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SOLDIER

MAGAZINE
OF THE
BRITISH
ARMY



GLOSTERS AND DERR: THE FINAL CHAPTER

ALSO INSIDE

- Op Grapple
- Berlin move
- D-Day frogmen



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VOLVO EXPORT



Incorporating the Territorial Army magazine

May 2, 1994
Vol 50/9

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necessarily those of the Army of the
Ministry of Defence.

FRONT COVER: Main picture –
Cpl Gary Morley (left) and Cpl
Martin Flynn pictured outside
Gloucester Cathedral during
the farewell parade of the 1st
Battalion, The Gloucester-
shire Regiment before amal-
gamation with The Duke of
Edinburgh's Royal Regiment
(Berkshire and Wiltshire), pic-
tured (inset) being inspected
by the Duke of Edinburgh at its
farewell parade in the grounds
of Salisbury Cathedral. See
Pages 26-27. Pictures: (Chris
Fletcher.)

● **END of an occupation.** First moves have
been made in the British Army's departure
from Berlin. Part one of a special report on
the units involved. See Pages 20-23.

● **END of the line.** Two more infantry
regiments are about to amalgamate.
Glosters and DERR make their farewells.
See Pages 26-27.

● **END of benefit.** A posting to Northern
Ireland cost one Army wife half her
income. Her battle continues to have the
allowance reinstated. See Page 30.

● **NEW evidence** has emerged which casts
doubt on the circumstances of the
bombing of the abbey on Monte Cassino.
See Page 5.



Picture: UKLF

LSgt Grant Sexton, Coldstream Guards, studies the valley floor from a UN observation post at Strane in central Bosnia. Situated among trenches in the Bosnian Croat front line, the OP overlooks a valley on the other side of which are Bosnian Government (BIH) positions. Six-man sections from No 2 Company, Coldm Gds have been monitoring the ceasefire from the OP

Para killed at Gorazde

A PARACHUTE Regiment soldier died after he and a second soldier were wounded during a Bosnian Serb attack on Gorazde on April 15.

Cpl Fergus Rennie, who joined the Regular Army in 1983 after service with the TA, was part of a special forward air control team apparently deliberately targeted while manning a United Nations observation post.

The attack followed air-to-ground sorties flown by Nato aircraft to maintain the integrity of the Gorazde "safe haven". A Royal Navy Sea Harrier from *HMS Ark Royal* was shot down.

Five British United Nations Military Observers (UNMOs) and seven British Joint Commission Observers were based at Gorazde. Serb harassment of UN forces dramatically escalated following the first attack by F16 aircraft.

A Number 2 Company, 1st Battalion, Coldstream Guards observation post separating Bosnian and Serb forces near Sarajevo came under a dawn attack from hand grenades and small arms fire after a trip flare was set off.

The Coldstreamer observers returned fire then withdrew, but were again fired upon from Serb bunkers. Their Warrior

vehicles gave Rarden cannon and chain gun support which destroyed two bunkers and damaged others.

Royal Marine Timothy Coates was shot dead by Bosnian civilian police at a check-point in Sarajevo. A driver for a UNHCR liaison officer, he was in civilian clothes.

A soldier from the 1st Battalion, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment operating from Bugojno was seriously injured when the Saxon armoured vehicle in which he was travelling to Gornji Vakuf went over a land mine on April 11.

Minor injuries were sus-

● **Turn to Page 9**



THE Nation Gives Thanks: An exclusive opportunity to win the official D-Day 50th anniversary commemoration shield produced under MoD licence by Military Marketing International. Turn to Page 8.

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Picture: Terry Champion

SOVEREIGN PARADERS

Officer cadets passing out from the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, during the Sovereign's Parade give an "eyes right". The reviewing officer, the Duke of Gloucester, Colonel-in-Chief of the Glousters, was wearing the uniform of the regiment for the last time before its amalgamation. Sword of Honour was awarded to JWO Philip White, who will serve with The Gordon Highlanders, while the Queen's Medal was awarded to Officer Cadet Ruth Pilkington, who will serve with the Royal Signals

Monk refutes Cassino claim

MONTE CASSINO's only surviving wartime monk has re-opened the controversy over the wartime bombing of the monastery 50 years ago. The decision was heavily criticised, with the Germans strenuously denying their soldiers used it for cover.

On March 7, Brother Augustine Saccamno told Monte Cassino Veterans Association secretary John Clarke and tour organiser Ken Foulkes that German troops had taken shelter there.

"After all these years, the truth has emerged. Despite their denials, the Germans were using the building, and the decision to bomb the monastery has been vindicated," Mr Clarke told SOLDIER.

"As Brother Augustine took us past the subterranean St Benedict's Chapel, he pointed

to a room and told us that 300 people, including German soldiers, had sheltered there from the bombing. We must have looked shocked, because he repeated, again in English, the words, 'including Germans'."

Mr Foulkes, who served with the RAF's 190 and 644 (Heavy Bomber) Squadrons during the Second world War, confirmed the monk's words.

Allied soldiers were convinced that the Germans were using it as a strong point, but an embargo had been placed

on direct action against the building.

Commanders could not agree whether the monastery should be destroyed, but eventually the overall commander in Italy, Gen Sir Harold Alexander, approved the attack.

On February 15, 1944 the American bombs destroyed the monastery. The Germans turned this into a propaganda coup by persuading the Abbot to testify that no soldiers had been in the monastery before or during the attack.

Belize test halves trots

TESTS on 83 British troops in Belize have established that a single dose of a common antibiotic can halve the time taken to recover from traveller's diarrhoea.

Professor Michael Farthing

of St Bartholomew's Hospital, London, found that 45 soldiers recovered in 22 hours and did not need to go to the toilet half as much as a check group of 38. Given a dummy tablet, they recovered in 50 hours.

BRIEFLY . . .

Met Office plays part

MET OFFICE staff have provided invaluable early warning of poor weather in Bosnia, said Armed Forces Minister Jeremy Hanley at the start of British Science Week.

Timely forecasts by Meteorological Office staff in theatre had assisted planners moving humanitarian aid over the mountainous terrain.

Defence Secretary Malcolm Rifkind visited Gurkhas and their families during a four-day visit to Nepal. He was shown Bailey bridges erected by Gurkha sappers during last year's destructive monsoon, and was briefed on welfare and resettlement arrangements for former Gurkha soldiers.

The Duchess of Kent attended a service of thanksgiving in Guildford Cathedral on April 16 to mark the 75th anniversary of the formation of the WRAC Comrades Association.

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TA well up to strength, MPs told

LATEST figures show that the Territorial Army is just 131 short of its establishment of 63,950.

The TA includes the Officer Training Corps but not the Home Service part-time element of the Royal Irish Regiment, or non-Regular permanent staff.

The figures were given in a series of Commons written answers on the Reserve Forces, in which the following details were also made available:

- Three TA units – 202, 203 and 204 Field Hospitals – are less than two-thirds recruited.

- TA pay, allowances, National Insurance contributions and training bounties will cost an estimated £114.2 million this year as against £128 million for 1993-94.

- Strength of the Regular

Army Reserve is 44,882.

- Role of the eight TA battalions in the Allied Command Europe Rapid Reaction Corps is to conduct security tasks in the rear area of the battle zone, such as defending key logistic installations and supply routes. Likely deployment time is 90 days for mobilisation.

The MoD is preparing legislation on the reserves including measures to simplify the present arrangements for the call-out of former Regulars. An announcement on the future of the TA is expected later this year.



A summary of Defence topics from Westminster

The major independent review of Service career and manpower structure announced earlier this year will be led by Mr Michael Bett, former British Telecom

deputy chairman and Cellnet chairman, Armed Forces Minister Jeremy Hanley announced.

Further appointments to the team, which will also consider terms and conditions of service, will be announced in due course.

The review, which will take up to a year to complete, will take account of changes in military commitments and deployment patterns, including any resulting from current Defence costs studies.

Among its areas of study will be "the relationship between responsibility, rank, trade and pay, and the concept of performance pay; current sources of dissatisfaction; and the scope for a rationalised pay and allowance structure."

It has a particular remit to contribute to longer-term manpower cost savings while taking full account of "the requirements to maintain disciplined, highly-trained and well-motivated armed forces, and of the particular requirements of Service life."

Of the three services, the Army has the lowest percentage of females – 5.7 per cent of its total personnel as against 8.5 in the RAF and 7.6 in the RN.

Falklands defenders hold out

MILITARY and civilian personnel based in the Falkland Islands joined forces to test plans for the defence of Mount Pleasant airfield.

During an exercise played "for real", the enemy was drawn from the Falkland Islands Field Squadron, 9 Para Fd Sqn RE, and C (Assault Engineers) Coy, 7 GR, the resident infantry company.

Two-thirds of the defending force was from the Royal Air Force with the remainder provided by Army personnel on the detached strength of RAF Mount Pleasant.

Field kitchens set up at remote locations became particularly important when the weather turned nasty. The defenders, dug in in cold, wet and muddy trenches, succeeded in repelling every attack.

- It is anticipated that Territorial Army infantry units will be used to reinforce the Falklands Garrison. An announcement is expected soon.

Joke's on the Irish



St Patrick's Day was a day late for the 1st Battalion, The Royal Irish Regiment in Cyprus because the regimental Colonel-in-Chief, the Duke of York, was on duty with the Royal Navy. After the traditional presentation of shamrock, Prince Andrew judged Support Company to be the best dancers and A Company the best singers. C Company took the boxing honours. The Duke is pictured with Cpl and Mrs Michael Sterritt.

D-Day berths vacant

LATE cancellations by American veterans have created up to 500 vacant berths on the *Canberra*, which will play a central part in the D-Day commemoration ceremonies.

The P&O cruiser is due to sail from Southampton on the eve of June 4, take part in the Royal Review of shipping in the Solent the following day, and cross the Channel as part of the flotilla escorting the Royal Yacht.

There will be a service of commemoration in mid-Channel before the ship docks at Cherbourg. On the morning of June 6 passengers will be taken by coach to their chosen remembrance services in war cemeteries close to the beaches, and in the evening British veterans will parade at Arromanches in front of the Queen before sailing back to Southampton during the night.

Prices, including accommodation, all meals on *Canberra* and coach travel, start at £250. Veterans and their relatives who want to take up places should contact RBL Department Canberra, 48 Pall Mall, London SW1Y 5JY (tel: RBL Travel 0926 499366) as soon as possible.

Veterans and their escorts will be given priority, but there may be room for relatives.

Sappers on target in South Atlantic

REVENGE was sweet for Maj Ian James, Officer Commanding 9 Parachute Squadron, Royal Engineers, when his team narrowly beat the Falkland Islands Defence Force in

the Port Stanley march-and-shoot competition.

Maj James was beaten by a FIDF team in 1985.

The other 9 Para Sqn team came third with a Royal Green

Jacket team fourth and the RAF Regiment fifth.

Among the 13 teams were an all-woman team, and five Army and a Royal Navy entry from the headquarters staff.

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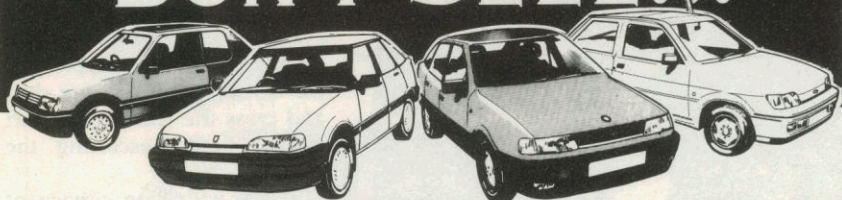
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Two more garrisons face testing times

THE OLDEST and one of the newest Army garrisons will be market-tested as part of the Ministry of Defence's commit-

ment to deliver value for money. Colchester and former RAF Wattisham, now the home of 3 Regiment, Army Air Corps,

will have their administration, transport, stores and office support services examined to determine suitability for intro-

ducing competition. The feasibility study should be completed by February next year.

Farewell to the Scout



The Scout helicopter, veteran of more than 30 years' service with the Army Air Corps, makes its final fly-past on March 30 at an event at Middle Wallop attended by Maj Gen Simon Lytle, the corps' director. The Scout, which is being phased out, entered service in 1963

Sappers disband on Rock

SAPPERS permanently based in Gibraltar have left the Rock after more than two centuries of service.

Before disbanding, the 1st Fortress Specialist Team, Royal Engineers held a final parade watched by thousands of Gibraltarians and unveiled a life-size statue of a 1772 sapper.

Royal Engineers officers had served on the Rock since it was captured in 1704 but it was not till 1772 that the senior engineer, Col William Green, raised the first Company of Soldier Artificers.

It is to the Rock that Royal Engineers look for their roots and the corps is immensely proud of the link. More than any other body in the Army, it is sappers who made Fortress Gibraltar what it is today.

Tunnelling began during the great siege of 1779-83 and ended only in 1968. The engineers provided an operations centre and spoil for a runway extension which were crucial in the invasion of North Africa in 1942.

Sapper units will continue to visit Gibraltar.

● See back cover

British officers killed over Iraq

A BRITISH Army lieutenant colonel and acting major were killed when two American F15 aircraft shot down two Black Hawk helicopters in a "no-fly zone" over northern Iraq.

Lt Col Jonathan Swann, Royal Artillery, and Maj Harry Shapland, Irish Guards, were among 26 American, French, Turkish and Kurdish soldiers and civilians who died on April 14 when their Black Hawks were mistaken for Iraqi Hinds.

They were part of a UN

military co-ordinating committee to the Kurds.

Lt Col Swann, married with two children, had 29 years' service. Maj Shapland, a single man, had been in the Army eight years.

Adventure day

AN adventure-packed day for 24 children with learning difficulties was laid on by 27 Regiment, Royal Logistic Corps at Buller Barracks, Aldershot.

Lowland Band's spirited start

MILITARY musical history was made in March when the new Lowland Band paraded for the first time at Redford Barracks, Edinburgh.

Bandsmen, formed from three Scottish Division regiments - The Royal Scots, The Royal Highland Fusiliers and The King's Own Scottish Borderers - marched on to the square under Director of Music Graham Jones and Bandmaster Tony Clarke.

They received their new cap badges from Divisional Colonel Col Clive Fairweather, and a "wee dram" to toast the success of the Lowland Band.

Under Options for Change, all Scottish infantry regiment bands have been cut to create two large bands, the Lowland and the Highland, which was formed on April 12.

Both will be stationed in Edinburgh.

Gorazde

● From Page 3

tained by two other soldiers and two Bosnian civilians working as interpreter and guide for the soldiers.

There was heavy shelling in the Bugojno area near the Dukes' base and also considerable incoming fire at Maglaj, where No 3 Company, 1st Battalion, Coldstream Guards, returned fire.

Soldiers from 1 DWR were the first in blue berets to patrol on foot in Bugojno in new measures to bring the UN closer to local communities.

British soldiers are also patrolling on foot in the Stari Vitez enclave.



Cpl Gordon Dykes raises his glass to the Lowland Band

Their pride is ap-parent . . .



Picture: Mike Perring

Husband and wife **Paul and Marion Bastow** gave a smile for the camera after Marion, a WO2 QMSI in the Army Physical Training Corps, had been presented with a Long Service and Good Conduct Medal at Aldershot by Commander Initial Training Group, Brig **Colin Groves**. The couple made APTC history two years ago, it is thought, when they became the first serving parents in the corps. Earlier this year, SSgt Bastow, who is based at ATR Pirbright, was presented with a second baby, **Katie**. In characteristic fashion, Marion – who has served in the Army for 17 years – competed in the Inter-Services table tennis championships the following month.

Cask force . . .



Pint taken

First pint from the pumps at the new Naafi club at Dering Lines, Brecon, went to Director of Infantry Maj Gen **Bryan Dutton**. In its first week of opening, the club took £4,500 against a target of £1,700, prompting manager **Sylvia Bain** to say: "I was delighted with the result, and I am pleased that customers have taken to the new facility."

Maj **Charles Carpenter** of the Royal Wiltshire Yeomanry accepts the first cask of a rather special product from **James Arkell**, managing director of Swindon-based Arkell's Brewery, watched by soldiers from the Gloucestershire Hussars and Wiltshire Yeomanry. The product is Yeomanry Bicentenary ale, specially brewed by the firm to commemorate this year's 200th anniversary of the Yeomanry. It will be offered to Yeomanry messes throughout the United Kingdom as a guest beer. James is a lieutenant colonel in the regiment.

You're in, son



Flourishing the modern-day equivalent of the Queen's Shilling (the Queen's 15 quid!) is potential Para **Kevin Jones**. What made his signing-on at the Army recruiting office in Crewe a little bit different was that he was being officially enlisted by his father, WO **David Jones**, Royal Scots Dragoon Guards.

PEOPLE

GIFT HORSE

Former Mounted Section Troop Sergeant Major **Ernie Scattergood** received a four-legged present from RMP Mounted Troop UKLF when he celebrated his 80th birthday. It took the form of **Cadiz**, a horse which had served the troop well for several years. Ernie, pictured with the RMP's WO2 **Gerry Russell**, had a colourful Army life spanning 35 years before his retirement in 1967. A year later, he made national news when he bought his faithful steed of 15 years, **Tom**, on whom he had won many trophies, out of the Army for £50 . . .



Picture: Mike Perring

Ian 'highly' surprised

When Lt Col **Ian Daniell**, outgoing commander officer of 33 Regiment (EOD) Royal Engineers returned from leave, he discovered the base (at Oakington, Yorkshire) deserted except for a solitary Lynx helicopter. Still thinking that an operation had scattered his men to other parts of the country, he was hustled into the Lynx (provided by 9 Regt AAC) and flown to the airfield. There, he was greeted by the sight of his men formed up, and proudly took his place at the head of his regiment.

