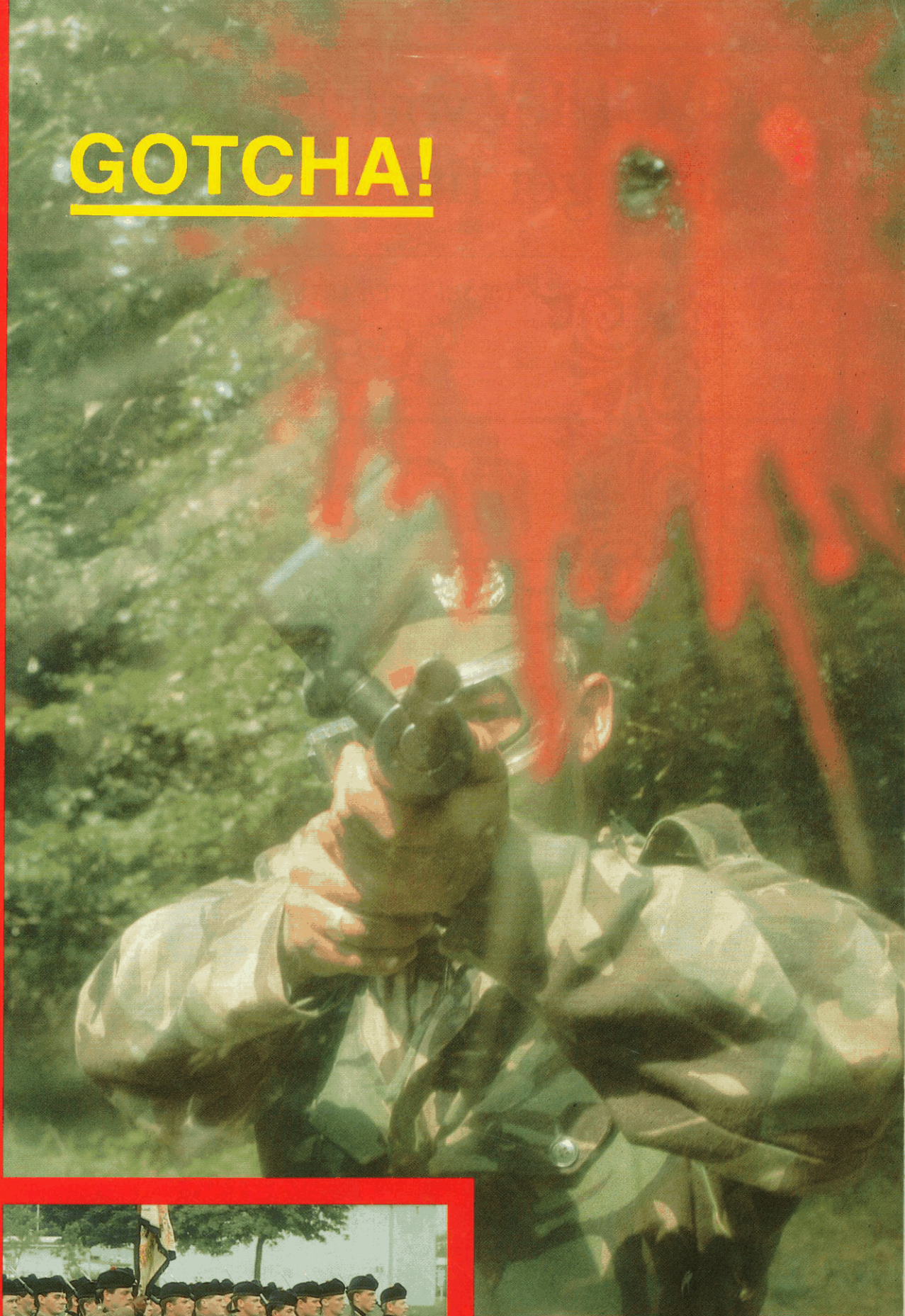


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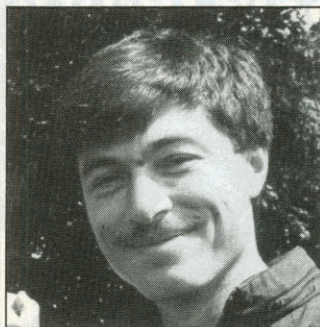
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Britain's skiing soldiers have a Soviet coach, Leonid Kuzmin (above). See story in Page 50.

FRONT COVER – Main picture: LCpl Lyndon Wong of the 1st Battalion, The Gloucestershire Regiment is right on target with a red paintball. A feature on paintballing – training aid and good fun – appears on Pages 26-27 (Picture: Mike Weston)

Lower picture: The Queen's Own Highlanders, stationed in Munster, celebrate 30 years of the amalgamation of the Seaforths and Camerons. Now they are to merge with the Gordons. A feature on the QO Hldrs starts on Page 22. (Picture: Mike Weston).

SOLDIER

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Don't lose your vote

SERVICE personnel who want to vote in a General Election next year must register by October 10. Soldiers on duty in Northern Ireland need to be quicker off the mark – they have only until September 15 to sign on as Service voters.

If in doubt, Servicemen and women can check their registration status on PAMPAS Screen A, Code 47.

If they are not on the register chief clerks should send off the

white F Vote 33 form.

The steps to take are:

- Not registered – complete F Vote 33;
- Proxy vote registered but out of date – complete a new F Vote 33;
- Registered as a postal voter but possibly outside the UK on Election Day – nominate a proxy on F Vote 33;
- Serving overseas but registered as a postal voter – complete a new F Vote 33

nominating a proxy.

Spouses can also register as Service voters using the green form F Vote 34. Their status can be checked on PAMPAS Screen H, Code 48.

The advice from the Central Manning Support Office, which is responsible for the maintenance of the Army Electoral Registration Index, is: **IF IN DOUBT, COMPLETE A NEW F VOTE 33 or 34.**

7/10 UDR wins Sword of Peace

THE 1990 Wilkinson Sword of Peace is to be presented to 7th/10th (City of Belfast) Battalion, The Ulster Defence Regiment.

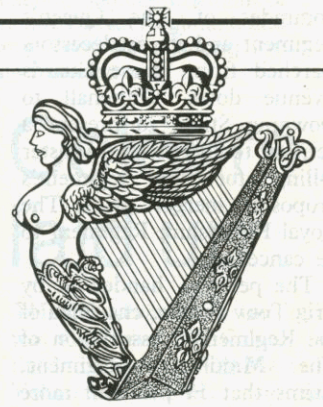
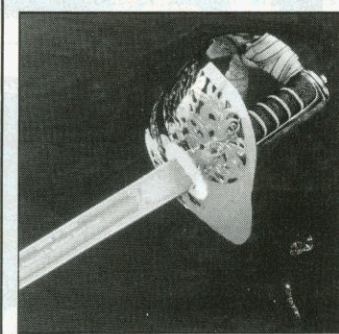
Swords of Peace are awarded every year by Wilkinson Sword Ltd to a unit of each of the three Services judged to have made the most valuable contribution towards establishing good relations with the local community, at home or abroad.

The battalion is commanded by Lt Col Peter Field.

Despite the intensity of violent attacks both against soldiers and the local population, the battalion continued to promote good relations with all sectors of the community during 1990. It helped 59 organisations with assistance, money or equipment.

Many of the projects were undertaken by the battalion's part-time soldiers, who voluntarily carry out military duties at night and at weekends as well as holding down full-time civilian employment.

These projects include donating equipment and raising money for old peoples' homes,



special care schools and hospitals. Out of a total of £18,388 raised during 1990 by the battalion, £5,000 was given to Heather Mack to assist with her treatment for cerebral palsy at the Peto Institute in Hungary, £3,000 for muscular dystrophy research and £2,000 for children's kidney research.

The men and women of 7/10

UDR are at risk from the terrorist 24 hours a day, both on and off duty. To carry out voluntarily community work which identifies them as soldiers demands a sustained level of courage and dedication.

The other winners are the Clyde Submarine Base for the Royal Navy and RAF Leuchars for the Royal Air Force.

Guardisman killed

LCPL Simon Ware (22) of the 2nd Battalion, Coldstream Guards, was killed by a landmine while on foot patrol south east of Newtonhamilton in South Armagh. A married man, he is the ninth soldier to die this year. The battalion returns to Britain this month after a six-month roulement tour.

Managing Editor: **Chris Horrocks** (Ext 2355) • Editor: **John Elliott** (2356) • Assistant Editors: **Laurie Manton** (2362), **Gordon Skilling** (2360) • Picture Editor: **Terry Champion** (2357) • Photographers: **Mike Weston**, **Mike Perring** (2357) • Art Editor: **Les Gwyer** (2169) • Families: **Anne Armstrong** (2169) • Librarian: **Bill Stroud** (2351) • Advertising/Promotions: **Una Hanson** (2352 or 0252 347352) • Accounts/Distribution: **Seela McIntosh** (2353)

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Views expressed in SOLDIER are not necessarily those of the Army or the Ministry of Defence.

Housing task force set up

A TASK FORCE has been set up to alleviate the severe housing needs facing Service personnel returning to civilian life.

Headed by Lord Arran, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for the Armed Forces, the team will be looking at a

number of options, including the expansion of shared ownership opportunities for soldiers to allow them to enter the housing market at an early stage, building up their involvement over a number of years and postings.

The initiative follows Defence Secretary Tom King's statement in the House of Commons that opportunities for co-ownership and part-ownership had not been available to Service personnel.

"We intend to make comparable changes in the housing opportunities for Servicemen and women and to bring Service housing policy up to date with developments in the community," said Mr King.

The task force, which will include Mr Michael Annan, Chief Executive of the Sanctuary Spiral Housing Group, and Mr Gregory Lomax, Deputy Chief Executive of the Housing Corporation, is to submit a report in mid-September.

Whitehall protest

A DELEGATION of Old Comrades of The Queen's Regiment and its predecessors marched from Horse Guards Avenue down Whitehall to Downing Street to present a petition to the Prime Minister calling for the regiment's proposed merger with The Royal Hampshire Regiment to be cancelled.

The petition, handed in by Brig Tony Pielow, chairman of the Regimental Association of The Middlesex Regiment, claims that 50 per cent more Queen's officers and twice as many Queen's soldiers as any of their large regiment counterparts face redundancy.

Queensmen head south

AS SOON as the men of B Company, 3 Queens had finished celebrating the Queen's birthday with a special parade at Episkopi, Cyprus, they exchanged ceremonial uniforms for combat kit in readiness for a four-month stint in the Falklands.

With the rest of the battalion and the RAF's 34 Squadron, they had marched to the regimental and squadron bands, with the salute being taken by Commander British Forces, Air Vice Marshal Sandy Hunter.

Now they are heading south to the Antarctic, the first time a Cyprus-based company has carried out this role.

Princess marks Tigers' safe return



Wearing a Minden rose, the Princess of Wales inspects similarly-adorned soldiers of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Hampshire Regiment at Portsmouth, where she attended a thanksgiving service for the battalion's safe return from a two-year tour of duty in Londonderry. It is now stationed at Colchester. The Princess is Colonel-in-Chief of the regiment, which every year on August 1 celebrates its part in the battle of Minden fought in 1759

HQ 3 Div in Rommel's footsteps

FIFTY officers from HQ 3 Armoured Division, including the GOC, Maj Gen Christopher Wallace, and brigade commanders, studied operational tactics when they visited Sedan and Arras in France. They were there to see how Rommel

outflanked the Allied advance into Belgium in May 1940.

Following the route of Rommel's 7 Panzer Division to Arras, they studied the plan of the British counter-attack which was formed up near Vimy Ridge, scene of Canadian

gallantry in 1917 and which still has its trenches and underground tunnels.

The battle was explained by military experts Maj (Retd) Kenneth Macksey and Lt Col Gerd Riecken, Bundeswehr Liaison Officer.



Sandhurst on parade

Some of the 570 student officers and officer cadets on parade at Royal Military Academy Sandhurst for the 106th Sovereign's Parade which was reviewed by the Duke of Kent. The Sword of Honour was awarded to 2nd Lt Stuart Jackson who is to serve with The Queen's Lancashire Regiment. Winner of the Graduate Sword of Honour was 2nd Lt Roger Cleave of The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment, and the Sash of Honour went to 2nd Lt Marcia Knight of the Royal Artillery. They were among 210 commissioned into the British Army. A number of foreign students also passed out



The Colours of the 2nd Battalion, The Mercian Volunteers are marched off parade for the last time. Sgt Maj Trevor Kemp of 4 (V) WFR is flanked on the left by 2nd Lt David Soley, carrying the Queen's Colour and 2nd Lt Richard Sloan (right), carrying the Regimental Colour

Colours laid up

THREE years after the unit was disbanded, the Colours of the 2nd Battalion, The Mercian Volunteers have been laid up. They were given to the Borough of Solihull for safe keeping by Col T R Dunne, last honorary colonel of 2 Mercian and currently honorary colonel of the 4th (V) Battalion, The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment, direct descendants of 2 Mercian.

The occasion marked the end of the unit which received its Colours from the Queen in her Jubilee year, 1977.

Earl's Court Trust boost

THIS year's Army-led Royal Tournament raised more than £100,000 for Service charities, including the Gulf Trust.

Audiences totalled more than 208,000 and the BBC TV programme of highlights was watched by four million.

An even bigger show is planned at Earl's Court next year, between July 8 and 25. Tickets will be available from January 2.

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Sappers switch to seawater in drought-hit Cyprus

SAPPERS from 62 (Cyprus) Support Squadron RE, assisted by specialists from the United Kingdom and members of the 3rd Battalion, The Queen's Regiment, have helped to quench the island's thirst by

constructing six reverse osmosis plants in Happy Valley, Episkopi.

The task, which included the laying of 3km of pipeline, took six weeks and will augment the Sovereign Base Area's water

needs by 15,000 tons a month during the drought currently affecting the island.

Water is being drawn from the sea, desalinated and pumped into the existing water system, providing about 20 per

cent of the SBA's needs.

The equipment involved, similar to that used in Saudi Arabia during the Gulf War, was flown from the UK and will be returned at the start of the island's wet season.

Allmand VC medal given to 6 GR

A Second World War Victoria Cross, won by a British officer serving with 6th Gurkha Rifles in a key battle of the Burma campaign, has been handed over to the regiment at a special ceremonial parade in Cassino Lines, Hong Kong.

The medal was awarded posthumously to Capt Michael Allmand who died at the age of 20 in June 1944 in the last of three attacks he led against fiercely defended Japanese positions in the Battle of Mogaung.

He had already inspired the capture of a road bridge and a strategic ridge by leading charges on enemy positions, killing machine gunners with hand grenades and three with his kukri knife. He was mortally wounded in a single-handed charge on another machine gun position at the Mogaung railway bridge.

Capt Allmand's elder sister, Mrs Marguerite Murphy, travelled from England with his younger brother, Dr Christopher Allmand, to present the medal to Brig Ray Pett, Colonel of the Regiment, in the presence of the Governor of Hong Kong, Sir David Wilson, and the assembled 6 GR.

Among those looking on was Hon Lt Tulbahadur Pun who won 6th Gurkha Rifles' only other Victoria Cross in the same action in which Capt Allmand died. Brig Michael Calvert,



On the march

Brig Bob Bullock (left), Commander Rear Combat Zone, marches in with the 3 Armoured Division Transport Regiment team after joining them on the second day of the four-day Nijmegen Marches. About 1,500 British Servicemen and women took part in the 75th anniversary marches, which attracted more than 40,000 participants. Medical back-up was provided by 250 Field Ambulance volunteers from Hull and nurses from RAF Wegberg

DSO, was also there. As commander 77 Indian Infantry Brigade in 1944, it was he who directed the assault on Mogaung.

Mrs Murphy said the idea of giving her brother's medal to the regiment was formulated when she was invited to visit 6 GR three years ago at Church Crookham and shown the VC of Tulbahadur Pun displayed in the Guard Room.

Capt Allmand's VC was conveyed from a London bank vault to Hong Kong in Mrs Murphy's handbag. There was only one slight hitch on the journey and that was when the medal was picked up by an X-ray machine at Heathrow and a security officer demanded to inspect it.

