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THE BRITISH ARMY MAGAZINE
 Dec. 22 - 1945 . Fortnightly . Vol. 1 - No 22

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Dec. 22, 1945 - Fortnightly - Vol. 1 - No 22

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- **Presenting the Army**
- **RWF pick new goat**

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December 11, 1995
Vol 51/25

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COVER - Against a backdrop of *Soldier's* cover of 50 years ago, trainee Army chefs App LCpl Kelly McHale and App LCpl Joseph Hoyle at the Army School of Catering join us in wishing readers, contributors and advertisers a Happy Christmas and prosperous New Year.

(Picture: Mike Perring).



Its number has come up. The Aldershot Military Stadium grandstand is to be refurbished



Gen Lytle, DASC

Pictures: Mike Weston

Army sport plans for era of excellence

A MAJOR facelift for the crumbling Military Stadium at Aldershot is to begin in March. It is the first step in an ambitious, long-term project to provide a centre of excellence for Army representative matches.

Approval has also been given for the relocation of the Army Boxing Centre from Montgomery Lines to the Maida Gymnasium in Queens Avenue. Other developments under discussion include a floodlit "mini-stadium" exclusively for rugby and more artificial hockey pitches.

Funding for the projects would include money raised by the Army Sports Lottery.

Maj Gen Simon Lytle, new Director of the Army Sport Control Board, told *Soldier* the refurbishment of the ageing Military Stadium is scheduled to be completed by September 1996.

"The standard of sporting facilities at Army level is less than satisfactory. One major objective over the next five years is to ensure

that we have facilities, particularly at the highest level, of which we can all be proud," he said.

Because of its restricted run-off area, the Military Stadium pitch, contained within a running track, is no longer suitable for top-class rugby. Longer term plans are being laid for a new rugby ground adjacent to the stadium. Work on the sta-

dium will concentrate on stripping out the old grandstand and making it safe. Funding is also being sought to re-lay the athletics track and install state-of-the-art electronic recording systems necessary for high-level competition, and an electronic scoreboard which could cater for all sports.

There are also plans for a separate swimming pool and squash complex to be known as the Aldershot Physical and Recreation Training Centre. Though specifically intended for the garrison, it would nevertheless add to the overall breadth of a centre of first-class sporting facilities.

A superb indoor tennis complex is already in place, and it is hoped eventually, by building more artificial pitches, to develop and extend the



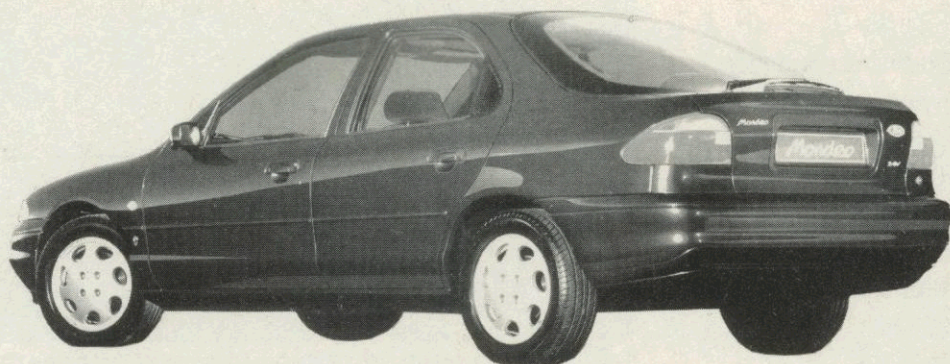
The Army's superb indoor tennis centre at Aldershot

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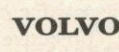
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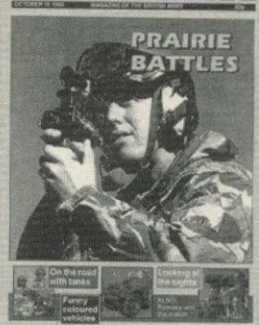
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NEW YEAR

SOLDIER



Soldier will have a bright new look with the first issue of 1996.

NEW LOOK

We promise not to turn the magazine upside down or inside out. Your favourite features will still be there, even if some appear in a fresh format.

We believe in doing our best for our loyal Army of readers and advertisers, so we hope you'll like the changes.

First *Soldier* of the New Year, cover-dated January 8, 1996, will be out in time for Christmas.

We hope you like it.



The determination shows as 21 Engineer Regiment put all they have into the bridge-building competition

Sixth time lucky as 21 Engr bridge gap

Sport plans

● From Page 3

hockey area so that it is capable of staging major tournaments.

Work on the new Maida Gym boxing centre is expected to start in the New Year. The site offers much greater accessibility than the present facility located in 5 Airborne Brigade's Montgomery Lines, parking will be less of a problem, and the new building will offer the Army's highly regarded boxing squad more room to train.

Gen Lytle, who was Director Army Aviation before taking over as head of the ASCB from Maj Gen Alan Yeoman in the autumn, said the promotion of sport in the Army was particularly important for recruiting and retention in the present manning climate.

"I have an abiding love of sport in the Army and I am terribly aware of the importance it plays in the Army way of life as a means of improving physical fitness, building team spirit, and promoting comradeship."

Gen Lytle played rugby as a young man and captained the RMA Sandhurst 1st XV. When injury intervened he turned to racquet sports, and still plays tennis. He is an accomplished offshore sailor.

THE medium girder bridge world record has been smashed by 21 Engineer Regiment based at Nienburg, Germany.

Despite appalling conditions during the RE Games held on the banks of the Weser at Hameln, they beat off strong competition from the UK, USA, Germany and Italy to build the 10m single-storey bridge in 8min 44sec – an incredible 1min 50sec quicker than the record set by 35 Engineer Regiment a year ago.

Cheered on by hundreds of spectators, the Nienburg sappers, in a triumph for technique, teamwork and physical and mental stamina, put on a near-faultless display in the competition, formalised in 1987.

In the final round they were pitted against two of the favourites, 32 Engr Regt from Hühne and 3 RSME Regt from Chatham.

The Nienburg team kept up a blistering pace from the outset and it became not so much a case of whether they

were going to break the record but by how much.

Pushing them all the way, 32 finished in 9min 16sec, but incurred a three-minute time penalty and ended in sixth position overall.

Nothing could stop the 21 machine, which, in a performance worthy of the world record, powered to victory after six years of trying.

No one was more pleased than team manager WO2 Tim Smalley, who had experienced disqualification when competing with 35 Engr Regt in 1992.

Courage of a Guardsman

LSGT Darren Waterhouse (pictured), Coldm Gds, was one of the winners of the 36th RADAR (Royal Association for Disability and Rehabilitation) People of the Year awards.

Presented in London by the Princess Royal, the award recognised his bravery when his observation post came under heavy Serbian fire on the out-



skirts of Sarajevo. An armoured reconnaissance vehicle commander, LSGT Waterhouse gave cover until all his men were safe and, thanks to his quick thinking, no one was killed.

He was awarded the Military Cross; only the second NCO to receive the medal since it was opened to all ranks in 1993, for his actions.

Mines offer

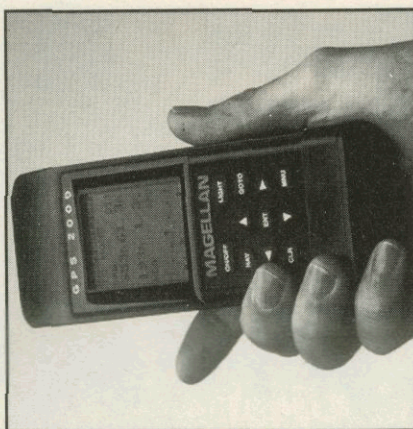
□ Britain is to help Egypt clear more than 250,000 British land mines laid in the Western Desert during the Second World War. Mines in the desert kill about 30 people a year.

Foreign Secretary Malcolm Rifkind announced the aid during talks with Egyptian leaders at the start of the first British involvement in Bright Star, a biennial exercise with American, French and Egyptian troops.

Bright Star report in next issue.

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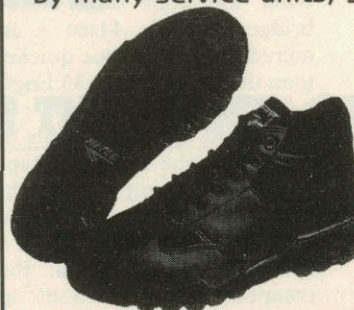
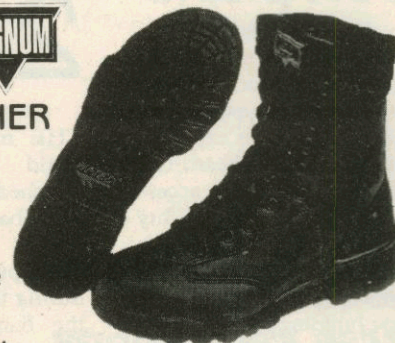
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Sappers from 51 Field Squadron were kept busy providing winterised accommodation for British soldiers deployed on Mount Igman

Medals for first in and last out

YORKSHIRE-based 51 Field Squadron (Airmobile) marked its return from the former Yugoslavia by exercising its freedom of Ripon with a medal parade on the town square.

The Royal Engineers were the first complete unit of 24 Airmobile Brigade to deploy to Croatia as part of the United Nations Reaction Force. They were also the last to return, apart from a 30-strong forward element still at Ploce. The

squadron worked for several days at the port camp before the main body of 35 Engineer Regiment and leading elements of the brigade arrived.

According to its OC, Maj Dicky Davis, the sappers had a busy five-month tour of duty.

They refurbished a derelict office block for the brigade HQ and carried out many other tasks at Ploce Dockyard Camp, including the construction of a bulk fuel installation. With sappers from 35 Engr Regt, the squadron provided accommodation for 4,000 troops from the brigade and Support Helicopter Force.

It was then tasked to provide winter quarters for British troops on Mount Igman, constructing two large camps and two remote radio rebroadcast sites.

A ski lift terminal on Igman's highest point, destroyed when the Bosnian Serb Army withdrew in 1993, was turned into a comfortable home for French and British signallers.

A second signals site was provided with a compact outpost offering hot showers, heating, light and excellent kitchen and dining facilities. Before that, signallers faced a long walk in heavy snow to replenish their water supply.

The 51 Sqn echelon organised convoys from Ploce to provide everything required for the operation. A team of chefs led by Sgt Nick Smith RLC helped to raise morale by providing exceptional meals.

More than £7 million worth of resources were issued by 51 Field Squadron which also erected hangars for a REME workshop, classrooms and shelters for up to 500 troops.

● Larkhill-based 19/5 and 156 Batteries, UK Force Artillery Group, AMF(L), paraded before deploying to relieve 19 Regt RA on Mount Igman and in Gornji Vakuf.

● BRITFOR deputy commander Col Martin Vine opened Komar bridge on Route Gull. It was repaired by sappers from 2 Tp, 5 Fd Sqn RE of 38 Engr Regt which has taken over as the British Engineer Battalion from 21 Engr Regt. The new RE group is led by Lt Col Hamish MacLeod.

ARRC stands by to implement the peace

ALTHOUGH no final decision had been made on the United Kingdom contribution to a peace implementation force in former Yugoslavia as this edition was prepared, it was clear that British troops will play a central role alongside the French and Americans.

NATO forces will provide the core, with Headquarters Allied Command Europe Rapid Reaction Corps (ARRC) under Lt Gen Sir Mike Walker running the operation on the ground.

The UK will provide more than half the HQ staff in addition to other ground troops and air and naval assets.

NATO planning is said to be well advanced. As *Soldier* went to press neither the precise size nor composition of the British contribution had been announced, but it is expected to be about 13,000.

If, as widely reported, the new implementation force (IFOR) operates in three sectors within Bosnia, British troops would be based on Gornji Vakuf in Sector West.

As a contingency, a number of units, including HQ 3 (UK) Armoured Division, have been warned off for possible deployment with IFOR.

While NATO will provide the framework and run the operation, other nations – including Russia and some Islamic countries – are expected to have a role. NATO was seen by the

Ohio signatories as the only organisation with the military capability and political credibility to undertake the operation. The British Government has said it would expect its forces to serve alongside a substantial US contingent, and to arrive and leave at the same time as the Americans.

Rapid deployment is believed to be crucial in maintaining the peace momentum. It is thought troops will move into the region

as soon as the North Atlantic Council authorises the operation following United Nations Security Council clearance. Under the Dayton agreement, the UN has been invited to sanction an international NATO-led force.

Some troops currently serving with the UN Protection Force (UNPROFOR) will re-role to the new implementation force. Those that do not will be withdrawn.



Dogs head for Ploce

Six RAVC dog trainers and their dogs from the Defence Animal Unit in Sennelager are due to fly to Croatia on December 6 to reinforce the 24 Airmobile Brigade rearguard left behind at Ploce Dockyard Camp to protect stores and equipment.

In the back row are (left to right) Cpl Robert Hart, LCpl Thomas Robinson and Cpl Kelly Rivers; front, LCpl Cheryl Simmons with Sam, LCpl Darren Garratt with Flac and LCpl Paul Duke with Jake.

Soldiers are there when you need them...



Mike Moore/TODAY Newspaper

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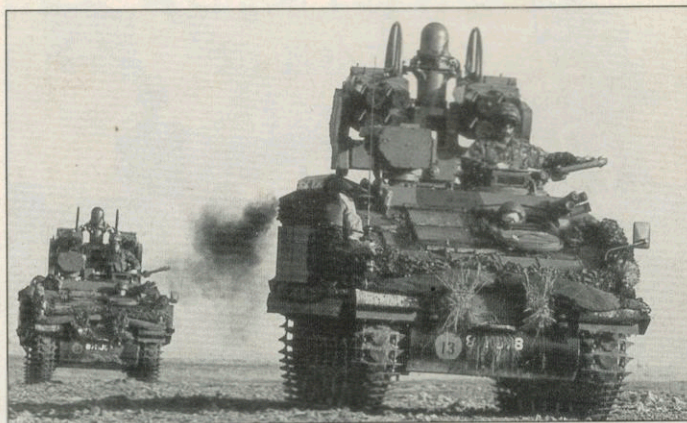
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THE ARMY BENEVOLENT FUND



Members of 12 Regiment, Royal Artillery, put the SPHVM through its paces on the Goldgrun exercise area near Paderborn

Paderborn gunners get new missile

DEMPSEY Barracks in Paderborn witnessed a little piece of military history when 12 Regiment, Royal Artillery, became the first in the Army to receive the new self-propelled high velocity missile (SPHVM).

The regiment watched with pride as a development programme which began in the mid-1980s finally bore fruit at the handover ceremony.

Accepting the missile system on behalf of the regiment, Maj Gen Ian Durie, Director Royal

Artillery, said it was the first stage of a programme which would provide the British Army with a close air defence system second to none.

"It provides a most impressive capability across the whole range of modern warfare, from high intensity conflict through to peacekeeping and peace enforcement," he said.

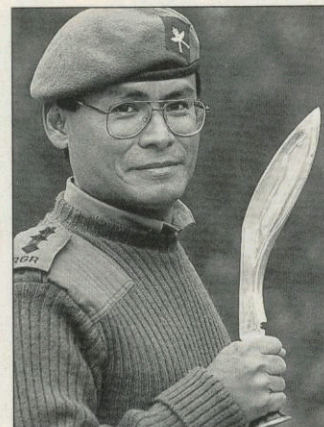
Made by Shorts, the SPHVM, mounted on an Alvis Stormer CVRT with a crew of three, is designed to counter the helicopter and fighter ground attack threat. Its laser-guided missile is capable of destroying aircraft out to 5km.

In combat, each troop would operate in two fire units of six vehicles.

With three troops to a battery and three batteries in all, this makes 12 Regt - the first to receive Towed Rapier - the largest armoured regiment in the Army.

The handover parade, accompanied by the Band of the Royal Artillery, ended spectacularly when 12 crews broke from the ranks, raced to their vehicles, and drove past the saluting dais in formation.

Having moved from Dortmund to Paderborn earlier in the year, the regiment will now split temporarily, with 58 (Eyre's) Battery completing conversion to the new system while 12 (Minden), 9 (Plassey) and part of HQ Battery deploy to Cyprus for a six-month UN peacekeeping tour.



Making history at Catterick is Capt Lalitchandra Dewan, 2iC Chindit Company, 1st Battalion, The King's Own Royal Border Regiment. Not only is he the first Nepalese Gurkha officer to command traditional British troops, but Capt Dewan is the only Gurkha officer who holds a Warrior AFV driving licence.

His father served with the Gurkha Rifles.

Sappers commended for fire crash rescues



Brave sappers: Lt Gen Sir Anthony Denison-Smith, GOC 4 Div (centre) pictured with (from left) Spr Brian Crump, Spr V Ankrah, Sgt Maj Peter Gibney and SSgt Anthony Ballans

FOUR sappers have received bravery awards for their part in saving lives after a serious road traffic accident on the Dutch-German border last year.

They were returning with their unit, 21 Field Squadron (EOD), from an exercise in Germany when the accident happened at Venlo.

Vehicles burst into flames when a tanker collided with a line of cars waiting to cross the border. Six people were killed and many injured.

Sgt Maj Peter Gibney freed people trapped in their cars, disregarding his own safety. As he worked in intense heat, fuel tanks exploded around him.

He pulled one man from a car turned upside down on top of another. Both were burning, but Sgt Maj Gibney dragged him clear just before the cars were engulfed by flame.

Now serving with Central Volunteer HQ at Aldershot, he has been awarded the Queen's

Captain courageous

QUICK thinking and a courageous reaction saved the life of a soldier and earned Capt Simon Tomkinson of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets a bravery commendation from Commodore Sandy Backus, Commander British Forces Falkland Islands.

Capt Tomkinson's unit was the resident infantry company in the Falklands at the time of the incident.

Although weighed down with

Commendation for Gallantry.

GOC's Commendations for Bravery have been awarded to three others involved in the rescue. SSgt Anthony Ballans, now part of a bomb disposal team based at Wimbish, also dragged people from the wreckage and treated and



Capt Tomkinson

per by his own heavy pack, Rfn Green was submerged in the torrent and in danger of drowning when Capt Tomkinson intervened.

encouraged badly burned, injured and frightened victims. Spr Brian Crump and Spr V Ankrah, now of 33 Engr Regt, also received commendations.

● Sgt James Mackie REME was made MBE, not OBE, in the awards published in the November 27 issue.

Glencorse drums up a winner

CHAMPION drummer at the Glencorse Beating, the Services' solo drumming competition, was LCpl James Clark, an instructor at ATR Glencorse, who beat LCpl Colin Latta, Scots DG, by five points.

LCpl Clark has since transferred from the Scots Guards to The Highlanders (Seaforth, Gordons and Camerons).

Champion bugler was Cpl Howard Winton, 1 Hldrs.

First and second in the Inter-Services corps drummer section were SAC Keith Finlay (RAF Waddington) and Hldr Murray Kane (1 Hldrs).



Cpl Pete Graveson and SSgt "Salty" Salt from 11 Field Squadron, RE, who were involved with their colleagues in "Vitez" (in reality Copehill Down on Salisbury Plain) in removing and replacing the old Bailey Bridge at Charlie Crossing. Despite opposition from role-playing soldiers of 1 Para, the sappers, in their last phase of training for deployment to former Yugoslavia, completed the task in three days

Around the Houses

A summary of Defence topics from Westminster

Reserve Bill introduced

NEW powers to allow Britain to make the best use of its Reserve Forces were presented in a Bill to the House of Lords on November 17. The proposals will enable Reservists to volunteer for a wider range of tasks and offer safeguards to employers of Reservists.

In-service date of the Army's attack helicopter is estimated at 2000, said Procurement Minister James Arbuthnot in a written answer. Estimated cost of the programme was £2.5 billion.