Fighting females

Backing each other up during Oxford University Officer Training Corps' annual unit exercise at Thetford, Norfolk, were **Nicky Jacques** (left) and **Audrey Wiggan**. The duo revelled in the exercise, designed to test all the elements of the OTC. Tasks involved a river crossing and the recovery of a stolen missile from hostile forces which included a real-life security detachment from London-based members of the US Marine Corps.



Picture: Kevin Lyles

D-DAY

Competition

These are the prizes in this exciting D-Day competition which has been organised by Defence Consultants International, in conjunction with Military Marketing International who design and manufacture the shield, clock and picture plaque. The design of the shield has been officially approved by the Ministry of Defence. All three products are distributed by Defence Consultants International, PO Box 13, Malvern, Worcestershire WR14 2YX, and the sale of each Shield clock or Shield will benefit Service charities.

Simply answer the following questions on the competition coupon below, and you could win one of the D-Day souvenir plaques:

- How many troops took part in Operation Overlord?
a) 100,000 b) 140,000 c) 180,000
- Which country contributed the most army troops?
a) Britain b) America c) Canada
- What was the surname of the Supreme Commander for Overlord?
a) Eisenhower b) Churchill c) Lovat
- What was the surname of the British Commander in Chief?
a) Montgomery b) Lovat c) Ramsay
- Which of the following was not one of the beaches:
Utah; Omaha; Gold; Pluto; Juno; Sword



First prize

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RLC team goes up (and down) in world

UKALO – Nepalese for “up-hill” – became a familiar word to ten members of 2 Close Support Regiment RLC during their three-week trekking and white water rafting expedition to Nepal.

The high-altitude walking phase lasted 16 days and took the group from Princess Royal Barracks, Gütersloh, on a 100-mile loop up the Langtang Valley, across the Kangja La Peak (16,805ft) and back to Kathmandu.

Led by Lt Tim Smith, the trekkers celebrated Christmas Day on the road, complete with fireside carol service, roast chicken, improvised Christmas tree, and the Queen’s Speech via the BBC World Service.

Other members of the Exercise Ukalo Diamond team were 2iC WO1 (ASM) Pete Thompson, Capt Sheila Braine, Capt Kate Glasgow, Capt Phil Scoley, Lt Gill Bell, Lt Dom Fletcher, Cpl Andy Thomson, LCpl Shaggy Shackcloth and Pte Tony Hart.

Three days of rafting on the Trisuli river produced enough moments of panic and chaos to ensure that the expedition video, filmed by Capt Scoley, will provide interesting footage for the Director of Army Recruiting.



Putting their backs into it: Gütersloh-based Ex Ukalo Diamond members on the Trisuli river



LCpl Billingham in the cockpit of a Japanese Zero downed over the Solomon Islands

QRL dives on Pacific battle site

ELEVEN soldiers from The Queen’s Royal Lancers dived on Japanese transport ships, a submarine and a B17 bomber destroyed during the battle for Guadalcanal.

The Lancers, led by Capt Roderick Peel, combined jungle trekking and scuba diving during the eight-week expedition to Australia and the Solomon Islands.

After acclimatising with the 51st Far North Queensland Regiment at Cairns in Australia, and diving on the Barrier Reef, the party flew to the Solomon Islands, where they spent four weeks.

Positioning equipment and radios were provided by Trimble Navigation and Motorola.

Out of the water, they

climbed Mount Austin and explored battlefields little changed in 52 years.

They had to adapt to a harsh environment. Honiara in the Solomons is the malarial “capital” of the world, with three-quarters of its population going down with the fever once or more a year.

● See also picture on Page 51.

Volcano’s deadly sentinel

A TEAM of 12 REME soldiers from 20 Electronics Workshop swapped their normal routine in Bielefeld to conquer black mambas, “lost worlds” and altitude sickness in their final unit expedition before being disbanded last month.

Exercise African Quadrant, led by Lts Alex Watson-Jackson and Allen Forster, included trekking and climbing in remote areas of Kenya.

Mt Susua, an extinct volcano 2,400m high with an almost vertical-sided valley, provided a steep learning curve for the team. A full day’s walk was needed to reach the lost world of the volcano’s crater but the entrance was guarded by a black mamba. When confronted by a terrified Allen Forster it turned tail and vanished into the undergrowth.

After a full day of walking and climbing the team relied heavily on their two Land Rovers but driving conditions proved hazardous. One of the numerous spiked road blocks shredded a Land Rover tyre and the other vehicle became so deeply bogged down in mud it took two hours to dig it out.

Lying on the beach in Mombasa after four weeks of tough physical activity, the team had time to reflect on life outside Bielefeld.

Final chapter for Chepstow apprentices



Past work of art, due to disappear shortly: intricate wrought iron surrounds self-explanatory sign outside the college's guardroom. The bell, from a troopship, was presented by group 55B in 1958

for keeping on two apprentices' colleges," he explained.

"Traditionally, apprentice training has been a two-year, integrated course. Our remit has been to teach common military syllabus (CMS) and leadership skills, to help apprentices reach senior NCO or warrant officer rank within a corps.

"Alongside that, there was training for a Class 2 trade and the education that goes with that."

Future Royal Engineer training, Col Haskell said, will be in two different parts and locations, so could not be integrated.

The plan is that the first year will start at Minley, where apprentices will concentrate on the CMS, covering leadership, education for trade and combat engineering, before moving to Chatham, where they will focus on trade training.

Both establishments are part of the Royal School of Military Engineering.

Col Haskell is adamant that, although the college ceases to exist on June 11 it will be very much business as usual until then.

"I want the place to go out on a high," he enthused.

Although strictly speaking the college is geographically in Gloucestershire, and carries out a good deal of project work ("all good trade training for our guys") such as re-wiring and plumbing for Tiddensham Parish Council and the Forest of Dean district, its main affiliations are with Chepstow.

"Our links, whether sporting, commercial or social are very much there," said Col Haskell, "and they are a two-way affair."

"Chepstow is in our title, our address is Chepstow, and the town has been good to us."

As a mutual goodwill gesture – and, ironically, to mark the college's 70th anniversary – Chepstow's mayor recently invited its members to march through the town, and for its



One of the last batches of students at the college watch Sam Stuthbridge, the last Apprentice RSM, at work in the sheet metalwork department. With him are instructor David Morgan and (left to right) Apprentices Neil McGrady and Stewart Duffy and App Cpl James Blake

band to Beat Retreat at the castle.

In its turn, apprentices had designed a set of railings to be placed around the town's war memorial and the college had affectionately returned – in its silver casket – the goodwill

scroll presented to it by Chepstow Urban District Council 22 years previously.

The parade was a soggy affair, but the elements couldn't dampen the spirits of the locals, who applauded with genuine affection as the sol-

diers passed under the archway of the restored town gate towards the saluting dais.

Down a hill behind it is a famous local pub, the Five Alls.

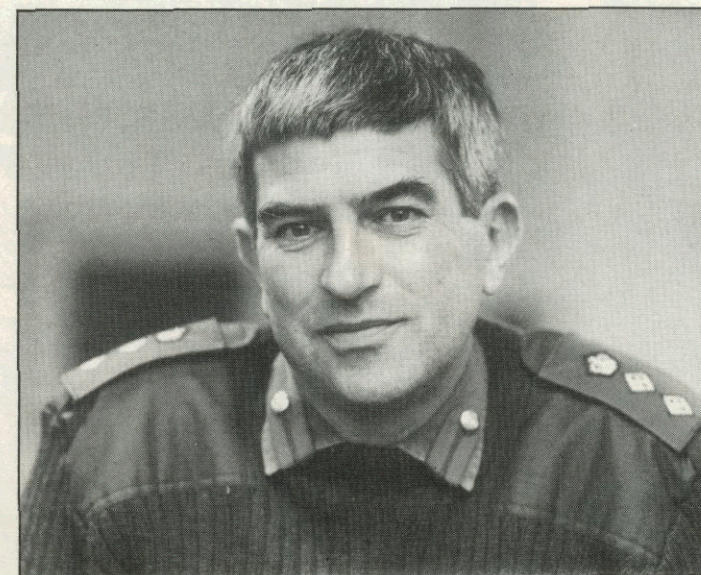
On its sign, a soldier, a bishop, a king, a barrister and John Bull are portrayed.

Underneath them is written, respectively: "I fight for all", "I pray for all", "I rule for all", "I plead for all" and "I pay for all".

As the Army Apprentices College, Chepstow prepares to go the way of other past British military institutions, it might be timely to suggest that a sixth portrait is added.

Mr "Ginge" Gilligan, now aged 85, of the college's Beachley Old Boys Association, who was one of the establishment's first group of apprentices, could make a suitable candidate, for example.

And his description could very well read: "I remember for all..."



Col Chris Haskell, AA Coll Chepstow's final commandant



A legacy of the college's days as a prisoner-of-war camp is a small graveyard where Germans and Italians are buried alongside each other. In the British part of the graveyard is a stone dedicated to B3910 Apprentice Tradesman Terry Thornton, a 16-year-old who was killed in 1940 when a lone German aircraft scored a direct hit on the college with a 1,000lb bomb and then strafed the area with machine gun fire.

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REME sets standard on the factory floor

A DOWDY former Communist factory took on a new lease of life when Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers moved in.

The composite company from the 1st Battalion, REME in Osnabrück has high standards of engineering hygiene and a pathological hatred of dust particles which can contaminate its equipment.

Words:
Gordon Skilling
Pictures
Mike Weston

Now the good engineering practices of the Equipment Support Company have rubbed off on the Koncar factory management in Split. Working areas have been cleaned up and procedures rationalised since the arrival of the British.

Local management was glad to see them. The factory produced high-quality work but lost its markets after the collapse of Communism.

The factory now produces electrical contract work for the British, and offers better work-

ing accommodation than the battalion has in Germany.

A five-ton overhead crane afforded plenty of room to operate, said the master welder, SSgt Max Sutherland.

The REME soldiers repair vehicles, many of which are damaged by the very demanding terrain over which they operate. A common fault has been hydraulic system connections working loose.

The variety of work amounted to on-the-job training for some of the younger soldiers. They dealt with many more heavy vehicles than they would normally see in Osnabrück, and vehicle mechanics who completed basic training only a year before have done in two months more than they could have hoped for in a year at home.

"We are doing twice as much technical work across the board as we would in Ger-

many," said the officer commanding, Maj Peter Brown. The Equipment Support Company provides second-line support from Split to Vitez, with the exception of Royal Naval Air Squadron helicopters and other specialist equipment.

Of its 140 personnel, 103 work in Split, with 37 of a Forward Repair Group divided into three detachments between Tomislavgrad, Gornji Vakuf and Vitez.

Forward detachments con-

centrate on clearing vehicles broken down on UNHCR convoy routes, second-line recovery and back-loading UN equipment to Split, where major assembly replacements are held for the fleet of 43 Warriors and CVRT.

At the end of Operation Grapple 3, the Equipment Support Company will have left its mark - it completed a project started by 4 Armoured Workshop (now 3rd Battalion, REME) from Detmold to erect a slide for an orphanage.

basketball and volleyball, and swimming classes are popular.

SSgt Charlie Oliver, who works in the production, planning and control office, runs recreational visits to the island of Brac.

"Soldiers' 60-hour passes allow them to enjoy a holiday island with water sports and mountain activities," he said.



Above - SSgt Max Sutherland uses the light repair trailer

Below - LCpl Percy Pearce and Mick Horne, both Light Dragoons, LCpl Steve Myatt, Dragoons LAD, and Cfmn Josey Wales, 1 Coldm Gds LAD, solve joint problems



Part of a pioneering team: WO2 Jim Syman and Lt Arwyn Lewis (front, centre) with members of "Red Fox" 361 Stores Section

Careful drivers appreciated here!

FITTERS at Vitez are impressed by the care the 1st Battalion, Coldstream Guards takes of its fleet of armoured fighting vehicles.

Equipment reliability improved because of the attention, making the task of the fitter sections much easier, said WO1 Paul Southworth, Artificer Sergeant Major.

Under Capt Ewen McLay, the 71 men of the Light Aid Detachment regularly work through the night to maintain vehicles and have them ready for the next morning.

In the first three months this happened a dozen times.

Normally the evening's work

arrives around 6pm and is completed by about 10pm.

Vitez houses two of the three main company fitter sections plus HQ company section, which looks after the majority of support vehicles.

The third section supports No 1 Company in Gornji Vakuf, and a detachment from 11 Field Squadron RE services the sappers' engineering equipment in Vitez.

The Warrior fleet includes the first vehicles issued to the British Army. With the Gulf War behind them, and current mileages of up to 6,000km a week, they are lasting far better than anybody expected.



WO1 Southworth

Let the buddy system take the strain . . .

SOLDIERS at Vitez try to avoid having to see Capt Paula Webster.

As theatre community psychiatric nurse, Capt Webster QARANC, will provide a shoulder to weep on if necessary, but much prefers soldiers to talk to their platoon or troop sergeants if they are brooding on an unpleasant experience.

To help detect abnormal reactions she took several SNCOs through a nine-session class in post-traumatic stress and psychological debriefing. Capt Webster firmly believes that bringing herself into the loop can heighten the anxieties she is trying to normalise.

"I do not make a big fuss or immediately get soldiers into a heavy debrief, because most soldiers have normal reactions to what they have seen," she said.

"Education is the key. If people have nightmares and



Capt Paula Webster, QARANC, community and combat psychiatric nurse

flashbacks, or if the horrible smell follows them for a few days, as it usually does, that is normal. If it goes on for more than a couple of days and interrupts work, then we can certainly have a chat quietly and in confidence."

Capt Webster advocates a psychological "buddy-buddy" system no different to

that operating during actual fighting. If soldiers kept an eye on each other, they would cope with the stress, she said.

"But if your mate is hitting the alcohol too much, wakes up at night or is not looking good, don't just laugh at him. Talk to him and see if he needs help."

Stress disorder was not a recent fad just because it had been highlighted in the Falkland Islands and the Gulf. Former prisoners of war at Woolwich had suffered for 50 years without knowing that their nightmares and crying were part of an illness.

With proper education, debriefing a day or so after the event, and somebody watching for symptoms, abnormal stress would not develop because it would be spotted and dealt with, she said. The Coldstreamers and Yorkies whom Capt Webster met had been very supportive.

● Turn to next page



SSgt Steve Davidson, Cpl Les Thelwel and Sgt Jon Pugh run the Unit Administration Office



Cpl Stephen Pope, strategic communications troop, deals with teleprinter traffic



Sig Jim Hardy makes his mark



Above - LCpl Larry Lewis, Cpl Tony Dawson, Cpl Fos Forester, Sgt Kev Moran and Cfn Al Stephens provide the Light Aid Detachment



Right - Sig Jim Womble adjusts the SSVC satellite dish to ensure good reception

STRAIN

• From Page 17

Signal success? That's the lads from Osnabrück

As a nurse in an operational environment she felt she was a combat rather than a community psychiatric nurse.

Her work was exciting, and she saw it as pro-active in addition to looking after the psychologically or psychiatrically ill. Prevention was much more important.

"It is a dream come true for a CPN to go out and teach a battalion that stress is normal and that nobody is being a wimp. There just is not the time in the UK because there are so many referrals. Spreading the message to a receptive audience is brilliant."

Capt Webster has also found time to study for an Open University degree in psychology, and is four years through a six-year course. Her Bosnia experience is invaluable and she doubts if she will ever do anything to compare with it.

SIGNIFICANT developments in former Yugoslavia meant increased responsibilities for Royal Signals who provide all theatre and tactical communications for British forces in Bosnia.

The majority of 4th Armoured Brigade Signal Squadron (204) left Osnabrück in November, along with 55 attached personnel from 30 Signal Regiment in Bramcote and some Queen's Gurkha Sig-

nals who make up the roll of 186.

At first, 204 Squadron provided Commander British Forces, Brig John Reith, with his transport, clerks, cooks and local defence at Divulge Barracks, Split, as well as an armoured tactical headquarters.

When Dutch signallers left Sarajevo the British took on responsibility for the message centre serving Lt Gen Rose

and the Bosnia-Herzegovina command.

Signallers were then heavily involved in building a new headquarters for Brig Reith at Gornji Vakuf when he moved from Split to set up the new one-star Sector South-West.

It is not only communications which they provide. Without the Force Signal Squadron there would be no telephones, videos or TVs, no shop and no pay.

The squadron maintains all welfare equipment, and three technicians have installed, repaired and serviced nearly 400 separate pieces of equipment.

In its limited spare time, the squadron has been refurbishing a temporary home for 60 displaced physically or mentally handicapped people.

The wives' club and German and British communities in Osnabrück keep in close touch and helped raise funds to buy an industrial washing machine and shelving for a large store room. The initial target of DM17,000 was reached within the first three months and another DM 7,000 was added a few weeks later.

When an eye on the landlady kept an UNMO out of trouble

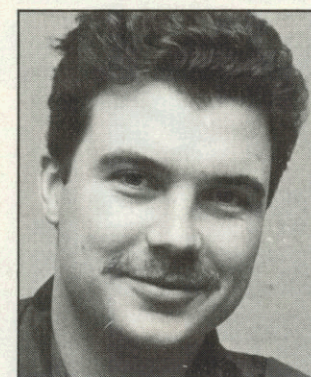
WHEN Bosnian landladies do a runner, it is time for UN guests to worry.

Living with families far from the relative security of military compounds, the United Nations Military Observer (UNMO) in Bosnia has to live on his wits if the tide of battle sweeps over him.

And it does.