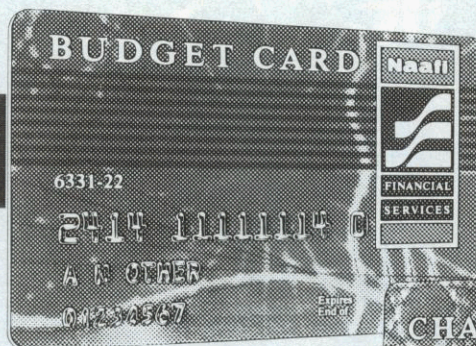


Capt Allmand's VC is trooped through the parade by Maj (QGO) Lalbahadur Thapa, Gurkha Major of 6 GR



Capt Allmand

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Pictures: Mike Perring



Birthday for 2 Para

Older eyes from the original 2nd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment fondly watched the present generation go through their paces when they celebrated the 50th anniversary of their formation during the Second World War. Among them Sgt Bill Fulton (left), first across the bridge at Arnhem, heard about the mortar platoon from grandson Pte David Hart. To mark the occasion former 2 Para CO, Maj Gen John Frost presented a bell to the present CO, Lt Col Clint Hicks, on behalf of the 2 Para Club, along with a new plinth for a refurbished Bruneval Cup.

Course No 1,000 wings in

FORMER PARA Ernie Chinery who completed the first parachute course at Ringway Airport in 1940, long before courses were numbered, was the first to congratulate 57 trainees and hand them their "wings" when they completed the 1,000th Basic Parachute Course at No 1 Parachute Training School, RAF Brize Norton.

Thirteen cap badges from all three Services were represented on the course including the Royal Marines, the Army Catering Corps and the RAF Regiment.

To mark the occasion best students, Sig H De Burgh, Royal Signals, and Pte M L O'Farrell, Para, were presented with bronze statuettes.

Since parachute courses began in 1940, more than 166,000 trainees have received their wings.

New Governor

LT GEN Sir Peter Graham, GOC Scotland, has been installed as the 120th recorded Governor of Edinburgh Castle. The 1st Battalion, The Gordon Highlanders took part in the colourful ceremony on the castle esplanade.

BAEE to merge

THE British Army equipment Exhibition (BAEE) scheduled for June next year has been postponed until September 1993 when it will merge with the Royal Navy's defence showcase (RNEE).

Announcing the new arrangement, Defence Procurement Minister Alan Clark said the first combined exhibition would be held in the Aldershot area.

The RNEE scheduled for Portsmouth this month is to go ahead.

EFI parade marks Gulf War service

A TEAM of shopkeepers, barmen, warehousemen and office workers gathered for a reunion parade to mark their service in the Gulf War. All staff from Naafi shops, clubs, and other establishments in the UK and Germany, they had volunteered to serve in the Gulf with the EFI (Expeditionary Force Institutes), Naafi's uniformed branch.

After the hostilities Naafi's service was extended to

Northern Iraq and Turkey for troops taking part in Operation Safe Haven, the international mercy mission to rescue displaced Kurds stranded in the mountains.

Maj Gen David Botting, Director General of the Royal Army Ordnance Corps, in whose ranks EFI serve, presented the men with commemorative certificates at the parade, held at EFI headquarters in Surrey.

It's already earned its stripes.



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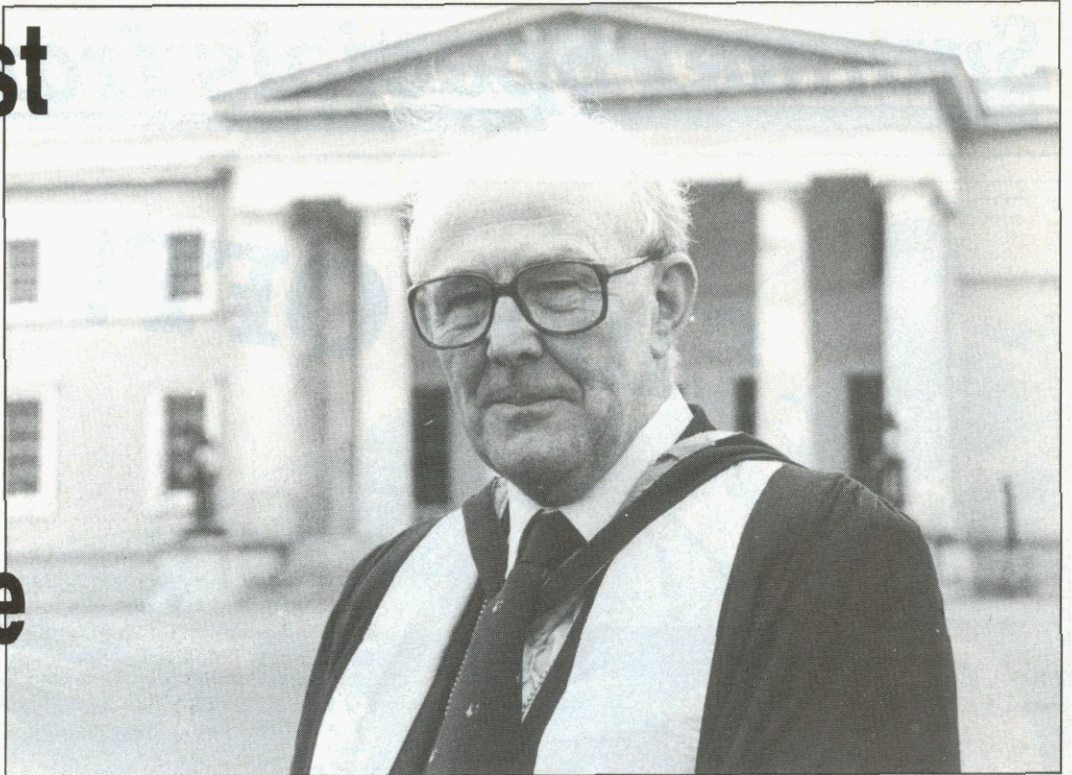
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Sandhurst lecturer recalls a lifetime of change



Dr Dennis Lever at the Royal Military Academy

EDUCATIONAL standards in the country have not always changed for the better over the past 20 years, according to Dr Dennis Lever, Director of Studies at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, who has retired after more than 40 years of teaching, writes **Gordon Skilling**.

He has seen vast changes in education in his time, and now remedial teaching in English is sometimes required for the young students.

The Academy has long since lost its languages faculty, a great pity in his opinion, as was the amalgamation of maths and science into military technology, which itself then disappeared in 1986.

When Dr Lever started lecturing at Sandhurst 38 years

ago, the courses were of 18 months, with half of the syllabus academic. After fluctuating from two years to eight months, the course is today one year, and the Academy no longer teaches anything on the science or maths side at all but uses visiting lecturers from the Royal Military College of Science at Shrivenham.

The Academy today concentrates on Defence and International Affairs, War Studies and Communication Studies.

An early ambition to fly could not be realised in 1946 when that earlier peace dividend was in force. It did not

stop his being called up for National Service, which he spent in the RAF's Educational Branch.

After demob he took his BSc in special physics at the University of London and started on September 1 1953 as a lecturer in the Department of Science.

With his MSc and Ph.D in Education behind him he became head of department in 1971 and was then appointed head of military technology. He has been Director of Studies since 1984.

Dr Lever says he may still do some teaching in his retire-

ment, and he looks forward to carrying on his hobby of writing and arranging music. The Academy's Drama and Music Society flourished under his guidance, and in his first review were Maj Michael Parker, who now directs the Royal Tournament and other major displays, and the current commandant of the RMA, Maj Gen Tim Toyne Sewell.

Among the many friends and former staff members who dined him out were 24 members of the original Sandhurst band, which disbanded in 1984 but reformed for the occasion.

Raleigh sells well in Berlin

SEVERAL young Berliners can look forward to the adventure of a lifetime after completing a series of tough selection tests staged by the British Army in Berlin on behalf of Operation Raleigh, writes **Mervyn Wynne Jones**.

Op Raleigh organiser and former explorer Col John Blashford-Snell approached Berlin Brigade Commander, Brig David Bromhead, and asked him to stage a local selection weekend to help get the ball rolling. The project has never taken root in Germany.

The result was a series of tests in Berlin's Grunewald forest and Ruhleben training



Tough going for Berlin's Raleigh candidates

area staged by Maj Tony Allen and his adventurous training staff and project director Maj Julian Crowe. The tests were arduous and taxing, stretching both mind and body to the limit during two days of constant activity

with little opportunity for sleep. Seventeen Germans competed on the weekend and nine passed, most now having to raise the sponsorship required to pay for their flights and other expedition costs.

Two, however, at the initiative of the Berlin Brigade Commander will receive full sponsorship from the British Army and Daimler Benz. Lufthansa have also offered subsidised fares.

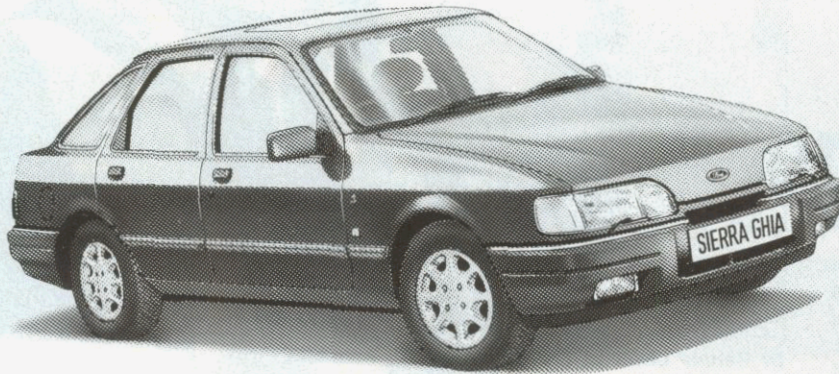
The two are 24-year-old Imke Junge, a law student from former East Berlin, and 20-year-old Said Moutsinga, a trainee vet also of Berlin.

Six Britons, mostly Berlin-based soldiers, also competed and four were selected for places on future Operation Raleigh expeditions.

It is hoped that the weekend and the interest shown in it by Berlin media will prompt the formation of a German local committee.

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Tax Free Sales.



War book to boost Gulf Trust

Read the story behind the story in *Britain's Gulf War, Operation Granby* – and contribute to the Gulf Trust at the same time.

The book costs £2.52 including post and packaging and is available from the Gulf Trust Office, Room 721, Adastral House, Theobalds Road, London WC1X 8RU.

With forewords by Gen Sir Peter de la Billière and Gen Norman Schwarzkopf, plus a perspective of the war by Fd Marshal Lord Bramall, it tells the full story with colour pictures of the road to war and the history behind Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

The publication was produced to mark the City of London's Welcome Home Parade and half the £2 cover price goes to the Trust.

Writer of note

A powerful pen is wielded by 16-year-old Alexander Sloan of the Duke of York's Royal Military School in Dover, who has won an award in the WH Smith Young Writers' Competition.

Alexander, whose family lives in Germany, won an engraved fountain pen and certificate for two short stories *Beat the Devil* and *The Hobby*.

They will appear in a paperback next spring along with the other 62 winners and runners-up.

Fund of stories

It's an indisputable fact that Christmas is coming and some are already wondering what to buy the children.

Brig Peter Stewart-Richardson has a ready answer for them. Go out and buy a copy of his children's book *A Soldier's Dream*.

Better still, order it direct from him at Creake Abbey,

SOLDIER to Soldier



Picture: Terry Champion

You've seen the tanks, now meet the men: Among those on duty on the opening day of Bovington Tank Museum's Gulf War Exhibition were these members of the 2nd Royal Tank Regiment. They were able to give a host of curious visitors first-hand accounts of the mammoth but largely unsung desert task of equipping, maintaining and transporting the hardware that helped win the war.

Foreground, from left: LCpl Mark Britten, WO2 Tony Rickard and Sgt Martain Porter, of Badger Squadron; top, LCpl Gary Palmer and Cpl Arthur Ash, of Huntsman Squadron.

North Creake, Fakenham, Norfolk NR21 9LF.

It costs £2.75 including postage and tells the story of a young lad who joins the Army during the Napoleonic Wars and has a dream with an amusing consequence. John

Ryan of Captain Pugwash fame is the illustrator.

And just in case you think this is a plug to make money – it is! But don't be put off, as author and illustrator will take nothing. All profits will go to the Army Benevolent Fund.

Among the fascinated visitors were family ticket winners of the SOLDIER Gulf War Exhibition contest, or their representatives. The first six correct entries drawn were from Mr S K Rothwell, of Reading; Cfn S A Waistell, of Newton Aycliffe; Mr R Griffin, of Gloucester; Michael Hart, of Solihull; Mr G P Coles, of North Shields; and LCpl Robert Shaw, of 5 Ord Bn, BFPO 16. Mr Coles was unable to take up his prize, which in a fresh draw was won by Mr Henry Haines, of N Humberstone.

The exhibition was opened by Brig Patrick Cordingley, Commander 7 Armoured Brigade.

Girls in WG uniform

First females to wear the uniform of the Welsh Guards are those of the band of Powys Army Cadet Force.

They, and the boys of the band, were presented with their khaki berets with the famous leek cap badge by Brig Johnny Rickett, Lieutenant Colonel of the Welsh Guards.

They could also be recognised by their distinctive blue-red-blue stable belts of the Household Division.

The band is the first Army cadet unit to become part of the Welsh Guards.

As such it is part of the Queen's Household Troops.

Desert war art exhibition

It will be no coincidence if more than a few exhibits at a London art show later this year are of a sandy hue.

A special feature of the Armed Forces Art Society's annual exhibition at the National Army Museum, Chelsea, will be a display of paintings and drawings from the Gulf War by members who were there.

Maj Robin Watt of the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards and

ex-RN professional marine artist David Cobb were commissioned to paint a number of pictures covering aspects of the campaign, and this will be the first and only showing of them together.

The exhibition is being opened by Gen Sir Peter de la Billière on November 20, but works must be received by November 9 by Capt Bill Blake, D Block, Duke of Yorks HQ, London SW3 4SE.

Gurkhas on L waves

A leading radio manufacturer has given the Gurkhas at Church Crookham mobile equipment worth £4,000 to help them learn how to ride motorbikes.

"Most of the Gurkhas have never ridden or driven anything before joining the Army," said Maj **Nigel Shakespear**, 2IC of the 1st Battalion, 2nd Gurkha Rifles.

"And when they return home cars are so expensive they can't afford them. So they go for bikes instead."

Teaching them the art of good riding is **Norman Black** and the gift by Motorola has made his job much easier. "They're keen pupils," he said. "This kit enables me to talk to them on the move. Like any driving instructor I constantly need to give directions. These radios make it almost as easy as teaching in a car."



Flying doctor

Maj **Allison Barnett** of the Army Air Corps had an unusual conversion to Gazelle helicopters – it happened while she was assisting an Army consultant during a four-hour operation.

Maj Barnett, a doctor specialising in aviation medicine and now stationed at Middle Wallop, has completed an operational tour of Belize after becoming the first woman to complete a military pilot course in the Services.

Her conversion to Army flying came about when she was a medical student at university. During the long operation she told the surgeon of her plans to join the Royal Air Force, and was promptly informed that the AAC could offer her a career in medicine and flying.