The Government has accepted a report by the Defence Committee on taking advantage of the development in the proposed rail network to remove military traffic from the roads.

It is to examine the costs and feasibility of clearing selected rail lines to help transport tanks and artillery to the Channel Tunnel.

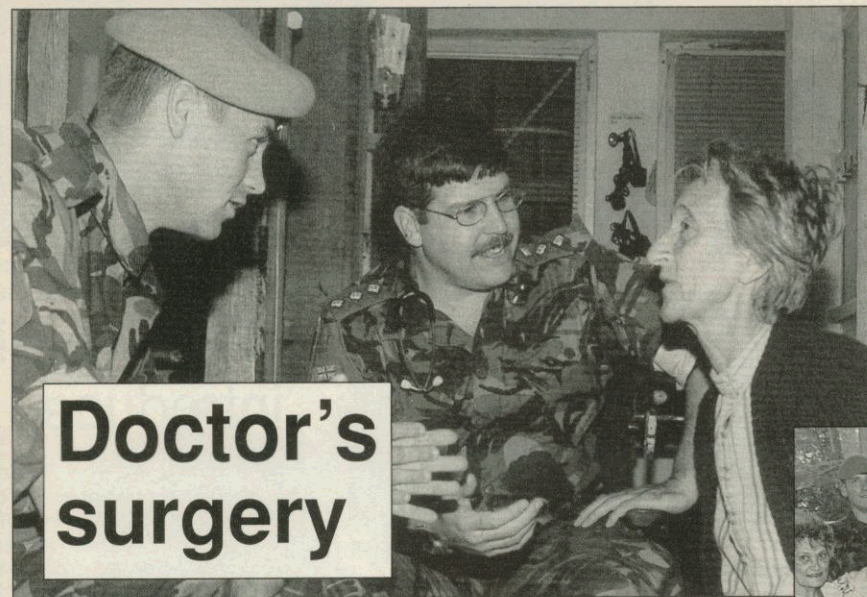
The Army no longer had the strength to make a worthwhile contribution in any conflict situation worthy of the name which lasts more than a few weeks, Fd Marshal Lord Bramall told the Lords during the second day of the debate on the Queen's Speech at the opening of Parliament.

He said there were not enough gunners to man all of even the reduced number of guns in a battery, too few tank drivers to man all the considerably reduced number of tanks in a regiment, and, on average, two platoons short in each infantry battalion.

It's a fact

GOVERNMENTS to which British Service personnel have been loaned since 1992:

Angola, Antigua, Australia, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belize, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Brunei, Dominica, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Hong Kong, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lesotho, Malaysia, Mauritius, Namibia, New Zealand, Nigeria, Oman, Portugal, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Africa, St Lucia, St Vincent, Swaziland, Turks and Caicos Islands, United Arab Emirates and Zimbabwe. - Parliamentary written answer.



Doctor's surgery

RAMC doctor Capt **Kevin Beaton** (centre) is one of the many British Army medical officers holding clinics in Bosnia to treat elderly people and children unable to reach any of the region's few hospitals. He was assisted by Bosnian interpreter **Goran** (left).

Crackling good idea

Three Royal Logistic Corps chefs prepare a pig roast for troops based at Gornji Vakuf. Pte **Andy Prior**, attached to MST 2, ladles on some more cooking oil, while Ptes **Dave Tweed** and **Jim Payne** (1 Fd Sqn RE) turn the spit.



Finger of fate



The 1st Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers has taken over from the former British Cavalry Battalion in the Maglaj Finger area. Among those serving with Zulu Company, 1 RRF are (left to right) Cpl **Andy McFall** and Fus **Paul McGann**, **Gary Evans** and **George Spuhler**.



Reserve forces

These Territorial Army officers were on the staff of Headquarters 24 Airmobile during its recent deployment to Croatia. All were called up by the specialist pool of liaison officers and watchkeepers administered by Central Volunteer Headquarters (RA) at Woolwich. Pictured (L to R): Capt **Charles Routh** RA, Maj **Heinz Tittman** RE, John Hodgson WFR and Angus Taverner RA, Lt Cols **James Collins** QOY and **Steven Cave** PARA and Maj **Giles Stibbe** HCR and John Anderson HLDRS.

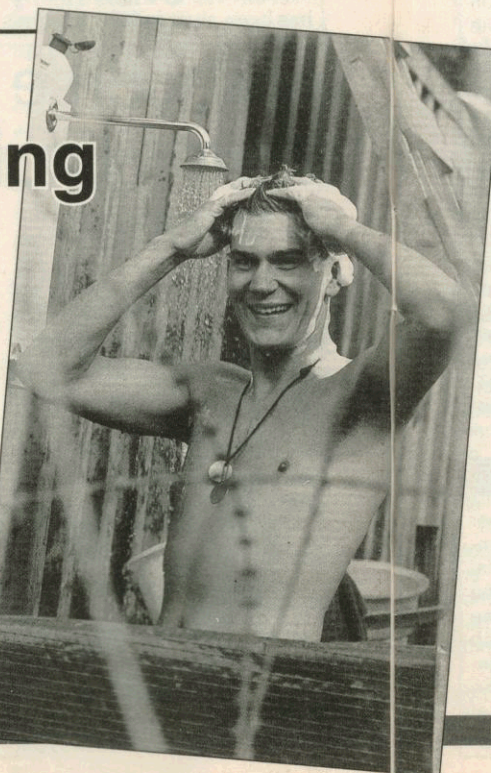


Clothes Horse?

Four British cavalrymen serving with the Queen's Royal Lancers in Bosnia raised the morale of schoolchildren at Maglaj by handing over clothing donated by the regiment's families and friends. Pictured (left to right) are Tprs **Andy Searle** and **Geoff Back**, Lt **Tottie Blakey** and Maj **Rupert Wieloch**.

Cool running

British squaddies have long been renowned for resourcefulness in making life more comfortable under operational conditions. And when they can't fix it, the Royal Engineers can. Capt **Ben Collins**, 9/12 L, enjoys a shower at Bravo 11 checkpoint after sappers installed basic washing and toilet facilities.



Not the real thing

LCpl **John Montgomery** of 4 Field Squadron RE returns with a batch of dummy mines used during a demonstration of clearance operations at Vitez, where troops waiting to take part in an operation to raise the siege of Sarajevo were training.



Back again, and again...

Several members of B Squadron, The Light Dragoons currently serving with the UN Rapid Reaction Force in former Yugoslavia have completed more than one six-month Op Grapple tour. Checking their position on a map are LCpl **Bob Clayton**, SQMS **Stu Wiles** and Capt **Ian Orr**. For Clayton and Orr, it is their third stint of duty with UNPROFOR.



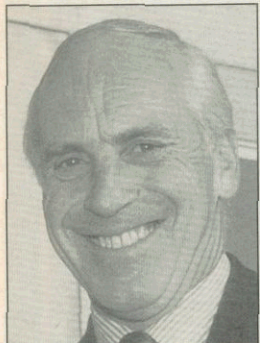
Hand-some sight

The Tito's Fist monument near Gornji Vakuf has become a familiar sight to troops on Op Grapple tours of duty, so far. Enjoying the panoramic views are Cpl **Andy McFall**, 1 RRF and Pte **Scouse Adams**, RLC. Pte Adams was attached as a driver to Army press officers serving with Task Force Alpha and the UN's Multinational Brigade and witnessed many of the key military events that took place in the run-up to the ceasefire declaration in Bosnia.

Designer sappers



A design cell from 519 Specialist Team Royal Engineers (STRE) drafted plans for a number of major projects during their Op Grapple tour. These were used in the construction of bridges and Army bases throughout Sector South West. The Chilwell-based sappers included WO2 **Danny Coomber**, Cpl **Tom McNamara**, SSgt **Neil Davies**, LCpl **Vinny Vince**, SSgt **Trev Spinks** and Capt **Mick Collins**.



Our new man at Naafi

COL David Shephard has taken over from Col John Houchin as the Army's new Naafi representative. Col Shephard (above), late Queens, said: "I have had no experience of Naafi before, except as a customer. As Army representative I see myself as a conduit between Naafi and the Army."

"As an infantryman I have a particular interest in the needs of soldiers because they are our greatest asset. In my role as Army representative I will make sure they get the best possible benefits from Naafi."

Col Shephard's last appointment was vice-president of the Regular Commissions Board.



Well trained

LCpl Jason Bruce (above) did rather well at the Royal Military Police Training School at Chichester.

Not only was he assessed to be the fittest recruit in his intake, but he also completed three units of the Customer Services National Vocational Qualification under a pilot course supported by Sussex Chamber of Commerce Training and Enterprise and the Consultancy and Training Centre, Cricklade College, Andover.

Jason transferred to the RMP from The Gordon Highlanders.

Why pet quarantine laws cause so much pain

ONE TOPIC guaranteed to generate a huge response is Britain's quarantine laws. The Association of RAF Wives has joined the campaign to abolish quarantine... and it is in illustrious company.

Mere mention on my *Counterpoint* programme of the Passports for Pets organisation was enough to start a steady stream of letters into my office.

They came from the Royal Air Force and the Army, from civilians and a variety of ex-pats. Every one of them supported the aims as we described them.

Passports for Pets came about when Lady Mary Fretwell, wife of a former ambassador, decided to try to change the Government's mind on quarantine.

Passports is only one of a number of formal and informal groups with the same intention. The argu-

ment goes that now the technology exists to implant a micro-chip identity tag safely under an animal's skin, the authorities can use it to keep track of an animal's vaccination and medical history.

The owner would thus have absolutely reliable electronic proof that the cat or dog had had its rabies vaccinations, so making a period of quarantine unnecessary.

Why should we care? What is the problem with putting a dog or cat in kennels for six months?

Most are well run by animal lovers, and owners can visit at any time. Aren't pets, after all, only animals?

But for Service families a pet is often much more than a furry friend. In a turbulent career punctuated by frequent periods of separa-



Cari's column

'This is not an argument about the standard of care of pets in quarantine, although some emotive evidence has been offered in that respect, but about the need for the process at all.'

tion, the presence of a much-loved cat or dog can be an enormous comfort. And leaving aside the proven medical benefits (there is evidence that the act of stroking an animal can reduce blood pressure) a pet can be a real asset to family life.

To have to part with that companion, even for six months, can cause real distress. The campaigners say that distress could, and should, be avoided.

Air Chief Marshal Sir Michael Spear made a contribution to the debate,

pointing up the stress factors of Service life and saying that "putting your family friend away for six months" is adding to them.

He suggested it was time more people realised there were scientific ways of dealing with the situation.

He also made the point that the more junior the Service personnel, the more difficult the financial burden of quarantine.

With costs of £1,500 and more, some have no alternative but to have their pets put down.

All the correspondence I've received has been in favour of abolishing quarantine in favour of reliable identification and vaccination records. There has not been a single dissenting voice.

This is not an argument about the standard of care of pets in quarantine, although some emotive evi-

dence has been offered in that respect, but about the need for the process at all.

The only way in which it will be won is by a massive public expression of interest. Air marshals, generals, admirals and Members of Parliament are doing their bit, but they need support from the front line.

I am keeping all the letters that come into my office and shall be passing them to Passports for Pets.

If you have a view on this subject, please let me know.

I was delighted to read the comments by Armed Forces Minister Nicholas Soames about the need for Servicemen and women to be seen once more out and about in uniform.

Speaking on the current problems of poor recruitment, he said the image of the British Army as "a business in decline" was partly

responsible for the situation.

He remarked that he would like to see off-duty Service personnel in uniform, as he had done in his youth.

I think he was unfair on himself, though, when he said he felt partly to blame for failing to promote the Army's image sufficiently.

"I think," he said, "that ministers over the years have not seen the problem coming." I would suggest that, even if they had, there was little they could have done about it.

Service personnel had to stop wearing uniform when they were off duty because it was in their interests to do so.

At that time, cutbacks and redundancies were no more than small dark clouds on the horizon. By the time the storm broke, Service personnel had more or less disappeared

from the public view. As far as civilians were concerned, the rains fell on distant strangers.

Making soldiers, sailors and airmen (and women) visible again would give a huge boost to the public profile of the Services, and could go hand in hand with a commitment to making their job worth doing.

Only by slowing down the processes of "civilianisation" and privatisation would the Government demonstrate its respect for the military community.

If a Serviceman feels his job is something that any civilian with a management qualification can do, he is not going to be inclined to wear his uniform when he goes to work.

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

They've got you covered

CLAIMS totalling more than £7 million have been paid out on PAX and PAX+ policies since the MoD-approved personal accident scheme for Service personnel was launched in 1989.

Insurers Bain Hogg have already processed nearly 50 claims arising from service in former Yugoslavia, including eight deaths.

Cover applies to all duty with the United Nations and other peacekeeping forces anywhere in the world, and the scheme has been extended to the Gurkhas.

In the past six years Bain Hogg has met many claims arising from death or injury. Notable examples include death and disabilities sustained on duty in Northern Ireland, road traffic accidents at home and abroad, parachute and sports accidents, exercise fatalities and injuries, and the Mull of Kintyre helicopter crash.

Six months after it was launched for the British Army and Royal Navy in 1989, PAX was given a massive boost by the outbreak of the Gulf War. Those already in the scheme enjoyed full cover throughout the conflict at the usual premiums.

Although PAX was closed to new members as tension in the Middle East rose, a special facility known as PAX.ME, which offered full cover at a higher price, was taken up by more than 2,400 Service personnel hurriedly making last-minute arrangements.

Nine of those who died during the war were insured by PAX or PAX.ME, and many claims for injury were settled.

The Royal Air Force asked to join in 1991, and, with additional features to cover death from natural causes such as heart attack and cancer, the scheme became known as PAX+. It now has 35,117 members, of which 26,980 are in the Army.

Main aim of the policy remains to provide Servicemen and women and their families with comprehensive and inexpensive financial protection in the event of death or permanent disability.

Highlights of the scheme include guaranteed acceptance for all Regular Army personnel and worldwide 24-hour cover, on and off duty.

Unit admin offices have the necessary application forms, but if you want to know more, ring Bain Hogg's free 24-hour helpline on 0800 212480 (UK) or 01883 340001 ref PAX (overseas).

THE LEISURELY LODGE

UNITS, individuals and families looking for a base from which to take advantage of the attractions of the Scottish Highlands might like to uncover "the Army's best-kept secret": Rothiemurchus Lodge.

Situated on the estate of the same name, the joint Service facility, close to Aviemore, is ideal for soldiers and their families, according to Maj David Harrington, secretary of the Rothiemurchus Committee.

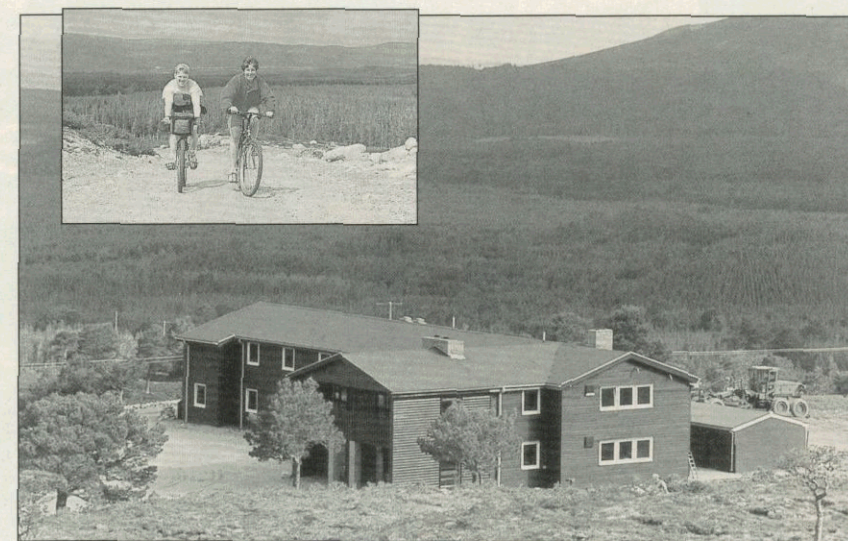
Local attractions include walking, cycling, skiing, fishing, birdwatching and golf. Aviemore, a few miles to the west, offers many attractions, including an ice rink, restaurants, shops and a sports health centre.

Lodge guests can take out membership of nearby Cowlumbridge Hotel and make use of its pool, jacuzzi, sauna, restaurants and bars.

There is no rank status at Rothiemurchus Lodge and everyone is provided for to the same standards by managers Dug and Meg Blair.

The two accommodation blocks - Nuffield Hut and the Union Jack Lodge - contain facilities such as payphone and communal lounge with TV.

There are coin-operated washing machines and a



The main lodge buildings and (inset) mountain-bikers take the Highland road

drying room, and plenty of hot water on tap.

Guests are provided with duvet, pillow and bedding pack and there is a sports hire shop on the premises.

Kitchens in both blocks are well-equipped, but there is one warning to interested units. Accommodation is provided on a self-catering basis only - so they should bring their own chef...

● Get further details from the Manager, Rothiemurchus Lodge, by Aviemore,

Inverness-shire PH2 1QU, tel 01479 861288 or fax 01479 861277.

Lodge costs: £7.50 a night (£8 in peak season) for adults, £4 for children under 13.

TSRO change

AIR Commodore Nick Hamilton has become the first RAF officer to head the Tri-Service Resettlement Organisation (TSRO) which is responsible for providing resettlement training and advice to men and women leaving the Armed Forces.

War widows

THOUSANDS of war widows will be better off as a result of a change in the rules relating to their pensions, according to the DSS.

MoD rules on Attributable Family Forces Pensions have been brought into line with the DSS War Widow's Pension, a move which means the pension, awarded where the late husband's death was attributable to service from March 31, 1973, is restored automatically. Until now reinstatement has been discretionary.

No to clinic

PLANS to base a minor injuries unit at Cambridge Military Hospital have been dropped. The two-year pilot scheme would have filled the gap between the official closure of CMH and the opening of a new unit at Aldershot Health Centre.

Maurice's golden moment

ITALY campaign veteran Maurice Cheadle proudly receives a Help the Aged Golden Award from the Princess of Wales during a celebrity-packed luncheon at the London Hilton.

The award was in recognition of his "creative contribution to society".

Maurice (78) founded the Italy Star Association in 1987 and has seen it grow into an international body with branches in Canada, New Zealand, Australia, Italy and the UK.

The association helps its members to keep in touch, acts as a pressure group, and assists veterans in welfare matters.

It has organised regular visits to British war cemeteries in Italy, and campaigned for the memorial erected in the grounds of Canterbury Cathedral to honour those killed in Italy during the Second World War.

The Tunstall Golden Awards were established by Help the Aged in 1989 to honour the outstanding voluntary achievements of people over 65. Princess Diana is patron of the national charity.

Maurice was chosen from more than 700 nominations received by Help the Aged.



□ The Lord Mayor's Show was used as a recruiting parade during the First World War

□ Within the City's "Square Mile", the Lord Mayor's rank is second only to the Queen, and he is the only commoner allowed a ceremonial escort of the Household Cavalry

□ More than 47 tons of sand and 6,300 galvanised

PARADE POINTS

crowd barriers are used for the show, and the WRVS feed 5,000 people within an hour

□ The six dray horses which pull the Lord Mayor's 3-ton coach are trained to bear its weight by pulling a large water barrel on a dray for three

days in the week of the show; the Lord Mayor also has a personal rehearsal. There is no military rehearsal

□ Research and calculations were carried out to see if it was feasible to include Challenger 2 in the parade, but it was found

that, because of its weight, it would be too heavy to go over the Bank underground station

□ Two 25-foot-tall reproductions of Gog and Magog, the City of London's gargoyles, constructed by a Norfolk farmer and stored in his barn, feature in the parade each year. They are the smallest thing he has made!

