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SOLDIER

MAGAZINE  
OF THE  
BRITISH  
ARMY

# THE LAST BIG PARADE



● REPORT ● PICTURES



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Incorporating the Territorial Army magazine

**September 18, 1995**  
**Vol 51/19**

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**COVER:** Burma Star Association standards and (inset) Chelsea Pensioners feature in the great London parade to mark the 50th anniversary of VJ Day. **FACING PAGE:** A Lancaster bomber releases a cloud of poppies over the Mall.

**LOUISIANA:** Soldiers from 1 Staffords train for world peacekeeping duties with former Warsaw Pact troops. – Pages 12-13

**SOVIET UNION:** Reg Dance came home from Arnhem via Russia. – Pages 28-29

**GREAT BRITAIN:** A nation pays tribute to the veterans of war. – Pages 18-27

**REVIEWS:** Music and books. – Pages 34-37

**EGYPT:** 1 RGBW on exercise. – Page 38



Picture: Sgt Wendy Summerell

**Defiant dragon:** Fusiliers Nigel Jones (left) and Robert Jones fly the flag for Wales in Gorazde camp

# 1 RWF leave Bosnian Serbs guessing Escape from Gorazde

THE FINAL group of soldiers from the 1st Battalion, The Royal Welch Fusiliers landed safely at RAF Brize Norton on August 31 after a nerve-wracking extraction from the Gorazde pocket in Bosnia.

They had formed up secretly in a tactical march column and, a day early, made an unexpected move at high speed through a minefield before either the Bosnian Serb Army or Bosnian Government Army realised what was going on.

"We made it in one to the Serbian border and I can't tell you what it felt like to cross that frontier," said Lt Col Jonathon Riley, CO 1 RWF.

The extraction began some time ago after the Fusiliers' observation post line was attacked following NATO air strikes on May 25.

After a two-and-a-half hour battle most of the soldiers were

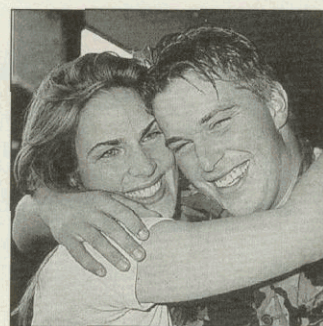
safely withdrawn but 33 hostages were taken and used as human shield hostages until they were released on June 7.

"That attack made the original mission in Gorazde invalid and I began to reduce men and equipment to decrease exposure," said Col Riley.

Radio messages were sent in Welsh to conceal the unit's intentions from eavesdroppers.

From the very beginning of the tour, on St David's Day, Gorazde proved a dangerous place in which to serve. Latterly the Fusiliers endured 30 days of intense shelling and harsh conditions, with 60 combat incidents resulting from attacks on the UN Protection Force. They fired more than 10,000 rounds in self defence.

For 26 days the Gorazde Force was kept at its highest alert state. Soldiers wore body armour and helmets at all



**Welcome home:** Lt Bruce Payne of 1 RWF is hugged by his sister, Sally, at RAF Brize Norton

times, remaining in bomb shelters during the day and moving only at night.

There were nine casualties: one gunshot wound, three mine injuries and five resulting from mortar rounds, but all the wounded are expected to rejoin the regiment soon.

At one point the threat to the barracks was such that the Fusiliers moved into the woods for 14 days.

From mid-February until late June no fuel reached 1 RWF; strict rationing of fuel

● Turn to Page 5



# **YOUR CHANCE TO USE THE MOST POWERFUL WEAPON KNOWN TO MAN. YOUR VOTE.**

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# Drug testing moves into wider phase

IN THE first six months of the Army's Compulsory Drugs Testing (CDT) programme, 65 units have been selected at random and 67 Army personnel have either proved positive or refused to take a test, making themselves liable to discharge from the Service.

The introductory phase to establish the programme and enhance its deterrent effect against drug misuse has been

completed. Testing has taken place in the United Kingdom, Northern Ireland, Germany and Cyprus, with units receiving notice of between six hours and no warning at all at the discretion of the commanding officer.

CDT teams have tested in a variety of situations, ranging from all the Army personnel in a garrison to a small percentage of a single unit.

Tests have been carried out on officers and soldiers performing duties ranging from ceremonial to manning observation posts on operational tours. The CDT programme is now being expanded into other overseas commands and garrisons, and to troops on exercise.

Some units have been tested more than once, and the random nature of unit selection

means this will occur more frequently as the programme continues.

Tests have been conducted over weekends and into silent hours at the convenience of units. This flexible application reinforces the policy that all Army personnel are liable to testing whenever and wherever they serve, making the drug misuser vulnerable to detection at any time.

# Highland Gunners join big NATO barrage on Serbs

THE GUNS of 19 Regiment, Royal Artillery joined those of French and Dutch members of the Rapid Reaction Force which pounded Bosnian Serb Army positions on August 30 in the largest attack by NATO in its 46-year history.

As 60 aircraft bombed strategic targets from Tusla to Gorazde, six British 105mm Light Guns, eight French 155mm self-propelled howitzers and Dutch 120mm mortars concentrated on weapons which have rained death and terror on the people of Sarajevo for the past three years.

The guns were reported to have fired nearly 600 shells in the first 40 minutes following three hours of intense bombing by NATO warplanes. Among the 980 rounds fired on August 30 were 164 British shells.

The accuracy of the guns ensured more targets were destroyed the next day, when another 88 rounds were fired. Although secondary positions had been prepared, no counter battery fire was reported.

The Highland Gunners have been in position for six weeks since deploying to Mount Igman above Sarajevo.

The UN established beyond reasonable doubt that it was a Serb 120mm mortar which killed 37 civilians in a Sarajevo market, the incident which triggered the NATO response.

Protecting the guns in the Mt Igman area is a Task Force Alpha company group based on The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment and supported by The Household Cavalry Regiment and Royal Engineers.



Royal Welch Fusiliers carry their equipment to waiting trucks on their way home via Belgrade and Split.

# Escape from Gorazde

● From Page 3

led to soldiers walking instead of driving, mule resupply and no running hot water, laundry service or television. Cooking was done on wood-fuelled stoves.

Rations were reduced by a third and no mail was received for up to eight weeks at a time.

On the night before the last 183 British troops withdrew from Gorazde a fierce fire fight developed and several armed renegades entered the camp. Two were killed, another

wounded, and the attack was beaten off.

"It was plain to all of us that the incident could be repeated if we stayed another night," said Col Riley. "It was possible the attitude of the Serbs might change, and the window of opportunity had to be jumped through before it shut for ever."

He said the Fusiliers felt they had succeeded in their aim of saving lives and helping refugees.

As well as A, B and C Com-

pany, support elements and tactical HQ at Gorazde, D Company was based at Bugojno and Echelon at Kiseljak. There were also detachments at Sarajevo, Split, Zagreb and also Belgrade, from where the Gorazde Force flew to Split.

Col Riley thanked the Welsh communities who had given his battalion such strong support.

The battalion's next event will be the presentation of UN medals and a march through Haverfordwest.



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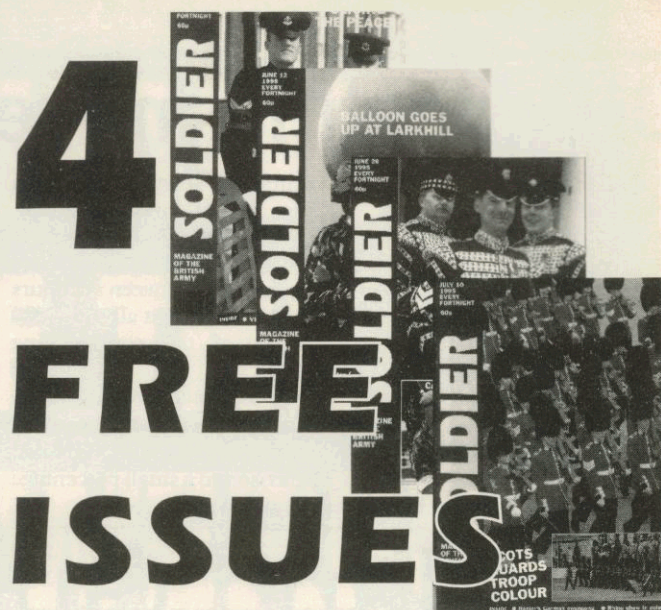
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## Racing RSM has gunners in peak shape

BRITISH gunners deployed around Sarajevo had a little "distraction" – a 10½km round trip to the peak of Mount Bjelasnica – thanks to their "Racing RSM", WO1 Phil Stuart, RSM of 19 Regiment RA.

"What the guys needed was a distraction, something to aim for, to motivate them to train during their daily routine in the gun pits," explained RSM Stuart.

"I thought it only fair to offer the race to all the troops based locally, so the gauntlet was thrown down. The French Foreign Legion and Fire Sup-

port Company from the Devon and Dorsets accepted."

Forty-four runners set off in mist and drizzle to make the 450m climb to the top of the peak. Eventual winner was the RSM himself, followed by Sgt Chef (SSgt) Lusard from the 2nd Battalion of Foreign Legion Infantry. Third home was Sgt Steve Ward RA.

RSM Stuart and Sgt Ward, who have both represented the regiment at cross country, are now planning a 10km road race, the security situation allowing.

## BOXING CLEVER

ARMY postie Cpl Neil Coull's knock-out punch opened up a route for an aid convoy.

The 29-year-old amateur boxer, who was helping to run an Army post office at Zepce, found the road blocked by Bosnian Muslim troops.

Their commander saw two pairs of boxing gloves in the back of Cpl Coull's Land Rover and challenged him to a fight. He said the convoy could proceed if Coull won.

The nimble postie had the Muslim commander on the ropes within 30 seconds, and – to the cheers of both sides – a swift right ended the one-sided contest.

"Boxing is promoted heavily in the Army, and it was good to see it being of some use in Bosnia," said a spokesman.

# British gunners strike back – with French mortars

WHAT seemed like just another routine day in the lives of Capt Tony Heath and Bdr Gary Day was interrupted by a series of shattering explosions.

Members of a forward observation party from 27/170 (Imjin) Battery, 19 Regiment RA, they are deployed as part of the multinational rapid reaction brigade on Mount Igman.

The specialist team of five had been based in an OP in the northern suburbs of Sarajevo for just 12 hours when the Serb salvo struck.

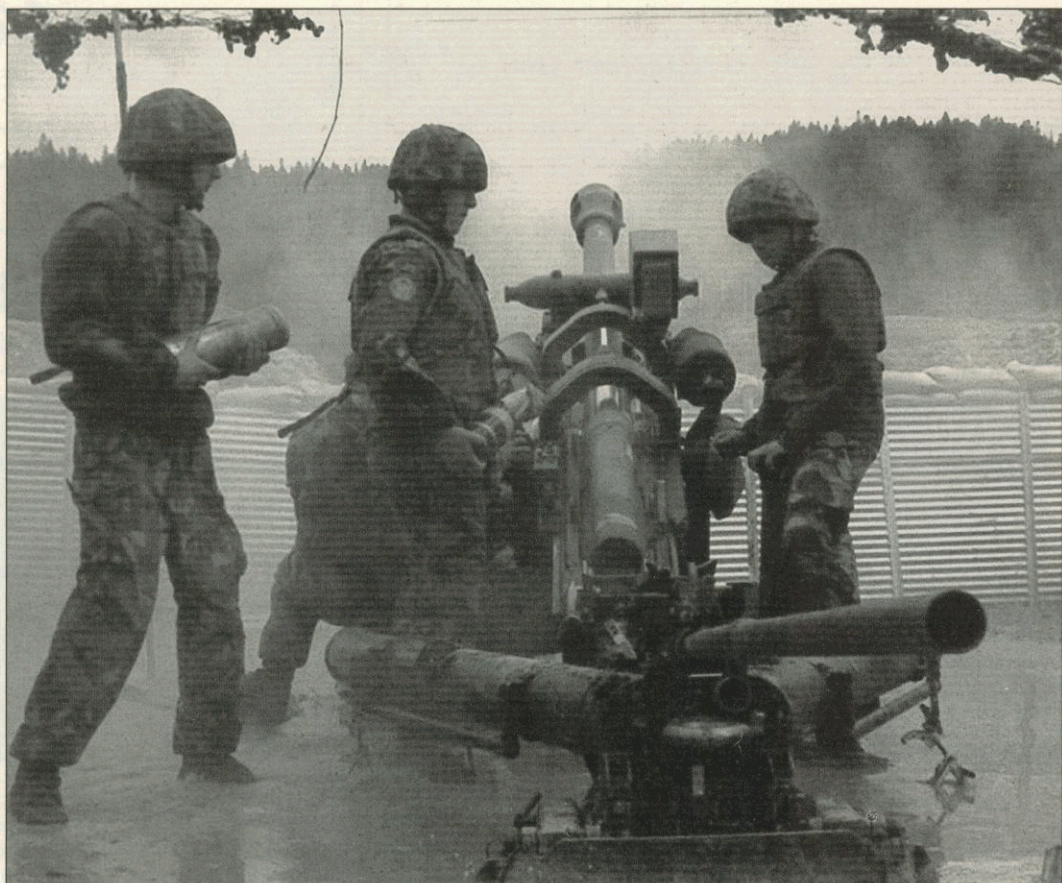
"Eight rounds came in without any warning, and they were close enough to make us uncomfortable," said Bdr Day, who was on watch at the time.

The OP had been directly targeted by Serb 120mm mortars which were immediately identified. "The firing point was a known position which we had spotted earlier. I quickly assessed that we needed to respond, and passed the relevant details to our Fire Support Co-ordination Centre," explained Bdr Day.

Response was rapid, both 105mm Light Gun batteries getting ready to fire from alternate positions on Mount Igman while three mortars from the French Foreign Legion were deployed forward to a prepared position.

Capt Heath said: "Our mortar fire mission silenced the Serb mortars and made it unnecessary to use our more powerful artillery.

"We didn't really have time



Picture: Sgt Steve Dock

**Gunners from 19 Regiment RA engage Bosnian Serb military objectives with their 105mm Light Gun from a position on Mount Igman overlooking Sarajevo. They joined NATO warplanes in attacking Serb positions**

to think about who was firing, but I suppose we are the first Brits to fire the Legion's mortars in quite some time."

The effect of the fire mission enabled the section to remain safely in the OP.

"What happened speaks volumes for the great co-operation between the French and

British forces," said Capt Heath.

The OP is one of a framework of posts in and around the city, incorporating radar weapon detectors and sophisticated sound-ranging systems.

Commanded by Lt Col Dick Applegate, CO 19 Regt RA, the teams have been acquiring

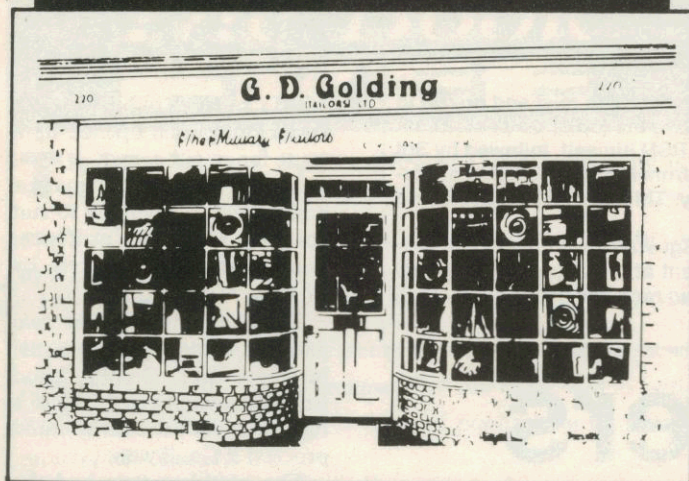
knowledge of the area since they arrived in theatre in June.

In addition to his own resources, Lt Col Applegate's command includes elements from the French Foreign Legion, the Royal Dutch Marines, the 1 D and D Battle-group and the Royal Engineers.



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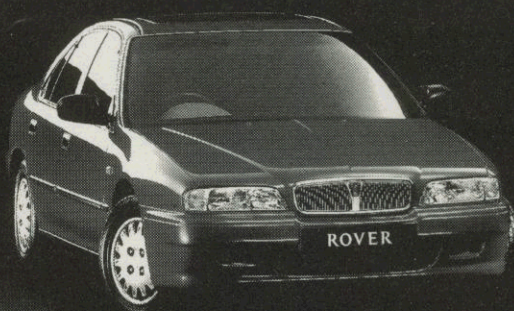
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## Rescue is quacking success

FORMER Green Howards soldier Dave Turner has been rewarded for helping a damsel in distress and rescuing her family ... of ducklings

Now employed as a security guard after 22 years in the Army, Dave was on duty at the rear gate of Imphal Barracks in

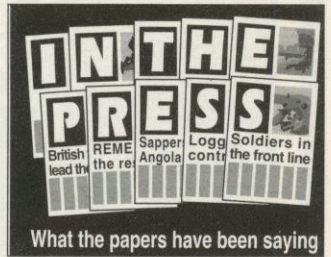
York when he noticed a very distressed duck. Seven of its brood had fallen through a grate into a drain.

One by one, Dave managed to lift the ducklings out and reunite them with their mother.

Maj Gen Patrick Cordingley, GOC 2nd Division, instituted

the Order of the Mallard Certificate of Merit in recognition of the action and presented it to Dave at his headquarters.

"I am delighted Dave didn't duck his responsibilities and managed to smooth ruffled feathers," commented Gen Cordingley.



## Colchester shock for delinquents considered

YOUNG offenders could be sent to the Military Corrective Training Centre at Colchester under plans being considered in Whitehall. — *Times*

□ Medical and legal experts investigating cases of so-called Gulf War syndrome are to track each sufferer's journey through the battle zone. — *Portsmouth News*

□ The Army's response to the ceasefire in Northern Ireland has been based on the old military precept that an enemy's declared intentions matter less than his capabilities. — *Guardian*

□ About 9.04 million television viewers — half the available audience — watched the VJ Day 50th anniversary Saturday night events, including the fireworks display over the Thames. — *Guardian*

□ More than 16,000 unoccupied government-owned homes — most of them MoD property — are costing £175 million a year in lost revenue and maintenance fees, according to the pressure group Empty Homes Agency. — *Times*

□ A farmer turned to the fire brigade and the Army for help after being refused compensation when the water supply to his farm near Godalming, Surrey, dried up. Special permission had to be obtained from the parish council for the Army to enter his village as military vehicles are normally restricted. — *Daily Telegraph*

□ Six retired RAMC major generals have signed an exclusive petition to the House of Commons Defence Committee in a fresh attempt to save the Cambridge Military Hospital at Aldershot. — *Aldershot Mail*

# Fusiliers keep fire watch on Merseyside

TROOPS and Royal Air Force specialists now providing fire-fighting cover on Merseyside will remain on stand-by until the end of September.

A series of nine-hour strikes being staged by firemen is being escalated to 18-hour periods from September 12.

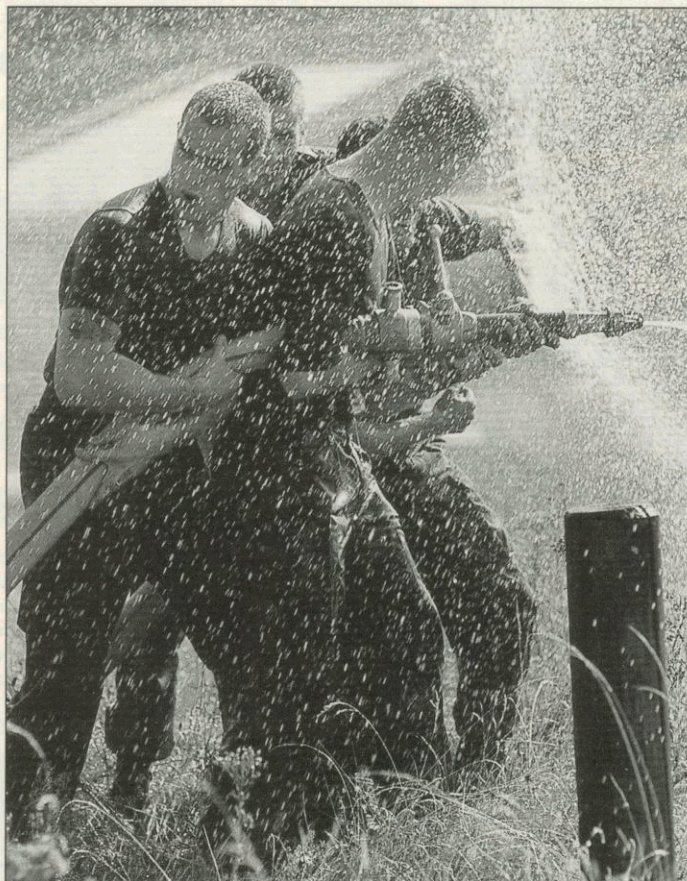
Following an appeal for help from the Home Office, more than 300 soldiers of the Chester-based 2nd Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers went on standby at ten centres with a fleet of 24 Green Goddesses, the first time the vehicles have been on the streets since the national firemen's strike in 1977.

