

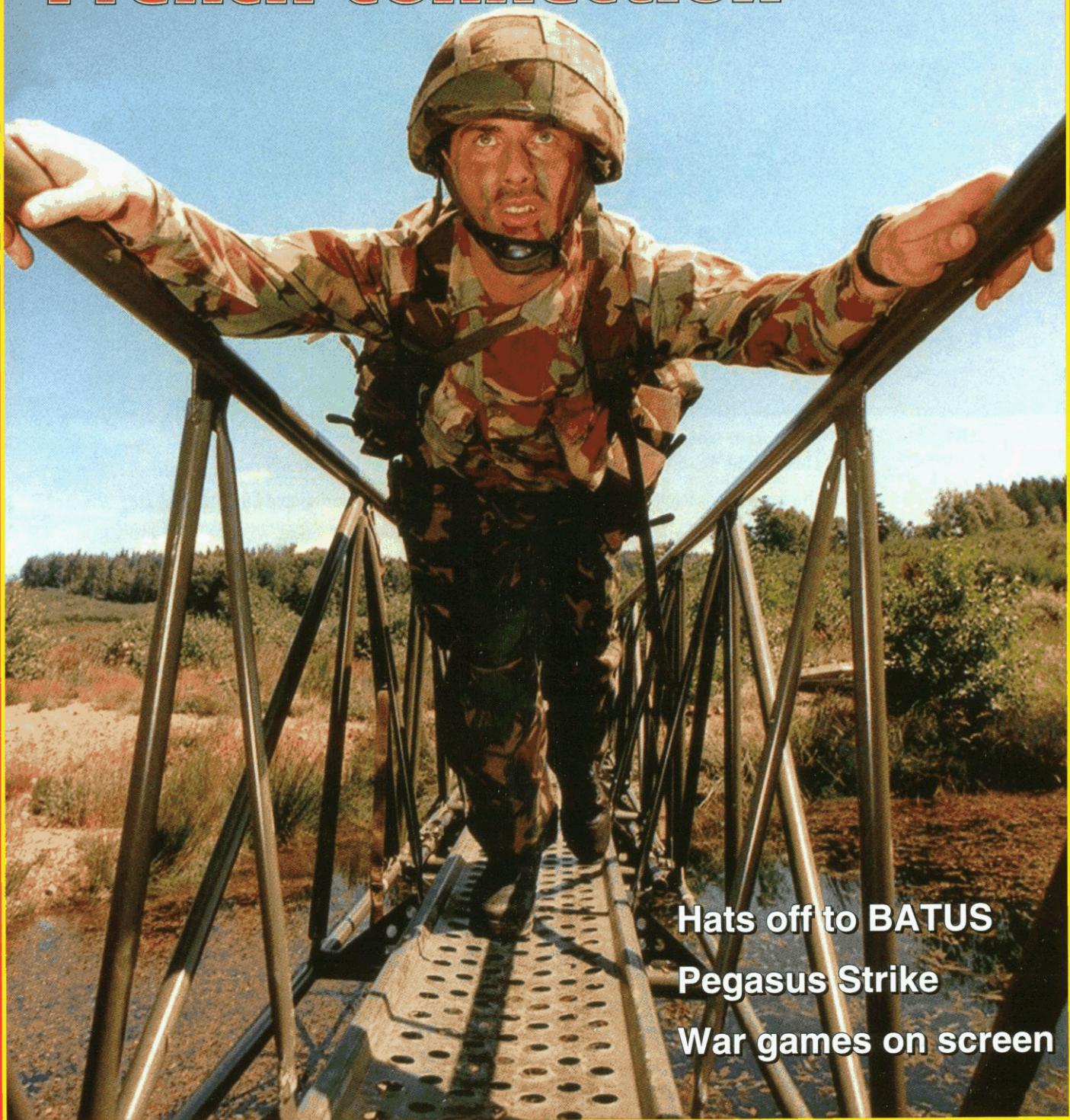
SOLDIER

FORTNIGHTLY MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY

SEPTEMBER 1 1997

80p

Welsh battalion's French connection



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War games on screen

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Sept 1, 1997 Vol 53/18

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Gadd-ing about

Putting himself to the test at Fox Gymnasium, Aldershot is 83-year-old Chelsea Pensioner Chris Gadd, a former quartermaster sergeant instructor in the Army Physical Training Corps.

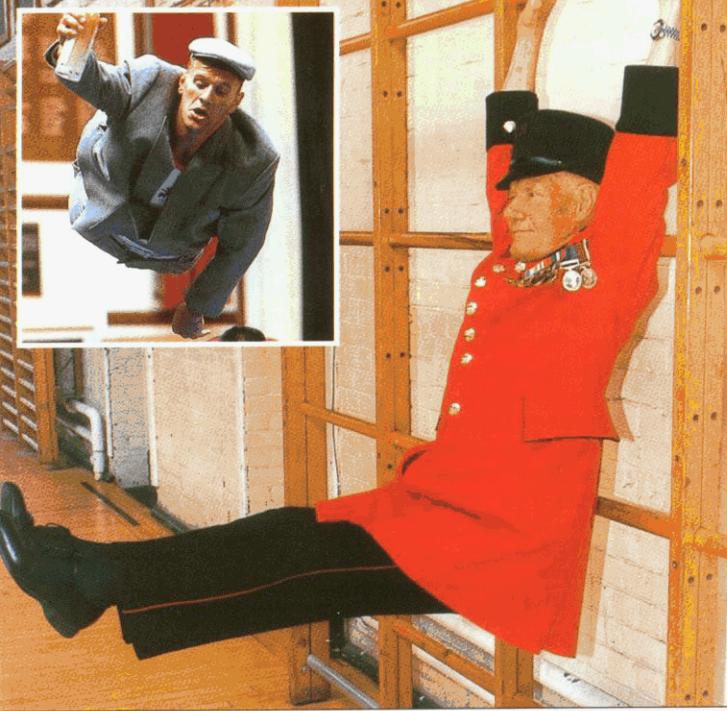
Chris, who served between 1932 and 1958, returned to the School of Physical Training for a passing out parade.

And he just couldn't stop himself from showing that he hadn't forgotten all the tricks of the trade.

Another up to his tricks was Sgt Chris Oakes (inset), whose disruptive "drunken man" routine during the demonstrations put on for guests to the passing-out ceremony could not disguise a high level of gymnastic ability.

He has transferred to the APTC from the RHA.

Picture: Mike Weston



Main picture: Chris Fletcher

Transfusion for medical services

SERIOUS shortages in key posts in the Defence Medical Services have prompted the Government to take action "to restore confidence".

Staff shortages and low morale in the DMS were emphasised in a hard-hitting report by the House of Commons Defence Committee earlier this year.

In its response, the Government said it recognises that the restructuring of the DMS, particularly in the secondary care area, had been "very unsettling" for many medical personnel, leading to higher than normal rates of voluntary exit during the difficult period of transition".

Action was needed but it would take time to get back to normal.

While the proper level of medical support to British

troops on operational deployment in Bosnia and elsewhere continued to be provided, this was proving a burden for surgical and anaesthetic specialists, partly because of significant undermanning.

The Government said it was reviewing the capability of the DMS to support frontline operations to establish whether any changes were required.

"Where there are shortages in particular specialities, we will seek to fill the gaps with reservists under the provisions of the Reserve Forces Act 1996, although reservists in these specialities are also in short supply."

On the subject of MoD units

(MDHUs) in NHS hospitals, the Government said efforts were being made to involve Service personnel more widely in general management.

A Frimley Park initiative to co-ordinate essential military training and help develop adventurous training and sport would be followed at other MDHUs if successful, but on-site Service mess and accommodation was not practicable.

The Surgeon General, said the Government, was giving high priority to retention, recruitment and improving morale in the DMS, but even so "it will be some years before manning balance can be fully restored".

New Soldier - unique, colourful

YOUR new monthly *Soldier* is almost here. As well as retaining the best of the fortnightly magazine with its colourful and uniquely informative view of the British Army, *Soldier* will bring you new features, including:

● **Who dares** . . . first-person accounts of experiences that push mere mortals to the limit.

● **Personality interviews** – men and women, in or out of the public eye, with stories to tell.

● **Kitstop** – a fresh look at Army kit and equipment.

● **Time off** – places to visit, such as the underground missile base where Hitler targeted London.

● **World of wheels** – road tests and vehicle news.

We'll also bring you major articles on big issues . . . new prize competitions . . . features on regimental history, ranks and insignia . . . our unrivalled information service keeping ex-soldiers in touch . . . and some of the best Service cartoon humour in print.

We shall be offering prizes for the best Letters to the Editor on serious and humorous topics.

The next issue of *Soldier*, dated September 15, will be the last with a fortnightly cover date. First issue of the new monthly, dated October, will be out towards the end of September.

End of road for oldest British base in Bosnia

THE ARMY'S oldest base in Bosnia, the Warehouse at Tomislavgrad (TSG), closed at the beginning of August.

Taken over by the Army during Operation Grapple I in 1992 when the fighting was at its most intense, the camp had served as a vital forward base for a succession of Engineer squadrons.

But TSG, based around the warehouse that had once been a supply centre for the Bosnian Government Army, was becoming uneconomical, and the development of other bases meant that its role had become less important.

"There are now camps at Livno, Kupres and Lipa, so people don't rely so much on TSG during the winter," said Capt Iain Adamson, 2iC of 65 Field Plant Squadron. "The accommodation blocks were showing their age and the camp was becoming very manpower intensive."

Last units to leave TSG were Capt Adamson's squadron, normally based in Hameln, Germany, and The Royal Monmouthshire Royal Engineers (Militia).

Nearly 3,000ft up on the Duvno plain and in the shadow of the Dinaric Moun-

tains, TSG was one of the highest and bleakest bases in the region. Despite the harsh conditions, the camp was always a welcome sight to Army vehicles driving up-country, providing a welcome rest-place when the weather closed in.

The base has, over the years, been the centre for consider-

able road building by the Royal Engineers. In the early days, the civil war meant that many roads were blocked or dangerous, so the sappers built a main supply route to TSG across nearby mountains.

Later, when the continuous stream of heavy vehicles began to destroy the roads through nearby Tomislavgrad, the

engineers built a by-pass around the town.

An EOD team cleared 12km of running and walking track during their time at the Warehouse. Although the British-soldiers have gone, they will be remembered by local people who enjoy the pleasure of walking through at least some of their beautiful pine forests.



Picture: Media Ops Land Command

Sgt Rick Whitehead of the Royal Military Police and Lt Roman Gottfriend of the Czech Military Police work together on traffic control in Northern Bosnia. See story below

Czech mates on Bosnian border

WHEN a Czech military police vehicle broke down outside a British RMP station in Sanski Most, northern Bosnia, neither of the groups realised the incident would lead to a close professional friendship and work exchanges.

Although the vehicle was soon back on the road and the incident quickly over, the relationship has endured.

Now soldiers work closely together, often swapping units. The British RMPs join the Czech unit in the village of Donja Ljubija for a week at a time, while the same number

of Czechs join the British unit. Language has been an obvious difficulty, but communication is becoming easier because for one hour each evening during the exchanges the MPs study each other's languages.

Even outside the exchanges, the two sides often meet up, either socially or to work together on patrols. Both are operating in an area which covers the sensitive town of Prijedor and the Inter-entity boundary line. Many of the villages and towns in the area were badly damaged during the civil war.



Capt Bob McConnachie

Attempts to press the explosive into use, combined with the effect of age, had made the weapons very unstable. Nevertheless, sappers working within 7 Arm-

Bombs away

SAPPERS of 21 Field Squadron RE carried out an unusual and potentially dangerous mission when they safely destroyed four Second World War German bombs found near the town of Coralici in the north-west of Bosnia.

The bombs, which ranged in size from 50kg to approximately 500kg, had been found attached to a Serb Kamar rocket system, intended for use during the civil war.

Attempts to press the explosive into use, combined with the effect of age, had made the weapons very unstable. Nevertheless, sappers working within 7 Arm-

oured Brigade transported the volatile bombs over 180km to the military range at Glamoc for demolition.

During the journey, which was necessarily slow over the rough roads, the bombs were continually dampened with water.

"The tricky bit was the removal of the anti-lift device from the Kamar rocket," said Capt Bob McConnachie, who supervised the task. He was sanguine about the road journey south. "I don't think I was ever worried that we were in any real danger," he said. "But you are foolish if you take risks."

Now soldiers work closely together, often swapping units. The British RMPs join the Czech unit in the village of Donja Ljubija for a week at a time, while the same number

Battle group flies high

THE KING'S Royal Hussars battle group, based near the central Bosnian town of Cimirovi, celebrated with local people as the town's refurbished school was opened.

The project was sponsored by the Overseas Development Administration and overseen by A Squadron of The Life Guards, who form part of the battle group. The work was carried out by local craftsmen.

Lt Col Adrian Bradshaw, commanding the group, had the honour of re-opening the



Lt Col Adrian Bradshaw, CO of the King's Royal Hussars is presented with a Bosnian Serb sash as he opened the school in Cimirovi

Picture: Media Ops Land Command

Dogs of peace

PROTECTION dogs trained by the Royal Army Veterinary Corps are playing a vital part in guarding British troops in former Yugoslavia.

Dog handlers and their 24

animals, predominantly German shepherds, but including one border collie trained to sniff out explosives, are trained and based at the RAVC Dog Section in Divulje Barracks, Split, from where they

are dispersed to nine British bases in Croatia and Bosnia. The four-legged patrols have another virtue . . . they bring British soldiers much closer to the local people and demonstrate SFOR's commitment to ensuring peace, security and normality.

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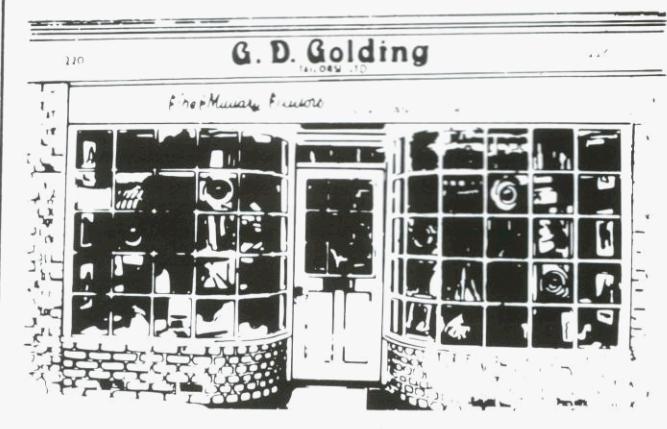
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British join eight nations in a rapid reaction

ALLIED Command Europe's Mobile Force (Land) – known as AMF(L) – mounted a successful exercise in Northern Turkey.

The multinational force, currently under British command, includes troops from 14 nations, and is NATO's only immediate reaction force.

Ardent Ground took infantry, artillery and helicopter units from Belgium, the Netherlands, Turkey, Spain, Italy, Germany, Canada, the USA and the UK to Turkey's Pinarishar ranges for two weeks of manoeuvres and indirect live-firing exercises, one of the largest of its type.

Among units deployed were six gun batteries, a light multi-rocket system battery, seven mortar platoons and supporting helicopters and fixed-wing aircraft.

Participating British Army units were the Force Artillery HQ, 19/5 Gibraltar Battery RA, a mortar platoon from the 2nd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, Combat Services Support Battalion and 244 Signal Squadron.

AMF(L) also put on a fire-power demonstration for senior observers from the Supreme Headquarters Allied Command Europe (SHAPE).

Wulffen grenades

A CACHE of Second World War tear gas grenades has been destroyed at the Base Ammunition Depot Wulffen in Germany.

The grenades – 15,000 of them – were discovered in 1992 and stored in a massive bunker. They have now been made harmless by a German company which won a contract to carry out the process on site.



Picture: Sgt Paul Taylor

Fus Aaron Tenant (front) and LCpl Craig Lorimer patrol in West Belfast wearing the traditional tam-o'-shanters of the RHF

Tin bins off on Belfast patrol

FOR the first time since the ceasefire of 1994, troops in Northern Ireland have been patrolling the streets wearing regimental head-dress instead of helmets.

Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, The Royal Highland Fusiliers were among the first to patrol in the more relaxed posture. On a six-month tour in West Belfast, the Scottish troops wore their tam-o'-shanters in place of the more familiar helmets.

Maj Iain Pickard, 2iC 1 RHF, said the battalion was pleased that the security conditions allowed them to present a

softer image to the public in Northern Ireland. "It lets people know that we are ordinary guys underneath all the uniform. Before, perhaps, we looked a little inaccessible."

One soldier, Fus Aaron Tenant, said he and his colleagues appreciated the change for practical reasons. "It is a relief because the 'tin bins' are a bit hot and heavy to wear, especially in summer."

Troops will still carry helmets for protection in case of "minor aggro" and remain ready to support the Royal Ulster Constabulary in maintaining peace.

Around the Houses

A summary of Defence topics from Westminster

Pay rises beat prices by 35%

SINCE 1979 increases in Armed Forces pay have outstripped rises in the retail prices index by 35.4 per cent.

Giving the figure in a written answer before the summer recess, Armed Forces Minister Dr John Reid said it took account of staging of pay awards where they have occurred, but did not reflect a universally applicable figure for any given rank.



Licences for foxhunting on MoD land for the 1997-98 season are being renewed pending the result of an internal investigation by officials of the Defence Estates Organisation.

The inquiry will establish the extent to which MoD land is used for hunting and the consequences of stopping it, said Defence Under-Secretary John Spellar.



Other points from written replies:

- Forty-one high street Army careers information offices will be kept open until at least the year 2000 as part of the recruiting drive.

- More than 480 personnel were invalidated out of the Army in 1996 as a result of injuries received during non-combatant duties. This figure compares with 390 in 1995 and 55 in 1991.

- Doctors conducting the Gulf War medical assessment programme had seen 1,520 patients by July 31.

It's a fact

War disablement pensioners and war widows will total about 230,000 in the year 2000, reducing to 120,000 by 2015, the Department of Social Security has estimated. – Parliamentary reply.



