton Burrows near RAF Chivenor, the battlegroup withdrew to its reconstitution base on Keevil Airfield in Wiltshire before returning home to North Yorkshire.

One important aspect of training had to be restricted for

environmental reasons. Tactical low flying was confined mainly to recognised military training areas, which meant that the opportunity to practise vital skills was strictly limited.

The exercise planners attempted to rationalise this restriction by developing a scenario of a peace-making mission in a Balkanised Britain with areas in the hands of hostile partisans which either had to be avoided or flown over at a safe height.

Nearly 30 helicopters were involved, including a number of RAF Chinooks.

Add to that 130 vehicles for the ground party and a total of 600 men, plus a few women, which included the Aviation Company of 1 Royal Anglian at Colchester, an air defence section from 47 Regiment RA, on Thorney Island, forward artillery observers from 19 Field Regiment RA, at Topclif-



Belle of the bowser: Air Tpr Claire Conway, 19, hopes to be a pilot herself one day. In the meantime it is earthbound duty alongside an avfuel bowser

fe, and sappers from 51 Field Squadron, Ripon.

To take such a force through remote countryside and into areas where lambing was still in progress posed a real threat to good public relations.

The answer was to invest a great deal of time and effort

into ensuring that local people knew in advance what was happening so that the largest concentration of helicopters that most of them would ever have seen did not catch them by surprise.

Before the move to Wilsorthy Training Camp, on a bracingly exposed hillside of Dartmoor, a party of journalists from the South West was flown up to the staging area at Nesscliff for a thorough briefing on the aims and objectives of the exercise.

This wasn't enough to prevent one paper from raising the spectre of a sort of "Apocalypse Now" invasion of Devon. But as far as the general public was concerned the investment in pre-exercise public relations proved its worth.

"We have not had one flying complaint," Lt Col Lawless reported just before the regiment returned to Dishforth.

"And that is because we went to people and got them to tell us where not to fly."

"That in turn is good for the future of exercises like this. It proves that if we take the trouble to ask people, they will have enough confidence in us to let us fly over their land."

Pictures: Chris Barker

Gunners in town and country role

SOLDIERS of 156 (Inkerman) Battery, Royal Artillery have just completed a "town and country" tour in Northern Ireland. They spent the first half of their roulement in the countryside around south Armagh before being switched to operations in east Belfast.

The battery, originally deployed as part of the 1 Green Howards Battalion Group Drumcree roulement battalion, was subsequently put under command of the Armagh roulement battalion, the 2nd Battalion, The Light Infantry.

In particular the gunners were attached to the Light Infantry's base at Bessbrook Mill. Members of 156 Battery manned permanent vehicle checkpoints on the approaches to the village, and mountain-top observation towers.

Following the deployment of a twelfth battalion to the

theatre, the Green Howards were switched to become Girdwood roulement battalion in north Belfast and 156 Battery found itself attached to the 7th Battalion, The Royal Irish Regiment in east Belfast.

"Working with the Royal Irish, we found ourselves operating in support of the Royal Ulster Constabulary around three RUC stations at Dunmurry, Donegal Pass and Mount Pottinger," said the Battery Commander, Maj Kim Wheeler-Mallows.

"Much of our work involved setting up vehicle checkpoints to seal off the city centre and prevent vehicle-borne improvised explosive devices (IEDs) getting through the cordon."

The gunners found the pace of life quicker in the city than rural operations.

"In south Armagh, the approach continues to be 'Slowly, slowly, catchee monkey', but in the city the pace of life is much faster and terrorists take you on in a much more random fashion," he explained.

Within its 11km by 3km tactical area of responsibility, 156 battery provided a liaison officer for each of the three RUC stations to act as an interface between police and the Army.

Said RUCLO, Sgt Mark Kelly: "We were kept busy with a variety of incidents including suspected IEDs being placed on railway lines, hoax proxy bombs, sectarian murders and knee-cappings."

Being attached to 7 R Irish had its advantages, for the host unit had just taken delivery of the new Northern Ireland

"snatch" vehicles and six were dished out to the gunners.

Unfortunately, an urgent call for armoured Land Rovers for use in Bosnia resulted in four of the £48,000 vehicles being taken back, but the soldiers were pleased enough with the two they retained.

"This composite armoured V8 Land Rover is a great improvement. We have been very impressed by its performance," said Maj Wheeler-Mallows.

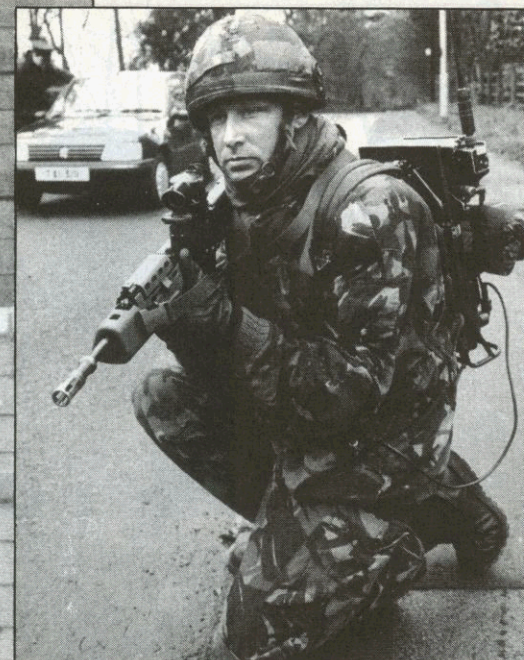
The tour proved to be the swan song of 156 (Inkerman) Battery. Back at its Larkhill base, the battery and its parent regiment, 94 Locating Regiment, Royal Artillery are preparing for drawdown. In September, the regiment and its component parts are due to be placed in suspended animation.

Left - Sgt Graham Jones passes just one of a large number of "political" murals to be found in 156 Battery's area of responsibility

Right - 156 Battery on patrol near Mount Pottinger RUC station

Below - Maj Kim Wheeler-Mallows (centre) with one of the new Northern Ireland "snatch" vehicles

Words:
Laurie Manton
Pictures:
Mike Perring



LBdr Carl Irons of 21 Air Defence Battery takes up a defensive stance at an RUC vehicle checkpoint



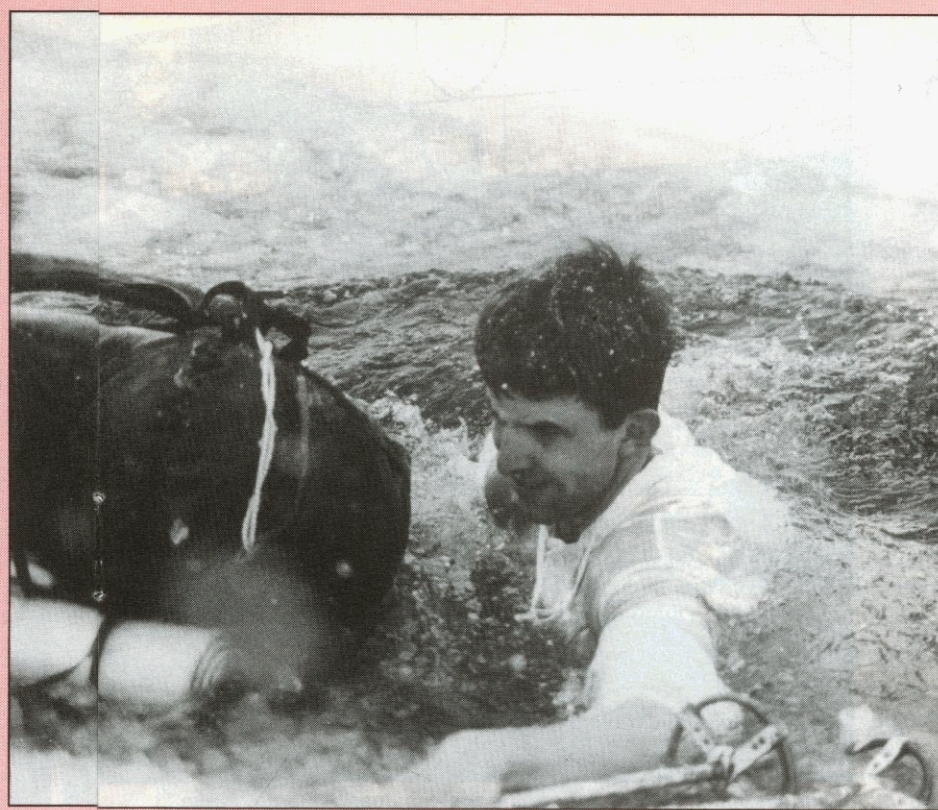
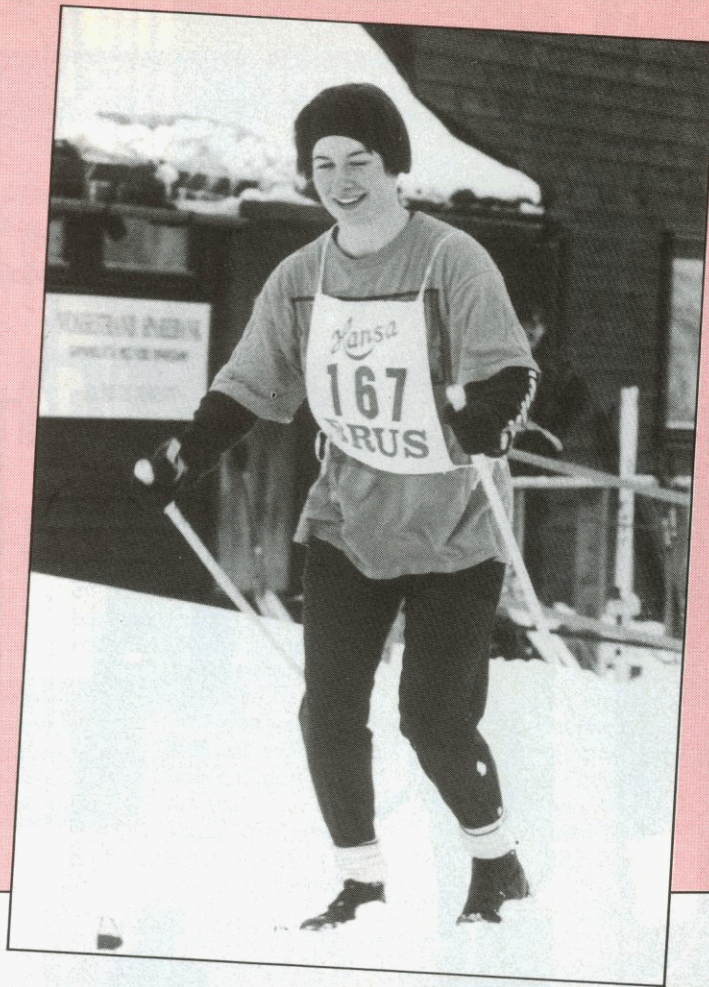
Above - LBdr Martin Davin and Gnr Matthew Stokes

Below - Weapons are checked at Mount Pottinger by the Battery Commander, Maj Kim Wheeler-Mallows



Above – a soldier plants explosives into the slope of a potential avalanche – a task carried out to minimise risk on exercise areas

Right – Dvr Lenny Wilson is still smiling as she starts her second lap on the 20km cross country race



Above – Compulsory ice-breaking drills tested the nerve of everyone during survival training

Right – Camouflage and communication in harsh conditions during Exercise Hardfall



Trial by cold for AMF in Norway



Members of Corunna Company, 1 DWR poised to attack an enemy location during the final phase of Hardfall. Later they were flown to northern Norway for Battle Griffin, a joint Anglo-American-Norwegian exercise

TEMPERATURES which regularly fall below minus 20C and some of the most unpredictable weather in Europe may not be everyone's idea of ideal operating conditions, but for the men and women of the Allied Command Europe (ACE) Mobile Force (AMF) who annually face such difficulties, this year's Exercise Hardfall 93 has proved once again that the weather does not always win.

Having been deployed in the Voss area of southern Norway for several weeks and with the majority of low-level training under their belts, the AMF moved north during March to participate in Exercise Battle Griffin, a gruelling two-week field exercise during which all the previous training and preparation was being put to the test.

Initial training consisted of a number of packages designed to build confidence and help the soldier acquire all the necessary skills to survive and fight in an Arctic environment as part of a Nato force.

These included snow-shoe and cross-country skiing instruction, constructing a snow-hole (in case his tent is somehow "lost"), cooking and

survival in the field, as well as some new lessons to be learnt in the art of camouflage.

All the training in southern Norway culminated in a five-day field training exercise, including platoon, company and battalion level attacks and an uncomfortable amount of digging and patrolling – enough to keep busy and avoid thinking about getting cold.

"Conditions out here can be quite severe at times," explained Capt Colin "Robbo" Robson REME, an Arctic Warfare Instructor with the Logistic Support Battalion.

"Although soldiers do follow the rules very closely, there is no scope for being off your guard – the weather really can be a killer."

This fact was tragically illustrated further north in Norway, where three Royal Marines died as a result of the intense cold.

Anti-avalanche drills, plus search and rescue, are all covered as part of the course. Close co-operation with the Norwegian Army and police is vital if someone unlucky enough to be caught in an

avalanche is to be located and recovered.

Men of 158 Provost Company RMP were fortunate enough not to be involved for real, but liaison with the local experts and much practice ensured that they were able to cope if such a situation arose.

The real heroes in any recovery operation would, however, have to be the highly-trained Norwegian search dogs, who are out in all weathers and save many lives. AMF soldiers were certainly reassured by their presence.

On the lighter side, ice-breaking drills, although a very important aspect of survival, provided some wry amusement. A hole is cut in a frozen-over lake, into which the unfortunate victim has to jump, fully clothed, then remove skis, bergen and poles, and haul himself out again.