Under Maj Guy Hornby, the Fusiliers completed a week of training in fire-fighting techniques, first aid and driving skills at Donnington.

During the first nine-hour strike, on August 17, soldiers responded to 48 out of more than 200 emergency calls. There were no serious incidents and the troops were largely involved in dealing with grass and rubbish fires.

This pattern has largely continued and by the end of August the Service firefighters had provided cover during five nine-hour strikes, with soldiers answering 178 calls.

Troops have dealt with one fatality. No Servicemen have been injured on firefighting duties although some Fusiliers suffered slight problems from inhaling smoke.



Soldiers from 2 RRF complete intensive firefighting training at Donnington before deploying to Merseyside to man Green Goddesses during a series of stoppages by fire brigades

## Catterick soldiers head for deepest Himalayas

SIX Catterick-based soldiers are to walk through the world's deepest valley during a 21-day, 200km trek through the Nepalese Himalayas.

Four men and two women

from 19 Mechanised Brigade HQ will scale a 5,000m-high pass to Makalu after negotiating the Arun River valley between Everest (8,848m) and Kanchenjunga (8,586m).

Expedition leader Maj Rick Bevan, an officer with the Brigade of Gurkhas, said: "This makes the valley more than 6,096m deep, dwarfing the Grand Canyon."

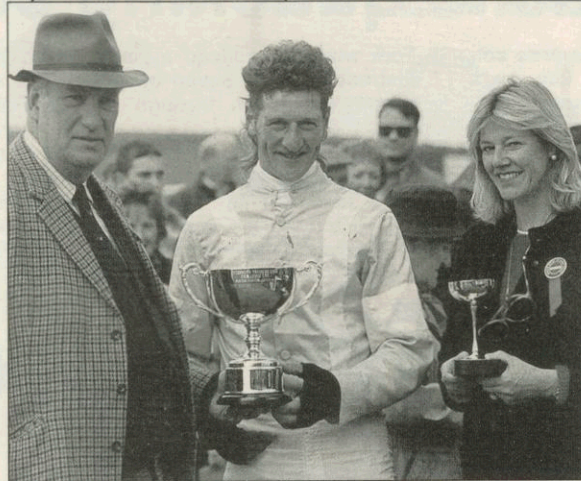




Gen Sir Charles Guthrie helps Mrs Frances Brown cut a cake to mark her retirement after 23 years with the MoD, the last 15 of them as personal messenger to the Chief of the General Staff. Frances served six Chiefs after joining CGS's office in November 1981. They include Fd Marshal Lord Bramall, Fd Marshal Sir John Stanier, Fd Marshal Sir Nigel Bagnall, Fd Marshal Sir John Chapple, and Fd Marshal Sir Peter Inge and Gen Guthrie.

## A cut above the rest . . .

## RIDING HIGH



First past the post in the local Border Hunt point-to-point members' race was Mr Thomas Scott, seen receiving the Otterburn Training Area Challenge Cup from Lt Col John Charteris, the Otterburn Commandant, and his wife, Antoinette.

Right: Cpl Frank Williams (centre), from 1 PWRR, introduces a group from Newtown Youth Centre at Southampton to the assault course at Marchwood Military Port, Hampshire. Their visit was part of a fortnight of activities, sponsored by British Gas, aimed at breaking down cultural and social barriers and boosting self-confidence.

## It's a gas!



Picture: Mike Perring

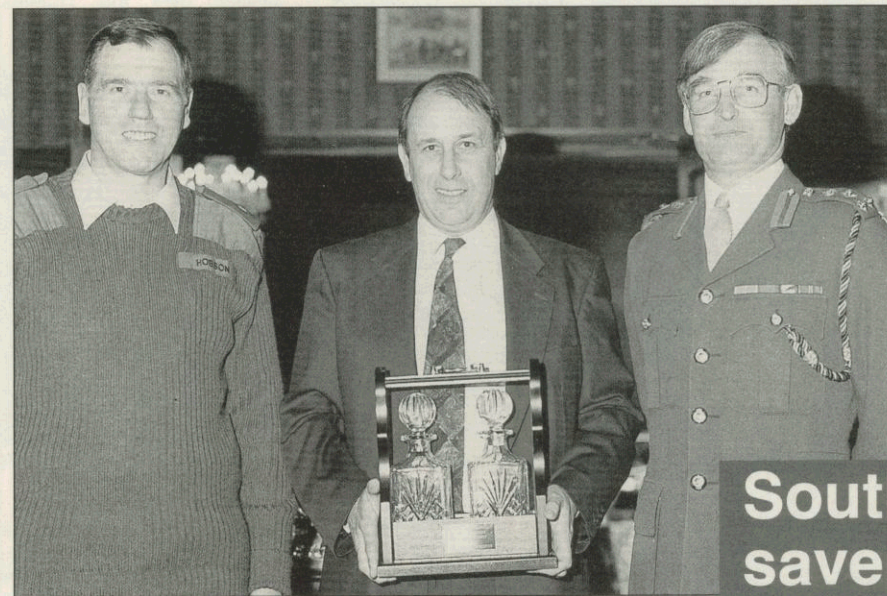
## Caterer's clasp . . .

Already the holder of a Meritorious Service Medal and a Long Service and Good Conduct Medal, WO1 Ivan Beatty, catering officer at Brecon Barracks until he completed his Regular Army service earlier this year, has been awarded a clasp to go with his LS and GC medal. Ivan is



to be employed as a specialist catering officer at the TA's 203 Welsh Field Hospital. Not bad going for a man who joined the Army School of Catering 33 years ago "to learn a trade".

## Southern savers



Winners of the 1994/95 Southern District Energy Efficiency Awards – an inscribed tantalus containing two cut glass decanters – were Royal Logistic Corps Training Centre, Deepcut and the Support Unit at the RAC Centre Bovington (right). Presenting the award, for which Army units in southern England compete to encourage savings, chiefly in energy management, to Brig Paul Evans (right), Com-

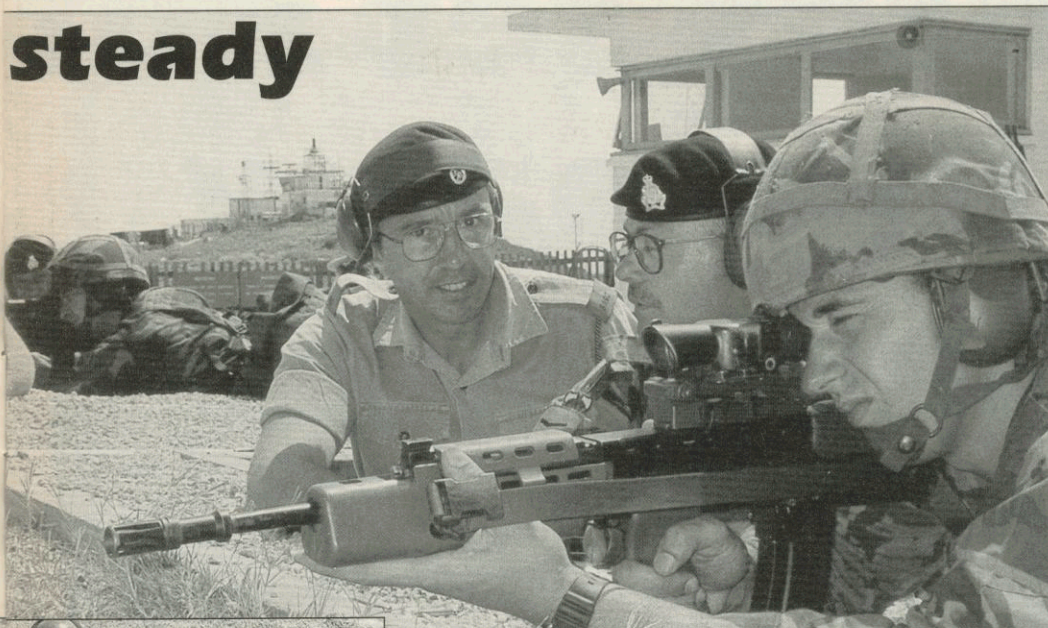
mander RLCTC Deepcut, and Maj Barry Hobson is Derek Hussey of sponsors Satchwell Control Systems.

At the Bovington presentation, made by Satchwell's Arthur Jupp (second left), were Brig Christopher Wolverson, Lt Cols Nobby Clarke and Brian Bell and (right) Col Jeremy Baines, Commander Logistic Support at District Headquarters, Aldershot, who devised the competition.

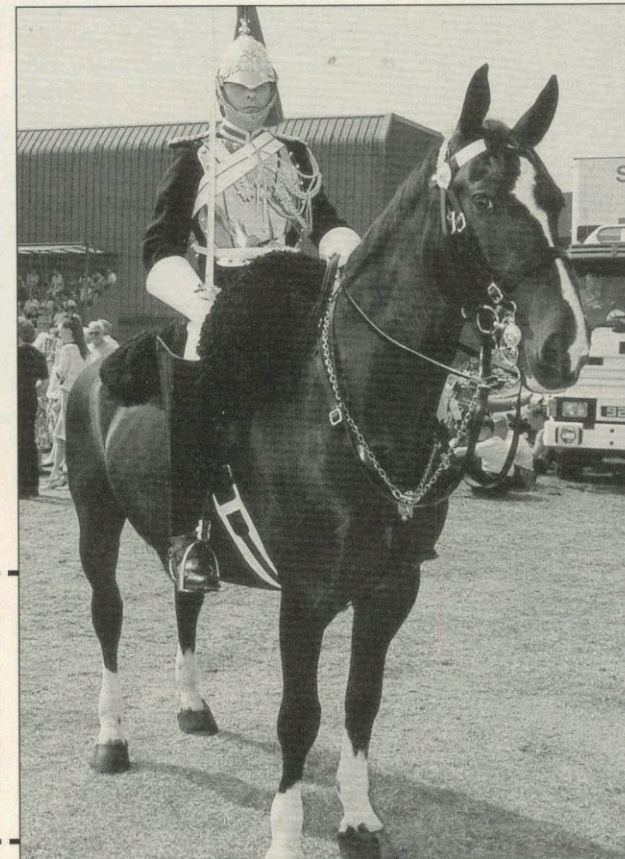


## Rock steady

Making history in Gibraltar were (from left) Sergeant Major Instructor WO1 Tony Bexon SASC, coach LCpl Albert Slater and LCpl Wayne Barton, both TA Class A members of the Gibraltar Regiment. Normally, one NCO from the regiment travels to Britain each year to qualify on a skill-at-arms instructor and unit course, but, for the first time, a team from the Small Arms School Corps travelled to Gibraltar to train NCOs to this standard.



## Manchester mount



## Rescue recognised



Happy recipient of a GOC's letter of commendation is Sgt Martin Blade, currently with RAC Bovington, pictured after a passing-out parade at the Army School of Physical Training, Aldershot. With Sgts Si Dave Bunting and Nicky Charlton, he saved six children from drowning in North Wales when their canoe capsized.

## Light work for the REME

REME and civilian metalsmiths serving with 34 (Northern) Signal Regiment (V) – (from left) Brian Jowett, Cpl Fred Oakes, Sgt Geoff Weller, SSgt Paul Fitzmaurice and Geoff Rowling – built one of 125 beacons spanning Britain to mark the 125th anniversary of the Red Cross.

## PEOPLE

An unsafe 50-year-old suspension bridge in Huntly, Scotland, was given new suspension cables, decking and handrails and reinforced concrete anchor blocks constructed by Cpl Paul Wakefield (right), an ex-Regular sapper, and other members of Cwmbran-based 1 Troop, 100 Field Squadron (Militia) during their annual camp. The project was undertaken for the local authority.





# Staffords set hot pace in steamy Louisiana

THE EXPERIENCE of 100 soldiers from the 1st Battalion, The Staffordshire Regiment proved valuable during the first NATO peacekeeping exercise held in the United States.

Troops from 16 nations, including many from central and eastern Europe, flew to the Joint Readiness Training Centre at Fort Polk, Louisiana, last month for Exercise Co-operation Nugget 95, the latest development in the new era of East-West integration following the end of the Cold War.

Skills honed during their current residential posting in Ballykinler gave the Staffords the edge over less experienced units. Some members of the battalion served with The



Royal Welch Fusiliers in Bosnia, adding another vital dimension.

Capt Clive Hopkins, a liaison officer in Gorazde when isolated United Nations positions were evacuated, had a particularly useful perspective.

"As everyone knows, many of the soldiers ended up as hostages," he said. "It was a

difficult time for all of us but there are differences between Bosnia and what we have learned here.

"Again, our role in Northern Ireland is in no way like the role we are training for here, but some of our basic skills are perhaps more finely tuned than soldiers who have not faced these types of tasks."

The Staffords quickly adapted to life in the steamy woods of central Louisiana, where temperatures hit 100C on top of high humidity.

"It puts a fair strain on anyone who has to remain kitted up and alert when his

**... and avoid the snakes, creepy-crawlies and poison ivy ...**

body is constantly soaked with sweat," said the officer commanding, Maj Philip King.

"But British soldiers have always been determined and adaptable and the Staffords can be proud of being able to learn to cope quickly."

Fort Polk training staff were impressed at how seriously the Staffords took the exercise and how well they coped with lack of sleep and everything that was thrown at them.

SSgt Pat Corcoran, US Army, who helped prepare the "Brits" for the demanding exercise elements, was very impressed by their standards.

British equipment – from weapons and clothing to ration packs – was greatly admired by many of the 2,500 soldiers participating, but Cpl Darren Wilson was not interested in exchanging any of his kit.

"I've not seen other soldiers with anything we would want," he said.

Thousands of GIs learned the basics of combat at Fort Polk during the Second World War. It was run down after 1945 but re-activated for the Korean War. In 1965 it became the focal point for advanced training for troops destined to serve in Vietnam. More recently it has prepared US soldiers for operations in Panama, Kuwait, Somalia and Haiti.

Fort Polk became the home of the Joint Readiness Training Centre in 1993.

Despite the post-Cold War alliances being forged between East and West, regional conflicts and civil wars currently pose major threats to peace in many parts of the world. With NATO adapting to the new political and military structures, Co-operation Nugget was seen as an important



Soldiers of The Staffordshire Regiment on exercise at Fort Polk learn that Louisiana's plants as well as its snakes can be poisonous



Pte Jason Brown (left) of 1 Staffords and US Pte Sean Stephens compare styles



Pte Stephen Tomkinson keeps watch

opportunity to integrate peacekeeping skills. As the Staffords flew in to begin their training,

150 American troops were leaving to take part in Operation Uphold Democracy, the United Nations mission in Haiti.

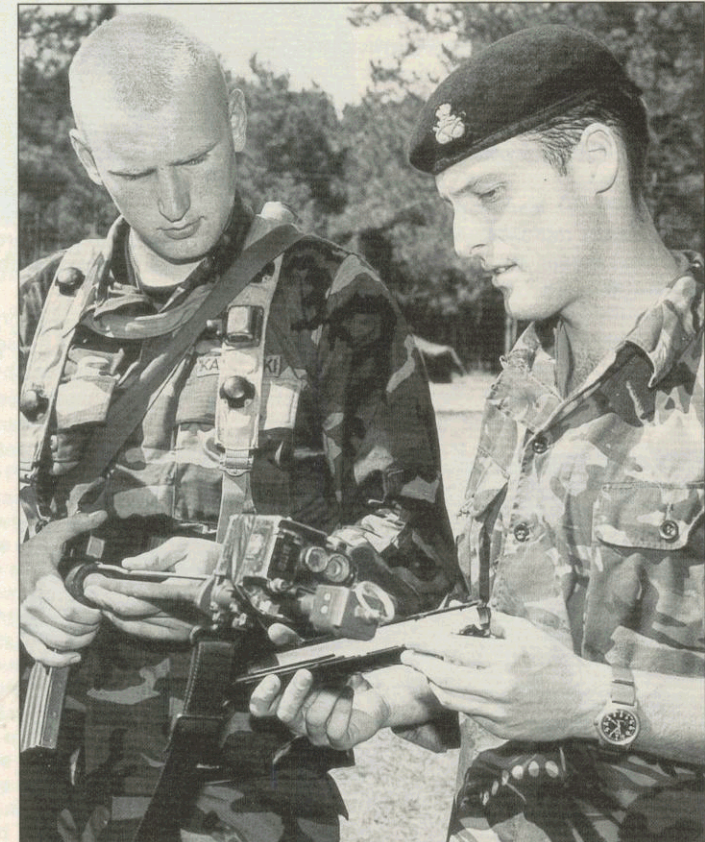
Fort Polk's facilities expose units to the "fog of war", civilians and media on the battlefield, terrorism, reliance on aerial supply, and casualty and tactical rules of engagement.

It has a well-deserved reputation for being tough, realistic and stressful.

The Staffords spent their first week in spartan barracks dating from the Second World War. They worked with soldiers from the US, Canada, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, the Slovak Republic, Slovenia, the Ukraine and Uzbekistan.

Poisonous snakes, insects and plants are common hazards in undergrowth over the extensive Fort Polk training areas, but 1 Staffords proved determined and adaptable.

They will again show these traits when they begin a tour of duty in Hong Kong in October 1996.



Capt Clive Hopkins (right) of A Coy, 1 Staffords shows Estonian soldiers how to strip an M16 rifle. He was attached to 1 RWF in Bosnia during the hostage crisis at Gorazde earlier this summer



# Victory parade – how it looked last time . . . and the time before that

The VJ Day 50th anniversary parade in London to mark the end of the war was not the first of its kind. A glance through the 1946 pages of *Soldier* reveals details of two earlier Victory parades. The first, in 1919, commemorated the end of the First World War, the second, in 1946, celebrated the end of the Second World War

## 1919

HUNDREDS of thousands of Britons waited hours to see the pageant of victory when 20,000 Allied Servicemen and women followed their war leaders in a seven-mile procession through the heart of London on Saturday, July 19, 1919.

*Soldier* reported that Nelson's Column was decorated with 20 tons of laurel. Flags and bunting transformed every street.

... "the people near the Victoria Memorial had just sung one of the popular songs of the war," wrote a *Daily Express* reporter, "when, with dramatic suddenness, General Pershing, riding a fine chestnut, came past the pylons at the top of the Mall and so into view of the thousands round about."

Behind the general marched 5,000 Americans eight abreast, steel-helmeted, with bayonets fixed. They were followed by Belgians, French, Italians, Japanese, Rumanians, Serbians, Siamese and many other

nationalities. The French, led by Marshal Foch on a black horse, had tied hundreds of tiny Union flags to their bayonets.

Fd Marshal Haig rode at the head of a group of famous war generals, followed by officers and men, the Household Cavalry and massed flags.

Then came four Whippet tanks "snorting and puffing out smoke".

The procession took two hours to pass the royal pavilion, and the celebrations went on far into the night. In Hyde Park, the massed bands of the Brigade of Guards accompanied a 1,000-strong Imperial Choir of Peace and Thanksgiving.



German PoWs build a camp in Regent's Park to house soldiers taking part in the 1946 victory parade



July 19, 1919: Troops march towards Trafalgar Square. Note the Japanese flag (right). Japan was one of the Allies during the First World War

## 1946

IN 1946 *Soldier* recorded that German PoWs were used extensively to build temporary camps to house soldiers taking part in London's Victory Parade.

Massive crowds again lined the route on June 8, when a marching column of 21,000 troops from all over the British Empire and Allied countries, and a mechanised column of 480 vehicles – ranging from jeeps to the heaviest armoured fighting machines – passed through in celebration of Victory Day.

Famous commanders drove in the procession, and special contingents represented workers and defenders of the Home Front. King George VI, accompanied by members of the Royal Family, took the salute in the Mall.

