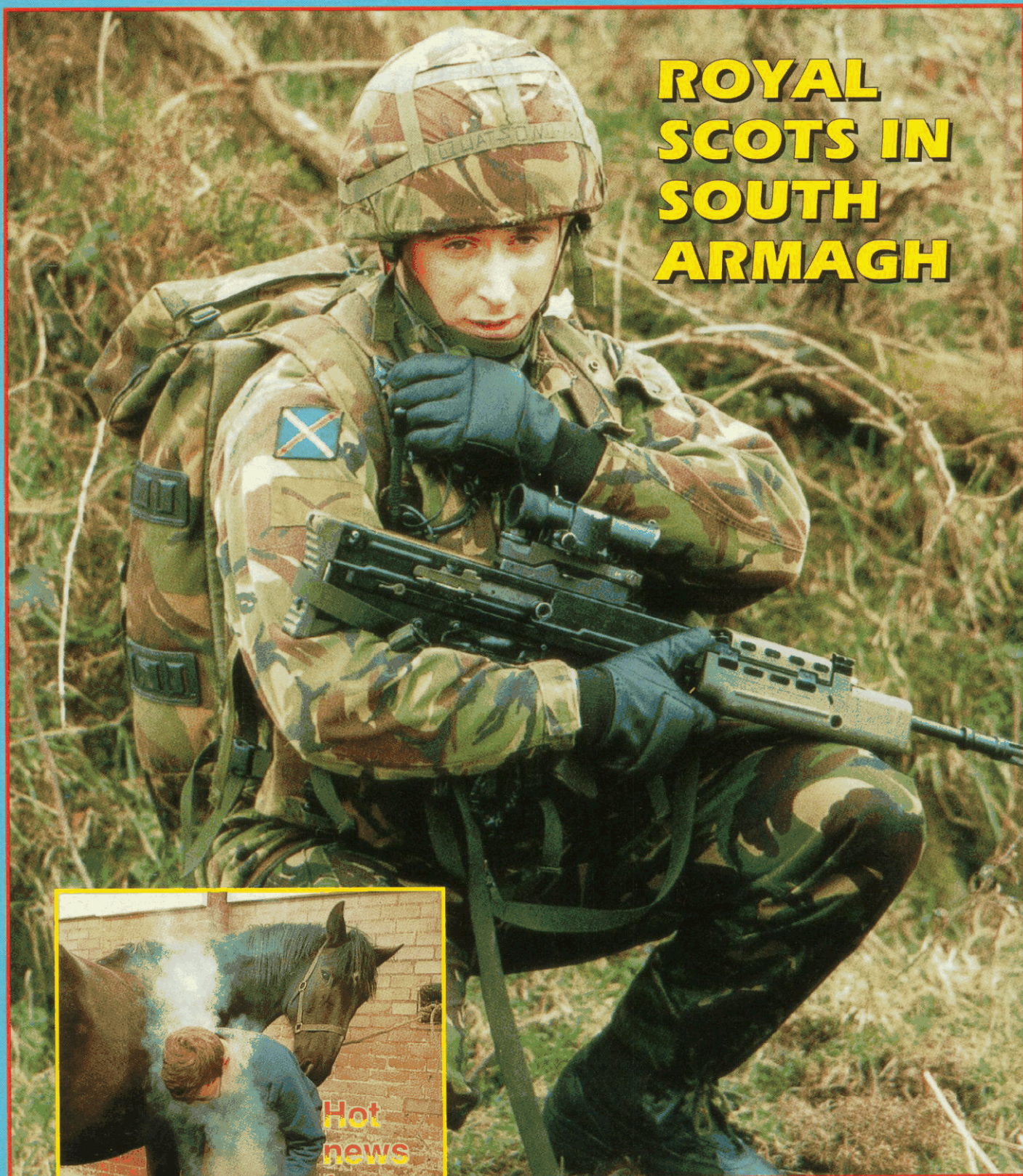


SOLDIER

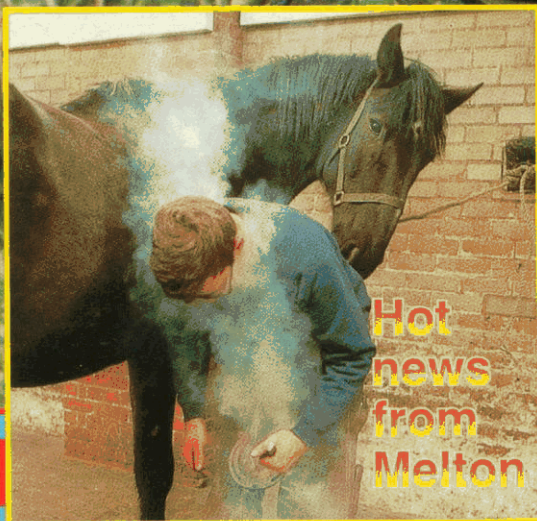
FORTNIGHTLY MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY

MAY 13 1996

60p

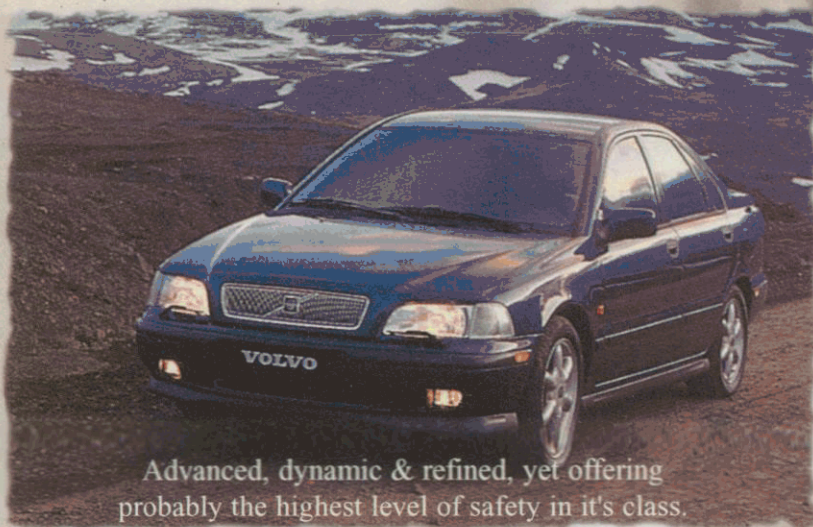


ROYAL SCOTS IN SOUTH ARMAGH



Hot
news
from
Melton

Resolute's Ptarmigan signallers



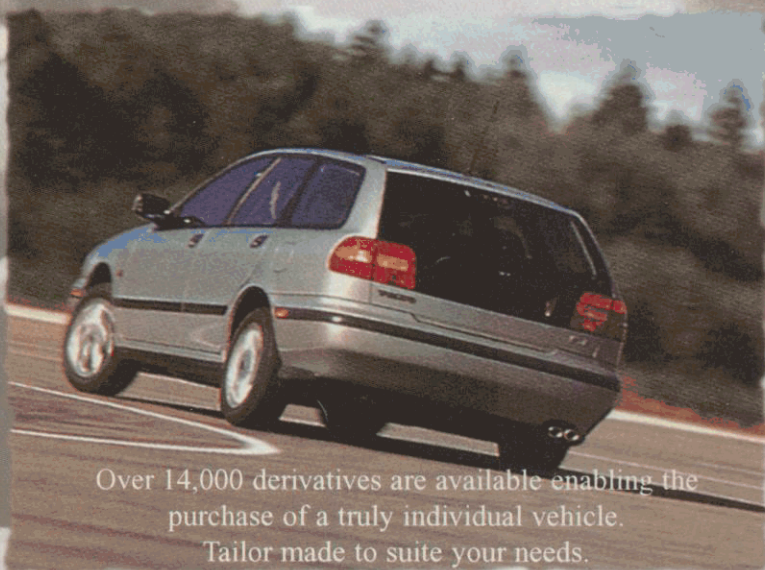
S40

Advanced, dynamic & refined, yet offering probably the highest level of safety in it's class.

V40



Starting at £10,395 for the S40 and £10,795 for the V40. We are also offering class leading prices.



Over 14,000 derivatives are available enabling the purchase of a truly individual vehicle.
Tailor made to suite your needs.

THE NEW ERA

VOLVO
TAX FREE SALES

UK 01707 262388

VOLVO EXPORT, FREEPOST 30
Hatfield, Hertfordshire
AL9 7BR ENGLAND

**PLEASE RUSH ME DETAILS OF
THE NEW VOLVO S40 & V40**

S40 ☐ V40 ☐ 850 SERIES ☐ 900 SERIES ☐ 400 SERIES ☐

Name:

Address:

Postcode:

Tel:



Incorporating the Territorial Army magazine
May 13, 1996 Vol 52/10

CONTENTS

10 People

12 Lifestyle

New schools' agency
 set high standards

15 Op Resolute

Ptarmigan signallers
 at home on the farm

18 Animal centre

Four-legged trends
 at Melton Mowbray
 Front cover, inset: Far-
 rier LCoH Stephen Cox-
 Rusbridge, HCMR, fits
 a shoe to Legend at the
 DAC's Army School of
 Farriery.

Picture: Mike Perring

20 Rebel in ranks

Interview with Culloden
 historian John Prebble

22 Blandford

There's a lot going on
 at School of Signals

24 Cover story



Picture: Terry Champion

Main picture: Some-
 where near Crossma-
 glen, LCpl Gordon
 Quate radios instruc-
 tions to his base.

28 The Infantry

Regimental system
 'still under threat'

30 Caring Army

Picture round-up of
 fund-raising efforts

32 Diary

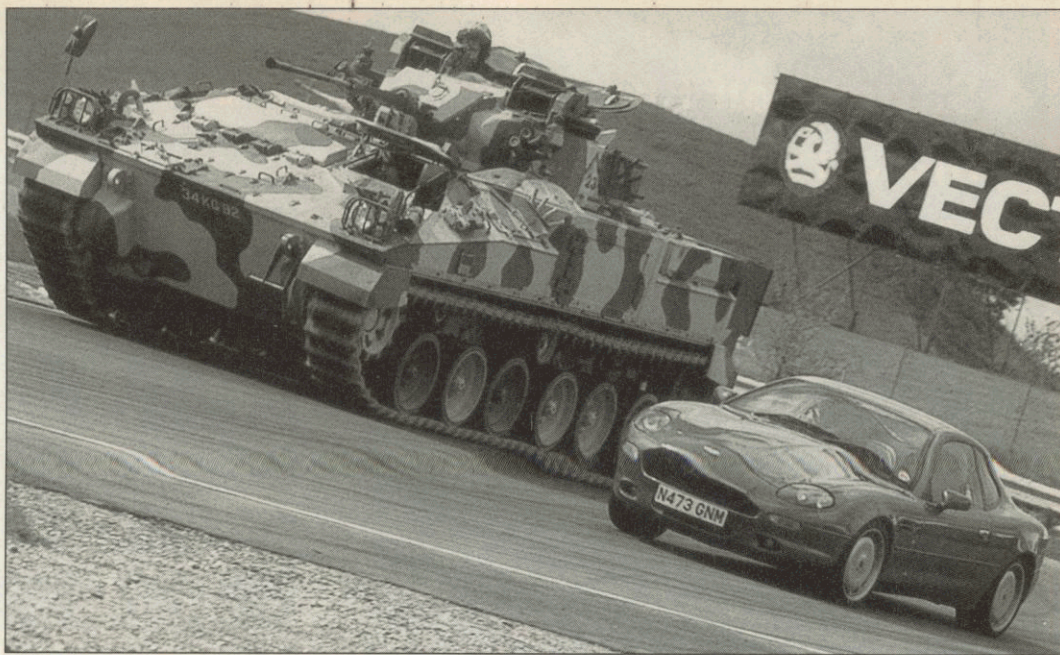
Children's time-travel
 novel to 1914-18 war

34 Your letters

36 Reviews

39 Win £50

44 Sport



Picture: Chris Fletcher

Beauty and the beast: Aston Martin's new DB7 model is put through its paces against an unusual adver-
 sary – a British Army Warrior infantry fighting vehicle commanded by Capt Andrew Grinonneau of the 2nd
 Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment. The two vehicles spent a morning racing round the circuit at Thrux-
 ton, Hampshire. At £87,000, the Aston Martin costs little more than the Warrior's gunsight

Army takes fresh line on training of apprentices

THE CREATION of a new Army Apprentice College at Arborfield
 near Reading and a complete revamping of apprentice training within
 the Service has been announced.

The changes follow a review
 which concluded that training
 should be restructured in line
 with a Government initiative
 on apprenticeships intended to
 raise the competitiveness of the
 British workforce.

The scheme, involving the
 Royal Engineers, Royal Sig-
 nals, Royal Logistic Corps and
 the Royal Electrical and
 Mechanical Engineers, will be
 for trainees aged 16½ to 18½.

Apprentice tradesmen and
 women will do a common six-
 month foundation course at
 Rowcroft Barracks, Arborfield –
 home of REME's Princess
 Marina College – before com-
 pleting their technical training
 at an appropriate Army trade
 training school.

The Arborfield establish-
 ment will be known as the
 Army Apprentice College.

As well as Phase One mili-
 tary training, apprentices will
 complete a package of prepara-
 tory trade training and external
 leadership and adventurous
 training courses intended to
 give them an early grounding
 in leadership and management
 attributes.

Three to four years later,
 when the former apprentices
 have become Class 1 trades-
 men and women, they will
 qualify for a level three Nation-
 al Vocational Qualification
 (NVA), equivalent to two A-
 Levels, and receive the Army
 Modern Apprentice qualifica-
 tion.

Army apprentices will, in
 most cases, achieve their quali-

fication much faster than their
 civilian counterparts.

will be carried out at the Army
 School of Catering, Aldershot.
 The remainder, perhaps up to
 a dozen a year, will train at
 Chatham as marine engineers
 for service on Army ships.

More advanced Royal Sig-
 nals technician and operator
 trades will be taught at the
 Royal School of Signals in
 Blandford Camp. The propos-
 als will mean some revision to
 previous plans to transfer all
 Royal Signals apprentice train-
 ing to Blandford.

Under the new arrange-
 ments, Royal Signals appren-
 tices will complete their trade
 training at Blandford, but only
 after completing the Arborfield
 foundation course. The Army
 Apprentice College Harrogate
 is scheduled to close in Sep-
 tember.

Until the late 1960s, Army
 apprentices completed three
 years of training from the age
 of 15 before joining Regular
 units. In the years that fol-
 lowed, which saw the school-
 leaving age extended to 16, the
 period of apprentice training
 was cut, first to two years and
 then to 12 months.

Arborfield to house new centre for training

Royal Engineer trade train-
 ing, such as fitter RE, carpen-
 ter and painter and finisher,
 will take place at Minley and
 Chatham. REME advanced
 tradesmen and women such as
 avionics and electronics tech-
 nicians will be trained at
 Arborfield and Bordon.

About 95 per cent of Royal
 Logistic Corps apprentices will
 be chefs whose trade training

Savings on European Motoring Assistance for Soldier readers - even if you're not an RAC member



If you are taking a motoring trip to the continent you can enjoy RAC European Motoring Assistance cover for your car at special rates.



- **10% Discount for Soldier Readers**
- **An extra 10% off for RAC Members**

For further details call FREE on:

0800 550055

quoting your code GE 0008 and, if applicable, your RAC membership number.

Soldier readers can also save up to £34 when joining the RAC. Call **0800 581077** for details quoting GE0008.

This offer cannot be used in conjunction with any other RAC offer. Prices include Insurance Premium Tax at the standard rate of 2.5% on VAT exempt insurance. All details correct at time of publication. Full membership details in RAC Terms Of Membership.



A Guaranteed Quality Used Car

Natocars will provide you with the safest route to your next quality used car, with these advantages:

- Low mileage, mostly one owner vehicles
- Free RAC inspection and report
- Free warranty and breakdown membership
- 12 months MOT
- Lower monthly payment finance scheme
- Special offers
- Discounted insurance premium
- Re-establishment of lapsed no claims bonus
- Dedicated sales contact
- Complete list and photo service
- Reservation for up to 3 months before delivery
- Delivery to the destination of your choice
- 30 year reputation for fair dealing

Now, like the majority of our customers, you can order your car unseen with total confidence by post, phone, fax or personal visit - *We Guarantee it!*

NATOCARS
A Rewarding Experience

WYLDs RD, BRIDGWATER,
SOMERSET TA6 4DG.
Tel. 01278 455555
Fax 01278 450396

Please send me details of your used cars.

Rank: _____ Initials: _____
Surname: _____
Address: _____
Tel. - work: _____ extn: _____
home: _____
Delivery date (Required): _____
For use in (Country): _____

I would like to consider
(please tick)

Part Exchange ☐
Savings Plan ☐
Finance ☐
Insurance ☐

NATOCARS
A Rewarding Experience
WYLDs RD, BRIDGWATER,
SOMERSET TA6 4DG.
Tel. 01278 455555
Fax 01278 450396

SOL
USD3



Thanks a bundle! You've really come up trumps

YOU have responded just magnificently to the reader survey published in the last issue of *Soldier*.

Emma Reeves displays some of the completed questionnaires which were arriving at our Aldershot office in their hundreds within days of the first copies leaving the printers.

As this edition went to press each postbag was bigger than the last.

Copies of the April 29 edition, which contained the questionnaire, can still be

purchased from our Aldershot office for those who missed it.

The reader who has completed the first questionnaire to be picked out in a lucky draw after the last postal delivery on May 20 will win £100.

Questionnaires which miss the deadline will still be included in the professional evaluation of readers' answers.

Soldier thanks you all for taking the time and trouble to respond.

Colchester corrective centre to take in civilian offenders

Below: RSM Richard Parfitt awaits his civilian charges outside the purpose-built block at MCTC Colchester. The inmates will be known as C Coy

A NEW civilian young offender institution is to be established alongside the existing military establishment at the Military Correction Training Centre (MCTC) at Colchester.

Under a one-year pilot scheme launched on April 17, the first of 32 prisoners, aged between 18 and 21, are due to be instated in the purpose-built accommodation in October.

Purpose of the initiative is to test the effectiveness of a regime similar to that followed by military detainees in improving the attitude of behaviour of young offenders, and in reducing the level of their re-offending after release, the Home Office said.

The military commandant of the MCTC (currently Lt Col Glen Grant) will be appointed governor of the Colchester Young Offender Institution and will have as his deputy an experienced Prison Service governor grade.

Young offenders, who will be in the last six months of their



Picture: Terry Champion

sentences and will not be volunteers, will be sent to Colchester having been assessed as suitable for the regime and conditions there.

Although they will mix with their military counterparts in classrooms and vocational training and at meal-times, the young offenders will be housed in a separate barracks.

They will be controlled by prison officers and military staff and will be subject to the same long-day regime of polishing, drill (although of a more basic kind) and lack of

privileges as Service personnel. They will have no access to arms.

Armed Forces Minister Nicholas Soames said: "This scheme is not intended to provide a source of ready recruits to the Armed Forces.

"What we can do is pass on military skills to help the Prison Service deal with a worrying social problem.

"This is an important and exciting initiative: self-confidence, self-esteem and self-belief can be imparted to civilians as well as military detainees, and this is our aim."

Sappers 'sweep' beach

ARMY sappers "swept" clean a popular West Country beach after potentially lethal Second World War mines and tons of scaffolding were revealed by exceptionally low tides.

The tangled and rusted sea defences were found at Tregantle, Whitesand Beach, a well-known Cornwall beauty spot and Army training range.

Sappers from 33 Engineer Regiment (EOD) based at Wimbish found five beach mines, each packed with 20lb of amatol. They were later destroyed by Royal Navy clearance divers.

Sea-rotted shells of a dozen more were carefully checked and made safe.

SSgt Mick Rowley, the beachmaster in charge of ten sappers, said: "This was one of the most unusual and challenging jobs I have taken on."

It's a fact

The AAC has 260 helicopters in service with a further 43 in reserve. These receive first and second-line technical support from 1,022 aircraft engineering officers and men, and 293 contractors' personnel. Third-line support is tri-Service. - *Parliamentary reply*



SOLDIER, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU. Civil tel: 01252 347 plus last three digits of Aldershot Military extension given below

Managing Editor Chris Horrocks 2355 **Editor** John Elliott 2356 **Assistant Editors** Laurie Manton 2362 Gordon Skilling 2360 Phil Wilcox 2362 **Picture Editor** Terry Champion 2357 **Photographers** Mike Weston 2357 Mike Perring 2357 **Art Editor** Les Gwyer 2169 **Librarian** Gerard Sutton 2351 **Advertising** 2352 **Accounts / Distribution** Janice Follwell 2353 **Fax** 2358

Soldier is published by the Ministry of Defence and printed in the UK for HMSO. Crown Copyright 1996. Views expressed in this magazine are not necessarily those of the Army or the Ministry of Defence.

**Soldiers are
there when you
need them...**



**...please be there when
they need you**

The Army Benevolent Fund provides help to any man or woman and their families if they are serving or have served in the British Army and are in real need. This help is given in two ways: through grants to supplement Corps or Regimental aid and by financial support to over 70 national charities providing for the special needs of those in distress.

Our overall aim is to bring help to the many cases where state assistance is inapplicable, inadequate or unable to meet the immediate need.

Your donation, covenant or legacy will provide invaluable assistance for those who served their country.

Please help them in their hour of need.

Send off NOW for
full colour poster
**HEADRESS
BADGES OF THE
BRITISH ARMY
TODAY**
(£2 inc. p&p)

To: The Army Benevolent Fund, Dept. SDR, 41 Queen's Gate, London SW7 5HR

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.

I enclose a donation of £10 ☐ £15 ☐ £25 ☐ Other £

Please charge my Access/Visa/CharityCard No.

Expiry Date

☐ Please send me details on making a legacy or how I could donate through Payroll Giving.

☐ Please send me A2 colour posters showing cap badges of Today's Army. I enclose £ (£2 per copy inc. p&p).

Signature _____ Name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Data Protection Act: We may occasionally wish to contact you about our work. If you would prefer that we do not, please tick the box ☐ Registered Charity No 211645

THE ARMY BENEVOLENT FUND



SOLDIER

Magazine of the British Army

***We know it's good
because you tell us it is!***

"First may I congratulate you on a superb publication ... It is well presented, informative and supportive of the British Army. I have subscribed for a year ... and look forward to receiving my next edition." - MD, Bristol.

"I would like to compliment you on the excellence of your magazine. The articles provide wonderful insight into the operation of the Army and the ordinary soldier's life. The photography is exceptional and enhances the stories. Every two weeks I go to the local "British Shop" and usually read every word as soon as I get home. Keep up the good work." - GLG, Peterborough, Ontario

"On a recent trip to England, Scotland and Wales I was fortunate enough to purchase a couple of issues of your outstanding magazine. I found it well laid-out, easy to read and very informative. I was wondering if ... subscription info was available." - DBW, Edmonton, Alberta.

I would like to subscribe to **SOLDIER** and enclose my cheque/PO (£ sterling only) for:

One year: £23.00 UK ☐
£32.20 OVERSEAS ☐
£13.80 BFPO ☐
Two years: £40.00 UK ☐
£60.00 OVERSEAS ☐
(please tick)

Name:

Address

Postcode:

Return to: **SOLDIER**,
Subscriptions Department, Ordnance Road,
Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU
Tel: 01252 347353



Lt Gen The Hon Sir William Rous, the Quartermaster General, inspects officer cadets at the spring Sovereign's Parade at Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst. It was one of the last duties Gen Rous, a former commandant of the Staff College, Camberley, performed before retiring from the Army. Among the 650 officer cadets on parade, 159 received commissions into the British Army or had their commissions confirmed

IFOR HQs on move

BRITISH headquarters within the Multi-National Division South West in Bosnia have been realigned following an outstandingly successful first four months of operations supervising the separation and demobilisation of the warring armies.

The headquarters of the British-led Dayton Peace Agreement Implementation Force's MND(SW), which was at Gornji Vakuf, moved to Banja Luka at the end of April.

This town, the largest in the self-styled Bosnian Serb republic of Srpska, is also the base for A Squadron, Light Dragoons and the Warrior-equipped 1st Battalion, The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment, under Lt Col Patrick Mercer, which replaced the 1st Battalion, The Light Infantry at the end of April.

The divisional headquarters, commanded by Maj Gen Mike Jackson, has been provided by 3rd (UK) Division from Bulford since deployment late last year and will be replaced by 1st Armoured Division from Herford in June under command of Maj Gen John Kiszely.

The British brigade headquarters is expected to move from Sipovo to Gornji Vakuf later in the year. This HQ is from 4th Armoured Brigade

normally based in Osnabrück and commanded by Brig Richard Dannatt, but will be replaced by HQ 1st Mechanised Brigade commanded by Brig Brian Plummer.

Sipovo will remain the operational base for the 1st Battalion, The Queen's Lancashire Regiment.

Tidworth-based 1 (Mech) Bde is looking forward to its first operational deployment with five of its own units when 1 WFR and 1 QLR are joined by 1 RHA, 22 Engr Regt and 1 RGJ in the summer.

