

JULY 26
1993
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BRITS BACK ON FOOT IN NICOSIA

SOLDIER

MAGAZINE
OF THE
BRITISH
ARMY



ALSO
INSIDE

• Op Grapple latest

• Fort Bragg gunners

• Lancers amalgamate





Picture: Chris Fletcher

Men of the 16th/5th The Queen's Royal Lancers (scarlet dress cap) and the 17th/21st Lancers (blue dress cap) formed up together as the two cavalry regiments amalgamated at Tidworth on June 25 in the presence of Her Majesty to form The Queen's Royal Lancers. Behind them is their new badge, an adaptation of 17/21's famous Death's Head emblem surmounted on 16/5's blood red "shadow" and crossed lances. Story and more pictures in Pages 26-27.



Incorporating the Territorial Army magazine

July 26, 1993
VOL. 49/15

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A British Army DROPS vehicle in UN livery offloads punctured tyres for repair at Gornji Vakuf

DROPS given £75m vote of confidence

ORDERS for more than 400 new DROPS vehicles are being placed by the Ministry of Defence, a reward for the quite outstanding contribution made by the revolutionary new battlefield delivery system during the Gulf War.

Defence Secretary Malcolm Rifkind announced the £75m order in the White Paper, *Defending our Future*, published on July 5.

The Leyland-DAF DROPS (Demountable Rack Off-loading and Pick-up System) vehicle was rushed into service when the Gulf crisis blew up, and proved itself beyond all expectations.

Logistics units soon discovered one DROPS vehicle could do the work of several smaller trucks.

Designed originally to move artillery shells rapidly to forward areas, cutting out time-consuming and labour

intensive fork-lift operations, DROPS was modified during Operation Granby to provide a whole range of services.

The vehicle's load-bed or flat-rack can be placed on the ground – and left there – by an integral hydraulic system. The vehicle does not have to stand idle while loading, or unloading, takes place.

Defence White Paper – Pages 14-15

Besides delivering ammunition in bulk in the desert, its versatile flat-racks were adapted as water carriers, to transport ISO containers, engineering stores, and even as a mobile tyre-changing unit, complete with generators and compressors.

Without DROPS, several more logistic regiments would have had to be deployed to Saudi Arabia.

Announcing the order, Mr Rifkind said: "This will enable us to deliver ammunition quickly to forward locations in support of our new AS90 self-propelled howitzers, and provides a good example of the practical steps we are taking to enhance the mobility and flexibility of our forces."

He also confirmed that the MoD had invited tenders for a new attack helicopter for the Army.

But the Army will not get the MLRS III rocket, the terminally guided anti-armour version of the Multi-Launch Rocket System which also made a dramatic debut in the Gulf.

The United States and Germany have withdrawn from the MLRS III collaborative programme, and Mr Rifkind announced that it had been decided instead to procure for the Royal Air Force an air-

FRONT COVER: Gnr Paul Nelson and LBdr Pez Barnes of 39 Regiment RA set off along the Green Line separating Greek and Turkish Cypriots in Nicosia on one of the first foot patrols there since the gunners took over United Nations duties from the Canadians. See story and more pictures in Pages 21-23. (Picture: Terry Champion)

● Turn to Page 14

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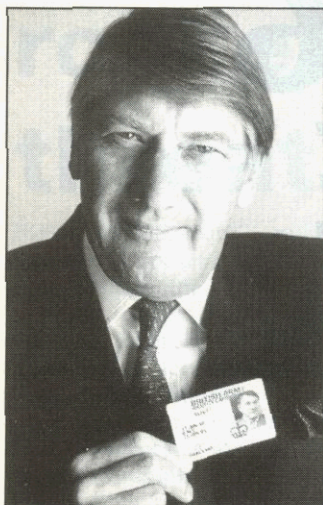
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DESIGNED TO BE DRIVEN

This hi-tech ID is a smart card



AG with his new card

A VERSATILE hi-tech identity card introduced this month by the British Army will make the old card obsolete within two years. The first was presented to the Adjutant General, Gen Sir Michael Wilkes, on July 7.

The Army is the first to issue the new card, which was developed as a tri-Service project.

Manufactured with hi-tech equipment and including many new features, the revised ID card will be colour-coded for each Service.

In addition to personal information, the front of the card will contain a colour photograph, signature and Min-

istry of Defence logo hologram. The reverse will include a "watermark" magnetic strip designed to identify the card holder.

Personal information required for the card will be entered through a computer, and the photographic image and signature recorded via a camera and scanner attached to the computer.

Personal details will then be transferred to tape cartridge for further processing.

The revised cards will be produced at the Central Manning Support Office in Exeter on new equipment which will also provide a database to sim-

plify procedures for issuing replacements.

Full production started on July 12, and all Regular soldiers should have the new card within a year.

Issue of the new ID to the Territorial Army should be complete by mid-1995, at which point the old card will become obsolete.

The revised card has considerable potential in the area of personnel administration. It could have a number of applications, including the production of manifests, rapid updating of troop arrivals and departures, and access to control systems.

Herford ushers in UK's largest division

BRITAIN's most powerful armoured division came into being at Herford during a parade which also heralded one of the final changes in the reorganisation of the Army under Options for Change.

As the 4th Armoured Division retitled to become the 1st (United Kingdom) Armoured Division, yet another historic chapter in Britain's military heritage was closed. With more than 23,000 Servicemen and women, 1st (UK) Armoured Division will become not only the Army's only armoured division, but the largest of its kind ever.

The new division will be commanded by Maj Gen Anthony Denison-Smith, former General Officer Commanding the 4th Armoured Division. It will be one of two British divisions assigned to work with the Allied Command Europe Rapid Reaction Corps (ARRC), currently based at Bielefeld. The 1st (UK) Armd Div will consist of three armoured brigades based



Arnhem commander Gen Sir John Hackett (left) was one of many Paras, past and present, who attended a memorial service for Maj Gen John Frost at the Royal Garrison Church of All Saints at Aldershot. As commanding officer of 2 Para in 1944, John Frost earned lasting fame at Arnhem.

at Osnabrück, Hohn and Paderborn, with a headquarters based at Herford and a Forward Support Group at Gutersloh.

Like its counterpart the 1st Armoured Division, now renamed Lower Saxony District, the 4th Armoured Division traces its origins back to June 18, 1809 and the Peninsular War, when it was formed by Gen Sir Arthur Wellesley (later to become the Duke of Wellington). Its first action was at Talavera and it later served at Waterloo and in the Crimea.

In 1956, the division was resurrected when it took over from the 11th Armoured Division in Herford. On January 1,

1978 a new phase in its history began following restructuring and it was given the new title – 4th Armoured Division.

Since then soldiers from the 4th have deployed to the Gulf to take part in Operation Granby and more recently they have been supporting UN humanitarian aid operations in Bosnia and Croatia.

Gen Sir John Waters, Deputy Supreme Allied Commander Europe (DSACEUR) and a former GOC of 4th Armoured Division, was guest of honour at the parade, which took place at Wentworth Barracks, and after inspecting troops from 4th Armoured Division Headquarters and



Next year, the 50th anniversary of Operation Market-Garden, a number of Arnhem veterans, all in their seventies, will parachute on to the original landing zones.

Lt Andy Power (right) carried Gen Frost's medals and decorations to the service.

Signal Regiment – which also retitled during the celebrations – he officially unveiled a new 1 (UK) Armd Div plaque within the headquarters.

Highlighting the excellent relationship which has grown between the British Army and troops based in what Gen Waters described as "Happy Herford", both the 4th Armoured Division and 4 ADSR received a *Fahnenband* from the Federal Ministry of Defence. Lt Gen Hartmut Bagger, Deputy Commander of the German Army, presented the honour, which is given in recognition of the British contribution to peace and freedom within Europe.

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Vitez rocket threat

FOUR missiles from a multi-barrelled rocket launcher exploded near the British base at Vitez, close enough for shrapnel to fall around the soldiers' living accommodation. There were no injuries.

In a separate incident, a female interpreter working for the Army was killed by a sniper just outside the base, which stands in the no man's land between the Muslim BiH and Croat HVO front lines.

Hand-to-hand fighting between the two sides through houses surrounding the Vitez base is a regular occurrence and a sangar manned by British soldiers has been hit by small arms fire.

In other incidents, a Warrior infantry fighting vehicle carrying the commander of the British Battalion Group, Lt Col Alastair Duncan, was disabled when it hit a mine, and another Warrior, commanded by Maj Vaughan Kent-Payne, was slightly damaged by an exploding Claymore anti-personnel mine.

Two Scimitars of The Light Dragoons were shelled at Gradacac in northern Bosnia, and British troops returned fire near Gornji Vakuf when their Spartan CVR(T) was hit by snipers. There were no casualties.

The United Nations has disclosed that 25 of its soldiers have been killed and 245 injured since the start of the peace-keeping operation in the former Yugoslavia.

Sixty British soldiers are serving at Kiseljak with the United Nations Protection Force's headquarters, which was blockaded for several days by local gunmen.

Humanitarian aid has been escorted into the small Muslim village of Kruscica for the first time since it was cut off by fighting last April, and soldiers of the British Battalion Group have been escorting Muslim refugees pushed across the Serb frontline near Turbe and transporting them in trucks to a refugee camp.

Grapple stories - Pages 16-19



Gen Philippe Morillon bids *au revoir* to British soldiers during his farewell visit to the British Battalion Group at Vitez. The French general has handed command of United Nations troops serving in Bosnia-Herzegovina to Belgium's Gen Marcel Valentin



Defences at the British battalion base at Vitez in central Bosnia have been reinforced after continued fighting in the area. It stands in no man's land between the Croat and Muslim front lines

GM hero was TA Yeomanry officer

A YEOMANRY troop leader who died after trying to save a colleague when they had been blown up by a booby-trapped mine in Afghanistan has been awarded the George Medal.

Lt Tim Goggs, 23, who joined D (Northumberland Hussars) Squadron, The Queen's Own Yeomanry in 1988, passed the commission board for The Queen's Dragoon Guards during his last year at university but postponed his entry to Sandhurst to continue vacation work for the Halo Trust, a British charity specialising in mine clearance.

While he was commanding a T55 tank with KMT mine roller on the heavily-mined Salang Highway, an explosion ignited the tank's fuel, and though Lt Goggs escaped, he reached back into the tank to pull out Mr Julian Gregson, head of the Halo mission.

Both men were flown to the UK, where Mr Gregson died from 50 per cent burns, and Lt Goggs died two days later from smoke inhalation and damage to his lungs.

Pictures: Mike Weston



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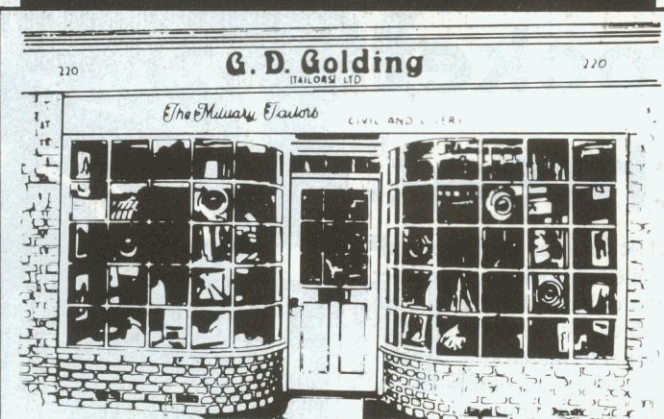
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New Colours of The 1st Battalion, The King's Regiment are paraded at Cavalry Barracks after being presented by the Queen Mother

Kings given new Colours

THE KING'S Regiment received new Colours from its Colonel-in-Chief, the Queen Mother, at a ceremony at Cavalry Barracks, Hounslow, on July 2.

The old Colours, marched off the parade ground to be laid up, were presented to the 1st Battalion by the Queen Mother at Colchester in 1978.

Four companies of 1 Kings, under commanding officer Lt Col Robin Hodges, took part in the ceremony, for which music was provided by the Corps of Drums and Regimental Band.

Currently performing public duties in London and at Windsor Castle, the 1st Battalion is also support unit for the Royal Tournament at Earls Court.

The ceremony coincided with bicentennial celebrations for Cavalry Barracks, a listed building complex which once housed Florence Nightingale's infirmary.



Watch the finger! Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess members of the 1st Battalion, The King's Regiment, the city regiment of Liverpool and Manchester, ready for a photograph to mark the presentation of new Colours by their Colonel-in-Chief, the Queen Mother, at Cavalry Barracks, Hounslow

Midlands brigade in action

MORE THAN 1,500 soldiers of the Territorial Army from the Midlands are honing their military skills at Thetford, in Norfolk.

At annual camp on Stanford Training Area are TA units including the 3rd Battalion, The Staffordshire Regiment; 5th (Warwickshire) Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers; the 5th Battalion, The (Shropshire and Herefordshire) Light Infantry; and the Royal Mercian and Lancas-

trian Yeomanry, headquartered in Wolverhampton, Coventry, Shrewsbury and Telford respectively.

All the units are part of 143 (West Midlands) Brigade, commanded by Brig Ronnie Silk, who has put together a comprehensive and testing training programme which runs for 14 days. Activities will involve troops flying by helicopter, crossing rivers by assault boat and bridging equipment, bridge demolitions

and live firing of personal weapons on a large scale.

"My aim with this camp is to achieve an even higher standard of TA soldiering and I am delighted by the response of employers who have released their TA employees to be at Thetford," said Brig Silk.

In the first week of camp the soldiers will undergo centralised training before taking part in a four-day field training exercise which will test soldiers at every level.

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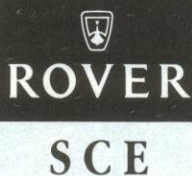
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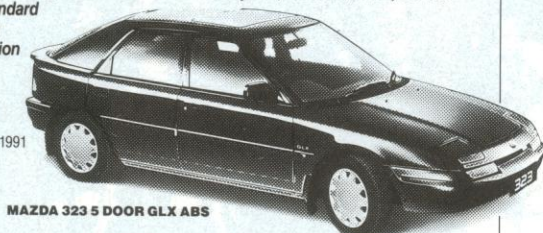


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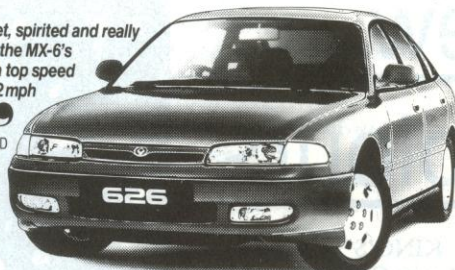
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Nottingham sappers receive Bosnia UN medals



Members of the Nottingham-based Military Works Force, Royal Engineers, who completed almost six months on Operation Grapple, line up for the camera after receiving their UN medals from Commander 49th (East Midlands) Brigade, Brig David Biggart (sixth from right, rear)

IN BRIEF

Colour trooped in Berlin

THE 1st Battalion, The Gordon Highlanders under the command of Lt Col Andrew Durcan provided the parade troops at the Trooping of the Colour in Stadium Barracks, Berlin.

The parade and Queen's Birthday reception which followed it were Berlin Brigade's major event of the year.

Bands of The King's Royal Hussars, 2nd Royal Tank Regiment, 1st Battalion, The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment, 1st Battalion, The Queen's Lancashire Regiment, and the band, pipes and drums of the Gordons, provided the music.

At the reception on the Jahnplatz which followed the Trooping of the Colour, Gen Sir Charles Guthrie, the Commander-in-Chief, toasted the health of the President of the FGR, the Mayor of Berlin and the Queen.

A Squadron of The Royal Wiltshire Yeomanry (PWO) and B Squadron of The Royal Wessex Yeomanry exercised together during Yeomans'



Picture: Chris Fletcher

Served up with a smile

Army Chef of the Year Cpl Scotty Clarke holds the challenge trophy in triumph after winning the title at St Omer Barracks, Aldershot last month in the first Army cooking competition to be held under the auspices of the Royal Logistic Corps.

Cpl Clark is serving at the Support Weapons Wing, Netheravon.

The Army's Young chef of the Year is LCpl Jackie Shields from RA Ranges, Hebrides; the cook-and-serve competition was won by Cpl Marie Jones and Cpl Brian Mills of QEMH Woolwich; and the top unit team came from Rhine Garrison (Sgt John Smith, Cpl Gary Young and Dvr Simon Jeans).

near Brighton. The march was composed by a Kneller student from Bangladesh.

Vulpicide which marked A Sqn's loss of its Fox armoured recce vehicles. The exercise, conducted on private land in south Wiltshire, also involved A (London Scottish) Company, The London Regiment; C (Dorset) Company, 4 D and D; part of 307 (South Notts Hussars) Bty, RA(V); elements of 666 Sqn AAC(V); HQ Sqn of The Royal Yeomanry; and

cadets from Marlborough College and Milton Abbey School CCFs.

The Royal Military School of Music, Kneller Hall gave the first public performance of the St Dunstan's March during a concert at the Ian Fraser holiday home for blinded Servicemen and women at Ovingdean

A team from the Plant, Roads and Airfields Wing at the Royal School of Military Engineering, Chatternden, removed four test cores from the Gas Lane viaduct used by the Sittingbourne and Kemsley Light Railway after it had been closed by inspectors. A full programme of non-destructive testing was also carried out by the 12 RSME regiment team to assist railway inspectors decide whether the viaduct may be used again.