The TA Medic's Show

EVERY YEAR since 1215, give or take the odd bout of plague or cancellation for occasions such as the Duke of Wellington's funeral in 1852, a colourful procession has made its way through the City of London, writes **Phil Wilcox**.

Its origins lie in a charter granted to the City by King John, enabling it to elect its own leader, provided he pledged his loyalty to the monarchy on the feast of St Simon and St Jude.

The new leader's journey to vow allegiance at the Law Courts became more and more spectacular, evolving into what it is today – the Lord Mayor's Show.

This year, as throughout its history, hundreds of soldiers contributed to the show's success, with Regulars ranging from Royal Engineers to Royal Green Jackets alongside Territorial Army units taking part in the procession and lining the routes.

But the man who was putting the Volunteers most firmly in the spotlight was Alderman John Chalstrey – travelling in the magnificent 238-year-old gold coach in his capacity as the new Lord Mayor.

A consultant surgeon at St Bartholomew's Hospital in the

City since 1969, he is also a major in the Royal Army Medical Corps (V), serving as a consultant to 353 Field Surgical Team, 256 Field Hospital.

"It's a long time since a Lord Mayor was actually a serving TA officer," Ald Chalstrey, who is also President of the TAVRA for the City of London, told *Soldier*.

His military background takes in National Service in 1949 with The Welsh Regiment and a transfer to the Royal Army Educational Corps, where he became a sergeant instructor and a member of the corps shooting team.

He then concentrated on his medical training, qualifying at Bart's in 1957, and had very little to do with the Army until 1991.

In the intervening period, Bart's, which by then had lost its last official connection with the City Corporation, decided to put a representative forward for the Court of Common Council.

John Chalstrey stood for the Council in which the hospital is situated in 1981, became an alderman three years later, and, by doing so, became a member of the group from which the Lord Mayor is selected. "As an alderman, you



are automatically on the Committee of Associates of the Honourable Artillery Company, so I have had connections with them since 1984," said the new Lord Mayor.

"But I really only continued my Army interests seriously four years ago, when I became involved with 353 Field Surgical Team. Until the end of September, it was affiliated to 257 Field Hospital RAMC (V) before merging with 217 General Hospital as part of the re-

organisation of Army medical services. It is now called 256 Field Hospital RAMC."

Each Lord Mayor is given the opportunity to name the theme for their particular show.

Perhaps unsurprisingly, Ald Chalstrey's was "Good Health to the City and the Nation", but he had another important stipulation – duly granted – to make to the show organiser.

"This year was special, with it being the 50th anniversary of



Master of the pageant

ORGANISER of the two-mile-long Lord Mayor's Show procession from the Guildhall to Fleet Street was Pageant Master Dominic Reed.

A former second lieutenant who served with the Royal Artillery in Germany in 1981, and now a trooper with the Honorary Artillery Company, he took over the running of the event from his father, a former Green Howard, three years ago.

A team of marshals,

including 100 TAVR officers, is on duty on the day, with years of experience behind them.

"Because the event goes out live on TV, we have to be exact and be able to predict what we will be doing. Unlike, say the Trooping of the Colour, we are unable to rehearse, so we have to get it right first time."

The show, which attracts crowds of 250,000, is entirely self-funding. If someone wishes to enter a

float in the procession, they have to pay, although military participants do not.

About 2,000 members of the Armed Forces take part each year, and about half of the bands are military.

Among the Army participants this time were the 4th Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets, the Band of the Welsh Guards, The London Regiment and C Squadron, The Royal Yeomanry.

the ending of the Second World War, and, with the Lord Mayor's Show coinciding with such a significant date – the eleventh day of the eleventh month – I requested that, whatever the logistics, there should be a two-minute silence during the proceedings."

Interspersed with the floats, which included a vehicle bearing an entire BR 90 bridging kit constructed by Royal Engineers, were various Regular and TA units.

The military bands, the marching and the soldiers riding in vehicles were, in his opinion, the aspect which converted the Lord Mayor's Show from a carnival into a pageant.

"It is something the Army does very well, with enormous good humour and good will: we in the City don't take it for granted, and we are very appreciative."

Ald Chalstrey was also enthusiastic about his own particular corner of the Army.

"I think we probably have the highest standard of medical care of any Army in the world," he said. "In size, it has decreased, but in sophistication it's never been better."

He said that in any conflict of any size the Regular Army Medical Corps would have to rely heavily on volunteers and expressed surprise that the numbers of TA medics had been reduced.

Next year, Ald Chalstrey is due to hang up both scalpel

The Welsh Guards precede the coaches as the Lord Mayor arrives at St Paul's

and combats, but he plans to keep up his association with the Terriers.

He has particularly strong memories of his first camp with 217 General Hospital, when the unit carried out military, rather than medical, training in south Devon.

"We were looked after and trained by the gentlemen of the SAS," said the Lord Mayor.

Being the head of the City Corporation is something for which the responsibilities and skills acquired both as surgeon and TA officer have prepared him well.

"No two days will be the same, and I think the disciplines which one learns in the Service, whether ordering one's thoughts or reacting quickly to situations, will be invaluable," he said.

As far as bringing the Territorial Army's profile into a wider arena, both here and overseas, is concerned, the new Lord Mayor's year in office promises to be every bit as illuminating as the fireworks over the Thames which brought his special day to a spectacular end.

It's a fact

In addition to about 74,000 soldiers in the UK, the British Army is deployed in the following numbers at permanent overseas garrisons:

Germany, 26,500; Hong Kong, 2,600; Brunei, 680; Cyprus, 2,700; Falkland Islands, 300; Gibraltar, 60.

Officers and soldiers from these garrisons are deployed on short-term operational and other tours in a further 77 countries (some as defence and military attachés). *Commons written answer.*

Why the CO is an RAF officer

WING Cdr Shawn Gracie has the distinction of being the only Royal Air Force officer currently in charge of an Army station.

As commanding officer of the Defence School of Languages (DSL), the only unit left on the Wilton Park site at Beaconsfield, he is also the station commander.



Wg Cdr Gracie

A satellite of the Adjutant General's Corps Training Centre at Worthy Down, DSL's isolation follows the move of the Army School of Training Support from Beaconsfield to Upavon a year ago, and of the Army School of Education from Beaconsfield to Worthy Down in April this year.

The post of CO DSL is shared between the Army and the RAF. Wg Cdr Gracie took over the school more than a year ago, and found himself elevated to Commander Beaconsfield Station on the departure of Col Nick Hoyal.

School moves to Arborfield

HISTORIC military aircraft flew again to mark the end of an era at Middle Wallop, Hants, on November 7 when the Army's School of Aeronautical Engineering lowered its flag for the final time before moving to Arborfield.

The school is to merge with the School of Electronic Engineering to form the REME's School of Electronic and Aeronautical Engineering. It opened 37 years ago as the Aircraft Trades School REME.

Home to Georgie and the Gunners

WHEN Sgt Georgie Adamson went home, he took the rest of 39th Regiment, Royal Artillery with him.

Born in Newcastle, he is delighted to be based at Albemarle Barracks, Harlow Hill, in easy range of his parents' home and only 21 minutes from what is, according to a recent survey, the world's eighth liveliest night spot.

It is the first time an operational unit has been stationed at Harlow Hill, just north of Hadrian's Wall. Word is that the last gunners seen in the area were Roman soldiers trundling their ballistae catapults to training camps a day's march to the north.

RAF Ouston opened as a Polish fighter station in 1941. It was subsequently taken over by 11 Signal Regiment before becoming, in 1975, home to Infantry Training Battalion Ouston. The gunners arrived in August from Dempsey Barracks, Paderborn, after 35 years stationed in Germany.

With the huge expanse of a former airfield to work on, RSM WO1 Vance Glennon has scope for variety when he organises the CO's weekly run.

First priority for 39th Regi-



LBdr Mick Williams at the controls of MLRS

ment – the Birmingham Gunners – was putting the Royal Artillery's stamp on the barracks. An Iraqi BM 21 rocket launcher captured during the Gulf War is destined to become the gate guardian.

The regiment was the first to be equipped with the Multiple Launch Rocket System (MLRS) when it was rushed into service in the Gulf. The weapon – and the gunners –

featured in several spectacular television sequences filmed on the desert battlefield.

The regiment descends from the Bengal Rocket Troop, a title carried by 132 Battery. The other missile battery is 176 (Abu Klea) Bty; its locating battery is 57 (Bhurt-pore) Bty and HQ is 56 (Olphert's) Bty.

Masterminded by the Quartermaster (Technical), Capt



Sgt Georgie Adamson (left) and Bdr Taff Williams with MLRS in front of 39's regimental HQ and its 25 pounder

Yorkie Lord, the regimental rugby team made its mark by defeating a Newcastle Gosforth XV in front of England internationals Rob Andrews and Tony Underwood, who

have joined the ambitious National Division 2 club. Three regimental players are having trials with Gosforth.

More than 500 men serve with the regiment, along with nearly 300 families who are accommodated on camp or in nearby Newcastle.

The Birmingham Gunners have been given a warm welcome in Northumberland, an area steeped in military history and boasting strong gunner connections and a long list of Territorial Army units.

The arrival of MLRS rang alarm bells in some local quarters, but the new commanding officer, Lt Col Nick Clissitt, is quick to point out that the Artillery's most potent weapon – one launcher of 12 rockets has a punch similar to 24 AS90



Lt Col Nick Clissitt, CO 39 Regt

guns each firing eight rounds – has a very low profile. "We are not into charging across the countryside, and once people get to know us I am sure we will be able to train quite happily," he said.

Following individual course training, a major conversion programme will be launched as 39 takes on the

BATES computer fire control and computation system.

Transferring from manual methods and verbal communications to a computer-based fire control system is expected to take two-and-a-half months, after which the regiment will carry out its field training exercise and a five-week live-firing camp.

Col Clissitt hoped the regiment would be able to combine tactical and technical manoeuvres in the Kielder forest area and possibly exercise in Galloway.

"There is a tremendous amount of goodwill towards us and a great opportunity to build up a rapport with the many TA units in the area," he said.

It has not taken the gunners long to build a rapport with Newcastle itself. Sgt Adamson was always telling his colleagues what a great place his city was, and now they believe him. "It's always buzzing and the lads want to go out every night," he said.



Newcastle-based Birmingham Gunners set off on the CO's Friday run across the former Second World War runway. Lt Col Clissitt is in the centre foreground

Report: Gordon Skilling
Pictures: Terry Champion



LCpl Damien Place of 1 R Irish advancing on the Milan anti-tank range

Royal Irish climb Catterick mountain

FOR its first field training exercise since arriving in Catterick in its new role as Saxon-equipped mechanised infantry, the 1st Battalion, The Royal Irish Regiment tackled Exercise Mourne Mountain.

Aims of the exercise, held mainly on Salisbury Plain, were to allow each of the rifle companies and Support Company to carry out live-firing, to familiarise the battalion with Saxon operations and to conduct offensive and defensive operations at battalion level.

As the spearhead of a United Nations force, 1 R Irish had to ensure that main supply routes were kept open and protected against the enemy. But before heading south to Wiltshire, the battalion had to turn travel north to Northumberland for an intensive live-firing package at Otterburn.

The deployment was delayed for several days because of firing restrictions at Otterburn due to the dry summer.

Support Company was able to deploy on schedule to Warcop to carry out its live-firing and the postponement of the battalion's deployment to Otterburn resulted in more small arms ammunition



Maj Alan Woolford, OC Support Company, briefs CSgt Charlie Beattie at the company firing range

being made available. The mortar company fired its annual allocation of high explosive rounds then returned to Catterick before joining the rest of the battalion at Otterburn.

Although the tracer and pyrotechnic ban was unfortunate, plenty of GPMG ammunition produced exciting and realistic training.

Dry training continued in the background, the priority being to work with and main-

tain Saxon in the field.

For the second week on Salisbury Plain the battalion made the long journey south by road. Once dug in on the Plain, the companies exercised in the role of a peacekeeping force. As the situation deteriorated, the rules were changed to allow a more offensive stance to be adopted.

The exercise initially tested the response to various scenarios, including dealing with minor aggressive enemy actions, prisoners of war and casevac procedures.

Companies soon found themselves deploying standing and fighting patrols, leading up to A and C Coys attacking an enemy trench system.

The week culminated in a final battalion attack before the Irish Rangers embarked on the road move back to Catterick.

Hungary for action!

SEVEN months of planning, training and liaising with members of 11 nationalities in three countries by Brig Jeremy Gaskell came to a successful conclusion in a 12-day NATO-sponsored international peace-keeping exercise in Hungary, writes Glyn Strong.

Sixty-four men and women from Preston-based 42 (North West) Brigade – of which the brigadier is the commander – took part in Exercise Co-operative Light, a Partnership for Peace (PfP) command post exercise (CPX) in the Transdanubian region.

They headed a Multinational Brigade (MNB) headquarters at the Hungarian training camp of Ujdorogd, in partnership with Germany and Hungary and with active input from nine other nations.

Although Co-operative Light did not involve the deployment of troops outside the command structure, it was considered a valid test of how nations can work together as peacekeepers.

Using an agenda provided by German directing staff, the UK-led MNB tackled the same range of issues, from military and medical to logistic and humanitarian, which a real peacekeeping force might be expected to face.

The exercise was the first PfP venture in which a regional – and predominantly TA – brigade had taken the leading role, a step which Brig Gaskell sees as entirely consistent with recent changes of scale in the Army's commitments and forward contribution to the defence and stability of Europe.

"This was the largest PfP exercise carried out so far, and therefore something of a challenge to us," said Brig Gaskell.

"It was British-led, which was important as our peacekeeping experience was invaluable – especially during the planning process.

"Through a number of staff training periods, we were able to forge some very close ties with the other nations, so that during the exercise the multinational headquarters gelled as an entity.

"I think we accomplished a great deal. I am sure that every step that aids co-operation rather than confrontation between nations should be



Above – Maj Paul Chandler (front) and Maj David Allerdice try out a Russian-built Hind D Gun Ship during the exercise. With them is Hungarian Air Force pilot Capt Ferenc Szmétan

Below – British members of the Multinational Brigade gather round the Partnership for Peace logo at Ujdorogd



encouraged, and that is what this exercise was about."

For host nation Hungary, one of 26 nations to sign NATO partnership documents, the CPX was a valued opportunity to learn from Britain's peacekeeping expertise.

Gen Helge Hansen, Commander-in-Chief Allied Forces Central Europe, described the process as one of working together in a family of nations in support of commonly-shared values such as freedom,

the rule of law and human dignity.

He identified the keys to Co-operative Light's success as "good understanding and constant communication".

"PfP exercises like this are essential to train troops and improve operations and procedures. By doing this we will provide our soldiers, commanders and politicians with more confidence, and ensure that we have the capability to co-operate in NATO-led peace support operations."



Above – MNB Commander Brig Jeremy Gaskell talks to exercise co-directors Gen Lajos Urban (Hungary) and Gen Gerd Schultze-Rhonhof (Germany)



Left – Conkering heroes? Maj Paul Chandler, Kings Own Border, challenges German Captain Uwe Willert to try his hand at one of Britain's national pastimes during a light-hearted break in the exercise

Below – Hand of friendship: Exercise QM Maj David Oak greets the MNB's Hungarian Deputy Commander, Col Tibor Nagi



small detachments throughout the north west area.

They blended in seamlessly with their Regular counterparts and their international colleagues, he said.

Participants in the exercise were drawn mainly from Brigade HQ in Preston, HQ 5th Division in Shrewsbury, 2 RRF in Chester, 1 DWR in Lancashire, TA units throughout the brigade, including D (DLOY) Sqn in Wigan, 4 QLR in Preston, 4 Kings Own Border in Lancaster and Cumbria, 208 Field Hospital and the Army Cadet Force in Merseyside, 5/8 Kings in Warrington, 101 REME in Chorley and 3 Cheshire.



Sound as a Bell in Brunei

OPERATIONS in a jungle environment are carried out by the Army's most easterly aviation detachment - 7 Flight, Army Air Corps.

Based at Pekan Seria, the flight is the only Service unit equipped with Bell 212 helicopters.

The three two-engined aircraft are leased from Bristow's under a four-year contract which includes all training and spares.

Air and ground crews attend a course held once a year at the School of Army Aviation at Middle Wallop.

The flight became operational with its Bell helicopters in September last year after OC Maj Steve Westmacott, the Qualified Helicopter Instructor (QHI), WO1 Andy Hall, and two air crew attended the initial conversion course.

On their return to Brunei, they uncrated and assembled the aircraft and flew them to the flight line.

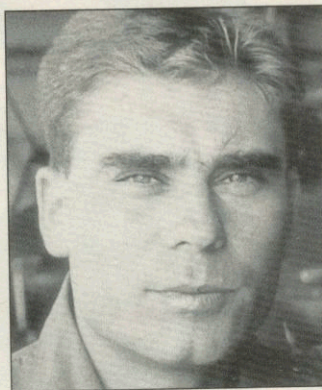
Ideal for operations in the country's jungle environment, the Bell 212 can carry 13 lightly equipped or eight fully equipped soldiers.

With a flight duration of 2½ hours, the Bell has three times more power than the Scout helicopter which it replaced.

Fitted with an internally-mounted electric winch with 270 ft of cable, it is ideal for jungle casualty evacuation (casevac) operations.

The Bell has recently been modified for night vision goggles, and the flight has pioneered the first winching to make use of them.

WO1 Hall, 12 years a pilot and with 4,000 flying hours notched up, described the air-



craft as very user-friendly. "It was built for soldiers. I shall complete my tour here this month and will be very sad to go," he said.

The flight operates in conjunction with the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF), which is also equipped with the Bell.

Both 7 Flight and RBAF aircraft were used on a recent major exercise, Ulu Rajah, run in Brunei by HQ Land Command.

"The 212 is an excellent helicopter," said Maj Westmacott, "and is the ideal helicopter for this type of operation. We are the only unit in the three Services to operate it.

"This is quite different from operations in North West Europe. Being 90 miles north of the Equator, we have tropical weather conditions. You can have blue skies on the coast

Above - A "user-friendly" Bell 212 helicopter operated by 7 Flight, Army Air Corps, flies over the jungle in Brunei

Left - Maj Steve Westmacott, OC 7 Flight

and, just ten miles inland, tropical thunderstorms, heavy rain showers and poor visibility."

In Brunei, 7 Flight supports the resident Gurkha battalion, Garrison HQ and Training Team Brunei in moving troops and jungle search and rescue operations.

During Exercise Ulu Rajah, the flight flew 100 hours in two weeks, learning some invaluable lessons on how to operate in the jungle in the process.

When a soldier was bitten on the neck by an insect and had to be evacuated at night, the six months which the members of 7 Flight had spent exercising with night goggles paid off when they had to carry out a tricky casualty evacuation using the goggles.

"The aircraft went to a winch site which had not been reconnoitred, and we were all pleased with the way the operation went," said Maj Westmacott.

"Troops in the jungle cannot always cut landing sites, so they are trained to cut a hole small enough to winch a crewman and casualty to safety."

TA's crack shots rank with best in world

FOLLOWING news of the Regular Army shooting team's victory at the international Service rifle competition in Arkansas (Newsline, November 27), the Territorial Army results have now been received.

And they prove that Britain's part-time soldiers are among the best shots in the world.

The Armed Forces Skill-at-Arms match staged at the US National Guard Marksmanship Training Centre in Little Rock, Arkansas attracted more than 1,000 top rifle and pistol competitors from around the world.

The Territorial Army's rifle A team, consisting of Capt John Alexander (4/5 Green Howards), Sgt Dave Fenwick (7 DLI), Cpl Derek Rolph (6 R Anglian) and an NCO from 4/5 Rangers, won the overall expert rifle match and the Combat Rifle Chief National Guard Service Rifle championship with a record score.

