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VOLVO EXPORT



Incorporating the Territorial Army magazine

APRIL 4, 1994
Vol 50/7

CONTENTS

- 12 People
- 14 Op Hamden HQ
- 17 Operation Grapple
- 20 Pace-stick change
- 23 CIOR competition
- 24 Sappers in Kenya
- 28 Dering Lines rebuild
- 30 For families
- 32 Letters
- 34 Briefings
- 36 Book reviews
- 39 HOAY competition
- 48 Sport

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FRONT COVER: One pace forward... RMA Sandhurst's WO2 (CSM) Paul Ladd and ASM David Cox check measurements on the new, larger Euro-stick. See Pages 21-22. Picture: Mike Weston

- THE ARMY's top soldier has been promoted Field Marshal on appointment as Chief of the Defence Staff. Page 5.
- A NUMBER of Armed Forces personnel who served in the Gulf War have been medically assessed after expressing concern about so-called Desert Fever or Desert Storm Syndrome. Page 7.
- SAS teams are reported by the BBC to be helping United Nations aid dropped by air reach its targets in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Page 9.
- THE Government's Care in the Community programme is preventing a home for ex-Servicemen and women from filling all its available places. Page 31.



"Colonel, the contract caterer says if you don't eat your cabbage you'll get no pudding."

Too many cooks so 800 must go

IN A move which heralds a new catering strategy for the Army, nearly 800 military chefs are now working out their notice. They were among more than 6,000 soldiers notified at the end of February in the third phase of redundancies.

Catering operations in all units in the base and training organisations, and some officers' and warrant officers' and sergeants' messes within the Field Army, are to be contractorised or civilianised, thus releasing military chefs to be deployed more flexibly to meet the Army's operational and training requirements.

Units no longer retaining their own chefs who require temporary support for exercises and other formal commitments will have to "borrow" from field force units as necessary.

By April next year the total strength of chefs in uniform – all capbadged to the Royal Logistic Corps – will have been

reduced from 4,400 in 1992 to 2,550. Much of this reduction has been achieved through redundancy – a total of 1,050 posts – with the balance being taken through normal wastage, releases and manning controls.

A total of 779 chefs were made redundant in February, all of whom will leave the Army by March 31 next year.

Considerable efforts are being made to alert the catering industry to the employment potential of this large pool of manpower. Civilian caterers are aware this is a one-off opportunity to recruit disciplined, motivated and highly-trained professionals, and job prospects for those leaving are said to be very good.

Maj Gen David Burden, Director General Logistic Support (Army), has already written a personal letter of reassurance to all those chefs remaining.

While they will inevitably

have to spend more time in the field with their own and other units, he has pointed out that their prospects for a full and rewarding career remain excellent, with promotion speeds likely to be faster.

Implementation of the new strategy has been assigned a high priority by Gen Burden. A team of nine officers and one warrant officer, based at HQ QMG at Andover, HQ UKLF at Wilton and HQ BAOR at Rheindahlen, are expected to complete their task by March next year.

The reducing numbers and changing roles of military chefs entails a re-evaluation of the training which they receive at the Army School of Catering at Aldershot.

This and many other aspects of the future of catering support to the Army are currently under the microscope again as a part of the Defence Costs Study, which is examining the Army's entire support area.

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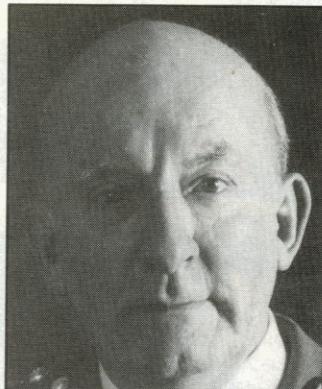
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Fd Marshal Inge steps up to be Chief of Defence Staff

FD MARSHAL Sir Peter Inge has been appointed Chief of the Defence Staff following the resignation of Marshal of the Royal Air Force Sir Peter Harding.

Fd Marshal Inge was promoted from his previous appointment as Chief of the General Staff and is succeeded by Gen Sir Charles Guthrie, formerly C-in-C BAOR and Commander HQ Northern Army Group Staff.

Gen Guthrie has succeeded Fd Marshal Inge in a number of appointments during his career: Commander 4th Armoured Brigade in 1981, Chief of Staff of 1st British Corps in 1983, GOC 2nd Infantry Division and Com-



Fd Marshal Inge



Gen Guthrie

mander North East District in 1986, Commander 1st British Corps in 1989, and C-in-C BAOR and Commander Northern Army Group in January 1992.

Both also commanded the 1st Battalions of their regiments in Berlin and Northern Ireland.

Commissioned into the Green Howards in 1956, Fd

Marshal Inge was Director General of Logistic Policy (Army) at MoD from 1986. He is Colonel of the Green Howards and Colonel Commandant of the Corps of Royal Military Police and the Army Physical Training Corps.

Gen Guthrie was commissioned into the Welsh Guards in 1959 and saw wide service as a troop and squadron commander with 22nd Special Air Service Regiment. As well as being Colonel General Staff responsible for military operations and planning worldwide in 1980, he commanded British Forces New Hebrides. Gen Guthrie is Colonel Commandant of the Intelligence Corps.

Pride of the mess

Members of the WOs' and Sergeants' Mess of the 1st Battalion, Irish Guards sit and stand to attention for a formal photograph with the Queen Mother after she had distributed shamrock to serving and former Irish Guardsmen on St Patrick's Day.

Since 1989, when the ceremony was last held in Chelsea Barracks, London, 1 IG has served in Berlin, Belize and Northern Ireland. Shamrock provided by the Queen Mother is sent to Irish Guardsmen wherever they are serving in the world, perpetuating a tradition started by Queen Alexandra in 1901.



Picture: Mike Perring

Concern for soldiers missing in Malaysia

AS SOLDIER went to press an international search was under way for two British officers and three Hong Kong Chinese soldiers missing since March 8 on a 13,500ft Malaysian mountain.

The ten-strong RLC expedition, led by Lt Col Robert Neill and Maj Ron Foster, set out on February 19 to scale Mount Kinabalu in Sabah, East

Malaysia. Having reached the summit they split into two groups for the descent via the rarely-used Low's Gulley.

Two weeks later the lead team emerged from the jungle four days overdue, suffering from malnutrition and exhaustion and having lost contact with the second group.

The alarm was raised and Malaysian park wardens and

rangers began searching the lower end of the gulley while local soldiers aided by helicopters began covering the more difficult sections. A specialist RAF mountain rescue team with two jungle survival instructors and an Army doctor flew from the UK to join the search.

The missing men were Lt Col Neill and Maj Foster, and

junior NCOs Lam Ywai Ki, Chen Wai Keung and Cheung Yiu Keung.

The two officers, both experienced expedition leaders, had climbed South East Asia's highest mountain twice before.

Concern mounted because the missing members had been without food since March 6 and flash floods had made the going more difficult than expected.

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Tour interval 17 months - minister

AVERAGE emergency tour interval for infantry battalions is now 17 months, Armed Forces Minister Jeremy Hanley told the House of Commons.

"On the basis of current commitments, we expect this to rise to 20 months in 1994-95 and to 30 months thereafter," he said, adding in answer to a supplementary question by Mr Eric Clarke that the minimum interval target on completion of the drawdown in 1995-96 is 24 months.

Mr Andrew Robathan asked: "Does my hon Friend agree that the large number of applications for voluntary redundancies reveals how low morale is currently in the Armed Forces, and that this is caused by overstretch and the number of emergency tours because there are insufficient troops currently in our Army?"

Mr Hanley: "The large number of voluntary redundancies is, first, a measure of the generosity of the voluntary redundancy terms and, secondly, the sign of an improved economy outside."

Ten officers and 67 soldiers received their redundancy notices on February 24 while serving in the former Yugoslavia, MPs were told.

Opposition defence spokesman Dr David Clark asked for redundant numbers to be listed by location. By far the largest total are serving in Great Britain - 4,160 (including 539 officers).

Other totals by location are:



Northern Ireland, 515 (including 36 officers); BAOR, 1,960 (89); Nato, 30 (5); Cyprus, 135 (6); Hong Kong, 60 (16); N America 17 (3); Belize, 20 (1); Rest of world, 41 (15).

About 85 per cent of the grand total of 7,015 redundancies are voluntary.

Ceremonial and guard duties are currently carried out primarily on a full-time basis by 824 Army and RAF personnel, plus 362 horses involved in mounted duties, at an estimated cost in 1993-94 of £18.65 million.

Cards confirming the status of

individuals as war pensioners, enabling them to take advantage of concessions at home and abroad, will be available from the War Pensions Unit at Blackpool this summer.

Meanwhile, access to records needed for processing war pensions applications has now been restored. An eight-month closure of a records office because of the presence of asbestos dust (SOLDIER, February 21) caused a backlog of 25,000 claims, it was revealed in a written answer.

Government grants which enable Battle of Normandy widows to make one visit to their husbands' graves at public expense cannot be extended to all members of the family, it was stated in a written answer.

21 contact MoD over Gulf 'fever'

FIFTEEN former and six current members of the Armed Forces have contacted the Ministry of Defence expressing concern about their health following service in the Gulf, MPs were told on March 10.

So-called Desert Fever or Desert Storm Syndrome has been linked in some press reports to Gulf War service.

In Commons written questions Mr Llew Smith asked how many people had contacted the MoD "complaining of ill-health effects they believe to be Desert Fever arising from contamination from serving in the British forces in Operation Granby".

Giving the figures, Armed Forces Minister Jeremy Hanley said all 21 complainants had been offered the opportunity to be medically assessed by a military consultant.

"Of the 14 who have accepted this offer, 12 have so far been examined. All have been found to be suffering from separate medically recognised conditions which are not peculiar to service in the Gulf."

On March 11 Mr Hanley said the MoD had been invited to provide information to two US scientific panels investigating "the alleged Desert Storm Syndrome".

He added: "My department has provided both oral and written information confirming that there were no detections of chemical agents during the Gulf conflict and no evidence that British troops were exposed to such agents."

On March 3 Opposition defence spokesman Dr David Clark called for the MoD to set up an independent scientific inquiry into the "Desert Fever" reports.

Mr Hanley replied that there were no plans to do so "as there remains no clinical evidence that members of the British Armed Forces who served in the Gulf conflict are suffering from any unexplained medical symptoms which would call for such an inquiry."

In answer to a further question on March 3, Mr Hanley said two firms of solicitors had written to the Ministry of Defence concerning the reported effects of "Desert Storm Syndrome."

"One is acting on behalf of an individual; the other wrote on behalf of a group of solicitors who have indicated that they will be acting for a number of Service and ex-Service personnel. We have not yet been informed how many individuals this group will represent."

DRIVING FORCE



After driving together as a team for just two months, Sgt Maj Bowden (right), 1 LI LAD, and Cpl Mark Burton, 3 RSME, emerged as winners of Exercise Scottish Rover. Based in Edinburgh, the exercise, included in the British Army Motoring Association championship for the second time, is a night navigation exercise for Land Rovers

Airmobile exercise

MORE THAN 2,000 soldiers from Colchester-based 24 Airmobile Brigade took part in Exercise Gryphon's Lift, first major exercise this year for the brigade, on the Stanford training area in Norfolk.

Some of the training took place in areas around Grantham, Oakington and Bassingbourn, in order to sim-

ulate the 120km distance which the brigade could cover on deployment by helicopter.

Among those involved in the exercise were 3 and 4 Regiments Army Air Corps (the latter currently based in Detmold, Germany), 19 Regiment Royal Artillery and Ripon-based 51 Squadron Royal Engineers.

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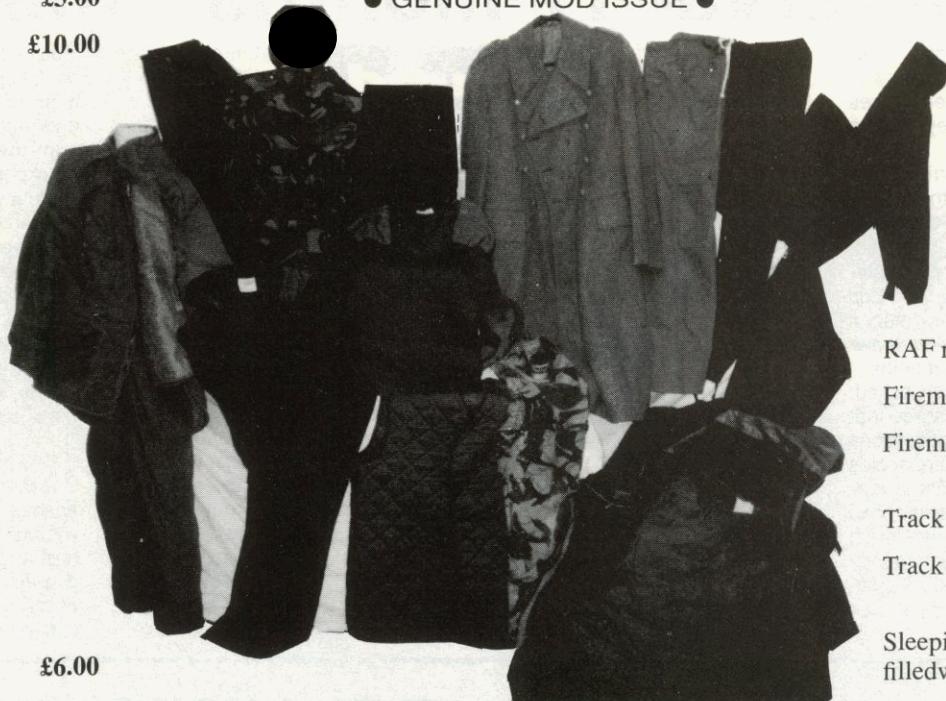
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Special Forces filmed in Bosnia

BRITISH Special Forces soldiers have been operating inside the besieged Muslim enclave of Maglaj in northern Bosnia according to British television and press reports, although the Ministry of Defence will neither confirm nor deny the presence of the SAS in the region.

It was claimed that SAS troopers were operating with British forward air controllers (FAC) to mark drop zones for American humanitarian aid missions.

With the exception of the forward air controller, all the soldiers faces were blacked out on the BBC Television news film. The United Nations commander in Bosnia, Lt Gen Sir Michael Rose, spent much of his career with the SAS, commanding 21 Special Air Service Regiment during the Falklands War.

• A UN convoy escorted by Warriors of 1 Cold Gds delivered tons of aid to the Muslim enclave of Maglaj on March 20, breaking a five-month siege by Bosnian Serbs.

• Prime Minister John Major met men of the 1st Battalion, Coldstream Guards when he flew to former Yugoslavia with Defence Secretary Malcolm Rifkind on March 17, and later had talks in Sarajevo with Lt Gen Sir Michael Rose.

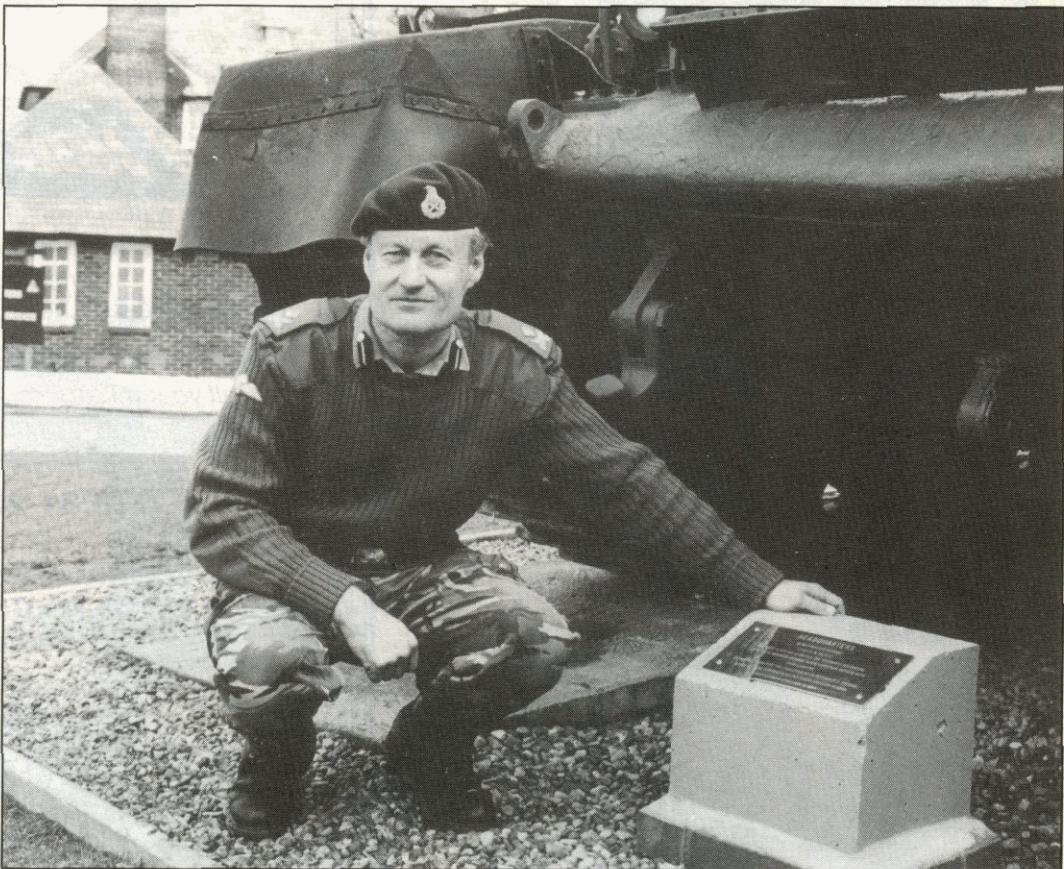
• Cpl Barney Warburton of 33 Engr Regt was killed while clearing landmines near Stari Vitez on March 19. He was the second British soldier to die in Bosnia.

• The Band of the Coldstream Guards and British Army parachutists entertained 20,000 Sarajevans in Kosevo stadium before Sarajevo FC beat an UNPROFOR XI 4-0 on March 20.

The high-profile sporting event reflected the success of the ceasefire around the shattered city.

The UN team included six British soldiers.

Catterick brigade HQ opened



Maj Gen Hew Pike, GOC 3 (UK) Div, unveils a plaque at the gate guardian - a disarmed Chieftain tank - to mark the opening of the new headquarters of 19 Mechanised Brigade in Catterick on March 2. After touring the new headquarters, built in a converted house, the GOC cut the ribbon on the front door and declared the headquarters officially open. The brigade, which moved from Colchester a year ago, has a dual role. It is part of Nato's Allied Command Europe Rapid Reaction Corps (ARRC) and the National Reserve and, as such, is ready to deploy anywhere in the world to protect UK interests

New DROPS

THE FIRST of a new generation of DROPS vehicles has been accepted by Lt Gen Sir Jeremy Blacker, Master General of the Ordnance, from Foden. Four hundred of the improved ammunition-carrying trucks, which have increased capacity, will be supplied over four years at a cost of £75m.

• • •
The Officers' Association helped 1,430 ex-officers, widows and dependants in 1992-93 with cash grants totalling nearly £1m.