To allow as many people as possible to see something of the parade, the mechanised column followed a circuitous route through central London, passing the Royal Mint, Tower Hill, London Bridge and the Oval, before re-crossing the Thames at Vauxhall Bridge. The 122-minute procession culminated in a drive-past salute at the saluting base in the Mall.

Sherman tanks shared the procession with YMCA mobile canteens, half-tracks and DUKW amphibious vehicles.

At the end of the Royal Army Ordnance Corps contingent were jeeps of the Army Film and Photographic Unit carrying uniformed reporters and photographers. Their work, often carried out under fire, filled the pages of many illustrated publications worldwide, including *Soldier*.

Behind them were famous war correspondents and the mobile – and very popular – canteens of Naafi and the First Aid Nursing Yeomanry.

Elsewhere in the city, a separate marching column, thousands strong, marched from Marble Arch, along Oxford Street, Charing Cross Road, and past Trafalgar Square before catching up with the mechanised column in time to follow it along the Mall.

Bands, including musicians from Iraq, Yugoslavia, Mexico, China and the USSR, led the way. Among the more unusual colonial units taking part were the East Africa Military Nursing Service, the Johore Volunteer Force from Malaya, the Mauritius

Women's Volunteer Corps and the Palestine Police.

The Glider Pilot Regiment, the Commandos and the Jewish Brigade marched with the Army contingent.

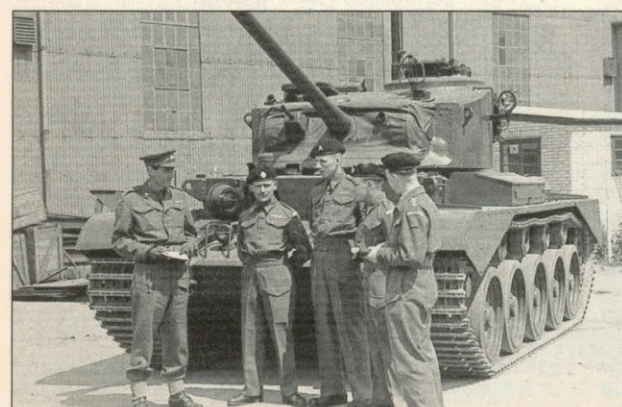
The evening entertainments included dancing to the music of military bands in St James's, Green, Hyde and Regent's Parks. The King arrived at the Houses of Parliament to be greeted by a salute from 80 searchlights of the Anti-Aircraft Command and 41 aerial maroons.

## FIRST TANK

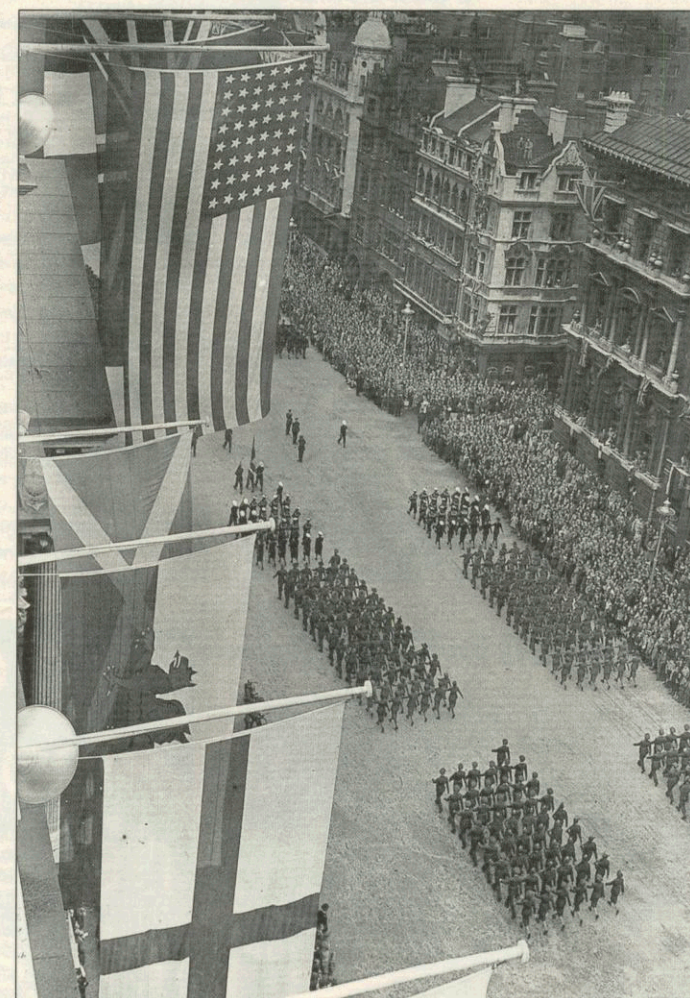
FOR spectators at the 1946 Victory Celebrations, the rumble of heavy tracks on the streets of London heralded the armoured contingent of the British Army. At its head was a brand new Comet, Britain's latest and finest cruiser tank, resplendent in spotless green paint.

In the turret, earphones over his beret, was a tall, rangy figure with a weather-beaten face, a typical cavalry officer – Lt Col RG Byron, DSO, 4/7 Royal Dragoon Guards, commander of the tank and the armoured contingent.

Col Byron, from Winchester, had hurried home from service in New Zealand when war was declared to rejoin his regiment. He served in the BEF and escaped from Dunkirk. Later he commanded his regiment and landed with 4/7 on D-Day, earning a DSO on the Normandy beaches. Inside the Comet were four crew members. The gunner, and adjutant of the contingent, was Capt J C Helliwell RAC. Before the war he had been an assistant conductor of the BBC's Overseas Orchestra. A fortnight later he rejoined the Corporation. Keeping the Comet on line was driver LCpl F Painter RTR, from Cholsey, Berkshire. He had fought with the 1st Parachute Brigade in Italy, was taken prisoner at Arnhem and rejoined the RTR when he was liberated.



First tank – a new Comet – with her crew (left to right) commander Lt Col Byron, LCpl Painter, LCpl Grounds, Tpr Jones and Capt Helliwell



June 8, 1946: New Zealand Troops pass through Whitehall to Trafalgar Square. They were part of a marching column of 21,000 soldiers

At the radio, through which the commander controlled his contingent, was LCpl T Grounds, 25 Dragoons, of Broxbourne, Herts. A solicitor's articled clerk, he served in India and Burma and fought on the Arakan front. With the veterans in the tank was one of a new generation, the gunner mechanic, 18-year-old Tpr Ben Jones RAC, of Leominster. A gauge-maker, he volunteered for the Army six months before his 18th birthday.

## FIRST IN LINE

HEADING the Army's marching column in 1946 were men of The Queen's Royal Regiment – the Second of Foot. (No, the Royal Scots had not been disbanded. They were marching at the head of the Scots contingent later in the procession).

Heel-and-toeing with the best was a grizzled colour sergeant with two rows of ribbons on his breast. The *Soldier* report recorded the incident thus: "Now and again a faraway look comes into his eye; he is remembering incidents of that other Victory Parade in which he marched in 1919."

"A Territorial soldier, then as now, it was 34 years since young Fred Gibbins joined what is now the 1/6 Battalion, The Queen's Royal Regiment. He proudly claims that he was the oldest soldier to stay with his battalion wherever there was fighting. If anyone doubts that he was in the thick of things, he could point to the ribbon of the Military Medal at the head of his first row."

"He earned that in the Mareth Line for gallantry when some ammunition trucks caught fire under a rain of shells. He saved a nasty situation by standing firm with a spitting Sten-gun when things seemed to be going too well for the Germans."

"He was 48 years old and had 31 years' service when that happened. 'I think the King was surprised when he presented the medal to an old 'un like me,' he said."

In civvy street, CSgt Gibbins MM, was a driver with Bermondsey Borough Council.



CSgt Fred Gibbins (centre) tells comrades of the other Victory Parade in which he marched – in 1919. He won the MM



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# We CAN have faith in our youngsters

MOST of the letters I get ask for advice, and there is a certain satisfaction in being able to give it.

I also receive letters from those wanting to get something off their chests. Their letters are very welcome because they give me new perspectives on issues or confirm old ones.

Just such a letter arrived recently from a reader in Nottinghamshire. Detailing his experiences in the 1950s when he and his wife were kept apart for five years because of quartering shortages, the correspondent said he was sure today's Forces "would never have such a situation to deal with in peace time".

His note arrived a few days after the VJ Day 50th anniversary commemorations and provided an echo for remarks made along the same lines by an old friend.

Many people, watching footage of the horrors of war, say today's young soldiers would not survive a similar experience because

they have grown soft on post-1945 welfare. We have heard much of the Army's supposed disquiet at the quality of its new recruits – they can't run, have no stamina, are whingers etc, say the critics.

Much of this, of course, is anecdotal and useful only to those traditional critics of the young – the old.

Were the raw recruits of yesterday really super-fit, well-fed and motivated?

Given the lack of national health care and education in pre-war Britain, I doubt it.

I have a feeling sergeant majors of every generation have put their heads in their hands at first sight of the softies in front of them and wondered how they were expected to turn them into proper soldiers.

The fact is, they succeeded. And still do or they wouldn't turn out the kind of soldiers who make crowds

gasped at the precision of their marching on ceremonial duties, or make us all wonder at the enthusiasm and skill with which they tackle difficult and dangerous tasks home and abroad. When you consider what our young soldiers endured in Northern Ireland, what they went through in the Falklands and the Gulf, and what they are currently putting up

with in former Yugoslavia, can anyone doubt the Army is still turning out young men and women of extraordinary calibre?

And what of Service families? They cope with life in an extraordinary way. Many young women lose any hope of a career to marry their soldiers – and get precious little help from the State for doing so.

One soldier's wife I know waved goodbye to her husband on a March morning and didn't see him again

until September. While he was away on duty she packed up their flat, marched out, moved in at a new location, marched in, dealt with a useless boiler, had the car serviced, and watched as workmen removed all the windows in the house before disappearing for a week!

All in a foreign country.

I would argue that now, more than ever, the British Army provides an excellent environment in which to develop character, and strenuous efforts should be made to defend the Service against efforts to drag it closer to the civilian world.

But it needs a constant supply of young people attracted to a special way of life.

There were, last time I looked, still places on the Army's bursary scheme. The Forces sponsor about 700 students a year. In the current climate of declining student loans, the package is attractive.

Some university stu-

dents lucky enough to be selected will receive £500 a term. After three years they do a course at Sandhurst, receive a commission and serve a minimum of three years as an officer.

Others aim for the harder-to-achieve cadetships, which involve getting a probationary commission before going to university on a small salary and serving at least five years in the Army afterwards.

For youngsters thinking about how to employ their hard-won A Levels, a career in the Army is well worth considering.

The challenges should still be there.

And we will know that their instructors have succeeded when the Class of '96 or 2006 sits back in grey-haired later life to deplore the unsuitability of the latest bunch of recruits.

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



**Cari's column**

## A for effort as BFG schools achieve even better results

THE RISE in A Level pass rates in the United Kingdom was matched in Germany.

Sixth form pupils in the three secondary schools serving British Forces Germany turned in an overall pass rate of 86 per cent, compared with 84 per cent achieved in the UK.

The improvement is a two-point increase for Service Children's Schools, and a record.

There was a corresponding one per cent improvement (from 49 to 50) in the proportion of entries graded A, B or C – usually needed for university entrance or to secure the individual's preferred courses.

Not a single student failed in art, business studies, German and sociology, despite significant numbers entering these subjects. The most pleasing improvement, however, was in the

subject with the highest number of entries, English.

Sixty-three per cent of students gained grades A, B or C, compared to 46 per cent last year, and 93 per cent passed.

This compared well with the results in German, traditionally the high-flyer in BFG, which had a 100 per cent pass rate for an increased number of entries and a 68 per cent pass at A to C grades.

Individual indications are that most SCS(NWE) students will have little difficulty in securing their first or second choices for higher education.

In addition, four students at Windsor School who followed GNVQ vocational courses as an alternative to A Levels gained entry to universities. SCS (North West Europe) is a defence agency.

## Silky message for the world



Kirsty Dudin (second from right) and her Federation of Army Wives compatriots proudly hold aloft a 6.5m-long silk banner she hand-painted for the prestigious United Nations-sponsored fourth world conference on women in Beijing, China.

"It is a tremendous honour knowing it will be stitched to other banners to produce a single item likely to be several kilometres in length," said Kirsty at her home in Salisbuy.

Her banner incorporates the logos of 42 women's organisations in the UK.

Kirsty started painting on silk four years ago and runs her own one-woman business, but this is her most ambitious project to date.

She is the housing member on the FAW executive, one of 50 groups which make up the Women's National Commission, an advisory body which channels women's views to the Government.

Married to Lt Col Roger Dudin, SO1 at Information Systems Policy and Plans, HQ Land Command, Kirsty is pleased that her hand-crafted art helped to publicise the two-week gathering in China.



# Poppies fall like tears on the Last Big Parade

AT the end of the two-minute silence at a service of remembrance and commitment held in London to mark the 50th anniversary of the end of the Second World War, a Lancaster bomber flew low over Buckingham Palace.

Its bomb aimer had the Victoria Memorial in his sights. There, the Royal Family and tens of thousands of war veterans, their families and spectators, looked up expectantly, writes Laurie Manton.

One million blood-red poppies were released, hanging like a curtain of remembrance in the sky, a vivid reminder of the sacrifices made during the Second World War.

Earlier, tears were shed as Viscount Slim, son of the wartime commander, read the Kohima epitaph – *When you go home, tell them of us and say, For your tomorrow, we gave our today* – and the nation remembered those who died and those broken in body and mind by their experiences.

Then, more than 20,000 Second World War veterans took part in what was dubbed the Last Big Parade. Many were members of Gen Bill Slim's "Forgotten Army". They had waited 50 years to be remembered, and remembered they certainly were.

Flanked by political leaders and chiefs of defence staffs from around the world, the Queen and other members of the Royal Family stepped on to a dais in the Mall to await the arrival of the marchers.

A handful of heroes holding the Victoria and George Crosses led the parade. They included Maj Agansing Rai of the 5th Royal Gurkha Rifles, who won a VC in Burma in 1944, and John Kenneally, an Irish Guardsman who won his VC in Tunisia in 1943.

Behind them marched flag parties and veterans from 67 dependent territories, participating Commonwealth and other countries who fought for the Crown.

Countries represented ranged from the Cayman Islands to Sierra Leone and from Western Samoa to the Republic of Kiribati. The last-named, formerly the Gilbert Islands until independence in 1979, was occupied by Japan in 1942 and was used for testing British nuclear weapons – on Christmas Island – from 1957 to 1964.

Marching at the head of the Burma Star Association contingent was the Duke of Edinburgh. He had served in the



The Queen and Fd Marshal Lord Bramall watch veterans parade along the Mall

Pacific on HMS *Whelp* and was in Tokyo Bay when the Japanese signed the surrender document. Prince Philip was accompanied by the association's president, Viscount Slim, and Countess Mountbatten of Burma.

Following them were members of 18 other tri-Service organisations including the Royal British Legion, Women's Auxiliary Services Burma (WASBIES), the Dunkirk and Normandy Veterans Associations, Veterans of the Greek Campaign and the Italy Star Association.

The Memorable Order of Tin Hats was

also represented. Founded in 1927, this little-known brotherhood perpetuates the unforgettable frontline comradeship developed over two world wars.

War-time memories were stirred by the names of some Army, corps and regimental associations taking part – for example the Eighth Army, Monte Cassino and Rats of Tobruk Associations.

There were special cheers for veterans of the Indian Army and Gurkha Brigade, the First Aid Nursing Yeomanry, and the pensioners of the Royal Hospital, Chelsea wearing their distinctive scarlet frock coats.

Former members of Britain's Home Guard and the Women's Land Army marched, too.

The Gurkha Brigade Association contingent included one Second World War veteran from each of the ten Gurkha rifle reg-

## Royalty, defence chiefs and politicians salute the old and bold



Burma Star Association standard bearers march proudly along the Mall from Buckingham Palace



Soldiers of the 3rd Battalion, The Royal Gurkha Rifles march past the Royal dais in the Mall during the parade from Buckingham Palace



Guardsmen at the Victoria Memorial in front of Buckingham Palace take part in the Sunset ceremony

iments which fought with the then Indian Army. In Gurkha hats for the occasion to ensure recognition, all but two of the old soldiers wore honours, including five Military Medals and an Indian Distinguished Service Medal.

The procession, which included a drive-past of wartime tanks, trucks and

armoured cars from the Invicta Military Vehicle Preservation Society, took more than 90 minutes to make its way past the Queen.

In one of the VIP spectator stands, the Chief of the Defence Staff, Fd Marshal Sir Peter Inge, Defence Secretary Michael Portillo, Armed Forces Minister Nicholas

Soames, former Prime Minister Edward Heath and Labour Party leader Tony Blair were among those who responded with gusto to the old soldiers marching by. They waved and applauded enthusiastically.

Last past the dais were members of a marching contingent from the Regular Ser-

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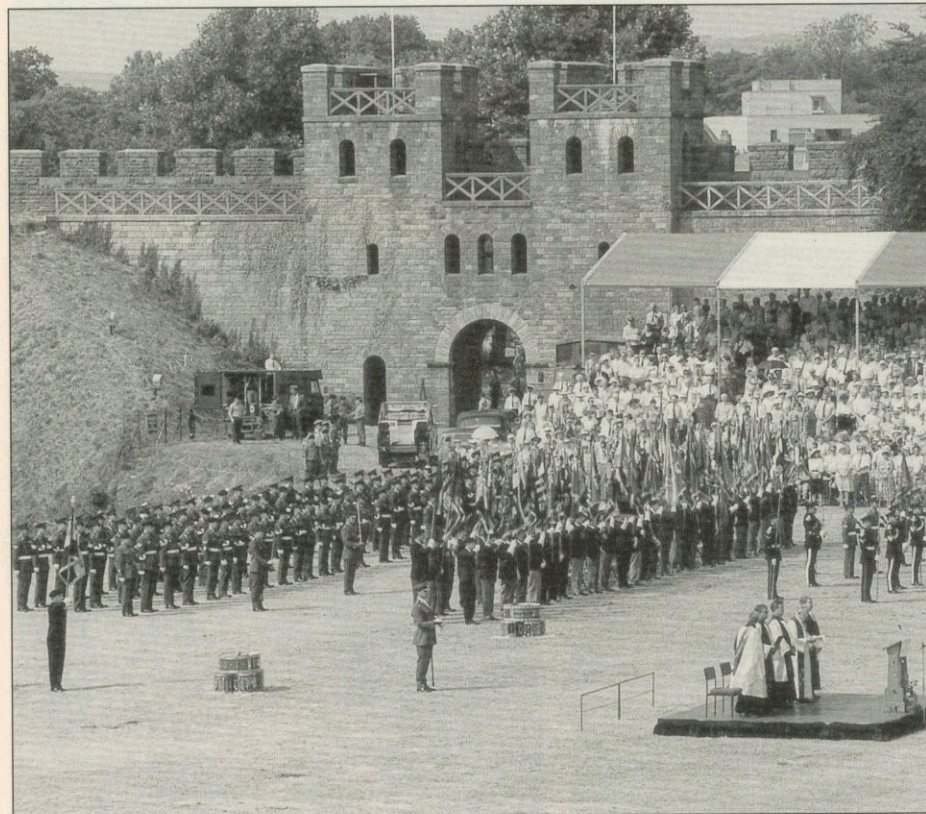




The Duke of Edinburgh, present at the surrender in Tokyo Bay, surprised everyone by joining veterans in the great VJ Day parade



The Prince of Wales met veterans from many of the countries who fought with the Allies, including a number from the Indian and Nepalese Armies. Behind right (in the white tunic) is a Fijian Army lieutenant colonel currently serving with the United Nations in the Sinai



Cardiff Castle provides the backdrop to the commemorations in Wales

## The last big parade

● From Page 19

vices, including the 1st Battalion, Grenadier Guards and the 3rd Battalion, The Royal Gurkha Rifles, and another from the Reserves Forces, which included soldiers from The London Regiment and a female Army Reserve contingent drawn from various Territorial Army units commanded by Capt Linda Chadwick, Intelligence Corps, and comprising female soldiers from the

London Regiment, Royal Wessex Yeomanry, 124 Petroleum Squadron RLC and 68 Signal Squadron.

Marching musicians from the Army were the Massed Bands of The Household Cavalry, the Bands of the Grenadier, Coldstream and Scots Guards, the Band of The Brigade of Gurkhas and the Pipes and Drums of the 3rd Battalion, The Royal Gurkha Rifles.