In doing so they beat teams from the Regular Army and RAF, the US National Guard, Army Reserve and Marine Corps, Italy, France, Germany, Australia, South Africa, Canada, the Netherlands and Denmark.

The Terriers were second in the combat rifle match and third in the obstacle course and fire team assault matches.

Capt Alexander, a senior conductor on BR's Inter-City East Coast network, broke records in taking individual first places in the 100 and 200-yard matches, and was third at 300 yards. Sgt Fenwick, a heating and plumbing engineer from Durham, was second in the 500 and 600-yard range competitions and third in the reaction course match.

In the individual combat rifle section, Fenwick and Alexander were second and third out of more than 130 competitors.

The final event, the prestigious Commander-in-Chief's match for the unofficial rifle world championships, was won by the Regular Army team, which narrowly edged out the Territorial Army.



Lt Jamie Adam sets off a BATSIM charge during the platoon competition

Terrier sappers in last-minute Pond jump

WHEN the Regular Royal Engineer support for Exercise Pond Jump West 3 at Camp Wainwright, Alberta, had to be re-deployed to Bosnia, the Territorial Army had to make up the shortfall.

Lt Jamie Adam from 101 (London) Engineer Regiment (EOD) (V) flew out to run the battlefield simulations and watermanship activities in Canada.

He also found himself commanding 11 men from the Royal Monmouthshire Royal Engineers (Militia), attached to the 1 Scots Guards battlegroup at the last minute under SSgt Malcolm O'Callaghan.

Little preparation was possible, so Lt Adam spent the first few days in Canada locating equipment and finding the few watermanship sites not dried up by the hot summer.

When the rest of the sappers arrived, they were bundled off to Jasper in the Rockies for a week of adventurous training.

After white water rafting, canoeing, climbing, mountain biking, and pony trekking, they returned to Wainwright to get on with the main task.

As the battlegroup had by then completed a range package, the companies started rotating through a programme of military training, adventurous training and an inter-platoon competition similar to the Cambrian Patrol.

For the watermanship phase, teams had to paddle 1km across one lake, and swim



Cpl Steve Morgan and Spr "Winnie" Winstone on top of Mt Whistler in the Rockies during adventure training

150m across another.

Teams had also encountered the sappers on another stand, where smoke, bullet strikes and mortar fire were simulated at close range as the men moved into a series of trenches.

Lt Adam got plenty of EOD practice on unexploded ordnance lying around the area, and took part in an exercise with a Canadian bomb disposal team.

There was a welcome break

for R and R in Edmonton before the final exercise.

Engineer support on the exercise, apart from blowing gaps in barbed wire for each of the two companies, and two simulated bridge demolitions, was limited to providing boats to ferry the battlegroup across a lake for the final attack.

Once ashore, the battlegroup found out what the sappers had been up to the previous week: 12 barrages of up to 40 charges each were laid all around them.

The areas were taped and lit for safety at night, but the explosions still took many by surprise.

Although they had to work hard, replacing twice as many of their Regular counterparts, the volunteer sappers had an enjoyable time, and were made welcome by the Scots Guards.

They were able to practise tasks in support of the infantry on a scale hard to achieve at home, and proved the TA can provide good, professional assistance.

Even at short notice . . .

Army has a hit show on its hands

How the Presentation Team is winning friends and influencing people

WHEN the Army's hi-tech audio-visual show goes on the road, the audiences are wowed.

The showbiz jargon is not meant flippantly. The production's message is, after all, honest, objective, uncomplicated and unhyped – explaining the worth of today's Army

A measure of success

STATISTICS give an indication of the Army Presentation Team's performance.

● Since the first presentations in 1991, its audiences have more than trebled.

● Last year, invited audiences at 95 venues totalled 12,094 people, including 136 company chairmen, 1,305 managing directors and directors, 66 doctors, 778 mayors and councillors, 515 teachers and 16 Lords Lieutenant.

● The team spent 340 days and nights on tour, covering 115,000 miles in vehicles sponsored by the Rover Group and LDV. Time spent on actual presentations totalled 87 hours and 397 questions were answered.

● In addition, 177 minutes were devoted to being interviewed on 18 radio stations on the APT itinerary.

● And just to prove that it practises what it preaches as far as value for money is concerned, the team has driven down its own costs significantly, at the same time increasing its productivity by 190 per cent over the past two years.

to the nation and indeed to the world, writes Chris Horrocks.

It should not be too difficult to prove even to the most intransigent spectator that Britain has the best-trained, best-equipped and most professional soldiers, giving value for money.

It's just that the Army Presentation Team (APT) uses images, voices and light so well, and answers even the toughest questions so directly and fluently, that the delivery of that simple message becomes almost (but not quite) an entertainment – and has a remarkable effect on its audiences.

After one recent 37-minute presentation at Lord's Cricket Ground a "fast-ball" question about the influence of Europe on the future of the British Army was answered so quickly and frankly that a woman in the distinguished audience jumped to her feet and applauded loudly.

Just as sincere and spontaneous are the many other verbal and written reactions after APT shows:

"The presentation was excellent. It is a pity that the whole country could not see it on television."

"Highly professional, well put together. It got across a message which desperately needs to be got across to the public in the UK."

"I definitely thought of the Army as taking part in wars and battles, so I found the humanitarian side quite informative – and the environmental bit."

Responses such as these are music to the ears of Col Rory Clayton, who commands a Presentation Team which includes a major, a captain, a warrant officer and a corporal.

Their audiences are made



Col Rory Clayton, Commander Army Presentation Team, prepares to take to the road with his team. He commanded 40 Fd Regt RA in the Gulf

Below: An audience-eye view of a presentation

up of opinion-formers from a cross-section of society, many of whom are too young to have experienced National Service. Some have little knowledge of the Armed Forces.

But the APT had just such

people in mind when it was set up in the aftermath of the Cold War. These are the "movers and shakers" who it hoped, rightly, would help it to improve public awareness and understanding of the Army.



Above: The rest of the team, from left, Maj Robert Bruce, Kings Own Border; WO2 Glen Carter DWR; Capt Leisa Derben AGC (SPS); Cpl Chris Doel RLC. They are backed up by an office at the Army Staff College in Camberley

Left: Capt Derben helps load audio-visual kit for the next show



All were answered promptly with a clarity and directness which pleased the large multinational gathering, who seemed as impressed with the show as British audiences.

Col Clayton is philosophical about the team's success. "At the very worst we're out to achieve a benign environment in which the Army can be left alone to get on with its business," he said.

"But at best, and what we're aiming for, is to create a positive environment in which the Army will flourish into the rather uncertain and turbulent years that lie ahead in the 21st century.

"In this nation we are fortunate in having the best Army in the world.

"If we, as a nation, don't sustain that Army it won't survive to preserve our security in the future – and, more importantly, the security of our children."

Each of the technically smooth presentations, such a key factor in the achievement of this aim, takes three hours to set up. The actual performance makes dramatic use of spotlights to pick out the speakers.

Their words, delivered fluently and clearly and without notes, are, as they speak, illustrated dramatically with film, stills and captions on a large computer-controlled screen.

Main themes convey how vital defence is to the nation in an unpredictable world; how it is delivered with a keen eye on value for money; how our soldiers constitute the country's best-trained workforce; and how widespread public support is so necessary to the Army's, and the people's, future.

Words and pictures identify the details, the quality of equipment, care for the environment, excellence of training and the need for continued recruiting.

Audiences are given a clear understanding, too, of the roles of the Territorial Army and Army Cadet Force, and the resources deployed to resettle Regular soldiers as they leave the Army.

Questions put from the floor at a presentation to foreign military attachés at Australia House in London this autumn covered such areas as drug-testing, ethnic minorities, women in the Army, the success of British Army training teams abroad, and the differences between peace-making, peace-keeping, and peace enforcement in such theatres as the former Yugoslavia.



Hat's the way to do it!

Pte Katherine Kavanagh, of 101 REME (V), based in Chorley, Lancs, swaps caps with Sgt Ferenc Szali, Hungarian Army. They were involved in NATO's Exercise Co-operative Light in Hungary. Katherine had good reason to be in high spirits: she celebrated her 20th birthday at the Multinational Brigade HQ in Ujdorogd.

PEOPLE EXTRA



**Just
what the
doctor
ordered**

Dr William Donaldson wears with pride the Second World War medals presented to him by Maj Gen Jonnie Hall, GOC Scotland. A member of the RAMC, Dr Donaldson was captured by the Japanese in Singapore and forced to work on the notorious Burma-Siam railway. He treated countless POWs. But, until a chance remark to Maj Jimmie James, HQ Scotland, the heroic medic had not realised he was entitled to the medals.



Picture: Mike Weston

Emerging from the sewer system at the Copehill Down FIBUA (Fighting in Built-Up Areas) village on Salisbury Plain is Sgt **Jonah Jones**, Int Corps, pictured with members of 33 Company, 3rd Battalion, Regiment Principe de Infanteria Areotransportable Number 3 for whom he was acting as interpreter.

**Viva la
Fibua!**

The regiment is part of the Spanish FAR division, which is assigned to ARRC and became airmobile in 1988. Eighty-seven of its men, mainly conscripts, were taking part in an exchange visit with 31 Divisional Troops Support Squadron RLC.

TILL DUTY DO US PART...

Married life for Capt **Jonathan Gillespie** got off to a hectic start. The day after he and his new wife Lt **Emma Gillespie**, an RLC troop commander with 3 Close Support Regiment at Abingdon, returned from honeymoon, she left with 1 RTR to take part in Exercise Medicine Man 5 at BATUS in Canada. Undaunted, Jonathan, pictured at BATUS, volunteered for watchkeeping duties with 1 RTR. On their return to Britain, he found himself a grass widower again when Emma went on exercise – and he was posted to 16 Signal Regiment in Germany.



Picture: Terry Champion



Doing their bit to foster good relations between former Soviet bloc countries and the West were Brig **Henry Wilson** (far right) and Lt **Alex Wong**, 7 R Anglian (far left). The brigadier, who commands 49 (East) Brigade from his HQ at Chilwell, Nottingham, was hosting

Peaceable Partners

a Partnership for Peace group of officers (left to right) Lt **Andres Reimer**, Maj **Otomarus Bliunas** and Maj **Leons Macs** from reserve units in Estonia, Lithuania and Latvia respectively, as part of Exercise Raging Bear at Otterburn. Five TA units were involved.



Bowing out after 34 years' service with the Territorial Army is CSgt **Maurice Sweeney**, who was presented with a third clasp to his TA Efficiency Medal to mark the achievement. A member of Huddersfield-based C Coy, 3rd Battalion, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment (West Riding) (Yorkshire Volunteers), Maurice, now retired, is pictured with (left) Maj **Rob Bramham**, OC C Coy and the company's CSM, WO2 **Simon Routh**.

Cushioning the blow...

One and only Billy

is so gruff

How a goat major nearly became the butt of the day . . .



A CHANCE encounter with Sgt Norman Pritchard has brought about a considerable change in lifestyle for one particular Kashmiri goat running free in a Bedfordshire wildlife park, **writes Laurie Manton.**

The hapless animal was persuaded to leave his wives behind to take the Queen's Shilling with the 3rd Battalion, The Royal Welch Fusiliers (Volunteers), the latest in a long line of regimental goats.

But he did object, quite strongly, to the attentions of the press photographers who turned up to record his recruitment. It took two handlers to hold him still during a somewhat nervous photo session.

Introductions over, gruff Billy departed to his new home at the Territorial Army Centre in Caernarfon, where he will be trained to take part in ceremonial events.

The newest Billy, a gift of the Queen, was chosen from the Royal herd at Whipsnade Wild Animal Park.

Set apart by distinctive, flowing white fleeces, the herd is descended from a pair which the Shah of Persia gave to Queen Victoria soon after her coronation. The Queen presented the regiment with its first royal goat in 1844.

According to commanding officer Lt Col Nick Beard, the Territorial Army 3rd Battalion has had a goat of its own since 1975.

"The goat is very important to us. We would not be a Royal Welch battalion without him. He is a Fusilier.

"The battalion's previous goat is still alive and our old comrades' associations have promised to provide for him," said Col Beard.

Billy is the third in line to be trained by Sgt Pritchard. A part-time soldier for 26 years, he took on responsibility for the regimental goat in 1981 following the death of his brother Alan, his predecessor as goat major.

"This one will take longer to train than the others. At two, he's older than we normally get them and has been running wild. But once I start feeding him he will accept me as his handler.

"It is important to get him to trust me. He will have to work for his living and carry out ceremonial duties."

As part of Billy's initiation he



All smiles, apparently, as goat major Sgt Norman Pritchard and Kashmiri Billy get to know each other . . .



. . . but all is not as it seems. Alan Morris, senior keeper at Whipsnade Wild Animal Park, had to maintain a very firm hold on Billy's horns as Sgt Pritchard moved in for a close-up to please the photographers

will be taken for walks around Caernarfon so he can get used to crowds.

"The town knows me now. Residents just say 'There goes

Norman with his goat'. I retired our previous goat. Like the new Billy, he lives in a pen at the TA Centre where I am the caretaker. I also fostered

the 1st Battalion's goat while they were in Bosnia."

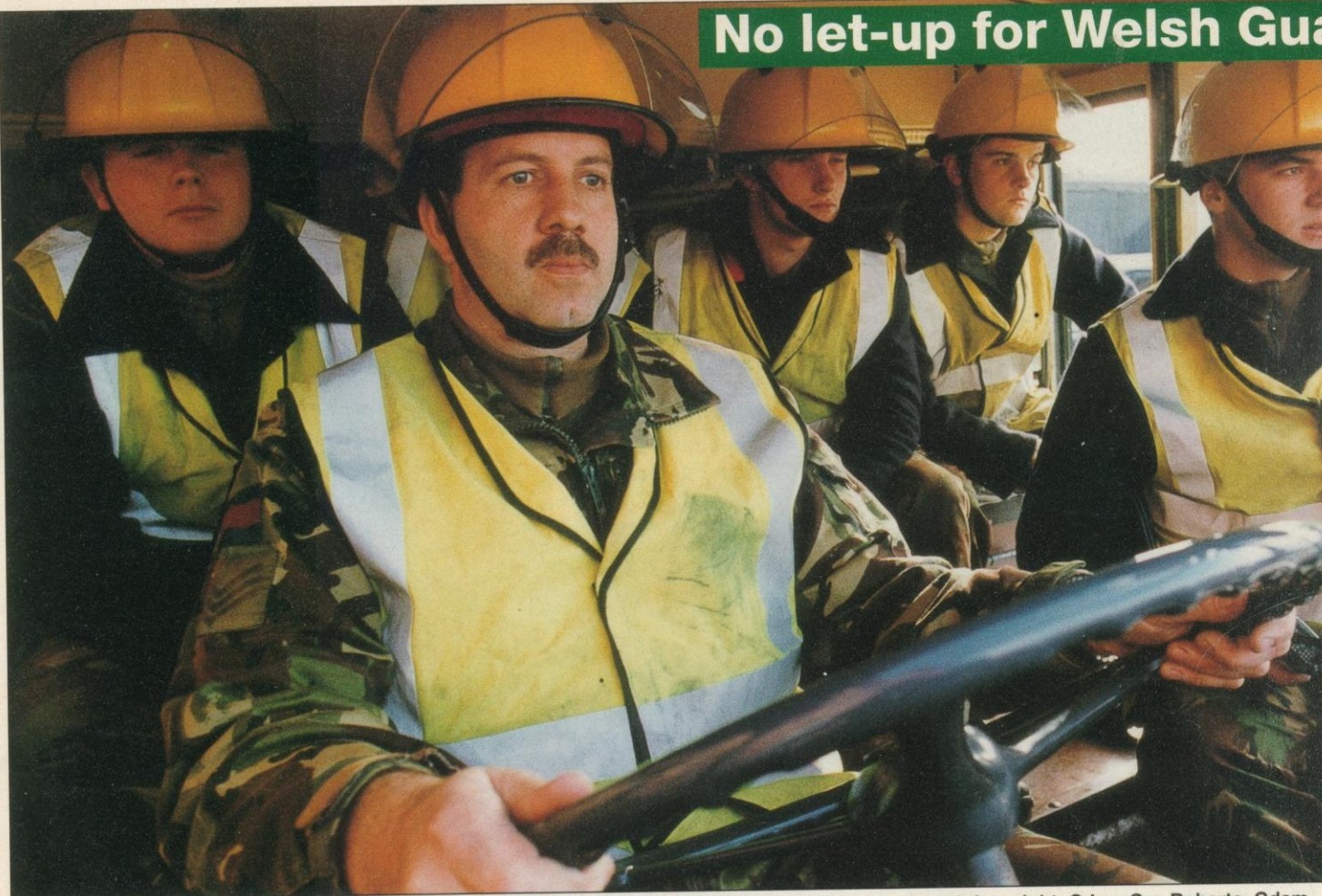
Apparently the 1 RWF goat, normally spoken to in English, had to learn fast . . . Sgt Pritchard's first language is Welsh and that is what he uses when he speaks to the animals.

"The goat does not have a number because he belongs to the regiment, not the Army.

"At one time, when our battalions were 1,000-strong, the regiment was known as the 'Thousand and One'. Billy was the 'One'," explained Sgt Pritchard.

Origins of the long-standing tradition that Royal Welch Fusiliers march with a goat at their head are not known, although the regiment did have a goat with it when it went into action at the Battle of Bunker's Hill in 1775 during the American War of Independence.

Never referred to as a mascot, each animal wears a silver headplate which identifies it as a gift of the Sovereign.



Answering the call: LSgt Paul Jenkins at the wheel of a Green Goddess fire engine. With him are, from left to right, Gdsm Gez Roberts, Gdsm Paul Roberts, LCpl David Meredith and Gdsm Derek Hunt

A hard day's night on Merseyside

Below: A Green Goddess, crewed by men of 1 WG, provides fire cover on the streets of Merseyside



WELSH Guardsmen providing emergency cover during industrial action by Fire Services on Merseyside knew they had to be on their toes on November 5, potentially the busiest night of the year.

But they were ready for anything. The Army's Green Goddesses, backed up by the professional firefighters of the Royal Air Force, dealt with 249 fires, 100 more than the civil Fire Service dealt with during the same period last year. Most calls were to bonfires and deserted warehouses. Three minor casualties were treated.

Guy Fawkes Night duty was one of several stints by soldiers of the 1st Battalion, Welsh Guards covering for firemen taking part in a fourth 24-hour stoppage over job losses and leave.

Equipped with 24 Green Goddesses, the battalion was spread round ten Territorial Army drill halls on Merseyside. Each of the 24 veteran Green Goddesses was manned by two crews made up of a commander and five guardsmen.

RAF fire rescue teams are equipped with specialist equipment, and the guardsmen attended several road traffic accidents to assist after the airmen had released occupants from crushed vehicles.

Normally based at Tern Hill, 1 WG relieved the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers on October 2 following a four-day training package by the Defence Fire Service.

Industrial action by the Fire Services began on August 17, initially for nine-hour strikes,

increased to 18 hours and subsequently 24 hours.

Incidents attended by guardsmen included a fire started by children in a house containing gas canisters. Other calls were to a house where the gable end had collapsed, and a horse which had fallen into a river and had to be rescued, said Capt Barney Branston.

Making sense of the pressure in the operations room in police headquarters was operations officer Capt Harry Lloyd and a team of 16.

"There were some strange calls," he said. "We had one telling us there was a fire in a telephone kiosk, and that there were people inside it."

When off duty, they slept on camp beds in the main police station gym.

The guardsmen trod very carefully after their last experience with Green Goddesses nearly 20 years ago. One incident

has passed into fire-fighting folklore. After rescuing a cat from a tree and accepting a cup of tea from the grateful owner, the fire engine moved off, over the cat.

