

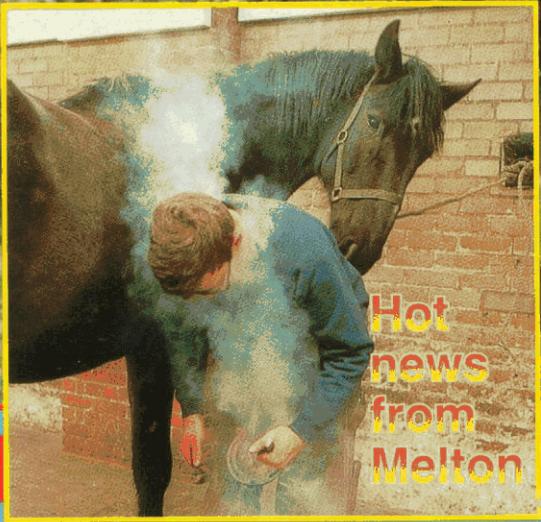
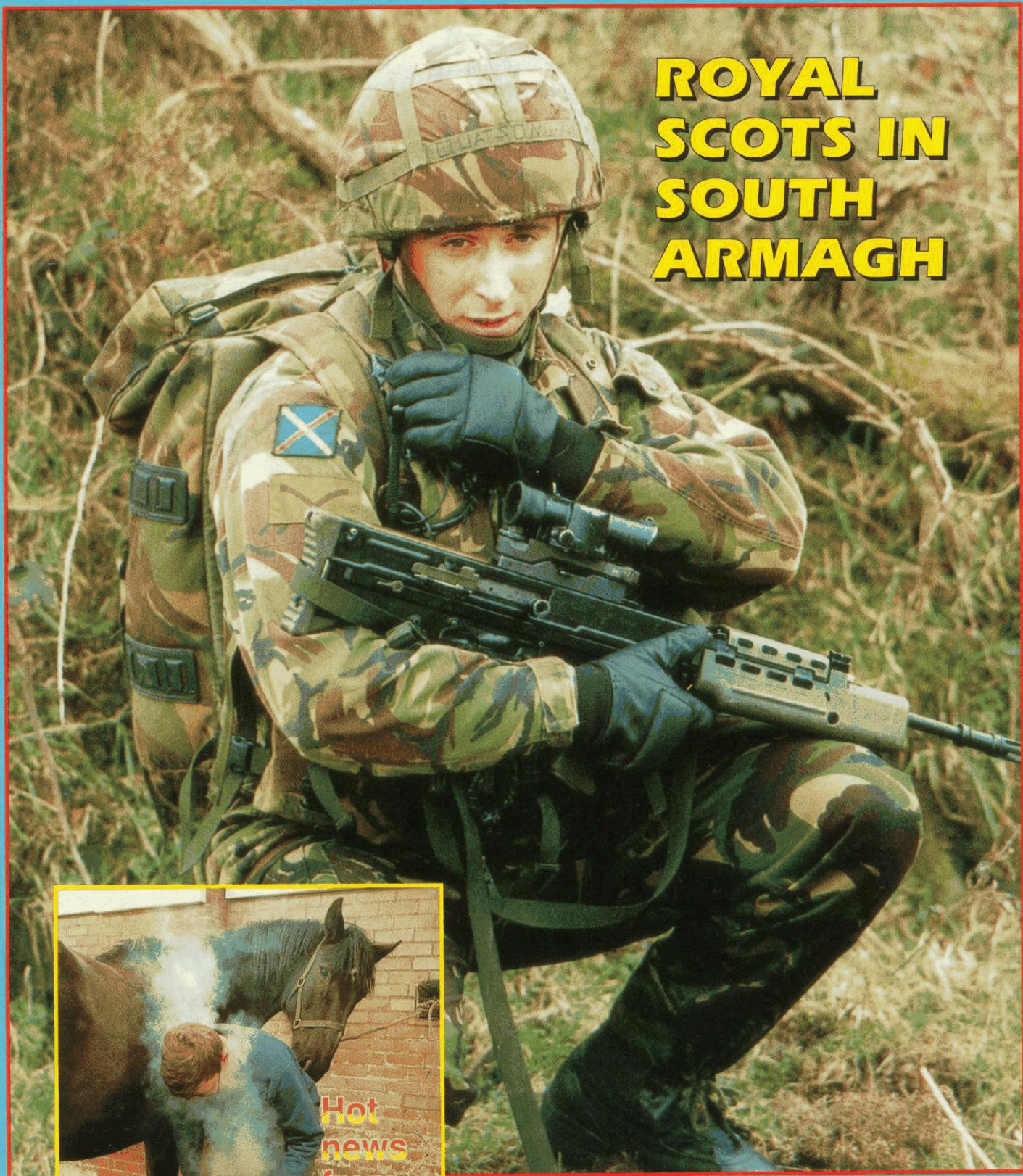
SOLDIER