It proved to be a marvellous spectator sport. Said a shivering Lt Liz Bennett, on emerging from the ice: "I will definitely not miss having to do that again!"

Skiing is an important aspect of the Hardfall training package, and there was plenty

of opportunity to have a go, both in cross-country and downhill skiing competitions, and also for recreation.

In both competitions, the standard of skiing was surprisingly high, if a little daredevil.

"Squaddies tend to attack the slopes rather more ruthlessly than other people, which has made for some rather strange looks from the natives," explained Lt John Mayo, Corunna Company, 1 DWR.

Even so, it is still rather annoying to be overtaken by a Norwegian three-year-old.

The cross-country skiing training was rounded off with a gruelling 20-kilometre circuit which tested stamina, and sometimes balance, to the limit.

Dvr Lenny Wilson, one of only two females to attempt it, said: "If I had known what it would be like – well, it's too late now! I did enjoy it, and I did beat some of the guys."

Hardfall 93 has proved to be a great success, with many more AMF soldiers now trained and experienced in operating and fighting in very awkward terrain and weather, and with the AMF now more vital than ever in an unsteady Europe, it can only go from strength to strength.

Words:
Maj Steve Munns
Pictures:
Sgt Matt Timbers

London club's appeal aims to keep services up, charges down

Victory rebuild sets the standard

IN AN illuminated case near the doors leading to the strikingly-designed Carisbrooke Hall in London's Victory Services Club, a silver trowel and a gavel are on display.

Both commemorate the laying of the foundation stone in 1954 of the club's memorial wing. Almost 40 years later, the VIP who laid the stone was back.

This time, however, on an occasion positively groaning with top brass from all three Services, Prince Philip had another purpose.

Now the club's Patron-in-Chief, he was launching an appeal to fund a major conversion of its bedroom facilities.

As club chairman Maj Gen Laurie Gingell pointed out: "When the wing was opened, it met the standard of hotel bedroom accommodation at that time, with central bathroom and toilet facilities provided on each of the seven bedroom floors.

"Nowadays, the present generation of Servicemen and women and their families quite rightly expect much higher standards of bedroom accommodation, with en suite facilities, and our intention is to meet this demand."

The club's origins go back to 1907, when Mr J A Malcolm and Maj Rider-Haggard, brother of the author of *King Solomon's Mines*, founded it as

the Veterans Club. After a change of name to the Allenby Club after the First World War and a subsequent retitling as the Victory Ex-Services Club, the present name was adopted in 1970 when serving members of the Forces were admitted to membership.

The club's only other appeal for funds, which successfully led to its move from small premises in Holborn, was made

at the end of the Second World War. A new clubhouse was purchased and established in the old Connaught Club in the Edgware Road, which had been extensively used during the war as a club for American Servicemen.

The memorial wing, completed in 1956, added 102 bedrooms, including 59 twin rooms which could be used by married couples.

But now, amid a flurry of drilling and plastering, both the original premises and the wing are being refurbished.

"When someone walks in, they can't see the hidden improvements such as the completely new central heating boilers and roof, but that's all part of the £2½m programme which has gradually been bringing us right up to date over the past ten years," said general manager Graham Taylor.

What is immediately apparent is the smart new entrance hall, officially opened by Prince



Warm welcome from reception manageress Joanne Sardo. "I like to think it is a friendly, come-and-go-as-you-please atmosphere, and people seem to appreciate the comparative privacy and anonymity," she says



Victory Club general manager Graham Taylor

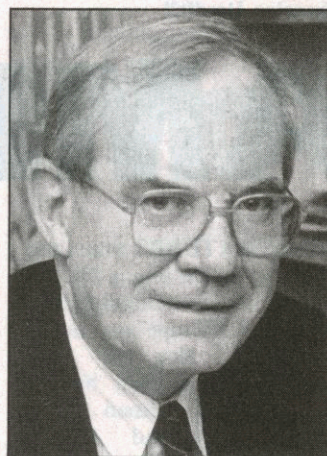
Philip in February on his first visit to the club since 1987, replacing its "badly arranged, poorly lit" predecessor which didn't give the right impression of coming into a club, Mr Taylor added.

The two-year, £80,000 refurbishment programme for the 130 single bedrooms in the old clubhouse is being paid for out of the trading surplus.

New furniture, made by the club's head of maintenance, was fitted in 60 of the rooms last year and new doors and locks were recently put in, starting on the fifth floor and working down to the second.

Work on altering the first 14 bedrooms in the memorial wing began on March 1 and will take six months.

The £250,000 project, funded by loans from all three Services and donations, will involve converting rooms verti-



Busy man: functions manager Gavin Edwards

cally through seven floors to provide two double en suite bedrooms on each floor.

Completion of 42 additional bedrooms, at a cost of £750,000, is due to start next year – and that is where Prince Philip's plea, aimed at the assembled throng of Colonels Commandant and Colonels of corps and regiments and other senior serving and retired members of the Royal Navy and Royal Air Force, came in.

"Our tri-Service council feels it would go against the aims of the club of providing good inexpensive accommodation and food if we were to increase our charges," said Mr Taylor, a former Welsh Guards captain.

"But without doing so, we will be unable to raise the money for the second phase – hence the appeal."

Like the hotel and catering industry, the club has been



Long-serving housekeeper Mary McCarthy in one of the old clubhouse's bedrooms. Like the Union Jack Club, many of the rooms have been endowed by units and individuals – and the Victory is looking for more ...



Truly tri-Service: members of the RAF Association enjoy a pre-meeting lunch in the grill room. The room was donated by a Royal Navy charity



Members relax in the Berenice Clarke Room, refurbished as a result of her legacy. It includes a well-stocked library

affected in terms of occupancy by the recession over the past two years – mainly due to a drop in its 8,000 overseas members, from Australia, New Zealand, Canada and the United States, who have been hit by poor exchange rates.

"All the same, our laundry suppliers, for example, continue to be surprised at how much we turn over in comparison with hotels. But by our standards it's been comparatively quiet," said Graham Taylor, who was the club's secretary for two years until becoming general manager four years ago.

Membership of the £10-a-year club, where it is feasible for a private to find himself under the same roof as a general, a bishop or an earl, currently stands at 43,000.

"We are open seven days a week, 24 hours a day," said

reception manageress Joanne Sardo, the club's longest-serving member of staff. She has been there 38 years.

Things have changed out of all recognition since she first arrived, in the days when the club had three beds to a room, dormitory-style.

And, as a result of requests from widows and widowers of past members, who would not normally travel to London alone, a recent development has been the introduction of a temporary guest scheme which allowed non-members such as their brothers and sisters to stay overnight.

And what about the other residential establishment for the Services, based a few miles across the river?

"I have never really felt that the Union Jack Club and this club were in direct competition with one another," said

Graham Taylor.

"London is big enough for both of us and we have very good relations with them. In fact, one of my own regimental reunions takes place there. The main difference is that if you were to visit them on any day you would see many more younger Service men and women around."

The Union Jack has somewhat more accommodation facilities, he admitted, but the Victory Services Club had a greater capacity for private functions.

Like Graham Taylor, functions manager Gavin Edwards had never set foot in the Victory Services Club before taking up his post.

But these days he hardly has a chance to pause for breath.

A major with the maritime branch of the RCT until his retirement in 1989, Mr Ed-

wards is constantly amazed at the variety of the meetings, functions, seminars and private dinners which he is asked to arrange in the club's rooms.

At any time, the El Alamein Room (donated by the Eighth Army), the Grill Room (given by King George's Fund For Sailors on behalf of the Royal Navy), the Trafalgar Room or any number of smaller rooms might be occupied by a whole range of organisations.

The casual visitor is just as likely to stumble across a reunion of the Malayan Campaign Officers Association – working their way through a serving of groundnut chop stew for old times' sake – as an avid crowd of philatelists.

Not to mention the Punch Club (meet once a month, drink punch made up of two bottles of Scotch to 20 of barley wine, always eat steak and kidney pudding).

Three times a year the club bulges at the seams. For Burma Star Remembrance weekend and Cavalry weekend it is packed tight.

Otherwise, with the Club's lease secure until the middle of the next century, he has only one other problem.

"The trouble with organisations is that they always want to come on a Saturday. If there were two Saturdays in a week I'd be happy."

Perhaps the Magic Circle, who meet regularly in the El Alamein Room, could do something about that ...

The soldiers who are staying on

THE BACKBONE of the British Army in Hong Kong will remain when the island and New Territories are returned to mainland China in 1997.

They are the men of the Hong Kong Military Service Corps (HKMSC), which has 1,100 regular soldiers working for the British Army on 22-year contracts.

Highly respected for their steady application to mainly administrative tasks, they have been described by one Commander British Forces as "the silver thread which runs through the fabric of the garrison".

Their commanding officer, Lt Col Richard Illingworth, 4/7 DG, admits that he, like many in the British Army, did not know of their existence before his posting. Now, he is high in praise of soldiers who compare favourably with Gurkha and British troops in the support

role they are given in transport, signals and administrative areas.

"They are diamonds," he said. "I have had more grade A distinctions in their courses than I had ever heard of before I came to Hong Kong, and there are more Long Service and Good Conduct Medals than in any other unit in the British Army."

Col Illingworth attributed their performance to the continual Chinese search for intellectual achievement. They go through the same selection process as used in the United Kingdom before completing their recruit training at Stonecutters Island. The only concession is that their package is adjusted to allow for the fact that English is their second language. They do their specialist training in the UK.

British officers and NCOs comment on the patience of the

Chinese soldiers and their willingness to wait for promotion.

"They have old fashioned values. If you give your spoken word it is as valid as the written," said Col Illingworth.

His depot adjutant, training major, RSM, RQMS and chief clerk at HQ and Depot HKMSC, Stonecutters Island, are all British. They never see their regiment on parade, because after training the soldiers are posted to 27 different units within Hong Kong garrison.

Not all are employed on administrative duties. The Defence and Animal Support Unit has 196 men looking after security and searching for illegal immigrants.

Three landing craft manned by 27 men in 415 Mixed Troop RCT are in service seven days a week for the garrison and headquarters. For some years

the troop has had an additional job - moving Vietnamese refugees between various camps to give them a change of location.

Some of the 245 Chinese in the Queen's Own Gurkha Transport Regiment had an exciting change of scenery when they deployed to Cyprus in 1991 as part of the United Nations Force. The detachment was exceptional and the only time that HKMSC members have served outside Hong Kong.

The Chinese are reluctant to leave home, and are not the keenest at rushing over hills, said the depot adjutant, Maj Ian Chapman, Para, nor are they employed for that.

"They are incredible at organising, getting things done and doing all the nitty gritty writing and preparation which British soldiers don't like."

Living locally, the Chinese do not have to be accommodated or fed. They are a much cheaper option than posting in UK troops to carry out administrative tasks. In particular, Dragon Company's 120 soldiers take a lot of weight on their shoulders by guarding the garrison area. Their cycle is a day training, a day on guard and a day off.

The Army took an early decision to commission from the ranks in Hong Kong, and this career structure has been a strength.

Another advantage is the Depot's life-long involvement with its soldiers. "They can join an excellent association when they leave, and when they die we help bury them as well if that's what they want," said Lt Col Illingworth.

Their resettlement team has a record which counterparts in Europe must envy. Run by an officer and warrant officer, it has a 100 per cent record for placing HKMSC personnel in jobs. Members of the team visit employers and invite them to meet the soldiers, who then

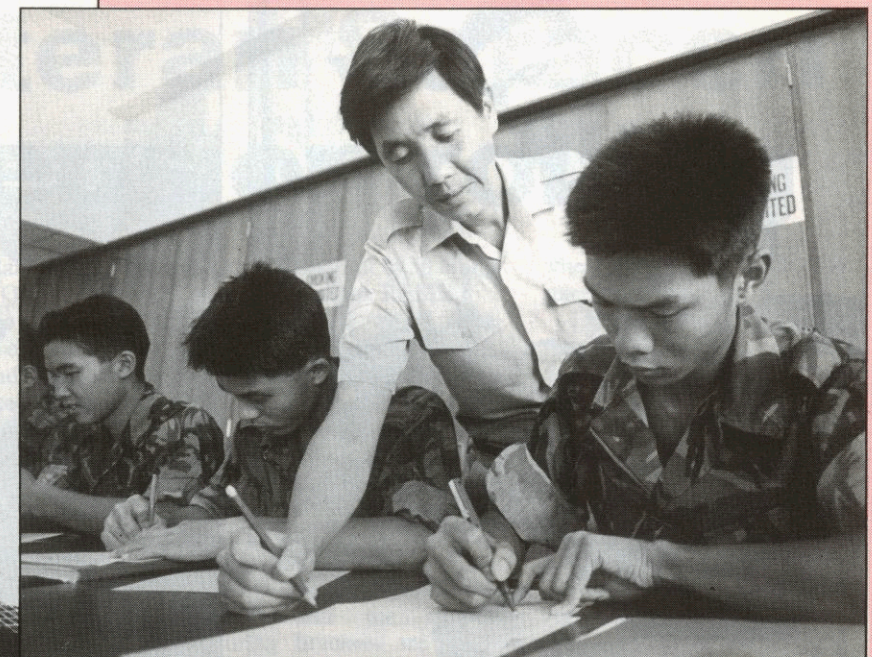


Assault courses are more tiring when it is hot and humid

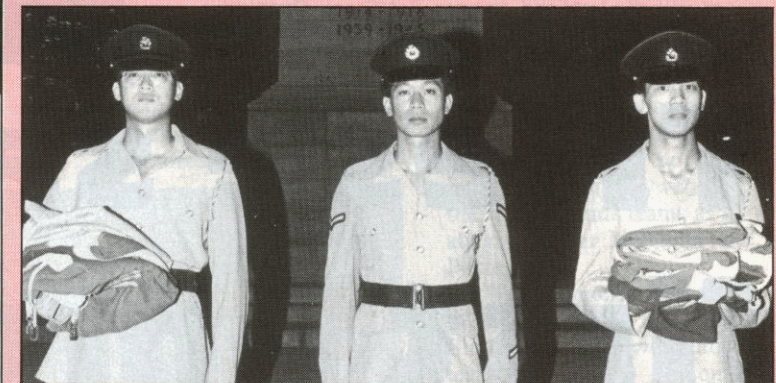
carry out six-month resettlement courses with the firms.