Rangers ready for Balkan duty

MORE than 40 Territorial Army soldiers from Northern Ireland have been mobilised for service in the Balkans.

They will be involved in ground and convoy security with Regular counterparts in Split and Sarajevo.

Largest contingent is a platoon from 4/5 Rangers, the battalion which pioneered the first TA mobilisation to the

Army divers to search for mystery ship

DIVERS from the Adjutant General's Corps are to try to solve a 79-year-old naval mystery ... the exact whereabouts of HMS Pheasant.

The Royal Navy destroyer was lost in deep waters off the Orkney Islands on March 1, 1917, while guarding the western approach to Scapa Flow.

Only one body was recovered and the cause of the disaster has never been explained.

A team of AGC sports divers, lead by Maj Neil Russell and including WO Tony McGowan of the REME, are training to reach a depth of 75m using mixed gases.

Falklands in 1994. Commanding officer Lt Col Robert Kendell said the IFOR deployment underpinned the commitment of volunteer soldiers in Northern Ireland to peace-keeping roles.

The officers and men make up the first deployment from Northern Ireland of a part-time unit in its own right rather than in support of others.

Around the Houses

A summary of Defence topics from Westminster

Army legal aid funded Cyprus defence case

LEGAL costs for three RGJ riflemen charged with the killing of tour guide Louise Jensen in Cyprus were met by the Army legal aid scheme, Armed Forces Minister Nicholas Soames said in a written answer.

Bills for legal aid presented to December 31, 1995 amounted to £170,000. It was estimated additional bills would add a further £30,000 to the total.

Other written answers:

□ Britain is to work actively towards a total world-wide ban on anti-personnel mines. If such a ban was agreed, Britain would give up its anti-personnel land mines capability, and would destroy its stocks.

□ The Armed Forces have a comprehensive alcohol awareness policy in place, said Mr Soames. Pamphlets, films and lectures were used to make personnel aware of the dangers of abuse. All recruits were given education on alcohol abuse on entry and this awareness campaign was continued in units at regular intervals and before overseas deployments.

□ Staff at the Chemical and Biological Defence Establishment, Porton Down administered the drug LSD to 136 Service volunteers in 1966-68.

□ The Ministry of Defence welcomed the UN protocol on blinding laser weapons.

Airport death

GDSM Martin Smith (22) was one of 16 people who died in the Düsseldorf Airport fire.

Serving with the 1st Battalion, Coldstream Guards at Münster, he was returning to the United Kingdom on leave when he was trapped in a terminal building.

More than 50 people were injured.

It's a fact

Forty-four Irish, 56 Commonwealth and six other nationalities were accepted into the British Army last year. - Parliamentary answer

AVPRO GETTING LOST...

LTD can be tiring, embarrassing, frustrating, costly, even dangerous! Don't get lost, get a GPS. GPS enables you to pinpoint your exact position anywhere in the world - day or night, in any terrain and whatever the weather. It tells you where you are, where you were and where you should be going. It can also tell you how far you are from your destination and how long it will take you to get there.

GPS 2000

Available in lat/long OSGB or lat/long UTM. (Please specify which system you require when ordering.) £229 (inc VAT & p&p)



New...GPS 3000 (as supplied to IFOR, Bosnia)

As 2000 plus lat/long OSGB, lat/long UTM, Irish/Swedish/Swiss grid as standard. System also includes carry case & vehicle mounting kit + 2 extra display screens + up to 200 saved landmarks

£279 (inc VAT & p&p)



New...GPS 4000 (as supplied to IFOR, Bosnia)

As 2000 plus lat/long OSGB, lat/long UTM, Irish/Swedish/Swiss grid as standard. System also includes carry case + 2 extra display screens + up to 200 saved landmarks. US Army user defined grid system (ideal for operations in remote areas).

£299 (inc VAT & p&p)

Military Discount Card

If you are a member of the UK Armed Forces (inc TA/Cadets) you can now apply for an AVPRO Forces discount card which entitles you to 10% discount off all our clothing, boots, webbing, Bergens, survival equipment, sleeping bags, etc.

To obtain your membership card and catalogue, please send a cheque/PO for £3 to AVPRO UK, PO Box 9128, Acton, LONDON W3 6SX

Magellan Military GPS

Lat/long UTM, OSGB & military grid reference system (3 options). NVG compatible and waterproof. £529 (inc VAT & p&p)

NEW US Predator GPS System as used by US Armed Forces. Full spec as with Military GPS £595 (inc vat & p&p)

GPS 2000/3000/4000 Accessory List & Night & Vision Systems

Heavy duty case DPM or Black - £26 Vehicle Mounting Kit - £24 Ex power module - £60 Night vision equipment monocular - £320 Lynx (inc 2 x lens + laser designator) - £496 G.P.S. Video - £18 US high quality monocular £1480(P&P included)

To order, please send a cheque/PO/international money order made payable to: AVPRO Ltd (Dept Soldier), P O Box 9128, Acton, London W3 6GE. Tel: 01276 687720 Fax: 01276 63465

Name:

Address:

Postcode:

BFPO: Tel:

Delivery will be within 14 days from receipt of order. Priority is given to Forces serving in Bosnia.

SOLDIER MAGAZINE PHOTO REPRINTS

Have you, or anyone you know, been featured in **SOLDIER**? If so, you can order top quality reprints from our Photographic Department.

All prices are inclusive of VAT and p&p:

7" x 5" £5.60 8" x 6" £7.50

12" x 8" £12.00

Digital Prints (up to A4 size).... £7.00

Other sizes available on request.

All enquiries please to:

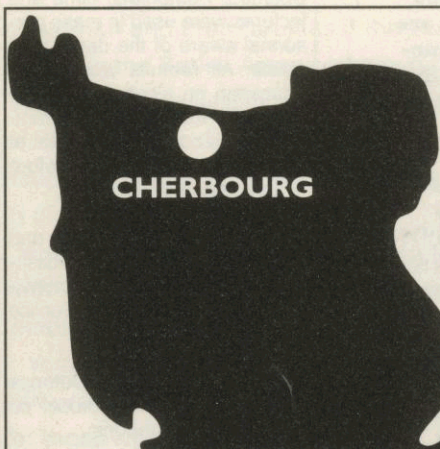
The Photographic Department,
SOLDIER, Ordnance Road,
Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU

Tel: 01252 347357

Mil: (722) 2357

Fax: 01252 347358

Mil: (722) 2358



CABOURG-GUNSHOW On Sunday 2th June



BAYEUX

CABOURG

OUISTREHAM

CAEN

at the hippodrome
OPENING 10 a.m.

Inquiries :

CARTRY (33) 31 91 42 63

BP 52 - F - 14390 CABOURG

Services offer 'career strategy for life'

ALTHOUGH Britain's Armed forces are better equipped technically than ever before for training in preparation for general war, more involvement on manpower aspects is a priority.

Gen Sir Michael Rose, the Adjutant General, said there had been a price to pay "for

concentrating on the development of technical hardware in terms of not concentrating as much on the manning side."

At a seminar in London on Armed Forces Recruiting into the 21st century, he said mental concepts and attitudes towards the Armed Forces

were the main difficulties to be faced in recruiting today.

In the period since the Cold War ended, people had lost sight of why an armed force was needed at all. Polls had shown the Services were held in high regard, but only a small percentage of young people

was joining up. He said he believed that by the time they were 20, young people had had enough of self-serving, individual pleasure and wanted to identify with a body with a set of ideals which served a common purpose.

"The substance of the job we do, and the training we give people, may not give them a career for life, but it gives them a career strategy for life."

The Army, the largest employer in Britain, gave a range of experiences across the board and allowed those who had been trained to go back into society better people for employment, he added.

"I believe the Armed Forces fulfil a major function in this area."

Earl Howe, the Defence Under Secretary, told the seminar: "It might seem an apparent contradiction that we need to recruit at the same time as we are making people redundant, but each Service has got to have the right age and rank pyramids."

"Two thirds of the members of the Army are under 30: it always has, and always will remain a young man's business. We have to achieve the right balance of age and experience."

Although the front line was now properly configured, the number of 16-to-24-year-olds had fallen by one sixth compared with 20 years ago, and the changing face of education had greatly reduced the Forces' potential pool of recruits in the other ranks.

"We have to win over the hearts of our nation's parents: overlook that at our peril," the minister said.

● Almost 3,000 recruits joined the Army in the first three months of this year, following a recruiting campaign, said the Ministry of Defence.

Better in than out, say Mel and Griff

TV COMICS Mel Smith and Griff Rhys-Jones have been recruited to help spread the message to soldiers that it is well worthwhile staying on in the Army.

Fourteen short videos, some of which feature the duo's hilarious "head-to-head" sequences, are now being seen on SSVV by 1st (UK) Armoured Division soldiers in Germany.

Radio commercials on the same theme - "Better in than out" - are being broadcast by BFBS.

The internal media campaign, resulting from an ambitious professionally-conducted survey, is part of a positive and imaginative Army-wide strategy designed to restore full manning by the end of the century.

£250 BONUS

The measures cover recruiting, retention and resettlement and include initiatives already reported in *Soldier*, such as the £1,400 re-engagement bounty and £250 bonus for soldiers persuading their mates to enlist.

Undermanning is the result of a variety of factors, including the Defence Costs Study, redundancies and recruit-capping. There has also been a reduction in the number of young people of recruitment age, caused by a lowering of the birth rate and an increase in young people staying on in further education.

However, the closure of some recruiting offices has been put "on hold" and both inquiries and applications to join are up on last year. Job-Centres are proving a valuable source of additional recruits.

A change of policy has led to overall pass rates at the recruit selection centre, where entrants

are assessed, rising by 36 per cent on a year ago, while the figure for particularly undermanned elements of the Army, such as the infantry, shows a 92 per cent rise.

If remedial action had not been taken, it is estimated that Army manning would have been 20,000 short in four to six years' time, a situation the Adjutant General, Gen Sir Michael Rose, described as "catastrophic" at his annual conference in London on April 16.

To help achieve the manning target the Army needs to recruit and train 730 officers and more than 15,000 soldiers a year for the next three years.

This made the Army the country's biggest employer, said Gen Rose, who acknowledged the role of every serving soldier in the recruiting effort and thanked them for achieving a turn-round reflected in



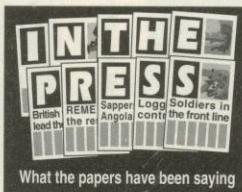
Queen's and Regimental Colours are trooped for the first and last time by 5 R Anglian at Peterborough before the battalion was re-roled as 158 (Royal Anglian) Regiment RLC (V)

the encouraging figures resulting from the recruiting drive.

"In one year we have doubled the input," he said, and referred to "strenuous measures" being taken to retain trained men and women.

"It is pointless carrying on recruiting if you do not stop the outflow," he said.

FORMER Soviet Army commanders are being retrained for business careers by the British Army. One hundred have graduated from a special college in Siberia run by the British Army in conjunction with Germany. - *Daily Express*



□ Defence Secretary Michael Portillo has sent a private letter of condolence to the parents of Louise Jensen, the Danish tour

guide killed by three British soldiers in Cyprus. - *Daily Mail*

□ Ration packs have been withdrawn from a US-UK exercise because they contain British beef. - *Daily Telegraph*

□ Research into so-called Gulf War syndrome by scientists in America suggests neurological damage could have been caused by a combination of chemicals

used to protect soldiers from nerve gas and insects. - *Times*

□ Five companies have submitted detailed bids for a £2 billion MoD contract to build an armoured recce vehicle to take the British Army into the next century. - *Sunday Telegraph*

□ The National Lottery Charities Board has turned down a £2.5 million bid from SSAFA and a Forces Help Society request for £200,000 to expand a home for veterans. - *Sun*

Relatively speaking

With 19 brothers, numerous cousins and even a father and son serving in the ranks, life becomes a family affair when members of the 1st Battalion, The King's Own Scottish Borderers, go on patrol in Belfast, where they are on a tour of duty.

"We tend to keep the brothers apart so nobody can accuse anyone of going easy on their relations", says Sgt Maj **Sammy Campbell** (front, centre), whose son, **David**, followed him into the battalion. Among those in the picture are Ptes **Daniel** and **Patrick Mooty**; Ptes **Lloyd** and **Stephen Kingstree**; Ptes **David** and **Andrew McGuffie**; Sgt **Robert Stuart** and Pte **Bryan Stuart**; and Cpls **John** and **Ian Forsyth**.

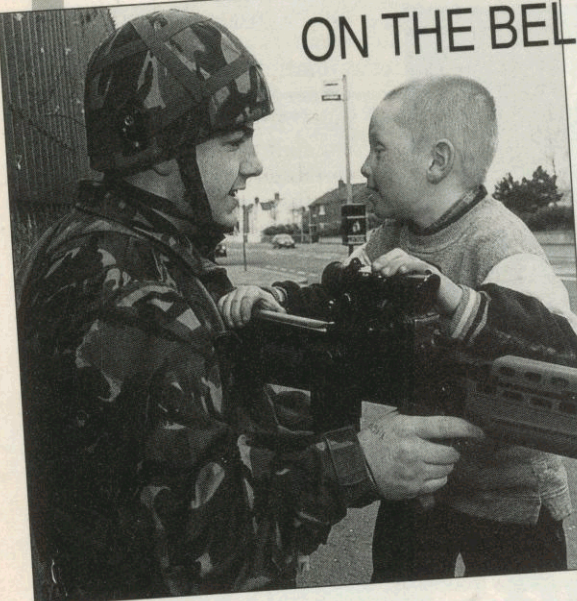


ON THE BELFAST BEAT

Pte **John Reid**, 1st Battalion, The King's Own Scottish Borderers, makes a friend as he walks the streets of Belfast.

He is one of a number of TA soldiers who took up the option of a year's full-time service.

Based at Fort White-rock, John, after completing more than six months of a "demanding and fulfilling" tour of duty, finds that perhaps the biggest problem – with everyone keen to keep in touch with their families – is queuing for the telephones...



Road rehearsal

Captured by the camera while on exercise in the west Glamorgan area as a rehearsal for traffic control duties and convoy protection in Bosnia were Lt **Chris Allerton** (right) and driver Tpr **Douga**, of 3 Troop, A Squadron, Life Guards (Household Cavalry).

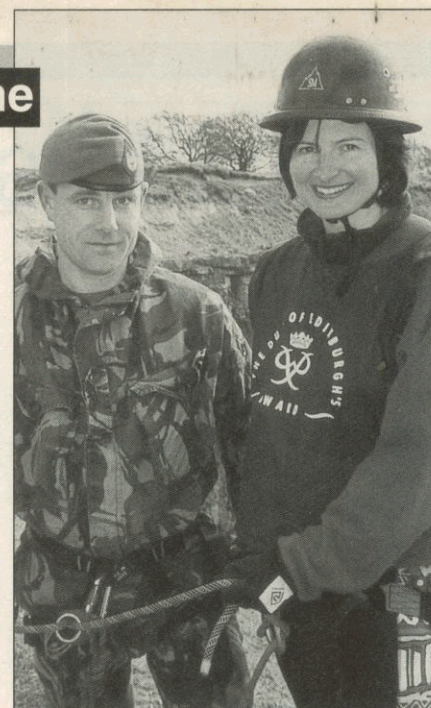


Picture: Cpl Nichols, R Mon RE (M)

Challenging time

Cpl **Andy Urey**, 1st Battalion, The King's Own Royal Border Regiment, assists **Janet Reid** as she prepares to abseil down a rock face.

Both were participating in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme "Survival, The Ultimate Challenge", held at Greystoke Castle, Penrith, where soldiers from the regiment's Regular 1st Battalion and the Territorial 4th Battalion helped members of 40 of Britain's leading companies and public bodies during two days of physically and mentally demanding tasks.

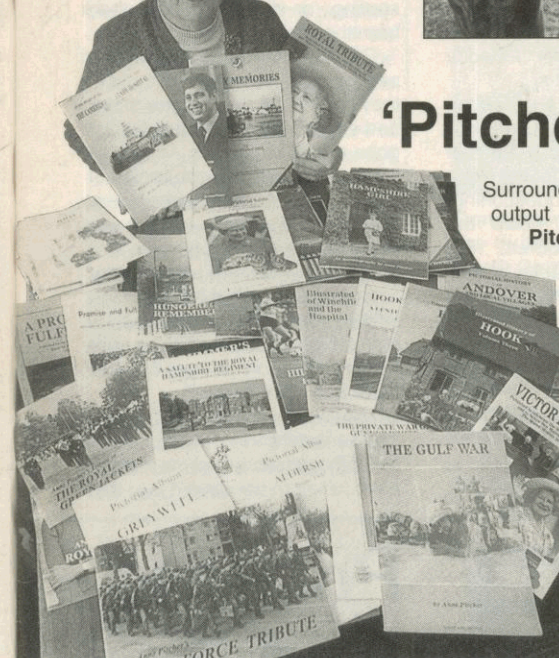


'Pitcher' this...

Surrounded by some of her prolific output is Hampshire author **Anne Pitcher**, whose 80 books published since 1970 have included subjects such as the Falklands War and the Gulf Conflict, as well as histories of local regiments.

Anne is a former bedside tutor at Aldershot's Cambridge Military Hospital, whose official illustrated history, written by her, was launched earlier this year.

Picture: Mike Weston



Combined Shot

Members of A Coy, 1st Battalion, The Green Howards, and fellow Osnabrück-based units A Sqn, Queen's Royal Lancers and FOO

Party, 4 Regt RA, under Lt **Scott Fishback**, pictured on Exercise First Shot.

Held at Haltern training area in Germany, the exercise – to rehearse tactical drills in all phases of war – was planned and run by A Coy commander Maj **Johnny Perks**.

A troop of Challengers was brought in by Capt **Andrew Dunn** and Lt **Ed Mack**, to support the 14 Warriors from the Green Howards.

The mixture of Midlands, North Yorkshire and the North East was said to have "worked particularly well".



Picture: Sgt D. Bridges, Div Phot



'Keeping' up the standard!

Receiving his "Top Student" (A grading) award from Maj **Gordon Straughan** (left) is 17-year-old **Gareth Keeping**, fresh from a two-week Combat Infantryman's Course at Catterick Garrison. Gareth, currently serving with X Coy, 6th (Northumberland) Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, and described by Regular Army instructors in charge of the course as an "excellent soldier", is due to join the Regular Army shortly.

PEOPLE

Making an issue of it



Military English language teachers from Poland, attached to the British Council in Prague, browse through copies of *Soldier* with a view to using the magazine to teach English to military personnel. The course also involved teachers from **Hungary, Kyrgistan, Belarus and Albania**.

Merthyr meeting



Deputy Prime Minister **Michael Heseltine** encounters a bearded quadruped which bears a military rank (lance corporal, Royal Regiment of Wales) during a visit to Troedyrhiw Merthyr Tydfil.

Family support vital to soldiers in Bosnia

MARTIN Bell, the distinguished war correspondent, has said he wishes to do something different. He has seen enough of war.

In a revealing interview on television he talked eloquently about his feelings on returning from Bosnia.

The ordinary worries of the British public seemed unbelievably trivial compared to the suffering he had seen. He came back from a battlefield to find people squabbling about the proceeds of the National Lottery and the position of the Euro-sceptics.

Set against the image of a refugee picking her way through a minefield with her pathetic possessions piled in a handcart, he found the bickering unbearable.

I had just interviewed a colleague at BFBS back from visiting the troops in Bosnia. Normally he works in Northern Ireland, hardly the quietest of postings. He had been cheered by signs of normality returning to former Yugoslavia.

He had experienced a sense of dislocation on returning home. Even the twists and turns of political life in Northern Ireland failed to move him. All he wanted to talk about was the sights he had seen in Bosnia.

It is a common phenomenon. Broadcasters from BFBS have been going to the Balkans on a

regular basis for some time now. They know they are not going out on a "jolly" but nevertheless come back chastened by what they see.

Service personnel are exposed to human drama which puts our normal concerns in perspective. While we worry about rent rises and whether homosexuals should be allowed to join the Army, soldiers are experiencing the horrific consequences of war.

When they return they are changed people. So are their wives and families.

The news is full of what editors like to call "good pictures" ... ones that show action. New research into the effect of TV violence on children has thrown up an interesting finding. It appears that even young children are able to distinguish between the real thing and fictional violence.

Watching violent films has some effect on chil-



Cari's column

dren, depending on their age. Because of their more developed reasoning powers, the older ones appear to be more disturbed by violent story-lines than younger children.

But the real effect of TV violence on children of all ages appears to come from news bulletins.

For Service youngsters who see their fathers go off to Bosnia, the sight of refugee children must be a troubling one. They must wonder if they, too, are in danger.

Perhaps they wonder if Daddy will come home.

Many years ago, in a school on the East-West German border, I taught a class of infants. One of them, an American, showed signs of stress. After gentle questioning, I managed to track down the

source. His father, a well-meaning chap, had let his child see the suitcase he had placed in the cellar and the bullets he had set aside

"for when the Russians come". The child assumed the Russians were arriving soon and that his parents would be gone when he got home.

The father thought he had done the right thing by letting his son share adult concerns. Unfortunately, the child had worked on the ideas in his own mind and come up with conclusions even the parent could not have foreseen.

For Army wives, and husbands, it is a dilemma.

Do they let their children see what is going on in a country where daddy - or mummy - is serving, or do they shield them from the reality?

Do they encourage the returned parent to talk about Bosnia, or do they confine conversations to hurried exchanges after the kids have gone to bed?

And what of the returned soldiers? While they have been away the boiler has blown up, the rent has gone up, and it looks like local medical services are under threat.

Confronted with all this anxiety, all they want to talk about is about the refugees in rags who only wanted to know where the next meal was coming from.

Martin Bell is lucky. He has only his conscience to worry about. BFBS broadcasters know they will have to return because it is in their

contracts to follow the Services wherever they are. But even they have the ultimate right to walk away. Soldiers, male and female, have no such right.

They have pledged their lives to be with the broken and the dispossessed. And the spouses and children are bound by ties of love.

The cliché, no less true for being so, says they also serve who stand and wait.

Service families are special. Unlike most civilian families, they have to accommodate the big issues of life, to deal with the threat of death and destruction - their own or that of other people.

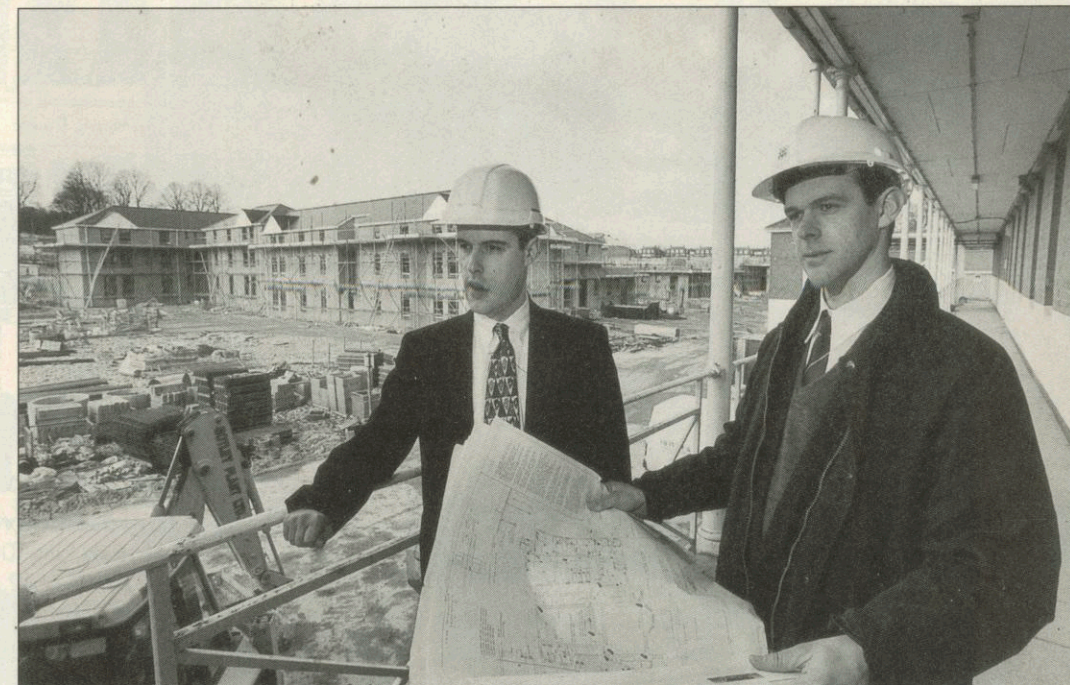
They cannot walk away if the challenge proves too much. To be a success, they have to operate as a unit.

At a time when the structure of the family is under threat I think it is vital we emphasise the importance of the family unit as a support to the Serviceman or woman.

It may be old-fashioned, but I believe the strength of the Army lies not just with the quality of the soldier, but with the quality of the support he or she receives from their family.

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

New Tidworth is shaping up



Contractors Kevin Turvey and Martin Calton survey the building of the new Moolton Barracks at Tidworth Garrison.

They are standing on the balcony of a former dormitory-style barracks block that will be demolished to make way for centrally-heated six-man flats with double glazing, kitchen space and drying rooms.