FORTNIGHTLY MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY

MAY 13 1996

60p

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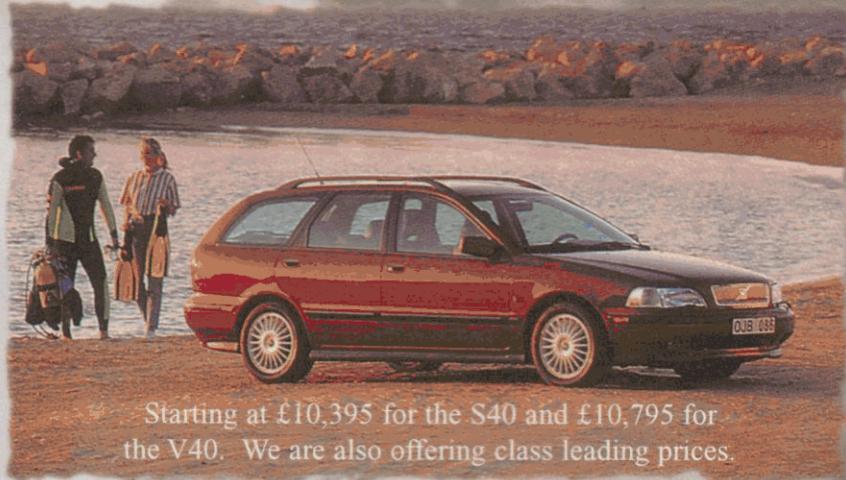
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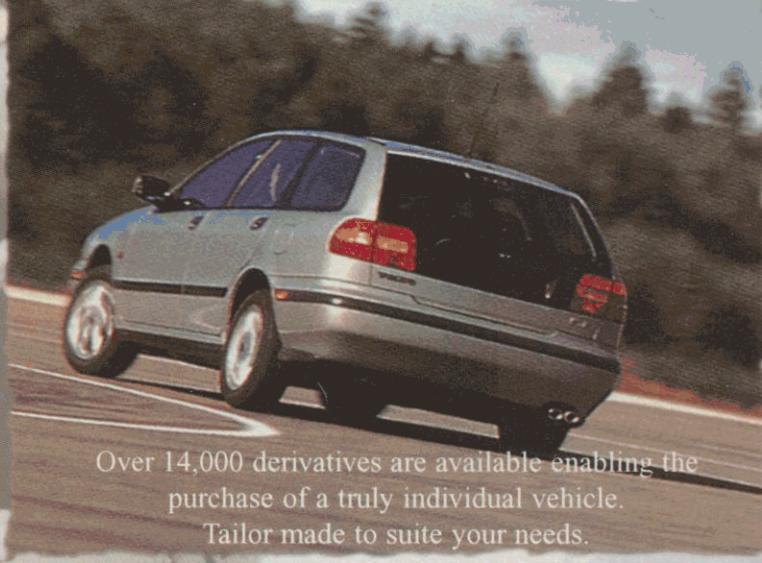
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Picture: Terry Champion

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Picture: Chris Fletcher

Beauty and the beast: Aston Martin's new DB7 model is put through its paces against an unusual adversary - 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 Thruxton, 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 Signals, 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 completing their technical training at an appropriate Army trade training school.

The Arborfield establishment will be known as the Army Apprentice College.

As well as Phase One military training, apprentices will complete a package of preparatory 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 tradesmen and women, they will qualify for a level three National Vocational Qualification (NVA), equivalent to two A-Levels, and receive the Army Modern Apprentice qualification.

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

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 Signals technician and operator trades will be taught at the Royal School of Signals in Blandford Camp. The proposals will mean some revision to previous plans to transfer all Royal Signals apprentice training to Blandford.

Under the new arrangements, Royal Signals apprentices 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 September.

Until the late 1960s, Army apprentices completed three years of training from the age of 15 before joining Regular units. In the years that followed, 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

cation much faster than their civilian counterparts.

Royal Engineer trade training, such as fitter RE, carpenter and painter and finisher, will take place at Minley and Chatham. REME advanced tradesmen and women such as avionics and electronics technicians will be trained at Arborfield and Bordon.

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

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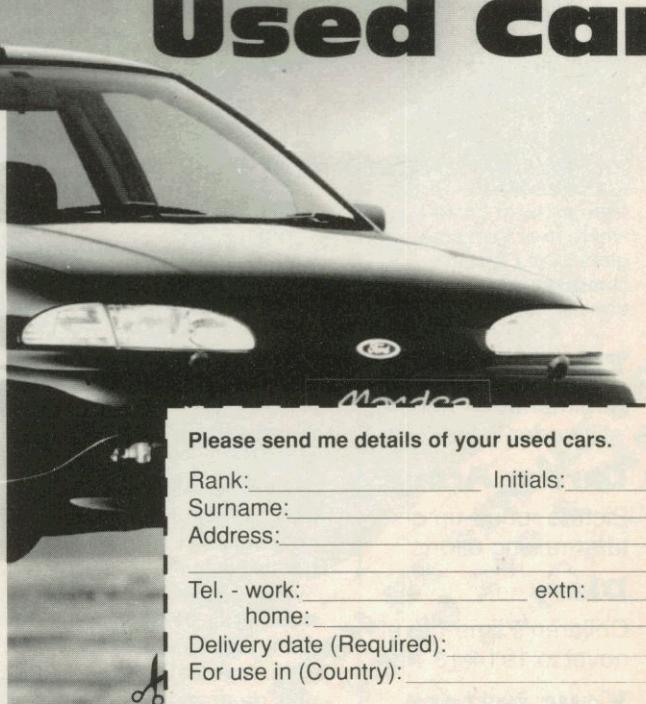


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Thanks a bundle! You've really come up trumps



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

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.