This is increasingly important because these loyal Chinese pose a delicate problem. When the corps ceases to exist in 1997, only 160 of its members will be given British passports, a fact which angers their commanding officer.

"I think it is quite wrong how we treat them on the nationality issue. They are first and foremost British soldiers, who happen to live in Hong Kong. Quite a lot of them want to move away because they are worried for themselves and their families. The Chinese have so much to offer us that we will very much be the poorer after 1997."



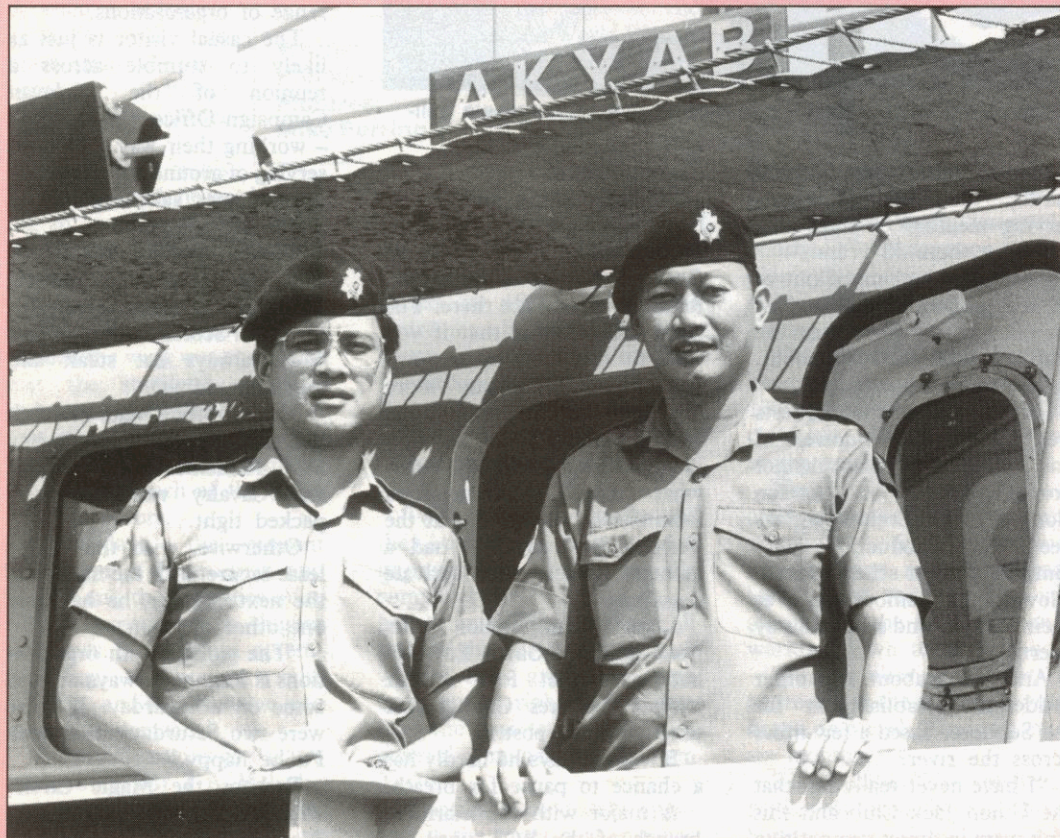
SSgt Wa Hoi Fai, RAEC, instructs at the Education Centre



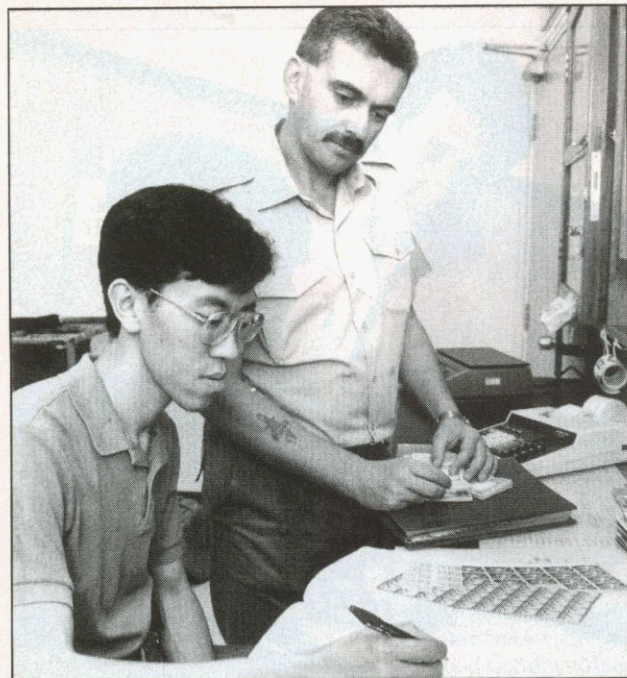
Pte Wu Kim Wan, LCpl Wai Ching Yeung and Pte Tse Wing Chung carry out the Volunteers' duty of raising and lowering the flags at HMS Tamar and the cenotaph



Cpl Wong supervises Pte Ng Lun, RCT on the range



Sgt Wong Kai Tat and Cpl To Sin Kay of 415 Maritime Troop



Above - Post Office counter Clerk Winston Wong Lai is a wizard with figures and amazes Sgt Frank Cann
Right - Spr Keda Goby, Robert Ng and LCpl Doug Jones sort the post



These sappers rank first among posties

ASE knows the answers

IF NOBODY else can deal with a military problem in Hong Kong, give it to the Army Support Element to sort out...

A minor unit tasked with administering HQ British Forces, its duties are as diverse as administering the General's house and organising the leave centre.

Dealing with Gurkha and Chinese elements is an additional factor for Maj Lynne Davies as effective Camp Commandant at HQ British Forces in HMS Tamar.

With 43 military and 65 civilian personnel, the ASE has to deal with all the administration and documentation necessary for HQ pay, military training, discipline and welfare as well as flights to locations such as Brunei and Nepal.

The Garrison Sergeant Major, WO Mick Franks of the Coldstream Guards during the SOLDIER team's visit, is always heavily involved in protocol.



Garrison Sergeant Major Mick Franks, Coldstream Guards, with Sgt Cho Sheung Tsang of the Hong Kong Military Service Corps, who retires this year after 22 years' service

THERE IS a certain majesty to the expression "BFPO 1". The posties of 24 Postal and Courier Squadron, Royal Engineers, who became members of the Royal Logistic Corps this month, man BFPO 1 in Hong Kong and cover a massive area from Nepal and the middle of India to Korea, and south to Brunei.

This represents greater distances than London to America or North Africa to Inverness but the sappers boast that a letter posted in a Hong Kong Field Post Office at 3 pm will be with the GPO in the United Kingdom by eight the following morning.

An admiral in Surrey was staggered recently to receive a letter two days after it was posted in South Korea.

With two officers, 20 other ranks and seven civilians, Maj Howard Hughes, OC, aims to provide exactly the same standard of service to the Serviceman or woman, dependant or government agency that is enjoyed in the UK for almost the same price.

There are two facets to the operation: postal and courier. For the secure movement of classified and diplomatic mail 24 PCS works in parallel with the 38 Foreign and Commonwealth Queen's Messengers. Once a fortnight the Queen's Messenger, often an ex-Serviceman, flies to Hong Kong and then on to Thailand and Nepal. The following week he goes to Brunei. Korea is covered by the FCO, while the sappers cover Kathmandu and Bangkok for the FCO.

Closest to the Serviceman's heart are the letters to and from home, 6,000 miles away. Air mail is dispatched from the UK to Hong Kong and Thailand six days a week, and three times to Brunei, Korea and Nepal.

All mail flights are met by a member of the unit and bags are sorted at the Command Distribution Office in Osborn Barracks.

Normal civil airmail from the UK is processed by the Postal and Courier Depot at Mill Hill in London for sorting before dispatch.

Veteran Saracen keeps on rolling

THE LAST Saracen repair section, at the Queen's Own Gurkha Transport Regiment Workshop, has one sergeant, one corporal and five locally employed Chinese to keep the depleting fleet on the road.

The few remaining spares are pooled at Gun Hill Barracks, but the vehicle mechanics do more reconditioning and repairing than replacing, said Capt Philip Hall.

"Our Chinese workforce is very industrious and makes what is needed rather than rely on spares backup," he said.

The unit maintains the QOGTR vehicles to first line level only, and anything with a "down time" of more than

eight hours is sent to 50 Hong Kong Workshop REME.

The Saracen, which came into service in the 1950s, has had countless modifications and taken a lot of punishment in many internal security situations. Though the vehicle is very reliable it is showing its age, said Cpl Blatch Blatchford, recovery section NCO.

"The roads are not all that smooth and the battery securing brackets are snapping off, so we are putting in another modification. We have also got problems with the electrics. The rain hatches aren't waterproof so moisture drips onto the control panels and switches. The humidity also affects components -

when the damp gets in they start furring up."

The Leyland 6x6 heavy recovery vehicle is another venerable friend and has hauled many a breakdown home. "We are a graveyard for old recovery vehicles," said SSgt Bill Bone, of 60 HKWksp, affectionately. "It is not the quickest of vehicles and manages only about 28mph downhill, but it has a very good 15-ton winch."

Almost all the unit's work involves roadside recovery.

The majority of the 200 personnel in the workshop are locally employed and look after all three Services. The unit also has a remit to service vehicles in other countries. Where there are no local facilities for embassy vehicles, the REME sends teams as far afield as Outer Mongolia and Peking.

"We also sponsor an annual exercise called Himalayan Bluebell, where we send a team to Nepal to go round hospitals in outlying areas to repair equipment," said the OC, Maj David Egan.

"It is a case of spending six weeks trekking round the hills with a toolbox in hand."

Maj Egan was rueful about the high standard of his Chinese workforce.

"They take great pride in their work and will spend a lot of time getting it just perfect. But we are costed every last minute of the day, and not every job needs to be turned out as Rolls-Royce quality. Sometimes the standard of their work is so immaculate you would never know a vehicle had been in for repair. I don't think you will find better workmanship anywhere."



Cpl Blatch Blatchford checks a Saracen with SSgt Rambahadur Thapa and Dvr Ranouddim Rai

An important aspect of the squadron's work is dealing with post for the Gurkhas, whose parcel mail is a particularly busy aspect of squadron life as it must all be flown to Nepal.

As well as providing postage stamps, the six FPO counters sell stamps for TV licences, process vehicle road fund licences and postal orders and

have a facility to cash cheques.

The Chinese civilians who work in the Service post offices display astonishing mental accounting skills. With exchange rates fluctuating wildly and the Fixed Forces Rate having to be changed each week, Maj Hughes is amazed at how they keep track.

"They are absolutely marvel-

lous," he said. "I can check their books at any time and they are never out. They have such phenomenal memories that they can round each customer up or down to compensate for the previous customer."

"I honestly don't know how they do it. They must have a balance sheet in their heads!"

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SM 93/3

Crete medal details not quite right

AS HONORARY General-Secretary of the UK Crete Veterans Association I feel it necessary to submit a correction to the letter from Brian H Hughes, headed "Crete Medal fight lasts 25 years" (March 8).

The UKCVA has certainly not been fighting officialdom for 25 years. It was not formed until August 1984.

Prior to this, the small group who brought the UKCVA into being were only aware of the Greek Medal during the pilgrimage they made to Crete in 1981.

The information was furnished by the then British Military Attaché Athens and, as a consequence, we started negotiating with the various bodies. From this you will gather contact with officialdom was not more than 12 years ago.

Suez Bar is the answer

LACK OF a Suez Medal (1951-53) seems a bit of a raw deal.

In my case, and that of many others involved in the Suez Crisis 1956, I would have been satisfied with a Bar to my GSM. Bars seem to have been granted for other hot-spots, but not for that one. - D Wilson, Leeds.

THERE is a difference in our asking for a medal for the Suez Emergency 1951-53 and other brother organisations' requests to get special recognition for, say, Gallipoli, Dunkirk, Crete and Bomber Command.

They all got one medal - what they want is a supplementary.

A soldier serving in Suez (on active service, mark you) for up to three years covering that period got nothing. That is what gives our demand its unique quality. - C L Golder, Bolton.

In respect of the Greek Commemorative Medal (the correct title), I would advise this is now being awarded, albeit slowly, and application forms may be obtained from the Greek Embassy, 1A Holland Park, London W11 3TP.

I must stress that every application must be accompanied by a certified Record of Service obtainable from the MoD Records Office, and this must state clearly that the applicant has served in Crete/Greece, or in Cretan/Greek waters, or in the air over Crete/Greek during the specified period.

Unless this is stated on the certified Record of Service an application will be rejected by the Greek authorities. - Vincent Williams (Hon Gen-Sec, The UK Crete Veterans Association), Birmingham.

● Letters to the Editor should be brief, with proper names in capitals, and may be edited for space reasons. They should be accompanied by the correspondent's name and address, not necessarily for publication.

Pearls of wisdom...

H J TIPPING (Letters, January 11) queried the number of "rubies" on the Sovereign's Crown.

The "Army Flag" which was designed by Capt H Oakes-Jones and submitted to CLRD for approval on May 10, 1938 shows nine pearls on either side and five pearls down the centre.