Maj Richard John, Royal Logistic Corps, has often been overrun. During two six-month tours as an UNMO he has worked in Vukovar and Osijek, both the scene of bitter fighting, and he was heavily involved when mental hospitals were abandoned by staff during the battle in Fojnica.

"You get a very good indication of what is going to happen by watching people. It pays to keep your ear to the ground," he said.



Maj Richard John

Being an UNMO is arguably the most dangerous job in the Bosnia-Herzegovina command. Unarmed and unescorted, they travel throughout the country in soft-skinned vehicles to report on what they see.

When a report is made of the number of shells which dropped on an area, it is a United Nations military ob-

server who has counted them.

"We also have to identify where they came from and where they landed so that any enquiry can identify which party is responsible for initiating the action," said Maj John.

They are often the first people into an area because they are not usually seen as a threat by those fighting. But they do run a risk and have been shot at.

"If you are sensible the element of risk is not much greater than anybody else's, and you soon get used to the danger," he said.

UNMOs have a clear perception of the situation in the Balkans, and Maj John is uniquely placed to understand it.

There are almost 600 military observers from 38 nations in former Yugoslavia - three of Britain's 18 are

Army - and Maj John latterly collated their information at the headquarters of the Bosnia-Herzegovina command at Kiseljak.

He also co-ordinated information-gathering between the military information teams and soldiers on humanitarian tasks.

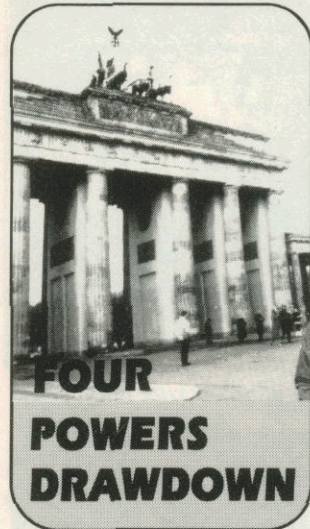
Key areas are liaison and information gathering, with humanitarian aid a secondary task, but UNMOs do everything from writing operations orders to washing cars and burning rubbish.

He was originally due to go to the Western Sahara as an observer but was asked to fill a vacant slot in Bosnia. He volunteered for a second tour and hopes he will still be wearing his original Royal Army Ordnance Corps shoulder boards when he leaves the Army at the end of his tour to join the UNHCR.



Signaller drivers: LCpl Al Pearson (front), LCpl Geordie Cullens, Cpl Pat Howie, Cpl Jan Chappell, SSgt Steve Jackson, Cpl Mark Makings and Cpl Fos Forrester

BERLIN: THE FINAL CURTAIN



And a last fling for the Gordons

WHEN THE 1st Battalion, The Gordon Highlanders was called upon to provide 100 sword dancers for this year's Edinburgh Military Tattoo, the regiment admitted it did not have them, but it did not take long to find them.

A company at a time paraded in stockinged feet at mass auditions in the Smuts Barracks gymnasium. There they were put through their paces by Pipe Major Stuart Sampson, whose experienced eye picked out Jocks with a natural talent for Highland dancing. Those who didn't were quickly eliminated.

The past few months have been memorable for the Gordon Highlanders as they prepared to leave Berlin for the last time.

For three years, B Company, equipped with 21 FV 432 armoured personnel carriers, was the brigade's mechanised company. It spent much of last year on mechanised training, took part in two field-firing camps, battalion exercises in Germany and Denmark, and acted as enemy for units who

Were undergoing pre-BATUS training.

"We also supplied reinforcements for Bosnia, but are now cleaning up our barrack blocks and vehicle garages ready for handover. Our APCs have been returned to an armoured vehicle sub depot in the United Kingdom," said Maj Struan Robertson.

It has been a frantically busy time for the Quartermaster, Capt Bryan Knowles, and his staff who have masterminded the backloading operation.

"Normally during an infantry battalion arms plot move, we would just hand over most of our stores to the incoming unit. Because of the withdrawal, every single item has had to be disposed of," he said.

Despite the massive clear-up operation, the Gordons found time to organise an inter-company drill assessment, so the commanding officer and RSM could judge the standard of the battalion's drill for forthcoming parades.

This summer the battalion is due to take part in a number of Freedom parades throughout its recruiting area before celebrating the regiment's 200th anniversary with a march through Aberdeen in June.

One of the final acts of 1 Gordons was to attend a joint service of commemoration with 1 QLR at Berlin's Commonwealth War Graves Commission cemetery in Charlottenburg. The Remembrance Day service had been postponed from last November because both battalions were away on exercise.

As SOLDIER went to press, the final elements of 1 Gordons had left Berlin. The battalion re-forms in Edinburgh, where it is to amalgamate with The Queen's Own Highlanders (Seaforth and Camerons) next September. The new regiment will be known as The Highlanders (Seaforth, Gordons and Camerons).



You've either got it or you haven't! A 1 Gordons sword dancing audition in progress

Eagle's origins shrouded in mystery

IF THERE is one military building in Berlin that Maj Alan Barnes AGC (ETS) will be sorry to see handed back to the German Government, it would be his own, a century-old barrack block in Smuts Barracks which has been home to 46 Army Education Centre and 39 Library since 1986.

It was originally constructed in 1888 to accommodate the 3rd Brandenburg Train Battalion. During the Second World War, "Behrend Kaserne" as it was then called, housed horse-drawn units of the German Wehrmacht.

After the war, barrack block 2 housed a variety of British Army units.

Its interior is splendid. During restoration work, ornamental fibrous plaster cornices and brickwork quoins were



Maj Alan Barnes is keen to establish the provenance of this badge painted on the ceiling of a corridor in 46 Army Education Centre, Berlin, and would like to hear from anyone who can help to identify it

uncovered and restored, and when several layers of paint were removed from a barrel

vault, the outline of a regimental badge was discovered and subsequently restored.

Whether it was the badge of the Brandenburg Train Battalion has not been established.

Banner symbol marks city's debt to Brigade

FOUR Berlin Infantry Brigade units found themselves the recipients of a signal honour from the German Army's top soldier, Gen Klaus Naumann, during a parade at Stadium Barracks.

Headquarters Berlin Infantry Brigade, 1st Battalion, The Queen's Lancashire Regiment, 1st Battalion, The Gordon Highlanders and Supply Services Berlin were the first Allied units in Berlin to be presented with Fahnenbänder (banners) on behalf of the German Minister of Defence.

Traditionally, the banners have been awarded for participation in campaigns and battles or other acts of distinguished military service. They later became associated with major jubilees or anniversaries and other special commemorative occasions.

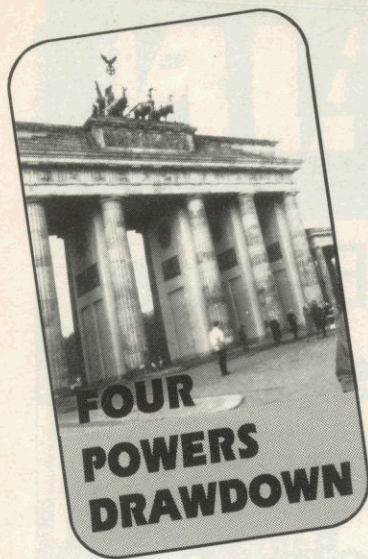
Each banner is made of silk in the German national colours of black, red and gold and inscribed "Einsatz für Frieden und Freiheit" meaning "In the Service of Peace and Freedom".

Brigade Commander, Brig David Bromhead, said: "The Fahnenbänder are in recognition of our service in Berlin and a symbol of our continued close friendship and association with the Bundeswehr, which I believe will be a constant in the years ahead.

"Although there were only four guards on parade, they did represent the 80 or so regiments, battalions and units of the British Army that have served in the city during the past 49 years."



Ptes Adrian Hunter, Wullie Troup and James McAlweenie lend a hand in spring cleaning a B Company accommodation block



WHEN the soldiers of 37 Port Ordnance Detachment RAOC arrived in Berlin in July 1945, they could hardly have imagined that their descendants would still be stationed in the city nearly half a century later.

But that is the case because Supply Services Berlin, now Royal Logistic Corps-driven, continues to supply the British garrison with everything it needs . . . from pork chops to trucks, from carpets to uniforms.

The unit is heavily engaged in returning or disposing of stores and equipment no longer required by departing Army units.

Before German unification in October 1990 resulted in the cessation of the Allied occupation of Berlin, the then Ordnance Services Berlin was required to maintain a 90-day reserve of rations for troops and families in case the sector was cut off as it was during the Berlin blockade.

The blockade reserve was held in a massive warehouse complex, and included 10,000lb of straw for horses and food for patrol dogs working in the city.

While some straw remains (the garrison commander's charger is stabled in Berlin for ceremonial duties) other items have been disposed of.

Hundreds of "evacuation" kits containing heating and cooking equipment for married quarters were uncovered. Every contingency was covered by kits which included large coal-fired water boilers, tin baths, plastic chamber pots and enormous frying pans.

Said WO1 Chris Ward: "We found a charitable use for many of the items. They were donated to organisers of a humanitarian aid convoy to



Soldiers in Berlin Garrison have large appetites. Sgt Nev Waddington issues a ration of peas

A storehouse of surprises

Smolensk in Russia and given to orphanages, hospitals, old people's homes and underprivileged families."

The majority of vehicles operating in Berlin are owned by the Berlin Senat which provided them for British Army use. As a result, some are types not usually seen in service with the Army. Unimog ambulances rub hubcaps with Opel Kadett police cars and Mercedes G Wagen.

Supply Services Berlin employs 46 soldiers and more than 250 civilians. Many of the latter have worked in the depots for up to 40 years, so the logisticians rely on their experience.

Three major and 18 minor units are to be closed, as well as ten other supporting organisations including schools, churches and canteens run by Toc H.

In addition, more than 2,000 married quarters and 1,100 vehicles have to be handed back. The time frame for closure is exacting. For example, when the British garrison in Singapore was withdrawn, supply personnel were given up to a year to close down. In Berlin, Supply Services have been given just three months.

Disposal of some items of furniture has proved a prob-

lem. Trophies of war, such as ornately carved desks, found in buildings taken over by the Allies at the end of the Second World War, have been catalogued and priced by a German auctioneer.

"Most have been bought by MoD agents, but what remains can be bought by officers' and sergeants' messes and units, if they so wish," said Lt Col Ron Chisholm, who heads the garrison's accommodation services unit.

A number of items have been earmarked for German and British museums. A section of the Berlin Wall in the possession of 62 Transport and Movement Squadron RLC is being presented to the Royal Corps of Transport Museum, while the Berlin Folk Museum will receive a number of exhibits marking the British Army's service in Berlin. These include an FV432 armoured personnel carrier and a Ferret scout car.

One of the oddest drawdown problems solved by Supply Services Berlin was that of



A shiny number. OC Ordnance Depot, Maj Nick McNally, and Lt Tracey Allen take one of Berlin Garrison's VIP Land Rovers for a spin. Note the chromium-plated bumper



Above the Returned Stores Sub-Depot is an attic holding scenery and costumes from past Berlin Tattoos. Gerhard Kaisher, WO2 Fozz Fazakerley and Sean Fretwell take their places around King Arthur's Round Table

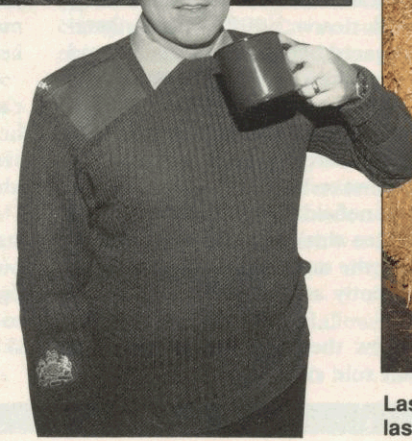


Above - Cpl Tony Lawman and Sgt Mark Robertson exchange signatures as another truck is returned for disposal

Right - WO1 Chris Ward tests an enamel mug from a blockade evacuation kit

bread following closure of the Royal Logistic Corps bakery last December.

"We got over it by ordering-in nine months supply of sliced bread in one go and storing it in chillers at minus 20 C. The Armed Forces' food chemist informed us it would remain safe to eat for up to a year," said the supply depot's superintendent, WO2 Andy Gooderham.



Last straw: Cpl Adrian Lane and Sgt Scott Roberts stack the last bales from the now defunct blockade reserve

How we revealed secret of the D-Day frogmen

D-DAY DOUBLE ISSUE: Our coverage of the 50th anniversary of the invasion that launched the liberation of Europe will include a special 82-page double issue available in mid-May. Details of how to obtain your copy appear below.

**D-DAY
50**

FIRST ACCOUNTS of one of the really great secrets of the Second World War, the part played by Britain's frogmen on D-Day, were published in **SOLDIER** in September 1945. The exclusive reports were made possible by the sudden collapse of Japan, following which the British Government relaxed many of its wartime security restrictions, **writes Laurie Manton.**

Without these gallant volunteers recruited from the Royal Navy, Royal Marines and the Royal Engineers, the D-Day operation might have failed completely. While the might of the German Army waited behind its Atlantic Wall for the Allies to attack the shores of France, the frogmen blew a mighty hole in their undersea defences just hours before D-Day.

Swimming silently many feet below the surface of the sea, but towing behind them on the surface light pneumatic dinghies containing explosives, the frogmen tackled the giant obstacles that the Germans



World exclusive: how **SOLDIER** broke the story of the frogmen

thought would tear the bottom out of any landing craft.

Some of these were 10ft high and contained two tons of angle steel so cunningly constructed in a series of triangles that even a 500lb depth charge set off in the middle had little effect on them.

The Germans thought themselves to be safe behind these obstacles. No radar, no flame-tanks, no flak-ships, no rocket-planes, none of the new war devices they knew about, could help an invading army surmount their formidable undersea wall.

Yet in five hours before the first landing craft arrived, nearly 3,000 of these obstacles disappeared before their eyes... and they did not know what was happening. All they saw was an explosion, a small column of water, a few bubbles and the tops of their cherished barriers vanishing beneath the waves.

Their minefields too (although they could not see this) were being rendered harmless by the same frogmen, who swam away as silently and secretly as they had arrived.

They knew they had to remain silent about their role even after Germany sur-

rendered. There were just as many obstacles round the coasts of Japan to be tackled in their turn. They built replicas of the types of barriers they knew the Japanese were constructing and invented more efficient ways of destroying them. Americans arrived in Britain to learn the new techniques.

Perhaps the sternest test of the frogmen's reticence came when the Germans, using a copy of an Italian diving suit, tried to blow up the bridge at Nijmegen. That effort hit the headlines of every newspaper. The Royal Navy knew that its own men were infinitely superior, but it had to keep silent.

Britain's frogmen dated back to the early days of the war - another example of how some Britons were planning an offensive at a time when it seemed they were incapable of defending their own shores.

This undersea army had to be able to stay below water for long periods to carry out demolition work, and if necessary to fight underwater. So a new diving suit had to be designed that would act as a second skin.

Men dived in secret on certain harbours



Thousands of photographs of German beach defences were taken by RAF photo-reconnaissance aircraft. Here Germans erecting obstacles in Normandy can be seen dashing for cover or lying flat as the aircraft flies over

in Britain. Even their closest friends could not be told what they were doing. They called themselves Boom Defence Units and let it be known that they were carrying out routine patrols to make sure no one could get through the harbour booms.

Suit after suit was tested and discarded until finally they had what they wanted. Their flippers were not new, having been used for nearly 30 years by sportsmen hunting for fish underwater.

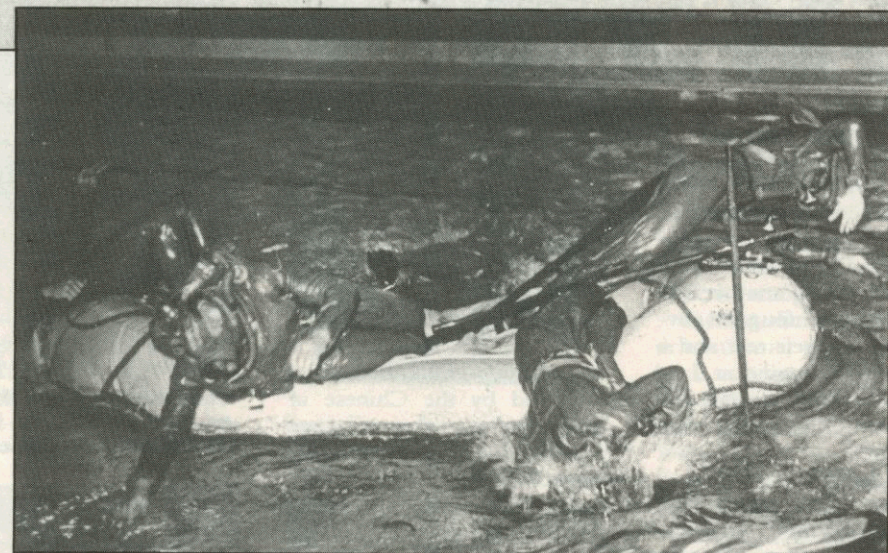
One of the most testing problems was adequate breathing apparatus. Finally a streamlined affair involving bottles of oxygen and carbon-dioxide absorbers which could be carried without hampering the free movements of the wearer was developed. It allowed a man to swim on his chest or back, to stand up or turn head over heels.

Suits were made in quantities for the invasion of France and the men trained to use them. The frogmen were on their way.

Next problem was to decide how the Germans had defended the coasts of France.

Aircraft made thousands of low-level flights across the coasts of Normandy and Britain while the tide was out. The tops of undersea barriers were exposed above the water. By taking photographs at extremely low heights and very oblique angles, the RAF provided the Navy with an accurate picture of what to expect.