In the background is the new building that will house junior ranks' living quarters.

Old mess canteens are being replaced with modern restaurant-type dining areas featuring serveries and refrigerated and heated counters.

Junior ranks will have their own bar and leisure club. The £29 million rebuild and part refurbishment of the 90-year-old barracks has been designed, costed and managed by the Tarmac Group. Main contractor is Kier Build Ltd.

Moolton Barracks, one of five in the area, is the second to be transformed under the master plan for the rebuild of Tidworth Garrison.

When it is complete it will provide a modern home for an armoured infantry division. Working and circulation areas for heavy vehicles will be kept as far away as possible from living and messing accommodation.

New schools agency set high standards

A NEW defence agency created to run Service education around the world has been told to exceed the UK local authority average of pupils gaining GCSE grades A to C in five or more subjects.

This will be one of several key targets for the Service Children's Education (SCE) organisation created from the merger on April 1 of the Service Children's Schools (North West Europe) agency and the Service Children's Education Authority.

Responsible for 14,500 pupils in 58 schools all over the world, the organisation will be responsible to the Adjutant General. The location of its headquarters has not yet been decided, but it will be based initially at Rheindahlen with a small advisory branch in Worthy Down.

As well as exceeding the UK local authority GCSE average by two per cent, the new agency is expected to equal the UK's A level

pass rate at grades A to C and achieve an overall pass rate for BTEC diploma of 90 per cent.

SCE has also been tasked with setting up an overseas nursery education system by next April, establishing programmes of contact with host nations, and achieving a high "index of satisfaction" within the Army's wives' continuous attitude survey.

SCE has schools in Germany, Holland, Belgium, Sardinia, Cyprus, Gibraltar, Belize, the Falklands, Brunei, Naples and Viborg.

Espousing the cause

OVERHEARD at the Adjutant General's Conference: Two women walked into the Army recruiting office in London's Strand and said they wanted to enlist after seeing the TV series, *Soldier, Soldier*. They wanted to join up as Army wives ...

A rather special home

A HOUSE fit for a Queen, no less, and with a view that is the envy of everyone who visits.

With a description like that, King Edward VII Convalescent Home for officers at Osborne House on the Isle of Wight is obviously a bit special. And so it is.

The summer retreat of Victoria and Albert and their children, Osborne House is a superb building set in magnificent grounds overlooking the Solent.

Managed by the Civil Service Benevolent Fund, the home is exclusively for serving and retired officers, their wives and widows, and the Civil Service.

Twenty bedrooms are available for convalescent guests, and there are 20 permanent residents. The home also offers special short breaks during the winter and at Christmas.

Details: Homes Admission Officer, CSBF, Anne Boleyn's Walk, Cheam, Sutton, Surrey SM3 8DY (tel 0181-240 2424; fax 0181-240 2401).

Princess Mary's becomes agency

AKROTIRI's Royal Air Force hospital, The Princess Mary's, has been transferred to the newly-formed Defence Secondary Care Agency.

About 40 per cent of the hospital's staff is provided by the Army, and over the year many Army personnel have worked there.

The RAF Ensign, which had flown over The Princess Mary's for 40 years, was lowered for the last time on the evening of March 31.

During a ceremony attended by Air Vice Marshal Peter Millar, Commander British Forces Cyprus, radiographer SSgt Chris Gregory RAMC was presented with an Accumulated Campaign Service Medal.

The senior surgeon, Lt Col John Allen, and Lt Col George McGarr, CO Cyprus Logistic Unit, were present.

A guard of honour formed by



Farewell note: The Prince of Wales's Division (Lucknow) Band performs at the sunset ceremony during the hospital handover

Princess Mary's staff included Army personnel Cpl Ian Thompson RAMC, LCpl Chris Buswell QARANC and LCpl Helen Quirk QARANC.



SSgt Gregory

The guests of honour included the Chief of Staff, Brig Arthur Denaro, and his wife.

Beating Retreat

ALL five Royal Marines bands will be on parade at a Beating Retreat on Horse Guards Parade on June 11-13 to mark the 75th birthday of the Duke of Edinburgh, Captain General Royal Marines.

Tickets (£10, £8, £5) from Beating Retreat Office, RM Corps Secretariat, HMS Excellent, Whale Island, Portsmouth PO2 8ER (tel 01705 547205).

REVIEW

Getting it write

WRITING a CV - or *curriculum vitae* to those with a classical education - can be daunting. But it is what one is expected to do when applying for a job.

What seemed a masterpiece in the early hours "as you sat among a pile of crushed and discarded paper will sound horribly flat at 9.30 on a wet February morning in a cold and ill-lit office when the coffee machine has broken down".

Or so we are warned in a useful, low-priced and informative pack designed to take the anxiety out of self-advertising.

"We will of course show you how to compile and present a compelling CV, but we'll also look at you from the prospective employer's point of view," states the guide.

First, we are told what a CV is NOT. It is not an excuse for telling one's life story, although it is the "best chance you'll ever have to show yourself off to advantage without a soul interrupting you".

Nor is it for impressing people with a cab driver philosophy of

life, or a parade of doubts and phobia.

Finally, it is not for getting a job!

It is, or should be, a "beautifully proportioned bridge" to the interview where all the dreaded questions can be answered.

The mission of the CV is to secure that interview.

The sheets in the pack make clear the things that must be included in

a CV and those that are best left out, and there are many tips to guide the absolute beginner.

The pack also puts the applicant in the chair of the person who will make all the difference to his or her future.

There are samples showing how to take on the system ... and win. There are even hints on how to avoid spelling pitfalls and how to make the CV layout look good.

It's worth a fiver of any job-seeker's money. - BJ

● CV, published by Pomegranate Press, Church Cottage, Westmeston, Sussex BN6 8RH. Price £5 including p and p.

COMBAT STRESS

From earlier wars we had 'Shell Shock'. Today they call it 'Combat Stress'. What Corporal Alan Young saw and heard in Sarajevo left him cowering in a corner. And he still can't leave his room.

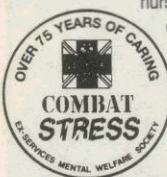
For many veterans, not just from Bosnia but from the Falklands, Korea, and especially the Second World War, the story is the same. 'Combat Stress' can shatter a life forever.

Today Alan is looked after by the Ex-Services Mental Welfare Society. With over 4,000 men and women to care for and who knows how many more, we need every penny you can spare. Psychiatric care, nursing and the management of our homes costs money that will only come from people like you, people who care about those who gave more than they could spare.

Please do help. We have need of every penny urgently.

**They tried to give more than they could.
Please give as much as you can.**

To protect those concerned this is an amalgam of case histories in our care.



Bringing peace to minds *at war*

EX-SERVICES MENTAL WELFARE SOCIETY

Dept.SDR. Broadway House. The Broadway, Wimbledon SW19 1RL Telephone: 0181-543 6333

☐ Please find enclosed my donation for £50/£20/£10/£5/£ _____ Reg. Charity No. 206002
or charge my Access/Visa/Charitycard No. _____

☐ _____ Expiry date of card _____

☐ Please send me further details about the Ex-Services Mental Welfare Society

Name (BLOCK LETTERS) _____

Address _____

Signature _____ SDR

Data Protection Act: We may occasionally wish to contact you with news of our work. If you would prefer that we do not, please tick the box ☐

G.D. Golding Tailors Ltd.

Military Livery and Civilian Tailors



Our Representative will call at your request. Ring (01727) 841321 -

Fax (01727) 831462 or write for details to:
220 Hatfield Road, St Albans, Herts AL1 4LW

Name

Address

..... Tel

Please state your particular requirements below:

THE FINEST CAR PURCHASE PLAN AT HOME AND OVERSEAS



Name: _____ Initials: _____ Sol 13/5
Address: _____
Postcode: _____ Day Tel: _____
Eve Tel: _____ Title/Rank: _____
Car for use in (country): _____ Date required: _____

I am interested in:
800 Series ☐ 600 Series ☐ New 400 Series ☐ Rover Tourer ☐
New 200 Series ☐ Rover Coupe ☐ Rover Cabriolet ☐ 100 Series ☐
Mini ☐ MGF ☐
TAX FREE FOR EXPORT ☐ TAX PAID FOR UK USE ☐

Please post to SCE Ltd, FREEPOST, Faringdon, Oxon SN7 5BR UK (No stamp required if mailed in UK or BFPO)

Benefit from dealing direct with the leading exclusive Rover International Supply Specialists.

- Big savings from Rover/SCE concessions - Tax Free + Tax Paid
- Fast friendly and efficient telephone enquiry and mail order service
- Flexible finance tailored to suit you (subject to status), now including Rover Select Optional Purchase Scheme for qualifying buyers
- Easy used car disposal-agreed price before handover day
- Delivery where you want it, or shipping arranged
- Widespread after sales care network

If it's Rover...it's SCE
Hundreds of customers return over... and over again...

SCE
INTERNATIONAL
SUPPLY
specialist

UK HOTLINE 01367 241225

(ALWAYS PLEASED TO CALL BACK TO SAVE YOUR CHARGES)

SCE Ltd. FREEPOST, Faringdon Oxon SN7 5BR UK



ABOVE ALL, WE'RE ROVER SPECIALISTS

Making light work of a hard post

RASKA Fazlinoic had a simple message for 2nd Lt Richard Kunzer when she saw him in Banja Luka. She wanted to thank him for stopping the war.

Born in the city at the end of the Second World War, she had not suffered the agonies which afflicted those who had been "ethnically cleansed" but her heart-felt words were sincere and touching.

"The Serbs are particularly friendly in the villages we patrol, the children especially, and although the Dayton Peace Agreement stopped the war, they think the Peace Implementation Force stopped it," said 2nd Lt Kunzer, a troop leader with A Squadron, The Light Dragoons.

The regiment has seen a dramatic change in the fortunes of former Yugoslavia since it first arrived as part of Operation Grapple 2 in March 1993.

Now based in Banja Luka in the self-styled republic of Srbska, A Squadron's deployment is the eighth by the Light Dragoons in the Balkans. Three days before going on Christmas leave in Hohna they



Raska Fazlinoic chats to 2nd Lt Richard Kunzer in Banja Luka



A Scimitar of A Squadron, Light Dragoons, crewed by Cpl Mark Simmen, Tpr Chris Burgess and Tpr Matt Newell, crosses the Hungarian-built pontoon bridge over the Sava

were told they would be in theatre in February to replace B Squadron in support of the 2nd Battalion, The Light Infantry.

C Squadron was already based at Glamoc, supporting first the 1st Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers and then the 1st Battalion, The Queen's Lancashire Regiment.

As part of the Peace Implementation Force (IFOR) the Light Dragoons have

complete access throughout their area of some 2,000 sq km extending from the former confrontation line to the Croatian border on the river Sava

The "bridge of brotherhood and unity" between Srbska and Croatia was blown up by the Croats last May during an offensive to regain an area seized by Serbs three years before.

The Dragoons pay a daily visit to a Hungarian engineer battalion which has built a pontoon bridge across the river, allowing freedom of movement for IFOR and the aid agencies.

**Report: Gordon Skilling
Pictures: Mike Weston**

● Turn to next page



Tpr Matt Newall, Cpl Mark Simmen, Tpr Chris Burgess, Cpl Andy Pumford, Tpr Joe Pescod and Sgt Graham Hickson of 1 Tp A Sqn LD at the now impassable "bridge of brotherhood and unity" over the river Sava at Gradiska

● From Page 15

Maj Marcus Good, OC A Sqn, said that after the devastation in areas south of the former confrontation line, it had come as a surprise to see the relative normality in Srbska.

Although sanctions had hit hard, essential services were still operating, buses were running and factories were producing.

The squadron is based in an employment exchange and people constantly appear looking for work.

Getting the squadron out to the Balkans from Germany had been a difficult process. Maj Good had already given some of his vehicles and equipment to C Sqn, and he had to request extra specialist help from other units in Germany before deploying.

As well as a troop of 9th/12th Lancers, he has several members of the Territorial Army and five Royal Armoured Corps regiments are represented among the ten cap-badges he commands.

Having virtually three squadrons of the same regiment in theatre at the same time – and all of them 20 per cent over strength – has put quite a strain on the few left behind in Hohn.

Because of the area he has to cover, Maj Good has five reconnaissance troops instead of the normal three, with expanded headquarters and support troops which raised his unit's strength from 87 to 110.

One troop is detached to each of A and B Companies, 2 LI, one is on patrol guarding rebroadcasting sites, one is on guard at the squadron HQ and, one is on vehicle maintenance.

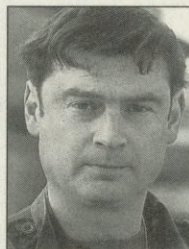
The Serbs did not declare all their air defence assets so the LD had to identify and monitor them.

"We have been doing classic reconnaissance, but overtly," said Maj Good. "Instead of concealing ourselves behind thermal and visual camouflage, we sit at

the side of the road waving a Union flag."

Capt Mel Tazey deals with welfare and logistics matters. As RSM of the British Cavalry Battalion in 1994 he and many of the Light Dragoons well remember the dominance of local warlords who were a law unto themselves.

But times are changing for the better, and the Serbs could hardly be more friendly. Capt Tazey hired a pool table from a local café to join the table tennis table which occupies much of his men's spare time. A swimming pool in the city also provides a welcome break.



OC A Sqn, Maj Marcus Good, Light Dragoons

But although the café proprietor would desperately like their hard currency, the soldiers are wary. There are still many guns about, and the Light Dragoons know that a Serb soldier jealous of their buying power could be a threat.

Tpr David Meacock, who served on Grapple 2, appreciated the differences brought about by IFOR's authority.

He now enjoys patrolling and is amazed that many young children speak English.

"People see the Union flag and know they will be all right."

Well experienced in making themselves comfortable, A Sqn's troops took with them essential items such as quilts, kettles, TVs and radios.

"The advantage of having been here before is that you know where the holes are in the system and how many boxes you can take out," said LCpl Paul Short.

Little things, like changing into civvies after work, mean a lot to the lads, who work hard to make their stark surroundings more homely. With the well-being of the squadron in mind, Squadron Sergeant Major WO2 Losh Lloyd even contrived to take out some carpets to lay in the recreation areas.

Home on the farm

IT WAS dirty, cold and muddy 3,600 ft up in the Bosnian mountains but Royal Signallers of Balaclava Troop would not have swapped it.

When their colonel made it through the snow and mist and saw the dismal conditions in which the troop worked, he immediately suggested a roulement.

But to a man – and one woman – Balaclava Troop decided to soldier on, providing a trunk node field telephone exchange near Gorica, 8km north east of the British brigade headquarters at Sipovo.

The 45 soldiers based on 257 Signal Squadron, with additions from 222 Signal Squadron, include a REME class one tradesman and a chef who makes the best of a daunting scenario.

Pte Billy Connor had worked in Arctic Norway but had never actually been snowed on when cooking.

"The kitchen is the coldest place in camp and I have had to dig out half a foot of snow in the morning before I could start cooking," he said.

Despite having to work by candlelight when the generator goes down, he puts on theme nights once a week and his bill of fare is a major factor in the high morale of the troop.

SSgt Shaun Day was high in his praise. "Pte Connor is a new guy from 22 Armoured Engineer Regiment on a three-week rotation.

"It is very lonely for chefs here. They prepare meals from 6am, we come in and

eat, then go away. They work until about eight in the evening and haven't much company."

One particular hit was a "Tam's kebab wagon

evening" with home-made kebabs, burgers and sausages... just like a well-known vendor back in Bulford.

Home for the troop is a farm house "trashed" during the civil war.

"The guys have been brilliant and have the highest morale in the area," said troop commander Lt Andy Coulston.

It was decided to deploy the whole detachment up the mountain because of the terrain. Fortunately the troop moved in before the weather closed down.

Resupply had been a nightmare, but the troop could always fall back on seven days' emergency rations. "We keep hearing that winter is over down at the bottom of the mountain, but it keeps snowing here," he said.

There are 15 signallers on out-detachments, most of them only a few hundred metres away.

They are the relays which pick up signals and pass them on to the "exchange".

"That is the theory of Ptarmigan, with

many outlets so that an enemy cannot find the node home," said Lt Coulston.

"This location is the hub: if it goes down the whole system goes down with it because of the difficult terrain."

There are three trunk nodes in theatre, but while Gornji Vakuf and Sipovo have only one "shot" in, Balaclava Troop has nine shots going to it.

Six main generators run the node home. When all broke down together, only a back-up generator saved the whole Ptarmigan system from closing.

Because of the weather and conditions generators at the out-detachments had been running continuously for eight weeks and were starting to fail.

"Morale goes in peaks and troughs," said SSgt Day. "When the weather is really bad and the guys have to go out they do need a bit of motivating, but they are all good professionals and it is satisfying that Ptarmigan is now getting credit."

The owner of the farm was distraught when he returned to find his home ruined and occupied.

"He burst into tears when he saw how



Happy as three pigs in No 2, Piglett Place, are Cpl Mark Smith, LCpl Steve Wells and Cpl Roger Doak

everything, including his car, had been trashed," said Lt Coulston. He thought the signallers had been responsible for the damage.

An interpreter explained that the British soldiers had actually cleaned up the filth and excrement they had found in the buildings.

"Suddenly, the man was over the moon with us," said Lt Coulston. He presented an old raincoat to the troop's one female member, Sig "Bob" Graham, who graciously accepted it.

The coat had as little value as a billion dinar note – probably worth many thousands of pounds when the fighting started four years ago – which the troop found.

Another man who tried to claim the property was given short shrift.

The signallers have made themselves as comfortable as possible on the farm and look forward to enjoying the better weather of spring and summer.



Members of Balaclava Troop in the mist, snow and mud of their mountain trunk node 062

FROM THE HORSE'S MOUTH

● THERE has been a military unit on the site of the DAC since 1905 when it became a Remount Depot

● DAILY road exercise is a vital part of an Army horse's routine at Melton Mowbray, keeping it fit and active and conditioned to duty on London streets, as well as maintaining riders' equestrian skills

● THE Household Cavalry's order for issue from the DAC's Remount Depot invariably consists of 20 black horses, one or two other colours and – every five years – a drum horse

● A MEMORIAL to Sefton, the horse badly injured in an IRA bomb outrage, is situated outside one of the gates to the centre

● CUSTOMS and Excise, the Immigration and Prison Services and the El Salvador and Botswana Armies are among the organisations which use the DAC's training services

● DOGS used in patrol and search training are usually German Shepherds, Labrador and golden retrievers and some short-haired pointers. Male or female and between 12 months and three years old, the majority come from members of the public or dealers



Phase 2 trainees Ptes Susan Roberts, Heidi Rhodes and Kelly Latter, gaining an insight into basic horse and dog handling skills at the DAC, make friends with pack pony Carowich. Pony packing is an expertise kept alive in the RAVC, with the animals participating in exercises in Cyprus. The Falklands and Bosnia are two other areas where pack animal transport will be, or has been, employed

Four-legged trends

Report:
Phil Wilcox
Pictures:
Mike Perring

TUCKED away on an anonymous housing estate a mile from the centre of Melton Mowbray in Leicestershire is the Defence Animal Centre (DAC), main base of the Royal Army Veterinary Corps (RAVC).

A joint Service unit since 1991 – the RAVC Centre taking on the present title when Army and Royal Air Force dog training resources came together as a single entity that year – the DAC covers more than 350 acres.

Split into four main divisions – HQ, veterinary, canine and equine – its principal function is to obtain all the animals required for MoD service (currently dogs and horses).

There are generally around 250 dogs and 150 horses at the DAC at any one time, their maintenance and the training of both animals and potential handlers carried out by some 200 military and 50 civilian staff.

MoD-trained dogs are used for the protection of, for example, barracks and stores and for the detection of drugs, weapons, explosives and people.

Horses supplied by the Ministry, now mainly ceremonial, are used by the Household Cavalry and the King's Troop, Royal Horse Artillery.

During the Second World War, the RAVC was based at Doncaster racecourse, but left for Melton Mowbray in 1946 when the racecourse reopened.

In the intervening period, the Army Veterinary and Army Remount departments had combined, to become the Army Veterinary and Remount Services (AVRS).

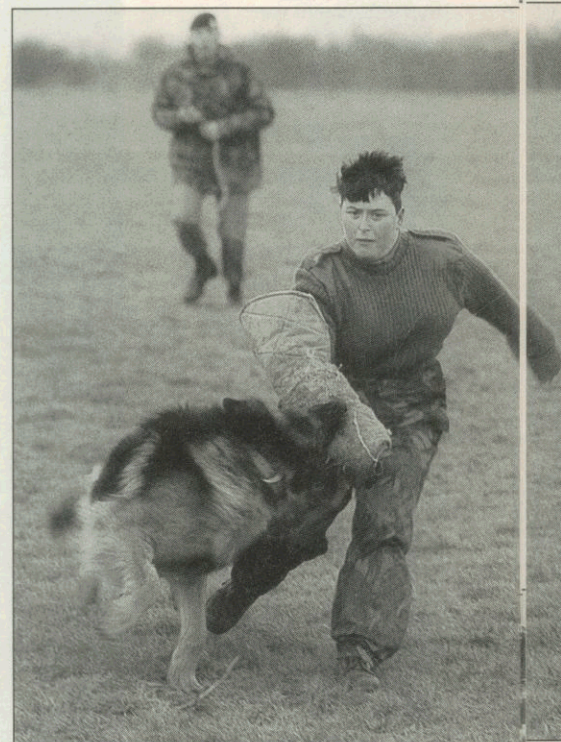
The new organisation "owned" the Melton site and, due to the building of the war-time camp there, where several Army units had been based, had ample accommodation for the soldiers.

According to DAC representative Maj Peter Downing: "The coincidence of fate that brought the RAVC to Melton has proved to be an exceptionally successful decision.

"The DAC is ideally situated for its role, and numerous MoD studies over the last decade constantly come to this conclusion."

On the equine side, the Army School of Farriery and the Army School of Equitation both pursue their appropriate training programmes, while the Remount Depot specialises in the purchase and issue of horses throughout the Army's mounted units.

Out in the vast outdoor expanse of the estate, 320 acres of which are farmed, contented



Bait and see: Pte Michelle Sneddon baits trainee patrol dog Axle. Handler Pte Andrew Beaumont is in the background

horses from the Household Cavalry and King's Troop graze and metaphorically let their manes down.

"They come to Melton for a spot of rest and recuperation after their fairly long season on public duties, and are treated by the vets here," said the School of Equitation's Capt Ian "Sandy" Sanderson.

During the winter, the school holds its aptly-named "long course", which, lasting from October to April, is believed to be the longest course in the Army, Capt Sanderson claims.

In summer, a 12-week mounted officers' course is held.

"The students on the long course cover all ranks, from lance corporal or lance bombardier to lieutenant.

"They ride three horses a day, are given every kind of test and, ultimately, should go back to London to be assistant instructors in the mounted units," said the captain, whose instruction staff are from the Household Cavalry and King's Troop.



Taking the lead: DAC dog handlers (left to right) Pte Samantha Peters with Paddy; Sgt Paul Williams; Cpl Dave Radcliffe and Barney; Pte Neil Gunderson with Lucy; Cpl Nick Spicer



Above – All in a DAC vet's day: LCpl Lynda Brawley RAVC gives a general anaesthetic to potential canine recruit Jess (seen with handler Cpl Trevor Seymour) prior to X-ray

Left – Assistant Instructor Bdr Carl Gilbert, King's Troop, RHA, takes a breather with some of the trainees on one of the Army School of Equitation courses at the Centre

Normal working day is from 0630 until 1830, 12 days a fortnight.

In the DAC's veterinary hospital, potential canine recruits were undergoing a thorough examination under anaesthetic, and given X-rays.

"Gundog breeds and German shepherds have a familial problem with their hips," explained Cpl Damien Bush RAVC, one of the hospital staff.

"We see about 25 to 30 dogs per week, and about half go on for training. If they are not intelligent enough or don't show an interest in the work, we try to re-house them."

Depending on posting or type of training, the dogs which qualify have to undertake a hard regime, taking on a six-hour patrol each day, some over rough ground, in all weathers, although search dogs work under different conditions.

"Patrol dogs are now being trained along

the lines of a retrieval, as opposed to confrontational, system," said Flt Lt Andy Bunce, OC of DAC's canine division.

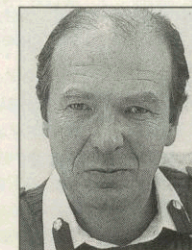
"It reduces stress on the dogs, and will probably reduce training time."

Although some of the canine trainees find it difficult to adjust from being a family pet one minute to a potential killer the next, 99 per cent of them, within the first week, are happy with biting somebody.

"We go from the static stage to training dogs on their own until they are capable of running 100m after an intruder," Flt Lt Bunce explained.

Search dogs – whose olfactory senses are 1,000 times greater than a human's – are trained to work in a variety of areas, ranging from derelict warehouses to heavy goods vehicles and ships, detecting anything from weapons to explosives.

"The whole concept of our training is



Brig Paul Jepson, DAC Commandant

based on play," said Flt Lt Bunce. "It means that the dog wants to 'work to please' rather than being obliged to."