The original drawing was presented by me to the RCT Regimental Museum in December 1981 for safe custody.

Up to December 1958 the badge was incorporated in the design of the front cover of SOLDIER. - J N Rogerson, Orpington, Kent.

BIRD'S EYE-VIEW



"Best we can do now the band has gone"

● See Rodney Bashford column - Page 39

GALLANTRY-FOR-ALL MEDALS ARE NEEDED

THE Prime Minister's courage, in insisting on the removal of rank distinctions from military bravery awards, is timely.

At present this country stands alone in maintaining a system which grants different awards based solely on the rank of the hero, rather than on his deeds!

Perhaps one further step is needed. Since the Victoria

Cross and the Mention in Despatches have always been available to all ranks of all three services - in all conditions, at sea, on land, in the air - dependent only on the level of bravery displayed, should he not insist on just two new awards, one to each of the two middle levels of gallantry, available to all members of the Services?

If this concept of change is accepted, it will do much to foster mutual understanding and inter-Service comradeship-in-arms which, in conflict, is the very basis of success. - Brig J S Ryder, Radlett, Herts.

Kicked into touch

I REFER to your sports page photograph headed "RHA's six of the best" (March 22).

The caption begs the question, "Is this something of a record", referring to six 7 RHA players having represented the Army rugby XV this season.

I'm afraid it's fairly small coal. In the 1979-80 Inter-Services matches against the RAF and Navy, The Royal Regiment of Wales provided no

fewer than seven of the actual Army XV, with a player on the reserve bench.

They were A'Hearne (wing), Rees (centre), Kaged (scrum half), Williams and Jenkins (props), Runtle (lock), Prosser (No 8); Goddard (reserves' bench).

Sorry 7, you have some way to go yet. - Maj R J Wiseman RWF, Army Training Regiment Lichfield, Whittington Barracks, Lichfield, Staffs.

WITH regard to recent correspondence, the old 16th Foot, Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment had fought in nine wars since its formation in 1688, but strangely enough until 1881 carried no battle honours on its colours.

This injustice was rectified, and two years later the regiment's service in Marlborough's battles was recognised and similarly, in 1910, service in the wars of the League of Augsburg in 1695.

The eagle of the French 62nd (SOLDIER, December 14) was captured by the 44th, Essex

Let's put the boot into poor old Nessie

I WAS sure there would be an April Fools' story in your April 5 issue and so read each article carefully. In the end I came up with two candidates.

The first was "New boots, combats unveiled", describing kit which, though it might be quite useful in field conditions, would be totally impractical for barrack wear or drill purposes.

The second was the full-page article about the Loch Ness Monster. This looked more believable, but the diver in the photograph appears to be superimposed.

So come on, Editor, come clean - which one was it? - Lt S K N Neilson RHKR, Rowledge, Surrey.

● We all seem to have been fooled. It hadn't occurred to us that the diver in the Loch Ness Monster picture was a fake. - Editor

WHAT depths have you sunk to this year? I am certain you would not wish readers to swallow "hook, line and sinker" your messy "Nessie" story as the 1993 April Fools' joke!

Having said that, keep up the good work - I always enjoy reading SOLDIER. - Alec Coleman, Whitefield, Manchester.

EAGLES AND BUTTONS

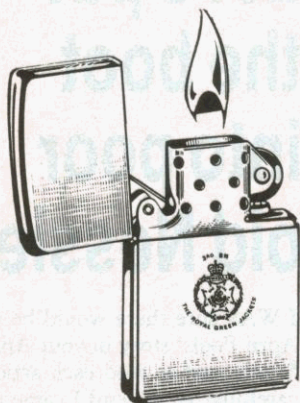
Regiment. In July 1915 this regiment found itself close to the French 62nd and the French CO was so interested in the history of the eagle worn on the button of the British officers' service jackets that he was given one as a souvenir.

I became a SOLDIER reader when in Germany with 30 Corps at the end of the last war and pass on my old copies to an ex-Eighth Army sapper friend in South Africa.

No doubt he in turn hands them on, so the magazine certainly gets around - G Ewens, Morden, Surrey.

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Miniature General Service Cross in Silver £14.00



We're all entitled to use the NHS

SERVICE personnel and their families stationed in the United Kingdom are entitled to full use of the National Health Service in the same way as any other citizen.

Their entitlement is not affected by the fact that the Armed Forces operate their own Defence Medical Services.

Personnel stationed overseas are in a different position. If sent home for treatment in the NHS, the bill goes to the Department

of Health for payment as if they were EC residents being treated under reciprocal arrangements.

This provides for Service personnel to obtain normal NHS treatment. If they require any special form of consideration they would have to look in the first instance to a military hospital.

But Service families returning to the UK from overseas postings may not be aware that medicine in the community has under-

gone something of a revolution in recent years.

Some general practitioners are now fund-holders, with ready access to a variety of local medical services. This could determine the length of a waiting list for any given treatment.

According to the NHS, Service personnel are provided with dental treatment in about 95 per cent of cases by Service dental officers or, on occasions, by MoD-employed dentists.

Exceptions to this rule

relate to personnel stationed at small and often remote units located at considerable distance from Service dental centres.

Arrangements for this group of patients are made with local practitioners. Treatment is given under NHS rules, with patients' contributions being met by the Services.

Families are usually treated like any other civilians. If they find it difficult to find a dentist prepared to provide NHS

treatment they should contact their local Family Health Services Authority for advice.

If they still draw a blank, they should contact the local District Health Authority for the address of the nearest Community Dental Services clinic. These clinics have a statutory responsibility to provide a "safety net" NHS dental service for patients unable or unwilling to obtain treatment within the general dental services.

You can still rely on Aunty

DESPITE the closure of the Joint Service Air Trooping Centre detachment at St Pancras on March 15, the company which was employed to escort Service children travelling via Luton is still very much in business.

Among the personal services provided by Universal Aunts Limited is the escorting of overseas-based children between airports and schools in the United Kingdom.

Universal Aunts is still available for any parents who wish to use it in a private capacity. It can be contacted at any time on 071-498 8200, or from Germany 00 44 71 498 8200.

The use of special trains between St Pancras and Luton ceased last month, since when all passengers using the North West Europe Air Trooping Service have had to make their own way to and from Luton, either using normal British Rail scheduled services or

under their own arrangements.

Service passengers have a number of options for outward bound flights to Germany, remembering always to check in well in advance of the flight according to the reporting instructions:

- Direct to Luton Airport;
- To JSTAC Detachment, Luton BR station, from where they will be moved by coach.

Many mainline services operate direct to the north from Luton BR. Details can be obtained from any BR station or BR's UK Helpline on 0800 590962.

Parents may make use of an arrangement agreed by JSATC Stanbridge under which children delivered or collected by schools as a group will be cared for until their flights depart. The arrangements should be made through schools who can liaise direct with JSATC Stanbridge on 05254 372217 ext 2280 or 2281.

Wives' guide to be updated

THE LATEST edition of *Wives Guide to the Army* has just been published – and already it is out of date!

Although it was revised two years ago, the colourful and "reader-friendly" guide now needs urgent amendments if it is to be of any value to wives.

Unfortunately the printing and distribution of the "up-dated" version took so long that a number of

chapters need to be revised again.

Rigid deadlines have been set for the 1993 guide to be edited and compiled, and the new version is expected to be available for distribution by July 16 at the latest. If any wives wish to comment on the content or format of the booklet, they should contact the Federation of Army Wives as soon as possible.

IN MY ...

Abuse of command

I AM SADDENED to discover that someone in authority has informed and reprimanded the Service husband of a wife who contacted me in confidence for advice.

Such occurrences are extremely disquieting.

In these enlightened times it is surely better for an anxious wife to approach me rather than bottle up the problem – or go to the tabloids.

My subsequent actions were carried out in confidence and involved checking the information I eventually passed to Mrs X.

I understand that an investigation was mounted to find out who had contacted me. While I accept that the source of my information was of interest to the authority in question, I find it hard to believe that action could have been taken against the husband.

As a result of the reprimand he was given, he asked that the issue be dropped.

Our government has taken a stand on freedom of information for its citizens. Let's hope that message eventually gets through to this particular link in the chain of command.

...VIEW

HOUSE PACK SAYS IT ALL

ANY SERVICE family looking for housing is strongly advised to read the Army's wide-ranging Housing Information Pack at the earliest opportunity.

Issued by the Joint Service Housing Advice Office, at HQ UKLF, the guide is available from JSHAO (tel: 0722 336222 ext 8350/8351/8355 or Salisbury Mil plus extension), HIVES, the Federation of Army Wives, Action and Support Teams, the Families Housing and Welfare Service and the offices of local housing commandants.

It contains comprehensive information on a wide

range of housing topics, from the use of vacant MQs and the sale of discounted quarters, to irregular occupancy, the rights of homeless people, shared ownership, self-build, the Home Savings Scheme and assistance available from SSAFA.

Benefit clock goes back

REDUNDEES were told that those who amended their leaving date after being informed of redundancy would re-start their six-month "clock" for ineligibility for unemployment benefit. The MoD has now been advised by the

Department of Employment that it would be unfair to penalise those who changed their date of leaving.

The six-month rule means no one would be eligible for unemployment benefit until August 26.

CATCH THE PS SHOW – ON VIDEO

FOR THOSE who miss the excellent Personal Services Roadshow, a two-hour long video is now available.

Made by SSVC, it is designed to get the PS message across to locations or individuals who have been unable to see the roadshow team in action.

Self-contained sections of the video are devoted to jobs, housing, financial affairs, coping with stress, and support and welfare.

Groups watching the video are strongly advised to have a short break between sections. They, of course, have the chance to re-run items of particular interest.

Wives have taken a keen interest in the PS Roadshow, and units putting on the video for redundees should make sure spouses are invited. In some cases they will be the breadwinner until new jobs are found.

It is hoped that the video, which includes a foreword by the Adjutant General and input by the Director of Personnel (Army), will be an informative prompt to forward planning by those leaving the Army.

SOLDIER
to Soldier

Hicks Associates.

The commission proved quite a challenge, even for a firm which claims that it can "cope with any suggestion thrown at it", from model helicopters to small pieces of ordnance, and whose owner, one-time mechanical engineer David Hawkins, says: "We are always trying to update what we do."

Quality controller Tom Southern, a former sergeant at the School of Infantry, has used his extensive military knowledge to the full in his eight years with the company.

"There are so many different styles in the Army, from the 'poacher' for the Royal Anglians to the 'panther' for the Royal Engineers, not forgetting the huge 'Minden Man' for HQ 11 Armoured Division or the 'climber' for the School of Adventurous Training."

The small team at the studio, hidden away off a country road, is currently working on a project with a UN theme.

Picture: Mike Perring

656 jubilee
celebrated
in silver

CENTREPIECE of 656 Squadron AAC's more earth-bound commemorations of its golden jubilee this year is this magnificent chinthee – a type of Thai dragon – commissioned by the squadron from Wiltshire silversmith Peter

Deserted
bastions

AN EXHIBITION which illustrates, among other examples of defence architecture, long-established barracks and drill halls under current or future threat, is to be held in London.

Organised by SAVE Britain's Heritage, the exhibition, "Deserted Bastions", will be at the RIBA Heinz Gallery, Portman Square, from April 29 to June 5. Tel: 071-228 3336 for details.

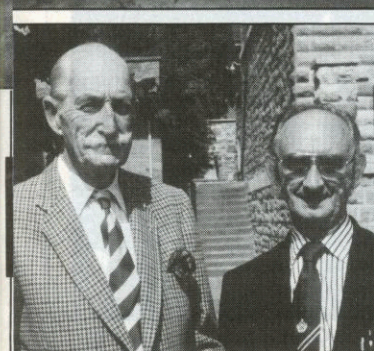
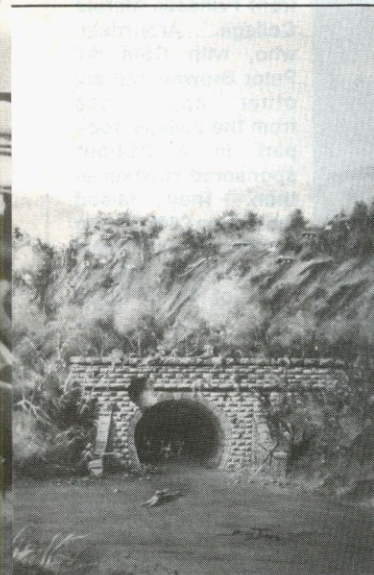
Mayu action
on canvas

SOUTH Wales Borderer Archie Jones has produced a painting depicting the first blood of the 6th Battalion, The South Wales Borderers, in Burma when it attacked the Mayu tunnels, and he won the Military Medal, during the long struggle through Arakan in 1944.

The painting was presented to the South Wales Borderers and Monmouthshire Regimental Museum of the Royal Regiment of Wales at Brecon on March 28,

"First Blood", the action at Mayu tunnels, Burma painted by Archie Jones MM (right), pictured with Lt Col Robin Cresswell, wartime CO of the 6th Battalion, The South Wales Borderers

and a full-sized reproduction in Tredegar council offices flanks an oak casket containing earth from the scene of the action which cost the lives of many young men from the valleys.

Tom accepts
Aden mission

TOM HAMBLIN first saw Christchurch, Aden soon after stepping off the troopship *Devonshire* in 1955. Built in 1863, it was an English parish church of great beauty, surrounded by trees, and familiar in passing to thousands of British Servicemen.

Thirty-eight years later he entered the church by climbing through a broken window to a floor knee deep in rubbish and filth covered by inches of pigeon droppings. All the stained glass – and the trees – are long gone.

Tom's mission, following contact between the Bishop of Cyprus and the fledgling democracy of the Yemen Republic, is to restore the building as a place of worship.