Downed crew save officer

THE flying skill and courage of Army Air Corps aircrew averted disaster in Crossmaglen, Co Armagh when they managed to land their seriously damaged Lynx aircraft safely. It had been hit by a Mk 15 mortar fired by the IRA. The aircrew also displayed courage in returning to their burning aircraft to rescue a seriously injured RUC officer stranded in the aircraft.

ABSD signs blood deal

A REVOLUTIONARY method of blood storage - first developments of which were reported by SOLDIER in September 1988 - came one step nearer to fruition on March 18.

The Army Blood Supply Depot (ABSD) signed an historic licensing agreement at Aldershot with Dutch company NPBI, which has applied to carry out trials in conjunction with the MoD to make frozen blood commercially available worldwide.

Apart from saving lives, the process could make millions in royalties from overseas sales for the MoD, which holds the patent.

Blood has a shelf life of only five weeks, making it difficult to stockpile for emergencies.

But the new process, which has taken 20 years to develop, freezes the blood without damaging it, enabling it to be stored for years if necessary.

Col Michael Thomas, commanding officer ABSD, said: "In the run-up to the Gulf War we had all sorts of problems. The casualty predictions were high, and we had to prepare for that."

The short shelf life of blood meant that requests for donors could not be made when troops first went to the Middle East, but had to wait until the shooting started.

"Now all those fears are behind us, because this process will enable us to plan well in advance of the event: we are convinced it will save lives."

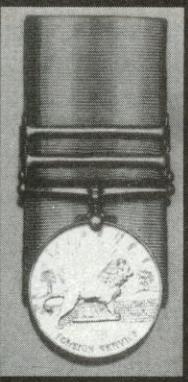
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Saatchis awarded military account

THE Army's two advertising contracts have been unified into one £4m annual account, awarded from April 1 to Saatchi & Saatchi.

Director of Army Recruiting Brig Christopher Elliott said: "The Army account is not the

largest in the country, but it is one of the most complex and challenging to carry. It covers recruiting for officers and soldiers of the Regular Army and the Territorial Army."

Considerable importance is placed on the new advertising

account, according to the Directorate of Army Recruiting, as annual Regular Army recruiting targets are set to rise from 9,300 to more than 15,000 in the next two years to maintain the Army at a stable manning level of about

120,000 men and women.

Unlike most other organisations, the Army relies heavily on the under-25s, which is why, despite the cutbacks, it still needs to recruit large numbers of fit, qualified and motivated young men and women.

New body takes on clothing

A NEW tri-Service organisation, the Defence Clothing and Textiles Authority (DCTA), is to be formed on April 1.

Among other functions, the DCTA – the headquarters of which are at Andover – will bring together into one organisation responsibility for placing on the shelf the best clothing and kit available to the British Armed Forces and other UK government organisations.

The new body will be responsible for an inventory of more than 27,000 individual line items.

On October 31, a Defence clothing and Textiles Agency is due to be established.

Workshop passes the market test

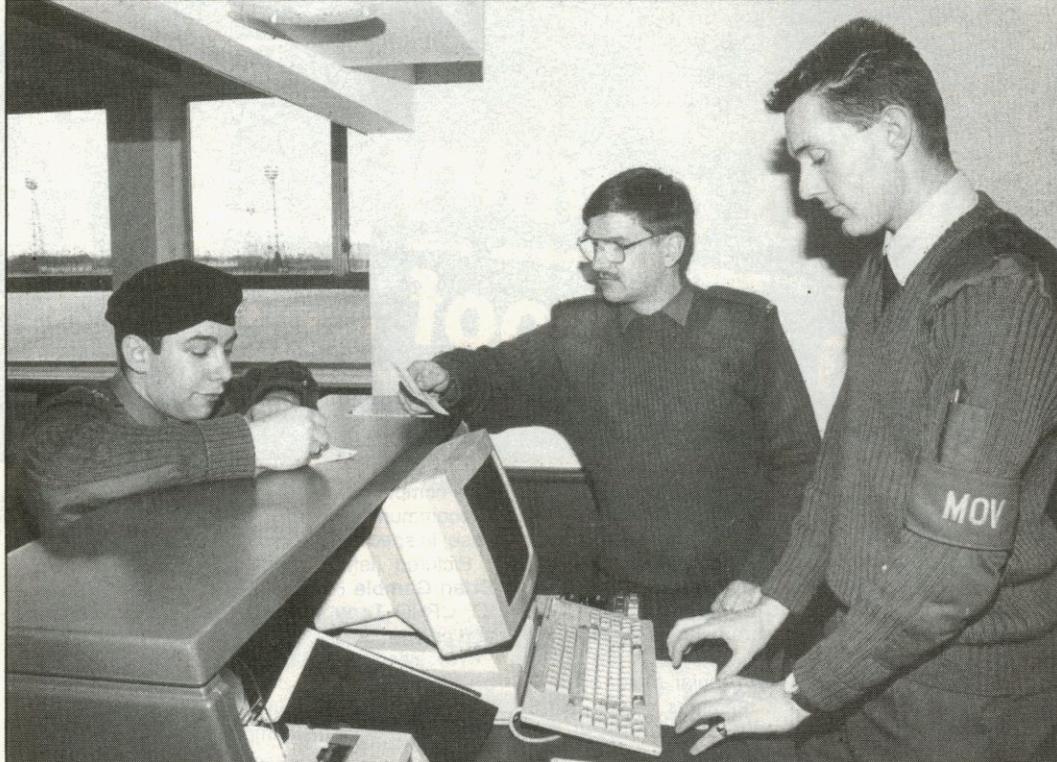
MARKET testing has proved that 18 Base Workshop, Bovington can provide the best base repair facilities for the Army's main battle tanks.

Against four bids from industry, 18 Base Workshop offered the best value for money and met all the key requirements. It is the first Army Base Repair Organisation (ABRO) workshop to be market-tested.

Brig Jim Drew, ABRO's chief executive, said the in-house operation would yield savings of £15m over the next five years.

"The news is good for the taxpayer and the Army and is a clear indication of the capabilities of the dedicated ABRO workshop staff," he said.

Lyneham check-in gets face-lift



Pte James Soave RLC signs in at the improved check-in and waiting areas at Lyneham helped by Air Transport Liaison Officer WO2 Wayne Fielding of 29 Regiment RLC, South Cerney, and SAC John Shearing RAF. This first phase cost £155,000 and further phases will improve VIP, departure and arrival lounges, customs and toilet areas. Lyneham processes 85,000 passengers every year, mainly soldiers flying on Hercules aircraft.

Picture: Mike Perrin

DERR marches out of county towns

IN A series of Freedom marches, The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment (Berkshire and Wiltshire) has said farewell to the county towns from

which it has traditionally recruited. With "drums beating, bayonets fixed and Colours flying", the regiment marched through seven towns

FAREWELL TO 240 YEARS

THE BAND of The King's Own Scottish Borderers marched off their final parade at Wootton Barracks, Preston as they prepare to merge to form the Lowland Band of the Scottish Division.

The Colonel of the regiment, Brig Colin Mattingley, paid tribute to the band for its

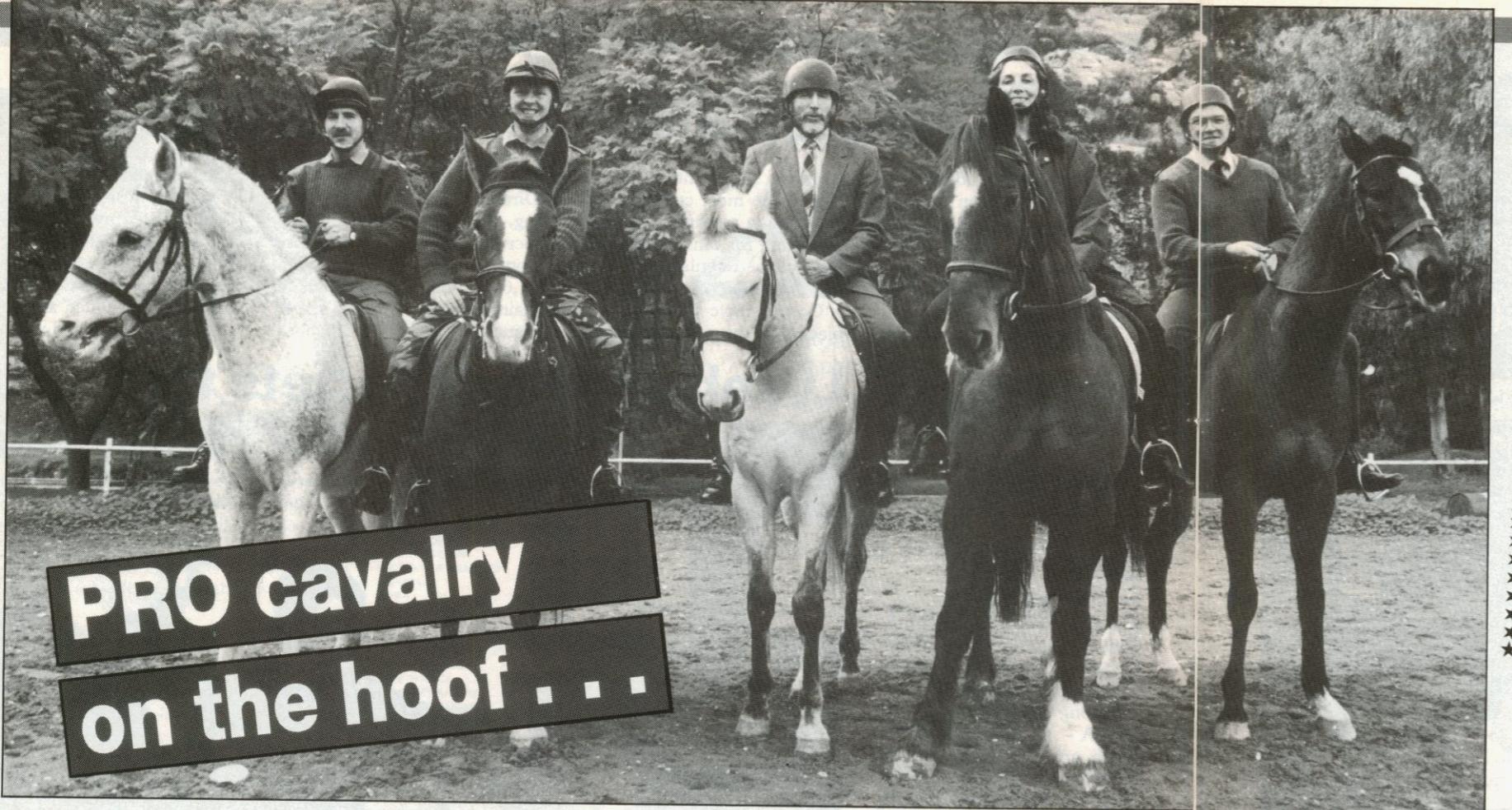
long and loyal service over 240 years.

Half the members of the band will join the newly formed Lowland Band which will be based in Edinburgh. Bandmaster WO1 Martin Perry will become Bandmaster of the Staff Band of the Royal School of Signals at Blandford.

as it prepares to amalgamate with The Gloucestershire Regiment.

The DERR became the county regiment of Berkshire and Wiltshire in 1959 when The Royal Berkshire Regiment and The Wiltshire Regiment amalgamated. Now, the regiment is to merge with the Glosters to become The Royal Gloucestershire, Berkshire and Wiltshire Regiment (1 RGBW) on April 27.

The marches took place at Abingdon, Chippenham, Devizes, Newbury, Salisbury, Wallingford and Windsor.



PRO cavalry on the hoof...

Tri-Service public relations staff in Cyprus have hit upon the perfect four-wheel drive vehicles for covering otherwise inaccessible terrain on their "patch". They have turned to horse power.

From the beginning of April the Cyprus Public Relations Mounted Troop (CPRMT) will become a familiar sight wherever more conventional transport cannot operate.

From beach to mountain, chief press officer **Tony Worner** and other members of the Joint Services Public Relations Staff are poised to gallop into action. They keep their cameras, lap-

top computers, electronic notebooks, mobile telecommunication equipment and pencils (just in case) in specially-designed saddlebags.

Pictured (left to right) are photographer Cpl **Brian Gamble** RLC, DCPRO Maj **Robert Shaw** IG, CPRO **Tony Worner**, clerk **Wendy Walker** and photographer Cpl **Gordon Elias** RAF.

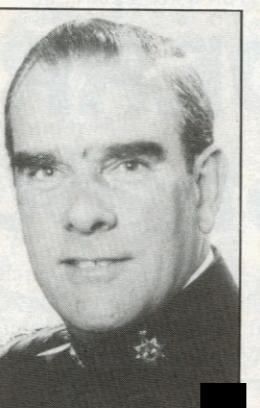
"No jokes about trotting out the party line, please," said Tony. "The horses have made our mane (sorry, main) task much easier... and our gardens have improved out of all recognition."



Teresa's hot news

The fire-damaged house in the background and the letter she is holding tell their own story as far as 15-year-old **Teresa Padgett** is concerned. Teresa, daughter of SSgt **Wayne Padgett**, 125 Field Squadron RE, took prompt action to prevent a chip pan blaze in the house next door at Moss Pit, Stafford, from spreading. The letter? That is a note of thanks from a delighted Col **John Bassett**, the region's Army housing chief.

New GOC



Colonel of The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment (Queen's and Royal Hampshire), newly promoted Lt Gen **Anthony Denison-Smith**, has taken up the appointment of General Officer Commanding the Army's Southern District. His last command was 1st (UK) Armoured Division in BAOR.

PEOPLE



Good for them

Two members of Hameln-based 35 Engineer Regiment were the delighted recipients of commendations by Brig **Andrew Pringle**, Commander 20 Brigade (left). Next to him is REME Cpl "H" **Harrison**, who received a C in C (UKLF) commendation for his "outstanding work" while serving in the former Yugoslavia, while Cpl

Mac Mackenzie RE was presented with a GOC (NI) commendation for his "tremendous contribution" while serving with 29 Field Squadron RE in Northern Ireland. With them is Lt Col **John Durance** RE.

Nathan's an Army natural

Young Bristol Army cadet **Nathan Jones** (centre), a lance corporal in the Portishead Combined Army Cadet Force, has proved his potential – both physically and mentally – by becoming the only candidate from the south west region to be offered an Army scholarship after the latest round of assessments. A sixth form pupil at Bristol Grammar School, he is seen celebrating with fellow Portishead cadets **Neale Welch**, **Eamonn Harrington**, **Paul Cameron** and **Lucy Williamson**.



Picture: Neil Phillips

Exempl-Harry award...



A rarely-awarded accolade, the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal and Clasp, has been presented to Ternhill-based Maj **Alan Harry**, Royal Regiment of Wales. Awarded to non-commissioned ranks only, the medal marks 15 years' exemplary service – but NCOs can normally only complete a maximum of 22 years' service. In order to merit a clasp to the medal, a soldier must be commissioned from the ranks and go on to complete 30 years' service. Alan, pictured with proud father **William** (who himself completed 22 years' service) after the presentation, joined the Army in 1963, following his father into the 24th of Foot.



Taff assignment

Pte **Dean Cunvin** (18), Royal Regiment of Wales, shares a St David's Day leek with regimental mascot **Taffy V** after taking part in the annual leek eating ceremony. The 300-year-old tradition entails each of the First Battalion's five companies putting forward their youngest private soldier, who then has to stand on a table and eat a whole leek in front of the battalion.

Hamden HQ is joint effort

FAST staff work is needed in the joint headquarters at Wilton to keep pace with the rapidly-developing situation in former Yugoslavia, writes **Gordon Skilling**.

Commander UK Land Forces, Gen Sir John Wilsey, becomes Joint Commander for Operation Hamden when he dons his blue beret.

As well as 62 Army personnel, mainly from HQ UK Land Forces, the operations centre is also manned by 19 Royal Navy and 16 Royal Air Force personnel.

It has direct links to Fleet headquarters at Northwood, and RAF Strike Command at High Wycombe, where the JHQ was first established in August 1993 until it moved to Wilton in November.

JHQ is the interface between the Ministry of Defence and forces deployed on Operation Hamden, the combined name for all British military

activity associated with the United Nations and Nato operations in the Balkans.

It comprises Operation Grapple, to escort and protect UNHCR convoys carrying humanitarian aid; Operation Cheshire, the air-lifting of aid into Sarajevo; Operation Deny Flight, the use of Nato airpower to

stop air activity by the various factions; and Operation Sharp Guard, the maritime embargo in the southern Adriatic.

From Wilton, staff react to policy decisions within MoD and formulate military strategy for the 2,200 mainly Army troops, the 2,400 Royal Navy personnel on the Task

Group in the Adriatic, and the 800 Royal Air Force flight and ground crews based in Italy.

The £1.8m purpose-built advanced operations centre was opened on July 8 last year. It has a secure video link with MoD and can link into Nato, UN and other national headquarters.



Above - Joint Commander Gen Sir John Wilsey (left) with his senior staff at JHQ: Cdr Mike Riley RN, Col Peter Williams, Wg Cdr Nick Fox and Commodore Paul Canter, Director of Operations, who as the only Royal Navy joint appointment wears the joint stable belt over his dark blue pullover

Left - Operations Desk watchkeeper Maj Mark Butler RDG (left) has TA support from Lt Col Phillip Burton RRF and Maj Charles Ottewell LI



italise on the advances.

British Force Commander Brig John Reith has moved his headquarters to Gornji Vakuf where since February 25 it has been a one-star subordinate command known as Sector South West. He has taken under command the Spanish, Canadian and Malaysian battalions operating in Bosnia, as well as the British battalion.

From the Kiseljak headquarters of the United Nation's Bosnia-Herzegovina command, Lt Gen Sir Michael Rose's "muscular" approach has led to a thorough reorganisation of the UN assets to cap-

italise on the advances.

original, subordinate one-star command of Sector Sarajevo is commanded by a French brigadier with French, Ukrainian and Egyptian battalions.

The logistic battalion remains at Split, now designated Bosnia-Herzegovina Command (Rear), and is the base for the transport squadron and REME main repair group, plus a stores company and 845 Royal Naval Air Squadron.

C Squadron, The Light Dragoon has moved to Zepce from Tomislavgrad, where its role has been taken over by the Mortar Platoon of the 1st Battalion, Coldstream Guards with one third of the previous manpower. Tomislavgrad is also the base for Royal Engineer Group South.

As well as being base for the new Sector South West HQ,

Gornji Vakuf also houses 1 Company, 1 Coldrm Gds and a 260-strong Royal Engineer force headquarters.

Both 2 Coy and 3 Coy Coldrm Gds are now based again in Vitez along with Royal Engineer Group North.

The impetus to confirm peace in the fluid situation in central Bosnia is receiving the maximum support from Operation Hamden headquarters at Wilton, said the Joint Commander, Gen Sir John Wilsey.

"Things happen on the hoof and the achievers on the ground are stuck with a very limited mandate," he said. "We have not got a set doctrine, so commanders have to think themselves into the mind of their superiors and act accordingly without invalidating the mandate."

DUKES BREAK FRESH GROUND

MEN of the 1st Battalion, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment have taken up their positions in Vitez and Bogojno following Britain's decision to reinforce Nato troops in Bosnia.

One company will be based in Vitez and two companies and the headquarters at Bogojno, a new location for British troops, 15km north west of Gornji Vakuf.