And what of the joint Service element? "We really are amalgamated, and working together, which from my point of view is how it should progress, whether in training or in an operational environment," the RAF officer said.

This view was echoed by DAC Commandant, Brig Paul Jepson.

"Hands-on training side by side by Army and RAF elements gives the opportunity to take the best practices from both and adapt them accordingly," he said.

"The DAC's product is very much in demand. We have been identified as the best people to do the job, and we have the MoD's full backing to continue doing so."

It would seem that the likes of Luther, Fly By Night, Quickstep, Lucy and Scally will continue to benefit from the services of the Defence Animal Centre in the foreseeable future.

Rebel in the ranks

"TOMMY, come here!"

Craftsman John Prebble automatically turned towards the SS woman who had called from behind the barbed-wire at Belsen. She spat at him, full in the face.

The woman was Irme Grese, mistress of the notorious "Beast of Belsen" commandant Josef Kramer, who had the tattooed skin of concentration camp victims made into lampshades.

One of Cfn Prebble's unenviable tasks during the course of the Second World War was to guard the still arrogant SS "master race" who had run Belsen.

The experiences of war left a powerful impression upon John Prebble... mind-numbing subjection to military discipline, clashes with authority, fear and exhilaration of battle, searching for orphans amid the ruins of Hamburg.

Something of a rebel, his writings show a deep fellow-feeling for the common soldier. Part of his fame rests on having transposed this empathy back to the Scottish Highlands of the 18th century.

His trilogy on Culloden, the Highland Clearances and Glencoe became classics which, with later works, won for him the McVitie Prize for Scottish Writer of the Year. Actually born a Man of Kent in June 1915, John Prebble spent his early childhood in Canada in a Scots émigré community from which he returned imbued with an appreciation of their culture and their tragedy.

The prospect of taking a history scholarship at Cambridge did not appeal; he felt he would have gone on to become a teacher or civil servant and was cut out to be neither.

John became a journalist in 1934, beginning a career which was to bring him fame as a novelist, historian and film writer. He also provided the inspiration for dramatised documentaries for television and radio.

He first learned about the Highland Clearances in 1938 and the passion it aroused in him made him a member of the Communist Party. He left the party before the Second World War's end, recognising that in the struggle for liberty and justice the cause is often more at risk from its leaders than it may be from its enemies.

He had also volunteered to fight the fascists in Spain in early 1938 but was told he would be of more use at home. But his communist beliefs were not well received when

he was called up in 1940. He turned down a commission and seemed fated to remain for the rest of the war at the north Wales training camp where he did his recruit training.

Desperate for active service, he gave up his cherished lance bombardier's stripe for the privilege of going overseas. A course as a mechanic to operate radar equipment for guns or lights eventually brought a posting to a "moonlight battery", 474 Independent Searchlight Battery RA.

Soldier, just starting in Brussels, gave John a chance to return to journalism as a sergeant

reporter in 1945, and he spent most of the next year before demob reporting for the magazine in Hamburg.

"No 1 British Army News Unit had been there only a couple of weeks and they gave me three stripes which had no merit or value at all," he said.

Every fortnight, *Soldier's* stories had to be sent to the Bad Oeynhausen headquarters for checking. It was not a pleasant journey. The Dakota in which he flew had seen

John Prebble talks to Gordon Skilling

"One looks back on it affectionately now, but what used to annoy me was that there was nothing really wrong with my uniform. The RSM knew there was nothing wrong with it, and I knew he knew, but we were going through some ancient ritual which had been sanctified by age, that he should browbeat me and I should stand to attention and apologise.

"Five or six years earlier I would have been humiliated but after several years you get used to the performance of the rituals and you perform them as well. You stamp your feet with the best of them and nobody's hurt by it. But I could have done without the marble bath."

HQ staff would interrogate him about the responsibility for stories if there was anything they did not like. He remembers having to report to a different major every time he went to the HQ because the Army was disintegrating through demobilisation.

"Each time there was a fresh lot of officers and one had to explain the principles of simple journalism to them. Only the sergeant major was constant."

The business of *Soldier*, he said, was to entertain the troops. Hard news stories which he and photographer Des O'Neill covered, including pieces on the flourishing black market and theft from Army stores, were never published.

John remembers one story on the renovation of the massive Hamburg state opera house. "They had costumes for every opera you could imagine, and they gave us the run of it, so we sometimes had fancy dress parties in the sergeants' mess."

But Hamburg in that winter of 1945-46 was a

horrible place. There was no running water, no lighting and no effective police force in the frozen ruins. The German staff, which had printed the German Army magazine *Signal*, claimed to be socialists and communists, but after 1937 membership of the Nazi party was obligatory for journalists and print workers.

"All of our staff were middle aged, but they were very good printers," said John.

"The reasons for the war didn't activate us - we were extraordinarily tired and were all sitting there waiting to get home. My silly unit with its funny little torches was in the forward area seven months without being taken out. It was a life of filth; most of the

time you were dirty and cold, there were no baths, little rest or warm food and there was a hell of a lot of digging, but it had its enormous highlights and you felt you were standing on the peak of history."

The eternal paradox in soldiering interests him. Soldiers are called upon to defend liberty, but must first lose their own liberty in the Army, he says. If they are called upon to defend life, they must be prepared to surrender their own life.

"Methods of instilling discipline vary; you have to learn respect for discipline and obedience, and that is hard. You can't buck the Army the way I did; I was cheeky and the Army in wartime was very sensitive to individuals."

Now aged 80, John is glad he has lived the years he has this century and is glad he had a part in the war. He is infinitely glad he had a part in the liberation despite the fact he was often afraid and unhappy at the discomforts of active life.

Realism

Returning to journalism after the war he developed his penchant for prose in a string of novels and short stories. Having suffered the privations of the front line, he had an affinity with the ordinary soldier which brought a refreshing realism to his historical works.

His "intermittent" autobiography, *Landscapes and Memories*, slips effortlessly from one age and continent to another.

Now, as he edits his mother's papers in his elegant Dolphin Square flat near the Thames in Victoria, his mind continually returns to the Scotland of old which has fascinated him since his boyhood in Canada.

An acknowledged authority on Scottish history, he smiles gently at such films as *Braveheart*. "William Wallace was Brythonic Welsh and as there are few sources of information about him people can write what they want," he said. He is working on a novel about the last 12 hours of Mary Queen of Scots.

The Old Swan in Minster Lovell, deep in rural Oxfordshire, is a far cry from the sleet-driven Drumossie Moor near Inverness where the last great battle on British soil was fought out in April 1746.

But it was in that quintessentially English nook that John Prebble evoked images of war which would make his name.

His masterly work *Culloden*, which has been reprinted in paperback every year since 1967, immediately conjures up the atmosphere before the battle: the early call to arms in the drizzle; the march through the soaking heather, head down; the constant beat of the drums.



A lifetime's fascination with Scottish history: John Prebble reflects on Culloden beside a portrait of Bonnie Prince Charlie in the National Army Museum's exhibition on the last Jacobite rebellion

"There is a difference between a Roman legionary and a soldier in a Warrior in Bosnia in what they are wearing and what they are riding in, but the weariness, confusion, fear and everything else that goes with it is the same," he said.

Culloden also exposed some of the atrocities committed in the name of the government.

Most brutal

It is sobering to hear his comment that while ordinary soldiers often showed compassion to each other, it was the gentlemen officers from England and the Lowlands, and from Highland officers in the Crown's service, who were most brutal.

Some would not have been out of place in an SS mess two centuries later; others were cashiered for showing mercy.

It took courage for an Englishman to tackle subjects which still engender deep passions today, 250 years after the events.

Culloden was not fought by the English against the Scots, he explains.

As well as having three regular Lowland Scottish units and the Argyll militia fighting for it on the day, the government had more Highlanders in its service than Bonnie Prince Charlie.

It was not the hundreds killed in the battle which rankled, it was the thousand and more of wounded and prisoners who were butchered afterwards, and the erasing of their ancient culture.

The wounds are still raw in the north. John Prebble knows of these scars. As a soldier in the ranks for six years he did not serve his time without inner wounds which he alone was obliged to heal.

But he cherishes his confusing remembrance of military life - pride, revulsion and ridicule, perverse affection and unforgiving hatred, but above all an abiding and, he hopes, compassionate comradeship with all who have soldiered throughout history.

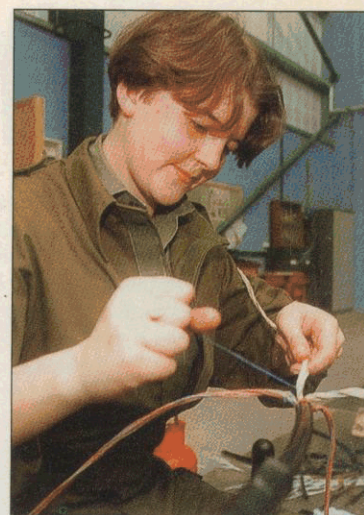


In the Sergeants' Mess at Hamburg, 1945. Left to right, *Soldier* staffers Sgts John Rankine, John Prebble, Desmond O'Neill and Ray Head have time and cause for celebration

action during the fighting; it had holes in the fuselage and as there were no seats he had an uncomfortable flight on the floor as the aircraft dipped and dived. He stuck it for two or three visits then gave it up and took the train - a 15-hour journey.

There was no sympathy at HQ. He was put up in a bathroom dominated by a magnificent marble bath, but as he had only his greatcoat with him, it was not the most comfortable place to spend the night.

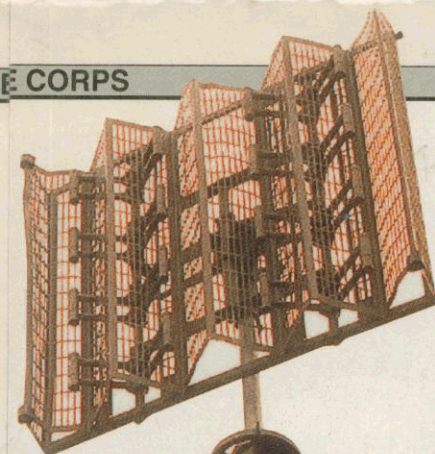
The HQ regimental sergeant major regularly told him to smarten up and gave him a ticking off for dirty buttons (which he had had specially cleaned by one of *Soldier's* German staff).



Above – Off the splice: Sig Angela Gordon shows how to join cable

Left – Master class: Lecturer Peter Rossall reveals the intricacies of fibre optic cables

Right – Stepping stone: LCpl Brendan Randerson and Cpl Chris Binnington put up a radio relay mast



Right – Testing time: Sgt Jamie Harper, Sgt Al Hollyoak and senior lecturer John Lower put micro-chips through their paces



Signal success



Last piece of the jigsaw: 2nd Lt Beth Pollard, Cpl Chuck Berry and Lt Bhakta QGS demonstrate how to erect a satellite antenna

PUT British soldiers in the field anywhere in the world and the chances are that their number will include a detachment of specialists wearing the winged Mercury on the berets.

Often first in and last out, they are members of the Royal Corps of Signals, there to provide communications . . . in any conditions, in any terrain, in any weather.

Provision of secure telephone, radio, facsimile, data transfer and satellite communications is vital to any army, so last month the Royal School of Signals at Blandford Camp in Dorset opened its doors to show how it trains the personnel who get the message through.

The 9,000-strong Royal Corps of Signals currently has a large contingent deployed in Bosnia in support of the headquarters of NATO's Allied Command Europe Rapid Reaction Corps.

Training within the corps is the envy of many large telecommunications giants in the United Kingdom. It is a mark of the school's success that it is now embarking on the award of civil qualifications, in the form of degrees and National Vocational Awards, to its soldiers.

The photographs on these pages illustrate some of the hi-tech skills taught at the school, and some of its historical past.

Housed alongside Blandford's ultra-

modern technology is the corps museum, home to military treasures such as the desert command post from which Montgomery dictated the campaign that led to the defeat of the previously invincible Afrika Korps during the Second World War.

Blandford Camp has been used by the Armed Forces since the beginning of the First World War, housing at different times over the years establishments from the Royal Navy, Royal Air Force, Royal Engineers, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers and the Royal Corps of Transport. There was an American

Forces hospital there during the Second World War.

From now on, the camp will be the single home of the Royal Signals. Under Options for Change and the Defence cuts, training previously carried out at Catterick and Harrogate will be centred on Blandford, which is undergoing a large rebuilding programme to accommodate all the extra personnel.

When the project is complete, the camp will be home to a population of about 4,500 permanent staff, trainees, associated agencies and families.



Desert HQ: Brig Nigel Wood, Signal Officer-in-Chief (Army) and museum curator Roger Pickard inside Montgomery's command vehicle





The skirl of the pipes is said to boost the morale of every Scottish soldier. Here, Cpl David Johnston (front) and Pte Gordon Black set out to entertain their comrades



Left - LCpl John Caballero (nearest camera) and Pte Steven Bennett have spent virtually the whole of their six-month tour of duty in Borucki sangar, sharing their shifts with Cpl Robert McCabe and Pte Robert Dunn

Below - Cpl Roy Lunn sews a tartan flash on a combat jacket. Its man-made fibre replaces the traditional material which frayed badly in the washing machine



Not quite so Crossmaglen

Report:
Laurie Manton
Pictures:
Terry Champion

A YOUNG south Armagh woman trapped in the wreckage of her car owes her life to the presence of British troops in the area.

Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, The Royal Scots, based in Crossmaglen, reacted instantly to an urgent request for help from the local RUC station and sent medical personnel to the scene.

Ignoring their own safety and the possibility of terrorist attack, two soldiers crawled inside the car and gave first aid until an ambulance and the fire services arrived. It took more than an hour for the woman to be cut from the wreckage, before she was airlifted to a Newry hospital by helicopter.

The soldiers' actions did not go unnoticed by local people who expressed deep gratitude.

The regiment's Northern Ireland tour began in the relative calm of the IRA cease-fire and ended in the aftermath of the Canary Wharf bombing.

According to its commanding officer, Lt

Col Robbie Scott-Bowden, community relations played a big part in everything the Royal Scots did in south Armagh.

"It is important to build respect and understanding between the two communities and the Army and RUC. To achieve that, we kept our lines of communication open and tried, wherever possible, to make sure we met the key opinion-formers in the community. We also listened to any local complaints or concerns and endeavoured to find a solution to problems," he said.

The strategy was successful. At Bessbrook, a 1 RS piper played in a concert to



Lt Col Robbie Scott-Bowden, CO 1 RS

celebrate the 150th anniversary of the village, while residents in the notoriously "difficult" town of Crossmaglen showed no antagonism at all.

A lane running past the patrol base at Forkhill, blocked to deter IRA attacks, was re-opened for a time. Because of the London bombings, it has had to be closed again.

"The Canary Wharf bombing focused everyone's attention because, quite clearly, the cease-fire was over. The Army

was put on alert - very alert - and remains so now," said Col Scott-Bowden.

Maj Peter Fraser-Hopewell and his company spent their tour at Crossmaglen. "Our

role was to support the Royal Ulster Constabulary in the restoration of normality, while maintaining a lower profile than in the past. We have to patrol in support of the police without antagonising local people.

"The breaking of the cease-fire created a slightly strange situation, in that there have been attacks against targets in mainland Britain, but none here in Northern Ireland," he said.

"There is no doubt in my mind that most people in Northern Ireland want peace. They have enjoyed the cease-fire and all the benefits of it and don't want a return to violence. That applies to the residents of Crossmaglen as much as anybody.

"It is important during this period of tension that nobody does anything that will shift the balance of the view of the population.

"The people of Crossmaglen are not over-friendly, but I don't hold that against them. They have pressure placed upon

● Turn to next page



The pub's cordial invitation is declined by Pte David Queen as he patrols through Forkhill village

Not quite so Crossmaglen

● From Page 25

them and just want to get on with their lives.

"As a result, it puts pressure on our soldiers on the ground because the actions of a junior commander or private soldier can influence impressions that people have about the Security Forces.

"Every soldier is very conscious of that fact and has done an excellent job. At checkpoints it is the junior soldiers who meet and talk to them.

"The image they put across is important. I like to think that people understand the problems we have and I think we are duty-bound to understand theirs," said Maj Fraser-Hopewell.

During the cease-fire, RUC officers were confident enough to patrol in Crossmaglen without Army support, although in more rural areas troops continued to accompany them, albeit using stand-off patrolling techniques.

Nestling in the Drumintee bowl, the countryside around the Forkhill patrol base presents a challenge to soldiers on the ground.

FEROCIOUS

"The hedges seem to be getting thicker, the ditches deeper and the dogs more ferocious," explained Maj Alex Alderson, who lamented that moves to normality had been jeopardised by the IRA's return to violence.

The joint RUC and Army base in the small market town of Newtonhamilton was rebuilt about 15 months ago. For the first four-and-a-half months of the Royal Scots tour, soldiers were able to train away from the base. Following Canary Wharf, the Newtonhamilton-based troops spent more time inside the "submarine" environment of the mortar-proof main complex.

A unit sun-bed allowed the soldiers to top-up their tans in time for end-of-tour leave.

After returning to their Scottish base and completing two months of public duties, the 1st Battalion, The Royal Scots is to join 24 Air-mobile Brigade.

Its airmobile role requires more manpower so the regiment, which draws its soldiers from the Edinburgh and Lothian areas, is launching a major recruiting drive.

With the introduction of a revamped regimental information team involving top quality junior NCOs, it is confident of attracting sufficient youngsters of the right calibre.



Above - Two hundred metres from the Crossmaglen SF base stands the refurbished Borucki sangar. It is used to monitor the town square to lessen the chance of surprise attacks on the base

Right - A joint Army/RUC patrol sets out from Forkhill Security Force base

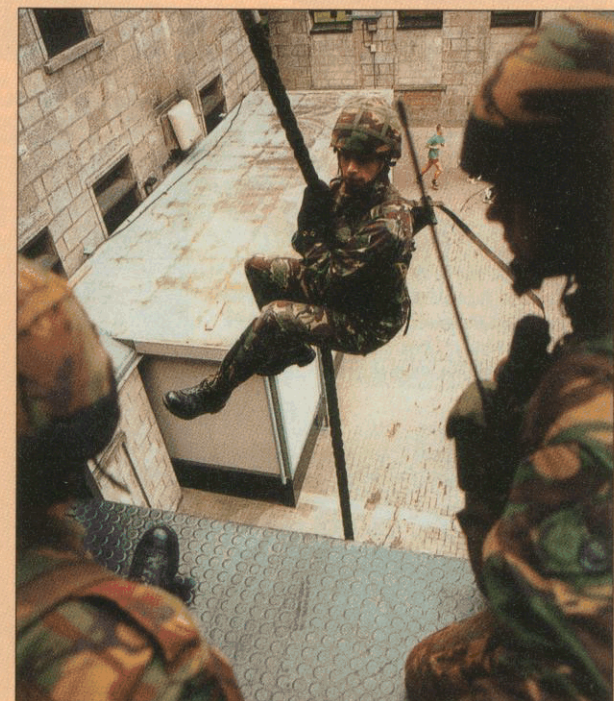


LCpl Ken Dow replaces weapons in the rack



Above - LCpl Mick George AAC and WO2 Mark McLeod have been co-ordinating helicopter movements at Bessbrook. The heli-pad is one of the busiest in Europe

Below - Royal Scots practise fast-roping from an upstairs exit at Bessbrook. The technique allows troops to descend quickly from helicopters in difficult landing areas



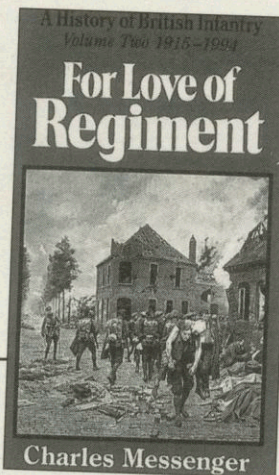
Regimental system still under threat, says author

In 1994 former Royal Tank Regiment officer turned military author Charles Messenger published Volume 1 of his history of the British Infantry, covering the period 1660-1914. His latest book, Volume 2 of *For Love of Regiment*, takes up the chronology from immediately after the opening of the First World War to recent years.

The author, who left the Army in 1980 and wrote the recent TV documentary series *The Century of War-*

fare, presents brief but clear accounts of the part played by the infantry in the two major wars and the considerable number of "side-shows", between the wars and since 1945, in which the British Army has been involved.

In the book he also makes a strong case for the regimental system, which he perceives could still be under threat. Brian Jewell has been leafing through the pages...



the Second World War, but they were of a somewhat different nature. There were emergencies in Malaya, Palestine, India and Trieste, and soon to be a war in Korea, as well as a sharpening of the Cold War in Europe.

Problems piled up in the Suez Canal Zone in 1951, in Kenya, Malaya and Cyprus, and with the Suez Crisis of 1956.

Messenger puts all these campaigns into perspective, as well as the other trouble spots like Borneo, Aden and Belize.

Added to these are "the long agony of Northern Ireland, service with the United Nations, and the Cold War. There has, too, been the unexpected: the campaigns amid the desolate terrain of the Falkland Islands in 1982 and the armoured blitzkrieg in the sands of Kuwait in 1991..."

"If anything, these challenges facing the

infantry and, indeed, the British Army as a whole have been ever greater during the past 80 years than in the past 250".

Inevitably, the book contains what many will find are depressing details of the disbandments and mergers forced on many famous regiments. However, there is nothing new in cuts as such. In 1922 the Army was hit by the "Geddes Axe" when Prime Minister Lloyd George set up a committee to advise on expenditure. The Army had to face a reduction of 50,000 men.

This philosophy of thrift persisted through the 1920s and 30s and resulted in a near panic re-armament programme when the threat of a major war became apparent. During the 1939-45 war the number of infantry battalions grew from 140 to 680, though the proportion of infantry to other arms fell from one fifth to roughly one seventh.

By March 1947 the number of battalions had been reduced to 143, and by the following year this number had shrunk by a further 52. The Territorial Army, smaller than pre-1939, now consisted of two armoured and six infantry divisions.

The end of National Service reduced the Army's standing strength from 375,000 to 165,000 by the end of 1962. This hit the infantry particularly hard and for the first time there was the fear that the traditional regimental system would vanish to be replaced by a corps of infantry. By the end of 1970 only five regiments could claim a "pure" lineage stretching back to their original founding.

Various experimental grouping schemes were put into force. Regional brigade groups caused controversy in the 1950s and 60s, but it became clear the system was too elaborate to administer the infantry. On July 1, 1968, it was replaced by a new divisional structure. In 1974 the so-called "Wide Horizon" restructuring abolished brigades to be replaced by a Task Force HQ in Germany and field forces elsewhere.

"Few outside the Task Forces themselves... understood their composition or which divisions they served," the author says. Regimental amalgamations became commonplace, each one heartfelt in the units affected.

No sooner had the present decade dawned than Defence Secretary Tom King announced the extensive defence review entitled "Options for Change".



Northumberland Fusiliers patrol downtown Aden in 1967

APART from the pressures of world affairs and the effects on the Army, the book deals in some detail with changing living conditions of the soldier - his weaponry, clothing, food, and accommodation - during the years it covers.

Improvement in the soldier's lot began in 1937 when Leslie Hore-Belisha became War Minister. "He instituted a supper

meal... even though it was little more than bread and jam and cocoa, and allowed them a small butter ration rather than just margarine."

Further aims were announced when Montgomery became CIGS in the summer of 1946. He argued that the soldier as part of the fabric of the nation was entitled to a

"good life" and urged the abolition of the barrack room in favour of bedrooms, sitting rooms, and the removal of irksome restrictions such as "Lights Out".

It was to be the early 1970s before Montgomery's proposals were realised, with the launch of Operation Humane. At this time Army catering was improved to such an extent that cookery writer Egon Ronay was to declare that the standard was significantly higher than in civilian catering.

Oh, the good life...

"This sent a shiver through the regiments since it was seen as inevitable that their numbers would be reduced," Messenger writes. "Worse, the regimental system itself was once more brought into question."

By last year the infantry would have been reduced from 55 to 38 battalions, its lowest strength since the reign of George I. However, outside events were to have their effect, Bosnia providing the critical straw for the camel's back. On

February 3, 1993, Malcolm Rifkind announced a partial U-turn: the Army was to be allowed 3,000 men above its post-Options strength of 116,000.

It is more than likely that the Treasury will want further cuts. "Indeed," the author says, "rumours that the Armed Forces will have to show 'productivity', like any other walk of life, and continuing cost-cutting studies, are already being seen as threats that could still lead to the break-up of the traditional regimental system."

The reader is left in no doubt that the end of the "regimental family" would be tragic for those concerned and for the nation's defence as a whole.

So what is it that makes the system preferable to a corps of infantry for the British Army? Messenger presents a convincing case for the system's retention, a case based on the desirability for unit cohesion helped by its members sharing a common cause. Tradition, that sometimes unfashionable word, is important to the soldier.

"The Guardsman, the Paratrooper, Greenjacket and Light Infantryman each have a different approach and their battalions vary widely in character. There is also the tribal instinct."