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Victory for Army flying team

THE WALLOP Challenge, a tri-Service flying competition hosted by the Army Air Corps, was won convincingly by an Army team of personnel from the School of Army Aviation, AAC units and some involved in aviation training.

The event, staged at the AAC base every second year, had special significance this time, as it coincided with the corps celebrating its 40th anniversary.

A thrilling aerial competition, which attracted a keen military and civilian audience, followed an anniversary parade and a spectacular orchestral concert called *Music in the Air*.

Flying competitions, in which Royal Navy, Royal Air Force and Army crews competed, involved fixed-wing aerobatics, precision helicopter flying, gliding, free-fall parachuting and ballooning.



Above: a parade and massed fly-on and fly-past of helicopters and fixed-wing aircraft at Middle Wallop marked the 40th anniversary of the Army Air Corps. During the parade the AAC Guidon was trooped through the ranks

Right: Wallop Challenge prizes were presented by Prince Michael of Kent, here congratulating WO1 Dave Town, the School of Army Aviation helicopter team captain, on winning the precision flying event



Picture: WO2 Pete Bristol

D and D warms to Ulan Eagle

SOLDIERS from the 1st Battalion, The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment prepared for a major exercise in Poland with a live-firing and infantry tactics exercise in northern Germany.

Men and vehicles travelled from Paderborn to Bergen-Hohne where they joined the Challengers of 1st Royal Tank Regiment. Armoured engineers from 32 Engineer Regiment and other specialist units completed the line-up.

In a combination of live-firing and manoeuvre training, the soldiers learned how to operate as a battlefield formation and how to maintain command and control under simulated enemy fire.

Sappers provided route clearance for the battle group, including bridging, obstacle crossing and minefield breaching.

Exercise Ulan Eagle, later in September, is likely to involve the largest deployment of British troops into a former Warsaw Pact country since the collapse of the Berlin Wall. It will take place on the Drawsko-Pomorskie training area, 80 miles east of Szczecin, among the lakes and forests of the Drawa national park.

Once used to train Polish, Soviet and other Warsaw Pact formations, it will be home for two weeks to 3,500 British troops and 450 armoured vehicles.

Before the exercise begins, 1 D and D was due to complete a five-week package of battle group training, including live firing and simulated warfare, at BATUS in Canada.

It's a fact

Strength of the Territorial Army at April 1 this year was 57,600. There were 190,100 Regular reserves. — Parliamentary reply.

Princess visits Dragoons

IN her first official engagement as Colonel-in-Chief since the Princess of Wales relinquished the position, Princess Margaret visited the Light Dragoons at their base in Hohne, Germany.

She was met at Schloss Bredebeck by the commanding officer, Lt Col Tim Checketts.

Princess Margaret was given a royal salute by the Band of the Light Division on the regimental square in Haig Barracks before inspecting a

guard of honour and meeting families.

After visits to stands put on by A, B, C and D Squadrons, the Colonel-in-Chief called on the WOs' and Sgts' Mess. She presented the Queen's Commendation for Bravery to Tpr Michael Braithwaite, who had attempted to rescue colleagues and put out a vehicle fire in Bosnia, and the Queen's Commendation for Valuable Service to Capt Jan van de Pol for his work in Bosnia.

Bedfordshire Yeomen mark double century

TWO hundred years of service to the local county were marked when the modern equivalent of the Bedfordshire Yeomanry paraded through the streets of Bedford.

The ceremony, by 201 (Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire Yeomanry) Battery, Royal Artillery (Volunteers) marked the founding of the yeomanry in 1797.

Fd Marshal Lord Vincent,

the Master Gunner, St James's Park, watched as the gunners drove their 155mm howitzers down the High Street, accompanied by the regimental band.

Also there was Chelsea Pensioner Ernie Nunn (89), who joined the 148th (Bedfordshire Yeomanry) Field Regiment in 1940, was captured on the fall of Singapore and survived working as a prisoner on the bridge over the River Kwai.

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A young French soldier is invested with his passing-out lanyard by Lt Col Henry Eagan, CO 2 RRW, at La Courtine

Welsh Terriers take French leave

FOR ITS annual camp in France the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Wales pulled in more than 400 of its men and women from the valleys of Glamorgan and Gwent, and from its headquarters in Cardiff.

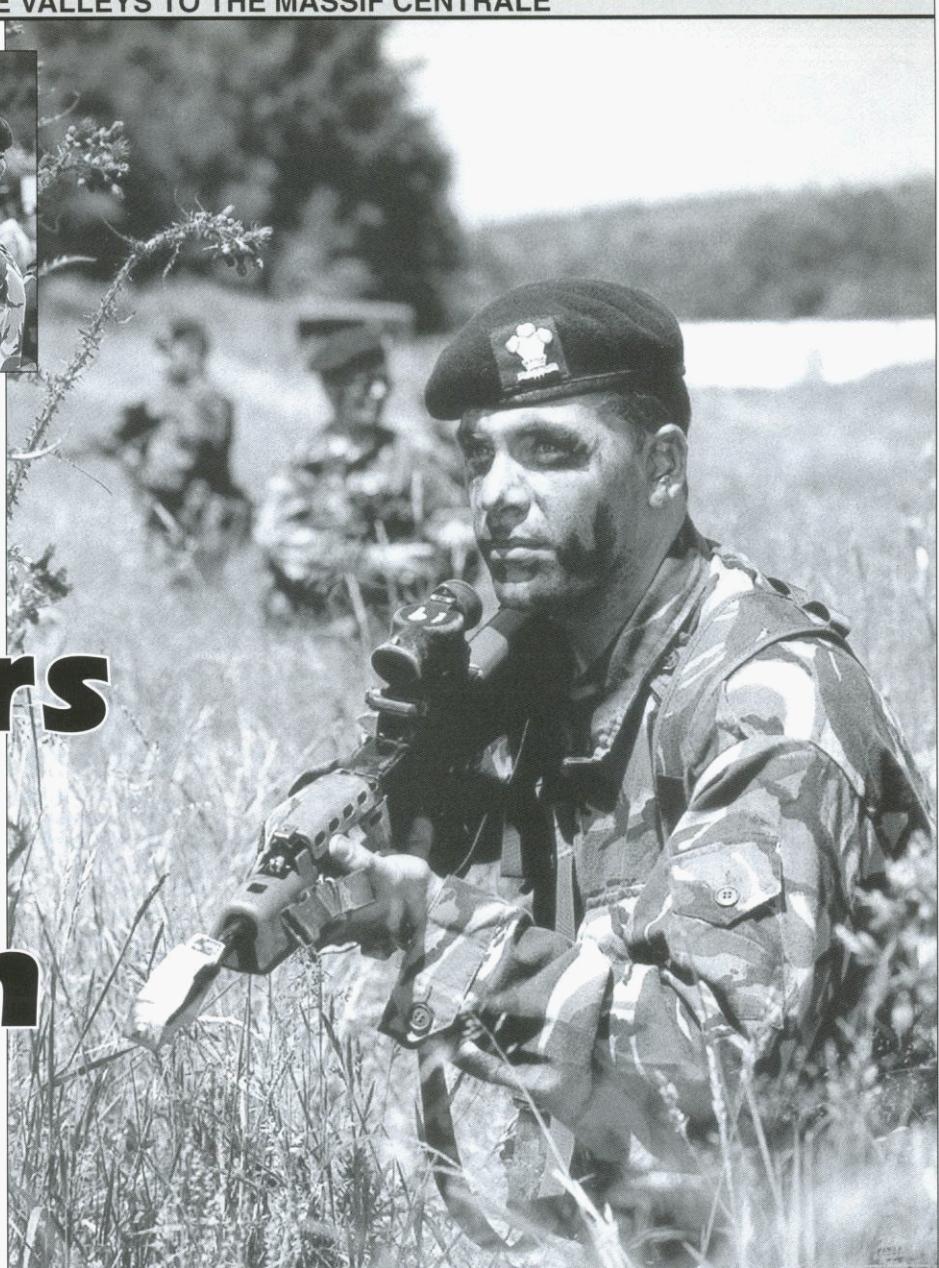
They downed tools, left office desks and shop counters... and after a 22-hour journey arrived at the French military camp of La Courtine in the mountainous Massif Centrale.

Shenkin, the goat mascot, was left behind, but the band of 2 RRW under Capt Tony McCarthy went along with a special mission. The military musicians took a central part in the Bastille Day celebrations in the town of La Courtine.

They marched on parade and played military tunes beloved of all Frenchmen, especially the Army and Resistance veterans who were there.

Bandmaster Capt McCarthy said: "We had had plenty of practice with these tunes since we have played at Cardiff Arms Park for the last few years before the Wales-France rugby internationals."

After the parade more than one Welsh



Pictures: WO2 Pete Bristo

LCpl Eddie Lavelle, a section commander in B Coy, 2 RRW, leads a patrol on exercise

bandsman was embraced and had his hand shaken warmly by bemedalled French veterans.

Lt Col Henry Eagan, CO 2 RRW, was invited to invest young French soldiers of the XXth Infantry of the Line with their lanyards, which marked their qualifying as fully-fledged members of the regiment.

"It was an honour for me and an honour for the battalion band to be asked to be here," he said after the ceremony. "It certainly established a warm rapport."

Ceremonies over, the band launched into training for its wartime role as medical orderlies and armed guards for battalion headquarters.

In the sweltering, humid heat the rest of the battalion deployed into the exercise area for six days of training to test military skills.

"I am amazed at how quickly they change from civilians to military," said Lt Col Eagan. "As a Regular soldier myself I never

fail to be impressed at how smooth the change is and how easily they adapt.

"And I can certainly see how some employers welcome their employees joining the TA, because the skills of self-discipline, man management and determination learned while training as soldiers are then available, for free, to the employers."

The battalion recruits in the coastal areas and valleys of South Wales. With it on exercise was a platoon of their friendly rivals from North Wales, men from the 3rd Battalion, The Royal Welch Fusiliers.

Platoon leader 2nd Lt Chris Arfon-Jones, a student from Anfonwen, near Mold, said: "We have a defensive position here in a specially-built village on the exercise area. It's our job to provide a testing enemy and try and confuse the opposition."

With a broad grin, he added: "We like to put one over on 2 RRW, but it's friendly rivalry and when the military exercise is over and we get a 36-hour leave pass, our lads from North Wales and guys from South Wales will get together and have a drink. We are all TA and proud of it."

While the bulk of 2 RRW stayed on the exercise area, the musicians returned home early to play at the Royal Welsh Show.



Little Laura Gaillard showed no fear when confronted by a bass drummer's leopard skin in the hands of Pte Mike Gillgrass

Coping well with the ills of society

HIJACK at gunpoint . . . armed post office robbery . . . assault on driver . . . youth beaten up. Headlines from the front line of a particularly violent American inner city ghetto? Not a bit of it.

These stories were taken from a single page of the *Cambridge Evening News* one Friday in August.

In the space of 24 hours, in a small area of rural East Anglia, ordinary people had been threatened, frightened, injured.

In my forest village we have had to confront the behaviour of newcomers who have brought with them drugs and noise.

I'm delighted to hear that in Germany, senior commanders are taking a tough line on anti-social behaviour. Anyone caught being a noisy neighbour, or indeed a nuisance of any sort, will suffer the consequences.

But there needs to be an ongoing effort from the military to keep the ills of our society from infecting it. Just as potato blight is washed from the leaves to rot the tubers below the ground, so bad behaviour in civvy street is washed into the Services.

Considering the numbers serving in the Armed Forces and the example set by society, I am surprised we don't have more problems with anti-social behaviour.

The crimes mentioned at the start of this column are awful . . . but nothing you won't find in any local newspaper anywhere.

A short-term answer is to prevent possible flashpoints. Twenty years ago, when I arrived in Ger-



Cari's column

many, I was surprised to find a list of pubs and bars which were "off-limits". As an act of prevention it was fairly successful, even if it did mask the problem.

The point needs to be made to every recruit that joining the Army involves more than learning a trade: the recruit is accepting a culture of honourable, humanitarian principles, in and out of uniform. It means that sometimes they will have to live in places where the work is less than challenging . . . without resorting to drugs or alcohol or violence.

William reassured his troops on the eve of the Battle of Hastings in 1066 by saying that the English army would be easy to defeat since it consisted of a dirty bunch of men permanently drunk and fighting among themselves.

Even if society at large has changed little in the intervening centuries, the British Army has found the key to turning the vast majority of its recruits into professional public servants.

However disappointing it is when an individual lets the side down, it shouldn't deflect us from the good that is going on. I wish we had one of those commanders from Germany in our village. He might put a stop to the yelling and the thumping bass which serenade me as I write these words.

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

Be your own boss

WORKING for yourself is a dream that many people cherish, and it is a particularly attractive option for servicemen and women coming out of the Army. Franchising (investing in your own branch of an established business, while retaining the support of the parent company) may be one way of achieving this ideal.

You can check out the possibilities, the potential and the pitfalls (no business is without risk!) at the The National Franchise Exhibition at the NEC in Birmingham from October 3 to 5.

There will be opportunities to meet with more than 200 companies looking for franchise partners. Financial and legal consultants will also be on hand to give advice.

The organisers are running a

free competition open to everyone who buys an advance ticket by credit card. The first prize is worth hundreds of pounds and includes free legal advice to help the winner set up in business.

For more details ring the exhibition hotline on 01203 426461.

Stamp of approval as BFPO is given make-over

BRITISH Force Post Offices are being given a new look which will bring them into line with their civilian counterparts.

The military post office at Casteau in Belgium, which serves the Supreme HQ Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE), became the first of the redesigned offices to be unveiled when it was officially



Picture: Cambridge Evening News

Brandon's last flight

recruiter based in Cambridge, had been helping to organise an exhibition for schools.

Brandon is pictured above with his mother, Amelia, and his father after what was, obviously, a thrilling flight.



Picture: RLC

Post Office Counters managing director Stuart Sweetman (left) and Lt Col Graham Meacher, commanding officer of 89 Postal and Courier Unit RLC, outside the re-designed Forces Post Office at Casteau

improved. According to the Defence Postal and Courier Troop, who run the Forces Post Offices, the Casteau make-over is appreciated by customers, who say that the familiar logos and colour-schemes remind them of home.

The next two offices to receive the re-design treatment will be at Brunssum and Heidelberg.

Audley Court helps soldiers combat stress

THE EX-SERVICES Mental Welfare Society has officially opened its new care centre in Newport, Shropshire.

Audley Court (featured in *Soldier*, March 3 issue) has been in use since most of the extensive refurbishment work to the old building was completed in November last year, but the ribbon was formally cut by Gen Sir Charles Guthrie, Chief of the Defence Staff, on July 25.

The new home is a haven for men and women from all three Services and the Merchant Navy who suffer from the effects of combat stress. Forty staff give them expert treatment, rehabilitation and respite care.

Audley Court can care for 27 patients, most of whom spend up to three weeks, twice a year.

The society's latest acquisition, an elegant old building set in three acres of gardens, was refurbished at a cost of £1½ million, and is taking the pressure off two older residences in Ayrshire and Surrey. It is well equipped with recreational and craft facilities and has extensive kitchens where staff run cookery courses. An unusual feature is a large aviary, in which patients can involve themselves in the care of the birds.

The "marriage" of the charities, which also incorporates the Lord Roberts Workshops, has, according to the report, brought greater efficiencies by streamlining procedures, reducing overheads, combining assets and making possible a more efficient use of staff.

The glossy is particularly complimentary about the new body's staff, which it describes as "7,000 volunteers who selflessly give of their time to provide material and personal help whenever and wherever there is need".

Although reflecting only the finances of SSAFA prior to the amalgamation, the report reveals that more than £23 million was raised during 1996. This figure should increase significantly during 1997 as the affects of the merger with Forces Help and the Lord Roberts Workshops are felt.

A major contribution to 1997 revenue is expected to be the Big Brew Up, the day of worldwide tea parties held in June and sponsored by Tesco. Dual objectives of making the public more aware of SSAFA Forces Help and raising money were achieved thanks to considerable media coverage and support from personalities as diverse as Sir Harry Secombe and the Spice Girls.

The society spends £4 million each year supporting its three residences. Funds come from public donations and Service benevolent funds.

Although the newly amalgamated charity provides material assis-



Picture: Mike Weston

Open for business: Gurkha wives and children who are among the first to accompany their menfolk to the United Kingdom under new conditions of service, now have a family centre near their married quarters in Church Crookham. Adults, seen here outside the community room and toddlers' play

area during the opening of the facility, are (from left) Moira White (whose husband, Maj John White, is 2iC of 1 RGR based at Church Crookham), Belbehadur Magar, Durga Prasad Rai, Nepbahadur Magar and Alison Neate, the Army Families Federation's South and Central co-ordinator

Bright future promised by Service charities' marriage

IN their first report since amalgamating on January 1 this year, the two leading Services charities, SSAFA and the Forces Help Society, have committed themselves to reaching out to an estimated 14 million people who may qualify for their help.

The "marriage" of the charities, which also incorporates the Lord Roberts Workshops, has, according to the report, brought greater efficiencies by streamlining procedures, reducing overheads, combining assets and making possible a more efficient use of staff.

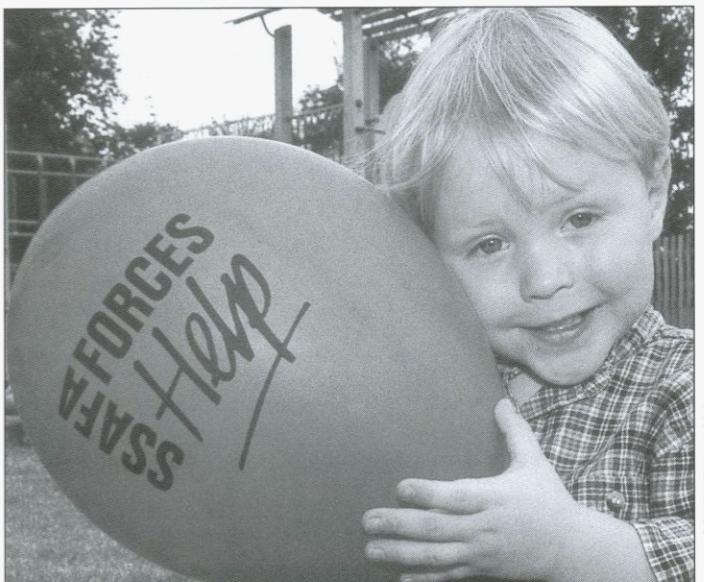
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Patient Alan "Greg" Gregson, a member of The Cheshire Regiment from 1967 to 1993, certainly appreciates Audley Court. "We call this place paradise," he said. "It gives our wives, families and carers a break and us a change of scene."

