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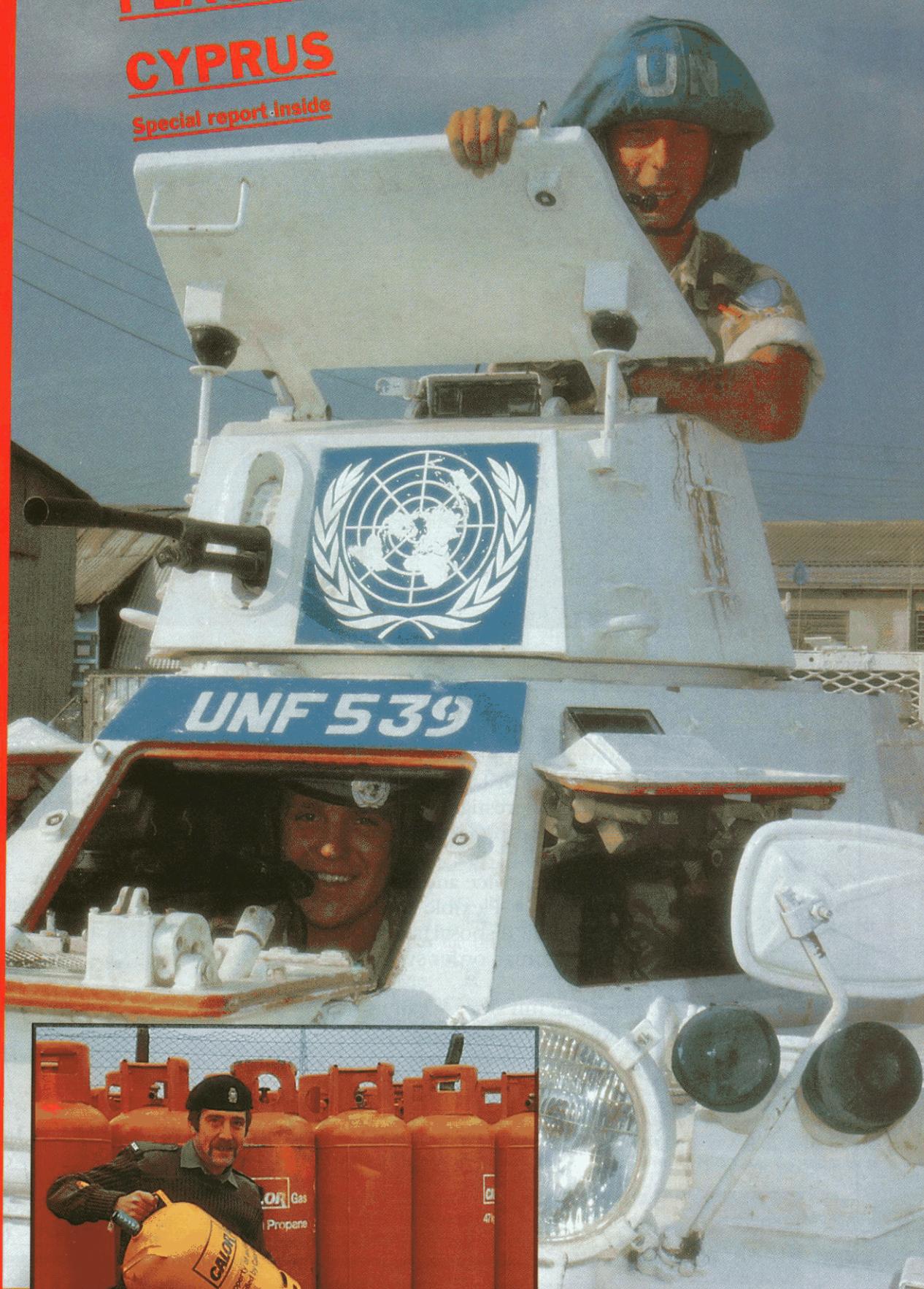


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- RAOC: Supplying Northern Ireland
- 1 RTR's Maze days

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Gulf War heroes at the Palace

BRITAIN's Gulf War heroes were decorated by the Queen during an investiture at Buckingham Palace on November 5. Soldiers ranging from generals to privates received their medals, as did Mrs Teresa Dowling, whose husband, Sgt Michael Dowling, REME, died trying to rescue colleagues under fire from an Iraqi tank.

The Queen had a private meeting with Sgt Dowling's widow, son and mother. His gallantry was recognised by the award of a posthumous Military Medal.



Picture: Mike Perring

Brig Patrick Cordingley (left) with his Distinguished Service Order and Brig Christopher Hammerbeck, made a Companion of the Order of the Bath, pictured after the investiture at Buckingham Palace

Among those to receive their medals were the Army's Gulf commanders, including Gen Sir



Gen Sir Peter de la Billière, Knight Commander of the Order of the British Empire

Peter de la Billière, the Commander British Forces Middle East; Maj Gen Rupert Smith, Commander 1 Armoured Division; Brig Patrick Cordingley of 7 Armoured Brigade and Brig Christopher

Hammerbeck of 4 Armoured Brigade.

In all, 369 British soldiers were included in the list of 811 honours and awards for service during the war. The Army received 115 gallantry awards.

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SOLDIER

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Drawdown timetable

FIRST of the regimental mergers announced under Options for Change will take place within the next few months.

Leading the way will be 40 Army Engineer Support Group and RHQ 28 Engineer Regiment, whose amalgamation in the New Year will coincide with the disbandment of 30 Field

Squadron, Royal Engineers.

By the middle of next year The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, The Royal Anglian Regiment and The Royal Green Jackets will each have been reduced from three to two Regular battalions, and the amalgamations of the 2nd and 3rd Royal Tank Regiments,

● Turn to Page 9

FRONT COVER – LCpl Andrew Golby and his driver, Tpr Paul Barker of 13th/18th Royal Hussars (Queen Mary's Own) prepare to patrol the Green Line in Nicosia, Cyprus in a Ferret. See Pages 21-27. (Picture: Mike Weston)

Lower picture: It takes a lot of stores to support the Army in Northern Ireland. Surrounded by gas bottles at the Supply Sub Depot at Lisburn is WO1 (SSM) Dave Jones. See Pages 16-19. (Picture: Mike Weston)

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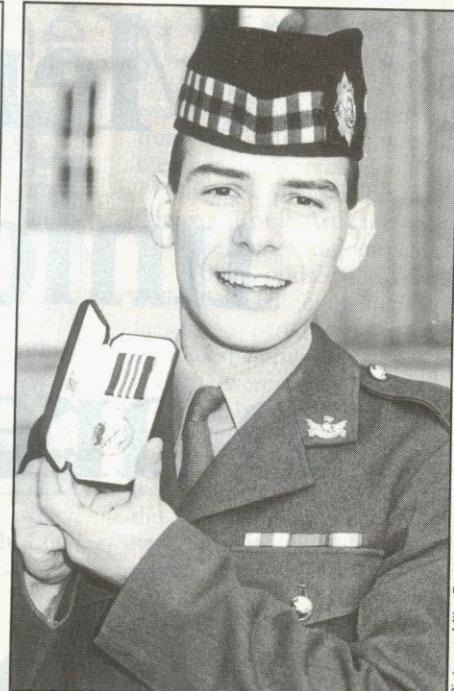
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Pictured with their Gulf War gallantry awards after the investiture at Buckingham Palace (see Page 3) are Capt Norman Soutar, RS (left) and Maj John Potter, RHF, with their Military Crosses, and Pte

Thomas "Tam" Gow (right) of the Royal Scots with his Military Medal. Maj Potter led B Company in the 1 RS battle group against three major objectives, Capt Soutar commanded A Company, 1 RS



during more than half a dozen attacks on Iraqi positions, and Pte Gow destroyed with grenades a dug-in enemy APC holding up B Company's advance, and then cleared two bunkers.

Princess Royal visits BAOR Signals

THE Princess Royal met soldiers from three signals units based at Verden, Soltau and Celle when she and her son, Master Peter Phillips, paid a two-day visit to British troops in northern Germany.

Princess Anne, who is Colonel-in-Chief of the Royal Corps of Signals, began her visit at Verden, near Hamburg, meeting men of the 1st Armoured Division HQ and Signal Regiment and 207 Signal Squadron.

Next day she travelled to Celle near Hanover to tour the home of 14 Signal Regiment and meet families. She watched a children's pony competition and visited a regimental bazaar. Soldiers who had served in the Gulf were introduced to the Princess Royal.

A replica of the Op Granby Divisional HQ was constructed



Lt Col James Shaw, commanding officer of 14 Signal Regiment, escorts the Princess Royal as she is greeted by the regiment's families

so the Princess could see the operations table and look over a number of vehicles used in the war.

At Verden the Princess presented Long Service and Good Conduct Medals in the WOs' and Sergeants' Mess.

• The Duke of Kent, accompanied by Lt Gen Sir John Wilsey, Colonel of the Regiment, paid a brief visit to the 1st Battalion, The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment based at Werl.

It was the first visit by the Duke, Colonel-in-Chief of the D and D, to the battalion since it arrived in Germany in August.

Bombing 'depravity'

TWO soldiers killed in the IRA bombing at Musgrave Park Hospital, Belfast on November 2 were named as WO Philip Cross, RAMC and Dvr Craig Pantry, RCT.

Northern Ireland Secretary Peter Brooke described the incident - which caused extensive damage to the hospital - as an act of "cynical depravity."

RH team in Hohne march

TWELVE men from the recce troop of The Royal Hussars (Prince of Wales's Own) based at Munster took part in the annual Langemannshof Mars organised by the Dutch 43 Tank Battalion.

The event, a 65km march around the Hohne ranges ringroad, draws entries from most Nato forces.

Sgt Jock Pews, RH, was third fastest overall and the best-placed British entry.

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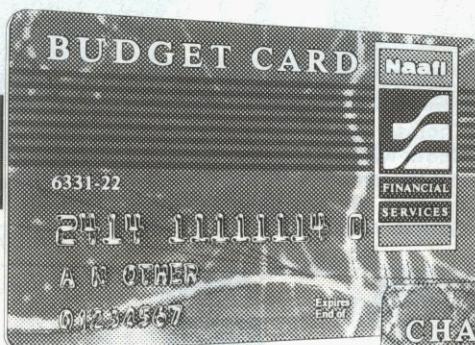
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Polish tribute paid to Hohne gunners

IN a special mark of respect to 10 (Assaye) Air Defence Battery, 40 Field Regiment at Hohne, Polish bandsmen travelled to Germany to provide a musical accompaniment when the gunners paraded with the Polish Syrena emblem.

The battery was recently given permission to wear the rare emblem, 50 years after it was conferred on British soldiers who served with the 2nd Polish Corps during the 1944 Adriatic campaign.

Four of the eight British units in the campaign were gunner regiments, none of

Spoon-fed friendship

A taste of Scotland for Polish bandmaster Capt Edward Tymkow as Master Chef Ian Nichols of 40 Fd Regt RA offers him another helping of haggis



which exist today as whole units. Last year 10 Air Defence Battery, which has its roots in

the campaign and which recruits in the Scottish Lowlands, was given permission to

wear the rare emblem, derived from the statue of a warrior mermaid in Warsaw.

Maj Gen Michael Tennant, Director Royal Artillery, who took the salute and inspected the battery, praised the Polish military band for helping to make the parade an historic East-West event.

Gifts were exchanged between the band and the battery. Among guests at the ceremony were five London-based Polish war veterans who served with the British Army and had not heard a Polish Army band play military music since 1939.

Staffords' farewell

THE BANDS of the 1st and 3rd (Volunteer) Battalions, The Staffordshire Regiment (The Prince of Wales's) joined forces in Fallingbostel for a "Very Last Night of the Proms" as the 1st Battalion said its farewells to Germany.

It is moving at short notice to Chester to relieve the 1st Battalion, The Cheshire Regiment, which will replace the Staffords at Fallingbostel this month.

The Staffords are due to complete a six-month unaccompanied tour in Northern Ireland next summer before the amalgamation with the Cheshires in late 1993.

Friends of the regiments in the two counties have collected a petition of nearly 200,000 signatures opposing the amalgamation.

A Proms concert has been an annual event for the Staffords, although last year's performance was cancelled because the battalion was in the Gulf.

Large numbers of military and German civil guests took part in the farewell event, which was also the last major function for Lt Col Charles Rogers before he handed over command of 1 Staffords to Lt Col Nigel Alderman.

Guests included the Commander 7 Armoured Brigade, Brig Tim Sullivan, and Lt Col Arthur Denaro, commanding officer of The Queen's Royal Irish Hussars.

The musical farewell, was conducted by Bandmasters WO1 Bob Meldrum and WO1 Peter Road-Night.



Stafford promenaders: Lt Col Charles Rogers, the commanding officer, and flag-waving Mrs Jane Sullivan, wife of Brig Tim Sullivan, Commander 7 Armoured Brigade

Rippon sappers in form

A REME team of ten from Ripon-based 38 Engineer Regiment Workshop beat 14 other Regular and Territorial Army teams from the North of England to win a tough two-day test of military and trade skills on the Catterick training area.

They received their trophy – a model of a Foden recovery vehicle – from Mr Glyn Jenkinson (Group Operations Manager) of National Break-

down Recovery Club.

Runners-up and top Territorial Army team were 101 Field Regiment Light Aid Detachment, from Gosforth, Tyne and Wear, and third was 2nd Infantry Division Transport Regiment from Catterick.

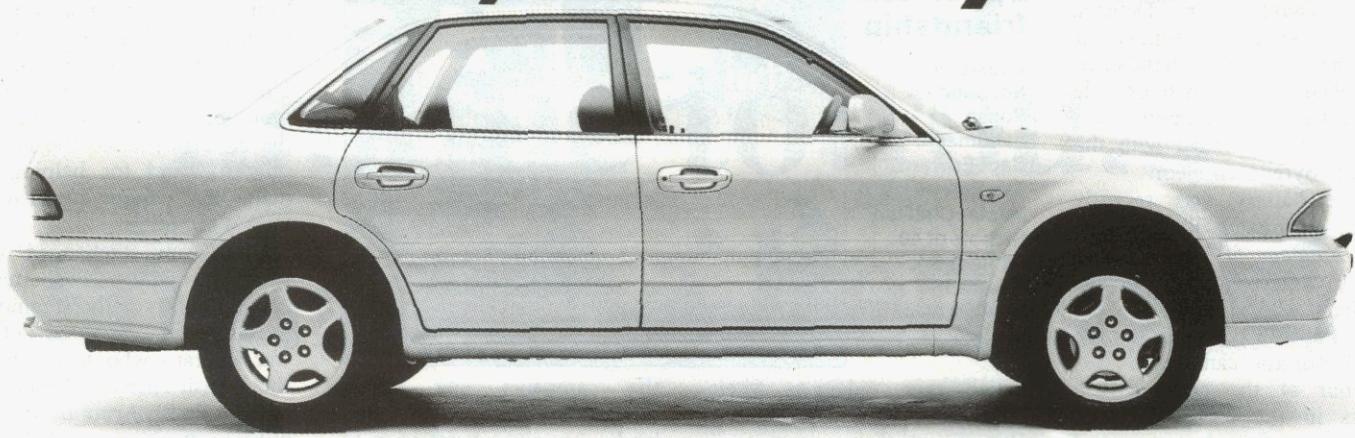
Tests ranged from improvising parts under battlefield conditions to recovering a four ton Ferret Scout car from a 60-ft deep ravine.

MoD launches Bowman quest

A BILLION pound competition to replace the British Army's Clansman combat radio system has been launched by the Ministry of Defence.

Tenders have been invited for the project definition phase of the new Bowman system, which will encompass a complete family of radios from hand-held battlefield models to long-range strategic communications.

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Northern Ireland awards

A GEORGE Medal and four Queen's Gallantry Medals, one of them posthumous, are among the latest list of awards for gallant and meritorious service in Northern Ireland.

The full list is:

CBE

Col D Strudley OBE, late 9/12th L.

OBE

Lt Col P A Davis, R Hamps; Lt Col C S Grant MBE, QOH; Lt Col D M Howell MBE, ALC.

MBE

Maj L Ashbridge, Para; WO2 S E Ball, WRAC, (now Lt RAEC); Maj R L M Hackett, WFR; Maj J F Kenwright, RAOC; Maj R Pugh, Int Corps; Maj J D K Russell, Queens; Capt (now Maj) I A R

Stenning, RMP; Capt J I S Stevenson, RS.

GM

Maj M Blatherwick MBE, RAOC.

QGM

(Posthumous)

Rgr C J Smith, R Irish.

QGM

SSgt A Oslam, RAOC; Capt R L Maybery, RAOC; Cpl A J Slater, Cheshire.

BEM

SSgt R C Acott QGM, Int Corps; Cpl W J Blacklock, WRAC; LCpl S D A Cargill, RE; Cpl T R Goldring, RTR; Sgt (acting SSgt) P T Hornett, Para; Sgt G M Jones, Int Corps; Sgt A O'Malley, R Irish; SSgt (acting WO2) A M Phillips, ACC; Sgt L M Stratford, REME; Sgt (now SSgt) D K I Ward, Para.