CENTENARY SOUND



Bugler **Shane Scott**, Sgt **Kevin Pratt** and Bugle Maj **Dennis Robinson** from the 5th Battalion, The (Shropshire and Herefordshire) Light Infantry provided a musical backdrop as a set of newly polished and ribboned medals were pinned on the chest of 100-year-old Gallipoli veteran **Reg Warner** by Lt Col **Peter Sharland**, CO 5 LI. Reg kept silent for 70 years about the incor-

rect inscription on his 1914-18 Star, which bore the name of the Hertford Regiment instead of Reg's Hereford Regiment. Following an article in the *Hereford Times*, the Army Medal Office took remedial action. When Reg received his new medal on his 100th birthday, he was also given a Second World War Defence Medal to which he was entitled after service in Coventry with the Royal Observer Corps during the blitz.



Keith's a jack of all trades

Cpl **Keith Rees** of 224 (Pembrokeshire Yeomanry) Squadron RLC gets to grips with a Land Rover jack during the Wales and Western District's Exercise Rough Rider 93, part of the Army's national Safe and Skilled Driver competition.

The 224 Sqn lads from Haverfordwest – captain Cpl **Russ Shand**, Sgt **Keith Watts** and Keith Rees – were judged best team in Wales for the fourth year running.



Exit Bill, stage left

Sgt **Bill Jordan** of the RMP Training Centre plans to pursue his thespian tendencies when he leaves the Army later this year after 22 years' service. He has found plenty of inspirational material from the antics of fellow soldiers and officers.

Bill, pictured as panto dame Sarah Suet in a production of "Dick Whittington", is currently writing a play with Maj (Retd) **Terry Cavender**. Their first joint effort, "Daughter, Daughter" makes its stage debut with the Cast Iron Theatre Company in Hull this month.

BOSNIA MONITOR

Lt Col **Murray Colville** arrived in the former Yugoslavia in civvies – as one of Britain's 20 European Community monitors. Col Colville, a Leicester businessman, commands the 7th Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment. He is a former Regular soldier and Sandhurst classmate of Lt Col **Alastair Duncan**, now commanding the 1 PWO battalion group in Bosnia. Col Colville's last visit to Yugoslavia was in 1988 when he captained the Great Britain B bobsleigh team in the European Championships in Sarajevo.



Sappers return



Chelsea Pensioners **Dave Launder** (74) and **Bill Chalmers** (81), pictured right, saw how their predecessors do the job when they were the guests of 28 Engineer Regiment at Hameln. Seen here with Sig **Kirsty McGuire** and Sig **Allison Johnston** of 7 Signal

Regiment, the two old sappers both served during the Second World War. Dave was a bridging warrant officer in Hameln in 1955, while Bill served with 23 Fd Sqn, now 28 Amph Engr Sqn, in Palestine and Benghazi.

PEOPLE



Soldiers and sailors joined forces to greet Queen's Lancashire Regiment pin-up **Lindsey Pilkington** on board HMS *Active* for a morale-lifting visit during the recent Battle of the Atlantic celebrations. Lindsey (19) was snapped up by the regiment after winning a local beauty contest. Her prizes include a trip to Berlin, where she will be able to meet soldiers of 1 QLR. The regiment has strong links with the frigate, which escorted the Royal Yacht during the review.

QLR all at sea

WHAT A BELTER!

Territorial Army DROPS driver LCpl **Lisa Fox** packs a powerful punch and has the record to prove it. Lightweight Lisa (24), serving with Bootle-based 238 Squadron RLC(V), has won her first two professional fights is planning a crack at the British Ladies' Boxing Association title.

Putting Lisa through an impromptu sparring session at Thorpe Camp, Thetford, is Cpl **Cy Grant** of 234 Sqn, 156 Tpr Regt RLC.



Picture: Peter Griffiths



Irish pedigree

A recent recruiting venue in Northern Ireland gave a rare opportunity for the Irish wolfhound mascots of the only two Irish infantry regiments – The Royal Irish Regiment and the Irish Guards – to be

pictured with their handlers. From left to right are Pipe Maj **David Wilson**, Pte **Trevor Mitchell**, Tallow, **Malachy**, Drummer **Gavin Coates** and Pipe Maj **John Stranix**.



Top team (from left) are 2nd Lt **Tracey Lawton**, Gen Sir **John Akehurst**, Lt **Rupert Foster**, Mr **Peter Hatley**, Lt **Anthony Norton** and Lt **Sherri Took**

Four TA officers from the north of England took top honours at the Challenge Saumur international equestrian event at Melton Mowbray's Animal Defence Centre – although lack of funds from military coffers nearly prevented them from competing.

The competition, for officers of volunteer and reserve forces, was saved by insurance and risk management consultants Alexander and Alexander. Brig **Tom Sneyd**, deputy secretary of TAVRA, said: "Sponsorship has turned out to be a great success. We hope it has set the pattern for the future."

Lt **Sherri Took**, Lt **Rupert Foster**, Lt **Anthony Norton** and 2nd Lt **Tracey Lawton** beat riders from France, Belgium and Holland and received their prizes from Gen Sir **John Akehurst**, president of the Reserve Forces Association, and Mr **Peter Hatley**, director of the sponsors.

Next year's challenge will be held in Rotterdam.

A winning combination

Navy and RAF take brunt of new cuts

THE BRITISH ARMY has escaped relatively lightly in the latest defence estimates, *Defending Our Future*, announced by Defence Secretary Malcolm Rifkind on July 5.

Although the anti-armour phase of the MLRS programme has been cancelled, the Army is to have 127 Challenger 2 main battle tanks, and possibly more, plus 400 additional DROPS medium load carrier vehicles.

The Royal Navy is to lose a number of submarines and surface warships, the Royal Air Force a squadron of Tornado F3 fighter aircraft.

In his statement to the House of Commons, Mr Rifkind said: "The international situation continues to change, and in a number of very important respects the security of the United Kingdom has been enhanced in the last two years. In certain other areas there have been new demands on our Armed Forces. *Defending Our Future* addresses both considerations."

Turning to the demise of the Soviet Union and the fact that Russia was both well disposed to the United Kingdom and its offensive capability in decline, Mr Rifkind said there was a clear operational justification

DROPS

● From Page 3

launched weapon for indirect fire against armour.

MLRS I, already in service with the Royal Artillery, gives commanders the capability to destroy enemy equipment and personnel over a wide area. Four launchers can "take out" a square kilometre in a very short time.

The MLRS II development programme, for an area denial scatterable mine warhead, will go ahead.

for further reductions in the Defence Budget.

"For the Army, I announced recently an increase in the planned size of the infantry to take account of new commitments, and our intention to retain two additional battalions and to increase frontline strength by 5,000.

"We are also considering how best to equip the Army's six Challenger 1 regiments, over and above the purchase of 127 Challenger 2 tanks which

have already been announced."

Pressed on his promise of a further announcement on the main battle tank, Mr Rifkind said a decision had still to be made on whether to upgrade Challenger 1 or order more Challenger 2s.

He said: "We are reducing capability where the threat to the United Kingdom has itself been significantly reduced. We are gaining capability in those areas where we believe we will be required to act."

POINTS FROM THE PAPER

Equipment

Challenger 2 will replace two regiments of Chieftain tanks. The MoD is now considering how best to equip the other six tank regiments.

Tenders have been invited for an attack helicopter to replace Lynx by the end of the decade and enhance the Army's anti-armour capability.

The MLRS III rocket has been abandoned in favour of an air-launched anti-armour weapon for the Royal Air Force. Phase 2 ammunition for MLRS - area denial mines - is in production and should come into service early next year.

The first eight of 179 AS90 self-propelled howitzers have been delivered and, with MLRS and the automated Battlefield Artillery Target Engagement System, will significantly enhance the combat effectiveness of the Royal Artillery.

Air defence for the Army will be improved by the introduction of the Rapier Field Standard C system, scheduled for 1995, and the Starstreak High Velocity Missile system.

The Budget

The cash limit for the defence budget in 1992-93 is £23,975m, some £205m less

than the provision in the 1992 Statement. The greatest proportion is earmarked for protection of the UK (£9,000m) and in support of Nato (£10,500m). International peacekeeping operations are allocated £50m for 1993-94. A sum of £4,000m is unattributed. Equipment (39 per cent) and Service personnel (29 per cent) account for the largest slices of the budget.

Reserves

Ways of making more effective use of Reserve forces, including UN operations, are being examined.



Challenger 2: 127 ordered and there



may be more to come

Northern Ireland

There are currently 18 units of battalion size operating in the infantry role in Northern Ireland. Six are on 24-30 month accompanied tours, six on six-month unaccompanied tours, and six comprise the Home Service elements of The Royal Irish Regiment. About 1,100 RAF and 250 RN personnel are also in the Province.

Last year 356 awards were made for gallantry and meritorious conduct in Northern Ireland. Six soldiers were murdered and 320 injured. Three RUC officers and 76 civilians were killed and 529 civilians injured in terrorist attacks.

The Army's EOD teams were called out on 1,544 occasions and some six tonnes of explosives neutralised.

International operations

Last year the UK was the UN's second largest troop contributor, providing forces in the former Yugoslavia, Cyprus, Cambodia, Western Sahara and Iraq/Kuwait.

Manpower

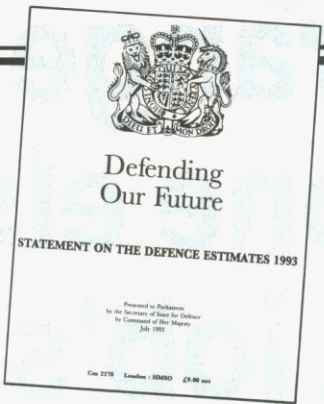
Current manpower plans are based on a forecast requirement in 1995 of 240,000 (52,500 RN, 119,000 Army and 70,000 RAF). Beyond 1995 the manpower requirement will be kept under review in the light of changing circumstances.

Army redundancies in 1993-94 will total 1,300 officers (630 of which will be compulsory) and 5,150 soldiers, all volunteers. All three Services may require a further phase of redundancies.

THE strength of the British Army under current plans will be 119,000, an increase of 3,000 on the Options for Change figure. How the levels have changed from 1990 to 1993 are reflected in the White Paper figures given below:

	Actual level 1990	Options for Change 1990	Latest plans 1993
Personnel	160,400	116,000	119,000
Infantry battalions	55	38	40*
Armoured regiments	13	8	8
Armoured recce regiments	5	5	5
Artillery regiments	20	15	15
Engineer regiments	13	10	10
Army Air Corps regiments	4	5	5

* Two relieved from previous cuts



Services 'can meet all tasks'

AN INNOVATION in the 1993 Defence White Paper is the inclusion of an analysis of the way in which the Armed Forces meet their commitments.

"*Defending Our Future** includes unprecedented detail about the rationale for our current and planned force structures and activities," said Mr Rifkind.

In the light of the broad spectrum of risk and uncertainty which had replaced the monolithic threat of the Cold War world, broad policy areas had been identified within each of the three defence roles - protection and security of the UK; insurance against major external threat to the UK through Nato; contribution to maintenance of international peace through the United Nations.

Within each of these, 50 specific military tasks had been pinpointed.

"We have then identified with some precision the force elements - for example, the number of infantry battalions or frigates or aircraft - required to meet each task."

The analysis showed how Britain's defence needs were influenced by national commitment - such as Northern Ireland and dependent territories - unique to the UK; the value of Nato; and the overlap between types of forces needed for the defence of Europe and those for wider operations, such as those in support of the United Nations.

"But the most significant overall conclusion is that the planned force structure is capable of meeting all the tasks we require of them," said Mr Rifkind.

* *Defending Our Future*, Statement on the Defence Estimates 1993, HMSO £9.

Gordons fall in as bone marrow donors

GORDON Highlanders' medical officer Maj Ian Gemmel has been running an unusual operation in Berlin.

He has been persuading men of the 1st Battalion to become bone marrow donors to help a fellow Gordon who is suffering from leukaemia.

Potential donors have first to be "tissue typed", and if they are compatible with a leukaemia sufferer who has not responded to chemotherapy, they provide a blood sample to check the match.

If the match is positive, donors are asked to undergo an operation in which some bone marrow is sucked from a hip.

It takes about ten days for any discomfort to disappear and normal activities to be resumed, but there is the satisfaction of knowing the donor may have saved a life.

The Gordons' trial run of 30 volunteers included the RMO and RSM, but clinics are now being organised for The Queen's Lancashire Regiment, RAF Gatow and the remainder of the Berlin Garrison to help the 2,000 leukaemia sufferers still waiting for a match.

BW pipers sound good in Jakarta

ATTENDING traditional Highland Games is stock in trade for pipers and drummers of the 1st Battalion, The Black Watch, but representing Hong Kong at the 19th Jakarta games was a new experience for Sgt Steven Small, Pte Paul Mather, Cpl Colin Gotterson, Pte Nick Turnbull and LCpl Brian Alexander.

It is reputedly the largest Highland gathering outside Scotland, and they returned to their Fort Stanley base in Hong Kong with several prestigious trophies.

'It's strange walking into someone else's war – but a job's to be done'

THE COMMANDER of the British Battalion Group in Bosnia was glad of the Chobham armour protection afforded by his infantry fighting vehicle while leading a troop of four Warriors trying to break through to the embattled central Bosnian town of Zepce to monitor fighting in the area.

As Lt Col Alastair Duncan, in the lead Warrior, drove past an obstruction at Brezovo Polje on the banks of the Bosna river, his vehicle hit an anti-tank mine.

"We had negotiated three BiH (Muslim Army) checkpoints before coming across what looked like the aftermath of a shell explosion which had tumbled rock across the road.

"Not seeing anything suspicious, we moved forward. As we crossed the rubble, there was a loud bang and clouds of black smoke.

"After checking there were no casualties, I asked my driver to reverse back the way we came, but he was unable to do so. The vehicle slewed across to the left and we realised the left hand track had been cut by the blast," said Col Duncan, commanding officer of the 1st Battalion, The Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire.

He climbed out of his hatch and checked the route behind was clear before summoning another Warrior to pull his vehicle to a less exposed position where REME mechanics could make repairs.

"At the time, I was slightly surprised and very annoyed because it meant that I could not carry on with my mission, but I was relieved no one had been hurt."

Col Duncan described the situation faced by his troops as "fantastic, in the truest sense of the word".

"We operate in a war zone and it is strange walking into the middle of someone else's war, but there is a job to be done getting humanitarian aid through. There are horrid sights. They happen in any war, but we have learned to live with them," said Col Duncan.

How did his men cope with the stress of witnessing violent death and the effects of ethnic cleansing?

"Fortunately I have an experienced battalion. Many went to the Gulf and most of my NCOs have done at least one Northern Ireland tour so they have seen this sort of thing before.

"The infantry works in relatively small groups and it is that group structure of section, platoon and company that keeps them together. They can discuss what they have seen between themselves, which helps them to come to terms with it.

"Ethnic cleansing is a frightful thing to be confronted with. It is a sad sight and is going on all the time. It is difficult to stop, but what we can do is dissipate the situation by being there to witness the event.

"If I am standing in a village with my white United Nations vehicles, accompanied by European Community monitors and the media, and the houses start burning, we can tell the perpetrators we are witness to their crime and they go away. Unfortunately there are so many villages in the area, it is impossible to keep tabs on all of them," he said.

As a professional soldier, did Col Duncan find it frustrating watching the action instead of joining in?

"No. It is not frustrating at all. I have no intention of joining someone else's war. We have very clear rules of engagement. They are in self-defence only. We have only shot back when people have fired at us. When our lives are endangered, we are likely to use them again.

"When we have fired back, it has not been a difficult decision to make. I would expect my soldiers to shoot back if their lives were in danger, because you have to demonstrate robustness over here and the local people respect that."

Some of the local "warlords" are ex-Yugoslavian National Army professional soldiers. Others are not. But Col Duncan and his liaison officers have

Words:
Laurie Manton
Pictures:
Mike Weston



The ubiquitous FV432 series of armoured personnel carrier which first entered service more than 30 years ago is proving itself a willing workhorse for 1 PWO anti-tank platoons, Royal Engineer route clearance teams and REME recovery personnel operating in Bosnia



Above – Lt Col Alastair Duncan commands the 1 PWO Battalion Group at Vitez

Right – The sturdy Warrior infantry fighting vehicle provides a suitable platform for soldiers of 1 PWO patrolling in war-torn Bosnia. Several Warriors suffered slight damage after hitting mines, but all have been repaired and remain in service

managed to establish a degree of respect and professional trust with them.

"One commander even 'phoned to warn that he was going to attack, while another told me he had had to call off an attack because I turned up. He was annoyed, but I was delighted.

"On a lighter note, I recently received a bill for 750 Deutschmarks from the local council because my Warriors had damaged kerbstones in the centre of Vitez. That seems ironic, considering the locals have levelled half the town themselves with mortar and shellfire. The bill has been filed where it belongs..."

Col Duncan praised the back-up he was receiving from logistics troops.

"The support we have all the way down the line is tremendous and I am really pleased because it enables us to get on with the job of escorting



humanitarian aid to those who need it most."

There have been hardships at the British base at Vitez, not least a shortage of water.

"What drinking water did flow out of the tap was not particularly nice. But there has been a swift reaction from the Royal Engineers and our

supply chain. Water has been delivered by tankers and the sappers have purified water drawn from the local river.

"Fortunately, we managed to break through to a Muslim village, cut off by the Croats for more than two months, which holds the tap that controls the flow of water through the whole of the Lasva valley.

"It has been a bit of a bore taking a bath in a mess tin," he joked.

Television images of desperate refugees at the gates of the base, pleading to be let in, led to criticism that British soldiers were not doing enough to help. Col Duncan dismisses the critics.

"We were sent here to do the job of delivering aid to everybody and so far the British battalion has delivered more than 40,000 tonnes of aid to thousands of people.

"I have had many refugees at my front gate, but, unfortunately, I cannot take them in. I know from personal experience that if you take in 20, then the next day will see 200 more arrive and others after that.

"Vitez is a British base and not a refugee camp. If I am sidetracked by looking after 500 at my base, I cannot feed the thousands up country. It is as simple as that. A hard decision, but one that has to be taken."