Apart from the justification for the regimental system, the two volumes of *For Love of Regiment* are both solid history. Moreover, in the easily-read narrative, the human element is never lost.

More book reviews - Pages 36-37



Breakout from Normandy. On the left is a Bren gun carrier mounting a Vickers medium machine-gun from a divisional machine-gun battalion. The infantry section is led by a Bren gunner. The third man is armed with a Sten gun

Over 50 Years
of Service to
The Services

"Britain's Leading Suppliers of Kit to the Professionals"

Silverman's Ltd (Dept S)

2 Harford Street, Mile End, London. E1 4PS

Over 50 Years
of Service to
The Services

<p>CENTRE ZIP ACTION BAG</p> <p>SnugPak, and Military Sleeping Bags</p> <p>Antarctica2C Isodry (centre zip) £110.00</p> <p>Merlin Softie 3 £55.00</p> <p>Hawk Softie 9 £75.00</p> <p>Osprey Softie 12 £89.99</p> <p>Military issue Sleeping bag £79.99</p> <p>Military issue bag + base £99.99</p> <p>Goretex issue Bivvy Bags</p> <p>Full zip/hood Arctic issue £140.00</p> <p>Non zip squaddie issue £110.00</p> <p>Arctic issue Nylon, Olive Green £19.99</p>	<p>PLCE Chest Rig</p> <p>Genuine issue, 3 ammo 2 utility Pouches. Main body of rig is a large storage area. DPM or Green £44.99</p>	<p>Buffalo</p> <p>Stay Warm and comfortable. Buffalo Sp6 shirts £72.99 olive or black</p> <p>Original Mountain shirts £67.99 olive.</p> <p>All other Buffalo kit stocked</p>	<p>SAS/Para</p> <p>Bergan Rucksack 125ltr. 3 external pockets, Waterproof. Butyle Nylon outer, very heavy duty. Genuine issue £189.99</p>
<p>CWC G10 ***</p> <p>£57.99 - £65.99</p> <p>Military Issue Watches.</p> <p>Analogue + Chronograph</p> <p>Military Watch Straps in stock.</p> <p>CWC are genuine issue Beware of imports with similar sounding names</p>	<p>Seiko Chrono.</p> <p>Genuine £185.00</p>	<p>PLCE Bergen,</p> <p>125ltr, side pouches make a 35ltr day patrol pack. Cordura outer, lightweight and durable Only £145.00</p>	<p>Berghaus</p> <p>Cyclops2 Vulcan 100ltr Bottom zip entry for easy access, side pouches zip off to make day pack Bargain £175.00</p>
<p>SAS, PARA Smocks</p> <p>in all sizes DPM</p> <p>Tropicals in stock</p> <p>UK & BFPO P&P £2.99</p> <p>ANY SIZE ORDER.</p> <p>PRI Orders Accepted.</p>	<p>Phone for free catalogue full of essential kit</p> <p>Danner Boots + Matterhorn Boots, for severe weather use.</p> <p>Goretex, Thinsulate insulation, Vibram commdo soles, Phone for details and best U.K. prices. All types of Genuine military footwear in Stock.</p>	<p>1) Army Issue Assault Boots, New £39.99</p> <p>2) Goretex Army Issue Boot liners, keep your feet dry and warm. (Mid calf length) New £14.99</p> <p>(Knee length) New £24.99</p> <p>3) Army issue 80% wool socks, cushion sole, only £2.99 pr.</p>	<p>JUST IN... LATEST DPM TACTICAL VEST</p> <p>GENUINE ISSUE. £125.00</p>

Barbour

Helly Hansen

PEITZL

BCB

HYTEC

Berghaus

FREE CAT : 0171 790 5257 INFO : 0171 790 5585
CREDIT CARD ORDERS: 0171 790 0900
FAX : 0171 791 0008
CALLERS MON-FRI 9.30AM-5PM & SUN MORN 10-1PM



Off road . . .

Geared up: All set for a tough mountain bike trek from Land's End to John o'Groat's taking place earlier this month were four of a six-man team from Northern Ireland-based units.

While pedalling the 1,100-mile journey over ten days, the soldiers – hoping to be the first military team to complete the route by mountain bike – were raising sponsorship of more than £3,000 for children's charity the Starlight Foundation.

With team leader Lt Danny French (third from left) are Sgts Paul Haughton, Gary Walker and Bill Cochran.



Dragoons' appeal

First of many: Nathan and Kyle Rhodes and Charlotte Richards, with their mothers, make the first donation towards the 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards' Bosnia Appeal for clothes and toys to WO2 George Clegg.

The QDG, based in Germany, will be deploying their tanks and most of their personnel to Bosnia next month, and it is expected that assistance to the local population will be an increasingly important aspect of the Dragoons' role there.

Collection points for old clothing and toys to boost the appeal

will be sited in Naafi premises at Sennelager, Barker Barracks and Elsen and at Athlone Barracks Community Centre until May 17.

These items, and others such as old computer equipment for schools, and medical equipment, will be distributed between the different communities, and a programme of contact and assistance will continue during the tour, to try to improve conditions.

Thank you

Brig (Retd) D J London and Lt Col (Retd) J C A Drew, representing the Army Benevolent Fund (Cyprus), present a £1,000 donation to the RAF Benevolent Fund to Gp Capt N E Taylor, Commanding RAF Akrotiri. The money was an acknowledgment of the fund-raising assistance from the RAF in Cyprus, both serving and retired, during the ABF's 1995 fund-raising year.



Right on the night

When Kathy Beaden (centre), president of the Beaden House charity in Blyth, Northumberland, arrived at the local centre where 203 (Elswick) Battery RA (V) is based to receive a £900 donation raised over a six-month period by the battery, she got more than she had bargained for.

Capt Paul Logan (left) and Sgt John Downing had arranged for a visit by Tyne Tees Television's "Tonight" programme to feature Kathy in their "unsung heroes" slot.

Everything went smoothly, and Kathy was presented with bouquet, champagne and plaque by the TV company, but not before Capt Logan had to ad lib for what he described as "an eternity" on the history of the Elswick Battery (1900 to 1995) when the camera crew was delayed . . .

On the right of the picture is Lt Peter Winton, (GPO 203 Battery).



Running target

Despite taking six-and-a-half minutes to reach the actual starting line after the start of this year's London Marathon because of the large number of entrants and, in his own words, achieving a "personal worst" time of 4hr 27min, SSgt Ian Tepielow is on target to achieve his goal of raising more than £5,000 in sponsorship, to be split between two charities.

Ian's business manager for the project is Maj Paul Pople, of the UNICOM Survey Section, Worthy Down, where Ian is serving.

One of the charities which will benefit is the Wolf-Hirschhorn Trust which provides support for children who have the genetic disorder of the same name. It also helps carers of the young victims.

Maj Pople's son, Bertie, pictured with Ian (left) and Paul, suffers from Wolf-Hirschhorn Syndrome.

The other charity involved is Hampshire's Wessex Children's Hospice, to be built at a cost of £5m at Sutton Scotney, Winchester.



Achieving their goal: Sons and daughters of military personnel played a football match with a difference against opposition from 44

Everyone a winner

Transport Squadron RLC at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst. Each goal scored

in the 8-7 victory to the soldiers represented a £10 donation to the BBC's Children in Need

Appeal, which went towards a final total of more than £1,000 raised by squadron personnel over a period of four days at the RMA.

Stepping out

Youthful yompers: Studying a map of the South Atlantic before setting off for a three-day, 90-mile sponsored yomp from San Carlos to Port Stanley were (left to right) Michel Cataldo, whose mother is a Falklands Islander; Ben Duke; Joseph Thompson; and James Crofton.

The teenagers achieved their aim, much to the admiration of the islanders and the British Garrison, but were thwarted by appalling weather in their attempt to return to San Carlos and repeat the 1982 advance of the 2nd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment to Goose Green over two days.

They did, however, manage to stay at Tumbledown overnight and lay a wreath and, after two of their number had to return to the UK, their friends eventually made it to San Carlos. The lads' Falklands Walk has raised money in aid of land mine victims, and will go to the Royal British Legion.



IN SHORT

□ A charity football match in Belfast between the Ulster Development XV and the Northern Ireland Combined Services XV, hosted by Portadown-based 3rd Battalion, The Royal Irish Regiment, was due to raise funds for the Blair Mayne Memorial Trust to encourage involvement of youth in sport.

□ The Royal Alexandra Hospital for Sick Children's Rocking Horse Appeal and the Cancer Research Campaign will benefit from the Joint Forces charity cycle ride from July 4 to 13.

Starting in Glasgow,

the event will terminate in Wulfen, Germany to mark the 50th anniversary of British troops in the town.

Further details: (UK, civil) 01798 872737/01273 730286; (Germany, civil) 02152 209309.

□ Also taking to pedal power, "city-to-city", to raise money to mark its 75th anniversary this year, is the Royal British Legion.

The Pedal to Paris cycle rally, starting in London on September 5, will involve between 400-500 riders, who will cover some 265 miles in three-and-a-half days.

Wingate medals break auction record

CHINDIT leader Maj Gen Orde Wingate's medals were sold last month for £56,500 to a British collector at Sotheby's in Billingham, Sussex.

The ten medals of the man whose dangerous, unconventional raids behind Japanese lines during the Second World War helped to turn the tide in Burma included a rare triple DSO.

Sotheby's said the sale had set a record for non-Victoria Cross gallantry medals.

The set, put up for auction by Wingate's son, Col Orde Jonathan Wingate, went to an anonymous British collector. Maj Gen Wingate died in an air crash in 1944.

● Two medals awarded to Pte Patrick Doolan who rode in the Charge of the Light Brigade at Balaklava in October 1854 sold for £5,290.

DUNBLANE APPEAL: Members of the British community at SHAPE have organised a tri-service cycle ride from the Belgian headquarters to Dunblane in Scotland to raise funds for the families of those killed or hurt in the school tragedy.

Six Army, seven RN and four RAF personnel – ranging in rank from major to telephonist – will make the 1,000km ride this month, calling at Service establishments on the way.

Contributions to or information from SAC Paul Edwards, SHAPE Dunblane Appeal Committee, HQ NAEWFC, SHAPE, BFPO 26.

Wanted: Your war poetry

HELEN Higgs is putting together an anthology of modern war poetry and would like to hear from anyone who can make a contribution.

"I am appealing for poetry written as a result of the experiences of war – the Falklands, the Gulf, Bosnia, anything post-Second World War – whether scribbled in boredom, haste or anger, or written with great loving care," she says.

Helen, who can be contacted at 64 Harpes Road, Oxford OX2 7QL (tel/fax 01865 58821), has been interested in the anthology project since reading a small collection of poetry written by soldiers in her husband's platoon serving in Northern Ireland.

How PoW Jimmy conceived his reel

CALEDONIAN toes the world over have cause to be grateful to Jimmy Atkinson, a resident of Haig Memorial House in Edinburgh.

For the spritely 82-year-old, happily ensconced in the retirement home funded by the Scottish Poppy Appeal, created the *Reel of the 51st Division*, a dance known and enjoyed by Scots everywhere. And he did it in a German PoW camp.

The then Lt J E M Atkinson, aged 26 and serving with the 7th Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, was captured in June 1940 at St Valery when the 51st (Highland) Division surrendered to Rommel after valiantly providing a rearguard action to buy time for the Dunkirk evacuation.

On the march to Oflag VIIIC, Laufen Castle, near Salzburg, Jimmy passed the time by creating a reel based on the St Andrew's Saltire divisional flash.

Soon after the prisoners arrived at Laufen Castle, Lt Peter Oliver, 4th Seaforths, started a reel club, which Jimmy joined.

His concept for the reel had by then firmed up, but in the absence of bagpipes – the Germans had destroyed them – he had to whistle it.

He couldn't get the first part quite right until Lt Col Tom Harris Hunter, former CO RASC, 51 Div and a fellow PoW, suggested an



1940: Lt Jimmy Atkinson, 7 A and SH

opening similar to that of *Lady Susan Stewart's Reel*.

Col Hunter was well qualified to advise, having been chairman of the influential Perth branch of the Scottish Country Dancing Society, the ultimate authority.

For the accompaniment, Hector Ross, also 4th Seaforths, composed a tune which has since been lost. When the chanters

eventually reached the camp most of the PoWs danced the reel to *My Love She's but a Lassie Yet*, although *The Drunken Piper* is the standard today.

For five long years the Laufen Reel Club met three times a week on the top floor of the prison hospital, although various members were moved to other camps. The dance's public debut – arranged as a mark of respect for Maj Gen Victor Fortune who had commanded the 51st at St Valery – was at Hallowe'en 1941 in Oflag VIIIC at Warburg.

Named the *St Valery Reel*, and later the *51st Country-Dance (Laufen Reel)*, it was soon given the title it has today.

Col Hunter's wife, back in Perth, worked out the steps and was swamped with orders after distributing them through the Red Cross. The dance quickly surfaced in London, and the Queen, now the Queen Mother, expressed a wish that it be included in the SCDS's book. By the end of the war it was being danced around the world.

Jimmy Atkinson, who performed the reel at a recent Royal British Legion (Scotland) ball, still gets calls from abroad asking about the reel's unique origins.

He says he is perplexed by its enduring popularity but hopes he has brought happiness to people. He has certainly done that.

Royal School of Signals Museum at Blandford Camp was awarded £200,000 to help with the installation of professionally designed displays throughout its new wing.

And the museum of the Royal Marines at Eastney, Portsmouth was given £371,300 towards its major upgrading project.

CITY ARMS: The City and County of Bristol Army Cadet Force's new banner depicts a ship sailing from Bristol Castle, not, as reported in these columns (April 1), the Clifton Suspension Bridge.

The bridge, symbolically linking Somerset and Gloucestershire, appeared on the badge of the now defunct Avon ACF, replaced on April 1 by City and County of Bristol ACF following local government reorganisation.

In the main, the new force is badged to The Royal Gloucestershire, Berkshire and Wiltshire Regiment, with detachments affiliated to the RA, RTR, R Signals, RLC, REME and LI.

Its new banner features the Bristol coat of arms, a ship sailing from Bristol Castle.

Museums win lottery backing

THREE military museums benefited from the latest round of Heritage Lottery Fund grants.

Magazine Gateway Museum in Leicester, the county's principal museum of military history, received £64,500 towards refurbishments and improvements set to cost more than £86,000. The

CLOSURES

Officers' Mess, Deysbrook Barracks, Liverpool closed on March 31. Anyone who presented property is asked to contact Maj (Retd) Stan Hargreaves on Liverpool Mil 2736 (0151-242 2736) by June 30, after which items will be disposed of appropriately.

As part of the garrison drawdown, the **Hong Kong Military Service Corps** will disband on March 31,

1997. Donors of presentation pieces to the Corporals' WOs' and SNCOs' and Officers' Messes are asked to state their wishes for return or disposal. Items unclaimed by May 31 will be sold to raise funds for the Hong Kong Locally Enlisted Personnel Trust. Contact Maj N C Li, Corps Adjutant, HQ and Depot HKMSC, Stonecutters Island, BFPO 1 (tel Hong Kong 27460492).

50 YEARS AGO

From *Soldier*, May 11, 1946

BEAUTY TIP

THE British Army shrinks from nothing – not even from running beauty courses. Girls from 5 London District Group anxious to make the most of their looks are attending classes to be given the latest tips on make-up, hair styles, manicure.

25 YEARS AGO

From *Soldier*, May 1971

SECOMBE FALLS IN

GUNNER Secombe, otherwise known as comedian Harry Secombe, paraded with the Grenadier Guards outside the London Palladium at the launch of the charity concert "Fall In, The Stars", sponsored by the Variety Club of Great Britain in aid of the Army Benevolent Fund.

ART SHOW REMINDER: Handing-in day, May 24, for the 63rd London exhibition of the Armed Forces Art Society is fast approaching. The event is being staged in the Lady Butler galleries at the National Army Museum, Chelsea. More information from Sqn Ldr J Ashton, 6 The Cherry Pit, Downley, High Wycombe, Bucks HP13 5FA (tel 01494 440427).

REUNIONS

Italy Star Association 1943-45: May 7, Service of remembrance at the National Memorial, Westgate Gardens, Canterbury. Details from A James on 01843 597700. **May 18,** London Guildhall reception and Beating Retreat by AGC Band, Guildhall Square. **May 19,** annual parade and luncheon of the Italy Star Association. Association standards welcome. Details: D Cooke (01705 366721) or S Leech (01329 664874).

Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment: Regimental annual reunion takes place at Pitchcroft Racecourse, Worcester, on June 1. Details from RHQ WFR, Norton Barracks, Worcester WR5 2PA (01905 354359)

APPOINTMENTS

Major General: Brig W R Short QHP – To be Director General Army Medical Service in the rank of major general, Apr 9.

Brigadiers: J H Griffin – To HQ Land, Apr 9; J T Holmes OBE – To SHAPE, Apr 8; M J Ratcliffe – To Surgeon General, Apr 1; R Rook OBE – To MoD, Apr 12.

Colonels: D R Jeffery – To HQ Land, Apr 9; J S Kerr MBE – To MoD, Apr 8; L P Lillywhite MBE – To HQ Land, Apr 9; P T C Pearson – To JHQIT, Apr 9; J M Bowles

Young approach to explaining old battle

TO most modern youngsters, the great Battle of the Somme is as remote as the Battles of Hastings and Waterloo. It happened a long time ago.

Yet many young people pass close to the site of the First World War battlefield – and the vast cemeteries that arose from it – when they cross the Channel on school outings or summer holidays.

Some will be moved by the mood created by tens of thousands of immaculately-manicured graves, or the quiet of a preserved trench system.

Journalist Larry Harris has written a time-travel war story which he hopes will strike a chord with readers aged ten to 15. *Jackie was a Hero* is the story of two children of the 1990s who, on a school trip to Picardy, search for the grave of their great-grandfather's brother, reported "missing believed killed in action" on the Somme on July 1, 1914.

The two get caught up in the project and try to find out more about their ancestor. Was he a hero or a coward?

Larry Harris, who served with the 13th/18th Royal Hussars,



Larry Harris

worked extensively for ITV and BBC radio. His drawings appeared in *Punch*, *Private Eye*, and the *Guardian*.

Now he is hoping that soldiers, young and old, might encourage their own children and grandchildren to find out what happened to Rifleman Jackie Matherson... and in doing so gain an insight to a battle which brought grief to every street in Britain.

Among other outlets it will be available from the National Army Museum and some regimental museums.

● **Jackie was a Hero** by Lawrence Harris. Published by The Cartoon Cave, PO Box 9138, London W3 7WQ. Price £5.99.

16 Signal Regiment: Reunion for 1960s personnel to be held at Southend on Sea in June. Details: Chris Bartlett on 01702 524620, or see him at 45 Whitehouse Road, Leigh on Sea, Essex SS9 5SR.

Royal Artillery Association (Exeter Branch): Golden anniversary luncheon at St Loye's Conference Centre, Exeter, on June 8, followed next day by dedication of a new standard at St Michael's and All Saints Church, Aphington. Details from John Seatherton, 8 Seabrook Ave, Countess Wear, Exeter EX2 7DW (01392 874072).

25 Regiment RA 1947-84: Bi-annual reunion takes place on July 7. Details from Len Haddow,

4 The Rise, Hempstead, Gillingham, Kent ME7 3SF (01634 388156).

497 and 976 Squads, Royal Marines: Reunion at Royal Fleet Club, Plymouth on August 31. Details: Peter Wye, Pet-a-Pat, 349 Old Road, Clacton-on-Sea, Essex CO15 3RQ (01255 434784).

6th Bn, Gordon Highlanders 1939-45: Annual reunion dinner at the Royal British Legion, Buckie, on September 6. All Gordon Highlanders welcome. Details from A Robson on 01542 833254.

RE Darland Boys' Association 1939-41: 16th reunion takes place on September 13 at the King Charles Hotel, Gillingham. Details from Jim Winchester, 8 Durham Road, Luton, Beds LU2 0RB.

238 (London) Sig Sqn, 1989-92: Reunion on Sept 28 at Chelsea Barracks, London. Details: send see to Sgt S Samuel, 30 Signal Regt, Gamecock Barracks, Bramcote, Nuneaton, Warks CV11 6QN.

Retirements

Brigadier: D H Coombe, late RAMC, May 9.

Colonels: J D E Edwards, late RADC, Apr 12; L M Numbers, late QARANC, Apr 29.

SEARCHLINE

G J Packer is compiling a register of military units stationed at **Singleton Park, Swansea 1939-45** and wishes to hear from soldiers based there during the war. Pho-

DATES

May

9-12: International military culinary competition and open day, St Omer Barracks, Aldershot.

11: RBL 75th anniversary Big Band dance, Dunstable.

25-27: Rhine Army Summer Show, Paderborn.

25-27: Overlord 96 military vehicle rally, Southsea, Hants.

30-June 6: Armed Forces Art Society 63rd exhibition, National Army Museum, Chelsea.

June

5-6: Floodlit Beating Retreat by massed bands of Household Division, Horseguards, 2130.

15: RLC at Home. Displays, demonstrations, sideshows at Princess Royal Barracks, Deepcut, Camberley, 2pm-6pm.

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

23: Colchester Garrison Country Day, Fingringhoe Ranges, including 24 AB Bde military display and music by Minden Band, Corps of Drums, 1 R Anglian. Proceeds to ABF, SSAFA and local charity.

29-30: SSAFA Lincolnshire fund-raising event at Air Day, RAF Waddington, Lincoln.

July

5: RE Rowing Club 150th anniversary row-past and reunion, Royal Henley.

9-20: Royal Tournament.

21: Oxon-Bucks RBL gala day, Stonor Park nr Henley-on-Thames. Details: 01865 53151.

28: Tank Museum battle day, Bovington.

September

7-8: Berwick Military Tattoo. Proceeds to SSAFA.

October

6: Aldershot militaria exhibition and fair, The Maltings, Farnham, Surrey.

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

MSM awards

The Medal for Meritorious Service has been awarded to:

RAC: WO1 J Wisener, RDG; WO2 D Cawley, HRH.

R Signals: WO1 B E Lawrence; WO2 A P McLean; Sgt M G A Langley.

Infantry – Scottish Division: WO2 J Patterson, KOSB; WO2 D S Reid, Hldrs.

AAC: WO2 J W Kirkpatrick; WO2 B J Parlane.

RLC: WO1 D Liptrot MBE; WO1 P T Reeson; WO2 T I Rose; SSgt I R Zycinski.

REME: WO1 C P D Granger; WO2 K W Austin; WO2 C J Bates.

AGC (SPS): WO2 G H Brown; WO2C J Pennicott; WO2 J N Smith; SSgt B S Bhelay.

tographs of buildings, equipment, people taken in Singleton Park appreciated. Replies to 17 Tan Yr Allt Road, Clydach, Swansea SA6 5JQ (01792 842888).

Caubeen for comfort and distinction

IN YOUR review of Simon Cullen's book *Soldier Talk - A Squaddies' Handbook* (March 18) he is quoted as spelling the name of the Royal Irish Regiment's famous headgear as corbeen.

Of course, this is not correct. It should be spelt caubeen. The word is Irish and means a floppy hat.

Could an Irish "floppy hat" be an old bag or sack? If this is the case, then all our brothers-in-arms who call our caubeen a sleeping-bag might not be so far from the truth! We call the

headgear "caubeen" but that name is not recognised by the Army Clothing Catalogue, where it is listed as "Bonnets Irish".

That sounds a bit Scottish to us; thus our own name.

It is made in a simple method, using flat-woven cloth, distinct from the beret, which is made in one piece from circular-woven cloth.

The caubeen is very comfortable to wear and very distinctive. So much so that often I have been mistaken for the visitor when escorting senior

officers on visits to other armies.

It is very much photographed by our allies, particularly the French, who wonder whether there is any connection with their Alpine units, who wear a similar "beret"!

It has even featured on the front cover of the USAF magazine *Airman*, for an article on Operation Provide Comfort (Warden) in northern Iraq and Turkey.

Faugh-a-Ballagh! - Maj J H S Thompson R Irish, HQ Land Command, Wilton.



Caubeen, as worn by the Duke of York, Colonel-in-Chief of the Royal Irish Regiment

Call for Legion to reverse its Suez Medal decision

AT its conference last year the Royal British Legion defeated a motion calling on the Government to issue a medal or clasp for operational services in the Suez Canal Zone 1951-53 (Nat Conf minutes No 31).

This no doubt came as a bitter blow to those who, like me, give our time gladly supporting the RBL, either selling poppies or organising events to raise funds. However, we have to thank Forest Hall and Tyne and Wear branches for the fact that a vote took place at all.

Now it is up to us RBL members to insist that branch secretaries attending the conference in Scarborough this month propose a vote and show of hands in favour of this award being recommended by the Legion.

In remembering the 33 killed and 69 wounded in the Suez Emergency we should compare it with the award for Cyprus and a very similar situation to Suez - Aden. - **Leon Clarke (MELF 17), Dinas Powis, S Glamorgan.**

Shopping - with an armed guard

BRIAN Sinclair-Whitely's letter about the Canal Zone (April 15) brought back memories. I was a young wife living in Arayshia when those "Cairo



Husbands with weapons form an armed guard as wives shop at the Naafi Mobile Service trailer in the Canal Zone in late 1951

students" rampaged through this suburb of Ismailia. They set fire to our block of flats.