Less than 24 hours after Defence Secretary Malcolm Rifkind visited 1 DWR in Bulford to check their state of readiness they were on their way to Bosnia.

Within an hour of receiving the order to go, the 90-strong advance party, led by commanding officer Lt Col David Santa-Olalla, was driving out of the gates of their headquarters to catch an RAF flight to Split.

In response to a plea from the UN for more troops, the Defence Secretary announced on March 10 that 900 British reinforcements would be sent to Bosnia. The Iron Dukes battalion group is supported by a field troop of sappers from Ripon-based 38 Engineer Regiment, 30 soldiers from 33 Engineer Regiment (EOD) at Chatham, D Squadron of The Light Dragoons and various other support elements.

The battalion will come under the command of Brig John Reith, commander of British forces in the UN's Sector South West based at Gornji Vakuf. Their tasks will include patrolling buffer zones between warring factions and manning weapon collection points.

Lt Col Santa Olalla said: "I am confident that my soldiers are fully trained to meet any tasks that are given to us."

Explosive performance...

COLDSTREAMERS who took on the Novi Travnik Croat militia at five-a-side football were given unexpectedly close support... from beyond the touchline.

When a liaison officer brought them the sporting challenge, the Coldstreamers at Vitez cobbled together a scratch team.

The game was not going well. They were two goals down when the Bosnian Army started shelling the area. The match was hurriedly abandoned and the Coldstreamers beat a hasty retreat to Vitez.



Above - Final checks being made to the Saxon vehicles. This is the first time that Saxons will be used on operations outside Northern Ireland



Left - Maj Nick Borwell, OC Alma Coy, talks to Mr Rifkind during his visit to the 1st Battalion, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment at their headquarters in Bulford

Sapper work wins general approval

ONE BRITISH soldier who has left his mark on Bosnia for years to come is Sgt Robert Pickford, Royal Engineers. He has had a UN checkpoint named after him.

Pickford's Point has become the accepted name for the UN checkpoint which lies on the approaches to the devastated town of Gornji Vakuf in central Bosnia.

It is a simple affair; bastion walls filled with gravel form a chicane and in the centre, by the roadside, portacabin accommodation unit for the UN soldiers and Croat and Muslim police who man it. Despite heavy snow, he completed the project in a day.

Sgt Pickford had an unexpected visitor on site in the person of Lt Gen Sir Michael Rose, Commander of UNPROFOR troops in Bosnia.



Sgt Pickford

"At the time I was guiding in a crane," he explained. "The snow was coming down by the bucketful and I felt a tap on my shoulder. 'Why is this road blocked?' asked a voice, to which I replied 'I'll just get this portacabin in and you can be on your way'.

"I gave it a second or two, turned round and it was General Rose.

"I said: 'Sorry, Sir, I do apologise, I didn't recognise you.' 'You carry on lad,' he said. 'It could only be the engineers who work in this weather. Just give me a shout in the Range Rover when you've finished.'

The checkpoint is one of a number which have been established by United Nations Protection Forces on the main aid supply routes into central Bosnia.

Peace moves raise pace

OPERATIONAL initiatives taken by soldiers in Bosnia are sometimes outpacing political decisions as commanders press ahead to consolidate the fragile peace.

With the dramatic changes brought about in recent weeks a window of opportunity has suddenly opened and soldiers on the ground are taking on many new tasks as they marshal and monitor heavy weapons. The troops are also establishing buffer zones two kilometres either side of confrontation lines to minimise the risk of fighting flaring up again.

A Sector North East has also been established around the Tuzla area with Dutch and Nordic battalions under a Dutch brigadier. The third,



italise on the advances.

British Force Commander Brig John Reith has moved his headquarters to Gornji Vakuf where since February 25 it has been a one-star subordinate command known as Sector South West. He has taken under command the Spanish, Canadian and Malaysian battalions operating in Bosnia, as well as the British battalion.

As well as being base for the new Sector South West HQ,

Soldiers are there when you need them...



Mike Moore / TODAY Newspaper

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Joint RMP and HVO police checkpoints ease the passage of convoys. Cpl Mick Newman from the Tomislavgrad detachment mans the start of route triangle at the Lipa checkpoint

RMPs police vital aid convoy routes



Cpl Andrew Cook is ready to brief convoys before they move into dangerous country around Prozor

OPERATING between Split and Vitez is a composite Royal Military Police half company which includes personnel from 160 Provost Company in Aldershot and 158 Provost Company in Bulford plus one Special Investigations Branch investigator attached from Aldershot and another from Catterick.

The OC, Capt Mark Roberts, his driver, the two SIB investigators and nine others are based at Split; Tomislavgrad has two patrols; and a sergeant and three corporals are based at Vitez.

The sergeants stay in position for two months for continuity, while the corporals rotate every two to three weeks.

The Split detachment is mainly involved in general police duties, such as dealing

with traffic accidents and theft while the two Tomislavgrad patrols handle traffic control and man two checkpoints.

From the checkpoints they brief drivers on weather conditions, the need for snow chains, radio frequencies and call signs. They also explain the tactical situation, the likelihood of convoys coming under fire, the need for body armour and the composition of the escort.

At Vitez, a sergeant and three corporals are responsible for police and provost operations, some convoy escorting, and making sure the route is signed.

Capt Roberts said that although most drivers knew the route, there had been some problems with local people

Words:
Gordon Skilling
Pictures:
Mike Weston

● Turn to next page

There's no 'Endex' to stop the killing in this conflict

BRITISH soldiers watching the civil war in Vitez say they sometimes feel like directing staff observing an exercise.

But there is no "Endex", the casualty evacuations are for real and the dead do not get up for a debrief.

During the Bosnian Muslim attack on the Bosnian Croat pocket at Vitez, the 1st Battalion, Coldstream Guards posted two Warriors and nine men to guard a Dutch-Belgian transport battalion laager perilously close to the fighting at Santici.

The guardsmen moved non-essential personnel from immediate danger and their presence gave a significant morale boost to those who remained.

"Both sides know and respect Warrior, so they don't mess us about," said OC No 2 Company, Maj Other Windsor Clive.

But it was an experience he found almost surrealistic. At times there would be an intensive battle and an enormous amount of firing, yet not far away people would be wandering around as if nothing was happening.

The first time Lt James Lewis saw a bandaged soldier on a stretcher it took him a while to realise the man had actually been shot. Another time he watched, fascinated, as a militiaman set up a remote-controlled rocket and obliterated a nearby house.

After taking up a position in his tracked Warrior, 2nd Lt George Latham was asked by a militiaman to move so that the man could fire his mortar.

Coldstreamers need to be

extraordinarily careful to avoid accusations of helping one side or the other.

Safe inside their Warriors they could take a detached view of the fighting. In his first week with the battalion, 2nd Lt Zog Zvegintzov had to remind himself that he was watching a real battle through his vehicle's sights.

"It is a framed picture, just like a film," he said. "You sit there, eating your packed lunch and watching people 'clearing' houses."

With sudden death cutting off lives so near them, the monitoring guardsmen had to avoid being emotionally drawn into the fight. It was not their battle.

The attacking BiH (largely Muslim) army carried out the operation very professionally, according to LSgt John Moore, attached from The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment.

"Grenades were going in, there was artillery fire coming down, support from the flanks was putting in rockets and it was impressive how quickly they took out buildings," he said.



Royal Military Police personnel serving at Vitez. From left are Sgt "Butt" Phillips, Cpl Richard Keightley, LCpl Taff Davies, Cpl Liz Churhley and SSgt Bryan Maddern

Policemen in Bosnia

From Page 17

stealing or misdirecting signs.

"One French convoy did not turn left where it should have and was driving straight into Serb-held territory," he said.

The further north, the more law and order breaks down and the more problems there are in dealing with local police forces.

Capt Roberts chairs regular

ticular 'window' and the HVO use this as well."

There have been many allegations of war crimes by all sides, but the SIB investigators have not been made welcome at the scenes of alleged massacres when they have arrived to take photographs and videotape evidence.

With burnt and mutilated bodies often still been in place, it has not been a pleasant aspect of their work.

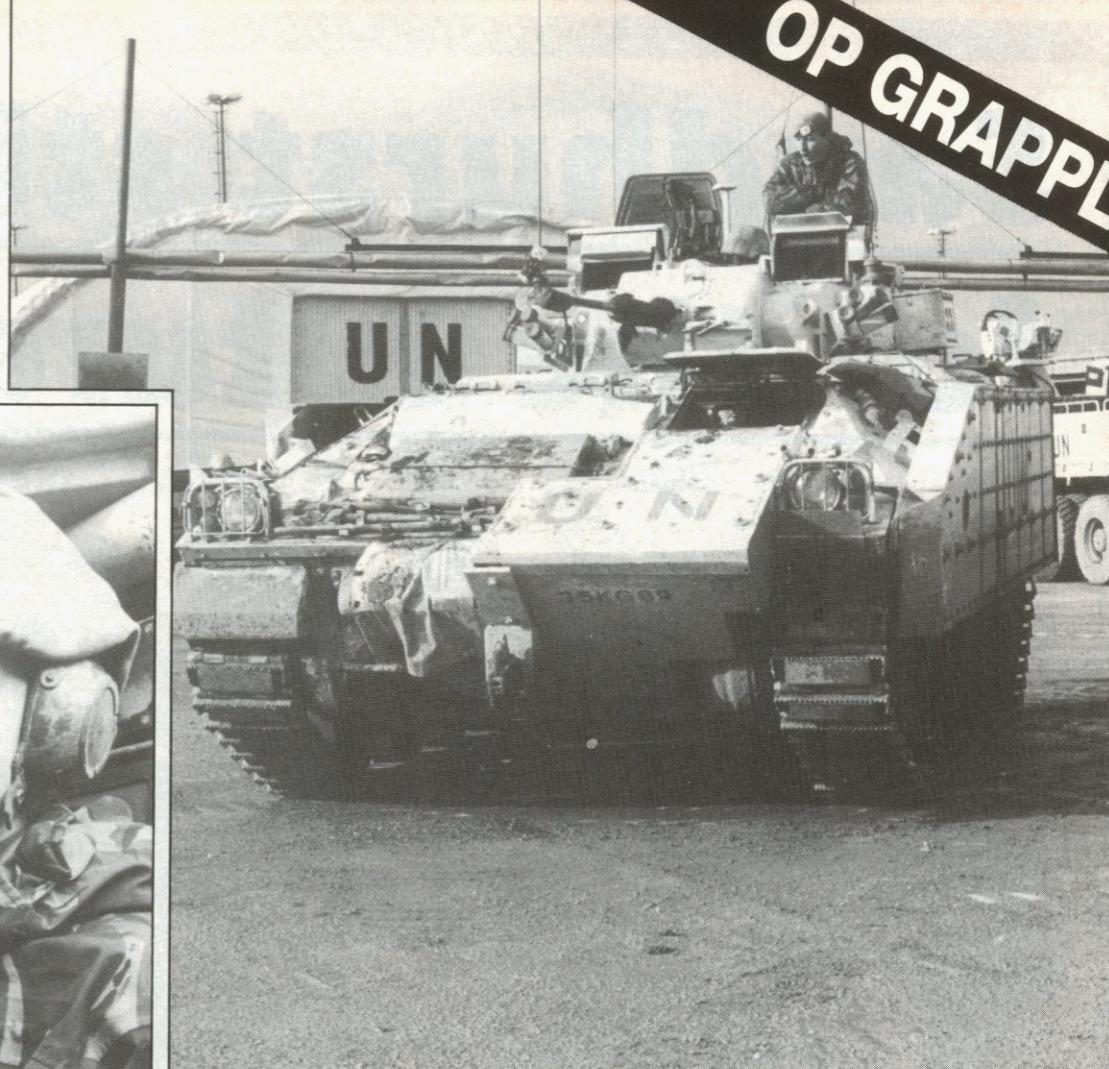
meetings with police chiefs to iron out problems at the highest level.

"Though we have no authority over the Bosnian Croat (HVO) military police, there tend to be no problems on a day-to-day basis because of the way the convoys are organised," he said.

"Aid vehicles are given a par-



Above - Listening in on the OC's net is Gdsm Martin Staton of 2 Coy



Above right - A Warrior provides reassuring protection for Dutch and Belgians in their transport camp at Santici

Below - The crew of Tango one zero are well protected during the fighting in Santici. From left are 2nd Lt George Latham, Gdsm Darren Long, Gdsm Paul Ainsley and LCpl Dicky Coombe of 2 Company's 5 Platoon

ZOG FOLLOWS IN THE FAMILY FOOTSTEPS

SECOND Lt Piers Zvegintzov could be forgiven a feeling of déjà vu when he landed in Split on his way to join the 1st Battalion, Coldstream Guards at Vitez.

He is descended from Genghis Khan, whose Mongol hordes arrived at Split 752 years previously. They did not sack the city but destroyed Serbia and much of central Europe before going home.

Known to all as Zog, 2nd Lt Zvegintzov's traceable Mongol roots go back to a cousin of the great Khan.

A Russian military observer, visiting the Coldstreamers' Mess at Vitez, became friendly on discovering his wife hails from the area in which Zog's great-grandfather had estates.

The last Russian Zvegintzov was in the Tsarina's Chevalier Guards - the Russian Blues and Royals - and fought with the white Russians after the 1917 revolution



Heir to estates south of Moscow: 2nd Lt Zog Zvegintzov

before escaping to Paris where he married another exile. They subsequently settled in Britain.

2nd Lt Zvegintzov, who read history at Cambridge, studied art and travelled the world as a painter, has a long military pedigree.

His grandfather left The Border Regiment as a brigadier after 36 years and his father, Ivan, commanded the Coldstream Guards company Zog has joined. He later became 2iC and latterly a colonel as Defence Attaché in Bulgaria during the collapse of the Soviet empire.

If an opportunity ever came up to go back and run the estate, 2nd Lt Zvegintzov would go like a shot. There was a big house 300 miles south-east of Moscow, which, he said, had probably been converted into some kind of institution. The family still has documents in old Slavonic.

OP GRAPPLE

Sandhurst sticks out for the future

THE ROYAL Military Academy, Sandhurst, traditional bastion of all that is correct in British Army style, has notched up another notable first – and proved in the process that it is, in all senses of the word, paces ahead of its rivals, writes **Phil Wilcox**.

"As the only British Army unit which deals with foreign academies, we have to keep abreast of what is happening overseas," said RMA commandant Maj Gen Tim Toyne Sewell.

"But for some time now, our counterparts such as the Dutch Academy at Breda and the St Cyr Academy in France have had a distinct advantage."

The simple fact was that the Army on this side of the Channel has literally been out of step with its European cousins, he explained.

For years, their passing-out parades and ceremonial guard duties have used the metric pace of 970cm.

With chauvinistic obstinacy, the traditional 30in pace has been retained in the UK.

"But with more and more Nato-style guard mountings being carried out in Europe," the commandant added, "we were in danger of being left behind."

He therefore tasked Academy Sergeant Major (ASM) David Cox and WO2 (CSM) Paul Ladd with finding a solution.

"We did a fair amount of research," said ASM Cox, "and found that, in order to standardise the paces, they would have to be lengthened by 9cm."

That was easy in theory, WO2 Ladd told **SOLDIER**, but the major problem was that to do so involved an adjustment to the instructors' pace-sticks.

"It would mean inserting an extra 1.2cm to the brass

adjusting bar on each stick," he said.

"We put it to the commandant, and he gave the go-ahead to order an initial batch."

The next stage was to contact pace-stick manufacturers F R Bean, who have supplied Sandhurst's tailor-made sticks since the turn of the century, to see if the addition of extra quantities of brass was feasible.

The firm agreed to give it a try, and individual measurements were duly taken.

Meanwhile, over the past few weeks, the Academy's instructors have been putting the new paces into practice with the latest intake of cadets.

"At first it was pretty chaotic," said ASM Cox. "Our biggest worries were confirmed. The instructors were still using their old sticks: they were calling out instructions and the cadets were stepping at different paces."

It was a question of instructors and recruits getting to know the new system together, he added.

But what was interesting was that the instructors found that they had more to learn than their somewhat younger charges, said WO2 (CSM) Ladd.

"Just as computers are taken for granted in school classrooms these days, so is metric measurement, so we found that, to begin with, we were struggling with the conversion."

"But on the other hand, the cadets had hardly heard of feet and inches."

With a lot of hard work, the 970cm pace has been perfected and, from the beginning of this month, the first adjusted pace-sticks were put into use.

"We are delighted with them," said ASM Cox, "though of course they will



Measure for measure: ASM David Cox (right) demonstrates the difference in pace length, with WO2 (CSM) Paul Ladd keeping a steady hand on the out-of-date calculation, while RMA cadets practise the new drill in the background

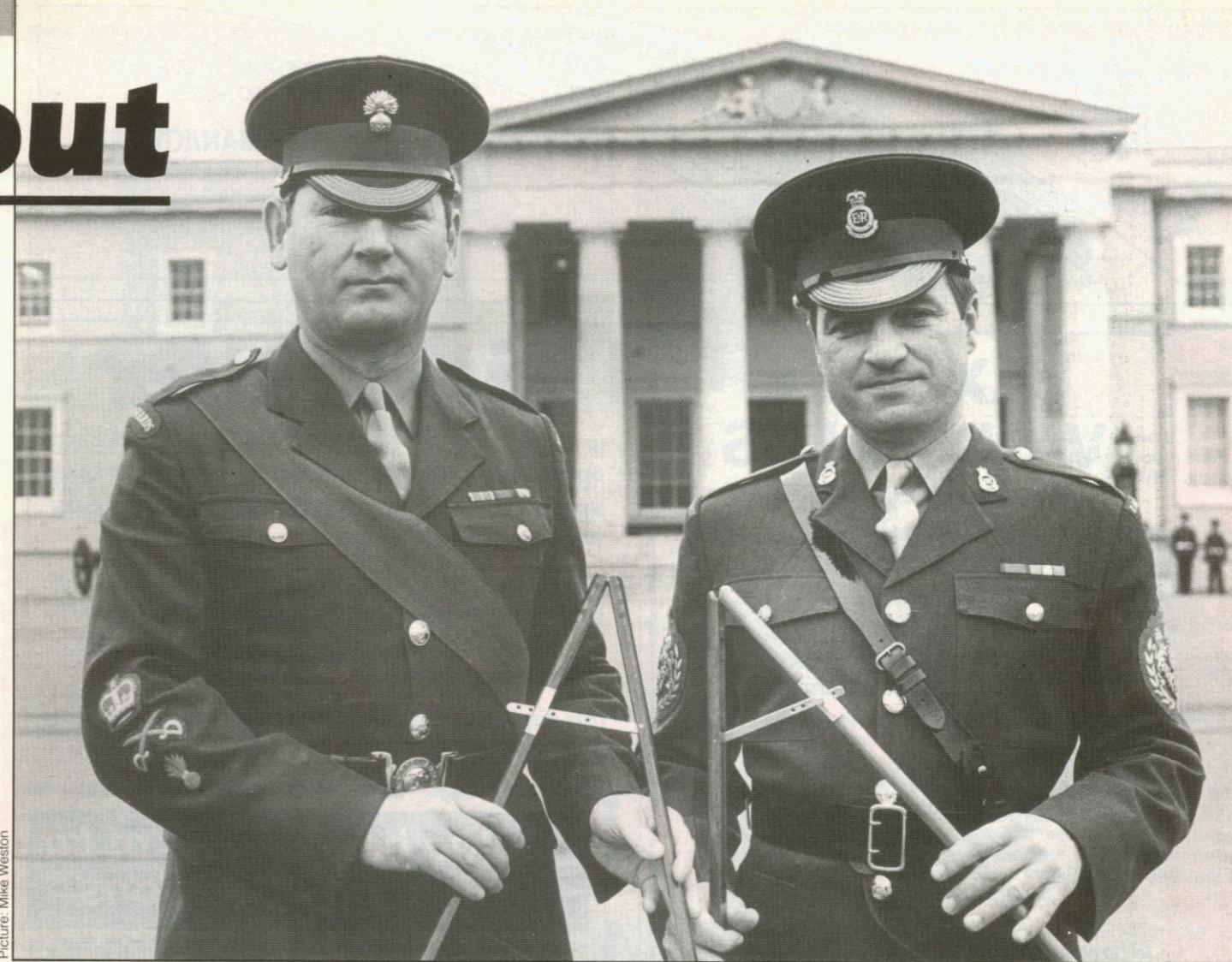
take a little getting used to."