## Britain says its final thank you to veterans

MUSIC, pageantry, patriotic readings and the presence of Royalty combined to tug at the heartstrings of Second World War veterans far and wide as the VJ commemorations drew to a close.

It was, after all, they who were the focal point as The Final Tribute reached its climax.

In London, the Admiralty's Dover House was transformed into a huge theatrical backdrop to a Beat Retreat and Ceremony of Remembrance.

Simultaneously, veterans were assembled at Cardiff Castle, with the Prince of Wales in attendance, Carrickfergus Castle, Belfast, where the Duke of York - Colonel-in-Chief of the Royal Irish Regiment - was present, and Edinburgh Castle, attended by the Princess Royal.

Just after 8 pm on August 20, the Band of the Scots Guards entered Horse Guards playing *I Belong To Glasgow*. The Band of the Grenadier Guards followed with *The British Grenadiers*. RAF and Royal Marines



Musicians in the Massed Bands of the Household Cavalry take part in the 50th anniversary service of remembrance and commitment at the Victoria Memorial in front of Buckingham Palace. Director of Music was Maj Bob Garrity

bands joined them, floodlights were switched on and the massed bands launched into Walton's *Crown Imperial*.

As Parry's *I Was Glad* was sung by a 300-strong choir augmented by five trumpeters from each Service, the Royal party arrived.

Fd Marshal Lord Bramall, Lord Lieutenant of Greater London, escorted the Queen, the Duke of Edinburgh and Prince Edward to the Royal Box, to join Viscount Slim, Prime Minister John Major and other dignitaries.

The massed bands marched slowly forward, playing Elgar's *Pomp and Circumstance No. 4*. Then came the evocative sound of an air-raid siren, followed by the first bars of Beethoven's Fifth Symphony - the V for Victory signal...

A Commonwealth medley by the massed bands at Horse Guards gave way to a reading from Dylan Thomas's *And Death Shall Have No Dominion* by Lord Tony Pandy, former Speaker of the Commons.

The huge screens suspended at either side of the stage burst into life and the first of the live television broadcasts from the other three chosen venues was under way.

On the stage at Cardiff Castle, a soprano sang in Welsh, a 550-strong male voice choir adding a backing before they themselves did full justice to *Cwm Rhonda*.

In London, a Welsh dragon and a vast Union flag, projected onto the buildings at Horse Guards, dominated the arena.

Lt Col David Price, Scots Guards, the Director of Music, raised his baton for a salute to the Services.

The giant, ghostly images on the backdrop changed from sailors to soldiers to fighter pilots, with women looking skywards, as the foot bands moved forward to play, in turn, *Jack The Lad* and *Rule Britannia*, and, joined by the mounted bands, *There's Something About A Soldier* and the *Dambusters March*.

The senior ranks of Equity seemed to



A veteran stands proudly in salute in the turret of a Daimler armoured car during the drive past

have been enlisted for the occasion as, one by one, Keith Michell, Joan Plowright (*For Those In Peril On The Sea*), Denis Quilley (Kipling's *Tommy Atkins*) and Sir John Mills (*Johnny Head In Air*) gave readings.

A huge symbolic harp was displayed on the backdrop as actor Mark McGann read Thomas Moore's *Minstrel Boy* and the second live television link, this time with Northern Ireland, got under way.

A youthful dance troop and a flute band display at Carrickfergus were succeeded by the massed bands playing *St Patrick's Day*.

Ushered in by an extract from Joseph Conrad's *Youth*, read by Indian actor Saeed



A veteran salutes the Queen in the Mall

Jaffrey, the Far Eastern section of the evening began in London.

An image of a Gurkha was projected on to the clock tower overlooking Horse Guards and the choir began to whistle the tune most redolent of the hell which the jungle veterans had endured 50 years previously - the *River Kwai March* (Colonel Bogey).

The tune was taken up by the massed bands, followed by a song which will continue to be sung by members of the Burma Star Association until they draw their last breath: *The Road To Mandalay*.

As the reading which followed came to an end, with the words: *Best of the brave, most generous of the generous, never had a country more grateful friends than you*, the Pipes and Drums of the 3rd Battalion, The Royal Gurkha Rifles entered the arena to warm applause.

The Gurkhas moved off, a tartan backdrop appeared on the Horse Guards buildings, and massed pipes and drums on the torch-lit esplanade at Edinburgh Castle marched simultaneously on to the two television screens for the third live link-up.

*The Heroes of St Valery*, *The Green Hills Of Tyrol* and *When The Battle Is Over* proved an ideal choice for an evening of bitter-sweet nostalgia.

To a "homecoming" backdrop, the massed bands in London took over the mantle to play a mixture of victory tunes, Dame Judi Dench gave a reading and two guns from The King's Troop RHA were wheeled in.

The slides changed to VJ Day newspaper headlines and then to giant poppies as Edward Fox read Frank Thompson's *Polliciti Meliora*.

Foot bands marched slowly forward and

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Distinctive head-dress: Reflecting the international flavour of the VJ commemoration weekend, Grenadier Guardsmen Mark Eckersley and Steve Guest are pictured with soldiers from the Jordanian Army contingent

## A grateful nation says thank you

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the orchestra, choir and trumpeters stirred the emotions with *Jerusalem*.

More than 600 children, each bearing an electric candle, formed a huge, hollow cross, the cue for the Queen, preceded by two Gurkha orderly officers marching in slow time, to walk down the centre of the human cross to the stage from where she addressed the nation.

"The Second World War was the most destructive war in history," she said. "We fought it against an evil which threatened our freedom and our way of life.

"... Our dogged endurance left our resources much depleted. Yet, in the end, we came through triumphant.

"It is right, therefore, that those who enabled us to achieve the victory should take pride of place in these final commemorations. Tonight, we salute them, just as we did on VJ Day 50 years ago."

Six buglers from the Corps of Drums, 1st Battalion, Grenadier Guards, played the *Last Post* and Under Officer Peter Baker from South East London Army Cadet Force read the perennially moving Kohima epitaph.



At Wellington Barracks, Cpl Matthew Boak, 2 Gren Gds, admires some of the flags of more than 60 countries taking part in the parade

As an image of row upon row of crosses was displayed above the stage, members of The King's Troop fired a single round – signal for a two-minute silence across the nation – after which the choir, orchestra, band and trumpeters joined in Holst's *I Vow To Thee My Country*, followed by

Vaughan Williams's arrangement of *All People That On Earth Do Dwell*.

The Queen, the Duke of Edinburgh and Prince Edward left for the short journey down the Mall to the Sunset ceremony, culmination of the weekend's commemorations.

Massed bands led the procession, playing the *Burma Campaigners' March*, and the young candle-bearers followed their Sovereign.

Bands, choir, children and audience of thousands sang *Abide With Me* as the Queen and Prince Philip stood on a dais in front of the Palace.

A heart-felt rendition of *The Day Thou Givest Lord Has Ended* was followed by two acts of symbolism which will be indelibly printed on the memories of all who were there.

To the strains of *Sunset*, the Commonwealth flags which surrounded the winged statue of Victory proudly topping the Victoria Memorial were lowered by members of the 1st Battalion, Grenadier Guards, who the day before had provided a marching contingent for the colossal veterans' parade and, throughout this unique weekend, had acted as stewards to the elderly participants.

Then, as a spotlight picked them out high on the roof of the Buckingham Palace, ten Gurkha pipers played the lament composed for the heroes of Kohima – whose bravery around a tennis court battlefield in far off Assam had turned the Japanese tide.

The National Anthem was sounded,

# Soldiers of the world unite

ON THE day of the big parade, the drill square at Wellington Barracks echoed to the sound of many tongues and took on a multi-coloured hue.

It was here that the flag parties and veterans from Britain's other wartime armies gathered to prepare for the big day.

Gibraltarians mingled with Solomon Islanders and Sri Lankans, while wartime Nepalese generals rubbed shoulders with Namibians and Israelis.

Two kilted London Scots, LCpl Graham Kamara and Pte James Clark, met three members of the 2nd Fiji Infantry Regiment who had travelled from their United Nations duties in Israel to attend.

One of the Fijians – SSgt Maciu Davobalavu – wore the *Legion d'Honneur* he had received for saving the lives of three wounded French soldiers in the Lebanon.

The Fijians' parade uniform attracted the attentions of many other troops. They wore a traditional "skirt", or *sulu*, part of Fiji's national costume.

Grenadier Guardsmen Mark Eckersley and Steve Guest took the opportunity to compare uniforms with soldiers from the

Jordanian Army contingent. Both groups wear distinctive headdress.

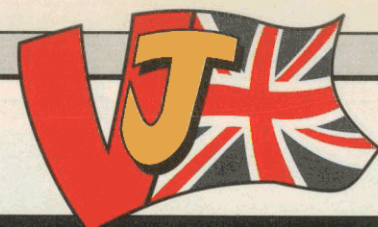
At 6ft 3in without his bearskin, Mark towered above the Jordanian troops in their red-and-white Arab *keffiyeh* head-dress held in place by an *agal* – two rings made of goat's wool fibre.

One Maltese Second World War veteran, Lt Col Gustav Caruana, chairman of the Royal British Legion (Malta), had taken part in the 1946 Victory Parade. Then, he carried the regimental Colours of the 1st King's Own Malta Regiment, at the head of the parade, to mark the British people's regard for the George Cross Island.

Now a stalwart of the Royal British Legion's Malta branch, he told *Soldier* that he carried the Colours from six in the morning to two o'clock in the afternoon.

"It's so gratifying to be back again after almost 50 years. I just had to return," he said.

Before the parade, the flags of the 67 dependent territories, participating Commonwealth and other countries who fought under the Crown were hung over a railing for safe keeping and to allow any creases to fall out.



The Princess of Wales, Prince Harry and, behind them, Gen Sir Charles Guthrie, Chief of the General Staff, watch from the Royal dais as thousands of veterans make their proud way along the Mall

## THE BRAVEST OF THE BRAVE

FIVE Gurkha heroes of the Second World War were fêted wherever they went while visiting Britain for the VJ 50th anniversary commemorations. Members of the public and veterans alike were eager to shake the hands of the old soldiers, each of whom had the distinction of winning the Victoria Cross in Burma. The four in the picture, (left to right) Hon Capt Ganju Lama, Hon Capt Gaje Ghale, Havildar Bhangbata Gurung and Hon Capt Agansing Rai (Havildar Lachhiman Gurung was absent) were visiting Church Crookham in Hampshire to be honoured by their modern counterparts, soldiers from the 3rd Battalion, The Royal Gurkha Rifles.

Each of the old Gurkhas was involved in actions of incredible bravery in the face of the enemy.

Capt Ganju Lama, for example, destroyed two Japanese tanks. Wounded by machine-gun fire, he crawled to within 30 yards of the tanks and knocked them out with a PIAT anti-tank weapon. He then engaged the tank crews with hand grenades before allowing medics to treat his wounds.

Before attending the VJ Day events in



London, the VCs were guests of RHQ The Brigade of Gurkhas and 3 RGR. During their visit to Church Crookham, they were

entertained by the Band of the Brigade of Gurkhas and the Pipes and Drums of the 3rd Battalion, The Royal Gurkha Rifles.

three cheers were proffered to the Queen, who was later to appear twice on the palace balcony with the Duke of Edinburgh, and Lt Col Price saluted his monarch.

But the crowd was reluctant to leave, eagerly singing rousing renditions of *Rule Britannia*, *Land of Hope and Glory* and

*Auld Lang Syne* in quick succession, waving paper flags while the children waved their candles.

It was an unforgettable culmination to a weekend, the purpose of which, in the Queen's words, was to thank those who had fought for their country, and to

remember those who had died. As the curtain finally came down on commemorations of Second World War events, she stressed that there were no "forgotten armies" – just a vast number of men and women who had fought for, and saved, the future of the free world.





Four members of the Royal British Legion's Malta branch pose for *Soldier* before the big parade. Pictured (left to right) are Mr L Camilleri, RBL (Malta); Maj E Micallef Eynaud, ex-Royal Malta Artillery; Lt Col W Attard, ex-RMA; and Lt Col Gustav Caruana, ex-King's Own Malta Regiment. Col Caruana carried the Colours on the 1946 Victory Parade

# Final victory marked far and wide

FROM Exeter to Stornoway and from Brentwood to Bosnia, commemorations were held over the weekend of August 19 and 20 to mark the 50th anniversary of VJ Day and the end of the Second World War.

More than 1,000 veterans marched through the streets of York, home of the headquarters of the 2nd Division, after a service in York Minster.

The service was attended by the Duke and Duchess of Kent, the Duke wearing his field marshal's uniform. The sermon was given by the Bishop to HM Forces, the Rt Rev John Kirkham, with the Rev Haydn Jones, Assistant Chaplain General, officiating.

The Duchess gave the first reading and Maj Gen Geofrey Collin, of the Burma Star Association, the second. A 25-pounder gun salute was fired by the 3rd Regiment Royal Horse Artillery to signal the beginning and end of the minute's silence during the service.

Afterwards, young men and women from Army, Sea and



Alma Kent (78) visited the veterans' centre in London wearing her wartime uniform. An Army nurse in Singapore, she was captured with her soldier husband, LCpl John Kent, and imprisoned in Changi, where he died.

Air Cadet forces, Boys' and Girls' Brigades and Scouts and Guides lined the route as the veterans marched through the streets.

Minutes before the march-past, the RAF Battle of Britain Memorial Flight flew northwards up the river Ouse, over the dais near the bridge where the Duke of Kent took the salute.

Soldiers from the Grenadier and Scots Guards based at ITC Catterick led the march past, which included more than 50 standard bearers. Organisations represented included the Burma Star Association, the Royal British Legion, the Far East Prisoners of War, and Dunkirk and Normandy Veterans' Associations.

In Scotland, a service of commemoration was held in St Giles Cathedral in Edinburgh, attended by the Princess Royal, military and civilian dignitaries and 650 war veterans.

The Pipes and Drums of the 1st Battalion, The King's Own Scottish Borderers provided musical support.

In the evening, Edinburgh



Manning the Burma Star Association stand at the veterans' centre in central London are (from left) national secretary Walford Hughes, Mrs

Joan Edwards, wife of a former national secretary, and George Mutton of the South West London branch



Middlesex Regimental Association members pictured beside the Tyndareus memorial stone at the National Army Museum in Chelsea. Many

of them were prisoners of the Japanese. The occasion was a VJ service of remembrance and thanksgiving, the first to be held in the museum

War uniform, followed by a five-minute firework display, and was a spectacular yet moving occasion.

Up to 20,000 veterans watched the Sunset ceremony on video screens in Princes Street.

Ceremonies to mark the end of the Second World War took place throughout Scotland.

Cardiff Castle provided the perfect backdrop for a day of commemorations and celebrations in Wales on August 20.



What's in a name? Two veteran sappers attending the Sunset ceremony in Edinburgh were 77-year-old James Bird Montgomery (left) and Harry Winston Churchill (79). Both served with 1052 Corps Royal Engineers in Europe during the Second World War and have remained in touch since



The float of the Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmen's Families Association (SSAFA), one of many representing tri-Service welfare organisations which took part in London's great VJ Day 50th anniversary parade along the Mall

Some 8,000 veterans, their families and friends filed into the castle grounds for a programme poignant with memories and tributes.

The Prince of Wales, escorted by Maj Gen Ian Freer, GOC Wales, was in attendance throughout the day, which began with the solemnity of a Drumhead service and ended in a blaze of colour with the Beating of Retreat and a firework display.

Feedback from the veterans had been extremely favourable, said Col Richard

Ginn of HQ Wales and Western District.

Members of Glamorgan Army Cadet Force had saved the day as far as keeping the audience and participants cool, he said.

They had moved water from bowlers to soldiers and veterans in the baking heat.

A service for veterans in St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast, was attended by the Duke of York, Colonel-in-Chief of The Royal Irish Regiment.

He later went on to a Beating of Retreat and Sunset service at Carrickfergus Castle.





Above – Massed Bands of the Household Cavalry prepare for the service of remembrance and commitment in the presence of the Queen

Right – A lone piper on the Edinburgh Castle Esplanade and dressed in Second World War uniform signals the end of the city's 50th anniversary ceremonies in the presence of the Princess Royal

Below – The Pipes and Drums of the 1st Battalion, The King's Own Scottish Borderers provide the music at a service outside St Giles Cathedral, Edinburgh

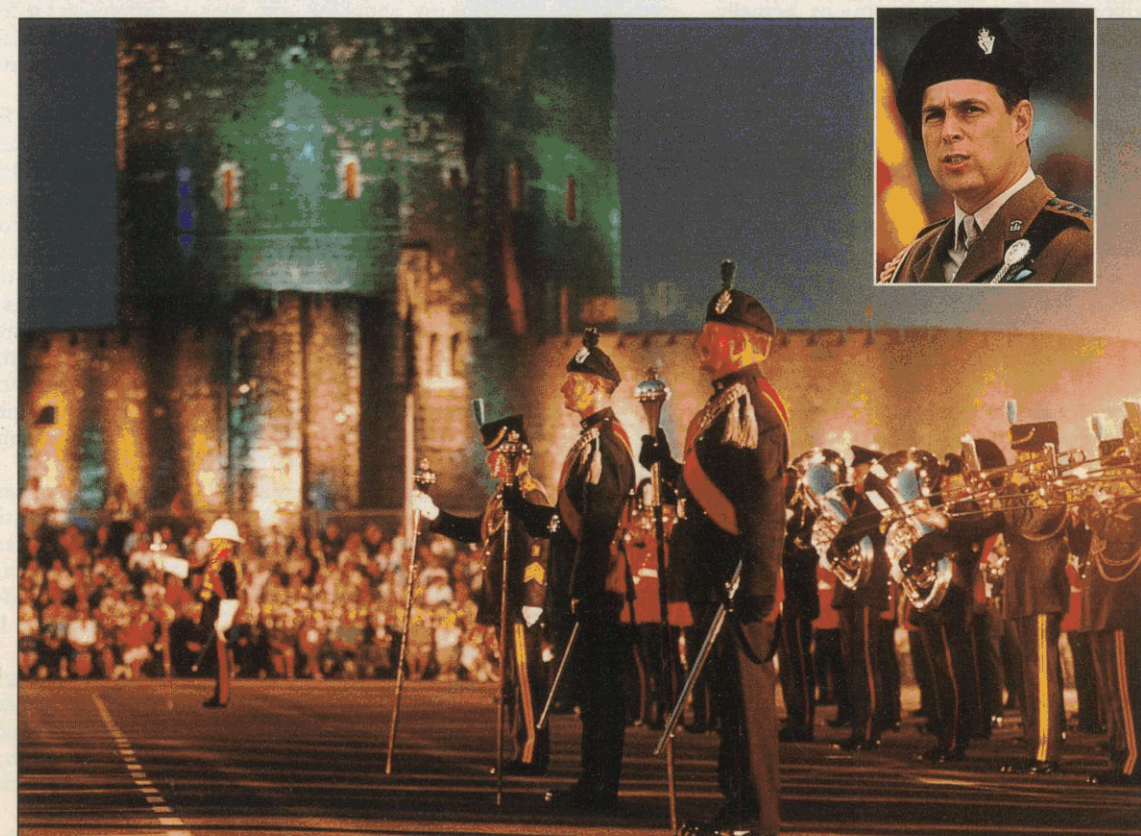


Picture courtesy of the Yorkshire Evening Press



Above – London's biggest fireworks display, watched by the Queen on board the *Britannia*, brings the Saturday programme of Tribute and Promise to a spectacular and ear-splitting climax

Below – Parachute Regiment veterans march proudly through the streets of York



Members of some of the bands who took part in the pageantry at Carrickfergus Castle, Northern Ireland in the presence of the Duke of York (inset). The service coincided with commemorations in London, Cardiff and Edinburgh



IN January 1941, Reg Dance, serving with the 1st Bucks Battalion, the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry, married his childhood sweetheart, Maisie. Three weeks later she was badly injured in a bombing raid on London and she died eight weeks after the wedding.

Determined to hit back at the enemy, he volunteered for the RAF at the first

opportunity, transferring in early 1942 to the Glider Pilot Regiment, where he was among the initial batch of recruits at Tilshead.

Promoted to staff sergeant, Reg was involved in the airborne invasion of Sicily from North Africa in 1943, transferring to E Squadron on his return to the United Kingdom. He flew a Horsa – packed with men from the Royal Ulster

Rifles, a jeep and a trailer – across the Channel to Normandy to take part in the D-Day invasion.

