

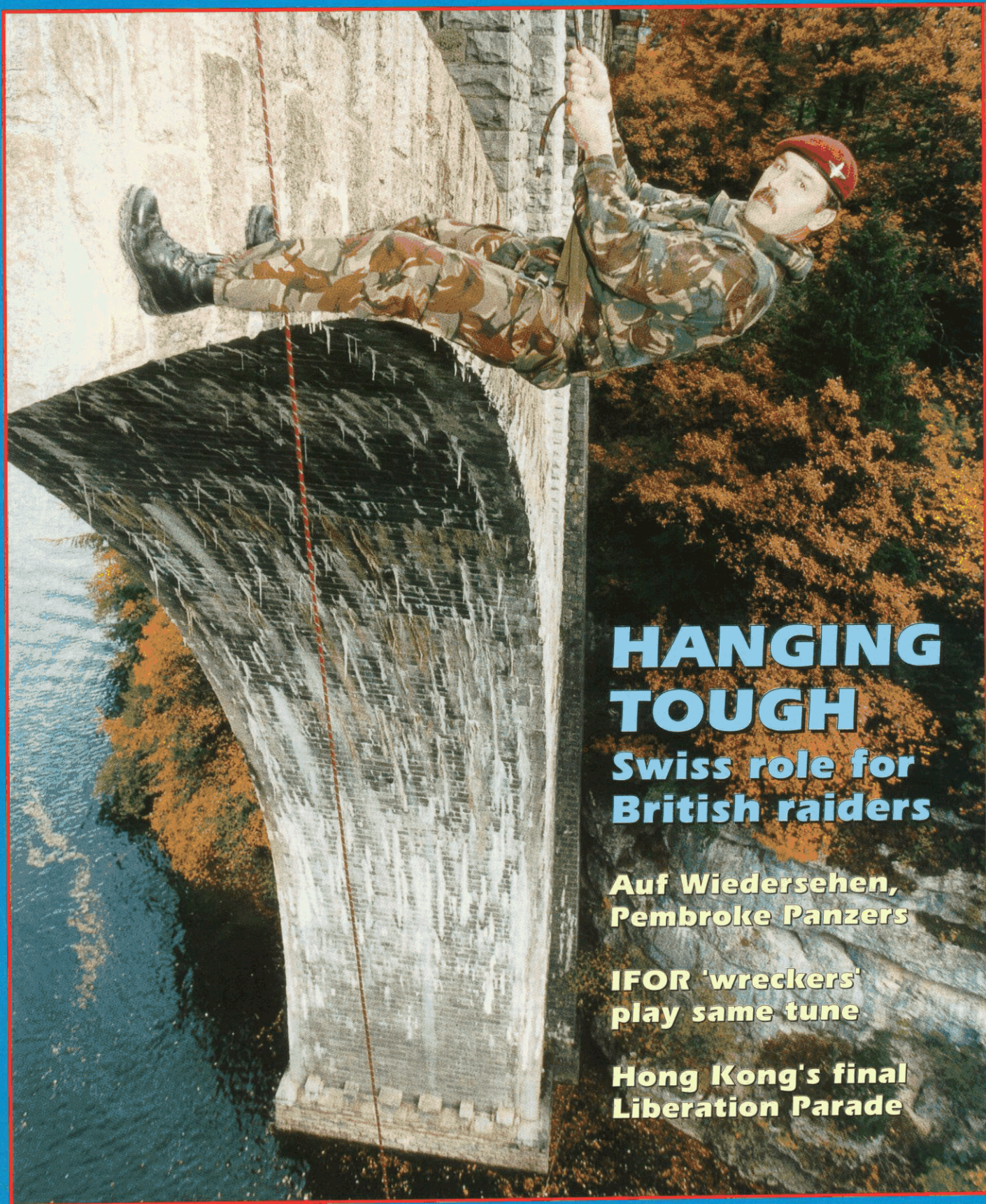
# SOLDIER



FORTNIGHTLY MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY

NOVEMBER 11 1996

60p



## HANGING TOUGH

**Swiss role for British raiders**

**Auf Wiedersehen, Pembroke Panzers**

**IFOR 'wreckers' play same tune**

**Hong Kong's final Liberation Parade**



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Capt David Reynolds of 5 Airborne Brigade launches himself off a fearsome 250ft railway viaduct in Switzerland during an international commando raid competition. Photographer Chris Fletcher had to abseil off the viaduct as well to get this dramatic picture

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# Gen Guthrie appointed CDS

GEN Sir Charles Guthrie is to succeed Fd Marshal Sir Peter Inge as Chief of the Defence Staff in April. He will remain in the rank of general.

Gen Guthrie has been Chief of the General Staff since March 1994 when he took over from the man he now replaces. Gen Sir Roger Wheeler, currently C-in-C Land Command, will be the new CGS.

Sir Charles was commissioned into the Welsh Guards in 1959 and went on to command the regiment's 1st Battalion in Berlin and Northern Ireland.

He became a troop commander with 22nd Special Air Service Regiment in 1966 and served in Aden, the Persian Gulf, Malaysia and East Africa. In 1968, as a squadron commander with 22 SAS, he served in the Persian Gulf and



Gen Guthrie



Gen Wheeler

the United Kingdom. Subsequent appointments included command of the 4th Armoured Brigade in Germany. In 1992 he became the last Commander Northern Army Group and Commander-in-Chief BAOR.