The cost of conversion has been fairly considerable but, in conjunction with the MoD, Sandhurst approached a former RHA officer cadet, Hugh Masby-Jerkhin, now a successful business man, who

passed out from Sandhurst in the 1950s.

"He was only too pleased to make a financial contribution, so that will solve a few problems," the ASM said.

"But there will obviously be some other logistical



Picture: Mike Weston

Above – Moving on apace: RMA Sandhurst's WO2 (CSM) Paul Ladd (left) with the old pace-stick and ASM David Cox with the new, larger version

Left – Sticklers for accuracy: Craftsmen put the finishing touches to pace-sticks in their workshop



posers which will have to be sorted out."

A course is to be introduced for regimental band bass drummers, for instance, to familiarise them with the longer, individually-bespoke pace-sticks.

Also, once the system is

extended next week to the Guards barracks in London, inside leg measurements of uniform trousers will need to be increased to allow more freedom of movement for the longer, individually-bespoke pace-sticks.

"It's been a hell of a rush getting the initial orders through, but it's been well worth while," said a spokesman for the firm.

"We were a trifle worried at first that the brass insert might prove a little tricky, but our craftsmen were more than equal to it. And, after all, we have been doing this sort of thing since my grandfather's day."

The new paces will be displayed at Sandhurst for the

first time in public at the Sovereign's Parade later this month.

"I suppose one side-effect will be that the march-past will be shortened by five minutes because of the longer paces," said ASM Cox. "Very useful if it is damp and cold like it was for the Duchess of Kent a few months ago."

He and his fellow-instructors are now looking forward to the autumn, when the RMA has been invited to send representatives to take part in a special guard mounting in Paris.

Meanwhile, in the current stringent financial climate as far as defence is concerned, the Sandhurst experience has given a whole new meaning to the Army being short of brass . . .

● F R Bean ad: see **SOLDIER Classifieds**, page 73.

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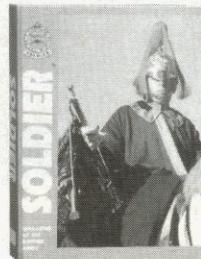
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OCdt Tony Lysak crawls through a wire-crossed sand pit

Right – Capt Andrew Smith negotiates his way across an obstacle during a CIOR military pentathlon



OCdts Army Brooker, London UOTC, and Catherine Hanley, Southampton UOTC, drag Wendy Roberts over an assault course wall

Reserves aim to beat the best in Nato

CONSIDERING the amount of physical suffering endured by the large group of young officers in a gymnasium and over an assault course on a Hampshire training area, there was an almost complete absence of grunting and groaning, writes Laurie Manton.

They were involved in one of a number of selection tests organised for the British Army's Reserve Forces Association, which is looking to boost its pool of young officers bidding for places in a military pentathlon organised by the Interallied Confederation of Reserve Officers (CIOR).

The confederation represents the reserve forces' views of Nato's 13 member countries and holds an annual congress during which CIOR members study the Regular and Reserve components of the Armed Forces in the host nation.

Subjects such as conditions of service for reserved officers, psychological warfare and national defence policy are discussed.

A three-day military pentathlon competition staged at the end of the congress, attracts an average entry of more than 200 part-time officers.

Based on military skills, it opens with a shooting contest in which the rifles and pistols

in service with the host nation's armed forces are used.

An obstacle course has to be negotiated as well as a five-obstacle swim. A 10km orienteering race includes an aerial ropeway and an assault boat water crossing. Officers' navigation skills are tested on each leg of the course by the use of different types and scales of maps, air photographs and sketches.

Teams throw grenades, judge distance of targets and read maps in a final military skills section.

Britain's potential competitors have been put through their paces over the past few



months during a series of initial training and selection weekends at Ash Ranges and Blackdown Camp.

This year's event takes place in Brussels and during the next four years others are scheduled for Rome, Oslo, Athens and London. Competition, not surprisingly, has been fierce for the 20 or so places in the squad.

With his 1994 team already short-listed, UK team director, Lt Col Stephen Quant is now looking ahead. He wants fit young officers – male and

female – to volunteer for the training sessions.

Although the TA continues to dominate the team, other reserve forces are beginning to bid for places. Last year, an RAFVR officer took part, and another was involved in this year's selection courses, as was a Royal Marine. The Royal Naval Reserve has now declared an interest.

Col Quant says his ideal starter would be a lieutenant or captain aged 24 to 25. "They should be fit, a good shot with both pistol and rifle, a more than adequate map reader and confident swimmers.

"We are always looking for new team members. Unfortunately, there are few volunteers coming forward with the ideal profile. Most of our new entrants are provided by University OTCs. While they are short on experience in shooting and navigation, the young officer cadets are quick to learn and quite a number have become prime candidates for places in following years," he said.

Interested reserve officers seeking further information should write to Maj Mike McRitchie at G3 Training, Headquarters Southern District, Steeles Road, Aldershot GU11 2DP (tel: 0252 347352).



Sgt Hayes, US Army (left) discusses targetry skills with OCdt Rob Juxon of Southampton UOTC and Lt Jim Beeston, 6/7 PWRR



A US Army gunnery instructor advises UK team member Capt Andrew Smith (right) of 6/7 PWRR on the workings of the M16 carbine

Gurkhas feel the heat under African skies

WORKING in the highlands of Kenya has been taxing the men and machines of 69 Gurkha Field Squadron, Queen's Gurkha Engineers to their limits.

Altitude, climate and terrain have combined to offer the most demanding conditions for operators as well as some of the best opportunities for commanders to carry out training.

The squadron's main party brought in the New Year on a "dry" RAF flight somewhere between Europe and Africa on the way to the fourth Royal Engineers' annual three-month Exercise Oakapple.

With a field troop in the Falklands, the 220-strong squadron took only 135 soldiers to Kenya - of whom 98 were Gurkhas - formed in two composite troops, a plant section and HQ troop.

Showpiece of the exercise is an assistant warden's house constructed by Alpha Troop near a mini-village erected by other squadrons during the previous three Oakapple exercises.

The large, single-storey house is a very desirable residence, quite apart from its spectacular site in a wildlife conservation park.

It comprises two bedrooms, lounge, kitchen and bathroom as well as a servant's bedroom and bathroom with electricity and hot and cold running water. Most of the squadron's Class One tradesmen were employed on this ten-week project.

The same time was necessary for the troop to construct a ten-culvert concrete causeway to replace a timber bridge made unstable by earlier floods. This involved diverting a river first one way then the other as each half of the bridge was built. Continuous pumping was necessary to clear water seepage and allow a concrete base slab to be laid.

The most dramatic work was carried out by the Plant Section, which cut a ten-metre wide, eight-kilometre-long

swathe through the edge of the forest.

Because the clearing was made for the construction of a boundary fence, it was not possible to deviate from the line on the map to follow the contours of the hills.

Trees had to be felled at the edge of the forest, and where possible the Gurkhas dispensed with chain saws, preferring to rip up the roots of trees with the D6 dozer, then push the trees over.

Ravines had to be filled in to establish the safety limit of a one-in-four gradient. Operators had to be very safety-conscious, said vehicle artificer

SSgt Kev Smith, because of the gradients and the treacherously slippery earth when it rained.

It was also difficult work for the dozers, which worked at 15 to 20 per cent less power because of the altitude.

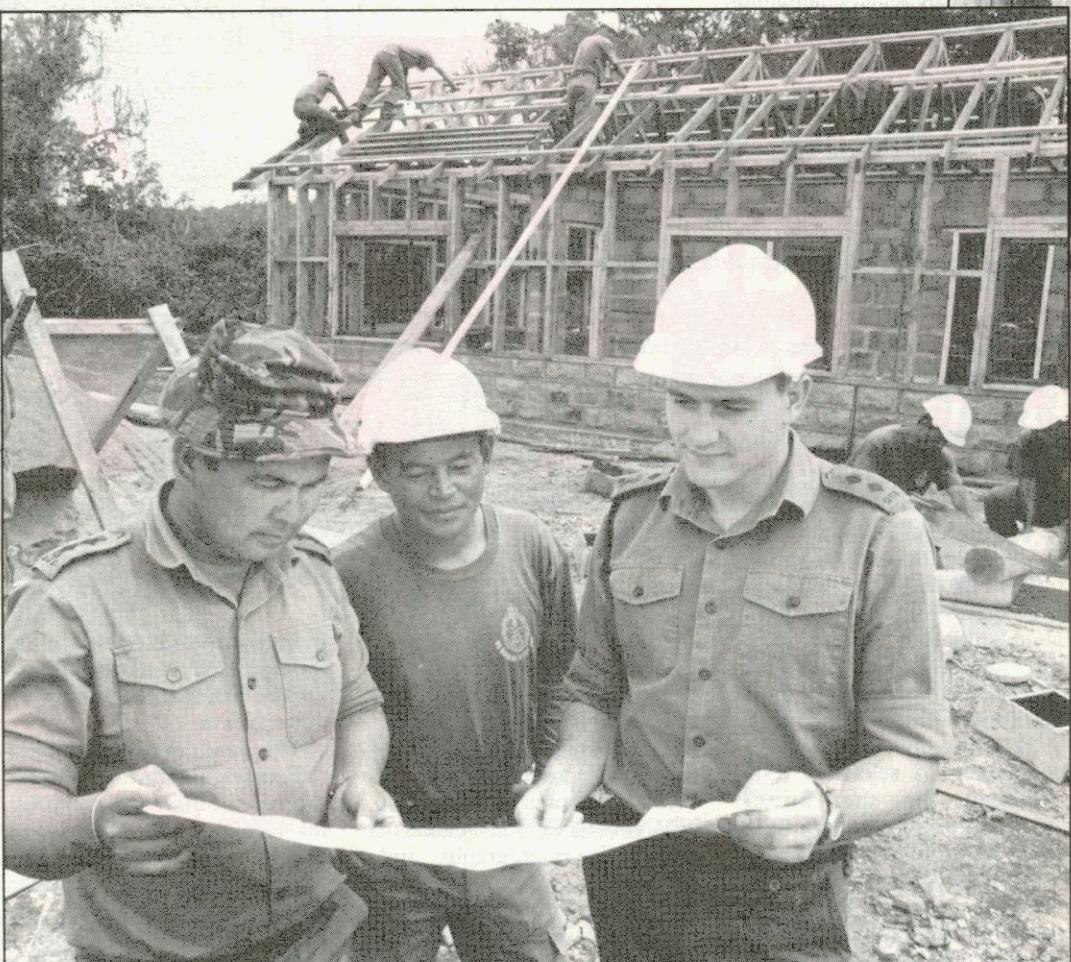
This particular project impressed 36 Engineer Regiment RSM Ian Sinclair, who watched some of his former plant pupils carrying out the work during a visit to the squadron with the commanding officer, Lt Col Robbie Burns.

It was a dream come true for a plant corporal, who could ask no better project because it set real challenges, demanded



Above - Site Commander Cpl Parshu Gurung explains the practical problems of the plant section to Lt Col Robbie Burns and Maj Andy Mills

Left - Alpha troop gives the Amboni causeway a solid start



Lt Piers Vickers, SSgt Bhokiman Gurung and Lt Hom Bahadur Rana survey progress on the assistant warden's house near a mini-village built by other squadrons during the previous three Oakapple exercises



Making a liaison visit to John and Cath Wreford-Smith, who provide camel safaris for sappers, are Capt Andy MacLachlan, Maj Andy Mills, Lt Col Robbie Burns, 2nd Lt Mark Crofts and RSM Ian Sinclair



Sqn Sergeant Major WO2 Dalbahadur Limbu uses locally employed civilians to provide services for the camps

brane of polythene had to be laid over it to stop the sun drying it too quickly, said Bravo Troop Commander Lt Hom Bahadur Rana. To prevent the concrete from cracking, hessian was later laid to complete the process.

Lt Hom was able to complete only half the projects before handing over to Lt Piers

Vickers. After joining the Queen's Gurkha Engineers in 1976, he became 69's squadron sergeant major in its last years of independence before it became part of 36 Engineer Regiment. Lt Hom has now returned to Hong Kong to become a Troop Queen's Gurkha Officer.

Lt Simon Thomas used a different method to protect his concrete from frost at Bravo

● Turn to next page

Peter's nostalgic return to Mweiga

AS QUARTERMASTER of 69 Gurkha Engineer Squadron Maj Peter Kershaw is as experienced an African hand as any and has seen many changes since British soldiers left in the early 1960s after the ferocity of the Mau Mau rebellion.

He was delighted to experience the same welcome he remembered as a young man in 1967 from Eric and Vena Johansen, managers of the Mweiga estates. They used to run a "Highland Leave Scheme" for soldiers from Aden.

British engineers have carried out projects in Kenya for many years, and have always used the Johansen's land and water at Mweiga as their base. Maj Kershaw used their pool to give swimming lessons to the Gurkhas.

The work of the British sappers is paid for with money donated to the Rhino Ark, a worldwide charity which supports Kenya Wildlife Services's Aberdare National Park.

Squadron headquarters is some 100 miles north of Nairobi.

Charge of the heavy brigade

ELEPHANTS have a right of way in Kenya's National Parks, where 69 Gurkha Field Squadron carried out a variety of construction tasks for the Kenya Wildlife Services.

Confronted by one of the huge beasts, Cpl Sukraj Limbu was making a tactical withdrawal when the elephant charged him.

Cpl Sukraj escaped and reported the incident to a warden. He was told never to turn away or reverse because animals could take this as a sign of weakness.

Thereafter, instead of elephants charging him, Cpl Sukraj charged the elephants - slowly and carefully.

"They are not as friendly as in Nepal. We charge them slowly because they are big and need time to get out of the



Maj Peter Kershaw first met Eric and Vena Johansen as a young sapper in 1967... and received a warm welcome in 1994

bi and only a mile from Tree-tops, where the Queen was told of her father's death.

It is at an altitude of 8,000ft, with the troop sites several thousand feet higher in the bamboo forests of the Aberdare mountains.

"We used nearly all natural resources, and timber which we chopped down ourselves," he said.

The Aberdare Country Club, of which Vena Johansen is a manageress, is a popular venue offering excellent hospitality. During their four days of local leave and four days' adventurous training, sappers can enjoy activities including camel treks, walks up Mt Kenya and scuba diving off the East African coast.

MAJ Andy Mills did not have time to bother about bad weather in Kenya before he took command of 69 Gurkha Field Squadron on Exercise Oakapple '94.

He arrived in the United Kingdom on January 2 after commanding 20 Field Squadron in the Falkland Islands and flew to Kenya two days later.

Having commanded 20 Squadron in Kenya during Oakapple '93 he must have wondered if his good fortune



Maj Andy Mills

would hold.

His first month last year, however, was appalling. "We should have had 40mm of rain but actually had 500mm. One day I had every vehicle bogged in up to the axle," he said.

"They just could not be extracted until the rain stopped and the soil dried out."

The sappers effectively lost the whole of January last year and had to work flat out to make up time within the three-month exercise slot.

A feeling of déjà vu

MAJ Andy Mills did not have time to bother about bad weather in Kenya before he took command of 69 Gurkha Field Squadron on Exercise Oakapple '94.

He arrived in the United Kingdom on January 2 after commanding 20 Field Squadron in the Falkland Islands and flew to Kenya two days later.

Having commanded 20 Squadron in Kenya during Oakapple '93 he must have wondered if his good fortune

worked, and avoided walking or driving at night if possible.

It was nevertheless slightly unnerving to be taking a shower at Alpha Troop's "bamboo palace" and hear elephants snapping off the bamboo and munching it.

A colony of birds in a nearby tree brought memories of home for the sappers - there was so much screeching and cackling going on there that it was affectionately known as the "wives' club".

The sappers took the sensible precaution of having armed wardens with them as they



Above - Lt Hom Bahadur Rana shows Lt Piers Vickers and 2nd Lt Mark Crofts how the first half of the Amboni causeway will withstand flash floods

Below - keeping the vehicle fleet on the road is the fitter section of Cpl Chandra Kuma Thapa, Cpl Milan Gurung, LCpl Frazer North, SSgt Kev Smith and Cpl Les Halasz



factors were discovered which complicated the issue. But sappers are supreme at solving practical problems.

The structure of soil at the Kihoni river bridge gave particular problems because it collapsed under a vibrator compactor. Six inches of hard core had to be laid and tamped (compressed) by hand - a very slow process which took one-and-a-half weeks. Rock had to be fetched from a 12,000ft scree slope.



Checking the water storage tank at Mpala farm are 2nd Lt Mark Crofts and Cpl Kharka Limbu

Mark mixes it with the best

WHEN 2nd Lt Mark Crofts was offered three months with the Gurkhas in Kenya he thought the adjutant was winding him up.

He was completing his training at Sandhurst when 39 Gurkha Field Squadron contacted him and was delighted to take his first tentative steps in engineering south of the equator.

Never having "got his hands dirty" in any practical engineering, he began by watching sappers at work before tackling basic tasks such as concrete mixing.

After the practical experience of a six-month attachment to 39 Gurkha Fd Sqn, he will attend the seven-month Royal Engineers Troop Commanders Course.

He is looking forward to doing his 11-week language course in Hong Kong and is conscious that he has a

unique chance to see a slice of life which may well be closed to soldiers when Hong Kong returns to China.

The Queen's Gurkha Regiment is already reducing and by next year will have fewer than 400 soldiers compared with twice as many two years before.

In April last year, 69 Gurkha Field Squadron lost its independence and is now part of 36 Engineer Regiment at Chatham. Commanded by Lt Col Robbie Burns, the regiment is part of 3 (UK) Division's General Support Engineer Regiment.

As well as 39 Gurkha Fd Sqn at Chatham, it has 9 Parachute Squadron in Aldershot, and 20 Field Squadron, 50 HQ Squadron and 61 Field Squadron at Maidstone, where the Gurkhas are to be stationed around the end of the year.

NCOs and a construction materials technician to help him ensure that everything was up to the standards set in the drawings and that work was done to the specifications laid down in the initial reconnaissance.

Surrounded by four inches of solid concrete, the new culvert will not go out of alignment, said Lt Thomas.