The society spends £4 million each year supporting its three residences. Funds come from public donations and Service benevolent funds.

Although the newly amalgamated charity provides material assis-



Picture: SSAFA Forces Help

Two-year-old Robert, a temporary resident at the new Gildea House home during the official opening

● A new Stepping Stone home for Services wives and children coming to terms with marriage breakdown has formally opened in North London. Gildea House, which accepted its first resident last December, is one of four homes, which SSAFA Forces Help describe as "an oasis of calm to separated Service families".

The new home consists of 20 small flats with shared kitchens and dining rooms. The garden has a well-equipped play area for children.

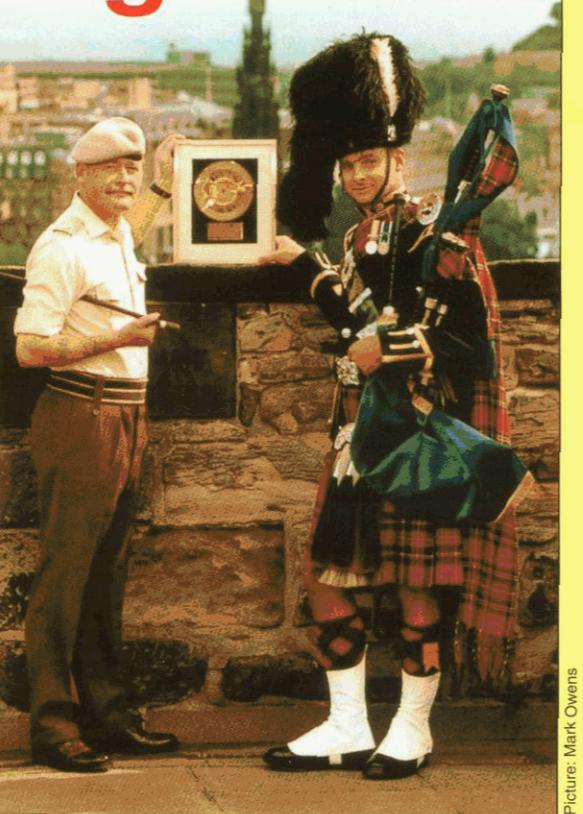
Since 1991, the Stepping Stone homes have given refuge to 246 families, including 449 children.

Amazing record

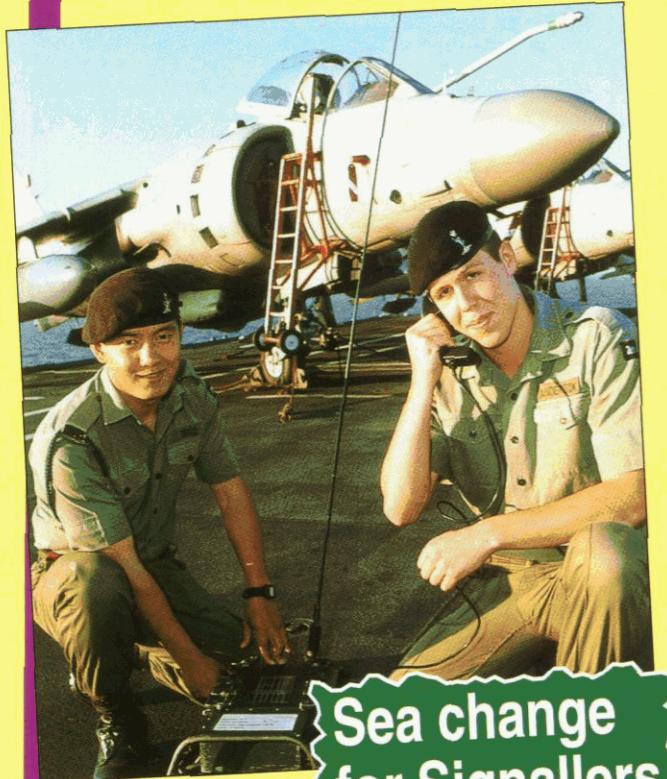
Twenty-five years apart but sharing the same remarkable musical heritage are (left) Maj **Tony Crease** and Pipe Maj **Bryon Brotherton** of the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards. The two men hold the UK gold disc awarded to the regiment's pipe band in 1972 for the 20 million-selling *Amazing Grace*, perhaps the most unlikely record ever to reach number one in the charts.

Maj Crease led the band when it joined glam-rockers like Mark Bolan and David Bowie on *Top of the Pops*, while Pipe Maj Brotherton leads the band today as the haunting tune continues to be a great crowd-pleaser.

On the anniversary of the band's big hit, the disc was piped into Edinburgh Castle for permanent display with the regiment's other honours and trophies.



Picture: Mark Owens

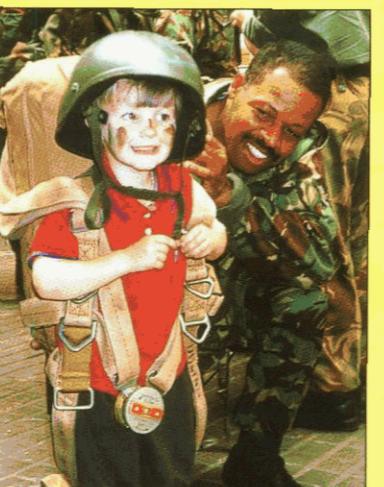


Sea change for Signallers

Sigs **Limbu Binod** (left) and **Andy Anderson**, who normally have their feet planted firmly on the ground, gained their sea legs when they joined the Royal Navy for five days on board the aircraft carrier HMS *Invincible*.

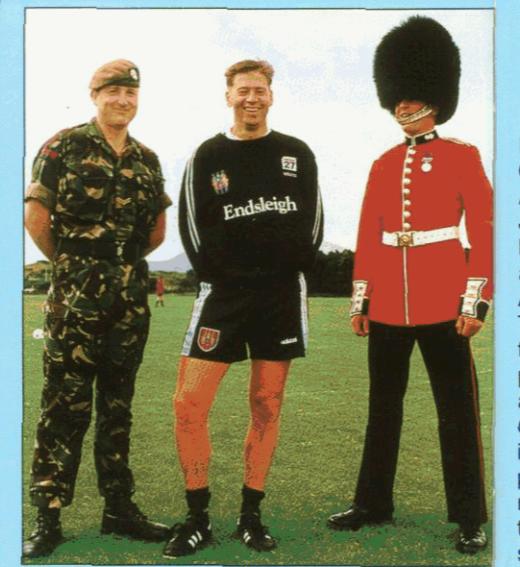
Working as regular matelots, the two soldiers were fully involved in the ship's communications centre as the *Invincible* went through intensive training involving damage control, fire drills, and simulated attacks from other surface ships, submarines and aircraft.

Picture: Maj Roy Bevan



See you in a few years?

Four-year-old **Adam Murphy** was at the head of the queue when Sgt Maj **Tom Barney** was on a recruitment drive in Liverpool. Adam already has two brothers in the Army Cadet Force and his dad is a member of the Para Volunteers. But, as the sergeant major from 13 Lancashire Coy, 4th (Vol) Battalion, told the ambitious Liverpool youngster, he's going to have to grow into the parachute harness before he too can go jumping out of perfectly good aircraft.



Picture: Mobile News Team, HQN

Not so friendly!

Burnley FC player-manager **Chris Waddle** joins Cpl **Andrew Dilkes** and Gdsm **Jonathan Clarke**, two of Burnley's Grenadier Guards hosts, after a game at Ballykinler Army Camp in Northern Ireland. The First Division team visited the 1st Battalion for a week of pre-season training, and, according to ex-England star Chris, the Army facilities were impressive, "the same as any premier League ground". Less memorable (for the side with the smarter "strip") was the 8-1 scoreline in a friendly match.



Going solo!

The grins say it all. Three prospective pilots at the new Tri-Service Defence Helicopter Flying School at RAF Shawbury in Shropshire had just successfully completed their first solo flights in the Squirrel basic trainer. Now well on their way to becoming fully-qualified helicopter pilots, Sub Lt **Sweny Alsop** (RN), Bdr **Euan Laird** (Army) and Flt Lt **Colin West** (RAF), are students on the new school's first helicopter course.

PEOPLE

Remember me?

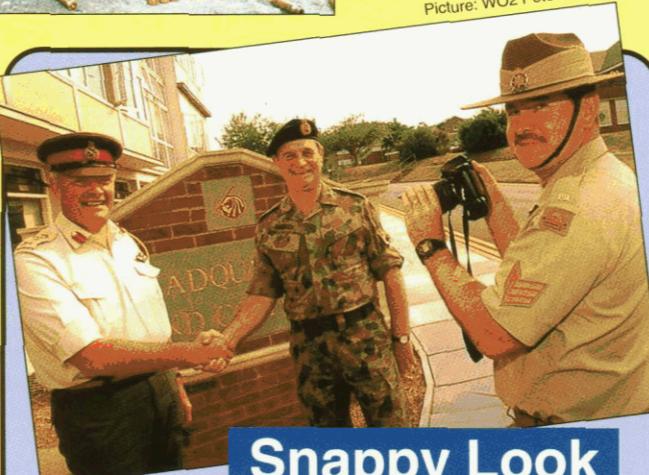
Old soldiers **Bill Watts** (left) and **Harry Horton**, both 78, met for the first time in 57 years when 143 (West Midlands Brigade) hosted a reception for ex-members of the Royal Warwickshire Regiment.



The occasion was the presentation of a copy of the brigade's history to the lord mayor of the Midlands town of Romford. Bill and Harry, however, had their own personal histories to talk about. They had last seen each other in 1939, during the early days of the Second World War. But postings and fate sent them in different directions. Harry went from Dunkirk to India and Burma. Bill was wounded and captured early in the war in Europe and spent the duration as a PoW in Silesia. It was a tough time for both men, but when Bill tapped Harry on the shoulder and said "Remember me?", happier memories of life as raw young recruits came flooding back.



Picture: WO2 Pete Bristol



Snappy Look

Australian Army photographer Sgt **Al Green** is one of 113 Aussie and New Zealand Service personnel attached to British military units in Europe during *Operation Long Look*. One of Al's first jobs was to photograph Australian Chief of the Army, Lt Gen **John Sanderson**, who was meeting General Sir **Michael Walker** the British C-inC Land, at Headquarters UK Land Command.

The Servicemen and women from down under are involved in a wide range of military jobs, from photography to dentistry. They will return to the southern hemisphere towards the end of November.



Latest recruit to the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders is **Islay**, a Shetland Pony. Islay, on the left with Regimental Pony Major Lcpl **Colin McMurray**, is a new companion for the regimental mascot, **Cruachan III**, on the right.

Cruachan had been pining for company after two four-legged friends with whom he shared a field had moved away. Said Colin: "I'd find Cruachan moping around his paddock, and he wanted to be with me all the time. He was even leaving his food, which is so unlike him. I knew something was wrong."

The problem was solved with the help of the International Horse Protection League, who had been trying to find a new home for Islay after the death of his owner. Like Cruachan, Islay has won the hearts of the Argylls.



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THE ARMY BENEVOLENT FUND



The Londons have Colours again

FOUR cheers greeted the Duke of York when he presented Colours to The London Regiment – three normal cheers, plus “an Irish one”!

The Duke, Colonel-in-Chief of The Royal Irish Regiment, clearly enjoyed the traditional extra cheer from the London Irish Rifles, one of the four separate companies which comprise the capital’s youngest regiment.

Watched by 2,000 guests at the Duke of York’s Headquarters in Chelsea, Prince Andrew presented the Queen’s Colour to Capt Giles Morgan and the Regimental Colour to 2nd Lt Alex Cotterill.

Congratulating the regiment, Prince Andrew emphasised the value of reserve forces and the close connection with the Regular Army, recalling that Londons had served in Bosnia, the Falkland Islands, Northern Ireland and in other theatres, while the Corps of Drums and Pipes and Drums had regularly carried out public duties during the Changing of the Guard at Buckingham Palace.

The unique character of London’s newest infantry regiment was evident from a glance at the four guards on parade.

Left of the Line was the rifleman’s green of the London Irish Rifles, their blue-hackled caubens pulled down to the left unlike other Irish regiments, which have them pulled down to the right.

Right of the Line were the famous Hodden Grey kilts and Glengarries of the London Scottish, with whom three of the four company commanders on parade had served.

The red-and-white hackles of the City of London Fusiliers company marched at the head of the regiment, adopting a Royal Welch Fusiliers practice as one of the few to parade with a detachment of ceremonial pioneers. Fusiliers formed eight battalions of the old London Regiment from which the modern regiment takes its name.

They also shared the centre of the parade with the successors to the West Middlesex Diehards, who continue the name of the Queen’s Regiment in their title and carry the cap badge of the Princess of Wales’s Royal Regiment.

All four companies trace their direct descent from units of the Rifle Volunteer Corps raised in 1859 – though some carry insignia from the previous century. When the Londons were



SSgt Andy Brown REME unfurls the Queen’s Colour, held by Sgt Mick Shephard, before its consecration

Report: Gordon Skilling
Pictures: Mike Weston

formed in 1908 with 26 battalions it was the largest in the Army and each battalion had its own cap badge. By May 1915 the regiment had expanded to 82 battalions.

The London Welsh suffered so badly in 1915 that they were not re-constituted, though a small clique of vociferous Welsh-

men led by Cpl Taff (Gwillem) Morris still dreams of a London Welsh element to complete the quartet of London Scots, London Irish and “London English”.

In 1988, the 8th Battalion, The Queen’s Fusiliers formed and in April 1993 was joined by the London Scottish and London Irish Rifles to put the Londons back in the Order of Battle.

Many spectators were impressed by the bearing of the regiment, none more so than commanding officer Lt Col Rory Ingleby-MacKenzie, who as a Scots Guards officer has long experience of Queen’s Birthday parades.

Regimental Sergeant Major John Caiger RRF was also delighted by the effort put in by the Londons.

It was a Welshman who brought the event to life. Maj Gareth Blyth, a Royal Welch Fusilier who had previously arranged the Wales VJ Day at Cardiff Castle, had the challenging task of producing a spectacle with very limited rehearsal time.



Londons’ return: Fusiliers Neil Tappenden, Nick Channon and Giles Furnival march past spectators after the presentation of Colours



Airborne Gunners from 7 Para Regiment RHA lay down a barrage during the closing stages of the exercise on Otterburn's training area



TA troops from 4 Para land on the drop zone on Braid Fell in the west of Scotland



Spearhead exploits the air flank

HARDLY A WORD was spoken. In an area the size of a few football pitches, hundreds of Airborne troops were gathered together carrying out pre-parachute checks.

Freshly-cleaned weapons were placed in their valises, parachute straps were double-checked, and checked again. Rations were broken down and packed into straining Bergens.

Only a bang on the arm from the man behind as they were standing in line inside their Hercules C-130 aircraft would signify the end of the final check.

Parachutes would whip open and their canisters would soon hang 30ft beneath them as they steered themselves towards the ground. The old Airborne quip about "a safe landing being one you can walk away from" was stored away in a quiet place too. Until then nothing was being left to chance.

Cap badges were many and varied. From the Parachute Regiment itself to the Royal Signals, Royal Engineers, Royal Logistic Corps, Light Infantry and the Gurkhas to name a few. Only the maroon beret was the unifying factor. That, and the membership of an extraordinary force, 5 Airborne Brigade.

The Aldershot-based brigade, more than 3,500 strong, is composed of an advance

reconnaissance platoon; a tactical headquarters and signal squadron; two "in-role" parachute battalions; two airmobile infantry battalions; an armoured medium reconnaissance squadron; an airborne logistic battalion; an airborne artillery regiment with an air defence troop; parachute engineer squadron; parachute field ambulance; and associated support elements.

With the capacity to be inserted by either parachute, helicopter or air-land assault, it is the spearhead of the new Joint Rapid Deployment Force (JRDF) formed on August 1 last year.

Exercise Pegasus Strike was the first large-scale exercise based on a JRDF scenario and showed how the brigade can be used to exploit the air flank in an operation.

As troops gathered at the Air Mounting Centre (AMC) at South Cerney, Gloucestershire to be briefed and prepare for the weeks ahead of them, the Royal Fleet Auxiliary RoRo

(Roll-on Roll-off) ship *Sea Crusader* had made its own preparations to move almost 100 vehicles and two Gazelle helicopters to Glasgow Dock, Scotland.

The activity was building up to a feverish pace. The huge tented city at South Cerney was at full capacity. Skills were honed, drills were repeated, the constant



Dawn breaks on a French para guarding the drop zone, and a circling safety helicopter

strive for peak physical fitness was evident in the countless number of runners attacking the tarmac and sweating in gyms. The summer air in Gloucestershire was heavy with expectation.

Scottish land-owners and farmers, who had happily given their permission for the paras to use their land, joined with the troops in looking forward to the next phase of the exercise the Tactical Air-Land Operation (TALO).