In the weeks that followed, Reg stood by for many operations, all of them were cancelled because of the rapid movement of Allied troops on the ground in Europe. Eventually, Arnhem got the green light and he flew again, this time carrying men from the King's

Own Scottish Borderers, at the start of a unique and incredible episode.

He and his comrade, Stan Clowe – who kept a record of places and dates during their journey, written sometimes with a burnt stick on wallpaper stripped from a ruined building – had always threatened to commit the tale to paper.

Sadly, this ambition perished with

Stan's death ten years ago. Reg, however, shared with *Soldier* his memories of an amazing trek through Silesia and Western Poland.

● After his epic journey, Reg, now 76, wanted to re-join his regiment, but was declared medically unfit. He spent the last few months of his Army service in the Military Secretary's office in London, eventually becoming a tax

inspector. Reg's elder son, Terry, also pursued an Army flying career, serving almost 18 years in the Army Air Corps. A helicopter pilot, he completed four tours in Northern Ireland and two in the Falklands before leaving the Regular Army. He is now in the TA.

Reg's other son, Stephen, is a professional Victorian military expert, particularly on the Boer War period.

# Back home to Blighty – via Arnhem and Odessa

I DON'T really want to say anything about the Arnhem operation, because so much has been written about it, except that the take-off, landing and battle were probably the most exciting time of my life.

As for the chaps of the air landing brigades, they were the unsung heroes as far as I am concerned. I am terrifically proud of the blokes we carried.

They weren't paratroops or glider pilots – just ordinary soldiers who, like us, had no parachutes: they came straight out of lorries into the back of our huge plywood gliders.

A few hours before the lads were due to pull out and go back across the Rhine, I was badly wounded in the back and partially paralysed down the right side.

I tried to move off with them, but I couldn't make it, so had to wish them good luck and goodbye.

It was two or three days later, I think, before the first German troops actually reached me. They were extremely good, and did all they could. They got a private car, laid me on its roof, stretched a blanket tightly over me and, with one of them on each side of the running board, drove off.

They got me to a German field hospital and I was given an injection, presumably to try and counteract any gangrene. I was put in a German ambulance, where I was the only British soldier: the rest appeared to be SS men wounded in the fighting at Arnhem.

At Apeldoorn, northern Holland, I was off-loaded into the hospital, where they operated on me.

Unfortunately, within 48 hours, I was told to get dressed and had to stagger with many wounded comrades to a railway siding, where we were put on a cattle truck-type train.

At Fallingbomel we were marched into Stalag II B. Two days later I and many others – mainly glider pilots – were put on another train which took us through the outskirts of Berlin, which was an absolute shambles. It

had been flattened. We were marched through the town of Saagen, to show off to the German people the much-vaunted British Airborne Forces, and found ourselves in Stalag 8 C.

Conditions in the camp were extremely bad, and my wound gradually got worse. I think my comrades thought I'd had it, but

## Reg Dance

talks to Phil Wilcox

The  
SOLDIER  
interview

they managed to get someone in to see me, and I was moved to the hospital hut, just outside the main compound.

A young Frenchman commandeered as medical officer carried out three operations on my back – rather crude affairs – but he found a piece of my battledress uniform embedded deep in my shoulder, almost down on to my lung.

It was bitterly cold: Christmas went by, and I think it was some time in January 1945 when I thought I heard the sound of gunfire.

We suddenly noticed the main camp was exceptionally quiet and discovered that the lads had all been marched out, heading westwards in the same direction that all the refugees were going.

As the gunfire got closer, we heard from a guard that the SS would move into the camp shortly, and decided to get out.

One German sentry obligingly turned the other way, so we cut through the wire, headed towards the main road and turned east. I've no idea how long it took, or how many of us there were. As I had been flat on my back in the camp and had had no exercise, it was all I could do to keep stumbling along.

When we reached the outskirts of Breslau, we got well and truly mixed up with the Russian guns which were pulverising the city. Some of the lads were made to work, feeding ammunition to the guns.

After a day or two we reached what appeared to be the town of Oels. . . At least, that's the sign I saw at the side of the road, but part of it was missing, so the name could have been longer.

The town itself was well and truly smashed up.

*We came across the heads of cattle and horses slaughtered some time before, preserved in the snow, and we tried to boil the tongues. They tasted like India rubber but dispelled our hunger for a while.*

I noticed one or two new faces in the crowd, so reckoned we were being joined by other British PoWs who had got out, been released or come off farms on which they had been working.

I found a bike with a tyre on the back but nothing on the front, but thought I might be able to get ahead a little way, wait for the others to catch me up, and maybe find some food for us all.

Not for the first time, I came across a bunch of drunken Russians.

'Deutsch, Deutsch', they said, and a Tommy gun was practically pushed to the back of my throat. I kept saying 'English, Engelski', but it made no difference.

Then I remembered that I had still got my Air Corps wings, so I pointed to the crown in the centre and said: 'Anglie Charlie'.

I could see that, even in their drunken stupor, the Russians realised there was no crown in the emblem of Nazi Germany. . .

When my comrades caught up, we stumbled on.

Next day, I again went ahead and encountered more Russians who wanted to kill me.

I became aware of horses' hooves on the road and saw coming towards me a figure which would have been more in place on the stage of Covent Garden.

*It was a high-ranking Russian officer, astride a horse caked to its midriff in dried mud, but he was in an immaculate uniform, with the most glamorous overcoat I've ever seen'.*

He drew level, looked down at me, smiled and said: 'English?', to which I was very glad to reply in the affirmative. Having estab-

lished that I and my fellow prisoners of war were hoping to get to Russia, he replied: 'Very difficult, very difficult'.

He singled out a character who had a rifle slung over his shoulder and said: 'This man will take you to Russia. Good luck.' Then he rode off.

That night, we found an old farm building, some coal and fuel and about 40lb of potatoes and, with a fire going and a share-out of food, it really did seem luxurious.

We felt a good deal safer with our Russian friend and eventually reached Gliwice and Katowice in the coal-mining area of Poland.

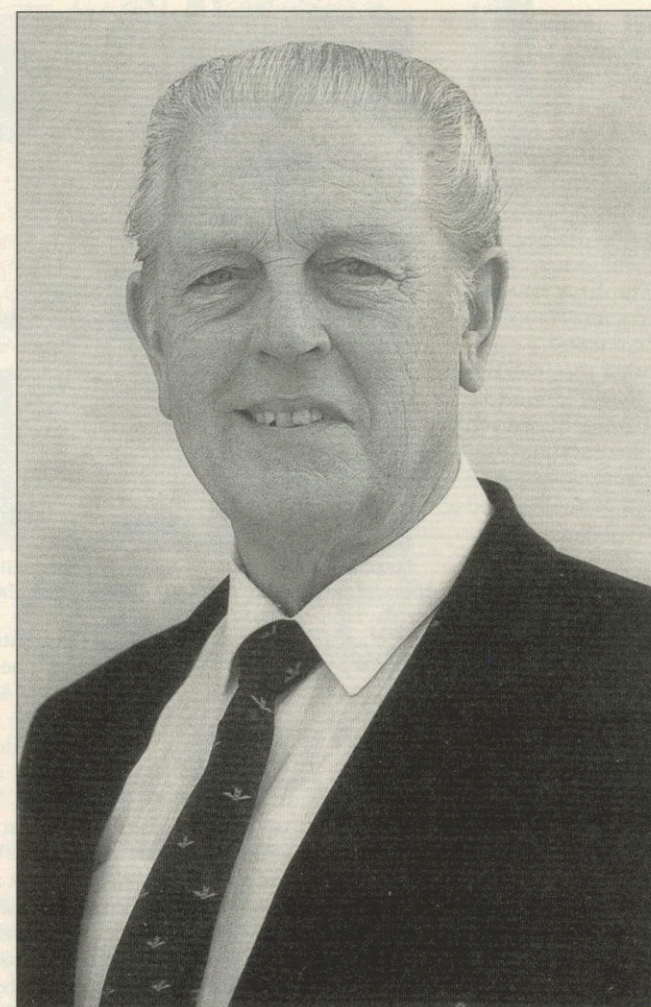
By this time, my legs were like matchsticks and I had a left knee the size of a football. My mates found a Russian woman who had something to do with the medical services. She examined my knee, gave me what appeared to be an aspirin, and told me to get into a rough bed to rest.

My comrades had to leave, but I said: 'If you get orders to move, come back for me. For God's sake, don't leave me here, or I'll never be heard of again'.

Next morning, the door burst open, and Sgt Mick Keeley whipped me on to an open lorry, and away we went. We were driven to a huge railway siding and boarded a long train of cattle wagons.

The floor was covered in about two inches of filthy, lice-ridden straw, with two layers of planks to accommodate as many men as possible. In the centre of the wagon was a huge stove, with a supply of wood for the fire.

We trundled on for many days: every so often there would be a stop and we would be given soup and some rough bread.



Reg Dance DFM as he is today

Picture: Mike Weston

cold air got to them. They immediately became wet with condensation.

We were pushed into a building that at least had a roof on it and we made ourselves as comfortable as we could.

*Looking at the guards surrounding us, I was not the only one to consider that maybe all we had done was exchange our role as British prisoners-of-war of the Germans to that of British PoWs of the Russians.*

We were approached by an RAF officer, who told us he represented the British Government in Odessa, and that his job was to get us out. He pleaded with us not to do anything to upset the Russians, since everything depended on a ship reaching Odessa full of Russian prisoners freed on the Western Front.

We were escorted to a long jetty, at the end of which I could see a ship flying the British flag, and were called up one at a time to a table on the dockside. Having given my name, rank and number, I was eventually allowed to walk up the gang-plank past two Russian soldiers with machine-guns across their chests.

A merchant seaman pushed a huge pork chop, roast potatoes and beans, and a pint of beer in front of me, but I couldn't do any of it justice, apologised, and was shown to a bunk. My knee was treated and I was given vitamin tablets to help the wound to heal.

*When they weighed me, I was exactly seven stone. When you consider that I am 6ft and my fighting weight was 12st 1lb, you can see how far down I'd gone.*

We returned through the Bosphorus and Dardanelles, Constantinople, the Greek islands and Naples, where we took on another two or three hundred ex-PoWs, most of whom had come down through Austria and Northern Italy.

While crossing the Bay of Biscay we heard over the tannoy that Roosevelt had died.

A day later we reached the United Kingdom and boarded trains. At Beaconsfield trucks were waiting to take us to a camp, where we were given thorough medical examinations, including X-rays.

Those of us not taken to hospital (some of the lads were found to have TB) were given new uniforms and underwear and the ladies of Beaconsfield and the surrounding villages came in to sew on our badges of rank, wings and divisional signs.

Then came our leave passes and double ration cards . . . and home.

A brief message I had sent from Odessa, courtesy of the RAF officer – 'Free. Safe and well. See you soon' – had, thankfully, been forwarded to my mother and fiancée.

**Reg Dance had returned from Arnhem at last.**



## Southwark support for memorials campaign

I READ with interest Ian Davidson's letter about his campaign to clean up war memorials (July 10).

As the cemetery manager of the London Borough of Southwark I decided to have a

good look at the memorials in the council's cemeteries.

Although the majority are maintained by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (and very well, I must add), I have now instigated a

scheme whereby the few erected by the local authority will be inspected and maintained on a regular basis.

Although I am not an ex-Serviceman I agree wholeheartedly with Mr Davidson

that we must honour our war dead. We owe these men and women so much and I feel that organisations and local authorities must fulfil their obligations. — **T M Connor, London SE23.**

## Colours caught on the camera

I WOULD suggest that many schools, especially those with an Army or Royal Navy background, have their own Colours (Letters, July 24, August 21).

I have a photograph taken in 1941 of the speech day parade at King Edward's School, Witley, showing the Colours and Escort led by the school captain with drawn sword.

Sailor's uniform was normal wear at this school until the early Sixties, when girls were admitted for the first time.

The school was founded in 1553 by Edward VI, so pre-dates both Queen Victoria School and the Duke of York's by about 300 years.

Surely schools like the Gordon Boys at Woking and the Royal Caledonian, Bushey, would also have Colours? — **W A Wadge, Feltham, Middx.**

## Why I shall wear my Greek Star with pride

I WAS recently summoned to the Greek Embassy in London, where I received my 1941-45 Greek Star, plus a very nice illuminated certificate.

I told the Greek military attaché I would be wearing mine below British awards on the VJ march on August 19, along with all the other Greek theatre lads who have received their awards to date. (He smiled and made no comment.)

The pity is that they will not all have been issued in time for this last big parade of the old sweats, commemorating our lads of the Far East theatres and the ending of the Second World War.

We in the Monte Cassino Veterans Association always remind folk that we wear our medals not for self-aggrandisement but in honour and memory of all our lads who never made it back.

My advice is to wear them and ignore the silly pettifogging politicians and their stupid edicts. — **Harry Ellis (ex-SAS/SBS), Halstead, Essex.**



Mediterranean theatre veteran Harry Ellis receives his illuminated certificate from a member of the Greek Embassy in London

## Medals: how do they check?

I HAD not realised before reading your article (July 10) how much cash was going to good causes from the sale of some commemorative medals.

However, speaking as an old campaigner for a Suez medal, one of the reasons for the Ministry of Defence not granting it so long after the event was and is the cost of checking to ensure applicants were entitled.

How do they get round this snag? — **Harry Whitehead, Keighley, W Yorks.**

## Fed up with the moaners

I AM fed up with people who condemn those of us who wear medals paid for out of our own pockets. I wonder how many of those who complain have been helped financially by the Royal

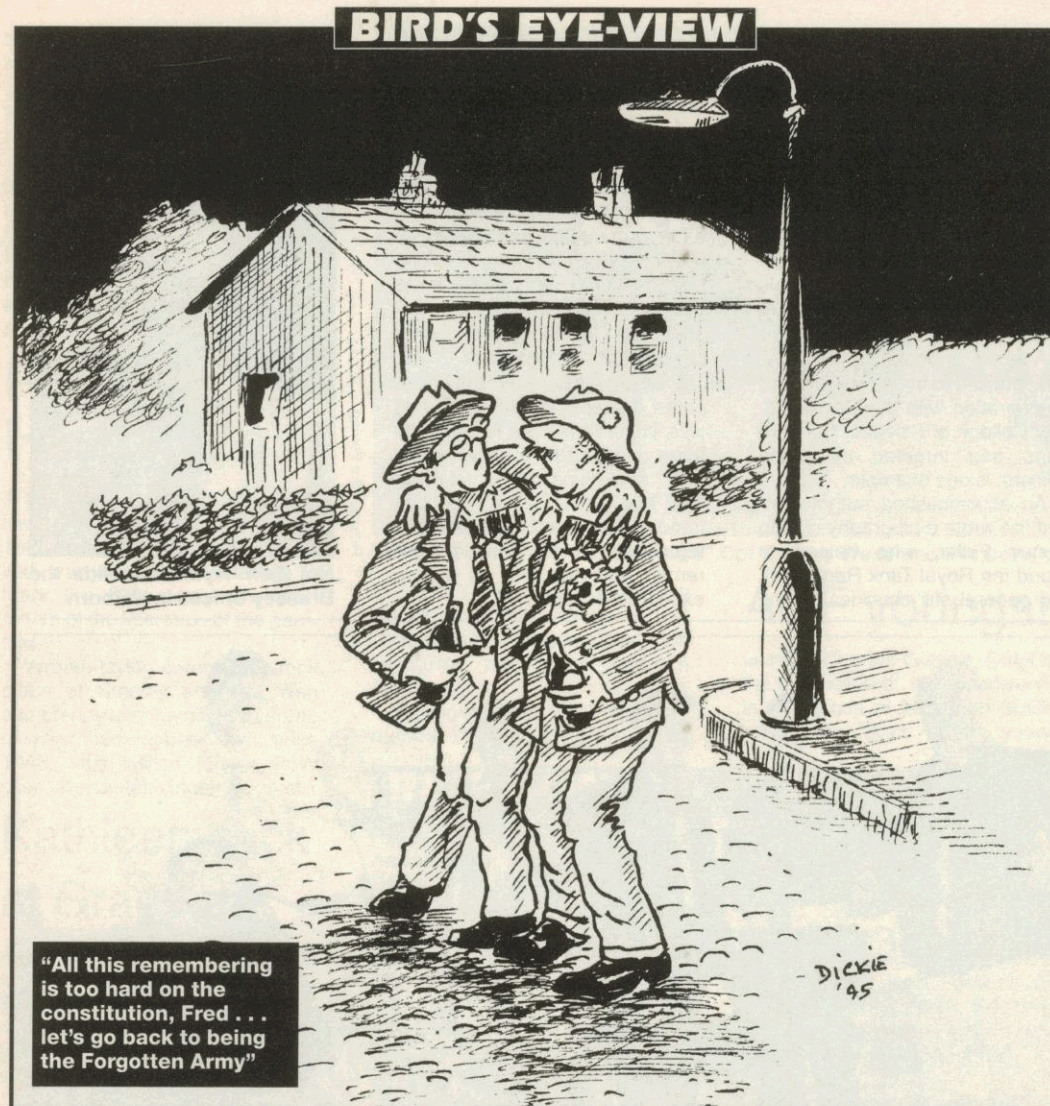
British Legion over the years? The Legion has received £149,000 just from the sale of the National Service Medal, which I bought.

I am the holder of the 1939-45 Star, the France-Germany Star, the Defence Medal and the War Medal 1939-45. It was not my fault that I didn't get to other parts of the world to qualify for other medals. — **Veteran (name and address supplied), Manchester.**

## Aussies have the right idea

THE new Australian Service Medal (Letters, August 7) is a great idea — so simple in concept yet covering and curing what has obviously been a rash of festering grievances.

Why can't our MoD do something similar? Certainly it would satisfy me, who has been campaigning for a GSM for Suez 1951-54 over many unsuccessful years. — **W H D Podd, Lowestoft, Suffolk.**



## This day crowned all days

NO DOUBT the big parade in London on August 19 to commemorate the end of the Second World War will be fully covered elsewhere in your excellent journal.

For me the connection began earlier, for I had been accorded the honour of taking lunch at Lancaster House with the Queen and other heads of state and military dignitaries from around the world.

The reception and the people, from Government members up to those of the royal family with whom I conversed, were as natural and friendly as anyone could have wished.

Surprisingly all seemed to be aware of the Italy Star Association and of who I was. Obviously all had done their homework, or had been very well briefed.

It was a proud and satisfying moment when the members of the association's contingent

passed the saluting dais in the Mall, led by our standard, with escorts, and with Graham Swain, the national secretary, at their head.

Members had travelled from

all branches to be present for this special day.

To all those who took part in the organisation of so vast a project, my sincere

thanks, for this day crowned all days. — **Maurice Cheadle (Founder and National Chairman, Italy Star Association), Barton on Sea, Hants.**

## A cut above...

ON THE subject of infantry training battalions, during my National Service I did 18 weeks' intensive training with the 30th from July 1947 at Pinefield Camp at Elgin. My platoon, the 29th, was chosen as honour guard and was inspected by Monty.

We were a cut above the other National Servicemen in that most of us were ex-Army Cadet Force and potential

NCOs. I finished my two years at Catterick after service in Sudan and Egypt with the Green Howards and GHQ MELF, Fayid, Egypt.

I have subscribed to *Soldier* since I left the Army in 1949 and have every copy stored away (I have had to reinforce the loft because of the weight). It is a great magazine — keep up the good work! — **G Mowforth, Hull.**

## LETTERS

## 'Chinese fought for Canada in the trenches'

A NEWSPAPER in Canada has reported that the country recruited 70,000 Chinese labourers to fight alongside its own troops in the First World War.

About 15,000 of the Chinese died in the trenches in France, says the report, after being transported across Canada by rail.

Others, including Japanese, blacks, Sikhs, native Indians and French Canadians all fought alongside 600,000 Canadians of British origin, the newspaper claims.

The *Sun* newspaper quotes a documentary film-maker as saying: "I was surprised as I researched to see how many ethnic groups were involved. The Japanese won medals and then some of them were interned in the Second World War."

I was utterly amazed when I read this. In all my life, including military service, I have never seen newsreel film or heard mention of any Chinese in France.