MID

Col S G Adlington, late Green Howards; Cpl D R Allen, R Hamps; Lt Col F J Allen OBE, R Irish; SSgt J Atkinson, Int Corps; WO2 R M Barrett, RE; Kgm D J Barton, Kings; Lt Col R W Brummitt MBE, RTR; Maj C A Bulleid, R Hamps; Capt E A Butler, RGJ; Sgt P N Chadwick, R Hamps; Capt C J Clayton, WFR; WO2 K A Cross, RAOC; SSgt I J Girvin QGM, Para; Lt Col J R M Hackett, WFR.

Lt (acting Capt) M R Hanscomb, R Hamps; Lt Col M A Hart MBE QGM, Cheshire; SSgt M C Henry, RAOC; Capt I S Janes, RE; LCpl A R Jemson, Kings; Sgt J E Leach, RE; Lt Col N P C Lewis MBE, LI; Sgt N Lihou, R Hamps; Sgt D Livingstone, Para; Cpl R I Manson, RMP; Capt (acting Maj) W C McMaster, Gordons; WO2 P

Milnes, RAOC; LCpl D Orr, REME; Capt R R J Johnston, Int Corps; Lt Col C E Price, Gordons; Sgt (acting SSgt) B J Rennie, Gordons; Maj R M Riddell, BW; Sgt P G Robb, Gordons; Maj R M Rusby, Staffords.

Maj R P Russell, R Hamps; Maj R G Russell, R Irish; Maj (now Lt Col) A J N Simkins, AAC; Col K Skempton, late Cheshire; Maj C P C Sloan MBE, Gordons; LCpl (now Cpl) M E Smith, WFR; LCpl N Swithenbank, R Signals; Brig D J Venn OBE, late Int Corps; Cpl D B Weaver, Kings; Sgt (acting SSgt) R J Wells, R Hamps; Lt Col I P White, AAC; Pte L W Wolland, R Hamps; Lt R P Young, RE.

In addition to the above, the following awards were made to members of the Ulster Defence Regiment: CBE (1), MBE (2), QGM (1), BEM (2), MID (3).

Drawdown timetable

From Page 3

and the 4th/7th Royal Dragoon Guards with the 5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards will have been completed.

Towards the end of 1992 a single battalion will be formed from the 1st and 2nd Battalions of 2nd King Edward VII's Own Gurkha Rifles.

The timetable for the restructuring of regiments, outlined by Defence Secretary Tom King, shows that most of the changes will have taken place by the end of 1994.

EARLY 1992

40 Army Engr Spt Gp and RHQ 28 Engr Regt amalgamate; 30 Fd Sqn RE disbands.

MID 1992

2 and 3 RTR amalgamate; 4/7 DG and 5 Innis DG amalgamate; 1, 2 and 3 RRF merge to form two battalions; 1, 2 and 3 R Anglian merge to form two battalions; 1, 2 and 3 RGJ merge to form two battalions; 52 Fd Sqn (Construction) RE disbands; 244 Sig Sqn (Air Spt) disbands.

LATE 1992

1/2 GR and 2/2 GR merge into one battalion; 13/18 H and 15/19 H amalgamate; LG and RHG/D amalgamate; RH and 14/20 H amalgamate; 49 Fd Regt RA disbands; 22 Sig Regt disbands.

EARLY 1993

1, 2 and 3 Queens and R Hamps



Lt Col David Keenan, commanding officer of the 7th/10th (City of Belfast) Battalion, The Ulster Defence Regiment, admires the Wilkinson Sword of Peace presented to the battalion. The sword, handed over by Northern Ireland Secretary Peter Brooke, is awarded annually by Wilkinson Sword to a unit of each of the three Services judged to have made the most valuable contribution towards establishing good relations with the local community.

amalgamate (two battalions); 1, 2 and 3 LI merge into two battalions; 27 Fd Regt RA disbands; 50 Msl Regt RA disbands.

Detailed planning for subsequent years has not been finalised but the following timetable is expected to apply:

1993

1 and 2 R Irish merge to form general service battalion; 2 Coldm Gds and 2 SG placed in suspended animation; Cheshire and Staffords amalgamate; QOH and QRIH amalgamate; 1 and 4 RTR amalgamate; 16/5 L and 17/21 L amalgamate; 45 Fd Regt RA disbands; 94 Loc Regt RA disbands; 23 Engr Regt disbands; 10 Fd Sqn RE disbands; 16 Fd Sqn RE disbands; 229 Sig Sqn disbands.

1994

QO Hldrs and Gordons amalgamate; Glosers and DERR amalgamate; RS and KOSB amalgamate; 2 Gren Gds placed in suspended animation; 2 Fd Regt RA disbands; 46 AD Bty RA disbands; 26 Engr Regt disbands; 38 Fd Sqn RE disbands; 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt disbands.

1995

2 GR, 6 GR, 7 GR and 10 GR merge to form single regiment (three battalions); 71 Amph Spt Sqn RE disbands; 28 Sig Regt disbands; NORTHAG Air Spt Radio Sqn disbands.

1997

Reduction of one further Gurkha battalion; QGE, QG Signals and GTR each reduce to one squadron; 660 Sqn AAC disbands.

Sappers' flotation

WALSALL-based 143 Plant Squadron RE (V) took on an unusual task when it was asked to raise a sunken boat "from the deep". The stricken vessel was a 17m-long guardship belonging to Sutton Coldfield Sea Cadets.

Winter weather and local vandals had sent it to the muddy bottom of the pool used for training by the cadets. The sappers, assisted by 411 Independent Plant Troop and West Midlands Fire Brigade, raised the 50-year-old guardship and floated it to the jetty 250m away.

Impressive show by M3

LT GEN Sir Charles Guthrie, Commander 1st British Corps, visited 28 Amphibious Engineer Regiment at Hameln to see the prototype amphibian M3 in action. He watched a demonstration by 64 Amph Engr Sqn at Ohr Park during which a ferry of four M3 rigs carried two tanks across the Weser in under two minutes.

Workshop closes

THE CLOSURE of 37 Rhine Workshop REME at Monchengladbach brought to an end an apprenticeship scheme which, during the past 26 years, trained 342 young men.

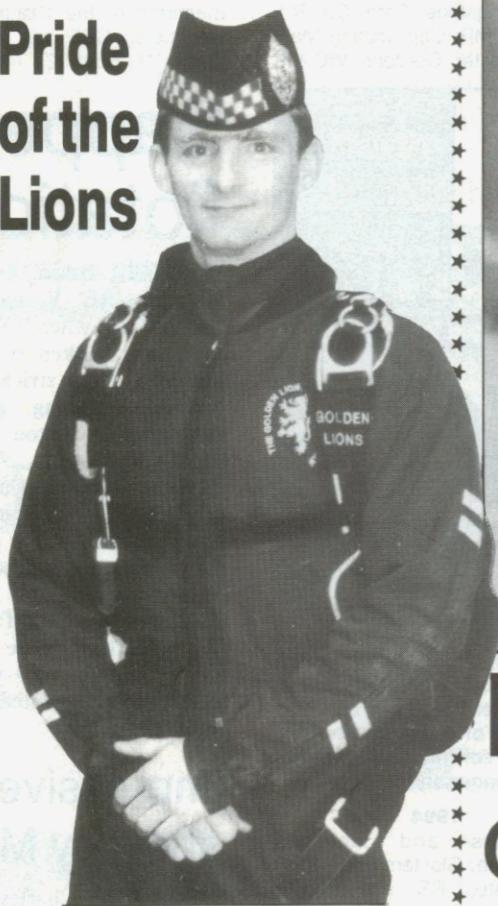
Rachel sets the standard

Rachel Thomson of Taunton School, Somerset, has plenty to shout about. At 17 years of age, not only is she first female RSM of the school's combined cadet force, but she represented CCFs across the country when she carried the standard during the Service of Remembrance at the Royal Albert Hall.

Not that Rachel does a lot of shouting... In her own words, she does not need to, because "authority comes from within" and – so far – she has not had any trouble with the 180 (mainly male) cadets as they line-up every Tuesday afternoon for drill.

Her next step? She hopes to follow her father and brother into a military career.

Pride of the Lions



Double change

Shrugging off a near fatal parachuting accident, Cpl **John Bishop** of The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders is back in harness with the Golden Lions, the Scottish Division Free Fall Parachute Display Team.

He sustained multiple fractures to both legs and his pelvis after hitting a tree while landing a year ago and was in hospital for three months. Sheer determination reduced his rehabilitation time from 12 to six months and he started jumping again in July this year. Ignoring an inch missing from his left leg, he helped his recovery by climbing 15 Munros, and in doing so raised £89 towards the Scottish Division Depot's fund-raising for Edinburgh Sick Children's Hospital appeal.

United they joined, together they left as Lt Col **Eddie Guerrero** (seated) and RSM WO1 **Louis Lopez** (left) of the new-look Gibraltar Regiment handed over to their successors.

They joined the regiment on the same day as National Servicemen, then decided to stay in, serving together for most of their careers.

Taking over are TA Lt Col **David Hooper**, a TV producer granted a Short Service Volunteer Commission to enable him to command on a full-time basis, and WO1 "Shooty" **Sanchez** (right), a prolific football goalscorer who served most of his career in the Air Defence troop before having to change his habits slightly when the regiment became an all-infantry unit.



Moscow learns to keep the peace

British expertise in internal security has been shared with the Soviet Ministry of the Interior (MVD) Army and could help contain violence in republics where ethnic unrest has led to conflict.

Earlier this year a delegation of visitors from the Soviet Union was impressed by the emphasis laid by the 1st Battalion, The Royal Hampshire Regiment on restraint and good community relations during its two-year tour in Londonderry, and was struck by the contrast with Soviet forces dealing with civil unrest in the republics.

The commanding officer of 1 R

Hamps, Lt Col **Paul Davis**, had been invited by Mr **John Lampen** of the Londonderry Peace and Rehabilitation Group to address the visitors, and a return visit was approved during which both men lectured at seminars and took part in discussions at the Ministry of the Interior (MVD) Academy, the staff college for both the police and the MVD or "interior" army.

As well as discussing the merits of live as opposed to plastic bullets, which the MVD does not have, Col Davis led a seminar on training for soldiers about to embark on a peace-keeping mission.



Col Davis (left) is pictured in Moscow with Maj Gen Bosov, Commander of the elite Dzerzhinsky Division of the MVD Army, and John Lampen

PEOPLE



Toadstools are the flavour of the month for autumn camouflage with the 4th Battalion, The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment, as 18-year-old Pte **Emma Lines** of the TA battalion's Redditch-based HQ company demonstrated during her recruit cadre.



Getting the low down...

TA sappers Sgts **Jim Holdsworth** (left) and **Dennis Blewitt** from West Yorkshire travelled half-way across the world to inspect a few Hong Kong drains during their annual camp. Borneo Lines is the Army's biggest camp in the New Territories and every few years the records of all its build

ings, cables, water pipes and drains have to be updated. Although based near Camberley, 506 Special Team, Royal Engineers (V) draws on construction and engineering expertise of volunteers throughout the country and its members were a highly-cost effective means of doing the job.



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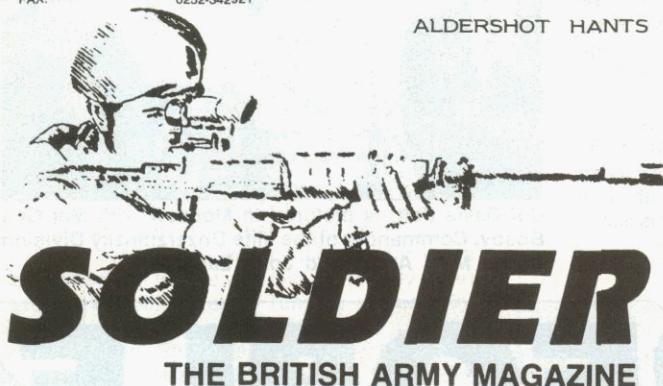
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The Welfare Option

DRAWDOWN of the Army as a result of Options for Change is naturally attracting considerable interest among all ranks, and this article prepared by the Directorate General of Personal Services (Army) is aimed at providing readers with an update on some of the main areas of concern. A brochure which answers most of the immediate questions will be issued soon to every member of the Army.

The timely and accurate passage of information has become particularly important. Two booklets, *Bridging the Gap* and *Stepping Out*, which are comprehensive notes offering guidance for officers and soldiers respectively who are leaving the Army, are being produced.

Although both booklets have been written as general guides to all those leaving, they will appear in the New Year to coincide with the first phase of redundancy.

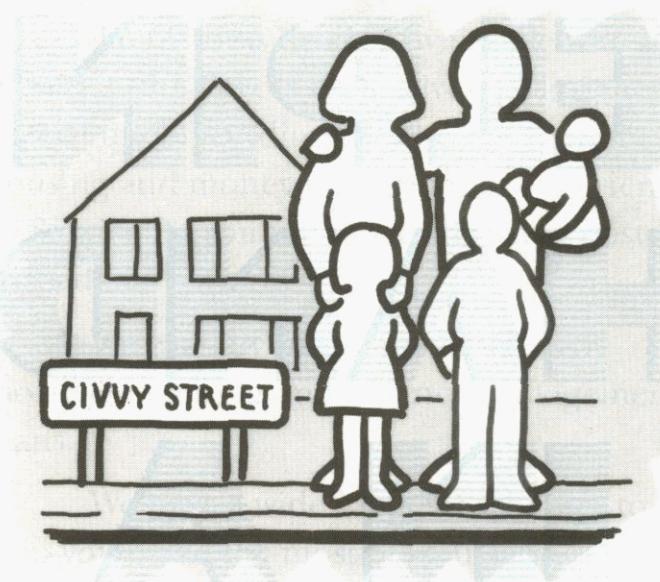
RESETTLEMENT

Resettlement is vitally important to Servicemen and women of all ranks if they are to make the transition to civilian life as smoothly as possible, and in order that they are well placed to find jobs. Servicemen's skills are being "sold" to the business world and the very positive advantages of employing ex-Servicemen are being emphasised.

Everyone being made redundant, whether volunteering to be considered or not, will be eligible for the full range of resettlement provision currently available.

The Ministry of Defence is reviewing the resettlement system for everyone leaving the Army, but for the time being the following is available:

- Advice and counselling from Resettlement Officers;
- A number of one and two-day briefings including advice and training on job hunting, housing and financial matters;
- The option to take a five-day familiarisation attachment to a civilian organisation;
- A resettlement training course of up to 28 days, or an attachment to a civilian firm for the same length of time.



Redundancy is clearly going to increase the numbers needing assistance with resettlement, and MoD is making provision for this. Extra resettlement officers are being provided in UKLF and BAOR, and the numbers of places on briefings and courses are being increased.

In addition, arrangements are being made to combine the two existing resettlement briefings (the first of which normally takes place 18 months before discharge) into a single comprehensive briefing for those being made redundant. MoD is also considering ways in which the system could be made more flexible.

The existing system of resettlement is sound and proven, and provides much valuable assistance. MoD is not, however, complacent and is constantly working to introduce improvements where resources allow.

HOUSING

The Government is aware of the housing problem for Servicemen and women which has been growing for several years, and has now been brought into sharper focus by the redundancy programme.

The Secretary of State for Defence has set up a Housing Task Force to examine what can be done to help.

The Task Force is led by Lord Arran, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for the Armed Forces, and includes a range of experts from the public and private sectors; serving officers and officials from the Ministry of Defence, and other Government departments; and representatives of the Federation of Army Wives, SSAFA, and the Royal British Legion.

A high priority for the Housing Task Force is to look at measures to help those leaving the Service and who may have problems in finding accommodation. It is also investigating ways of increasing the opportunities for homeownership within the Services. A preliminary report has been produced for the Secretary of State but much extra work is needed to investigate fully the various options.

One recent improvement to conditions of service is the introduction of the Preferential Mortgage Scheme which is being operated by a leading building society. The scheme offers a discount of 0.75 per

cent off the prevailing mortgage rate for the full term of the mortgage or, alternatively, one per cent discount for the first three years and 0.25 per cent thereafter. These discounts will continue even if the individual leaves the Services. Full details of the scheme can be obtained from unit administrative officers.

With regard to married quarters, it is worth highlighting the fact that, providing married Servicemen or women have more than six months to serve, they will be entitled to a MQ at their duty station.

If a MQ is not available, hiring is an alternative, or, as a final option, they may be entitled to Excess Rent Allowance.

Even if they are not entitled to a married quarter, Service personnel can always apply for a surplus quarter in the area of their choice. There is no guarantee that one will be available but, by opting for the area in which they intend to settle, it will make job and house-hunting easier.

If these are not available, the married Serviceman will be entitled to live at the Lypiatt Families Centre at Corsham near Chippenham, Wilts. This option should not be quickly dismissed. Lypiatt is now not only a comfortable place to live following refurbishment, but it can also make a convenient stopping off point for a family returning from overseas to leave the Army.

ALLOWANCES

It is not possible in this article to include details of individual redundancy payments for the simple reason that every case is unique. Generalisations or specific examples might be misleading and those requiring advice on redundancy payments must, therefore, seek the advice of their unit administrative officer.