Royal Air Force Chinook and Puma support helicopters criss-crossed the skies ferrying vital equipment and personnel into place. Five Hercules C-130 aircraft from Numbers 1 and 38 Group RAF, which enhances the brigade's ability to deploy worldwide, had been part of the TALO and troops from 5 Airborne Brigade had just seized the airfield at West Freugh in Galloway, Scotland. An air corridor had been



"sanitised" with RAF Harriers, Tornadoes and Jaguars in a Composite Air Operation (COMAO), and had thereby protected the insertion of the assaulting forces through hostile air space. More than 45 aircraft

Above - Gunners from 7 Para RHA unhook a 105mm Light Gun from an RAF Chinook

Left - A "chalk" from 2 Para deplane from their Chinook on Exercise Pegasus Strike

jumped in before the final live air and ground attack.

Units assigned to the JRDF are required to conduct tailored training on a regular basis. Exercise Pegasus Strike was 5 Airborne Brigade's main airborne exercise for 1997. It focused on developing the skills required by the brigade to conduct a JRDF operation successfully.

The operational environment could range from benign to high threat. Missions could be from military stabilisation of a developing crisis; evacuation and rescue of British citizens; peace support operations; forward-presence missions to show resolve; or intervention in a high-intensity battle.

Progressive training and a continual commitment to being the best will ensure 5 Airborne Brigade remains at the forefront of Britain's defence assets and always *Utrinque Paratus - Ready for Anything.*

Report:
Chris Kinsville Heyne
Pictures:
Chris Fletcher

Ready for lift-off

"I HAVE never forgotten the first time I went solo," said Brian Trotter, course chief flying instructor and a former colour sergeant with 1 KOSB.

The Army Gliding Course at Achmer near Osnabrück sends scores of soldiers aloft for the first time every year.

Members on the latest course were mostly from Osnabrück-based 4 Armoured Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron, 1 AAC and 1 GS Regt RLC.

Facing a mixture of sudden downpours and dazzling sunshine the trainee pilots entered a different world, soaring high above the German countryside, hunting for thermals and enjoying the breathtaking views.

"The aim is to get as many trainees as possible to solo by the end of the course," added Brian. "Everyone is coming on in leaps and bounds."

The sky-bound trainees progress to improving their co-ordination, aircraft handling and mastering take-off and landings. They also need to be able to cope with the unexpected, such as a rarely used but vital



Ready for take-off: a glider is checked on the ground at Achmer, near Osnabrück

emergency technique should the winch cable snap. Brian gives his advice freely. "You just need to find a safe spot to land, rather quickly."

All the while the students are building up air experience, learning their way around a cockpit, using the altimeter, compass and air speed indicator, and gradually flying higher and further from the airfield.

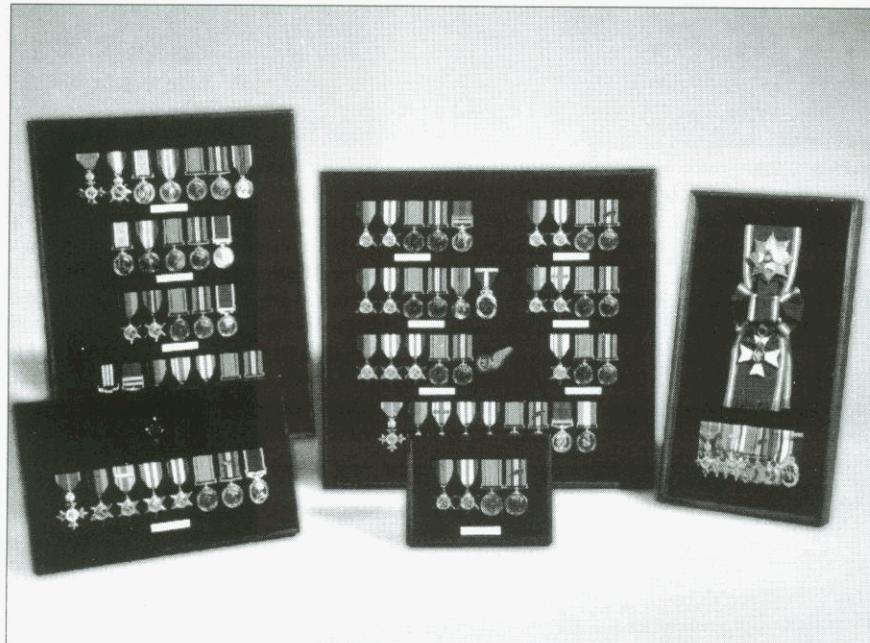
"Gliding may be fun but it instils vital qualities in soldiers," added assistant instructor SSgt Chris Hart, from 4 Squadron's LAD.

"They are put under a fair bit of stress and work hard to learn both the theory, including meteorology and navigation, and practical skills that are necessary for the sport."

Average fitness is all that is needed, and glasses are not a problem, although colour blindness would unfortunately rule people out.

After going solo they can do cross-country flying, travelling hundreds of miles, take part in competitions or just explore the countryside.

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Report: Jill Swift
Pictures: Chris Fletcher

Jungle basics

ONE HUNDRED and twenty paras have returned from Belize after six weeks training in the heart of one of the world's most inhospitable environments.

D Company of the 2nd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, under the command of Maj Neil Hutton, took on a period of intense jungle training in an area five hours from the nearest form of civilisation.

But before the uncomfortable stuff began, Exercise Native Trail got off to an impressive beginning for the paras.

LCpl Fraz Ferrari explained: "It kicked off to a great start with the RAF having to make an overnight stop in Florida, which was a surprise to us. We were put up in the Hilton Hotel on Miami's Cocoa Beach."

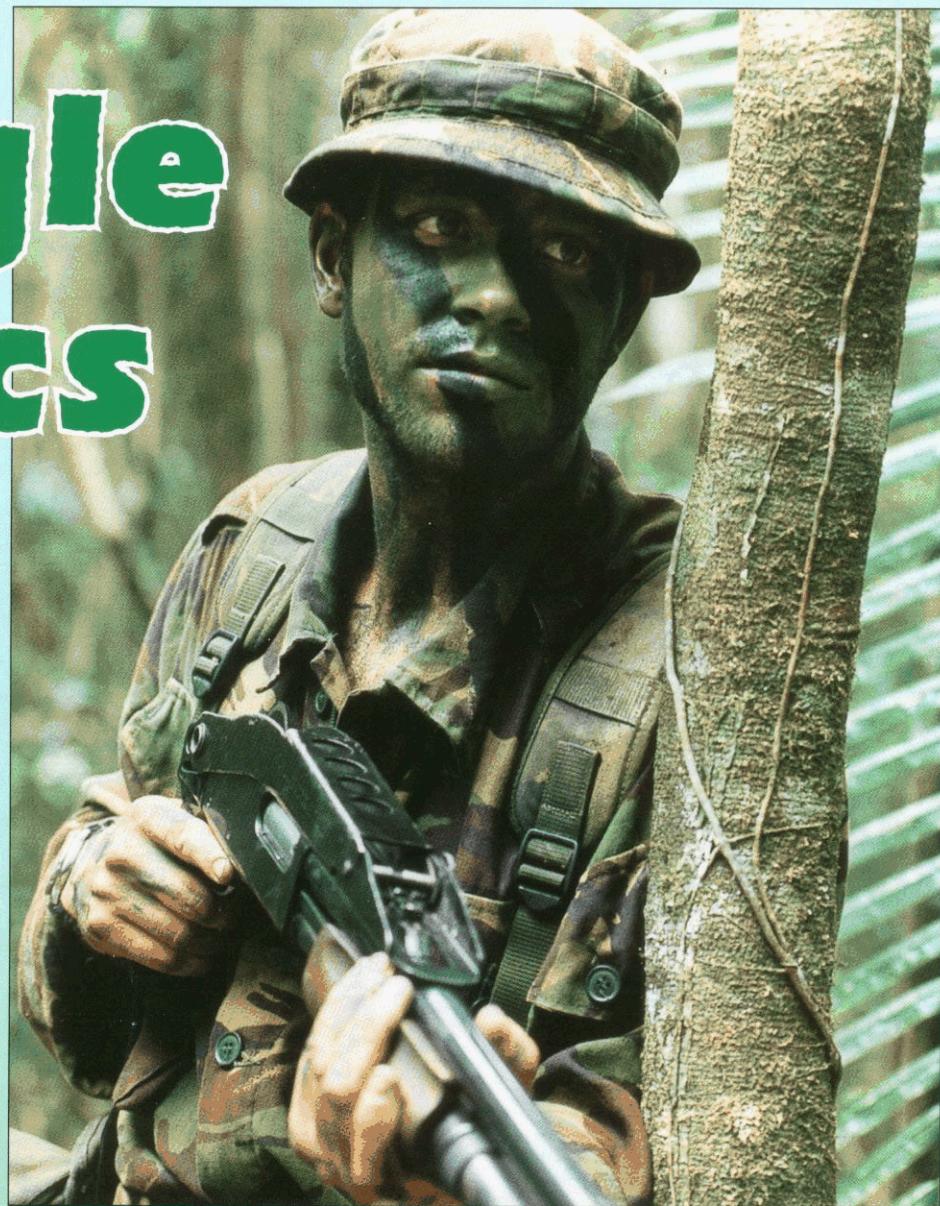
He said the company had made the most of the opportunity and many were planning to return on holiday.

Hotel bed was soon replaced by hammock, however, and after a few days of acclimatisation, the soldiers moved to the basic jungle school to be taught the essential skills needed for keeping body and soul together if they ever found themselves having to survive deep in the jungle.

Top of the list of priorities was water, which soldiers were taught to extract from vines.

Having mastered the basics, D Coy focused on live-firing and learning how to fight as a close-knit team in the dense undergrowth. More advanced skills such as tracking an enemy were added to the agenda. Temperatures soared as humidity touching 80 per cent guaranteed everyone was soaked in perspiration.

Despite the stories of man-eating alligators, deadly snakes, poisonous spiders and nasty scorpions, the only real menace encountered were mosquitoes and sand flies. A regular visitor to the camp was a



Pte Robert Hall with the pump-action shotgun, a favoured weapon among jungle troops

huge toad, named Simon by the soldiers.

A key element of the exercise was five days of adventurous training on the coral island of St George's Caye, half-an-hour by speedboat from the Central American mainland. It offered a chance to wind down from the strain of exercising in the jungle, plus the bonus of unlimited sailing, water skiing and swimming.

One of the most eagerly-awaited opportunities was the chance to swim alongside the creatures of the deep at Shark-Ray Alley, so called because nursing sharks and massive rays congregate in the area.

Although they tolerate swimmers, the experience is a daunting one at first.

Maj Neil Hutton, OC D Coy, said it was important to train in jungle conditions. "As part of 5 Airborne Brigade and its commitment to the Joint Rapid Deployment Force, this unit can expect to be called on to operate anywhere in the world at extremely short notice.

"Whether it be in a peace-keeping, emergency evacuation, or full-scale offensive operational capacity, it is vital that these troops know what to expect, and how to overcome difficulties in all terrains and climates."

LCpl Fraz Ferrari,
a section commander with the
Patrols Platoon,
enjoys himself at
the Adventurous
Training Centre
on St George's
Caye

Right – Maj Neil
Hutton, OC D
Coy, sits on top
of an ancient
Mayan temple in
the jungle of
Belize



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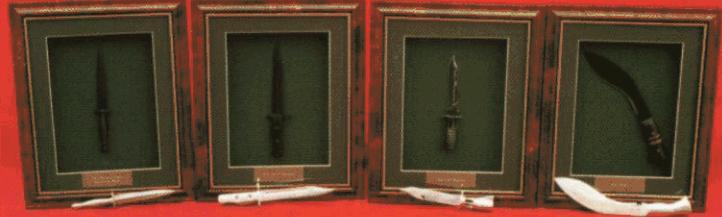
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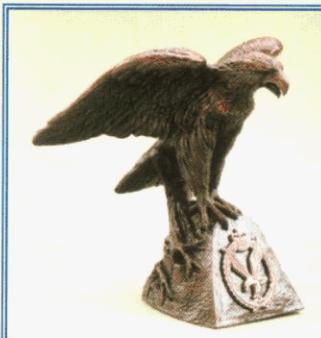
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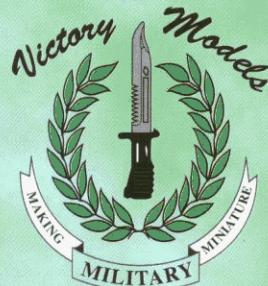


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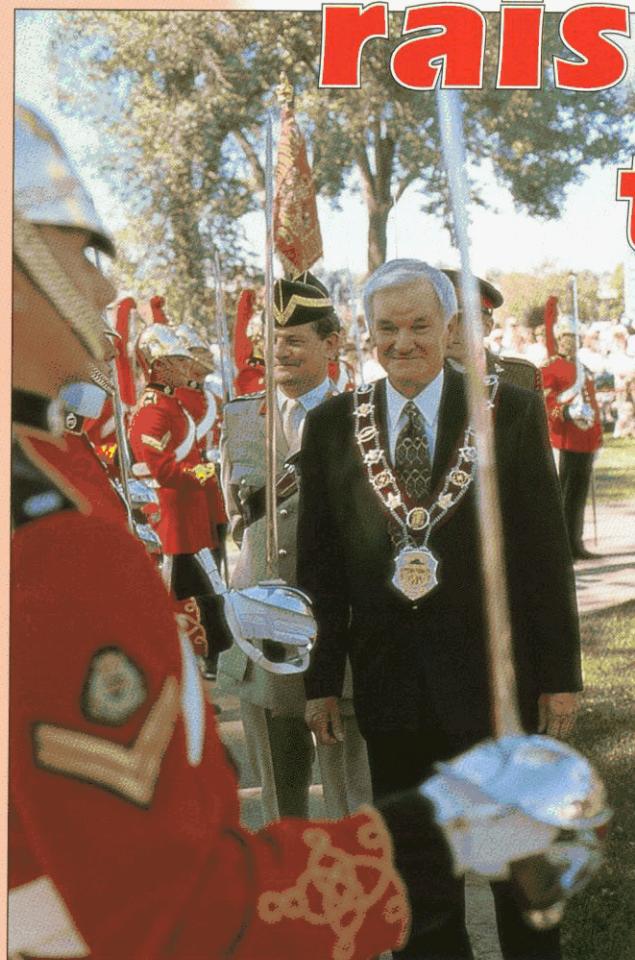
We are the sole distributors of the 'Ray Brown' range of figures all available painted or cold cast bronze. (All now come on a high base plus badge as shown with the sniper.)





Recces vehicles from BATUS exercise their newly-granted freedom of Medicine Hat

Canadian city raises its hat to BATUS



The mayor of Medicine Hat, Mayor Ted J. Grim, inspects the QDGs at Riverside Park, Medicine Hat

"... BAYONETS FIXED, Colours flying and drums beating..." With that medieval phrase the British Army Training Unit Suffield (BATUS) was granted the freedom of the city of Medicine Hat, Alberta, Canada.

The mayor, Ted J. Grim, had just made history. Western Canada had never granted the freedom of a city to another country before and the *al fresco* council session in Riverside Park had just voted unanimously for a resolution to be passed in favour of the 25-year-old British Army training unit.

More than 150 troops currently serving at BATUS made up the freedom parade into and around the streets of the friendly town.

From the REME Band to the scarlet-coated Queen's Dragoon Guards, the black tank-suited 1st Royal Tank Regiment with its Pipes and Drums, to the BATUS

**Report: Chris Kinsville-Heyne
Pictures: Terry Champion**

permanent security troop and OPFOR soldiers, they marched in perfect step in front of recce vehicles and a cheering Canadian crowd. Children and parents gripped Union flags, waving them deliberately in time with the stirring strains of traditional British regimental marches.

"A key moment in time", was how the Commander of BATUS, Col Andrew Bellamy, described the unit's jubilee. "The great honour of the freedom of Medicine Hat forges the permanent link between the two communities. There has always been a strong cultural and social connection between the military and civilian population and that continues to grow."

Signs of permanent links are everywhere in this part of Alberta. Ex-Servicemen have been drawn

● Turn to next page



Former BATUS construction boss Walter Montgomery; "... proud to be part of it"

Canada

• From Page 23

back to the prairie towns surrounding BATUS over the decades and marriages are commonplace. Many of them attended the military tattoo held at BATUS on the night before the parade. As the last fireworks exploded overhead Maj Ronald Tullet looked around and soaked up the sights of the bustling camp. Maj Tullet was the QM at BATUS between 1972 and 1974.

"When we first arrived we thought we had landed on the moon," he said. It was so vast and the camp was basically a builders' yard. It was a real culture shock. I remember five months later, when the first live round was fired, we celebrated by drinking champagne out of army mugs as a blizzard came in. It gave us a good idea of what the British Army could expect from its new training area."

The need for a new area arose when the UK lost its training grounds in Libya in 1969. European sites were too small to conduct large-scale armoured warfare exercises and, being surrounded by towns, factories, villages and farms, were considered unsuitable. The solution was found: 2,500 square kilometres of wide-open South Alberta prairie.

An initial ten-year agreement was signed in 1971 and on June 15, 1972 the first live round was fired. So began a series of exercises named "Medicine Man", taking thousands of British soldiers to the area every year.

"We had some apprehensions about bringing in a training unit and turning loose 700 battle-hardened troops every three weeks," said Bud Olsen, the former agriculture minister and now the Queen's representative in Alberta. "We really didn't know if we could handle that. However, it has turned out to be a very happy, satisfactory experience." The agreement has been extended twice since inception and presently runs until 2006.



Commander BATUS,
Col Andrew Bellamy

Local economy is boosted annually by around \$50 million from the arrangement. Local building contractors and suppliers benefit from the seemingly constant string of improvements that take place in and around the camp, reinforcing the industrial, economic and financial links that bind the two communities.

An ultra-modern facility has taken shape in the middle of the prairie. As 75 year-old former BATUS construction boss Walter Montgomery gazed in amazement at the new buildings that had sprung up since his last visit to the training unit he told *Soldier*: "It's everything we had ever dreamed of.

"It is really gratifying to see the place looking so busy. I saw a few of the buildings that I remember filling out the works orders for and they are just about ready to be replaced too. It's great to see such activity at BATUS and it makes me proud to have been part of it all."

