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Light Infantry in Belfast
Calling up the Reserves
FAW conference reports

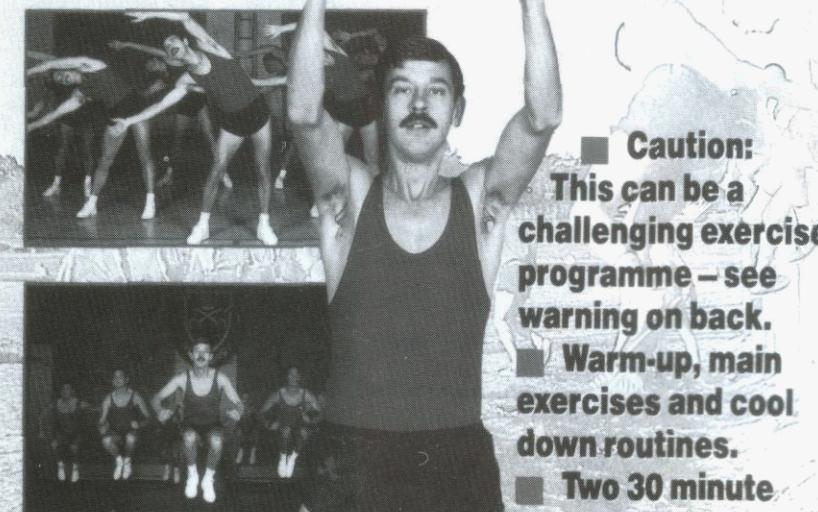
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Gurkha sappers clear up after Cyclone Val clobbers Samoans

Thirty men of the Queen's Gurkha Engineers are seen boarding an RAF VC10 at Hong Kong airport en route to Western Samoa, where they joined Australian, New Zealand and French forces in the restoration of communications and essential services in the aftermath of widespread destruction caused by Cyclone Val.

The Gurkha sappers took with them disaster relief stores and were expected to remain in the South Pacific for at least a month.

In February last year a troop of Royal Engineers flew to Western Samoa by RAF Hercules from Belize on a similar mercy mission following the destructive visit of Cyclone Ofa.



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SOLDIER

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High Court rules in favour of dismissed nurses

Pregnant Servicewomen given new deal on leave

PREGNANT Servicewomen will for the first time be entitled to take up to 14 weeks of paid leave under new arrangements announced by Armed Forces Minister Archie Hamilton.

Main provisions of the revised rules are:

- A pregnant Servicewoman who qualifies for maternity leave and who wishes to return to duty after confinement will be allowed 14 weeks' paid leave plus unpaid leave up to a maximum of 48 weeks.

- Unpaid leave may be taken before or after confinement, or both, except that it must follow any paid leave.

- To retain her right to return to work, a Servicewoman must return to duty within 37 weeks from the beginning of the week of confinement.

- To be eligible for maternity leave a Servicewoman must have worked at least 15 hours a week and have completed a

minimum of one year's paid service during the three years immediately prior to the start of maternity leave.

A Servicewoman who qualifies for paid maternity leave and who satisfies the conditions attached to the award of Statutory Maternity Pay (SMP) will receive her normal rate of pay during the 14 weeks' paid maternity leave (i.e. the amount of SMP payable will be topped up by MoD to her normal rate of pay).

Two Service nurses dismissed in 1990 after becoming pregnant are to get £25,000

compensation in settlement of their sex discrimination test case against the Government.

The High Court awarded £10,000 to Mrs Julie Lane, a former corporal in the QARANC, and £15,000 to a former RAF nurse.

The Government conceded that its policy was in breach of the 1978 Equal Treatment Directive of European Community law.

Former Army nurses who feel they may have a claim should write to: AG Sec 1, Empress State Building, Lillie Road, London SW6 1TR.

FRONT COVER — Main picture: Novice piper Natalie Kemp gets to grips with her new hobby at the Army Apprentices College, Harrogate, where she is one of the first intake of female recruits, aged between

16 and 17½ on entry. See story on Pages 22-23.

(Picture: Mike Weston)

Lower picture — Challenger 2 has been on trial at Bovington. Details and more photographs in Pages 14-15.

(Picture: Terry Champion)

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S/TAN/27/1

Munster music pageant boosts German Red Cross

MÜNSTER's 19th British Military Music Show, the largest in the annual event's history, played to capacity audiences at the Halle Münsterland last month.

Nine British regimental bands and a German military

band took part, as did the pipes and drums or bugles of six regiments. Also in the cast of 450 performers were the sword drill team from 14th/20th King's Hussars, dancers from the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Irish Rangers, young dancers

from Edinburgh School in Münster, and a German male voice choir.

As in previous years, proceeds from the pageant will be given to the German Red Cross. Since the inception of the show almost DM 700,000

has been donated to the Red Cross.

• Staff from the Sennelager Training Centre called at a local old people's home at Christmas, as they have for the past 20 years, with food hampers and presents.

School rules eased

MAJOR concessions on school allowance rules have been agreed for Service personnel made redundant as a result of Options for Change.

The concessions apply to Boarding School Allowance (BSA) and Day School Allowance (DSA).

Under the relaxed regulations, those receiving BSA for a child who has started the final two years of study for recognised exams such as GCSE or A Levels will continue to be paid BSA until the exams have been sat, or until the term in which the Serviceman would have completed his service if he had not been made redundant.

A further concession will allow Servicemen made redundant to withdraw from boarding school without incurring the normal financial penalties.

Most schools, however, require a term's notice of withdrawal.

The concession applies only to those notified that they are to be made redundant.

If, on the day he is made redundant, a Serviceman has a child in the final two years' of public exams at a day school, he may claim DSA provided he can appoint an appropriate guardian in accordance with the regulations.

Resettlement post created

BRIG David Burden has been promoted major general and appointed Director General Resettlement, a new post created to ease the return to civilian life of Servicemen leaving the Army as a result of the Defence cuts.



There was a double helping of joy at BMH Rinteln, where Mrs Heather Roberts and Mrs Elizabeth Shepherd produced Christmas Day babies. Pictured with midwife Capt Kathryn Stevens are (from left) SAC John Roberts from RAF Gutersloh with wife Heather and baby Steve, and Capt Nigel Shepherd, of Catering Branch, HQ 1(BR) Corps at Bielefeld, with wife Elizabeth and baby Emma. Mrs Shepherd is a former QARANC midwife and worked at Rinteln as a civilian midwife

Army trio in mission to Yugoslavia

THREE British officers have joined the UN effort to bring peace to Yugoslavia. A 50-strong United Nations military liaison group includes three British Army officers (one major and two captains) drawn from the United Nations Iraq Kuwait Observer Mission (UNIKOM).

The group's purpose is to liaise between the headquarters of the Yugoslav and the Croatian armies.

Its aim is to reduce tension and make it easier for the ceasefire negotiated by the United Nations to continue.

UDR part-timers called up

PART-TIME soldiers from 1/9 UDR (County Antrim) and 7/10 UDR (Belfast) were called up for full-time service this month to man vehicle check points following an escalation in IRA city centre bombings.

Blast heroes awarded QGM

TWO BRITISH soldiers caught up in the massive explosion which destroyed a number of fully-laden US Army ammunition carriers in Kuwait last July have been awarded the Queen's Gallantry Medal.

Acting Capt Peter Shields, RCT, and LCpl Paul Plant, R Anglian, were serving in HQ British Forces Kuwait 100m from the scene of the blast.

Capt Shields marshalled soldiers to a vehicle and pointed out an escape route while LCpl Plant helped medical staff to establish a reception area

outside the camp perimeter.

While a chain of huge explosions detonated at random intervals, Capt Shields led soldiers over a 3m wall to relative safety, then returned with LCpl Plant and a stretcher to search for trapped men.

Ignoring unexploded shells, bomblets and mines, and with large chunks of vehicles and showers of glass being propelled at great speed through the air, they checked buildings.

Having confirmed the camp was empty they returned over the perimeter wall to safety.

Warrior Trophy

LEFT Flank Company, 1st Battalion, Scots Guards has been presented with the Warrior Trophy for 30mm gunnery on Warrior's Rarden cannon.

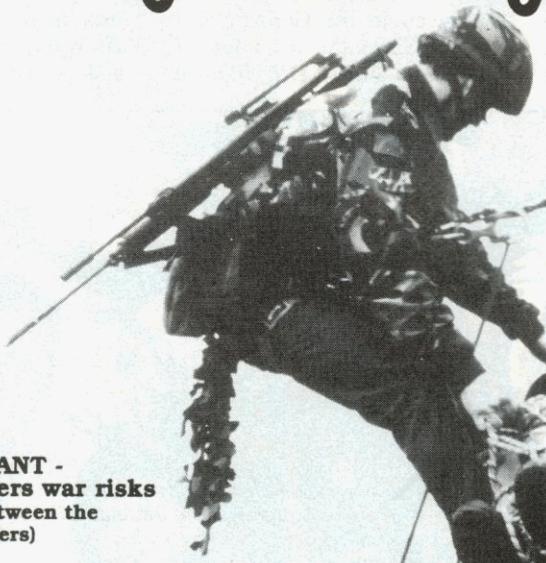
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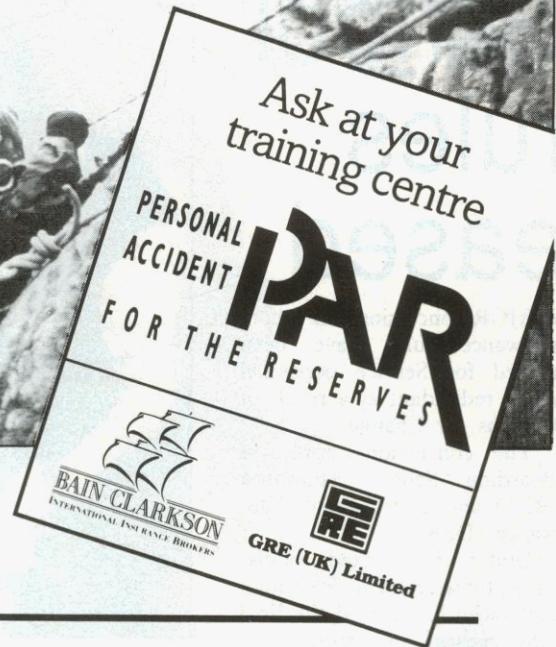
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Picture: Mike Perrin

Danish Sovereign at RMA Sandhurst

Queen Margrethe II of Denmark reviews the 107th Sovereign's Parade at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst. Accompanying her are the Commandant, Maj Gen Tim Toyne Sewell (left), and the Academy Sergeant Major, WO1 Mike Nesbitt, Gren Gds. The Sword of Honour was awarded to Senior Under Officer Mark Sutton, who will serve with the Brigade of Gurkhas, and the Queen's Medal to Officer Cadet Andrew Cockrane, commissioning into the Royal Artillery

New Year honours

ORDER OF THE BATH GCMG

Gen Sir Peter Inge KCB ADC Gen, late Green Howards, Col Green Howards, Col Cmdt RMP, Col Cmdt APTC.

KCB

Lt Gen A S J Blacker CBE, late RTR, Col Cmdt RTR, Col Cmdt REME; Lt Gen J J G Mackenzie OBE, late QO Hldrs, Col Cmdt WRAC; Lt Gen The Hon W E Rous OBE, late Coldm Gds.

CB

Maj Gen J T Coull QHS, late RAMC; Maj Gen P R Davies, late R Signals, Col Cmdt R Signals, Col Kings; Maj Gen R M Llewellyn OBE, late RWF, Col RWF, Col GTR; Maj Gen D M Naylor MBE, late SG; Maj Gen P P D Stone CBE, late R Anglian, Col R Anglian, Col Cmdt MPSC.

ORDER OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE KBE

Lt Gen P J Beale QHP, late RAMC.

CBE

Brig A K Crawford, late Int Corps; Brig J M Field RRC, QARANC; Brig (now Maj Gen) J C M Gordon, late RA; Brig N Muddiman OBE, late RCT; Brig (now Maj Gen) P J Sheppard OBE, late RE; Brig A P Simm, late Kings; Col J D Stokoe MBE, late R Signals; Col J A Wright MBE, late 16/5 L.

OBE

Lt Col V Batchelor, WRAC; Acting Lt Col J R Beckett, CCF TA; Lt Col R W Berridge BEM, RAOC; Lt Col R M Chisnall, R Anglian; Lt Col R P Cousins, Lt Lt Col C A Den-McKay, RAOC; Lt Col T R Dumas, RA; Lt Col A V Glasby GM, RAOC; Lt Col (now Col) P J Henderson MBE, RCT; Lt Col R J Lampard, RE; Lt Col N B Noble, RAPC; Lt Col J F Penley TD, R Wx Y TA; Lt Col P W C Read, RA; Lt Col G M Simmonds, RAEC; Lt Col J M W

Stenhouse MVO, Gordons; Lt Col N J C Washington, QO Hldrs; Lt Col J D V Woolley, 17/21 L.

MBE

Capt J Aspinall, R Signals; Maj H Babington Smith, RGJ; Maj M G Beazley, RE; Maj M J Bennett, RA; Maj M S Burke, Glosters; WO1 N Davies, RAOC; WO2 J A Davis, Para; Maj V D Ebbens, Queens; Maj H C H Ellison, RTR; Maj D J Elsam, WFR; Maj J B Frost, RE; Maj J E Grafton, WRAC; Maj (now Lt Col) M A Haynes, Para; Capt J Hill QGM, Para; Maj M F Lauder, WRAC; WO1 (Conductor) D J Leadbeater, RAOC; Maj J A Lindsay, WRAC; WO1 D Liptrot, RPC.

Capt M C Low, RS; Maj B D Mellor, QOH; Capt M Moran, RAOC; WO2 J Newberry, RA TA; WO1 P J Noad, QLR; WO2 R P Osborne, RAOC; Lt N R Park, RAMC; Maj A M Phillips, RWF; Maj M A H Pick, Green Howards; Maj A J Podmore TD, Yorks TA; Maj A J Porter, RA; Capt P J D Ralph, RPC; Maj K J Rawlings TD, RCT TA; Capt D J Sanderson, QLR; Capt R R Scourlock, RE; Capt W T Simmonett, RRF TA; Maj L E Smith, WFR TA.

WO2 D D H Stacey, BW; Maj P M Telford, R Signals; Maj M M Tulloch, WFR; Maj M Underhill, 9/12th L; WO1 (now Lt) R Walker, SG; Act Maj G F Wastie, CCF TA; Maj I Waters, RMP; WO1 L W Wells, 13/18 H; Maj N T S Williams, REME; Maj N F Winder, RE; Maj Eric Lee Heung-Cheuk, RHKR.

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Cpl J Darke, QARANC; Ssgt T S Darley, Int Corps; Cpl P B Donegan, RCT; Ssgt J D Dunn, RCT TA; Cpl E E Fawcett, WRAC; Ssgt B L Fielding, RPC; Sgt S R Garton, Int Corps; Cpl T B Gibson, RCT; Ssgt N Grant, RCT; Ssgt S Gray, WRAC; Sgt I R Greaves, DWR; Ssgt P J Hallewell, Para; Ssgt P A Headford, RA; Cpl M C Henderson, WRAC; Ssgt (now WO2) P A Jablonski, 16/5 L; Sgt M James, RAOC; Sgt S Jewell, Green Howards; Cpl Laliprasad Gurung, 2 GR.