Most formidable of all the obstacles was



D-Day divers demonstrate their skills for a **SOLDIER** cameraman in 1945. The reverse side of this once world exclusive photograph is marked with a warning that if should not be released until after the end of the war against Japan

the triangulated fence. Models were built in Britain, but 500lb depth charges had no effect. A way of blowing them up with 37 separate charges each was devised. Three charges cut the front away from the supports, the rest caused the triangles to collapse. When the charges went off, the 10ft-high obstructions sank to form a tangle of steel rods only 18in high.

At the end of the war, **SOLDIER** photographer Sgt Monty Berman was summoned in secret to a London swimming pool in which the frogmen were filmed for the first time being put through their paces.

Staff writer Sgt John Hallows described the scene:

"The men in their suits look like naked

men with shiny, thick grey skins, as tough as elephant hide. The shape of their heads is so clearly defined that they looked as if they have no hair. And, in place of their faces, are small circles of thick glass. On their shoulders are streamlined containers that are in fact the outside lungs that enable them to stay underwater for 90 minutes.

"As their tale was told on the side of the swimming baths, the Martian men lumbered awkwardly along the side. They were then told to swim quietly up and down the baths. Like swans they lost their awkwardness as soon as they entered the water and became creatures of infinite grace."

The secret was out.

D-DAY COMMEMORATIVE ISSUE

Our D-Day special issue will be a double edition incorporating the May 30 and June 13 issues. It will include regular **SOLDIER** features, as well as a pull-out D-Day section, and will cost £1.20.

You can order a copy to be sent to you by sending a cheque/po for £1.70 (including p&p) payable to "Soldier" to: Soldier Magazine, D-Day issue, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU. Telephone: 0252 347353.

Subscribers will automatically receive their D-Day issue.

D6

A glorious tradition



THE GLORY of the Glosters will never fade.

No one but the Glosters could have done what they did, said their brigadier after the famous stand in Korea. Wellington said the same about both their ancestors, some of whom carried out "one of the most brilliant exploits ever performed by any regiment".

Raised in 1694, the regiment became the 28th of Foot (1742) and was joined by the 61st (1758) to become the North and South Gloucestershire Regiments in 1782.

Unique in many ways, it had by 1952 more battle honours than any other regiment, and an American presidential citation for valour.

The singular honour of wearing two cap badges recalls a cool "about face" in Egypt when the Glosters fought back to back to repel French attacking their front and rear. Against the Sikhs another disciplined turn confounded cavalry attacking their rear and a section did the same at Letpadan where Glosters gave the victorious Japanese a very bloody nose.

The Glosters showed their style in all phases of war. Following Gen Wolfe, it was the first regiment of the line to scale the Heights of Abraham at Quebec.

Glosters kept their standards while covering withdrawals such as Corruna, Dunkirk, Burma and Korea. They were frequently the rock over which overwhelming attacks broke.

They blunted the last major German offensive of the First World War, in the Second their ferocious tenacity in holding the Germans off Dunkirk helped save the British expeditionary force. The epic stand of D Company, 10th battalion at Myitson denied vital ground to determined Japanese attackers, dead Glosters and Japanese sharing foxhole graves.

The epithet "Glorious" Glosters caught the imagination of the free world after their

Sunshine posting for new regiment

THE amalgamation of The Gloucestershire Regiment and The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment was taking place on April 27, when The Royal Gloucestershire, Berkshire and Wiltshire Regiment (RGB-WR) was forming at Catterick.

Equipped with Warrior, it will become part of 19 Mechanised Brigade and from spring 1995 will be based in Episkopi, Cyprus.

The commanding officer of 1 RGBW will be Lt Col Patrick Davidson-Houston DERR, and RSM will be WO1 Ivor Wood, presently RSM 1 Glosters.

remarkable endurance when swamped by the Chinese in Korea, at one famous stage cheekily silencing strident oriental drums and trumpets with every bugle call the Drum Major could think of – except "Retreat".

This allowed the UN to form a second line of defence, taught the Chinese not to mount any further major offensives and later outraged and thrilled the country when stories emerged of their fortitude in captivity, sometimes to death.

The glory of the Glosters is not confined to the past. During one tour in Northern Ireland they won a record 32 awards and distinctions.

When the new regiment parades at Windsor on June 8, the unique back badge will still be on show, and the American presidential honour will be tied to the new colours.

With eight Victoria Crosses, the exploits of the Glosters lie at the very heart of the British military tradition.



The Colours of the Glosters, which bear more battle honours than any other regiment in the British Army, were the focus of a thanksgiving service in Gloucester Cathedral



A memorable farewell tour by the DERR rugby team – the Moonrakers – raised £1,550 for SPIRE, the Support Paraplegics in Rugby Enterprise



Three hearty cheers for the colonel-in-chief, the Colours and the regiment from the Glosters

THE WONDERS

DEPENDABLE county regiments such as The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment (Berkshire and Wiltshire) are the backbone of the British Army.

They may not have hit the headlines, but "Wonders" of 1 DERR continued the illustrious traditions of four regiments, the 49th, 62nd, 66th and 99th, which fought in most of Britain's famous land battles

around the globe. When it was raised for service in Jamaica in 1743, awkward questions were asked about the cost of the 49th. The cost in lives lost to disease was high for them and the 66th during West Indian slave risings in 1763.

The 49th and 66th became the 1st and 2nd Battalions, The Berkshire Regiment (Princess Charlotte of Wales's) in 1881 – the young princess



had fallen in love with the 49th and claimed it as her own.

The Duke of Edinburgh's Wiltshire Regiment stemmed from the 62nd (1756) and the 99th (Lanarkshire) Regiment, raised in Glasgow in 1824 and famed for being "dressed up to the nines".

Renowned as the "Queen's Pets" – they were Victoria's favourites for guarding the Royal Pavilion in Aldershot – they would fight like tigers and die to a man.

Defeat was no dishonour. Original Berkshires were praised despite the humiliation of surrender to American rebels at Saratoga in 1777; they lost the Colours at Maiwand in 1880 only after 11 survivors charged to their deaths at the hands of thousands of Afghans.

Such discipline won the day at Tofrek against fanatical Arabs in 1885 and the then unique honour of "Royal" was added for field service.

Wiltshire sergeants took command when most of the officers were killed by Sikhs at Ferozesha in 1845, and an earlier generation fired metal buttons defending Carrickfergus after the ammunition ran out.

Sacking the Chinese emperor's summer palace brought back excellent silver and the first Pekinese dog, and consistent gallantry in the Opium Wars gave the Berkshire's dragon cap badge and DERR collar badge.

The red Brandywine flash behind the badge recalls a deadly bayonet attack on American revolutionaries, after which plumes were dyed red to let the rebels try for revenge.

The crimson ribbon for valour was awarded eight times, most recently at Anzio almost 50 years ago. The 10th Wiltshires were reduced to 40 men on the beachhead.

The regiment helped secure Canada for Britain against France and the United States and in 1961 1 DERR took part in the first Exercise Pond Jump with Canadians on strategic air mobility trials.

A stint with 24 Airmobile Brigade, an emergency Cyprus tour, two Northern Ireland postings in three years and public duties were all taken in their stride.

Dust off the .303s for D-Day!

AS A British subject living in California, I took part in the 1984 and 1989 D-Day commemorations and, noting the enthusiasm being generated for this year's events, will be there again.

I shall be accompanied, I hope, by my British-marked 1943 Willys M B Jeep, which should be shipped aboard the Jeremiah O'Brien, a US liberty ship arriving in the UK in late May.

Perhaps we can persuade the Brigade of Guards (and others) to parade on or about June 6 with No 4 .303 rifles to mark this great anniversary. It would be nice to see smart BD and 37 pattern FSMO as well, but there are limits!

Would anyone else care to comment? - **John Tiley**, PO Box 1022, Half Moon Bay, CA 94019, USA.

Go for it . . .

THE idea for a volunteers' medal mentioned by PC Ken Fowler (February 7) has great possibilities. Many ex-volunteers would go for it.

It is a pity we did not get something years ago for volunteering. - **D Wilson**, Leeds 12.

Fairy high cost of change

I WAS concerned at the proposed cost of modifying pace sticks and extending parade grounds to accommodate the longer Nato pace ("Sandhurst sticks out for the future", April 4).

Has the MoD not considered the purchase of boots with retractable and extending toe caps? I refer, of course, to the type of footwear worn by fairies, hobgoblins, imps, etc.

The toes of this footwear curl up when the wearer it at rest or stepping short going uphill, and extend forward when marching. An extra extension could be adapted for marching downhill or marching in conjunction with Nato allies.

Gnome Service troops

would not require the special footwear.

In any case, no extra cost to the taxpayer would be involved as the footwear is available on the National Elf Service. - **Maj (Retd) C F Collins**, Essex.

Stickler for the truth

WHY IS IT at the beginning of April each year you give your readers some STICK?

The RMA Sandhurst has certainly notched up a first - in clowning!

Keep up the good work and remember - you can't fool me. - **Alec Coleman**, Whitefield, Manchester.

● Although the phone lines were hot with amused, puzzled and irate readers, Mr Coleman was the first actually to put pen to paper to acknowledge our April Fool spoof on the Army lengthening its marching pace to keep step with Europe. Our thanks to RMA Sandhurst for being such good sports. - **Editor**

My service deserves more . . .

ERIK Crichton (April 4) suggested a General Service Medal for all Armed Forces personnel, with bars and rosettes as appropriate. I agree.

I served from May 1945 to demob in April 1948. In late '45 I was in Egypt, in early '46 rushed to Greece to reinforce my regiment when Communist elements massed on the Greek-Yugoslav border.

After leave I returned to Greece to join a mixed compa-

ny of infantry, guarding 140 Adv Ord Depot.

Joining the TA at the start of the Korean War, I served 15 years. At one time I was told we were part of Nato reserve. When I was dismissed from the TA at the age of 43 I was told I was "too old".

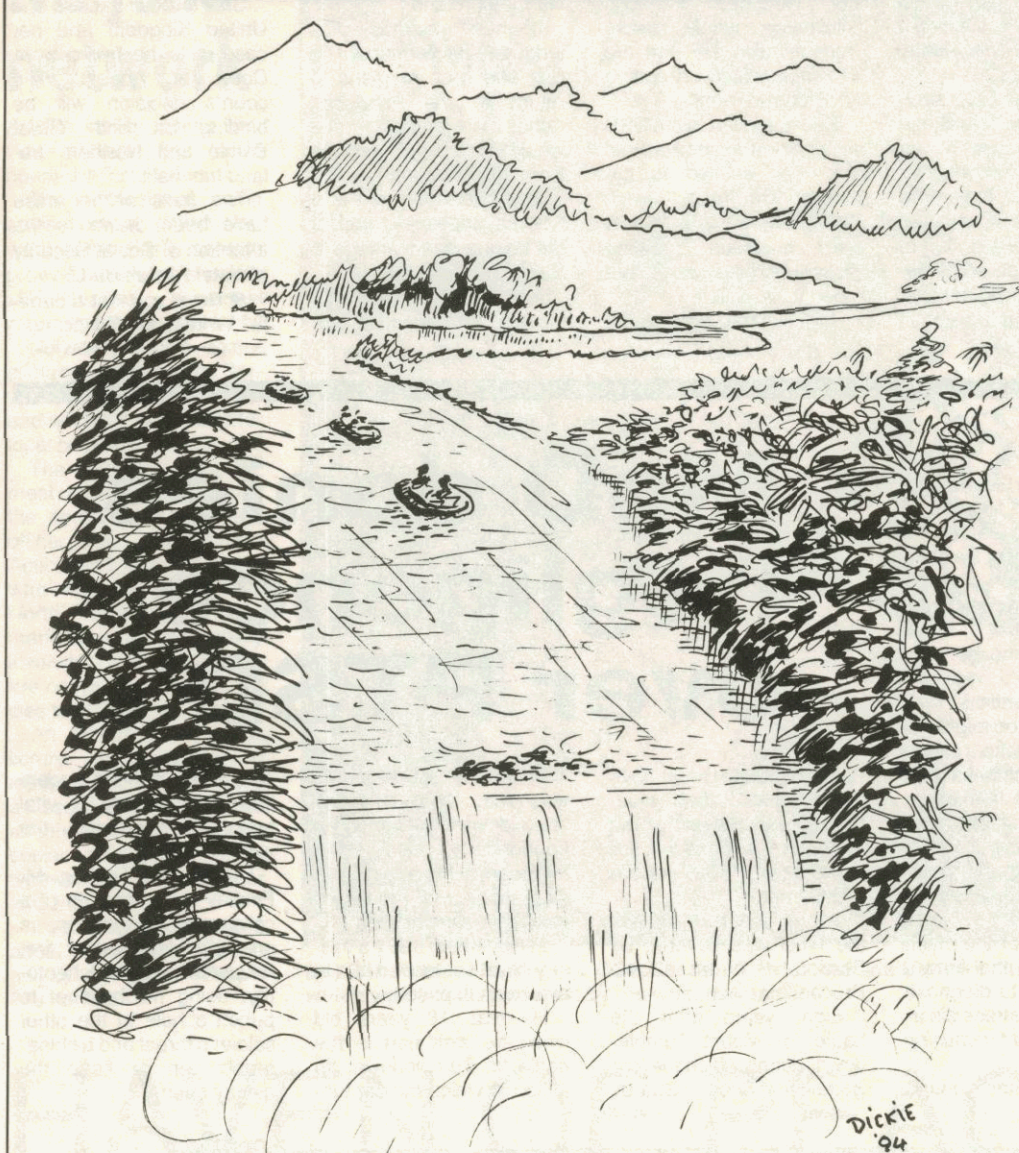
I served for 12 months in the Home Defence Force, taking part in the Coronation street lining near Marble Arch. (I believe the Colonial Corona-

tion Contingent all got the gong. Why not the English?)

As I served in the Army for only two years 11 months I would not get an "Armed Forces Service Medal". My total time in uniform was 18 years 11 months, but my one gong of value resulted from my TA service.

The GSM with bar "Greece" would suffice. - **A Denton**, St Leonards-on-Sea, E Sussex.

BIRD'S EYE-VIEW



"Now we're safely on the last leg, Sir . . . may I say just how much we've all been impressed by your navigational skills."

● Adventurous training - see Page 13

Awesome anti-tank weapon

I CANNOT have been the only reader to gasp at JM's throwaway description of "a PIAT - a hand-held anti-tank weapon" (March 7) in his review of *The History of the Lancashire Fusiliers 1939-45*.

The Projector Infantry Anti-Tank was a fearsome weapon which I encountered at my Infantry Training Centre. It was a blessedly brief experience.

Notwithstanding, we all went through the drill of cocking the weapon - compressing the fiendishly strong spring, some 2ft long by about 3in in diameter, by putting both feet on the shoulder-pad and pulling up hard on the trigger-guard or thereabouts.

This was not easy but the small arms instructor's favourite ploy was to insist that all went through the next lesson, which was "cocking the PIAT behind cover". This really was a challenge.

"A hand-held anti-tank weapon", indeed. Those of my contemporaries learning of Fus Jefferson's award at the time were convinced that he earned his Cross simply by firing it from the hip, tank or no tank! - **John Gaylor** (Hon Secretary, Military Historical Society), Bromley, Kent.

● Our reviewer, who also has personal experience of the PIAT, stands by his description and stresses he was in no way trying to belittle the weapon or the achievement. The book itself has an illustration depicting Fus Jefferson firing the weapon from his shoulder and the following description.

"... Fus F A Jefferson picked up a PIAT and . . . ran forward to a position behind a hedge within a few yards of the leading German tank. From here he decided he could not get in a well-aimed shot, so he got up again and came out into the open, no more than 20 yards from the tank, and fired at it. The recoil of the PIAT knocked him over.

"... Fus Jefferson got to his feet, reloaded, and advanced towards the second tank. But the second tank decided that a man with a PIAT who was entirely unaffected by small-arms fire was too much for it and upped sticks and left." - **Editor**

Common names

THE arrival of the 1st Battalion, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment in Bosnia reminds me that it claims to be the only regiment to be named after a

person not of royal blood. Some may say: "What about the Green Howards?" My researches indicate that technically the latter is named after

Princess Alexandra of Wales, who as colonel inspected the regiment in 1875 and asked for it to be named after her.

The Green Howards is the only regiment to be "known officially by a nickname" (Geoff White, 1988), its full title being The Green Howards (Alexandra Princess of Wales's Own Yorkshire Regiment).

When we consider the Volunteer Force we have the Lovat Scouts (Scottish Yeomanry), named after Lord Lovat. Are there any others? - **W A Ewbank**, Capt RE (Retd), Taylor University, Upland, Indiana.

CLASP CRITERIA

YOUR article "Exempl-Harry award" on the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal and Clasp (April 4) states: "In order to merit a clasp to the medal, a soldier must be commissioned from the ranks and go on to complete 30 years' service."

At present there are some

700 WOs and SNCOs on the Long Service List who, should they go on to complete 30 years or more and meet the criteria, also become eligible for the clasp - not just commissioned officers as your article implies. - **WO2 (RQMS) W Kirk LSL**, RRF, 5 TA Trg Regt RLC, Grantham, Lincs.

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Northern Ireland policy cost Mrs X half income

WHEN MRS S accompanied her husband on a tour to Northern Ireland, she had no idea that it would cost her half the income she had been receiving since sustaining a crippling industrial injury five years earlier.

The wife of an NCO serving in the Army, Mrs S had been assessed as 30 per cent disabled following an accident to her legs. She was entitled to a disablement benefit for life, half of which was made up of Reduced Earnings Allowance.