Some who remember the red slate-roofed church at Steamer Point, near the old Roman Catholic and Church of Scotland churches, may care to contribute towards the £60,000 restoration fund that Tom has initiated.

Donations (or just letters of encouragement) marked "for the church of Aden" should be sent to the Rt Rev John Brown, Diocese of Cyprus and the Gulf, 2 Grigori Afxentiou, PO Box 2075, Nicosia, Cyprus.

REUNIONS

● **159 (W) Fd Amb RAMC 1939-46:** Reunion to be held on April 21 at the Dolphin Hotel, Swansea. Details from F E Margetts, 41 Summerland Park, Upper Kilby, Swansea, W Glamorgan SA2 7HX.

● **1993 BAOR Artillery Clerks' Dinner** will take place in the WO's and Sgts' Mess, Moore Barracks, Dortmund, on Saturday April 24. Enquiries to WO2 (QMS(AC)) P Headford, 12 Regt RA, BFPO 20 (tel: Dortmund Mil 3577).

● **Royal Berkshire Regiment 250th anniversary:** Service of thanksgiving and dedication at Holy Trinity Garrison Church, Windsor on May 1 to mark the 250th anniversary of the regiment's formation in 1743. Widows and families welcome. Admission tickets from E Vicary, Hillcroft, School Road, Windlesham, Surrey (tel: 0276 472307).

● **Devonshire and Dorset Regiment:** Annual reunion, including march past and service of remembrance, takes place in Plymouth on May 8. Details from secretary of regimental association in RHQ Exeter (tel: 0392 410389).

● **1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards:** Regimental Association annual dinner takes place on May 8 at the Oval Banqueting Suite,

Kennington Oval, London SE11 5SS. Details from Maj (Retd) K D McMillan, Home HQ, QDG, Maindy Barracks, Cardiff CF4 3YE (tel: 0222 227611 ext 8213).

● **Cavalry Sunday:** Annual parade and service of Combined Cavalry Old Comrades, Cavalry Memorial, Hyde Park on May 9.

● **201 RCZ Workshop REME (V):** 22nd reunion takes place on May 15 at Chesford Grange Hotel, Kenilworth, Warwickshire. Details and application form from Ron Smith, 6 St John's Place, Waterloo, Liverpool L22 5NP (tel: 051-928 4493).

● **Royal Pioneer Corps Association:** Lunch at Duke of York's, Chelsea, June 5; Corps weekend and AGM, June 19-20. Details from RPC Association Secretary, 51 St George's Drive, London SW1V 4DE (tel: 071-834 0415).

● **7 Tank Transporter Regiment RCT:** Biennial reunion at Antwerp Barracks, Sennelager, June 18-20, to include intersquadron athletics. Details from the Adjutant, 7 Tk Tptr Regt RCT, BFPO 16 (tel: Sennelager Mil 2353) or AO 414 Tk Tptr Unit RCT (tel: Bulford Mil 2397).

● **Regimental Band of 17th/21st Lancers:** The pre-amalgamation reunion will take

place on June 19. Details from Band Sergeant Major WO2 W G Gunion, 17/21 L, Aliwal Barracks, Tidworth, Hants SP9 7AS (tel: 0980 46221).

● **El Adem Radio Service (TEARS):** Reunion on June 19 at Stakis Country Court Hotel, Northampton, to mark 35th anniversary of first broadcast. Ex-TEARS personnel based at RAF El Adem 1958-1970 are asked to contact John Moir, 27 Wilton Drive, Horndean, Waterlooville, Hants PO8 9QY (tel: 0705 595489).

● **Cambridgeshire Regiment OCA:** Annual memorial service at Ely Cathedral on June 20. Details and tea tickets from R Stubbings, 25 The Vineyards, Ely, Cambs (tel: 0353 663249).

● **Armourers and Artificers Weapon:** The annual reunion of the Armourers Association will be held on June 26 at the Victory Services Club, London. Details from W J Thorne, 33 Hereford Street, Presteigne, Powys LD8 2AT.

● **St Boniface, Rheindahlen:** All former St Boniface choir and congregation welcome to 1993 reunion on June 27 at Holy Trinity Church, Prince Consort Road, London SW7 (choir assembles 2pm). Details from A P M Hole, 39

Vogan Close, Reigate, Surrey RH2 8AT (tel: 0737 244001).

● **Hong Kong, Singapore, Ceylon and Pack Artillery Associations:** Combined reunion September 11 in Terminus Hotel, Eastbourne. Details from Cpl D A Knight, Ward 23, Royal Hospital, Chelsea, London SW3 4SR.

MILITARIA

● **Anthology of prayers:** J E G Murphy, The Cottage, Innings Road, Little Frieth, nr Henley, Oxon RG9 6NR is compiling an anthology of prayers written for specific purposes (Fisherman's Prayer, Motorist's Prayer etc) and seeks a Soldier's Prayer and any others connected with the Army.

● **Thekla 1945:** Mrs J M C Robinson, 141 Gloucester Terrace, London W2 6DX (tel: 071-402 4908) is researching the circumstances of an accident off the coast of Norway on September 1, 1945 when the *Thekla* blew up while German ammunition was being dumped at sea. One of those killed was SSgt David Cohen RAOC of No 6 Disarmament Team RAOC located at Begen and in charge of the ammo dumping party operating out of Floro.

SEARCHLINE

● **Tpr David Gilmour:** Mr Shore of 22 Minshall New Road, Crewe, Cheshire CW1 3PD is trying to trace Tpr David Gilmour, who served in Munster 1971-1972 and Tidworth 1972-1977.

● **Cpl Sam Storr:** 16 (Lincoln) Det 4 Para are in possession of a pewter plate that is engraved "Presented to Cpl Sam Storr by 3 Troop B Squadron QRIH". It came into this unit's possession from a garage where it was discovered under the seat of a vehicle. If Cpl Storr or any person with sufficient information would contact the Admin Officer, 16 (Lincoln) Coy, 4

Para, T Centre, Newport, Lincoln LN1 3DT (tel: 0522 524389), the plate will be returned to its owner.

● **Forces Broadcasting:** The British Forces Broadcasting Service (BFBS) is celebrating its 50th anniversary with an exhibition at the National Army Museum and wishes to contact all former members of ABS/FBS/BN and any Service men or women who have memories of Forces Broadcasting. Contact Alan Grace, SSVC, Chalfont Grove, Narcot Lane, Chalfont St Peter, Gerrards Cross, Bucks SL9 8TN (tel: 0494 874461).

DIARY

UNTIL MAY 26: Wednesday lunchtime lectures on nursing military history, Florence Nightingale Museum, 2 Lambeth Palace Road, London SE1 7EW.

UNTIL OCTOBER 15: Forces Sweethearts Exhibition, Imperial War Museum.

MAY

18: Public displays and beach assault by Commachio Gp RM, Combined Ops Museum, Cherry Park, Inveraray, Argyll.

29-31: Military Vehicle Trust "Overlord 93" rally on Southsea Common, Portsmouth.

30: Winchester Militaria Society exhibition and fair, The Guildhall, Winchester.

JUNE

8-10: Massed Bands of The Light Division Sound Retreat on Horse Guards Parade, London. Seats £3, £6, £8 from Horse Guards Project Office, HQ The Light Division, Sir John Moore Barracks, Winchester, Hants SO22 6HQ (tel: 0962 888220).

JULY

3: 1 Kings host Open Day to mark bicentenary of Cavalry Barracks, Hounslow (2pm to 6pm) with military music and displays, following presentation of Colours to 1 Kings the previous day.

10-16: Stoke Mandeville Challenge 93, first international ex-Service wheelchair games. Contact Jonathan Powell 071-973 0633.

20-31: 103rd Royal Tournament, Earls Court, hosted by the Royal Navy. Tickets available from box office on 071-373 0100.

AUGUST

1: Military Vehicle rally, Imperial War Museum, Duxford.

6-28: Edinburgh Military Tattoo (credit card and postal bookings from Booking Office, 22 Market Street, Edinburgh EH1 1QB (tel: 031-225 1188)).

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

APPOINTMENTS

Brigadier – C F Drewry – To MoD, March 22.

Lt Cols – L G A Clarke RAMC – To RAM College, April 3; R A Bencini RAMC – To New Territories Gp Practice, April 7; C M James RADC – To 3 Dental Gp, April 5; J B Kennedy QARANC – To Depot and Trg Centre QARANC, April 1; H W G Lantos RAMC – To HQ Wales and WDist, March 29; J R Barnes RCT – To MoD, Jan 25; W G Dover RCT – To FRG MoD, March 22; N B Josling RAOC – To MoD, March

26; D A Lynam, R Signals – To be CO 21 Sig Regt, March 22; A R R McAslan RE – To be CO Cardiff UOTC, March 22; M F Richardson, D and D – To be CO London UOTC, March 24; R W Ewence RA – To RA Gunnery Trg Estab, March 22.

RETIREMENTS

Colonels – J Bradshaw, late RAMC, April 11; K D Printer, late RAMC, April 29.

Lt Cols – K Thilagarajah RAMC, April 31.

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Soldiers clean up comically

SOLDIERS in fancy dress – a smart line in skirts was much in evidence! – from the **Shrewsbury Army Headquarters** raised more than £270 for Comic Relief by doing a mass car wash in Cophorne Barracks.

Among those involved were Cpl Kevin Palmer, Pte Kevin Kelly, Pte David Green and Pte Linda Harvie.

★ ★ ★

When LCpl Paul Durning of **21 Brigade Support Squadron** of the new Royal Logistic Corps, won £250 in a raffle he was also given £250 for a charity, so he donated it to help Reece, the two-year-old son of SSgt John and Michelle Dodd.

Reece has cerebral palsy and requires regular treatment in Cardiff. He has also been to Budapest for help.

The squadron, which is part of 3 Close Support Regiment, already uses the title RLC, and is based at Dalton Barracks, Abingdon.

★ ★ ★

Jailbreak 93, a challenging and fun event, takes place on May 29 and 30. The challenge, organised by Camberley-based organisation Disability Initiative, is for teams of two people to leave Camberley Police



Right on cue for a charitable contribution were these lads from Princess Marina College, Arborfield, who, with CSM AT Peter Browne and six other apprentices from the college, took part in a 24-hour sponsored snooker-athon. They raised more than £300 for the "Children with hearing problems" department of West Wood Farm School, Tilehurst in the process

Station in Surrey and travel as far as possible, using only specific items, including just £10 cash per team, and any legal means of transport, reporting back to the start point 30 hours later with proof of destinations. Sponsors and donations will be invaluable.

Details: David Wadey or Mike Conway, tel: 0276 676302.

★ ★ ★

More than £1,600 has been raised for an orphanage in Split, Croatia, by TA soldiers from the South West and the Headquarters staff of Exeter-based **43 (Wessex) Brigade**.

The money has been used by Maj Simon Smith, a staff officer detached from brigade HQ to the British forces in Bosnia, to ensure that the 80 children living there – many of whom lost their parents in the civil war – are clothed and the orphanage equipped with toys and furniture.

Other units have joined Maj Smith's efforts, including members of the Royal En-



Smiling swimmers: left to right, back row Capt Sue Haughie, LCpl Brenda Webb, front row LCpl Shannon Ludden, LCpl Helen Coates, Pte Dorothy Mills

gineers, who, among other projects, will build a play area and refurbish the plumbing.

★ ★ ★

Beneficiaries of a sum of more than £600 raised by a team of five female TA Fusiliers from **HQ Company, 6th (Northumberland) Battalion, The Royal Regiment of**

Fusiliers, will be British Red Cross, NSPCC, The Spastics Society and the Sports Council.

Based at Longbenton, Newcastle, the girls – who were taking part in the nationwide British Telecom Swimathon '93 – completed the 5,000m swim in 2hr 8min 53secs.

★ ★ ★

Another intrepid swimmer

Simon set for Star-dom in Grand Canyon

FALKLANDS veteran Simon Weston is to join a team of British soldiers, including four women, who are undertaking an Army adventure training expedition to the Grand Canyon in June to raise funds for the Royal Star and Garter Home in Surrey.

The team, which is from the **Army Catering Corps, Royal Corps of Transport and Adjutant General's Corps** based in London, and will include some apprentices from Aldershot, will cycle 700 miles in non-stop relays from Moab in Utah to the Hoover Dam.

Since the ACC and RCT amalgamated earlier this month, this will be the first expedition by their new corps, the **Royal Logistic Corps**.

Team leaders are Capt Andy Jackson (ACC) and Sgt "Brad" Braddock, a PTI who helped the home last year when he trained some of its members taking part in an assault course challenge.

"I was very impressed with the Royal Star and Garter



The "Crazy Cockney Canyon Team" with Simon Weston and 82-year-old Royal Star and Garter resident Bill Knight

Home, and I can't think of a more worthy cause for us, as serving soldiers, to support," said Brad.

When Simon Weston, an enthusiastic supporter of the home's fund-raising activities for the past two years, heard of the ride, he immediately volunteered to take part.

"The Star and Garter is very dear to my heart," he said. "It

needs in excess of £3 million every year just to survive, and in addition we are also looking for funds to carry out an urgently needed refurbishment programme."

Capt Jackson, Sgt Braddock and their fellow cyclists will be doing their bit, on two wheels, to contribute.

● Support for the event can be given by sending a donation

to sponsor the team; by donating unwanted Air Miles which can be used to defray the cost of flights to the United States for Simon Weston to join the Army team; by donating unwanted American dollars which the team can use for their daily expenses while on the tour; or by enlisting the support of friends and family, the home says.

Better way to give

ANYONE employed by the Ministry of Defence can give to charity through the Payroll Giving Scheme; the most tax efficient method of making donations to any charity of your choice and in particular those closest to you such as the Army Benevolent Fund.