Ssgt P Leach, Green Howards; Sgt M A Long, ACC; Ssgt I McCallum, QO Hldrs; Ssgt P B McKeown, Kings TA; Sgt I J Mitchell, RCT; Cpl C McM Neilson, QO Hldrs; Ssgt P O'Toole, Para; Ssgt P Pettit, SG; Ssgt W E Phillips, Para; Sgt J Pickford, RGJ; Cpl S J Richards, RPC; Ssgt S J Robertson, RE; Cpl D J K Saunders, R Anglian TA; Ssgt R J Scott QGM, RAOC; LCpl R Sellstrom, RPC; Sgt J A Shutt, REME; Ssgt A W Smith, WFR TA.

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Surgeons tested to limit

DOCTORS from all over Germany attending a symposium on BMH Hannover's Gulf War role as 32 Field Hospital heard that the unit, sited just 50 miles from the Iraqi border, dealt with 1,250 casualties during the two months it was deployed.

Eight surgical teams operated on more than 100 seriously injured battle casualties, most of whom were Iraqi soldiers. Only one, a severely injured Iraqi, died of his wounds despite intensive surgery.

Army surgeon Maj Michael Stewart told the symposium that the field operating theatre was no place for inexperienced surgeons. He said periods of hectic activity could produce severe physical and mental strain in surgeons and called for a considerable degree of fitness and stamina.

BMH Hannover is due to close in September after 46 years in the city, and the symposium was used to thank German military and civilian colleagues for their support.

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Naafi's profits hit hard by Operation Granby

NAAFI profits of £2.9m achieved at the half-year fell by £1m by the end of the year because of Operation Granby.

Announcing the figures in his annual report and accounts for 1991, Naafi chairman Sir Malcom Field said more than 42,000 troops – two-thirds of

Naafi's customer potential in Germany – were deployed to the Middle East. Consequently, Naafi's trading surplus fell £4.5m to £6.2m.

Losses on exchange, increased operating costs, and interest charges reduced the final surplus available for

appropriation to just £1m.

Of this, £150,000 would go to Service Central Funds in extra rebate towards recreational and other needs of Forces personnel, bringing to £16.3m the sums returned to customers through individual discounts and dividends, local rebates to

units, gaming machine revenue and video amusement machine revenue.

Measures taken to return United Kingdom shops to profitability included merging some family and Service outlets and converting others – ten to date – to convenience stores.

REME's training unit closes

TRAINING Battalion and Depot REME at Arborfield paraded for the final time on December 6, two weeks before the establishment closed as a result of the Defence cuts.

Since 1948, when the Depot moved from Otley in Yorkshire to Arborfield, thousands of REME soldiers have passed through the gates of Poperinghe and Rowcroft Barracks.

The Training Battalion and Depot, formed in Poperinghe Barracks on January 1, 1967, had been responsible for the basic training of all adult REME recruits, and the advanced military training of REME soldiers. In 1977 it moved to the new Rowcroft Barracks, also in Arborfield.

As a result of the closure, Headquarters and Depot Company has become Depot REME, independently situated



Maj Gen Mike Heath, Director General REME, inspects the final parade

Picture: David Ross

in Princess Marina College.

The Recruit Training Company has moved to the Guards Depot, Pirbright, as Rowcroft Company, and advanced military training will be done at SEME Bordon.

Remaining at Rowcroft Barracks are the centre of excellence for modern pentathlon and the REME Staff Band.

Reviewing officer at the final parade was Maj Gen Mike Heath, Director General of REME.

London Terriers in Cyprus

LONDON's newest TA infantry battalion, the 8th (V) Battalion, The Queen's Fusiliers, sent 115 soldiers to Cyprus for a two-week exercise following the resumption of the Lionstar series of exercises suspended during the Gulf War.

Each of the rifle companies – Queens-badged A (Highwood) Company from Camberwell, B (Albuhera) Company from Edgware and Hornsey, and RRF-badged C (City of London) Company from Balham and St Mary Cray – supplied a platoon while the Queens RRF-badged HQ (Gazala) Company from Bat-

tersea formed Company HQ. The Company was commanded by Maj Nigel Easton, Queens(V).

The only casualty was a soldier who was bitten by a poisonous Montpellier snake in front of his visiting CO, Lt Col Peter McLelland. It was the first such case to be admitted to BMH Akrotiri for several years and the patient recovered.

One of the two resident infantry battalions, 3 Queens, provided expert help with the adventurous and recreational training package, and most members of the company were able to try wind-surfing, water-skiing or jet skiing.

R Irish's farewell recorded

A SINGLE entitled *Highland Cathedral* has been released by the band of the Lemo-based 2nd Battalion, The Royal Irish Rangers to mark the regiment's impending amalgamation with the Ulster Defence Regiment. The record, probably the last to be made by 2 R Irish's band, is available through Lemgo PRI shop or the Bandmaster, WO Richard Sowerby on Lemgo 272.

RBL plays Santa role

FOLLOWING the success of the Royal British Legion's 1990 Gulf appeal, many soldiers serving abroad this Christmas received presents from the Legion. With the help of the Ministry of Defence, the RBL dispatched 9,500 parcels to Servicemen stationed in Belize, the Falklands, Cyprus, Turkey and Ascension Island.

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Hats off to new corps



Off with the old and on with the new as the first Servicewomen in Britain to become members of the Army Catering Corps receive their new berets and cap badges at York. The 33 chefs and stewardesses serving with the WRAC were taking part in a ceremony in Imphal Barracks.

All from Regular and Territorial Army units of the Army's North East District, the women were transferred to their new corps by exchanging their green caps for blue berets bearing the ACC badge.

A further 250 Servicewomen also took part in similar parades across the country.

"Serving up" the new berets as the girls fling their old hats in the air is Cpl **David Cruickshank**, ACC, a chef serving at York.

Gulf matron honoured



It's an honour, said Maj **Kathy George** after being presented with a Joint Force Commander's commendation for her contribution in setting up 22 Field Hospital during the Gulf War.

A theatre sister at the Cambridge Military Hospital in Aldershot, the then Maj Bland was matron of the field hospital which deployed to Bahrain in early September 1990, moved into the desert at the beginning of January and remained open until troops returned home at the end of March. Kathy postponed her wedding for her Gulf stint, marrying RAF physical education officer Flt Lt **Rob George** on her return. She has also been honoured in the New Year List.



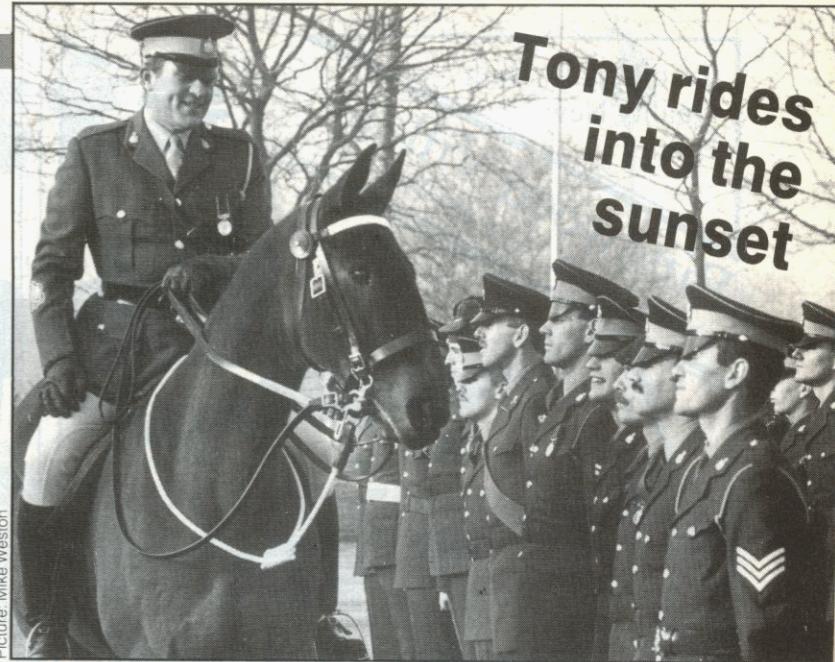
Carter, CO of The Queen's Own Hussars in Hohne happily obliged, as did 25 Engineer Regiment in Osnabrück before the visitors made a cultural inspection of Hamburg.



Weekdays finds **Shirley Hutton** from Tyneside working behind a desk as a civil servant at the Longbenton complex. But at weekends she dons combat gear and Army boots and books into 201 (Northern) General Hospital, RAMC at Fenham Barracks as a combat medical technician in the QARANC. Shirley holds the rank of sergeant.



Maj Gen **Michael Regan**, new GOC Wales and Western District, inspects the silver bugle guard formed by members of the 5th Battalion, The Light Infantry on his first day of office at Copthorne Barracks, Shrewsbury. Formation of the new command began with the amalgamation of the former North West and Western Districts. It is the first new military administrative district in the UK since 1947.



Picture: Mike Weston
WO1 (RSM) **Tony Prewett** mounted up to say his farewells to the Army Catering Corps at Aldershot. A keen horseman, he has passed on his skills to many recruits and apprentices during adventure training over the years. He was taken by surprise to see son **Peter**, a chef in the Army Catering Corps, in the front row (fourth from right). Peter is serving in Cyprus and had travelled over specially for the parade.



LAST CALL: From left are Alf Barber and



Malcolm Smith, Col Peter Herring and WO1 (GSM) Peter Padley

A mounted police escort and a guard of honour provided by military and civilian police cars marked the last day in office of former Provost Marshal Col (Retd) **Peter Herring** at the end of a military career spanning 45 years.

For the past 11½ years he has been Bulford Garrison Adjutant based at HQ BATAU, and is pictured with the three Garrison Sergeant Majors who worked

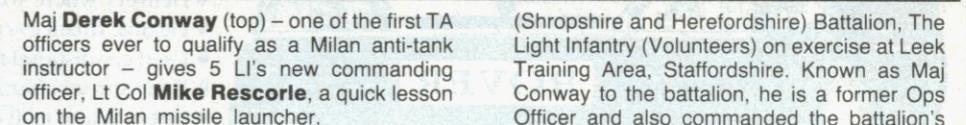
Redcap farewell

for him, **Alf Barber** (1980-86), **Malcolm Smith** (1986-89), and WO1 (GSM) **Peter Padley**, the current GSM Bulford.

Col Herring joined the Royal Artillery in 1945, transferring to the Royal Military Police in 1958. He retired in 1977 as Commandant of the RMP Depot, Chichester, settled with wife **Heather** in the Bulford area, and three years later returned to the fold as Garrison Adjutant.



MP on target



(Shropshire and Herefordshire) Battalion, The Light Infantry (Volunteers) on exercise at Leek Training Area, Staffordshire. Known as Maj Conway to the battalion, he is a former Ops Officer and also commanded the battalion's Headquarter Company which is based in his Shrewsbury constituency.

SSAFA secretary honoured



Mrs **Joyce Dalton**, Tyne and Wear branch secretary of SSAFA, has received her MBE from the Queen. Joyce established and co-ordinated a network involving 12 ex-Service associations throughout the region during the Gulf crisis.

A Families Support Group and help lines based on the network handled more than 3,000 calls – providing sympathy and help to anxious wives and families.

DWRAC 'framed'



Brig **Gael Ramsey** (right) visited WRAC personnel from B Company employed at Rheindahlen Garrison and the staff of the Company HQ for the last time in her role as WRAC Director before the Adjutant General's Corps is formed in April. She reassured them about the new challenges and openings the AG Corps will provide for women in the Army.

Sgt **Elizabeth King** (left) presented Brig Ramsey with a framed copy of the first day cover produced to mark the disbandment of 29 Coy WRAC last year.



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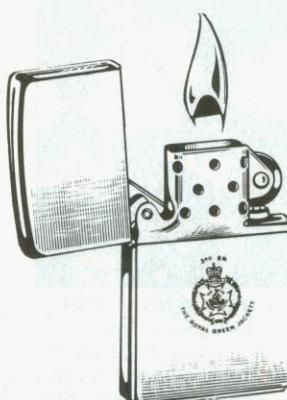


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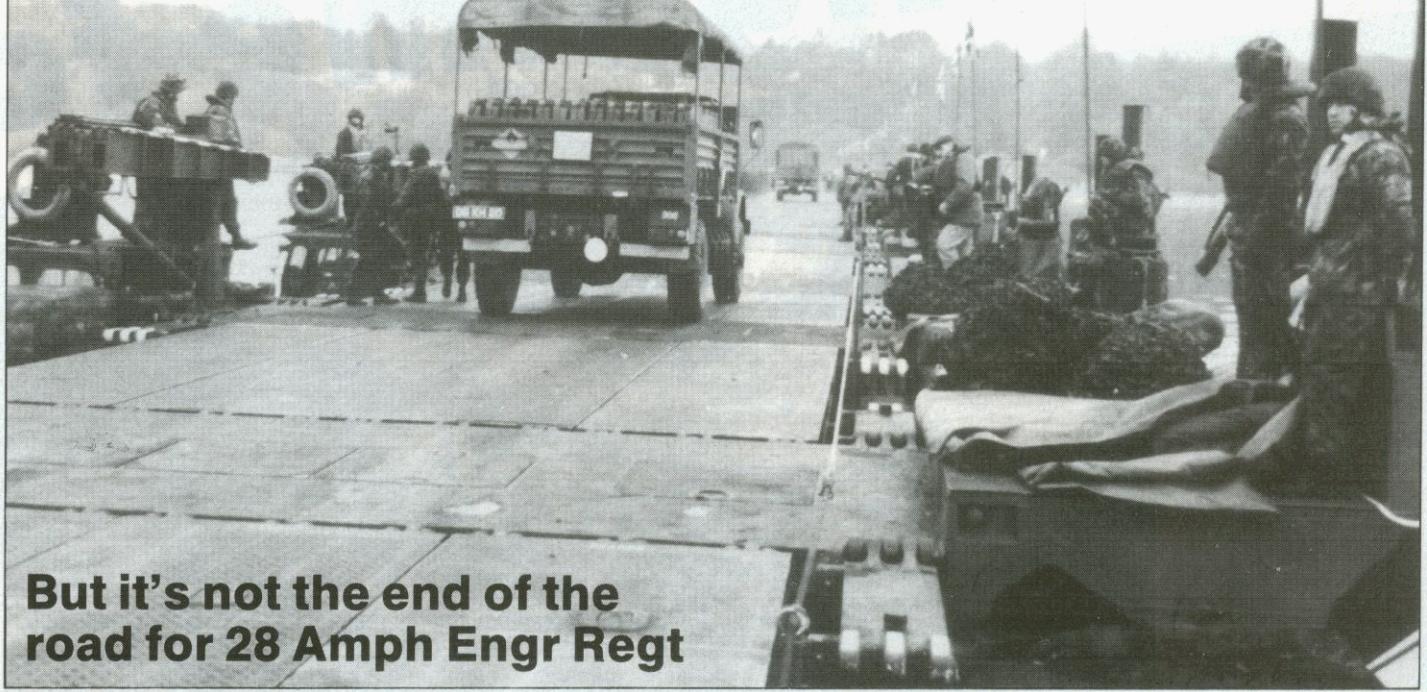
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The last crossing



But it's not the end of the road for 28 Amph Engr Regt

TWENTY-ONE proud years of amphibious bridging was consigned to history on November 22 when 28 Amphibious Engineer Regiment constructed a final all-British M2 Bridge across the River Elbe at Artlenburg, east of Hamburg.

For the regiment which made its name as the Army's experts in wide river crossing, it was a sad day.

In its present role the regiment was formed on January 1, 1971, and it has resided at Bindon Barracks, Hameln ever since.

More than 100 M2 amphibious rigs were purchased at the time and all are still in service, despite now being older than most of their crews and operators.