Improvements are also noticeable in the training at BATUS, although only as far as the new equipment is concerned.

"BATUS has allowed the army to achieve at battle group level what it has achieved at all other levels," said Col Bellamy,

The mock battle arranged for the thousands of spectators who braved the elements to attend the open day at the unit provided a close-up view of Challenger 2, Warrior, and the myriad weapons that the modern British infantry soldier has to be able to master.

Today, six battle groups train annually for 23 days each; 12 days with live ammunition and 11 days of Tactical Engagement Simulation (TES).

As luck, or brilliant planning, would have it the 1st Royal Tank Regiment, which returned to conduct the Jubilee Exercise Medicine Man in 1997, received the first battle group to train at BATUS in the Options for Change merger.

The ghosts and memories of 4 RTR would be still at last. The troops of BATUS, the citizens of Medicine Hat and the people of Alberta had done them proud.



Above - "With Bayonets fixed, Colours flying and drums beating ..."

Left - "With Thanks for 25 Years of Friendship and Goodwill Enjoyed by All Soldiers and Families of BATUS"

Right - Battle Group preparation



Left - Braving the elements for the mock battle arranged for spectators at the open day



Right - The REME Band entertained the crowds at the Military Tattoo



Old war game computer fights its last battle

TWENTY-five years ago the Ministry of Defence introduced a computerised war-gaming system at Fort Halstead in Kent that gave it the ability to "fight" proposed new weapons systems in a battlefield scenario based many years in the future.

Now, as a result of the many technological advances that have been made in recent years, the MoD has reluctantly decided it is time to pull the plug on the Divisional War Game (DWG), as it was called, and replace it with something smarter.

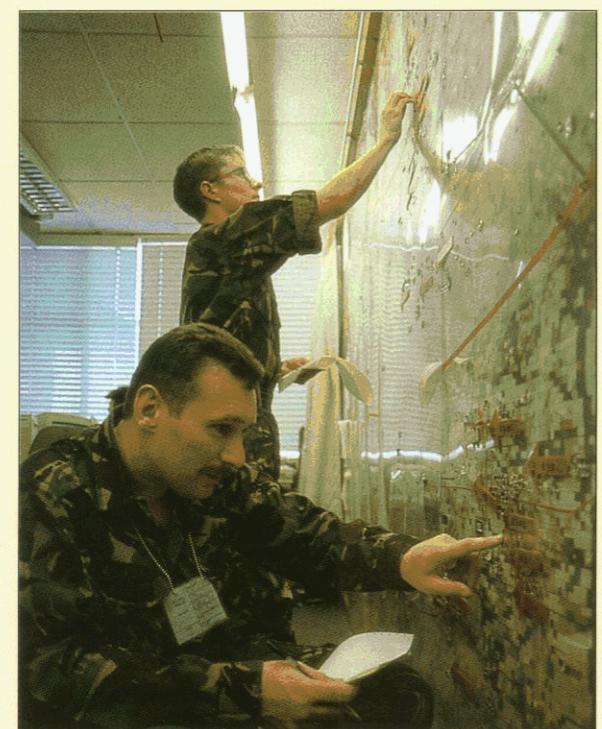
As part of the Land Studies department of the Centre for Defence Analysis at Fort Halstead, Kent, the interactive war game comprehensively modelled land battles. An invaluable analysis tool, it explored the impact of concepts, tactical doctrine and the use of present and future equipments.

Projected about ten years in the future, the DWG included a wide range of models depicting key areas of a land battle, the flexibility of the system allowing gamers to represent different scenarios and settings.

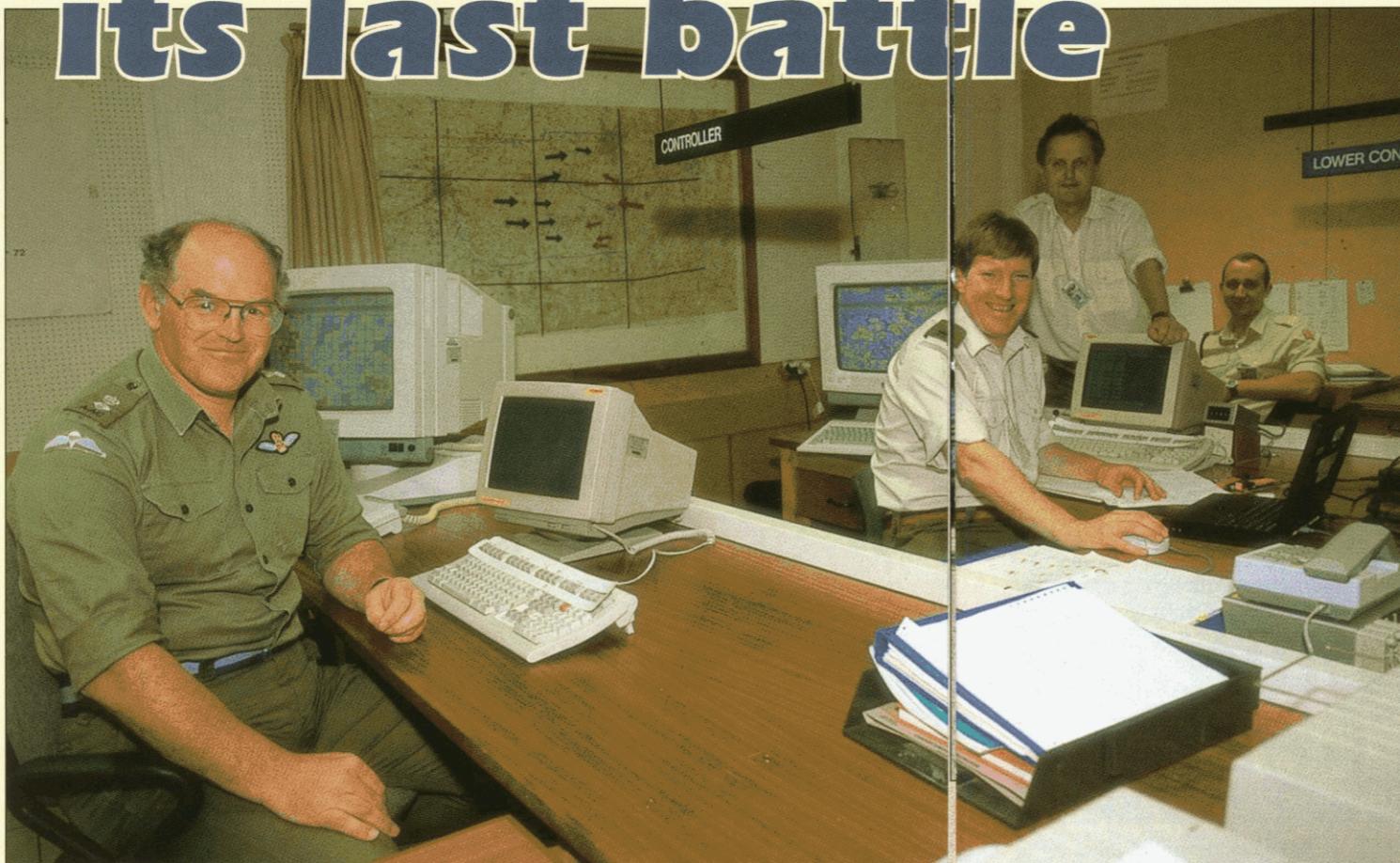
Forces operated within an environment which included natural and artificial terrain over which the battles were fought. Appropriate meteorological conditions for the time of year were fed in.

An advisory group in London supplied the department with battlefield scenarios for situations in which British forces might one day become involved.

"We are, in some respects, like a refinery. We produce crude data for interpretation



Cpl Albert McIlwaine (front) checks a grid reference during the battle while LCpl Gavin O'Kelly marks up the map



War gaming is a British innovation that began before the Second World War. Making the final moves on the Divisional War Game are Lt Col Arthur Gibson (left) with Majs David Taylor RA and Andy Mackie LD and WO1 Charlie Mortlock

which can then be studied in detail by other organisations," said Maj Peter Terrett AAC.

"In the computer were 11 different types of terrain ranging from swamp to woods covering an area of 80,000sq km. It took staff more than three months to input the data from the Field Army.

"The Divisional War Game could model a wide range of artillery systems, movement and the effect of barriers and mines, air defence, surveillance, target acquisition and the effects of direct fire.

"Units were represented by four-digit alpha-numeric codes and ranged in size from a full-scale brigade headquarters through to a squadron of tanks or a single MLRS launcher," he said.

It was slow-moving. Each series of battles consisted of five month-long games, with each minute of game time representing ten minutes of real time. It has to be remembered that the DWG was designed for an era when the Soviet Union was capable of launching an

attack across the inner German border.

A permanent staff of 12 has been running the game and players were drawn from the Field Army.

With the Army's worldwide commitments, it was becoming unrealistic to tie up 15 to 20 soldiers for a month, five times a year, so a new, less manpower-intensive

war game computer has been developed. It can replicate the actions of an individual using artificial intelligence.

"One of the pre-requisites of the new system, known as the Land Formation Model, is that it will be transportable," said Lt Col Arthur Gibson.

"Being PC workstation-based and not reliant on a massive main frame computer like that of the DWG, it could be taken to Germany where GOC 1st (UK) Armoured Division could use it to rehearse possible missions for a specific operation, or PJHQ at Northwood could employ it to do some swift operational analysis on an operation that was about to be mounted."

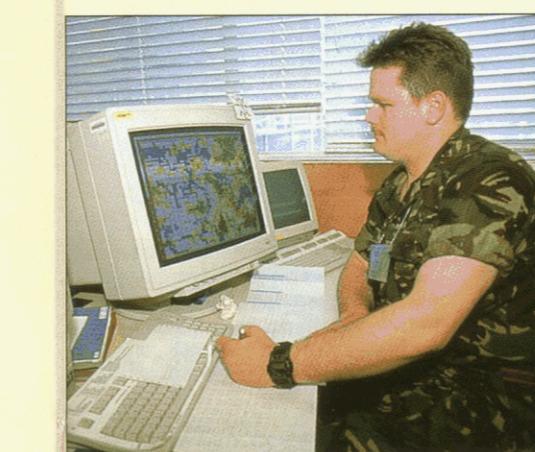
The proposed new system uses very different software from the original DWG.

If a unit moving from A to B encounters a minefield, instead of asking the computer operator for help, the computer itself con-

siders a number of options: ask for assistance, breach the minefield, or charge on regardless of casualties, and implements the most suitable course of action.

The programme will take account of human weaknesses and be able to represent national characteristics.

"Our job is to forecast what the battlefield will look like in the year 2010 and beyond," said Col Gibson. "When the new war game comes on-line, operational analysis data will be available much faster and more accurately than before."



Cpl Emmet McCann interprets terrain data. A huge mainframe computer stored data on 80,000 sq km of ground



Feel the heat: Soldiers of C Coy, 3 Staffords on an Abrams M1 battle tank with Sgt William Wilson, US National Guard, found the temperatures took some getting used to

Rattlesnake camp

BUG bites and blistering heat were the order of the day when the 3rd (Volunteer) Battalion, The Staffordshire Regiment flew to the United States for an annual camp with a difference.

One hundred and fifty soldiers were given their first taste of what it is like to be mechanised when they spent two weeks training with the US National Guard at Camp Atterbury Reserve Forces training area in Indiana.

As guests of the 2nd Battalion, 152 Infantry, they got to grips with M19 rifles, M2 heavy machine-guns and M113 armoured personnel carriers as American weapons, equipment and vehicles added a fresh dimension to their training.

A week of familiarisation on the extensive ranges of Camp Atterbury, 50 miles south of the state capital, Indianapolis, was followed by three days of mechanised field training using M113 APCs, something the part-time soldiers found to their liking as a welcome respite from manoeuvring on foot.

"It was a bit of a change to be travelling



Sgt Chris Bache, C Coy, has his "hits" pointed out by Specialist Pat Bailey, US National Guard

around the battlefield in a vehicle," said platoon commander 2nd Lt John Tookey, a member of B Company. "The guys really enjoyed it, especially the section commanders who each had their own APC to command."

New recruit Pte Sharron Rose, with A Company from Tamworth, particularly enjoyed Exercise Rattlesnake, her first camp. "I eventually want to be a driver in the battalion, so I enjoyed the chance to drive a Humvee all-terrain vehicle."

Pte Christina McCarthy, part of the B Coy Intelligence Cell, was impressed by the heat on her first trip to the United States. In fact, all the Staffords found that the high temperatures took some getting used to.

The group, made up of one platoon from each of the four companies in the battalion, was commanded by Maj Stuart Halsey, OC C Coy, who reckoned Exercise Rattlesnake had been a complete success.

"The purpose of the trip was to learn about the American military and culture, and to have fun. I think we achieved all of that."

The US National Guard were first-class hosts, and the Staffords were surprised at the amount of interest shown in their visit by local soldiers and civilians. Their activities even made the top story on Indiana's evening news programme.

They were treated to a traditional hog roast on July 4 and found time to round off their hard training with two days' shopping in Indianapolis.

While the Staffords were in Indiana, 110 soldiers from the 152 Infantry joined the rest of the 3rd Battalion for two weeks at Castlemartin, Wales, to experience British equipment. They were visited by the Duke of York, Colonel-in-Chief of The Staffordshire Regiment.

Report:
Laurie
Manton
Pictures:
Terry
Champion

Queen Mum 'blesses' memorials crusade

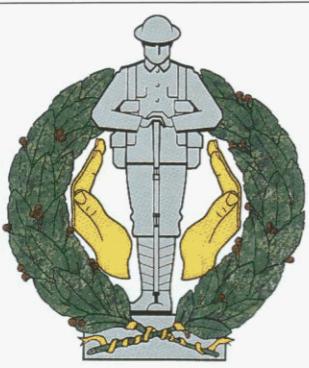
CAMPAIGNERS who want to clean-up Britain's neglected and vandalised war memorials received public royal backing last month.

As the Queen Mother greeted well-wishers outside Clarence House during her 97th birthday celebrations, three children presented her with the Living Laurel, official symbol of the Friends of War Memorials (FOWM).

Representing FOWM at Clarence House were Oliver Sullivan (9), his sister Francesca (8) and Jade Kennedy (8), all from the Kingsbury area of London.

Former Royal Marine Ian Davidson, the group's founder, said: "The laurel has been a symbol of reverence and dignity for centuries and it is a great honour to make the presentation to the Queen Mother.

"She has been very supportive of our campaign and what



FOWM's Living Laurel with its symbolic colours - red for blood lost in battle (berries), gold for priceless lives lost (hands), grey/black for the dead (memorial depicting a soldier of the Somme) and green for the living (laurel)

we want to do is involve the nation's children in caring for our war memorials."

The campaign has rapidly gathered strength with Countess Mountbatten as its patron.

Is your married quarter haunted?

I HAVE been asked to write a book on the subject of married quarters.

However, while this in itself would hardly be the most inspiring project, my interest is focused on those married quarters which are, or have been, haunted.

Having lived in one such house during my time with the RAF I have compiled a great deal of fascinating information but would like to hear from as many people as possible who have tales to tell.

Furthermore if anyone has any photographs which may be suitable for inclusion I would like to see them. - **Dougie Brimson, c/o FANDOM, PO Box 766, Hemel Hempstead, HP1 2TU.**

For the record...

Gloster memorial

SEVERAL readers, including John Curtis (June 23) have written concerning a cross seen on Hill 504 or another hill in Korea.

A cross was constructed on Gloster Hill by the Pioneer Platoon of the 1st Battalion North Staffordshire Regiment. The construction was ordered by Lt Col M J Perreau, CO of 1 N Staffs, as a memorial to those who fell at the Imjin.

It also marked the end of our tour on the Korean border from 1953 to 1954.

I can vouch for this because I took part in the moving inauguration ceremony as a drummer in 1 N Staffs drum corps. - **C Archer, Tamworth, Staffs.**

Hong Kong series

HAVING had the good fortune to serve in excess of six years in Hong Kong - not at a stretch, I should add - your three-part special series, "Hong Kong Farewell" was something I couldn't miss.

May I offer a couple of observations?

First, your reference to The Black Watch being "fitted out for white, lightweight jackets to replace the familiar green jackets they normally wear" (June 23).

Yes, it's called Number 3 Dress, the same as the Highland Band and the Gurkha Pipes and

Drums were wearing. Secondly, in your piece accompanying the picture of Maj Gen Angus Ramsay (July 7), the text reads: "Gen Ramsay, who **commissioned** into The Royal Highland Fusiliers. . ." Like myself and many others, he **was commissioned** (by our Sovereign).

Otherwise, the Hong Kong material was very interesting, especially the reminiscences, covering a long time-spread.

On a visit to Hong Kong in May this year, I was pleased to see that there is one familiar old spot that the PLA will not be occupying: the former Lyemun Barracks, on a hilltop near Shaukeiwan on Hong Kong Island, is now the urban council-run Lyemun Park and Holiday Village! - **Maj (Retd) Alan Robertson, London SW1**

Green issue

IN the last edition of *Soldier*, we covered the Nijmegen Marches in all their multi-national colour (You'll never walk alone pages 21 to 23). But it seems that in the rush to keep up with the striding teams, we managed to mix up two quite different shades of green. In one photo, we showed a group of foot-sore but cheerful soldiers of 1 Bn The Royal Green jackets. Unfortunately, our caption said that they were men of the Green Howards. Apologies from a red-faced caption writer.

There has always been the need for some of it in a disciplined body. I had a share of it at 20 PTC in 1943. The basic training was not a happy period for me but today I look back on it with thanks - it did

SOLDIER, ORDNANCE ROAD, ALDERSHOT, HANTS GU11 2DU

BIRD'S EYE-VIEW

DIVISIONAL WAR GAMES ROOM



"Steady on General . . . if the computer indicates you have a fundamental inability to evaluate tactical options . . . you can bet it's right"

New war games computer - See Page 26

How we won the Back Badge at Olympia

FURTHER to your coverage of the history of the Royal Tournament (feature July 21, Letters Aug 18) in 1930 the 2nd Battalion the Gloucestershire Regiment (the 61st), in which I served, performed in this event at Olympia while stationed at Gravesend.