Sgt 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



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Picture: Terry Champion

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 Srbska, 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 Hereford 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.

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

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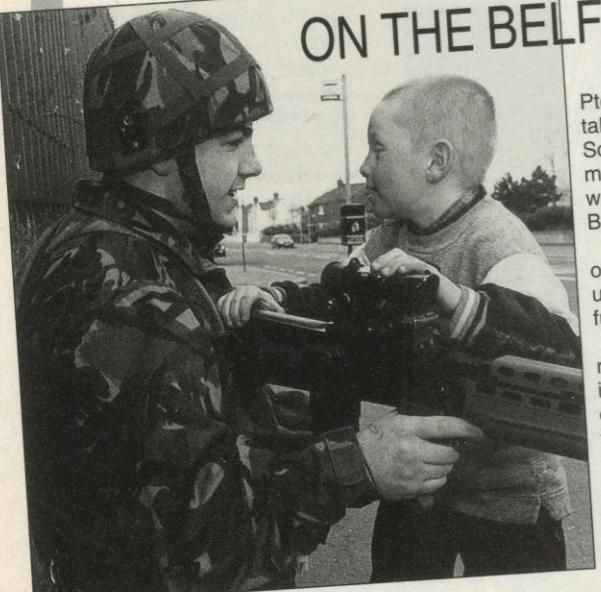
Relatively speaking

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 Moyle; Ptes Lloyd and Stephen Kingstree; Ptes David and Andrew McGuffie; Sgt Robert Stuart and Pte Bryan Stuart; and Cpl 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

Picture: Cpl Nichols, R Mon RE (M)

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).



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, Kyrgyzstan, Belarus and Albania.

Combined Shot

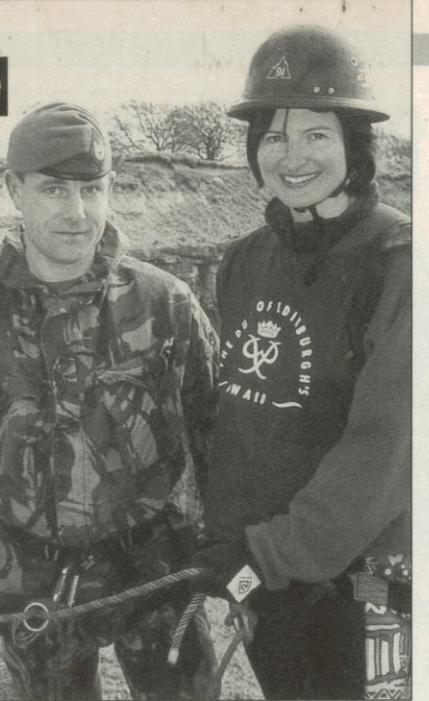


Members of A Coy, 1st Battalion, The Green Howards, and fellow Osnabrück-based units A Sqn, Queen's Royal Lancers and FOO

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

PEOPLE



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 Troedyrhw Merthyr Tydfil.

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.



Picture: Sgt D. Bridges, Div Phot

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



Cari's column

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

'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'

regulars, 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 young-

sters 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.

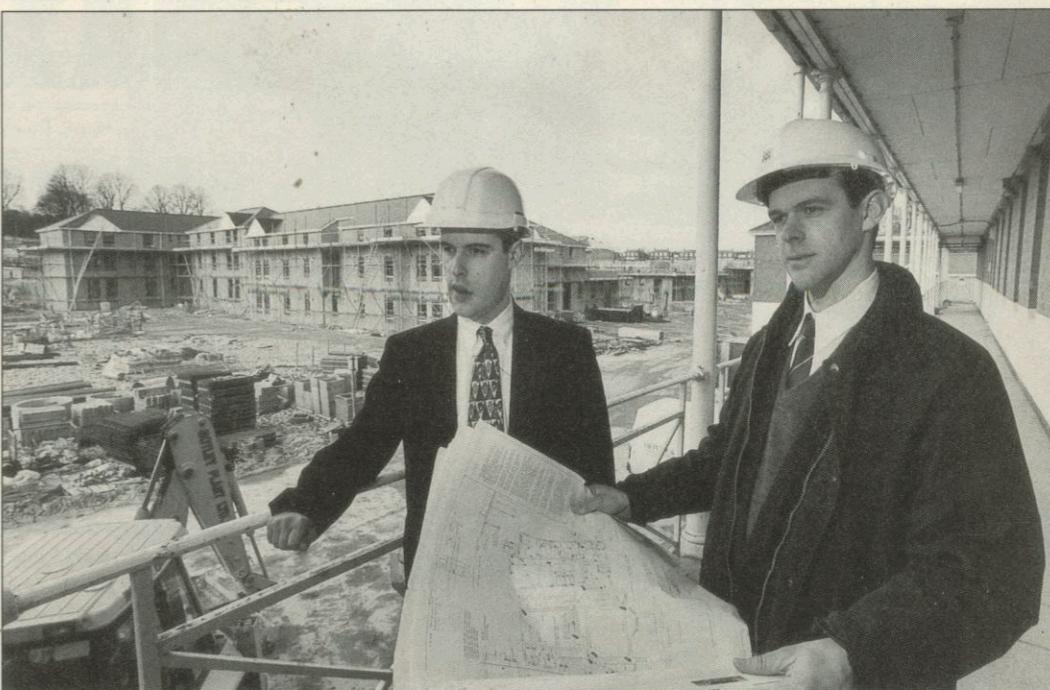
They cannot walk away if the challenge proves too much. To be a success, they have to operate as a unit.