PWO IN BOSNIA



The crew remain alert as 33 Alpha and 33 Charlie enter and abandoned village in central Bosnia



A temporary halt for two FV432s in a beleaguered town draws a crowd eager to chat to British soldiers

JUST ANOTHER DAY FOR THE SKIP PATROL

BOSNIAN CROAT Ivo Pliso no longer lives in Gornj Pecine and neither do his fellow villagers. They fled in the face of a Muslim Army onslaught.

This became obvious to Ptes Mick Creaghan and Paul Willets of the 1st Battalion, The Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire when they found Ivo's passport in a deserted house during a United Nations patrol west of Novi Travnik.

The two soldiers were part of C Company's attached anti-tank platoon, callsigns 33 Alpha and 33 Charlie, from Support Company who had been sent to reconnoitre the area where heavy fighting had been reported.

Such was the haste of the inhabitants to leave, bread was still baking in the oven and chickens clucked in the yard.

Astonishingly, in the light of ethnic cleansing, the houses had not been trashed or set alight. Muslim soldiers guarded the village, but had only searched the Croat homes, not looted them.

The two privates escorted a World Television News team into the village's most prominent feature, its Roman Catholic church, and were surprised to find it intact and its valuable religious artifacts untouched.

The patrol, consisting of two FV432 armoured personnel carriers, had left the Vitez base

of the British Battalion Group earlier in the day.

It became obvious that the assignment was dangerous when vehicle commander LCpl Conrad Gardiner asked the SOLDIER team for their "zap" (casualty replacement) numbers and blood groups.

The patrol sets out:

Ominously, houses burnt on a hillside in the distance, and in Novi Travnik, scene of earlier heavy fighting, roads are blocked by burned out trucks. The lumbering APCs make a detour through the gardens of adjacent flats.

One soldier points out a stone mason's premises. Its forecourt is stacked with headstones awaiting inscription.



Cpl Steph Morton and Pte Mick Creagan fly the United Nations flag in Pucarevo

The track leading from the valley floor into the hills is precipitous, rising hundreds of feet via a series of hairpin bends.

The engines of the venerable APCs, nicknamed "skips" by the soldiers, scream in protest. The noise signals their arrival long before they become visible to soldiers of the three opposing sides whose positions over-

look the valley menacingly.

After leaving Pecine, the soldiers drive to a village occupied now only by two young women and a boy.

Before the war, it was a mixed village in which Croat and Muslim lived in harmony. Recently, its inhabitants had fled across Serb lines.

One of the women speaks English and expresses her disil-

lusionment with the United Nations, accusing them of doing nothing to stop the killing.

In turn, she curses the European Community, UNPROFOR and the world. Cpl Steph Morton and his men have no answer for her.

A local commander appears and expresses his desire for peace before offering advice on



Pte Mick Creagan experienced a sense of loneliness while patrolling through Pecine, whose inhabitants had fled

which routes in the area are safe.

The soldiers descend into the valley and test one of the southern tracks. Snipers fire warning shots at the personnel carriers to stop the soldiers' progress. The British are there to show the flag, not fight, so the vehicles reverse away from the confrontation.

Drivers LCpl Greg Hawes

and Pte Martin Huxall are fast becoming used to making U-turns and soon find a spot in which to do so.

Just minutes after leaving the fire zone, the two crews eat their packed lunches in a side street in Pucarevo watched by waving, laughing children.

The contrasts of service in the former Yugoslavia could not be sharper.

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Gnr Kris Bestwick (right) and LBdr John Draper patrol the deserted streets of Nicosia's Green Line

After an absence of 30 years, British soldiers – this time in United Nations colours – have returned to Wolseley Barracks in Cyprus to relieve the Canadians, who have monitored the sector since 1963. Words by **Gordon Skilling**, pictures by **Terry Champion**

Return to Nicosia

THE British Army is back in Nicosia's Wolseley Barracks, which it occupied before Cyprus gained its independence.

Gunners from 39 Regiment Royal Artillery are again using the old Ops Room and facilities which were familiar to generations of British soldiers before they were taken over by the Canadians in 1963.

The barracks, plus the famous Ledra Palace Hotel, were handed back to British gunners at midnight on June 15/16 by Canadian gunners of the 2nd Regiment, Canadian Royal Horse Artillery.

They now effectively cover three times the length of the Greek/Turkish cease-fire line

previously held by British gunners.

A year ago 5 Regiment RA was confined to the traditional British Sector Two, west of Nicosia, during its six-month United Nations duty. When the Danes left the mountainous Sector One at the far west of the island, The Queen's Royal Irish Hussars took on this mantle as well, but now

that the Canadians have departed, the gunners – with only 349 men – watch all three sectors.

An Austrian contingent continues to patrol the fourth sector, east of Nicosia.

Guarding a line of nearly 100km is a practical "overstretch" problem for the commanding officer, Lt Col Richard Smith. While the

Canadians deployed 500 men to Sector Three in Nicosia, Lt Col Smith can devote just 126 to the same task.

"There is a huge area to cover so I have had to take men out of OPs and make them patrol," he said. "We are lucky in that we are out of the towers to some degree and the men can see more of the country,

● **Turn to next page**

Nicosia

● From Page 21

but we are much, much busier."

Warned off for the deployment only at the end of March, the regiment was in theatre two months later, having fired MLRS for a week and carried out a further week's training in Soltau.

Although they may not have as much free time as other units, the colonel is determined to ensure that his men will enjoy the tour. The regiment feels it is lucky to have a break from Germany, and looks on it as an opportunity to bind everybody together in a new role.

Soldiers on UN duty in Cyprus have always been aware of the conflict between Greek and Turkish Cypriots, indeed 39 Regt's paymaster, Maj Danny McMeechan, was serving with the 1st Battalion, The Royal Scots, in 1974 when the Turks invaded. He hopes the current tour will not be cut short too.

"This kind of two-year tour only comes round every 50 or 60 years, so we were really looking forward to it when we went in April 1974," he said.

But it all went sour when the

Turks invaded a few months later. There was a lot of fighting in Limassol where the 1 RS families had hirings. The men, based in Episkopi, were cut off for several days until a cease-fire could be arranged and they could rescue their dependants.

"When we were able to get back some time later, our hirings had been taken over by squatters and many of us lost everything we had."

His wife and two young children went back with one suitcase to England and he stayed for a six-month unaccompanied tour, but has been back on holiday twice since then.

Both his children are now in the Army; Audrey as a sergeant in the Adjutant General's Corps, while Martin, a 21-year-old lance bombardier with 26 Regiment, has already served in the Gulf and is going to Northern Ireland for his second tour.



Maj Danny McMeechan, who was at Episkopi when the Turks invaded in 1974, tells 2nd Lt Jon Beavis, Capt Peter Friskney and 2IC Maj Roger Dutton of the fighting in Nicosia

Today Cyprus is quiet, with UN soldiers doggedly manning observation posts and ensuring the status quo is maintained. The British have returned to Nicosia to patrol the streets on foot. Until it was withdrawn last year, a British armoured car squadron regularly patrolled the Green Line which divides the city.

The Nicosia sector has strong echoes of the late 1950s when British soldiers fought EOKA terrorists seeking union with Greece. It evokes painful memories, as young soldiers soon learn when they pass the statue of "Billy the bomber", a youth who flung a grenade at a

families' bus during the troubles.

But the gunners see themselves as different from the Army which was the target of EOKA terrorists. "We are not here as the British Army," said the adjutant, Capt Charles Baxter.

"We are here as UN soldiers and will do the same job as the Canadians. There may be one or two historical hangovers from the troubles but we don't see this as a problem and had no difficulty in the first weeks.

"People are wondering if it will be emotive after 29 years patrolling by Canadians but I think the populace perceives us



Gnr Paul Nixon represented 39 Regiment when the Canadians handed over the Nicosia sector to the British at Paphos gate

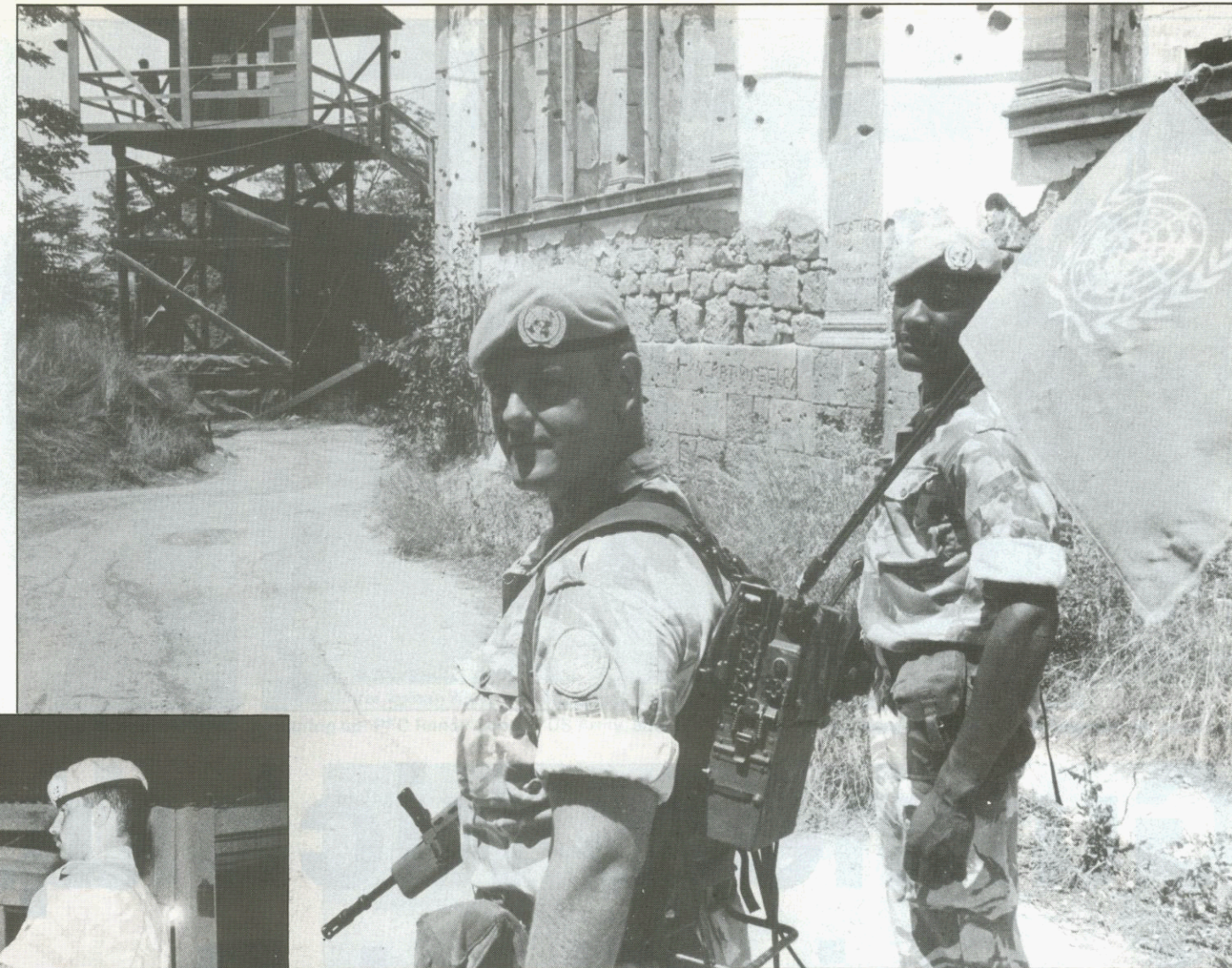
as UN soldiers and that's the end of it."

The regiment, normally based in Sennelager, settled in at Nicosia on June 9. The two Western sectors are mainly rural, and the buffer zone as wide as 4½km in places. In urban Nicosia it is little more than arm's length.

The mandate is to keep the peace between Greek and

Turk, and maintain a good atmosphere in which politicians can operate. The petty cease-fire violations are rare. There are fixed positions on a cease-fire which has not altered for 20 years. The two sides are quite clearly marked and delineated – quite different from the fluid situation in Bosnia.

The UN experience is still new for many soldiers, but it is



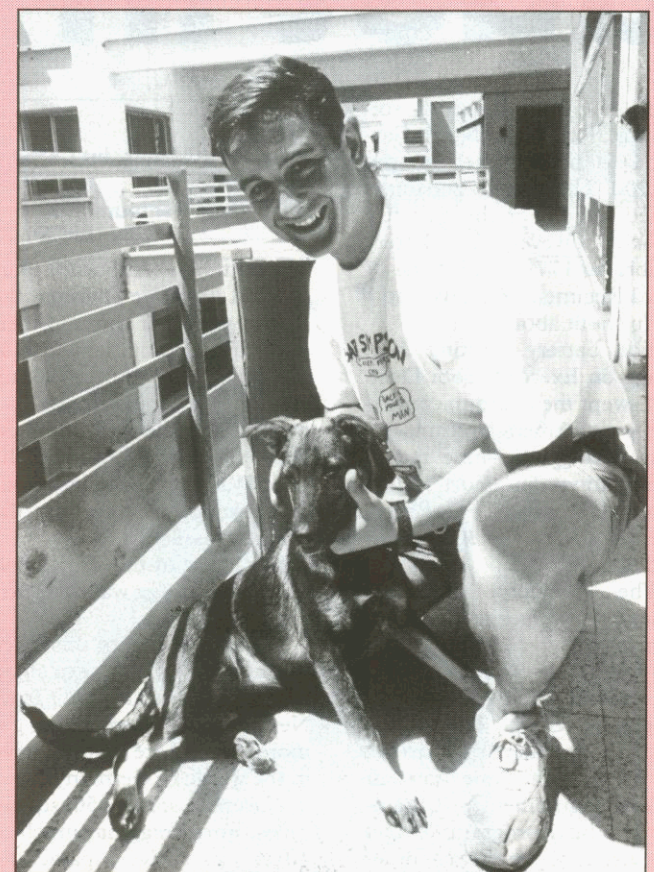
LBdr Pez Barnes and Gnr Paul Nelson come to the end of their patrol along the cease-fire line

Canadian Freeze stays on

FIRST patrol of the morning for Gnr Steffan Atherton is the tick patrol. Having completed a dog handling course at Sennelager he has been appointed hound handler for a pup bequeathed to 132 (Bengal Rocket Troop) Battery by the Canadians, who themselves had been presented it by the Turks.

His first task was to get rid of an old blanket which was infested, and now he has a much happier hound which sleeps in a specially-constructed light blue UN OP kennel during the day before going on patrol at night.

Canadian names have been retained in memory of their 29 years' service in Nicosia, so the battery dog lives in Maple Leaf house, and his cool-sounding name, "Freeze", recalls Frezenburg House, another of the Canadians' locations.



Gnr Steffan Atherton checks Freeze for ticks



Who sang the loudest? Fort Bragg wakes up with a run



Above – Fields of fire: Vulcan 20mm anti-aircraft cannon under British control on the Fort Bragg ranges
Left – Measuring up: PFC Randy Cooper, US Army, addresses LBdr Gerard Horrigan, 21 Bty's shortest soldier

Gunners kick up the dust in Fort Bragg

THE SIGHT of British soldiers at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, is nothing new to the 35,000 US Army personnel based there. For the past few weeks, however, 21 Battery (Gibraltar 1779-1783) from 47 Field Regiment RA have had a lot to shout about.

The battery, visiting Fort Bragg on Exercise Gobi Dust, had swept the board in competition with American teams last year during a 25-mile march competition in Fort Bliss, Texas. It looks as if Fort Bragg, the "Home of the Airborne", had not forgotten.

The gunners, normally based at Thorney Island, Hampshire, recently assumed the role of Air Defence Battery in support of 24 Airmobile Brigade. Gobi Dust was designed for the British to get to grips with American air defence equipment and training in a busy programme, and get used to the way other armies operate.

Working in close co-operation with A Battery from the

Words:
Maj Steve Munns, Int Corps
Pictures:
LCpl Giles Penfound RLC

3rd Battalion (Airborne), part of 82nd Airborne Division, the British were put through their paces using equipment such as the M-167 A2 Vulcan 20mm cannon, the Avenger air defence missile system (new into service and tested in the Gulf War), and smaller hand-held weapons such as the Stinger missile.

For many of the British soldiers, Fort Bragg was their first taste of America.

"The sheer size of this place is unbelievable," explained LBdr Carl Irons from Newhaven. "They have got more troops here than we have in the whole of Germany!"

Covering some 350 square miles, Fort Bragg has much to offer; extensive parachute training facilities, every social and leisure outlet you can think of, 200 square miles of training

area and drop zones, as well as state-of-the-art AD simulators.

In typically American fashion, the Fort Bragg day begins with a run at 0630 hours. Scores of American squads – pennants and flags to the front – jog and shout their way along a two-mile road, specially sealed off to traffic, while stirring military band music blasts from the tannoy system.

Keen to blend in, 21 Battery pounded the road daily, though some of their marching songs raised a few eyebrows.

"I think the Americans were a bit surprised by our standard of fitness. We haven't done so bad, seeing as we beat the best of them last year in Texas," said Gnr Jeff Harris of E Troop.

Much of the gunners' American way of doing things was thanks to their battery commander, US Army Major Joe Reed, who has been commanding them for the past two years.

He said: "Without doubt this has been the most enjoy-



Capt Simon Collins RA (left) takes command of 21 Bty from Maj Joe Reed, US Army

able tour of my career. The Brits are great to work with, and I shall miss their dry humour as well as British beer."

Joe handed over to Capt Simon Collins for the rest of the exercise, and now resumes

military studies at the American Staff College.