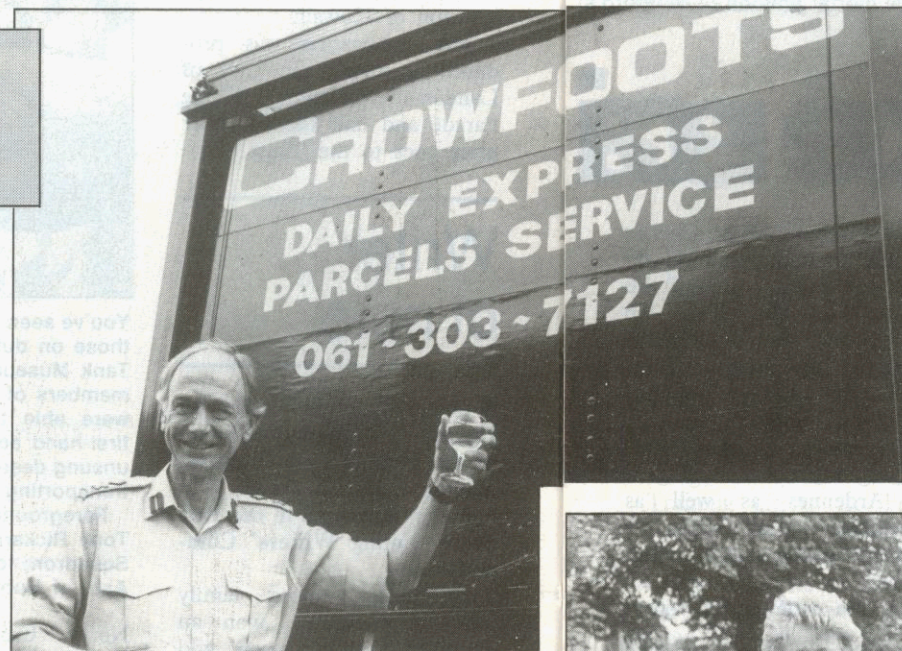
At Middle Wallop she spends three days a week on medicine and two days on flying.



Express farewell

Something looked familiar when Maj Gen **Tony Crowfoot**, outgoing GOC NW District, moved into civvy street after 35 years in the Army in a jape set up by staff at Fulwood Barracks, Preston.

In his time Gen Crowfoot (no relation to the delivery firm) has been CO of The Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire, commander 39 Infantry Brigade in NI and Land Forces in Hong Kong, becoming a major general in 1986. In that year he was also appointed Colonel of the East Yorkshire Regiment with which he began his military career in 1956.



Well met!

Thumbs up for a job well done from these RCT NCOs who last met when they joined the Army at Aldershot in 1975.

WO2 **David Trigg**, SSgt **Peter Morrison** and Sgt **Ken Shephard** first saw each other when they joined Intake No 454 16 years ago at Buller Barracks.

Then they dispersed to various parts of the world and neither saw nor heard of each other till they met at Al Jubail in Saudi Arabia.

They have been organising the return of vehicles and equipment used by British Forces in the Gulf War.

Now the job is finished and they are looking forward to a spot of leave before returning to their German bases.



3 LI to the rescue

Smart work by two soldiers on patrol in West Belfast saved the life of an eight-year-old boy. Ptes **Adrian Smith** and **Vince Hope**, medics with the 3rd Battalion, The Light Infantry, rushed to help little Noel Gill who had blood spurting from his chest after an accident with a cartridge from a gun used to drive staples into concrete.

Noel's mother thought her son had been shot and was screaming for help when the soldier's dashed to give first-aid to the boy.

Later, after the lad had been taken to hospital, they were pelted with bricks and bottles by a mob.

"Those soldiers saved his life. Later they even stopped me in the street to ask how he was getting on," said Noel's mother. Blasting the stonethrowers, she said: "I wonder would they have done the same if it had been their son?"



Pte Vince Hope



Pte Adrian Smith

Long server

Arthur Eacock joined the Royal Worcester-shire Regiment in 1943 and stayed with them for 30 years, retiring in 1973 as a staff sergeant at Sennelager. But he immediately started a new civvy career with 65 Corps Support Squadron, RE, and has now retired again after 18 years as a civilian supervisor. In all Arthur completed 48 years' service with the British Army.



Watch out, Uncle's about!

Believe it or not but former TA CSM **Tom Clark** is about to whisper birthday greetings to Pte **Michelle Owen**.

Michelle, 20, was being put through her paces by her Uncle Tom as a pre-21st birthday surprise at the WRAC Selection Centre, Guildford.

The surprise was the idea of Michelle's mum and she asked Maj **Sue Westlake** to help set it all up.

Then Tom, until recently CSM with 203 Welsh General Hospital (V) in Swansea, travelled to Surrey to give Michelle her marching orders and a 21st birthday kiss.

PEOPLE

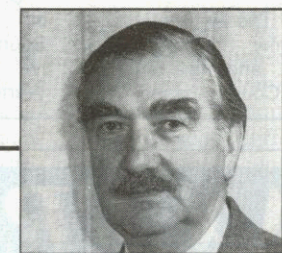


When Sgt **Maureen Green** received her LS and GC Medal from Brig **Gael Ramsey**, Director WRAC, at York, her mother, **Norah**, and eight of her 15 brothers and sisters went along to add their congratulations.

Maureen is a recruiter at York, and has

Well done, sister

served in Germany and Northern Ireland and worked with specialist units of the RAOC as well as with the RMP and the AAC.



Bill Holmes, the Army's longest serving public relations officer, retired in August after 45 years of continuous service both as a Regular officer and, for the past 24 years, as a civil servant.

He has been for several years the Army's spokesman in the north east, where is to be succeeded by colleague **Geoffrey Kay**.

Bill, whose support was much appreciated by SOLDIER, spent two years on the *Yorkshire Post* and *Yorkshire Evening Post* before being commissioned in 1945 into the East Yorkshire Regiment. He was attached to Berlin headquarters during the Airlift, leaving the Army in 1967 as a major to join the Government Information Service.

Tribute to Ypres

POIGNANT reminders of two world wars, and the high price of victory, formed a backdrop to 5 LI's camp in Belgium.

While the battalion's volunteer soldiers were training, its Bligny Band and Bugles trod ground fought over by Shropshire and Herefordshire men in 1914-18 and again in 1939-45.

At Ypres, where the soldiers of Britain and her empire died in their tens of thousands in the First World War, they still remember. At 8pm every evening, year in, year out, the town's fire brigade buglers sound the Last Post under the massive arch of the Menin Gate.

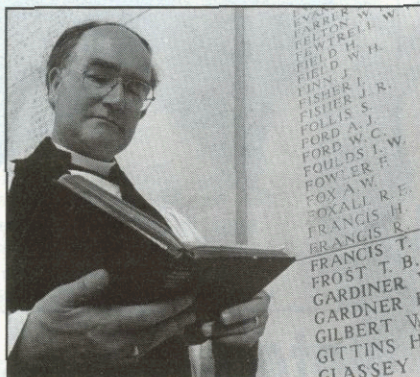
The townspeople turned out in force when the Band and Bugles joined in, marching through the little town to a special ceremony at the gate.

A few days earlier, in Antwerp, the Band and Bugles figured in another ceremony which recalled the contribution of their predecessors in the Second World War.

Joined by The Light Infantry's Regular Army Corunna Band from Berlin, and nine buglers from West Country-based 6 LI

(TA), the Bligny Band and Bugles Sounded Retreat in Antwerp's Cathedral Square – marking the fact that it was The King's Shropshire Light Infantry and The Herefordshire Regiment, part of 11th Armoured Division, who headed the liberation of the city in September 1944.

On another memorable evening the Band and Bugles Sounded Retreat in the impressive setting of Chateau de Warfusee, near Liege.



A moving moment for 5 LI padre Capt the Rev Edward Ward. After taking part in a sunset ceremony at the Menin Gate in Ypres, he found the name of his grandfather – Pte R E Foxall – among the tens of thousands of names on the First World War memorial. Pte Foxall, who fell on May 15, 1915, was the first Bridgnorth man to die in the war – and Capt Ward is the first member of the family to visit the memorial



LCpl Jed Fry and Pte Phil Lloyd from the mortar platoon of Hereford's casualty evacuation exercise

5 LI go it alone in Belgium

The assault course rope walk holds no terrors for new 5 LI recruit Pte Paula Taylor, aged 25, from C Company

Pictures: Peter Griffiths



C Company commander Maj Richard Stedman-Jones (right) presents farewell gifts – including a Light Infantry green beret – to SSgt Mark Keller, in camp with 5 LI on exchange from the US National Guard in Oregon. A full-time member of the National Guard, SSgt Keller is seconded to the Oregon State Police for armed military support on drug raids

An exercise in DIY

NEARLY 400 members of the 5th (Shropshire and Herefordshire) Battalion, The Light Infantry (Volunteers) have just returned from a successful "do-it-yourself" exercise with a difference in Belgium, writes Maj Richard Shields.

Possibly their last overseas camp for some years because of cutbacks in BAOR strength and training, it was different – and popular with the Territorial Army soldiers – because of the variety packed into two

weeks. Exercise Bugle Charge saw the battalion and all its vehicles move across the Channel on the LSL Sir Geraint, and then on to Olen Camp in the British Communications Zone, Emblem, just east of Antwerp.

The first week found them enjoying adventure training in the Ardennes as well as developing military skills on training areas around their base camp.

For the experienced volun-

teers more used to larger-scale exercises in Germany, living in the field for much of the time, the variety was a welcome change.

The adventure training period, near Dinant, included canoeing on the River Lesse, rock climbing, abseiling, hill walking, cycling and caving.

Training officer Lt Tricia Hirst said: "It was the first time many of the soldiers had had the opportunity to do some of these things. We were very pleased with the way they all tackled the challenges presented."

Back in the Olen-Emblem

area, the battalion got down to the main business of the exercise, a three-day military skills competition which tested small teams of soldiers and junior commanders in a wide range of infantry combat situations – recce patrolling, signals, minefield clearance, enemy vehicle recognition, driving, vehicle recovery, casualty evacuation and first aid, weapon handling, an anti-tank attack, and nuclear, biological and chemical protection drills.

Toughest stage came at the end of the competition – a fast 16-mile night march in full kit

ending in a shoot. Overall winners were a team from the Shrewsbury-based Recce Platoon.

For a 60-strong recruit cadre, camp meant basic training – culminating in a smart passing-out parade which brought high praise from the inspecting officer, Brig Nigel Mogg, Commander, British Communications Zone, Emblem.

Brig Mogg presented awards to the best female and male recruits, Ptes Treeena Fleming (C Company) and William Robinson (B Company), runner-up Christopher Caswell (A Company), best shot Richard

Allen (C Company) and runner-up Ian Cathcart (C Company).

The commanding officer, Lt Col Nick Jenkins, was pleased with the battalion's performance.

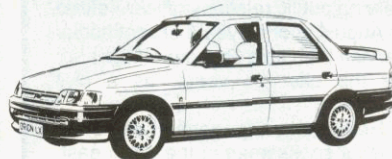
"It is unusual for a TA battalion to have its own independent camp abroad," he said. "Exercise Bugle Charge was planned on our own initiative, supported by the chain of command and achieved at minimum cost. It was varied, different, well attended, and, most important of all, thoroughly enjoyed by all ranks."



Pause for a picture for this 5 LI patrol after capturing a "tank" during the exercise in Belgium. Left to right are LCpl Mark Edwards, Pte Ian Hutton, LCpl Bob Scottford, guest SSgt Mark Keller of the US National Guard, patrol commander Lt Stuart Heath, LCpl Micky Gunner and LCpl Gary Walton

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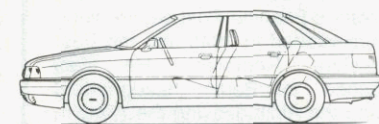
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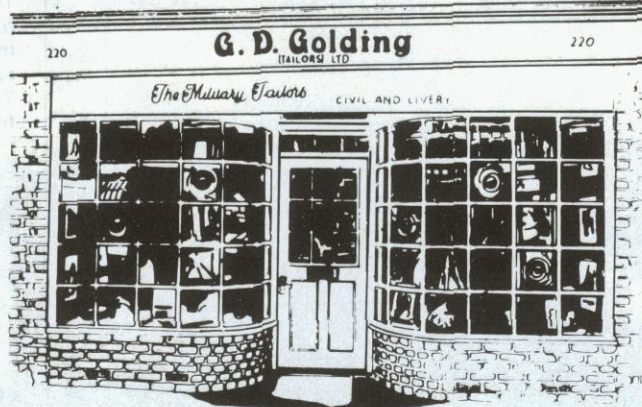
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The girls had to get their backs into moving a lot of heavy equipment during the move, so a quick spin for their personnel officer, Capt Chris Thwaite, does not present too many problems

The big push to Iserlohn

Once again, the German Horse Artillery barracks at Iserlohn is home to a British Military Hospital, while that in Munster has closed its doors after 46 years. **Gordon Skilling** and photographer **Mike Weston** saw how staff were settling in to the refurbished Argonne Barracks.

IT WAS a difficult delivery for the British Military Hospital at Iserlohn.

The staff had to deliver themselves, lock, stock, barrel and hypodermics from the BMH at Munster while keeping emergency cover for a catchment area covering Dortmund, Soest, Paderborn, Sennelager and Munster, plus Iserlohn itself.

To make matters worse, 60 staff had hived off to provide cover in the Gulf, leaving the remainder to cope with the whole move, taking over the new accommodation and dealing with the compassionate cases arising from the Gulf War, all under the continual threat of postponement.

That they provided such good support to the Op Granby families is a powerful tribute to

them. On the last day at Munster, SSgt John Gilmour, one of the last two Servicemen at Munster, got his money's worth when his daughter produced his first grandchild there; no sooner had Iserlohn opened its doors than a heavily pregnant woman turned up and delivered the next day, proving that the emergency electricity supply functioned because the external supply failed as she arrived.

After many postponements, the BMH re-opened at the beginning of April after a closure of six years.

It has changed out of all recognition from the cosy, almost cottage hospital atmosphere of the 70s.

The refurbishment and rebuilding of old barracks cost more than £42 million, and in

the process it was completely gutted to its foundations, leaving only the shell of the buildings standing.

It is now the most modern hospital in BAOR with as near state-of-the-art medical equipment as can be achieved with a planning time of several years. It has, however, lost a lot of the old welfare facilities. The all-weather sports pitch, for example, has given way to a car park.

The hospital now provides more than 200 beds and fills the role of a general hospital, with all its specialities.

As well as general surgery, obstetrics and gynaecology, it deals with oral surgery, genito-urinary medicine and paediatrics.

At the same time it is the BAOR focus for two teams of

specialists – the Psychiatric Unit, which is finding new work following the stresses of the Gulf War, and the Rehabilitation Unit, which literally helps people get back on their feet after serious accidents and fractures.

Col John Tinsley, the Commanding Officer, sees the intensive physiotherapy in the rehabilitation unit as being essentially the same work for the body as the psychiatric unit provides for the mind.

However, the kind of hospital he commands has a different ethos from a National Health Service hospital.

"You cannot make comparisons, because we are like the football physiotherapist, who is at the sideline to treat the player immediately and get him

● Turn to next page

Monster Munster move

THE move from Munster to Iserlohn was something of a quartermaster's nightmare.

On reflection, it was really the kind of hassle Maj Snowy Everett, QM at Munster, and Maj Bryan Hair, his counterpart at Iserlohn, could have done without as they looked towards retirement.

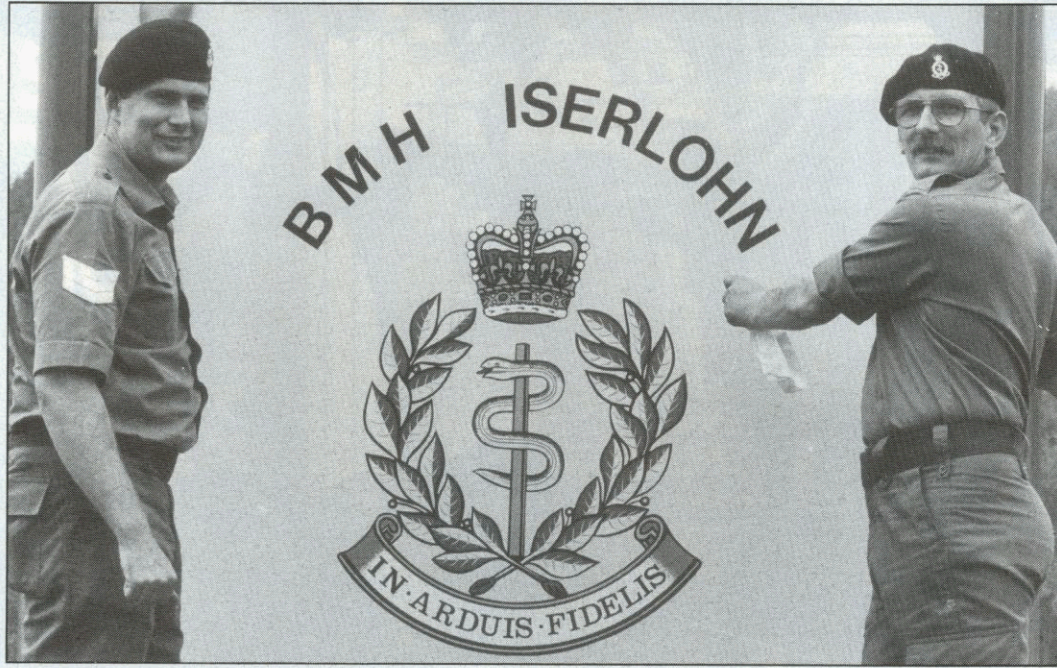
They were planning something which a number of people, including a few in high places, felt would never actually take place.