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 Moulton 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 serverys 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.

Moulton 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

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



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).

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.

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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 heartfelt 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 Hohne 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.

● 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 Hohne.

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 re-broadcasting 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



OC A Sqn, Maj Marcus Good, Light Dragoons

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 cafe 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.

But although the cafe 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



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

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



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



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

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.

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 Axe. 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



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



Brig Paul Jepson,
DAC Commandant

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



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

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



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).

"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

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.

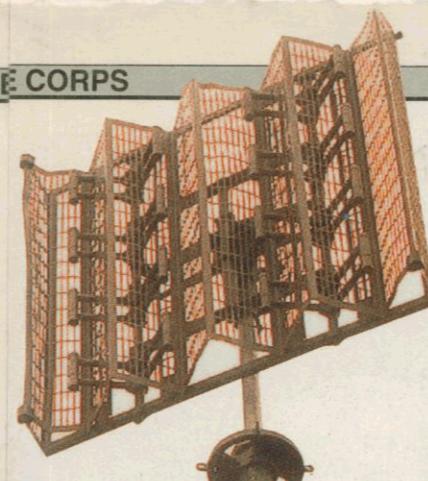
But he cherishes his confusing remembrance of military life – pride, revulsion and ridicule, perverse affection and unforgiving hatred, but above all an abiding and, he hopes, compassionate comradeship with all who have soldiered throughout history.



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 Lewer put micro-chips through their paces



signal success



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-



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

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.

PICTURES: MIKE PERRING

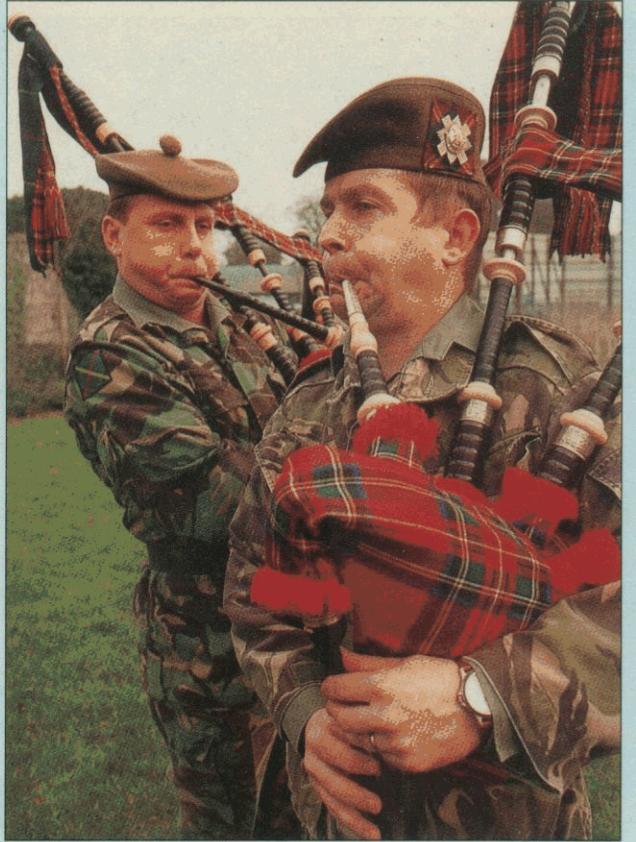
Blandford Camp has been used by the Armed Forces since the beginning of the First World War, housing at different times over the years establishments from the Royal Navy, Royal Air Force, Royal Engineers, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers and the Royal Corps of Transport. There was an American

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.



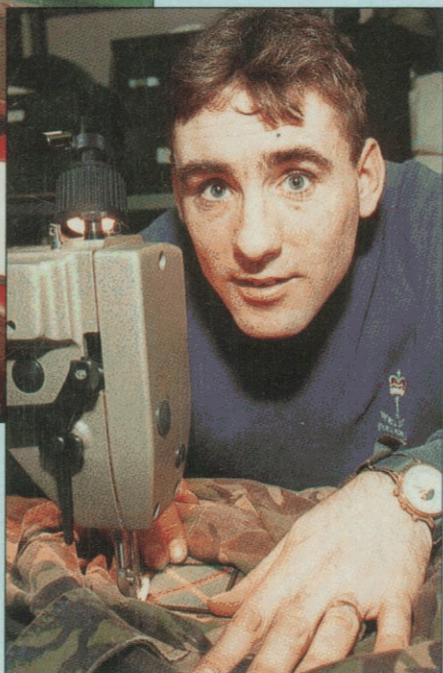


The skirl of the pipes is said to boost the morale of every Scottish soldier. Here, Cpl David Johnston (front) and Pte Gordon Black set out to entertain their comrades



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



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

Not quite so Crossmaglen . . .