As well as military training, the real taste of America came from R and R. The battery made many friends within Fort Bragg, and much of their free time was spent in local bars

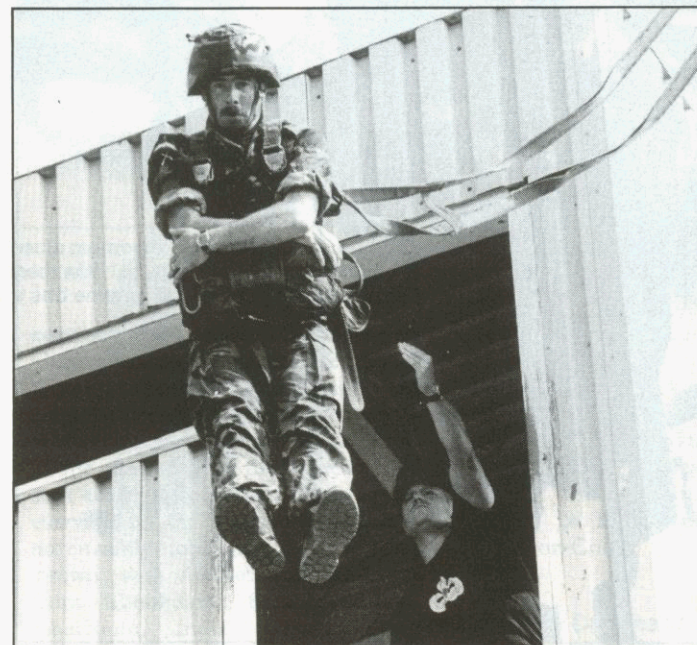


LBdr Wayne Henton and Sgt James Lankford, US Army, train with the Stinger missile system

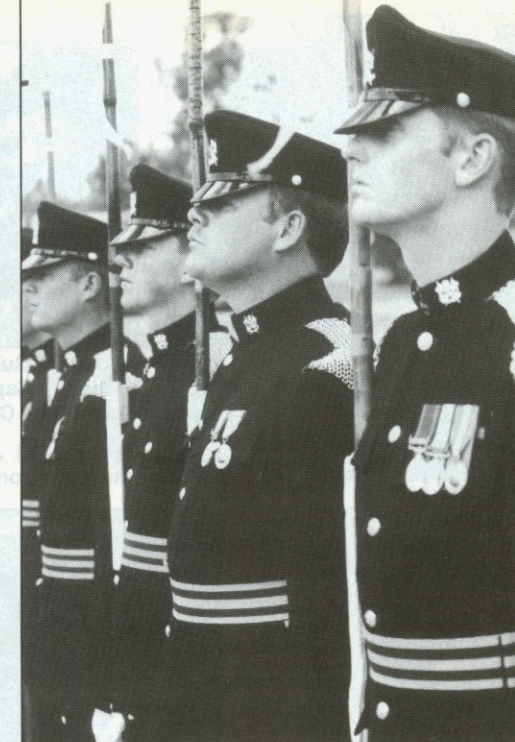
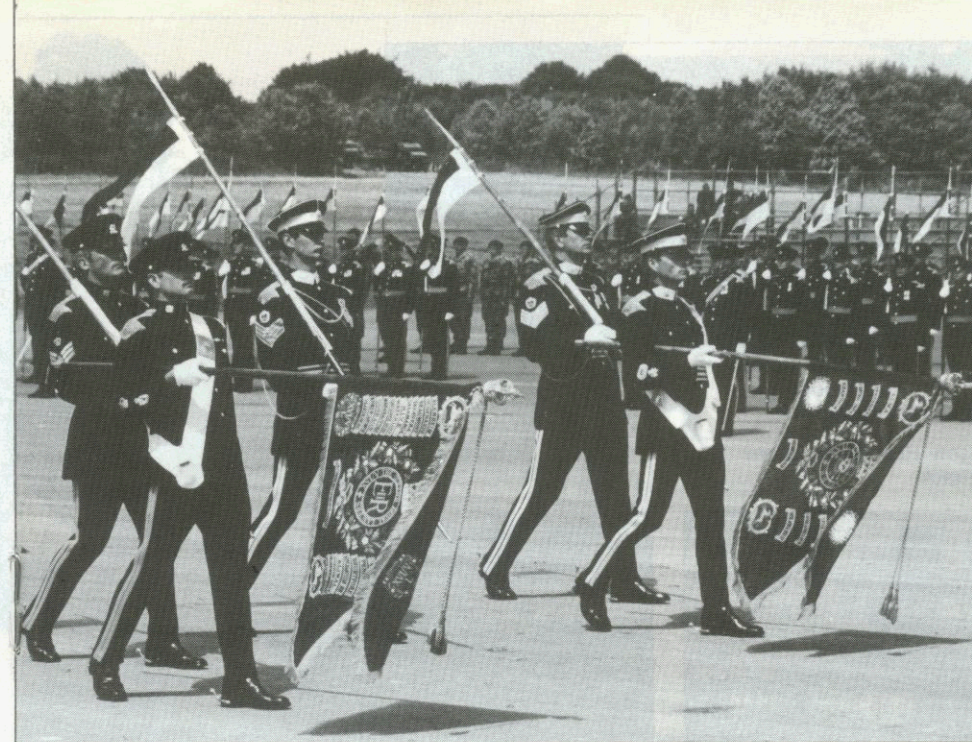
and, at weekends, the world-famous Myrtle Beach near Cape Fear. "Definitely not like Southampton," said LBdr David Jones. "We got daily temperatures of 90 degrees plus, and that's only at 9.30 in the morning."

At the end of the exercise, the Battery was due to fly to Washington for five days of R and R.

All in all, the ability to experience and make use of some of the world's best military facilities, as well as having fun in America, has been a unique opportunity.



Sgt Carter exits the Fort Bragg jump tower on his way to requalifying for parachute pay



The old guidons of both 16/5 and 17/21 are marched on to the parade ground at Carter Barracks, Tidworth

Men of the 16/5 L

Queen sees birth of her new regiment of Lancers

A Chieftain dips its barrel in salute as it rumbles past the royal dais



The Queen and Maj Gen Alistair Dennis, Colonel of the Regiment, Queen's Royal Lancers, await the cap-changing ceremony

HEAT AND dust, pride and tears characterised the scene at Tidworth on June 25 when two of Britain's best loved cavalry regiments marched off the parade ground and into the history books.

The 17th/21st Lancers were going through the emotional process of amalgamation with 16th/5th The Queen's Royal Lancers to form a new regiment, The Queen's Royal Lancers, under Options for Change.

A difficult process for some perhaps, but one which allowed for one of the Army's most spectacular ceremonies. These days it is rare to find such a display outside London, and it was certainly the first time the Yeomen of the Guard had accompanied the Queen outside the capital.

The 16th/5th was given to the Queen by her father, George VI, so has always held a special significance for her. And when it was revealed that Her Majesty was to become Colonel-in-Chief of the new regiment, the Lancers were delighted that that precious link would not be broken.

Awaiting the Queen's arrival at the parade ground, families,

friends and veterans of both regiments thronged the stands. Many had travelled hundreds of miles to witness the death of their old regiment, and the birth of a new one.

Tension mounted as the sun scorched the faces of the men on parade. A hot breeze fluttered the Lancers' pennants and stirred the dust on the surrounding plain. Skylarks sang, oblivious to the 21-gun salute that greeted the Queen.

The parade began with a reminder of the regiments' glorious histories, from the days of horse mounted cavalry, through a line of ancient armoured vehicles, military cars of yesteryear, to a flypast of helicopters which have long played a role in the air reconnaissance of both regiments, and the formidable thunder of today's Challenger tanks.

Old comrades recognised much of the hardware that went by, not least for the clouds of dust it brought with it!

The Queen inspected the two regiments for the last time before witnessing their symbolic demise.

Trumpeters sounded the Last Post, and the guidons of



The Rev James Harkness, Chaplain General, gives his blessing to the new guidon during the drumhead service

16th/5th and the 17th/21st Lancers were marched off parade.

It was an emotional moment, and tears streaked the dust-covered faces of veterans and wives alike.

Reveille broke the tension and the two regiments turned inwards and marched into one body of the men, the scarlet headgear of the 16th/5th mingling with the dark blue and white of the 17th/21st -

and a new regiment was born.

Enjoying the glory and precedence of both parent regiments, The Queen's Royal Lancers stood proudly to attention in front of a giant banner displaying their bold new symbol: the Death's Head with the motto "or Glory" of the old 17th/21st Lancers on the blood red "shadow" of the old 16th/5th Lancers.

The new guidon was blessed in a drumhead service



The Queen inspects members of the 17th/21st Lancers for the last time before the order was given for them and 16th/5th The Queen's Royal Lancers to undertake the intricate drill manoeuvre and emerge as a combined regiment

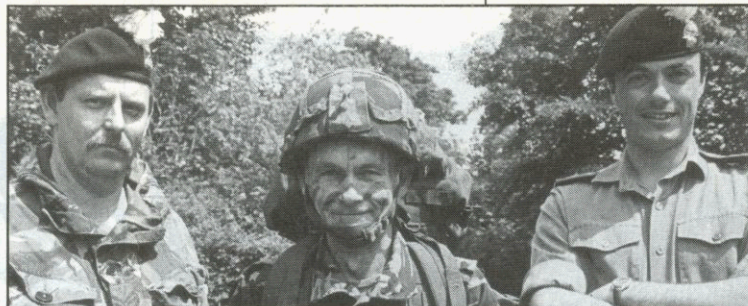
conducted by the Chaplain General of the Army, the Rev James Harkness, before being presented to the new regiment by the Queen.

She reminded all those present of their responsibility in carrying on the reputation of an enviably noble past, a past strewn with battle honours from Blenheim, Balaclava, Khartoum, India, Canada, Africa, Mons, Cambrai, the North Africa and Italian cam-

paigns to UN peacekeeping duties and the Gulf War.

A lot to live up to perhaps, but The Queen's Royal Lancers are determined to start as soon as possible. They leave for Germany this month to become part of Nato's new Rapid Reaction Corps.

Words: Susan Coulthard
Pictures: Chris Fletcher
and Maj Patrick Gouldsbury



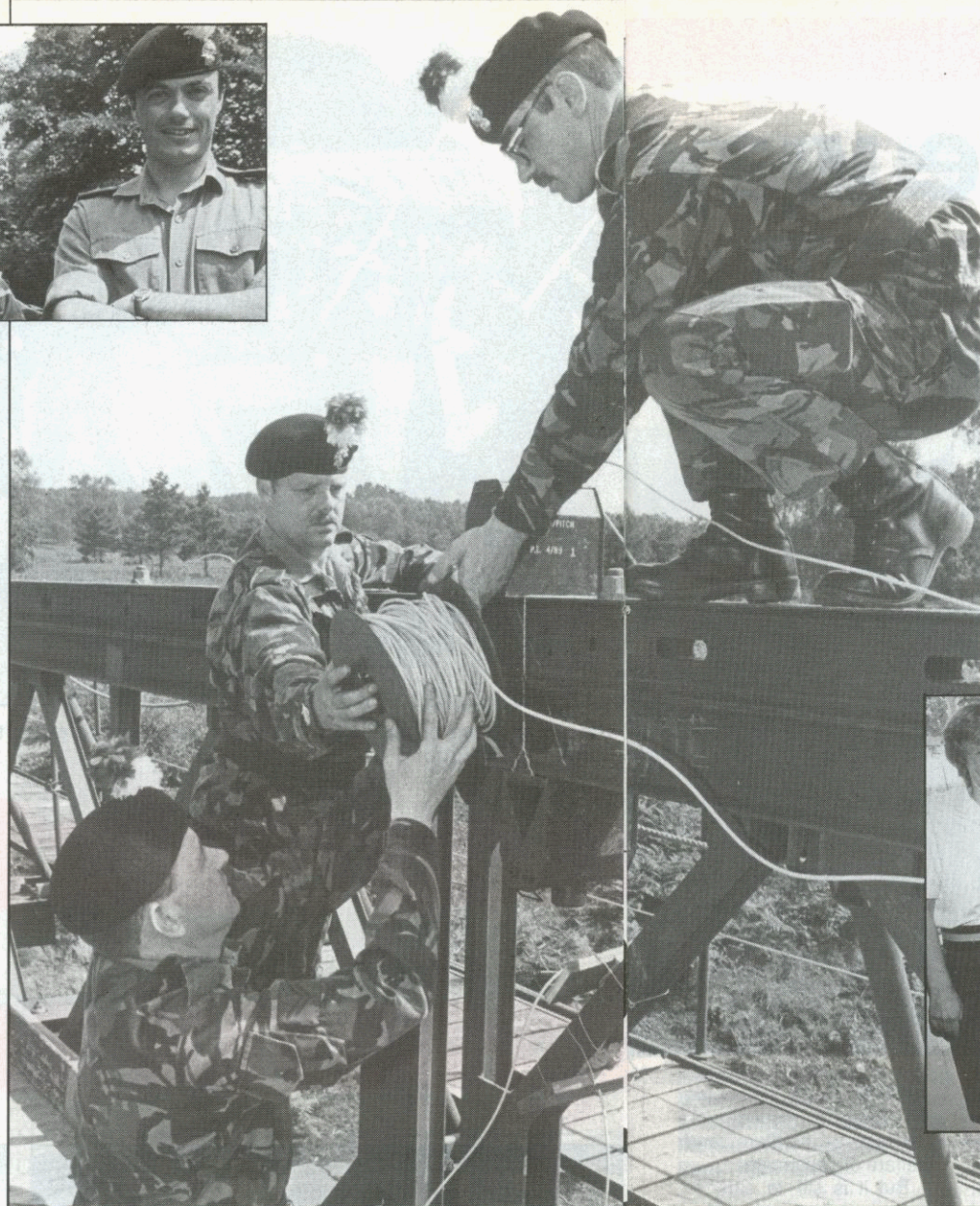
Above – Gulf veterans CSgt John Pattison, Capt Jim Hollywood and Capt Simon Coatsworth (adjutant)

Left – LCpl Jason Hall cools down after a section attack



Above – LCpl Paul Morrell and Mark Hutchinson in cover

Right – Assault pioneers Cpl Stephen Henderson and WO2 Terry Burn give support to Cpl John Turner



The NCOs cadre moves into location



Sgt Allison Mullinder, Pte Dorothy Mills, LCpl Brenda Webb, Capt Sue Haughie, Pte Julie Colbourne and LCpl Diane Kemper keep the men organised in the orderly room



Lt Col Richard Jackson, CO

Geordie Fusiliers cope with chaos

A TESTING and confusing scenario with overtones of British operations in Bosnia occupied the 6th (Northumberland) Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, for the second week of its annual camp.

Rightly proud of their position as one of the eight Territorial Army battalions selected as part of the Allied Command Europe Rapid Reaction Corps (ARRC), the Fusiliers were determined to show that they could cope with the chaos deliberately induced by Training Major Andrew Greenwood.

Each of the three rifle companies, W (Alnwick and Bewick), X (Newcastle and Hexham) and Z (Ashington and Tynemouth), plus HQ Company from Longbenton, concentrated on their own

work-up during the first week at Longmoor, followed by a demanding six-day exercise which took them to Salisbury Plain.

There was a sad extra duty for nine soldiers who returned to Ashington to act as pall bearers for Fus Jonathon Hutchinson, who died following a car crash shortly before the camp.

The Duke of Kent, Colonel-in-Chief, and the Duchess of Northumberland, Honorary Colonel, visited 6 RRF at Longmoor, and during the middle weekend a party of officers sailed to Normandy to hold a TEWT (Tactical Exercise Without Troops) on the part played in the landings by the Royal Warwicks, one of their founding regiments.

The Fusiliers, who had not trained in east Hampshire

before, enjoyed a visit to the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, particularly its assault course.

The first three days were taken up with the kind of rear area security duties the battalion had carried out in its former Nato role in Germany – but with a difference. Each company spent 20 hours in the FIBUA village at Longmoor to get a flavour of peace-keeping duties. HQ Company played the part of a civilian population and the mortar platoon an “enemy” which was split into three rival factions.

When one faction invaded another, plans changed rapidly. Brig Bill Marchant Smith, Brigade Commander of 15 (North East) Brigade, gave personal orders to the commanding officer, Lt Col Richard Jackson, to deploy

near Basingstoke, with Echelon at the Defence NBC Establishment at Porton Down.

But after an attack by a local TA SAS unit, the plans changed again.

During a running night replenishment, Echelon was hit by a simulated chemical strike, and on another night was subjected to a heliborne assault. The battalion was reinforced by members of the JNCOs cadre as battle casualty replacements and opposed by Warriors of 1 RRF, the demonstration battalion at the Infantry Training Centre, Warminster.

The Fusiliers, who had not interest in the Warriors after what they thought was the final battle, but they spent the last night of camp marching to Imber for a dawn attack

against the village. The intensity of the training brought out the best in the volunteers, who impressed their Regular permanent staff instructors.

Many of the PSIs felt it was important for Regular soldiers to get TA experience, some jumping at the chance of another tour.

They were then able to see the benefit of their work, and enjoyed meeting sergeants they had helped as young lads several years previously.

Maj Joe Foster, the Quartermaster, joined from the 1st Battalion. He was PSI with 5 RRF in Coventry and RSM with 6 RRF before taking his commission with 1 RRF, becoming families officer, MTO, QM Tech, and as QM, taking part in the organisation of Bisley and the Royal Tournament.

The adjutant, Capt Simon Coatsworth, found the new perspective of working with the TA refreshing. As mortar officer of the 3 RRF battle group in the Gulf, he encountered several TA soldiers there who had joined on an “S-type” engagement, so that they could “do their bit”.

“Fully trained, they are as competent as Regulars,” he said.

CSgt John Pattison proved the point. A self-employed heavy goods driver, he gave up a steady job to deploy with the Regulars to the Gulf, doing the same training with them at Hemer in Germany.