At one stage there were four different move dates in six months and it seemed as if they were continually planning only to have those plans postponed.

On top of that, they couldn't pack most of the kit because it was being used.

When Iserlohn closed in 1985 all the normal work was taken on by Munster. Planning for the return started the following year in preparation for when Munster would close.

Capt Chris Thwaite found herself posted in to Munster in January this year as the female



They have done so much by themselves, Sgt Neil Titmus and SSgt Acky Milligan may as well polish the sign, too.

personnel officer, and wonders if it was all a sick joke.

"I just thought it was going to be a headache when I arrived," she said, "and some

people hoped it would just go away. You could surely never envisage moving a hospital and expecting it to function at the same time."

But that was what happened. Regiments moving on posting tend to be allowed to concentrate their minds on their move for several weeks

without having to bother too much about duties. Not so the BMH. They still had to provide cover, and with reduced staff.

When Maj Hair arrived on site he had one labourer to help him. He eventually got two more staff, but an extra advance party of 16 culled from BAOR's RAMC units turned up for only one month before they joined the 60 hospital staff sent to the Gulf.

He had SSgt Acky Milligan to arrange the accommodation for 127 married people and 150 single personnel. His QM's department was latterly functioning with five instead of 12.

Maj Everett was sending two 16-tonners down a day over three weeks, plus a four-tonner three times a day and carrying out the job with the help of a loadmaster borrowed from the RCT was a woman RQMS, WO2 Terri Hook.

As the move finally gathered momentum, a sense of humour was just what the doctor ordered.



One big, happy family at Iserlohn, as nine of the 12 serving couples show



The BAOR psychiatric unit also has a teaching function

Return to Iserlohn

● From Page 19

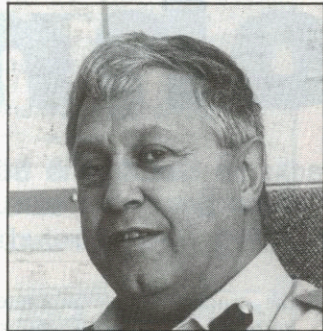
back on the park.

"We aim to keep soldiers on the road and treat them as early as possible to prevent damage, but we also look after the families."

The trauma of the Gulf War continues to exercise the psychiatric unit, as, indeed, does the Falklands conflict, and families as well as soldiers have been experiencing problems.

As well as providing 16 beds and dealing with 350 patients in a year, it is a teaching unit, with junior psychiatrists undergoing six months' training in the wards. In-patient alcohol education groups are run for two weeks.

While the unit's success is not always as immediately obvious as the more physical side of medicine, it still provides the same deep job satisfaction. Some respond well to help and recover very quickly, but progress with very disturbed and difficult patients is the more satisfying after having had to work long and hard at returning a more balanced personality to society.



Col John Tinsley, Commanding Officer

Balance can be an early problem for those involved in serious accidents, and the rehabilitation unit is heavily involved in getting people to walk again, then pass their Battle Fitness Test.

People like QMSI Paul Duckworth, one of the last PTIs who have specialised in physiotherapy, have the task of coaching the slowly-healing bodies back to full fitness.

"We accommodate 15 people and mainly deal in lower-limb and ankle problems, though we have a few back and upper-limb patients," he explains.

"Once they have finished

their 'hands-on' treatment and electro-therapy, they are ready for strengthening. It is not just a case of strengthening the muscles; the joints are often very stiff because they have been immobilised for three months."

Specific treatment programmes lasting from between two to eight weeks provide circuit training, multi-gym work, swimming, running with the help of graded machines, and recreational therapy. A few also come from the psychiatric ward to let off steam.

Pressures on the staff would have been dangerous with so many staff taken for the Gulf, had the Bundeswehr not come to the rescue. As well as providing labour at both Munster and Iserlohn, nine doctors stepped into the breach in the wards, with a couple extending their stays.

"It has been very interesting to see how the British approach medicine," said Hauptmann Rudolf Soeder. "The German method is more aggressive, and the British more conservative, but we arrive at the same result.



SSgt John Gilmour doesn't find it lonely waiting to hand over the late BMH Munster.

"Germans do a lot more technical investigations, while the British make more of oral examination and case history."

His colleague, Maj David Neaves, is rightly generous in his praise: "The Germans were very popular and integrated into the whole hospital. Without them, we just wouldn't have coped."

Perhaps some of the staff

could have used their own psychiatric facilities during the turmoil, had they not themselves been detached for the move, but now that they are past the stage of just coping, they have been able to let off a bit of steam themselves with another hectic period: their Corps Week of festivities tied in with the postponed QARANC commemorative day.



Now that they have survived the move, Munster QM Maj Snowy Everett and Iserlohn QM Maj Bryan Hair think they can sit back and relax, but RQMS Terri Hook has other ideas



The march of the Seaforths and Camerons

A fine tradition

THE march of the Cameron men was ever a stirring sight as well as a rousing sound. It was heard again in Munster where old Seaforths are now reconciled to hearing it along with their own march, *Cabar Feidh*.

The Seaforth Highlanders and The Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders amalgamated in 1961 and some would say it has taken all of 30 years to weld them into the Queen's Own Highlanders (Seaforth and Camerons) who marched onto the turf at their Munster base and trooped their colour with a precision which would not have shamed the Guards.

Only man left in the battalion who served pre-1961 is the quartermaster, former Seaforth Maj Murdo MacLeod. The remainder are all Queen's Own Highlanders, but there are still three regimental associations. If you get something wrong now, it is not because you are a Seaforth or a Cameron.

Their history and traditions

As the Queen's Own Highlanders were going on summer block leave they learned that they are to be amalgamated for the second time since 1961. They had been celebrating the 30th anniversary of that earlier merging of the Seaforths and Camerons, and despite having fought together – as allies – on many occasions, it was a traumatic experience and not one they would choose to repeat. **Gordon Skilling** visited them in Munster with photographer **Mike Weston**.

are dear to the Highlanders, a warrior breed notoriously proud of protocol. If it seemed that the Seaforths were being slighted because their side of the pipe banner was never displayed as the pipers marched, clockwise, round the mess functions, then they would have them march round anti-clockwise for the second set.

Thus a new tradition is brought in to stand with the old – such as having, since 1778, the first sergeants' mess in the British Army.

Many of the standards current then are still maintained. A dim view is taken if

you do not "pass the time of day" correctly by greeting the Sergeants' Mess on entering, or excuse yourself on leaving, and the mess still rises for the Commanding Officer, RSM and visitors.

About 250 of the regimental family were present, having travelled from most points north of the Grampians, to see the colour trooped in front of the Colonel of the Regiment, Maj Gen John Hopkinson.

Recruits also come from the south, particularly Glasgow, and a fair sprinkling of Scouse teuchters testify to the strong connection with the Liverpool Scottish, a TA company with

1/51 Highland Volunteers who receive their permanent staff instructors from the Queen's Own Highlanders and are fiercely proud of the connection.

As the march-off struck up, it was the signal for the mess staff to start pouring out the spirits, wine, beer and soft drinks for 1,600 thirsty throats after a taxing parade.

It was time to celebrate after a lot of hard preparation for the parade and hard work over recent months in the Gulf, as well as over the past year, when they were the only battalion-sized unit on active service twice in the past 12 months.

After the concentrated effort that went into their exercises at BATUS, the battalion spent last summer in Belfast, and had hardly got its feet back on the ground in Westphalia when it was off to the Gulf, albeit with something of a false start.

The actual anniversary of amalgamation, February 7, was

a few short weeks from the start of the land battle in the Gulf, so the week of festivities marked the battalion's return as well as celebrating one of the more successful amalgamations of two proud and distinguished regiments.

They know how to enjoy themselves. Highland hospitality flowed for the regimental association guests who had come out to see its heart, the 1st Battalion, at work and play. Stands illustrated displays from the companies, Northern Ireland, and the Gulf as well as other features from their rich history.

If the Highland warriors know how to enjoy themselves, RSM David Chapman also knows when to bend the traditionally iron discipline. On one occasion he felt he had gone over the top in imposing a fine at a function, and then announced to the mess that he was fining himself a bottle of

● Turn to Page 25

Long road to the Gulf

THE journey to the Gulf was not easy for the Queen's Own Highlanders. To their chagrin they were not deployed as a complete unit, but were dispersed to various duties. The move itself was far from ideal, with the regiment stood down, then recalled from leave.

When they were first ordered to the Gulf, the QO Hldrs sent their reconnaissance elements off followed by their vehicles.

Deployment details were not confirmed and the advance party had to return, leaving their vehicles, until

fresh instructions were received.

Even when A company was finally en route the aircraft was actually over Greece when the air war started. Airspace was closed and the company had to divert to Brize Norton for 36 hours before eventually parading in theatre to form the escort for the First Armoured Division Tactical and Main HQs.

B Company had been guarding HQ BFME in Riyadh but when it was realised that its soldiers were perhaps too sharp for this duty, they re-mechanised in

four days before the land attack and provided the guard for the division's Rear HQ and logistics elements.

One of the formations they were guarding was their own battalion HQ and echelon, which provided the base for the division's Armoured Delivery Group.

The military band had the distinction of deploying earlier as medical orderlies with 7 Bde, the first time they have been in the van.

The battalion's reconnaissance elements were the first British infantry into Iraq.



MTO Lt George Givens testifies to the strong connection with the Liverpool Scottish, where he was a cadet and territorial before joining as a Regular in 1968, carrying on to become RSM



The last Seaforth, Quartermaster Maj Murdo MacLeod



Colonel of the Regiment Maj Gen John Hopkinson inspects the Queen's Own Highlanders (Seaforth and Camerons). Their precision would not shame the Guards



Traditional Uniforms Edinburgh

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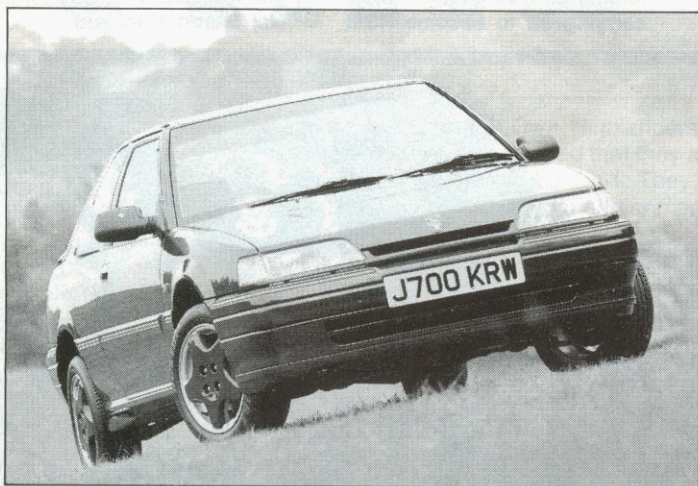
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Tradition

● From Page 23

whisky for having lost his temper.

The sword dance is reputedly symbolic of the victor dancing in celebration with his sword laid over that of the enemy, so it was appropriate that an Iraqi T55 tank was sitting, forlorn and dejected, near a Challenger while they got on with the festivities.

"We never came across any in anger, in fact very few people did," said Cpl Eric McMonies, who was in the convoy of 55 Scammell Commander tank transporters which was part of the Armoured Delivery Group.

"Thankfully we only had to do our job of replacing vehicles twice with the Warriors which were taken out. I hope we never have to do it again, but it was certainly an experience I'll never forget."

The headquarters and echelon elements of the battalion provided the infrastructure for the main reconstitution group, which was effectively the reserve battle group. Under command were three squadrons of Life Guards, three companies of Scots Guards, plus a composite armoured recce squadron, armoured engineer squadron and gunnery battery.

The Highlanders do not have an armoured infantry role in Germany, and 100 or so were taken as reserves to do various jobs, with the largest number, 77, going to The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers and 18 to The Royal Scots.

It was not the ideal situation, said the Commanding Officer, Lt Col Seymour Monro. "We know the strengths of the regimental system, and I don't dispute that the Life Guards, for example, would have been happier fighting with a Life Guards unit."

"It took time to weld the disparate units into a cohesive unit to go to war in, and we made it operate very well, but I wouldn't pretend it was a battle group I would have been comfortable fighting in. It may not have stood the test of a longer and more protracted conflict."

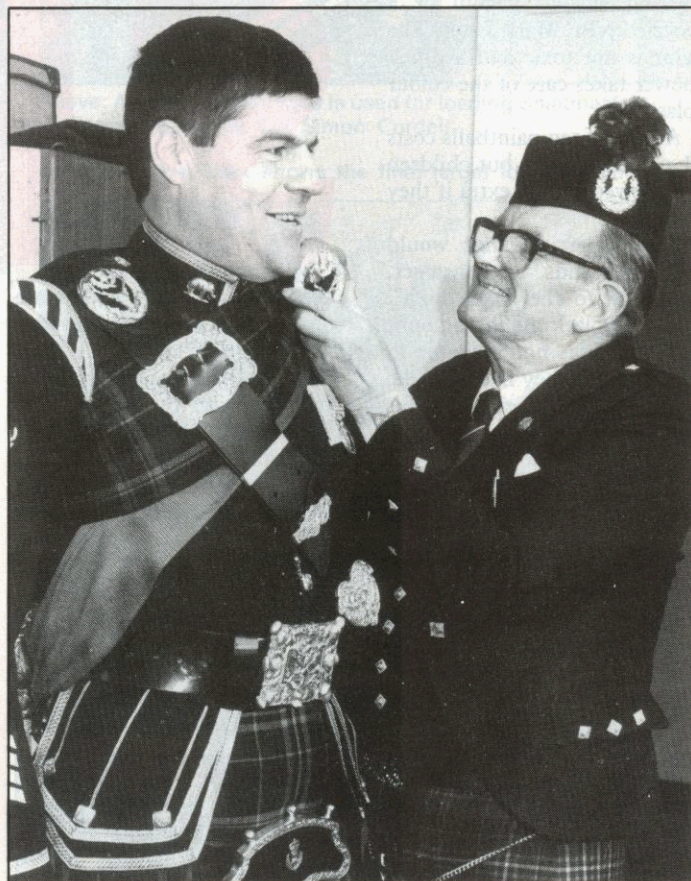
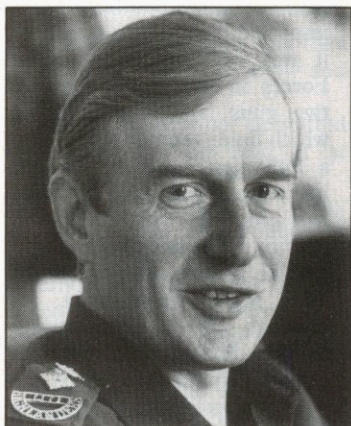
While not disputing the magnificent jobs done by 4 and 7 Brigades, he recalled that the land offensive was over in 100 hours and it was not the high-intensity conflict which really would have tested the regimental system. The ad hoc, last-minute groupings would have been tested at the seams



Above: The regiment's musicians have proved their worth on parade and on operations

Right: Said at 16 to have been the youngest in the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders to have escaped at Dunkirk, Pipe Major Rick Laidlaw shows present Pipe Major Bruce Hutchings how the Camerons put on plaid brooches. Rick, who was a pipe major during and after the war, now lives in Banbury

Below: Lt Col Seymour Monro, Commanding Officer, has impeccable references, with ancestors both Cameron and Seaforth



and might have been found more brittle at a time of great strain and high casualties than true regimental groupings.