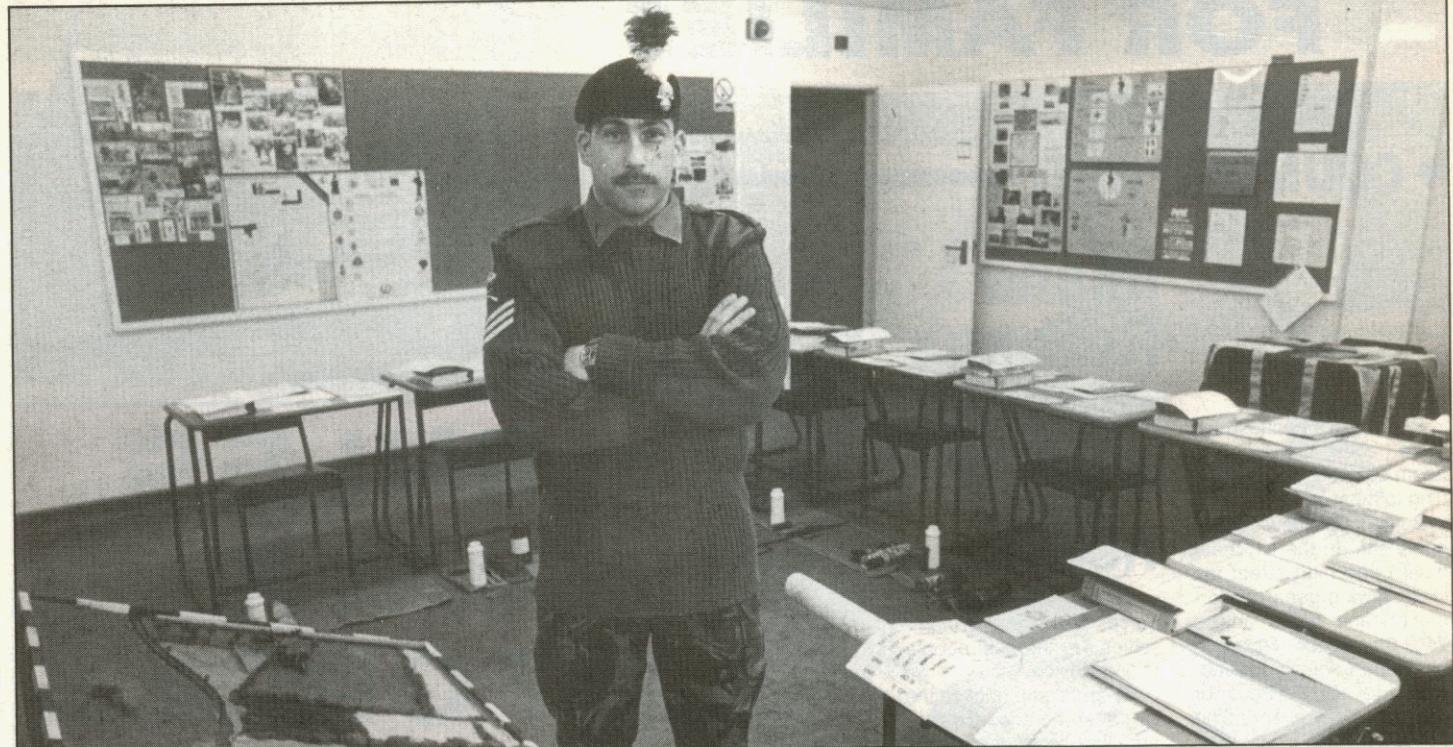
It goes without saying that the work was carried out thoroughly.

Clerk of Works SSgt "Bud" Flannagan had a surveyor, draughtsman, two resources



Left - Steve Middleton, site manager of Try Construction, main contractors for the rebuild, is congratulated by Director of Infantry Maj Gen Bryan Dutton after the opening ceremony. Among other guests on the day were Brig Barry Stevens, Army Commander Wales.

Right - CSgt Hayden Aldred RRF awaiting takers from Section Commanders Battle Course No 94 01 in one of the new classrooms



One stage further down the Lines at Brecon

Words:
Phil Wilcox
Pictures:
Mike Weston

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AN instructional block and a junior ranks dining hall and social club - officially opened on February 24 by Director of Infantry Maj Gen Bryan Dutton - are the latest landmarks in the transformation of the NCOs' Tactical Wing at the School of Infantry, Brecon.

The new developments conclude a £4.5m interim phase of the rebuild and extension to the camp.

Modernisation at the school's Dering Lines - named after Sir Edward Dering, who raised the 24th Regiment of Foot (South Wales Borderers) - began in 1988, and the project is due to be completed next year.

Purpose of the redevelopment is to centralise the majority of the Infantry Training Establishment from its current location at Salisbury Plain to Brecon.

Once rebuilt, the present establishment will change its title to the Infantry Training Centre (ITC), Wales.

"The new unit will take over from the NCOs' Tactical Wing as the training centre for all key career courses for NCOs in the infantry," says the wing's commandant, Lt Col Martin Somervell.

"It will train some 2,700 stu-

dents, as opposed to 1,500 now, and the courses run here will cover all subjects, with the exception of signals, anti-tank, mortar and recce."

The increased number of courses which the enlarged centre will be able to take on will release existing facilities in four other locations: Aldershot, Netheravon, Warminster and York.

Dering Lines was built in 1938-39 as a "Hore-Belisha" (Minister of War) temporary camp, and was used during the war by 21 Infantry Training Centre for training conscripts in the basics of soldiering.

After the war it became The Welsh Brigade Training Centre for National Servicemen called up and posted to The Royal Welch Fusiliers, The South Wales Borderers and The Welch Regiment.

In the 1950s it was scheduled for demolition, but was partially occupied by 83 Week End Training Centre and later joined by The Parachute Regimental Battle School.

The NCOs Division of the School of Infantry started to arrive in 1967 and finally, in 1974, the establishment was recognised officially under its present name, entitling the camp to full maintenance sup-



Permanent staff and some course members take advantage of the facilities in the new dining hall

port. Construction work under Options for Change to create the new ITC Wales, due to commence in May, will cost £14.2m.

Thirty-eight houses, currently being built in Brecon, are to be bought for £1.7m as married quarters.

So, in 1995, Dering Lines will revert to being an infantry training centre.

But, as those who attended the opening of the latest phase were informed, this time it will be teaching advanced skills to prevent wars - not basic skills which were so vital more than

half a century ago to survive and win one.

There will be one reminder of earlier days, however.

It is planned to retain one of the old huts on site - currently housing the physiotherapy department - as a lasting memorial . . .

FOR FAMILIES

Cari Roberts

→ COUNTERPOINT ←



Inland Revenue reveals a kind heart!

MENTION the Inland Revenue and everyone in the room goes quiet.

There's something about the "tax people" that strikes fear into many a heart – perhaps it's historical.

Perhaps it's because the rules about paying tax seem complicated and baffling to most of us.

But there's a new spirit of openness. In the UK there have been high street tax clinics giving general information and broad advice and the Inland Revenue has been running roadshows for the Services for some time – even going overseas.

Chris McAndrew from the Inland Revenue in Cardiff joined the *Counterpoint* programme on BFBS recently to talk about the roadshows. She made the point that they have to be invited to hold a roadshow and are always willing to consider any invitation.

One of the most asked questions relates to letting property and it's one of the subjects on which they have devised special leaflets for the Services, giving general advice. They can also be more specific if clients request a special interview.

That request should be made to your local finance branch. If they know in advance, they can bring copies of your records with them and give more specific advice.

A small problem is that, sometimes, the team from the IR are given an office away from the general, public areas of a barracks which means they don't get as high a profile as they could have.

People sometimes only realise they've been after they've left!

To give you a head start here are some of the dates and places planned so far: Cyprus – May 3-16; Gibraltar – May or June, date to be announced; in September there should be visits to SHAPE and AFCENT. Dates in the UK are: April 11, Colchester; May 3, Shorncliffe and Deepcut; May 9, Bulford; May 23, Preston and Shrewsbury; June 20, Chilwell.

Don't forget the leaflets issued by the IR. Chris was keen to make the point that they are the best starting point because they are

designed especially for the Forces and the IR themselves are the best people to give advice.

When I came back to the UK after a long absence and had to deal with my local office the people there actually corrected my accounts in my favour and gave me lots of helpful advice.

• • •

Service wives often feel that their views don't count for much. It isn't true. There are lots of reasons why the MoD must – and does – take the views of wives very seriously indeed.

You can't expect a man to give full attention to the job in hand if he's preoccupied with domestic troubles.

This means that, if you get a survey to complete, you can be totally honest. The message from the APRE is that, if you get a form, don't chuck it in the bin. Make yourself a cup of coffee and fill it in honestly. Your views might make all the difference to the future.

• • •

You can contact Cari Roberts at BFBS, BFPO 786 or c/o SOLDIER.

Princess Christian Residential Home

RULES BALK FORCES HOME

NEEDY ex-Servicemen and women in Surrey and the South East may not be receiving the opportunity they deserve to live in specially-built residential care homes.

The team are anxious to point out that the selection is at random – there's no way in which particular wives can be singled out and it would invalidate the conclusions if it were the case.

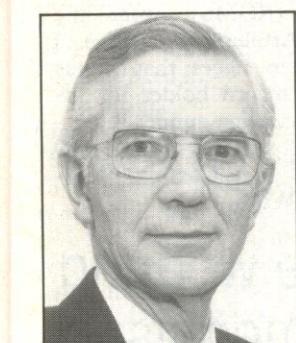
This is because the Government's Care in the Community scheme pressurises local authority welfare officers to fill their own council homes even if better, more reasonably priced facilities are available elsewhere.

Col Anthony Davis, Comptroller of the Forces Help Society, a strong supporter of Care in the Community, highlights the difficulty that the Society is experiencing in offering residential places to elderly ex-Servicemen and women.

"Since Care in the Community was introduced," explained Col Davis, "in order for a client to receive a referral to us our welfare officers now have to negotiate with separate Social Services Departments from each of the 129 local authorities across the country and each one has a different set of criteria that



Home team: Standing (left to right) are Bill Jones (ex-Army commando), Maj Barry Hadlow (administrator), Jack Squires (Green Howards), Patrick McCann (R Hamps) and John McGuinness (RAF). Seated is George Fry (REME)



Col Anthony Davis

residential homes such as ours have to satisfy. It's an impossible situation."

Residents at the Society's residential care home in Knaphill, Surrey are up in arms. Joyce Ing, 74, from Woking in Surrey has been a resident since November 1992.

"I was really desperate until I came here," says Joyce. "The council flat I was living in was very lonely and some of the local authority care homes I've seen are awful. This Society is nearly a hundred years old but the facilities here are very modern. I have a lovely room, the food is excellent – it really is like living in a four-star hotel, except that we residents are all friends and can go around together as we wish."

Ex-Servicemen and women have received convalescent care and treatment at Knaphill since 1900, when the home was given to the Society by the Building Trades of England on land donated by Lord Pirbright. Off the beaten

track and set in several acres of pleasant countryside near Bisley Common, the home is equipped for the special care of the elderly providing recreation as well as peace and tranquillity.

One of the reasons for the residents' compatibility is the common thread that all of them are ex-Servicemen or women. Joyce served in the RAF from 1943 to 1944 as a flight mechanic.

Apart from the necessary Service connection, the fees (£194 per week) are the same as the majority of local authority homes and yet the Society has nine places which remain empty this year.

A new care wing – The Lord Roberts Wing – was

opened by Princess Margaret last summer.

This new wing will enable ex-Servicemen and women who are disabled, or otherwise in need of special care, to be looked after and receive all the attention they need, 24 hours a day.

The struggle to get round local authority red tape is in sharp contrast to the success of the Society's management to ensure that the charity is large enough to cope with the boom of Second World War pensioners, some of whom are becoming increasingly infirm, and need full-time care, as a result of the rigours of their war service.

Following the success of the Lord Roberts Wing, the Society has embarked upon a similar, £1.5m

scheme at St Vincent's, which is located at Ryde on the Isle of Wight.

The Society needs to raise £500,000 a year to maintain all its specially-designed cottages and holiday apartments and to provide welfare services for the increasing numbers who are in need of care as they grow older.

"In the meantime," says Col Davis, "an urgent solution has to be found to this difficulty of referring clients to us if Care in the Community isn't to clog up the provision of high quality residential care – not just from this Society – but from all independent residential homes. Those who have fought for our country deserve a much better deal than this."

Legion beats clock to win Euro jackpot

THE ROYAL British Legion has won a race against the clock to build a skills and resettlement centre at Tidworth in time to secure a Euro grant.

To be within the timetable the RBL's £4.6 million training centre had to be completed within a year of the site being purchased from the Ministry of Defence.

Sarah Smith and Andrea Hampson appeared in *Counterpoint* recently and said the same thing.

Backed by £1.375 million from the European Community because of its strategic resettlement role, the project is privately funded by the Legion,

which has launched an appeal for the balance.

To ensure the cash deadline could be met, the RBL took the unusual step of retaining a commercial property agency, Healey and Baker, to implement the entire project.

Alan Day, of the agency, said: "From purchasing the land to handing over the work had to be achieved within a year.

"As this included securing planning consent and demolishing substantial three-storey barrack warehouses, it was a remarkable achievement."

The 50,000 sq ft centre, which is the Legion's flagship Services retraining centre, is also a pilot scheme for the European Commission.

When all eight tri-Services resettlement centres are open, 90 per cent of British-based Servicemen and women will be within 65 miles of this type of support during their move to second careers.

Brig Gage Williams, tri-Services Director of Resettlement, said at the opening of the sixth of these, the

Scottish Resettlement Centre at Rosyth: "Our latest statistics show that more than 80 per cent of Scottish Service leavers have found a job within three months of leaving. Indeed, most of them have no gap between their last day in uniform and their first in their new career.

"There are 250,000 potential employers in Scotland of which the vast majority have a workforce of fewer than 20 people, and this is the most likely sector for economic growth.

"This centre and all the other agencies involved will continue to help our very able and committed men and women make the transition, and will focus on these smaller employers."

The regional centres provide one-day briefings in subjects varying from CV preparation to personal financial advice and training courses of up to one week long concentrating on computer skills and management experience.

An 18-week career development course sponsored by the European Union includes at least 20 days' job attachment to a commercial organisation.

If this work experience does not lead to a job offer in itself, it will be a powerful addition to a CV.

Leavers can also call in for advice and help or to obtain up-to-date employment information.

EUROPEAN cash has come to the rescue of ex-Service job-seekers who find themselves in the Catch 22 situation of having "no relevant commercial experience".

There are no tutorial fees but candidates will have to buy a copy of an Open University personal career development course folder, costing £41.70.

In addition, they will initially have to pay the £100 registration fee, most of which will be refunded.

... and Euro cash can help your CV

The course consists of one day a week at Oxford's Westminster College, one day a week doing course work at home, and after the initial few weeks, three days a week in a job placement implementing a project for the organisation.

With the first course starting this June 1, ex-Servicemen and women who want to register or seek further details should contact Paula Boyland, Educational Services, Westminster College, Oxford OX2 9AT (tel: 0865 247644, ext 3293).

Musical farewell . . . but not to those uniforms

IT IS very sad to see some of our military bands marching off for the last time – especially, as in the case of the 1st Battalion, The Staffordshire Regiment

ment (SOLDIER, March 7), without the scarlet tunics and helmets with which we have become so familiar.

Although musically they

sound as good, I hope the new divisional bands will retain the ceremonial uniforms that are admired the world over – unlike other countries which

have gone “back to basics”! – **A Ovenden, Eastbourne, E Sussex.**

• New divisional bands will have ceremonial uniforms. – **Editor**

Armstrong link with Korda film

IN ANSWER to George Robinson's query (Letters, February 21) the regiment taking part in the 1939 film *The Four Feathers* was the 1st Battalion, The East Surrey Regiment, serving in the Sudan at the time.

The original site of the Battle of Omdurman was not photographically suitable, so a camp was pitched at Sabaluka Gorge, 50 miles from Khartoum.

An augmented company was assembled there under Maj (later Brig) C D “Nipper” Armstrong, father of the late Anne Armstrong, the SOLDIER columnist. – **G Ewens, Morden, Surrey.**

IN *The Four Feathers*, the battalion shown in the scenes filmed in England was the 2nd Battalion, Grenadier Guards and its Corps of Drums.

The year was 1938 and the battalion was stationed at Wellington Barracks, London, where the old arms drill and foot drill was practised.

The filming took place at Elstree. – **A T Vernon, Wakefield, W Yorks.**

MAY I thank the many readers who wrote to me with details of *The Four Feathers*, especially Maj Brown, who was at the depot shortly after the film was made and told me that the NCOs in the film were presented with gold cigarette cases by Alexander Korda.

Douglas Anderson, the military artist, sent me the interesting snippet that Clive Baxter, the actor who played the young Harry Faversham, appeared again as an Army officer in *The Quatermass Experiment*.

I hope a video company will eventually produce the three previous versions of *The Four Feathers*. – **George Robinson, Edinburgh.**

Time to rectify an injustice over NRPS recognition

I HAVE read many letters in SOLDIER on the turbulent subject of medals. I am writing this in the hope that it might nudge someone into action.

My father recently retired from more than 44 years' continuous service to the Crown. While serving as a Regular soldier for 22 years he was awarded the General Service Medal (NI) and the LSGC.

For the other NRPS, without the required length of Regular service, why not award the LSGC but with the TA Efficiency Medal ribbon.

I appreciate that medal experts around the world may raise their hands in horror at my suggestions, but it is time that individuals with so much NRPS service were rewarded in some way. Throughout his

service my father, WO2 Mike Carter (RQMS), wore the Royal Artillery cap badge. I hesitate to suggest that he may be the record holder for the longest-serving gunner in continuous service and NCO bracket. – **A Carter, Melksham, Wilts.**

The wearing of medals

IN HIS letter on “Medals and the twaddle factor” (March 7) Jeremy Alford writes that holders of gold and silver Zimbabwe Independence Medals are entitled to wear them at all times while bronze medal holders are not entitled to wear their medals at all.

Sadly this is not correct. As a holder of a gold medal I was told I was only entitled to wear my medal (similarly the silver and bronze owners) when the Zimbabwe Head of State officially visited this country or when I was in Zimbabwe. – **Brig Andrew Parker Bowles, Director, Royal Army Veterinary Corps, Aldershot.**

Anyone joining the Army, Navy or Air Force volunteers to serve Queen and Country in peace and war. Those who joined between 1945 and 1990, the Cold War years, knew there was always a slim chance of hostilities.

It could be even simpler: award the General Service Medal to all Armed Forces personnel, with bars for appropriate theatres and rosette for service in hostile action. – **Erik Crichton, Romford, Essex.**

Courageous defenders

I WAS most surprised to read Mr Cossons's letter (January 24) stating that personnel manning the ground defences during the Battle of Britain

Three more awards for consideration!

HAVING read PC Ken Fowler's letter, my question is: Why has there never been an official medal to commemorate British Armed Forces' service?

• An Armed Forces service medal to be awarded for at least three years' service;

• A Nato medal (similar to awards to designated UN forces);

• A BAOR medal 1945-90 or bar to be worn on the Armed Forces Service Medal.

Those who served in BAOR (a Nato force) during this period were, in effect, always on the front line, sometimes on 24-72 hours' notice to move.