The Green Goddesses are nearly 40 years old. They date back to the 1950s, when they formed part of the Auxiliary Fire Service fleet, and were kept in locations around the country to meet national emergencies.

They are maintained and stored by TNT Truckcare at Marchington, Staffordshire, and are capable of delivering 900 gallons of water a minute to a fire.

Their high clearance, four-wheel drive capabilities and ease of operation ensure that they are a worthy standby in emergencies.

During the very dry summer they were called out in Cleveland, Warwickshire, Derbyshire and Hampshire to help contain woodland and brush fires.



Mersey landmark: Capt Barney Branston and Cpl Paul Anderson check their Liverpool "A to Z" in front of the Royal Liver Building

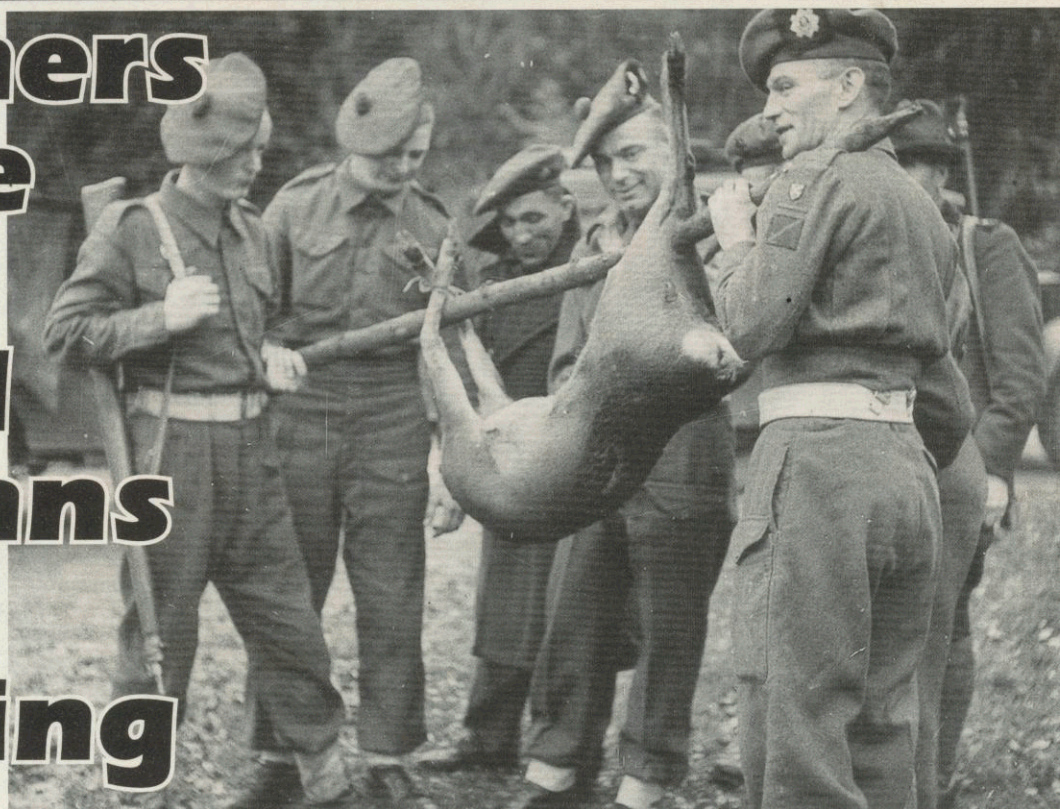


Flashpoint: LSgt Peter Robinson and LCpl Adrian Doyle douse a blaze in the St Nugent's School metal workshop



They all have a part to play. Outside the TA Centre in Townsend Avenue, Norris Green are, from left to right, the soldiers of 3 Company, 1 WG with their Green Goddess; members of the Fire Rescue Team from RAF Sealand; and Merseyside Police escorts

Butchers of the Ruhr saved civilians from starving



Lt Beveridge, Sgt A Pringle and other Royal Scots examine a carcass ready for transport to the refrigerator

IN the run-up to Christmas 1945, *Soldier* reported that thousands of British soldiers were stalking their way through hundreds of square miles of woodlands surrounding the Ruhr with the intention of killing as many wild boar and deer as they could.

Today the news would bring howls of protest from animal rights organisations, but 50 years ago the massive cull was a humanitarian necessity. The soldiers worked to a military plan codenamed Operation Butcher.

Their objective was to store as much meat as possible to supplement the slender winter rations of the German people.

Units organised drives over miles of country with lines of beaters to force the animals to the guns; some tried machine guns and hand grenades; most

used dum-dum bullets (made by filing down .303 ammunition) to making the killing more effective.

Many hunts were accompanied by stretcher-bearing Bren-carriers and medical orderlies. Elaborate safety precautions were taken and civilians were warned several days in advance.

Carcasses were sent to cold storage areas. A special "recce" of German refrigerator accommodation was made to keep a target weight of 1,200 tons of meat.

German gamekeepers on the reserves around Detmold were sceptical when Operation Butcher began. They declared that the German Wehrmacht had tried a similar scheme in 1943 with little success. But



the quality of the marksmanship of Territorial soldiers of the 7/9 Battalion, The Royal Scots (155 Brigade, 52 Lowland Division) surprised the Germans.

In ten days the unit, commanded by Lt Col W F Dundas, made a spectacular bag of 300 deer.

At Burslem, further south, 111 Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery, which had had much success in shooting down V1 flying bombs over Antwerp a year earlier, did not have much luck with the deer.

Their intelligence officer, Lt C F Stephens, blamed it on the game being widely scattered over an area with good cover.

Soldier staff writer, Lt S E Webster, who compiled the report, was at pains to point

the quality of the marksmanship of Territorial soldiers of the 7/9 Battalion, The Royal Scots (155 Brigade, 52 Lowland Division) surprised the Germans.

out that despite the enthusiasm with which the operation was carried out, there was little danger that the game which abounded in the German forests would be completely exterminated.

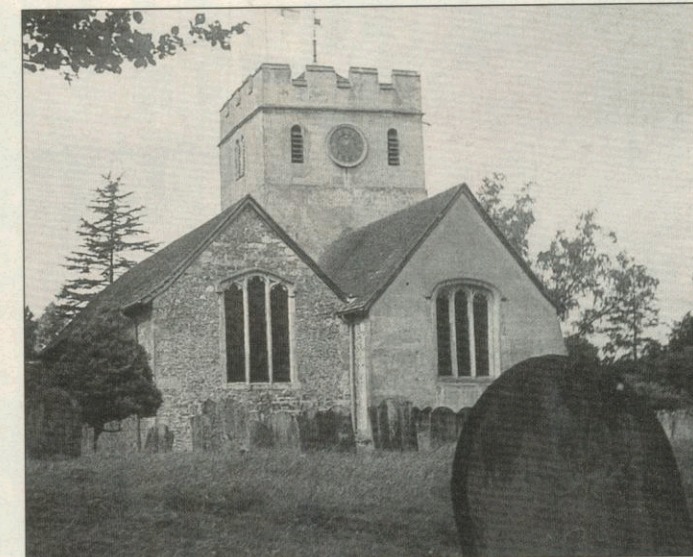
"Huge quantities of wild life are being slaughtered so that Germans may live, but when the spring comes the surviving animals will breed again," he told readers.

Services for the Services on the first Christmas of Peace

ON CHRISTMAS Day 1945, 2,000 men and women of the Rhine Army, stationed in the Hamburg area, took part in a special British Forces Network church service relayed by the BBC Light Programme to their relatives at home.

Drawn from the Army, Navy and Air Force, the congregation filled the concert hall of Broadcasting House in Hamburg for the service, conducted by the Rev Henry Davis.

The great organ, played by Capt Lionel Morse RAOC, and the BFN Light Orchestra, conducted by Capt Trevor Harvey, led the congregation in the singing. Service listeners abroad also heard a broadcast from a typical English church. *Soldier* staff writer Capt Richard Elley set the scene:



St Nicholas Church at Charlwood in Surrey

WHEN Forces' radio stations throughout the world introduced the 1945 Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve services, it was a particularly nostalgic moment for men from a village in the Home Counties.

For the services were recorded in the 11th century St Nicholas Church, Charlwood, Surrey, epitome of English country churches.

St Nicholas, on the edge of Bomb Alley, was one of 11 churches out of 336 in the Southwark diocese undamaged by the Luftwaffe.

Or almost, as Elley discovered.

"The west window was blown in by a flying bomb," the one-armed rector, the Rev W Grainger Thompson, told him. "But that old window was so shaky a gale might have done it, so we didn't make any war damage claim."

St Nicholas Church took pride in the number of young men and women from the parish who had joined the Armed Forces. When the services were broadcast, it was hoped Services radio would link the church with many of its parishioners overseas.

It hoped the broadcast might reach the four Hinton brothers, two in Italy, two in Germany. And young Charlie Gates, a gunner, also in Germany; Vivian Esch, an RASC subaltern; Lionel Gillespie, a corporal in the Royal Sussex Regiment; and Fred Mansbridge and Walter Edwards of the RASC. And Trooper John

Willis in the Far East; Jim Young, a naval lieutenant-commander in the Middle East; and David Stovold, an officer in the Indian Army.

Charlwood hoped Pilot Officer Donald Charlwood, Royal Australian Air Force, would hear the vicar's words. He had joined the RAF early in the war and visited the village from which his ancestors had come. Charlwood had promptly "adopted" him. Donald spent his leaves at the Rectory and his name was on the Roll of Honour.

The men from Charlwood would recognise the sincerity in their rector's voice, although they might not know that two days after recording the service he had received glad tidings.

His second son, Maj Patrick Thompson, serving with the Sikhs, was safe after being a prisoner of the Japanese since the fall of Singapore; his eldest son, an RAF wing commander, had survived both Wingate's Burma expeditions and won the DSO and MC; and his third son, an agricultural officer on St Helena, would be listening.

They would listen to the organ, played by Mrs Dorothy Jay, and recall she was the daughter of the late Tom Wiggins, local builder and village character.

And they would remember the walk from the church to the oak bar of the Half Moon Inn. There, for certain, Charlwood would be drinking their health.



'I made it with spam...'

Goodwill, without toys or bananas

SOLDIER's 1945 Christmas issue led with a personal message of goodwill (below left) from the British Army's Commander-in-Chief in Berlin, Fd Marshal Bernard Montgomery.

He expressed sadness that troops stationed in Germany would not be reunited with their families at Christmas.

Cartoons by *Soldier* artist Jimmy Friel reflected Army life in BAOR, while a photo-essay chronicled a fairy tale trip by four-year-old Tony Garbett from Hampstead to Toyland, a factory making real toys.

The first Christmas of peace was not celebrated with the same gusto as in pre-war days because of shortages, government-imposed manufacturing quotas and rationing.

There were no toys and Christmas crackers were practically unobtainable. Tree decorations had to be home-made.

Capt J W Shaw reported that the Ministry of Food had rounded up 1,413,000 turkeys, enough for one family in ten, and that the extra Christmas rations consisted only of 1lb of sugar, 4oz of chocolate and sweets, 6oz of butter and margarine, sixpence worth of meat and fourpence worth of corned beef.

Northerners got the most of the Christmas fruit. The south had its allocation when the orange boats came in earlier. No nuts were being imported, but there were grapefruit from Palestine. Bananas were not due until the New Year.

Personal Message from the C-in-C. Christmas 1945.

1. On the first Christmas Day since the war in Europe and the Far East has been won, let us look back with gratitude on the great victories and achievements which have been granted to the Allied arms. The evil which we set out to destroy has been destroyed, the world is at peace once more. Let us give thanks to "The Lord mighty in battle" for sustaining us during the past six years.
2. Christmastide has always been the festival of "peace, goodwill towards men". Today we join with our families, and friends all over the world to give thanks for the gift of peace which has been given to us. And today we all sing the old carols we love so well: and which have a fuller meaning now that the war is ended.
3. But Christmastide is also the festival of the family. We in Germany cannot just yet be reunited with our families; this must be a great sadness to one and all. In your name I would like to send them a message from all of us in Germany. I should like to wish them "Good luck and a happy Christmas" to all those who have given their lives for peace, and to those who have paid the heaviest price for the peace we now enjoy.



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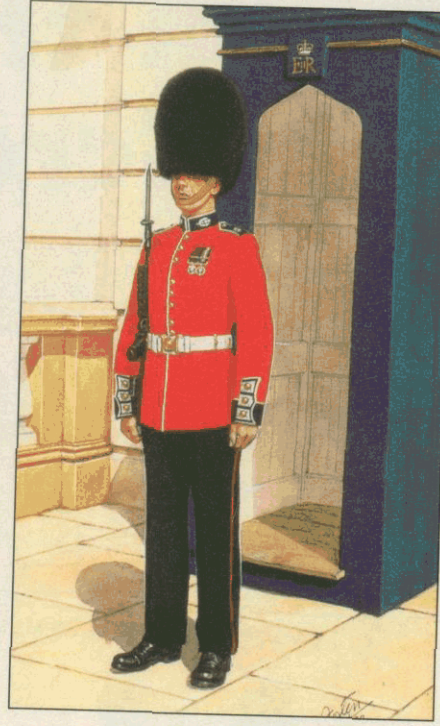
Smart as paint ...

THESE illustrations are among 30, from original Bryan Foster paintings, which adorn a real beauty of a book, *Uniforms of the Foot Guards from 1661 to the Present Day*.

The whole-page colour plates are accompanied by informative texts by the military historian W Y Carman charting the evolution, in historical context, of uniforms worn by Her Majesty's Foot Guards down the centuries both on the parade ground and battlefield, culminating in the Falklands, the Gulf and former Yugoslavia of recent times.

With origination, design and additional text by George and Christopher Newark, the book is published by The Pompadour Gallery, which two years ago produced the similar though smaller-format *Kipling's Soldiers* (£15.95), linking Foster's art with the barrack-room balladeer's verse.

Uniforms of the Foot Guards can be ordered at £25 from The Pompadour Gallery, PO Box 11, Romford, Essex RM7 7HY (adding £3 p&p UK, £4.50 Europe, £7.50 US/Canada, £8 rest of world).



Foot Guards through the ages. From left, and not in precedence, are a Grenadier, London, 1751; Coldstream, Bosnia, 1994; Welsh, Falklands, 1982; Irish drum major, Windsor, 1980; Scots Guardsman, London, 1995

Blues-breakers for the battle-rattled

YOU'RE Bill Harris and you're battle-rattled in the blue.

On the way to the body-snatchers you stop off for a char and wad and bump into Billjim, a boat-happy box of birds wearing Bombay bloomers.

You trip on a Naafi landmine and measure your length on the Burma Road, lose your butcher's apron and cabbage leaf, get up on your Chart and Evans and find you've been awarded a canteen medal.

You chuck one up, but the castor oil dragoons won't swallow your cakey bar. You end up coated and clean-sleeved ...

If you have served in one of the Armed Forces of Britain, Australia, New Zealand or the United States at some time during the past 80 years you may understand some of the

Militarisms. Token Publishing Ltd, paperback. Available at £6.60 inland and £7.60 overseas (inc p&p) from Award Productions Ltd, Po Box 30, Haslemere, Surrey, GU26 6UT.

foregoing. If not, you may need to refer to the key below.

The story of the war-weary guardsman who meets an Antipodean on his way to see the medics uses vocabulary culled from just a few pages of *Militarisms*.

This collection of abbreviations and slang used by the armed forces of the world and based on original research by Michael Rose is a delight, even though many of the entries, as editor John W Mussell correctly points out, are downright rude.

Some of the slang substitutes

for regiments, corps, or rival Services are best left unmentioned here (for fear of one's life).

Dipping into the more printable words and phrases, however, who can fail to be amused by the ingenuity of "methusiliars" (Australian Army Remount Corps, mostly over-age troops), bemused by "Abyssinian medal" (fly undone), or bewildered by "Maori PT" (fast asleep - NZ Army)?

One thing is for sure: with its substantial section on acronyms and its cartoons by Gordon Stowell, this excellent compilation is guaranteed to inform as well as entertain, and lift the most battle-rattled among us from our post- (or pre-) Christmas blues. And that's pukka gen. - CH



Orderly officer

KEY: Bill Harris - suffering from bilharzia caused by contaminated water; battle-rattled - combat-fatigued; blue - the desert (Army, N Africa); body-snatchers - RAMC; char and wad - Naafi tea and sandwich; boat-happy - preparing to go home from overseas; box of birds - fit and happy (NZ); Billjim - 1939-45 Aussie or NZ soldier (they all seemed to be called either Bill or Jim); Bombay bloomers - khaki tropical uniform shorts that could be let down to protect the knees from mosquito bites; Naafi landmine - pork pie; measure your length - fall over

(Guards regiments); coated - severely told-off (Guards); clean-sleeved - reduced to the ranks.



'I've got 48 hours' leave, Brenda, and the last thing I want to play is Piggy in the Middle! - from *Thin Blue Lines*

Reason to smile for Bosnia

The paperback *Thin Blue Lines: Cartoons for the United Nations*, from which this is taken, is well worth dipping into - not only because clever contributors such as Ken Pyne, Bill Tidy, Mac and Larry will make you smile and think, but because it is for a good cause.

It is published by Leo Cooper and edited by Mark Bryant, and all royalties from the book's £5.95 cover price will go to the United Nations Association Trust to help mark the organisation's 50th anniversary.

Oh, and there's another good reason to buy the book - Joanna Lumley has written the foreword.

Get fell in for a good laugh

IF YOU ARE about to face a court martial, especially if it concerns being AWOL, then it would do no harm to read *Fall Out the Officers*.

It could, with luck, even get you off the charge, for in one of about 30 light-hearted anecdotes Brig Charles Millman tells how, as a subaltern, he was invited to observe the trial of a young WRAC who had been absent for seven months.

In short, she'd done a runner with a sailor from Portsmouth who was suddenly posted to Korea and the girl was left alone pulling pints in a Pompey pub.

Give yourself up, her Jolly Jack advised her in a letter. So she did, only to find herself, bespectacled and hair in a puritanical bun, tearfully gazing into the sympathetic eyes of Lt C Millman, who at the time was studying military law and still wore L-plates when attending CMs.

Despite the efforts of a "decidedly horsy, slightly mustachioed WRAC major" who was determined to give her 56 days in choky, the girl trotted off to 14 days' detention.

Soon after, the author went to an all-ranks dance at the WRAC Depot only to find his glamorous partner to be the girl who had run off with the

Fall Out the Officers by Charles Millman. Pentland Press, paperback, £4.99. **Khaki Shorts** by Maj "Bob" Smith. Old Bakehouse Publications, Abertillery, NP3 1EA. Paperback, £6.50.

sailor. This time though, she had no bun, glasses or tears. Just grateful thanks and laughter ...

Gentle and well-observed humour is very much the style of *Khaki Shorts*, whose 240 value-for-money pages Maj "Bob" Smith fills with stories drawn from 49 years of service with Welsh regiments, King's African Rifles and Malaysia Rangers.

In one of many beautifully-written, chuckle-inducing anecdotes (illustrated by George Robinson cartoons) he tells of an encounter between one Private Morris and the Chief of the Imperial General Staff, Fd Marshal Viscount Montgomery of Alamein.

The great man was visiting the first post-war volunteers' train-

ing camp held by a Welsh battalion and after lunch it was discovered that his famous black beret, which had been left on a coat rack in the hall with his British warm and cane, had gone AWOL.

During a spell of bewilderment and confusion among senior officers present, the victor at El Alamein thundered more than once: "Where's my hat, damn it?"

Enter former Pte Morris, who had returned to the battalion as a waiter after a military career in which his main claim to fame had been to supply his officer with tea during the Battle for the Reichswald.

Still in a state of rapture after being allowed to serve blanc-mange to the field marshal, the Welshman burst through the throng, grabbed Montgomery by the arm and said:

"Are you sure you had it on when you came in, Sir?" The reply is not recorded.