Could anyone verify if this is indeed true and, if so, what else have we never been told? — **James B Cummings, Victoria, British Columbia.**

● Chinese, Indians and Egyptians, among others, were recruited by the Imperial authorities for labouring duties in port and base areas, rather than the front line. In 1917 the Labour Corps was set up and at its height in 1918 its strength was 395,000, according to the official history of the Royal Pioneer Corps. — **Editor**

□ Correspondents are asked to keep letters brief and to print their names and addresses when not typed. Unsigned contributions will not be considered, but anonymity will be preserved where requested as long as a name and address is provided as proof of good faith.

## Kiwis in Far East

YOU report in your VJ 50th anniversary commemoration (August 21) that the 2nd New Zealand Division fought the Japanese in the Solomon Islands.

I served in the 8th Army in Italy, latterly with 7th Armoured Brigade.

At the very end of April 1945, the 8th fought its last pitched battle in crossing the River Giaina, a few miles short of the Po.

If my memory serves me correctly, my brigade supported 2NZ and 43rd (Gurkha) Brigade. The former went on

over the Po and led the advance on Venice.

Unless they left immediately afterwards, it is difficult to see that they could have been in the Solomons by August 1945.

Perhaps someone out there with more knowledge (or a better memory than mine!) can clarify. — **Lt Col (Retd) Geoffrey Davis, Harpenden, Herts.**

● Your memory serves you well, Colonel — "2nd" should have read "3rd". A case of divisional digital dysfunction. The 2nd was indeed being kept busy in Italy. — **Editor**



# End of a chapter for general

BOOKING out as executive deputy chairman of London publishers Brassey's is Maj Gen Tony Trythall.

An officer in the Royal Army Education Corps for more than 30 years, he first had contact with *Soldier* in the 1950s as a member of the British Army News Unit.

His association with the Brassey's organisation - which publishes books mainly on defence, military history, strategy and tactics and military technique - began on his retirement from the Army in 1984.

"While the Cold War was at its height, the publications were always an invaluable source of information and understanding to

the people of the West," he said.

"All of that has changed now, of course, but, in my opinion, things are much less stable these days. You only have to look at the Gulf, Iran, Kurdistan, Bosnia and so on to realise that books and journals will still need to be published to further readers' knowledge."

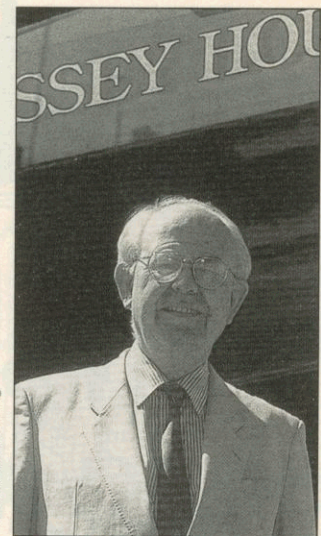
A series of books on land warfare, published by the company in co-operation with the Royal Military College of Science, Shrivenham, and targeted at young officers, is one example.

An accomplished author himself (he wrote a biography of Gen Boney Fuller, who helped to found the Royal Tank Regiment), the general still chuckles at one

incident during his time at Brassey's.

A newspaper reporter, invited to the launch of a book written by a German author about his experiences as ADC to a high-ranking Second World War officer, wrote how he enjoyed meeting Fd Marshal von Manstein, the (long-dead) officer in question.

"I felt then that to publish books about famous historical figures was important - but to summon them back from the grave would take something extra special," said Maj Gen Trythall, who has handed over the reins to publishing director Jenny Shaw, but will remain with the firm as a non-executive director.



Picture: Mike Perring

Maj Gen Trythall outside the Brassey offices in Holborn

## SOLDIER to Soldier

## IWM appeals for Borneo souvenirs

A NEW permanent gallery covering conflicts since 1945 is to open at the Imperial War Museum next year. Entitled War in Peace, it will fill major gaps existing on operations in Borneo, including the Brunei rebellion and Indonesian confrontation.

Nicholas Hewitt of the IWM's Research and Information Office is appealing for material related to the Borneo operations between December 1962 and August 1966.

The museum wants to acquire - preferably as permanent donations - uniforms, personal equipment, badges, medals, weapons, film and photographs, documents, personal diaries, letters and souvenirs captured from the enemy.

Mr Hewitt can be contacted c/o Research and Information Office, IWM, Lambeth Road, London SE1 6HZ (tel 0171 416 5354).

## Final call for Welsh Colours

WITH a mixture of pride and sadness, the Colours of the 4th Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Wales (24th/41st Foot) have been paraded through their home town of Llanelli for the last time and laid up in the local parish church.

When the 3rd and 4th (Volunteer) Battalions amalgamated in 1993 to form the new 2nd (Volunteer) Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Wales, it was decided to retain the 3rd Battalion's Colours for the new organisation, since it was the newer of the two. More



SSgt Philip Hartley and LCpl Kevin Langdon give the thumbs up to members of the Pontypridd Male Voice Choir

who visited the 1st Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Wales at Shackleton Barracks, Ballykelly. They saw soldiers from 1 RRW stretching their vocal chords, following the creation of the battalion's first choir.

Commanding officer Lt Col Robert Aitken con-

## Sounds good

tacted the award-winning Pontepriedd choir and asked if they would be willing to give up an evening to coach his singers. This they did, and the soldiers were invited to join the Pontypridd choristers at their first public performance in Limavady.

"As the choir come from our home town, we are doubly delighted at their help," said Col Aitken.

## Bring on the daring new Green Devils

DARING soldiers from the 3rd Battalion, The Royal Irish Regiment have been taking to the skies in a bid to rival the famous Red Devils.

Ten soldiers, normally based at Portadown and Rathfriland, have been undergoing extensive training at the Joint Services Parachute Centres at Ballykelly, County Antrim and at Netheravon in Wiltshire.

"Our aim is to establish a battalion free-fall parachute display team," said Lt Martin Twist.

"Our soldiers have completed an average of ten descents each



The Queen's Colour is carried through Llanelli by Lt Rick Hughes (left), the Regimental Colour by Lt Marcus Bennett, 4 RRW

than 100 soldiers from 2 RRW marched to the town hall, where Brig David Bromhead, Colonel of

the Regiment, took the salute alongside Llanelli's Borough Mayor

and are keen to progress to the next level of competence."

Plans are in hand to take the team to America next month for more instruction.

"The United States military forces can provide excellent high-altitude training facilities and, of course, better weather. Who knows... our 'Green Devils' could well be making public appearances in years to come," said Lt Twist.

## Pilgrimage to Hong Kong

THE ROYAL British Legion organised a pilgrimage to Hong Kong for 160 veterans, former prisoners of war, war widows and relatives to mark the 50th anniversary last month of the liberation of the garrison.

Wreath-laying ceremonies took place at Stanley and Sai Wan cemeteries and the pilgrims, some of whom had not been back since 1945, also visited former PoW sites and strategic defence points.

## Kathleen back at Grantham

ALMOST 80 years after she last set foot at Grantham's Prince William of Gloucester Barracks, current home of HQ RLC TA, 95-year-old Kathleen Smith was invited to pay a nostalgic return visit.

In 1916, as a 16-year-old volunteer, she worked as a shorthand typist in the Royal Flying Corps' 15 Squadron when the site, then called Spitalgate Station, was used for flying training.

## DIARY

### SEPTEMBER

7-10: Disabled Ex-Services Invitation World Games, Gateshead Stadium.

17: Winchester and District Militaria Society fair and exhibition, Winchester Guildhall, 1000-1500 hours.

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

## MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDALS

RAC - WO1 D M Whalley, RTR.

RE - WO2 F W Thompson.

R Signals - WO1 G T Reeves.

Queen's Div - WO2 C Loft-house, RRF.

King's Div - WO2 G R Jaszynski, PWO; SSgt S Jewell BEM, Green Howards; WO2 P Hutchinson, DWR.

Prince of Wales's Div - WO2 R C Bacon, RWF; WO2 R G Lloyd, RWF.

Light Div - WO2 P S Ainsworth, LI; WO2 D L Clarke, LI.

RLC - WO1 D C Frith; WO2 G A Du-Prat.

REME - WO1 J Cox; WO1 R



No fear of heights! "Green Devils" Cpl Sammy Wade and Pte Colin Welsh during training at Netheravon

SEVENTY members of the Army Cadet Force from across the UK have been trekking in the HinduRaj region of northern Pakistan.

Arranged with his opposite number in the Pakistan Army by

## REUNIONS

**Royal Army Veterinary Corps Association:** Annual reunion at Defence Animal Centre on September 30 (not Sept 3 as previously advised). Details from RHQ RAVC, DAC, Melton Mowbray LE13 0SL (tel 01664 411811).

**Air Despatch:** 11th annual Air Despatch reunion takes place at AMC, 29 Regiment RLC, Duke of Gloucester Barracks, South Cerney, Cirencester, on September 30. Ticket only. Details: Secretary, Air Despatch Association, 23 Calne Road, Lyneham, Chippenham, Wilts (tel 01249 890412).

**Association of Artificers RA:** 49th post-war reunion will be held at the Royal School of Artillery, Larkhill, on October 21. Details: W E G Woods, 49 Marlborough View Cove, Farnborough, Hants GU14 9YA (tel 01252 512065).

**Christmas Island reunion:** Reunion planned October 27-30 for members of all three Services who took part in British nuclear tests in the 1950s. Details and

Curnow; WO1 R V Hayles; Sgt A G Smith.

AGC(SPS) - WO1 B Johnston; WO2 I M Sylvester.

## APPOINTMENTS

**Brigadier:** A G Denaro To HQ BF Cyprus, Aug 21.

**Lt Col:** D J A Bergin AGC(PRO) - To 1(UK) Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt, Aug 21; P Lodge RE - To be CO R Mon RE(M), Aug 21; M K Masterson RACHD - To HQ UKSC(G), Aug 21; M W D Oldnall REME - To RMCS, Aug 21; S P B Stevens RA - To MoD, Aug 21; N

## ACF youngsters trek in Nepal

Gen Sir Charles Guthrie, Chief of the General Staff, the expedition is in the hands of Maj John Smith, who says: "Each of the young

people are going to learn something special about leadership and pressure in one of the most remote regions of the world".

bookings on 01934 622548.

**Cheshire Regiment Association:** Birkenhead and District Branch annual social will be held at the Royal British Legion Club, Hesketh Hall, Port Sunlight, on November 10. Details: Bill York, 60 The Channel, Burbo Way, Wallasey (tel 0151-630 2917).

**Cyprus Services Rambling Club** celebrates its 25th anniversary in November. Details for former

## SEARCHLINE

**Gunners** (May 1948-51) who returned to the UK on the *Empress Australia* are asked to contact Charles W Humber, 23 Tavistock Road, Swindon, Wilts SN3 2QD (tel 01793 435583) for a reunion at Mapplewell.

**Sniping:** Author researching book would like to hear from British Servicemen who have been involved in sniping (including being sniped at) from Second World War to the present. Contact Adrian Gilbert, 71 Alexandra Road, Hemel Hempstead, Herts HP2 4AQ (tel 01442 67186).

Ex-members of **105 Provost Company RMP (Austria)** interested in a reunion are asked

members wishing to attend the celebrations from Phlyn Simpson, EEF, RAF Akrotiri, BFPO 57 (tel 010 357 5 27 6611).

### 1996

**Royal Tank Regiment:** Ex-WOs interested in a reunion in Meriden, nr Birmingham on date to be decided in 1996, are asked to contact J "Charlie" Welchman, 29 Northmoor Way, Wareham, Dorset BH20 4EE (tel 01929 553466).

to contact Bill Taylor on 01252 524826 or 01252 548693.

**19 Air Formation Signals Regiment,** formed Kirkburton 1944, disbanded Singapore 1971, is holding its third reunion in London, September 14. Contact Mr A W Fordyce, 10 Woodstock Place, Edinburgh EH16 6BE.

**Charlie Ball,** of 37-8471 Ryan Road, Richmond BC, V7A 2E8, Canada, formerly a motor cycle squad police sergeant in Vancouver, wishes to contact personnel involved with Knight-class RFAs unloading equipment for **Suffield, Canada,** in the late 60s-early 70s, particularly CSM Frank Swift and his wife, Judy, and a young RE officer (name not recalled) heading for Pitcairn Island as OC a wharf-building project.

**Calling photographic interpreter-imagery analysts:** If you qualified as a Phil/IA, why not join the Medmenham Club and keep in contact with colleagues and friends? The club celebrates its 50th anniversary next year. Details on 01480 860755 (evenings).



# Treat yourself to these stirring sounds

Military Music by  
Rodney Bashford

VE Day: Favourite British Classics and Military Themes

THIS compilation is the official Royal British Legion album to mark the 50th anniversary celebrations of VE and VJ days.

And what a compilation.

It comes on two CDs and contains every tune that has any connection with the events of 50 years ago – national, solemn and sacred – performed by the finest bands, choirs, singers and orchestras in the land, but no rolling out of barrels, hanging out of washing, or Dame Vera.

The mere names of the artists should have you reaching for your cheque book before supplies run out – Jiggs Jaeger, Leslie Statham, Barry Rose, Vivian Dunn, William Walton, Adrian Boult, all the RAF conductors of former years, Felicity Lott, Liverpool Cathedral Choir and the London Philharmonic Orchestra, to name a few.

For openers there are five well-known hymns with choir, brass and organ, followed by film music and ceremonial marches – *The Spitfire Prelude and Fugue*, *Touch Her Soft Lips* from *Henry V*, *The Dam Busters*, that emotive weepy from *Dangerous Moonlight*, the *Warsaw Concerto*, two *Pomp and Circumstance* marches by Elgar, and *Crown Imperial* by Walton, played by four of Britain's great orchestras.

The choral music includes Elgar's *For the Fallen* and his *Land of Hope and Glory* sung by Felicity Lott, and ending with his setting of the *National Anthem*.

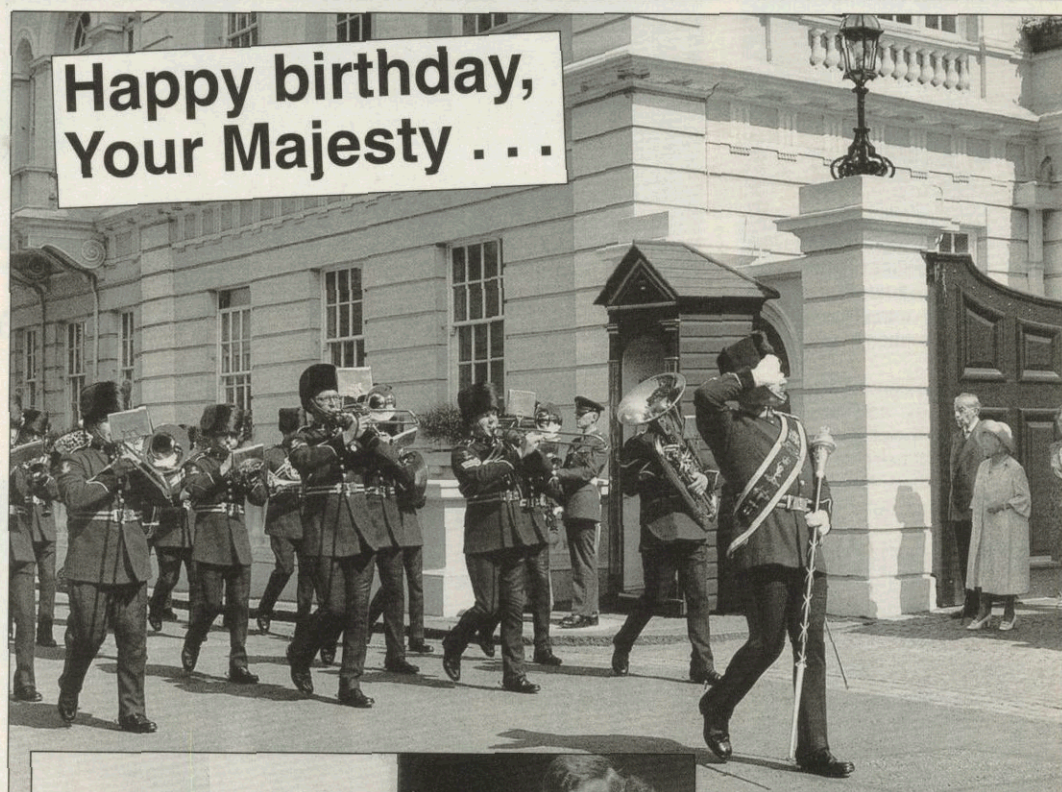
A fully informative booklet contains the words of the hymns and other choral items.

All in all this is a fine tribute to those members of the Armed Forces and the civilian population who suffered the horrors of war.

And it's a real musical treat into the bargain for anyone of even the slightest patriotic sensibility.

● VE Day, 2 CDs, from EMI 7243 5 68697 2 0/1, dealers only.

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The Band of the Royal Corps of Signals serenades the Queen Mother outside Clarence House on her 95th birthday. Also present to hear the musicians were the Queen, the Prince of Wales, Princess Margaret and other members of the Royal Family. The Band of the Royal Signals was granted the privilege to mark the 75th anniversary of the corps. Earlier this summer the band played on the forecourt of Buckingham Palace

## Valiant tunes from the 18th

**Valiant Years**  
Band of the Royal Irish Regiment  
Conductor: Capt C Attrill

THIS series of tributes to the Armed Forces of Britain and the USA might make a companion to the VE Day disc.

The title is taken from documentary film music by Richard Rodgers, the composer of so many great musicals, including *South Pacific*, *Oklahoma*, *The King and I*, and so many more. He was more than just a tune-smith and his music for *The Song of the High Seas* was highly atmospheric.

*Valiant Years* and *Victory at Sea* excerpts are included.

The Royal Navy tribute has *Cockleshell Heroes* and *Heart of Oak*, the Army *Colonel Bogey*, *Arnhem*, the *Soldier's Chorus*, a First World War medley, *Old Comrades*, and a march by Capt Attrill called *Carisbrooke*. The Royal Air Force has no surprises in *The Dam Busters*, *Battle of Britain* and the *RAF March Past*.

The US Forces are represented with *Anchors Aweigh* and *The Caisson Song* for the Army. The big band then remembers the indispensable

and emotive contribution to those valiant years made by Glenn Miller and his band, with a medley of six of his most famous numbers.

*The Royal British Legion March* and *Land of Hope and Glory* complete an attractive and topical programme by a regiment I knew long ago, its title now resurrected in modern guise. Good to see and hear the old 18th Foot back in harness. Is there hope for others?

● From Plantagenet Music, CD PMRD 9402, cassette PMRD 9402, 90 Holgate Road, York YO2 4AB, price on application.

## MUSIC IN THE SADDLE

THERE have been two books on Army bands in a short space of time, arriving like London buses in a pair after a long gap.

A gap of three centuries, in fact, for although there have been several of Holmes's "slim monographs" and various brief articles on bands, George Lawn's *Music in State Clothing* is only the second full-blown hardback I know of.

And full-blown it is, with no horse-dropping left unturned and a veritable pile of fascinating facts and figures – fascinating, that is, to this old bandsman though perhaps a little esoteric in places for others.

As the title implies, this book is about music and pageantry as played and lived by the bands of The Life Guards.

A foreword by the conductor Sir Colin Davis, himself once a musician in the band, as was the author, prefaces an exhaustive

account of the bands' history from 1660 when kettledrums and trumpets sufficed, to the present day when the band is seen in full ceremonial glory on the Queen's Birthday Parade.

Although every aspect of the 1st and 2nd Life Guards bands is described, from early formations to the present full instrumentation, its conductors, engagements, personalities, regimental music, dress and many other details peculiar to the Household Cavalry, the general reader will gain a fair idea of life as it was and is in any other regimental band.

The stresses and strains, the endless travel, the humour, even the music programmes, were much the same as I experienced in an infantry band. On foot,

thank the Lord. The terrors of the riding school (and especially those riding-masters) and the problems and solutions of playing an instrument on horseback while ensuring the beast proceeds down the Mall and not

across it, could have provided fun material for a chapter or two, being trade secrets the general reader yearns to know. The author tells the

story of the band's famous Director of Music, Lt Col Albert Lemoine, who, after a mounted band engagement, stayed behind to quaff his usual drams of the hard stuff. Making his own way home, much under the weather, he missed his turning and was found by the police, in the saddle and in full ceremonial dress, in Kensington High Street

at 1 a.m., when he should have been in Knightsbridge Barracks.