Under the scheme, anyone may complete a Charity Choice Form and ask that the donation, from £1 a month upwards, be deducted from their monthly salary and passed to their chosen charity. The donation is

deducted from salary before the calculation of tax.

Under Payroll Giving the whole £1 will go to the charity; under the MoD scheme the collection cost will be 3.7 per cent or lower of the donation, much cheaper than other methods of collection.

The forms to make your choice can be obtained from your local pay office but if you have difficulty in obtaining them write to South West Charitable Giving, Churchtown, Peter Tavy, Tavistock, Devon PL19 9NN.

have been supporting this cause since 1988, providing instructors and equipment free of charge.

★ ★ ★

In what they claimed to be the first ever British Army military aid to the civil community (MACC) task, 53 men from **39 Engineer Squadron, Royal Engineers**, have been helping to give the town of Griefswald in eastern Germany a new look.

Almost half of the town's 70,000 population live in two desolate housing estates, with little in the way of leisure facilities, particularly for young people.

However, the sappers have been busy building three wooden footbridges, a children's playpark, picnic and grill area and a BMX bike track.

"This project has provided real impetus to the urban renewal plan," said Officer Commanding, Maj Mungo Melvin. "It is good for the community of Griefswald and a challenge for the boys. One only had to look at the gratitude in the faces of our daily audience."

Grant, Cpl Doyle, LCpl Bailey, LCpl Swinburn and Cfn Whyman helped fit the skiers out and then introduced them to the slopes.

Everyone managed to pick up the technique – which involves the instructors skiing down the slope backwards guiding the blind skier – quickly, and each managed a solo run once their confidence and balance had improved.

The Royal Dragoon Guards

The Royal Dragoon Guards, based in Paderborn.

The regiment has been involved with **Derryguff Activities for the Blind (DAB)** – a small group from Enniskillen which provides outdoor activities for the blind and partially sighted – since 1988 when the blind skiing was introduced.

This year, the Royal Dragoons not only hosted 15 blind skiers but a team from Ulster television. Instructors SSgt

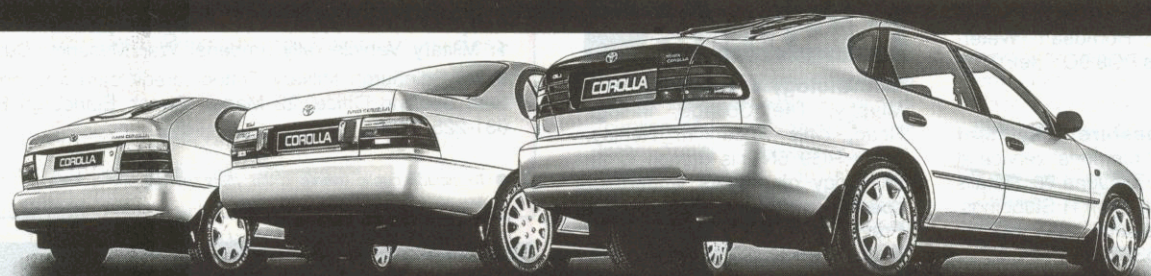
Also raising money by watery means – this time under the surface – were members of the **Joint Service Sub-Aqua Club** in Gibraltar, who went round the Rock underwater for the Governor's charity appeal.

A team of eight divers, changing men every 30 minutes, set off from the Western Beach and were towed at a speed of one knot around the entire coastline, finishing at Catalan Bay.

The epic nine-hour journey was well worthwhile: it helped to raise £800.

★ ★ ★

Looking after a group of blind skiers from Northern Ireland in Lofer, Austria, for a week have been members of



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Tykes painted on too wide a canvas

THERE IS an unwritten but nonetheless golden rule in writing books and articles, or for that matter making films – and that is to feature a few memorable episodes or scenes.

Create too many, no matter how well done, and the best of stories can be lost in an avalanche of dramatic detail.

Charles Whiting is a writer of military history who hitherto has not fallen into this trap but has now shown that even the most experienced can fall victim to the temptation to fill each page with heroic narrative to the extent that little can be recalled after closing the book's cover.

Collaborating with Eric Taylor, he has attempted to write in a 238-page paperback a history of seven infantry regiments' activities in the Second World War.

Frankly, it does not come off despite the author's excellent story-telling style; the book flashes from war theatre to theatre like the worst of

television documentaries, with the inevitable confusion that results from attempting too much.

Fighting Tykes: An Informal History of Yorkshire Regiments in WWII takes in all the battalions of the regiments of England's largest county: The King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry, The East Yorkshire Yeomanry, The York and Lancaster Regiment, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment, The East Yorkshire Regiment, The West Yorkshire Regiment and The Green Howards. Too large a task for even the most able of wordsmiths and beyond the capacity of average readers.

The story begins with Anthony Eden's secret meeting at the Station Hotel, York, in the summer of 1940, to decide how the British Army could be rebuilt after the debacle of Dunkirk.

In flashbacks we are taken through the "Sitzkrieg" or "Phoney War" of the British

Expeditionary Force, until the German overrunning of Belgium and France showed that it was not at all phoney.

We then travel in rapid succession to Iceland, Norway, Madagascar, India, Persia, Sicily, Italy, Tunisia, Crete, Sudan, Palestine, Egypt, Syria and Burma – not in that order nor in chronological sequence for that matter – and end up in France, Belgium, Holland and Germany.

It is too wide a canvas for a reviewer to present sample extracts to tempt a potential reader, which is a shame because despite the complexities and quick-fire gear changes, the writing is highly readable.

There are a few errors in the editing, such as references to the 53rd Welch Division when that spelling is the prerogative of two regiments from the principality, and a wrongly-dated photograph of "Banana Ridge", but these are tolerable.

No book can be all things to all men. However, one cannot help but appreciate the final paragraph of a chapter concerned with one specific regiment: "The Fighting Tykes of the Duke of Wellington's were not given to big words about democracy and fighting to free the world from fascism. They left that kind of thing to the intellectuals and politicians, who couldn't have understood the kind of life they had lived at the front if they had lived to be a hundred. They had fought, and died, for the Regiment, which, in the end, meant their comrades. As always the Dukes had simply done their duty."

Who will buy this book? Yorkshire folk, and this reviewer is an adopted one, are immensely proud of their county and its regiments. However, they are as partisan as anyone about individual regiments, and prefer their military histories in a more digestible form. – BJ

Fighting Tykes: An Informal History of the Yorkshire Regiments in WWII by Charles Whiting and Eric Taylor, published by Leo Cooper/Pen and Sword Books, paperback, £9.95.

and transferring two years later in 1885 to the 5th Gurkhas because he was so impressed with their smart uniform and turnout.

It was here that his Army adventures really began. Life for all ranks was tough in those pioneer days, but the battles and skirmishes provided constant action and excitement. The social and sporting scenes weren't bad either.

But he was a military man, not a social smoothie, and he tells of wars and battles largely unremembered today, including Willcocks' Weekend War of 1908.

This book of a soldier's life 100 years ago gives a good insight into what it was really like to live and fight for years at a time in a distant foreign land. – JM

Jimmie Stewart – Frontiersman edited by R. M. Maxwell, Pentland Press, £14.95.

Enthralling times on the frontiers

JUST 105 pages long, *Jimmie Stewart – Frontiersman* is unputdownable if you have a few hours to spare.

Interesting and informative, it is the story of Maj Gen Sir James Stewart, written by him for his daughter about his life with the 5th Royal Gurkha Rifles (Frontier Force).

Edited by Lt Col Robert Maxwell of the same regiment, it tells of Jimmie's adventurous sporting times as a young officer in a crack regiment in the Victorian and Edwardian eras.

Jimmie Stewart started his Army life with the 18th The Gloucestershire Regiment in Ireland, where he had a great time, since it allowed him to socialise, play cricket and ride.

But a posting back to England meant a dull existence with "nothing but a run of tea parties", so he switched to the Indian Army, joining the 1st Sikhs (Punjab Frontier Force)

Hong Kong gunners' tale doesn't tell whole story

THE STORY of the Royal Artillery and associated units which manned the guns in Hong Kong from 1841 to 1976 is told in *The Guns and Gunners of Hong Kong*.

The book also includes interesting detail on gunners sent to fight elsewhere, such as to China and in the Boxer Rebellion.

Profits will go to the Royal Artillery Institution and Hong Kong Service charities.

Denis Rollo traces in impressive detail the installation of the great batteries around the colony and the arrival of the anti-aircraft batteries.

When it came to the war years against Japan, the author, a retired gunner at Woolwich, took the simple course of quoting from the gunner diary compiled in a POW camp within a year of Hong Kong's

surrender. This rather impersonal account does not record all that the gunners achieved.

For example, when the Royal Rifles of Canada withdrew, at their officers' insistence, to Stanley Fort to reorganise, gunners of three batteries fought in the very front line "with great stubbornness, suffering casualties as infantry and never retiring without orders".

This quote comes from one of three surviving copies of the Brigade Commander's war diary; the original lies, I believe, in the Public Records Office, closed to the public for many years to come. The truth sometimes makes unpleasant reading and will add to the bitterness of some old soldiers who fought there.

Lack of space, perhaps, prevents the author recounting some interesting stories. One

gunner, Lt F H Fairclough, well before the surrender, disbanded his unit of 50 Chinese artillery recruits who had been sent to the gun sites on the out-break of hostilities because they were quite untrained. Another, Maj C R Templer, bowled hand grenades down a corridor of the Repulse Bay Hotel at the advancing Japanese!

Guns and Gunners is lavishly supported by excellent photographs and maps. Regulars and volunteers who proudly wore the cap badge in Hong Kong should rejoice that this account has been published. – OJML

The Guns and Gunners of Hong Kong by Denis Rollo. Published by the Gunners' Roll of Hong Kong and available from The Royal Artillery Institution, Old Royal Military Academy, Woolwich, London SE18 4DN, at £16.30 plus £3.65 p and p.

Pictorial memories of Royal Horse Artillery

BEING long on pictures and short on words, *Horse Gunners* is more a pictorial account with a resumé than an illustrated history of a famous regiment.

Not that author Maj Bill Clarke claims it as a definitive work and in the foreword Gen Sir John Learmont, a former CO of 1 RHA, says as much.

The book, to give it its full, rather lengthy title – *Horse Gunners, The Royal Horse Artillery, 200 years of Panache and Professionalism* – coincides with the regiment's bicentenary, updates its story and fills in a few historic gaps.

Bill Clarke covers the 200 years thinly, but the book is nonetheless interesting for that.

Conversely his listings of battery designations from 1793 with brigades, regiments and battery honour titles is a fine piece of research and fascinating for the historians.

As with every regiment in the Army, "firsts" come high on the list of RHA achievements,

including – according to Clarke – firing the first artillery round of the First World War.

This honour, he says, belongs to No. 4 gun, a 13-pounder, of E Battery – which let loose the opening barrage on August 22, 1914.

Another notable first: 1 RHA was the first gunner regiment to be deployed on the streets of Northern Ireland in November 1969. Since then, of course, all three RHA regiments have carried out many tours.

For all gunners, current and ex-Service, this book will reveal some hitherto unknown details and recall quite a few old memories. – JM

Horse Gunners by W G Clarke. Available from Press 70 Ltd, Volpoint House, Milford Industrial Estate, Off Tollgate Road, Salisbury SP1 2JG; and from The RA Institution, Old Military Academy, Woolwich, London SE18 4DN, £12 plus £1.50 p and p. Serving and ex-Service Gunners, £10.50 plus £1.50 p and p.

LURID, RACY...AND ANONYMOUS

"FEW names no pack drill." So proclaims George Morris in the foreword to *The Battle of El Alamein and Beyond*.

And he sticks to that principle pretty well throughout its length.

Either he cannot recall the names of those he writes about or he is just playing safe, since many of his stories are lurid to say the least. Hence his

declaration of sustained anonymity. The result is a book that reads like a newspaper football report which fails to name the goalscorers.

Many of his anecdotes make interesting, if brief, reading. Most are too short since he encapsulates them in a sentence.

For example, on pages 92-93, he tells in 28 lines four

The trumpets shall sound

THE CUTS in Army bands announced on Budget Day (I wonder why!) were greeted in military music circles with consternation if not shock, for these draconian measures had been telegraphed by MoD for some time.

They were, nevertheless, worse than expected – the worst possible scenario, as the saying goes.

This is not the first time such devastation has been caused. Soon after the Second World War the infantry regiments lost their second battalions, and therefore their bands, although each regiment still retained its one band. Not so now.

In the post-war years the number of Army bands was virtually halved, from nearly 200 to about 100. A big enough shock to the system, but the present cut from 63 to 29 bands creates problems, the results of which will be felt only in the future.

The immediate problem is one of morale, particularly for the career structure. Many fewer bandmasters and bandsmen will be needed, and as has always been the case, when demand decreases so does the supply.

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In the short term all may be well, but will potential recruits see the much reduced number of Army bands as offering an attractive career, with the likelihood of becoming a bandmaster, or even commissioned director of music, so remote?

Musically speaking, the new structure of 29 bands, comprising seven staff bands of strength 49 and 22 others of 35, is sound. A band of 35 is much more attractive to everyone than the present bands of 21.

The present infantry and RAC band of 21 musicians is unsound in all senses of the word: except, of course, that commanding officers could call upon *The Regimental Band* at any time, whether for parades, concerts, fatigues, rear parties, guard duties, as medical orderlies and reserve drivers, or umpteen other regimental duties. In future they will have to queue in line for the services of a band.

Matters still to be decided are where the surviving bands will be stationed, what they will be called, what cap badges they will wear, and how they will cope with replacements. Swapping a fighting soldier for another is no problem, but a bass-drummer for an oboe player won't work.

The dreaded words "overstretch" and "workload" come to mind, though what's new about that?