There is no recognition of

BIRD'S EYE-VIEW



• Sappers in Kenya – See Pages 24-27

were not entitled to the Defence Medal.

According to the White Paper Cmd 6833 issued June 1946, the Defence Medal was to be granted to all members of the Forces who served in the UK for a minimum of three years between September 3, 1939 and May 8, 1945.

The only exception to the three-year rule for members of the Forces was Mine and Bomb Disposal units, where the time qualification was three months. – **J O'Brien, Penarth, S Glamorgan.**

BATTLE of Britain ground defenders were operational and did qualify for the Defence Medal; of course, they had to fulfil the three-year service condition.

A strong case for giving ground defenders a special medal was made by Gen Sir Frederick Pile, C-in-C Ack Ack Command.

Most of Ack Ack Command comprised TA units and, recounted in my book *Forward Everywhere – Her Majesty's Territories*, to be published by Brassey's (UK) in March, is Sir Frederick's view on bravery honours for them.

While the RAF saw a DSO as a fitting reward for a fighter pilot who could nudge a doodlebug into the sea, there were no awards for the courageous ground defenders who risked their lives.

I agree with H V Cossons: the 1939-45 Star should have

Positive side of Army judo

SURELY it is wrong to bracket all regiments and corps as not being interested in the martial arts (“Why judo is on the mat”, February 7).

My regiment, for example, has shown a great deal of support to our club by providing funds for the purchase of training equipment. Recently we put an indent into the system for a judo mat, provided by the Army just like any other piece of equipment.

I agree that the split between associations is vast because so many differing styles of art are being practised. Even in civilian life there are many associations who practise the same art but who do not recognise each other's grades.

However, there are some

sites for three weeks during the Munich crisis of 1938 and who later took part in the Couverture, the cost-effective operation to defend from air attack the most vulnerable areas of Britain in the period leading up to the outbreak of war. – **Stanley Simm Baldwin, London.**

I remember Polish PoWs

IN SUPPORT of Mr A J Jewell, who wrote (Letters, December 13) of his experiences as a guard at a PoW camp containing about 2,000 Poles in Münster in 1945, I can verify that such a camp existed.

In early 1946 the unit I was serving with was called on to render assistance during a disturbance there. – **R Knox (ex-6th RSF 15 Div), Rochdale, Lancs.**

Training exercise

WHILE compiling my lists of British Army regiments garrisoned in Scotland I came across a reference to the 53rd Foot, King's Shropshire Light Infantry being transported between Edinburgh and Glasgow by rail in 1842.

Was this the first time a regiment in the UK was transported in this manner? – **John Thomson, Edinburgh.**

Better the Devil . . .

YOUR article on Winged Crusader (“Beau Geste meets the Red Devils”, January 24) mentioned everyone who took part except 4 Para (V).

This TA unit performed just as well, if not better than some of the other participants. – **M Duckworth, Hinckley, Leics.**

Wyvern never went away!

YOUR article headed “Return of the Wessex Wyvern” (February 7) was slightly inaccurate: for both TA battalions of the Wessex regiment, the Wyvern has been the regimental cap badge since formation in 1969.

Far from being a return, for some the Wyvern has never been away and continues to be proudly worn. – **Lt Col R B Paddison, CO, 2nd Bn The Wessex Regiment (V), Brock Barracks, Reading.**

SOLDIER to Soldier

A place of honour

SEVENTY years after his death, the name of Lt Patrick Wright Anderson, Black Watch, has been added to the main roll of honour on the Scottish National War Memorial at Edinburgh Castle.

Patrick Anderson was commissioned into the 8th Battalion, The Black Watch at the beginning of the First World War. Later in the war he was attached to the Royal Flying Corps although he continued to wear his Black Watch uniform.

In June 1918, while flying as an observer in a DH4 he was seriously wounded over Flanders and discharged home at the end of 1919. He died from his injuries in Arbroath infirmary on November 2, 1921. He was 29.

Because his death came three years after the end of the war, his name was not included on the roll of honour, even though his death certificate confirmed he had died of his wounds.

Now, thanks to the persistence of his nephew, Bradford policeman Pat Anderson, Lt Anderson's name has been added to the roll.

History in your attic

WARTIME diaries, letters and memoirs, unpublished and stored in drawers and attics, may be more the stuff of history than many of us imagine.

Indeed, some of the more interesting ones in the Imperial War Museum's "memory bank" could be published in newsletter form.

Fearing that, unlike stone memorials, some folk literature may be lost to future generations, the museum is keen to maintain its role as the national repository for the personal diaries, letters and unpublished memoirs of Service personnel and civilians involved in this century's wars.

It welcomes donations of family papers and documents, with the aim of preserving each collection under the name of the individual to whom it relates, to form part of a "memorial archive" available for study by the public.

In return, the IWM asks that for each life remembered in this way, there should be a donation of at least £5 to the World Memorial Fund, a charity established by the late Gp Capt Lord Cheshire,

whose VC and flying log books are held at the museum.

The charity, created as a permanent and practical trust fund in memory of those who died in this century's wars, spends its resources on bringing relief to present and future victims of conflict.

Selections from the most interesting documents entrusted to the museum will be published in a newsletter being planned by the World Memorial Fund.

Further details on the scheme can be obtained from Roderick Suddaby, Keeper, Department of Documents, Imperial War Museum, Lambeth Road, London SE1 6HZ (tel: 071-416 5220) or David Childs, Director, World Memorial Fund, Europa House, 13/17 Ironmonger Row, London EC1V 3QN (tel: 071-250 1700).

Chindit glider action in print

A FEW prints of a David Rowlands painting commissioned by The King's Regiment to mark the Chindits' glider landing in Burma on March 5-6, 1944 are still available from RHQ, Cavalry Barracks, Hounslow (tel: 071-218 6303).

The original now hangs in the officers' mess of 1 Kings at Cavalry Barracks. It was unveiled by Brig W P Scott, DSO MC, who led the glider-borne assault 200 miles behind Japanese lines and who is the central figure in the painting.

Living history on Tyneside

NEWCASTLE-upon-Tyne's Military Vehicle Museum in Exhibition Park is opening its D-Day and liberation of Europe exhibitions with a period transit camp over the weekend of May 7-8. If you want to join in, take your own uniform. Details are available from the museum manager on 091-2817222.

On-air with SSVC and OU

SSVC and the Open University have teamed up to provide more than 20 hours of televised OU programming each week to Service personnel based in Germany, Cyprus and Gibraltar.

The new venture, which is in addition to SSVC's regular 120-hour entertainment schedule, is broadcast over the corporation's satellite television network.

Limited at present to Forces personnel for a one-year experiment, the SSVC-OU collaboration could eventually benefit students all over Europe.

DIARY

APRIL

9-10: Festival of military transport, Moseley Industrial Tramway Museum, Margaret Danvers College, Cheadle, Stockport (0663 766992).

17: Queen to review Year of the Yeomanry parade in Windsor Great Park.

21: Queen's Birthday. King's Troop RHA to fire 41-gun salute in Hyde Park; HAC to fire 62-gun salute at the Tower.

MAY

8: Combined Cavalry Old Comrades parade and memorial service at Cavalry Memorial in Hyde Park.

14-15: International Air Show, Middle Wallop.

21: Monte Cassino 50th anniversary remembrance service, St Margaret's Church, Westminster.

21-23: Rhine Army Summer Show, Paderborn.

JUNE

1-2: Floodlit Beating Retreat by Massed Bands of the Household Division, Horse Guards, 2130 hours. Tickets £12, £10 and £3 (unreserved) from Household Division Funds Office, Wellington Barracks, Birdcage Walk, London SW1 (enclose sae).

11: Queen's Birthday Parade on Horse Guards, Colour trooped by 2 Gren Gds.

JULY

11-22: Guild of Aviation Artists annual exhibition, The Carisbrooke Gallery, 63 Seymour Street (behind Marble Arch), London W1. Entry forms and schedules from the Guild of Aviation Artists, The Bondway Business Centre, 71 Bondway, London SW8 1SQ.

16-23: Nijmegen Marches, the Netherlands.

19-30: Royal Tournament, Earls Court (tickets available from box office on 071-373 8141).

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



Spoils from a Normandy river

Tell us your D-Day story

CALLING all D-Day veterans ... what are your special memories of the great invasion?

SOLDIER invites recollections of June 6, 1944 to be considered for publication in a special anniversary feature this summer.

Contributions should be restricted to no more than 175 words, and should include your rank at the time and name of unit.

...and put us in the picture

DID you have a camera with you and on D-Day? Photographs taken on June 6 will be considered for our anniversary issue

Diving the D-Day rivers

PASTE-UP artist Peter Raison, who is involved in the production of SOLDIER, has for several years dived off the D-Day landing beaches in Normandy.

For a change of scenery, he and four colleagues turned to the rivers between Bayeux and Cherbourg. First choice was the Merderet which runs close to St Mère Église, on the spire of which US paratrooper John Steel became snagged when the 101st US Airborne joined the invasion.

Within minutes of entering the water they had found a Mk 1 rifle

grenade, then an anti-tank mine, a para's 'chute buckle and two American Springfield Garand automatic rifle barrels.

Returning later, they found

more anti-tank mines, a complete bazooka rocket, magazines filled with bullets, a gas mask and a US Army steel helmet with a bullet hole in the side.

In two other rivers at Carentan they discovered three unused and complete heavy artillery shells, grenade parts, a whole mortar bomb and a gas mask. Many of

D-DAY DIARY

MAY

25: 50th anniversary of Review of the Fleet, Portland Harbour.

27-28: Hampshire remembers D-Day, Royal Victoria Country Park, Netley, near Southampton (0703 285968).

28-30: Military Vehicle Trust 50th anniversary commemoration rally, Southsea Common, Portsmouth. Details from Chris Pearce (0489 572582).

JUNE

2: Parade of veterans, bands and vehicles, Weymouth (0929 426310).

4: Southwick House garden party, HMS Dryad, near Portsmouth (invitation only).

Beating Retreat, Portsmouth. Portsmouth Guildhall dinner.

5: Drumhead Service, Southsea Common, Portsmouth. Veterans welcome.

Flotilla departs Portsmouth for Normandy, led by Royal Yacht.

Parachute drop near site of Pegasus Bridge and unveiling of bust of Gen Sir Richard Gale.

Service of commemoration, Hermanville military ceremony, Normandy.

6: National services of commemoration in Commonwealth War Graves Commission cemeteries at Bayeux, Douvres la Delivrande, Hermanville, Ranville and Ryes.

International service, Omaha Beach, led by President Mitterrand. Arromanches march and fly-past.

25: 50th anniversary reunion festival, Royal Albert Hall.

26: 50th anniversary parade on Horse Guards, followed by service at Cenotaph.

SPECIAL D-DAY EXHIBITIONS

● National Army Museum (071-730 0717).

● Tank Museum, Bovington (0929 403463).

● Museum of The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment, Cathedral Close, Salisbury, story of the Beach Groups (0722 414536).

● Imperial War Museum, D-Day to Victory exhibition (071-416 5000).

● D-Day Museum, Portsmouth, includes Overlord Embroidery (0705 827261).

● Airborne Forces Museum, Aldershot (0252 349619) and Aldershot Military Museum (0252 314598).

● Waterfront Museum, Poole (0202 673322).

● Museum of Army Flying, Middle Wallop, D-Day display (0264 384421).

● Military Vehicle Museum, Newcastle-upon-Tyne (091 2817222).

● RAF Museum, London, "Flying for Invasion" (081-205 2266).

● Hall of Aviation, Southampton (0703 635830).

● Southwick House near Portsmouth, Eisenhower's operational HQ (0705 210522).

● Royal Naval Museum, Portsmouth (0705 733060).

● Royal Navy Submarine Museum, Gosport (0705 529217).

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

their finds have gone to Portsmouth's D-Day Museum.

And the dangerous stuff? Wisely, they left that where they found it.

Wigan's hall of heroes

WIGAN can proudly claim four holders of the Victoria Cross – and it reckons that is more than any other town of comparable size in Britain.

Photographs and citations of the four heroic Wiganers – LCpl Thomas Woodcock (Irish Guards), Cpl William Keneally and Cpl John Grimshaw (both Lancashire Fusiliers), and Pte Alfred Wilkinson (1/5 (Wigan) Bn, Manchester Regiment Territorials) – have been unveiled in the town's Royal

British Legion club by the Earl of Derby.

There was a photograph of LCpl Woodcock on the wall of the club, but the stories of the other three were found by chance after a refurbishment.

Man behind the discovery was ex-Grenadier Guardsman Les Corns, secretary of the local Gren Guards Association.

Festival of transport

A PAIR of World War One vintage class D bogie open wagons will be part of a working festival of military transport to be staged by the Moseley Industrial Tramway Museum at Cheadle, Stockport on April 9-10. Military vehicles will also be on show. Gareth Roberts (tel: 0663 766992) has the details.

SEARCHLINE

● BBC Television: The 25th anniversary of the Troubles in Northern Ireland will be marked by a season of programmes this summer. One of them will be devoted totally to soldiers' experiences. Documentary-maker interested in ex-soldiers' accounts, anecdotes, feelings, during key moments, or at other times, during or following tours of duty from 1969 to current date. The programme wishes to reflect the significant contribution the Army has made to keeping the peace. Please phone, in strictest confidence, Neil Grant 081-895 6398, or BBC TV Kensington House, Richmond Way, London W14.

● Tony Grimes, ex-RRF, stationed in Gibraltar 1970-71, is asked to contact old friend Carol Threlfall (Winters), 11a Anson Road, Wilmot, Cheshire SK9 2HE (tel: 0625 526918).

● B Donechy, ex-1st Battalion, Highland Light Infantry, seeks old comrades who served with him at Fort George, Colchester, Tripoli, Tobruk and Malta 1950-52. Replies to 709-66 Falby Court, Ajax, Ontario L1S 3L2, Canada.

● Friends of Barry and Ruth Young, who served together at 11 Armd Bde, Minden, and 7 Signal Regt, Herford, in the 1970s, are asked to contact Cas Francis, 176 Station Road, Mickleover, Derby DE3 5FJ (tel: 0332 511471).

REUNIONS

● Band of The Royal Highland Fusiliers: Reunion for past and present members, April 23. Details from Band Clerk or BSM, Regimental Band, 1 RHF, Edinburgh Training Centre, Cavalry Barracks, Colinton, Edinburgh (tel: 031-310 5259).

● Command sapper reunion: Sixth reunion will take place in Seaton Barracks, Plymouth on May 21. All commando-trained ranks who have served with 59 Independent Commando Squadron RE are invited. Details from Capt M D Berrill, Seaton Barracks, Tavistock Road, Plymouth PL6 5DL (tel: 0752 764003 or Seaton Mil ext 4003).

MILITARIA

● Napoleonic guards: The 1st Lifeguard Regiment (1815), Waterloo Troop, which gives displays during the summer, seeks serving and ex-serving personnel to swell its mostly ex-Regular ranks. Horsemen preferred but non-riders accepted. Trumpeters, troopers and prospective NCOs also required. Apply to CO on 0737 360561.

● Turn to Page 38

in B Sqn, and his crew killed. Contact Joe Rogers, 14 Furlongs Road, Sedgley, Dudley, W Midlands DY3 3UT (tel: 0902 885635).

● 80th LAA RA (Egypt and Aqaba, Nov 1949-Dec 1952): Ex-Sgt Eddie Clack, 49 Albemarle Street, Harwich, Essex CO12 3HN) wants to contact Bdr Geordie Carr, 2nd Lt Paul Holland and QM Sgt Peter Mears, and anyone else from the regiment who remembers him.

● Tony Grimes, ex-RRF, stationed in Gibraltar 1970-71, is asked to contact old friend Carol Threlfall (Winters), 11a Anson Road, Wilmot, Cheshire SK9 2HE (tel: 0625 526918).

● Friends of Barry and Ruth Young, who served together at 11 Armd Bde, Minden, and 7 Signal Regt, Herford, in the 1970s, are asked to contact Cas Francis, 176 Station Road, Mickleover, Derby DE3 5FJ (tel: 0332 511471).

● Middlesex Regiment (DCO): Annual reunion at Victory Services Club, London W2, May 7. Details from R E B Morris, 38 Traps Lane, New Malden, Surrey KT3 4SA (tel: 081-949 7506).

● 2 Bn, The Monmouthshire Regiment OCA: Informal, and possibly final, reunion at the Plough, 27 Museum Street, London WC1A 2LJ. Details from S J Stapleton, The Gables, 113 Windmill Road,

Letters from the real Blackadder tell it like it was

IF THE letters of the late Lt Brian Lawrence are anything to go by, the creed of an officer in a guards' regiment in the Great War was never make a fuss about anything – even if lying in fetid mud with both legs blown off.

Not that Lawrence lost his legs, but he was seriously wounded in August 1917 and shipped home to spend the rest of the war recuperating.

While at the front with the Grenadier Guards, and serving in appalling conditions, he and his brother officers and gentlemen maintained stiff upper lips

and all the style expected of them.

Now, in *Letters from the Front*, Ian Fletcher has selected and edited 28 of Lawrence's letters which tell of his experiences from September 1916 until he was wounded the following August.

Brilliantly descriptive, Lawrence's letters evoke a sense of being there to an extent where the acrid smoke from exploding shells and the stench of the trenches and the dead almost waft out of the page.

In addition to possessing fine writing skills Lawrence was, if not a gourmet, a good trencherman looking for and expecting his "servant" to come up with food and wine befitting a young officer. (Shades of TV's *Blackadder*.)

In common with everyone in the front line food had an important place and he mentions many of his gastronomic sessions throughout the book.

He describes several rather grand meals he had including one of champagne, curried prawns and rice; another time he made do with stew, champagne and tinned fruit. Not quite up to scratch, but not bad.

Style, it appears, was the thing with young men like Lawrence. They didn't really care about the enemy, being generally dismissive of the "Boche" and everything they did. He wasn't particularly concerned even when writing of the loss of several of his own men; an unsurprising attitude, perhaps, considering the death and destruction surrounding him.

Brian Lawrence came out of the Army in 1919, rejoining in November 1939, but for various reasons never really fitted into an Army quite different to that which he had known. He was given a number of jobs, including that of RTO at Waterloo station, London, until demobbed in 1946. He died aged 67 in 1958. – JM

Letters from the Front edited by Ian Fletcher. Parapress, 12 Dene Way, Speldhurst, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN3 0NX, £15.95.

D-Day painted with evocative hindsight

WITH SO many titles on the subject of D-Day and Operation Overlord appearing on booksellers' shelves, it is essential to the success of any new book that it be something out of the ordinary.

D-Day: 06:06 1944, by Richard Collier, will attract buyers for two reasons. The price of just under £15 for this large-format paperback is around the lowest so far, but perhaps even more important is the content of colour photographs taken by John Kalbian.

Kalbian's highly evocative pictures constitute the story of Overlord in retrospect, using surviving relics, architecture and archaeology: the MI5 headquarters in St James's Square, London, German blockhouses, bunkers and observation posts that stand as memorials to that fatal day, Pegasus Bridge in its days before recent demolition, armoured cars on Utah beach, a Churchill ASRE of 26 Assault Squadron Royal Engineers preserved at Graye-sur-Mer, and Omaha beach with barbed-wire still in place.