Later, other terrorists made our lives uncomfortable by taking pot-shots at our menfolk, and us, or getting up to all sorts of other tricks to speed our departure.

In early December 1951 the situation in this "outpost" got so bad we were evacuated, with most families returning to the UK. I was one of the last to leave.

I enclose a photograph showing a shopping expedition during the crisis. - **Doris A Golder, Bolton, Lancs.**

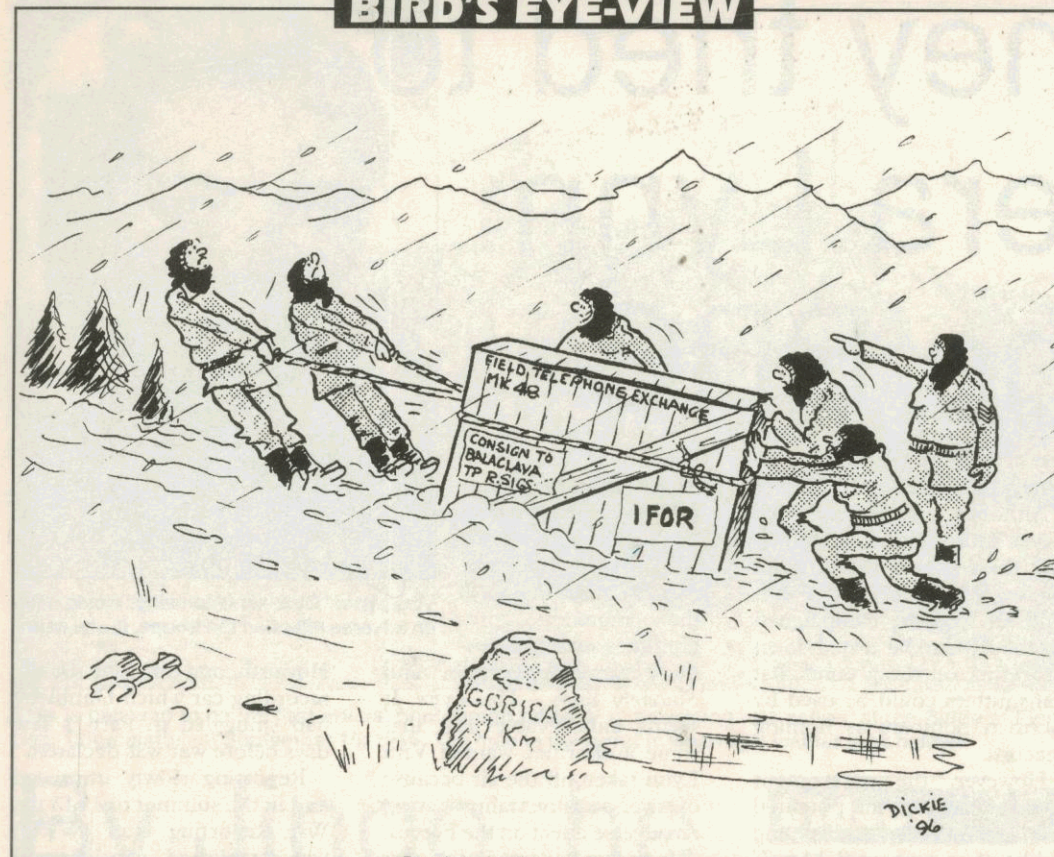
Let Germans do the paperwork

THERE seems to be no problem finding documentation to charge an 85-year-old East European for alleged crimes committed in 1942.

But we cannot do it for that medal oversight regarding the Suez Emergency, 1951-52.

In the next do I reckon the MoD ought to sub-contract out staff work to the Germans in case we want to refer to anything later on. - **Suezvet (name and address supplied).**

BIRD'S EYE-VIEW



Ptarmigan signaller - see Pages 15-17

Canadian move on Korea awards

I HAVE at last found a newsagent in Ottawa who sells *Soldier* - something I have missed for many years.

I was interested in Jim Jacobs's letter (April 1) regarding the Korean Presidential Citation to 27 COMWEL Brigade in 1950 (I say "COMWEL" as I believe that 3 RAR had joined us by then).

President Syngman Rhee made a similar award to HMCS *Athabaskan* in December of 1951. The Canadian government, too, did not allow the wearing of this emblem on their uniform.

The Korea Veterans Association of Canada has been able to obtain a supply of these insignia, which our qualified members wear on KVA dress.

Another award refused, apparently, by all Commonwealth participants was the Korea War Service Medal awarded by President Syngman Rhee under Presidential Order No 390.

This was accepted, and worn, by other participating

nations such as Belgium and the Netherlands. Our association is in the process of obtaining a supply of these and will approach our government with a view to having them recognised as official "left breast" medals - failing which we will consider wearing them as "right chest" commemorative awards. - **Les Peate, CD, Executive Secretary, The Korea Veterans Association of Canada, Ottawa.**

'Mandarins blocked it'

I WAS serving with the Headquarters 27 British Infantry Brigade at the time of the award of the Korean Presidential Citation and a number of us received a piece of the ribbon mounted on a bar covered in plastic.

I remember being told by the Brigade Commander, Brig Aubrey Coad, that the official response to the Korean Presidential was in essence that we would forever treasure in our

hearts the memory of the Korean gesture but, because HM Government had no similar award that we could bestow on a Korean unit under similar circumstances, we very much regretted that we were unable to accept the award!

I think this was a typical example of the attitude to the Services of many of the civilian mandarins in Whitehall.

As a matter of interest, the Commanding General of the US Eighth Army in Korea, Lt Gen Walton H Walker, was on his way to the brigade to present the citation to us on December 23, 1950 when he was killed in an accident involving a South Korean Army truck. We were waiting on parade and wondered why he had not arrived.

We were all somewhat annoyed to learn later that the US Presidential award to certain units of the 29th Brigade had been accepted but, as far as I am aware, the matter was not pursued further at the time. - **Lt Col (Retd) H R Jeffes, Hove, E Sussex.**

Belgian salutes work of graves guardian

A LONG time ago I became interested in British military traditions. Indeed, Belgian people are very grateful to the British Army, whose European history was made mainly on Belgian battlefields, but was the only neighbouring army that always came as allies.

I am specially fascinated by those rewarded by the VC.

You claim in the review of *A History of the British Cavalry, Vol 7* (April 15) that "Capt Francis Grenfell, 9th Lancers, won the first VC of the war".

You should always be careful in the wording of "firsts" and avoid the confusion between the date of deed, date of gazette and date of investiture. As a lawyer, I am afraid I am a bit of a text maniac!

Lt Dease, 4th Bn, The Royal Fusiliers, performed the first act of bravery to be rewarded with the VC during the First World War, in Mons, Belgium, on August 23, 1914.

At least one other action, subsequently rewarded with the VC, occurred that day (Capt Wright RE). The deed of Capt Grenfell took place the next day. Both were gazetted in the same edition of the London Gazette, on November 16, 1914.

Maj Alexander, commander of the 119th Bty, Royal Field Artillery, received also the VC for the same action as Capt Grenfell, but was not gazetted until February 18, 1915. What your reviewer probably meant was that Capt Grenfell won the first **cavalry** VC of the war.

Lt Dease's award was posthumous. He is buried in St Symphonian Military Cemetery, near Mons. Capt Grenfell did not survive the war: he was killed in Hooze in May, 1915 and is buried in Vlamertinghe Military Cemetery, Belgium.

Maybe this is the place to salute the work of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission for the maintenance of cemeteries and help in locating graves and giving information. - **Thierry Laroche, Neufchateau, Belgium.**

POINTS IN QUESTION

Introducing an occasional series in which readers are invited to submit for publication answers to other correspondents' queries on matters of topical or historical interest. Participants are asked to keep questions and answers as brief as possible. Lengthy replies will be edited.

A corner of some foreign field
● WITH REGARD to recent correspondence about bringing home our dead comrades, I am all in favour of leaving them at peace wherever they lie overseas. What I would like to know is this: is there a country on this planet where a British Serviceman or woman has not been buried? - **A W Cregan, Beckton, London.**

Chest complaint
● WHY can't British paras wear their wings on their chest like other armies? Why are they relegated to the shoulder? In my day the SAS always wore their wings on their chest. When was this changed? - **James B Cummings (address supplied).**

Here are a few more questions to start the ball rolling:

Change of plan
● Why were Army exercises once called schemes. Why the change?

Looking for pointer
● Why was War Department property marked with an arrow and what has replaced it?

To the point
● Did any British unit make a bayonet charge during the Second World War. Has any since?

May we have your (brief) answers please?

Why they tried to ban Vera Lynn from the BBC

A CODED message, "The fat's in the fire", set the departments of the British Broadcasting Corporation on a wartime footing in 1939.

Over the next six years the BBC was to demonstrate that broadcasting had a profound effect on the British people and a crucial role to play in mobilising the civilian war effort.

Yet the corporation's contribution in contrast to, say, wartime cinema has been largely disregarded, except in passing, by historians.

In *The Echo of War*, Siân Nicholas examines in depth and at some considerable length the role of the BBC in the Second World War. It is claimed to be the first full-length study of the BBC as propagandist for the Home Front, as well as having the function of sustaining morale throughout the hostilities.

What we find is more government hog-tying than might be expected and that the BBC was neither independent nor truthful; "indeed, in the con-

text of 'total war' it could never wholly have been either".

Although unthinkable now, it was more than a possibility that there would be no radio for the British during the war. The Air Ministry campaigned for the BBC to be closed down altogether on the ground that transmitters could be used by German bombers as homing beacons.

However, the government could not ignore the potential propaganda value of a listening public of an estimated 34 million (with licence evasion this could have been as high as 40 million) out of a population of 48 million.

The BBC's early wartime broadcasting was pretty abysmal and the government was shocked to learn that many listeners were tuning to German radio, particularly to William Joyce, "Lord Haw-Haw", who began broadcasting on Radio Hamburg on

September 11, 1939.

This attraction (mainly for its curiosity value) was countered by the BBC with entertainment to fit the moods of the moment: programmes such as *Garrison Theatre*, *Happidrome*, and *Sincerely Yours* - Vera Lynn. It seems unbelievable now that some authorities wanted Vera Lynn taken off the air because of over-sentimentality having an adverse effect on the Forces.

In news coverage, the war represented a revolution for the BBC. At the outbreak of the war no broadcast news was permitted before 6 pm due

to pressure from newspaper proprietors. The war enabled the BBC to break out from this restriction.

In September 1939 the BBC had only two "news observers", as radio reporters were then called: Richard Dimbleby and David



Vera Lynn: "Over-sentimentality" would have an adverse effect on the troops, it was said

Howarth, and only one mobile recording car which Dimbleby had smuggled to Paris a few days before war was declared.

Reporting slowly improved and in the summer of 1943 the War Reporting Unit (WRU) was established, consisting of two teams of seven men, briefed to contribute to any programme across the BBC schedules.

The activities of many BBC correspondents are covered in the book, but it is surprising to find no mention of Stanley Maxsted's memorable reports from Arnhem and later from the landing zones across the Rhine.

The impression gained from this study of wartime broadcasting is that it was all rather stuffy, but this is not what most people felt at the time.

The BBC itself changed beyond recognition in those years. News coverage was greatly increased; there was more drama and variety than ever before, and dance music was played even on Sundays.

But perhaps more than anything it was in presentation styles that listeners noticed the difference. Now there were speakers with regional accents and even a few women were used as announcers!

The Echo of War is a valuable documentation of a revolution in communication. However, it seems to have been priced on the assumption that it will not be purchased by many individual readers, but that libraries and institutions must have it despite their financial restrictions.

An abridged lower-priced paperback edition would be appreciated. - BJ

The Echo of War: Home Front Propaganda and the Wartime BBC 1939-45 by Siân Nicholas. Manchester University Press, hardback, £45.

Her Majesty's Interrogator: Falklands by Guy Bransby. Leo Cooper, hardback, £16.95.

What he does say, in addition to giving an interesting if unorthodox account of the Falklands conflict, is that he and his two colleagues were the only Spanish speakers available from British military circles to take on the role of PoW interrogators.

Even though they formed an official military unit of three, they had their work cut out convincing other units in the war zone of their authenticity because they had no status, right to equipment, rations or support and no official place in the chain of command, he says.

What the "brass" required of them was information about

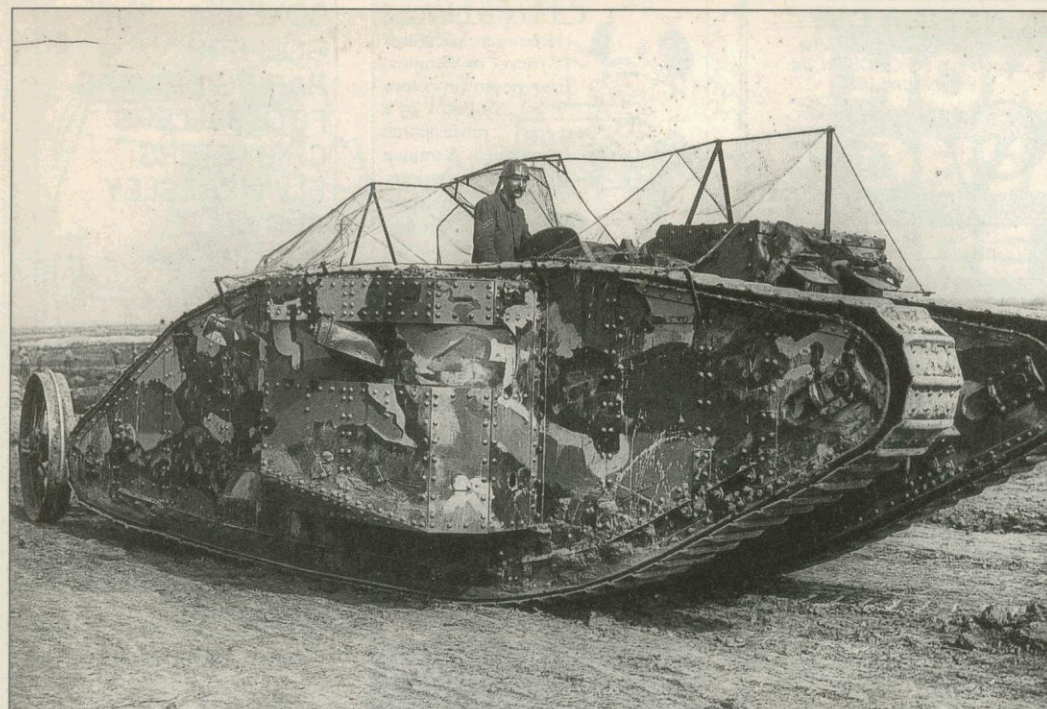
the enemy their fighting units were about to face.

To this end Bransby and Co interviewed thousands of Argentine soldiers. Whether the PoWs revealed anything significant to hasten the end of the war is unclear.

What the author did discover while perusing enemy documents was an assessment of the Special Air Service.

Again, he does not reveal the contents of the papers, lamely contenting himself - and his readers - by saying it was an "entertaining mix of truth and fancy, so I made a translation and gave it to the senior SAS officer".

Pity. That could have been really interesting if someone could have persuaded the interrogator to talk. - JM.



This is believed to be the first official photograph taken of a tank going into action, at the Battle of Flers, near Courcelette, on September 15, 1916. The man in the turret is wearing a leather tank helmet

By Jingo, he could write

For it's Tommy this, an' Tommy that, an' "Chuck him out, the brute!" But it's "Saviour of 'is country" when the guns begin to shoot

RUDYARD KIPLING'S poem *Tommy* reproved the British public for "makin' mock o' uniforms that guard you while you sleep" and helped bring better conditions for the soldier a century ago.

It is often trotted out when a peacetime public falls out of sympathy with the military. Indeed, Kipling is one of our most-quoted writers - but how many people know it is his words they are using?

Take "You're a better man than I am, Gunga Din". Ask who GD was and who wrote the poem, and the quoter is often stumped.

Now their worries could be over, for 100 years after the great man penned this and many other tales of the privations of private soldiers, *The Barrack-Room Ballads* are available once more in a centenary edition.

These lines about soldiers and how they fought, loved, lived and died is written in cockney dialect, even though some relate to regiments from outside London.

Kipling, born in Bombay in 1865, never served in the Army but as a journalist he knew and befriended soldiers from all ranks.

It was this broad link which gave him an insight into the shocking conditions

of the Queen's soldiers serving in India and elsewhere and led him to write his ballads and poems, most of them before he was 30.

In his heyday he was equally revered and denigrated as a jingoistic imperialist but he was a superb writer and his achievements shone through as they still do today, 100 years on.

Uniform with this volume is *'Disabled' and Other Poems*, Wilfred Owen's own choice of his war verse, put together from notes he was making before he was killed in action in 1918 shortly after being awarded the Military Cross for gallantry. -JM

Videos

Gulf Air War. Pilot's-eye view of the early weeks of 1991, with dramatic film footage of precision bombing and veterans' descriptions of dogfights with Saddam Hussein's MiGs. DD Video, £12.99.

Bosnian Air War. Extensive use of previously unavailable NATO footage in this documentary of the August 1995 air strikes. DD Video, £12.99.

The Vietnam War: America Takes Charge. Latest volume in major series narrated by Walter Cronkite deals with 1967. DD Video, £12.99.

Book briefs

The Armies of George S Patton by George Forty. New biography by the former curator of the Tank Museum at Bovington shows how "Old Blood and Guts" recognised, refined and relied on the structure, logistical support and battlefield readiness and training of his forces.

Even in his most bull-headed moments, Patton knew the successful army did not operate on will power and loyalty alone. Arms & Armour Press, hardback, £20.

Warships of World War II. Comprehensive pocket guide includes major British, American, German, Italian and Japanese warships, plus feature on the war at sea 1939-45. Collins/Jane's, £3.99.

Jane's Guns Recognition Guide. Softback encyclopedia of military pistols, rifles and machine-guns. HarperCollins £14.99.

Forgotten debut of the tank in battle

The Tanks at Flers by Trevor Pidgeon. Available only direct from Fairmile Books at £28.90 inc p & p in UK, 30 Fairmile Lane, Cobham, Surrey KT11 2DQ.

SEPTEMBER 15, 1916 is a date said by Trevor Pidgeon in *The Tanks at Flers* to have been almost forgotten by First World War historians.

It was on that day at 5.15 am, he says, that the first tank to go into battle, designated D1, rumbled into action at less than 1 mph across No-Man's-Land at Flers-Courcelette to take on the Germans entrenched in Delville Wood on the Somme.

While D1 routed the enemy and paved the way for the waiting, cheering King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry to finish the job, it came to a sudden stop when a shell blew off one of its tracks.

It was a problem to be repeated thousands of times in years to follow... no track, no tank.

The author, a National Service tankman and armoured fighting vehicle enthusiast, sets out to put the record straight with a detailed account of the role played on that mid-September day by the men and machines of C and D Companies of the Heavy Section Machine Gun Corps.

His book, self-published to keep costs down, is a substantial achievement - well illustrated with full-colour photographs of those early, lumbering tracked monsters, pictures of the men involved in the battle, many drawings, and an accompanying folder of battleground maps.

In short, it tells the first-day story of tank warfare and the events leading up to it.

The author is certain that this book should have been written 75 years ago, but both the British and German records appear to have been locked away in the archives gathering dust over the intervening years.

Now he has corrected that apparent oversight with this superb production. - JM

MILITARY CV SERVICES

The original CV service for HM Forces:
established in 1984

A world-wide CV firm run by a former Army officer and current full-time career consultant. Past clients include men and women of all ranks from every part of the Army.

Why not write or telephone for full details to:

Anthony Jacques,
66 High View Road,
Guildford, Surrey GU2 5RU
Tel: 01483 823766

NEED A CV?

For free details contact the
specialists in FORCES' CVs
(Established 1981)

CV SERVICES
Forces Dept.
PO Box 573,
Sutton Coldfield,
West Midlands
B73 6PA
0121-355 2187

C.V. EXPRESS

Confidential Consultations, Advice, Draft & Master Copies, Free Disc Storage & Re-Type Services, over 2200 type Fonts and more than 20 different Media Presentation types available. Complete package providing Unbeatable Quality.

For an Information Pack
please Phone or Write to:

Mr MacDonald
3 Argent Close, Hall Road, Hull,
North Humberside HU6 9UA
Tel: 01482 804643 (Open 7 days a week)

CARICATURES



Hilarious caricatures
'Groups' or 'Singles'
from photos in colour
or B&W by a
professional
cartoonist. A unique
gift for all occasions.
Also cartoonists for
parties, etc. For samples
and prices or a quotation

Rick Coleman: 0181-441 6607

**BOXERS
GOLFERS
RACING DRIVERS
FOOTBALLERS
CRICKETERS
ELVIS PRESLEY
AND
THE BRITISH
SOLDIER**

are all available
in the latest FREE
Catalogue of Classic
Figurines in Cold
Cast Porcelain form

ENDURANCE LTD.
Crewe Hall,
Weston Road,
Crewe CW1 6UA
Cheshire.
Tel. 01270 250250

CVs - for Military personnel

Professionally prepared. Compelling styles.
Quality content. Impeccable presentation.
Competitive price. Nation/World-wide service.
Laser printing. Free client CV storage.

CVs for Military/Civilian jobs, Resumes,
Updates, Application Letters, etc.

SERVICE - CV

Dept (A), 2 TERN GARDENS,
PLYMPTON, PLYMOUTH. PL7 3HZ

Tel / Fax 01752 - 344842 (24 hrs)

CVs & RÉSUMÉS

A specialist and fully comprehensive service
tailored entirely to the individual which
includes:

- * Professional CV and résumé
- * Job application letter
- * Printed on A4 white card
- * Fully bound
- * Client's own disc

ONLY £20 (Including UK postage)

For full details and expert advice please
contact: **Gerald Hunter BA (Hons), 30**
Winskell Road, Liverpool L11 1HB

Answerphone/fax
0151 256 8874

Your Future Could Be In CANADA

Canada is looking for immigrants
who are skilled and professionally
trained people.

If you would like to know more
about a new life in Canada

For a **FREE** Assessment
Call **NOW** on
0181 385 0688

ACADIA

Friendly - Experienced
Canadian Immigration, Business
& Settlement Specialists

GET PROMOTION!

T-Shirts, Sweatshirts,
Polos, Rugby Shirts,
Hooded Tops,
Singlets,
Baseball Hats, Ties,
Embroidered Badges
& Jumpers, Pennants,
Mugs, Sports Bags & Holdalls,
Jog/Track Suits & Shell Suits.



A S PROMOTIONS

12 Avenue Industrial Estate
Justin Road, London E4 8SU
Telephone: 0181-523 3283
Fax: 0181-531 7298

MemoFile

MILITARY

Systems

Military Accounting Systems
Printers to HM Forces

**Catalogue and Price List
free on request**

MemoFile Military Systems
CHURCH HOUSE
CHURCH STREET
LONDON E15 3JA

Telephone: 0181-534 3851
Fax: 0181-555 7567



WARMINSTER SCHOOL

Coeducational, Day and Boarding
4 to 18 years old

- ★ Pupils can join at any age
- ★ Long experience in caring for Service families
- ★ Bursaries available, plus 6th Form Scholarships, and awards at 11+
- ★ Continuity of education across the whole age range, within a caring, friendly community
- An opportunity to keep the whole family together
- ★ Small class sizes, excellent facilities
- ★ High standards, and clear expectations

Prospectus and further details may be obtained from

Warminster School, Church Street, Warminster, Wiltshire BA12 8PJ
(Tel: 01985 213038; Fax: 01985 214129)

Warminster School is a registered charity providing education for boys and girls

TRAIN TO BE A BODYGUARD

Excel Security have been providing Bodyguards to the rich, famous (and not so famous) for many years. Our comprehensive training course was fully featured on Channel 4's "Cutting Edge". Our ex-students work all over the world. The training is very thorough and quite demanding. Whilst our main occupation is the provision of Trained Bodyguards, we do hold around four training courses a year for those who wish to start a new career in the Close Protection Industry. Could you be a Bodyguard? Please send for our free information pack and find out. The courses can be done whilst serving or on resettlement. **Obtain your free information pack** by calling **0181 770 7955** during office hours or writing to:

CP Training Division,
Excel Security (1988) Limited,
51 Lower Road, Sutton,
Surrey SM1 4QR.