The subject was the history of the regiment from 1694 and I took the role of a soldier in the rear rank of the 28th Regiment at the Battle of Alexandria on March 21, 1801.

A detachment of cavalry, possibly from the 17th/21st Lancers and representing the enemy, charged us in the limited space. It was wonderful horsemanship.

Our commander (the RSM) gave the order "Rear rank 28th about face, fire!" We won the day - and our Back Badge.

At one matinee we had the honour of having our present Queen, as four-year-old Princess Elizabeth, present with her grandmother, Queen Mary. The Princess took the salute, probably for the first time.

Twenty-three years later as RSM and PSI of my TA battalion I marched in her Coronation Parade. - **F E Wright (late 28th/61st), Paignton, Devon.**

Piping up

AS PART of a personal history project I wrote to 12 regiments with pipe bands for information about associated tunes.

I received a lot of help and through *Soldier* may I thank Capt G N M Stoddart (Director Army Bagpipe Music), Pipe Major R Tumelty (1st Battalion, Irish Guards), Pipe Major A D McIntosh (Kings Own Scottish Borderers), Pte Kris Clezy on behalf of Pipe Major Motherwell (Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders), and, in advance, the Pipe Major of the 1st Battalion the Royal Irish Regiment. - **K Horton, Liverpool L21.**

Warning note sounded on band drum majors

I AGREE with Drum Major Whitworth's letter ("Infantry's Drummies: guardians of tradition", July 21).

The drum major is by tradition the custodian of regimental customs and traditions. There is much more to this appointment than marching in front of the regimental band on ceremonial occasions.

However, it is debatable how long they will be able to continue this. Indeed, use of band drum majors within London District has already been mooted and rejected.

Although I have no objection to a band SNCO being selected to act as drum major on marching displays, he should not be afforded the privilege of wearing the badge of appointment of drum major.

Now that all military bands are of staff band size, it is within their remit to perform

marching displays frequently. This has led to the quite common practice of selecting band drum majors, the exception being within bands of the Household Division, who still use regimental drum majors.

It is equally important to select drum majors who have suitable backgrounds and who have spent sufficient time within a corps of drums to understand what is needed.

Sadly it is becoming quite common practice to appoint non-drummers to this most prestigious of appointments. This surely is no good either for the corps of drums or the SNCO who happened to be saddled with it. A two-week drill course does not create a drum major.

I would be most interested to hear from anyone who wishes to comment - Drummie or not! - **WO1(Snr DMajor) F S Green Gren Gds, Drums/GPMG(SF) Company, 3rd Battalion ITC Catterick.**

Soldier welcomes letters for publication from all readers, whatever their status. Letters must be brief, typed or written clearly and include the correspondent's name and address in block capitals, not necessarily for publication. Anonymous letters will not be considered. Acceptance or rejection of letters is the decision of the Editor, who reserves the right to edit for length, clarity or style.

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Sahara shuffle

Soldiers sweat it out in world's toughest race

FORTY-FIVE British athletes took part in Morocco's *Marathon des Sables* desert foot race this year, and the Army was well represented among the runners. Only the French fielded a larger contingent for the race which is widely recognised as the world's most gruelling foot event.

Teams from the Royal Irish Regiment, The Royal Regiment of Wales and 28 Regiment RE were among the 350 competitors from 28 nations who ran 150 miles across the baking-hot Sahara desert in six days, carrying daily provisions on their backs.

Among the runners was Chris Moon, an ex-Royal Military Policeman, who lost a leg and an arm while clearing mines in Mozambique. He completed the course on his artificial leg.

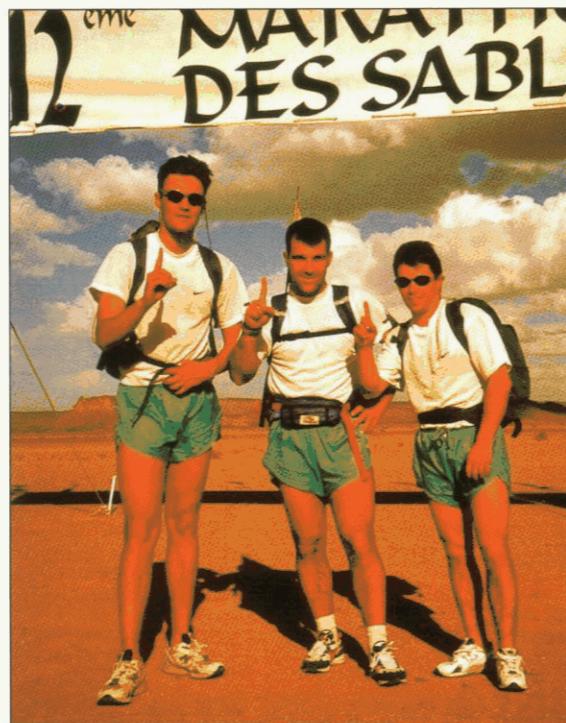
Nine litres of water per runner, first aid and makeshift tents were

provided by the Moroccans at regular checkpoints, but the competitors still suffered painful (if predictable) injuries.

The three runners in the Royal Regiment of Wales team had 12 blisters between them, and one member lost three toenails.

Nevertheless, the RRW team and the four runners of 28 Engr Regt were among the first military teams to cross the finishing line. The French Foreign Legion won.

Was it worth the heartache, the blisters and the thirst? Major Roragh Ainslie of 28 Engr Regt, who ranked 99th among the finishers and lost a stone in weight, thinks it was. "It takes you back to basics, and enables you to discover your own physical and mental limitations. It's the supreme test of individual character."



Ready for the "off": 2nd Lt Gareth Hicks, Sgt Paul Cooper and Pte Lee Conlan line up for the start in Morocco

Sub-aqua gunners explore Cyprus wrecks

THE WRECK of a 12,000 ton ship, the *Zenobia*, was the goal of 15 scuba divers from 26 Regt RA during a two-week expedition to Cyprus.

The remains of HMS *Cricket* were also discovered and explored during day and night dives from the base in Dhekelia.

Team member Lt Mark Simon remarked that fishing had badly affected sea life, but the clear and warm waters were ideal for training.

Ten members of the team were newcomers to the sport, and they gained their sport diver qualification during the expedition.

Attempt on 'Blood Mountain'

A TEAM of four adventurous training instructors are making the first British Services attempt on the 23,000ft high Mount Khan Tengri in the Russian Himalayas.

Khan Tengri translates as Blood Mountain, but despite the sinister name, the team are confident that they have the skills and experience they need to reach the summit and descend again in less than 15 days. All hold the highest Service mountaineering qualifications.

The Russian Himalayas are known to have many glaciers, and consequently the climbers will face the danger of crevasses. The risk of avalanches is also considered to be high.

The expedition departed for Russia on August 8 and is due to return to Germany around the end of the month.

From high mountains to deep seas with Gurkha adventurers

ADVENTUROUS training for the men of the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Gurkha Rifles, based in Brunei, has taken them up mountains and down snowy slopes, as well as on and under the water over the past year.

Exercise Mera Peak took a team back to the Gurkhas' home country of Nepal, where a 6,400m-high mountain was successfully climbed. It was a particularly

satisfying achievement for Maj Quentin Oates and Sgt Anghula Sherpa, who had been forced to abandon a previous attempt.

Mountaineering comes relatively easily to the Gurkhas. Some are members of the famous Sherpa tribe, who have traditionally worked as mountain guides.

Adventures at sea are a little less to their taste, but a number of the Brunei garri-

son gained their sea legs during Exercise Salty Kukri, when a team sailed an Army yacht across the China Sea from Manila to Hong Kong.

Scuba diving was an even greater challenge. After basic training in the swimming pool, and several dives in the sea off Sarawak in Malaysia, nine of the ten scuba students gained their British Sub-Aqua Club novice qualification.

On the trail of saboteurs

A MISSION to re-trace the route of a daring band of Second World War British and Norwegian soldiers took the representatives of eight different cap badges to the highlands of Norway. The band of cross-country skiers (two of whom pictured right), led by Maj Chris Robinson RA spent ten days skiing across the Hardanger Vidda feature to the town of Rjukan.

The soldiers were following the ski-tracks of allied saboteurs who had parachuted into the same area, and destroyed a heavy water plant where the Nazi scientists were developing the raw materials for nuclear weapons.



Low oxygen, high excitement on Himalayan trek

TEN MEN of the Royal Gloucester, Berkshire and Wiltshire Regiment spent a month exploring the mountain trails, wild rivers and remote villages of Nepal. The team's prime objective was to complete a trek around the Annapurna range of mountains. Accomplishing this in 21 days, the team reached altitudes of over 5,000m, and encountered the difficulties of walking in the low-oxygen environment.

After the hike the team, led by Capt John Wakelin, rafted down several of the mountain kingdom's wild rivers. "How we stayed afloat I will never know," said Capt Wakelin.

Right: Lt Nick Shanahan leads Ptes Danny Bick and Fred West and others on the Annapurna trail



Fusilier mountain men. Left to right: Sgt Ian Fairbairn, Clr Sgt Ian Hamilton, Fus Ian Littlefear, Lt Col Brian Gorski, Cpl John Graham, WO2 James Fyfe and Capt Richard Wilson

Fusiliers take high road

SEVEN members of 6th (Northumberland) Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, successfully tackled the *Haute Route*, a challenging skiing and mountaineering trek across the roof of Europe.

The TA soldiers, led by

their CO, Lt Col Brian Gorski, completed the journey in six days, a remarkable achievement considering that four members of the expedition had only one season's experience on skis.

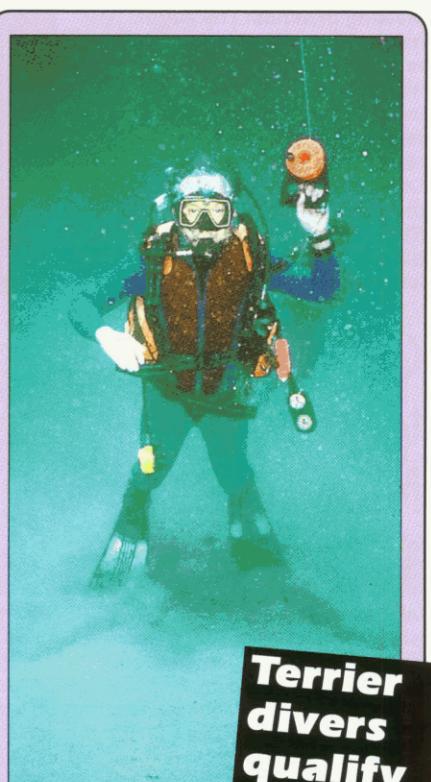
JAMAICAN MISSION FOR SAPPERS

SAPPERS from 21 Engineer Regiment travelled to Jamaica, where they trekked through the island's dense jungle to reach a small hospital and carry out repairs on the buildings.

The 12 men spent three days fitting doors and windows to the unfinished accommodation so that staff

would be able to live at the remote site.

The sappers ended their Jamaica visit with a jungle hike that involved scaling a 200ft-high waterfall.



Terrier divers qualify in Malta

EXERCISE Deep Blue took 24 members of the Royal Wessex Yeomanry into the depths of the Mediterranean in early July.

During six days of diving off the Maltese island of Gozo, the TA soldiers were trained up to British Sub-Aqua Club novice standard by professional police divers from the Hampshire Constabulary.

Each of the novices made at least eight dives, including one into the Blue Hole, best-known dive site in the area.

As an expression of thanks to the people of Gozo, who had given the men from the west country a warm welcome, the sub-sea soldiers made a final dive to clear rubbish from the bottom of Gozo Harbour.



Attachés' hats, detached

Meeting of minds: The august assemblage of international military head-dresses above was spotted at a lunch organised for the Association of Military Attachés at the Army and Navy Club in Piccadilly, London. Guest of honour was the British Chief of the General Staff, Gen Sir Roger Wheeler, pictured also (second from the left) at the reception.



Pictures: Terry Champion

Grand tour to mark Marne 80th

NEXT year's 80th anniversary of the Battle of the Marne is to be marked in France by a series of international events based on a two-week trip from July 25-Aug 9.

Although the tour will stop at many of the sites where the Allies and Germans fought between May 10 and Aug 10, 1918, the commemoration will include other events, such as a film festival at Château-Thierry, postcards, photographs and memorabilia exhibitions, specialised presentations, parties and ceremonies featuring the standards of the regiments engaged at the time.

The historical tour through the Chemin des Dames, the Reims mountains, the Marne Valley and the forest of Villers-Cotterêts is open to all.

If you wish to volunteer to help prepare the presentations, or need more information, contact:

Internet URL <http://perso.club-internet.fr/batmarn2/index.htm>.

E-Mail batmarn2@mail.club-internet.fr.

Or M Henri Maurel, 38 Rue des Caves, 92310 Sevres (tel 00 331 46 262607).

Loggie lion dances on at Deepcut

LT COL Nigel Lloyd (left), last commanding officer of the Hong Kong Logistic Support Regiment RLC, admires a silver lion dancer after presenting it to Maj Martin White (third from left) for display at the Headquarters of the Royal Logistic Corps.

The silver lion (inset), based on the costume worn by the regiment's own dance troupe, was produced by David Hawkins (second left) of Peter Hicks Associates. Above right is John Jonas, whose painting of Hong Kong's waterfront hangs behind them in the officers' mess at RLC HQ in Deepcut, near Aldershot.

The Logistic Support Regiment, nicknamed the "1,000 Day Regiment" because of its relatively short operational life, was created to oversee the complicated British Army garrison drawdown before Hong Kong's return to China, an event which coincided with the disbandment of the regiment.



Pictures: Terry Champion



Indian Army poster offer

AT the outbreak of the Second World War in September 1939, the Indian Army had 189,000 Regular soldiers.

A wall poster with a map showing the homes of the regiments

grown to more than two million, the largest volunteer army in the history of the world.

This magnificent force gradually reduced until, 50 years ago in August, 1947, it was divided to form the separate forces of India and Pakistan.

A wall poster with a map showing the homes of the regiments

50 YEARS AGO

From *Soldier*, September 1947

HURRYING HARRY

Capt Harry Whittle, of the Tactical Wing, REME Training Centre at Arborfield Cross, Berks, won the 440 yards hurdles (55sec) and the long jump (23ft 9 1/2in) in front of 40,000 spectators at White City, London. Never before in the long history of British athletics has a serving soldier carried off two coveted national prizes at the same Amateur Athletic Association annual championships.

He will represent Britain in the Olympic Games to be staged at Wembley in 1948.

25 YEARS AGO

From *Soldier*, September 1972

RUM GOINGS ON

While serving with 29 Field Regiment in Cyprus during 1958-59 we were issued with rum on all internal security patrols and on cordon-and-search operations. It did us the world of good in the middle of the night when it became very cold. I shall always remember the strong tea and rum. — R J Rogers (ex-gunner), Aldershot. (Letter to the editor).

Biba bow wows out at Richmond

AFTER 13 years of being patted, Biba the PAT (Pets As Therapy) dog has retired from visiting ex-Servicemen and women at the Royal Star and Garter Home at Richmond.

As well as carrying out her PAT patrols at the home, she proudly wore a Royal Star and Garter coat specially made for her to wear at fund-raising events. She became the home's official mascot in 1994.

But residents will not be deprived of canine company for long. Biba's owner, Marion Jacobs, has a six-year-old called Sunny in training to take on the PAT role.

Star and Garter chief executive Ian Lashbrooke sent Biba a letter of appreciation for her devotion to duty. It read: "May I say, on behalf of everyone who you have licked and allowed to stroke you over the past 13 years, how much we appreciate your long and distinguished service."

John Hall has been presented with the REME Association's President's Award for Exceptional Service to mark nearly 20 years as a visitor to REME residents and others at the Star and Garter Home.



Marion Jacobs with Biba (left) and Sunny

REUNIONS

12th Bn, Devonshire Regt (6th Airborne)

51st reunion dinner, Devon Hotel, Exeter By-pass, Matford, Exeter, Oct 11. Details: Mrs Ada Follett, Rosemount, Exmouth Road, Exton, nr Exeter, Devon EX3 0PQ (tel 01392 874596).

1st Bn, Somerset LI (1955-59)

Reunion planned October. Where are you, Reg Hathaway? Contact David Williams, 29 Knowle End, Woolavington, Bridgwater, Somerset TA7 8JH (tel 01278 683022).

Royal Pioneer Corps Association

past and present officers' dinner, Oct 17; WOs' and Sgts' Reunion Club dinner, Oct 18; RPC Association all ranks lunch, Nov 1; all at 23 Pioneer Regiment RLC.

DISPOSALS

HQ Merseyside Garrison Officers' Mess

is to close on March 31 1998 and those who made presentations and wish the items to be returned should contact Maj S Hargreaves on 0151 242 2736 by Oct 31. Items include barometer (presented by Lt Col H Hodges), gong (Maj MacAvoy), scissors (Lt Col Hodge), salver (Peter Piller), pictures (Maj Ormerod), waterfront (Lt Col Maxwell), tankard (Bill Hutchins), wall clock (Maj Dady).

Army Apprentices, Harrogate intake Sept 1947

sought for 50th anniversary reunion. Mostly destined for REME and moved to Arborfield in 1949 when the RE moved in. Contact David Burnell, 18 Woodland Drive, Southwell, Notts NG2S 0DA (tel 01636 813212).

With the future demise of HQ Engr Resources, Long Marston, Stratford-upon-Avon, personnel who donated presentation pieces to the WOs' and Sgts' Mess are requested to contact Sgt Phil Hamilton, CEP, Long Marston (tel 01869 259396) by Dec 31 if they require the items to be returned.

St David's Barracks, Bicester. Details: Maj (Retd) Geoffrey Crook on 0171 834 0415, or write to RPC Association, 51 St George's Drive, London SW1V 4DE.

ACCC Cenotaph parade

Nov 8. Ex-ACCC members wishing to participate should contact Lt Col Bruce Dyson on 01252 340893.