Despite this, the performance of the Jocks farmed out to other formations was good. Nothing but praise has come back to the Highlanders on how they acquitted themselves, whether as groups or individuals. They maintained their standards and won competitions during the work-up in their temporary units.

This is par for whatever course they embark on.

The Pipes and Drums have a particularly high reputation,

both musically and operationally. With the possible exception of the Scots Guards, the Queen's Own Highlanders Pipes and Drums are looked on, by those who know, as the best in the British Army.

The Director of Bagpipe Music at Edinburgh Castle will point out that this has been so since the amalgamation. Indeed, of the 20 pipers in the band, 14 hold Pipe Major's certificates. *The Sands of Kuwait*, a new tune with some interesting cadences by LCpl Gordon MacKenzie, has already caught the ear of the piping world.

The Pipe and Drums also sets the standards in their operational deployment, and last year won the GPMG Sustained Firing competition in BAOR. In Belfast they were the best soldiers on the streets, and the pipe major was the only platoon commander to be decorated, while one of the pipers was awarded a GOC's Commendation.

Wearing the MacKenzie tartan of the Seaforths, the Queen's Own Highlanders could with ample justification approach proudly, and as one, to the *March of the Cameron Men*.

Paintballing may not be official, but it's fun . . .

PAINTBALLING has come to stay with the British Army as more and more units discover the training and recruiting value of firing paint-filled plastic pellets at each other.

The Army Youth Team of the 1st Battalion, The Gloucestershire Regiment has constructed a mobile close-quarter battle range which it takes to shows or sets up in the Forest of Dean for day or weekend activity visits by schoolchildren.

Just as if he were a real soldier being briefed, each child is given a proper battle scenario. As he moves down the lane to rescue his wounded mate, he enters a different world. For many it is a dream come true.

Each child has a paintballing pistol loaded with ten pellets. Behind him, other members of the Glosters wait to pull up the first of ten targets. He is wearing a protective mask and goggles because although the pellets are not lethal, they could still damage an eye or a tooth.

The young "soldier" is wearing an old kagoul or a recycled NBC Mark 3 suit. The paint is not toxic and a quick shower takes care of the colour splashes.

A tube of ten paintballs costs £1 plus 30p costs, but children are allowed to buy extra if they wish.

A commercial range would cost thousands to construct, according to the Team's 2iC, WO2 Joe Clark. As this amount of money was not available to the Glosters, they had to make do, building it themselves for £5.

They had access to 6ft pickets and obtained targets from Lydd, but for the pully system they went scavenging in scrap yards, hunting wheels off broken shop trollies. With the correct tension on elastic attached to the back of the targets, they fall when hit by paintballs.

The last target on the range is



LCpl Lyndon Wong fires a Splatmaster paint gun in the Gloster's Close Quarter Battle Range in the Forest of Dean

SPLAT!

dressed in the period costume of a rival county regiment and is waving a white flag.

A lot of help came from RAF Innsworth on the outskirts of Gloucester, who had welding equipment and drills.

These days it is hard to get any project on the road without sponsorship, and because the Glosters' Youth Team are heavily involved in projects for children, local firms were glad to help. Hurrans Garden Centre, B&Q and BOC Gas all chipped in.

The actual hardware is

War paint has taken on a whole new meaning as a means of training. Soldiers are not, however, applying fetching stripes to their anatomy or their kit but encouraging youngsters to use great splotches of the stuff to interest them in the Army. **Gordon Skilling** reports, pictures by **Mike Weston**.

imported from America, where it was first used by Special Forces in training. There are two guns, the Piranha pistol which holds ten paintballs, and a Splatmaster which operates like a pump-action shotgun and has a hopper which holds 40 gravity-fed rounds.

With its own sighting system and safety mechanism, it operates off a 7oz carbon dioxide bottle. The pistol is accurate up to 70 metres.

The Glosters use paintballing as one of several activities which they provide for children. There is, however, great potential training value for junior soldiers from the game.

"I really do think that it is a worthwhile training aid for any depot or training establishment," explains WO2 Clark.

"One of the major advantages over the SAWES system is that if you get hit by a paintball, you know it, so when you see that somebody is going to fire at you, you hit the dirt, no matter how muddy it is.

"It is like being hit by a squash ball, so if you are going to take a position, you are going to use your fire and manoeuvre

correctly, you're going to cover your buddy all the time.

"A platoon commander can set it up anywhere. He doesn't need to go to the QM for ammunition, there are no templates, no danger flags and a platoon or even section can run its own close quarter battle training."

The commander or instructor can then check the fire and manoeuvre, selecting ground, using cover, camouflage and concealment selecting routes, locating the enemy and laying fire down on him. If the student can do that without being seen and covered with paint, then he has achieved the instructor's aim on this particular lesson.

It is the fun side which fires the obvious enthusiasm of the staff as much as the children.

"The kiddies really do love it," enthuses LCpl Lyndon Wong, who constructed much of the range.

"They are a little nervous at first, because they haven't held a weapon before, but once they have hit a few targets they get in the swing of things.

"Then we tell them to take



Learning the right lessons

ALTHOUGH paintballing is not official policy, many units are trying it out.

The Junior Infantry Battalion at Shorncliffe claims it as a resounding success but recognises that it has limited, if important, training value.

The North of England TAVRA recently bought paint guns for use by TA units within 15 Brigade, and A Coy of 4 Para, based in Liverpool, has found them useful for the FIBUA complex at Catterick.

The limited range does not present problems but they look on them more as a way of

increasing competitiveness by one soldier confronting another. Apart from this they use them mainly for show and demonstrations.

Paintballing is not permitted on ranges in Scotland or at Stanford in Norfolk.

The Directorate of Army Training and the School of Infantry are, however, concerned that the wrong lessons may be learned by impressionable young soldiers. Just because you can hide from a paint ball behind a tree or an upturned table does not mean it will stop a 7.62 or 5.56 round.

cover or get behind a tree, or get them crawling through the mud, and they really start enjoying it."

So do the staff, according to Maj David Martin, the Prince of Wales's Divisional Recruiting Officer, who runs four Army Youth Teams each comprising an officer or warrant officer with nine corporals.

It is a good way to attract new recruits, he declares, though he stresses it is not hard-sell recruiting.

"I sometimes think a small

adventure training team specifically aimed at recruiting for the infantry would pay great dividends. It is very much hands-on activity.

"We used to have regimental information teams which looked terrific at shows but only attracted 13-year-olds. The 15-year-olds and over actually thought it all a little bit effete.

"This kind of activity really interests them by giving them a challenge.

"Last year we only got ten boys from the Bristol area, but



Above: A different technique is used for loading Splatmasters, as demonstrated by Cpl Simon Cordell

Left: WO2 Joe Clark shows the final target to two children



Before they leave, tired but happy, Lt Rako Rakocovic fields any questions about compo rations and the chances of doing paintballing again

this year when we targeted the youth clubs we got 30 in March and April alone."

Although the range works better in wooded areas, the Glosters have constructed a mobile version which they can pack into a Bedford and set up in arenas or sports fields.

At the Bristol Avon and Somerset Show between 700 and 1,000 children went through their hands.

There is, however, a fine line to be trodden in projecting the paintballing.

For children, the idea is not

to "kill" or "shoot" the enemy but cover him with paint.

"We are very wary about sowing the wrong seeds," says Lt Rako Rakocovic, former RSM of the 1st Battalion, who commands the team.

"When we talk about assault courses and suchlike, the schools are happy for their children to take part, but they tend to shy back when you talk of shooting.

"But often headmasters will phone to say they have heard we are doing paintballing, and can their school take part?"



Targets will fall when hit, thanks to maintenance by Cpl Simon Cordell and LCpl Ritchie Knight

Durban's singing lady was a mother to all

LIKE six million others during the Second World War I went by troopship around the Cape of Good Hope to Egypt, India or the Far East.

Most convoys split in half on reaching the Cape and stopped either at Cape Town or Durban for three or four days to refuel and give the troops some exercise and relaxation after a month at sea.

I stopped at Cape Town but when I got to Egypt I heard from those who stopped at Durban about the matronly "Lady in White" who stood at the end of the North Pier alone wearing a white dress and large red sunhat singing patriotic and sentimental songs through a megaphone to welcome the arriving troopships and RN vessels.

The troops who heard her spoke of tears in their eyes at hearing *Land of Hope and Glory*, *Rule Britannia*, *The White Cliffs of Dover*, *Now is the Hour* and other such songs and how this relieved the tensions of a month at sea in cramped conditions with an all-male company.

Little did I know then that 15 years later in early 1957 (when troopships again went via the Cape because of the closure of the Suez Canal) when I was en route to Korea in the *Oxfordshire* that we should stop at Durban and find the "Lady in White" still welcoming us from the North Pier.

Her voice came loud and clear through her megaphone (she was then 67) when we were still some way out and although we were not going to war, and some had their families with them, it was still an emotional event and one could imagine the effect it had on those who were on their way to war.

The Lady was Perla Siedle

Para's view of the battle for Longdon

"I HAVE described what I saw and felt, not what an officer or tactician experiences, nor for that matter what any other ordinary soldier goes through, for every soldier sees war differently and has his own tale to tell."

So writes Vincent Bramley in *Excursion to Hell*, a graphic personal view of the Falklands campaign.

The author was a lance corporal with the 3rd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, a battalion that lost 23 killed and had more than 60 wounded, and whose greatest reward was to be first into Stanley.

This was to be after the gruelling and sustained "tab" from San Carlos beach and the battle for Mount Longdon, which is described in honest and brutal detail.

He makes no secret of the fears that filled him at the onset: "Suddenly my nerves became uncontrollable, my knees shaking as I stood and my stomach churning as it had never done before."

"Not even the feeling of my first parachute jump can compare with the nausea that surged through me. My mind was a blank with fear and the prospect of death..."

Bramley carried his camera throughout the Falklands war and there are some remarkably good, if gruesome, photographs in the book.

On the slightly negative side, it is possible to detect



The Parachute Regiment memorial on the summit of Mount Longdon

some discrepancies in times mentioned in the description of the battle for Wireless Ridge but these are probably the result of editing and pruning.

Certainly the hand of an editor can be detected. For instance, "The long belt of ammo hung from the machine gun waiting for its eventual expenditure" is hardly convincing as a soldier's genuine recollection. Even so, soldiers and ex-soldiers will surely recognise their own similar experiences.

Small but nonetheless vital details such as the need to fill

each other's water bottles to save removing webbing; the tragedy of "blue-on-blue" contacts; and the agony caused by leaking boots. The author suffered terribly from blistered feet.

He is uncomplimentary about some of his comrades, officers, NCOs and men alike.

Intriguingly, there is some evidence of American mercenaries on the Argentinian side but nothing really substantiated. As he says, "... politically both Maggie and Ronnie were meant to be helping each other in the war."

Bramley takes the opportunity afforded by the publication of this book of drawing attention to Cpl Stewart McLoughlin of B Coy, 3 Para, mortally wounded on Mount Longdon after displaying gallantry of the highest order but not given a posthumous award.

War in general is summed up neatly: "What a sad pity that politics failed in this case, otherwise we might only have fought verbally across a football pitch. Perhaps men will always want to kill each other."

But then again, also in the author's words: "The rights and wrongs of war can never be argued from the armchair." – BJ.

Excursion to Hell by Vincent Bramley. Bloomsbury, hardback, £15.99.

Gibson and her autobiography, *Durban's Lady in White*, first published in a limited edition in South Africa in 1964, has been re-published in England.

It is very much her story of how she was working in the dockside canteen in 1940, as she had done in The Great War, when some troops lining the rails of the arriving troopship called out, "Sing us a song, Ma".

Little did they know that Perla had been trained as an

operatic singer in Berlin and they were stunned to silence, as were so many after them, as she cupped her hands and sang *Land of Hope and Glory*. Thereafter she was given a pass entitled "Dockside Entertainer".

So a legend was born in April 1940 and her remarkable work will be remembered not only by this book but by the stone cairn erected in 1972, shortly after her death, on the spot where she used to stand and bring joy

and comfort to so many men. Some of them never returned – like her son, who was killed while attached to 6th Black Watch in Italy.

It was appropriate that a highlander should have summed up what so many felt: "To us you were the mother of all men." – PSN

Durban's Lady in White. An autobiography by Perla Siedle Gibson, edited by Sam Morley. Aedificamus Press, Herts EN6 4DG. Price £14.95.

Jumping for joy

Berlin quartet take the plunge in New Zealand

BUNGY-JUMPING – the ultimate experience for thrill seekers – proved to be one of many highlights of an action-packed adventurous training expedition to New Zealand's North Island.

The prospect of plummeting 150 feet into a gorge from a disused railway bridge proved irresistible for team leader Capt William Menzies of Ordnance Services, Berlin, Sgt Martin Coffey, also RAOC, and LCpl Sean Sheils, 1 IG.

Tens of thousands have taken temporary leave of their senses in recent years as the craze has spread world-wide but New Zealand is still the home of the sport.

The Berlin adventurous training team's leap into the abyss took place at Ohakuno, central North Island, from an old girder railway bridge spanning a steep, tree-lined gorge on the main north-south rail route.

Trains crossed the new bridge just yards away as a towel and a climbing harness were strapped around their ankles and attached by carabiner to the bungee itself – a length of elastic cord 4cm wide.

Individual weights were carefully noted and appropriate



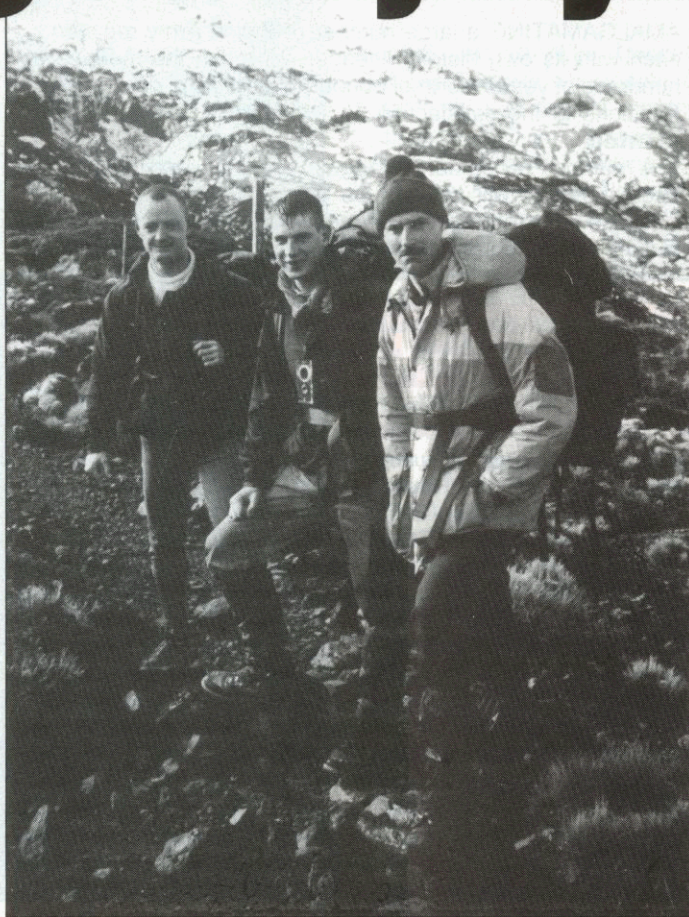
Not a mouthwash advert but Mervyn Wynne Jones meeting a Maori in (locally) traditional fashion!

adjustments made to ensure a 15 ft clearance at the bottom of the drop before each, in turn, leapt from a small gang-plank like structure.

Two seconds of free-fall and a further two seconds of almost unnoticeable deceleration as the bungee took the strain were followed by an 80 per cent upward rebound and two more exhilarating plunges downward as the bungee expanded and contracted.