All well and good – until

her husband's stint in Northern Ireland came to an end and he was posted overseas.

Mrs S was informed that her Reduced Earnings Allowance would cease from the day she left the Province, effectively cutting her income by half.

She appealed to the DSS at Longbenton and was told she was entitled to the money. But to no avail. Three different solicitors at her overseas posting picked up the case, but failed to resolve it.

Two years passed. In

desperation, Mrs S turned to SOLDIER. Contact with the DSS in Belfast established that Mrs S's situation hinged on a rule peculiar to Northern Ireland.

If her absence was judged to be *permanent* (in that she had no plans to return to the Province), rather than *temporary*, she would lose her Reduced Earnings Allowance.

She had fallen foul of a rule that appears to work to the unique disadvantage of Service dependants.

Mrs S had lost half her income not because her

legs were any better, but simply because her husband had served Queen and Country in Northern Ireland.

She is now back in the United Kingdom and her case is to be heard by a Court of Appeal. The court's decision will be binding on both Great Britain and Northern Ireland tribunals.

The facts of her case have been drawn to the attention of Social Security Minister Alistair Burt.

● Have you lost a benefit? Write to the Editor.

Holidays from St Helena's

SERVICE children with special educational needs are eligible to apply for a free annual holiday organised by the Service Children's Education Authority (SCEA) and sponsored by the Guild of St Helena.

This year's trip is to Avon Tyrrell Residential Centre at Bransgore in Hampshire from September 18-25.

To be eligible, children should be aged between eight and 13 (inclusive) at the time of the holiday; medical requirements must be able to be met by the general nursing service provided; and they should be registered with SCEA.

For details, contact the SCEA Special Needs Office on Worthy Down Mil 2946 (or 0962 887946), or write to SCEA 1B, HQ DGAGC, Worthy Down, Winchester, Hants SO21 2RG.

Conversion

A MANAGEMENT conversion and development programme tailored specifically to Service personnel has been launched by James Dyson Management. Prices start at £1,985 a head. Details from Ian Gill on 0904 670523/670384.

PRESS reports that a former Scots Guardsman had received £100,000 in an out-of-court settlement with the Ministry of Defence for a stress disorder brought on by service in the Falklands War have caused some unease.

Traumatised veterans from other conflicts may wonder if they too might not be eligible to make a claim.

In fact, a substantial part of ex-sergeant Alexander Findlay's original claim was for a back injury incurred during training, and for which the MoD accepted responsibility.

An element of the claim also related to the Army's alleged failure to diagnose post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), not for causing it.

"If this case had gone to

court, the MoD would have denied that it had been negligent in respect of the treatment it provides for sufferers of PTSD," said a spokesman.

In any event, until 1987 the MoD was covered by Section 10 of the Crown Proceedings Act.

Eight years after the battle for Mount Tumbledown, during which the 2nd Battalion, Scots Guards

lost nine men killed and 43 wounded, Sgt Findlay broke down while serving in Londonderry. He held members of his company at pistol-point and threatened to kill them and himself.

In November 1991 a military court sentenced him to two years in prison.

He was 18 years old when he took part in the battle for Tumbledown, an action in which the capture

of a well-defended Argentine position was a vital factor in shortening the war.

During the fighting Mr Findlay saved the life of a colleague caught in a grenade blast. Under fire, he performed a tracheotomy, using his bayonet to punch a hole in the other soldier's throat and a china-graph pen to keep the airway open.

MoD denies negligence over PTSD

Cari Roberts

← COUNTERPOINT →



Veterans' time to remember

sufficient depth about the role of the British in the D-Day landings, with much of the credit going to the Americans.

I called Mr Sidney Goldberg of the Normandy Veterans Association. He had heard the same.

And it wasn't just the children, he added. "There is a peace memorial in Caen which is a museum which gives very little credit to the British. Because it was put up by American money they would have you believe that the Normandy

Landings were an American effort."

He was philosophical, though. With so many visitors over the years, he said, you might expect some slight mishaps. All the fuss made him feel proud in one way, being the centre of attention.

On the other hand, it was inevitable that others should climb on the bandwagon.

As far as he and his comrades were concerned, the commemoration of D-Day was a time for remembrance.

It had been described in the press, he said, as a celebration. That might be true for the French as they remembered their liberation, but the veterans would always think of those they

had left behind on the beaches and those who have passed away since.

There's also a feeling of thanksgiving among the Normandy veterans that they survived the experience.

Mr Goldberg spoke with the quiet dignity of one who has seen through the vanities of those who hitch their wagon to someone else's story.

It was a privilege to talk to him and I hope he, and all the other soldiers, sailors and airmen who will be marking events this year are given time and space to remember their friends in peace.

● ● ● You can contact Cari at BFBS, BFPO 786 or c/o SOLDIER.

Tap in to NE jobs network

A NEW facility to help Service leavers has been opened in York.

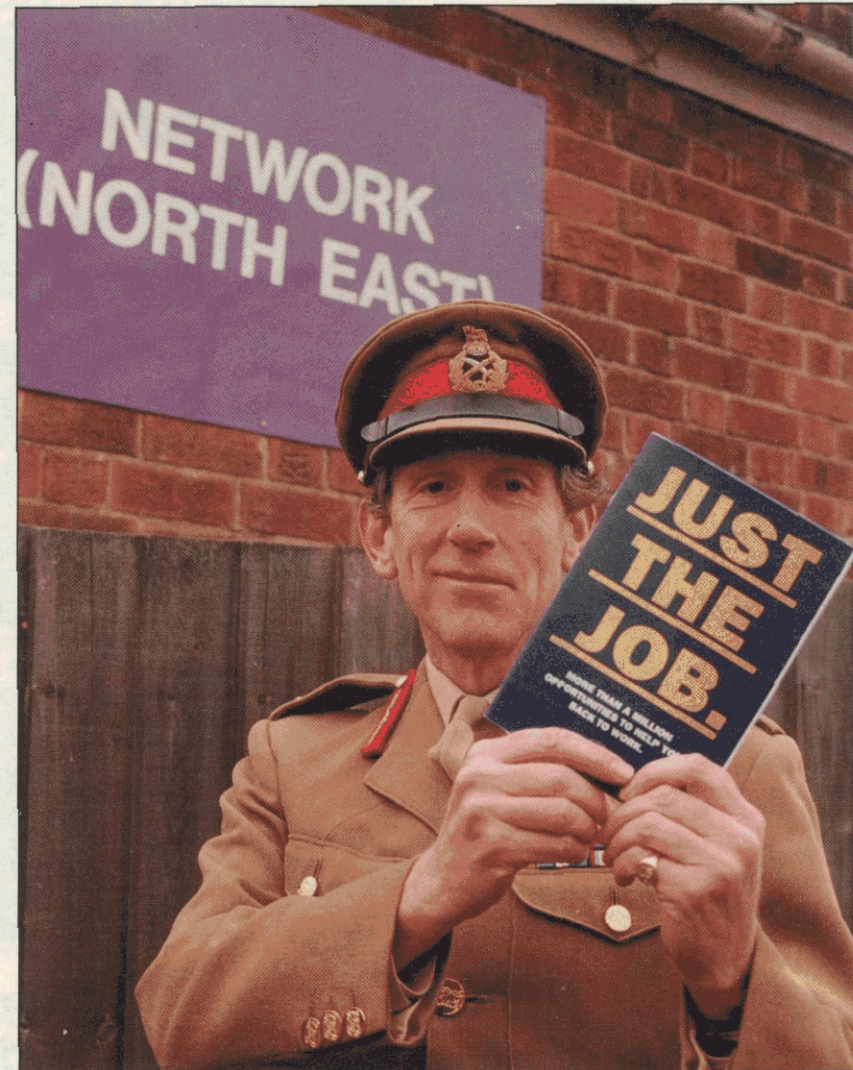
The information and advice centre, called Network (North East), aims to provide a one-stop shop for all Service personnel returning to civvy street.

Network (NE) is a regional marketing arm of the Services Employment Network and will be a focal point for local companies.

The garrison resettlement officer will be based in the centre with a warrant officer from the District Action and Support Team who will run a job club. North Yorkshire Employment Services are heavily involved in the project and are copying all their vacancies to the centre.

An extensive reference library is available to leavers, who will also have access to a free outside line telephone, fax and photocopier, and a number of typewriters, a computer and a laser printer.

If you want to know more about Network (North East) ring Lynda Reid on York Mil 2791 or 2021.



Maj Gen Patrick Cordingley, GOC Eastern District, outside Network (North East), which was formally opened by his wife, Melissa

HAVEN OF PEACE

SIR HARRY and Lady Secombe have visited Badger House, the new Christian conference and holiday centre for Servicemen and women which will soon be open to all ranks and retired members of the Armed Services and their families.

It is set on an eight-acre estate at the edge of the beautiful village of Badger in Shropshire.

Although being renovated to modern standards, the main house, begun in 1790, has retained its old world charm and was being opened on May 1. Badger House is owned and run by the Cornelius Trust, of which Sir Harry is patron.

He was shown around the house and estate by the Trust's chairman, Wing Cdr Dan Gleed, who is soon to retire from the RAF to run the centre with his wife and others.

Badger House, which is



Sir Harry and Lady Secombe with Wing Cdr Dan Gleed in front of Badger House

five miles from the M54, will be open to groups, families or individuals of all denominations. It can be used as a conference centre or simply as a holiday base or place of quiet retreat.

Speaking of the rigours

of modern Service life, Dan Gleed said that, if, for example, a soldier was in Bosnia and his family in the UK needed a break, they would be given a warm and inexpensive welcome at Badger House.

Enquiries about the work of the Trust and details of costs for staying at the centre can be obtained from Badger House, Badger, Burnhill Green, West Midlands WV6 7JR (tel: 07465 226).

A second career in Wales

A NEW 24-page guide to *Living and Working in Wales* is being made available to every Service unit.

Sponsored by the Welsh Training and Enterprise Councils, it is aimed at Servicemen and women and their families returning to their Welsh roots, but will also attract non-Welsh personnel to the Principality.

The guide highlights the facilities offered by an expert team of advisers at 160 (Wales) Brigade Headquarters at Brecon, who work closely with the Welsh business community.

It contains useful contacts, a summary of career option and start-your-own business briefings, dates and venues, DIYSO information, an overview of the Welsh economy and regional break-downs on house prices, education authorities and services.

Sir Geoffrey Inkin, chairman of the Services' Resettlement Committee for Wales, says: "About ten per cent of those leaving the Services look for their second career in Wales."

Copies can be obtained from the Action and Support Team at HQ 160 (Wales) Brigade, The Barracks, Brecon, Powys LD3 7EA (tel: Brecon Mil (735) 2431/2229/2228 or 0874 613431/613229/613228).

Read all about it

NEW booklets available from the Benefits Agency include:

● *A guide to reviews and appeals* (NI 260);

● *Income Support: See if you are entitled* (IS 1);

● *Income Support: Help if you live in a residential care home or nursing home* (IS 50);

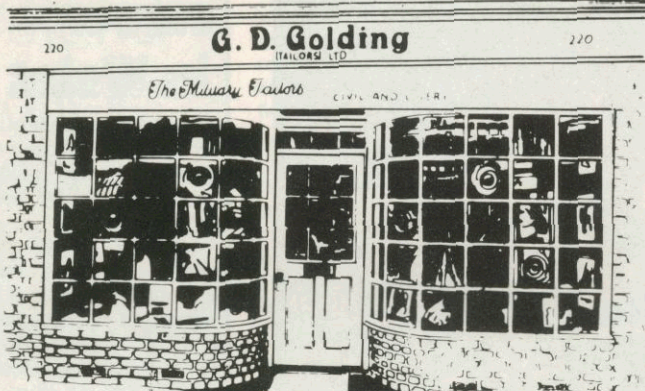
● *Cash help while you're working* (A guide to extra help for people in work) (FB 4);

● *Babies and benefits* (FB 8);

● *Help with Council Tax* (CTB 1).

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Mike Moore / TODAY Newspaper

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

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THE ARMY BENEVOLENT FUND
Remembering & Supporting the Brave



SOLDIER to Soldier

Biggin Hill remembers

D-DAY veterans will be treated as guests of honour at an international air fair to be staged at Biggin Hill on June 18-19.

They will be given free tickets to a special enclosure. Those who wish to attend should write to Jock Maitland, Air Displays International, Biggin Hill Airport, Biggin Hill, Kent, enclosing name, rank on D-Day, service number and unit, and a short description of what happened to them on June 6, 1944.

Biggin Hill was one of the airfields from which airborne forces departed on the evening of June 5.

Busy time for National

A SERIES of exhibitions and special events at the National Army Museum will mark D-Day.

Ordinary soldiers and the artist Rex Whistler are to feature in two exhibitions running from May 18 to September 18. *Monty's Men* attempts to show what life was like for troops fighting in the Normandy campaign: how they slept, what they ate, what they wore.

Rex Whistler's War marks the 50th anniversary of the death of Whistler, killed while serving with the Welsh Guards in Normandy.

Actors will contribute to a D-Day Family Day at the museum on June 5. Visitors will be able to take part and try on equipment. Admission is free. Details on 071-730 0717.

● Southeby's medal and militaria sale at Billingham on May 9 includes a set of four D-Day chartlets marking the passage to Gold, Sword and Juno beaches. It is estimated the lot will realise up to £250. In comparison, a set of nine folders compiled for the cancelled German invasion of England dated 1941-42 could fetch as little as £100.

Netley marks D-Day role

D-DAY casualties are remembered at Netley, near Southampton, in an exhibition recalling the role of the Royal Victoria Hospital.

Netley was the site of Britain's largest military hospital when it opened in 1863, and was taken over by American forces in January 1944 as a transit hospital for



Arromanches outing

Loyal reader Mr Harold Merritt of Godalming – he's been taking the magazine since 1946 – sent us this photograph of himself ("I'm in the middle") and other D-Day veterans at Arromanches in 1969. They were there on a trip sponsored by SOLDIER to mark the 25th anniversary of the Normandy landings.

The 1969 commemoration will be dwarfed by this summer's event. Harold, who wanted to return for the 50th anniversary "but changed my mind", landed on Gold with 689 Road Construction Company RE on June 6, 1944. His unit made and repaired airfields, constructed the Bayeux bypass, and fought its way across the Rhine and through Germany.

D-DAY DIARY

MAY

25: 50th anniversary of Review of the Fleet, Portland Harbour.

27-28: Hampshire remembers D-Day, Royal Victoria Country Park, Netley, near Southampton (0703 285831).

28-30: Military Vehicle Trust 50th anniversary commemoration rally, Southsea Common, Portsmouth. Details from Chris Pearce (0489 572582).

JUNE

2: Parade of veterans, bands and vehicles, Weymouth (0929 426310).

3: D-Day Tattoo, Bath and West Showground, Shepton Mallet (ticket hotline 0749 823270).

4: Southwick House garden party, HMS Dryad, near Portsmouth (invitation only).

Beating Retreat, Portsmouth.

Portsmouth Guildhall dinner.

5: Drumhead Service, Southsea Common, Portsmouth. Veterans welcome.

Flotilla departs Portsmouth for Normandy, led by Royal Yacht.

Parachute drop near site of Pegasus Bridge and unveiling of bust of Gen Sir Richard Gale.

Service of commemoration, Hermanville military ceremony, Normandy.

6: National services of commemoration in Commonwealth War Graves Commission cemeteries at Bayeux, Douvres la Delivrande, Hermanville, Ranville and Ryes.

International service, Omaha Beach, led by President Mitterrand.

Arromanches march and fly-past.

25: 50th anniversary reunion festival, Royal Albert Hall.

26: 50th anniversary parade on Horse Guards, followed by service at Cenotaph.

casualties before evacuation inland.

More than 64,000 casualties were treated at Netley before the Americans left in July 1945.

The exhibition, in the Royal Victoria Country Park heritage centre chapel from April to October, is supported by the nursing branches of the US Army, Navy and Air Force as well as the RAMC and QARANC.

Guernsey Spitfires

GUERNSEY first day covers and presentation packs commemorating the 50th anniversary of D-Day are to feature a painting of Spitfires in action over Normandy.

A limited edition of full-size

prints of the painting, commissioned from aviation artist Nicholas Trudgian, will also be available. It depicts Spitfires of the Canadian Wing, bearing the distinctive D-Day black and white stripes, over the invasion beaches.

More details can be obtained from the Guernsey Post Office, Guelles Road, St Peter Port, Guernsey GY1 1AA (tel: 0481 726241).

Earl on parade at Caterham

THE Duchess of Gloucester was just a face in the crowd at Caterham Barracks, Surrey, to watch her son, the Earl of Ulster, pass out with 110 officer cadets from the University of London Officers Training Corps.

The earl is in his first year of War Studies at King's College.

Returning to an old stamping ground where thousands of guardsmen were trained in the 1950s and 60s, Brig Kim Ross took the salute in his first duty as Honorary Colonel of the OTC. He was delighted that the barracks will be refurbished and eventually provide a new home for the 1st Battalion, Irish Guards.

London ACF plea

SOUTH West London Army Cadet Force is desperately looking for officers and SNCOs. Anyone who can help is asked to ring 071-414 5543.

REUNIONS

● **4 Bn, The Northamptonshire Regiment (1939-46):** 48th all ranks reunion dinner (£7), May 6 in Kettering. Details from Maj V Harding, Old Barn Cottage, Oasby, Grantham, Lincs NG32 3NA (tel: 05295 345).