Whether with two years’ boy’s service, seven years’ Regular service or 15 years in the TA, WO2 Terry Burn of the Assault Pioneer platoon has enjoyed his Army life.

“Today you are not going to be fully efficient if you don’t train to the maximum in the short time you get.”

The battalion, now fully established, has proved its strength both in numbers and skill. Last year it achieved a gold standard in the tough Cambrian Patrol competition. This year’s team – selected for the first time from a single company – won a bronze.

Its chefs narrowly lost the UK combat catering title they won last year; its drivers are current TA national road safety champions.

The mortar platoon laid on a demonstration while working with 1 RRF at Warminster, and a company exercised with the US National Guard in Vermont last year.

A platoon will take part in Exercise Turtle Reef on

Ascension Island in October.

Lt Col Jackson, whose uncle was the last CO of the Buffs and whose father served in the Royal Mahratta Light Infantry during the Second World War, left the Regular Army as 2iC of the 2nd Battalion, The Queen’s Regiment, and was keen to continue within the TA when he moved north.

After two years as Z Company commander he was honoured to be selected to command, though he still has difficulty understanding broad Geordie accents.

With TA soldiers who already wear the Gulf, UN and Northern Ireland medals, his fusiliers have shown they can rise to any challenge.

Words: Gordon Skilling
Pictures: Mike Weston

Trust concept is the way to put MQ house in order

AN EXCITING new concept for managing the British Army's married quarters estate is being assessed by a team based in the Ministry of Defence.

Under the new arrangements, the Army's housing stock would be entrusted on a long lease to a non-profit making trust.

It is seen as a possible answer to the Army's present predicament, in which nearly 6,000 families live in sub-standard accommodation.

At first sight the MoD appears to be "giving away" a valuable asset – 68,756 houses spread across all three Services – to the private sector. It is not.

The MoD is looking to secure a real price for the granting of the lease.

Just how much the estate is worth is difficult to assess. Any negotiations would have to recognise the cost of renovating sub-standard houses.

This is at the heart of the research necessary before the concept can be implemented.

The work is being carried out by the Housing Trust team headed by Mr Dennis Brennan, formerly head of the Housing Task Force



Maj Gen James Johnston, chairman designate of the housing trust

secretariat. All three Services are represented on the team, the Army by Lt Col Mike Llewellyn.

Is it privatisation by another name? Private skills and capital would certainly be introduced, but two issues are fundamental:

It has been necessary to establish an embryo trust at the outset to work in parallel with the team. The chairman designate is Maj Gen James Johnston, whose last appointment before he left the Army was Director General of Army Manning and Recruiting.

"This is a major step forward in the provision of

housing for the Services and I count myself fortunate to be involved in this work," he said.

Security implications mean the concept would be restricted to houses in mainland Britain. Of the 69,000 MQs under review, perhaps 30 per cent might be directly managed by housing associations, and none of these would be behind security fences.

Would the changes affect soldiers' pockets? There is no plan to change how MQ charges are set. The Armed Forces Pay Review Body will continue to make its recommendations based on the evidence provided by the MoD, and taking into account all factors relating to housing which affect Service personnel and their families.

Quartering charges would be deducted from pay and MoD would pay the trust an appropriate amount for its services.

Bottom line of the concept is to improve the quality of Service housing, which would hinge on three factors – finance, management and service.

Quality of service would be ensured by performance



Pictures: Mike Perring

Housing trust team: (back, left to right) Mr Tom O'Gorman, Mrs Sarah Burrows, Lt Col Mike Llewellyn and Cdr Colin Watkin RN; (front) Gp Capt David McTeer RAF, team leader Mr Denis Brennan and Mrs Pam Titchmarsh

standards laid down by the MoD and written into the contract. For example, the trust would be required to upgrade all sub-standard quarters by a certain date, and to effect household repairs within set periods of time.

It is envisaged that the trust would provide, main-

tain and allocate houses; the MoD would determine the housing requirement, provision of furniture, and welfare of occupants.

But it is still too early to say whether a viable plan will evolve or, if it does, when a transfer might take place. Many practical issues remain to be

addressed. An announcement is expected within the next 18 months.

The housing trust concept was tabled by the Housing Task Force set up to provide a better deal for the post-Options Services.

Given funding difficulties, it was felt there was little scope for improving the current system.

Members of the Task Force were able to examine the well-established Australian experience. Faced with a similar dilemma nine years previously, the Australian Services had taken the radical step of forming an independent body to manage its 23,000 houses.

The Task Force was also asked to consider the low incidence of home-ownership in certain parts of the Services and recommend ways of assisting Service-leavers to find suitable accommodation.

Its recommendations resulted in the establishment at Old Sarum of the Joint Services Housing Advice Office; the Do-It-Yourself Shared Ownership Scheme; and the



Lt Col Mike Llewellyn

provision of a number of housing association rental opportunities dedicated to those leaving the Services.

Anne Armstrong charity gifts

COLLECTIONS held at the funeral and memorial services for Mrs Jacqueline Mayo (Anne Armstrong), together with donations in lieu of floral tributes, amounted to more than £3,500 for the Ex-Services Mental Welfare Society.

● Memorial service address – Page 38.



Multigames wall is tribute to campaigner Anne

Pictured in front of the Tidworth multigames wall unveiled by the Queen on June 25 are (from left) Col (Retd) John Mayo, husband of the late Anne Armstrong; National Playing Fields Association technical director Jean Wenger; and Anne and John's son, Capt Charles Mayo, Light Dragoons.

The wall, built by the NPFA, is to be named in memory of Anne Armstrong, who campaigned tenaciously to improve recreational facilities on MoD estates.

The Tidworth wall is the first of 15, most of which will be paid for by the pools-funded Foundation for Sport and the Arts.

Tennis nets, goal posts, cricket stumps and target panels are built into the wall in coloured brick and timber panels. It also features basketball nets and deflection panels.

Pictures: Mike Perring



The Queen meets Tidworth Garrison families after unveiling the multigames wall

STUDY TEAM TO CONSULT FAMILIES

BEHIND the debate on future management of the Services' married quarters estate lies one compelling motive: to give soldiers, sailors and airmen a decent place in which to live with their families.

Of the 69,000 married quarters being considered, there are some excellent buildings which are much appreciated by the occupants – the estates at Talavera Park in Aldershot and Fulton Park in Glasgow are shining examples – but it will be clear from the table below that 15,000 (Grades 3 and 4) are below an

acceptable standard.

The only consolation for those who live at the bottom end of the scale is that they pay less than those at the top – about 40 per cent of the comparable Grade 1 charge.

But it is universally accepted – endorsed by numerous attitude surveys among Armed Forces personnel – that every Service family should have good quality housing at affordable rents.

The Army's housing problem does not reflect bad management. In studies to date it has formally



A married quarter at Talavera Park, Aldershot

been recognised that Army housing managers are at least as good as their civilian counterparts.

The root cause of this is finance – not enough funds and not enough budget flexibility.

All too often quartering staff have had the frustration of spending money on low-priority projects in the second half of the financial year rather than lose it altogether.

Funds for MQ housing

projects will always be at the mercy of operational activities.

The Adjutant General, Gen Sir Michael Wilkes, has asked the study team to consult Army families and their support groups.

"I welcome any initiative which seeks to improve the overall standard of our housing stock and have given this study my full support," he said.

"It is important that any new arrangements are flexible, easy to operate and of real benefit to all our families. I have urged members of the study team to consult widely with both family support organisations, such as the Federation of Army Wives, and the 'customers' themselves.

"I look forward with interest to seeing what new ideas emerge."

SERVICE	GRADE 1	GRADE 2	GRADE 3	GRADE 4	TOTAL
RN	6,295	3,323	353	6	9,977
ARMY	13,461	13,305	4,636	1,805	33,207
RAF	7,601	9,710	5,327	2,934	25,572
TOTALS	27,357	26,338	10,316	4,745	68,756

Part-furnished . . . in parts

SOME families might have had their hopes raised prematurely on reading the note in our May 31 families' page about the introduction of a part-furnished rate for married quarters.

It seems that not all areas can afford to put the scheme into operation.

Personal Services (Army) point out that the application of part-furnished rate is not auto-

matic – it is dependent on availability of resources in each individual area.

Therefore, some families who might wish to take advantage of this scheme might not be able to do so.

SOLDIER to Soldier

Marchwood on tracks

A CLASS 47 locomotive was named "Marchwood Military Port" during an open day at the port near Southampton on June 19.

The nameplate on the Rail-freight Distribution loco was unveiled by Brig Bob Bullock, Deputy Director Logistics Support (Army), to mark the formation in April of the Royal Logistic Corps and to commemorate 50 years of the Marchwood Military Railway.

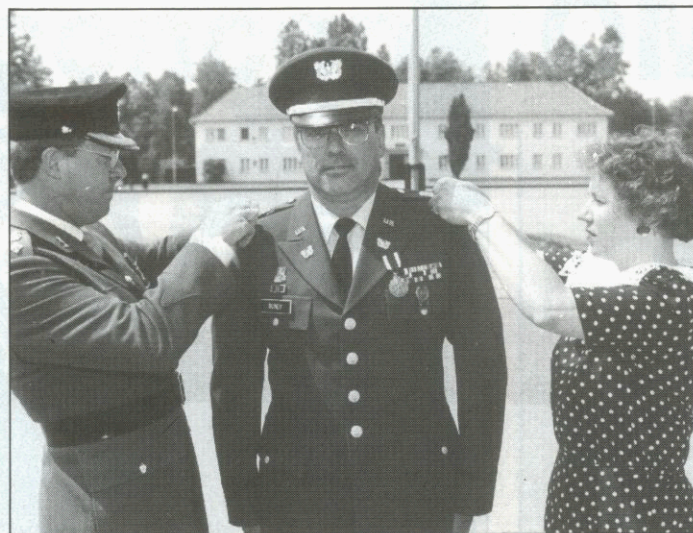
Marchwood is operated by 17 Port and Maritime Regiment RLC. ● Readers of this column will already know that the Gwili Steam Railway has been refurbishing a 1944 Ministry of Supply locomotive to be named "Welsh Guardsman/Gwarchodwr Cymreig".

Soldiers from the regiment were present when the nameplate was unveiled on June 7.

LI return to Reichswald

THE DANK woods of the Reichswald forest on the Siegfried Line were the scene of a remembrance visit made by members of the 2nd Battalion, The Light Infantry from Paderborn to commemorate the bravery of Pte Joseph Stokes VC, of the King's Shropshire Light Infantry.

Guided by his platoon commander of 48 years ago, Lt "Ginger" Banks MC, the LI pilgrims heard how without orders, he twice attacked buildings by himself under heavy fire which was pinning his platoon down. On the first occasion he reappeared with 12 prisoners but was wounded in the neck; on the second he took



Double delight for Jack

The Stars and Stripes were flying at 13 Signal Regiment (Radio) at Birgelen, Germany to mark the award of the Meritorious Service Medal to Chief WO2 Jack Bundy, US Army, by Brig Tony Kerr, Commander Rhine Garrison. And to make Jack's day, he was also promoted to Chief WO3. In traditional American style he is pictured having his new badges of rank affixed by his commanding officer Lt Col Philip Rouse, and his wife, Barbara. They are due to return to the USA soon after a five-year detachment.

another five prisoners but was again wounded.

Refusing first aid and again not waiting for orders, he charged another position, only to fall yards from the final objective.

As he waved his company on, his eight wounds finally proved fatal.

D-Day Dodgers medal struck

A SPECIAL commemorative medallion to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the founding of the D-Day Dodgers is being struck by the Monte Cassino Veterans Association (The Impossible Victory).

Sales of the medallion will also raise funds towards the costs of next year's 50th anniversary events.

The Monte Casino veterans, bound together by their experi-

ences in Italy, sing the D-Day Dodgers' Anthem at their reunions. Often they stand shoulder to shoulder with former foes from Italian old comrades' associations.

The D-Day Dodgers fought the cream of a numerically superior German Army from the landings at Salerno to Northern Italy, losing 46,000 men killed in action and 300,000 wounded. The feeling that they were expendable as the Allies concentrated resources on the second front in France caused much bitterness.

Joe Clarke, who served in The Black Watch, and now honorary secretary of the MCVA, says: "Those at the sharp end were oblivious of the mistakes of the Allied Command, and there were many. No reinforcements were available as all were being diverted to the second front. It became evident that we were expendable."

"Many books have suggested that their Italian campaign was a disaster. Those who fought there would deny that."

● Details of how to obtain the commemorative medal, produced in conjunction with The Chadwick Mint, appear in an advertisement on Page 34.

Cambrai medic laid to rest

SEVENTY-FIVE years after he fell on the first day of the Battle of Cambrai, the remains of Sgt David Kitto have been accorded a full military ceremony at Terlincthun British Cemetery overlooking the Channel near Boulogne.

Sgt Kitto, a Scot from Barry,

was serving in the 37th Field Ambulance RAMC when he went missing on November 30, 1917, the opening day of a battle in which tanks were used for the first time.

His remains were uncovered by two French farmers in a field near Villers Plouich last year, and identified from artifacts discovered with them.

Sgt Kitto's widow, Isabela, whom he married shortly before leaving for France, died in 1974 at the age of 83. She had never remarried. His nearest surviving relative, brother-in-law Mr Adam Maclure, now 92, was traced by the Army and the Commonwealth War Graves Commission to his home near Dundee and represented at the funeral service by his sons.

Soldiers from the 2nd Armoured Field Ambulance based at Osnabrück accorded Sgt Kitto full military honours in the presence of representatives from the French and British Governments, members of the Boulogne branch of the Royal British Legion and French ex-Service associations.

Bligny battle remembered

MEMBERS of the 5th (Shropshire and Herefordshire) Battalion, The Light Infantry, gathered in Shrewsbury on June 6, 75 years to the day after the Battle of Bligny.

At a service in St Chad's Church the Regimental Colour of 5 LI, with the medal of the Croix de Guerre (with Palm) attached, was laid on the altar.

Then members of 5 LI joined old comrades of the regiment to march past the Colonel of The Light Infantry, Maj Gen Michael Regan.

On June 6, 1918 the gallant soldiers of the 1/4th Battalion, The King's Shropshire Light Infantry, counter-attacked a key hill feature in the Champagne region of France.

As a result of that action the French Government awarded the Croix de Guerre with Palm to the battalion. The Commander of the French Fifth Army, Gen Berthelot, pinned the medal on the Regimental Colour in Shrewsbury on June 30, 1922.

To commemorate the valour of their forebears, officers of 5 LI wear a cockade made up of the red and green ribbon of the medal on their dress hats, while soldiers wear the medal ribbon with palm on the sleeve of their service dress.

Commanded by Lt Col Peter Sharland, 5 LI's battalion HQ and HQ Company are in Shrewsbury. A (Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment) Company is located at Kidderminster, B Company at Telford and C Company in Hereford.

DIARY

UNTIL October 15: Forces Sweethearts exhibition, Imperial War Museum.

JULY

20-31: 103rd Royal Tournament, Earls Court, hosted by the Royal Navy. Tickets available from box office on 071-373 8141.

AUGUST

1: Military vehicle rally, Imperial War Museum, Duxford.

6-28: Edinburgh Military Tattoo (credit card and postal bookings from Booking Office, 22 Market Street, Edinburgh EH1 1QB (tel: 031-225 1188)).

NOVEMBER

4-6: BAOR Arts and Crafts Society exhibition, Ripon Hall, Bielefeld.

14: Remembrance Day service and parade at the Cenotaph.

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

SEARCHLINE

● **RASC Jersey Boys:** Joe Guttridge, New Horizon, 6 Tudor Way, Bridgwater, Somerset TA6 6UE (tel: 0278 422806) wishes to contact former 240 RASC Boy Apprentices stationed at St Peter's Barracks, Jersey from October 1938 and evacuated on June 19, 1940. So far 139 have been traced. Third reunion planned in May 1995.

● **1st Battalion, The Parachute Regiment:** Would anyone who served in the battalion with Cpl Ivan (Dev) Pike between 1955 and 1958 please contact his daughter, Debbie Johnson, 215 High Street, Honiton, Devon EX14 8LE (tel: 0404 46370).

● **Ex-Cpl Dave Ireland RE** wants sappers from following postings to contact him: 44 Fd Pk Sqn (27 Regt), Minden 1952-57; RHQ 36 Corps Engr Regt, Osnabrück 1957-58; and 24 Fd Sqn RE, Christmas Island Main Camp, Op Grapple 1958-59. Replies to 28 Main Street, Flixton Village, Scarborough, N Yorks YO11 3UB (tel: 0723 890994).

● **Boys Squadron, Royal Armoured Corps 1952-57:** Mr J Welchman, 29 Northmoor Way, Wareham, Dorset BH20 4EE (tel: 0929 553466) wishes to hear from any ex-Boys Sqn RAC (1952-57)

personnel interested in getting together in the Midlands area in September.

● **JIW Canterbury 1972-73 proposed reunion:** Former Junior Soldiers and Permanent Staff of JIW Canterbury who wish to attend a reunion in 1994 should contact SSgt Corcoran, QM Dept, MCTC, Colchester, Essex CO2 9NU (tel: 0206 783506).

● **Maritime Royal Artillery Old Comrades Association:** All ex-members, including those in Northern Ireland, welcome. Details from M L James, President MRA OCA, Summerhill Cottage, Drables Lane, Isle of Wight PO36 9ER.

● **National Service:** Adrian Walker, 4 Revelon Road, London SE24 2PP (tel: 071-732 1548) is writing a book about service in the following theatres: the Berlin Air-lift, the Kansas Line in Korea, British bases in Libya, the Suez Canal Zone and Jordan 1958. Readers willing to contribute experiences are asked to contact him.