REGIMENTAL WATCHES

**BADGE/CREST IN FULL COLOUR
IN THIS DESIGN AND MANY OTHERS**

£32.50 post free

(UK & BFPO addresses)

MessKit Products

P. O. BOX 20

EVESHAM, WORCS., WR11 4YY

Tel: 01386 443852

PRI enquiries welcomed



EMBROIDERED LEISUREWEAR & BADGES PLUS T-SHIRT & SWEATSHIRTS

- ★ Ties ★ Sportsbags
- ★ Golf umbrellas
- ★ Baseball caps

Embroidered garments - Free original 24+
printed sweats and T-shirts, min qty 36
Badges - embroidered - min qty 25
Enamelled - min 100
Blazer badges - min 5
Ties - woven - min 50, printed min 36
Baseball caps min 50
Sports bags min 50
Golf umbrellas min 25

Ensign
MOTIFS

Write phone or
fax for colour
brochure to
Kilcreggan,
Dunbartonshire
G84 0JN

Tel 0143684 2581/2716 Fax: 0143684 2854



MICHAEL JAY
Exclusive HAND CUT
TAILORING

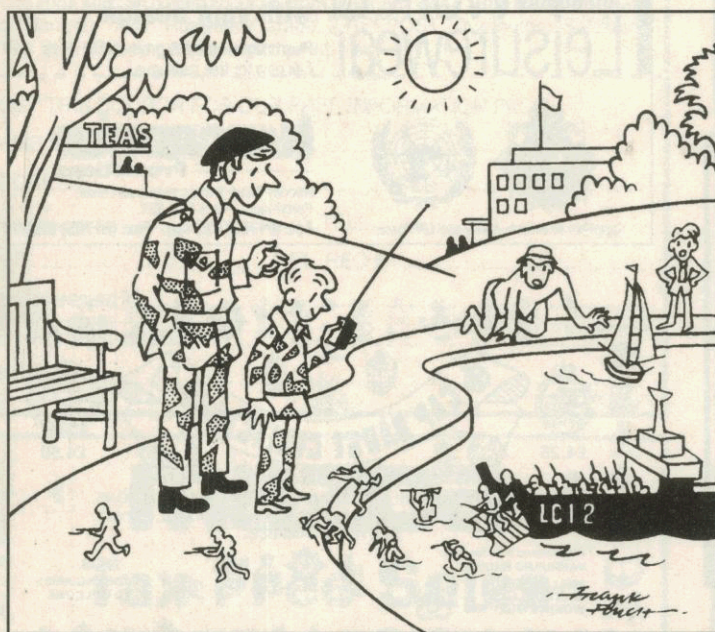
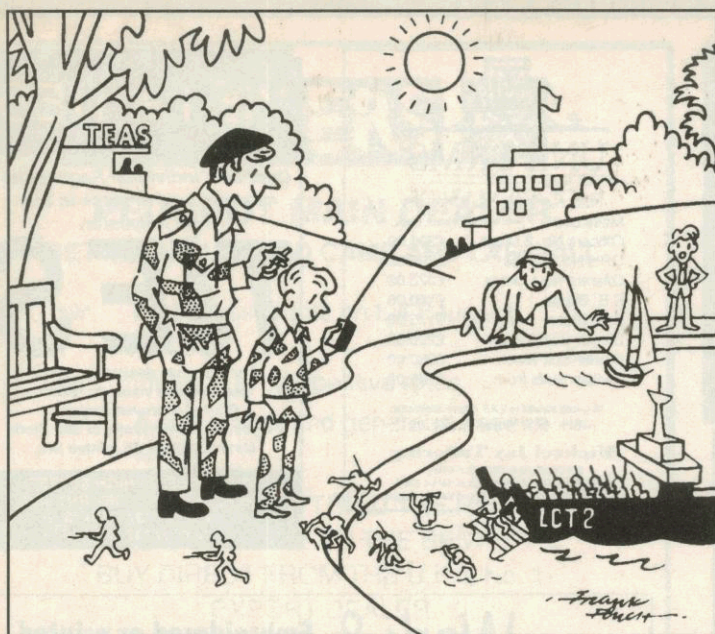
For your
MADE TO MEASURE
Uniforms Suits etc
we offer

- ✓ 14 day Make or
- ✓ 48 hr EXPRESS
- ✓ Keen prices
- ✓ First class fit
- ✓ High quality
- ✓ Excellent payment terms

Local agent to measure in most areas
Please telephone 01449 766088

As our customers say
The service is simply unbeatable
5 TOMO BUSINESS PARK, STOWMARKET, SUFFOLK IP14 5AY





COMPETITION 636

WIN £50 HOW OBSERVANT ARE YOU?

These pictures are from our Frank Finch cartoon archives. Find ten differences in detail and you could be £50 richer or win a new book. Circle the differences in the bottom picture, cut out the whole panel, add your name and address and send to HOAY 636, *Soldier*, Ordnance Road, Aldershot GU11 2DU by May 31. Do not include anything else

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

The names of the winner of the £50 first prize and two runners-up (awarded book prizes) will be announced in the June 24 issue.

Name : (Give rank or title)

Address :

Competition No 633 (April 1): Congratulations to Bdr S Newcombe, Alexander Barracks, RSC Pirbright, Brookwood, Surrey, who wins £50. Book prizes go to runners-up Mrs E Walton, of Gateshead, Tyne and Wear, and Mr J P Warren, of Walsall.

FREE SAMPLE SHIRT

U.K. MADE OLIVE
GREEN T-SHIRTS

HUNDREDS OF
EMBROIDERED
STOCK DESIGNS
AVAILABLE.

CREDIT TERMS AVAILABLE
TO H.M. FORCES

PRINTED OR Embroidered TO YOUR OWN DESIGN



- * T-SHIRTS
- * SWEATSHIRTS
- * POLOSHIRTS
- * RUGBY SHIRTS
- * DRILL TOPS
- * SWEATERS * CAPS

For FREE colour brochure from
the U.K's leading supplier to
H.M. Forces contact:

TEES TOTAL

High Street, Wootton Bassett,
Swindon, Wilts SN4 7AB
TEL: (01793) 849888
FAX: (01793) 849890



EMBROIDERED & PRINTED SPORTS & LEISUREWEAR

FOR THE PROFESSIONALS FROM THE PROFESSIONALS

Sweaters - Sweatshirts
T Shirts - Sports shirts
Rugby & Hockey Jerseys
Shorts Socks & Ties

FULL DESIGN & PERSONALISED SERVICE
NO MINIMUM ORDER

JENKINS KNITWEAR

5 VERNON PLACE NORTHERN COURT
BASFORD NOTTINGHAM NG6 0DE
Tel: (Nottm) 0115 9274469

EMBROIDERED SWEATERS SWEATSHIRTS POLO SHIRTS BADGES

PRINTED
TEESHIRTS SWEATSHIRTS
BADGES COFFEE MUGS
AND LOTS MORE!
ALL FROM ONE SUPPLIER

No artwork or setting up costs on the majority of our goods. High quality, competitive prices and prompt delivery. BFPO tax-free service.

Send for our new price list:

REYNOLDS SPORTS
51/52 HIGHSTREET, LINCOLN LN5 8AP
Tel: 01522 513333 Fax: 01522 530383

BRITISH MILITARY INSIGNIA

- ★ All current beret badges
- ★ All Officers' beret badges
- ★ Rank insignia and shoulder titles
- ★ Cloth patches and bullion patches
- ★ Anodised collar badges
- ★ Wings, formation signs, berets
- ★ DZ patches, snipers' badges, hackles

Over 1,000 items in my very latest illustrated catalogue

British catalogue £1 US Army catalogue £1
French Foreign Legion £1 World-wide Para £1

Mike Lapworth (S), 15 Woodside Grove,
BRISTOL BS10 7RF

MESS DRESS

**Made to
Measure Mess
Dress for
Officers & NCO's**

The finest quality
uniforms from the
specialist Military tailor

Interest Free Credit

Full Medal Service

Our representatives are
in regular attendance
at most units and
will call on request

Call the specialist
Military tailor on

Germany, 0171 526 1340

Ansaphone, 05751 15087

UK, +44 (0)113 282 6102

UNIFORMAL

Uniformal Ltd., Meynell Avenue,
Rothwell, Yorkshire LS26 0NU.

EPAULETTE SLIDES

For officers or other ranks. With
or without unit designation.

S.A.E. for price list.

Lancashire Embroidery & Insignia Ltd,
Knowsley Industrial Park North,
Kirby, Liverpool L33 7SA.

Phone: 0151-546 5161/2



VISTA SPORTS LTD.
Vista House, 28 High Street, Merstham,
Surrey RH1 3EA,
Tel: 01737 645113 Fax: 01737 645892

- English-made sweat shirts
- T-shirts single & multi-coloured designs
- Embroidered V-neck jumpers also many other items



LOST MEDALS
REPLACED IN RECORD TIME
FULL SIZE & MINIATURE
3 DAY MOUNTING SERVICE

WRITE OR PHONE FOR QUOTATION

RAYMOND D HOLDICH

Trafalgar Square Collectors Centre

7 Whitcomb Street

London WC2H 7HA

Tel: 0171-930 1979

0374 133493

Able-WOVEN 72
Name Tapes £3.50

Up to 30 letters/spaces Black on White
100% polyester. Tested to B.S. 5742 1989

1000 Able-LABELS

NAME, ADDRESS, TEL. No.
or any words up to 6 lines
1000 self-stick Labels 19 x 40mm

Black on White	Black on Gold	Black on Clear
£4.30	£4.80	£5.95

STATIONERY 50 8" x 6" Printed
Sheets + 20 plain + 50 Envelopes
£8.95 Phone-Write for full details
All Prices include Post/VAT. UK only
Payment with order. Delivery 16 days
STEEPLEPRINT Ltd · Dept SO · Earls Barton
NORTHAMPTON NN6 0LS · ☎ 01604 810781

HAVE YOU LOST YOUR MEDALS?

Consult the experts.
We can replace full size
medals and supply miniatures.

A fast, efficient service.

**THE VETERANS'
MEDAL OFFICE**

PO Box 61, Dallington,
Heathfield, TN21 9ZS

Tel: 01435 830111

UNIFORMS

MADE TO MEASURE

Mess Dress	P.O.A.
Officers No. 2 Dress	£395.00
OR's No. 1 Dress	£295.00
Officers No. 1 Dress	£325.00
S.B. Blazer	£150.00
D.B. Blazer	£175.00
Dinner Suit T/Wool	£220.00
Dinner Suit Wool	£250.00
Civilian Suits from	£185.00

All prices subject to V.A.T. where applicable
48Hr or 2 Week Make up

Michael Jay Tailoring

5 TOMO BUSINESS PARK,
STOWMARKET, SUFFOLK IP14 5AY
TEL: 01449 766088 FAX: 01449 766086

VISTA TIES

Over 300 individual Regimental
designs held in stock in Silk
and Polyester.

TIES

For your own design we offer a
free coloured visual by return.

Printed or woven designs.

Polyester, Silk/Polyester or Silk Cloth.

Minimum order 25 printed ties.

**VISTA TIES, 28 HIGH STREET,
MERSTHAM, SURREY RH1 3EA.
TEL: 01737 645113
FAX: 01737 645892**

Top quality **Work &
Leisurewear**

**Embroidered or printed
with your design**

Plus badges, crests & promotional items.
Call now for free catalogue.



Suppliers to British, NATO and UN Forces.

**HARGREAVES
Promotions**

Rodney Road, Fratton Industrial Estate,
Portsmouth, Hants PO4 8SY.

Tel: (01705) 822436. Fax: (01705) 822177.



£4.25 **£4.50**

WE SUPPLY CURRENT ISSUE
INSIGNIA TO UNIT PRI'S, REGT. MUSEUMS AND ASSOCIATIONS.
DUE TO INCREASED DEMAND, WE NOW HAVE A MAIL ORDER
SERVICE AVAILABLE.

Please send SAE for list to:
VANGUARD BADGES
MELLOW END
MARTYRS LANE
WOKING GU21 5NJ

TRADE ENQUIRIES
ALSO WELCOME

COSTELLO

CIVIL & MILITARY BESPOKE TAILORS

**LADIES & GENTS
MESS DRESS
SPECIALISTS**

- INTEREST FREE CREDIT
- All Accessories Supplied.
Shirts, Bow Ties, Medals
George Boots, Badges, etc.
- For All Your Uniform, Suit
& Blazer Requirements.

Contact:

UK 284-294 Ley St. Ilford Essex IG1 4BS

UK TEL: 0181 478 2780

GERMANY TEL: 05252 4631



RANGERS



PEUGEOT MAIN DEALER
BETWEEN BULFORD CAMP AND LARKHILL

- ☞ Forces discounts on full Peugeot Range*
- ☞ Finance at competitive rates
- ☞ A convenient and generous trade-in facility

WHEN YOU'VE TRIED THE REST
THEN COME TO THE BEST
BUY DIRECT FROM THE U.K.'s No. 1
EXPORT DEALER

Ring **Rick Barton 01980 653434**, from Germany **0044 1980 653434** or write to: Rangers TMs, Rangers Garage, FREEPOST, Durrington, Salisbury, Wilts SP4 8BR, England (no stamp required).

POST THIS COUPON FOR OUR FREE INFORMATION PACK

NAME AND RANK
ADDRESS
..... TEL:
UNIT DEL. REQ BY
I am interested in
Part exchange details
Country of use

SOLDIER 08

We offer you the **LOWEST PRICES** on a wide range of

NEW CARS
Advanced Car Exports

Official PEUGEOT Agents

Please contact: Stan Bateman, Advanced Car Exports,
53A High Road, Bushey Heath, Herts, WD2 1EE
Tel: 0181-950 0500 (or fax 0181-950 8511)

08

**INDEPENDENT
FINANCE**

Contact **KD** the finance and insurance specialists first for a competitive quotation and friendly personal service.

Vehicle insurance with leading UK companies; instalment payments. Check our rates before you renew or take out a new policy.

Call **KD TODAY**
on 01278 446787

Stockmoor Park, Taunton Road
Bridgwater, Somerset TA6 6LD

Wide choice of special schemes for H.M. Forces including: loans with up to 60 months to repay; Sterling or DM plans; life cover with no exclusions.

Whatever you buy



Wherever you buy

KD

mazda

Tax Free Sales

- * Immediate delivery on most models
- * Full UK spec, * Low/no deposit finance
- * Part exchange * Continental delivery
- * 323 from £9,449 * 626 from £9,699

MX5 from £9,899

**EXCLUSIVE EXPORT AGENT FOR
BFG AND BENELUX**

POOL AUTOS

7020 Mons, Belgium

Tel: (65) 728836 Fax: (65) 724467

Serving the Services since 1968

Please forward details on:

323 ☐ 626 ☐ MX3 ☐ MX5 ☐ MX6 ☐ Xedos ☐

Other makes ☐ LHD/RHD

Name Rank

Address

Tel No.

08

SOVEREIGN

**UNBEATABLE
SERVICE**

**TAX FREE
CAR SALES**



UK (01980) 843333



- German or UK delivery
- RHD or LHD programme
- Used Car Sales in Germany
- Demonstration Vehicles at Super Savings
- Finance - dm. or Sterling

ROVER

PEUGEOT

CITROEN

RENAULT

VAUXHALL

MAZDA

VOLVO

VW AUDI

FORD

BMW

SOVEREIGN FREEPOST, Station Road, Tidworth, Wilts SP9 7BR

NAME AND RANK

ADDRESS

..... TEL:

UNIT DEL. REQ. BY

I am interested in

Part exchange details

Country of use

**FREEPHONE
INSTANT ACTION
HOTLINE**

Germany 0130-8544-96

Pen Pals

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

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

TO ADVERTISE FOR A PEN PAL. Please send for details enclosing a stamped self-addressed envelope.

Clare, 29, 5'4", long dark hair, blue eyes, cheerful. Enjoys gardening, writing, decorating, collecting fine china, old and new postcards Seeking pen pals aged 25-40. **P699** 10/96

Jacqui, 27, 5'7", auburn hair, green eyes, cute. Enjoys horse riding, eating out, socialising, travelling and is an animal lover. Single parent, fun loving with GSOH, seeking pen pals aged 35 max. **P700** 10/96

Clare, 30, 5'5", medium build, blonde, brown eyes. Enjoys good food, fresh air, reading, having fun, children and CB Radio. Would like to write to people all over the world. **P701** 10/96

Linda, 25, 6'0", brown hair/eyes. Enjoys dancing, cinema, restaurants, pubs, ten pin bowling, painting and drawing. Seeking pen pals aged 25-35, looks, size not important. All letters answered. **P702** 10/96

Shelley, 29, 5'6", brown hair, green eyes. Single mum, independent, fun loving nurse. Enjoys writing, TV, darts, tennis and work. Seeking pen pals aged 25-35. **P703** 10/96

Lisa, 26, 5'8", blue eyes, auburn hair, slim elegant build, vivacious, bubbly GSOH and healthy appetite for life. Enjoys swimming, eating out, jet skiing, films and cooking. Seeking pen pals aged 28+. **P704** 10/96

Yvonne, 32, 5'0", fair hair, green eyes. Divorced with an eight year old son and works part time for a bank. Enjoys karate, walking, cinema, meals out and watching rugby. Seeking pen pals aged 30-40. **P705** 10/96

Lisa, 24, 5'6", telephone operator by profession, brown hair/eyes. Interests include letter writing, music, pubs, cinema, reading, walking and socialising. **P706** 10/96

Vicki, 43, tall, slim, attractive blonde. Enjoys walking her dog, socialising, swimming, outdoor life and eating out. Would like to correspond with sincere man with similar interests, aged 43-50. **P707** 10/96

Anna, 21, 5'5", blue eyes and humorous. Interests include cinema, art, bowling, playing pool, pubbing and travelling abroad. Seeking pen pals aged 17-30. **P708** 10/96

Carol, 33, 5'2", shoulder length brown curly hair, slim build, GSOH. I am a legal secretary and enjoy badminton, cycling, travelling, aromatherapy and socialising. Seeking pen pals aged 28+. **P709** 10/96

Rosie, 26, 5'8", brown hair, blue eyes. Enjoys music, films, going out and reading. Seeking pen pals aged 25-30 with GSOH. Will reply to all letters. **P710** 10/96

Lyn, 25, slim, medium build, brunette. Likes keep fit, films, music, country walks and quiet old fashioned pubs. Seeking pen pals aged 25-30. **P711** 10/96

Tall blue eyed 40 year old, young at heart, GSOH. Enjoys music, films, squash, meals out, reading and rock concerts. Seeking male pen pals aged 37-48. Photo appreciated but not essential. **P712** 10/96

Melissa, 24, 5'5", dark brown hair, hazel eyes. Enjoys anything that includes having a laugh, days out, nights in or out, socialising, cinema, travelling and dining out. Would like to write to anyone aged 24-30 who likes a laugh. All letters replied to. **P713** 10/96

Hello, I am a pleasant natured, single 30's lady, slim, attractive with long dark brown hair and GSOH. I enjoy music, theatre and cinema and would like to write to a soldier pen pal aged 35-45. Write soon! **P714** 10/96

Prince Charming, 33. Andrew, attractive, fit, athletic, lovely castle, own coach. Seeks witty, intelligent Cinderella to fill glass slipper abandoned at ball. Long letter and photo appreciated. Must have GSOH. **P715** 10/96

Joy, 37 (feels 29), 5'9", hazel eyes, outgoing personality. Enjoys reading, videos, clubbing, theatre and looking after daughter 11 and son 8. Seeking pen pals aged 26+ who are not only genuine but **MUST** have a GSOH. **P716** 10/96

HELP! Andy, PTI, who replied to Box P633 - Val. You forgot to include your address! Please forward to **SOLDIER.**

Books

Help the Gurkhas. £1.00 on each book to the Gurkha Welfare Trust. 'Johnny Gurkha', 'Britain's Brigade of Gurkhas', 'Wars Bring Scars', £4.00 each copy. E D Smith, 2 Balfour Mews, Station Road, Sidmouth EX10 8XL. 10-11/96

Second hand bookshop requires books in all subjects, especially military, history and politics. We collect! TLON BOOKS, Merton Abbey Mills, Merantun Way, London SW19 2RD. Telephone 0181-540 4371. 08-12/96

Military History Books. SAE for catalogue. Purchase of books in good condition on land warfare. Free specialist booksearch. John McKenzie, Carpenters, Cary Road, North Cadbury, Yeovil, Somerset BA22 7DE. Tel: 01963 440557. 03-12/96

"Head-dress Badges of the British Army" by Kipling and King. The collectors' Bible. Volume One (1800 - 1920) £65, posted. Volume Two (1920 - 1995) updated and enlarged £42.50 posted. H L & P King, 3 Saxon Croft, Farnham, Surrey GU9 7QB. (Tel. 01252 716303) Supplies limited. 10-16/96

Business Opps

Cafe, Freshwater, Isle of Wight. Business for sale includes living accommodation. Year round trade, locals and holidaying customers. 01983 752264 10/96

Picture framing as a career. All levels of training offered by a qualified "Guild Commended Framer" in Bristol. 01454 617022. 10-15/96

Cars

Absolutely Urgent. Wanted - LHD vehicles. Any condition. Cash buyer. Tel: 0181-534 4016 or 0181-555 0823. Fax: 0181-534 0033 (10am to 10.30pm seven days). T/C

Cars Wanted

Left hand drive vehicles urgently wanted. Any condition. Cash buyer. Tel: 0181-534 4016 or 0181-555 0823. Fax: 0181-534 0033 (10am to 10.30pm seven days). T/C

Employment

Child care. Carolyn Gansert, 18, seeks a position of child care in Cyprus. Considerable experience working with small children. GNVQ qualification in Health and Social Care held. Replies to Box 269, **SOLDIER Magazine**, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU. 10/96

For Sale

"A SOLDIER'S POCKET BOOK" 384 pages include: Basic Battle Skills, Fieldcraft, Orders. SOP's: Scouts, Emergency Alarms, Routines in the Field, Tank Target Indication, Working with Helicopters, Map Reading & Orienteering, First Aid, NBC, Adventure Trg, Skill at Arms, Full info on SA80/LSW, Tests and APWT's, GPMG Light Roll, Signals, Mines, MT Driver, Tank & Aircraft Recognition. ISBN 1-874528-02-0. Price £7.50 (incl of p&p UK/BFPO). Trade Terms on application. Available from selected NAAFI Branches, Bookshops or direct from publishers: **MILITARY POCKET BOOKS**, PO Box 28, Leven, Beverley, East Yorks HU17 5LA. Tel/Fax: 01964 542878. T/C

Cap badges, medals. Many collectable items. Medal mounting service, framing. Large selection of military and aviation videos available from Military and Aviation Shop, 162 High Street, Watford, Hertfordshire WD1 2EG. Tel: 01923 222446. 07-12/96

Peter Hicks Associates, comprehensive range of military figurines available in resin bronze and silver. Commissions always considered. Ring for information/brochure. Tel/fax 01380 828382. 01-24/96

Largest Manufacturers and exporters of hand embroidered Bullion Badges for Army, Navy, Air Force, Police, Schools, Colleges, Clubs etc. Flags, Banners, Sashes, Coats-of-Arms, Family Crests and all military accoutrements. Also leather gloves, footballs, track suits. Contact: J Arthur (PVT) Ltd, PO Box 301, Sialkot 51310, Pakistan. Fax: 92 432 588605. 03-14/96

Cap badges, regimental ties, blazer badges, medals, insignia. Send £1.50 for list, to: Cairncross (Dept S), 31 Belle Vue Street, Filey, North Yorks. 24/96

Hand embroidered quality wire blazer badges. Send design for sample and quote. Gemini Insignia Company, 4/77 Khawajan, Gujrat, Pakistan. 20-19/96

Military badges, good selection reasonable prices. SAE for list: G Brindle, 2 Short Road, Smethwick, West Midlands B67 6NJ. 09-12/96

Mess dress, RAMC. 38" chest, 32-34" waist. Hardly worn, £200 ono. 01252 22365. 09-10/96

Regimental Shields, Plaques and Shieldclocks. In good company with most Regiments and Corps of the British Army we made your Shields for the Falklands, the Gulf and now Bosnia and Croatia and most other UN locations. Let us design your Regimental and Operational Shields, write for a full colour brochure to: Teresa Houghton, Military Marketing, 16 Riverway, Shipston on Stour CV36 4RD. **Telephone and Fax 01608 663770.** Minimum order 25 Shields. £9.95 no VAT outside the UK. Shieldclocks £17.50. T/C

Fieldcraft, life skills, shooting skills, outdoor survival, self defence and much more. New book catalogue, thousands to choose from. Free. The Outdoorsman's Bookstore, PO Box 15, Brecon, Powys LD3 7XZ or phone 01874 658660. 03-25/96

British and overseas military badges, collars, titles, formation signs. Regular comprehensive stock lists £2.00. Castle Armoury (S), 18 Castle Street, Dover CT16 1PW. T/C

Full/miniature size medals mounted for wear or display. Send for full list of new miniature medals, ribbon emblems, brooches, ribbon bars, clasps, etc, and medal mounting costs. Access/Visa welcome. SAE appreciated. Worcestershire Medal Services, 25 Golden Cross Lane, Catshill, Bromsgrove B61 0LG. Tel: 01527 835375. 11-96

Give them the most unique gift/presentation idea ever! A "Scottish Laird" Title for a "Tanner", oh yes! Details from S.A. Survival, Gayfield, Arbroath, Scotland DD11 1QJ. 07-16/96

Commemorative documents of military service. Applicable to all branches of service. Posthumous and overseas requests catered for. For descriptive list and request form, send SAE to: A.F.S.O., Outer Ardoch, Kilwinning, Ayrshire KA13 7QL. AS/96

Military Fine Arts. Britain's leading British military art distributor. Access to all British publishers. Hundreds of original items also available. Catalogue £2.50 + A4/50p sac. Cheques to: G. Jennings-Bramly, 5 Feversham Road, Salisbury, Wilts SP1 3PP. Tel: 01722 328523. EO1

British Military cap badges and insignia. Send SAE for lists to **INKERMAN Badges**, PO BOX 1022, Coulsdon, Surrey CR5 3JQ. 03-14/96

NATO (IFOR) medals now available. Full size £15.00, miniatures £7.50 + VAT (UK) + postage (75p). Send SAE for catalogue to: Miniature Medals (SM), 30 Coventry Road, Burbage, Leics LE10 2HP. 09-12/96

Silverman's have available the following new PTI kit: Old Pattern PTI Tops £32.99, PTI Vests £7.99, PTI Belts £9.99, PTI Cloth Badges £2.99, Ron Hill Tracksters £14.99, New Rugby Shirts all cotton £15.99, Timex Sports Watches from £16.99. Free catalogue 0171-790 0900, Info 0171-790 5257, Orders 0171-790 5585. Silverman's, 2 Harford Street, Mile End, London E1 4PS. TC

Military, Red Cross, sports, coronation, police, school, masonic and miscellaneous medals and badges. Send 2x25p stamps for list: 18 Hollybank Road Birkenhead, Merseyside L41 2SY. 09-14/96

CLASSIFIED

Army Cap Badges. Send SAE plus 80p for lists to: Clans and Regiments, 14 Elm Grove, Aldbrough, East Yorkshire HU11 4RQ. Guarantee and generous discounts. T/C

Souvenir of Service. China tankard or 8" plate, personalised with three lines of copy (eight words) and army crown or IFOR shield in 22ct gold. £14.95, post paid. BFM Collectables, PO BOX 69, Fleet, Hants GU13 9YN. 10-9/96

Military cap badges, militaria. For my latest list please send 2x25p stamps to: Wessex Militaria, PO BOX 6, Okehampton, Devon EX20 1YT. Tel: 01837 53332. 10-11/96

Postcards of 13 new regiments and corps. Light Dragoons, Highlanders, Logistic Corps, AG Corps, etc. £5.95. Geoff White, 19 Rushmoor Lane, Backwell, Bristol. 10-12/96

Cannon Curios, 21 Bulford Road, Durrington, Wilts. Militaria, deacts, prints, furniture, glass, china, books, medal cases etc. 10-5 daily, closed Wednesday. Tel: 01980 655099. 10-13/96

Holidays

CYPRUS BARGAINS!! Last minute prices for 3 star hotel (B&B) and self-catering now available throughout season. Fourteen nights (including flight/transfers) May/June £295, July/August £317, September £308, October £318. 0151 722 3708. 03-16/96

North Wales, near Snowdonia/coast. Cosy stone cottages (Gas CH), quiet farm, away from it all. Ideal area for touring, walking, fishing, wildlife, lazing about. Budget prices. Free leaflet, Tel: 01745 870426. 07-12/96

Houselets

HAMLETS

Property Letting & Management
HOMEOWNERS -
Moving in UK or abroad?