Both books are recommended for entertaining fireside reading on a winter's evening. - JM/CH



Khaki Shorts

REVIEWS

Christmas pudding and Custard

A Wartime Christmas compiled by Maria and Andrew Hubert. Alan Sutton Publishing, paperback, £9.99. **Confessions of Custard: A Military Mule** by V R Burkhardt. Leo Cooper, hardback, £9.95.

THESE TWO books are as likely as any to find their way into Christmas stockings - of varying age groups.

There is something very poignant about wartime Christmases, with their uncertainty, separations, brief reunions and shared heartaches.

Could it be that they were more true to the spirit of this

festival than the "festivities" of today? Older readers will find plenty of nostalgic material - and humour - in the attractively-produced *A*

Custard the mule Wartime Christmas, with its tales of 1939-45 "celebrations" under fire, in prisoner-of-war camps, in the desert, on the home front, and much more.

The Custard of the second title was a mule attached to the 13th Light Battery, 5th Light Brigade, Royal Artillery, who was "adopted" by the daughters (nicknamed Merrie and Bright) of the 2iC when they visited Ewshott Camp in Hampshire in 1929.

When they wrote to Custard, the yellow mule replied, with the help of the literary, artistic and imaginative skills of another 13th Light Battery officer, Maj Valentine Burkhardt.

The correspondence continued for years and the "mule's" witty and amusing letters have now been edited by the sisters and published in facsimile, complete with original drawings, in *Confessions of Custard*.

The result, about which Jilly Cooper rightly enthuses in her foreword, is unusual in that it combines animals and the military in a charming book that will appeal to children - of all ages. - CH

BOOKS BOOKS BOOKS BOOKS

Among other books recently received by *Soldier* are the following, some of which will be reviewed more fully in forthcoming issues:

Two companions to TV series – **Redcaps: Policing the Army** by Roger Mills and Kevin Mann looks into the largely unpublished world of the RMP, while **Soldier Soldier: The Regiment Files** by Geoff Tibballs is billed as a "comprehensive guide" to the men and women of the popular drama. Both published in hardback by Boxtree, £14.99 each.

With **The Prince of Wales's Own: The Story of a Yorkshire Regiment 1958-1994** by H M Tillotson. Michael Russell (Publishing) Ltd. Available from Regimental Museum, 3 Tower Street, York YO1 1SB, hardback, £13.90 (£16.05 inc p & p).

A Culinary Campaign by Alexis Soyer. The author wittily describes his experiences in the Crimea, which he visited to improve the British Army's then horrific catering standards. A classic, first published 1857. Southover Press, 2 Cockshut Road, Southover, Lewes, E Sussex BN7 1JH. hardback, £22.

Captain Oates: Soldier and Explorer by Sue Limb and Patrick Cordingley. The latter, currently commanding 2 Div, was a major in 5 Innis DG in which Oates served, when he collaborated in this book, now revised and published in paperback. Leo Cooper, £9.95.

The Faithful Sixth by Harry Moses. History of the 6th Battalion The Durham Light Infantry 1859-1968. Running to 376 landscape pages and drawn from diaries and veterans' accounts, with photographs, maps, Roll of Honour and gallantry awards. County Durham Books, softback, £12.95 plus £3.75 p&p from Light Infantry Office (Durham), Elvet Waterside, Durham, DH1 3BW.

Gallipoli by Michael Hickey. Comprehensive new study of this compelling subject. John Murray, hardback, £19.99.

Stalingrad: Memories and Reassessments by Joachim Wiedner. Revised edition of 1962 classic, available for first time in English language. Arms & Armour, hardback, £18.99.

From the Big Screen

NOT ALL music specially written for the film sound track is effective without the screen action, but if you are a film buff then this disc will be welcome. Quite fun, too, trying to recall which music accompanied which scene.

Since many modern films deal in fantasy and derring-do, the programme gives the band and conductor plenty to do, though fortunately there is always a bit of love interest, allowing the composers the obligatory romantic, and usually hit, tune or two.

The composers succeeded in their task only if

you can't remember a single note of the music, apart maybe from a hit tune, so most of this should be unknown even to said film buff.

Enjoy *Jurassic Park*, *The Lion King*, *ET*, *Robin Hood*, *Prince of Thieves*, *Indiana Jones*, *Aladdin*, *Star Trek*, *The Bodyguard*, and a medley of the most famous of all film composers, John Williams – who wrote all the *Jaws* themes – called *Evening at Pops*.

It includes his music for the Olympic Games, *Witches of Eastwick*, *Cowboy and the Lady*, and *The Cowboys*.

Music

Band of the Life Guards. Conductor: Maj C J Reeves. Band-leader, BNA 5116, CD £12, cassette £7.60, from Sound and Picture Co, PO Box 177, Dorking, Surrey RH5 5FE.

Rodney Bashford

In National Service by Pat Ware. Enthusiast's story of the Rolls-Royce B Series Engine in British military vehicles. Warehouse Publications, 5 Rathbone Square, Tanfield Road, Croydon, CR0 1BT, hardback, £28.50 inc p&p, or £31.50 overseas.

Irregular Soldier by Col M G M ("Bing") Crosby. Posthumously published memoirs of much-decorated SOE hero. XB Publications, paperback, £5.50, with 50p from each book sold donated to Royal British Legion. Details from Capt Gordon Frost, St Helier, Jersey 36463.

History as Hot News. Selections by Leonard De Vries from the *Illustrated London News*, 1842-65. John Murray, paperback, £14.99 (not £4.99 as previously stated).

Fighting in Hell edited by Peter G Tsouras. The German ordeal on the Eastern Front, according to three generals. Greenhill Books, hardback, £18.95.

Against All Odds by Bryan Perrett. More dramatic "last stand" actions. Arms and Armour, hardback, £16.99.

Bloody Red Tabs by Frank Davies and Graham Maddocks. Explodes myth that all First World War generals "took a back seat". Leo Cooper, hardback, £17.95.

Women, Men and the Great War edited by Trudi Tate. Anthology of 25 complete stories by such writers as Conrad, Barrie, Hemingway, Woolf, Faulkner, Kipling, Sapper and Mansfield. Manchester University Press, hardback £35, paperback £9.99.

Always and Always edited by Kate Dunn. Film star Hugh Williams's Second World War letters to his equally famous wife Margaret Vyner. The actor served with 8th Devons and the covert Phantoms. John Murray, hardback, £19.99.

A Serious Disappointment by Adrian Bristow. Sub-titled *The Battle of Aubers Ridge 1915 and the Munitions Scandal*. Leo Cooper, hardback, £18.95.

Fear is the Foe by Stanley Whitehouse and George B Bennett. Harrowing, heroic story of the 1st Black Watch in Europe, 1944. Robert Hale, hardback, £16.99.

LOCAL SILHOUETTES TO MEMORIZE



The Pocket Book's tongue-in-cheek guide to important characters

Bullet points

IN LINE with the "one Army" concept, the latest, updated edition of this popular guide incorporates *The Volunteer's Pocket Book and Skill at Arms and Shooting*. Its 380 compact pages (almost enough to stop a bullet if carried in the breast pocket of your combats, though don't try it) are stuffed with relevant information for today's soldier, from the Code of Conduct to how to spring an ambush.

One or two glaring punctuation anomalies luckily do not detract from the vast knowledge imparted, although the publishers stress that this handy volume is not intended to replace official instruction.

They also have an apt slogan: "Don't lend it to anyone – you'll never get it back." – CH

Twilight Warriors by Martin C Arostegui. Yet another exposé of the world's special forces, but exciting, nonetheless. Bloomsbury, hardback, £16.99.

SAS – Gulf Warriors by Steve Crawford. "The story behind Bravo Two Zero" is the sub-title. Illustrated. Simon and Schuster, hardback, £16.99.

A Soldier's Pocket Book. £6.75 plus 75p p&p from the publishers, Military Pocket Books, PO Box 28, Leven, Beverley, E Yorks HU17 5LA.



Warrior armoured fighting vehicle crew of Battle Group Alpha (1st Battalion, The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment) loaded up and ready to go at Vitez base, May 1995.

This photograph by Paul Harris appears in *Cry Bosnia*, a collection of his words and pictures in war-torn former Yugoslavia. The author, printer, paper merchants, publishers and retailers have given their services free or at cost so that sales of *Cry Bosnia* can fund a printing works in the shattered city of East Mostar. A Cry Bosnia charity has been set up to work with civic authorities and existing agencies. Its aim will be to build a new printing facility for educational and social materials geared to the reconstruction process. Harris has worked in the Balkans for the past ten years. In

Crying for Bosnia

1993 he won a British Press Award for his reporting from the besieged Bosnian town of Modrica.

His book captures on film the people and places involved in the conflict, including the role of the United Nations peacekeepers. A US Army general is photographed visiting the memorial to Cpl Wayne Edwards RWF, the first British soldier to die in Bosnia.

● *Cry Bosnia* by Paul Harris, with an introduction by Paddy Ashdown, is published by Canongate Books, 14 High Street, Edinburgh EH1 1TE, price £14.95.

The Best of Good Fellows compiled by Jonathon Horne. Diaries and memoirs of tragic First World War padre Charles Edmund Doudney. Jonathon Horne Publications, 66c Kensington Church Street, London W8 4BY, hardback, £18.95 plus £2 p&p.

Commando: Winning the Green Beret by Hugh McManners. The agony and ecstasy of the Commando training programme, described vividly by former member of 29 Cdo Regt RA. Penguin/Network, paperback, £4.99.

The Sickle and the Sun by John "Tim" Finnerty. Retired major who spent three years as a PoW in Rangoon examines Japan's history and motives for actions, mainly from an eastern perspective, in the 90 years before Hiroshima. Excalibur Press, paperback, £5.95.

With the French Foreign Legion in Syria by John Harvey. Blood-thirsty and salacious autobiographical tale of life, "love" and death in the mid-1920s. Greenhill Books, hardback, £15.95.

Infantry Support Weapons: Mortars, Missiles and Machine Guns by Ian V Hogg, illustrated by Ray Hutchins. Not comprehensive, but gives examples of developments over the past 20 years, including Blowpipe, LAW 80, and Merlin. Greenhill Military Manuals, hardback, £12.95.

The Third Ypres – Passchendaele: The Day-by-Day Account by Chris McCarthy. Expertly researched documentary, supported by more than 120 maps and photographs, puts this horrific battle into fresh perspective. Arms & Armour, hardback, £20

The Luger Story by John Walter. Fascinating illustrated history of the famous handgun. Greenhill Books, hardback, £19.95.

Collusion by Johnson Courts. Novel about military life in Northern Ireland. Minerva, paperback, £8.99.

Kommando by Leo Kessler. Racy account of Hitler's special forces in the Second World War. Leo Cooper, hardback, £14.95.

Call for Fire: Sea Combat in the Falklands and the Gulf War by Capt Chris Craig RN (Retd). First-hand account by the only British senior naval officer who commanded in both conflicts. Foreword by Gen Sir Peter de la Billière, who says the Royal Navy's role in both wars has not been sufficiently recognised. John Murray, hardback, £19.99.

Survey at War 1939-1945 by Bob Ogley. Good local history illustrated with 180 photographs. Froglets Publications, Brasted Chart, Westerham, Kent TN16 1LY. Hardback £16.99, paperback £10.99.

Munitions of the Mind by Philip M Taylor. Updated history of propaganda from the ancient world to the present, first published 1990. Manchester University Press, hardback £40, paperback £14.99.

World War II British Women's Uniforms by Martin Brayley and Richard Ingram. Colour photographs tell the story. Windrow and Greene Europa Militaria Special No 7, softback, £12.95.

World War Two: Nation by Nation by J Lee Ready. One-volume reference to the war as experienced by 170 countries, from Aden to Yugoslavia. Arms & Armour, hardback, £18.99.

Letters of a Victorian Army Officer: Edward Wellesley 1840-1854 edited by Michael Carver. The editor, former CDS, is great-grandson of Wellesley, who in turn was great-nephew of the first Duke of Wellington. Published by Alan Sutton for The Army Records Society, hardback, £30.

French Resistance in Sussex by Barbara Bertram. Amazing and entertaining story of the "secret house" in sleepy Bignor, near Petworth, which provided a haven for anti-Nazi operators. Barnworks Publishing, Hound Lodge, Goodwood, Chichester, W Sussex PO18 0PP. Paperback £5.49, hardback £8.49 (both inc p&p).

Keeper, Soldier, Keeper by R M Bushell. Engaging autobiography of a Berkshire gamekeeper turned Para who served in Italy and at Arnhem and became a PoW. Merlin Books, Braunton, Devon, paperback, £5.25.

The Great Commanders by Phil Grabsky. Paperback reissue of the TV series companion on Alexander, Caesar, Nelson, Napoleon, Grant and Zhukov. Boxtree, £12.99.

Guy Gibson by Richard Morris. Biography of the Dambusters VC, who died aged 26. Penguin, paperback, £8.99.

Nightmover by David Wise. Revelatory account of how Aldrich Ames sold the CIA to the KGB for \$4.6 million. HarperCollins, hardback, £17.99.

D-Day Then and Now edited by Winston G Ramsey. Two-volume record of the greatest military, naval and air operation of all time. More than 700 pages and 1,800 illustrations are devoted to the story of Overlord, from its inception, planning and preparation to D-Day and the days that followed. Many contemporary photographs are accompanied by a "now" photograph of the battle sites 50 years on. After The Battle, hardback, Vol 1 £29.95; Vol 2 £39.95. Both volumes in slip case £69.90.

VJ Day video

A 60-minute video of the memorable events held in Cardiff on August 20 to mark the 50th anniversary of VJ Day has been produced by the Infantry Films and Television Unit. It costs £10 (including postage and packing) and cheques should be made payable to SWB Museum and sent to the South Wales Borderers and Monmouthshire Regimental Museum, The Barracks, Brecon, Powys LD3 7EB.



These small "recruits" were among youngsters from all over Ireland who attended an open day at Ballykinler held by the 1st Battalion, Irish Guards, currently on a tour of Northern Ireland. Nearly 100 expressed an interest in signing up – a fact which delighted CO Lt Col Sebastian Roberts.

"Forty-one young men decided to train as guardsmen," he said. "We also had 29 who have opted for a career with other units and 26 girls who, while they cannot become guardsmen, have decided other units in the Army can give them an interesting and fulfilling career."



Flying visit: Lt Gen Sam Cowan, Inspector General Training, gets the soldier's view as he meets Groundcrewman Class III student airtroopers during a tour of the School of Army Aviation at Middle Wallop

Top dog Cobb honoured



LCpl Cobb went for walkies in Mahon Barracks, Portadown on November 22 to receive GOC Northern Ireland's Commendation. The award marked the black labrador's last day in the Army as a search dog.

Cobb helped to recover thousands of pounds of terrorist explosives during a career spanning eight years. Most of his Army service was spent in the border counties of Armagh and Tyrone where he made several spectacular finds.

Wentworth — the mark of quality from Sheffield

Ever since the Falklands War, Wentworth of Sheffield has been supplying RN ships with its high quality pewter — HMS Sheffield being the first to put in an order.

Other customers include HMS Ark Royal, Anglesey, Argyll, Brave, Brazen, Brilliant, Cardiff, Chatham, Coventry, Invincible, Illustrious, Monmouth, Valiant and Westminster.

Lately, with the acquisition of Priory Pewter and Corivo Products, the company has specialised in personalising its range of products with ships crests, regimental badges, coats of arms and other logos.

Established in 1949, Wentworth Pewter has built up an enviable reputation for quality second to none.

Pewter is an alloy of tin with small amounts of antimony and copper. The mix used by Wentworth contains a minimum of 92 per cent tin which, polished to a beautiful silver-like finish will keep its lustre with a minimum of care by washing in hot, soapy water and drying with a soft cloth.

The wide selection of items available includes tankards, hip flasks, goblets, trays, sports cups and many more attractively designed products.

Individually handmade

More recently, brass trims have been added to some tankards, making for a very pleasing combination of materials.

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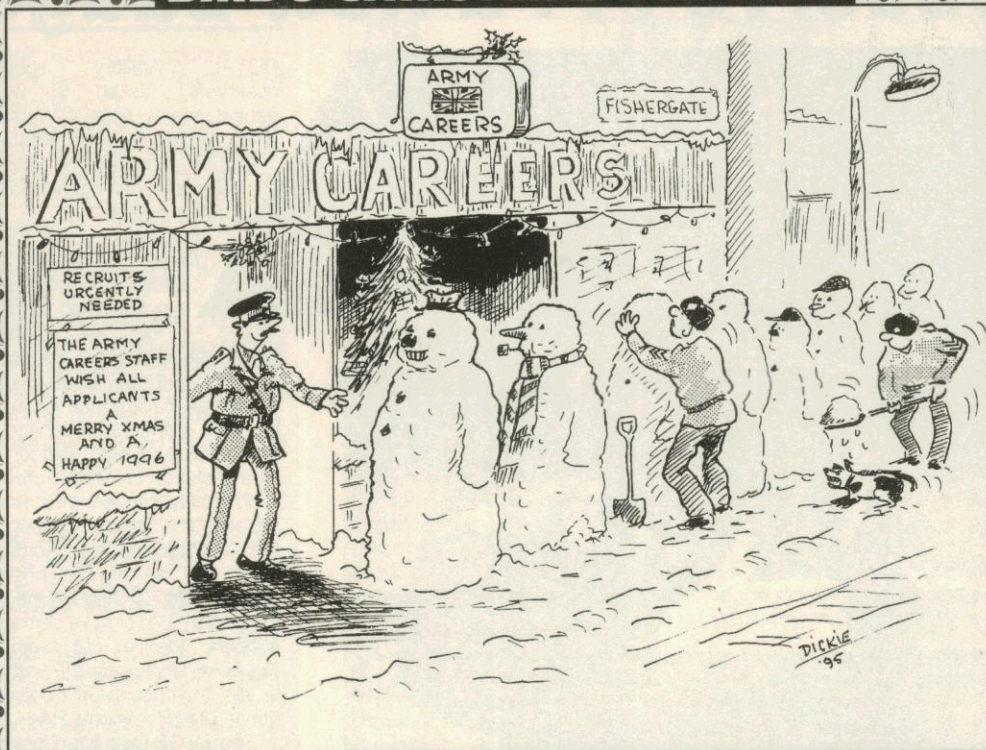
Using traditional methods of manufacture, each piece is individually handmade by the company's craftsmen, many of whom have been on the staff for over 20 years.

"No order is too large or too small for us to satisfy," says our sales director Ian Batt. "Our range has something to suit all tastes and we aim to satisfy our customer requirements by working together as a team".

● Contact Ian Batt for a full colour brochure at A. R. Wentworth (Sheffield) Ltd, 25 Leadmill Rd, Sheffield S1 3JA, tel 0114 272 5676, fax 0114 272 6651.



BIRD'S CHRISTMAS EYE-VIEW



Seasonal greetings to all our readers and advertisers

Redcap's conduct on TV 'appalling'

I WAS appalled by the conduct of the warrant officer in the BBC TV *Redcaps* episode on November 9.

In my view he was on an ego trip, playing to the cameras.

Having served 22 years in an Infantry regiment, I can now see how professional the line regiment warrant officers are.

The WO2 in question should go back to school and learn communication skills as

well as the art of disciplining soldiers. – **Sgt M G Lerpiniere RGBW, Infantry Training Centre Catterick.**

*We demand complete obedience
To every single rule,
An exercise in discipline
You never learned at school*

Your kit will all be clearly marked

*In strictest order laid
No deviation be allowed
No alteration made.*

*We break you first in pieces
Into tiny, tiny pieces
We break you first to pieces
Then we build a stronger man.*

– Poetic comment on *Redcaps* received from **R Leach (Glider Pilot Regimental Association), Cheshire.**

Justice sought on compensation for wounded soldiers

I READ in *Soldier* (October 16) how Pte Keith Harness of 2 R Anglian had to fight for an interim compensation payment of £30,000 after receiving a gunshot wound to his head in Vitez.