Those being made redundant can claim the full range of Army allowances in accordance with the normal rules. In particular, those claiming boarding school allowance (BSA) will continue to be eligible until they leave the

● Turn to Page 36

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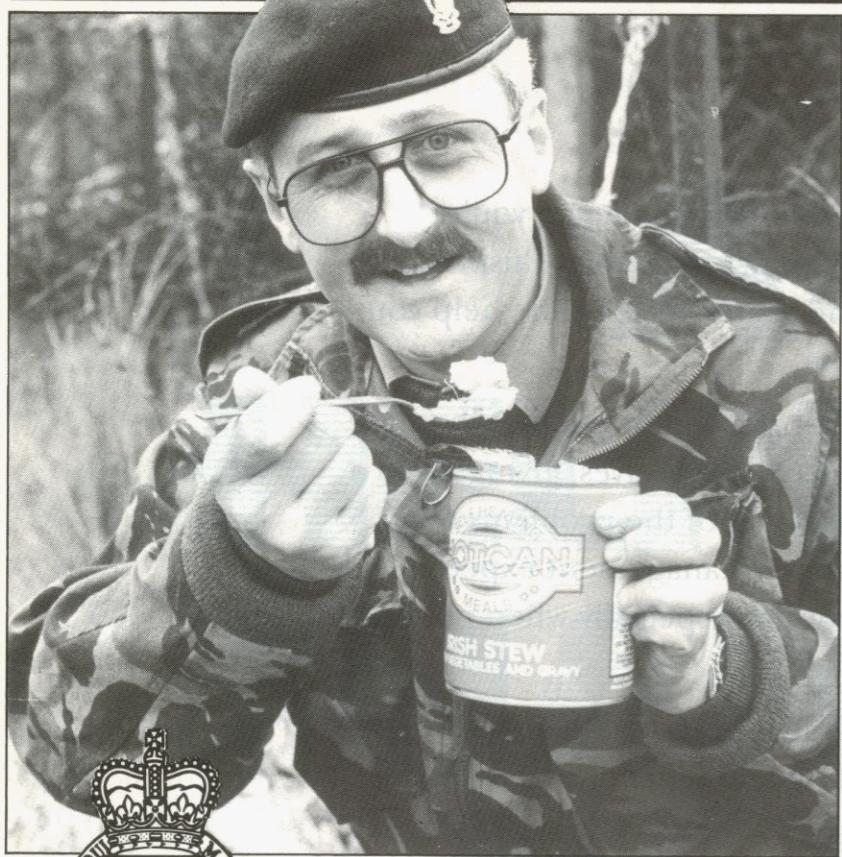
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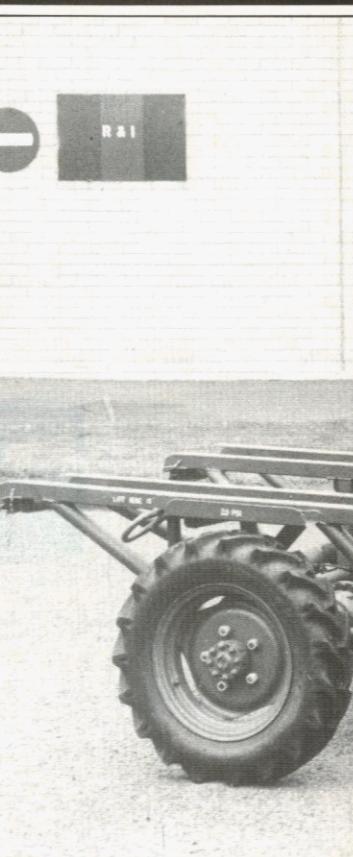
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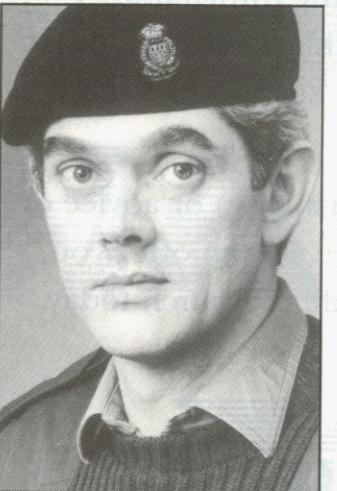
Left - Recently introduced at the Supply Sub Depot at Lisburn are Hotcans, the self-heating food developed for covert operations. Simply pierce the can twice, allowing air to react with a chemical which heats the food in 20 minutes. Sampling the Irish stew is WO2 Paul Logan

Right - WO2 Colin Canale takes the Blackboard EOD load carrier for a spin at the Vehicle Sub Depot Kinnegar. The light-weight vehicle, which has entered service with EOD units in Northern Ireland, can be underslung beneath helicopters

Far right - Pte Nicky Bone cuts up a slab of meat big enough to match the appetite of any unit stationed in Northern Ireland



You need it - we'll get it!



Lt Col Richard Rook

LT COL Richard Rook, the Army's top Royal Ordnance Corps man in supplies in Northern Ireland, when pressed to give a civilian equivalent of his job, reckoned a juggler would be the closest.

"I juggle my time, resources, people and money. The things I mainly juggle are the things I have not got," he said.

RAOC NI provides everything the Army needs to carry out its task in the Province.

Col Rook has three main roles - his staff job is Commander Supply, he is CO of the Ordnance Depot at Kinnegar, and he is Head of Service for the RAOC in Northern Ireland.

"In an average working week I need to spend three days in my office in Lisburn, three days travelling around to the units, and three days running what is a major industrial concern. Time is a bit of a problem."

"The biggest problem is that the RAOC - wherever it is - is demand-led. We provide a service and respond to people's needs."

"The operational demands

entitled to, and the other five per cent is simply not available.

"They spend only five per cent of their time trying to get things they are entitled to, and 95 per cent trying to get things they are not entitled to.

"But they are persistent, for good reason. They perceive this as being a better way of doing the job."

"One of the things that has struck me in Northern Ireland is that people say 'This is what we have got to do. What is the best way of doing it?'

"Then they call for the equipment - which is a very different approach from the streamlined way in BAOR where you are told what your role is, what your equipment is and how you will do your job."

"In Northern Ireland you have got to produce the goods for people somehow and you are back to juggling . . .

"Though we are always constrained by financial considerations, we will always do our best. If we cannot get exactly what is requested, we will try to identify something that will meet the need in a different way."

are immense. When people want something, they want it quickly, and often items are not run-of-the-mill.

"For instance, a lot of our time is spent fielding inquiries for different types of torches which are not on the inventory.

But there is a particular use for them in Northern Ireland and we have to go outside the normal supply chain.

"I always say that generally the majority of units have got 95 per cent of what they are



"I tell people that it is not an open book here, and that they can not have everything they want. But we are still doing very well compared with the rest of the Army."

"That to some extent makes my job easier. If I had to work to the same requirements accepted in Germany or the



mainland, I think the Province could come to a stand still very quickly."

"The RAOC is a complex, diverse organisation but is very adaptable. It runs very smoothly with the minimum of interference, thanks in no small way to the continuity of dedicated civilian employees."

WO1 Chas Caffrey (right) is Force Ordnance Warrant Officer for Northern Ireland. One of his duties is to examine damaged kit to decide whether it is still usable. He is pictured inspecting the improved Northern Ireland body armour worn by LCpl Wayne Matthews. Sgt Kev Tunstall (left) helps

LARGEST RAOC depot in Northern Ireland is the Ordnance Depot at Kinnegar. It supports a major headquarters, three operational brigades, one TA brigade and a number of troop units in the 5,000 square miles of operational theatre.

The sprawling Kinnegar base houses three sub depots - Stores, Returned Stores and Vehicle - and a POL (petrol, oil, lubricants) section. Other sub depots dealing with supplies and ammunition are based at Lisburn and Ballykinler.

Primary role of the depot is to support security operations in the area, but it also has to provide routine support for Regular and part-time units as well as the Royal Navy and Royal Air Force. Protective clothing, fuel, ammunition and vehicles have to be available 24 hours a day.

Maj Geoff Atherton, senior stores officer, said: "The depot is effectively the supply agency for Northern Ireland. We hold items ranging from small washers to an armoured pig."

"Because of the difficulties of



Maj Geoff Atherton

supporting a diversity of widely dispersed units, we have a centrally organised system. Known as the 'milk run', it reduces the need for units to make individual administrative journeys."

Staff at the Returned Stores Sub Depot ensure kit remains serviceable. They are past masters at repairing clothes, canvas, and textiles and also have the facility to manufacture specialist items such as weapon-carrying harnesses or webbing slings which allow dogs to be lowered from helicopters.

A Vehicle Sub Depot permits

● Turn to next page

Why this post is unique

THE successful interface between the Army and non-military employees is well illustrated in the Royal Army Ordnance Corps, Northern Ireland where 120 soldiers work alongside 410 civilians.

But there are operational areas where it is inadvisable for a civilian to work and this has created a unique post in the Province.

Present incumbent is WO2 SQMS Chris Ward, the only Accommodation Services Warrent Officer in the UK. Elsewhere the job is done by a civilian.

He is responsible for the home comforts of the thousands of roulement troops in the Province, ensuring the furnishings in their rooms are given the highest priority.

It is part of a continuing drive by the Accommodation Services Unit to improve living standards in the Province.

He said: "Some people might think it is a mundane task, but it is an important one if you are a soldier arriving back from patrol wet and weary with only the basic comforts to welcome you.

"This aspect of Service life often goes unsung, but it is a major factor in maintaining the high standard of morale critical to soldiers if they are to operate at maximum efficiency.

"A warm bed and a chair and table to write that important letter home mean a great deal when you are in an isolated barrack room many miles from home.

"One of the things we have provided for the soldier is an under-bed locker. It sounds a simple thing but it is very highly valued."

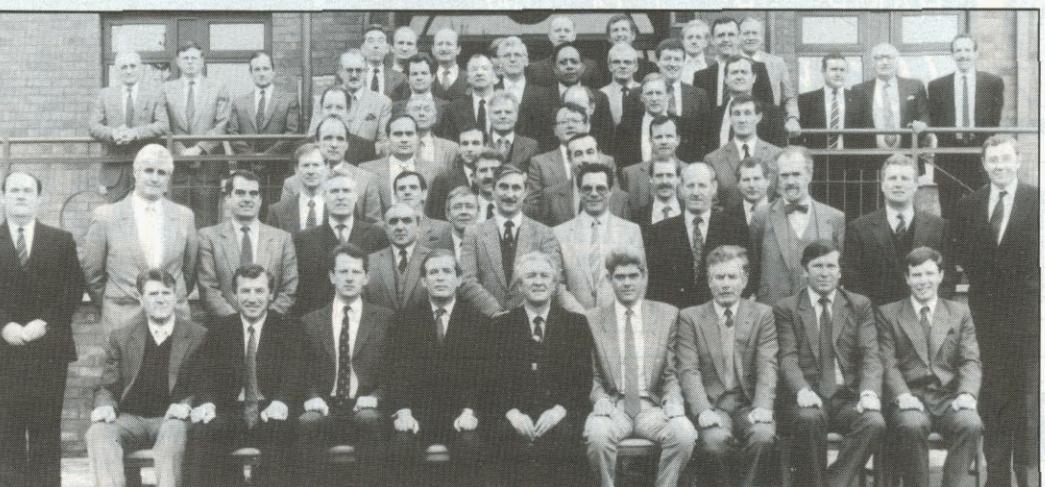
Chris, who gained the coveted green beret of the Royal Marines while serving with the commandos, is a keen hockey player. He is captain of the Lisburn Garrison Team, the Northern Ireland champions. His wife, Anne, helps the Women's Royal Voluntary Services.

He added: "Life here does have its drawbacks, but with the right attitude Northern Ireland offers the opportunity to perform one of the most satisfying jobs in the world for a very appreciative clientele."

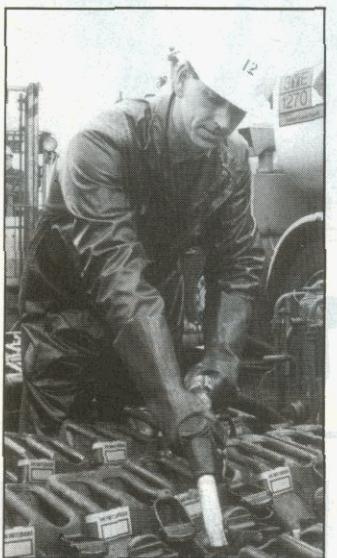


Right - About 100 RAOC soldiers, mainly staff clerks and supply controllers attached to headquarters and units in the Province provide essential support services. Pictured are five clerks and, on the right, two controllers. They are (from left) SSgt Ian Cameron, WO2 Pat O'Connor, Cpl Andy James, Pte Angela Pattison, Sgt Joan Capener, Sgt Trev Tilley and LCpl Rocky Rootunui. The figurehead is from HMS Sybille, the old naval base at Londonderry.

Below - A picture of what was described as a "WHEELERS AND DEALERS SEMINAR" attended by more than 60 quartermasters whose total service is nearly 2,000 years. They arrived from all parts of Northern Ireland and represented 20 different cap badges



RAOC photographers Cpl Carl Andrews and LCpl Ray Brown are on call 24 hours a day to process films sent in from units



Cpl Ian Petrie fills jerry cans

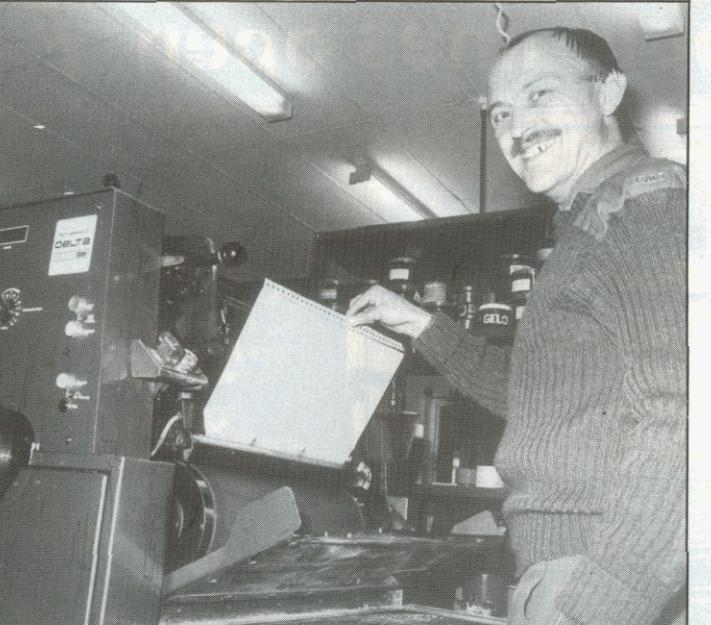
Kinnegar Ord Depot

From Page 17

selected people to attend sales of surplus military vehicles. The sales provide Crown Assets with a reasonable return from vehicles no longer suitable for military service and destined for the scrap-heap. Currently earmarked for disposal are a selection of well-used pigs, two fire engines and a selection of "funnies".

The latter include a number of Goblin and Gobbler airportable transports used by EOD teams until the introduction of the new Blackboard EOD load carrier which can be underslung beneath a helicopter.

Many of the surplus vehicles end up in the hands of collectors who patiently restore them to exhibition standard. But the secondhand market



SSgt Kevin Rochelle prepares to run off another job at the RAOC print section

IN THE PICTURE

Incidents 'logged' by photographers

PHOTOGRAPHY plays an important part in the fight against terrorism in Northern Ireland and the RAOC Colour Processing Centre (CPC) at Lisburn is at the heart of it.

The four-man team of soldiers and civilians provides photographic support to Headquarters Northern Ireland, but finds much of its time is spent on operational photography. This includes recording the work of explosives ordnance disposal teams and making pictorial records of incident sites.

When weapons caches are found, the photographers are

sent to the scene to make a record that can be interpreted afterwards by the Weapons Intelligence Section (WIS). The processing centre provides more than 7,000 prints each week and hundreds of colour stills for use in briefings by unit and formation intelligence staffs, providing troops on the ground with up-to-date information on subjects includ-

ing weapons and booby trap devices. The RAOC print section also helps out, supporting units in Northern Ireland.

Much of its work is taken up with producing aides memoire for the troops and pre-printed patrol reports which enable a soldier to save time when logging details of an incident. Most of the items on the report require a simple tick.

"We also print instructional books," explained SSgt Kevin Rochelle.

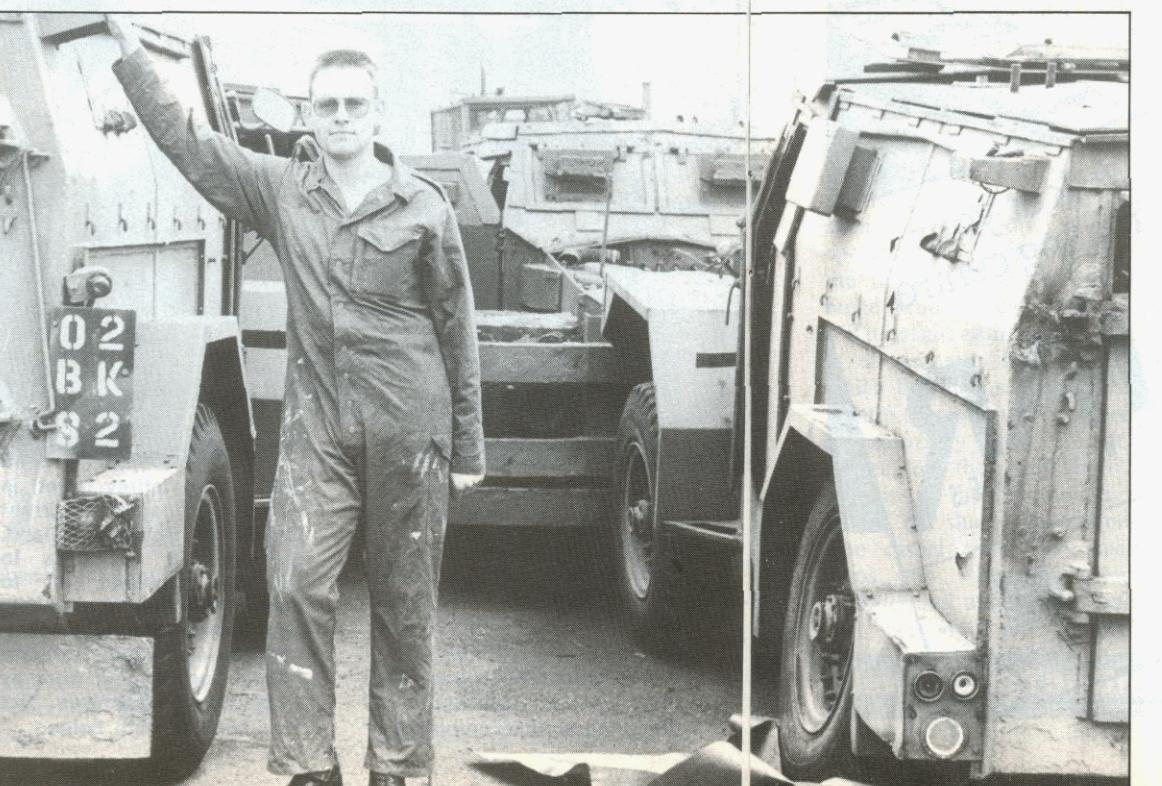
"Our most popular book is probably a small instructional book providing a pictorial guide to the terrorist arsenal."