The regiments themselves are the main losers. The regimental band is now a thing of the past and can only be considered as a great loss to regimental (and public) life in all its aspects.

One politician was heard to say that we are still being too emotional about the loss of regiments and bands. We in the band world await the effect of this particular Option with some trepidation – emotionally, of course.

The Battle of El Alamein by G. A. Morris. The Book Guild Ltd, £11.95.

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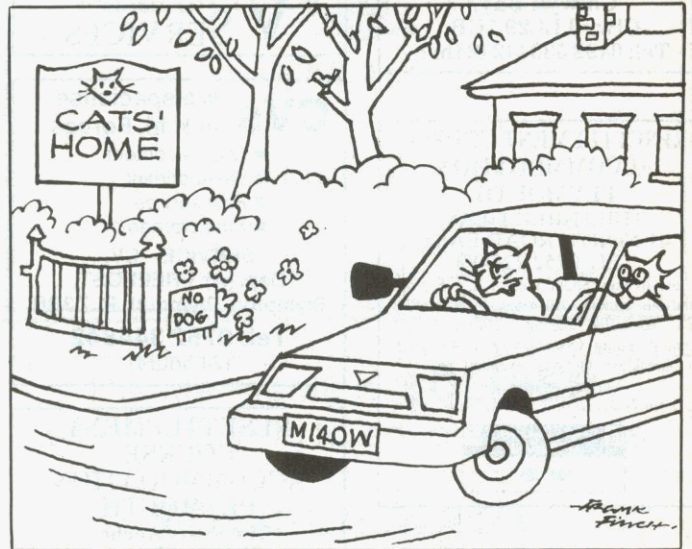
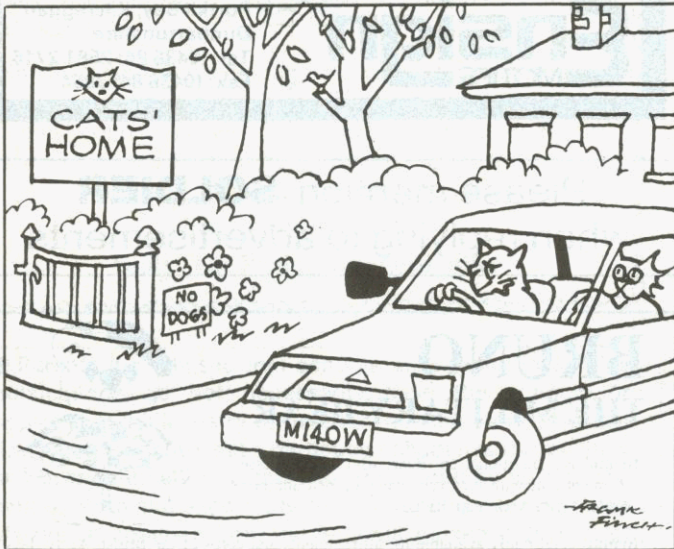
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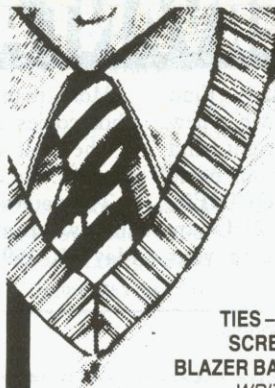
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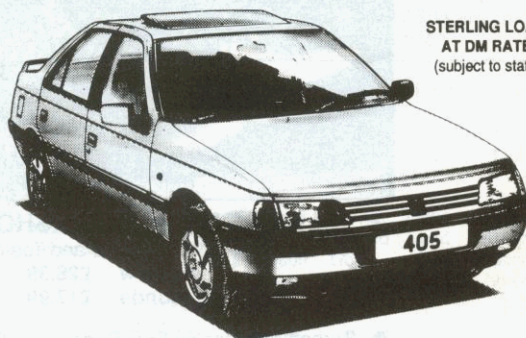
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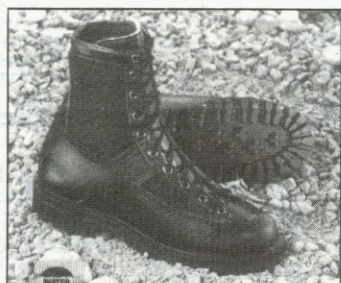
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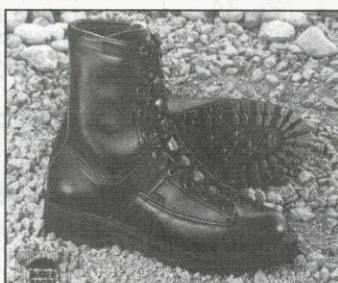
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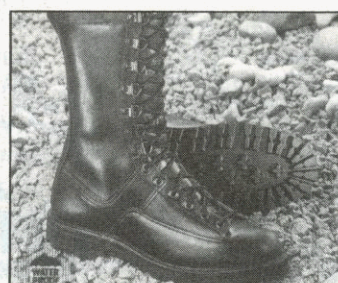
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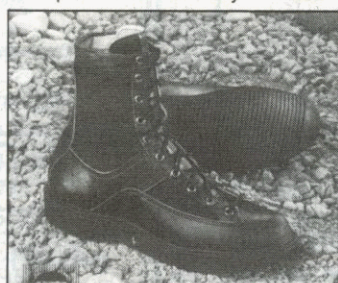
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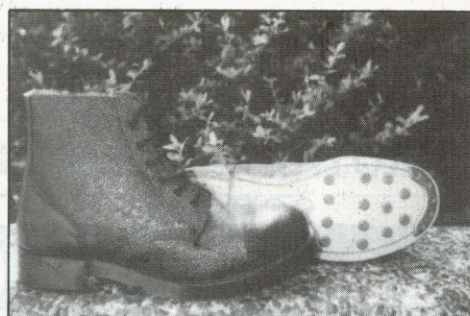
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Pen Pals

REPLIES. To reply to a pen pal, write a letter and send it to Soldier Magazine at the address below. The Box number must be **CLEARLY** written in the **TOP LEFT CORNER** of the envelope. Your envelope must be no larger than 8"x4" and should only contain a letter, and photograph if requested. Replies received more than three months after the cover date and **large, heavy, or poorly addressed envelopes will not be forwarded.**

A pen pal advertisement costs **£11.75.** Send your details (maximum 30 words) and a cheque or postal order for £11.75, payable to "Soldier", to the address below. The advertisement will appear in the first available issue and all replies will be forwarded. 814

All correspondence to: **Pen Pals, Soldier Magazine, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU.**

Are there any unattached soldiers 25+ out there. Lisa, 23, needs a bit of excitement and TLC in life. Can you fit the bill? Drop me a line. All replies answered. **P467** 08-93

It's alright I'm here now, maybe I can solve all your problems, be the woman of your dreams - or your nightmares! Unless you reply you will never know. **P468** 08-93

Teena, 31, wild and predictable. Loves indie music and cigs. If you're hungry for fun - then reply to this! **P470** 08-93

Sincere and caring, lady (38). Slim build, dark hair, good sense of humour, easy-going personality. Would like male pen pal over 35. All genuine replies answered. **P471** 08-93

Student Nurse, 21 seeks penfriend who enjoys having a good time. If you're 21-30 please write. **P472** 08-93

Hi, my name is Gail. I am 23, have dark shoulder length hair, blue eyes and I am about 5'8". Want to know more? Get writing. **P473** 08-93

Hello there. I am looking for a pen pal. My interests are music, theatre, wining and dining and country walks. Put pen to paper, I would be pleased to hear from you. **P474** 08-93

An attractive, slim, 6' tall, sporty, 26-year-old female would love a pen pal of similar height and age. All letters will be replied to. Please write soon!! **P475** 08-93

Hi, I'm Jenny. I'm a 21-year-old brunette. My hobbies are keeping-fit, music and enjoying life to the full. If you are 21 to 26, get in touch. **P476** 08-93

Hi, I'm Tracie, I'm 27 years young, single with no dependants, I'm a registered nurse and I would like very much to write to a British soldier home or away. **P477** 08-93

27-year-old German single mum seeks correspondence with fun loving male aged 26-29 stationed in Germany. I love travelling, socialising, writing letters and the UK. All letters answered. **P478** 08-93

I'm Julie. I am 27, 5'2", slim, attractive, blonde, blue eyes. I like music, travelling, swimming and going out with friends. I would love a Forces pen pal, so write soon. **P479** 08-93

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43-21

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Gardener, maintenance man required for country house. Self contained flat available. Might suit ex-soldier with practical skills. Not suitable for children. First class references required. Box 228, Soldier Magazine, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU. 07-08

Situations Wanted

Nanny/Mother's help. Student (19) seeks nanny's job with military family UK/abroad. Reliable, enthusiastic, responsible, sincere. Hobbies: music, arts, literature. Fluent French speaker. 6/12 month contract acceptable. Box No 230, Soldier Magazine, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU. 08-09

Wanted

Gulf War militaria bought by historian, e.g. badges, propaganda leaflets, photographs, printed ephemera and souvenirs etc., Laurie Manton, c/o Soldier Magazine, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU. T C

Mobat ancillary parts and equipment wanted. Any photos, literature to complete museum gun. Reasonable prices paid. Aldershot (0252) 29577 (Davies). 08/93

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Four in crunch round

ALL FOUR of the Army's Combined Services boxing champions won easily at Torquay as the CSBA team steam-rolled the usually powerful Western Counties challenge into the sunset.

This match is an England quarter-final of the ABA championships, and the winners qualified for the semi-finals – rated as the toughest round in the competition – at Blackbird Leys Leisure Centre in Oxford on April 3.

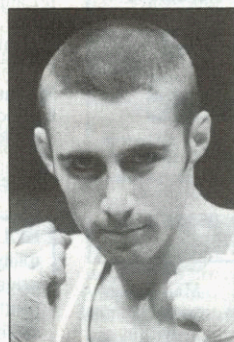
Services pulverised Western Counties by nine bouts to three in one of the most one-sided confrontations for years.

Pte Bob Basford (1 Staffords), LCpl Vinny Powell (59 Ind Cdo Sqn RE), Cpl Chris Bessey (27 Regt RCT) and LCpl Steve Burford (REME) all won with a control that had Army coach WO2 (QMSI) Mick Gannon singing their praises.

"They were excellent, very sharp all the way through. Western Counties were totally



Bob Basford



Vinny Powell



Chris Bessey



Steve Burford

demoralised by their speed and power of shot. Burford looked like a world champion."

Basford took Gloucester's rated featherweight, McNally, to pieces, on his way to a majority points decision, while Powell comprehensively out-pointed Saunders of Dawlish.

Powell's heavy punches ripped so effectively through Saunders's defence that another referee might well have stopped the contest prematurely.

Bessey, boxing carefully behind his lead, won by a huge margin, while Burford ended

the heavyweight contest in the second round with an uppercut.

Services' winners included the RAF's Cpl Darren Fox, SAC Owen Spensley and SAC John Gosling – who was behind on points when he knocked out 1992 finalist Rogers in the third round – and Cpl Rob Wileman and Mne Kevin McCormack of the Royal Navy.

Also in elevated company as SOLDIER was going to press was light-welterweight Pte Sam Boreham (PWRR), who was in action in the quarter finals of the NABC competition at

Milton Keynes on April 3.

● The 1st Battalion, The King's Regiment won the UKLF Inter-Unit novice Grade 3 championship at Aldershot, beating the 2nd Battalion, The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment by six bouts to three.

Cpl Williams and Kgn Williams, McDermott, Lawler, Pentith and Tedworth won for 1 Kings, Ptes Meech, Quirey and Stewart for 2 PWRR.

STOP PRESS: Fox, Powell, Wileman, Bessey, Burford win at Oxford.



SSgt Ian Jennings on the attack against HQNI in the Major Units final at Aldershot

the 22nd minute through Capt Andrew Nye.

At 30 minutes they went ahead when a penalty flick awarded for a stick tackle was converted by SSgt Wooton.

After the break 42 Survey came back strongly, mostly down the middle where they were continuously blocked by HQNI's defence. Survey's aggression paid off when they drew level with ten minutes

left. Under new Hockey Association rules, extra time is not played in cup competitions, and so the final went straight into penalty flicks.

Jennings, who has one of the hardest penalty flicks in British hockey, fired over the top of the goal, and other misses from both sides ended the first set of penalty flicks at two goals each, which meant going into a sudden death competition.

The first four penalty flicks were scored in succession, but then 42 Survey missed their third and HQNI tucked theirs away to win 7-6.

The match was controlled particularly well by umpires Col George Gadd, late RAPC and WO2 John Drury RA.

● In the Minor Units final the Army Apprentices College Chestow beat 9 Ordnance Battalion by four goals to nil.

HQNI nerve holds

HOT favourites 42 Survey Regiment, Royal Engineers, eventually lost out to HQ Northern Ireland in a protracted sudden-death penalty flick shoot-out in the Major Units hockey final at Aldershot, writes Alan Healey.

Throughout the competition, 42 Survey had won most of their matches by large scores, aided and abetted by star player and team coach SSgt Ian Jennings (APTC) – an England international.

But in an extremely hard-fought, tense and exciting final, they found it difficult to contain the enthusiasm and all-round skills of HQ Northern Ireland/15 Signal Regiment.

Nevertheless, 42 Survey scored a very good goal in almost the first minute from a short corner taken by Jennings. HQNI, playing skilful and attractive hockey, drew level in



SSgt Chris Spowart is tackled with the ball. Army players, from left to right, are Capt Tony Glasgow, SSgt Chalkie White, Capt Andy Deans, Lt Gareth James and 2nd Lt Dave Dahinten

Holmes beats Gurkha charge

WO2 BILLY Holmes (HQBF) won the British Forces Hong Kong cross country championships after a gruelling struggle with pre-race favourite LCpl Kusang Gurung (2 GR). Sig Patricia Bishop (247 Gurkha Sig Sqn) won the women's championship.