Adrenalin still coursing through their veins, the three declared themselves delighted with the experience – as a one-off. "The best bit," said LCpl Sheils, "was seeing the trees rushing up towards you. Much better than parachuting."

They were joined by Mervyn Wynne Jones, Berlin garrison MoD press officer, for the three-week trekking, climbing and abseiling package which took them northward through North Island from Wellington



On the slopes of the volcanic Mount Ruapehu – (from left) Sgt Coffey, LCpl Sheils and Capt Menzies.

to Auckland. True to its Maori name of Aotearoa – land of the long white cloud – the sun scarcely made an appearance as snow and rain dogged their progress through landscapes shaped by still-active volcanoes.

Operating initially from the New Zealand Army's training depot at Waiouru in the Tongariro National Park, their treks took them across barren, windswept hillsides and through lush, sub-tropical forest with an overnight stay in a remote riverside refuge hut.

They visited the national

army museum at Waiouru before heading north by bus to Lake Taupo, a vast stretch of water created by a volcanic eruption 80 times more powerful than the Krakatoa explosion and reputed to offer some of the best trout fishing in the southern hemisphere.

Another walk took them through a primeval landscape of boiling mud, steam vents and acid pools where to deviate from the well-marked path could lead to burns or worse if the crust of soil collapsed underfoot.

More of the same was seen further north at Rotorua – dubbed Sulphur City because of the inescapable stench of rancid cheese – where scientists and geologists flock to observe the frequent volcanic rumblings.

New Zealand is tailor-made for the outdoors enthusiast and a thriving industry has developed around the needs of both the New Zealander who has it all on his doorstep and the tourist – usually European – who is prepared to travel upwards of 13,000 miles to sample the challenges of a largely unspoilt land.



On the brink, but a thumbs up from LCpl Sheils anyway...



... then he leaps into the abyss from 150 feet ...



... and plunges downward with bungee trailing behind.

THEIR GLORIES WILL LIVE ON

AMALGAMATING a large number of British Army regiments, each with its own historic lineage, will mean the merging of hundreds of years' worth of honourable heroism, customs and traditions to the satisfaction of both parties, **writes Laurie Manton.**

A number of Colours, badges, uniforms and regimental accoutrements will need to be changed.

Those affected by the changes include the following. A feature on the Infantry regiments will appear in the next issue.

HOUSEHOLD REGIMENT

LG and RHG/D

THE Life Guards are the senior regiment of the Household Cavalry and trace their ancestry back to 1661. Their principal duty is to guard the sovereign. Life Guards accompany the Queen whenever she rides on a horse or in a horse-drawn carriage, as at the State Opening of Parliament and Trooping the Colour.

During the First World War the Life Guards exchanged their scarlet and blue uniforms for drab khaki and fought it out in the trenches.

They suffered the first gas

attack at Ypres and withstood 14 days of continuous shelling to take the strong-point of Roex. Equipped with armoured cars, they took part in the battle of Alamein.

The Blues and Royals (Royal Horse Guards and 1st Dragoons) were formed in 1969 following amalgamation of the Royal Horse Guards (The Blues) with The Royal Dragoons (1st Dragoons). The RHG were raised by Charles II from a Parliamentary Army regiment of horse. Battle honours include Balaclava, Relief of Ladysmith, Syria 1941 and Italy.



With flurrying hooves and clang of sabres on cuirasses, The Life Guards rout the French at Waterloo – a moment of glory that will never be erased

ROYAL ARMOURD CORPS

4/7 DG and 5 Innis DG

THE 4th/7th Royal Dragoon Guards were formed in 1922 with amalgamation of 4th (Royal Irish) Dragoon Guards and 7th Dragoon Guards (Princess Royal's).

At Dettingen, Cornet Richardson suffered 30 sabre cuts in defence of the Regimental Standard which was later presented to him. During the Second World War, the 4th/7th won a reputation for being first in and last out of engagements following the Normandy landings.

The 5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards were formed the same year from 5th Dragoon Guards (Princess Charlotte of Wales's) and The Inniskillings (6th Dragoons).

At Waterloo, the Inniskilling Dragoons were part of the Union Brigade which made probably the most decisive charge in the annals of British Cavalry.

In five minutes the French lost nearly 5,000 men and nearly all their guns – but when night fell, almost half the Inniskillings lay dead or

wounded on the battlefield.

During Scott's ill-fated Antarctic Expedition, Capt Lawrence Oates of the Inniskillings walked to his death in a blizzard to improve his comrades' chances of survival.

During the Gulf War, Brig Patrick Cordingley, late 5 Innis DG, commanded 7 Armoured Brigade.

QOH and QRIH

THE Queen's Own Hussars were formed in 1958 from the

3rd The King's Own Hussars and the 7th Queen's Own Hussars.

The 7th lost heavily at Waterloo and the 3rd were one of the toughest cavalry regiments to serve in India during the first half of the last century.

They stood firm when the rest of the cavalry bolted at Chillianwallah in 1849 and their counter charge probably settled the Sikh War in Britain's favour.

The Queen's Royal Irish



A Cromwell tank of the 15th/19th Hussars trundles through the ruins of Udem, Germany in February, 1945

Hussars were formed in the 1958 union of the 4th Queen's Own Hussars and the 8th King's Royal Irish Hussars, who had both galloped to hopeless, heroic slaughter in the immortal Charge of the Light Brigade into the teeth of the Russian guns at Balaclava. Sir Winston Churchill was once an officer in the 4th.

RH and 14/20 H

THE Royal Hussars (Prince of Wales's Own) were formed by amalgamating 10th Royal Hussars (Prince of Wales's Own) and 11th Hussars (Prince Albert's Own).

El Alamein Day was chosen as Regimental Day in celebration of both regiments' participation in that victory in 1943. Together with the 12th Lancers, the 11th were the first British cavalry to be mechanised, in 1928.

The 14th/20th King's Hussars were formed in 1922 by the amalgamation of 14th King's Hussars and 20th Hussars.

After the Battle of Vittoria in 1813, the 14th pursued a French baggage column and captured the silver chamber pot

of Napoleon's brother, King Joseph of Naples.

The pot, known as "The Emperor", is filled with champagne and passed round the Officers' Mess on guest nights. By tradition the last to drink, usually the most junior member, places the pot on his head when it is empty.

13/18 H and 15/19 H

DURING the Second World War, the 13th/18th Royal Hussars (Queen Mary's Own) spearheaded the D-Day invasion attack by storming ashore in "swimming" tanks to gain a foothold for a successful Allied landing.

The regiment was created in 1922 when 13th Hussars who took part in the Charge of the Light Brigade amalgamated with 18th Royal Hussars (Queen Mary's Own).

The 15th/19th The King's Royal Hussars were formed in 1922 by an amalgamation of the 15th The King's Hussars and the 19th Hussars at a time when the Army's strength was being run down in the years following the First World War.

The nickname of the 15/19 H – The Tabs – dates back to

Elliott's Light Dragoons, made up largely of tailors who enlisted after a major strike in their own trade.

The regiment holds the first battle honour ever granted to a

regiment of the British Army. At the Battle of Emsdorff in 1760 the 15th Hussars, fighting as an ally of Frederick the Great of Prussia, delivered several brilliant and successful charges.



More recent history: a Challenger 1 tank of the 17th/21st Lancers on exercise in Germany

16/5 L and 17/21 L

THE 16th/5th The Queen's Royal Lancers who fought in the Gulf were formed from an amalgamation in 1922 between 16th The Queen's Lancers and the 5th Royal Irish Lancers.

The regiment fought at Blenheim and Waterloo and took part in the defence of Ladysmith. It earned its most famous battle honour at Aliwal in 1846 when it performed a feat then unparalleled in Cavalry history – it rode through and destroyed an infantry square.

In 1959 it became the first Cavalry regiment to win the Army Football Cup.

The 17th/21st Lancers were formed in 1922 when the "Death or Glory Boys" – 17th Lancers (Duke of Cambridge's Own) who headed the charge of the Light Brigade amalgamated with 21st Lancers (Empress of India's) who led the British cavalry charge at Omdurman in 1898.

For bringing news of victory at Quebec and Wolfe's death, Col John Hale was rewarded in 1759 with land, money and authority to raise the 17th Regiment of Light Dragoons. Then, recruits flocked to wear the skull and crossbones representing "Death" surmounting the "Or Glory" motto he adopted in memory of Wolfe.

DIARY OF EVENTS

Open until at least October 31: Gulf War Exhibition, Tank Museum, Bovington.

September 4-5: War Pensioners' National Homecrafts and Art Exhibition, Carisbrooke Hall, Services Club, 63-79 Seymour Street, London.

October 2: Massed Bands, Pipes and Drums of the Household Division concert at Wembley Arena in aid of Gulf and Household Division charities, 1930.

October 13: Miniature Armoured Fighting Vehicles Association national competitions at the Tank Museum, Bovington. Details from Peter Brown, 8 Saddle Close, Wimborne, Dorset BH21 2UN (Tel 0202 883939).

October 24: Logistics in the Gulf War presentation by Col Roy Lennox and Lt Col Steve Thornton at Gloucester Hotel, London. Tickets £50 plus VAT in aid of the Army Benevolent Fund. Details from Institute of Purchasing and Supply on 0780 56777.

SEARCHLINE

● **Bird, Mortimer, Ansell:** Would Jack Bird, William Mortimer and Victor Ansell of Heighley, Yorks, Melksham, Wilts and Wallington, Surrey, contact Cdr Mark Ruddle at the British Embassy, 35 rue du Faubourg, St Honoré, 75383 Paris Cedex 08, France. The village of Saint-Paul, near Flers, is trying to trace them.

● **Lippstadt school:** Mrs Julie Mills, née Moore, wants to contact old friends from her schooldays in Lippstadt, Germany, where her father was based in 1976-79. Would Debbie Throup, Julia and Caroline Jones and Caroline Thompson contact her at 36b St Catherine's, Wimborne, Dorset BH21 1BG, with a view to meeting again.

● **St George's Church, Singapore:** When the UK withdrew from Singapore the units not only took their equipment away, but every flag, colour, plaque and memorial from the old garrison church. Only the stained glass windows above the altar remain. They even took the lych-gate which, according to Nick Carter, of 48 Chancery Lane, Singapore, now adorns the entrance to

Options: The aftermath...

I HAVE been following Anne Armstrong's stories about the housing problems of Army families.

Lord Bramall implied (SOLDIER, April 15) that the family infrastructure in Germany might soon be disbanded and he emphasised the need for families to put down roots in the UK by buying their own homes.

But the planned reductions in personnel will impose a heavy demand for housing and work in the UK where there is a shortage of both.

In 1968-9 I carried out a social survey which confirmed the opinion of many Army wives that "roots" were essential factors in relation to children's education. Work for women was also considered vital to supplement family incomes.

When the "Options for Change" are implemented, Service families will be at a

Family roots are vital

greater disadvantage than hitherto for a number of reasons:

- Lack of family support due to mobility of parents;
- Lack of rented accommodation;
- High price of housing;
- Negative attitude of local housing authorities, many of whom consider Service families to be a privileged class or consider MoD should provide alternative accommodation;
- High interest rates and legal costs associated with house purchase;
- Shortage of council housing;
- Lack of low-cost housing schemes;
- Depression in the building industry which has forced

many builders out of business;

● Difficulty in finding a job and where to establish roots following Service redundancy.

May I suggest you enlist the support of an MP – perhaps Dame Janet Fookes – to represent the cause of all Service families who would raise questions on their behalf in the Commons.

Perhaps it would be possible to start a points system to be adopted by all local authority housing departments in favour of Service families.

Length of service overseas and family circumstances could be taken into account in housing applications. – **Lt Col (Retd) Donald Densham-Booth, Moretonhampstead, Devon.**

Housing dilemma

WHERE do we go from here? asked Anne Armstrong (Aug 5).

As a housing worker and a district councillor, as well as an ex-Regular soldier and Territorial Army officer, I have an insight into the housing problems facing families when leaving the Services.

Local authorities apply four criteria when offering a home under the Housing Act of 1985. These are that the person:

- Is homeless or threatened with homelessness;
- Has priority need;
- Is unintentionally homeless;
- Has a local connection.

Most Servicemen on leaving would have no difficulty convincing a council that they fulfilled the first condition, but convincing them of the other three might prove difficult.

If the Serviceman has a family with dependent children he would qualify on the second count, but whether or not he has made himself unintentionally homeless can be difficult, especially if he gives up the tenancy of his MQ on the date of his discharge.

While not wishing to

encourage irregular occupancy of MQs, I would suggest that a Serviceman does not move until he is in possession of an eviction notice or an official note to quit, otherwise he could well be defined as having made himself intentionally homeless by giving up his tenancy.

The local connection point is one where councils have the discretion, under the 1985 Act, to apply.

But Servicemen cannot establish a residential or employment qualification by being stationed in a particular area.

My own council, Derwent-side, includes Servicemen in a "special circumstances" category.

Another avenue is for a Serviceman to approach the council where he is stationed to establish his eligibility for housing under the 1985 Act and then to be referred to another authority in which a local connection can be established.

The receiving authority should accept the investigations carried out by the referring authority and allocate a property. In practice they may utilise the National Mobility Scheme or allocate a property under their normal policy.

Servicemen and women do have problems establishing that they are homeless because of the nature of Service life. It certainly is a case for amending the 1985 Act to take this into account and perhaps if the Army Board ever get round to visiting the Lord Privy Seal this could be another item to add to the list for discussion. – **George Harrison, Stanley, Co Durham.**

Job clubs essential

AS an officer who took the plunge into the commercial world four years ago, I read Anne Armstrong's article "Let's Join the Club" (August 5) with interest and concern.

The impact of "Options for



Change" will increase the number of Servicemen on the jobs market at a time when even successful firms are reducing their labour forces.

I have recently made ten per cent of my staff redundant, the majority of them having clearly identifiable expertise and skills.

However, recognising the market difficulties, my company has provided all those made redundant with outplacement advice and assistance including the preparation of

CVs, developing job search programmes, researching the market, letters of application, interview techniques and analysing offers.

Considering that the Serviceman will compete against such people who have established skills and the back-up of outplacement, I find it disconcerting that even the setting-up of job clubs is not part of a comprehensive outplacement scheme. – **N R Arnell, East Cholderton, Andover.**

UNFAIR, THIS MERGER

AMALGAMATING regiments is fine providing it doesn't involve a regiment affected in this way in the past.

For example, merging the Gordon Highlanders and the Queen's Own Highlanders is most unfair because in 1961 the Seaforths and the Camerons

lost their individual titles to become the Queen's Own Highlanders.

To hit this regiment again is totally irresponsible. – **A N West, Hayes, Middlesex.** CALL me melodramatic. Accuse me of living in the past. I'm guilty on both counts.

Suez was 'graveyard' of Army

THOSE of us who served in the Canal Zone appear to be the only armed forces involved in action abroad, in which there were casualties, who were not awarded a campaign medal.

I supported Col P S Newton in his efforts to ask the Government for justice to be done in awarding a medal.

I hope the renewed efforts will be successful. I have written to my MP, Mr David Porter, but the answer he received from the Defence Ministry at the time was that it would be wrong to introduce such a medal.

The following extract from *The Best Years of Their Lives*, by Trevor Royle, surely proves that service in the Canal Zone warrants recognition:

"Of all the postings on offer to National Servicemen, the Suez Canal Zone has left the most indelible mark.

"If you fell into the waters of the sweet water canal you were told on arrival you were more likely to die from poisoning than drowning.

"The fly-blown sand-strewn military bases with their lack of facilities were forlorn and disagreeable, the climate was vile and the local population hostile.

"It was without doubt the least popular posting for any Serviceman, National Service or otherwise.

"The Zone had long been known as the graveyard of the British Army for 54 Servicemen killed there and the nickname was all too literal, all due to the anti-British feeling in Egypt." – **David Podd (ex-4th RTR, Shandur, 1951-53), Lowestoft.**

But having walked the Somme, stood at Tyne Cot and cried when they blew those haunting bugles at the Menin Gate, I don't think they will ever forgive us if we abandon their regiments now. – **Derek Bratt, (just a National Serviceman), Mablethorpe, Lincs.**

Blooming fantastic!