● **Camera history:** Mr Basil Skinner is researching the history of the MPP 5in by 4in technical plate camera as used by the Army in the 1940s-50s. Anyone who has one or who has recollections or memorabilia of service use is asked to

APPOINTMENTS

Major Generals - F B Mayes - To Army Medical Directorate as DGAMS, April 13; Brig M S White CBE to be Director of Support LANDCENT in the rank of major general from July 1.

Brigadiers - N M Prideaux - To be DA/MA Athens, June 25; D H Coombe - To QEMH as CO, March 29; I R Haywood - To RAM College as DA Surg, April 5.

Colonels - S A S Hill - To

CMTT Ghana, June 24; C K Price - To RMAS, June 21; J J Keeling - To MoD, June 22; D J Wills - To MoD, June 25.

Lt Cols - D H M Briggs, 6 GR - To MoD, June 21; A J Miller-Bakewell RGH/D - To HQ LONDIST, June 21; A R Philp REME - To be Comd Maint HQ REME (Avn) UK, June 21; G J Whitty RE - To be CO 10 Engr Regt (EOD)(V), June 21; C O

REUNIONS

● **1st Bn The Suffolk Regiment:** Ex-Suffolks in the Anglian region are sought to take part in the annual Minden Day reunion on August 1, when the return from the Malayan campaign will be commemorated in its 40th anniversary year. Photographs, memorabilia sought for display. Contact Mr G Broughton, 32 Firtree Road, Thorpe-St-Andrew, Norfolk NR7 9LG (tel: 0603 34954).

● **657 Squadron AAC 50th anniversary:** The squadron will celebrate its 50th anniversary on August 12-15 at Dishforth Airfield, N Yorks. All past members welcome. Details from Capt Brendan Shaw, 657 Sqn, 9 Regt AAC, Dishforth Airfield, N Yorks YO7

3EZ (tel: Catterick Mil (or civil 0748 87) 4516).

● **Royal Anglian Regiment:** Annual reunion at Basingbourn Barracks, near Royston, on August 29. Details from RHQ, The Royal Anglian Regiment, The Keep, Gibraltar Barracks, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk IP33 3RN (tel: 0284 752394).

● **Staffordshire Regiment:** Annual reunion September 11 at Whittington Barracks, Lichfield. Details from RHQ, The Staffordshire Regiment, Whittington Barracks, Lichfield, Staffs WS14 9PY (enclose sae).

● **6/36 (Arcot 1751) Battery RA:** 250th anniversary dinner, parade and open day at Hohne on September 16-17. Former members of 6 Battery and 36 Battery welcome. Contact Capt R M Lee RA, 6/36 Bty RA, 40 Regt RA, BFPO 30 (tel: Hohne Mil 465; civil 05051) 18 465).

● **RN School Tal Handaq, Malta:** Late 50s/early 60s reunion to be held at Northwood, London on September 25. For details contact Rog Wilkin on 0923 837626 or Bernard Hctor on 071-829 8118.

● **East Surrey Regiment:** All ranks/battalions reunion planned for October 16 at Drill Hall, St John's Hill, Clapham. Ring for details on 081-401 2070, or write to East Surrey Reunion Fund, c/o Mrs K Bedford, 5B Elm Grove, London SW19.

● **DERR Band (Royal Berkshire and Wiltshire):** Reunion planned for October 30. Details from Bandmaster, 1 DERR (Rear), Boulton Barracks, Catterick Garrison, N Yorks DL9 3AD.

● **Regimental Band Fifth Fusiliers:** The inaugural reunion of the Fifth Fusiliers Band is planned for late October/early November. Details from WO1 J A Robinson (tel: 0752 669881) or WO2 D Birch (tel: 091-232 7238).

● **South Notts Hussars Association:** Reunion dinner to be held in Nottingham on November 13. Contact R J Sainsbury, 35 Metro Avenue, Newton, Alfreton, Derbyshire DE55 5UF (tel: 0773 873347).

● **Frontline Britain 94 reunion and commemorative medal:** 50th anniversary reunion for those who served in East Kent District, South East Kent Command area 1939-45. A commemorative medal is to be struck for these veterans and application form and further details will be sent on receipt of sae. Send to Frontline Britain 94, 107 Mongeham Road, Deal, Kent CT16 9LJ.

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A thrill to meet Gurkha VC hero

WELL DONE on the super article on the Gurkha VCs (SOLDIER, June 28). I was fortunate to be present when they arrived at Winchester.

I served as a subaltern with the 1st Gurkha Rifles in India and Indo-China in 1945-47 before pursuing my civilian career, and remember reading about Gaje Ghale's VC.

I painted a sketch (pictured) of him in 1945 from a photograph. As a new member of 1 GR I was immensely impressed by the story of his courage.

It was a great privilege to meet him when he visited the Gurkha Museum at Winchester. He was amused when, in answer to his question as to whether I had served in the Arakan, I told him I was still at school.

All of the Gurkha VCs are a remarkable elite and we are somehow enhanced and privileged to know them.

He also laughed when I gently pointed out that he has put on a little weight since he won his VC. — **Gerry Wheatley, Chichester.**



Sicily landings deserve tribute

MUCH attention is being focused on the 50th anniversary of D-Day June 1944 – the invasion of Europe via the Normandy beaches – and a commemorative medal has already been made available for purchase by qualified participants.

I find it surprising, however, that there has been no such commemoration in respect of the original opening of the

Second Front in Europe one year earlier, over the beaches of Sicily in July 1943.

It should be remembered that this was a very risky operation by combined Allied forces, involving lengthy sea passages from widely divergent embarkation points, undertaken at relatively short notice with minimum time for preparation.

The operation could be

described as the “dress rehearsal” for the later events in 1944.

Although the initial invasion was successful and casualties relatively light, the promised fall of Rome by Christmas 1943 and continued thrust northward failed to materialise. The 8th Army was deprived of its greatest military leader at the River Sangro and many of its battle experienced troops and assault equipment were removed from the campaign.

This resulted in a long hard slog for nearly two years involving notable battles including Anzio, Salerno, Monte Cassino, breaching the Gothic Line and crossing the River Po.

Those who fought and died during the advance from the beaches of Sicily to the northern borders of Italy resulting in the surrender of the German Army in May 1945, are surely worthy of remembrance and commemoration. I therefore trust that SOLDIER will pay suitable tribute to this feat of arms. — **Lt Col (Retd) D F Densham-Booth, Devon.**

● D-Day Dodgers medal story – Page 32

It's a poor show ENSA missed out

AS A Second World War Serviceman I cannot understand why ENSA has never had recognition, appreciation or some gratitude.

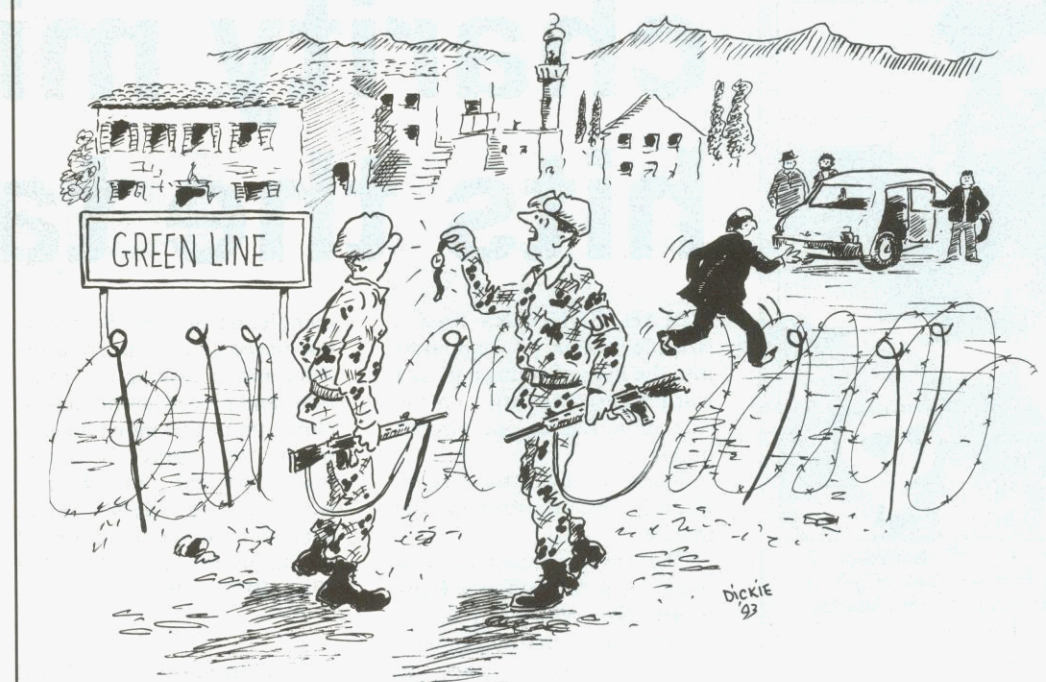
These groups, some only young girls, entertained units in the wilderness, in camps and barracks, in cities, at ack-ack sites, during air raids, at naval bases, and visited the seriously wounded in hospitals. Later they travelled to units in remote parts of India and the “front-line” area of Burma.

These civilian volunteers

gave dedicated service, travelled great distances and always put on a good show. But when the war ended and everyone else got their “gongs”, the ENSA members were forgotten. As victory was celebrated they were left to pack their bags and go home without any thanks after six years.

Surely it is not too late to offer to those still with us – some even still entertaining us – the ENSA 39-46 medal. — **W V White, Newport, Isle of Wight.**

BIRD'S EYE-VIEW



“Don't ask me why . . . it just says 'Don't let the buggers get you down'!”

● Gunners back in Nicosia – Pages 21-23

The debate goes on

THE debate concerning an award for Suez Canal Zone service continues, and so it should.

Clasps for GSMs have been awarded for numerous areas where similar service was required of a large contingent of both Army and RAF personnel.

Mr L Clarke (June 28), the latest correspondent on this topic, refers to this medal, suggesting the addition of a bar (“Suez Canal 50-53”).

Those dates coincide with my service there and I feel most strongly that a goodly number of officers and men performed tasks outside the normal run of military duty, outstanding

enough to be recognised individually. At the height of the evacuation of all British civilians from Suez and Port Fuad, my commanding officer did not go to bed for three consecutive nights and I, his confidential clerk, was busy for many hours typing, stencilling and distributing orders to many people.

These people went off into towns, day and night and sometimes both, rescuing a besieged family here, defending a well-known UK bank branch from an angry mob elsewhere.

Being shot at on the way to the bank to collect pay for the lads wasn't much fun, either –

the more so since we were not allowed to fire back, except in dire circumstances, for fear of upsetting the “delicate political balance” of the Canal Zone.

Accompanying a quite “mad” officer on a desperate “booze” run to Fayid and back on one occasion – we'd run out of Stella beer in both the officers' and SNCOs' messes – was a journey through unfriendly neighbours still vivid in my memory over 40 years on.

The memory of finding a spent bullet a couple of inches from the petrol tank on which I sat for the entire journey shows how lucky one was to come home relatively unscathed.

Sadly, of course, the politicians of several powerful countries disapproved of Suez 1956 and I suspect that some today do not want the dust covers lifted from any of the Suez files for fear of upsetting the “delicate political balance”.

Somewhere and sometime I think I have heard that expression before! — **K Saunders, Ex-Sgt (RAF Shallufa and Kasfereet 50-53; R Anglians 82-92), Great Plumstead, Norfolk.**

MoD change of heart is needed

PERHAPS Mr L Clarke (Letters, June 28) has not been reading all my letters during the past 18 years.

Otherwise he would have seen that I have used the argument with the Ministry of Defence of the precedent of the MGSM 1848, in particular the delay in authorisation, and the suggestion that a bar with “Suez Canal 1951-53” should be approved for the GSM 1918-64 for service in the Suez Canal Zone.

The MoD has rejected both these proposals many times and the Cabinet Secretary has declined to raise the matter again with the Honours and Awards Committee, which rejected a medal (or bar) in December 1956.

I can assure Mr Clarke that representations have been made to the Queen, but in all cases her reply has been made by her representatives in the MoD.

I have exhausted all lines of approach in trying to rectify this injustice and unless MoD has a change of heart there is nothing more I can do. — **Col (Retd) Pip Newton (former DAQMG HQ 3 Inf Bde Dist, Suez Canal Zone 1951-53), Winchester, Hants.**

About time

I WAS the CSM of 19 Armoured workshop REME during the very troubled times in the Suez Canal Zone (1951-54).

This is more than 40 years ago and ever since there have been hundreds of letters written to try to obtain recognition for the men who served in that “Hell Hole”. Many Servicemen lost their lives in that theatre.

Is it not about time that a positive attempt was made to secure recognition and put the matter to rest?

At one time, if I recall correctly, there were more than 100,000 men and women in the Zone on active service. — **H Whitehead, Nether Poppleton, Yorks.**

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D-DAY DODGERS

“Comradeship Is For Life”



Were you, your father, grandfather or husband a member of His Majesty's Forces serving in Italy from **September 1943 until April 1945?**

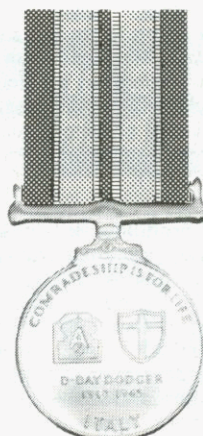
If so, you or they were the **D-Day Dodgers**, a famous band of fighting men who inched their way over mountains, through mud, snow and rain, engaging the cream of the German army away from the scene of the Normandy landings.

Many had fought in the desert, North Africa and Sicily and had been away from home for many months. With depleted forces they fought their way to Northern Italy against numerically stronger German forces. 46,000 died, 300,000 were wounded.

To mark the **50th Anniversary** of this gallant band's foundation, a special commemorative medallion has been struck in Nickel Silver, complete with presentation box, and will become an heirloom to be handed down with pride to future generations.

Included with the medallion is a copy of the **D-Day Dodgers** song, the lyrics of which, immortalise the exploits of the **D-Day Dodgers** and expresses their disappointment at not returning home, the subsequent lack of public recognition, the memory of the lads they left behind and most importantly the comradeship which still stands the test of time.

To order your commemorative Medallion and Riband, please send your cheque or postal order for £17.50 (made payable to M.C.V.A.) to M.C.V.A. 41 Aldermary Rd., Manchester M21 2QW.



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Transport of delight for blind adventurers

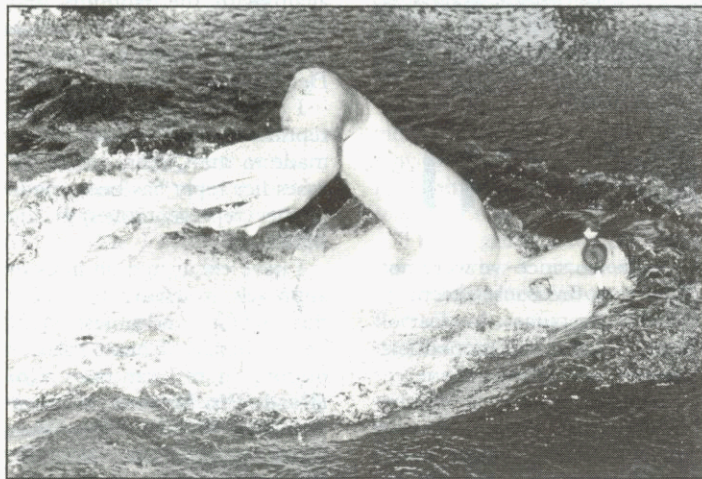
Blind and partially sighted people from all over Britain had the chance to get behind the steering wheel when the British Army hosted a driving day especially for them at RAF Catterick in North Yorkshire.

Helped by 40 **Transport Squadron RLC**, 30 members of the Guide Dogs for the Blind adventure group learned to drive Land Rovers, buses, trucks – and 50-tonne tanks.

With the RLC drivers beside them, the guests practised circuits and competed against each other.



Cpl Hilaire "Big H" Benedict, 2 RTR, helps Michael Owvye get to grips with the controls of a Spartan armoured vehicle



SSgt Brian James of 14 Berlin Fd Wksp REME in the water

Welsh Gunners' charity missile hits the target

WELSH GUNNERS fired a sizeable chunk of happiness into the lives of youngsters at a Cardiff-based charity – on the side of a Rapier anti-aircraft missile.

Their cheque for nearly £2,500 was inscribed on the missile.

The money, raised by men of the **22nd Air Defence Regiment RA**, was given to the Welsh care charity Bobath Cymru by soldiers from the regiment, currently serving in Northern Ireland.

SSgt Brian James, serving with **14 Berlin Field Workshop REME**, has taken on the challenge of swimming a minimum of 1,600km (1,000 miles) during 1993 to raise a massive £100,000 for the Royal British Legion and the Royal Star and Garter Home in Surrey.

His self-imposed, year-long marathon requires him to swim 5km a day, and so far he is right on target. On June 21 he reached the halfway stage by

completing 800km. So far he has raised £2,197 in sponsorship, and is looking for donations and pledges from messes, clubs, units and individuals to boost the figure. Cheques made payable to Welfare Account, 14 Berlin Field Workshop should be addressed to Charity Swim, 14 Berlin Fd Wksp REME, BFPO 45.

A Company, 4/5 Royal Irish Rangers marked the amalgamation of the 4th and 5th Battalions by raising more than £5,000 for Romanian orphanages. They completed a number of sponsored events, including a Land Rover pull, parachute jump, triathlon and long distance walk.

Fifteen members of the **British Military and Advisory Training Team Zimbabwe** were given a royal welcome when they arrived in Beira on the Mozambique coast at the end of a 310km charity relay run from Mutari

on the Zimbabwean border.