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.

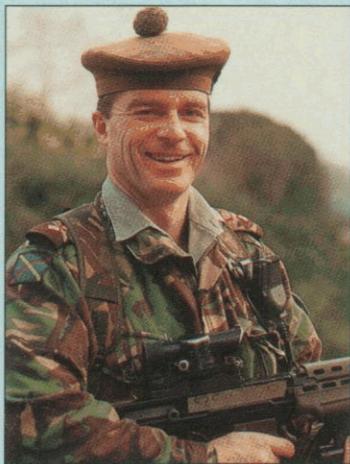
The regiment's Northern Ireland tour began in the relative calm of the IRA ceasefire and ended in the aftermath of the Canary Wharf bombing.

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 ceasefire 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

**Report:
Laurie Manton
Pictures:
Terry Champion**

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.

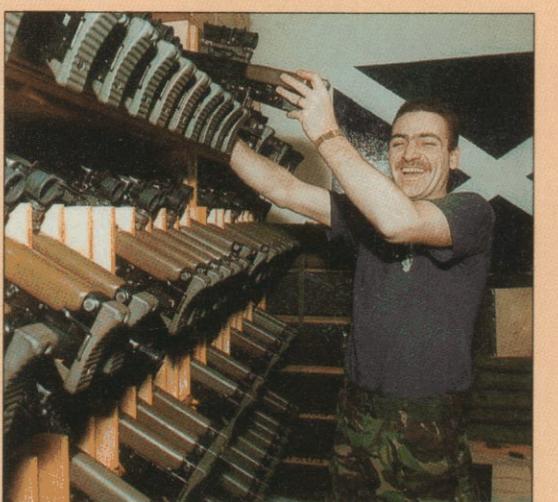
After returning to their Scottish base and completing two months of public duties, the 1st Battalion, The Royal Scots is to join 24 Airmobile Brigade.

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

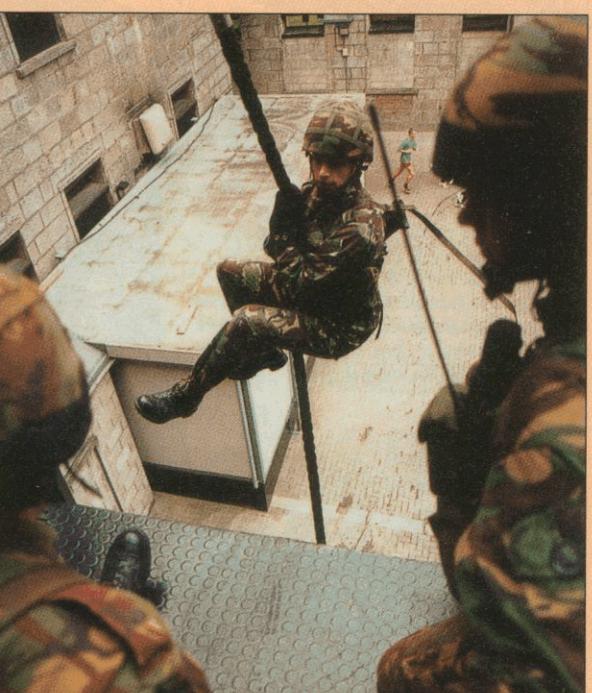


LCpl Ken Dow replaces weapons in the rack



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





Off road . . .

Geared up: All set for a tough mountain bike trek from Land's End to John o'Groats 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 acknowledgement of the fund-raising assistance from the RAF in Cyprus, both serving and retired, during the ABF's 1995 fund-raising year.



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.



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 Scudamore, Winchester.



Everyone a winner

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

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.

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 Wulffen, 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 Balclava 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 sprightly 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.

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).

Royal Artillery Association (Exeter Branch): Golden anniversary luncheon at St Loe'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,

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

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

Colonels: J D E Edwards, late RADC, Apr 12; L M Numbers, late QARANC, Apr 9.

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, 1916.

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.



Larry Harris

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, Cheslea.

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 Paradine.

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; WO2 C J Pennicott; WO2 J N Smith; SSgt B S Bhetay.

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. Photo

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 Squaddie's 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