WHEN Ray and Angela Southern moved into a married quarter in Alder-shot nine months ago the garden was a mess.

By this summer it was a blaze of colour and the couple's pride and joy. Their beautiful garden, small though it is, has given others nearby the gardening bug and everything has been coming up roses for them, too.

But Ray and Angela's colourful show didn't just happen. It took hard work.

Among the rocks and rubble their digging exposed was a kitchen door and a whole lot of other rubbish.

Having got rid of that they laid a lawn, created a raised flowerbed, planted a clematis to cover the garden shed, put up hanging baskets and made a patio.

"It didn't cost a lot, but it did take time and hard manual labour," said Angela.

Others on the Ramillies Park estate have seen the

Southerns' garden and been encouraged to have a go at their own back yards and front porches.

While some of the houses are drab and old and soon to be demolished, it hasn't stopped Emily Baggus from filling her balcony with colour and beauty.

Similarly, the front porch of the Doran family is a mass of different shades and the back garden crammed with plants of every description.

It makes a nice change to see MQ gardens well looked after. Most are tidy with a patch of grass, but not much else.

Not everyone has green fingers, of course, but those who have and make good use of their gardens do a lot to add cheer to an area.

Maybe there should be a competition for the best kept MQ gardens with a medal or two for the winners. One pace forward anyone who would like to sponsor such a contest.



Green-fingered couple Ray and Angela Southern transformed their married quarter back yard into a blaze of summer colour. Now others are doing the same

Give yourself time for a surplus MQ

FAMILIES seeking a surplus married quarter in the UK should give plenty of notice of their needs.

The Commandant of the Families Housing Welfare Service (FHWS) at HQ UKLF needs to know six months in advance what is required, so give yourself plenty of time.

Surplus MQs can be applied for under a number of headings: medical and compassionate discharges; estranged families; wives or fathers with children; or perhaps when a local authority is unable to house a family immediately on returning to the UK.

But it should not be forgotten that Army policy is for families to live as one

unit at a duty station, so obviously these people will get priority for quarters. Only after the needs of these families have been met will an application for a surplus quarter be considered.

However, in exceptional circumstances, special authority can be sought.

If you are in the UK and require a quarter somewhere other than at a duty station seek advice from your unit families officer, estate warden, Army welfare assistant, SSAFA, or the housing commandant.

For those who are overseas it is vital that families who wish to return to the UK - and that includes estranged wives - do not arrive unannounced.

Seek advice from the SSO, AFP, SSAFA, Relate, BAOR, HIVE; if a surplus quarter is the answer then the relevant AFA10 forms must be completed.

If members of the family are likely to become irregular occupants then eventually they will most probably be housed under the Homeless Persons Act after the court hearing and subsequent acceptance by the local authority that the family is homeless. In urgent cases a signal or telephone call to FHWS at HQ UKLF will be accepted.

Further details are available from The Controller FHWS, HQ UKLF, Old Sarum, Salisbury SP4 6BN (via OC Unit tel: Salisbury Military, ext 8226/8227).

ON THE DOUBLE!

MAXIMUM refund for house sale and purchase legal and other expenses has been doubled to £5,000.

The increase applies to transactions carried out on or after April 1, 1991.

Other changes to allowances:

Compassionate leave: Travel for compassionate leave is, with effect from July 1, established as an entitlement separate from travel under the get-you-home scheme.

Get-You-Home Travel Scheme: There is no longer a need to nominate four specific addresses. Instead, those intending to travel at public expense under

the scheme will have to certify that their leave address falls within one of a number of agreed categories which will be shown on an amended travel application form.

Disturbance Allowance for Service Widows: As from April 1 widows are entitled to a basic rate disturbance allowance and a child element if eligible. This means the allowance will be paid for moves from duty station to selected area.

For those widowed as a result of Operation Granby, their claim for the allowance will be treated as exceptional and not affected by the April 1 start date.

Anne



Armstrong

Home telephone: Camberley (0276) 29653



Balcony blooms adorn the home of Emily Baggus, bringing warmth and much satisfaction. Emily has even managed to keep her young son, Simon, from picking her prized specimens

Here's the key to a housing problem

SKY-HIGH mortgages are impossible for many families. Similarly, private rent may also be way out of reach.

But there is an alternative worth considering, especially by those who want to own their own home - a factory-built bungalow.

Gone are the days of prefabs and caravans. Today's home is built in sections with bay windows, pitched tiled roofs, double glazing, modern kitchens and bathrooms, large bedrooms and living rooms and superb insulation.

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St Albans Council in Hertfordshire is just one of many local authorities to recognise the advantages these homes offer over B and B and hostel accommodation. The homes can be found on more than 1,000 private estate parks throughout the country.

One great advantage is that they can be quickly erected once the land and planning is assured.

And instead of a mortgage, financial arrangements can be made through a number of companies specialising in this type of house purchase.

Lypiatt Families Centre has got in on the act, too, by replacing some of its accommodation blocks with these homes, so raising standards for families.

Why can't the MoD use some of its surplus land and provide homes for Service families with these

quick-build houses?

At least rent would be earned from them and families would have the key to their front door.

Under the Government's homeless initiatives why cannot such schemes be undertaken by MoD or districts, using pockets of surplus land? This land has to be registered under the Government's new Land Register which is being implemented now.

For details of this new-style housing, write to: Orangestone, Modular Housing and Building Services, 36 Liphook Crescent, Forest Hill, London SE23 3BW.



Hanging baskets and climbing plants earn the admiration of young Colin Doran at his Ramillies Park Estate home ... all his mother's work, of course

STORAGE UPDATE

MANY Service personnel are not getting the right information when they arrange for the storage of personal effects in the United Kingdom. It seems to apply mostly to those going to BAOR.

There is no longer a Three Tender Agreement. That arrangement has ceased in June 1989.

Specific contractors were appointed for each district, and only in exceptional cases was the tender arrangement allowed.

Individuals posted from

one overseas area to another may have a consignment of unaccompanied baggage returned to the UK. It may be sent to a private address or for storage at public expense.

Some have become aware of the change only when their claims have been rejected. If this happens to you, submit a case to MoD requesting exceptional authority to claim reimbursement of storage expenses under the old Three Tender Agreement.

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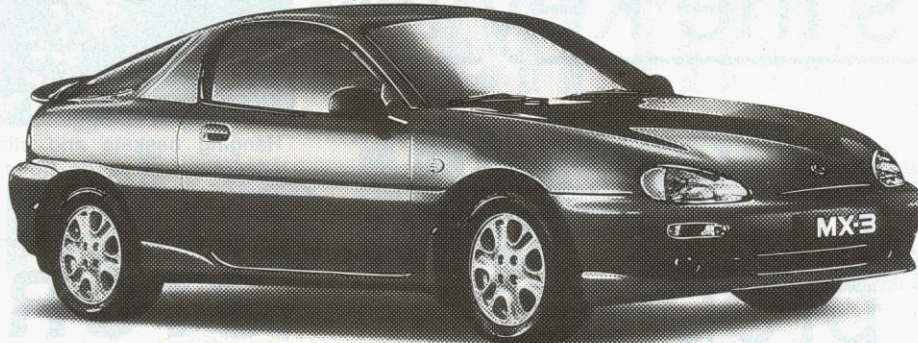
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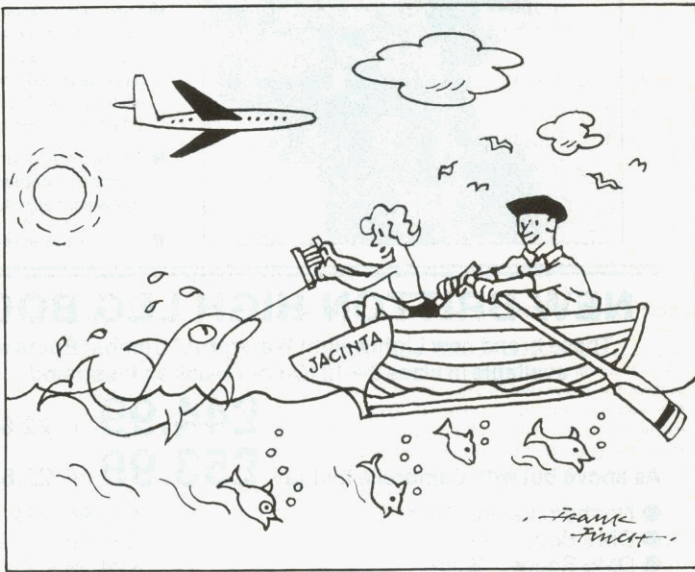
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The names of the winner of the £50 first prize and two runners-up will be announced in the October 14 issue.

Competition No 517: Congratulations to Mr H V Cossons, of Wincanton, Somerset, who wins the £50 top prize. Book prizes go to runners-up Mr C Diamond, of Blackheath, and Mrs G Reid, of Leven, Fife.

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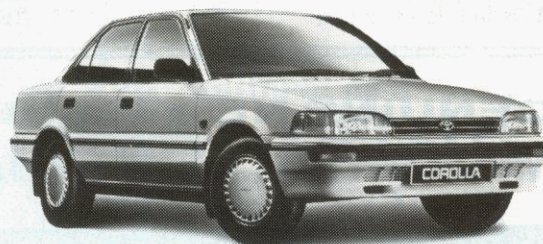
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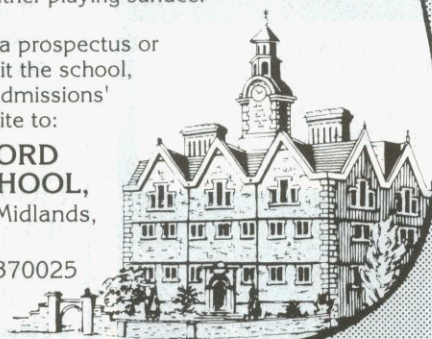
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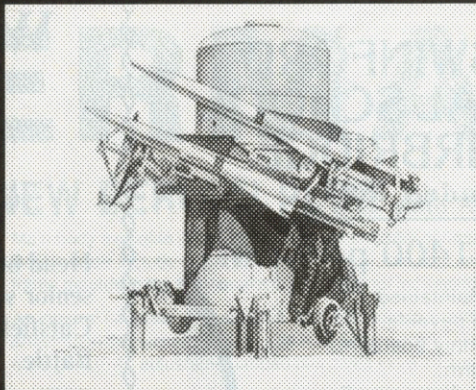
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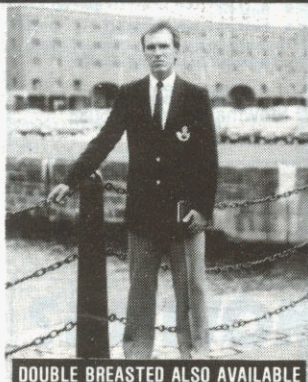
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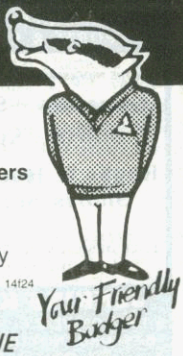
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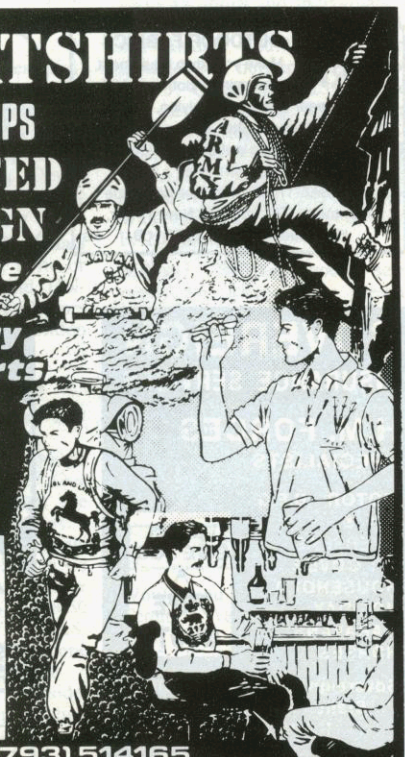
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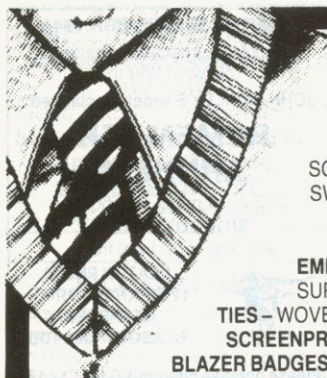
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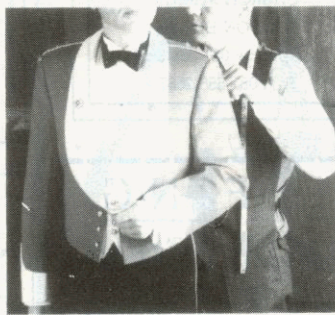
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All square

But Army retains the silverware

DESPITE losing to the Royal Air Force in the tightest finish to an Inter-Service cricket festival for years, the Army retained the trophy as defending champions.

For that they had to thank the Royal Navy, who ensured the championship was shared by comfortably beating the airmen on the first day of the tournament at Aldershot.

Set a target of 185 by the RAF, the sailors cruised home by seven wickets.

Next day they won the toss against the Army and, inspired by the ease of their run-chase against the RAF, inserted their hosts. It was a decision skipper Capt Robin Hollington of the Royal Marines was to rue.

Lt Richard Greatorex (27 Regt RCT) hit a superb 119, putting on 197 for the first wicket with the combined efforts of skipper Capt Jimmy Cotterill (JLRA), who was forced to retire on 16 with a hamstring injury, and Cpl Nick Palmer (AAC) who made a fluent 60.

High spot of the innings for many around the ground was WO2 Nigel Scott's second delivery from Hollington. Hong Kong-based Scott, who

has announced his retirement after 17 years of Army cricket, smashed the ball unerringly into the distant car park – straight through the wind-screen of the Navy captain's car.

Scott's forthright innings of 17 took the Army to a daunting total of 272 for six in their 55 overs.

Capt Paul Presland (AAC), who was also playing his last Inter-Service festival after a career spanning 20 years, took over from the injured Cotterill and led the Army to a superb 53-run win.

Hostile fast bowling by LCpl John Checkley (3 Fd Wksp, REME) made the early breakthrough, and with the rock-steady Scott bowling 11 overs of miserly spin for 27 runs, opening bowler Capt Matthew Rudd (WG) returned to blast out the tail, finishing with figures of four for 39.

Greatorex's efforts earned him the Man of the Match award from sponsors Famous Grouse, and he was later to receive the Man of the Festival award.

ARMY

Lt R J Greatorex lbw b Learmouth	119
Capt J W S Cotterill retired hurt	16
Cpl N Palmer c & b Slocombe	60
2nd Lt I T Wood run out	1
Sgt G N Summersgill not out	23
Lt S C Hazlett c Hurry b Slocombe	5
Capt M J B Rudd b Slocombe	5
Capt P J Presland b Slocombe	0
WO2 N A Scott not out	17
Cpl S J Bunn did not bat	
LCpl J Checkley did not bat	
Extras	26
Total (6 wks, 55 overs)	272
FOW: 1-197; 2-200; 3-228; 4-243; 5-254; 6-254	
BOWLING: King 8-0-40-0; Hurry 11-0-51-0; Slocombe 11-1-36-4; Wynne 3-0-19-0; Learmouth 11-2-43-1; Hollington 11-1-68-0	

ROYAL NAVY

Capt C W P Hobson c Sub b Scott	35
POAH P Barsby c Greatorex b Checkley	4
Lt M Coupland b Checkley	11
Capt R E C Hollington c Rudd b Scott	34
Sub Lt A Falconer c Bunn b Presland	61
Sub Lt R Giles b Wood	0
L/SEA R Learmouth c Wood b Rudd	24
Mne A Hurry b Rudd	10
Lt C Slocombe b Rudd	7
Cpl M King not out	5
MEA APP D Wynne lbw b Rudd	8
Extras	20
Total (10 wks, 55 overs)	219
FOW: 1-8; 2-42; 3-93; 4-94; 5-96; 6-178; 7-184; 8-196; 9-205; 10-219	
BOWLING: Rudd 11-0-39-4; Checkley 11-1-51-2; Presland 11-0-51-1; Wood 11-3-42-1; Scott 11-3-27-2	

The RAF won a crucial toss in the final match of the festival and had no hesitation in inserting the Army on a seaming wicket under heavy cloud cover.