LCpl David Minto is surrounded by a fleet of surplus armoured pigs destined to be pensioned off. The 40-year-old APCs are to be replaced by Saxons

could yet be flooded with ex-Northern Ireland armoured pigs.

As the BAOR drawdown takes effect, a number of UK-based infantry battalions are to have their Saxon APCs replaced by Warrior, so releasing a large number of Saxons to the Province where they will replace the 40-year-old pigs.

Saxon, which has been described as a battlefield taxi, is capable of crossing very rough terrain and fording water to a depth of 3ft.



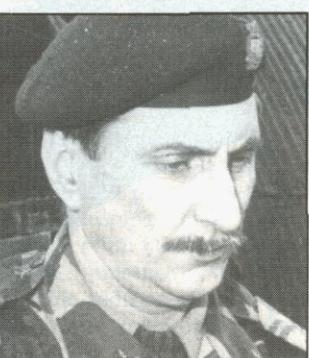
Food mountain

MAJ Stewart Hudson, RAOC is a man with a mountain of food and a sea of petrol at his disposal. He is in charge of the Supply Sub Depot in Lisburn.

Fuel and food worth up to £6m passes through his department each year. He is responsible for the receipt and issue of thousands of tonnes of foodstuffs from bulk stores to units serving in the Province.

Curiously, rum remains on the ration book, but these days it arrives in ordinary bottles instead of the traditional stone jars protected by whicker baskets.

Maj Hudson has put forward a plan to combine the service provided through the depot by



Maj Stewart Hudson

the RAOC, the RCT and the Naafi in Northern Ireland. He believes it would cut costs, as well as streamlining and making the service more efficient.

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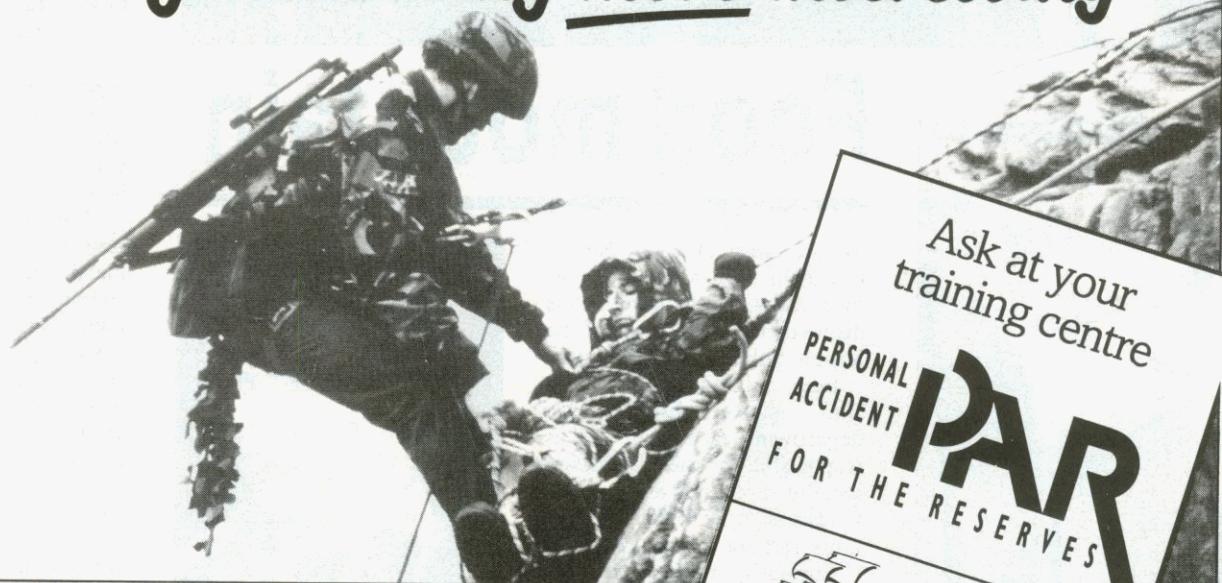
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Thanks from America

TROOPER Douglas Thomson (pictured right) has already received a medal for service in the Gulf. It is the US Army Commendation Medal, which he won while attached from 4 RTR to the 14th/20th King's Hussars Battle Group as a despatch rider.

It was presented to him in Cyprus by American Ambassador Robert Lamb, who said that Douglas had shown extraordinary valour and disregard for his own safety.

Despite a near miss with an anti-personnel mine he carried out his mission and his warning of the mines

saved many American and Allied casualties.

He had only a map and compass to find his way from one HQ to another, and he had to be very resourceful to keep his heavy Armstrong 500 motor cycle running in difficult conditions.

Tpr Thomson enjoys working with map and compass in orienteering, but found the desert a different proposition. He was grateful for chances to stop and check his position with unit satellite navigation systems.

"They thought I must be crazy going among mines



with no engineers, but I could see them from the bike when people closed

down in vehicles could not. "I directed the vehicles away."

Island's war role rewarded by medal

IN A dramatic departure from past policy, Servicemen a thousand miles from the Gulf conflict were awarded the campaign medal.

The 4,500 personnel under the Commander of British Forces in Cyprus were recognised as qualifying for the medal under "time and geographical" considerations.

Deciding factor for the geographical criterion was that their exemplary support of the operation was carried out under the threat of Iraqi extended-range Scud missiles.

The island again proved itself as a strategic base without which the vital support of in-theatre forces would have been immeasurably more difficult.

One of the problems of Cyprus is the impression it makes on short-stay visitors. The casual caller can easily focus on the marvellous facilities and weather and infer that everybody is on a "swan".

"Nothing could be further from the truth," says Air Vice Marshal Sandy Hunter, Commander British Forces. "Just because they have the benefit of sun and good facilities certainly doesn't mean they are not working for a living.

"I draw great strength from seeing the totally professional performance of the troops here. They are experts in their own field and these boys in the infantry battalions, the sappers and the armoured car squadrons really earn their keep."

Elsewhere in Europe the momentous and bloodless vindication of Nato has allowed tension between former adversaries to ease. And Cyprus can claim to have played its part. Indeed, British rule started

Words: Gordon Skilling



Pictures: Mike Weston

there late last century to guarantee aid for Turkey should it be attacked.

Perhaps its significance would have been better

appreciated if the Germans had occupied it during the Second World War. Their airborne storm-troopers took such a bloody nose in Crete that they didn't try that again, and it was not until the Suez crisis in 1956 that the island's value as a staging post proved itself.

Peacekeeping and famine relief were the staple diet of the British presence, with the valuable addition of a haven in a turbulent region for released hostages.

During the most recent out-of-area operation, in the Gulf, the unsung logistics heroes had their value well and

truly recognised. The enormous pressures associated with the Gulf proved a concept which has been operating for almost two years and is one of the more significant developments since the two Sovereign Base Areas were established as Crown territory when the island attained its independence in 1960.

Much of the common logistics work carried out by both Army and RAF is being done by joint units. There is no longer a separate commander for the two Services; a joint commander at two-star level rotates between the Army and RAF and his deputy is always of the other Service.

The national forces stand at about 3,000 Army and 1,500 RAF, plus civilians and dependants who bring the number to about 10,000.

The 3rd Battalion, The Queen's Regiment is based at

● Turn to next page

Keepers of the peace

A TROOPER with a blue beret stands to attention. A white vehicle is approaching, with the blue letters UN boldly printed over it.

It may contain two privates, it may be bringing a high ranking diplomat, it may just be collecting the sewage. It doesn't matter. The soldier salutes it.

If the vehicle is from his own unit, there might be an unofficial code on the horn which tells him it's one of his mates. He can then go back into the shade of his tower.

Protocol is everything when

Gulf Medal

From Page 21

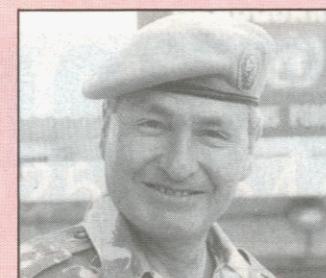
Episkopi, while the 1st Battalion, The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment, is now making its presence felt at the Dhekelia end, relieving 3 Queens of some of its duties while the latter are supplying the Falklands Company. That contingent will be back from the South Atlantic in time for Christmas, and the Woofers have drawn the short straw for the tour over the festive season.

Brits have remained in Cyprus with the UN ever since, providing the largest contingent of the UN Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) and a large element of the Force's support, nearly 800 out of about 2,000.

Also at Episkopi is D Squadron, The Royal Hussars which has a troop detached to Commander Dhekelia Garrison.

The joint nature of the specialist units recalls the close co-operation of the Desert Air Force and the 8th Army. Recent events have again shown the need for such operations.

As the old certainties of East-West confrontation have become blurred, Cyprus has not really been involved in the big picture. However, if anything is certain, it is that the cancer of terrorism and the poison of national enmities will ensure the world is still a volatile place. The value of British Forces in Cyprus remains, whether for national interests or as part of the United Nations.



Col Edward de Broe-Ferguson, British Contingent Commander

you are in a high-profile post on the Green Line separating Greek Cypriots and the Greek Army from Turkish Cypriots and the Turkish Army.

Hatred which had simmered between these nations for centuries boiled over when the Turks intervened on the island and forced its partition in 1974, with the Greeks to the south of the capital, Nicosia, and Turks to the North.

British troops stood with the United Nations between the opposing armies and arranged for thousands of refugees to be moved to the Sovereign Base Areas of Dhekelia and Episkopi. Strengthened by unanimity of purpose during the Gulf War.

"The United Nations are taking a stronger line in their approach to finding a political solution in Cyprus as a result of what has been done by the United Nations in the Middle East," said the colonel, who is on his third tour of duty on the island and has a certain

"We are the peacekeepers," declares Col Edward de Broe-Ferguson, Commander of the British contingent and Deputy Chief of Staff of the UN Force in Cyprus. "We have to keep the peace to create the right atmosphere for the peacemakers to find a political settlement to the Cyprus question."

For the first time in years there are grounds for optimism, with talks about talks at last making some progress. Central to this are the efforts of the United Nations, strengthened by unanimity of purpose during the Gulf War.

The main British contingent is ready to step in again between protagonists. The Britons remain in the centre of the island stretching west from Nicosia, sandwiched between Danes on their west flank and Canadians to the east. A Danes occupy the most eastern sector, and one soon learns that two stars on their epaulette can signify a private 2nd class or a lieutenant.

No matter: both are saluted anyway.

By some perverse logic, the

perspective on the question. There has been an increase in diplomatic activity, he says, with a review team from New York - the first in ten years - making significant recommendations which may change deployments in the future. Recent talks are also a major initiative - the most important thing that has happened in Cyprus since 1974, says Col de Broe-Ferguson.

There is, however, on each side, a genuine fear of the other's motives. Many oppose a solution, and there is still fear of reprisals and another outbreak of fighting.

The main British contingent is ready to step in again between protagonists. The Britons remain in the centre of the island stretching west from Nicosia, sandwiched between Danes on their west flank and Canadians to the east. A Danes occupy the most eastern sector, and one soon learns that two stars on their epaulette can signify a private 2nd class or a lieutenant.

No matter: both are saluted anyway.

By some perverse logic, the

Britain's UN contingent in Cyprus



2nd Lt Alex Godfrey ACC (front right) with Sgt Steve Graham and the members of 4 Troop, 13/18 H

Austrians, from a mountainous country, occupy the flat area and the Danes, from a lowland country, occupy the highlands, comments Capt Barry Quinn of 4th Royal Tank Regiment, Britain's largest single contribution.

It is currently Britain's UNFICYP roulement regiment with a regimental headquarters and two reinforced sub-units, approximately 120 men each, and is deployed from BAOR on a six-month unaccompanied tour.

When the British unit was an infantry battalion split between the Sovereign Base Area and the United Nations it was known as the Cyprus Emergency Reinforcement Regiment.

To relieve overstretch in the Infantry, the unit is now found from a gunner or armoured regiment, and the duty is a distinct break from long tours in BAOR.

At the beginning of December 4 RTR will be replaced as roulement regiment by the 15th/19th The King's Royal Hussars.

Now that a second infantry battalion has been deployed to

Cyprus (the 1st Battalion, The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment arrived at Dhekelia instead of Gibraltar as previously planned) there is no need for the concept of the Cyprus Emergency Reinforcement Regiment. The

element of the British Contingent is the Support Regiment next to the deserted Nicosia International Airport, left as it was at the end of the fighting with a gutted airliner standing forlornly on the tarmac.

Three Gazelles of the Army Air Corps are not, however, grounded. Keeping in close contact with terra firma is the job of 34 Transport Squadron of the Gurkha Transport Regiment, comprising 81 Gurkhas

and 41 Hong Kong Chinese,

delighted to be on their first tour in Cyprus.

They are the arteries taking the life blood of the whole UN contingent along sometimes treacherous tracks to the outstations, carrying their water and rations, and removing their refuse. Perhaps they salute the Uggie "honey" wagon because they are so grateful to see it.

Support is also necessary from the Royal Engineers based

at Dhekelia. Whether from snow, torrential rain or severe drought, the patrol track through the Buffer Zone suffers more than just heavy usage by UN vehicles.

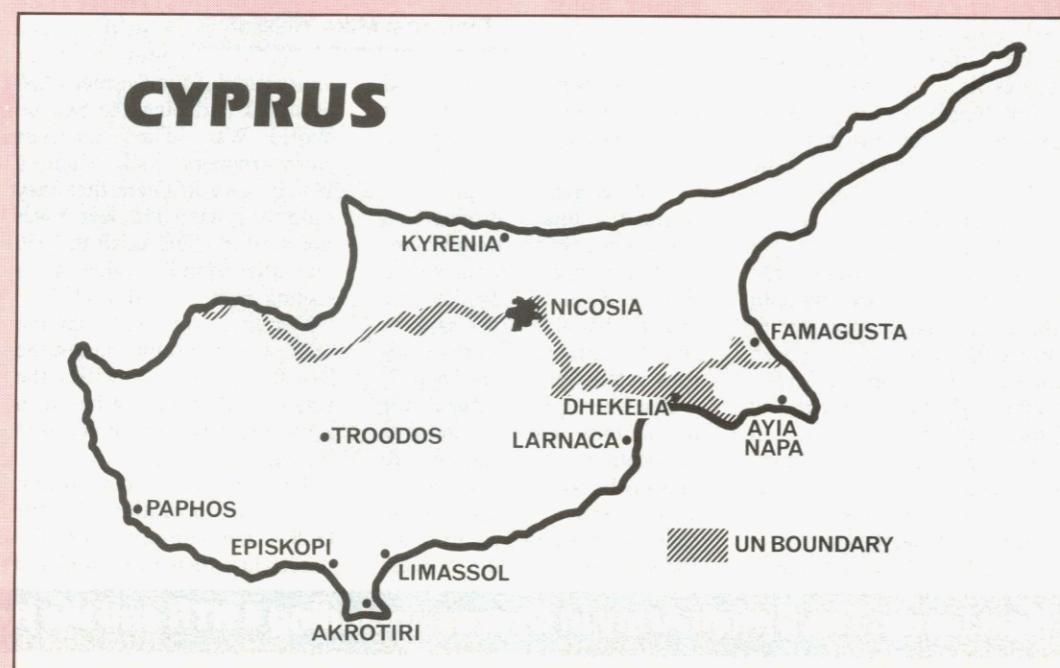
Twice a year manpower and plant from 62 (Cyprus) Support Squadron RE deploy for a five-week stint to regrade the track, particularly in the treacherous mountain areas in the west. In addition, a troop deploys twice a year from UKLF for six weeks, using in-theatre plant.

Within the headquarters of the Force are three other components of the British contingent: 19 HQ staff, nine Royal Military Police and HQ British Contingent.

"The operation hasn't changed since I was a staff officer here in 1976," says Col de Broe-Ferguson, "but before the Turkish intervention, when I was a subaltern with the Black Watch, we were island-wide and not purely in the Buffer Zone. Today all our activities relate to the zone."