The bush telegraph worked so effectively that thousands of clapping, singing people lined the road down the Beira corridor to encourage the runners.

Organised by Capt Chris Taxis RA and Capt Nick Moody RE, the team raised about £6,000 to buy equipment for a children's project in Beira and a children's home in Mutari.

The BMATT runners were supported by soldiers from the Italian and Botswana UN contingents.



Magic missile: Welsh Gunners with their unusual cheque for Bobath Cymru. Pictured (standing, left to right) are SSgt Gary Travers, CO Lt Col Steve Hamilton, Honorary Colonel Maj Gen Mike Shellard with cerebral palsy sufferers Ashley Billington and Paul Veryard who accepted the cheque, and behind them Sgt Maj Dickie Bird; (front) Sgt Shane Spafford, Lbdr Peter Childs and Sgt Mark Coombes

Breakdown ends Green Howards' record attempt

AN ATTEMPT by soldiers from **The Green Howards** to set a new round-Britain speed record ended in disappointment when they suffered engine and electrical failure 35 miles west of Lundy Island.

It was the second time that engine problems had hit the Round Britain Challenge, which at one point was several hours inside the schedule for a new record.

The Catterick-based Green Howards were attempting to complete the 1,563 circumnavigation in less than the 90hr 35min 55sec achieved by the Royal Marines in 1988.

They set off from Hartlepool Marina in the Teesside Challenger, a 24ft rigid inflatable powered by two 150hp engines and sponsored by Teesside Development Corporation. The regiment traditionally recruits in the Teesside area.

The three-man crews were planning to refuel and change personnel at Ramsgate,



The Green Howards before their Round Britain attempt

Newlyn, Port Patrick, Mellon Charles and Peterhead.

As well as the record, the Green Howards had hoped to raise £100,000 for Enterprise Neptune, the National Trust initiative to buy and preserve endangered sections of coastline.

Gearbox failure in one engine caused an unscheduled "pit stop" at St Ives after

Teesside Challenger had left Newlyn, near Penzance, on the third leg to Port Patrick.

After all-night repairs, the record was still possible until the terminal breakdown west of Lundy Island. Water had damaged the radio on board, and when the second power breakdown left them drifting helplessly at night, the crew activated emergency beacons

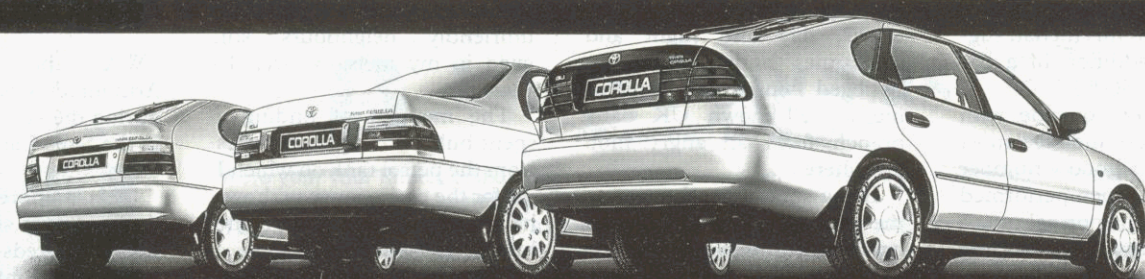
attached to their life-jackets.

The Rescue Co-ordination Centre at Plymouth alerted RAF Brawdy in South Wales and a Sea King helicopter was dispatched to airlift the Howards to safety.

Lt Nigel Hellewell summed up the feelings of the challenge team: "We are all sad it has ended this way but we gave it our very best shot. Everything was going well until the mechanical problems. We have learned a tremendous amount but it is simply too early to say if we will be mounting another bid."

Teesside Development Corporation chairman Ron Norman said: "It is always a pity when equipment turns out not to be as reliable as the men using it."

"It has been enormous fun working with the Green Howards and it is good to know that we have Servicemen of this calibre, many of them recruited from the Teesside area."



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In joyful memory of Anne Armstrong

LET US for a few moments recapture the spirit of Jacqueline Mayo.

On the pillar beneath the Sandhurst pulpit is an inscription "death is but an horizon and an horizon is nothing save the limit of our sight". I have no doubt that although we cannot see her today, Jacqueline "Anne Armstrong" Mayo is quite certainly observing us and, I suspect, revelling in having extracted so many from their dingy offices to bear witness to one who was a colourful champion of the individual.

Perhaps we should examine our hearts and see if we live up to the words of a family friend who said, "if you are here to remember Jacqueline, you are here because you are dedicated to people."

If we are, we shall find favour in her sight for she was of the school that believed that none of us can expect any rights until we have discharged one overriding responsibility, our responsibility to our neighbour. In this, Jacqueline certainly earned her right to be high in our regard.

I remember sitting in this chapel 46 years ago as a young cadet and feeling very humble as I read the names on these pillars. Today, if anything, I feel even more humble because I for one cannot speak of Jacqueline's selfless achievements without realising how inadequate my own contribution to the Service community has been by comparison.

But the Service community has not been Jacqueline's only concern; her crusades extend to people of every colour, creed and age group. Anyone indeed who she felt had been a victim of injustice. And as life is full of injustices it became a total commitment demanding every minute, every thought and every spark of energy. Above all it demanded courage – moral courage of a high order.

When not locked into some particular battle, Jacqueline would accompany John on his travels to

REPRESENTATIVES from the Service community worldwide, family, friends and those she had helped gathered in the Royal Memorial Chapel, RMA Sandhurst on July 2 for a service of thanksgiving in memory of Jacqueline Mayo. Jackie, who campaigned on welfare issues under her maiden name of Anne Armstrong, died on May 17.

The Ven Graham Roblin officiated, assisted by the Ven Frank Johnston, the Rev Alistair Heagerty and Father Tomislav Markovic, who sang the Apolysis in Slovenian. Baroness Chalker of Wallasey, Minister for Overseas Development, read the lesson and the actress Miss Nichola McAuliffe read from *A Shell-hole Meditation* by Padre Studart Kennedy. The address, given by Gen Sir Edward Burgess, is reproduced here.

visit Help the Aged missions around the world, and would involve herself deeply, especially where ex-Servicemen were concerned. On one occasion, faced with an ex-Service funeral in Grenada and to ensure proper honours were paid to the deceased, she even wheedled a Union flag from the master-at-arms on one of HM frigates. On a visit to northern Kenya the deprived people of Lodwar struck a special chord in her, and not just because her grandfather had been an early settler in that country.

A casual glance at your order of service will have revealed two things. The service is constructed to reflect Jackie's love of life and bubbling enthusiasm; it also reflects her deep rooted patriotism and love of the Services. These were undoubtedly legacies from three generations of military men folk; father, husband and son.

Published appreciations have all catalogued her transition from WRAC officer to junior officer's wife, and her instant involvement in the welfare needs and problems of Servicemen and their families. She knew at first hand the pressures of Service life and she was determined that no one was going to short change the defenders of the nation's freedom and security, for any society that does so forfeits the right to both and she loved her country too much to see that happen.

I recall her indignation in

1986 whilst waging her campaign for homeless ex-Servicemen. She had discovered that under the Homeless Persons Act 1977 Servicemen were classed with those in prison and the mentally insane.

Perhaps this triggered her crusade against the faceless instruments of authority and the all too frequent rejection of humane and feasible measures lest "a precedent" might be established. She felt that organisations and institutions had ceased to be the servants of ordinary people and had become ends in themselves. They legislated without thought for the impact on individual folk and usually presented instructions in unintelligible terms.

In her crusade she found she was too often confronted by intellectual arrogance, insensitivity, lack of imagination and, worst of all, obfuscation. All of which she would lump together as "bureaucratic barbarism".

Her weapons in this crusade were painstaking research so that her superior or knowledge would overwhelm her quarry. In pursuit of her goal time and distance meant nothing. Her energy was phenomenal, she was a human dynamo. Once she was ready to go onto the attack her sense of timing was uncanny. She would wait until her adversaries' evasions had left him little room for manoeuvre and then she would go for the jugular in the most charming but relentless way.

Her tenacity was formidable and she was totally fearless. The status of her opponents meant nothing to her; only their readiness to be reasonable. She was prepared to stir up issues without fear or favour, and the inept were savaged.

Yet few could resist her bubbling charm for long. At least one minister joined in her attempt to reduce "gobbledegook" to understandable English; whilst another wrote: "Quite rightly ministers and generals quailed at her polite but firm protests".

A senior officer wrote: "Hundreds owe her so much for her dedication and persistence against red tape and stupidity." Yet another wrote: "Her overflowing brief cases were a tribute to the thoroughness of her involvement." A middle peace officer called her "a breath of fresh air; open and honest, she delighted in taking on the devious and the masters of double speak."

Less well known has been her championship of so many individual cases. She gave freely of her precious time to them and enlisted the aid of, first a barrister, and then a town clerk when legal preparation was needed. All of this makes it right that we should be here to give thanks for Jackie's life. But what of the woman herself?

One friend wrote: "I will always remember her with fondness and laughter, surely the best of epitaphs!" She was a joyful person, determined, effective, efficient and so often quite outrageous.

She was outrageous right from the day she took a group of WRAC to visit a RAF station. A kindly flight commander invited her to sit in the cockpit. "What's this?", she said grasping a lever and the cockpit cover blew off. How lucky the ejection seat itself wasn't primed or there would have been no Anne Armstrong.

Another friend wrote: "With all her fighting spirit she was a very warm and charming person with a delightful sense of humour." She could furl her

battle flag and give comfort to those who needed it. One such wrote: "She never failed to encourage me and make me feel cared for and not alone."

In wondering at her achievements one can easily lose sight of the kindly sympathy for others that lay behind all she did. Add to this her courage and a well honed sense of what is fair, and her achievements are a natural consequence. She could certainly change lives by her influence and on one occasion her very real concern for those deprived people of Lodwar persuaded an acquaintance to devote his life to working in Africa amongst them.

She bubbled with fun and energy and righteous indignation. Like all of us she needed affection and acknowledgement and gave both in return to others. Recognition of her work is everywhere. The National Playing Fields Association will name the multi-games wall at Tidworth after her. The Tyrnwhit House extension belonging to the Ex-Services, Mental Welfare Society will also bear her name. Her papers are to be researched and classified by the Rowntree Foundation.

Certainly her work will live on because she had that marvellous knack of inspiring others to get off their backsides and do something about the injustices and causes which she had exposed. She is held in affection and respect not only by us in this chapel today but by hundreds more who cannot be here for she was everyone's aunt with a supporting arm and kindness which evoked affection in response. John and Charlie can warm themselves with this certain knowledge, for all of us in the chapel are but a small delegation from her mighty crowd of admirers. In closing perhaps one can adapt from Churchill and say: "Jackie's life was a full one. The wine of life was in her veins. Sorrows and storms were conquered by her nature, and on the whole it was a life of sunshine."

HOW OBSERVANT ARE YOU?

The pictures below, from our Frank Finch cartoon archives, differ in ten details. Find them and you could be £50 richer or win a new book. Just circle the differences in the right-hand picture, cut out the whole panel, add your name and address and send to HOAY 567, SOLDIER, Ordnance Road, Aldershot GU11 2DU by August 13. Do not include anything else in

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

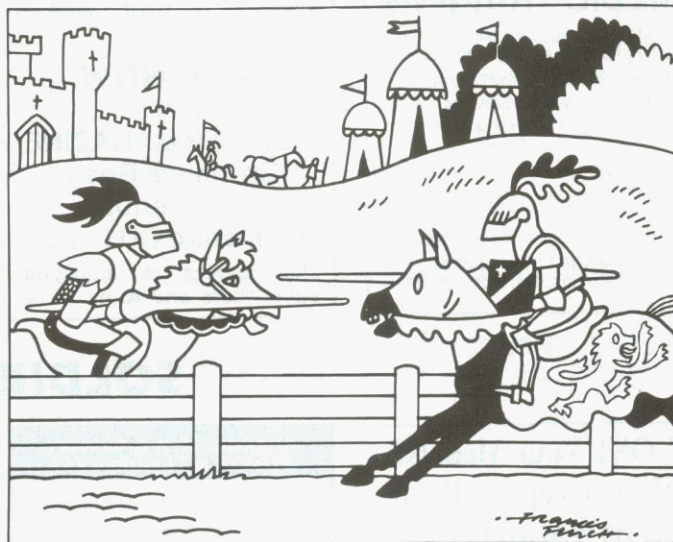
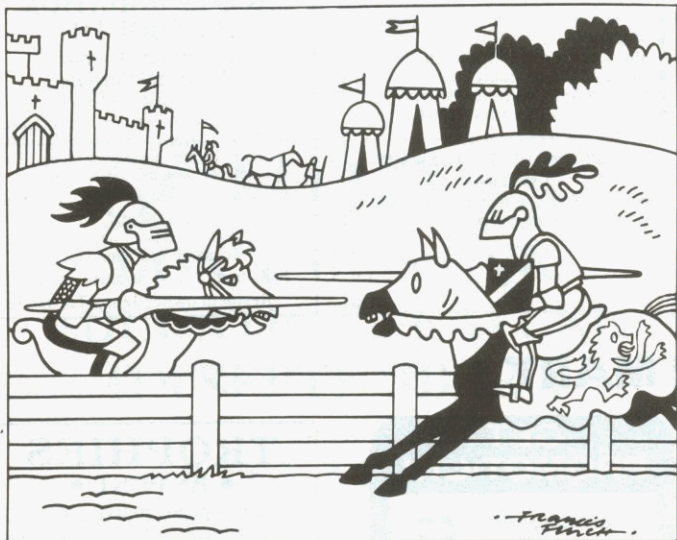
The names of the winner of the £50 first prize and two runners-up will be announced in the September 6, 1993 issue.

WIN £50
COMPETITION 567

Competition No 564: Congratulations to Sgt Agnew, of Bolton, who wins £50. Book prizes go to runners-up Mr John Bryant, of Cliftonville, Kent, and Mrs P Keeley, of Haywards Heath, W Sussex.

Name: (Give rank or title)

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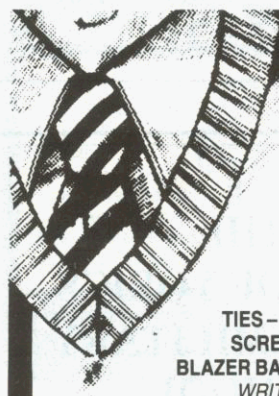
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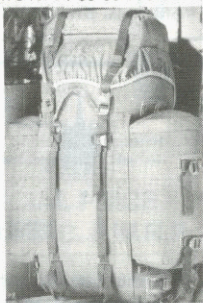
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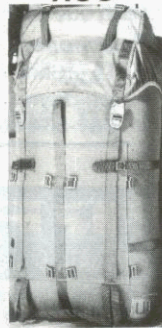
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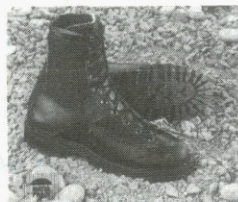
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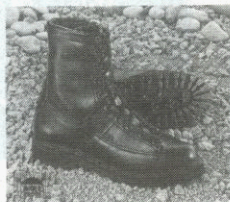
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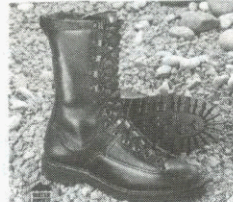
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A pen pal advertisement costs £11.75. Send your details (maximum 30 words) and a cheque or postal order for £11.75, payable to "Soldier", to the address below. The advertisement will appear in the first available issue and all replies will be forwarded.

All correspondence to: Pen Pals, Soldier Magazine, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU.

Sincere, attractive lady, early forties with slim figure, dark hair, divorced. I'm looking for a soldier to write to, possibly aged 35-45. Photo appreciated. **P555** 15/93

Female, committed letter writer looking for someone to languish lots of long letters on. So if you want mail other than bills, why not drop me a line? **P556** 15/93

South west soldier needs cheering up by 20-30 year old fun loving, fit females. Photo if possible. **P557** 15/93

Female, 29 years of age, blonde, 5'2". Likes music, reading etc. Wishing to correspond with soldier for friendship/relationship. **P558** 15/93

Sincere and caring lady (37), single mum, small, slim with fair hair and blue eyes. Seeks older, more mature, people for correspondence. Genuine replies only please. All replies answered. **P559** 15/93

Katie, 27. If, like me, you possess a fun sense of humour, are crazy about sport (especially football), enjoy music, wining, dining and traveling, maybe we could become pen pals. **P560** 15/93

Jackie, 28, 5'4", single. Slim, brown hair, blue eyes, good sense of humour. Hobbies include driving and horse riding. Would like to hear from male soldiers around my own age. **P561** 15/93

Female, 38, separated, no children, sense of humour bordering on ridiculous. I would like to write to, and become friends with a serviceman who is tall and possessing most of his own teeth. **P562** 15/93

Sarah, 20 separated outgoing female. I am a brunette of medium build and enjoy most things. I'm looking for someone to write to with similar tastes. **P563** 15/93

Are you a one woman man, sincere, faithful, romantic and need someone to pamper? I'm a tall, 40-year-old, slim, attractive, n/s, divorcee. Photo please. **P564** 15/93

Anne, divorced, very young looking 40, 5'3", slim, attractive. I have a great sense of humour. I would love to correspond with an unattached soldier 35+, I am fun to be with! **P565** 15/93

Hi, I'm Michelle. I would like a pen pal. I'm 24 and enjoy listening to music and socialising. If you'd like to know more about me, drop me a line. **P566** 15/93

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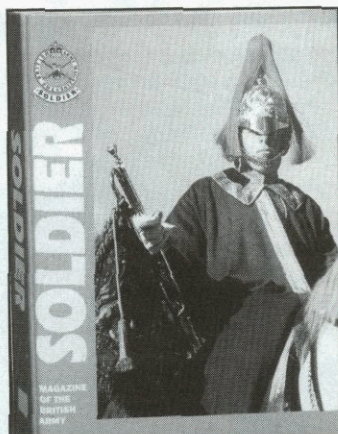
Wanted - any Op Granby photos/videos. Anything considered. Phone Richard McMillan on 0628 664471 after 6pm weekdays or anytime weekends. 15-93

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Military peaked caps, any Regiment. Wanted for private collection. Will buy or exchange for Soviet caps. M Nixon, 10a Victoria Road, Pinxton, Notts NG16 6LR. 15-16

Any information on burial sites, or cemeteries, of Victoria Cross holders, Charge of The Light Brigade survivors, or any important military figures in any part of the world. Needed by researcher. Reply to: Box 232, Soldier Magazine, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU. 12-15

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Kibble leads from start

LCPL Phil Kibble RLC led from start to finish in the annual Army triathlon championships, held again at Cotswold Water Park near South Cerney.