Cyprus Police 1955-1960

Reunion at the Met Police Sports Club, Ember Lane, E Molesey, Surrey, June 5, 1998. Includes

SEARCHLINE

Anyone who served with 407 Tp RCT, 5 Inf Bde (1981-84) interested in a reunion in summer 1998 is asked to contact Dave (Tugboat) Taylor, 16 Taverne Place, Chichester, W Sussex PO19 2BH.

Reunion planned for 260 Signal Squadron, Napier Barracks, Dortmund, Germany, late 60s-early 70s. Contact Eddie Ridley, 127 Hall Lane, Willington, County Durham DH15 0QD.

Army Apprentices, Harrogate intake Sept 1947

sought for 50th anniversary reunion. Mostly destined for REME and moved to Arborfield in 1949 when the RE moved in. Contact David Burnell, 18 Woodland Drive, Southwell, Notts NG2S 0DA (tel 01636 813212).

Researcher seeks information, however trivial, on any Distinguished Conduct Medal winners from the Royal Berkshire Regiment, 1914-18. The regiment won

a total of 162 during the First World War. Replies to M J McIntyre, 7 Marsh Lane, Hungerford, Berks RG17 0QN.

Mrs Jayne Hills wishes to contact ex-PoWs from the Second World War who knew her great uncle, Frederick William Richard Hatch, born 1915, died 1948. Held in Camp 65, PM 3450 Cartolina-Guebra, N66 Italy (1942-44), also Camp Bezeichnung M Stammlager VIIIIB, KOO-E- 911, Stalag Gepruf No 220460 Sett 2 and Sett 3. Replies to Station House, Pontsticill, Merthyr Tydfil CF48 2UP (tel 01685 377798).

Rachelle Bishop is trying to trace her father, Bruce Musket, whose family lived in Aldershot, and whose four brothers served in The Parachute Regiment in the 1970s. All were at least 6ft 4in tall. Contact Mrs Bishop on 01502 732004.

Postgraduate student at University of Vienna is researching a

DATES

SEPTEMBER

2: The taking of Pegasus Bridge, lecture by Maj John Howard DSO, 2nd Oxs and Bucks LI, Airborne Forces Museum, tel 01252 349619.

6-7: Berwick Military Tattoo, The Barracks, Berwick-upon-Tweed.

13-15: Military Survey 250th anniversary, Hermitage.

14: Winchester and District Militaria Society annual exhibition and fair, Winchester Guildhall.

OCTOBER

7-8: Cyprus Walkabout.

12: Military Historical Society annual exhibition, National Army Museum.

24: Isle of Thanet Festival of Remembrance. Tickets: 01843 292882.

NOVEMBER

16: Wargames, re-enactment groups, military books, Gala Leisure Centre, Edward Street, West Bromwich.

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

● 16 Battery (Sandham's Company) RA earned its battle honour at Waterloo, where, under Capt Sandham, it is said to have fired the first shots. So, having missed the Battery Day because they were on the prairie at BATUS in Canada, officers, WOs and SNCOs visited the site of the "surprisingly small" Waterloo battlefield on their return to Mansergh Barracks in Gutersloh, Germany.

Inspired to improve the battery history room, they are appealing to past members of Sandham's Company to contribute suitable memorabilia for display.

thesis on Austrian women who married British soldiers after the Second World War and plans field research in UK from Nov to April. Seeks women prepared to talk about their experiences. Contact Manuela Friedl, Grobe Sperlgasse 37A/21, 1020 Wien, Austria (tel 0043 1 2180252).

Patricia Stanford Beasley is trying to trace her father, Albert (Burt) Stanford, who was stationed in England in 1944 and who knew Emily May Corkish (Hall). Replies to 11 Gordon Road, Waterlooville, Hants PO7 5TJ (tel 01705 782826).

T Baker seeks news of the ex-Servicemen friends of his father, Cpl Peter John Baker, East Anglian Regiment, served May 1958-April 1964 in Hong Kong, Malaya and Northern Ireland. In particular Mick Deer, Tony Ralf and Wakefield. Replies to 20 Chapel Street, Yaxley, Peterborough, Cambs PE7 3LN.

Cherrypickers: the pick of their pictures

AMONG the many outstanding photographs in *The Cherrypickers* is one (right) taken on the Curragh in 1905 showing one Pte Jarvis riding his horse over an obstacle at a seemingly impossible angle.

They are shown halfway over and whether rider and animal survived we shall never know, though research may prove it one way or the other.

This is just one of scores of fascinating illustrations, some in colour, showing life in one of our most famous cavalry regiments.

The large-format hard-cover book makes no claim to being a regimental history, merely to complement official chronicles already published by presenting a pictorial record of the Cherrypickers from 1715 to 1969, when amalgamation occurred with the 10th Hussars. A further amalgamation with the 14th/20th in 1992 formed the present-day King's Royal Hussars.

The photographs have been carefully selected and well captioned, which lends enhancement to shots showing

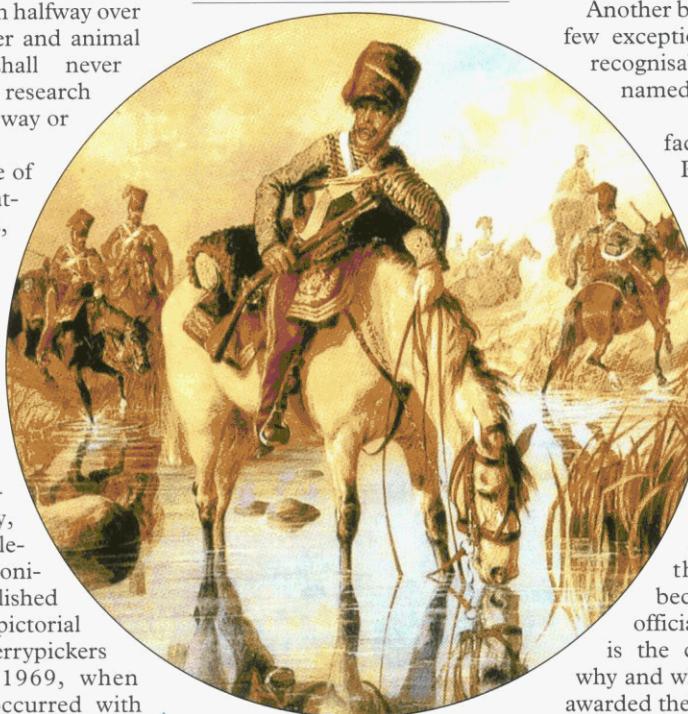
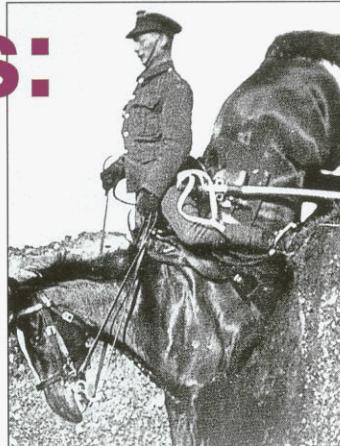


Illustration from the book, taken from an 1860 painting by Angelo Hayes

By kind permission of Mrs Phylida Robertson, daughter of the late Maj J A Friend

movement and action. None are prosaic, although there are a few "grip 'n' grins" and football team-style line-ups, but



The Cherrypickers: 11th Hussars (Prince Albert's Own) 1715-1969 edited by Lt Col Peter Upton. Available from the Editor, Long Meadow, 3 St Cross Back Street, Winchester SO23 9SB at £23.95 inc p&p.

these are acceptable and will provide much interest to old Cherrypickers.

Another bonus is that, with a few exceptions, the faces are recognisable and the people named.

The point about faces is taken up by Prince Michael of Kent, who writes in his foreword of his "happy and sometimes irreverent memories" of service in the regiment in the 1960s.

There is just the right amount of text throughout this book to support the pictures but, because this is not an official history, nowhere is the casual reader told why and where the 11th were awarded their nickname.

This reviewer is also curious to know why ORs especially did not wear cap badges on their khaki berets with red headbands, although their best BD had collar dogs.

No doubt readers will be quick to answer these burning questions. – JM

Small arms past, present and future

WITH the ban on handguns now law, civilian interest in these weapons and their retention could, and should, conceivably reduce.

By the same token the ban could also have a knock-on effect on sales of *Brassey's Essential Guide to Military Small Arms*, now available at £50 a time.

It is crammed with textbook information about and designs of guns and ammunition from the earliest days to the present.

Line drawings and mathe-

Brassey's Essential Guide to Military Small Arms by Dr Derek Allsop (of the Royal Military College of Science, Shrivenham), Prof Lubomir Popelinsky and others. Brassey's, hardback, £50.

matical calculations and symbols abound which the reader needs to be something of an expert to understand.

Before describing and explaining the whys and wherefores of gun design and production the authors, of whom there are many, make it clear that, while automatic

weapons predominate in the infantry and small-calibre automatics are in use by all the major armies of the world - not to mention most of the smaller ones, too - much research is being carried out to develop alternatives to weapons currently in use. But they don't hold out much hope of this happening.

Their forecast is that replacements in the near future for automatics as we know them are most unlikely. It looks as if the SA80 is here for a long time yet. – JM

The spies who died at dawn

AT the start of the First World War shops and businesses with German, or even German-sounding names, were often stoned and damaged by mobs crazed by fear of the enemy.

They, like the rest of the country, were worried the Germans would invade and those they perceived to have even the slightest Teutonic connection were likely to be spies.

Spies and secret agents were certainly around, but whether they were any good

Shot in the Tower by Leonard Sellers. Pen & Sword Books, hardback, £18.95.

at gathering information and passing it on to their masters is another matter.

In *Shot in the Tower*, Leonard Sellers tells of the capture and execution of 11 of them by firing squad in the old fortress.

Few if any of these spies are remembered today. It is likely they were forgotten within hours of dying since the trials of ten of them were held in camera. Only one trial, that of Carl Hans Lody, was held in open court over three days. Four days later, on November 6, 1914, an eight-man squad from the 3rd Battalion Grenadier Guards carried out the sentence.

All the stories in this book tell of the detection and death of the spies and all make interesting if at times grisly reading. While the accused were all found guilty and sentence duly carried out, it must have had a tremendous effect on the soldiers who actually fired the shots, especially on the squad who used "prepared bullets" on Carl Frederick Muller. On this occasion they were handed rounds with the tops filed.

Thankfully the author doesn't go into the gory detail of the effect of these dum-dum rounds, simply reporting medical comments that death was "instantaneous and therefore painless". – JM

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HOW OBSERVANT ARE YOU?

These pictures are from our Frank Finch cartoon archives. Find ten differences in detail and you could be £50 richer or win a new book. Circle the differences in the bottom picture, cut out the whole panel, add your name and address and send to HOAY 669, Soldier, Ordnance Road, Aldershot GU11 2DU by September 19. Do not include any-

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

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

Name : (Give initials and rank or title)

Address :

Competition No 666 (July 21 issue): First correct entry drawn was from LSgt H R Jee, 1 Squadron, Honourable Artillery Company, London EC1. Book prizes go to runners-up Mrs G Matthews, of Canvey Island, Essex, and J De Hoop, of Brighton. The ten differences were: line of cloud; number 8's vest; line of tree; number 4's sideburn; number 9's fingers; diving gymnast's belt; fourth spectator from left; bottom gymnast's vest; line of vaulting horse; right-hand table bracket.



BOOKS IN BRIEF

First Contact: A History of the 8th Battalion The Sherwood Foresters 1939-45 by Cliff Housley. Story of the TA battalion that, against the odds, delayed the German advance northwards through Norway in 1940. Available in paperback from Miliquest Publications, 83 Draycott Road, Sawley, Long Eaton, Notts NG10 3BL (tel: 0115 9728616) at £10.50 per copy.

Monty's Marauders: Black Rat and Red Fox by Patrick Delaforce. Fast-moving account of the 4th and 8th Independent Armoured Brigades in the Second World War, written by an RHA veteran who was there. Tom Donovan/Spellmount, hardback, £16.95. Special price for veterans – tel 01273 564372.

A Walk Around Plugstreet by Tony Spagnoli and Ted Smith. Sub-titled *Cameos of the Western Front, South Ypres Sector 1914-18*, this paperback brings to

life an area in which most regiments of the British and Commonwealth armies served. Pen & Sword Books, paperback, £9.95.

Leadership and Command edited by G D Sheffield. These essays by distinguished historians analyse the exercise of command from the American Civil War to the Gulf, 1991. Brassey's, hardback, £25.

Florence Nightingale: Letters from the Crimea 1854-56 edited by Sue M Goldie. Extraordinary collection of correspondence by this formidable campaigner for medical reforms. Mandolin (Manchester University Press), paperback, £9.

Knives: Military Edged Tools and Weapons by James Marchington. From fighting knives to bayonets, including the combat and survival varieties as well as machetes, special forces shovels, combat tomahawk and even

the assegai. Brassey's Modern Military Equipment series, hardback, £15.95.

Recollections of the Peninsula by Moyle Sherer. Facsimile edition of the 1824 historical classic, with introduction by Philip Haythornthwaite. Spellmount Library of Military History, hardback, £19.95.

Secret Soldier by Col Muki Betser with Robert Rosenberg. Autobiography of the brilliant commando features the inside story of the Israel Defence Force's special warfare units and their most daring operations. Pocket Books, paperback, £6.99.

A Hell of a Way to Die: Tarawa Atoll November 20-23 1943 by Derrick Wright. Illustrated account of one of the most savage battles of the Second World War in which the US Marines suffered 3,000 casualties at the hands of a Japanese

garrison of 4,700, only 17 of whom were taken alive. Windrow and Greene, hardback, £20.

The US Army Today by Christopher J Anderson. Illustrated history of the American soldier, his uniform and equipment from the end of the Cold War to the present. Greenhill Books GI series, large-format paperback, £6.99.

Napoleon's Line Infantry and Artillery by Stephen E Maughan. Nearly 200 glorious colour photographs of re-enactment uniforms, plus working replica cannon. Windrow and Greene, large-format paperback, £12.95.

Napoleonic Plastic Figure Modelling: Bill Ottinger's Historex Masterclass. The Napoleonic era is favourite for followers of this pastime and American master modeller passes on his expert techniques, with superb illustrations. Windrow and Greene, hardback, £19.95.

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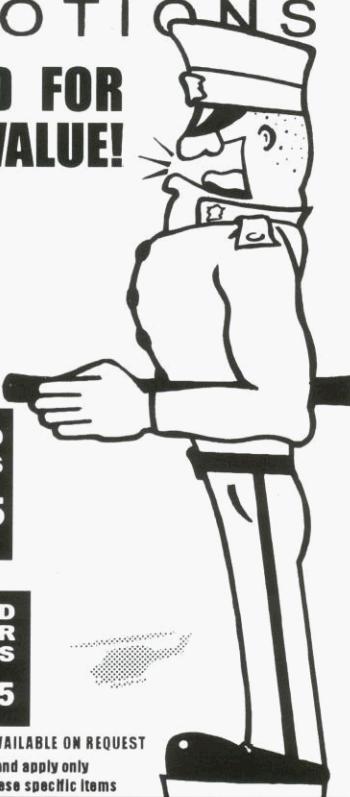
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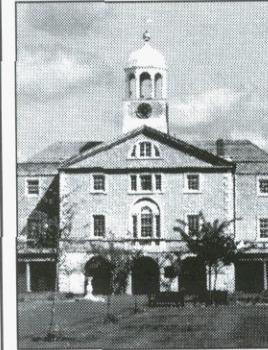
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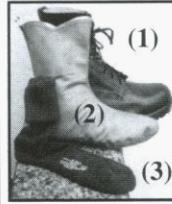


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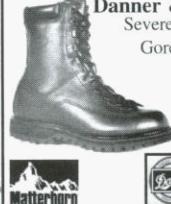


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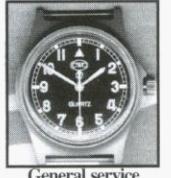
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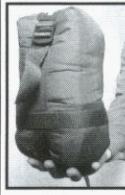
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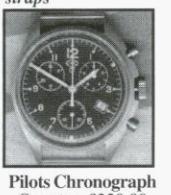


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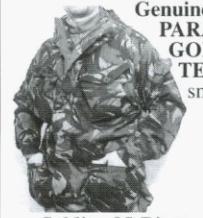
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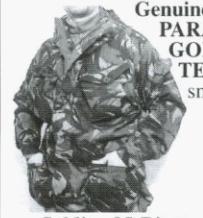
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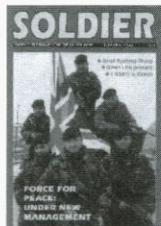
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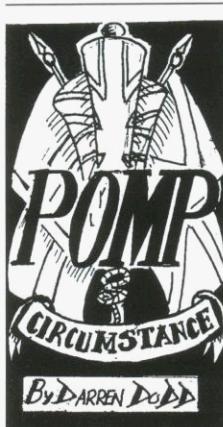
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Notices

Charities: The 2nd Division Trust Fund and The General Officer Commanding's Fund 2nd Division

Scheme to amalgamate the Charities

Reference: RM/61887/SC

The Commissioners propose to make a Scheme for these charities. A copy of the draft Scheme can be seen at HQ 2nd Division, Imphal Barracks, Fulford Road, YORK YO1 4AU, or can be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to The Charity Commission, Woodfield House, Tangier, TAUNTON, Somerset TA1 4BL quoting the above reference. Comments or representations can be made within one month from today.

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ARMY SPORTS LOTTERY RESULTS

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First (397 runs, £3,000): Sgt TJ McNally, RDG, Tidworth.

Second (388 runs, £1,500): Cpl RA Gibson, 110 Pro Coy RMP, BFPO 16.

Third (367 runs, £1,500): Capt MJJ Taylor, 21 Log Sp Regt RLC, BFPO 801.

Fourth (347 runs, £600): Sgt DW Grant, SHAPE, BFPO 26.