I was then horrified to discover in the same issue that a woman major received £150,000 compensation for being pregnant. How can this be justified?

The point I am making is that it was her choice to become pregnant, but Pte Harness didn't ask to be shot in the head.

If the Government knows it is going to send soldiers on UN operations then they should be given proper insurance protection. – **Cpl G Harvey, HQ Company, 1st Battalion, The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment, BFPO 22.**



Pte Keith Harness

City's lucky escape

IT IS certain that strong civilian resistance would have been made eventually but if Hitler had chosen the time and place to invade us he could have had an initial easy run (Letters, November 13).

On March 10, 1941, when I was a boy of 11, Portsmouth had one of its heavy bombing raids. The next afternoon people began to trek away from the city and by nightfall it was deserted.

Of 100 houses in the street where I lived (Byerley Road, Fratton) only two were occupied that night – one by my mother's aged parents, the other by my mother and me.

Fortunately neither the Luftwaffe nor the German Army came. If the former had arrived the city would have been burned to the ground and if the latter, minimal resistance would have been forthcoming.

Incidentally, the Home Guard did have pikes and pick-axe handles and the story of carrot-eating fighter pilots was an official ploy to distract attention away from airborne radar. – **M F Reid, St Albans, Herts.**

THE PIKE BRIGADE

IN May 1940 I was in the RAPC at Officers' Accounts Manchester and well remember parading with "pikes" – steel tubes with bayonets welded on to them.

When a defence company was formed we drilled with P14 rifles and presumably the "pikes" went to the Home Guard – thankfully so because they were very heavy.

We were issued with 1914-type webbing which no one knew how to assemble and had to be shown by RAPC Regulars. We must have looked a formidable force – no wonder Hitler delayed an attempted invasion. – **R C McLaverty, Liverpool L26.**

SOLDIER to Soldier

Diplomat keeps eye on graves

ALTHOUGH denied access since the Gulf War, the Commonwealth War Graves Commission has kept an eye on cemeteries in Iraq with the help of an Indian diplomat.

India's ambassador visited as many war cemeteries and memorials as he could, according to the Commission's annual report, and found that structural features, although no longer being cared for, were generally sound.

Good news, too, from Beirut, where restoration of war-ravaged cemeteries is almost complete. In Papua New Guinea an irritable volcano blocked the road to Rabaul (Bita Paka) war cemetery for two months but happily left the cemetery unaffected.

On the debit side, Nazi graffiti was sprayed on the Bayeux Memorial in Normandy, and vandals hit other cemeteries in France. There were also incidents in Belgium, Italy, Sicily and the UK.

More than 100 headstones were destroyed in an attack on Ma'ala in the Yemen, and 22 were smashed at Benghazi in Libya.

But the Commission points out that of 23,000 cemeteries and churchyards with war graves, and 208 memorials in 147 countries, only 20 locations were affected.

● The Commission has computerised its records of 1.7 million casualties killed in two world wars. New technology will help meet rising demand for information. About 40,000 enquiries have been dealt with in the past 12 months.

Marines back in Albert Hall

MILITARY music lovers will need no reminding of the annual Mountbatten Festival of Music by the massed bands, Corps of Drums and fanfare trumpets of the Royal Marines at the Royal Albert Hall.

The 1996 event, from February 14-16, will be the 24th consecutive festival, with proceeds again going to the Malcolm Sargent Cancer Fund for Children and Royal Navy and Royal Marines charities.

Tickets, priced at £5, £12, £16 and £21, are available from the RM Concert Office, Corps Secretariat, HMS Excellent, Whale Island, Portsmouth, Hants PO2 8ER (tel 01705 547205). Cheques should be made payable to the RM Central Bank.

Observe . . . a new badge



A lance bombardier shows off the special observer badge on his forearm

□ THE remains of a British soldier listed as missing in action in the Korean War were formally handed over by North Korean authorities at Panmunjom on October 30.

Brig Colin Parr, British military attaché in Seoul, joined a United Nations team which received the casket on the demarcation line.

The bones will be sent to a laboratory for the identity of the soldier to be confirmed. It is believed the remains may include an identity tag.

About 50 British Servicemen from the Korean War are still officially missing, presumed dead.

Prayers for Buncrana Road dead

Highlander Stephen McGibbon lays flowers at the scene of the 1990 IRA "human" bomb attack which killed a civilian driver and five soldiers of the 1st Battalion, The King's Regiment.

Relatives of the dead men gathered for a memorial service at Coshquin near Londonderry to mark the tragedy five years ago. They were joined by local people who vividly remember the massive explosion. Father-of-three Patsy Gillespie was forced to drive a vehicle packed with 1,000lb of explosives into the middle of the Buncrana Road checkpoint.

The attack coincided with

ROYAL Artillery special observers, tasked to work behind enemy lines if Warsaw Pact armies over-ran Western Europe are among those being awarded a new qualification badge.

Authorised by the Army Dress Committee, the badge is based on the tactical map symbol for an artillery observation post (OP). It is made in green cloth and black thread on a khaki background for wear on No 2, 4 and 13 dress, and in green silk and gold wire on a blue background for No 1 dress.

To qualify, gunners must have passed the special observer (basic) course since April 1, 1983 and be on the posted strength of 4/73 (Sphinx) Special OP Battery RA, or have served a two-year tour of duty with a Royal Artillery special OP battery or with the special OP troops of 5th or 32nd Regiments RA.

Special OP units were formed in 1982 to conduct "stay behind" operations in the event of war with the Warsaw Pact.

They would deploy to secret underground shelters, moving to covert OP locations to direct long range artillery fire onto the enemy's guns and second echelon headquarters.

During the Gulf War, special observers operated ahead of the main British force, acquiring targets deep behind enemy lines and achieving considerable success in directing the fire of MLRS, M110 guns, attack helicopters and close air support.

Claimants should contact 5th Regiment RA at Marne Barracks, Catterick, N Yorks DL10 7NP for further details.

□ IF you want the residents of the Royal Star and Garter Home at Richmond to drink to your health, send them a plaque . . .

Bert Hayward has been collecting them for the past five years and now has more than 100 gracing the walls of the home's own watering hole, the Combined Services Bar.

Missing from the collection are the women's services, in particular the ATS, WRAC, WAAF and QARANC, and the Gurkhas.

Bert can be reached at the Royal Star and Garter Home for Disabled Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen, Richmond, Surrey TW10 6RR (tel 0181-940 3314).



another near Newry in which an IRA proximity bomb claimed the life of 21-year-old Rgr John Smith, R Irish.

The Kingsmen who died at

Coshquin were LCpl Stephen Burrows, Kgm Paul Worrell, Kgm Vincent Scott, Kgm Stephen Beacham and Kgm David Sweeney.

Long reach

OUR REUNION column obviously reaches the parts other columns don't . . .

David Williams writes to tell us he expected about 50 Somerset Light Infantry old and bold at a Malta-Cyprus (1955-59) reunion in Taunton in October. Three times that many turned up and a wonderful time was had by all.

So successful was the occasion that they are going to do it all over again on October 12 next year. Details from David at 29 Knowle End, Woolavington, Bridgwater, Somerset TA7 8JH (tel 01278 683022).

A second third Colour

THE Royal Highland Fusiliers' claim to be the only regiment permitted to carry a third Colour on parade (Newsline, November 13) brought a prompt rebuttal.

On one day a year, writes Capt J R Davis RRF, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers may carry its Wilhelmstahl or Drummer's Colour to celebrate a sizeable victory over the French in 1762.

Royal sanction to bear a commemorative banner on St George's Days only was granted by King George V in 1933. Today the Colour is carried by the youngest drummer of the battalion trooping its Colour, and only on the St George's Day Parade.

Very much in Loover

SECOND World War veteran D Taylor of Hersden, Canterbury tells us the Danish village of Love, mentioned in the People pages (November 13 issue), is actually pronounced "Loover". Which just goes to show you can spoil a good story with facts.

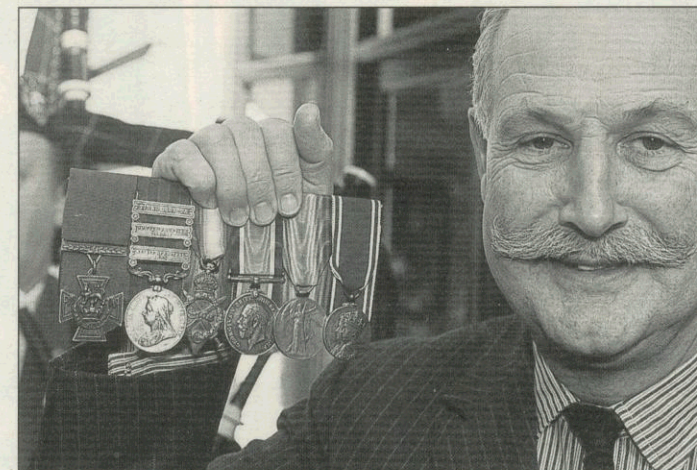
Mr Taylor and his wife, Lise, a Dane, met the Danish ambassador to Egypt during a service of remembrance in the British War Cemetery at El Alamein.

They were on the Royal British Legion Pilgrimage Department's tour of Allied war cemeteries in Egypt to mark the end of the Second World War and the Battle of El Alamein.

Military personnel, diplomats, VIPs and veterans from more than 50 nations took part in the ceremony on October 22.

With no shade available, the old soldiers, many accompanied by wives and relatives, stood up well to the intense heat. They were, says Mr Taylor, a credit to their fallen comrades.

Gordons secure Findlater VC



Lt Gen Sir Peter Graham with the medals, including the Victoria Cross, awarded Piper George Findlater of The Gordon Highlanders. During an attack on the Dargai Heights, Indian Frontier, in October 1897, Piper Findlater was shot through both feet. Unable to walk but determined to encourage the advance, he propped himself against a boulder and, under heavy fire, went on piping the regimental march.

REUNIONS

Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment (London Branch): Christmas party, December 10, at Victory Services Club, Seymour Street, London. Details from Brian Kemp, Woldcroft, 8 Hornchurch Hill, Whyteleafe, Surrey CR3 0DA (tel 0181-660 4392).

1996 Coldstream Guards drummers past and present: Those interested in a reunion are asked to send a stamped, addressed envelope to F P Horsfall, Daydream, 222 Leigh Hunt Drive, Southgate, London N14 6DS.

16 Signal Regiment: Anyone who served in the regiment in the 1960s is asked to contact Chris Bartlett who is arranging a reunion. SAE for details to 45 Whitehouse Road, Leigh on Sea, Essex SS9 5SR.

28/143 Battery (Tombs's Troop) RA: Anniversary reunion weekend to mark the formation of 28 Battery will take place March 1-2. Former members of 28 or 143 Btys wishing to attend should contact the Battery Captain, 28/143 Battery (Tombs's Troop), 19 Regiment Royal Artillery, Kirklee Barracks, Colchester, Essex CO7 2UJ (tel 01206 783020).

RAMC/RADC WOs' and Sgts' Past and Present Dinner Club:

APPOINTMENTS

Senior appointment
Lt Gen Sir Roger Wheeler KCB CBE is to assume the appointment of Commander-in-Chief Land Command in the rank of general in early 1996.

Brigadier: R W Trigger - To HQ Land, Nov 16.

Colonels: T M A Daly - To MoD, Nov 13; W A McMahon - To be DA/MA Athens, Nov 13; D H A

1996 dinner and reunion is to be held on June 1 at Keogh Barracks, Aldershot. Details from WO1 (RSM) G B L Bell RAMC, Army Medical Group Training Group, Keogh Barracks, Ash Vale, Aldershot, Hants GU12 5RQ.

RE Rowing Club: 150th anniversary reunion lunch, July 5 at Henley Royal Regatta. Details from Lt Col J M Heron, 73 Engr Regt (V), T A Centre, Wigman Road, Bilborough, Nottingham NG8 3HY (tel 0115 9293924 or 9291477).

SEARCHLINE

Researcher for Off The Cuff Productions needs footage, photographs, little-known information, expert opinions and artefacts to be photographed for a video to mark the centenary of the **Anglo-Boer War**. Suggestions to M E E van Zyl, Box 90298, Garsfontein, South Africa 0042.

Charles BAOR, who may remember **Scala Copenhagen 1947** and Lise, is asked to contact L C Hansen, 36 The Avenue, Hersden, Canterbury, Kent CT3 4HR.

News sought of Keith Rose, son of **LCpl Mary Rose ATS**, who died in a road accident involving 20 ATS women at Veltem-Beisem, Bel-

Shepard - To MoD, Nov 13; I C D Blair-Pilling - To MoD, Nov 13; J P O Webster - To MoD, Nov 13.

Lt Cols: T J Checketts LD - To be CO The Light Dragoons, Nov 17; M K Murphy RLC - To MoD, Nov 13; C S Pickles RE - To MoD, Nov 13.

Retirements
Brigadier: I N Osborne, late RCT, Nov 14.

DIARY

Until January 21: D-Day Dodgers exhibition, British Army in Italy 1943-45, National Army Museum, Royal Hospital Road, Chelsea. Admission free.

1996

February
14-16: Massed Bands, drums and trumpets of the Royal Marines, Mountbatten Festival of Music, Royal Albert Hall. Ticket office 01705 547205.

28: Dedication service in memory of those killed in the Gulf War, St Paul's Cathedral.

May
4-6: Aldershot Show, Rushmoor Arena.

11-12: Army centenary international military culinary competition and open day, St Omer Barracks, Aldershot, 1000.

June
5-6: Floodlit Beating Retreat by massed bands of Household Division, Horse Guards Parade, 2130.

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

July
9-20: Royal Tournament, Earls Court.

August
2-24: Edinburgh Military Tattoo. Telephone booking office opens January 8 on 0131 2251188.

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

gium on January 13, 1945, aged 24. Her home address at the time was thought to be Haroway Place, Birmingham. Mrs Jeanne Servranckx, Driehoekstraat 114, B-2180 Antwerp-Ekeren, Belgium, has discovered in the papers of her late mother (with whom LCpl Rose's parents stayed on a number of occasions) photographs of Mary, her friends, unit and grave, and wishes to pass them on to her son.

Mrs R Blay, 50 Perkins Avenue, Margate, Kent CT9 4AX, seeks help in tracing the Service records of her late father, **George Cripps 5390522, Ox and Bucks Light Infantry**. He served in India Aug 42-March 44, and Burma March 44-April 45.

William Seaton, 61 Burrington Drive, Trentham, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs ST4 8YO (tel 01782 643138) is researching his late father's military career and seeks photographs of the **2nd Bn, Lincolnshire Regt (1933-45)**, in particular of a parade on Portland Beach in 1938 at which the King presented new drums. He also seeks a copy of "The History of the Tenth of Foot".

Right – Haven of peace in a West London garden: the Duke of Kent with (behind bench, left to right) Gary Stephens (RN); Sam Hoare (Royal Artillery); Dennis Morgan (Royal Signals); Tom Connell (the home's nursing manager); Gerald Everett (Royal West Kents). Seated: Alan Mace (Royal Fusiliers); John (Eric) Lambert (Royal Signals) and former Army Roman Catholic Chaplain Fr William Campling

Oasis of calm near a busy London high street

A SHORT distance from the constant traffic in Ealing High Street, West London, lies an oasis of calm, writes Phil Wilcox.

Walking through the doors of St David's Home for Disabled Ex-Servicemen in Castlebar Hill, the casual visitor is immediately struck by its atmosphere of corporal and spiritual needs being quietly and efficiently cared for.

But the visitor whose green chauffeur-driven Bentley purred up the driveway of the home recently was very much expected: the Duke of Kent was making an informal tour of St David's.

Piper LCpl Innes Anderson, Scots Guards – of which the Duke is Colonel – played him in with *Cock of the North*.

The Duke progressed through St Thomas, St Joseph and St Mary Wards, taking time to talk to staff and patients.

Patients range from an Army chaplain who served all over the world to officers and soldiers who saw action in Burma and at El Alamein, airmen, and a former naval captain.

St David's was founded in 1918 by Lady Anne Kerr, wife of Maj Gen Lord Ralph Kerr, in memory of her younger son, David, killed in action in France, aged 21, while serving with the 2nd Battalion, Royal Scots.

Since its inception, patients at St David's, which, although it provides spiritual as well as bodily care, was never intended to be – and is not – exclusively for Catholic disabled men, have been encouraged to look on the establishment as a



Home's right royal welcome for the Duke

home and not a hospital.

In 1925, a new ward and annexes at St David's was opened by Cardinal Bourne. "... St David's is a permanent Home, and it is hoped that, long after our generation has passed away, many will find succour and relief within its walls," he said.

Fifty years later, that is still the case.

In St George's Sitting Room, the Duke was introduced to, among others, Maj Gen Anthony de Leask, Commander Land Forces Northern Ireland, and his father, Lt Gen Sir Henry Leask, a current and retired committee member of the home respectively. Earlier, as the Duke made a tour of the airy St Peter's Day Room, one of the staff made a significant comment.



Occupational therapist Lynda Gomez explains as 85-year-old former sapper Walter Bartholomew shows his dexterity at poppy-making in St Peter's Day Room. Looking on is St David's volunteer Len Slater

"People might think that, in the current relatively peaceful climate, they do not want our services. It is in 50 years' time, when the aftermath of Northern Ireland and the Falklands makes its impact on those who

were involved, and their families cannot cope, that they will need someone to help. We'll be there."

The royal visitor was whisked away to a mixture of bagpipes and applause.

It had been a satisfying visit, with the added piquancy that the 19th century Kent House, which became St David's, is built on the site of a house belonging to a much less well-known Duke of Kent.

Brother of King George IV, his daughter was to become a fixture of British history.

Her name was Queen Victoria...

● Shortly before her husband's tour, the Duchess of Kent, a Roman Catholic convert who has had close associations with St David's for some years, caught staff at the home unawares when she called in unannounced.

She had brought photographs of a pilgrimage to Lourdes to show to patients whom she had accompanied to the shrine.

Pictures: Mike Perring

COMPETITION 626

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

The names of the winner of the £50 first prize and two runners-up (awarded book prizes) will be announced in the February 5 issue.

Name : (Give rank or title)

Address :

Competition 623 (October 30 issue): Congratulations to Miss K L Johnson, of Hessle, N Humberside, who wins £50. Book prizes go to runners-up Mr S C George, of Hemel Hempstead, Herts, and Mr S A Winder, of Gravesend, Kent.