● **2 Bn, The Monmouthshire Regiment OCA:** Informal reunion at the Plough, 27 Museum Street, London WC1A 2LJ on May 7. Details from S J Stapleton, The Gables, 113 Windmill Road, Brentford, Middx TW8 9NH (tel: 081-560 2203).

● **Cambridgeshire Regiment:** Annual service of remembrance in Ely Cathedral, 2.15pm, June 12, followed by reunion. Details from J R Stubbings, 25 The Vineyards, Ely, Cambridgeshire CB7 4QG (tel: 0353 663294/662203).

● **AGC Corps Day:** June 17 (1130-1800), includes Beating of Retreat by Band of Adjutant General's Corps. Fun day for families. Ticket admission details from Asst Regt Sec on 0962 887254 or 887427 or Winchester Mil 2254/2427.

● **Armourers Association:** Reunion to be held on June 25 in London. Details from C Dennis, 18 Willowslea Road, Bevere, Worcester, Worcs WR3 7QP.

● **Army Basketball Association:** 50th anniversary reunion at ASPT, Aldershot, on June 25. Details from Maj Terry Goulding APTC, HQ W and WDIST, Copthorne Barracks, Shrewsbury SY3 8LZ tel: 0743 262269 or Shrewsbury Mil ext 2269/2294).

● **St Boniface (Rheindahlen):** Annual reunion at Holy Trinity Church, Prince Consort Road, London SW7 on June 26. Choral evensong 6pm followed by supper. Former St Boniface choir and congregation welcome. Contact Lt Col A P M Hole, 39 Vogan Close, Reigate, Surrey RH2 8AT (tel: 0737 244001).

● **Queen's Own Dorset Yeomanry:** Bi-centenary parade, July, at Dorchester. Units connected with QODY were 94th, 141st, 294th Fd Regts RA TA; 250th, 255th, 341st Med Regts RA TA; Dorset Garrison; 241st and 522nd Coast Regts RA TA. Old comrades are asked to contact Maj L E N Neville-Jones, Audlem House, 68 Blake Hill Crescent, Poole, Dorset BH14 8QS.

● **219 Signal Sqn (Tripolitania):** Reunion to be held Sept 10 at Loughborough. Details from Roy Andrews, Moorings, 7 The Heath, Whitstable, Kent CT5 3HJ.

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● **Staffordshire Regiment:** Annual reunion and 50th anniversary of Burma, Arnhem, D-Day landings and Anzio, Sept 17, Lichfield City and Whittington Barracks, Lichfield. Details from RHQ, The Staffordshire Regiment, Whittington Barracks, Lichfield, Staffs WS14 9PY (please enclose sae).

● **RE Darland Boys Association 1939-41:** 14th reunion due to be held in September at King Charles Hotel, Chatham, Kent. Details from Jim Winchester, 8 Durham Road, Luton, Beds LU2 0RB (tel: 0582 27569).

● **Well-drillers reunion:** 30th anniversary reunion of all who served with the Royal Engineer Well-drilling Team is planned for Oct 8-9. Details from Sgt L Morrice, 521 STRE (WD), Chilwell Station, Beeston, Nottingham NG9 5HA (tel: 0602 572385).

● **Bangalore OTS:** Indian Army Cadets (Queen's Regiment) Maidstone platoons 15 A/B, sailed *Empress of Scotland* en route OTS Bangalore (Draft i/c David Harley 2 GR), October reunion proposed. Contact A M Nolan Melaka, Oakfield, Hawkhurst, Kent TN18 4JR (tel: 0580 753305). Also seeking RWK instructors Sgts Morris, Jefferies, Jones and Cpls George, Stokes, Cox.

● **Small Arms School Corps and connections (ex-Hythe):** Proposed final reunion in Hythe, November 11-13. For details contact Fred Gray, Blaenblodau, Dryslwyn, Carmarthen, Dyfed SA32 8RN (tel: 0558 668719).

1995

● **ATS Dinner Club:** Reunion weekend in Buxton, Derbyshire, June 1995. Open to all ex-ATS members. Application forms (to be returned by June 30, 1994) from Mrs Joy Balmain, 57 Greenbank Road, Preston, Birkenhead, Merseyside L42 7JJ. Please enclose sae.

MILITARIA

● **Regimental plaques (1st King's Dragoon Guards and The Queen's Bays):** Mr J D Johnson, Secretary of 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards, wants to hear from anyone willing to donate or sell the regimental plaques of the KDG and Queen's Bays to display in branch headquarters. Replies to Hapsberg, 3 Hawarden Way, Mancot, Deeside, Clwyd CH5 2EL (tel: 0244 536570).

DIARY

MAY

1-2: English Heritage military displays, Battle Abbey, East Sussex and Kenilworth Castle, Warwickshire.

8: Combined Cavalry Old Comrades parade and memorial service at Cavalry Memorial in Hyde Park.

14-15: International Air Show, Middle Wallop.

15: Cassino 50th anniversary commemoration service. Commonwealth War Graves Commission Cassino cemetery.

16: Anzio Beach Head Cemetery commemoration service.

19: UK and international veterans' parade, Cassino and Gaeta.

21: Monte Cassino 50th anniversary remembrance service, St Margaret's Church, Westminster.

21-23: Rhine Army Summer Show, Paderborn.

JUNE

1-2: Floodlit Beating Retreat by Massed Bands of the Household Division, Horse Guards, 2130 hours. Tickets £12, £10 and £3 (unreserved) from Household Division Funds Office, Wellington Barracks, Birdcage Walk, London SW1 (enclose sae).

11: Queen's Birthday Parade on Horse Guards, Colour trooped by 2 Gren Gds.

17: AGC Corps Day, Worthy Down (ticket details on 0962 887254/887427 or Winchester Mil 2254/2427).

26: Colchester Garrison Country Day, Fingringhoe Ranges, 1000-1600.

JULY

11-12: Guild of Aviation Artists annual exhibition, The Carisbrooke Gallery, 63 Seymour Street (behind Marble Arch), London W1. Entry forms and schedules from the Guild of Aviation Artists, The Bondway Business Centre, 71 Bondway, London SW8 1SQ.

16-23: Nijmegen Marches, the Netherlands.

19-30: Royal Tournament, Earls Court (tickets available from box office on 071-373 8141).

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

MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL

The Medal for Meritorious Service has been awarded as follows:

RAC – WO2 A W Wainwright KRH.

RA – SSgt B Henderson; SSgt D T Webster.

RE – SSgt D J Jones.

R Signals – WO1 P O Whitbread; WO2 N L Siggs; WO2 W A Starling; SSgt T N Morris.

INFANTRY

Guards Div – WO1 B H M Smith, Coldm Gds; WO2 J Fairbairn, Coldm Gds; WO2 D Garrett, Coldm Gds.

Scottish Div – WO1 J K Scott KOSB.

Queen's Div – SSgt T H Wesley BEM, R Anglian.

Prince of Wales's Div – SSgt E D Harris MBE, RRW.

Light Div – SSgt J Pickford RGJ.

SAS – Sgt F R Hayden.

RAOC – WO1 D Coombs.

REME – WO1 C P Devlin; WO1 A J Watson; WO2 P S Brooks; WO2 J O Jeffrey; WO2 T J Keogh; WO2 W C Wallace; Sgt R Kelly; Sgt C J Roseblade.

RLC – SSgt M G Baker.

SPECIAL D-DAY EXHIBITIONS

● National Army Museum (071-730 0717).

● Tank Museum, Bovington (0929 403463).

● Museum of The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment, Cathedral Close, Salisbury, story of the Beach Groups (0722 414536).

● Imperial War Museum, D-Day to Victory exhibition (071-416 5000).

● D-Day Museum, Portsmouth, includes Overlord Embroidery (0705 827261).

● Airborne Forces Museum, Aldershot (0252 349619) and Aldershot Military Museum (0252 314598).

● Combined Operations Museum, Inverary (0499 2203).

● REME Museum, Arborfield, Reading (0734 763567).

● Waterfront Museum, Poole (0202 673322).

● Museum of Army Flying, Middle Wallop, D-Day display (0264 384421).

● Military Vehicle Museum, Newcastle-upon-Tyne (091-281 7222).

● RAF Museum, London, "Flying for Invasion" (081-205 2266).

● Hall of Aviation, Southampton (0703 635830).

● Southwick House near Portsmouth, Eisenhower's operational HQ (0705 210522).

● Royal Naval Museum, Portsmouth (0705 733060).

● Royal Navy Submarine Museum, Gosport (0705 529217).

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

SEARCHLINE

● **REME Association:** The newly formed Luton, Dunstable and District Branch of the REME Association is open on the third Monday of every month at the Victoria Club, Victoria Street, Dunstable, Beds at 7.30pm. Enquiries to Denis O'Donoghue on 0582 862527.

● **Jim Southwell REME,** from Southampton area and who served in Fallingbowl 1956-7 and Paderborn 1957-8, is sought by Adam AntAthair-Siorai, Postfach 1130, 29675 Fallingbowl, Germany (tel: +49 05162 1533).

● **Mr Eddie Dean** (4 Mersey Place, Nunhouse Estate, Winsford, Cheshire CW7 3LH, tel: 0606 592319) wishes to hear from anyone who served with his late father, **LCpl Charles Dean**, Regimental Police 1st Bn, The 22nd (Cheshire) Regiment, in India 1929-32.

● **Ex-Service personnel** stationed in the area of **Kure, Hiroshima, Japan** from the end of the Second World War to 1956 are asked to contact Wilf Aldridge, 43 Armstrong Road, Thorpe Saint Andrew, Norwich, Norfolk NR7 9LJ (tel: 0603 33259 evenings/weekends). The city's official historian seeks stories and memorabilia.

● **JLRRE Old Park Barracks, Dover,** September 1972 intake, C Sqn CSE/A. Anyone remembering **Taffy Griffiths** is asked to write to Mr M Griffiths, 26 Vulcan Street, Holyhead, Gwynedd, N Wales LL65 1TL.

● **Sgt Harold Brown:** Mrs E Wood (48 Hawarden Avenue, Douglas, Isle of Man IM1 4BG) wishes to trace Sgt Harold Brown, a wartime friend of her late husband. He served with The King's Regiment and worked as a dental mechanic in Market Drayton before the war. Went to Isle of Man after Dunkirk and possibly to India in 1941.

● **80th LAA RA (Egypt and Aqaba, Nov 1949-Dec 1952):** Ex-Sgt Eddie Clack, 49 Albemarle Street, Harwich, Essex CO12 3HN) wants to contact Bdr Geordie Carr, 2nd Lt Paul Holland and QM Sgt Peter Mears, and anyone else from the regiment who remembers him.

● **Mr P Jackson** (95 Constantine Avenue, Taig Hall, York YO1 3SZ) wishes to hear from anyone who served with his late brother, **Bob Jackson**, also from York, who served in tanks in Tunisia and took part in the Battle of Cassino.



MALLET's Mortar – a 42-ton Crimean War white elephant – is prised away from its resting place at Royal Arsenal West, Woolwich. It is to be re-sited in Fort Nelson, near Portsmouth in Hampshire.

Two such mortars, designed by an engineer named Robert Mallet, were delivered in May 1857 – more than a year after the war had ended. One developed fractures after firing seven rounds on Plumstead Marshes and the project was eventually abandoned a year later.

CLOSURES

● **62 Tpt and Mov Sqn RLC (Berlin)** is to disband in September. Anyone who has presented items to the squadron is asked to contact Capt Cutler or WO2 Nichol on Berlin Mil (309) 7223/7265 or c/o 62 Tpt and Mov Sqn RLC (Berlin), BFPO 45 regarding disposal.

● **The WO's' and Sergeants' Mess, HQ Berlin,** will close in May. Anyone who has presented property and lost touch with the mess, please call WO2 (SSM) G T Bardsley on Berlin Mil 4495 or write c/o BGAU, BFPO 45.

APPOINTMENTS

Senior appointments – Lt Gen The Hon Sir William Rous to be Quartermaster General from April 18 in succession to Gen Sir John Learmont.

Maj Gen R J Hayman-Joyce to be Military Secretary from April 18 in succession to Lt Gen The Hon Sir William Rous.

Brig I G C Durie to be Director Royal Artillery in the rank of major

general from April 18 in succession to Maj Gen M T Tennant.

Maj Gen H W R Pike to be Commandant Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst from May 1 in succession to Maj Gen T P Toyne Sewell.

Brigadiers – R E Ratazzi – To HQ UNPROFOR, March 28; G Risius – To HQ BAOR/HQ BRSC, March 28; A P N Currie – To HQ ARRC, April 4; R D S Gordon – To be Comd 19 Mech Bde, April 5; A J Raper – To HQ ARRC, April 4.

Colonels – E J K O'Brien – To LSP Abu Dhabi UAE, March 31; B A Hopkin – To DGAMS, April 1; R S Jeffrey – To 2 Dent Gp, April 1; J H Johnston – To QEMH, April 1; T M A Daly – To MoD, April 5; J M J Balfour – To MoD, April 5.

Lt Cols – L G French, R Signals – To HQ Wales & WDist, March 28; P E C Gascoigne SG – To HQ BAOR/HQ BRSC, March 28; E R Pitchforth RLC – To ASU SDist East, March 28; I M G Strong, R Signals – To Royal Sch of Signals, March 30; A P W Campbell, A and SH – To be CO ATR Glencorse, March 29; P J Oldfield, R Signals – To MoD, April 3; S J Rollo RLC – To ARFPS(BAE), March 28; T H Senior PWO – To be Camp Comdt RCB, March 28.

L A S Abdul-Aziz RAMC – To

RAM Coll, April 1; B Barclay RADC – To 9 Dent Gp, April 1; B F A Ghattas RAMC – To QEMH, April 1; H A D Kumarasena RAMC – To DKMH, April 1; C K Pani RAMC – To QEMH, April 1; A P T Sims RADC – To CMH, April 1; J A J Deans RAMC – To CMH, April 11.

A H Clark, Para – To be Comd Devon and Cornwall Trg Areas, April 9; R J L Fellowes KRH – To be CO Scottish Yeomanry, April 5; N P Lloyd RLC – To be CO Sup Svcs RLC HK, April 4; J K R Porter RRF – To MoD, April 5; P Richards, R Signals – To AA Coll Harrogate, April 4; G P Sheldon QLR – To Staff Coll (DS), April 4; M S Vine, Glosters – To CATC, April 5.

RETIREMENTS

Brigadiers – C J A Hammerbeck, late RTR, April 1; P J Blackburn, late RAMC, March 31.

Colonels – S H Ali, late RAMC, March 30; A D Scarborough, late RADC, April 16; C C Katon, late REME, April 4.

Lt Cols – B F Bracewell RAMC, March 31; I M Calder RAMC, March 31; J N O'Hanlon RAMC, March 31; K Thilagarajah RAMC, March 31; P G C Gluckman RAMC, April 15.

Cameron who rode the pony express

A HORSEBACK postman, a lighthouse keeper, an oyster catcher and a ferryman are just four of the 16 "old coastal characters" who make up Brian Martin's *Tales of Time and Tide*.

And a more interesting bunch of old salts, each with a good story to tell, would be hard to find.

They earn their livelihoods in various ways around Britain's coastline and Mr Martin has brought them together to recount their lifestyles most readably.

Some served in the Second World War and tell of their achievements with modest pride, especially horseback postie Archie Macdonald, now 78, who was awarded the MM for a daring escape after being captured while serving with the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders in June, 1940.

He was on the run from the Germans for more than two years, his escape route taking him across France and Spain into Gibraltar.

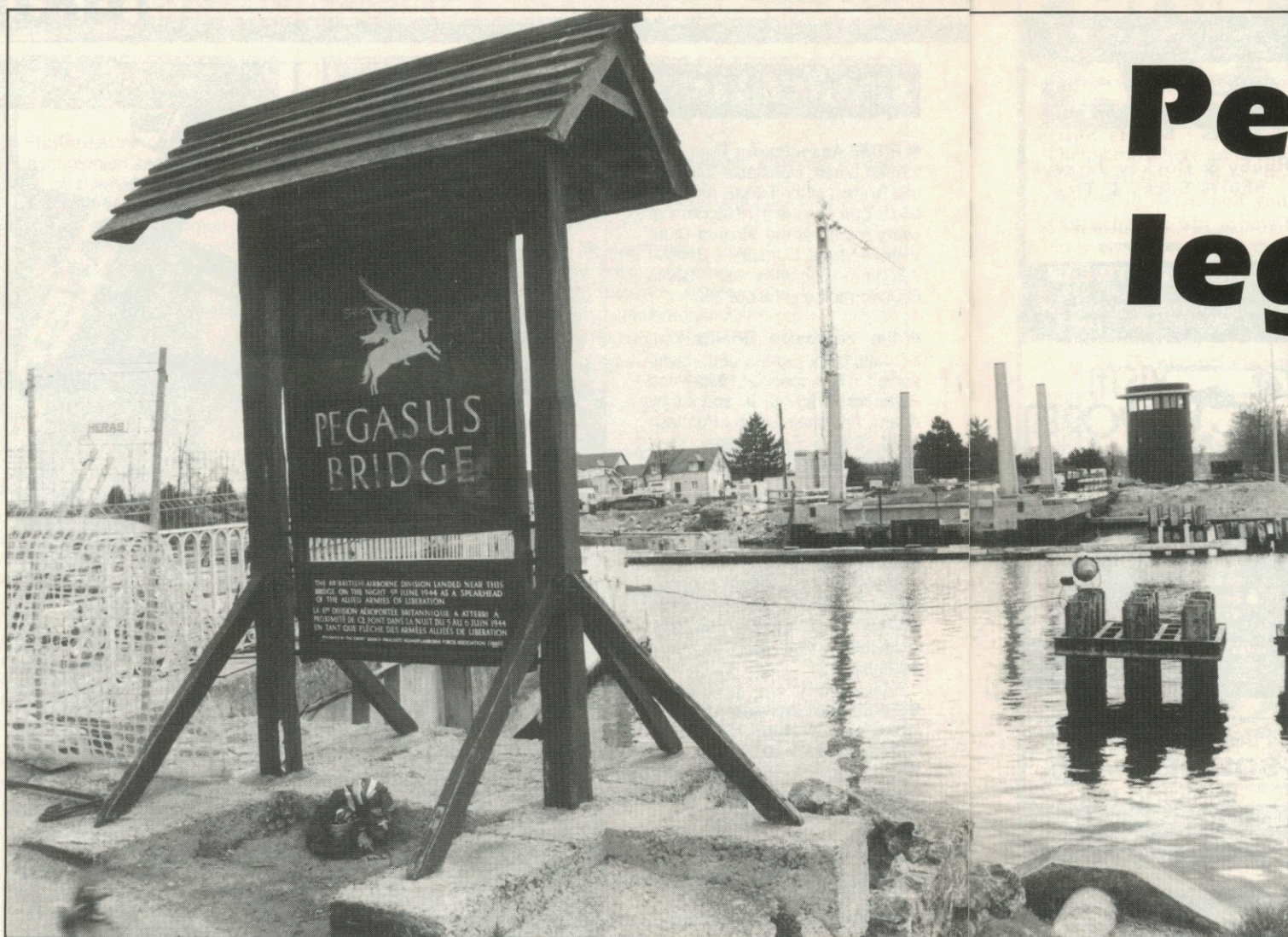
After the war he returned to the Outer Hebrides, taking a job as a labourer on the roads before becoming a pony express postman for the islanders of North Uist. He is one of few still alive to have held such an unusual job.