Let us make your property work for you. Our small but professional company finds suitable tenants, manages your property and ensures its return to you as and when required. With a base in Leicestershire we also cover the East Midlands counties of Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire.

For further information please ring:

01509 266151

or write to:

134 KNIGHTTHORPE ROAD,
LOUGHBOROUGH, LEICS LE11 0JU 07

IF AN ADVERT IS WRONG, WHO PUTS IT RIGHT?

We do.

The Advertising Standards Authority ensures advertisements meet with the strict Code of Advertising Practice.

So if you question an advertiser, they have to answer to us.

To find out more about the ASA, please write to Advertising Standards Authority.

Department X.

Brook House.

Torrington Place.

London WC1E 7HN.



This space is donated in the interests of high standards in advertisements.

ARMY SPORTS LOTTERY RESULTS

APRIL 13, 1996

Five-way tie for first prize (19 goals, £1,094.29 each): Maj J S Charnock, 14 Signal Regt (EW), Brawdy; Maj J H M Cushnir, Scots DG, BFPO 38; WO1 D L Daniel, HQ London District; Sgt (name withheld), HQ Hereford Garrison; Sgt M Roberts, 16 Signal Regt, BFPO 40.

Two-way tie for sixth prize (18 goals, £264.29 each): LBdr J M Beveridge, 39 Regt RA, Newcastle upon Tyne; Capt M S A Skehel, 14 Indep Topo Sqn RE, BFPO 19.

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

APRIL 20, 1996

First prize (18 goals, £2,500): Cpl D McMillan, Fl Fd Sqn RE, BFPO 655.

15-way tie for second prize (17 goals, £233.33 each): Sgt R K Ayers, AFCC Brighton; SSgt S Brennan, 241 Signal Sqn, Donnington; LCpl G B Chapman, 1 Mech Bde HQ & Signal Sqn, Tidworth; Cpl D J Coombes, 22 Engr Regt, Perham Down; Capt N Donald, 3 RHF (V), Ayr; LCpl L J Farrow, 35 Engr Regt, BFPO 31; SSgt P A Follan, 3 Para, Dover; SSgt M R Greenberry, 237 Signal Sqn, Chippenham; WO2 C Hamilton, PCD RLC, Mill Hill; Sgt G C Jackson, PCD RLC, Mill Hill; Sgt K E Lincoln, 84 PC Sqn RLC, BFPO 808; Lt Col A J Pickford, HQ QMG, Andover; WO2 A Steven, ASPT, Aldershot; LCpl N S Vokes-Tilley, 111 Pro Coy RMP, BFPO 30; LCpl R J Wood, 1 ASLS RE, RAF Marham. 10-12/96

Please mention
SOLDIER when
replying to
advertisements

Motorcycles

Sanyang 125, L reg. Very good condition, 5000k, £1200 ono. 01252 22365. 09-10/96

Property for Sale

MERE (A303) Wiltshire. Brand new three bedroom semi, double glazed, fitted kitchen, NHBC guarantee, free mortgage protection. 5% deposit paid. £54,500. 01749 850819. 10-12/96

FROME (Somerset). Recent barn conversion, five bedrooms, three bathrooms, fitted kitchen, courtyard, garages, stables, 4 1/2 acres. OIRO £215,000. 01749 850819. 10-12/96

Services

LOANS

No security required £1,000-£10,000

CARS, FURNITURE, HOLIDAYS.
CLEAR EXISTING UP TO DATE LOANS,
HP, CREDIT CARDS, CASH SPARE.

FORCES, TENANTS & HOMEOWNERS

- No interviews, confidential service by post
- Good benefits if you settle your loan early

For quotes, written details and free advice

Tel: 01929 423925 9am-9pm 7 days
(from overseas 0044-1929 423925).

NORSTAR FINANCE

Licensed by Office of Fair Trading as Lenders & Brokers 07

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

NAME
(PLEASE USE BLOCK CAPITALS)

ADDRESS.....

CLASSIFICATION			Postcode	
1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30

If you need more space, or do not wish to cut the magazine, please write clearly on plain paper

COST: 30p PER WORD, MINIMUM CHARGE £6.00. VAT AT 17.5% **MUST** BE ADDED

NB: NAME AND ADDRESS AND/OR PHONE NUMBER SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN COST

IF YOU REQUIRE A CONFIDENTIAL BOX NUMBER, ADD £2.35 (INC. VAT) PER INSERTION AND TICK BOX ☐

_____ WORDS AT 30p = £ _____
X _____ INSERTIONS = £ _____
VAT AT 17.5% = £ _____
BOX NUMBER (INC. VAT) = £ _____
TOTAL ENCLOSED = £ _____
CHEQUE/PO Number _____ (Payable to SOLDIER)

Send to:
CLASSIFIED ADS
SOLDIER
ORDNANCE ROAD
ALDERSHOT
HANTS GU11 2DU

ALL CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS MUST BE PREPAID AND WILL BE INSERTED IN THE FIRST AVAILABLE ISSUE

A superior force

Army 31, RAF 23

THE ARMY has been promising so much all season. Excellent wins against strongish Gloucester and Bath sides suggested great things to come but against the Royal Navy they delivered little, writes **Roger Thompson**.

In retrospect, the score and orchestration had been good, it was simply an inability to hit the high notes at the critical moment. For the RAF match Tim Rodber (Green Howards and England) and Rob Wainwright

(RAMC and Scotland), both previously absent at the Hong Kong Sevens, were chosen; Garath Archer (R Signals and England), having picked up a fistful of yellow cards, missed the bench and was going through the Bristol to Newcastle tunnel, yet to emerge.

This gave the Army a vastly superior platform which for 20 minutes marched the airmen from pillar to post around Twickenham but without any points advantage. The Army should have scored three or four tries in the first quarter.

'Temps' dominate at BATUS

LT Will Woodall (1 RTR) and Lt Andrew Welsh (1 Kings Own Border), both temporary staff, finished first and second in the individual 10km cross country competition at the BATUS ski meet. Maj John Watkins (REME) was third.

More than 130 permanent and temporary staff, dependants and Canadian civilian staff took part in the event at Canmore Nordic Centre, a 1988 Winter Olympics venue.

BATUS HQ dominated the cross country team event, its A and B teams filing the first two places.

The downhill, held on Goats Eye Mountain in the Rockies, was won by BATUS HQ with BATUS Workshop second. Capt David Webb (QRH) won the individual title with Capt Simon Allen (RTR) second and Sgt Neil Greenock (QRL) third. Capt Jackie Orpin (AGC(ETS)) was first in the women's event.

Army win Willis Corroon Bowl

wobble in that corridor of uncertainty between justifiable expectation and ebbing confidence until Rodber, Wainwright and Rob Hunter (3 RSME) cranked the outfit up.

Early in the second half the brave RAF defence started to creak. Territorial advantage and domination of the lines out, through Dave Dahinton (7 RHA) and Andy Newsham (1 RHA), enabled Paul Knowles (RRF) to level the score with a penalty. With the initiative restored Wainwright reproduced the Scotland sense of adventure, swooping on a rolling ball to feed Brian Johnson (R Sigs), the winger sprinting 60m to score an exceptional try. The writing on the wall came sharply into

focus when Knowles converted from far out.

Rodber drove the pack into the shadows of the posts before spiriting the mauled ball to Andy Sanger (3 RSME), the Army's Rugby League captain and centre who punched through three tackles to score. Knowles converted... 18-6.

Although Chris Morgan scored a courageous try for the RAF, Johnson turned defence into attack, intercepting to sprint 70m. Descendants of The Few were even fewer as he crossed the line.

Sensibly, under the captaincy of Julian Brammer (RE), the Army settled the issue by kicking their penalty options. This gave them a 31-11 lead.

Powerful penetration came from loose head prop Matt Stewart (2 PWRR) who will be playing with Northampton next season. Fowers, 37 going on 21, played the game of his life in that most difficult corner, tight head prop.

He was constantly in support and, irrespective of Johnson's excellent tries, Fowers was man of the match.

The RAF scored a consolation try but the final Army victory, 31-23, secured the coveted Willis Corroon Bowl.

The 1995-96 season has been an excellent advertise-

Paras leave it so late

1 Para 26, 7 (Para) RHA 22

IN AN outstanding game of Rugby League at SEAE Arborfield, 1 Para overcame 7 (Para) RHA to win the inter-unit cup final, played this year for the new Yeoman Cup.

No quarter was asked or given as the two Airborne Forces teams joined battle in a memorable contest, one of the best at club level this season.

Although the commitment by both sides was ferocious, neither side allowed discipline to break down, and the result was an enthralling match settled only in the last play in the last minute of the game.

Ahead 22-6 at half-time, the 1 Para team - beaten in last year's inaugural final by 1 RSME - looked to have the game sewn up. But the Horse

Gunners, for several years the most accomplished Army unit in the Union code, stormed back after the break to level the scores at 22 with three minutes left on the stopwatch.

Cpl Bob Hinton narrowly failed to put 1 Para ahead with a drop kick. The Horse Gunners then drove the ball down the field in their next series of possession, but were unable to break the Para defence.

The Paras responded in kind, using what turned out to be the final six tackles to close on the RHA try-line.

And with the final movement of the game Cpl Wayne Braddock jinxed inside a tackle to put his stand-off over for the winning try. There was only time for the conversion, which was missed, before the hooter



Picture: Mike Perring

Twickenham delight: LCpl Matt Stewart (PWRR) with the Willis Corroon Trophy and Army skipper Julian Brammer (RE) with the Army-RAF Trophy

ment for Services rugby, the Willis Corroon (AFFAS) Inter-Services Championships only being decided in the final moments of the final match. In overcoming the RAF, the soldiers proved themselves the season's superior force. The Royal Navy, last year's champions, finished third.

signalled the end of a pulsating contest.

The trophy was presented by Maj Gen Alan Yeoman, former Director Army Sport Control Board.

There's still life in the old 'uns!

A TEAM of former Army badminton players narrowly beat the current Army side in an end-of-season challenge match at Arborfield.

Between them the Army Old Boys were winners of 68 championship titles between 1968 and 1993.

The progress through the ranks of ex-WO1 Mick Feehily (RAMC), who held 33 titles, is faithfully recorded on the Army trophies.

Feehily, partnered by ex-Cpl Chris Fetherston (REME),

Dickson sets pace for Army orienteers

WITH several top runners unavailable, the British Army Orienteering Club were not as competitive as expected at the 1996 Jan Kjellstrom international orienteering festival staged in North Yorkshire.

But it was encouraging to see many new and inexperienced members making the effort to attend, particularly the team from London UOTC and the PMC Arborfield squad led by the intrepid Capt (Retd) Ken Williams who finished 21st on the M55 long course.

another former champion, were narrowly beaten in the opening game by Army No 1 pair SSgt Adrian Quinney (AGC) and Cpl Steve Pengelly (R Signals).

Stars in the old boys' line-up turned out to be Alan Dixon (ex-WO, REME) and Robert Troup (ex-Pte, RAMC) who carried all before them in the morning session.

Lt Col (Retd) Alan Lees (RAPC/AGC) and ex-WO1 Frank Linnane (RAOC) belied their 50-plus years after lunch

Best individual result came from Capt Colin Dickson (SASC), runner up on last year's M40 long course, who finished 5th, while 2nd Lt Matt Clifton, currently at RMA Sandhurst, competed strongly over the M21 long course, finishing 65th after being 93rd at the end of the first day.

Competition consisted of two days of individual orienteering followed by relays on the third day. Although overall numbers were down on previ-

ous years, about 3,000 runners took part, including a strong squad from Switzerland.

Other BAOC top 50 finishers were:

M21 long - 8, Sgt Calvin Routledge (AGC); 25, WO2 Dave Rollins (RLC). M35 long - 11, Maj Nick Bateson (R Sigs); 13, Maj Peter Riches (RE); 22, Maj Tony Marshall (REME); 25, WO2 Phil Batts (REME). M35 short - 31, SSgt Ted Sandalls (REME); 32, Maj Nigel Gallier (Green Howards).

M19B - 6, OCdt Sam Crompton (London UOTC); 8, AT Gareth Wardle (PMC Arborfield); 13, AT Michael Pratt (PMC Arborfield). M17A - 48, AT Robert Holton (PMC Arborfield). M17B - 2, AT Ian Dockree (PMC Arborfield); 3, AT Daniel Hartley (PMC Arborfield).

Team manager Colin Dickson worked hard to ensure everyone had a run in the relays, but winning trophies was always going to be hard.

Nevertheless, the medium open team (Collins, Belshaw and Dickson) finished fourth, and the M35 relay team (Riches, Blount and Bateson) missed the trophy by five seconds when the final runner was overtaken in the run-in.

Team manager Colin Dickson worked hard to ensure everyone had a run in the relays, but winning trophies was always going to be hard.

Nevertheless, the medium open team (Collins, Belshaw and Dickson) finished fourth, and the M35 relay team (Riches, Blount and Bateson) missed the trophy by five seconds when the final runner was overtaken in the run-in.

Team manager Colin Dickson worked hard to ensure everyone had a run in the relays, but winning trophies was always going to be hard.

Nevertheless, the medium open team (Collins, Belshaw and Dickson) finished fourth, and the M35 relay team (Riches, Blount and Bateson) missed the trophy by five seconds when the final runner was overtaken in the run-in.

1 Cheshire 0, 28 Engr Regt 2

HAMELN's 28 Engineer Regiment continued their almost total domination of the Army Challenge Football Cup when they defeated 1 Cheshire by two goals to nil in front of a good crowd at the Military Stadium in Aldershot, writes **Derrick Bly**.

The sappers got their noses in front in the tenth minute when Gordon wrong-footed the Cheshire defence and hammered a shot past stranded goalkeeper Cowling.

From the restart Parsons

struck the sapper woodwork as the Cheshires, prompted by skipper Cpl Tosh Williams and ably led by Pte Simon Yeo, fought hard to get back on terms.

After a period during which both teams struggled to maintain their composure, Yeo struck the ball wide when it looked easier to score.

Ten minutes into the second half 38 Engr Regt scored a crucial second goal when Gordon again turned his marker and fired off a shot which Cowling got his legs to but could not keep out.

While never a classic cup final, the game was played in a good spirit and was well refereed by Maj Trevor Gogin. It was the sappers' six triumph in seven years.

Mr David Sargent, managing director of Wilsons Independent Financial Advisers, sponsors of the Challenge Cup competition, presented the trophy. Man of the match Gordon, chosen by television pundit Jimmy Hill, received the Wilson Memorial Trophy.

Sussex spoil record

Sussex 1, Army 0

DEFEAT by a single goal at the hands of unbeaten Sussex FA at Lancing blemished the Army's South West Counties Championship Group A record but was not enough to prevent them appearing in the final against the Royal Navy.

LCpl Glen Glenister's early strike came back off the crossbar, but the county side responded and Cfn Ian Elliott was called on to make several good saves behind a stretched Army defence.

Sussex scored early in the second half and held their slender lead to the final whistle despite good chances for Cpl Dave Maynard, Cpl Alfie Alford and LCpl Jim Strouts.

SPORT is to be "re-launched as a core activity" in the Army, Gen Sir Michael Rose told 130 guests at a sports development dinner at the Staff College, Camberley.

He said more manpower and funds would be directed to the playing of sport in 1997. This is as a result of sport being included for the first time in top-level management plans.

The Adjutant General, who hosted the dinner as President of the Army Sport Con-

Sport to become 'core' activity

trol Board, spoke of the historical legacy of sport given to the world by the British Army. He said that hundreds of thousands of youngsters in Britain had had their first taste of competition on joining the Army.

Remarking on the Service's huge operational commitment in Bosnia and elsewhere, Gen Rose said: "I hope we will have more time to enjoy sport in the future."

Guests of honour included Armed Forces Minister Nicholas Soames, Sports Minister Iain Sproat, and Gen Sir Roger Wheeler, C-in-C Land Command.

The dinner, sponsored by Holt's Agency, Royal Bank of Scotland, was organised by ASCB director Maj Gen Simon Lytle to thank corporations and individuals involved in the support of Army sport.

Blandford signallers get there in the end

11 Sig Regt 4, SEAE 3

TEN years of gunner domination of the Army's Major Units Hockey Cup competition ended when 11 Signal Regiment beat SEAE Arborfield in a fluctuating final at Aldershot.

The signallers looked to be cruising when they went 4-0 ahead through LCpl Ronnie Barker (2), Sgt Gary Duffy and Lt Col Gordon James in the opening 25 minutes.

But after playing flawless hockey for much of the half, 11 Sigs were pegged back just before the interval when WO2 Stu Todd converted a penalty following a stick tackle in the circle by WO2 (Y of S) Sean Sutton on Capt Steve Lallam.

In the final seconds of the half SSgt Reggie Perrin made it 4-2 from a penalty corner to give the previously disorganised SEAE new hope.

TIRELESS

After the break it was the turn of the Blandford signallers to defend as the Arborfield team threw everything at them. Capt Tim Wood, WO2 Chris Peach and Sig Bill James were tireless in the 11 Sigs' midfield as SEAE drove forward.

A misunderstanding between Maj Nick Hammett and Sig Bru Baker let in Todd to score his second and SEAE's third.

But just when it looked all over for the signallers, they finally got their act together and went on the attack, pinning SEAE in their own half for the final ten minutes of an entertaining cup final.

In the semi-finals, 14 Regt RA/RSA held SEAE 2-2 in normal time but lost 6-5 on penalties after extra time, while 11 Sigs beat Germany champi-



Capt Tim Wood (pictured) has been involved in a hat trick of major hockey triumphs.

He led Blandford-based 11 Signal Regiment to victories against 14 Regt RA/RSA in the 3rd (UK) Division final and SEAE Arborfield in the Major Units Cup final at Aldershot.

Wood, now posted to 259 Signal Squadron in Cyprus, was also a member of the Army team which won the Inter-Service championships on goal difference, recovering the trophy from the Royal Air Force. In doing so, the Army

Tim has the winning habit

also won the Wilkinson Sword Trophy by beating the Royal Navy 3-0. Tim Wood has played for the Army for six successive seasons, during which the Army has won the Inter-Services on five occasions.

With him in the picture are the Inter-Services Trophy, the Wilkinson Sword, the Army Hockey Cup and the 3rd (UK) Division Cup.

ons the King's Royal Hussars 5-0 with four goals from Chris Peach and one from Gordon James.

The Blandford team qualified for the Army Cup competition by beating 32 Regiment RA, Army champions for the past three years, and 14 Regi-

ment RA/RSA to win the 3rd (UK) Division championship.

In the preliminary round of the main competition they beat 25 Engr Regt from Northern Ireland 3-1 before overcoming 1 LI (led by GB hockey captain Capt Simon Hazlett) 3-2 in a thrilling quarter-final.

Scotland call up Jacquie



Yacht sailor Capt Jacquie Wilson (pictured) of the AGC (SPS) has clinched a place in the Scottish team for the Teachers Round Britain Challenge after competing in national trials at Largs. She was chosen from more than 3,000 candidates and competed against 22 short-listed crew applicants.

The 2,100-mile race, starting on August 18, begins and ends in Cowes, with stop-overs in Galway, Oban and Newcastle.

Winners of the major title at the Army inter-unit squash championships were 1 RHA who beat Troops Hereford 4-1 in the finals held at Buller Barracks, Aldershot. The Minor Unit competition went to RLC Trg Gp, 3-2 winners over MCTC.

The Army fencing championships are being staged at ASPT, Aldershot on May 9-12. Details from Greg Hall on 01483-444581 (day), 01252-316199 (evenings). A pre-championship advanced fencing course is to be held on May 7-8, also at ASPT.

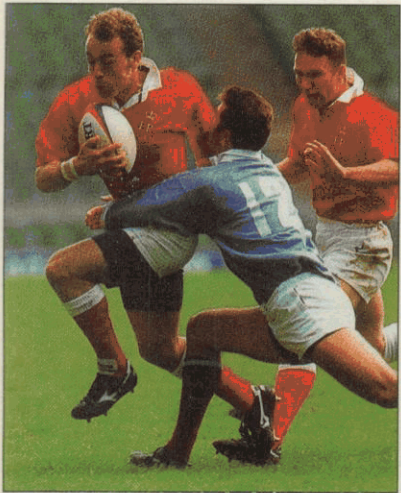
A Company, 3 PWO won the Edmunds Trophy in the final of the Land Command inter-unit small-bore target rifle competition at SEME Bordon. Runners-up were 3 R Irish, with Liverpool UOTC third. Only two points separated first and second place in a close-fought final notable for high standards of shooting by the top teams.

Bad Lippspringe airfield is to host the Rhine Army parachute championships from June 29 to July 7.

Picture: Mike Weston



Action from the Yeoman Cup Rugby League final between 1 Para and 7 (Para) RHA. Pte Smoz Bennett (1 Para) starts an attack as Sgt Rickie Hughes (No 4) prepares to intercept. Other players in the photograph include Cpl Tee Turner, Pte Dave Beasey and Cpl Wayne Braddock of 1 Para



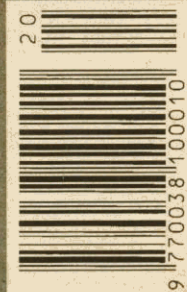
Pictures: Mike Perring

Backs to front: Lt Brian Johnson (R Anglian), with Capt Howard Graham (RA) in close support, bursts through a tackle by the RAF's Cpl Stu Roke at Twickenham.
Right - forwards we go: Sgt Jim Fowers (RHA), left, wrestles for possession with Sgt Chris Morgan (RAF). On the right is Capt Julian Brammer (RE)



Serving with the multi-capbadged A Squadron, Light Dragoons in Banja Luka are 9th/12th Lancers, KRH, QRL, 2RTR, RLC, REME, AGC, Queen's Own Yeomanry and Scottish Yeomanry, some of whom are shown here. Story in Pages 15-17

Picture: Mike Weston



20