Main priority for the experienced soldier is to get his hands on, and his head under,

Turn to next page





LCpl Dave Robson patrols the deserted streets which mark Nicosia's Green Line

Peace-keepers

• From Page 23

an Army Air Corps beret instead of the only slightly richer blue of the UN pattern.

"The UN berets are huge landing strips," declares SSgt Steve King of 4 RTR, "and when you shrink them they go all horrible. The AAC berets are better quality and shrink much better. Otherwise you have this thing on top of your head which looks like a mushroom and hangs all over the place."

The tankies of 4 RTR are on their second tour after an 18-month gap so many knew the ropes before they arrived. They are doing remarkably well as are A Squadron, 13/18 H. D Squadron was on the island two tours ago, so many of its NCOs, having moved up the ladder, find themselves back in old haunts.

It would be agreeable if the young troopers with their squadrons could return in the future to an island of peace. Ironically, the Goddess of Love was born in Cyprus. Perhaps tolerance, if not love, is no longer a myth.



September. This is the second United Nations tour by A Squadron since 1987 and the sixth since 1980. There is a wealth of experience in the unit with 22 troopers on their second tour and several who have been on the island four times.

"You can be more friendly than on the IGB," said LCpl Dave Robson, who was based at Herford in 1983, "but you must be diplomatic. If you wave to one side, you must wave to the other too."

The squadron is based in the UN complex at the former Nicosia International Airport. With nine officers and 104 other ranks it provides five troops equipped with vintage Ferrets.

"It is an ideal vehicle to make a show of armour," said Capt Simon Matthews, squadron 2iC.

The UN sectors have operational control of four troops and a fifth has two Ferrets on one hours' notice as the Force Commander's re-

AAC beret tops UN fashion chart

A YOUNG officer from the Army Air Corps landed on his feet when he was pitched into Cyprus to command one of the 13th/18th's troops on the Green Line.

When 2nd Lt Alex Godfrey arrived fresh from Sandhurst he found that his access to comfy AAC berets ensured immediate popularity.

A lighter blue than the United Nations version, the AAC beret nevertheless passes muster, even giving newcomers an experienced, weathered look when compared with those sporting the regulation issue.

"We wear them purely for comfort, and nothing to do with the fact that it is a far more attractive colour," he said.

The AAC has a policy of subalterns doing a six-month attachment with the Royal



If the cap fits... 2nd Lt Alex Godfrey AAC (left), serving with 13/18 H in Cyprus

Armoured Corps or Infantry straight after Sandhurst so they have a better appreciation of those with whom they will be working.

"He sees troops and gets a bit of hands-on experience in troop-leading or platoon com-

manding skills," said 2nd Lt Godfrey. "He's helped along by the troop sergeant and is usually given a troop which can look after itself while he finds his feet, but it certainly makes for an interesting first few weeks.

At the end of his tour, Alex Godfrey will return to the UK to do his seven-month Gazelle course but is unsure what the future holds. He has, however, already decided on his own option for change. He will be getting married in January.

Hussars swap IGB for the Green Line

THE MEN of 13th/18th Royal Hussars (Queen Mary's Own) may yet see a settlement which makes the Green Line in Cyprus as redundant as the Inner German Border (IGB).

They have patrolled both, and although the Cyprus posting is popular, they would not begrudge the island a lasting peace so that life can return to the deserted streets they monitor.

Normally based in Germany as one of two Regular reconnaissance regiments with 1 (BR) Corps, 13/18 H deployed to Wolfenbüttel in May last year after a tour at Tidworth. It is braving itself with 22 troopers on their second tour and several who have been on the island four times.

serve, and another two on four hours' notice.

"There is fairly free access around the island as there are not too many places more than four hours away," added Capt Matthews.

The Ferrets patrol the buffer zone on tracks going through open country or villages, making a point of stopping at the UN Observation Posts along the line. It relieves the tedium of the stag, and maintains good relations with the sectors.

Patrols last from two to six hours and are no dawdle: a craftsman was killed in the mountainous Danish sector when a Ferret tipped over.

"Commanders certainly have to be careful on some of the



Ferrets are ideal for showing a UN presence along the Buffer Zone

stretches," explained SSgt Danny Beever. "If the vehicles are commanded properly and the guys are careful, there should normally be no problems."

He has a particularly good relationship with the Canadians, whose 2nd Royal Canadian Regiment operates Grizzly APCs. They are famous for their hospitality and the standard of their rations, and the five-week stint with them is popular despite the abysmal Nissen hut accommodation.

Commanding 4 Troop in the Canadian sector is 2nd Lt Alex Godfrey. He likes the 24-hour food system they operate. "They love their toasties and their coffee is perfect."

Accommodation for the contingents is not, however, a high priority. Nissen huts and Ferrets from the 1950s add to a sense of a time warp as one trundles along the Green Line in Nicosia, deserted but for the occasional guard post.

Tablecloths cover tables in the tavernas, with a covering of

dust on top. Bottles of wine long evaporated lie where they fell as people fled. Money is still in the tills and the banks where time froze in the summer heat nearly 20 years ago.

There has been less aggro during the talks, less trying to take advantage of the situation, fewer attempted encroachments.

Whether a settlement comes in the hands of the Gods, but, in LCpl Robson's view: "After the Berlin Wall, anything can happen."

Sunshine break suits Larkhill gunners

LOW-LEVEL infantry tactics may not fire the imagination of the ordinary gunner. But wrap them in the sunshine of Cyprus, add a generous mixture of adventure training on land and sea, end with an exhilarating exercise and you have the ingredients of excitement.

Several weeks away from Larkhill greatly benefitted 76 (Maude's) Field Battery of 14 Field Regiment RA on Exercise Lion Sun 11.

Its role in life is as a support fire battery for the Royal School of Artillery. It has 30 guns, 24 more than a normal battery and fires up to 25,000 rounds a year – ten times the usual.

This can be satisfying, but has its drawbacks: it can become repetitive, and the lads have to conduct their demon-

strations in all weathers.

A change of scenery and climate does wonders for the enthusiasm with which section battle drills are attacked. Lion Sun is designed for company, squadron or battery-sized units to practise basic skills in a challenging environment, while fitting in some adventure training as well.

"It is the best exercise I have been on at a sub-unit level," said Battery Commander Maj Mike Vacher. "It is quite remarkable to see very young soldiers, away from home for the first time, having the nerve to have a go at abseiling, water skiing and windsurfing.

"The great advantage is that we can concentrate on military skills for a month, but it is also very important to get a sub-unit away from its unit at least once

a year so that you can reinforce the spirit within the battery, troop and, indeed, the section."

With 112 all ranks on the exercise, not all were from the battery or doing the same activity. For 95



from the battery, training was organised into three lots of six-day cycles: map reading, basic navigation, abseiling and sports in the heights of Troodos; military skills followed by rest and recuperation at Dhekelia; and adventure training at their base at Bloodhound camp, near Episkopi.

Locations were changed every three days, and every six days a battery training day would often involve competitions.

Giving the benefit of their experience to the gunners were corporals from The Royal Hampshire Regiment, normally based at Colchester but with 76 Battery in Cyprus to provide instruction.

"We are covering basic

infantry platoon tactics at section level – everything from observation posts to section attacks," said Cpl Ken Paterson.

"The guys are very good at their own artillery job on the firing line, but they are now also doing very well in coming up to scratch on the infantry work."

"This is important work," said the Battery Sergeant Major, WO2 Bob

Drew, who first went to Cyprus as a lance bombardier in 1976. "If the lads were casevac'd in war and were later returning to a unit they might well be in an infantry unit before rejoining a battery."

Working together constantly every day greatly strengthens their camaraderie, especially among the younger gunners. And it doesn't take them long to settle in.

Changing the young soldiers' perspective on things was the Regimental Sergeant Major, WO1 Clive Bacon, who was running a regimental leadership

course whose participants doubled as the enemy for the final exercise.

The 20 potential bombardiers attending came from a variety of units, and the emphasis was on testing the brain rather than the body.

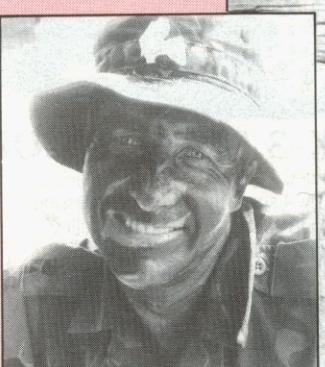
One section which had been defending a deserted house for a day used its brains to decide it wasn't worth defending at all when it was found to be already occupied by a blunt-nosed viper who thought he had squatter's rights.

The first week of the five-week course had been run in the UK to complete the drill and fitness sections of the syllabus, which could have been inhibited because of the need to avoid heat stress.

The course concentrated on basic soldiering rather than the battery's specialisation of air defence, locating, or field gunnery.

There was also the odd diversion, such as being dropped a mile out to sea to be picked up by a Wessex Search and Rescue helicopter.

"It was quite an experience," according to Course Warrant Officer Dick Brook, "but I hope it never happens to me for real!"



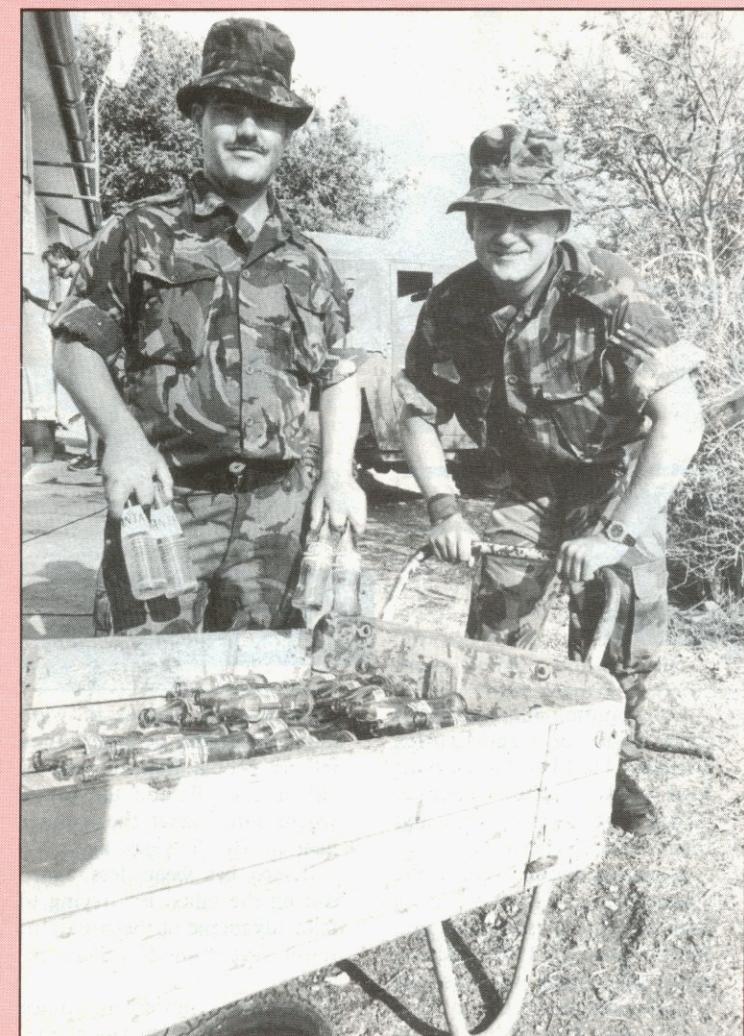
Maj Mike Vacher,
Battery Commander



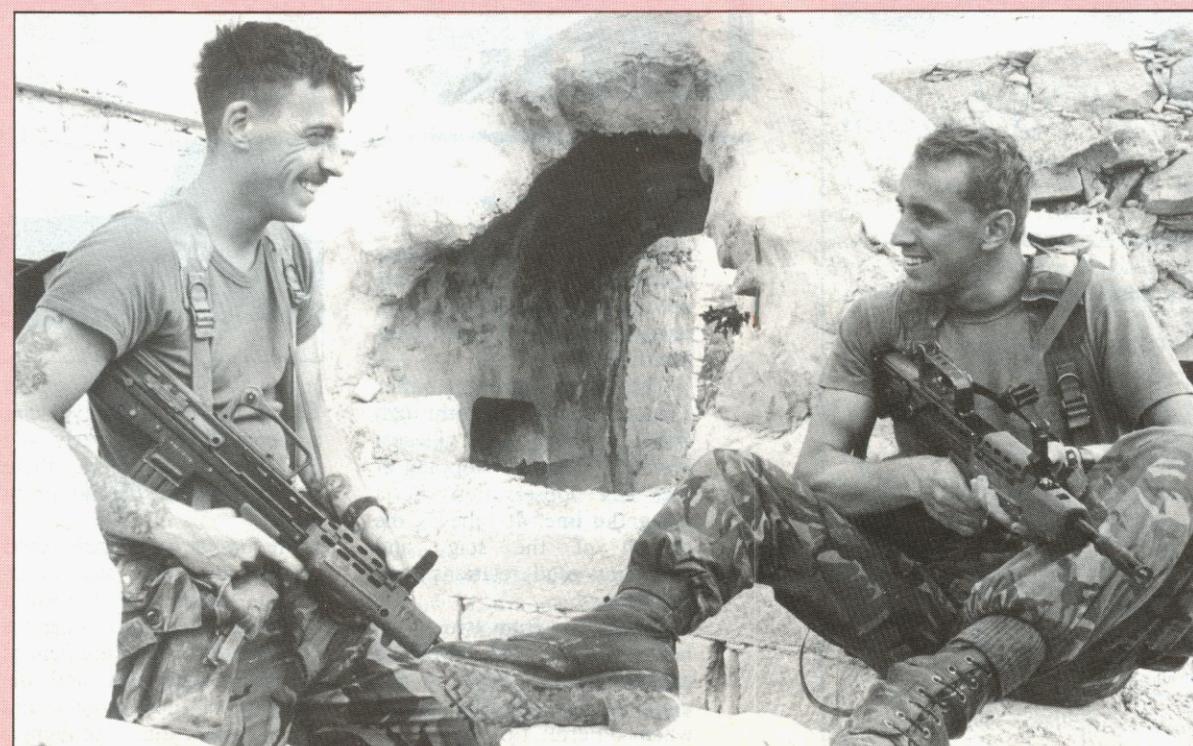
RSM Clive Bacon
masterminded the
leadership course



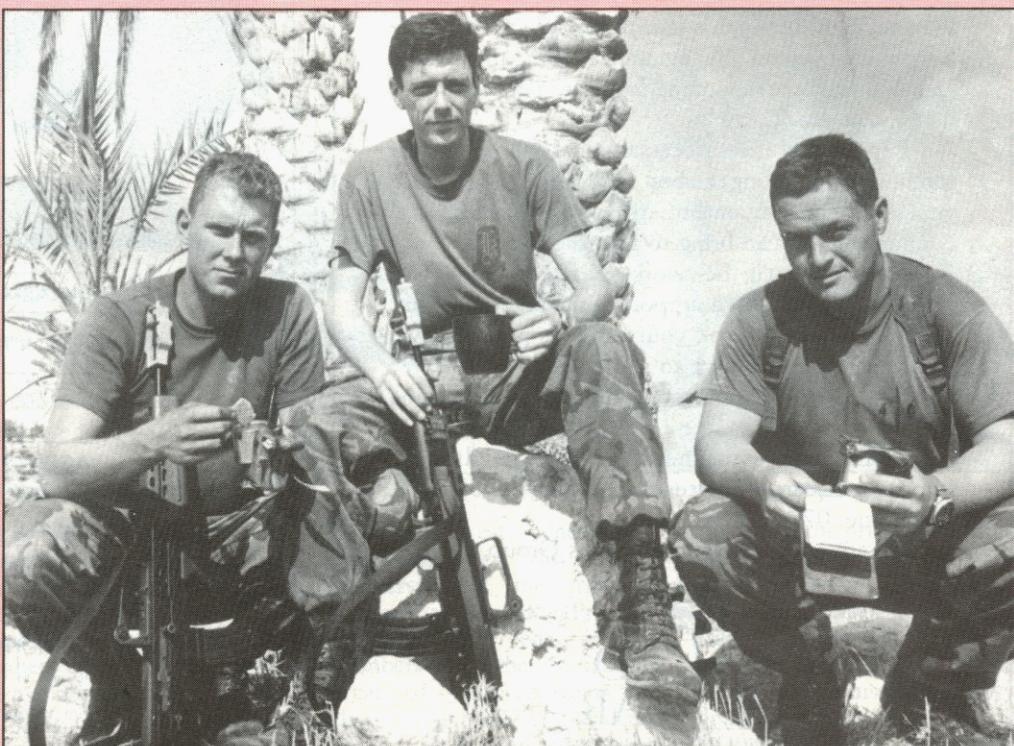
Officer Cadet Sarah Ferguson from RMAS Sandhurst keeps in touch



LBdr Taff Lewis (right) is particularly careful where he and Gnr Mark Sherwin pickup empty bottles. He was in hospital for a day after a snake bit him



LBdrs Billy Moreland and James Grant occupy a deserted village



Tea break for (from left) LBdrs Warren Wilson, Dave Cowley and Alan Carruthers

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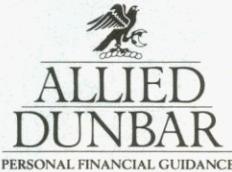
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MAZE DAYS

ALTHOUGH not directly involved in the Gulf campaign, the 1st Royal Tank Regiment had worked hard behind the scenes throughout the crisis. So, when the Hildesheim-based unit was tasked to provide the Maze Prison Guard Force in Northern Ireland it meant that at least one large composite squadron had something to concentrate on in the midst of considerable turmoil in BAOR.