Nine commanding officers, 11 RSMs and countless river crossing operations have taken their toll, but, old age apart, the M2 rig is still an excellent piece of equipment.

Under Options for Change the regiment's 64 Amph Engr Sqn will lose all its M2 rigs and re-role as the regiment's new HQ Sqn, leaving 23 Amph Engr Sqn as the Regular Army's one and only amphibious bridging squadron.

The M2 bridge at Artlenburg

marked not only the last occasion on which the British Army was able to bridge wide rivers such as the Elbe, but also 64 Amph Engr Sqn's last outing as an amphibious bridging unit.

Before leaving the water at dawn on November 22, the whole squadron went into line astern for a final swim past in front of GOC 4 Armed Div, the CO, Lt Col Tom Foulkes, and the rest of the regiment. Every

siren of every M2 rig blew full blast as the sun rose and the last rigs of 64 Sqn sailed majestically off the bridge site.

Artlenburg was a particularly appropriate site because it was the first point on the River Elbe to be bridged at the end of the Second World War by advancing British forces of 8 Corps.

On that occasion, the men of 7 Army Troops Engineers were subjected to heavy shelling from German artillery and it

took them two days to complete the Class 40 Bailey pontoon bridge.

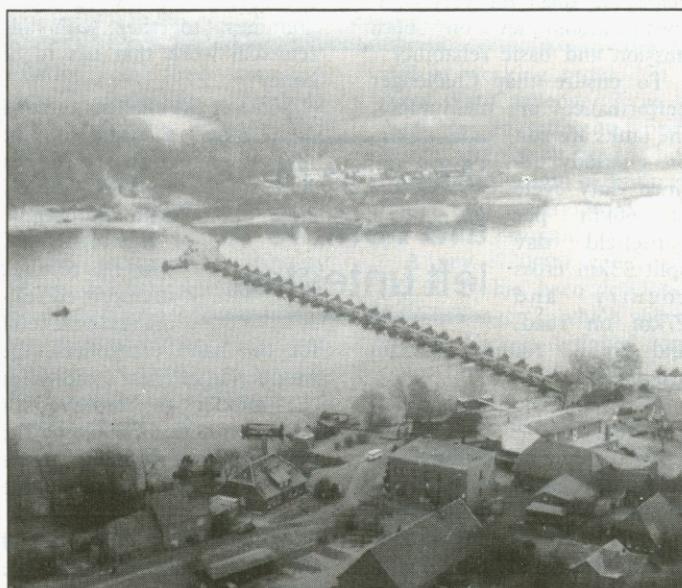
Nearly 47 years later, 28 Amph Engr Regt did the same job at night in less than two hours.

But the bridge at Artlenburg is not the end of the road for 28, now busily re-rolling back into a general engineer regiment. It will be re-titled 28 Engr Regt, just as it was when first formed in April 1951.

In future, though, the regiment's amphibious capability will be reduced to one squadron – 23 Amph Engr Sqn – so when wide rivers are crossed in future 23 will have to use ferries or call for assistance from 130 Pi Bn of the Bundeswehr.

The new regiment will have bridging resources, workshops and specialist engineer design capability and will be a microcosm of the entire Corps of Royal Engineers.

On the amphibious side, it should not now be too long before new M3 amphibians start arriving for 23 Amph Engr Sqn, provided production gets the go-ahead in MoD. Perhaps 28's next bridge at Artlenburg will be its first ever M3 bridge across the Elbe.



The final bridge over the Elbe at Artlenburg

Bovington team puts new tank through its paces

Words: Laurie Manton
Pictures: Terry Champion

Testing time for Challenger 2



Above, left and below: Three views of Challenger 2 during reliability trials at Bovington



THE HEATHLAND training area around the Armoured Trials and Development Unit at Bovington has been purring to a different sound as the British Army's new main battle tank is put through its paces.

Challenger 2 was selected last June to replace Chieftain in those armoured regiments still equipped with the old tank. Up to 130 will be produced at Vickers Defence Systems' factories in Leeds and Newcastle-on-Tyne.

The "V4" is one of nine prototype tanks and two turrets being evaluated on testing grounds in Britain. By the time the tests have been completed, each will have been driven 6,000km and fired 3,500 rounds.

At Bovington, the tank, crewed by men from the Royal Armoured Corps and Vickers tank technicians, was subjected

to a new reliability trial, designed to prove that Challenger 2 will meet the very tight specifications set on both mission and basic reliability.

To ensure that Challenger performances are measurable,

'No part of the vehicle is left untested'

ments, we incorporate them into our study, and these are implemented between programmes, together with any remedial work that has to be done."

Some of the changes came as a result of the manufacturer working closely with the user on "fightability".

This has resulted in improved seating and bracketry

for the hand controllers, the production of chest steadies for the gunner to improve his operation of the vehicle on the move, and improvements to the driver's station to rationalise his control layout.

At the end of each phase of the trial, modifications are incorporated into each of the prototypes.

No part of the vehicle is left untested.

Mr Terry Sheard, chief development engineer, admitted the trials were very demanding.

"They have to be because the new vehicle is the first British tank to enter service with a manufacturer's warranty.

"As we define improve-

ments, we incorporate them

into our study, and these are implemented between programmes, together with any remedial work that has to be done."

Some of the changes came as a result of the manufacturer working closely with the user on "fightability".

This has resulted in improved seating and bracketry

for the hand controllers, the production of chest steadies for the gunner to improve his operation of the vehicle on the move, and improvements to the driver's station to rationalise his control layout.

At the same location, a REME weapons and maintenance unit has been putting the prototype through an ease-of-maintenance assessment test. This important aspect was one

of the reasons Challenger 1 performed so well during the Gulf War.

Tanks in war bear little resemblance to those seen on exercise in Germany. Not only were the Desert Rat tanks up-armoured, but storage bins to hold extra equipment were bolted on.

Improved stowage space on Challenger 2 means Vickers have been able to incorporate deeper and longer storage bins to the sides of the turret.

The vehicle's design incorporates "stealth" technology which minimises the give-away radar signature of the tank. Challenger 2 is protected by second generation Chobham armour which will withstand all

existing tank-fired ammunitions - including everything fired from the Russian T55 100mm gun to the T80's 125mm gun. It also offers protection against artillery-delivered rounds.

The composite armour, which consists of layers of plastic, ceramic and steel, was tested on a military range last summer. A variety of rounds fired against a Challenger 2 turret proved the upgraded Chobham armour to be tougher than any other system in the world.

Even after taking direct hits on the turret, the trials crew could still elevate and depress the tank's gun, and the gunner's auxiliary sight was

still in working order. "It is proof that Challenger 2 can be used as an effective firing system after being fired at by a tremendous weight of ammunition," said programme manager Brian Truman.

A new 120mm rifled gun (XL30 E) has been developed for Challenger 2, which will be given a Vickers-designed computer fire control system.

The same gun, which is likely to be fitted to more than 400 Challenger 1 tanks already in service, fires all existing British ammunition, including the newest depleted uranium projectile that provides a big improvement on penetration performance.

Despite years of doubt about

its performance, Challenger turned up trumps in the Gulf, where its performance was second to none. The 1st (UK) Armoured Division's 175 Challengers chalked up a 95 per cent availability record, breaking down far less often than other Allied tanks.

And a Royal Scots Dragoon Guards gunner who decided to test the accuracy of his gun over long distances destroyed an Iraqi tank with his first round, fired 5,100 metres from the target.

Overall it was a battle-winning performance, and Challenger 2 is aiming to improve even on those figures when it enters service in two years' time.

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Bike break for Royal Hussars (from left) McMeeking, Grosse, Donaldson, James, Freedman, Crowley, Rumple and Thacker

Royal Hussars take the plunge

EIGHT inexperienced divers from 1 Troop, C Squadron, The Royal Hussars (Prince of Wales's Own) on a three-week sub aqua expedition to Bermuda helped marine archaeologists to search for a 16th century galleon on the ocean bed off the islands.

They spent two days in the water being towed behind boats after team leader Capt Robert Freedman had re-

sponded to a plea for help from the Bermuda Maritime Museum. So efficient were the RH divers that they have been invited back to help with the project.

The Münster-based Hussars recruited four instructors for the expedition to Bermuda, which offers an abundance of coral formations and shipwrecks in the clear, warm waters of the Gulf Stream.

Hosted by the Bermuda Regiment and Canadian Forces, the troop was instructed by Flt Lt Kevin Chetwynd and Cpl Mark Pickvance of the RAF, Sgt Tom Hampton, RE, and LCpl John Malone, 14/20 H.

The programme included dives on the wrecks of the Darlington, Hermes, HMS Vixen, Lartington, Mari Celeste, Montana, North

Carolina, Pollock, Shields, Sea Venture and Constellation – used in the film *The Deep*.

Members of the 1 Troop team, who now plan to use the Münster club in York Barracks as their base, included Sgt Brian James, Cpl Ian McMeeking, LCpls Stewart Grosse and Darren Crowley, and Tprs Darren Thacker and Kelly Donaldson.

Caving Gurkhas in world's biggest cavern

A TEAM from Brunei-based 2nd Battalion, 2nd Gurkha Rifles climbed into the largest underground cavern in the world during an expedition to Mulu caves in Sarawak, Malaysia.

Led by Lt Edward Mackarness, two SNCOs and 15 Gurkhas reached the caves, considered to be among the finest in the world, by longboat on the Baram river.

They were given invaluable assistance by the Army Caving Association, and two Army caving instructors who flew from the United Kingdom with 150lb of equipment.

Humidity was high, but unlike European caves, cold

was not a problem. The Mulu caves are home to 13 million bats, whose guano hosts a number of viral diseases and generates a strong smell. Medic SSgt Jim Forster was kept busy.

Sarawak chamber, the largest in the world, was high on the

list of the Expedition Dragon Recess aims. The Gurkhas found low water levels at the entrance to the caves and, after following a roaring stream for about 1km, reached a huge pile of boulders. Neither the roof nor the walls of the chamber,

which is big enough to park seven Jumbo jets, could be seen. The caves offer a wonderful opportunity for adventurous training in a demanding environment. Details can be obtained from Lt Mackarness at 2/2 GR, BFPO 11.

Anglians back from South Georgia

AN EXPEDITION by members of The Royal Anglian Regiment has returned home from the inhospitable Antarctic island of South Georgia.

Canoeists due to circumnavigate the island were forced to survive on half, and then quarter rations for four weeks when bad weather left them

stranded. A climbing party made a difficult sledge journey across inhospitable terrain to take them much needed fuel and food.

Despite the hardships, the team collected snow samples and recorded carbon monoxide levels as part of a study into global warming. They also

completed a survey of the seal population, and discovered relics of sealing on the island.

The Royal Anglians explored the southern part of the island in sub zero temperatures and force 12 winds.

The men, four canoeists and eight climbers, left Britain in September.

Called out - by special invitation

RESERVIST sappers and drivers who have been training at Longmoor were not told to turn up. They were invited.

Regular reservists are required to attend refresher training once a year after they leave the Army. But units are continually requesting extra manpower and there is a constant demand for reservists' skills.

A colonel wishing to exercise his whole battalion, for example, may apply for a company's worth of reservists so that he does not need to deplete his own force to provide an "enemy".

Reservists are categorized by their specialization and rank, and a computer selects how many are required, be they cooks or deep sea divers.

A letter is sent out several months in advance inviting them to attend on various dates. There is no compulsion but many look forward to returning to their former careers, where in many cases they learned the skills they are now applying in their civilian jobs.

Every three years there might be a week-long training camp to test mobilisation procedures and retrain reservists in specialist skills.

One such was Capital Volunteer, a major home defence exercise for London District, starting with the deployment of five companies of Home Service troops and ending up with an RMP exercise.

At the heart was exercise

Capital Sapper, which mobilised nine officers and 103 ORs from all over the country and involved Regulars from the Royal Engineers and Royal Corps of Transport, Territorials and reservists joining forces at Longmoor Training Camp to carry out practical work on the FIBUA village.

"Some left three years ago and some 13 years ago, but all come in for a kit check on one day a year," said Lt Col Martyn Kingsford, a Territorial who is Commander Engineers at London District.

"When they turn up for a week they hold the same rank and are paid TA rates of pay, which are only fractionally below Regular rates. In addition, they receive a tax-free bounty of £195."

The Royal Engineer reservists attended a District Mobilisation Centre at the Guards Depot, Pirbright, while the RCT reservists were hosted by 20 Squadron RCT at Hounslow.

The Royal School of Military Engineering (RSME) at Chatham provided the nucleus of Regular officers and senior

ranks for 312 Engineer Squadron, while 151 (Greater London) Transport Regiment (V), proudly boasting of being the largest TA or Regular unit in Greater London, formed 323 Squadron RCT. Vehicles were provided by the RCT Depot in Buller Barracks, but much of the sappers' equipment was hired.

The reservists, who keep their basic equipment at home, arrived on a Saturday morning and were processed to check their kit, trade, pay, licences and medical condition. With paperwork up to speed, they were taken to the ranges to brush up on various military skills and by Monday were a squadron ready to start work.

While there wasn't a lot on for the drivers, the sappers had real job satisfaction in a wealth of genuine tasks to improve the FIBUA facilities.

Instead of fighting in built-up areas, they were soon building in built-up areas, to specifications designed to disorientate the soldiers who fight through the "village".

The major construction task was a new drain run, with a

Words:
Gordon Skilling
Pictures:
Mike Perring



sump allowing exercise planners to add water and make it more realistic.

"We are also adding irregular partitions in the cellars," said Sgt Malcolm Horn, an instructor in brickwork and concreting at RSME, who was supervising the reservists.

The reservists quickly get used to their old way of life. LCpl Ian Lamb, now a publican, bumped into Sgt Mark Quilliam, an RSME carpentry and joinery instructor who showed him the ropes when he joined his first unit.

Several reservists sported beards - but these are accepted and they do not need to be pipe majors or pioneer sergeants. Rings are allowed, but the line is drawn at earrings.

Postman Bill Cahill was quick to exercise his freedom when he left the RCT in 1986. "After 22 years of having my hair shortened and shaving every day, the first thing I did was to let my hair grow long, had it permed, had my ear pierced and grew a beard." Bearded or not, this 47-year-old rebel still has a contribution to make, and makes it gladly.



Above: A surveyor in civilian life, LCpl Mike Cowan (left) is an asset to Regular Sgt Malcolm Horn and Territorial Lt John Lee.

Left "You horrible untidy bearded man!" is not a shout which bothers reservist Bill Cahill any more, but Territorial RSM Mike Kane and Regular Maj Tony Reeve (centre), OC 312 Engr Sqn, try to get the beard into a smart and soldierly condition



LCpl Jack Lewis checks his work. As a builder in civilian life he needs little supervision



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Big gun day for the veterans



THE annual visit by the Not Forgotten Association to the Rock was a day to be remembered, not only by the 25 veterans from the association and their wives but also the helpers from all three Services who assisted them.

The veterans had many a tale to tell, particularly about war-time Gibraltar and many friendships were struck up during an action-packed day.

It began with coffee and a briefing at RAF Gibraltar, followed by a tour of Gibraltar's unique military heritage.

Veterans and their helpers visit Gibraltar's famous 100-ton gun, capable of firing 14.5in shells a distance of eight miles

Pictures Cpl Steve Ankers

White Cliffs play host to Rock unit

ST MARTIN's Plain Camp in Folkestone near Dover has hosted the Gibraltar Regiment's United Kingdom training camps for many years. Ironically, as gunners from Dortmund in Germany took over their Lathbury Barracks, the Gibraltar unit's exercise was its first in its new infantry role.