Another old soldier featured is lighthouse keeper John Burage, who served with the 15th/19th Royal Hussars as a tank driver in Europe and Palestine. He recalls when his tank was hit by an 88mm HE round which, among other bits, blew the gun barrel off.

"It was very upsetting in the tanks," he said. "With headphones on you could hear them saying things like, 'old Johnny's got it'. All your mates being killed around you." He was demobbed in Egypt in 1946 to return home and join Trinity House as a lighthouse keeper.

This well-illustrated book is ideal for a quick yet interesting read just before lights out. —JM

Tales of Time and Tide by Brian P Martin. David and Charles, hardback, £16.99.



A replica bridge was installed after this picture was taken. But the legend – and the old bridge itself, removed to a field nearby – live on

Picture: Mike Weston

Pegasus Bridge legend lives on

IN 1984 an American professor of history, Stephen E Ambrose, published a book about the taking and holding of the bridges over the Caen Canal and River Orne at Benouville on the night of June 5-6 40 years earlier by D Company of the 2nd Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry.

It is natural that, this year, the 50th anniversary, the book, *Pegasus Bridge*, should be given an updating.

It is the story of Maj John Howard and the 160 men of D Company, whose task it was to seize the bridges, landing in gliders just after midnight within yards of their objectives.

On the other side of the canal bridge, on the west bank, south of the road, Georges and Thérèse Gondrée and their two daughters were asleep in

their small café – now probably the most famous café in Normandy.

It is also their story, as it is that of the 50 Wehrmacht officers and men guarding the canal bridge, the enlisted men mostly conscripts from Eastern Europe.

Although they came out of the blue as part of the 6th Airborne Division, the landing of Howard's party was by no means a spontaneous and hastily cobbled-together affair, and the author gives an excellent account of the two years of training and preparation that had to be endured.

"... whether consciously or subconsciously, to a man they were aware that D-Day would be the greatest day of their lives. Neither what had happened before, nor what would come after, could possibly compare."

The fighting action is covered well in a minute-by-minute account: the surprise assault, the defence against tanks with PIATs and Gammon bombs, the German snipers, the opening of 99 bottles of champagne that Georges Gondrée had buried in his garden, and the arrival of No 4 Commando in the afternoon.

It is all here and the reader will not find it hard to understand the feelings of the men who had taken and held the bridge when the time came to move on.

"Jack Bailey found it hard to leave. 'You see,' he explains, 'we had been there a full day and night. We rather felt it was our territory'..."

The author brings to light one of the remarkable coincidences of the Second World War. Oberst Hans von Luck of the 21st Panzer Division had lost a motor cycle to the British in Tunisia in 1943.

Now, early on D-Day, a German patrol brought into von Luck's headquarters two prisoners, glider-borne troops who had come in with the first

wave east of Ranville. With them was a motor cycle that had been taken from the wrecked glider.

"Von Luck looked at the motor cycle. To his amazement, it was his... the British had brought the bike back to England, then brought it over to the Continent for the invasion. So von Luck got his bike back and he used it till the end of the war..."

The glider pilots were quickly returned to England but D Company of the 2nd Ox and Bucks were kept in continued action and suffered heavy casualties. Stephen Ambrose is critical of the decision not to preserve the unit for future operations.

"It is indeed a mystery why the War Office squandered D Company," he writes. "Its combination of training, skills

● **SOLDIER** is combining its issues of May 30 and June 13 to produce a special D-Day edition. Further details in Page 24.

and hand-picked officers was unsurpassed... If they had been there to take the bridge at Nijmegen, the American paratroopers would not have had to fight a desperate battle.

"Rather, they could have set up a defensive perimeter, with strength to spare to send men over to Arnhem to help out."

Since the first edition, *Pegasus Bridge* has been given new material in a chapter bringing the story up to the 1990s. It tells of the survivors, including German, and of Pegasus Bridge itself, the subject of current strong feeling over its fate.

Whether or not the bridge is preserved somewhere as a memorial (Col J M A Tillet's letter in *SOLDIER*, March 21, 1994), the men who fought there earned their everlasting place in history. —BJ

Pegasus Bridge by Stephen E Ambrose. Published by Pocket Books, paperback, £6.99.

FRESH LOOK AT VIETNAM

THEY went, they saw, they were defeated. More than that, the American Army in Vietnam, sent to war by Lyndon B Johnson in 1965, by all accounts were humiliated in what turned out to be a fiasco.

According to Stanley Karnow in his classic *Vietnam – A History*, now revised and updated, the US government had little or no idea what they were up against when US Marines waded ashore at Danang to start the longest – and undeclared – war in their history.

They knew apparently little about the South Vietnamese and even less about the North Vietnamese and their leader Ho Chi Minh.

Vietcong attacks on American installations in the South set Johnson on the road to revenge when he authorised

air raids against the North.

From there on the Americans were dragged deeper into a conflict the US people did not want.

The spectre of Vietnam still haunts many Americans and it obviously tormented Gen Maxwell Taylor, a principal advocate of US intervention. Before he died in 1987, he told Karnow the whole thing was a "blunder and a lesson".

Blunder or not, the Americans left behind a war-torn country and 58,000 dead or missing of their own soldiers and about a million dead North Vietnamese. Required reading for those who want to know what really happened. —JM

Vietnam – A History by Stanley Karnow. Pimlico, paperback, £12.50.

IN BRIEF

America's Finest: US Airborne Uniforms, Equipment and Insignia of World War Two (ETO) by Gary Howard. British collector's comprehensive reference work includes a section on Normandy, including fascinating facts on the first US trooper out of the first aircraft on D-Day, who never made a jump without a cigar in his mouth. Greenhill Books, hardback, £25.

Reluctant Hero. Number 28 in the Gun Fire series of journals tells, in its 84 paperback pages, the story of the First World War VC, Cpl Harry Blanshard Wood. Available from the journal's editor, A J Peacock, at 126 Holgate Road, York YO2 4DL, price £2.43 including postage.

Thunder in the Blood by Graham Hurley. Fast-moving novel about an investigative journalist who uncovers a Gulf War secret. From the author of *Rules of Engagement*. Pan Macmillan, hardback, £15.99.

SS Attacks by Leo Kessler. Fictional account of an SS regiment's attempts to stop the Allies progressing inland during D-Day. Severn House, hardback, £14.99.

TIMELY LAWS OF JUNGLE

IT DOESN'T really matter whether you're lost in a jungle or a desert, stuck up a mountain or on your last legs in Low's Gully.

Like the five rescued from that hell-hole in March, if you are not physically and mentally fit the chances of surviving such an ordeal are slim.

That's the first rule in *The Commando Survival Manual* by 41-year-old retired British Army major Hugh McManners, who earned his green beret 21 years ago and from then on worked closely with the Special Forces, concentrating on jungle and combat survival and escape and evasion.

In the light of the Kinabalu rescue it is indeed fortuitous that his book, which tells how to stay alive against all odds, has just been published.

For soldiers, of course,

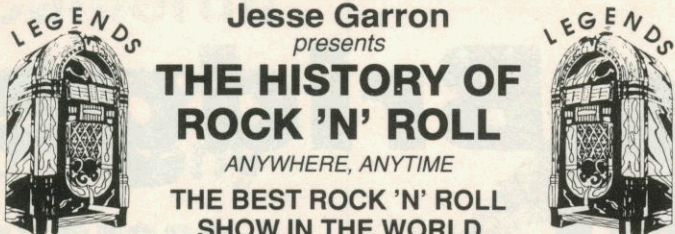
survival information and courses are readily available, but not so for the general public.

This book will fill a need – even if only a gentle hill walk is planned.

Over the top for the average family bookshelf? Not at all. It is full of good, sound sense and information – how to measure personal fitness, selecting the correct equipment, clothing and boots, looking for food and water, finding your way through hostile terrain, staying dry and mentally on top of your predicament.

The book is well illustrated in full colour on every page and the Low's Gully rescue should boost sales. —JM

The Commando Survival Manual by Hugh McManners. Dorling Kindersley Adult Books, hardback, £15.99.



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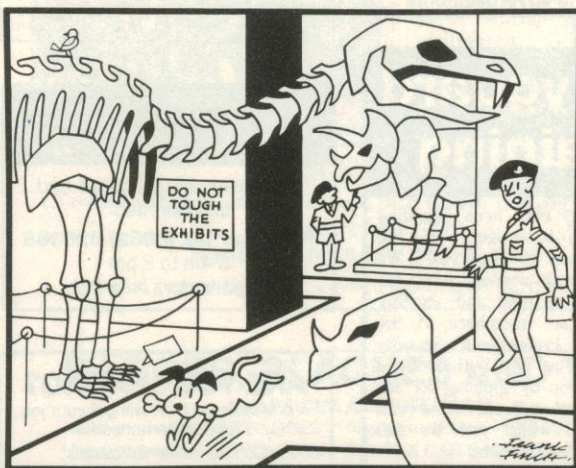
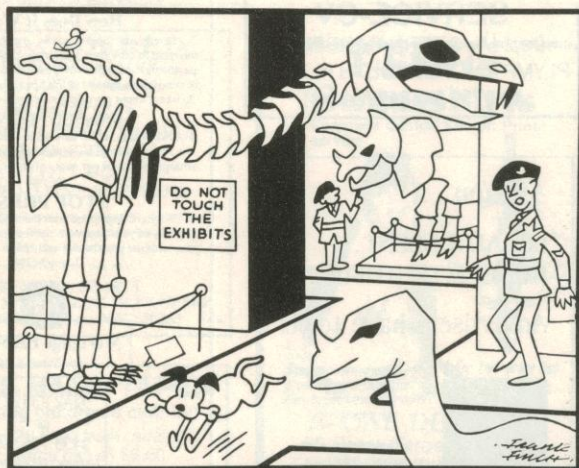
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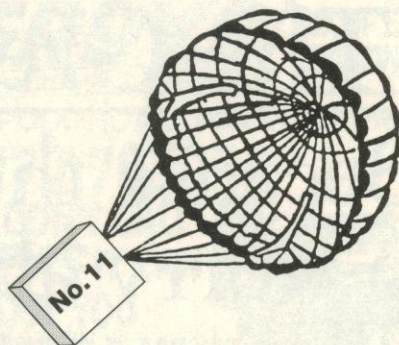
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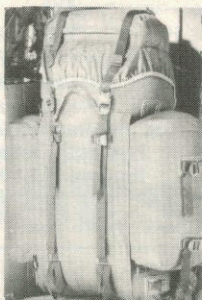
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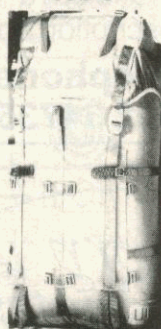
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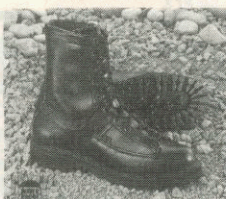
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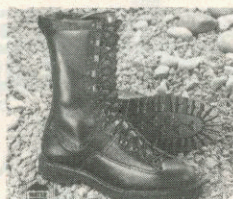
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Hello, my name is Jo. I'm a cheerful, friendly, divorced lady aged 25. I'm looking for some pen pals, so don't be shy, write to me now! **P927**

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Ref: BWG-242694/A1-SC

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April 2, 1994

First prize (17 goals, £2,000): Sgt A R Jagers, 28 Engr Regt, BFPO 31.

20-way tie for second prize (16 goals, £125 each): Capt P S Ashcroft, HQBF Belize, BFPO 12; SSgt L J Comyns, 13 Signal Regt, BFPO 42; Cpl D M Cook, SP Bn HQ ARRC, BFPO 39; WO1 P Corker, AG Corps Centre, Worthy Down; Spr F T J Corrado, 25 Engr Regt, BFPO 808; Sgt B Critchlow, 24 Fd Sqn RE, Rochester; SSgt K Davies, 19 Tk Tptr Sqn RLC, Bulford; Maj J J Edmonds, HQ Herford Garrison, BFPO 15; Sgt M J Greenwood, SEE, Arborfield; LCpl J E Hanley, 1 RS, Fort George; LCpl D S Heathcote, RDG, BFPO 16; Spr A S M Jordan, 35 Engr Regt, BFPO 31; Cpl T E Leighton, 3 Tk Tptr Sqn RLC, BFPO 16; Capt L C McGahan, 40 Tpt Sqn RLC, Catterick; Lt N H Range, 7 Signal Regt, BFPO 15; Bdr P C Rodgers, 32 Regt RA, Larkhill; Sgt K L Rolfe, 6 Sup Regt RLC, BFPO 47; Pte S Taylor, Army Training Regt, Lichfield; Cpl

J W Wilson, Vehicle Depot, Ashchurch; Capt P S Wooding, HQ QMG, Andover.

APRIL 9, 1994

First prize (23 goals, £2,000): Maj A W Morris, Depot REME, Arborfield.

Three-way tie for second prize (21 goals, £633.33 each): LSgt R M Beckett, 1 Coldm Gds, BFPO 17; Col G A Holt, HQ Aldershot Garrison; Sgt P A Knowles, HQ 7 Armd Bde, BFPO 30.

Ten-way tie for fifth prize (20 goals, £60 each): LCpl M P J Clarke, 21 Engr Regt, BFPO 45; Sgt S G Cook, 14 Fd Wksp REME, BFPO 45; LCpl M Hall, 1 Bn REME, BFPO 36; Maj R G Hinchcliffe, School of Mil Svy, Hermitage; Sgt G J R Jackson, Light Dragoons, BFPO 30; WO2 H R Roberts, 26 Engr Regt, BFPO 24; LCpl A Robinson, 1 DWR, Bulford; LCpl R M Taylor, RAC Trg Regt, Catterick; LCpl J E Wenlock, 2 PWRR, Canterbury; Sgt I White, 8 Arty Spr Regt, RLC, BFPO 17.

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2 RTR's winter of content

CYPRUS-based 2nd Royal Tank Regiment have had a winter sports season to savour.

Highlight of the unit's achievements was the appearance of bobsleighter Cpl Mark Tout and biathlon team member LCpl Mark Gee at the Lillehammer Olympics.

Gee is currently competing

with the Great Britain team in Canada and the USA.

But there was much to celebrate in domestic competitions, as 2 RTR won every race at the RAC, RA and AAC championships at Les Saisies, France early in the season, and achieved an excellent result in the Army championships.

Second behind 35 Engr Regt with only the 30km military patrol race to go, the tankies kept their nerve with good shooting and fast skiing to secure victory.

In the Near Eastern Forces Inter-Services Alpine ski meeting in Cyprus, the regiment entered a team from each

squadron. Alamein (HQ) Squadron returned to Nicosia as Army (Cyprus) and Inter-Services (Cyprus) champions, with LCpl Harrold the individual Army champion.

Burma Sqn were runners-up, and Capt James Ogglesby (Normandy Sqn) was slalom runner-up.

BAOR bowls along



Capt Adrian Betteridge REME, serving at HQ BAOR, is pictured with his trophies after he had taken the All Events competition at the 1994 Army tenpin bowling tournament at the Tolworth Bowl in London.

He won the singles, the doubles (with SSgt Sue Horton, Rheindahlen PC Sqn), and the team event with Rhine Army colleagues Capt Mike Downes (who went on to take the Army Masters titles), WO2 Pete Pain and Sgt Mark Passfield.

HQ AFCENT took the Minor Units honours, 28 Engr Regt from Hameln the Major Units trophy as BAOR-based units dominated the tournament.

Bessey beaten, three in finals

LCPL Chris Bessey (27 Regt RLC) was stopped in the second round of the all England ABA semi-finals at Gateshead on April 12.

In the shock of the round, the 1993 welterweight champion was dazed by a powerful blow from Wayne Alexander, a south Londoner from Lynn ABC, and the referee stopped the contest.

Bessey was comfortably out-boxing the London champion when he was caught by a left hook.