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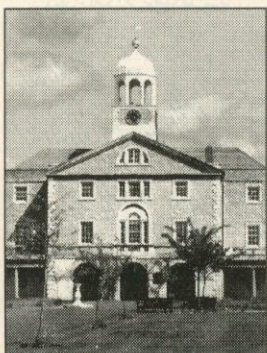
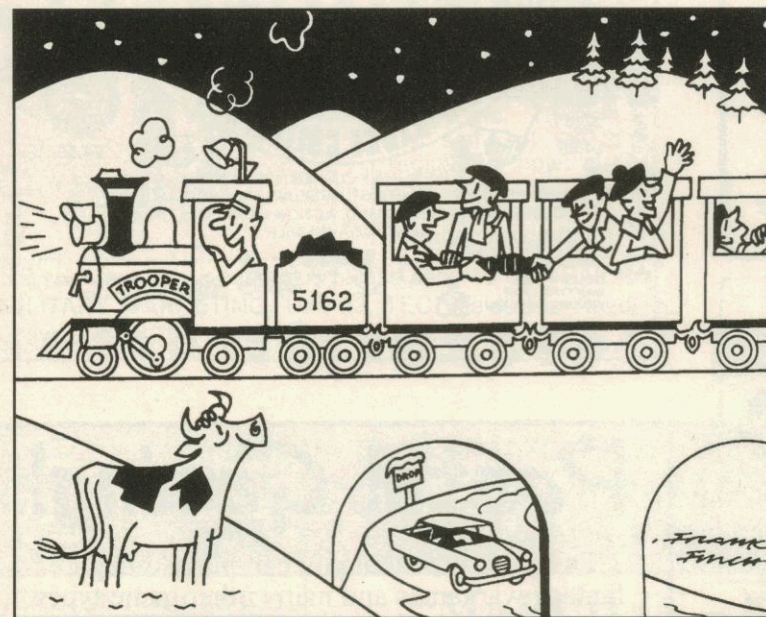
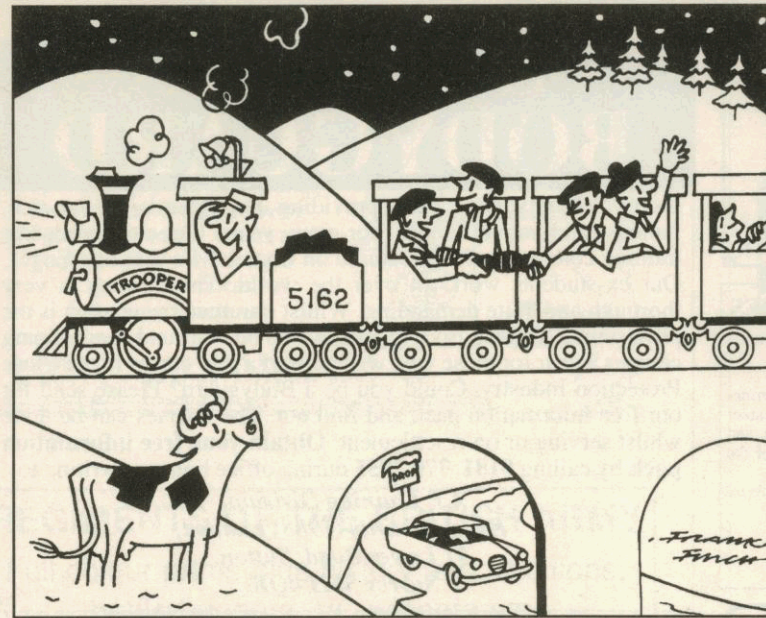
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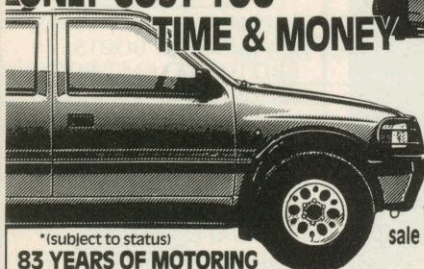
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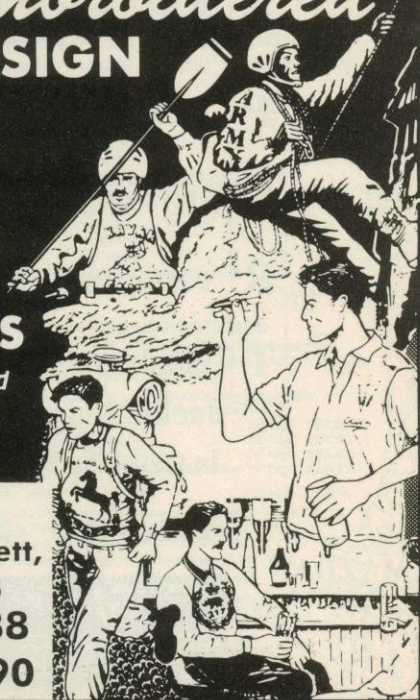
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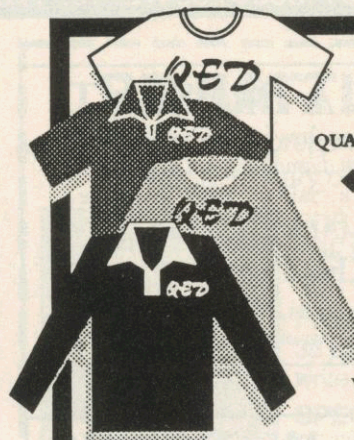
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Notices

CHARITY COMMISSION

Certain charities in connection with the former Royal Warwickshire Regiment.

Ref: CVA-259749-4698-SC

The Charity Commissioners propose to make a Scheme for this Charity. Copies of the draft Scheme may be obtained from them (ref: CVA-259749-4698-SC) at Woodfield House, Tangier, Taunton, Somerset TA1 4BL. Objections may be sent to them within one month from today. 08

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ARMY SPORTS LOTTERY RESULTS

NOVEMBER 11, 1995

Two-way tie for first prize (32 goals, £1,875 each): Maj P B Linney, Recruit Selection Centre, Pirbright; Brig R J Shields, MoD DPP(S).

Two-way tie for third prize (30 goals, £625 each): WO2 D S Hardingham, 6 RRF(V), Newcastle upon Tyne; SSgt A Reddington, HQ REME TA, Bordon.

Two-way tie for fifth prize (29 goals, £350 each) LCpl J M Haynes, 17 Port & Maritime Regt RLC, Marchwood; WO1 W D McDougall, 5 Regt RA Wksp REME, Catterick.

Eight-way tie for seventh prize (28 goals, £37.50 each): Pte F A Coathupe, 1 Armd Fd Amb, BFPO 30; Sgt J L Darwent, QDG, BFPO 30; Pte B J Eddington, 2 Bn REME, BFPO 38; Sgt R A Gentry, SAE, Middle Wallop; LCpl M Leither, 19 Tk Tpr Sqn

RLC, Bulford; SSgt J C McGowan, School of Health (Germany) BFPO 16; LCpl S McVay, QDG, BFPO 16; Maj R J Turnbull, HQ Catterick Garrison.

NOVEMBER 18, 1995

Two-way tie for first prize (24 goals, £1,889.29 each): LCpl C J McMahon, HQ CSSG (UK), Aldershot; LCpl D J Whitear, 3 Inf Bde HQ & Signal Sqn, BFPO 809.

Third prize (23 goals, £764.29 each): WO2 R A Bennington, HQ BALTAP, BFPO 50.

Four-way tie for fourth prize (22 goals, £364.29 each): Capt W R Donald, 127 Fd Sqn RE (V), Brighton; Capt N Jones, AMS Trg Gp, Ash Vale; Cpl S C Nellist, 35 Engr Regt, BFPO 31; Maj P V Noakes, Cyprus Engineering Unit, BFPO 57.

NB: Only 7 prizes this week. Rule 9 applies.

Dorset beaten in damp thriller

Dorset 2, Army 4

DORSET and the Army made light of heavy conditions created by prolonged, heavy rain to produce an excellent South West Counties Championship tie at Hamworthy FC, writes **Derrick Bly**.

End-to-end attacking play was a feature of the game which produced six goals and many exciting moments.

LSgt Paul Fagin and LBdr Alan Buck combined on the left to give LCpl Barney Bambrook an early strike. His shot was well saved.

Dorset took the lead from a shot which gave goalkeeper Pte Kev Murray no chance, but the Army equalised three minutes later when Bambrook set up a chance for Buck to slot home.

SSgt Alan Higgins, Pte Steve Bowey, Cpl Andy Alford and Bambrook combined effectively in midfield in front of a solid back four of LCpl Jim Strouts, Fagin, Sgt Tony Wright and LCpl John Wills.

Bambrook put the Army ahead from the penalty spot after he had been brought down in the area, and Alford added a third just before the interval.

Murray atoned with a brilliant save after giving away a penalty. Dorset scored with 11 minutes left on the clock, but conceded a fourth from the restart when Bambrook's perfect pass gave substitute LCpl Glen Glenister time and space to ram his shot into the net.

WOMEN'S 8-GOAL WEMBLEY WOE

Army Women 1-Wembley 8

AFTER wins over Dorset (4-1) and HM Prison Services (7-0), the Army women's football team was brought to earth by Wembley Ladies in Aldershot.

Wembley, currently second in the English Premier League, were too strong despite having three players away on international duty against Croatia.

The Army girls were never able to match the skills and inventiveness that have become a trademark in Wembley's rapid



Lt Andy Newsham (22 AD Regt RA), in the white jersey of Combined Services, wins line-out ball at Ravenhill in the ground-breaking match against Ulster

Services make historic return to Ulster rugby

Combined Services 30-Ulster 20 AN historic rugby match between the Combined Services and Ulster at Ravenhill on November 14 was far more important for what it signified than for the result.

It was the first public fixture for the Armed Forces in the Province for more than 35

years and came about because of the remarkable changes in Northern Ireland.

Before the cease-fire, the level of security required would have made such a high profile match impossible to stage. It is thought the last such fixture was in November 1960 when the Services played a XV

containing several Irish caps.

The last time an Army side played at Ravenhill was in 1959 when a Duke of Wellington's Regiment side which included England internationals Campbell Lamberton, Shuttleworth, Hardy and Gilbert-Smith beat Ulster 19-5.

This time the Combined Services won comfortably by 30 points to 20, despite the absence of team captain Paul Hull of the RAF and England.

Maj Brian McCall, the former Combined Services and Army captain and Irish international second-row forward was unable to attend the match. Currently serving with the REME in Bosnia, he said: "It is great to see this happening after all these years. I only wish I could have been there to cheer everyone on. And I mean everyone, because my loyalties are a bit divided for this match."

The games against Dorset and the Fire Services were a credit to women's football, writes **Pat Massey**.

There was not a single intentional foul in either game, nor a single incident of dissent, time-wasting or feigned injury.



All three teams had something to smile about after the 1995 Inter-Services gold championships hosted by Barnstaple Golf Club. The teams, pictured together, finished all square in a three-way tie. But the trophy will be held by the Army, outright winners of the 1994 tournament.

UK Land sets sail for USA

THE ARMY is at the forefront of an ambitious project to paddle the equivalent of 6,672km from Salisbury to Atlanta, USA... in an energy-sapping 24 hours.

Headquarters Land Command at Wiltan has agreed to help with a local bid by rowing machine to raise £10,000 towards the £4 million needed by the British Olympic Appeal to send a team to the 1996 Olympic Games.

Several events will be held in parallel with the HQ Land initiative on February 23-24 at Salisbury Leisure Centre.

First event will be an assault on the 24-hour rowing machine record of 473,955m held by a Harvard University team of 70.

Veterans on form in Dublin

WO2 John Fidler, running for England, and Lt Col Glen Grant, in the vest of Wales, finished among the leaders in an international veterans' cross country event in Dublin.

Fidler, a Territorial Army postie serving with 86 PC Regiment RLC at Grantham, was 13th in the over 45 race, and the fourth to finish for England who won the team race.

Grant (MCTC Colchester) was ninth in the over 40 race.

Kineton Minors in Major grand slam

A THRILLING finish to the annual inter-unit team relay championships at Tweseldown got the Army cross country season off to a cracking start.

Eighty-six teams and 227 runners took on the tough, three-mile course, expertly laid by WO1(SMI) Brian Dupree APTC, in cool and damp conditions.

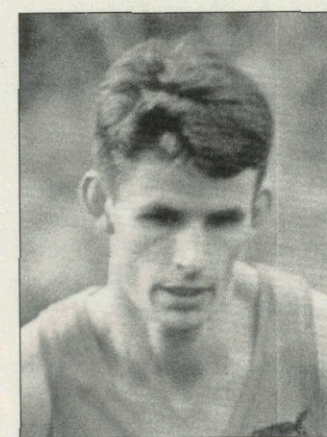
The overall championship turned into a three-way tussle between 2 Signal Regiment, 7 (Para) RHA and BAD Kineton RLC, the Minor Unit team sanctioned to compete with the Majors.

The traditionally frantic opening leg produced superb runs from ECCU representative LCpl Alan Shephard (2 Sigs) and Army cross country champion Bdr Barry Stoddart (4 Regt RA).

Shepherd ran the second fastest leg of the day, with Stoddart seven seconds behind.

Cpl Lee Dawes (7 RHA) and Kineton's Sgt Dave Wright kept their teams in the hunt.

The next two stages brought the three favourites to the fore, with fine runs by SSgt Derek Graham (7 RHA) and Capt Steve Lonnen and LCpl Paul Harwood of Kineton closing the gap on 2 Signals and setting up a thrilling final lap.



SSgt Rod Finch, fastest lap

Further down the team competition, a magnificent solo effort by Lt Col Glen Grant for AGC(MPS) produced the sixth fastest time for the 42-year-old Welsh international.

Spectators were treated to an epic battle on the last leg as SSgt Rod Finch, 7 RHA's European indoor 3,000m bronze medal winner, set off 400m behind Kineton's Cpl Kenny Butler, third in the 1994 Army cross country championships. Sandwiched between them was Sig John Richards.

Butler, recovering from injury, sustained an even pace to cross the line 12 seconds ahead of the impressive Horse Gunners and a little under a

minute ahead of third-placed 2 Sig Regt. Fourth place went to 2 Para, with 28 Engr Regt fifth.

In lifting the trophy, BAD Kineton completed the grand slam of Army Major Unit titles. Their all-conquering team has already won the Army cross country, marathon and half marathons, an unprecedented achievement for a Minor Unit.

Finch's superb effort was rewarded with the fastest time of the day, 14min 14sec, and gave notice that he will be hard to beat in this form.

The Minor Units competition produced a convincing winner in 82 AB Squadron RLC, superbly led by team captain and Combined Services representative WO2 Ray Keeney.

They finished ahead of Gurkha Training Wing and ATR Pirbright, with ATR Glencorse fourth and 249 Signal Squadron fifth.

In the women's race, SSgt Melanie Bradley achieved a notable double by clocking a fastest time of 17min 06sec and leading her RMPTS team to victory.

ATR Glencorse and Gurkha Training Wing were separated by the thickness of a vest in the junior championship, with Glencorse taking the honours.



UK and Army middle distance star Sgt Kelly Holmes has confirmed she will run in the Army and Inter-Services cross country championships, respectively at Longmoor on February 7 and Plymouth on February 16.

Holmes, serving with 1 Household Division Army Youth Team, has her sights set on the Atlanta Olympics next summer where she will be one of Britain's main medal hopes in the 800m or 1,500m.

Light Infantrymen set to row Atlantic

TWO Light Infantry officers aim to become the first winners of a 3,000-mile rowing race across the Atlantic, writes Gavin Mortimer.

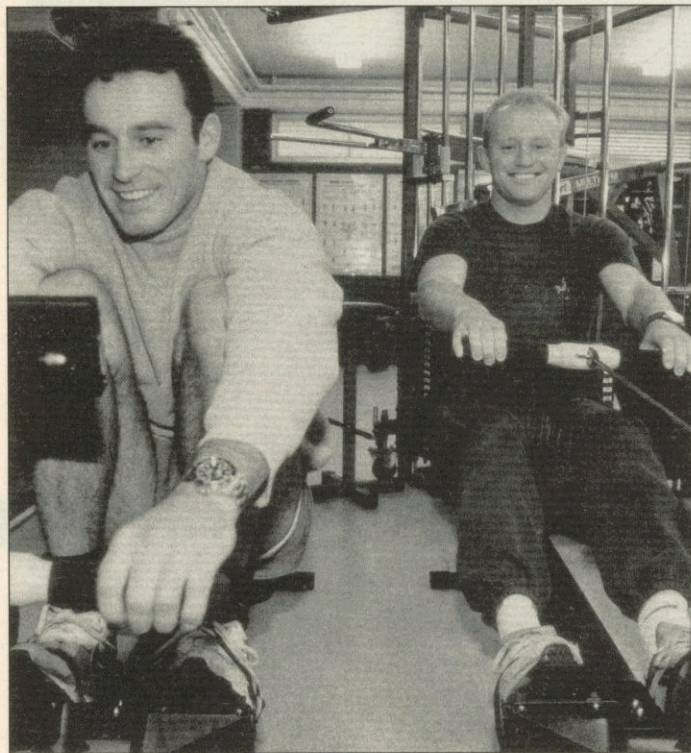
Capt Mark Mortimer and Capt Martin Bellamy of the 2nd Battalion, The Light Infantry, will take on 59 other crews in the race from the Canary Islands to the West Indies, starting in September 1997.

Despite having virtually no previous rowing experience, the two officers are confident of finishing. And they intend to win. "If you enter a race," said Mortimer, "you should always do your best to win it."

The long-distance challenge has been organised by former Parachute Regiment sergeant Chay Blyth, who in 1966 rowed the same ocean with John Ridgeway, a Para officer. They landed in Ireland after a 92-day crossing during which they experienced a hurricane, terrible sea-sickness and hallucinations.

Mortimer and Bellamy reckon their Army training will give them an advantage over their rivals. Both men have served in Northern Ireland and say the self-discipline they have absorbed in the Army will be crucial when the going gets particularly tough.

But for the next few months they have had to put their training on hold while their battalion completes a tour of duty in Bosnia.



Capt Martin Bellamy (left) and Mark Mortimer of 2 LI get in some dry training for their 3,000-mile row across the Atlantic

While rotating between Vitez and Mount Igman, the pair will spend any spare time writing to potential sponsors to raise the £25,000 they need for their boat.

All 60 crews will row in a 23ft boat of the same design. It has water-tight cuddies fore and aft which will be used for storage and sleeping space.

Explorer Sir Ranulph Fiennes has agreed to be their patron and Gen Sir Peter de la

Billière has asked to meet them on their return from former Yugoslavia.

The current Atlantic record of 73 days was set in 1971 by two brothers. Mortimer and Bellamy are hoping, weather permitting, to complete the passage in 60 days.

They have an extra incentive. England's cricketers will be in the West Indies that winter and the pair have no intention of missing the first Test match.

NAAFI BACKS RAC NORDIC SKIERS

SKIERS from the Armed Forces will be able to take advantage of Olympic conditions this winter thanks to a £3,000 sponsorship deal with Naafi financial services.

The money will help fund the 1996 RAC Nordic ski championships at Les Saisies in the French Alps in January.

Sponsorship will allow the organisers to hire Olympic-standard tracks and facilities at Les Saisies, and to support RAC skiers in the British national teams.

Maj Gen Walter Courage, president of RAC skiing, who received the cheque at Naafi's Amesbury headquarters, said: "Because of this support we can put more people through the training and can involve Servicemen who would not normally have the opportunity to compete on Olympic-standard tracks."

Col Chris Day, chairman of RAC Nordic skiing, said: "Around 200 competitors take part in the championships. Half the races are straight-forward skiing and half are biathlon, involving shooting and skiing. Both skills are fundamental military skills, yet it is difficult to practise them in Britain because of the inconsistent weather conditions. The places to go are Norway or the Alps."

Don't miss . . .

RUGBY: British Army v New Zealand Army, Aldershot Military Stadium, December 13, k-o 1900.

BOXING: CSBA individual championships (to decide the team competition), HMS Nelson, Portsmouth, December 5-6.

FOOTBALL: Army v Hampshire, SW Counties Championship, Aldershot Military Stadium, December 6, k-o 1930.

RUGBY LEAGUE: Army v Wales Students, Cardiff



Maj Gen Walter Courage receives the Naafi sponsorship cheque from director John Loring. Royal Armoured Corp skier Tpr James Cartney (1 RTR) stands by in appreciation

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SOLDIER

As talks to find a peaceful solution to the civil war in the former Yugoslavia continued, many more areas in Bosnia-Herzegovina became accessible to British troops serving with the United Nations Protection Force. These happy sappers from 521 Specialist Team Royal Engineers were photographed during a break in drilling operations in Sarajevo. The team has been working flat out to provide fresh water at several locations.

Picture: POA(Phot) Phil Ball