"UK training areas and ranges provide the testing training environment not available to us in Gibraltar," said the regiment's newly-appointed commanding officer, Lt Col David Hooper.

Soldiers from all four companies were able to concentrate on their mandatory annual training tests and put into practice many of the lessons learned in the classroom at Lathbury Barracks.

The men of G Company, commanded by Maj John Ritchie, were in their element. Their programme included two weeks on Lydd and Hythe ranges, one of the best training complexes in the country.



No, it is not the usual backdrop for these soldiers of the Gibraltar Regiment. Instead of the Rock, they are pictured in front of the White Cliffs of Dover

G Company's month finished with a two-week field firing camp on Longmore Training Area, which included fighting in built-up areas (FIBUA) and competition shooting. The

inter-section march and shoot was won by Cpl Richard Herbert's section from 3 Platoon.

At one stage, elements from all four companies trained in

Fusiliers' discovery

AN UNUSUAL discovery was made by the 6th (Volunteer) Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers during their annual camp in Gibraltar.

The Fusiliers spent a day cleaning up Tovey Battery, near the Moorish Castle, in conjunction with the Department of Tourism and unearthed an inscription in the masonry which read "Fuzilier Connor - 1732".

The clean-up was carried out by the Fusiliers as a "thank-you" to the people of Gibraltar for hosting their two-week exercise.

Folkestone, making it a truly regimental exercise. Even the Corps of Drums, led by Cpl Charlie Bula, got in on the act by laying on a superb retreat parade.

Gentle touch?

Not a bit of it as girl recruits join the lads at Harrogate . . .

FROM a distance, as the trainees were drilled on the parade ground, only one thing gave it away.

Some were a lot shorter than others . . .

As they went on to negotiate a 12ft wall on the assault course and practised on the firing range, there was little to distinguish them in ability and enthusiasm.

It seems the first batch of female apprentices in the history of the British Army are settling in well at Harrogate.

"It's really a question of why

the Army has taken so long to implement such a scheme," commented Col Bill Backhouse, Commandant of the 950-strong Army Apprentices College.

Since 1947, the college (whose staff are drawn from the Royal Signals and Royal Army Educational Corps) has trained apprentice tradesmen, usually aged between 16 and 17½ on entry, for telecommunications trades in the Royal Signals. Until now all have been male.

Now, 45 years on, its recruits are given the umbrella title of AT, neatly incorporating Apprentice Tradesmen and Tradeswomen.

"They are soldiers who happen to be female. We don't make compromises," said a lecturer.

Perhaps this may be the case in the classroom.

Out on the assault course, Cpl Ron Clinton said:

"Everyone mucks in together, with the girls more or less doing

what the lads do. But there's obviously a question of contrasts in physique.

"But as far as the skill factor in PT is concerned, the girls certainly pick it up more quickly."

It's not only among the apprentices that there has been a minor earthquake at Harrogate.

In charge of each intake of girls – 30 joined in September, 34 in October – is a female officer and a female sergeant.

Working alongside the male sergeant instructors is further evidence of the "quiet revolution" – in the person of Physical Training Instructor Cpl Karen Prentice.

As one of her male colleagues said: "It's quite a coup for Karen. She's the only female in her field dealing with junior recruits, and not many women have that chance."

AT courses – lasting two years – cover technician trades or operator trades training, each occupying a different wing of the college.

Words:
Phil Wilcox
Pictures:
Mike Weston

Students on the technicians' course participate in a design project during their stay, usually a fire alarm or a car alarm.

But it's not all classroom training. There is additional equipment training at centres such as Catterick, and trade exercises in the field.

"We try to ensure that trade training takes place in as realistic an environment as possible, and many of the rooms are designed to be just as it would be in the field," an instructor explained.

"It should be comparatively easy in exercises for apprentices to get the impression of what it is like, for example, to transmit Morse in the middle of the night, in the cold and wet . . ."

Would-be graduates have a great deal of pressure put on them, he added.

"There's a standard they must meet. As well as Army qualifications, at the end of the course, there's a civilian qualification (City and Guilds



Above: That's the drill: girls and boys on parade in unison. All have to meet the same standards

Right: Smiling through are Darren Perry and (top to bottom) Tracey Smith, Philippa Willson, Lucy Mason, Julie Willis and Alex Smart



Above: Keen 'types' at the keyboard (front to back): Tracey Smith, Mark Palmer, Alex Smart and Jonathan Seaton with Sgt Michael "Mac" McCafferty

for the operator trades, Business and Technical Education Council diploma for technicians) to be attained."

Linguistics are one of the operator trades. The college specialises in Russian, and has a 100 per cent pass record in GCSE Russian and Russian Studies.

Language students, male and female with headphones at the ready, are sent into the field in the back of vehicles as part of their Army aptitude tests.

In addition to any Army qualifications they obtain during their two-year stint at Harrogate, students go on to Catterick for a further four months of equipment training.

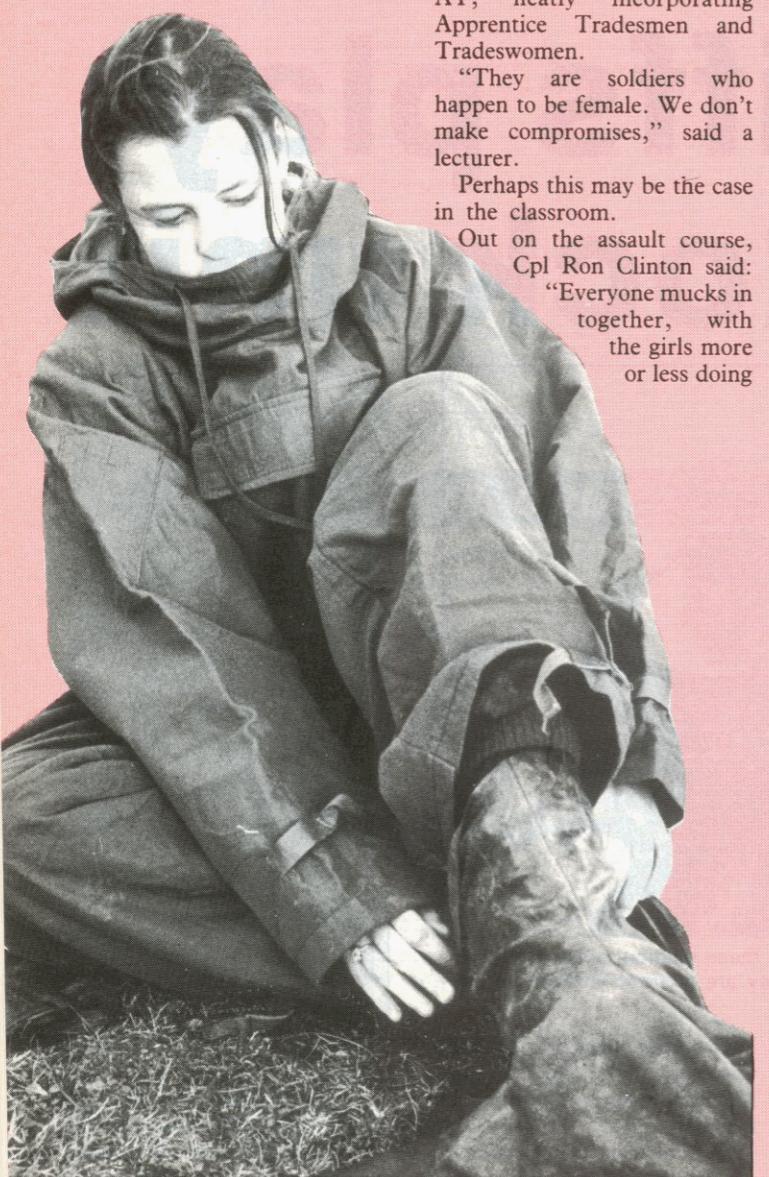
"We were very keen that the girls were fully integrated from the beginning," Col Backhouse commented.

It was a thought echoed by Chief Instructor, Lt Col Martin Stretch.

"The first ground rule is that the girls must not feel different – and the boys must not make them feel different. When it comes to promotion, they are in



Up and over the assault course goes AT Sarah Faulconbridge



Putting on overboots during NBC training is Cecilia Nichol-Cribb

Light Infantry feels change of mood on Belfast's streets

THE POPULARITY of the Northern Ireland terrorist has dropped to an all-time low, according to the 3rd Battalion, The Light Infantry, which has just completed a tour in west Belfast.

"It is quite noticeable how tired the population has become of terrorism and all it stands for," says its commanding officer, Lt Col Robin Brims.

Every time a journey home takes two hours longer than usual because of traffic chaos caused by the IRA blocking city roads with suspect vehicles, or when homes have to be evacuated just as the meal is ready for the table, local anger is directed at the terrorists.

"The people are heartily sick of it, and there is a more obvious determination by people to be able to go about their

daily lives in a normal way," said Col Brims.

Far less verbal abuse is hurled at soldiers on the streets now, and a recent survey in the area suggested the "Troubles" were lower on the list of major concerns than unemployment and teenage pregnancy.

Despite the most recent increase in terrorist activity the battalion continued to support the RUC, and as a result, a number of suspected terrorists are facing serious charges.

"A return to policing by consent could be on the cards if



Lt Col Robin Brims

the reaction of ordinary citizens to crime is anything to go by. Local people are even seizing petty thieves and joyriders and holding on to them until the police arrive," said Col Brims.

His remarks were made before the recent series of sectarian murders and a corresponding period of tension in the Belfast and

Craigavon areas led to the deployment of extra troops, including the full-time call-up of hundreds of part-time soldiers from three UDR battalions, to stem the rising tide of violence.

Despite this setback, there have been signs during recent years that the Army's relations with the public have improved greatly.

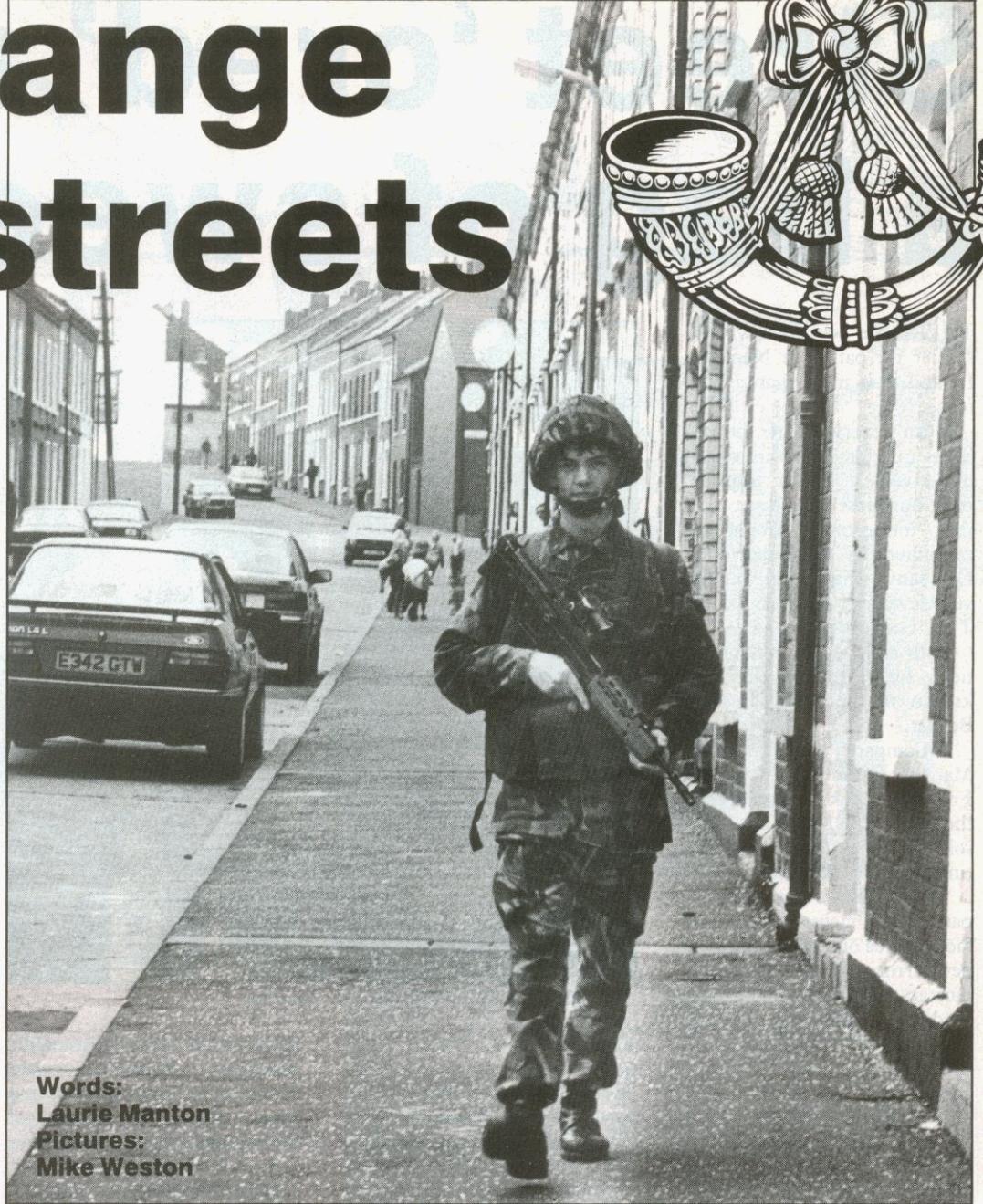
People who might once have ignored, abused or even threatened a soldier now come out with the odd word or a smile. But many still fear that by extending the hand of friendship to the Security Forces they will incur the wrath

of the terrorists.

"No one likes seeing soldiers on the streets, or being stopped at checkpoints and having their bags or vehicle searched, but with the violence being roundly condemned by all political parties, it is accepted that a response must be shown to such acts," explained an Army spokesman.

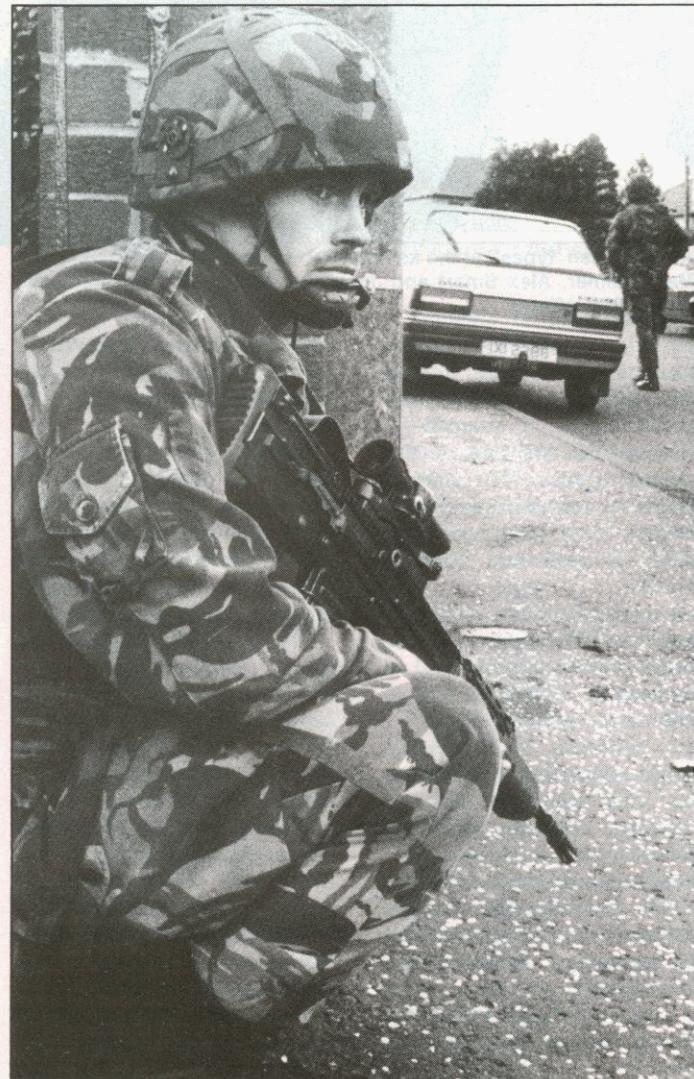
"A lessening of tension on the streets would result in fewer troops and police on patrol, but it has to be done to protect the public."