He has even managed to make a secret wireless in a suitcase and a para/mando folding bicycle into works of art.

Kalbian's photographs are

empty of people, and rightly so, for his subjects are the relics of war – those who used them are either dead or now old men.

For the scenes of 1944 the author employs contemporary black-and-white photographs and, perhaps with even more dramatic impact, the works of war artists: Dwight Shepler, Albert Richards, Barnet Freedman, Tom Wood, Alexander Russo and Eric Aldwinkle.

These paintings will be unfamiliar to most readers as their originals are dispersed in the US Navy Combat Art Collection, The Imperial War

Museum and The Canadian War Museum.

In praising the art content of *D-Day: 06:06 1944* sight must not be lost of the book's main purpose – to tell the story of Overlord.

Richard Collier does this very competently, as would be expected of a war correspondent, drawing on the memories of commanders, fighting men, aircraft, landing craft skippers and members of the French Resistance. – BJ

D-Day: 06:06 1944 by Richard Collier. Cassell, paperback, £14.99.

With friends like these . . .

IN HIS book *Friendly Fire*, Richard Townshend Bickers suggests that, while this phrase has been around for a long time, it only came into general use during the Gulf War when nine British soldiers died and 11 were injured after being attacked by Coalition aircraft.

Townshend Bickers puts such "blue-on-blue" accidents down to ignorance, stupidity, panic and carelessness by those who have been the cause of numerous deaths among Servicemen on their own side.

In the Gulf War tragedy which received such wide publicity, C Company 3RRF had two of their Warrior vehicles knocked out by USAF A-10 tank-busting aircraft.

An official inquiry subsequently blamed a recognition mix-up. Apologies all round and the sad episode was closed.

But according to the author this wasn't the sole "accident", claiming that at least three other near "amicide" incidents (the killing of friends) occurred in the conflict, each one con-

cerning Brit firing on Brit. No one died, but some were injured and vehicles destroyed.

He emphasises there is nothing new in amicide, since it has been going on throughout the ages. Death or injury by a "friendly" bullet is a risk that all Servicemen and women have to face. It has always happened, he says, and it always will. Sombre reading. – JM

Friendly Fire by Richard Townshend Bickers. Leo Cooper, hardback, £14.95.



British Army Film Unit photographer Sgt Jimmy Mapham's famous picture of British troops going ashore in Normandy on June 6, 1944

An army dressed to kill

SOMEONE once said: "Clothes maketh man." They certainly help make soldiers; uniforms give identity and distinction to armies the world over.

Take the German Army. The style of their uniforms, including hats, boots, insignia and equipment from 1933 to 1945 was, and still is, unmistakable.

According to Chris Ellis in *The German Army 1933-45*, the uniform of Hitler's army was "sinister", suggesting "power and oppression" which was totally unlike the "innocuous and uninspiring poly-poly British battledress."

This book of 128 pages gives details about clothing and badges over which only an enthusiast could drool. Strictly one for the reference shelf.

While packed with information, the book has the disadvantage of small type, but the numerous black-and-white pictures help to compensate.

There are even a couple of Hitler in full morning dress, complete with top hat – looking something like a pre-war banker. – JM

The German Army 1933-45 by Chris Ellis. Ian Allan, paperback, £10.99.

There's still a role for the PBI

AUTHOR Guy Hartcup dedicates *The Silent Revolution – Development of Conventional Weapons 1945-85* to the memory of defence scientist Edward Lovell, and to "Alexander in the hope he will grow up in a safer world".

Mr Hartcup then proceeds to describe in detail the frightening array of hi-tech weapons available to forces around the world and how and why they came to be researched and developed over the past 40 years. The hope is, of course, that they will never be used, which would fulfil Mr Hartcup's – and every other sane person's – desire.

But there are some odd people around who, reportedly, are busy creating various weapons of destruction in the chemical and biological field as well as precision guided munitions – or PGMs.

That's one of the problems with this otherwise fascinating book; the number of acronyms and abbreviations the reader needs to be familiar with if constant reference to the glossary is to be avoided. There are 146 listed.

While machines have replaced men at an ever-increasing speed in the time-span covered by this book, Mr Hartcup reckons that, despite the technological and scientific advances in weapons and warfare and the deterrence they create, it will be the presence of "highly-trained, well-equipped and combat-ready conventional troops" which will be the "driving force behind that deterrence".

Supporting this view, he says: "From now on much of the research effort in defence needs to be concentrated upon the means of easing the problems which face the conventional fighting man in an intensely complex and stressful situation and of giving him the means of acquiring essential skills he must have to operate his powerful and highly sophisticated equipment at the drop of a hat."

It's good to know that the British soldier will not disappear . . . not just yet, anyway. – JM

The Silent Revolution by Guy Hartcup. Brassey's (UK), £30.

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NAD
APPROVED
DEALER

● From Page 35

● **201 RCZ Wksp REME(V):** 23rd joint mess reunion at Chesford Grange Hotel, Kenilworth, Warwick on May 21. Details from Maj R F Smith, 6 St John's Place, Waterloo, Liverpool L22 5NP.

● **Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment:** 300th anniversary to be celebrated in Worcester on June 4. Tickets from branches of the regimental association or RHQ WFR, Norton Barracks, Worcester WR5 2PA (tel: 0905 354359).

● **Chindit Association:** Annual reunion to commemorate 50th anniversary of their last campaign in Burma will be held in the presence of their patron, The Prince of Wales, at Whittington Barracks, ATR Lichfield on June 17. Association members and families only.

● **Combined Ex-Services Association:** Annual reunion and conference weekend, June 17-19. The alternative D-Day celebration. Tickets £6 from Ticket Secretary, 17 Hustler Road, Bridlington, E Yorks YO16 5RN.

● **The Gordon Highlanders:** Bicentenary and Trooping the Colour will take place in Aberdeen on June 25. Former Gordons wishing to attend should contact RHQ, The Gordon Highlanders,

Brigadiers – C D Parr – To be DA/MA Seoul, Mar 5; K J W Goad – To MoD, Mar 7; A J Schuler – To HQ SDist, Mar 7.

Colonels – R C J Rhodes – To DSM(A), Mar 7; D I Hartley – To HQ SDist, Mar 21.

Lt Cols – N C Everard, 9/12 L – To be Staff Coll DS, Feb 28; F A B Clement RA – To HQ UKLF, Mar 7; W R Harber PWRR – To be CO 4 R Irish, Mar 11; K Jackson RE – To Insp of Engr Resources BFG, Mar 7; R C Lloyd RWF – To CATC, Mar 9; J P Riley RWF – To be CO 1 RWF, Mar 9; B P S Rolfe-Smith, Para – To be CO ATR Lichfield,

Mar 11; S G Vowles AGC(ALS) – To MoD, Mar 7; C G Patey RTR – To RHQ RTR, Mar 7; J A Fairhurst QLR – To HQ TSC/HQ TSU, Mar 7; G R Leach, R Signals – To MoD, Mar 7; B McDonnell, R Anglian – To ARRC Sp Bn, Mar 7; I R Sinclair RA – To MoD, Mar 7; J W R Thorn RE – To RMCS, Mar 7.

RETIREMENTS

Brigadiers – T D Bevan, late LI, Mar 1; E N de Broe-Ferguson, late BW, Mar 1; J G W Dean, late RA, Mar 1; T A L Glass, late R Hamps, Mar 1; A G Ross, late SG, Mar 1; E C Tait, late AAC, Mar 1; C T J Wright, late 4/7 DG, Mar 1; G D

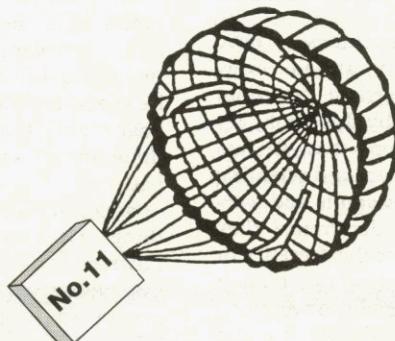
Williams, late RCT, Mar 3.

Colonels – A A S Adams, late RAPC, Mar 1; J M Craster, late Gren Gds, Mar 1; M S Davies, late R Signals, Mar 1; R J Gibson, late RE(Svy), Mar 1; J M Grundy, late RRW, Mar 1; R C V Hunt, late QO Hldrs, Mar 1; G R Mallock, late AAC, Mar 1; G A Morris, late RA, Mar 1; A P H Parsons, late SG, Mar 1; E M Powell, late R Signals, Mar 1; P A R Prior, late RA, Mar 1; J J Ropes, late RAPC, Mar 1; G F W Smith, late RA, Mar 1; C H van der Noot, late Gordons, Mar 1; R F Willsher, late R Signals, Mar 1; N Wallace, late RA, Mar 2.

● **Small Arms Corps and connections (ex-Hythe):** Proposed final reunion in Hythe, November 11-13. Details from Fred Gray, Blaenblodau, Dryslwyn, Carmarthen, Dyfed SA32 8RN (tel: 0558 668719).

CLOSURES

● **The WOs' and Sergeants' Mess:** HQ Berlin, will close in May. Anyone who has presented property and lost touch with the mess, please call WO2 (SSM) G T Bardsley on Berlin Mil 4495 or write c/o BGAU, BFPO 45.

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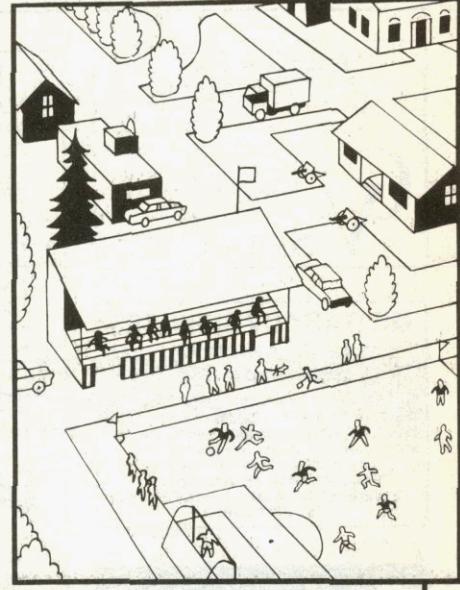
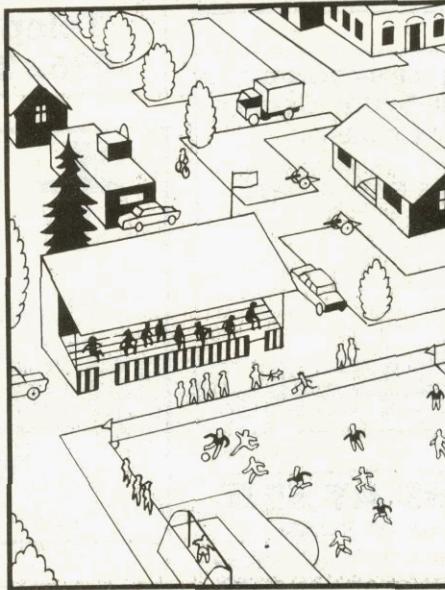
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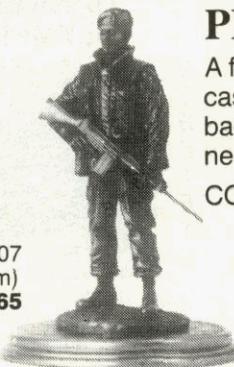
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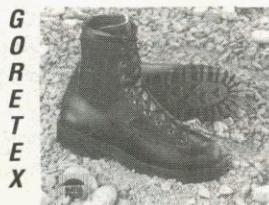
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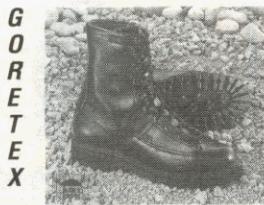
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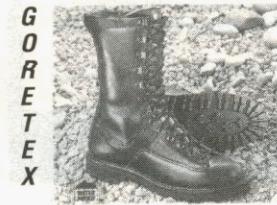
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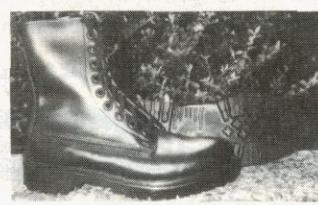
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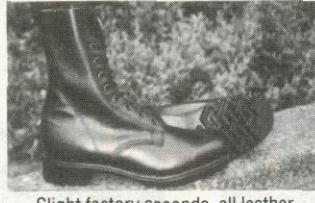
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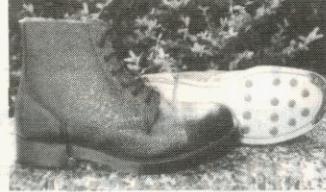
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Time on my hands, I love to write letters and am looking for a penfriend. I'm a single mum, 30s, happy go lucky, music lover, well travelled. Do write. P889

I'm Nicola, 24, slim, dark hair. I live in Southampton but have close links with Hull. I enjoy TV, going to the pub, reading and eating out. Would anyone like to write to me? P890

Female, 31, single, blonde, attractive, nursery nurse. Seeks male, 6', with gsoh as penfriend. Enjoys horse riding, pubs and some clubs. Please send photo or good description. P891

Adventurous, fun loving, 21-year-old Scottish girl. Would like to write to person with similar interests: football; watching films; laughing and generally having fun. All letters answered. P892

Hi, I've got time on my hands – can you help me fill it? I'm Cary, 38, tall, attractive and have varied interests – including rock music, socialising and writing letters. ALA. P893

Sharon, 31. A pen pal is what I need, so write to me with speed. If you want a laugh, and think this daft, then you're the friend I need. P894

40-year-old nurse, recently separated. Ash blonde, 5'3", blue eyes, slim. Animal lover, enjoys good company, music, socialising and sport. Own home. Wishes to correspond with an intelligent, caring person. P895

Single male soldier, 28, 5'11", brown eyes, fair hair. Seeks new friend. Loves cinema, reading, computer games, football, sports and children. Photo appreciated but not essential. All letters answered. P896

Lisa, 25, 5'2", slim, single, non-smoker. Good sense of humour, likes aerobics, swimming, cooking, reading, music, writing letters. Would like pen pals anywhere. P897

My name is Andrea. I'm 28 with blonde hair, grey eyes, 5'3" tall and single. I enjoy aerobics, music, cinema, going out with friends and foreign holidays. P898

Cheerful, chatty, easygoing, divorced lady, clerical worker. Seeks penfriend 45+. I enjoy the countryside, walking, reading, local history, and c&w music. All letters answered, I live in North West England. P899

My name is Tanya, I'm a 28-year-old blue eyed blonde divorcee. I'm training to be chef. I enjoy driving, night clubbing and music. Please write to me! P900

I'm Anna, 20, brunette, attractive. I would like to write to soldiers who have a gsoh, love clubbing and having a good time. Photo appreciated, all letters answered. P901

Avid letter writer searching for pen pals. I'm 27, single with three children because I am a nanny/housekeeper. I enjoy the countryside, horse riding, cycling and, of course, writing. P902

Bubbly, attractive, female, 37, gsoh. Interests: cinema, music, writing letters and socialising. I will answer all letters, so invest in a stamp and write to me! P903

Wanted, male pen pals. Are you between 25 and 30, genuine, sense of humour and interested in music and movies? So am I. Female, 28, slim. Write to me now, Josie. P904

Hi guys. I'm a single, blonde haired, blue/green eyed, female who wishes to write to lonely soldiers in need of some cheering up. So why not drop me a line? P905

Blonde haired, blue eyed, hairdresser would like penfriends. I have an outgoing personality and believe in living life to the full. If you would like to write, please contact P906.

Pen pals wanted. Would you like to write to me, my name is Tracey. I am 31 years old and have lots of interests. Why not send me a letter? P907

Hi, I'm Jo, an irresistible, curvaceous, 21-year-old brunette. I'm fun, fit and feminine in every way. Seeks an officer and gentleman. Will correspond with single soldiers aged 24+. P908

Niki, 28, divorced mum. Seeks genuine, interesting pen pal. Many interests, including: keep-fit, socialising, music, films and cooking. I live in a quiet country village in Essex. P909

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Ref: 220,433

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07/94

ARMY SPORTS LOTTERY RESULTS

MARCH 5, 1994

Four way tie for first prize (17 goals, £975 each): Capt H Bond, 7 Para RHA, Aldershot; Pte A C H Hume, AQ ARRC, BFPO 39; SSgt T P Marshall, AAC Centre, Middle Wallop; LCpl L Williams, 35 Engr Regt, BFPO 31.

20-way tie for fifth prize (16 goals, £30 each): Sgt P A R Adams, 39 Regt RA, BFPO 16; Cpl H L Ainley, RMP Cyprus, BFPO 58; Sgt T Baitson, 9 Signal Regt (Radio) BFPO 59; SSgt D Christie, REME Tech Services BAOR, BFPO 34; Cpl A J Connor, 35 Engr Regt, BFPO 31; LCpl J M J Cullen, 25 Engr Regt, BFPO 808; WO1 G K Dorrington, HQ Wales and Western District, Shrewsbury; Pte N L Fulstow, HQ Armd Bde, BFPO 30; SSgt C Hunt, 78 Engr Regt (V), Southampton; Pte A N Hutchinson, British Tpt Sqn, BFPO 544; LCpl A J P Kerr, 1 Kings Own Border, BFPO 807; WO2 C A Knaggs, HQ Woolwich Garrison; SSgt P Macey, 38 (Berlin) Fd Sqn RE, BFPO 45; Sgt C Malyan, 7 Bn REME, BFPO 41; Maj D R

Prowse, Depot REME, Arborfield; 2Lt S R I Scott, QRH, BFPO 38; WO2 A J Sisk, DPS (A) Worthy Down; Cfn D B Tucker, British Army Trg & Liaison Staff, Kenya; Cpl P J West, Household Cavalry Mounted Regt, Knightsbridge; Pte G J Wheelhouse, BFPO 804.

MARCH 12, 1994

First prize (21 goals, £2,000): Col M J Blyth, MoD D Pers (A).

4-way tie for 2nd prize (20 goals, £550.00 each): WO1 A D Beckett, 1 (UK) Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt, BFPO 15; Sgt A Boyd, 4 Regt AAC, BFPO 41; SSgt R G Corcoran, MCTC, Colchester; Cpl K M S Reid, 110 Pro Coy RMP, BFPO 16.

7-way tie for 6th prize (19 goals, £42.86 each): Bdr P Cobb, 7 Para RHA, Aldershot; Pte G Hale, British Tpt Sqn, BFPO 544; WO2 I D Morrin, Princess Marina College, Arborfield; Maj S R Roberts, JDSC, Warminster; Cpl M S Rogers, 1 WG, BFPO 802; Sgt W H Thomson, 8 Arty Sp Regt RLC, BFPO 17; Cpl M J Young, 1 PWO, BFPO 36.

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In-form Kelly leads the field

ARMY athletes produced top class results for Combined Services in the annual fixture against the English Cross Country Association and Civil Service at Rushmoor Arena, Aldershot, last month, writes Peter Marsh.

Cpl Kelly Holmes, running competitively for only the second time this winter, proved she is well on the way to regaining full fitness with an excellent win in the women's race, finishing 23 seconds clear of the first ECCA runner.

Former Northern Ireland international WO2 (QMSI) Geoff Wade, now 35, ran an inspired race to finish seventh ahead of several members of the English team.