Training began with lectures on the severity of the task, balanced by a more light-hearted view of life in Northern Ireland.

The training became more involved, aimed at making the squadron's presence in the Province worthwhile and at the same time ensuring the safety of the general public.

After leave and a final week of training the Prison Guard Force Squadron was transported from Gutersloh to Aldergrove airport by Hercules.

The move from the airport to the camp was a tense period for those who had not been to Northern Ireland before but once at Long Kesh Camp they settled in and things began to calm down.

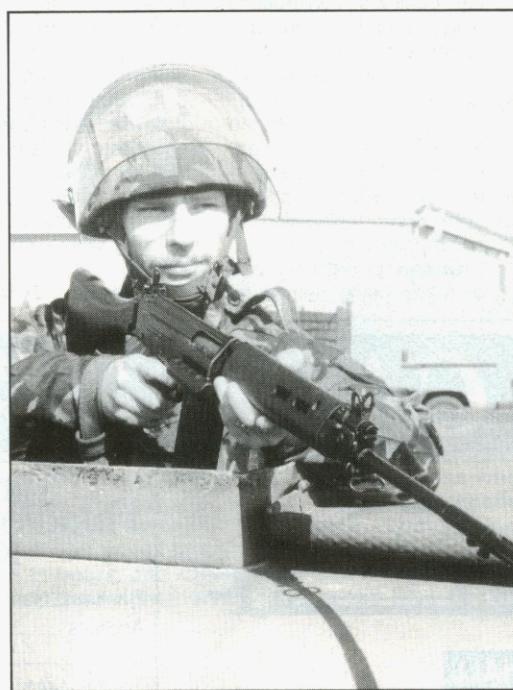
The squadron, under the command of Maj Richard James, relieved B Squadron, 4th/7th Royal Dragoon Guards and quickly settled to the routine of life at the Maze. Initially, One Troop were in the towers, Two Troop on patrol in the area around the prison itself while Three Troop patrolled at night to secure the Lisburn area.

Opportunities were arranged to provide manpower to other agencies around the Province, with 3 LI in West Belfast, 7/10 UDR in East Belfast, 23 and 42 Engineer Squadrons and the RUC receiving tankies for up to a week at a time. It gave squadron personnel more experience and enabled them to see more of the Army's varied role in Northern Ireland.

During its three-month tour, the squadron, now back at Hildesheim, was visited by everyone from the Corps Commander to the Regimental



Ready to move are Tprs Justin Brown, Ray France, Alex Morris and Neil Scarisbrick



Tpr Pete Sowerbutts on patrol



Cpls Dave Swash and Andy Maddocks

Padre, but the highlight was the week-long stay by the Band who squeezed in a commendable list of concerts. They played to the squadron, members of 3 LI in Belfast, a group of schoolchildren and old age pensioners in the Lisburn Cathedral Hall, and, most impressive of all, put on a

Beating Retreat concert to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the military presence at the Maze Prison.

During the tour several members of the squadron organised sponsored events for charity. Sgt Jimmy Cornwell raised £100 for Alderhey Hospital in Liverpool with a

run round the prison wall, Cpls Dave Swash and Andy Maddocks pulled a Land Rover around the prison wall to raise £500 for Lagan Valley Hospital in Lisburn, and LCpl Chris Kennedy organised a charity boxing evening in aid of the Prison Officers' Benevolent Fund.

Personally speaking

RBL opens new training centre in north-west

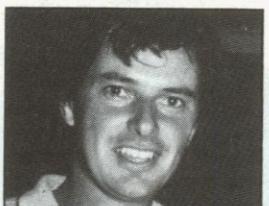
We've got the skills

IN these days of recession and redundancies, men and women leaving the Forces find the grass is not necessarily greener on the other side.

Many have difficulty finding work, particularly if they are without the right skills or qualifications.

One remedy lies with the Royal British Legion Skills-build programme. A new training centre at Ellesmere Port sponsors former members of the Regular and Territorial Army and their dependents to train in new trades.

When the Duke of Westminster, a TA officer himself, opened the centre he said such schemes



Chris Hooker

were particularly important with new employment opportunities in Europe from 1992.

● Introducing those with a trade or skill to prospective employers and offering employment advice.

The ex-Forces training programme is co-ordinated by Maj David Poole, who spent many years in the Royal Signals and is now a TA squadron commander with 33 Signal Regiment.

Students at the centre can qualify in construction work, motor mechanics, computers, business administration, secretarial work and industrial machining.

Since the scheme began the RBL has also sponsored ex-Service personnel on courses ranging from French polishing to community care.

Susan Lloyd (27), one of many being helped by

intend settling in the North-West of England to gain nationally-recognised trade qualifications through courses at the centre;

● Sponsoring those living out of area on short courses such as HGV or PSV, or longer college-type training, to gain a skill or qualification skill, or employment;

● Introducing those with a trade or skill to prospective employers and offering employment advice.

Many firms were cutting back on training, he said, and added: "This makes it even more crucial that a place like this exists."

The RBL Skills-build programme is valuable in three areas:

● Helping those who



Centre manager Tom Stratford and ex-Forces Training and Employment Officer Maj David Poole

the scheme, wanted a change of direction when she left the Army after eight years as a state enrolled nurse in the Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps. She is now doing a secretarial course at Ellesmere Port.

Chris Hooker (31) spent four years in the TA with 3 Cheshire before working as a chef in Spain. Now he wants to acquire building skills – and higher wages.

Graham Jefferson

(23) decided to train in business administration when he left the Grenadier Guards as a guardsman in July after five years' service. He now hopes to find a supervisory or managerial job.

These are a few of the hundreds being helped by the scheme. More information is available from Maj Poole at Unit 14, Poole Hall Industrial Estate, Ellesmere Port, South Wirral L66 1ST (tel: 051-357 2938).

Passport poser

A SERVICE child born abroad while her parents were in an overseas posting was recently refused a British passport.

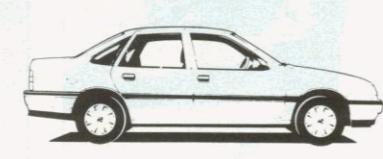
In fact, under the British Nationality Act 1981 children born overseas to United Kingdom-based Servicemen, and where one of the parents is a British citizen, are entitled to the same citizenship status as if they were born in the UK.

It is important to follow the rules for registering the child's birth and having it entered on the parents' passport. If you can't get hold of the MoD factsheet on the subject, write to me.

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Let's Act to open up Naafi

AMERICAN ex-Service personnel are allowed to use not only the PX but also Forces travel and medical facilities.

So it is too much to ask to allow their British counterparts continued use of the Naafi?

By this I mean not just their shops but all their other services – financial and insurance included.

With Options for Change biting and garrisons closing as a result, Naafi is bound to feel the draught and would benefit from the

extra business ex-Service people would bring in.

Would not an ex-Service identity card make such an idea workable, as well as being a gesture of recognition?

The fact that such a facility does not exist is no fault of the Naafi, which does not write the rules. Its charter is controlled by

Act of Parliament.

Perhaps the rules should be changed – to the benefit of both the Naafi and thousands of ex-Service customers.

IN MY VIEW

No happy returns!

A CORPORAL serving with 11th Signal Regiment at Catterick has been thrown off the Colchester Borough Council housing list despite the fact that he lived in Colchester for 17 years before enlisting and his family still resides in the borough.

"The new policy states that applicants living outside the district must have lived in Colchester for three out of the last five years in order to qualify for registration on the list.

"I am sorry that your circumstances do not meet this criterion and your housing application has been removed from the list."

● Two Service families asked me to find out why their applications to be put on the Westminster City Council housing list had been refused.

Both families have strong links with Westminster and both have, for several years, lived in Service accommodation in the area.

I discovered that neither factor made any difference when I visited the council offices.

And just to compound the enormous disadvantages facing Service families, they are not eligible for other Westminster housing schemes, including their Assisted Purchase Scheme (which provides grants up to £20,000), the Flexible Ownership Scheme, the Right to Buy and the Westminster-negotiated Halifax Home Buying Service, which offers a wide range of discounts.

For information on housing in the London area contact the Catholic Housing Aid Society, 189a Old Brompton Road, London SW5 0AR (tel: 071-373 4961).

Art school on the list

NORFOLK Institute of Art and Design in Norwich has been included on the MoD's approved list of schools for the BTEC national diploma course only.

The address of the institute is St George Street, Norwich, Norfolk NR3 1BB.



The first FOCUS course to be run at Aldershot chalked up a quick success when a wife attending the eight-week reintroduction to business management, typing and communication skills landed a job. FOCUS (Federation Office and Computer Updating of Skills) instructors such as Jean Bradshaw (standing) instruct for 1½ days, and the wives practise in the Clockhouse Tower in their own time.

"Some of us have not worked for 15 years, and now that my son has gone to university I hope to get a job too," said Mrs Sheila Thompson (rear right), who works at the Hive and can provide information about new courses in January.

Terrier to be compensated

GOOD news for Cpl Simon Robinson, the Territorial Army soldier who lost his job after sustaining an injury during a training camp. He has been awarded an interim compensation payment of £5,000.

And that's not all. The

adjudicating officer also overturned a previous ruling that Cpl Robinson, whose plight was revealed in SOLDIER (July 22), should not receive Unemployment Benefit.

His case does highlight the need for injured soldiers – Regular or Territorial – to seek advice as soon after the incident as possible and submit an immediate accident report.

Incidentally, Lord Swinfen asked in the House of Lords how many of the 1,053 compensation claims filed by Service personnel under the Crown Proceed-

ings (Armed Forces) Act since 1987 had not been settled. The answer provided by Lord Arran was that 1,013 remain open.

Highest individual settlement was £303,340 and the total compensation paid out in that time was £1,996,702.

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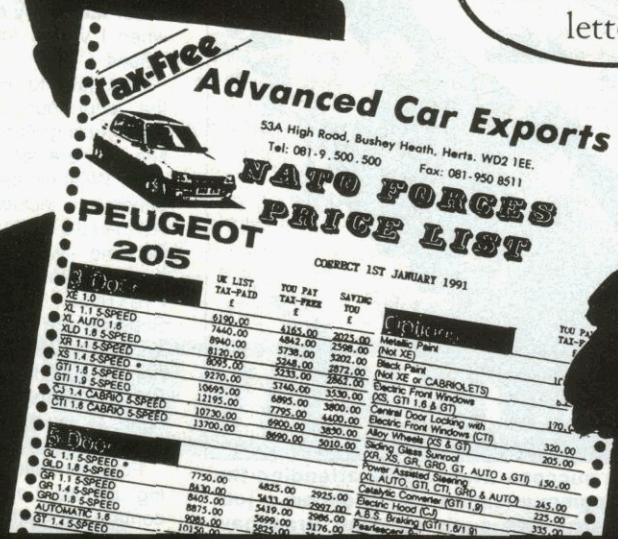
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One for three and all for one!

ROBERT Widders (Letters, September 30) is not unique in having served in all three services.

In 1971, when I was serving as a midshipman in the Royal Navy in HMS Blake during her deployment to the Caribbean and the USA, there was a seaman on board who had previously served in both the Army and RAF.

Newcomers to the ship including me made it their business to ask him predictable but nonetheless serious questions. All were greeted with an understandably impolite reply!

I subsequently left the RN and joined the Regular Army. I was commissioned in both Services and know of several officers who have done likewise, including an RCT brigadier who flew Swordfish in the Fleet Air Arm.

My interest in military history has revealed many fascinating men who changed uniforms. Most common are those who, having already served in the First World War, volunteered for a different Service for the Second.

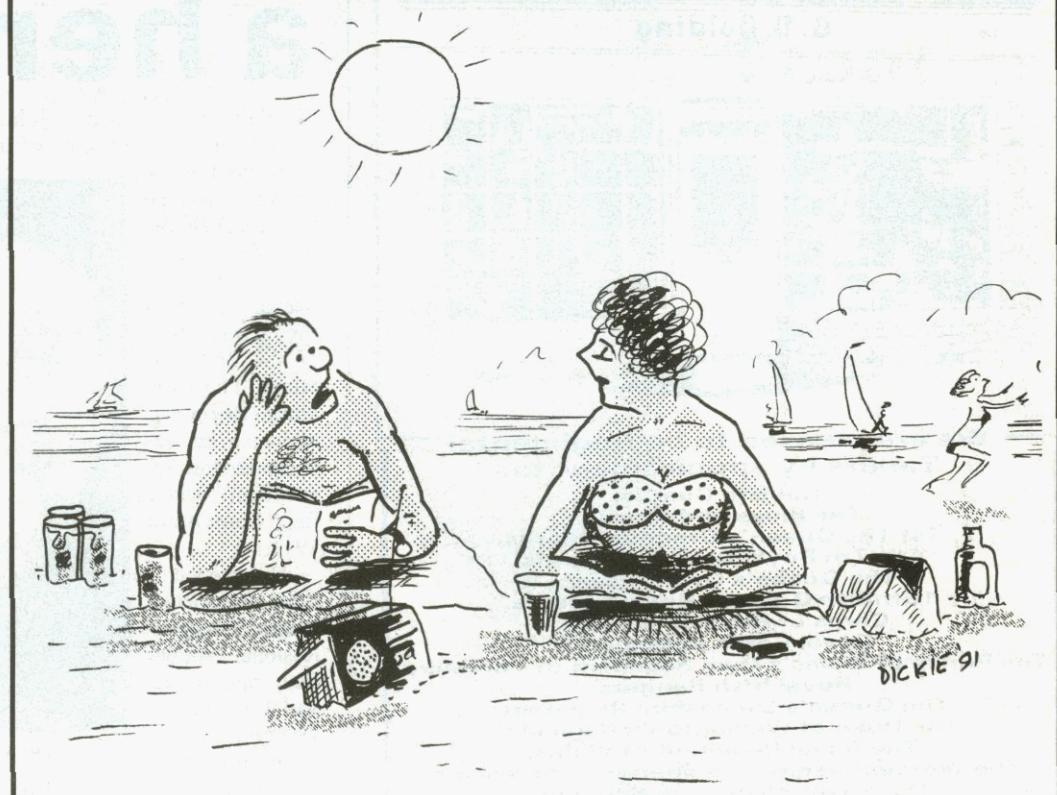
Many RFC soldiers and sailors of course re-badged to the RAF when it was formed in 1918 and Nelson's Fleet contained more than a few Redcoats who strayed into the path of the press gang! — **Maj D A Mathias RCT(V), South Wales.**

An armful of arrows

CONTRARY to the letter by R J C Holmes (October 28) the original Anti-Aircraft Command "div sign" was a German Eagle pierced by an arrow.

It was still worn on the sleeves of our Regular Army colleagues when as a 15-year-old (putting my age on two years) I joined 138th (101 Warks Home Guard), (2), (M), Battery, Royal Artillery in early

BIRD'S EYE-VIEW



"You know Elsie, if you take away the sunshine, blue skies, the beach, the sea, windsurfing, sailing, cheap booze and fags, Cyprus is no better than Catterick!"

(Cyprus special feature — Pages 21-27)

Of witches and archers

R J C Holmes (Letters, October 28) described the anti-aircraft defences sign as "surely the most apt during the Second World War".

However, the sign which he details, a witch on a broomstick and the motto, "We sweep the skies", was an AA divisional sign, used only by 2nd AA Div.

This division was formed in 1936 and was originally responsible for an area to the north-west of a line drawn from Harwich to the Solent and skirting north of London. Later it provided AA defence



Anti-Aircraft signs: witch on broomstick and archer flash

for the East Midlands and North-East Anglia.

The colours of the divisional badge were actually red and blue: the witch and her broomstick were red, the background dark blue, the colours of the Royal Artillery. Some badges were also produced with the witch and her mount in red against a plain khaki background.

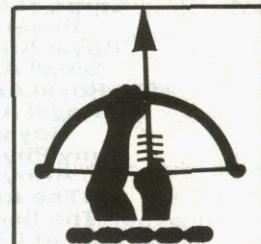
In late 1942 Anti-Aircraft Command was reorganised from three corps and 12 divisions into seven AA groups and separate badges for its constituent formations became a thing of the past.

Quite an armful with the stripes! — **C T Wareing, Redditch, Worcs.**

incorporating a dark blue, or black, bow and arrow aimed upwards, set on a red background.

This sign had previously been used only by the staff of AA Command HQ and was directly influenced by the crest of the Gordon family, one of whose members had built Glenthorne, the house at Stanmore which was used as Gen Pile's HQ.

The Gordon family symbol was entirely appropriate to AA Command and in fact the badge of the School of AA Defence at Biggin Hill was an archer kneeling with his bow and arrow pointing upwards. — **Richard Doherty, Londonderry.**



Letters from the Front

HAVING just reviewed selected letters and other papers written by Gen Montgomery when in command of the Eighth Army (October 28 issue), it made an interesting contrast to open a book concerned with the writings of lesser mortals in the Second World War.

Private Words by Ronald Blythe is an anthology of letters and journals by officers, other ranks, conscientious objectors, penfriends, a news cameraman, an American Serviceman and the English girlfriend he felt obliged to marry.