The message is loud and clear. Don't blame the Security Forces for the inconveniences. Blame the terrorist.



Words:
Laurie Manton
Pictures:
Mike Weston

Pte Chris Whitfield on patrol in the New Lodge area



Above: Residents in a Belfast suburb hand over a suspected joyrider to an RUC patrol while Cpl Paul Oldfield covers the area

Left: Dvr Yacker Yates and Pte Andrew Clarke discuss tactics with a keen young footballer

What's cooking at the Divis OP?

COLOUR SERGEANT Ralph Dunn did not waste his time while he was in charge of the Divis observation post. When he wasn't looking out from the vantage point on the roof of the Divis flats, he taught himself to cook.

Mind you, he did have a captive audience because the rest of his team weren't going anywhere and had no choice but to sample his recipes.

C Ssgt Dunn and his 2iC, Cpl Sean Fouracre, spent the whole of their six-month tour inside the OP to preserve continuity.

The rest of the observers did just two or three weeks as lookouts before being transferred to other duties.

From the top of the flats it was possible to look down on a temporary vehicle checkpoint set up by the RUC on the Falls Road. Such VCPs are known as "pig

points" because the ever-present body guard of soldiers flank the position with their armoured pigs.

Cpl Slim Sanderson was a member of one of the temporary teams working at the OP. He explained that the men from A Coy also manned the

Broadway Tower OP or went on patrol with the "Blues" - the RUC's headquarters special mobile unit (HSMU).

"That tends to be more exciting. They call themselves by that nickname because, when an incident happens, they arrive first on scene with their blue lights flashing.

"We accompany them in our own vehicles and provide their top cover. For example, when they need to call at a house, we de-bus and provide their close protection," he said.

Most of the original blocks making up the Divis flats have been pulled down.

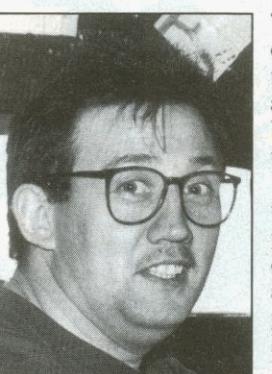
"There is very little left of the Divis complex and they are building some very nice estates," said Cpl Sanderson.

"In some places, you are

more relaxed, but there are a small number where you occasionally get bricks and bottles thrown at you and your adrenalin starts pumping. At the bottom end of the Shankill is Unity flats, where you get things thrown at you, but 20 metres up the road, people are waving at you.

"The first time I came here was when we took over. We drove down the Falls Road and I didn't realise how short it was.

"We had done our training on large-scale maps of the city and the road looked enormous in my mind's eye. Consequently, not realising we had entered another area, I was still waving at people as they tossed bricks at me. I wondered why I was suddenly so unpopular!"



C Ssgt Ralph Dunn

Street 'cred' and a bag of sweeties

THERE are occasions when a soldier on patrol in Northern Ireland feels more than a little tense.

It isn't every day he meets a close quarters assassin or an under-vehicle booby trap expert, but these were just two of the "interesting" people encountered by the men of C Company when they set up vehicle checkpoints around the Turf Lodge district.

Both men, who have convictions for terrorism, are well known to the Army in west Belfast.

C Company, commanded by Maj Guy Chambers, is based at Fort Whiterock on the slopes of the Black Mountain. Its soldiers were attacked several times during their tour.

"The IRA activated a particularly vicious cell in our tactical area of responsibility. A new terrorist device (the Mk 12 mortar) was fired across the road as a patrol drove by, but missed, as did an RPG7 round fired at one of our Land Rovers," he said.

C Coy foot patrols were attacked three times by snipers. On the last occasion, one gunman fired an armour-piercing round in the hope that it would smash through the breastplate body armour of a



Sgt Ken Hedley hands out the sweeties

soldier. While most local people will reply without hesitation to a "hello" from troops, no one utters a word for days following a shooting incident for fear they might be seen as informers.

The company did achieve some successes, including the discovery of a number of IRA

arms caches hidden in public buildings. Explosives were found in a boys' school and more than 700 rounds of ammunition were uncovered at a local leisure centre.

There has been a "push" in recent months by the IRA to encourage Belfast youngsters to enrol in the republican youth

movement to act as lookouts. They are known as "dickers" and spread word of a patrol's movements through an area by gesture - a wink or a nod will suffice.

Dickers are known to have been used to set up attacks on Security Forces, and more than 50 of them were used in one particular rocket attack. After several of these accomplices were charged, the "game" seemed a lot less appealing.

The terrorists may have lost a few young "recruits" thanks to the compassionate nature of B Company, 3 LI which SOLDIER accompanied on a foot patrol through the New Lodge area.

The battalion's patch includes some of the tougher estates in north Belfast where there are occasional "interface" problems between loyalists and republicans.

It was a bit like the scene from a cowboy film when outlaws ride into town and the shutters go up.

As the patrol entered the street, there were plenty of residents chatting in their doorways, but as the soldiers got closer, some people stepped inside and slammed their doors. Some were more confrontational, while others

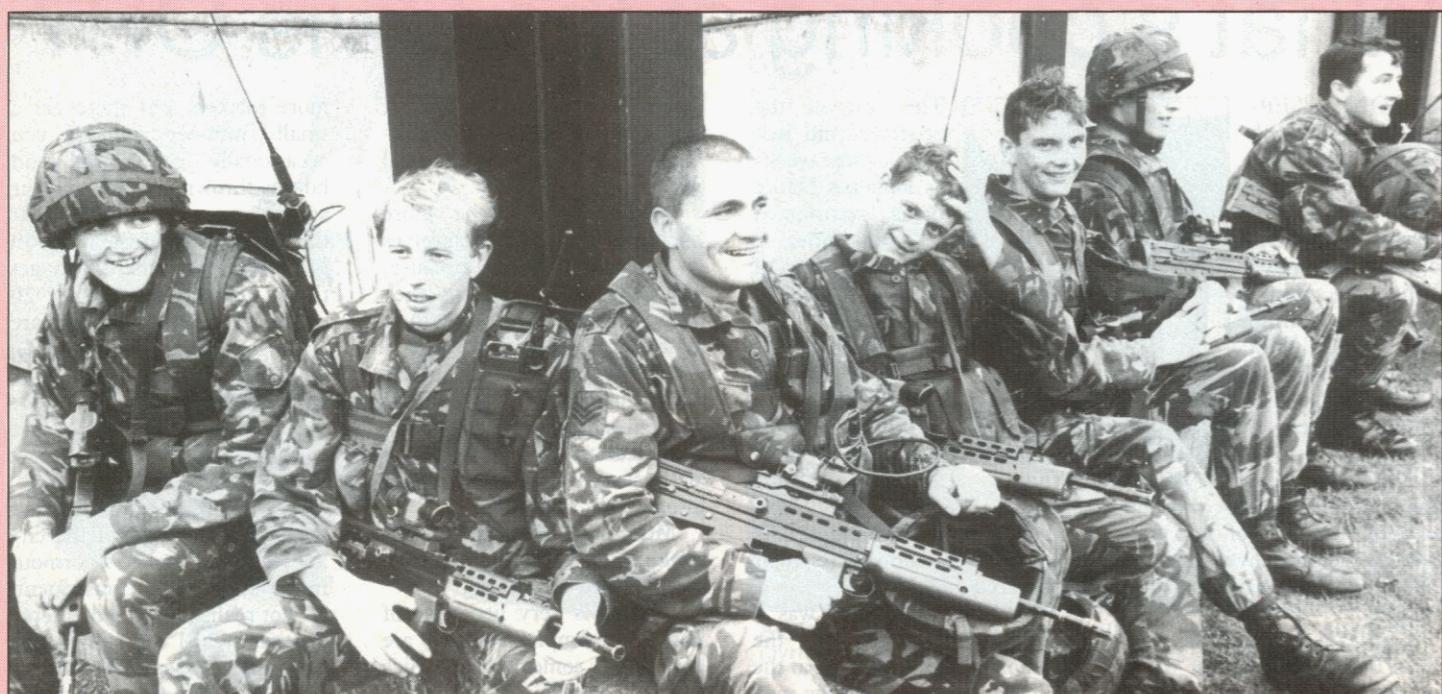


Cpl Paul Zouch with the A Coy quick reaction force at North Howard Street Mill

just ignored the proceedings which are an everyday occurrence in the city.

As if to illustrate the contrast, a child barely old enough to walk put two fingers up to a passing soldier, while a few yards further on a toddler tugged a soldier's tunic and begged for a sweet.

Funny thing, but Tom will still buy another bag of sweeties for the kiddies before he goes on his next patrol.



Sgt Ken Hedley (third left) relaxes with his platoon at Girdwood SF base following their patrol in the New Lodge area



Smiles on the street from Pte Wogsey Pearce and Pte Pete Hassall providing top-cover on mobile patrol

A life below decks in the Submarine

HEADQUARTERS of the 3rd Battalion, The Light Infantry during its roulement tour in Belfast, was at North Howard Street Mill.

Soldiers of A Company housed in the mill called it "the Submarine" because life inside is a bit like living below deck.

Light is mostly artificial and the accommodation is very cramped.

From the base, patrols detailed for "Mike-Echo" duty (military escort to the Royal Ulster Constabulary) set off to meet their police colleagues at the appropriate RUC station.

The battalion Echelon was based in a separate Security Force base. Its main role was to support the battalion during its operational deployment in

Northern Ireland, but it also provided men for a number of other tasks.

"It is equivalent to the normal A1, A2 and B echelons," explained the OC, Maj Dick Retson.

"The A1 echelon deals with combat supplies such as ammunition. A2 involves the provisions of second line items like rations, maintenance, spares and clothing, and B echelon looks after pay, movements and administration matters."

The Echelon was the checkpoint for equipment destined for the Belfast roulement battalion.

"Everything is checked and cleared before being pushed forward in 'green' vehicles to the various company locations," he said.

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Longside offers stepping stone to comforts of home

LONGSIDE HOUSE, high on a hill above Newcastle-upon-Tyne, represents the culmination of a dream for the Tyne and Wear Branch of SSAFA, writes Cari Roberts.

Every year 3,000 families face the problems of homelessness and the isolation of adjusting to British life outside the Services. Some of these families are broken - for instance a woman, alone with her children, trying to make her way through the jungle of benefits and claims.

It is for women such as this that Longside House will provide a comforting and reassuring home, somewhere to catch their breath and assess the future in safety and tranquillity.

SSAFA calls it a "stepping stone house".

As part of SSAFA's broader "Homeward Bound" initiative to tackle some of the major problems of homeless ex-Service families, Longside House has been developed as a pilot for other, similar projects



Longside House stands in its own secluded well-maintained grounds and offers high standard accommodation and an excellent range of facilities. Top picture: Welcome home! Sharon Dishman (left) and Julie Cordon help generate a warm, friendly atmosphere at Longside House

throughout Britain which will help not just estranged wives and children but whole families as well.

A grant from the Army Benevolent Fund made it possible to buy the house, which has been sensitively converted to provide accommodation for up to seven women with children.

There are two lounges, one of which is designed to be a quiet place where the older

children can do school work and reconciliation meetings can take place.

In the kitchen there are seven separate areas where each resident can store food for their own use. Each area is equipped with a set of pots and pans and cutlery. Residents are encouraged to feel in control of their own affairs and every effort is made to run the administration unobtrusively.

On a practical level, the staff



maintain contacts with all the main support organisations and welfare agencies in the area. A social worker visits twice a week and there are plans to offer the residents the chance to keep in touch with Longside House after the expected 13-week stay comes to an end.

By the end of her stay the woman should be able to move into permanent housing through an arrangement with the local housing association. SSAFA's figures show that, based on a maximum of seven women and their children staying 13 weeks, Longside House could help up to 56 families a year.

Branch secretary Joyce Dalton has, through tireless effort, made her branch well known throughout the local community. Project manager Julie Cordon is ably assisted by Sharon Dishman and Beryl Robinson.

Although Longside House has been designed primarily for women with roots or connections in the North East, no one who needs help will be turned away. Referrals can be made through FHWS UKLF (Army) or direct to SSAFA Central Office by unit families officers and SSAFA social workers, and it is they who ought to be consulted first by anyone who knows of a family who might benefit from a stay at Longside House.

SSAFA takes the initiative on housing

A MAJOR initiative to ease the housing problems of those leaving the Services was launched by SSAFA when Defence Secretary Tom King cut a ribbon to open the new Housing Advisory Service at SSAFA Central Office in London.

Last year more than 3,000 families were homeless on leaving the Services. The establishment of a SSAFA housing office anticipates the likely escalation of housing problems as Defence restructuring takes place. A computer database will match details of available short-term letting accommodation to details of those who require it.

Information given will include contact details of organisations with available lets, plus some low cost home ownership schemes and any governing rules of eligibility.



Mr King opens SSAFA's Housing Advisory Service.

Service personnel who require assistance with housing problems or would like more information about the initiatives taken by SSAFA should contact

Diane Myers, Housing Officer, SSAFA Central Office, 19 Queen Elizabeth Street, London SE1 2LP (tel: 071-403 8783 ext 233).



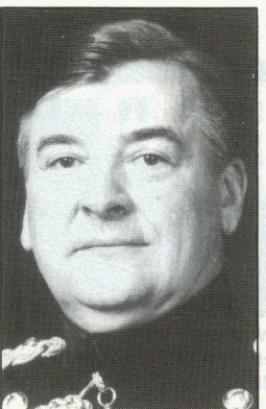
Quality quarters – a foundation of good morale

THERE IS a clear understanding that the quality of housing is directly related to the morale of officers and soldiers and affects retention, Gen Sir Edward Jones, the Quartermaster General, told delegates at the Federation of Army Wives' conference.

Gen Jones, making his final address to a FAW conference a day before leaving the job on posting to Brussels, said it was far cheaper to modernise a sergeant's quarter than to recruit and train a new sergeant to replace one who had left because his wife was fed up with the state of her kitchen.

A modernisation programme would eventually give every married quarter full central heating, double glazing, improved insulation and electrical fittings, fitted carpets and modern bathrooms and kitchens.

"We are very conscious that we are making only slow progress in this," he said. "In mainland Britain, for instance, only 11 per cent of officers' quarters



Gen Sir Edward Jones

money was not spent improving houses that were about to be handed back to the Germans.

Maintenance in Germany would be carried out on an "as required" basis in future. An exception to this policy would be the replacement of kitchens and bathrooms, which would be completed by 1994.

The Quartermaster General said quartering in Northern Ireland had not received enough attention.