"It was one of those things," said Army coach Sgt Norman Phillips (RWRR). "Alexander has always got a puncher's chance, but I thought the referee stopped it a bit quickly."

There was considerable consolation for the Army contingent in wins for welterweight Gdsm Kevin Short (WG) against Repton's Pat Wright, heavyweight Cpl Steve Burford (REME) and super-heavy Spr Danny Watts (RE Trg Regt), who outpointed 1993 finalist Rod Allen from Preston.

Burford, making his second consecutive appearance in the national finals, Short and Watts will be in action at Birmingham on May 4.

LCpl Jason Gardner (89 Sy Coy) was beaten on points by Londoner Ritchie Edwards but has been called up for Scotland squad training.

LCpl Vinny Powell (3 RSME) won the Welsh ABA lightweight title on April 2. A national finalist last year when he boxed in the English championships, he has put himself in

a strong position for Commonwealth Games selection.

● The result of a desperately close Army inter-units novice team final at Aldershot on April 8 hinged on the final bout between Gnr Tink of 7 Para RHA and Kgm Cammoille of 1 Kings. Tink won on points to give the Airborne Gunners a 5-4 victory.

Mission impossible

Dorset 0, Army 3

HAVING lost to Wiltshire at home in their previous South West Counties Championship game, the Army travelled to Shaftesbury on a "mission impossible". To qualify for the final they need to beat Dorset by seven goals to nil, writes **Derrick Bly**.

They created enough chances to be well ahead by the interval, but had only a penalty by SSgt Alan Higgins (R Sigs) to show for their efforts.

Cpl Ray Corner (REME),

an inspired second half substitution, whipped home two late goals and produced a final scoreline that did some justice to the Army's performance.

PCD Mill Hill 1, BAD Kineton 5

A late blast by Kineton-based Base Ammunition Depot destroyed Postal and Courier Depot in the final of the Minor Units football competition.

The men from North London started at a cracking pace but could not turn their good approach work into goal chances.

BAD Kineton, last year's beaten finalists, struck first through Fletcher before Mill Hill were awarded a penalty which Keen converted.

Kineton took the lead through skipper Tweddle just before the break, then went further ahead 12 minutes into

the second half courtesy of an own goal.

Stokes and Metcalf added more goals which gave the scoreline a slightly unreal look.

Brig Alan Thompson, chairman of the Army FA's executive committee, presented the trophies.

1 Cheshire 4, Irish Guards 2

In a final full of good football, 1 Cheshire beat 1 IG 4-2 to claim the Infantry Challenge Cup at Tidworth.

Gdsm Darren Hobson opened the scoring for the Irish Guards after a defensive error, but the Cheshire were level within a minute through their captain, Cpl Tosh Williams, and went ahead when LCpl Craig Powell scored.

LSgt Paul Fagin levelled the scores again, before Pte Simon Yeo scored in the first and last minutes of the second half.

AGC 1, Infantry 2

The Infantry narrowly defeated the AGC in a keenly contested game during which strong winds made control difficult. Fus Kevin Jones (RWF) and LSgt Paul Fagin (IG) scored for the Infantry, Sgt Dan Daly for the AGC.

Infantry 4, RLC 1

The Infantry signed off their representative football season with a comprehensive win over the RLC. Kevin Jones (RWF) headed the opener before LCpl Tony Jones equalised.

But Pte Lee Bradbury (PWRR) scored twice in five minutes and Cpl Ian McDonald (Cheshire) added a fourth. The second half was something of an anti-climax, with the best performances coming from the respective trainers.



SSgt Paul Woolnough (right) jinxes past an ITB Strensall defender to score the winning try for 17 Bty, 26 Regt RA in the Minor Units Challenge Cup final at Aldershot Military Stadium

Airborne Gunners brought to earth

BEATEN 1993 finalists 7 Signal Regiment ended 7 Para RHA's four-year reign as Major Unit rugby champions in a lively Challenge Cup final sponsored by Cadbury-Schweppes GB.

The BAOR champions from Krefeld ran out winners by 20 points to 14 on a glorious spring afternoon at the Military Stadium, Aldershot.

Skipper Sgt Dave Hammon converted a try by winger Sgt Brian Johnson in the second minute, and kicked a penalty before 7 RHA fought back with two penalties to trail 10-6 at the interval.

Sgt Jamie Alleyne ran in another try midway through the second half, almost immediately cancelled out by a try from 7 RHA fullback Lt Howard Graham. The sides swapped penalties before the final whistle.

The Minor Units final was won by Gütersloh-based 17 Battery, 26 Regt RA, who beat defending champions Infantry Training Battalion Strensall 18-15.

Steve sets pace on road mile

CPL PADDY Cairns (ATR Basingstoke) won the Army senior road one mile championships in windy conditions at Chattenden.

His time of 4min 22.44sec was marginally faster than the winner of the veterans' championship, Maj Glen Grant (JSDC), who finished in 4min 24.64.

Fastest leg in the road relay championships held at the same time was posted by Spr Steve Rankin (28 Engr Regt). He recorded 15min 39sec, 15 seconds quicker than veteran Sgt Bill Bailey (2 Sig Regt).

Their respective teams finished in that order in the Major Units rankings, 28 Engr's last runner crossing the line a minute or so ahead of the York-based signallers. The sappers' C team finished third.

The Minor Units race was won by Depot R Irish with 5 TA Trg Regt second and 49 (EM) Bde third.

Fastest lap in the women's road relay was set by Capt Fiona Gordon (RL Trg Centre). The team race was won by Women's Services Northern Ireland.

HQ Coy, 2 RRW won the team race at the Territorial Army cross country championships at Longmoor, with 21 SAS second and Bristol UOTC third.

A weak Regular Army selection paid the price, losing to the TA in their annual match. The TA veterans also beat their Regular counterparts.

LCpl Alan Shepherd (AMS) restored some Regular pride by winning the senior men's race. WO2 (QMSI) Geoff Wade was third and Cpl Paddy Cairns fourth.

● 1 QLR won the final 26km Minden to Lubbecke Ridge run in March, beating 1 GS Regt RLC by a slender six points. Third were 35 Engr Regt.

The QLR's scoring runners were Buckley (2nd), McLaughlan (3rd), Blackburn (11th) and Stevenson (21st).

BAOR karate kicks off in style

SEVERAL notable performances were put up by members of the ten-man BAOR karate team which took part in the Ryoshin Karate Association invitation championships in East London. LCpl Paul

Webster (220 Sig Sqn) won the individual kumite category and Capt Andy Marjoribanks produced three powerful and crisp efforts in the kata to finish second in a field of 53.

The BAOR kata team of Lt

Paul Wise, SSgt Gus Murray and Cpl Paul Adu finished third.

Details of training can be obtained by ringing JHQ BAOR Rheindahlen ext 22209.

Services to meet best kids in town

LEADING Service cricketers will have their own Test match this summer. For the first time the Combined Services are to take on the national Under 19 XI in a two-day game.

The country's brightest young prospects will be in action at Aldershot on July 26-27.

Aldershot will also stage the senior Inter-Services tournament from August 8 to 10, while the Royal Navy will host the Under 25s a month earlier at Portsmouth. Both festivals, and the Combined Services' matches, are to be supported by The Famous Grouse.

Last year the Army senior side finished with the wooden spoon while the U25s took the junior title.

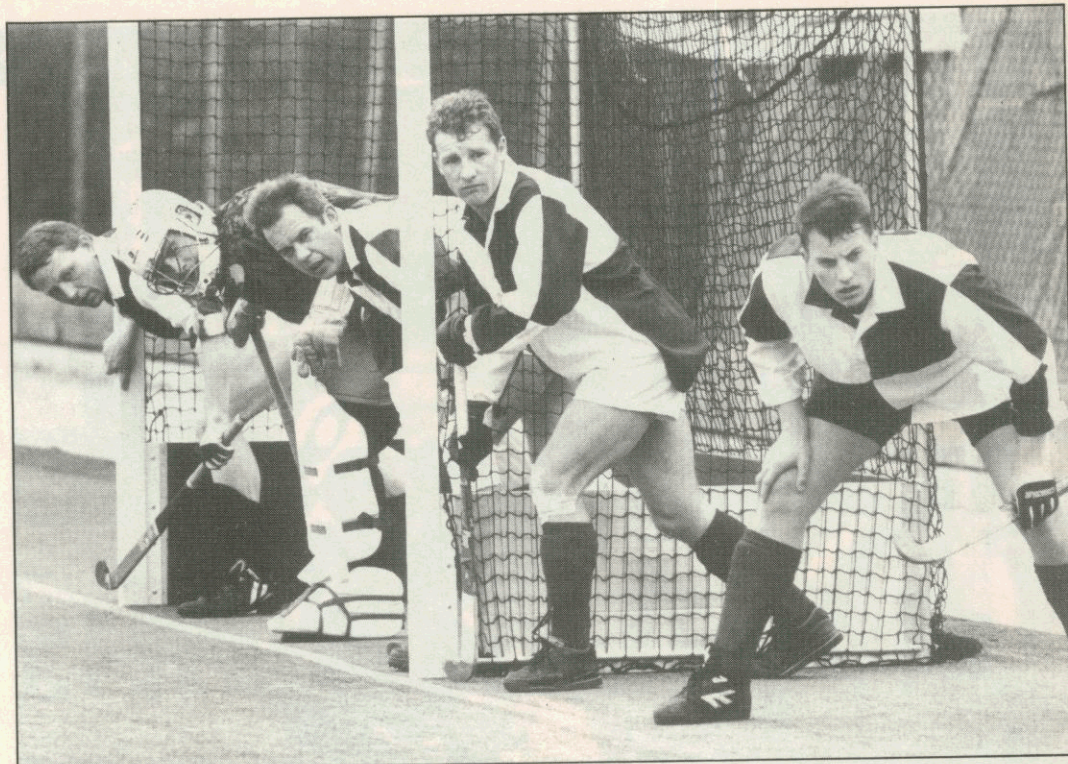
Army cricket has been fortunate to attract important sponsorship at all levels for the new season.

Naafi Financial Services will be involved in the domestic competitions, including the Army festival at Aldershot on May 6-8 and culminating in the Major and Minor cup finals scheduled for August 25, while the senior team is to be backed by Royal Ordnance.

The Under 25s will be encouraged to produce some explosive performances by their association with Chemring Group, suppliers of military pyrotechnics.

Lt Col Keith Hitchcock, secretary of Army cricket, said: "We are enormously grateful to all our sponsors. They do a wonderful job for Service cricket and their support is crucial."

Opening fixture for the Army is an all-day game against Arabs at Aldershot on May 22. Wiltshire (May 25), Essex (June 7), Middlesex (June 14), Sussex (July 15) and Kent (July 22) provide testing county 2nd XI opposition during the season, which will be extended by a tour to Hong Kong from October 15-29.



Anxious moment for 20 Armoured Brigade Signal Squadron defenders as they face a short corner from Army Apprentices College, Chepstow in the Minor Units Hockey Cup final. Chepstow won 7-2

Jolly good display by UK gunners

AN ALL-gunner Major Units hockey final produced an exciting win for 32 Regiment RA over BAOR-based 26 Regiment RA by four goals to one at Aldershot, writes Alan Healey.

And in the Minor final, Army Apprentices College, Chepstow defeated 20 Armoured Brigade Signal Squadron by seven goals to two.

A new mini-tournament format added considerably to the occasion, with four semi-finals taking pace on the first day and the two finals on the second.

Instead of meeting the UK winners in the finals, BAOR champions came in at the semi-final stage.

Encouragingly, Germany-based units figured in both finals.

Maj Ian Jolly, ex-Army skipper and current captain of

National League side Surbiton, was the dominant player in the Major Units final, leading 32 Regt to the title in his last game before he leaves the Services.

He was well supported by Maj Alan Mears, also a former Army regular, and the two of them, backed up by a good all-round side, eventually became too much for the BAOR gunners to handle.

In the Minor competition, Chepstow, losing finalists last year, beat 20 Armd Bde Sig Sqn, although it was not the runaway victory suggested by the 7-2 scoreline.

The signallers fought back hard until three AA Coll Chepstow goals in the final 15 minutes put them out of the match.

Former Army player Capt Alasdair Baggie, now serving at the apprentices' college, was the main difference between the sides.

Herring is red hot at Rushmoor

MAJ ROB Herring (5 AB Bde Log Bn) finished strongly to win the Army duathlon championships centred on Rushmoor Arena, Aldershot.

He held off early pace-setter LCpl Phil Kibble, the current Army triathlon champion, and a strong challenge from LCpl Stacy Robinson, currently training with the modern pentathlon team at Arborfield.

More than 80 competitors took part in the event, which involved an 8km run, 30km cycle course and 5km run.

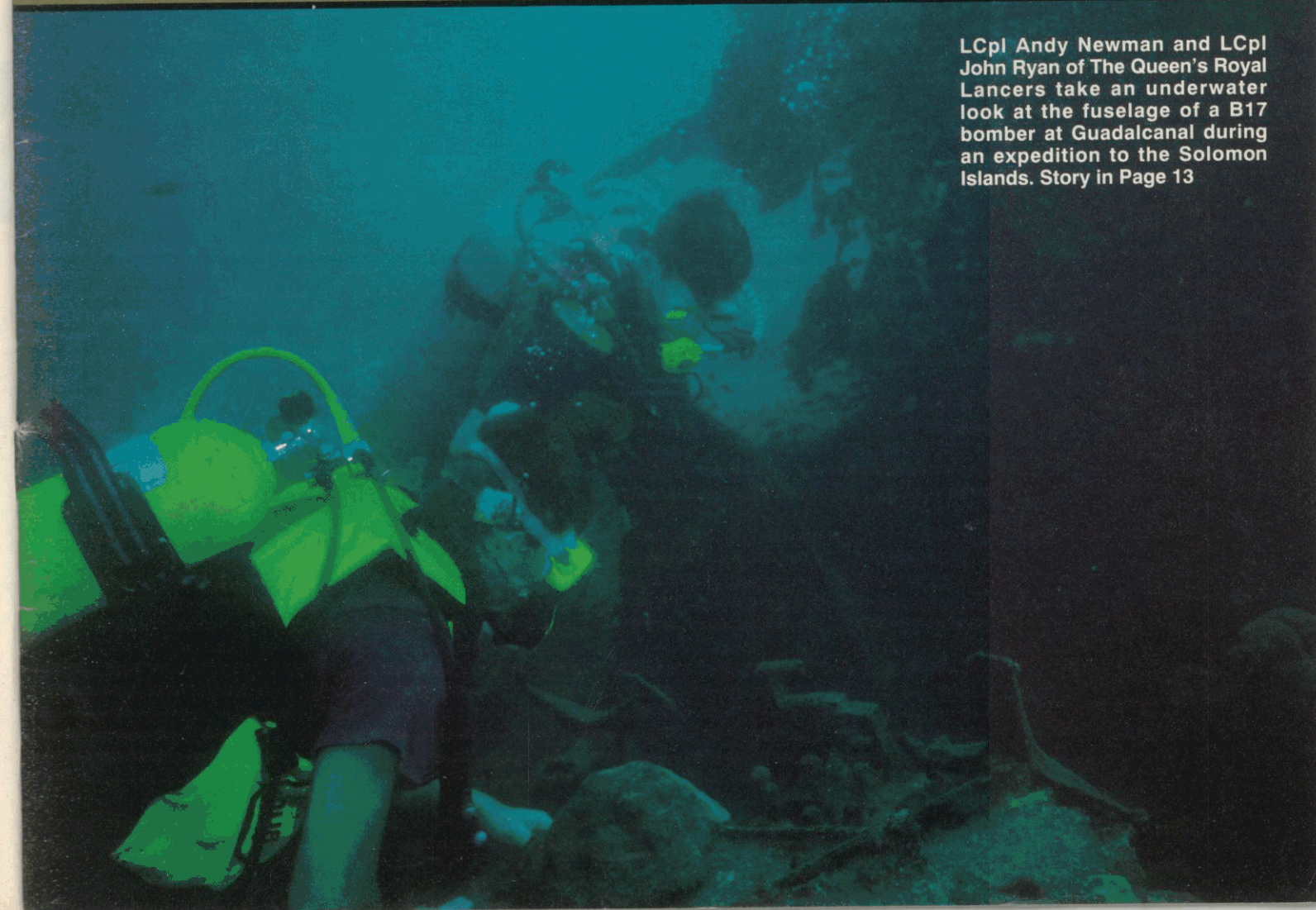
Kibble led until well into the cycle phase when he was caught by Robinson and Herring. Herring eventually established a lead of just over a minute on Robinson to win in 1hr 36min 50sec, with Kibble third.

WO Duncan Vavangas (10 RLC Wksp) was a runaway winner in the veteran category. Major Units honours went to RMCS (Kevin Garraway, Maj Jeremy Wormington, Lt Jim Clare) and the Minor title to 29 RLC (LCpl Phil Kibble, WO2 Paul Lovall, Sgt Stuart Dinwoodie).



Action from the Major Units hockey final at Aldershot. Maj Ian Jolly of 32 Regiment RA from Larkhill is outnumbered by Gutersloh-based 26 Regiment RA players. The trophy was won by 32 Regiment

Picture: Mike Perring



LCpl Andy Newman and LCpl John Ryan of The Queen's Royal Lancers take an underwater look at the fuselage of a B17 bomber at Guadalcanal during an expedition to the Solomon Islands. Story in Page 13



The Band of the Corps of Royal Engineers leads a parade through the crowded streets of Gibraltar as the sappers end an association dating back to 1772. Following the disbandment of the 1st Fortress Specialist Team Royal Engineers, the Rock is without a sapper unit for the first time in more than 200 years. Story in news pages.

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