It was the girl in this case who let down the GI, prompting a sad note from the battlefield: 'Well, darling, I don't know what to think of you. I haven't had a word for three months now. Down in your heart, do you really think you're being fair?'

Until the Second World War it was rare to have personal feelings recorded by Servicemen of all ranks, although there are notable exceptions from the Boer and Great Wars.

But the 1939-45 conflict saw a peak in literacy; by then education was compulsory.

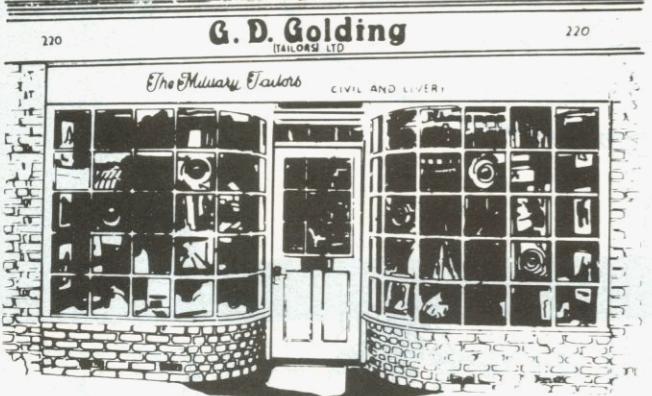
It is little wonder the war brought forth writing of high quality, revealing innermost emotions.

Ronald Blythe's accompanying narrative is poetic and sympathetically perceptive, frequently drawing attention to feelings undisclosed or suppressed in favour of more practical considerations: 'Homesickness was the most hidden, least confessed malady of the soldier. For one thing, its ravages seemed impossible to describe.'

The book has its humour. For instance: 'I was standing with my boots at the "ten-to-two" position. I wanted to move but found that I couldn't, and fell over with my feet outstretched. I wondered what had happened . . . and thought I was paralysed or something.' It turned out his spurs had locked together! - BJ

Private Words: Letters and Diaries from the Second World War by Ronald Blythe. Viking, hardback, £16.99.

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Life and times of a hero of Arnhem

MENTION the name John Frost to anyone connected with Airborne Forces, or who has seen the film *A Bridge Too Far*, and it immediately brings to mind the heroic stand of the 2nd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, of which he was in command, at Arnhem bridge in September 1944.

However, there is more to a long-serving professional soldier than one battle, and John Frost's welcome autobiography *Nearly There* tells of the other experiences in his life: the early years from his birth in India in 1912, his time after being gazetted to the Cameronians in 1932, pre-war service in Iraq, wartime experiences with 2 Para, post-war appointments as Commandant of the Support Wing of the School of Infantry, in command of 44 Parachute Brigade TA, as GOC 52nd Lowland Division, and finally as GOC Malta and Libya, where he formed the Malta Land Forces.

His service in the 1930s with Assyrian Iraq Levies, which were under the overall command of the Royal Air Force, was somewhat out of the ordinary run of soldiering.

"... when I arrived at the firing point of the range, Ahmed Effendi called the company to attention . . . There were two tables with chairs just behind the firing point; one bore sheets of clean paper . . . a thermos flask with a glass, the other a pile of stones . . . Ahmed sat behind that table and before long a soldier missed his target twice, whereupon Ahmed hurled a brick at him amid a shower of invective."

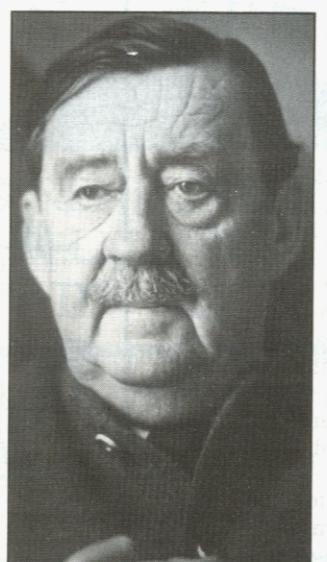
A British officer's life in Iraq, as in any other part of the world to which he was transplanted in those pre-Second World War years, was one in which many home

service habits were maintained. John Frost was "delighted and surprised to find a complete pack of English foxhounds kennelled in the cantonment."

But it must not be imagined that such postings were all pleasure, polo, hunting and point-to-point. Men certainly did get killed in Iraqi uprisings.

Although the author clearly enjoyed peacetime soldiering, it was as a wartime paratrooper he found his natural place. Not that he is uncritical of the way matters were conducted: "The endemic trouble with British Airborne Forces was that the Army never really believed in them."

Even a note of sourness can be detected in his recollections of the 1942 Bruneval raid which was aimed at discovering German radar secrets.



Gen John Frost

It seems that as late as 1975, Admiral of the Fleet Earl Mountbatten of Burma said to Frost: "I have often thought that a remarkable thing about your raid was that you had no casualties."

What seems even more remarkable is that the once Chief of Combined Operations was unaware that there had in fact been two killed, five wounded and three taken prisoner. The meanness in the award of medals for the Bruneval operation was another cause for dissatisfaction.

The criticisms he records about the failure at Arnhem are concerned with policy-making and errors made by higher command. The 1st Airborne Division's action at Arnhem was fully covered in the author's previous book, *A Drop Too Many*, but Frost's autobiography would not be complete without some account of the operation; this is concisely presented in his final chapter. - BJ

Nearly There: The Memoirs of John Frost of Arnhem Bridge. Leo Cooper, Pen and Sword Books, hardback, £18.50.

Akabusi: Soldier in the fast lane



Kriss Akabusi

NO Army athlete has made a larger impact on the national consciousness than former WO2 (QMSI) Kriss Akabusi, late of the Army Physical Training Corps.

When he hung up his uniform in November 1990 he was, thanks to television, everyone's favourite soldier, the extrovert with the face-splitting smile and enthusiasm to spare.

Britain's fastest ever 400m hurdler, he was an ambassador for the sport and the Service that had, quite literally, nurtured him. Ted Harrison's *Kriss Akabusi on Track* is not a book about athletics, but a book about a man who became a world-class athlete.

Neither does it belong to the over-illustrated "boy done good" school of sporting biographies. Harrison is a former BBC religious affairs correspondent, and Akabusi's well-publicised conversion to Christianity occupies a substantial chunk of the text. - JNE

Kriss Akabusi on Track by Ted Harrison. Lion, hardback, £12.99.

THE BUILDERS OF EMPIRES

TO outsiders the Corps of Royal Engineers is associated with such tasks as building military bridges and roads, and constructing defensive works or breaching those of the enemy.

All this is true, of course, but the sappers, serving in far-flung corners of what was once called the Empire, have also left some remarkable testimonials to their civil engineering skills.

A J Smithers, in his latest book *Honourable Conquests*, has turned his research and narrative abilities to describing the sappers' lesser-known roles.

"The greatest achievements of the Royal Engineers were executed during the era of the Regency Buck and the Georgian tough. The men who built the canals of Canada and the irrigation systems of India were . . . among the toughest of them all."

In British Columbia the sappers' role was a mixture of policing and civil engineering, especially during the years of the Gold Rush. The Caribou Road, the "Eighth Wonder of the World" at the time, inspired the contemporary comment: "It is interesting to see the wonderful change produced in a country by roads."

Maj Gen Sir Arthur Cotton's masterminding of the Indian systems of irrigation are commemorated in the sub-continent by street names and, in 1947, a statue to his memory was erected by the Government of Andhra Pradesh - this at the time when India was attempting to rid itself of most traces of the British Raj!

Irrigation in India involved changes to water courses on a massive scale and were perhaps the best memorials that could have been left by a colonising power.

The author tells of the beneficial effects of the irrigation in 1877, the year of the greatest famine in India's history.

It is estimated that four million died of starvation in the unprotected districts of the Presidency, whereas in Tanjore, the Godavari and Krishna, where the irrigation was effective, no one died as a result of the famine.

A J Smithers has earned a debt of gratitude by reviving the names of these all but forgotten engineers, as well as for putting to right the misconception that Victorians tied corduroy trousers below the knees in order to prevent rats running up the legs. The true reason can be found on page 120. - BJ

The barrage constructed by Colin Scott-Moncrieff, one of the RE immortals, is described as the "last substantial contribution by the Royal Engineers to the building of a nervous system for civilisation."

One does not have to journey to lands of the old Empire in

order to find RE work in civil engineering. Military engineers built the first of the great South Kensington museums - now the Victoria and Albert - the prisons of Pentonville and Wormwood Scrubs, and even the Albert Hall.

A J Smithers has earned a debt of gratitude by reviving the names of these all but forgotten engineers, as well as for putting to right the misconception that Victorians tied corduroy trousers below the knees in order to prevent rats running up the legs. The true reason can be found on page 120. - BJ

Honourable Conquests: An account of the enduring work of the Royal Engineers throughout the Empire by A J Smithers. Leo Cooper, hardback, £24.99.

Army. If the discharge date falls after the start of a school term, then the allowance will be paid for the whole of that term.

WELFARE SUPPORT

Most problems can be solved in a simple way, say by a doctor or SSAFA health visitor. And help for more specific problems is always available. RELATE will provide a confidential marriage guidance counselling service, and can help with other relationship problems. SSAFA social workers assist with a variety of problems, and HOMESTART will help anyone in difficulty who does not know which way to turn.

For those who really do not know where to start, the Citizens Advice Bureau offers sound, confidential advice. It should not be forgotten, too, that the commanding officer has a duty to look after the welfare of not only the men and women under his command, but also their dependants. There should be no hesitation in seeking advice from within the unit.

SCHOOLS

If a child is within one year of a major exam at a Service children's school in Western Europe, and his or her father is made redundant, the child can stay on to take the exam. The child will either have to move into the schools' boarding house (if there is one) or parents can appoint a guardian who is remaining in the area, and with whom the child will live.

Further educational advice is best sought from the child's headmaster or the Group Education Officer.

DSS BENEFITS

HIVES can provide the DSS leaflet FB2 *Which Benefit* which is a general guide to the different forms of state benefits, including advice on eligibility. Further leaflets can then be consulted which cover particular problems. Eligibility (or otherwise) for unemployment benefit on leaving the Army is established on registering with the local Unemployment Benefit Office.

In an article of this sort it is impossible to cover all aspects of what is a very complicated problem. If you have any doubts then you must seek advice in the first instance from your unit. Quite simply, if you don't know... ASK!

SOLDIER to Soldier

The story of Netley

ARMY and nursing charities will benefit from sales of an audio cassette celebrating the history of the Royal Victoria Hospital at Netley, Hampshire.

The nation's first purpose-built military hospital, dating from the Crimean War, has been demolished in recent years to make way for the Royal Victoria Country Park.

Among those associated with the hospital was Florence Nightingale, whose voice, recorded in 1890, can be heard on the tape along with military music and wartime tunes.

The tape *Nightingale and Netley, 1856-1990*, is available from P W Kirkby, 7 Sutton Gardens, St Peters Street, Winchester, Hants SO23 8HP. It costs £6, including postage, of which £1 will be shared between the Army Benevolent Fund and Winchester Hospital.

Other profits will be used to fund further research and displays at the country park.

Cumbrian drum role

Cumbrians rallied to the cause when the 4th Battalion, The King's Own Royal Border Regiment, the county's TA infantry battalion, decided to raise a volunteer Corps of Drums.

Appeals for help in buying eight drums – each costing £450 – were soon answered by local authorities at Carlisle, Appleby, Kendal, Cockermouth and Lancaster (which purchased a base drum), and a number of individuals including a Cumbrian MP.

The 28-strong Corps of Drums

MILITARIA

● **The Crown Imperial Society**, formed in 1973, studies the history, traditions and regalia of the Forces of the Crown and other insignia. Its journal circulates four times a year and monthly meetings are held at the National Army Museum, London, and at Strensall, York. Details from Publicity Officer, Crown Imperial, 37 Wolsey Close, Southall, Middlesex UB2 4NQ.

● **The Victorian Military Society** annual military fair will be held on February 8 at the Victory Services Club, Seymour Street, London W2. The 1992 theme will

DIARY

November 19: Montgomery and the Eighth Army, a lecture by Stephen Brooks, followed by a showing of *Desert Victory*, at the Imperial War Museum.

November 20-26: Armed Forces Art Society annual exhibition at National Army Museum, Chelsea.

1992 DATES

May 8-10: Middle Wallop International Air Show, Stock-

bridge, Hants.

June 13: Queen's Birthday Parade. Colour Troop by 1st Battalion, Grenadier Guards.

July 8-28: The Royal Tournament, Earls Court (Box office tel: 071-373 8141).

July 17-25: Nijmegen Marches, Holland.

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

is based at battalion HQ in Lancaster and completed its first public engagement at Carlisle last month.

SEARCHLINE

● **Ex-Bdr Fred Smith, 127/49 Fd Regt RA 1964-71, 13 Martinique Light Bty RA 1971-74**, asks former comrades to contact him at 31 Dryden Road, Dover, Kent CT16 2XB (tel: 0304 823477).

RAF Goxhill, Lincs, 1942:

Former members of the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry, and Americans who served there as an Operations Training Unit, are asked to contact Mr A Worth (ex-93 MU RAF), 89 Portland Road, Luton, Beds LU4 8AX, who is writing an account of his experiences on the station.

● **Cap badges:** Leicester and District branch of the Normandy Veterans Association plans to present to the Mayor of Nijmegen in 1992 a framed mounting of cap badges of regiments taking part in the Liberation of Holland and donations of the following are sought to complete the collection: 4th Hussars, 10th Hussars, 13/18 Hussars, 14/20 Hussars, Derby Yeomanry, 3/4 City of London Yeomanry, East Riding York Yeomanry, Inns of Court, 24th Lancers, 25th Dragoons, 26th

Hussars, 27th Lancers, Military Provost Staff Corps. Anyone who can help is asked to contact Mr H Martin, 96 Evington Drive, Leicester LE5 5PE (tel: 0533 737827).

Battersea Army Cadets (1942-92):

John McNeil, Army Cadet League, 27 St John's Hill, Clapham Junction, London SW11 1TT, is trying to contact 5,000 former Battersea cadets for a 50th anniversary reunion.

REUNIONS

Airborne Engineers Association:

The Aldershot Branch was formed on January 18 and now has 45 members. It meets on the second Friday of each month, organises social functions, and was represented at Arnhem and the REA Chatham weekend. Contact is branch secretary Peter Ives on 0252 519646.

● **Sri Lanka (Ceylon):** Ex-Service (including auxiliaries), male and female, relatives and friends are invited to a reunion in Sri Lanka, March 22-April 9, 1992 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the defence of the island in the Second World War. Details, including cost, from R G Harrison, 36 Hartley Down, Purley, Surrey CR8 4EA (tel: 081-660 6459).

● **Langeleben 1953-92:** To mark the end of 39 years' operations at Langeleben, a farewell reunion will be held on June 27-28, 1992 for all ex-members of Langeleben-based units. Details: "Reunion", Field Station Langeleben, 14 Signal Regiment (EW), BFPO 101 (tel from UK: 01049 5353-5378).

● **Dorchester and District** branch of the British Army Association dedicated its new standard on October 12. The branch meets on the first Friday of every month at the Royal British Legion, Kings Road, Dorchester. Details from Mr I G McKenney, 34 Kinsbere Crescent, Dorchester, Dorset DT1 2DY (tel: 0305 265451).

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More than one entry can be submitted but photocopies cannot be accepted.

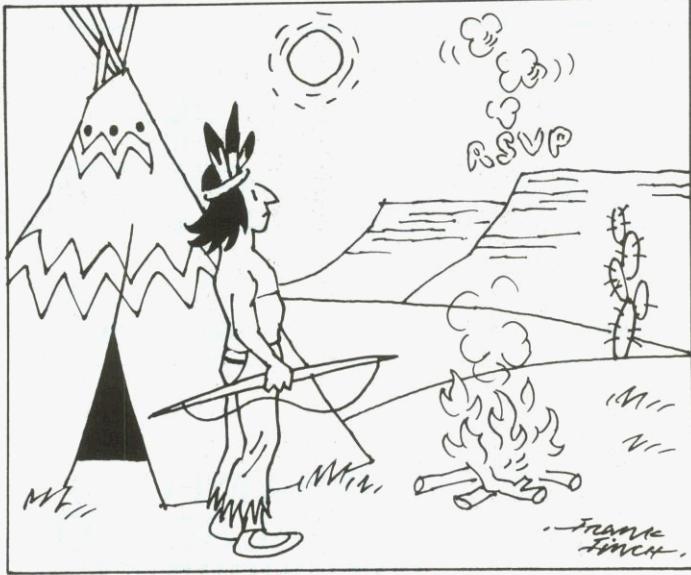
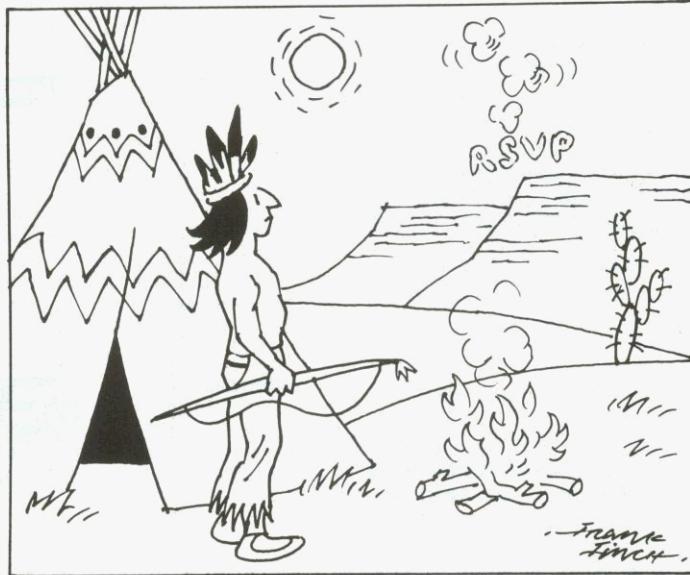
The first correct entries drawn will be the winners. No correspondence can be entered into.