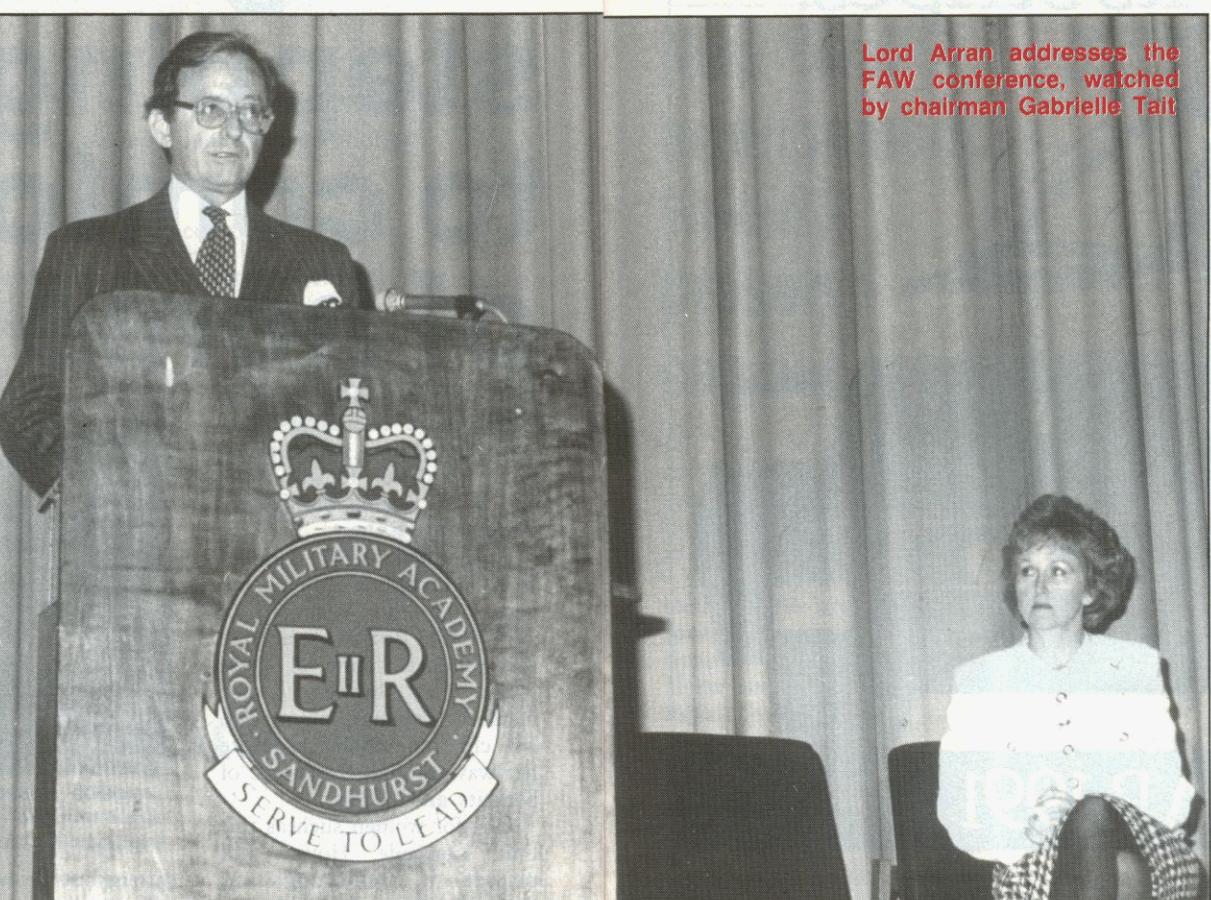
"I think there is a growing acceptance that it requires a long-term perspective, where the ad hoc quartering arrangements accepted in the past will no longer do."

"The modernisation programme there is behind the rest of the UK, but belated progress is being made."

A further 416 modernisations are in the pipeline, and HQNI had started a programme to move all quarters in the Province into secure areas.

Quarters in Germany were generally better than in the UK, but it was necessary to ensure

He said 127 new quar-



Lord Arran addresses the FAW conference, watched by chairman Gabrielle Tait

ters in secure areas would be finished in 1992, and other projects were planned.

Earlier, Gen Jones said he had followed the development of the Federation of Army Wives with admiration. He told delegates:

"I would like to applaud your success in filling a need that was not, I fear, given sufficient priority in the past. You have given Army wives a voice, and a voice that is increasingly heard in high places."

He explained that in the

past the Quartermaster General had been given about £750m each year to spend on works, including quartering.

Since the introduction of the New Management Strategy (NMS) in April 1991, financial responsibility and planning, previously the preserve of MoD, had been decentralised "to allow decisions to be taken and money to be spent by managers on the ground and not by faceless bureaucrats in London."

His £750m was now divided up between a number of individual budgets, each with responsibility for managing quartering matters within its own area.

Contractors were judged on their performance, with the result that repairs were carried out quicker, cheaper and often better than before.

Although the Quartermaster General no longer had direct responsibility for quarters, QMG was likely to remain the focus for quartering matters on the Army Board.

Under NMS, major building projects would continue to be controlled centrally, while minor works would be delegated to District headquarters, and maintenance money would be run at garrison level.

"Naafi themselves are taking urgent steps to reorganise their trading methods so as to overcome this problem and we are re-examining the service we require from them.

"It would be premature to speculate what all this may mean for the Service-man and his family, but I would be wrong if I were not to draw a changing situation to your attention," he said.

FAW given top level seal of approval

MANY changes have taken place in the nine years since the first annual conference of the Federation of Army Wives.

First and foremost, the organisation has become accepted by the Ministry of Defence as a valuable component in the welfare aspect of Service life.

This was acknowledged at the highest level when the Under Secretary of State for the Armed Forces, Lord Arran, and two members of the Army Board, the Adjutant General, Gen Sir David Ramsbotham, and the then Quartermaster General, Gen Sir Edward Jones, addressed the ninth annual conference at RMA Sandhurst and answered questions from the floor.

Among the guests was the Federation's first chairman, Lady Kitson, and representatives from other voluntary organisations including WRVS and Relate.

Delegates from 101

Kuwait horror

DELEGATES to the conference were given a first-hand account of life in Kuwait City in the months leading up to the Gulf War.

Mrs Toni Duncan, wife of a member of the British Army's liaison team in Kuwait, told of the horror of being caught up in the hostage crisis.

A hushed audience heard how wives had feared for their husbands and children, suffered from lack of food and constant anxiety, and lost all their possessions.

affiliated wives' clubs were welcomed by Federation chairman, Gabrielle Tait, and given a 42-page report on a year which had spanned the momentous events in the Gulf and the Options for Change announcements.

The Federation had played a full part at all levels. Kirsty Dudin (housing) and Bridget Lilley (quartering and furnishings) had kept these two areas – both close to wives' hearts – before the MoD.

Much work had also been done in the areas of education, children with special needs, disabled persons and health.

The organisation and recording of donations to the Gulf Trust had been a major achievement by FOCUS (Federation Office Computer Up-Dating Skills), which had gone from strength to strength. It had ended the year with the Hampshire Training Award and 16 Computer Weekly training awards.

FRED – the Federation Register of Employment Database run by Kelly Dundavan – had been established in the South West, Western, Eastern and North East Districts.

The three keynote speakers were joined on the stage by Maj Gen David Groves, Director General Personal Services, and answered questions covering a wide range of topics, including housing, resettlement, redundancy, education and pensions.

DGPS tells me that the soldier's unit should have initiated the red book six months or so before his date of discharge.

It is then cleared through the appropriate records office and returned to the unit to be issued to the soldier when he departs on terminal leave. A reminder of this procedure has been sent to all units.

Patriot's new share issue to raise £5m

THE Royal British Legion Housing Association is really getting on with the job.

It took just 252 days from announcing the Patriot scheme to house its first Service family (in Plymouth), and it now owns or manages more than 130 properties.

They included 44 family homes at Fareham, Hampshire which were added to the rapidly-growing list when the association bought a mixture of three-bedroom flats and maisonettes from the Ministry of Defence.

The purchase meant the proposed eviction of 43 families listed as irregular occupants was averted.

Now RBL Housing has announced a third Patriot share issue to raise £5m with which to buy another 100 properties.

Malcolm Lindo, RBL Housing's deputy chief executive, said: "The move to buy the properties reflects our policy on this issue of housing for ex-Service families – to do something positive rather than just talk about it."

Red book late for discharge

A SOLDIER tells me he received his red discharge booklet six weeks after leaving the Army, a delay that caused some problems when two prospective employers asked to see it when he went for job interviews.

DGPS tells me that the soldier's unit should have initiated the red book six months or so before his date of discharge.

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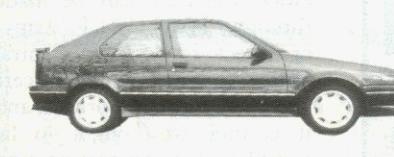
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New 'family' arrangement would preserve cap badges

IN WAR battle groups can consist of companies and squadrons from different regiments. Why cannot they do so in peace?

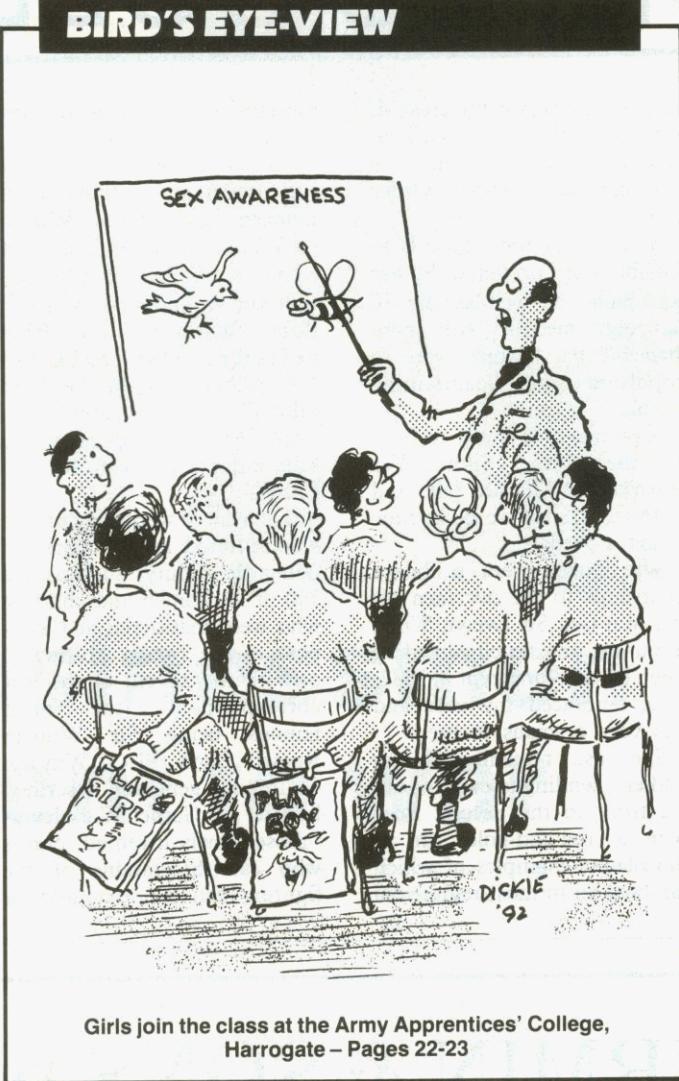
For example, a Household Cavalry battle group with two squadrons from the Life Guards, one from the Royal Horse Guards and one from the Royal Dragoon Guards could be formed.

The fourth squadron could be found from the reconnaissance and anti-tank troops. Dragoon Guard, Hussar and Lancer battle groups could be formed with squadrons from their original regiments.

Each of the five unamalgamated Scottish regiments could form a battalion of three rifle companies and have a support company from one of the other five regiments. 1 Royal Scots could be supported by 1st Company, The Royal Scots Fusiliers; 1 Gordons by 1st Company, The Seaforth Highlanders, and so on.

In England, 1 Staffords could be supported by 1 Worcesters and 1 Cheshires by 1 Sherwood Foresters. In 1 Royal Green Jackets, 1 Ox and Bucks LI could support three KRRC rifle companies.

A two-battalion Wessex Brigade should be formed. The 1st Battalion, The Wessex Infantry should have four companies - The 1st Company, The Devonshire and Dorset



Girls join the class at the Army Apprentices' College, Harrogate - Pages 22-23

Regiment, 1 Glosters, 1 Royal Hampshire and 1 DERR.

If the Queen's Regiment became the Queen's Brigade, 1 Surreys, 1 Buffs, 1 Sussex and 1 Middlesex could form the 1st Battalion, The Queen's Infantry.

The 1st Battalion, Light Infantry should include 1 SCLI, 1 KOYLI, 1 KSLI and 1 DLI. 1 Gurkha Rifles should have the first companies of each of the four Gurkha regiments. Second companies would form second battalions.

Infantrymen and Cavalry-

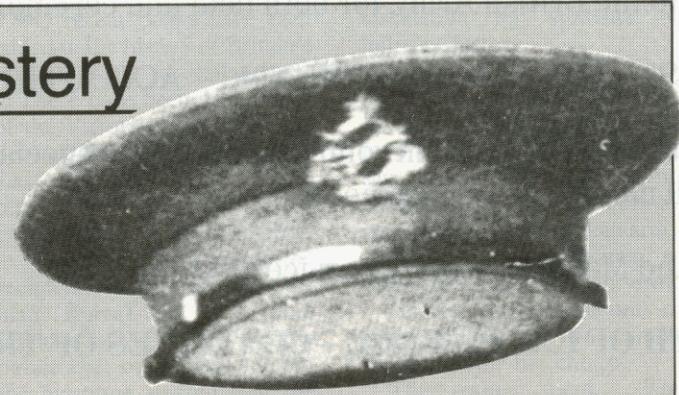
men prefer to serve in small corps. This works well and should be preserved. They would probably prefer to keep the same cap badge throughout their careers but past, present and possibly future cuts prevent this.

Cuts should not cause cap badges to disappear. Officers and soldiers should serve in a family of regiments rather than in one regimental family.

Better this than see famous regiments disappear for ever. - **Martin Ryder, Milton Keynes.**

Badge mystery

I AM gathering material to write a biography of the architect Piet de Jong. Can anyone identify his First World War cap badge? - **Rachel Hood, The Old Vicarage, Great Milton, Oxford OX9 7PB.**



Syria: The forgotten anniversary

I WAS in Syria in 1941 with the Queen's Own Yorkshire Dragoons and agree with Dennis C Bateman (Letters, October 28) that we heard very little about the campaign on its 50th anniversary.

At the start of the Second World War a large number of reservist cavalrymen went to the British Expeditionary Force in works and labour companies and were relieved by prisoners from England given amnesty to join up.

We then went into the yeomanry cavalry regiments and out to Palestine and Syria. I stayed with the 5th Cavalry Desert Brigade and went on into Iraq.

Incidentally, I was one of the original Desert Rats who crossed the Western Desert in 1935 when Mussolini massed his troops on the Egyptian border.

I was then with the King's Royal Irish Hussars. With us were the 11th Hussars, 12th Lancers and several infantry regiments. - **T H Louch, Uxbridge.**

Lonsdale memorial

I WAS reading a copy of SOLDIER in the Royal Air Forces Association club to which I belong and wondered if it was of interest that last September, at Oosterbeek Church, Arnhem, I arranged for the presentation of a seat commemorating the Lonsdale Force.

The seat is 12ft long and bears hand-carved wooden regimental plaques for the units which by and large comprised the force in the final battle of Operation Market Garden.