Kibble, who a week before had finished seventh in the national championships, was the first of the 270 entrants to reach the bank after the 1,500m open water swim. He was to stay in the lead throughout the 40km bicycle ride and 10km run, winning in 1hr 56min 14sec, almost two minutes ahead of the next finisher.

Competitors benefited from an early morning start – the swim started at 0830 – to avoid the midday heat.

Other Regular Army individual winners included Capt Mandy Seward in the women's open and Maj Graham Wilson (RLC) in the veterans' competition. Wilson produced a personal best of 2hr 9min 5sec in his final Army championships.

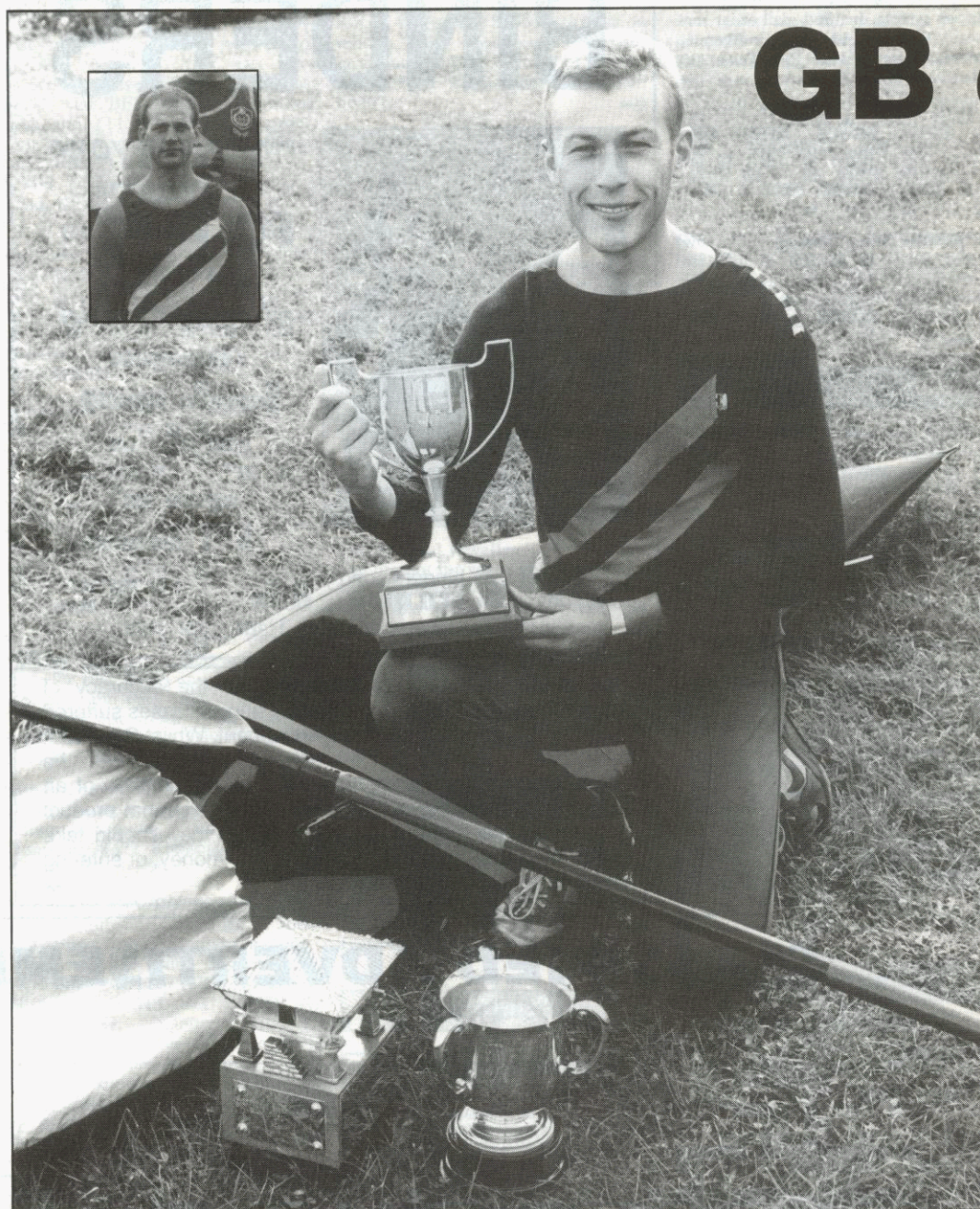
Close packing by the Hameln-based 28 Engineer Regiment entry of WO2 (QMSI) Hughes, LCpl Ratcliffe and BAOR champion LCpl Robinson, all of whom finished in the top ten, gave them the team trophy in a time of 6hr 2min 37sec.

Minor Units and women's team honours went to Comms and Sy Gp UK and Princess Marina College, Arborfield, respectively.

Cpl Dai Richards of Swansea-based HQ Company, 4 RRW became the Territorial Army champion, having just won the Welsh 1,000 mountain race the previous week. His time of 1hr 59min 47sec was the fourth fastest on the day. TA team champions were Birmingham University OTC.

Prizes were presented by Mr Mike Docherty of GKN Defence, sponsors of the Army triathlon team.

The results reflect the rising standards among Army triathletes, who will be hoping to add the Inter-Service championship to the duathlon title they won last month.



Capt Duncan Capps, who came second for Great Britain, with Sgt Alan Heath (inset)

FORMER Army half marathon champion SSgt Kelvin Turner RE from the Sennybridge FIBUA village warmed up for the Leadville 100-mile race in Colorado, USA, by finishing sixth in the world trail running championships held in conjunction with the 80-mile South Downs Way race last month.

The South Downs run starts south of Petersfield in Hampshire and climbs 8,000ft along the ancient path to Eastbourne in East Sussex. Hot and humid conditions caused many competitors to drop out, but Turner completed the race in 11hr 46min, half an hour behind the winner.

Kelvin's on right trail . . .

Cyclists head for Colerne

CYCLISTS from all three Services are due to gather at Azimghur Barracks, Colerne in Wiltshire from July 24 to August 1 for the annual Army festival.

Hosted by 21 Signal Regi-

ment, the festival includes Army senior, Inter-Corps and Inter-Service events. Road time trials and road races are among the events, which start on July 24 with the hill climb competitions.

Services fall to Oxford

OXFORD University beat the Combined Services by 182 runs in the three-day Famous Grouse Challenge match at Aldershot.

Set to get 315 in the fourth innings, Services succumbed to a disappointing 132 all out in 53 overs.

Oxford opener Montgomerie took full advantage of the toss to score 180 in the undergraduates' first innings total of 350 for eight declared off just 82.4 overs. He shared

GB calls up Army paddlers

ARMY canoeists Capt Duncan Capps (4 GS Regt RLC) and Sgt Alan Heath (HQ RE Resources) were selected to compete as part of the Great Britain team at the Bosplan international marathon canoe race on June 20. They were paired together in the senior doubles (K2) class over a 27km course around the waterways of Amsterdam.

In a close tactical race the Army crew paddled strongly to finish as runners-up in a class

international field which included national squads from GB, Spain, Sweden, Holland and Germany.

This excellent result at international level underlines the current strength of Army canoe racing.

It was Capp's first international selection, Heath's fifth.

Army crews were also in action the following weekend, at the international Round London Grand Prix canoe marathon. This arduous event

was held over two days and involved a series of three stages in a circuit around London.

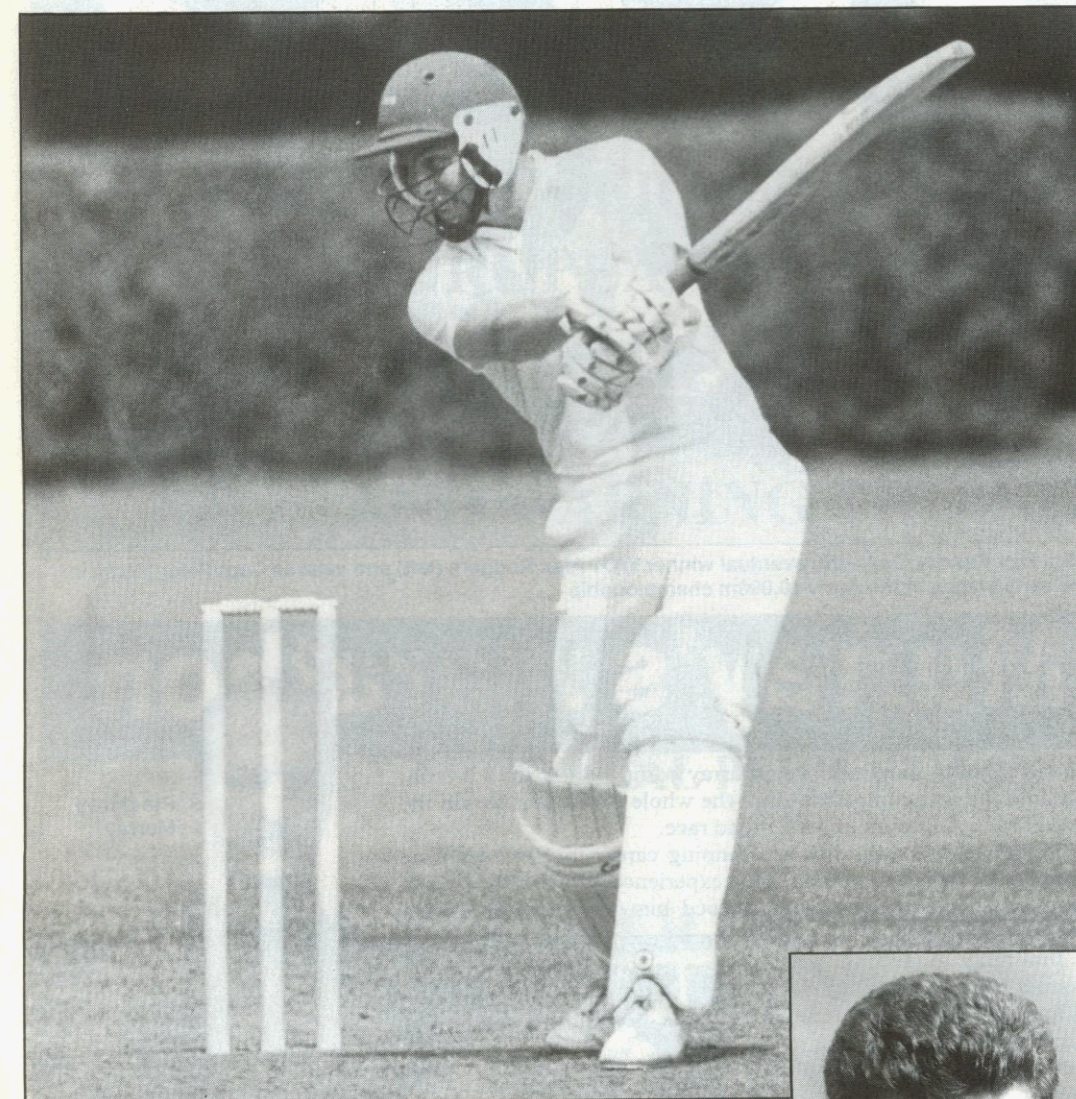
Joining Capps and Heath in the domestic senior K2 class were Cpl Jim Ross and Spr Ginge Hazzard (12 RSME Regt RE), competing together for the first time.

Stage one involved an epic 27.5km paddle from Canary Wharf up an extremely rough and choppy River Thames to the finish above Putney Bridge. Day two began at Brentford

with another 27.5km course along the Grand Union Canal to Little Venice in Paddington. After a two hour break, crews completed the final 12.5km stage to Mile End Stadium.

This involved 1km through the darkness of the Islington Tunnel, which provided a novel experience for all crews.

Capps and Heath placed third overall and Ross and Hazzard achieved an impressive sixth place in a large and experienced field.



In the runs: Capt Jim Cotterill (above and inset)

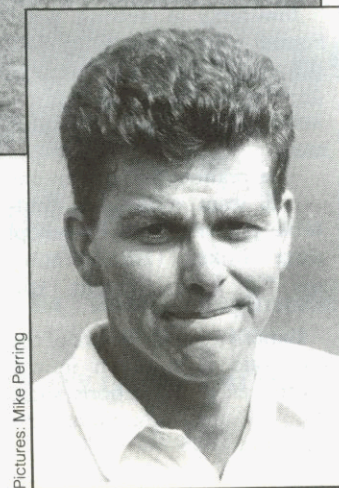
an opening stand of 128 with the Australian Gallian (84).

The openers savaged Capt Damien Bush (RAVC), although he had the consolation of dismissing Montgomerie and picked up a second wicket to finish with figures of two for 70 off 7.4 overs.

Batting down the order, Capt Richard Greatorex

(RLC) scored 58 in the Service reply of 254, Capt Jim Cotterill (RA) 14, Cpl Nick Palmer (AAC) 12, and Bush 15.

The visitors declared their second innings at 218 for seven before making short work of the Servicemen, Greatorex dismissed for a duck, Cotterill scoring 11, and Palmer and Bush a couple each.



Pictures: Mike Perring

Cotterill ton not enough to detain the Police

BRITISH Police beat the Army by six wickets in a thrilling finish to a high-scoring 55-over match at Imber Court.

The Army had every reason to think their huge total of 295 for eight was more than enough to win the game, but the policemen had other ideas and reached the target with nine balls to spare.

Capt Jim Cotterill was the hero, cracking 118 and sharing a second wicket partnership of 141 with Capt David O'Kelly (78).

Cotterill and Capt Richard Greatorex (23) had got the Army off to a good start with a 58-run opening partnership.

The Police lost their first wicket with 23 runs on the board, but had scored a further 240 before another fell. Their massive, match-winning second wicket partnership was put together by Row (110) and Shaw (138), both of whom fell eventually to Capt Damien Bush who finished with three for 70 from his 11 overs.

Army 295-8 (55 overs) (Cotterill 118, O'Kelly 78, Summersgill 25, Greatorex 23). British Police 296-4 (53.3 overs) (Row 110, Shaw 138). British Police won by 6 wickets.

Rodgers makes a winning return

AT THE age of 38, WO1 Alex Rodgers (APTC) claimed the second Army 10,000m title of his career when he outsprinted SSgt Ray Keeney (5 AB Bde) over the last 200m of this 25 lap race at the Military Stadium, Aldershot.

Rodgers, who returned to the UK earlier this year after a two-year tour in Hong Kong, followed up his second position in the Army 5,000m championships with this fine win in a time of 31min 45.3sec.

Keeney finished in 31min 50.6sec, some distance ahead of third-placed Cpl John Castle (33:10.6) and Sig James Richards (33:13.4), both of 1 Sig Regt.

SSgt Geoff Baker (ACIO Peterborough) won his first veterans' title in 33min 44.3sec, ahead of last year's winner Capt Peter Marsh (RLC).

Women's team in fine win

INSPIRED by Cpl Kelly Holmes's international success in the Grand Prix meeting in Stockholm on July 5, the Army women's athletic team produced a fine all round performance to win their first Inter-Services title this decade.

Cpl Holmes beat a top class international 800m field in Sweden, breaking her own personal best performance to set a new Army record of 2min 0.45sec.

But in a thrilling men's competition hosted by the Royal Navy at Portsmouth, the RAF ended the Army men's six-in-a-row winning streak, the result depending on the final 4x400m relay.

Full details will appear in the next issue.



SSgt Ray Keeney (25) leads eventual winner WO1 Alex Rodgers (left) and veteran Capt Peter Marsh in the early stages of the Army 10,000m championship

Picture: Mike Perring

Murray's marathon

MARATHON man Pte Davey Murray from D Company 9 R Irish, became the first competitor from the whole of Ireland to win the Isle of Man TT course 40-mile road race.

He started his long-distance running career in 1991 when he entered the Belfast marathon. That experience gave him the urge to compete in more races, which helped him win the Isle of Man "Ultramarathon".

Finishing in second place behind Murray was CSgt Sam Kilpatrick (R Irish) in a time of 4hr 55min 18sec, making it a notable one-two for the regiment.

The regiment also won the overall team event, with creditable performances from Cpl Dave Stoker, (7th, 5:26.30) and Cpl Paul Brennan (9th, 5:47.16).

Experienced observers of the race said it was run in the "worst ever" conditions since the TT marathon was first staged in 1955.

Pte Davey Murray



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A Challenger 2 main battle tank prototype goes through its paces during a demonstration at Lulworth, Dorset. Based on the Challenger 1, the new version boasts hundreds of improvements and refinements, including a completely new "user friendly" turret and computerised target acquisition systems. The Ministry of Defence is to buy 127 of the new tanks, the prototypes of which are nearing the end of exhaustive reliability trials.

Picture: Mike Perring



SOLDIER