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

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

● 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

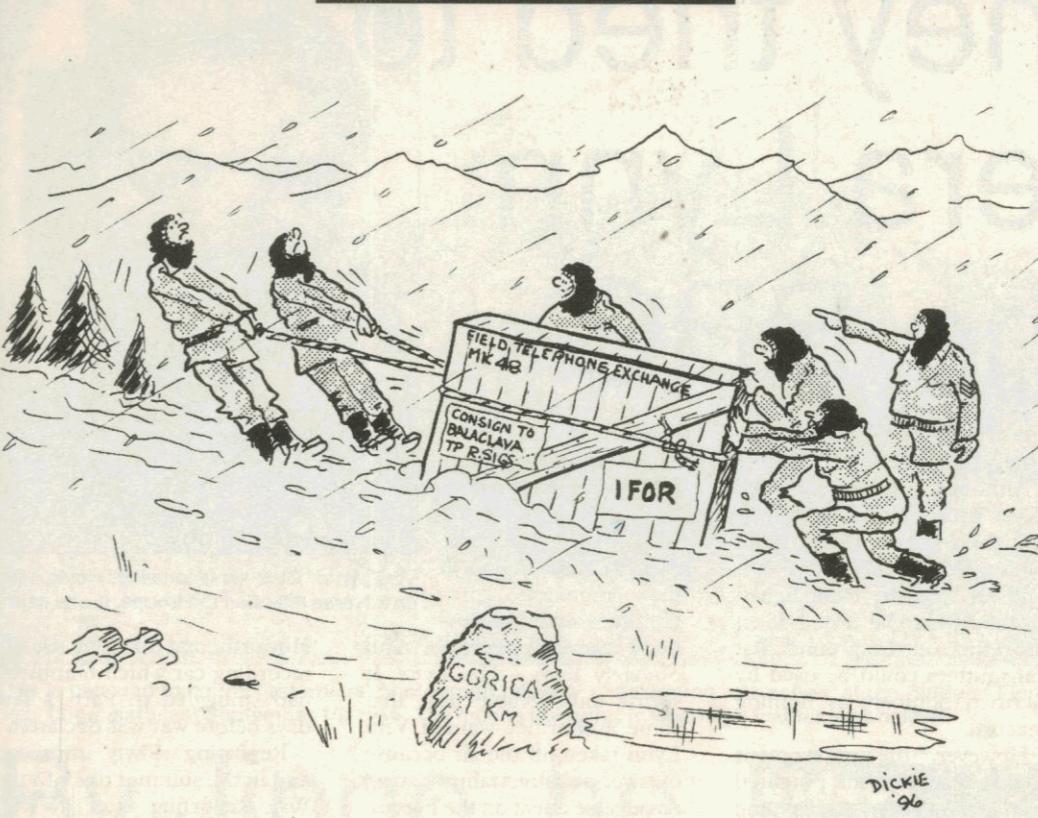
● Why was War Department property marked with an arrow and what has replaced it?

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?

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 President was in essence that we would forever treasure in our

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 Symphorian Military Cemetery, near Mons. Capt Grenfell did not survive the war: he was killed in Hooge 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.

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-

Interrogator who gives little away

HOW DO military interrogators get true and useful information from prisoners of war?

Cover their heads with metal buckets and whack them with sticks? Live up to their nickname and become goolie-tweakers?

Or offer kindness and the proverbial carrot?

Former Royal Artillery and New Zealand Army officer Guy Bransby does not reveal in *Her Majesty's Interrogator: Falklands* which method he and the rest of his three-man RAF Regiment team used when questioning Argentine prisoners – claiming that, "for obvious reasons", he is unable to say.

Fair enough. Neither does he give the names of his two fellow Spanish-speaking inquisitors.

What the "brass" required of them was information about

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

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

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

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



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.

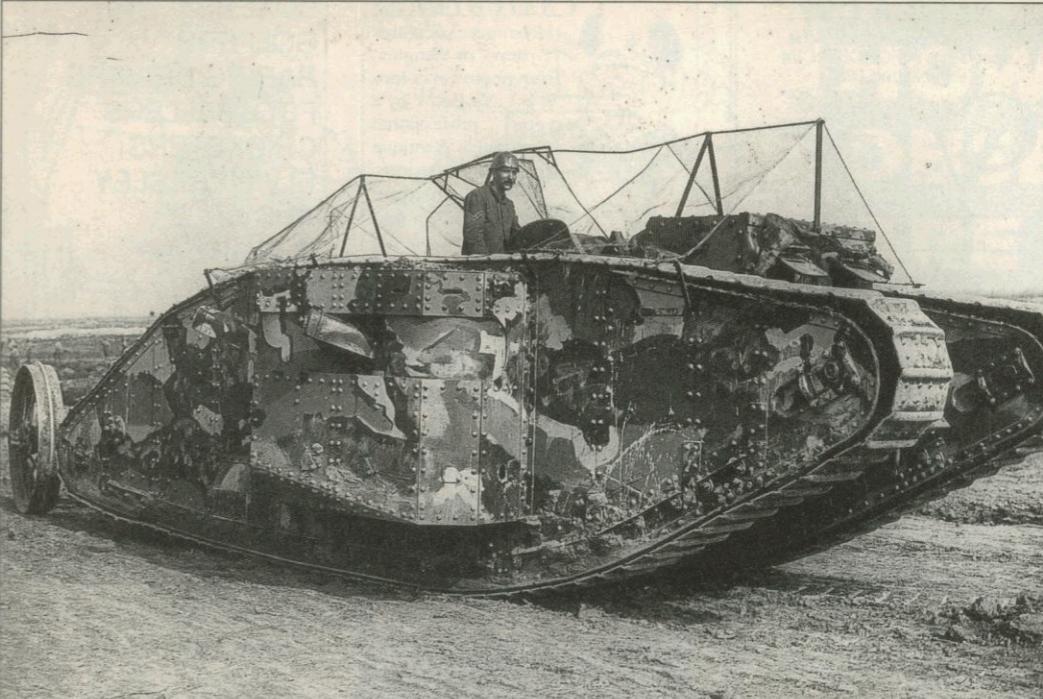
The impression gained from this study of wartime broadcasting is that it was all rather stuffy, but this is not what most people felt at the time.