With the ball moving about alarmingly, only Lt Willie Pym (IG) built an innings and they were bowled out for 163 in the 54th over.

Rain came with the RAF on 42 for two and the match went into a second day.

Conditions for the restart were much better and the RAF looked well in control until they lost their third wicket with the score on 99. Fine bowling by Presland, Rudd and Scott pegged them back and they eventually scraped in by one wicket off the fifth ball of the 54th over.

Two sharp chances went down in the last two overs, as the Army battled to turn the match around.

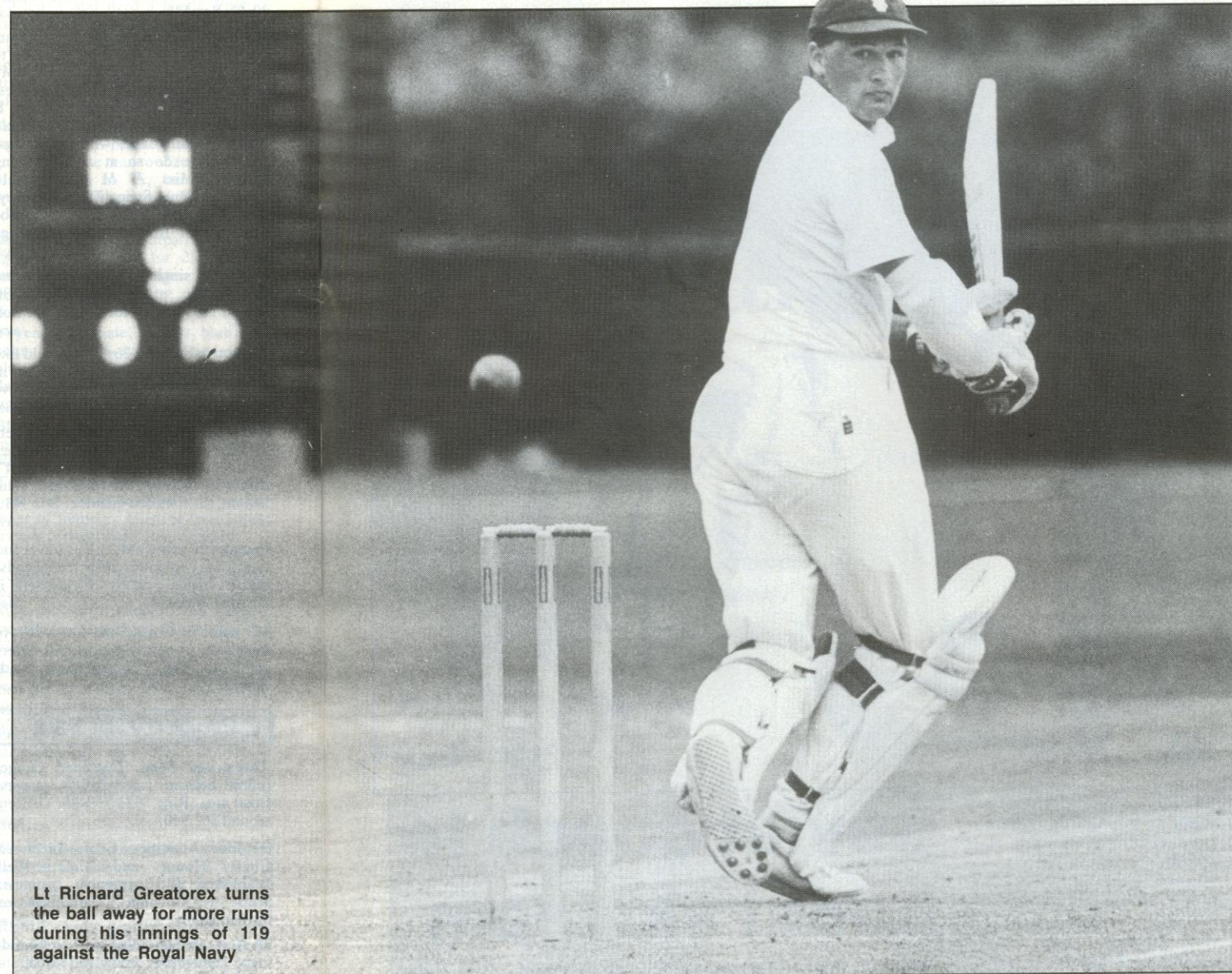
ARMY

Lt R J Greatorex c Lumb b Elks	24
Cpl S J Bunn b Whyborn	0
Cpl N Palmer b Ings	10
2nd Lt I T Wood b Whyborn	5
Sgt G N Summersgill b Ward	18
Lt W A C Pym IG c Thomas b Elks	48
Lt S C Hazlett c Elks b Spiller	15
Capt M J B Rudd b Laws	7
Capt P J Presland c Elks b Whyborn	18
WO2 N A Scott not out	6
LCpl J Checkley b Laws	0
Extras	12
Total (10 wks, 53.5 overs)	163
FOW: 1-1; 2-21; 3-26; 4-46; 5-89; 6-132; 7-132; 8-141; 9-161; 10-163	
BOWLING: Whyborn 10-3-26-3; Ings 11-1-32-1; Elks 11-2-41-2; Ward 8-0-26-1; Spiller 11-2-23-1; Laws 2-5-0-8-2	

ROYAL AIR FORCE

Cpl J Riddell c Palmer b Scott	60
Sgt G S Lumb b Rudd	11
SAC A Jones c Summersgill b Checkley	3
Fit Lt A Laws c Summersgill b Scott	21
Fit Lt A W J Spiller c Summersgill b Scott	7
Jnr Tech A Elks c Wood b Rudd	17
FS B Phillips c & b Presland	14
Sqn Ldr V E Thomas b Rudd	0
Cpl N P Ward b Rudd	2
Sgt M W Ings not out	5
Cpl C Whyborn not out	0
Extras	24
Total (9 wks, 53.5 overs)	164
FOW: 1-22; 2-25; 3-99; 4-114; 5-123; 6-147; 7-151; 8-154; 9-163	
BOWLING: Checkley 11-2-29-1; Rudd 10-5-1-31-4; Presland 10-1-29-1; Scott 11-4-22-3; Pym 9-0-32-0; Wood 2-0-7-0	

Paul Presland's retirement was marked at the festival by a presentation made by Maj Gen Andy Evans, president of Army cricket. Presland's career in an



Lt Richard Greatorex turns the ball away for more runs during his innings of 119 against the Royal Navy

Army cap spanned 20 years, and he also played for Combined Services over a period of 19 years.

In addition to the loss of Presland and Scott, pace bowler Matthew Rudd is leaving the Army in the New Year.

At the other end of the spectrum, three Under-25 members of the team – Ian Wood, Willie Pym and Nigel Palmer – were due to win their first Combined Services caps against the MCC at Vine Lane on September 2. Also named in the XI were John Checkley and Richard Greatorex.

Immediately before the Services' festival, the Army lost to both the Civil Service and Kent 2nd XI in 55-over matches.

Civil Service bowled their hosts out for 173 (Wood 37, Rudd 43, Presland 34) after scoring 213 for nine (Rudd 3-54, Presland 4-41), while Kent's 245 for seven at Chatham was 63 too many for the Army.

Gunners to challenge the champs

UNITED Kingdom Challenge Cup champions 1 and 3 Training Regiments, RE from Blackwater are drawn away from home against the gunners of Royal School of Artillery/14 Field Regiment, RA at Larkhill in the second round of the 1991/92 UK competition.

The UK champions, who lost to BAOR's Hameln-based 28 Amphibious Engineer Regiment in the Army final, have a bye in the first round.

SEME Bordon, last season's losing UK finalists, start their campaign with home advantage against the 17th/21st Lancers.

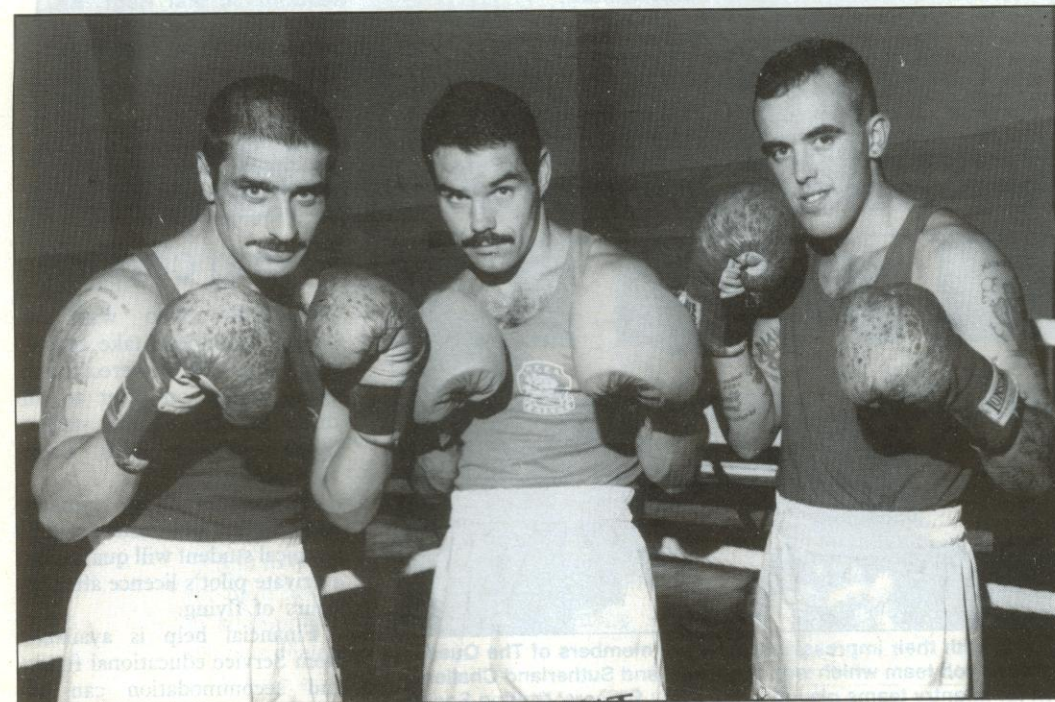
Sgt Nigel Wiscombe APTC, the Army and Combined Services goalkeeper, was in the South West Counties XI which took on Dorset in a match to mark the opening of Dorset FA's new office and ground complex at Blandford Road, Hamworthy, Poole.

Football League clubs again turned to the Army for assistance in their pre-season fitness training. Dave Bassett took his Sheffield United squad to Arborfield where he linked up with old friend QMSI Dickie Parker, Plymouth Argyle also stayed at Arborfield, while West Bromwich Albion sought help from new Army team coach QMSI Joey Roach and stayed with the Army at Tidworth.

Advanced coaching licences have been awarded to eight soldiers by the Football Association following a course at Aldershot sponsored by the Army Football Association.

The recipients are Capt Robert Petrie, AAC, QMSI Dickie Parker, APTC, SI Alex Armstrong, APTC, Sgt Robert Monro, RE, QMSI Duncan Russell, APTC, QMSI Paul Holden, APTC, Cpl Jimmy Ellis, RE and Sgt Kevin Parkins, RCT.

As well as the "Full Badge", six "Half Badge" Intermediate certificates were awarded to WO2 Lawrence Bland, 3 Para, Csgt Stephen Starkey, RGJ, Sgt Paul Warrilow, RRF, Sgt Bryan Lythgoe, 14/20 H, Sgt Mick Tracey, REME and Sig Paul Brown, R Signals.



If Hong Kong can raise a team, two of these three boxers, all serving in the Colony with the 1st Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Wales, could be in line for selection for next year's Barcelona Olympic Games. From left to right are Cpl Adrian Wilson, Sgt Martin Jones and Pte Stephen Burton. Wilson and Burton have already represented Hong Kong in international tournaments, but Jones will not be eligible for selection when he is posted back to the United Kingdom later this year

Picture: Mike Perring

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Double delight for Army athletes

TEAM honours in both the men's decathlon and the women's heptathlon went to the Army at the Inter-Service championships at Aldershot.

But there was disappointment for Cpl Mark Tout, 2 RTR, everyone's favourite to win the individual title. He recorded three no-throws in the discus, his strongest event, and had to settle for fourth overall.

The winner was Cpl Greg Dunson of the Royal Air Force on 6,683 points, 852 ahead of Cpl Trevor McSween, 21 Signal Regt. Decathlon newcomer Capt Terry Gyorffy, 4 RTR was third, and with Tout filling the next place, the Army took the team championship by an uncomfortably close 161 points - 17,298 to 17,137.

The Royal Navy were more than 2,500 points adrift in third place.

As happens so often in this testing, two-day trial of athletic excellence, good sportsmanship between keen rivals was a notable feature of the event.

SACW Isabel Donaldson, RAF set an Inter-Service record of 4,582 in winning the heptathlon, but the team trophy went to the Army.

Their challenge was led by Cpl Jackie Gilchrist, 15 Bn RAOC who was second overall, and very well supported by 2nd Lt Bobbie Scott in third place and Cpl Liz Churchley in fourth.

The Army women's team finished on 11,238 points to the RAF's 10,091 and the RN women's 8,529.

Sappers win

A KEENLY contested boxing match between 62 Cyprus Support Squadron, RE and 34 Squadron, RAF Regiment at Dhekelia was won by the sappers by five bouts to three.

Army winners were LCpl Chris Innes, Lt Danny Gordon, Cpl Webster (walkover), LCpl Steve McLaughlan and Spr Runcieman.



British cross-country ski team coach Leonid Kuzmin puts (from front) Cpl Neil Danby and LCpl Mark Palmer, both of 28 Amphibious Engineer Regiment, RE and Cpl Glenn Scott, 2 RTR through their paces during a photocall in Hyde Park, London.

The appointment of Kuzmin, a graduate of the Moscow State Sport Institute and with a wealth of top-level experience with the Soviet national team, is expected to give the British team an aggressive new

Soviet coach to boost ski team

edge in World Cup racing this winter.

He will be based at Aviemore with his wife, top Soviet racer Antonia Ordina.

Other members of the British team include Royal Engineer Ed Nicoll, 35 Engr Regt, John King from 1 Armed Div Tpt Regt, RCT,

Dave Belam of 3 RHA, John Read of 50 Msl Regt, RA, and Royal Marines Mark Croasdale, David Brown and Gary Gerrard.

Their support includes manager Capt Antony Abell of the Royal Green Jackets and former Olympic coach Ewan MacKenzie.



Relaxing with their impressive trophy are members of The Queen's Regiment golf team which won the Argyll and Sutherland Challenge Bowl for Infantry teams played at the Army Officers' Golfing Society annual meeting. From left to right are Maj Reg Ford, Capt Charles Bromfield, Col John Davidson and Brig Stuart Anderson, who beat The Royal Green Jackets' A team in the semi-finals at Hillside Golf Club and the RGJ B team in the final at Southport and Ainsdale. It was the Queen's second victory in the competition in three years

Flying chance

SOLDIERS who want to become pilots can take advantage of low-cost powered flying opportunities on offer to all three Services at the station flying club at RAF Brize Norton.

It provides flying training seven days a week and reckons a typical student will qualify for a private pilot's licence after 50 hours of flying.

Financial help is available from Service educational funds and accommodation can be arranged at Brize Norton. More details are available from club secretary Wendy Young on RAF Brize Norton ext 6133 or 0993 845886.

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On the Old Building Square at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, the Gurkha Demonstration Company, celebrating its 20th anniversary, is inspected by Maj Gen Tim Toyne Sewell, Commandant RMAS. On his left is the parade and company commander, Maj Gordon Corrigan 6GR, and to his rear the Academy Sergeant Major, WO1 Mike Nesbitt Gren Gds. The company demonstrates military skills to officer cadets. Picture: Terry Champion