And Sgt Bill Bailey accounted for all but one of a quality field of veterans. His performance strengthens his claim for selection in the Home Counties international later this year.

Four days later Army athletes were again in action, this time in the Inter-Corps championships run over the demanding Blackdown course.

Ten teams started the men's race which was won comfortably by the Infantry, runners-up last year. Five of their scoring eight finished in the first 20. Some distance behind were the RLC who managed to hold off the APTC and RE teams by a handful of points.

Individual honours went to the Army's up-and-coming band of runners, LCpl Alan Shepherd (AMS) making a welcome return to winning form ahead of Bdr Barry Stoddart (RA) and Cpl Paddy Cairns (RE).

A disappointing 23 competitors from just four teams started the women's race, in which Kelly Holmes did enough to retain her 1993 title ahead of AGC team-mates Cpl Sarah Bradbury and SSgt Betty Gash. The AGC, pre-race favourites, easily won the championship ahead of the RLC.

Following his win in the



Cpl Kelly Holmes



Picture: Mike Perring

First three: From left to right Bdr Barry Stoddart, who was second, winner LCpl Alan Shepherd and third-placed Cpl Paddy Cairns after the Inter-Corps cross country championships. Shepherd finished a superb 26th in the national championships at South Shields last month

Inter-Corps race, Alan Shepherd moved into pole position in the cross country runner of the year rankings, eight points ahead of nearest rival Sgt Rod Finch (who missed the race to prepare for his European indoor 3,000m in Paris). Stoddart and Cairns are third and fourth.

Shepherd had a remarkable run in the nationals at South Shields, finishing 26th.

Sarah Bradbury has a slender lead over Betty Gash in the women's list, ahead of Holmes in third place.

The Army road relays at Chattenden on March 30 have been included in the series and Maj Peter Lyons (Aldershot Mil 3575) will accept entries up to the day of the competition.

By winning the Major Units race at the Army cross country championships at Longmoor in February, Hameln-based 28 Engr Regt became the first sapper team ever to win the Army-Navy bill a month ago. Rajcoomar, with three CS titles plus Commonwealth

SEVEN Combined Services titles and the best boxer award (plus the Inter-Services team trophy thrown in for good measure) were a fair reflection of the Army's stranglehold on the CSBA individual championships at Aldershot on March 4, writes John Elliott.

Coach Sgt Norman Phillips's pre-championship forecast of four titles proved unduly cautious when veteran Joe Rajcoomar and newcomer LCpl Jason Gardner won against the odds.

"Smoking" Joe rolled back the years with a barnstorming performance against the erratically talented Mne Charlie Baird, who had comprehensively outboxed him on the Army-Navy bill a month ago. Rajcoomar, with three CS titles plus Commonwealth

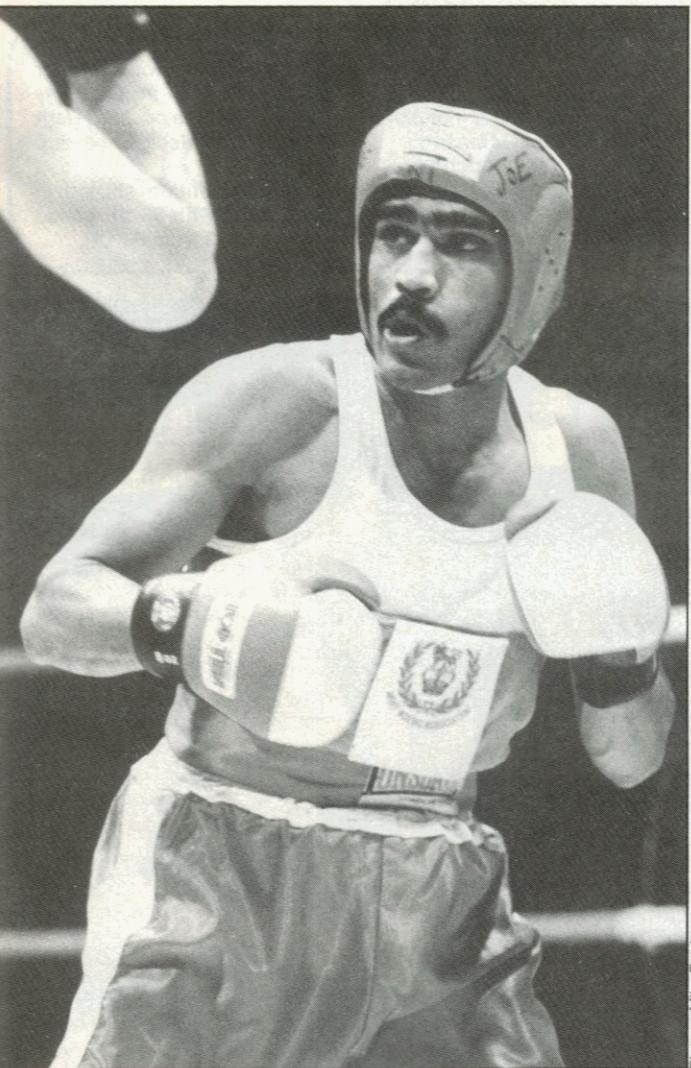
Games and Olympic appearances under his belt, and has been persuaded to retire... again. He will concentrate on coaching.

Gardner, late of the Paisley club, is one for the future. He had time to spare in a points win over AB Kevin Crumplin, mixing thoughtful defence with effective attack.

Army team captain LCpl Chris Bessey, up a weight from his 1993 ABA division, will be grateful to Cpl Sean Pepperall (RAF) for a lively workout.

The airman's only realistic chance of beating Bessey was to knock him over, and how he tried...

Normal transmission was quickly restored, however, with Bessey building an enormous points advantage. His performance - the matador



Picture: Mike Perring

Army assistant boxing coach Cpl Joe Rajcoomar on his way to another Combined Services boxing title... and retirement

Joe bows out in style

against the bull - earned Bessey a £100 cheque from Lonsdale of London for best boxer.

With no entry from the other Services, the middleweight contest featured Army team-mates Pte Sven Hamer and Pte Paul Treslove.

Spr Danny Watts, a recent recruit from London's Lynn Club, almost pulled off the super heavyweight crown for the Army. Big Mne Kevin McCormack did just enough to get a split decision but will now concentrate on the Welsh championships, allowing Watts back into the ABA reckoning.

After two very close rounds,

● FIVE soldiers and two airmen have reached the England ABA semi-finals to be held in Gateshead on April 12. LCpl Jason Gardner, Gdsm Kevin Short, LCpl Chris Bessey, Cpl Steve Burford and Spr Danny Watts got through the England quarter-final match between CSBA and Western Counties at Aldershot on March 17. Report in next issue.

Everything to play for in Halton clash

The Army 3, Royal Navy 0

A STRONG wind made ball-control difficult in this Inter-Services opener for the Mercury Cup at the Military Stadium, Aldershot, but even so the Army's three-goal winning margin over the Royal Navy was a little flattering, writes Derrick Bly.

And with the Navy losing 3-0 to the Royal Air Force, the Inter-Service title was being decided by the final match between the Army and the RAF at Halton on March 23.

Against the Navy, the Army went ahead after three minutes with a slightly lucky goal. Cpl Dave Maynard's cross was half cleared to Sgt Steve Bates, whose lob deceived the Navy 'keeper and bounced high into the net.

SSgt Nigel Wiscombe - voted John Brown Investments Man of the Match by former England international Gary Stevens - brought off the first of a series of brilliant saves to

deny the Navy, and SSgt Alan Higgins put the Army two up from the penalty spot after he had been upended by POPT Steve Riley.

The second half began with Wiscombe again making a superb save, while at the other end of the field Sgt John Scott was narrowly off target with a 30-yard drive.

Pte Pete Batey's return to the Army defence added height at the back and restricted the Navy to long-range efforts.

With time running out Sig Paul Brown put the result beyond doubt with a third goal for the home side.

Gen Sir Peter Inge, then Chief of the General Staff, presented the Mercury Cup to SSgt Kevin Parkins, the Army captain.

1 Cheshire 1, 28 Engr Regt 2

Despite the lottery of a frozen Grenland Stadium, the sappers of 28 Engr Regt are on course for a fifth successive Army Cup victory. Their iron grip on BAOR football continues, despite a searching examination by 1 Cheshire in the BAOR Cup Final.

RLC chef Pte Gingie Holt (1 Cheshire) received the man of the match award from former Manchester United star Pat Crerand, who is to arrange trials for Holt and Pte Whittle (28 Engr Regt) with Celtic manager Lou Macari.

Quarter-finalists in the Army Cup are 28 Engr Regt and SEE, and SEME Bordon and 2 Sig Regt.

Infantry 4, Army Air Corps 5

A heavy, slippery pitch made this match something of a lottery with defensive mistakes galore. The AAC clinched it two minutes from the end.

ATpr Ritchie Penfold scored a first half hat-trick and ATpr Craig Evans scored twice after the break. Cpl Neal Roberts (RWP), Pte Lee Bradbury (PWRR), twice, and Kgn John Fox (Kings) replied for the Infantry.

Welsh Guardsman Kevin Short raised his pace sufficiently to win a close verdict against SAC Andrew Henderson at welterweight. And there was a CS title for Fus Dale Duncan at bantamweight, handsome reward for a neat, mobile and convincing win over SAC Paddy Brolley of the RAF.

Results
Light flyweight - Cpl Darren Fox (RAF) walk-over; fly - SAC Owen Spensley (RAF), w-o; bantam - Fus Dale Duncan (1 RRF) bt SAC Paddy Brolley (RAF), pts u; feather - Cpl Joe Rajcoomar (1 DER) bt Mne Charlie Baird (RN), pts m; light - Mne Kevin Brown (RN), w-o; light welter - LCpl Jason Gardner (89 Sy Coy) bt AB Kevin Crumplin (RN), pts m; welter - Gdsm Kevin Short (WG) bt SAC A Henderson, pts m; light middle - LCpl Chris Bessey (27 Regt RLC) bt Cpl Sean Pepperall (RAF), pts u; middle - Pte Sven Hamer (2 PWRR) bt Pte Paul Treslove (1 Para), rsc 3; light heavy - SAC John Gosling (RAF) bt Pte Mark Quirey (2 PWRR), rsc 3; heavy - Cpl Steve Burford (REME), w-o; super heavy - Mne Kevin McCormack (RN) bt Spr Danny Watts (RE Trg Regt), pts m.

Special heavyweight - Dvr Billy Bessey (27 Regt RLC) bt Mne Lee Terry, pts u.

THE ARMY Challenge Cup Final at the Military Stadium, Aldershot on April 13 will be supported for the 11th consecutive year by Wilsons Hogg Robinson, probably the longest-running sport sponsorship enjoyed by the Service. Since 1983 the company

Loyal to the Cup

has ploughed more than £30,000 into the Army's premier domestic football compe-

tition. The Bill Wilson Memorial Trophy, awarded annually to the man of the final, is named after a founder member of Wilsons Hogg Robinson.

This year's competition has a new format which puts the BAOR winners straight into the semi-finals, ruling out the

need for a UK cup final. Defending champions 28 Engr Regt meet SEE in Germany while SEME take on 2 Sig Regt in the UK to decide the cup finalists.

The competition started in the autumn with 66 UK-based teams and 33 from BAOR.

Hockey teams' double delight

VICTORIES over both the Royal Air Force and the Royal Navy gave the Army men's hockey team their fifth successive Inter-Services title.

Led this season by Capt Simon Hazlitt (2 LI), it was their ninth Services' title in ten years.

And to round off a memorable tournament hosted by the Navy at HMS Drake, Plymouth, the Army women also claimed Inter-Service honours.

The senior team got off to the best possible start with a 2-1 win over the RAF, courtesy of a brace of goals from man of the tournament SSgt Ian Jennings (APTC). The victory also earned them the Royal Bank of Scotland Quaiche.

They added the Wilkinson Sword to their trophy cabinet with a 2-1 win over the Navy who also lost to the airmen by a 2-0 margin. It was fitting finale for Army stalwart Maj Ian Jolly (RA) in his last season.

PENALTY STROKES

The Army women kept their nerve to beat the RAF, winning 5-4 on penalty strokes after the sides had been deadlocked at 1-1 thanks to a late equaliser from OCdt Ruth Pilkington.

Level after five penalties each, the match was effectively decided by Cpl Pat Wilsher's fine save when the match went to a sudden-death shoot-out.

A 3-0 win over the Navy clinched the title after the Navy women had beaten the RAF 2-1. Pilkington (2) and Cpl Terry Bennett scored the goals that beat the Navy and gave the Army women their first out-



Thank you, ma'am: winning jockey Lt Dominic Alers-Hankey, Kings Royal Hussars, is presented with the trophy by the Queen Mother after winning the Horse and Hound Grand Military Gold Cup on Quick Rapor. "It's an incredible feeling. Although

this is the third time I have entered the meeting, I have never appeared in the winners' enclosure before," he said. The Grand Military Gold Cup meeting is held annually at Sandown Park, Surrey. (Full report in the next issue).

right championship since 1990 and only their fifth in the past 20 years.

It follows their first ever win in the Inter-Services indoor championships earlier this winter.

The Navy took the Under 21 title on goal difference after beating the RAF 3-0 and drawing 1-1 with the Army. The young soldiers also defeated the RAF, 1-0. In the veterans competition the Army drew 3-3 with the RAF and were beaten 2-0 by the hosts.

Aldershot is due to host the women's inter-unit tournament on March 24-25, and the men's major and minor unit finals on March 29-30. The men's major semi-finalists will be BAOR v 7 Para RHA and 32 Regt RA v 14 Fd Regt RA, and the minors 238 Sig Sqn v AAC Chepstow and BAOR v Depot R Irish.

Rod strikes Euro bronze

SSGT Rod Finch (3 Para) ran the race of his life to win the bronze medal at the European indoor championships in Paris on March 13.

He finished third in the 3,000m in 7min 53.99sec, lowering his previous best performance by an impressive two seconds. Since Christmas Finch has run twice for Great Britain indoors and won his first Army cross country title.

Maj Glen Grant has also been in form on the boards, breaking the UK veteran 1,000m record during an Inter-Services meeting at the

National Indoor Arena, Birmingham, on February 22.

Birmingham University, Loughborough and the West London Institute of Higher Education also took part.

Grant finished fourth overall in the race in setting a new UK veterans' best of 2min 37.02sec.

An incomplete men's team beat the Royal Navy and the Royal Air Force, finishing third overall behind West London Institute and Loughborough. The Army women's team was fifth.

• Cross country reports - Page 48.



Airmen snatch honours at Igls

WHILE the Army's senior bobbers were on duty for Great Britain at the Lillehammer Olympics, the annual Inter-Service competition was taking place at Igls, Austria.

The Army had held the title for the past seven years, but with GB stars Cpl Mark Tout (RTR), Sgt George Farrell (R Sigs), and Para trio Cpl Sean Olsson, LCpl Eric Sekwalor and LCpl Dean Ward on duty in Norway, the Army faced stiff competition from the newly equipped RAF.

Four crews represented the Army - Capt Colin Snowball and Pte Nick Boyce (Para); LCpl Bob Hinton (Para) and Cpl Dave Pope (AAC); WO2 Peter Gunn (AAC) and Cpl Alvin Walker (REME); and the RAMC juniors Cpl Graham Turner and Cpl Bob Talbot.

In the first lauf the Army finished second, third, fourth and 17th, with the RAF just .43sec ahead. The airmen edged slightly further in front on the second run.

The pattern was much the same on the third and fourth laufs, with Harris of the RAF in sparkling form. Last on the course, he produced another superb drive to give the trophy to the RAF, and was mobbed at the bottom by his jubilant teammates, among them their president, Air Chief Marshal

THE DUKES have been saying goodbye to their sporting friends in style. Their rugby team - known as the Moonrakers - organised a five-match farewell tour to Newbury, Maidenhead, Swindon, Chippenham and Salisbury.

The 1st Battalion, The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment (Berkshire and Wiltshire) decided on the tour to coincide



The Army bobsleigh team: left (top to bottom) Cpl Phil Green, Cpl Bob Talbot, Pte Nick Boyce; (centre) LCpl Bob Hinton, WO2 Peter Gunn, Capt Colin Snowball, Cpl Graham Turner; (right) Cpl Alvin Walker, Cpl David Pope and WO2 Geoff Schunermann

Sir Sandy Wilson. The Army were second and the Royal Navy third.

A fortnight before the Inter-Service meeting, the Army championships were contested by more credible competitors than have been seen for some time. In all, 15 two-bob teams were entered by a wide range of units including the QDG, REME, R Signals, RAMC, AAC, Para and RTR.

Colin Snowball, Bob Hinton and SSgt Dave Bunce (REME) returned to action, as did new Para and AAC teams.

Snowball and Boyce led

after the first lauf, just three tenths of a second ahead of Turner and Talbot who had an outstanding run in only their second season in the sport.

Gunn (at one time in line for the GB 3 ride at Lillehammer) and Walker were third. Although Turner and Talbot pipped the leaders by .01sec on the second lauf it wasn't quite enough to overtake them, so the title went to Snowball and Boyce, with Turner and Talbot second and Gunn and Walker third. The brakeman's prize was shared by Walker and Talbot.

Moonrakers XV pushed into touch with Dukes

with a series of farewell Freedom marches planned by the regiment in the main county towns of its traditional recruiting areas.

Rugby tour and Freedom parades were led by Maj Farren Drury, the only Duke

to receive a full Army cap in the history of the regiment. He represented the Service between 1986 and 1988.

The players also used the tour to collect for SPIRE, the RFU-backed Support Paraplegics in Rugby Enterprise.

Power play punishes Police

**The Army 49
Met Police 10**

ON A fine afternoon at Imber Court the Army were determined to play fast powerful rugby - and in phases did. The initial sparring between the packs ended early on after the big Army forwards Dahinton (7 RHA), Curtis (2 Sig Regt) and Newsham (22 Regt RA) lead powerful charges straight towards the Police line, writes Roger Thompson.

The Army dominated the scrums while at the lines-out Lt Andy Newsham added a degree of athleticism to Dahinton's bulk, rising without the aid of props, to the point where in-flight refreshments might have been considered.

Behind a surging pack Denwood and the well preserved Commander, the 7 RHA half backs, had an excellent game. They were always prepared to run good ball to wings Bartliff and Fenn, who both scored classic tries.

In the centre Bramble (7 RHA), in only his second full game for the Army this season, provided the sledgehammer alongside Glasgow's rapier. Bramble is a big man for a centre, well able to stay on his feet against good tackling and dismissive of anything less.

From outside the Police 22, he scored an excellent individual try following stirring work by the pack, with Gareth James (2 Sig Regt) handling a number of times in the same flowing movement. James had by far his best game of the year linking, tackling and securing the loose ball before the heavy mob from 7 RHA thundered over the top. This once more set Denwood on his way.

At full back Bowling was cool under the high ball in the sun and safe with his touch kicking. As confidence grew in this new position, his game expanded and, bursting between the centres, he ran fully 80m to score a fine try near the posts.

Extreme conditions tax the plant section of 69 Gurkha Field Squadron RE as it cuts a track through the Aberdare National Park in Kenya during Exercise Oakapple 4. Story and pictures in Pages 24-27.

Picture: Mike Perring



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