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



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'

Rudyard Kipling's Barrack-Room Ballads, limited edition hardback £17, paperback £9.50. *Disabled and Other Poems* by Wilfred Owen, limited edition hardback £14.95, paperback £6.95. Both published by Heathstone Publications, Munslow, Shropshire.

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.

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.

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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

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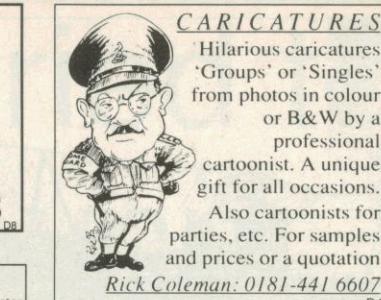
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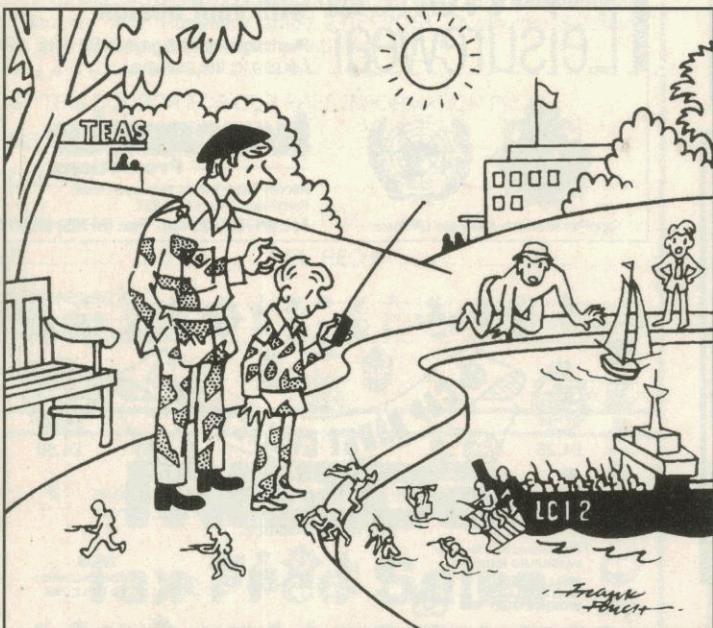
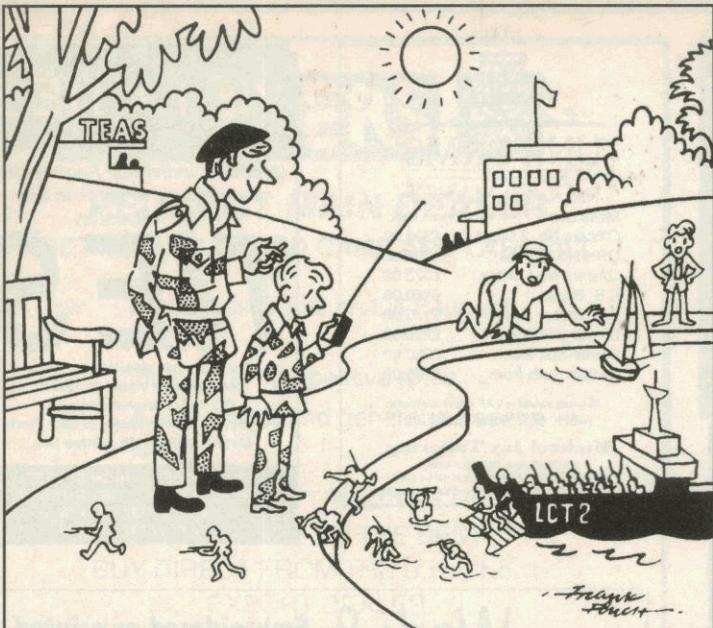
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Competition No 633 (April 1): Congratulations to Bdr S Newcombe, Alexander Barracks, RSC Pirbright, Brookwood, Surrey, who wins £50. Book prizes go to runners-up Mrs E Walton, of Gateshead, Tyne and Wear, and Mr J P Warren, of Walsall.

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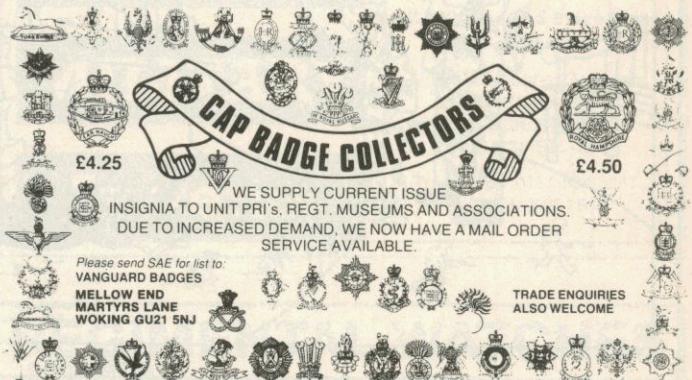
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10/96

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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

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D3

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, dependents 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 filling 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.