The names of the winner of the £50 first prize and two runners-up will be announced in the January 27 issue.

Competition No 523: Congratulations to Tracey Black, of Cheltenham, who wins the £50 first prize. Books go to runners-up Mrs M Chew, of Windsor, and Mrs Pegler, of the RAC Centre, Bovington Camp, Wareham, Dorset.

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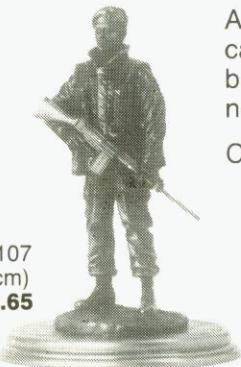
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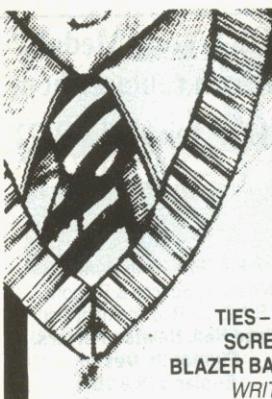
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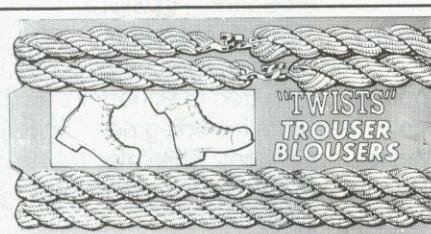
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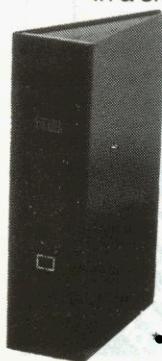
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wants to write and hopefully
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and sincere – just like me!
All letters answered.
Box P11 47/91

Lady, 35, divorced,
wanting to write/meet
elite gentleman –
serious common interests in
professionalism a criteria.
Box P12 49/91

Classic team puts Army in the frame

A LOT of hard training in a short time reaped spectacular results for the Army "classics" team which took part in the British parachute championships at RAF Weston-on-the-Green.

The newly-formed squad won the accuracy team prize and dominated the individual accuracy and style placings.

Bdr Les Carroll (7 Para RHA) won both categories to finish as overall British champion and make himself eligible for the World Cup of Champions in Indonesia where he came eighth in the style event, 12th in the accuracy and finished 12th overall in competition with the best parachutists from 24 nations.

Runner-up at Weston-on-the-Green was Sgt Jeff Chandler (RCT), who was fourth in the accuracy event and second in the style, while Pte Dave Ballard of the Red Devils was third overall after taking third place in the accuracy and fourth in the style.

Fus Rab Lundie (1 RHF) and Cpl Will Williams (1 Glos) completed the Army team and finished six and seventh overall.

The result puts the team well in the frame to represent Britain at next year's world championships in Austria.

Behind the formation of the classics team lies a story of Army success in British parachuting pioneered, and maintained, by the Red Devils.

But with advances in equipment and skills over the past 20 years, parachuting has evolved into several separate disciplines - too many for a single team to master at the highest levels of the sport. The individual demands of the style and accuracy competitions did not fit easily into the demands made on the Army's premier display teams.

The world-famous Red Devils now lead the way in freefall relative work, while the Flying Dragons, the team of The Queen's Regiment, carry the

colours in canopy relative work.

But with cap badge pride motivating a desire to be best in the field and allowing maximum representation at national level, the "classic" skills of style and accuracy faded.

Maj Bob Card, commandant of the Joint Services Parachute Centre at Netheravon, took up the challenge in January and, with financial support from the Care Services Group, gathered a team of talented individuals under the leadership of Les Carroll, a member of the Royal Artillery parachute team and an experienced style and accuracy international.

Accuracy competitors have to aim for the 5cm centre of an electronic pad, while the individual style event requires the contestant to complete a set of pre-determined manoeuvres in a limited time.

Training camps were arranged at JSPC Lippspringe in Germany and in North

Carolina with the Golden Knights, the US Army parachute team.

A few months later they were sweeping the board in the British championships.

Fus Rab Lundie (1 RHF) and Cpl Will Williams (1 Glos) completed the Army team and finished six and seventh overall.

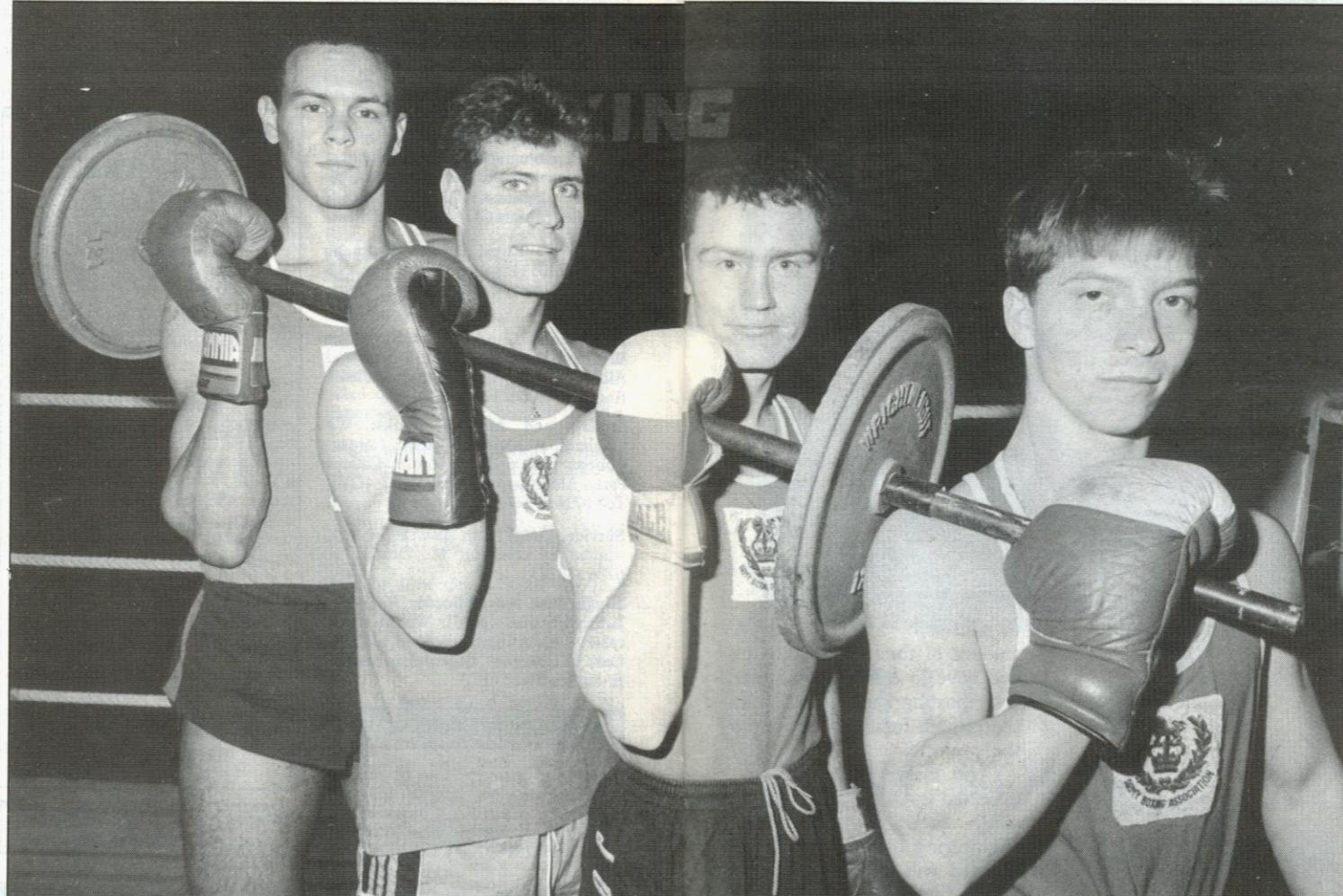
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Picture: Mike Perrin

Boxers in training: From left are LCpl Steve Burford (REME), Pte John Dowling (2 Para), Pte Loz Roche (1 LI) and Fus Danny Greenslade (1 RWF)



Pte David Ballard (2 Para) concentrates hard on his final approach during the accuracy event in the Army championships

Essex quality pays off in second half

**Essex 3,
Army 0**

TWO second-half goals killed off a spirited performance by an Army team that was at less than full strength, writes Pat Massey.

The Army were under pressure for the opening ten minutes during which the home side took the lead, but fought back well and were unlucky not to be on level terms at the interval.

Bdr Steve Bates (RHA) played a superb ball which Sig Paul Brown (R Signals) headed narrowly wide, and Sgt Steve Davis (APTC) should have scored when he latched on to a poor back pass.

Bates put through his own goal soon after the break, and Essex went further ahead while SI Alex Armstrong (APTC) was being treated off the field for a

cut on his head. Brown hit the crossbar late in the game, but it was nevertheless a creditable performance against one of the stronger county teams.

**Army 0,
AFA 1**

Seven minutes from the end of a defence-dominated game that looked to be drifting towards a scoreless draw, the Amateur Football Alliance won a free kick on the right.

It was driven hard into the Army penalty area where Army skipper Sgt Kevin Parkins stuck out a foot and succeeded only in deflecting the ball past SI Nigel Wiscombe (APTC) into his own net.

Dvr Paul Darwood (RCT) and LBdr Toots Tootle (RA) both had chances to put the Army level.

**Cambridge University 1,
Army B XI 1**

The Army "Stiffs" settled for a draw on their annual outing to Cambridge University. The students went ahead in the ninth minute, but Steve Davis equalised just before the interval when he headed home a cross provided by Tootle.

That goal atoned for an earlier miss by Davis who shot wide after rounding Simon Taylor, a goalkeeper on Leeds United's books.

Jubilee tour

THE Army Catering Corps (BAOR) football team returned unbeaten from a UK tour organised to mark the 50th anniversary of the ACC. The chefs beat the Apprentice College team 8-2, drew 2-2 with ACC (UK) and won the Corps six-a-side competition, scoring 23 goals and conceding just three.

Player of the tour was Pte Gary Holt, attached to 28 Amph Engr Regt, and LCpl Danny Southwell (att 3 RRF) also played very well.

LOOKING GOOD

ALL but one of the Army Select boxing team that inflicted a crushing 7-1 win over British Police in London last month took part in the Army novice championships a year ago.

And the eighth man, Gdsm Dave Burton (1 Coldm Gds), boxed for the Army junior team last season.

With the Royal Navy reporting a full bill for their novice championships, Services boxing appears to be particularly healthy in the all-important junior ranks.

Seven 17-year-olds are expected to carry the Army colours in the NABC championships, including 1990 flyweight finalist Pte Darren Duggan (1 R Hamps), Fus Dale Duncan (1 RRF), Dvr Scott Duncan (RCT attached 16 Fd Amb) and Gdsm Burton.

Coach WO2 Mick Gannon has been putting more than 30

boxers through their paces at the Army Boxing Centre in Aldershot before settling on a squad for the crucial post-Christmas Inter-Service and national campaigns.

Many of his 1990-91 team are still available, including England internationals LSgt Dave Abbott (Gren Gds) and Cpl Neil McCallum (10 Regt RCT).

Fus Danny Greenslade (1 RWF), Cpl Joe Rajcoomar (1 DERR), exciting

lightweight prospect Pte Loz Roche (1 LI), and a strong pool of welterweights led by Dvr Chris Bessey who spent much of last season serving in the Gulf, are in training.

Heavyweight LCpl Steve Burford (REME attached 17/21 L), rated number one in Great Britain last year, is recovering

from the accident that left him with two broken arms and a

BOXING REVIEW

snapped femur, while Chris Whittaker, who left the Army 18 months ago as a lance corporal in the ACC, has rejoined as a sapper.

On the coaching side, Gannon is trying to replace Cpl Danny Coyle (1 RWF), his assistant last season, now married and back with his battalion in Berlin.

The boxers who turned out against British Police at the

Bloomsbury Crest Hotel in London were winning their first Army vests.

Only defeat on the bill was in the final bout when a questionable majority points decision against LCpl Ray Gray (5 Fd Regt RA) saved the police from being whitewashed.

There were wins for LCpl Jimmy Ollerhead (1 Kings), Gdsm Dave Burton, LCpl Taff Ratti (1 WG), Pte Dave

Hudson claims Laser crown

CAPT Stuart Hudson, RAMC, beat off competition from 37 other Laser sailors at the Army Sailing Association's Netley centre in Hampshire to win the Services singlehanded championships.

Fresh from the Laser world championships where he was a member of the British squad, Hudson won the first race by a massive seven minutes after early pressure by Maj John

Baird, Para, and Lt Steve Cockerill, RN.

Thirty boats started the race in heavy, shifting gusts over a large, testing course set by race officer Col Bill Roper. Only 20 competitors finished, and most had capsized at least once.

Col John Cooper of the RE Yacht Club led round the first mark of the second race, but was taken by Hudson, a doctor serving with the Grenadier

Guards at Wellington Barracks, on the first reach in more moderate winds. Grand Master Stan Laurenson-Batten, sailing for the RNSA, finished second. Hudson won the third race easily, with Cockerill second and Cpl Phil Hawkins, RAOC, third.

By winning the first race the next day Hudson claimed the championship with a race to spare. That was won by

Cockerill with Cooper second. Both overtook Lt Ben Jones, RTR, who capsized after opening up a huge lead.

In addition to the overall title, Hudson also won the Army singlehanded championships. Cooper was fourth overall in the Services championship, with Baird fifth. JSpr Taff Hamilton from the Junior Leaders' Regiment RE won the junior championship.

Only the best

Top crew wanted for 1993 Whitbread race challenge

A SEARCH is on for the best crew the Services can produce to take part in the sixth Whitbread Round the World Race, due to start from Southampton in September 1993.

Approval for a Combined Services entry in the world's premier ocean racing event has been given at the highest level, with the project receiving the support of Defence Secretary Tom King and Fd Marshal Sir

Richard Vincent, Chief of the Defence Staff.

Race entries are to be restricted to two classes - Maxi yachts of about 84ft and the new WOR (Whitbread Offshore Rule) 60 designed to be faster and less expensive.

Crew numbers required will depend on the choice of class made for the Services' entry, and that will depend on the level of sponsorship it can attract. In the 1989-90 race the



Services sailed a Maxi, *Sat-quote British Defender* (pictured above).

A Maxi would require a crew of 16, a WOR 60 a crew of ten, some of whom may be changed at the stop-overs. WOR 60s are expected to make up the bulk of the fleet.

Project manager Cdr Colin Watkins, RN told SOLDIER the race was not for novices. Men and women of the Armed Forces who wish to be considered for selection will need to have considerable experience of competitive offshore racing.

"Total commitment will be essential, with family and career commitments taking second place," he said.

Pre-race training is expected

to absorb a considerable amount of time, so candidates will have to ensure their units and posting authorities can spare them for the duration of the project.

Crew members will also be expected to have a secondary skill, such as sailmaking, engineering or rigging. Those selected will also be asked to make a financial contribution to the challenge.

Army applications in the form of a sailing CV and Service details are required by the ASA Rear Commodore (Offshore), c/o WRTWR Project Manager, Room 316, Ripley Block, Old Admiralty Building, Spring Gardens, London SW1A 2BE, by January 31.

More details can be obtained from Cdr Watkins at the above address or on 071-218 3468 (Fax: 071-218 3463).

The race timetable is:

Leg 1, Southampton to Punta del Este (Sept 24-Oct);
 Leg 2, Punta to Fremantle (Nov 13-Dec); Leg 3, Fremantle to Auckland (Jan 8, 1994-Jan);
 Leg 4, Auckland to Punta del Este (Feb 19-Mar); Leg 5, Punta to Fort Lauderdale (April 2-April); Leg 6, Fort Lauderdale to Southampton (May 21-June).

Services to tour Middle East

COMBINED Services footballers are to play matches in Saudi Arabia and Oman during a high-profile Middle East tour in January. Led by Brig Richard Mountford, chairman of the CSFA, the party will be hosted by the Royal

Saudi Air Force and the Sultan of Oman's Forces.

Plans for a trip to Oman were made a year ago but had to be cancelled because of Operation Granby. The fortnight-long tour will be sponsored by British Aerospace.

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Yet each has the power to cruise comfortably

for long distances along the motorways.

While we are understandably making a lot of noise about the 106, the car itself remains remarkably quiet.

It has been built using techniques learned in the construction of the executive Peugeot 605 to make driving as pleasurable as possible.

On top of all these virtues, the 106 is clearly a car that will catch the eye.

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Constant vigilance along the United Nations Buffer Zone in Cyprus keeps divided communities from violence. Tpr Gordon MacLennan of 4 Royal Tank Regiment observes empty buildings deserted by Cypriots since the ceasefire in 1974. See Pages 21-27.

Picture: Mike Weston

SOLDIER