SEVEN -way tie for fifth prize (340 runs, £142.68): LCpl SM Bailey, 1 Coldm Gds, BFPO 17; Capt JA Duncombe, 125 Fd Sqn RE (V), Stoke on Trent; Capt T Hall MDHU, RAF Rudloe Manor; Sgt A Honeyman, MDHU Frimley Park; WO1 C Prentice, HQ LAND, Wilton; Cpl JT White, Exeter Sy Sect; LCpl JA Worgan, 9/12L, Swanton Morley.

AUGUST 9, 1997

First (504 runs, £3,000): Sgt CR Smith, BAD Kineton.

Second (501 runs, £1,500): Lt AW Moxham, 32 Engr Regt, BFPO 30.

Third (486 runs, £900): WO2 G I Pallillin, Army School of Catering, Aldershot.

Fourth (479 runs, £600): WO1 G Thompson, 1 (UK) ADSR, BFPO 15.

Fifth (473 runs, £400): WO1 SM Powell, 9 Regt AAC, Dishforth.

Sixth (471 runs, £300): LCpl SJ Pascoe, 1 RGJ, Bulford.

Seventh (468 runs, £200): WO2 ME Lovatt, 249 Sqn RLC (V), Cardiff.

Eighth (463 runs, £100): LCpl P Caillau, 5 A Bde CSS Bn, Aldershot.

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Kiwis held on tough BA(G) trip

BRITISH Army (Germany) did very well against top-class military opposition during their ground-breaking three-week rugby tour of New Zealand and Fiji.

● In the opener, against the very physical NZ Army South Island side, the tourists went down 39-30 after missing a penalty and conceding a try in the last seconds.

● At Waiauru, BA(G) drew 29-29 with the Army Training Group XV after trailing 17-5, then recorded their first win, 25-20 over Cordite.

● The NZ Infantry Regiment inflicted a demoralising 60-12 defeat just before the "Test" at Palmerston North Showgrounds, where the tourists pulled themselves together and were not outclassed in going down 23-10 to the NZ Army.

● Against Fiji Combined Services on the way home, BA(G) lost 69-17 to a side which included several who had played Hong Kong Sevens.

● After the game, Maj Andy Hickling, the retiring BA(G) coach, said he had been proud to be associated with rugby in Germany. "Although results on the field did not always go our way, this has been a highly successful tour, with all the matches played in a tremendous spirit.

● "We have learned a great deal from the experience of Southern Hemisphere rugby and I am sure the players will treasure the memories of this trip for many years to come."

● The tour was the culmination of 18 months of hard work by manager, Lt Col (Retd) Bill Butt, Maj Hickling, and Col (Retd) Ian Jones of the BA(G) Sport Control Board.

ELLIE in Scotland was the venue for the annual golf tournament between the Royal Logistic Corps and their Swedish opponents, the Skovde Army Garrison.

The British won the Avalla Trophy, a large engraved brass artillery shell, for the second year running, but it was a close competition that could have gone either way.

One wag suggested that perhaps the Swedish team, led by Gote Lundmark, had decided not to win because they could not pack the trophy into suitcases that were already full of Scottish shopping.

In reality, though, the competition was hard-fought. British



Picture: Mike Weston

All-round game: Capt Ben Langman in action against the Civil Service. His undefeated innings of 53 later helped the Army to a narrow win

Close calls

RAIN-affected victories over the Civil Service and the touring Australian Old Cranbrookians were punctuated by defeat at the hands of MCC Young Cricketers as the Army sought to find form in the run-up to the Inter-Services tournament.

But both the wins were achieved despite batting collapses which have undermined what could be a very good Army side.

Day-long drizzle, and the familiar batting failure, eventually produced an exciting one-

Loggies defeat Swedes

team captain David Capper led his ten men to a score of ten and a half points compared with the Swedes' nine and a half.

The five-day tournament, which is organised along the lines of the Ryder Cup, is hosted alternately in the UK and Sweden, and is now in its seventh year. Next year's tournament will be hosted in Stockholm.

STOP PRESS: The Army has retained the Inter-Service cricket championship. Report in next issue.

All-round athletes cut it fine

THERE was a remarkable success story for the Army at the Inter-Service heptathlon and decathlon championships put on by the Royal Navy at Portsmouth.

Only three Army women were available, the minimum for a heptathlon team, so all had to get through the two days and score in all seven events.

But SSgt Steph Paul (HQ 3 (UK) Div), Capt Anna Carpenter (7 Tpt Regt RLC) and Capt Clare Swain (AMF(L) Sup Sqn RLC) led from start to finish and beat the RAF by 1,100 points to take the title for the first time in six years.

The men's team of four, chosen from a pool of nine athletes, was a little better off. Old stagers Maj Terry Gyorffy (HQ 5 AB Bde) and SSgt Neil Killen (2 Sig Regt) were joined by Sgt Chris Oakes (ASPT), who had never done a full-blown decathlon, and LCpl David Nolan (1 RRF), a complete novice at the event.

After the ninth event, the javelin, the RAF had built up a lead of 81 points, and the Army were down to three men following injury to Killen.

Gyorffy, also carrying an injury, was urged to start the final discipline, the 1,500m, which the Army need to win by 12 seconds to overhaul the airmen. Nolan won his heat with Oakes second and 16sec clear of the first RAF runner. Then Gyorffy bravely battled round the four laps, finishing last but only 6sec adrift of the last scoring RAF runner.

It was enough to give the Army a famous, and unlikely, championship by just 141 points.

● SSgt Paul (3,791 points) won the Army heptathlon title, with Anna Carpenter second and Claire Swain third, and Gyorffy (6,296) was first in the Army decathlon championships, followed by Oakes and Nolan.

● Cpl Alan Shepherd (24 Armd Fd Amb) retained the Army 10,000m championship in a time of 31min 18.42sec. Cpl Darren Hale from the same unit was second and LCpl Steve Knight (BAD Kineton) third.



Army veterans in Durban for the world championships: from left (back), Capt Terry Hall, LCpl Sean Malone, Maj Peter Marsh, Maj Clive Osborne, SSgt Jackie Gilchrist, Capt Steve Lonnens and Capt Keith Donkin; (front) Capt Lyn Higgs, Maj David Gibson, SSgt Jeff Baker and WO2 Karen Mitchell

Army vets on world stage

MEMORABLE individual results by 11 British Army athletes left their mark at the world veterans championships in Durban, South Africa.

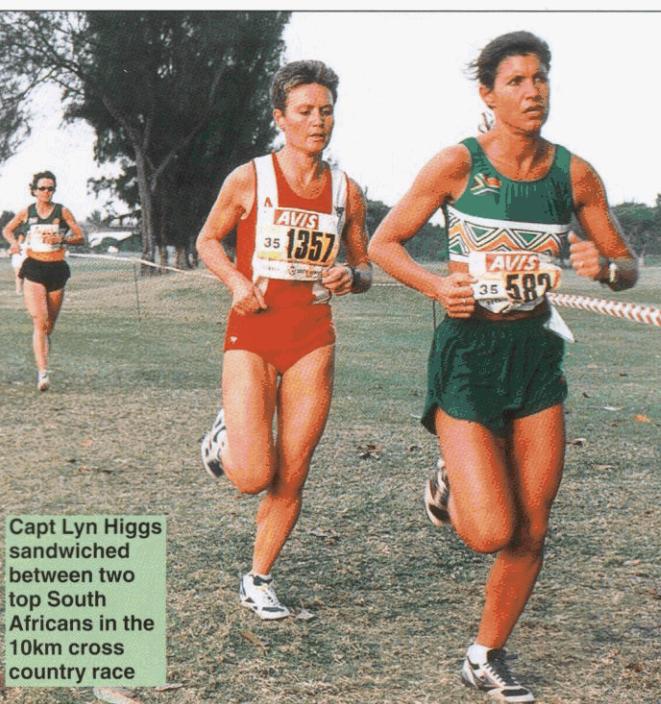
Many former Olympic, European and Commonwealth Games athletes were among more than 6,000 competitors from 69 countries and an unprecedented 33 world records were broken in the two stadiums in the coastal city.

In the 40-44 age group cross country, LCpl Sean Malone (RLC) battled long and hard to finish 24th overall and fourth of the Irish scorers. Capt Keith Donkin (APTC) finished strongly in 26th and was second for GB, with Maj Clive Osborne (RLC) sandwiched between a Slovenian and South African in a fine 38th and third for Britain.

In the 45-49 event, Maj Peter Marsh (RLC) held off a quartet of South Africans to finish strong in 21st place (2nd GB), nine places ahead of SSgt Jeffrey Baker, an Army recruiter based in Peterborough.

In the women's 35-39 race, Inter-Services cross country champion Capt Lyn Higgs (APTC) finished with a superb bronze medal behind two other GB athletes, while Capt Terry Hall (RLC) won his 110 hurdles heat in the decathlon on the way to 11th overall and the first GB athlete.

The weekend consisted of 24



Capt Lyn Higgs sandwiched between two top South Africans in the 10km cross country race

10,000m track races and a logistical nightmare for the

Tug of war

IN training for the Royal Braemar Games are the HQNI and 15th Signal Regiment tug of war team.

Under coach WO2 (SSM) Chris Hymas, the team took two second places and two thirds at the Royal Tournament.

Mountain bikes

LBDR Jim Clark and LCpl Jim Hatton head the Army downhill mountain bike series after two rounds. Details of the 1998 series from LCpl Hatton on Marchwood Mil (727) 8342.

Surf date

ARMY surf championships take place in October. For details, canoeists and waveskiers of any standard may contact Capt Crowley on Chatham Mil (766) 2606.

Badminton

THE Army women's badminton won the Inter-Services championships for the first time in ten years and for only the fourth time in a competition dominated by the RAF since it began 50 years ago.

laps with huge determination. Lonnens was sixth (1st GB) in 31min 26sec to post one of the fastest times by a GB athlete in recent years.

Malone, determined to catch the eye of Irish selectors, ran superbly to finish in 33min 38sec, with Osborne a little under 2min behind.

Three days later Marsh, Osborne and Baker all ran comfortably inside 17 min for the 5,000m while Malone broke 16min to emphasize his elevated standing among the Irish: his reward was an Irish vest.

Dave Gibson and Jeff Baker turned their attention towards the 1,500m, but tired bodies attributed to their elimination in the semi-finals. Jackie Gilchrist finished a fine fifth in the triple jump, managing 10m 33cm.

More than 3,000 started the marathon through Durban, and with the possibility of a GB team medal at stake Lonnens was persuaded at the 11th hour to race rather than train.

The gamble paid off as he finished fourth behind three Africans in 2hr 28min, with Ray Curran of Ireland in 2:37 and Peter Marsh running outstandingly in 2:41. All three received a team bronze although Marsh's was for the 0-45 team, a memorable finish for a truly outstanding trip.

Set, match and Services to Army

WITHOUT a win since 1983, the Army prepared meticulously under the guidance of former British Davis Cup captain Warren Jaques for this year's Inter-Service lawn tennis championships at the All England Club, Wimbledon.

The three singles players got the Army off to a flying start, winning five of the six rubbers. Maj Nigel Watts had two comfortable victories including a 6-1, 6-1 win over the RAF singles champion.

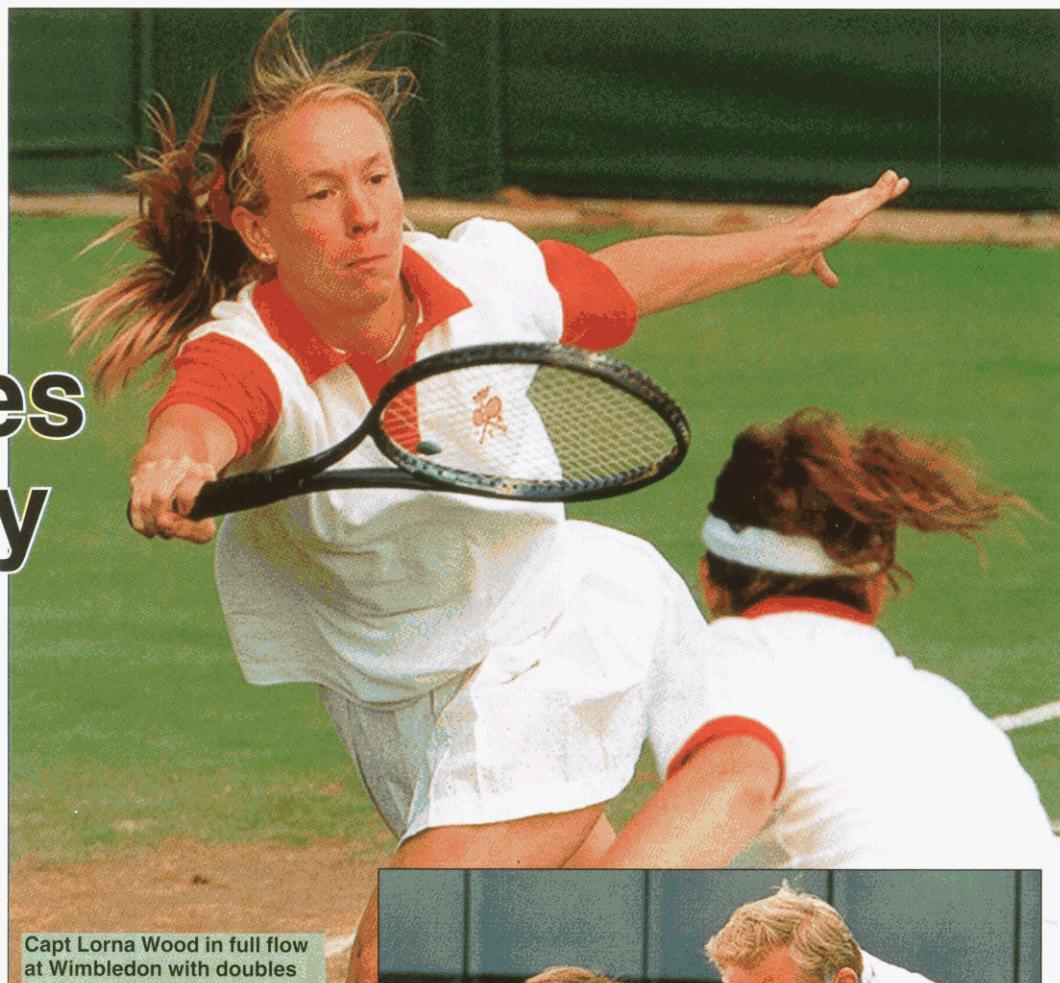
SSgt Eric Simpson had a convincing win against the RN and narrowly lost in a close-fought third set to the RAF No 3.

Perhaps the most significant victory of the day, and certainly the most exciting match, was Spr David Ingham's 6-1, 3-6, 6-4 victory over the RAF No 1.

Ingham's fighting qualities were much in evidence when he came back from 3-0 down in the final set with some breathtaking and high-quality tennis that kept the spectators on the edge of their seats.

At the end of the first day's play the match score was Army 5, RAF 4, RN 0.

Going into the doubles, the Army produced some excellent performances and secured five of the six available rubbers. Best match of the day was Watts and David Ingham's 7-6,



Capt Lorna Wood in full flow at Wimbledon with doubles partner Sgt Heather McNair. Inset: Maj Nigel Watts (left) and Spr David Ingham with former Great Britain Davis Cup captain Warren Jaques, who coached the Army teams to victory

7-6 victory against the RAF No 1 pair on court No 2 in a tight, high-quality match.

The Watts/Ingham victory maintained their unbeaten sequence in the 1997 season. Although Holah and Boyce lost in three sets to the RAF to give them a glimmer of hope, victory was finally secured just after 5pm when Simpson and Mills defeated the RAF No 3 pair 6-4, 7-5, both displaying courage to close out the match after being 5-1 up in the final set.

Final result was Army 10, RAF 8, RN 0.

The Army women's team



Pictures: Mike Weston

approached the Inter-Services with some nervousness. Capt Lorna Wood, who played at

No 1, won both her matches with great style. OCdt Terri Downs made her debut at No 2 and beat her RAF opponent but went down in three sets to the RN. Sgt Heather McNair, also making her debut as a singles player, won both her matches.

Solid performances saw the doubles pairings produce four wins, which was enough to clinch victory for the fifth consecutive year. Wood and Sgt Heather McNair were selected for the Combined Services team.

2nd Lt Steve Penfold (REME) of SES(A), Arborfield. WO2 Steve Potterton (14 Sig Regt) was third, followed closely by Sgt Andrew Devine (7 Bn REME).

Details of hang gliding courses at the Joint Services Centre in Wales appear in DCI JSP 419. A tow group is forming at Wattisham under SSgt Lewis, who can be contacted on Wattisham Mil 8801.

DESPITE the best efforts of team manager SSgt Mark Lewis (7 Bn REME), the Army trailed in last at the Inter-Services hang gliding championships in South Wales.

Without much time for training, Lewis could manage only fourth, Maj James McMenemy (REME) from HQ Land Command was seventh, and WO2 Phil Freeman, also 7 Bn REME, 46

was eighth. There were some promising Army pilots in the intermediates. Lt Nick Fletcher won the class and Capt Carl Ford (RA) of HQ Land Command just beat Sgt Steve Brown (AAC) into third place.

SSgt Lewis packed so many pilots into the novices that the result looked a foregone conclusion. But CPO Mike Ousby (RN) was first by a point from

Hang gliders trail at the top level

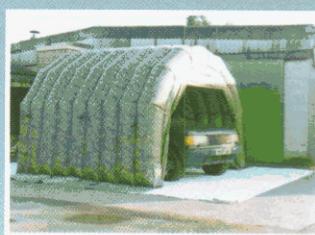


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The Duke of York, escorted by commanding officer Lt Col Rory Ingleby-MacKenzie (far left) and the Honorary Colonel, Sir Paul Newall, inspects C (City of London Fusiliers) Company of The London Regiment before presenting new Colours to the regiment at the Duke of York's HQ in Chelsea. Story in Page 17.

Picture: Mike Weston



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