Jim Fowers (7 RHA), thundered the depth of the 22 only to be held up over the line; Rob Abernethy (RGR) was hauled down in the corner flag; Simon Pinder (DWR), a sniping scrum half, was several times, at point blank range, engulfed by the RAF's back row.

Despite territorial disadvantage and lack of ammunition the RAF made every shell count and justified a 6-3 advantage at half time.

The Army was starting to

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

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-



Picture: Mike Perrin

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.

The Royal Navy, last year's champions, finished third.

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

Yeoman Cup final

ders 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

signalled the end of a pulsating contest.

The trophy was presented by Maj Gen Alan Yeoman, former Director Army Sport Control Board.

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).

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.

Competition consisted of two days of individual orienteering followed by relays on the third day. Although overall numbers were down on previous

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.

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.

Sappers hit Cheshires for title No 6

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 cross-bar, 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-

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 Lallament.

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

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-

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.

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.

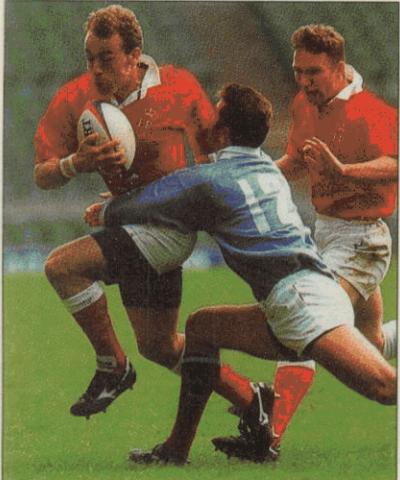
■ A Company, 3 PWO won the Edmunds Trophy in the final of the Land Command inter-unit smallbore target rifle competition at SEME Bordon. Runners-up were 3 R Irish, with Liverpool UOTC third. Only two points separated first and second place in a close-fought final notable for high standards of shooting by the top teams.

■ Bad Lippspringe airfield is to host the Rhine Army parachute championships from June 29 to July 7.



Picture: Mike Weston

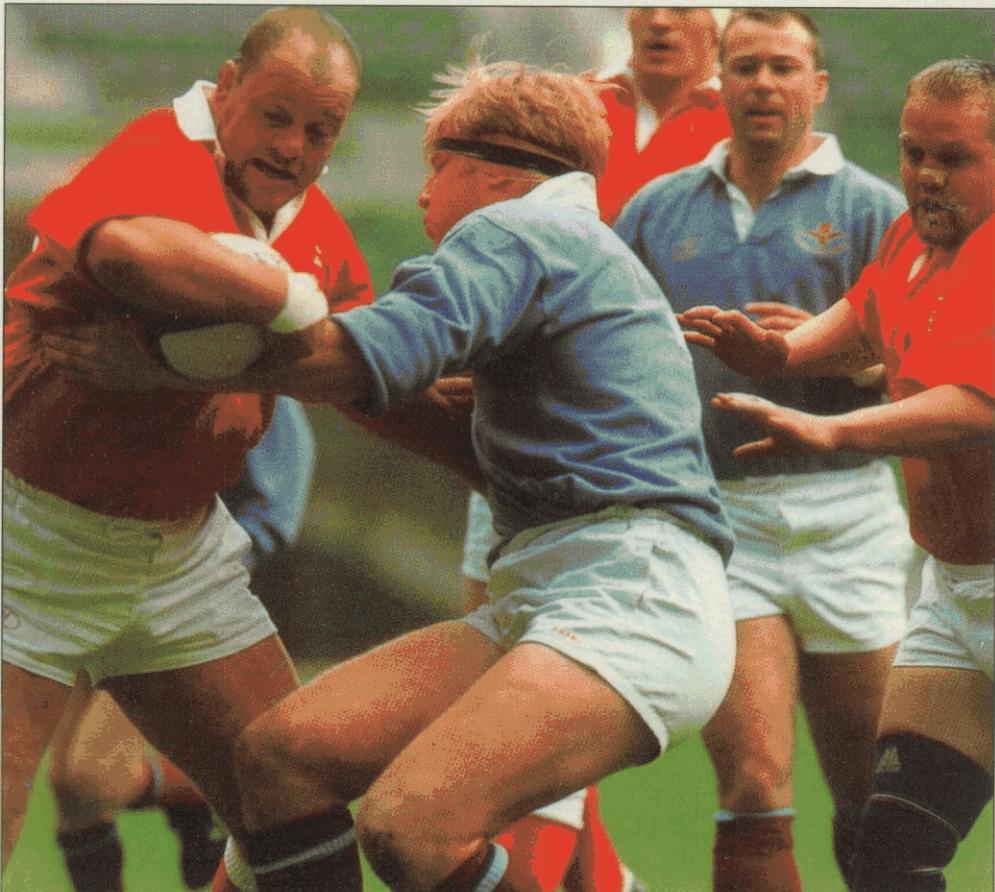
Action from the Yeoman Cup Rugby League final between 1 Para and 7 (Para) RHA. Pte Smoz Bennett (1 Para) starts an attack as Sgt Rickie Hughes (No 4) prepares to intercept. Other players in the photograph include Cpl Tee Turner, Pte Dave Beasey and Cpl Wayne Braddock of 1 Para



Pictures: Mike Perrin

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