Apocrypha enters the tale (or does it?) in the version known to all Guards directors of music of the time. The band had just moved station from Windsor to Knightsbridge in a normal exchange with the Royal Horse Guards band, so his horse, now smelling hay and with no guidance from its rider, made for its old stable in Windsor.

Variations on this theme involve the distance Albert's horse took him before being apprehended. Some say Hammersmith Broadway, others the horse-trough at Hounslow Heath.

Albert survived the event and got his OBE. Those were indeed the days.

A jolly fine read, with well over 100 illustrations and photographs in colour and black and white. – RB

**Music in State Clothing:**  
The Story of the Kettledrums, Trumpeters and the Band of The Life Guards by George Lawn. Leo Cooper Pen & Sword, hardback, £18.95.

## Tank's pea-shooter gun took on 88mm

PERSONAL recollections, diary notes, letters and official reports have been interwoven with the author's narrative to produce *Tank Tracks*.

Peter Beale's book relives action at the sharp end in a Churchill with a pea-shooter of a gun against the enemy's all-round 88mm boomer.

One Cyril Smith, a troop officer's wireless operator, describes what it is like to be on the end of a near miss by an 88mm round.

The 9th were with the Canadians near Qesnay with Smith in the leading tank when they were alerted to an 88 "up front".

Hull down, they waited. Within minutes a shell came their way which Smith "swears to this day passed between the gun barrel and the driver's hatch".

Smith put out smoke and a hurried reversal had them almost colliding with the tank behind while a second shot passed feet in front.

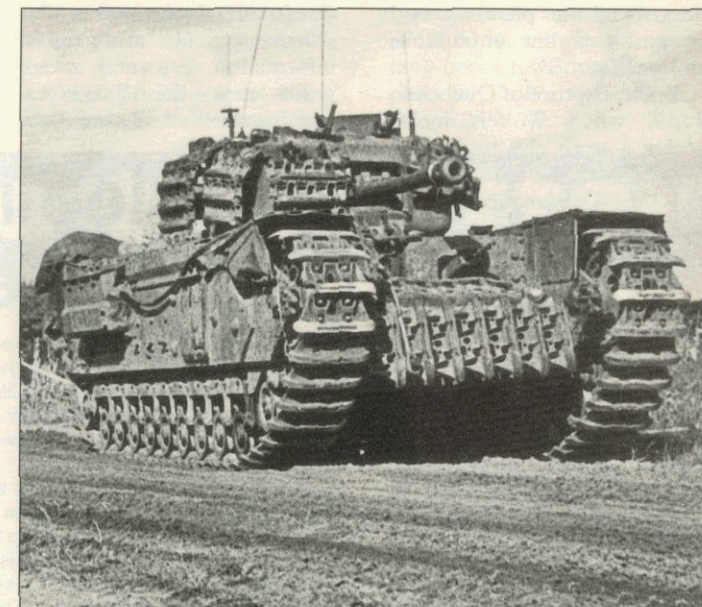
They waited for a third shot which, if it hit, would have blown them to pieces. Instead, a cheery infantry officer

**Tank Tracks – 9th Battalion Royal Tank Regiment at War 1940-45** by Peter Beale. Alan Sutton, hardback, £17.99.

jumped on board with the words: "OK, boys – 88 silenced."

Cyril said: "We saw the gun later. It was a dual purpose 88 on a high mounting, and its barrel was splayed out like a palm tree. They had silenced it all right."

There are more good stories, photographs and maps. –JM



A Churchill tank advances on German positions at Overloon, south of Nijmegen, on October 14, 1944

## Scottish heroes in from cold

GRAHAM Ross has put together a valuable and interesting 99-page softback about the Scottish soldiers who have won the VC.

However, someone along the line has let him down by omitting an apostrophe from the title on the cover, which appears as SCOTLANDS FORGOTTEN VALOUR (sic).

This criticism may seem picky to some, but it will be picked up pretty quickly,

**Scotland's Forgotten Valour**  
by Graham Ross. MacLean Press, softback, £7.95.

especially by those from Scotland. Despite this error, and there are others, this book is a reminder of the bravery of 158 Scottish soldiers who have been awarded the VC since its inception in 1854.

Ross insists that a survey he carried out revealed that most

people he questioned had little or no knowledge of the medal and (apart from two OAPs) without exception could not name one Scottish-born VC. Bitterly disappointed by this, he was motivated to try to put the matter right. In any other country, he says, these men would be heroes. Here, they are Scotland's Forgotten Valour.

A good book is slightly tarnished by poor editing. –JM



# Harmony is key to success of battle for the beaches

**Hit the Beach!** by Simon Foster. Arms & Armour Press, hardback, £19.99.

DON'T be misled into thinking that the vivid, beach battle scene on the cover and the gung-ho title of *Hit the Beach!* signal just another all-action production for devotees of war books.

While author Simon Foster tells his story in an exciting and readable way, it is, fundamentally, a serious book describing the planning and operation of four amphibious campaigns:

- The capture of Quebec in 1759, when Wolfe's forces scaled a steep cliff to capture the city from the French;

- The Dardanelles débâcle of 1915, sponsored by Winston Churchill, which proved a total failure and where thousands of gallant men died;

- US commander General Douglas MacArthur's successful beach landing plan at Inchon, Korea, in 1950 (he was sacked a year later by President Harry Truman for expressing views contrary to US and UN policy);

- The landing at San Carlos in 1982 and the subsequent recovery of the Falkland Islands, which he says, proved that "conventional military operations which depend on the traditional virtue of surprise are still viable in these days of electronic warfare and intelligence gathering."

Foster goes into great detail, giving the non-military reader an insight into the way joint-Service operations are planned and put into effect.

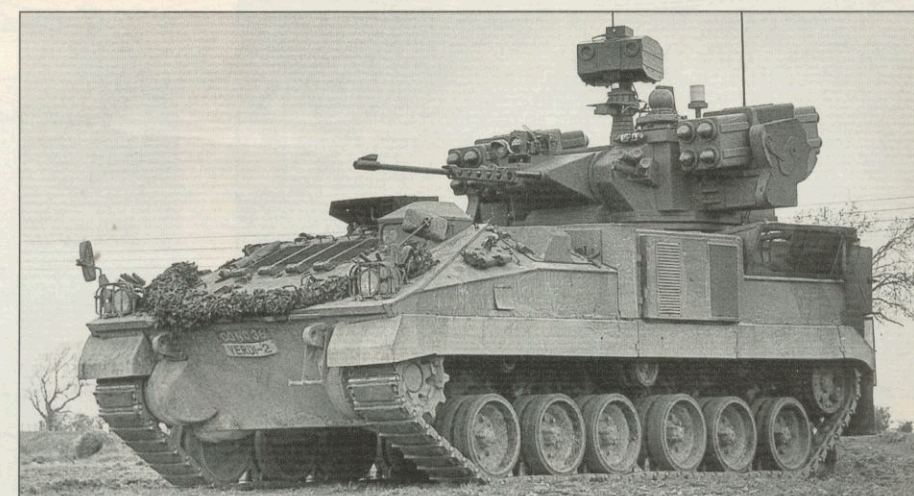
He concludes that while "surprise, speed and violence" are essential to the success of any amphibious operation, it is critical that military and naval commanders have a perfect understanding if success is to be achieved. — JM



Featured in the Pocket Guide: The hybrid Sabre replaces Fox and Scorpion



German-built Fuchs vehicles will form the core of the UK's TA NBC Defence Regiment



Vehicle Electronics Research Defence Initiative (VERDI), concept vehicle based on Warrior

# Tomorrow's weapons: dazer-lasers, sensors and poor bloody infantry

IN A FUTURE where warfare technology is bristling with sensors, dazer-lasers and digital communications, there will still be a place for the poor bloody infantry.

The prediction is made in *The British Army: A Pocket Guide*, the popular and invaluable source of "at-a-glance" information.

The latest edition has several new features as well as updates

**The British Army: A Pocket Guide 1995-96** by Charles Heyman, Leo Cooper, paperback, £4.95.

on the changing Army. "In the not too distant future it is possible to envisage an operational area sewn with sensors that identify an enemy airmobile attack hundreds of kilometres away," reads part of a new section on the future battlefield.

"The sensors identify the enemy helicopter force and call for the delivery of 'intelligent' anti-helicopter mines/munitions/systems capable of differentiating between friendly or enemy helicopters, and long range artillery delivers these

mines onto likely enemy approach routes.

"At the same time the 'immediate' reaction force becomes heliborne and acting on sensor information moves to engage the now depleted enemy on their landing zone.

"Infantry will still be required to finally destroy the enemy on the ground."

Indeed, the book forecasts that the infantry will be "one of the few major military growth areas during the next 25 years".

It goes on to offer some thoughts on the 21st century version of the infantry soldier's personal weapon, the rifle, with its computerised sighting system and real-time TV images linked to battlefield command and control units.

This far-from-dry little goldmine of facts and figures has its lighter moments.

"The British Army being what it is, we know two things

will certainly happen," writes the author wryly to bring his "crystal ball gazing" chapter to a close. "The infantry believing (quite rightly in our opinion) in the effectiveness of 'cold steel' will demand that any future rifle is fitted with a bayonet boss, and the Brigade of Guards will spend many long hours rewriting the pamphlet for Drill and Ceremonial." — CH

# Service in the desert with Grenadiers and Somersets

ANYONE who enjoyed adventure travel books published between the wars where the author described life — and sometimes death — among desert tribes may well enjoy two more recent offerings.

Peter Thwaites was appointed to command the Muscat Regiment in Oman, one of the Sultan's infantry regiments, for two action-filled years.

That was in 1967 when rebels and communists were active in the area, their eyes set on taking control of oil-rich Oman and beyond. The Sultan's Armed Forces were the only obstacle.

When Thwaites retired from the Army in 1976 he returned to become head of staff of the Armed Forces of Sultan Qaboos and chairman of the Joint Staff of Oman.

He retired finally in 1980 and died in 1991 before he could finish his readable book, *Muscat Command*, the last three chapters of which were written by his first adjutant with the Muscat Regiment, Simon Sloane.

**Muscat Command** by Peter Thwaites. Leo Cooper, hardback, £17.50. **Now the Dust Has Settled** by Freddie De Butts. Tabb House, hardback, £30.

Similar in style and content, Freddie De Butts's *Now the Dust Has Settled* tells of his 36 years as a soldier, 26 of them in the Middle and Far East. At the time of his commission into the Somerset Light Infantry in 1937, his father was a senior officer in India, which also played a major role in the author's career. He served also in Egypt, the desert war (on intelligence work), Sicily and Italy, before Staff College and consequent appointments.

When he returned to India in 1947 with the Somersets the regiment became one of the last British units to leave on the declaration of independence. He took part in the final parade which ended his family's 100-year military link with the continent.

Since retiring, Brig De Butts has been active with voluntary organisations and served as Deputy Lieutenant of Hertfordshire, all of which, perhaps surprisingly, this octogenarian sometimes feels has been "more fulfilling" than 36 years in the Army. — JM

# Not quite to the letter

THE EMPSON brothers, Jack, Arthur and Charles, wrote to their parents in Yorkshire during the period 1910-21 and *Empson's War* presumably contains those letters which have survived.

The editor, C C Empson, is obviously a relative but his (or her) relationship and literary background are not explained.

The publication of letters requires careful and thorough editing and annotation in order to make sense of the contents and sadly what little has been produced is hardly sufficient.

For example, a little research would have shown that the "Wainwright" on Page 65 became Lt Col A R

**Empson's War** edited by C C Empson. The Pentland Press, £12.50.

Wainwright DSO, promoted on April 18, 1916, and the dates of commissioning of Arthur and Charles are as given later in this review.

The other problem the editor has was that many of the letters were undated and although he has made a valiant effort to place them chronologically there are some obvious errors.

These criticisms apart, there are many interesting comments on social and military life of the period. Jack, who joined the Royal Flying Corps in 1912, was sadly killed in a flying accident in thick fog on May 15, 1914.

Arthur, commissioned on July 19, 1912 in the RFA, served in Ireland and went to France with the British Expeditionary Force (116 Battery, 26 Brigade, 1 Division) in 1914 and remained until 1918,

apart from a spell in hospital in Woolwich after he was wounded. He was later awarded the MC and the Belgian *Croix de Guerre*.

He was also reported killed and a letter of condolence sent by the Keeper of the Privy Purse on September 5, 1917 was received by his mother.

Another, sent on September 18, read: "The King and Queen have heard with much pleasure that your son, who was officially reported killed, by mistake, is alive and their Majesties rejoice with you at the good news which they know must be such a great relief to you and your husband." This proved to be a double error, as Mr Empson died 18 months earlier...

Arthur's letters contain much of interest such as his comment a week after the peace was declared: "I wonder if after this war the 'pomp and circumstance of glorious war' legend will crop up again and people forget about the reality. Even now people are begin-

ning to talk about their experiences as if they had rather enjoyed them."

Arthur went as a major to Turkey in 1920-21 to serve in the Army of the Black Sea, keeping the peace between Turks and Greeks in Smyrna. "We don't fire, in order not to hurt or irritate the local inhabitants; they don't fire because they want to make friends with us after getting a few concessions," he wrote.

Charles, the youngest, was commissioned on August 12 1917 also in the RFA and went to India and Mesopotamia. Although his letters are well written and give a background of the countries and the political and social life, there is little of military interest — his desire to kill a Turk was too late and his determination to fight a Russian was misplaced!

These letters give an interesting picture of life in several countries in the era of the Great War and despite the unfortunate omissions are recommended. — PSN

# ELITISM IS NAME OF SPECIAL FORCES GAME

ASPIRING recruits to the SAS should read Mark Lloyd's *Special Forces* and, in particular, the section on the selection and training of those wishing to join this élite force. It's tough.

In a chapter on rebels, rene-

**Special Forces** by Mark Lloyd. Arms & Armour Press, hardback, £16.99

gades and reactionaries — the pioneers of special-purpose warfare — Lloyd lists Lawrence

of Arabia and Maj Gen Orde Wingate of Chindit fame.

The author looks to the next century and the role of special and special-purpose forces, forecasting that their futures are assured, "despite the reser-

vations of many politicians and the more conservative of the military hierarchy".

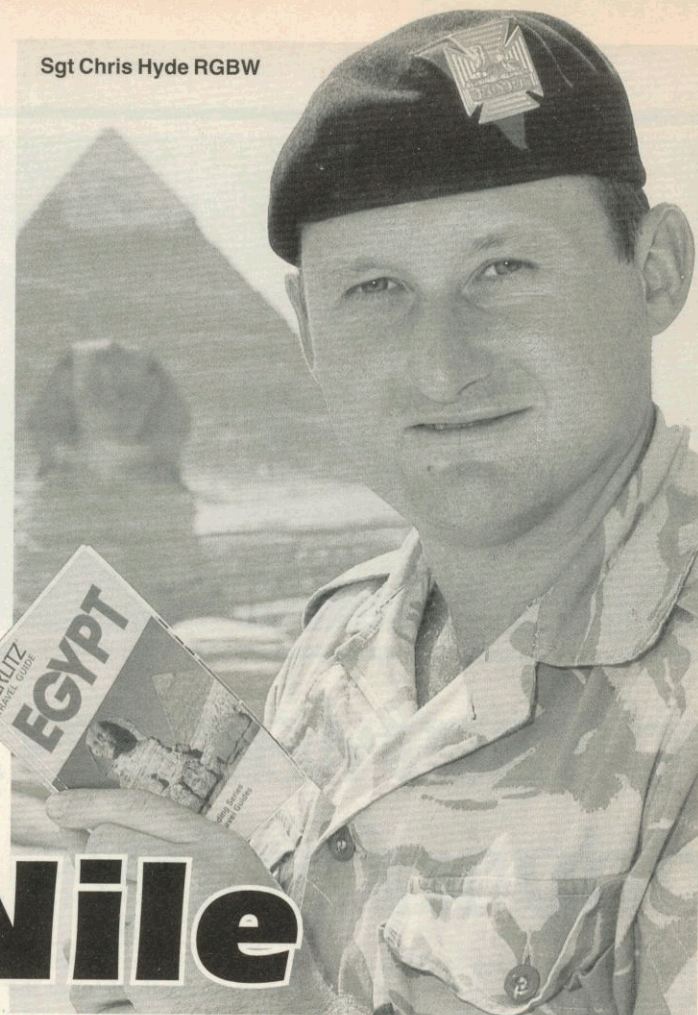
Special forces are the élite of the world's armies, yet "would have no place in the conventional armed forces". — JM





Maj Richard Parry QDG (left) and WO2 Bob Potter RGBW planning at the bird table

Sgt Chris Hyde RGBW



# Return to the Nile

SOLDIERS of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Gloucestershire, Berkshire and Wiltshire Regiment have exercised with the Egyptian Army in what is thought to be the first joint training venture between the two armies since the British left the area in the 1950s.

Golden Shield, a multinational peacekeeping exercise, involved the Egyptian Army's 2nd Mechanised Division, which drew on 1 RGBW's Operation Grapple experiences with the United Nations in Gorazde.

The Egyptians were able to contribute what they had

learned during their operations with the UN mission to Somalia last year.

More than 60 members of 1 RGBW deployed to Cairo for the week-long exercise.

The predecessors of the new regiment were involved in the Battle of Alexan-

dria nearly 200 years ago.

Lt Col Patrick Davidson-Houston, commanding officer of 1 RGBW, confirmed that Golden Shield had been a success. "There has been a great deal of shared experience between the Egyptian and British Armies which bodes well for future

multinational operations.

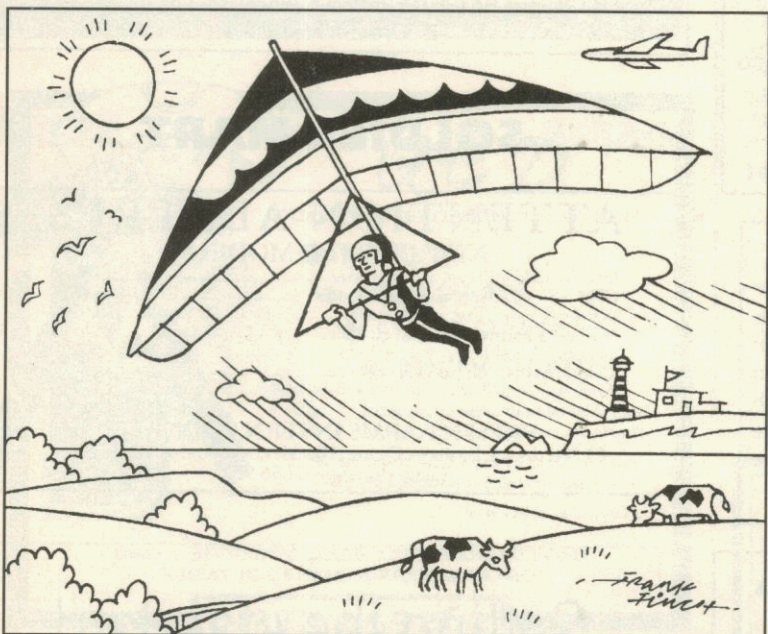
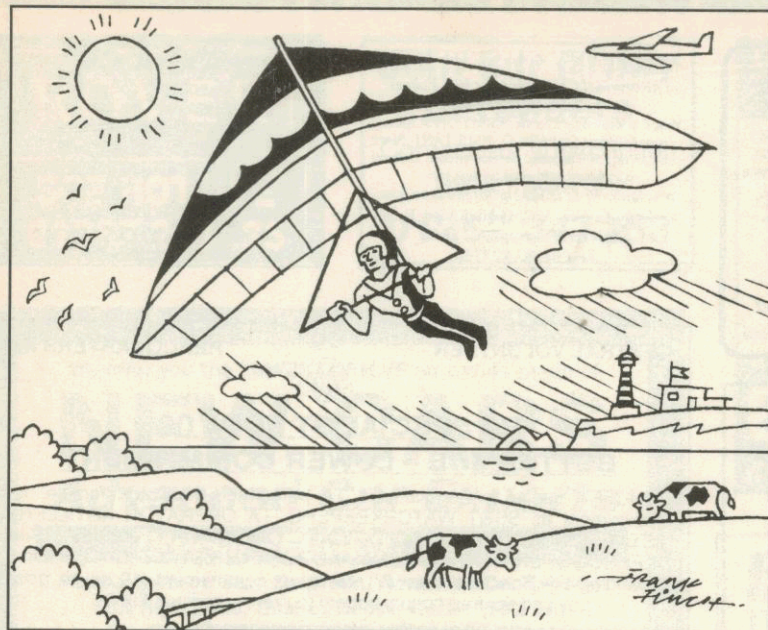
"The ties between the RGBW and the Egyptian Army have been cemented and we hope to continue the exchange of ideas and exercises within the next two years."