It was decided to donate the £2,000 balance of monies collected to the Lest We Forget committee, which funds trips to Arnhem by veterans who would not otherwise be able to afford to go. - **Alan Hartley (RAF Down Ampney Association), Coventry.**

Posted on a lifelong odyssey

MOST Army wives will identify with all or part of what Audrey Creighton Williamson has to say about her marriage.

To her it was a "lifelong odyssey determined by the process known to and accepted by all of us in the Services – the posting!"

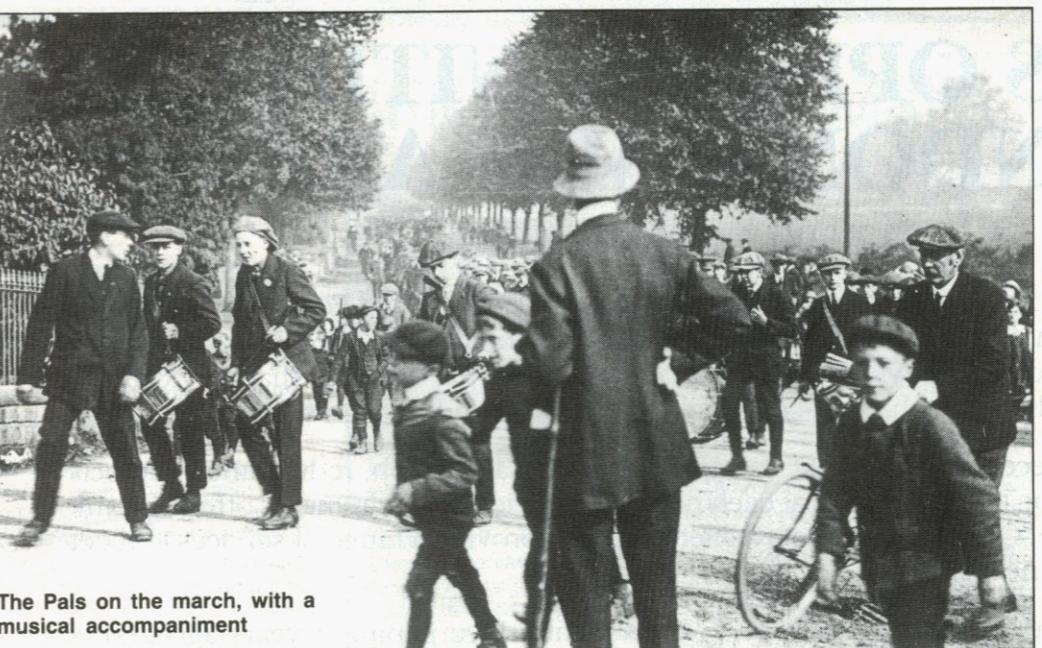
For the three decades and more that followed their wedding in 1942 – she then a QA, he a Regular officer in the York and Lancaster Regiment – she made homes at more than 40 addresses in Africa, India, the Middle East, Germany, Sudan, and France.

Like many others of her ilk, her lifestyle contributed to a certain resolution, strength and vitality – tempered by a likeable modesty and a "faith in the basic goodness of human nature".

Her peripatetic experiences also persuaded her to set down her story in the elegantly-written *Journal of an Army Wife* – a refreshing change from the mainly masculine recollections which flood the market.

The book encapsulates the spirit of a particular breed the Services seem to share with some royalty and politicians – the "indomitable consort".

Journal of an Army Wife from the Forties to the Eighties by Audrey Creighton Williamson. Square One Publications, Saga House, Sansome Place, Worcester WR1 1UA, hardback, £12.95.



The Pals on the march, with a musical accompaniment

The businessmen who went to war

A LETTER to the editor of a Leeds paper set the ball rolling to form a battalion of "Pals" for Kitchener's Army.

Milner asks in his introduction if the Leeds Pals were good soldiers.

On the same day in August 1914 the Yorkshire Evening Post reported the raising of the Liverpool Pals and suggested a similar scheme for Leeds.

And so the call went out from the lord mayor to the "businessmen" of the city to join the Leeds City Battalion – the Leeds Pals.

Those were poverty-stricken days and the response was immediate. Hundreds of young men flocked to join to escape a "humdrum" life that led nowhere and promised nothing".

But many were turned down, for this regiment had exclusivity. Only businessmen would be accepted and even then their fathers had to be professional men or have their own businesses.

Such was the way the class lines were drawn in Britain.

So, along with many other cities and towns, Leeds got its own regiment of volunteers to fight and die for king and country. And die they did, in their thousands.

The Leeds Pals' story is one of great patriotism, optimism, heroism and tragedy and their story is recounted by Laurie Milner, whose great uncle, a Pal, died on the Somme. It was this discovery that set the

author to writing this stirring account.

Milner asks in his introduction if the Leeds Pals were good soldiers.

Perhaps the best answer, he says, is that they were brave men who left their trenches without hesitation in two major offensives in 1916 and 1917 and held the line against overwhelming odds in the spring of 1918.

Officially the regiment was the 15th (Service) Battalion (1st Leeds), The Prince of Wales's Own (West Yorkshire Regiment) and it is the story of the Pals and the 15th that Milner tells.

And he tells it well, being

fulsome in his praise for those who helped with his research.

He lists more than 100 in his acknowledgements, including Pte Arthur Dalby, the sole surviving Leeds Pal at the time of publication.

Like others in the Pals series, this well-illustrated, soft-covered book adds greatly to the history of the "war to end all wars" telling of the battles, the carnage and everyday hardships endured by the soldiers. It also provides an interesting insight into the socio-economic factors of the time. – JM

Leeds Pals by Laurie Milner. Pen and Sword Books, £13.95.

VCs in a class of their own

TWO recent books have each added to the history of Britain's highest award for gallantry.

There have been 11 winners of the Victoria Cross since the Second World War and *The Last Eleven?* recounts the remarkable stories of their exceptional battlefield bravery.

The names of some of the recipients – Pte Harry Speakman (Korea) and "H" Jones (Falklands) – remain in the public eye, others less so, but the mystique surrounding the holders continues to hold a

fascination for students of military history.

Most, if not all, VCs have been won by men facing defeat, or in circumstances of seemingly insurmountable adversity, says author Mark Adkin, who chooses the four VCs won by members of an Australian army training team in Vietnam as being in a class of their own.

Having read the accounts of their gallantry, I cannot disagree with his choice.

The other book, *The Victoria Cross Locator*, is a

VICTORIA'S SOLDIERS

In every one of the 64 years of Queen Victoria's reign her armed forces were engaged somewhere in the world.

Most of these expeditions, campaigns, wars and operations, large and small, are listed in an appendix to the excellent *Heroes for Victoria*, which in 192 fascinating pages chronicles these events and the personalities involved.

All the Queen's soldiers and sailors were her heroes and she followed events closely through despatches and personal reports, sending encouragement directly to commanders.

Her words to Col Baden-Powell, besieged in Kimberley, were: "I continue watching with confidence and admiration the patient and resolute defence which is so gallantly maintained under your resourceful command."

She also realised the importance of medals and orders, instituting not only the Victoria Cross (1856) whose motto "For

Valour" she personally created, but also the Distinguished Conduct Medal (1854) and the Distinguished Service Order (1886).

As many of these awards as possible were presented by her personally, as well as the 30 campaign medals (with more than 140 bars) which were so important in maintaining morale.

A private on his way to fight in the First Sikh War remarked: "All our talk and hope was, 'Shall we be in time to get a medal?'"

The Queen went to board trooships to see her men off and Maj Gen Sir Evelyn Wood recounts one such incident when leaving for Egypt in 1882: "She embraced my wife and was very gracious to me."

With the advent of the war correspondent (the most famous being Sir William Russell and Lt Winston Churchill), generally described by Gen Sir Garnet Wolseley as "those newly-invented cursers who eat the rations of the fighting men and do no work at

museums, so much were they treasured by her heroes.

As for those whose valour and leadership authors John Duncan and John Walton record in this book, there are of course a number of VCs and well-known heroes such as Col Robert Warburton, the "Warden of the Khyber", and Lt Col J G Kelly, who led the 32nd Sikh Pioneers over 200 miles, often through deep snow, to relieve the beleaguered force in Chitral.

Then there were the families who suffered in the course of doing their duty, such as the 500 or so women and children who were massacred at Cawnpore in the Indian Mutiny.

"Victoria had her critics, then as now, but to her soldiers and her sailors she was always 'The Queen, God bless her.' " – PSN

Heroes for Victoria by John Duncan and John Walton. Spellmount Ltd, Tunbridge Wells, £25.

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SOLDIER to Soldier

Anniversary pilgrimages

TWENTY group pilgrimages to Europe, North Africa and the Far East have been arranged by the Royal British Legion for 1992.

Several of the trips, arranged by RBL's Pilgrimage Department, will coincide with anniversaries, including Singapore, Egypt, Algeria (all 50th) and Vimy Ridge (75th).

The Legion has been responsible for running the Government grant-in-aid scheme for war widows since it started in 1985. The subsidised pilgrimages enable relatives to visit the graves of loved ones killed in the service of their country.

Details of the scheme can be obtained from the Pilgrimage Department, Royal British Legion Village, Aylesford, Kent ME20 7NX (tel: 0622 716729 or 716182).

Gulf War on video

CAMERAMAN Sgt Dave Miles and producer Capt Chris Robinson of the UKLF Mobile News Team spent six months in the desert filming the British Army as it prepared and then went to war against Saddam Hussein.

Because both were serving soldiers (Miles left the Army soon after the war) they were given unrestricted access, and their film was extensively used by television stations all over the world.

Now their work has been edited into *The Gulf War - A View from the Ground*, an 80-minute video produced by TADS Ltd with the approval of the Ministry of Defence. Every cassette sold will result in a £1 donation to Service charities.

British television footage of the first Challenger ashore at Al Jubail was shot by the two men crouching on the tank as it rumbled out of the ship's hold.

The day before Operation Desert Sabre (codename for the ground war) began, Robinson and Miles were ordered to Maj Gen Rupert Smith's HQ to record for posterity his final briefing to his commanders.

"As two soldiers in uniform, we had the trust of the troops," explained Capt Robinson, whose reports of his UKLF assignments regularly appear in *SOLDIER*. "We were the only Army camera team with any kind of broadcast standard available to us, and we

'Field' guns for Malta

ARMY technicians at 42 District Workshop in Liverpool have been helping to renovate a piece of artillery history.

They have just put the finishing touches to four 3.7in anti-aircraft guns of Second World War vintage. They were shipped to Malta in December and will become a permanent memorial to the part played by the Royal Artillery in raising the siege of the George Cross island.

The project was initiated by Mr Stanley Fraser, from Colwyn Bay, who served with the Royal Artillery in Malta during the war years. He found the guns rusting in the field of an armaments dealer and thought they would make a fitting memorial to British gunners who served on the island during the war.

He asked the REME at Deybrook Barracks to help clean and paint them and is planning to site them in an impressive setting at Fort St

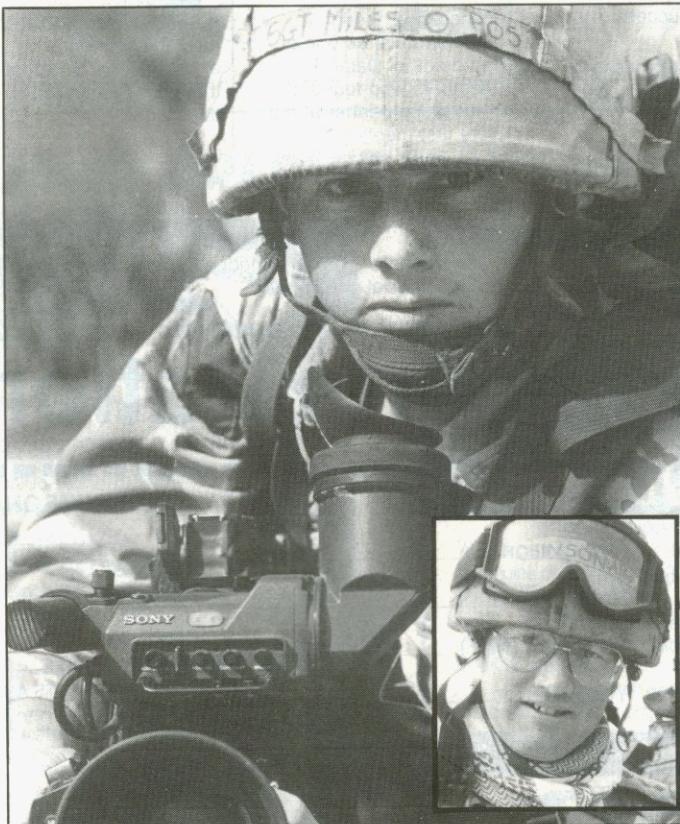
Elmo. They will be unveiled in an official ceremony in the spring.

This year the islanders celebrate the 50th anniversary of the raising of the Siege of Malta in 1942 when a 14-strong convoy of ships broke the German blockade and the award of the George Cross.

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh will be visiting the island and, to mark the anniversary, the Maltese Government is issuing a medal to be presented to all those who served during the siege.

Applications for membership of the GCIA should be sent to Frank Rixon, 10 Nepaul Road, Tidworth, Hants SP9 7EU (tel: 0980 42402), not to Fred Plenty as previously published.

Donations to the Memorial Siege Bell Trust, which is being supported by the GCIA, should be sent to Albert Gibbs, Hon Treasurer, Little Meadows, Cricketers Lane, Herongate, Brentwood, Essex CM13 3QB.



UKLF team, cameraman Sgt Dave Miles and Capt Chris Robinson

were able to film the most original, nearest-the-ground footage."

Arriving in Saudi Arabia in October 1990, the two men were in theatre until March and so recorded the whole operation, from the massive Allied support effort to the final escalation into war.

More than 95 hours of tape - most of it from the Miles-Robinson team - were scrutinised for *The*

Gulf War, resulting in a unique record of Operation Granby and its aftermath.

The final version includes post-war interviews with soldiers at Fallingbostel, Bunde, Münster and Hohne.

Copies (at £14.95 plus £1.20 p&p) are available from TADS Ltd, 147 London Road, East Grinstead, West Sussex RH19 1ET.

SEARCHLINE

● Singleton Park, Swansea

1944: G J Packer, 61 Birchgrove Road, Birchgrove, Swansea SA7 9JR, who is compiling a family history, wishes to contact anyone who knew LCpl Joslyn (Jos) Noel Kendal to identify his unit (possibly Pioneer Corps) and verify whether it served overseas.

● **Johnny Preston**, who served with the 9th Warks Regiment in Ballykinkar, Ireland, in 1944 with Roger Carter and George Underdown is sought by Mr and Mrs Tim Winney, of Mount Cottage, Harveys Lane, Ringmer, Lewes, East Sussex (tel: Ringmer 813372).

● **Ex-LCpl Martin Hill, REME**, SEME Bordon 1981-82; Kings Own Border Regiment and 3 Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, Berlin 1982-84; 7 Armd Wksp 1984-86; asks former colleagues to contact him and wife Gloria at 80 Bluebell Road, Bassett, Southampton SO2 3LQ (tel: 0703 679769).

● Rhodesian Veterans Association, Victoria, Australia

This group, made up of ex-members of the Rhodesian Security Forces and ex-members of the Commonwealth Monitoring Force that supervised the ceasefire and elections in April 1980, meets semi-formally several times a year. Potential new members are asked to contact Mr M R J Doyle, PO Box 267, Rosebud, Victoria 3939, Australia.

DIARY

Until February 2: "The Gunner's Favourite", a special exhibition on the 25-pounder gun at the National Army Museum, Royal Hospital Road, Chelsea. Admission free.