The very strong 10 GR team, led in by third-placed Rfn

Yubaraj Gurung, accounted for eight of the first 16 runners to finish. Yabaraj, in fact, led for much of the way and Holmes got away only on the final stretch of the undulating course.

Major Units champions were 10 GR, followed by 2 GR and QOGTR, while TDBG won the Minors' race with 247 Gurkha

Sig Sqn second and 29 Sqn RCT third.

Conditions were many degrees cooler at Kinmel Park, Clwyd for the Territorial Army cross country championships, which were won by Swansea-based 4 RRW for the second successive year.

Winners twice of the Welsh 1,000 Snowdonia mountains' race, they are also current TA half marathon champions.

Cardiff-based 3 RRW were second and 21 SAS third. The women's race was won by 207 General Hospital, followed by

Army pack in for Fleet half

ARMY runners packed well to win the Inter-Services half marathon team championship run concurrently with the Fleet half marathon on March 21.

Pte Darren Stephenson (1 PWO), winner of the Inter-Corps title a week earlier, finished second behind the RAF's Dave Clemens, and was followed closely by SSgt Ray Keeney (5 AB Bde) in third, Pte Alan Shepherd (23 PFA) fourth and SSgt Jeff Martin (2 Sig Regt) in sixth.

As first Army runner home, Stephenson also won the domestic half marathon title.

Sgt Melanie Bradley (Guards Depot) and Capt Barbara Dunn (BMH Rinteln) were first and

second in the women's race to lead the Army to another team victory – attributed by computer error on the day to the WRAF. Sgt Faith Neville (HQ SDist), fifth, and Capt Pauline Jump (Guards Depot), eighth provided the crucial support.

The Army veterans were beaten into second place by the RAF. The scoring runners were Maj Colin Walker (3 TRRE), Capt Stuart Paterson (QEMH), Capt Dave Moffat (1 PWO) and WO2 James Forsythe (94 Loc Regt).

Ray Keeney's run led 5 Airborne Brigade to victory in the Army unit competition, with 2 Signal Regiment second and FOD Dulmen third.



Paul Simons

D Coy, 4 Kings Own Border in second and Glasgow UOTC third.

Mill Hill civil servant Spr Paul Simons won the TA individual title, chasing home in fourth place after Regular guest runners SSgt Ray Keeney, Dvr Gary Wadsworth and Pte Darren Stephenson.

Rory spoils party

The Army 17, Royal Air Force 20

NOT FOR the first time was the Army-Royal Air Force match at Twickenham decided by the lethal finishing of England winger Rory Underwood.

His two interventions ultimately denied the Army victory at Twickenham in the first Inter-Services match to be staged midweek.

The switch to a Wednesday had been made in an attempt to boost the sparse crowds that have attended this match in the past. It was at least a partial success, with ARU secretary Maj David Murray reckoning the final count of about 1,200 spectators to be an improvement on recent years.

The Army began where they had left off in their record-breaking 37-15 win over the Royal Navy, when centre Capt Tony Glasgow raced in after three minutes to pounce on a drop goal attempt by flyhalf Capt Andy Deans. SSgt Chris Spowart converted.

But the RAF replied with tries by Watkins and Underwood.

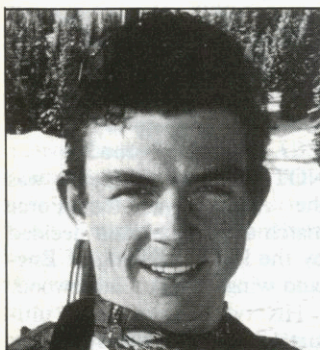
In the second half another England cap, 2nd Lt Tim Rodber, made his mark on the game with a try converted by Spowart, before Underwood crossed for his second.

Flanker Lt Gareth James might have stolen the match for the Army but for a final tackle when he was inches from diving in. The Army's inability to exploit their territorial advantage was to cost them the title. That went to the RAF when they beat the Royal Navy 23-7.

● Tim Rodber has been named in the England World Cup Sevens squad and in the England party to tour Canada in May and June.

29 Regt RCT 39, 27 Regt RCT 9

Sapper trio in action for GB



Spr Wayne Page



Spr Stephen Nadoleck

THREE young sappers serving with 35 Engineer Regiment at Hameln represented Great Britain at the junior biathlon world championships at Ruhpolding, Germany.

Sprs Simon Lee, Stephen Nadoleck and Wayne Page were selected after a series of good results at the British Nordic championships held on the 1992 Winner Olympics course near Albertsville in the French Alps.

Lee, last year's GB junior biathlon champion, won the national 10km cross country title in addition to the Army and national junior Nordic titles.

Lee, who went on from Ruhpolding to record a second place in the Lowlanders championship in Italy, will be pushing hard for a place in the senior team next year. Nadoleck and Page will both have another season as juniors.



Spr Simon Lee, success in Germany and Italy

Quality control

Royal Navy 1, The Army 3

THE ARMY produced some of their best football of the season at Burnaby Road, Portsmouth on March 24 to convincingly beat the Royal Navy by three goals to one and regain the Constantinople Cup after three years, writes Derrick Bly.

In the only change to the team that struggled to beat the Royal Air Force 1-0 at Aldershot, the Army brought in Sgt Gary Williams to replace the unwell Cpl Dave Maynard.

In the seventh minute skipper SSgt Kevin Parkins headed home an inch-perfect cross by Cpl Shane Smith after Bdr Steve Bates had started the move.

Sig Jim Strouts was cautioned for a clumsy challenge, but with Cpl Tony Wright, Sgt Alan Higgins and Pte Batey rock-solid at the back, the Army began to get on top. Two minutes after Parkins had shot over an unguarded Navy net his side went further ahead when Sig Peter Brown



Maj Gen Brian Pennicott, Chairman of the AFA, receives the Massey Trophy from Maj Gen John MacDonald. Presented on behalf of the Royal Corps of Transport, the trophy will go to the winners of an expanded Inter-Corps competition being introduced next season. It will include all corps, services and the Infantry. Gen MacDonald (left) also presented the AFA with a cheque for £1,000 from RCT funds

rifled in a right foot shot through a crowded penalty area.

Right on the half-time whistle the Navy pulled a goal back when Wilson was let in by

a misunderstanding between 'keeper Cfn Mickey Taylor and Batey.

Cpl Jamie Smith replaced Brown at the restart before, in the 56th minute, Strouts fired

home the Army's third goal.

Parkins found Shane Smith who beat two defenders before teeing the ball up for Strouts.

Jamie Smith and Strouts were both denied as the Army pushed forward.

Although there were further yellow cards, for Quirke and Fairey of the Navy, and Bates (replaced by Sig Joe Collins), the game was not over-physical. These close rivals, many of them colleagues in the Combined Services team, produced an epic encounter, with the Army good value for their two-goal advantage.

The Inter-Services' Constantinople Cup and the Mercury Cup for this particular match, were presented to Kevin Parkins by Admiral Sir Ben Bathurst, RNFA President.

But the Navy will not have to wait a year before they get a chance to even the score. Their next meeting with the Army is scheduled for April 29.

Aldershot's Military Stadium will be the venue, and the final of the South East Counties Cup

Close call falls to Navy

A NAIL-BITING finish to the Inter-Services netball championship hosted by the Army in the ASPT's Fox Gymnasium ended with the teams all square on points.

The title had to be decided on goals scored, with the Royal Navy edging out their hosts by just six. The Royal Air Force, winners for the past four years, were relegated to third place.

Each Service reckoned to have its strongest squad for some years, and the result was netball of an exceptionally high standard.

First on court were the Navy and RAF, with the defending champions narrowly beaten 45-43.

Despite taking the lead in their match against the airwomen, the Army were outscored in the closing stages and went down 30-35.

That left all to play for in the Army-Navy decider, which was fought out at a furious pace. In a tremendous climax to the tournament the Army won a skilful encounter by ten points, 56-46.

For the Army, LCpl Clare Horan was named the most improved player, while Cpls Lofty Lofthouse and Ali Garven received the best player awards.

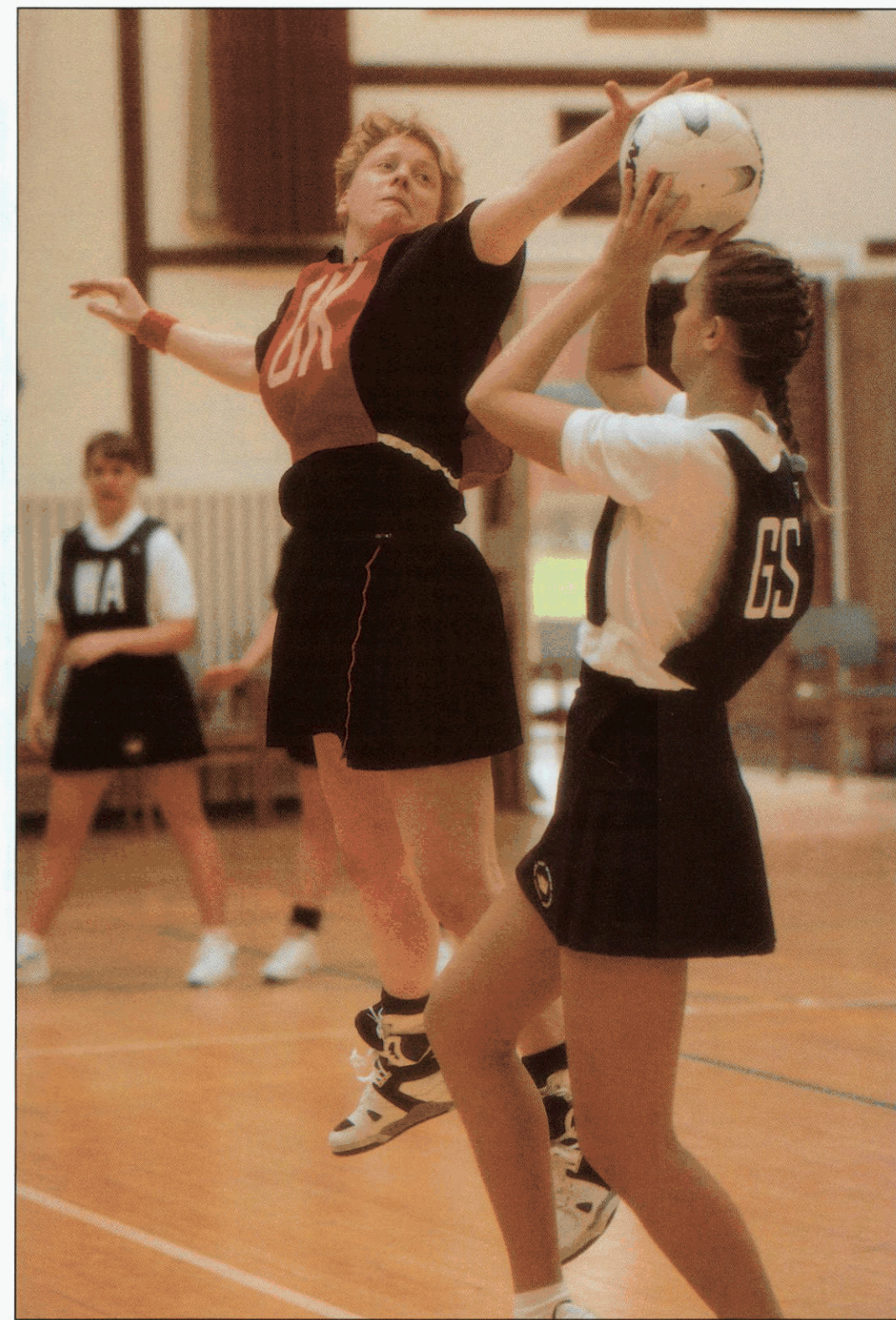
Army netball takes a stride forward this month with the first-ever Inter-Corps tournament, to be staged at RMA Sandhurst on the 15th and 16th.

will be the occasion. Before that the Army is to meet both Jersey and Guernsey during a brief tour to the Channel Islands in mid-April.

Combined Services are due to meet Belgian Armed Forces on April 27 in the Kentish Cup.

CS Youth 1, FA Colts 3

Combined Services Youths put up gallant opposition at Aldershot before going down



Cpl Carla Rayment of the Army defends against the Navy during their Inter-Services netball match

by three goals to one to a Football Association Colts XI inspired by young Southend United striker Joe Martin.

After Martin had scored the first goal, Services settled down against the young professionals and levelled through Fus Les Jones (1 RWF).

The FA went back in front through Luton Town's Butler and scored a third when Arsenal player Rose squeezed in a rebound.

1 PWRR 6, 3 R Irish 2 (aet)

The UK section of the Infantry Challenge Cup was won by 1 PWRR who beat 3 R Irish 6-2 after extra time at Tidworth Oval.

Pte Lee Bradbury scored early on for 1 PWRR but Pte Peter Rutherford equalised ten minutes from half time. Early in the second half Pte Jimmy Waring gave 3 R Irish a lead which they held until two

minutes from the end when Bradbury was presented with his second by a goalkeeping error.

A tiring 3 R Irish were no match for 1 PWRR in extra time, with LCpl Roger Byrnes (2), Pte Justin Turnhill and Cpl Darren Cornhill scoring.

● The RCT beat the Infantry 3-0 in the corps' last game, and a late header by Cpl Colin McDonald gave the AGC a 1-0 victory over the Infantry.

Men of the Hong Kong Military Service Corps are highly respected for their application to mainly administrative tasks throughout Hong Kong Garrison. SSgt Wong Wing Tong puts an SNCO cadre through its paces at the Headquarters and Depot on Stonecutters Island. (See Page 26).

Picture: Mike Perring



SOLDIER