Lt Col Davidson-Houston was Gorazde Force Commander in Bosnia earlier this year.

The British troops had one night and morning off to enjoy the splendours of the pyramids and the Sphinx. Many intend to return so they can take advantage of a special deal given to the RGBW and British Forces Cyprus by Cairo's Hotel Meridian.







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Competition No 617 (August 7 issue): Congratulations to Mrs E Hill, of Middlesborough, who wins £50. Book prizes go to runners-up F J Whitehouse of Birmingham and G Day of Port Glasgow.

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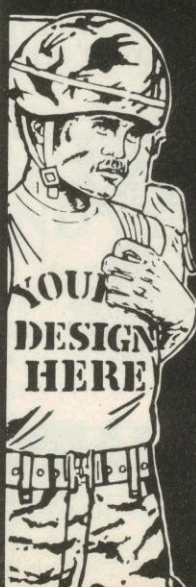
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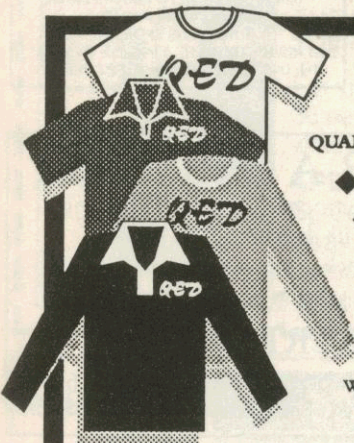
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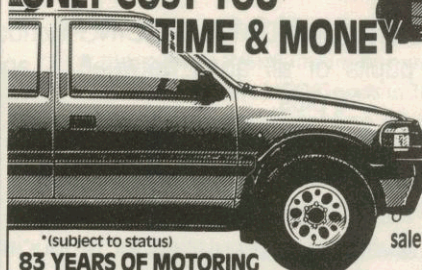
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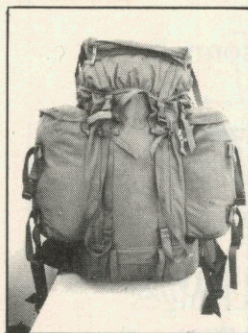
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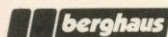
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**Second** (402 runs, £1,250) Capt S C Williams, 4 Regt RA, BFPO 36.

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**Fourth** (385 runs, £500) Cpl E L Doherty, HQ LANDCENT, BFPO 115.

**Fifth** (378 runs, £400) Cpl J C Duff, 1 RSME Regt, Chatham.

**Sixth equal** (377 runs, £200) Sgt M Caldwell, 23 Pnr Regt RLC, Bicester.

**Sixth equal** (377 runs, £200) Sgt M MacRury, BFPO 808.

**Sixth equal** (377 runs, £200) LCpl L C A Watts, 1 RHA, Tidworth.

AUGUST 26, 1995

**First** (630 runs, £2,500) Sgt N G Hambleton, 5 AB Bde CSS Bn, Aldershot.

**Second** (602 runs, £1,250) Sgt P J Tittley, QDG, BFPO 16.

**Third** (586 runs, £750) Cpl C A Spence, 19 Airmob Fd Amb, Colchester.

**Fourth** (584 runs, £500) SSgt J S Austin, MoD PB 17, Stanmore.

**Fifth** (579 runs, £400) Cpl W R Moore, 111 Pro Coy RMP, BFPO 30.

**Sixth** (574 runs, £300) Sgt K Capell, 3 (UK) Div Signal Regt, Bulford.

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## Service dinghies return to Stanley Bay

AFTER a break of less than a year, competitive dinghy sailing returned to the waters of Stanley Bay, for most of the past 20 years one of its principal spiritual homes in Hong Kong, with the formation of the Stanley Services Sailing Club.

The club inherited the assets of the two former military boat clubs at Gordon Hard and Stanley and is perfectly positioned to provide a

centre of excellence for Services sailing in Hong Kong until the garrison departs.

It has already hosted the Hong Kong South Side Regatta, the first dinghy regatta to be staged in Hong Kong for several years, and competed with credit in this year's Hong Kong Yachting Association summer series.

The club reopened ten

months after the closure of the old Stanley Services Boat Club on the departure of the 1st Battalion, The Black Watch, the last of perhaps a dozen British battalions to operate it since the club opened in the early 1970s. During that period it hosted the world Enterprise championships.

With the garrison strength down by a third since the

drawdown in 1994, it can only support one club. The new SSBC is based at St Stephen's Beach and operates as part of the Watermanship Training Wing of the Hong Kong Physical Adventurous Training Centre, a garrison unit.

It operates a fleet of Enterprise dinghies for competition and training and a small number of Lasers and Optimists.

## Hang gliders struggle to keep in touch

IN a summer of superb weather, the Inter-Services hang gliding championships in South Wales coincided with windy conditions, low cloud and drizzle.

But despite the problems, competitors in the open class notched up 300 hours of air time and flew more than 3,000km around photographic turn-points. The Royal Air Force won the competition with the Royal Navy second.

A training week before the competition was blessed with terrific weather, leaving the pilots sunburned and dehydrated from hours in the air.

In the novice class Sgt Charlie Bridgeman (Bristol TA) flew carefully to take first place in the Army competition, but lost third place overall by a point. The class produced some excellent flying which bodes well for the intermediate event next summer.

LCpl Mark Brenen (2 Regt AAC) was seventh and Pte Alan Kenny (1 A and SH) tenth.

Maj Jonathon Gilbert (REME, 1 Regt AAC Wksp REME) stayed a place ahead of Capt Paul Wood (3 Para) in the Army intermediate competition and finished 11th overall to Wood's 13th.

Redundancies had wreaked



Sgt Mark Lewis launches himself from Methyr Common, South Wales

most havoc in the open class, for which Capt James McMenemy (Electronics Branch REME) came out of semi-retirement to compete for the first time in ten years.

He and Sgt Mark Lewis of 1 Regt AAC Wksp REME fought hard against the much stronger Royal Navy and RAF teams but they were soundly beaten into third place during a technically difficult and phys-

ically exhausting competition which included two 50km ridge races and two races to a goal field 57km away.

The Army team prize was again won by REME.

Anyone interested in taking up the sport should ring Brecon Mil 3260 for details of JSAT-sponsored courses at the Joint Services Hang Gliding and Paragliding Centre. Courses cost £50 for 12 days.

## Badminton squad on final trip to Hong Kong

AN ARMY badminton party of 15 won one and lost three games during a week-long farewell tour to Hong Kong made at the invitation of the BFHK Badminton Association.

The UK-based party of nine men and six women beat BFHK 5-4 but lost to the Kwai Chun and Chai Wan clubs and the national youth squad.

The club matches were close, but the well coached youth squad proved too strong, beating the visitors 24-0.

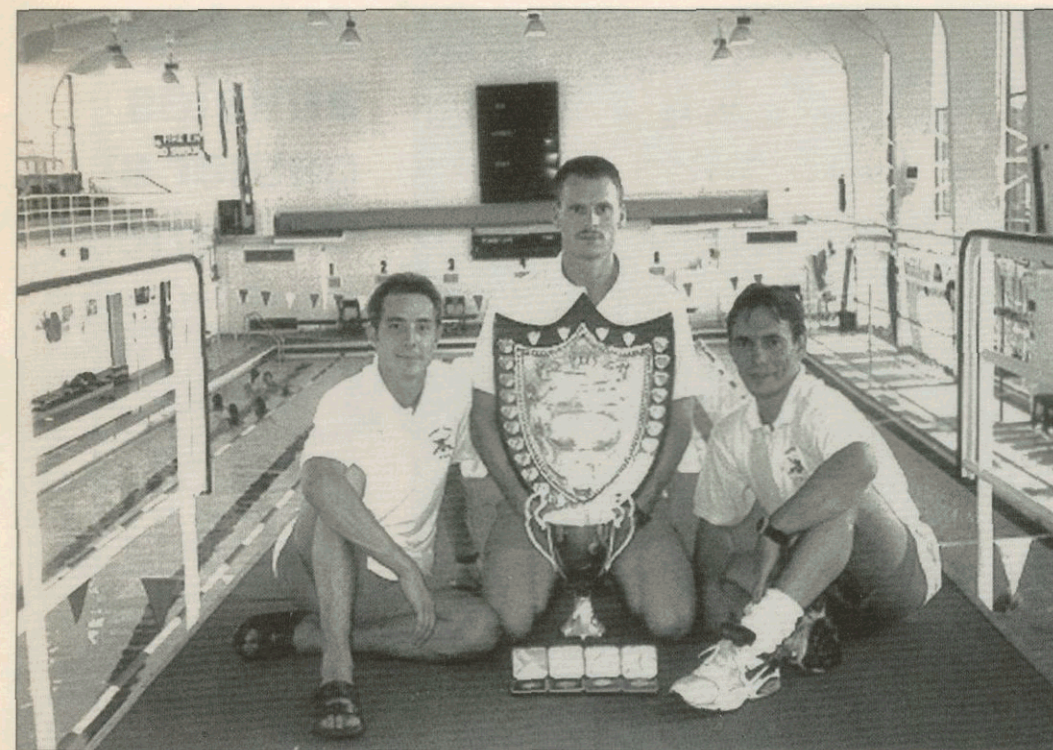
An Army Sports Lottery grant of £200 to each member of the party helped to subsidise the considerable cost of return fares. The team is planning a tour to America in 1998.

## RLC takes merit table honours

THE unbeaten Royal Logistic Corps side claimed the Army's Inter-Corps cricket title by winning the Famous Grouse-sponsored merit table.

Their record of five wins and two draws put them five points ahead of the RAC who finished as runners up. The crucial game between the two close rivals was drawn. The RAC drew two games and lost to the sappers and the signallers.

REME were third in the table, the Royal Signals fourth, the Royal Engineers fifth and the Infantry sixth.



A diving board full of trophies in Sheffield for Army divers (from left to right) Lt Christiaan Munro, new coach Sgt Amos Greenfield and LCpl Neil Watson

# Top training venue spurs Army divers

TWO WEEKS of intensive training paid off for members of the Army diving team when they swept all before them at the Inter-Services championships at RAF Cranwell.

Army divers won all four major trophies and all four titles in both the men's and women's competitions, although the ladies had to share their title with the Royal Air Force.

All the Army divers benefited from the superb facilities – both wet and dry – at Sheffield's Ponds Forge Leisure Centre, including a bubble machine, and were able to perfect old dives and learn new ones stage by stage.

It was the first time the team had had an opportunity to train in such an environment, with the chance to work alongside Bob Morgan, GB's Olympic

diver in Seoul, and the British national squad.

At Cranwell, Lt Christiaan Munro (2 RTR) won the 3m springboard with a score of 339.30, a clear 51 ahead of LCpl Neil Wilson (4 AAC), himself 20 points ahead of the first RAF diver. Munro also retained the Mike Kempson Trophy for the highest scoring dive inclusive of degree of difficulty.

In the women's event, Cpl Amanda Davies (AGCTC) took the springboard title for the third consecutive year and also won the highboard competition, leading throughout. She also took the Tina Childs Trophy for scoring most points.

Cpl Paula Rowan (ATR Pirbright), who joined the squad only two weeks before the championships and had to learn

five dives from scratch, was fifth in the springboard event and fourth off the highboard.

The men's team of coach Sgt (SI) Amos Greenfield (APTC) and Christiaan Munro easily won the highboard. Greenfield, who had held the title for three years, attempted the hardest dive seen in the competition for some time but had to concede first place to Munro who has himself won every title within Army diving and who has been training with the national squad since January.

Army divers filled five out of seven places in the Combined Services team which beat the Civil Service and British Police.

Munro, Wilson and Greenfield will be representing Great Britain in the European Masters championships at Riccione, Italy in September.

## Diving squad Forge's ahead

THE ARMY diving championships were staged for the first time at Ponds Forge Leisure Centre in Sheffield, where the excellence of the facilities and the presence of Great Britain coach Mike Edge proved to be great assets.

Lt Christiaan Munro (2 RTR) dominated both springboard and highboard in the men's senior competition, winning back the 3m title from LCpl Neil Wilson (4 AAC) who was second. Third was the new Army coach, Sgt (SI) Amos Greenfield (APTC, att Comms and Sy Gp (UK)), who has taken over from Mike Kempson, now out of the Service.

Munro also won the highboard, with Greenfield second and the much improved Wilson third.

Cpl Amanda Davies serving at the AGC Training Centre, Worthy Down, retained the No 1 spot she has held in Army women's diving since 1990.

Intermediate classes were again very poorly supported, although credit must go to Bdr Mark Field (Princess Marina College), who won both springboard and highboard. He started diving competitively only in January this year and has risen to ninth in Britain in his class in the British Masters.

The women's intermediate competition produced a new star in Cpl Paula Rowan (ATR Pirbright) who won the 3m event after only a few dives. She has been working frantically hard to perfect dives for the Inter-Services.

### Pre-tour Test match

BOSNIA-bound sappers from Ripon, North Yorkshire played a friendly match against a Yorkshire Cricket Academy team at Headingley, the Leeds Test ground.

It was the final game of the season for the team from 38 Engineer Regiment, captained by Maj Mike Beaumont, before the regiment deployed to former Yugoslavia.



# Veteran takes on the world

CAPT Peter Marsh travelled to Buffalo in the USA to compete in Army colours at the world veteran athletic championships.

Marsh, SO3 Provision at the Defence Clothing and Textiles Agency at Bicester, ran a superb 10,000m in the M45 age group, finishing 11th overall and the first Brit across the line.

It was an excellent performance considering the very hot conditions and the fact that Marsh faces surgery for a long-term injury. He is to be operated on by Roger Hackney, the RAF surgeon and himself an international athlete.

If all goes well, Marsh could soon be back to the form and fitness he showed in 1991 when he was the first over 40 veteran in the Rotterdam international marathon.

As he is one of the few Army athletes to run under 2hr 20min for the classic distance (his personal best is 2hr 17min 58sec), it would be a boost for the Army to have him back in action for next year's major championships.

The British veterans' championships were held over two sunny days in Exeter. Despite depleted military support because of unit commitments and injury, the athletes who took part gave their best. But, with medal-winners returning from the world championships and smashing GB records in all



Capt Peter Marsh running in the British veterans cross country championships at Irvine in Scotland earlier this year

age groups, the competition was exceptionally high.

SSgt Jeff Baker, a Peterborough-based recruiter, finished fourth in the 5,000m. Maj John Turley, a staff officer at HQ King's Division at York, was outsprinted but still ran PBs in the 200m and 400m, and Capt Terry Hall RLC (HQ London District) waited until the final round of the long jump before producing his best leap for two years to earn a bronze medal.

Another plus was the team's blazing red Army tracksuits, by some distance the smartest in the stadium.

# Disabled athletes gather at Gateshead

HUNDREDS of disabled ex-Servicemen and women from all over the world have been gathering in the North East for the Wilkinson Sword of Peace World Invitation Games at Gateshead Stadium.

The games, which were due to be opened by Princess Michael of Kent, attracted more than 350 athletes from 20 countries, including South Africa, Iran, Israel and Kuwait.

The British Ex-Services Wheelchair Sports Association (BEWSA) was representing the host nation. BEWSA is a branch of the Royal British Legion.

Sports undertaken by the disabled sportsmen and women include archery, swimming, table tennis, weightlifting, basketball, shooting, and track and field events.

The 1995 games – from September 7-10 – followed the successful inaugural 1993 event at Stoke Mandeville.

# Terry sets pace in the decathlon

CAPT TERRY Gyorffy won the Inter-Service individual decathlon title for a fourth consecutive year and led two relatively inexperienced colleagues to the team championship at RAF Cosford.

Gyorffy (REME, HQ 3 (UK) Div), who is based at Bulford, notched up 6,337 points, with Cpl Alvin Walker (REME, attached 9 Regt AAC) second on 5,611 and Bdr Podge Dickenson (7 Para RHA) fourth with 5,256 points.

The Army's win in the team competition was all the more remarkable because neither Walker nor Dickenson had actually completed a decathlon competition before.

Although Gyorffy was in front overnight, 362 points ahead of Walker, the two were already having a good tussle. They tied in the 100m, Walker edged the long jump, but then fell some distance behind to

Gyorffy's 12.38m shot putt. The defending champion was second in the high jump to Walker's third, before the latter pulled a few points back while winning the 400m.

But Gyorffy was soon into his stride on the second day, with victories in the discus, pole vault and javelin, and second place in the 110m hurdles, allowing himself the luxury of a relatively slow run in the final event, the 1,500m.

Cpl Liz Churchley (RMP) made the long journey from Hong Kong to Cosford to compete in and win the Army heptathlon title, held concurrently with the Inter-Services.

Liz's efforts allowed her to take the title from long-standing rival SSgt Steff Paul (AGC) and finish third in the Inter-Services competition in which the Army women were runners-up to the RAF.

The RAF scored 12,114 points to the Army's 10,236.

# Women lose at Bristol

IN their opening match of the new season, a below-strength Army women's football team were defeated 4-0 by Bristol City, the FA Cup semi-finalists.

Well organised from the start, the Western Division champions put the Service-women under early pressure. Cpl Debbie Walker (RLC), making her debut in goal, had hardly marked out her area before the visitors found themselves trailing.

As the game settled into a pattern, the Army came more into it and a number of chances fell to the feet of Cpl Terry Bennett (AGC) and the head of Sgt Max McQue (RLC).

Both were unlucky not to narrow the deficit.

The match was well controlled by Maj Tom Cowan (RLC), now starting his final season after an illustrious career as an Army Football Association referee.



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# The Highlanders

## Seaforth, Gordons and Camerons



**SOLDIER**  
The British Army Magazine

The Highlanders (Seaforth, Gordons and Camerons) were formed on the amalgamation of the Queen's Own Highlanders (Seaforth and Camerons) and The Gordon Highlanders on September 17, 1994. All junior NCOs and private soldiers now wear the staff cap badge worn previously only by officers and senior NCOs of the Queen's Own Highlanders. Private soldiers are known as Highlanders and wear the Gordons' kilt. The capbadge features a stag's head and Thistle ensigned with the Crown. The regiment's motto, *Cuidich'n Righ* (Help the King), remains the only Gaelic slogan used by the Regular Army. The regimental quick march is "The Wee Highland Laddie." The Gordon Highlanders were formed in 1794 and absorbed the 75th (Stirlingshire) Regiment of Foot, becoming the 92nd (Gordon Highlanders) Regiment of Foot. The Queen's Own Highlanders (Seaforth and Camerons) were formed in February 1961 by amalgamation of the Seaforth Highlanders (Ross-shire Buffs, The Duke of Albany's) and The Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders. Shared battle honours include Tel-el-Kebir, South Africa 1899-1902 and El Alamein.



Queen's Own Highlanders



The Gordon Highlanders

# The Royal Gurkha Rifles



The Royal Gurkha Rifles were formed on July 1, 1994 by amalgamating and renaming the four remaining Gurkha infantry battalions in service with the British Army. The new Order of Dress reflects the new regiment's historical links with the four previous regiments. The distinctive scarlet piping has been retained, and the drums are now embellished with the battle honours of all four regiments. The Pipes and Drums continue to wear the Douglas tartan, while the Rock and Elephant, Prussian Eagle and Ram's Head badges are worn on the front of the crossbelts. The capbadge consists of crossed Kukris, ensigned with the Crown, all in silver. The regimental march is "The Black Bear." The Royal Gurkha Rifles' three battalions were formed by renaming the 7th Duke of Edinburgh's Own Gurkha Rifles as 2nd Battalion, The Royal Gurkha Rifles; amalgamating the 2nd King Edward VII's Own Gurkha Rifles (The Sirmoor Rifles) and 6th Queen Elizabeth's Own Gurkha Rifles to form the 1st Battalion; and retitling 10th Princess Mary's Own Gurkha Rifles as 3 RGR. All four original battalions shared the battle honour Afghanistan 1919 and saw service in Italy and Burma during the Second World War.



2nd King Edward VII's  
Own Gurkha Rifles



6th Queen Elizabeth's  
Own Gurkha Rifles



7th Duke of Edinburgh's  
Own Gurkha Rifles



10th Princess Mary's  
Own Gurkha Rifles

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