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

Kranji offer

Mr W D Manders, Infantry Mess Manager at the School of Infantry, Warminster, will be making special visits to Kranji War Memorial, Bukit Batok and Changi Prison during a holiday in Singapore and Malaya at the end of February. "If any readers have relatives or friends they wish to be remembered, I would be honoured to carry out their wishes," he said. Mr Manders can be contacted on Warminster (0985) 214000 ext 2499 or (home) 0935 840618.

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

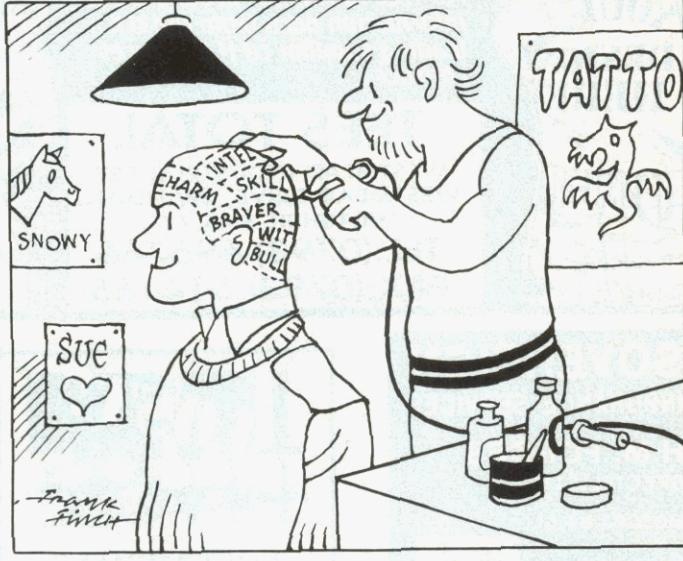
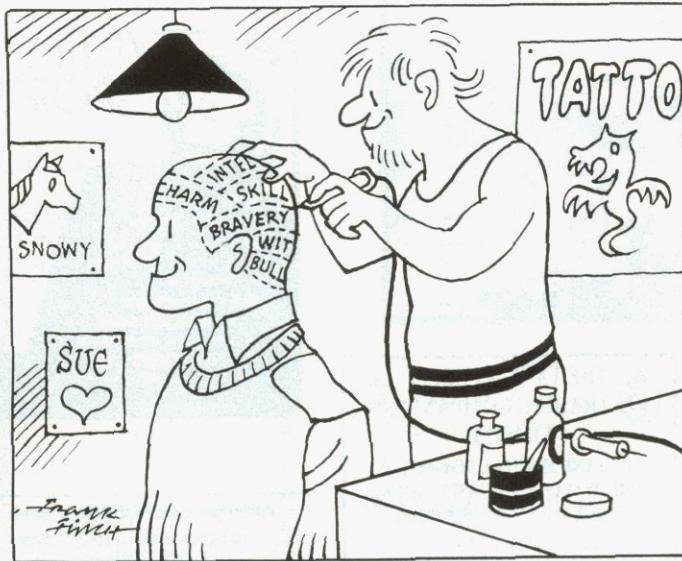
The first correct entries drawn will be the winners. No correspondence can be entered into.

The names of the winner of the £50 first prize and two runners-up will be announced in the March 9 issue.

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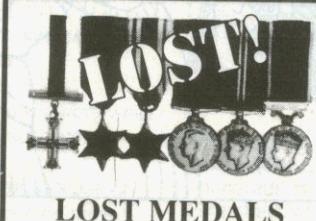


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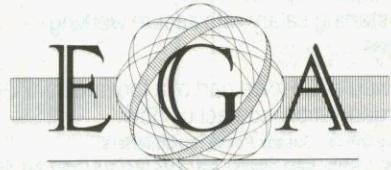
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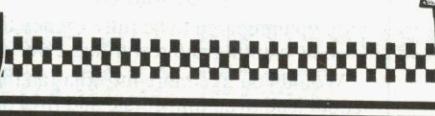
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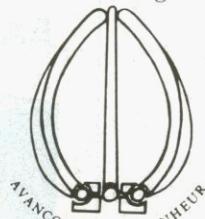
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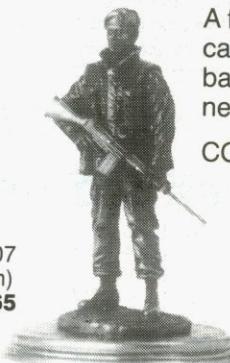
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SOLDIER

Calendar

1992

We regret to inform our readers that there is no Soldier calendar for 1992.

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Came into effect on 1 January, 1978 and requires all advertising by people who sell goods in the course of a business to make the fact clear. From that date consumers should be able to tell whether an advertisement relates to a sale by a trader or private seller. It is the responsibility of the advertiser to comply with the order. It is an offence for which you may be prosecuted not to advertise the fact you are a trader.

Jo - attractive blue-eyed blonde

Single, 21, height 5'2", sense of fun, outgoing, wacky, enjoys men's company, especially those with hairy chests.

No married men need reply.
All letters answered.
Photograph appreciated.

Box P28

3.92

Claire
seeks her Prince Charming!
Attractive 25, bored with kissing Frogs would like to correspond with assertive but humorous soldier.

Box P21

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Just when you thought it safe to read **SOLDIER**
Sue and Bev are here waiting to cheer you up, can you handle it!! Fun loving females with pens poised.
Write if you dare!

Box P29

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I'm outgoing and friendly and if you like slim blondes, glamour is not a problem! I love life, laughing, my car and writing letters.

If you are 25-35 and would like a friend, please write.

Box P30

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I Need a Hero!
i.e. one who doesn't suffer from arachnophobia!
My name is Amanda, I'm blonde, slim, unattached and I'd like to write to someone who's over 28 and has a great sense of humour.

Box P22

1.92

Nicky, 23 years old
wishes to correspond with soldiers of 21 plus.
Sense of humour a must.
Genuine letters answered.

Box P18

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Gillian & Sandra from Sunderland
would love to contact Robert (25) and John (27) from Glasgow. Both Para regiment based in NI. Met in Blackpool nightclub on September 27, 1991.
Had a great weekend lads, please get in touch.

Box P31

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Small 5ft Blonde
30-year-old divorcee seeks friendship with 28 plus fun-loving, honest and genuine male. Snapshot if possible and details of what hobbies and interests you like.

Box P26

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Hello, I'm Linda
I'm a young at heart 36-year-old with an outgoing personality and varied interests. I would like to write to anyone, 30 plus, with a sense of humour.

Box P23

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Single and Female
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No married men need reply.
All letters answered.
Photograph appreciated.

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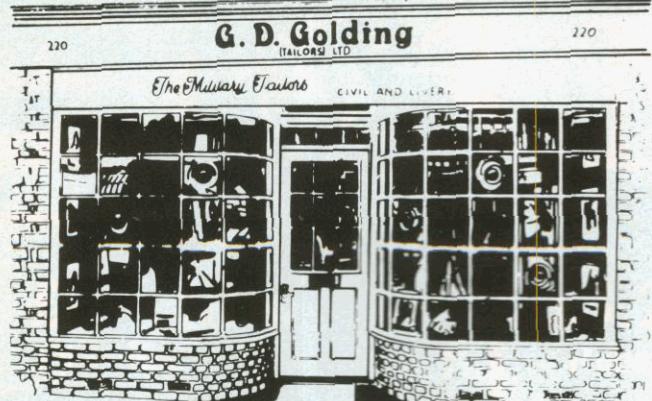
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FOOTBALL

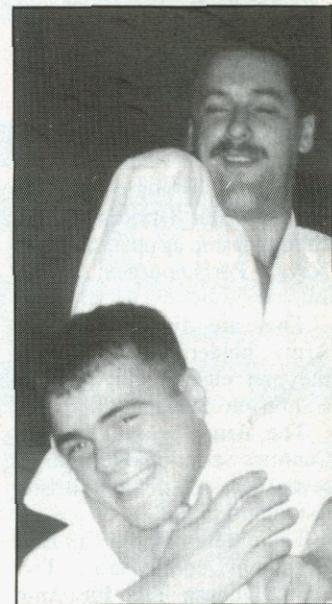
SPORT

Shorncliffe pair in international action

CPL Shane Neill of The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment, now serving at the Junior Infantry Battalion, Shorncliffe, competed with JLdr Jason Pickup in the International Budo Federation judo championships at Sittingbourne last month.

Both did exceptionally well, Neill winning a gold medal in the open category and a silver in the Under-78kg event, and Pickup a bronze. Pickup also won gold in S-Bars (juniors) at the Nottingham open competition.

Neill, who trains the JIB team – current SE District champions – has been selected to represent England in the IBF international against France in Paris on March 21.



Cpl Neill (top) and JLdr Pickup

Services win first match in the East

Combined Services 3, RSAF Tech Studies Inst 0

COMBINED Services got their tour of Saudi Arabia and the Oman off to a good start against the weakest opposition they were expected to meet.

Having achieved control in the battle for the midfield, the visitors began to create chances in the Royal Saudi Air Force Technical Studies Institute penalty area before skipper Sgt Tiv Lowe, RM, scored direct from a corner kick.

Ten minutes into the second half Sgt Alan Higgins created an opening which Cpl Dave Maynard exploited.

The third goal came when a powerful run by Bdr Steve Bates was stopped illegally just outside the penalty area. Lowe whipped in the free kick and Sgt Alan Pluckrose of the RAF swept the ball into the net.

Services were well on top when the referee blew for full time at the approach of sunset, a time of prayer in Saudi Arabia.

Army players in the Combined Services team were Cfn Mike Taylor (REME), Sgt Alan Higgins (R Signals), Pte Pete Batey (2 Para), Gnr Mark Mahoney (7 RHA), Sig Paul Brown (R Signals), Cpl Dave Maynard (DERR), plus substitutes Bdr Steve Bates (7 RHA),

Army coach QMSI Joey Roach and SI Micky Johnson (APTC).

REME 1, Infantry 2

Two goals by Cpl Dave Maynard (DERR) early in the second half gave the Infantry a narrow but deserved 2-1 victory over REME at Bordon. LCpl Phil Jones scored first for the home side with a fierce volley at the end of the first half.



Maj (QM) Bill Tweddle, RAOC (left), manager of the Army football team for the past three years, exchanges pleasantries with his Territorial Army counterpart, Maj Stuart Cottage, before the Army v TA match at Aldershot. Maj Tweddle, who is retiring to take up an RO post in the North East, played unit level football until 1978, was a former secretary of both BAOR and RAOC football, and also managed the Combined Services. He has handed over to Maj Tony Workman, REME, stationed at Arborfield.

Airmen back in the ring

AFTER two years of self-imposed exile, the Royal Air Force were making their return to the Inter-Services boxing championship against the Royal Navy at Portsmouth on January 16.

They are due to meet the Army, holders of the title for the past eight years, at RAF Halton on January 30.

The Army beat a Western Counties Select boxing team by seven bouts to three at Bristol last month.

There were wins for Cpl Lois Burgoo (Depot Para), Dvr Scott Duncan (16 Fd Amb RAMC), Pte Darren Dugan (1 R Hamps), Pte Dave Graham (2 Para), Pte J Mills (3 Para), LCpl Joe Rajcoomer (1 DERR) and Dvr Chris Bessey (1 ADTR).

London club seeks runners

LONDON-based Milocarian Athletic Club, formed 60 years ago to promote the sport among all ranks of the Armed Forces, is looking for more runners from the Army.

The thriving club, which is also open to retired Servicemen and Civil Servants, runs a Joint Services team in cross country matches around the London area, and competes regularly in the Chiltern League.

Athletes who want to run in the Milocarians' distinctive blue strip should contact match secretary Maj Neil Wood on MoD Main Building ext 86720.

New England cap Tim Rodber surveys the options from behind the Army pack against the Royal Navy at Twickenham



Picture: Mike Perring

CALLED UP

THE elevation of 2nd Lt Tim Rodber to the England back row for the Five Nations' opener against Scotland at Murrayfield makes him the latest in a distinguished list of Army rugby players who have won caps at the highest level.

The 6ft 6in, 17 stone former

Oxford Polytechnic student, now at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, has begun a seven-month officer training course at Victory College before commissioning into The Green Howards.

Rodber's England captain, Will Carling, won his first seven international caps while in the Service, and his captain in Army colours during the past three years was Maj Brian McCall, the Irish lock.

The British Army's links with international rugby stretch from the playing field to the highest administrative offices in the game. Most recent to serve in that capacity was Brig Dennis Shuttleworth, himself a cap, who was President of the Rugby Union in the mid-1980s.

Rodber, who plays his club rugby for Northampton under the tutelage of the great former All Black captain Wayne Shelford, toured Argentina

with the England side a year ago. He has been an outstanding No 8 for the Army in the last three Inter-Service campaigns, and was selected for the historic clash between Combined Services and the USSR at Aldershot in 1989.

Army Rugby Union secretary Maj David Murray said: "We are delighted that Tim has achieved selection at the highest level and all in Army rugby wish him a long career.

"We are very much hoping that we will be able to extract him from Sandhurst for the two Inter-Services matches at Twickenham, against the Royal Navy on March 21 and the Royal Air Force on April 11.

"It would be terrific for Service rugby to have two full internationals on the pitch for the RAF game."

Winger Rory Underwood, England's top try scorer, is an officer in the RAF.

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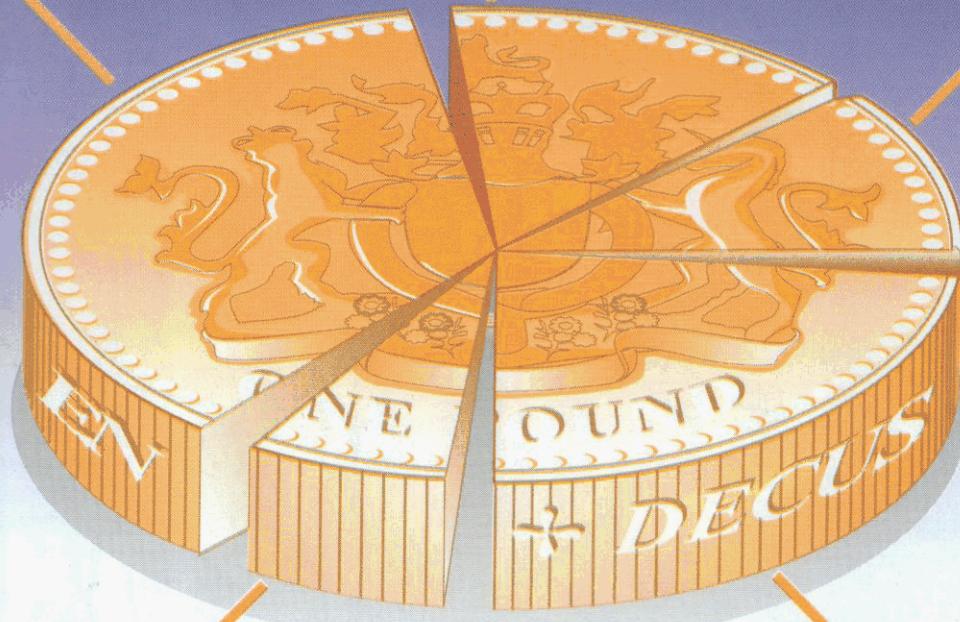
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* Based on Naafi Annual Report and Accounts
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SOLDIER



Pte Paul Thompson takes time out to admire the sweeping views of Belfast from the top of the Divis flats observation post. Full story of the 3rd Battalion, The Light Infantry's roulement tour of West Belfast in Pages 24-27.

Picture: Mike Weston