A keen sportsman, Gen Guthrie was a schoolboy rugby international and was capped for the Army in the 1964 Inter-Services tournament.

Gen Wheeler, who was commissioned into The Royal Ulster Rifles in 1964, has been in charge at Land Command since March. Before taking up that appointment he had spent three years as General Officer Commanding Northern Ireland.

● Constable of the Tower of London – Page 26

# Gunners get to grips with new Rapier

THE ROYAL Artillery has taken delivery of the latest and most sophisticated version of Rapier, its low-level anti-aircraft missile.

Two units of the Rapier Field Standard C (FSC) were handed over to the Army and the Royal Air Force at Royal Artillery Barracks, Woolwich, on October 18.

Brig Mark Douglas-Withers accepted FSC – described as the most capable weapon system of its type available today – on behalf of the Royal Artillery.

On parade with their new equipment were 30 Battery (Roger's Company), part of Woolwich-based 16 Regiment RA, and 15 Squadron, RAF Regiment, from RAF Honington.

To music played by the Band of the Royal Artillery and the Western Band of the RAF, 40 large vehicles and trailers drove past before demonstrating how the system will be deployed and brought into action.



Air Marshal Sir Roger Austin, Deputy Chief of Defence Procurement (Operations), accompanied by battery commander Maj Adam Grew, meets men of 30 Bty during the handover of Rapier FSC at Woolwich

Rapier has been around for about 30 years.

The original Field Standard A was deployed to the Falk-

lands in 1982, where it was credited with 14 kills and a number of probables from 24 missiles fired.

## Challenger 2 in service by mid-1998

CHALLENGER 2 will come into service with the British Army in June 1998, Defence Secretary Michael Portillo said in a written answer to the Commons on October 24.

First unit to be equipped is expected to be the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards in Fallingbommel.





# 41,103...

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## Dunblane range closed permanently

WHITESTON Range, close to the cemetery where 13 of the children and the teacher killed in the Dunblane tragedy are buried, is to remain permanently closed.

It was shut down by the

Army in May after the sound of gunfire caused distress to bereaved families visiting the cemetery.

The closure was announced by Defence Secretary Michael Portillo after the Army con-

cluded it would be inappropriate to re-open what was a valuable training asset against the wishes of those affected by the massacre.

Training will be transferred to other ranges in Scotland.

## Paderborn brigade HQ back in Bosnia

DETAILS of British follow-on forces in Bosnia became clearer as Paderborn-based HQ 20 Armoured Brigade, led by Brig David Leahey, relieved 1 Mechanised Brigade at Sipovo.

It is the first brigade headquarters to return to Bosnia.

Supported by 200 HQ and Signal Regiment, 20 Bde is expected to be in theatre for six months. It returned to Germany only last October after six months at Gornji Vakuf.

At the same time, the 1st Battalion, The Green Howards replaced the 1st Battalion, The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment at Sipovo.

### EARLY RETURN

There are hopes for an early return from Gornji Vakuf for the 1st Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets, but no decision has been taken to replace them. The Queen's Dragoon Guards, however, are due to return next month, with the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards standing by to replace them. In other moves, 1 Royal Horse Artillery expects to be replaced by 4 Regiment RA, and 36 Engineer Regiment by 39 Engr Regt.

It is expected that the UK will provide a significant contingent once the composition of follow-on forces has been decided. No announcement has been made on a replacement for HQ 1 Armoured Division.

Logisticians at Kupres have reduced holding of stores and ammunition by 30 per cent and are preparing the ground at Sarajevo for when the German-led Land Centre HQ replaces the British-led ARRC HQ.



The Duke of Kent meets Gdsm Graeme Trappe, Graeme Fairweather and Guy Walker during his visit to the 1st Battalion, Scots Guards at Musgrave Park military base near Belfast. The Duke, who is Colonel of the regiment, was met by Lt Col Archie Miller-Bakewell, CO 1 SG. He also toured the Guards' base at Fort Whiterock in the west of the city

## Queen approves European medal for Bosnia duty

BRITISH troops who served in or supported Western European Union operations in former Yugoslavia will be eligible to receive the WEU Mission Service Medal with the clasp "Former Yugoslavia 1992".

The Queen has approved the medal, although only a handful of British soldiers are expected to qualify.

Qualifying periods are 30 days' continuous or accumulated service in the theatre of WEU operations since July 22, 1992, or 90 days' continuous or accumulated service in the

area of operations outside the former Yugoslavia or the Adriatic - Hungary or Romania - since July 1, 1992.

Few British Service personnel are expected to receive the medal because they are eligible for only one from the UNPROFOR Medal, the UN Special Service Medal, the NATO Medal or the WEU Mission Service Medal for the same period of operational service.

Permission for more than one medal will be granted only when there is a clear difference between each period of qualifying service.

The medal ribbon is in WEU blue and yellow-gold.

Details are available in DCI General 280 and 281/96.

### It's a fact

INITIAL rent for properties leased back by MoD after being sold to the private sector will be £111 million. - Parliamentary reply.

## Around the Houses

A summary of Defence topics from Westminster

## Gulf illness: 'We'll get to the truth'

PLEDGES were made in the Commons by senior ministers that the Ministry of Defence is determined to get to the bottom of health issues concerning Gulf War veterans.

Defence Secretary Michael Portillo referred to the official announcement early last month (and reported in the last issue of *Soldier*) that it was now realised organophosphate insecticides (OPs) "were more widely used in the Gulf than we had thought".

In his speech on October 14 opening the debate on the Defence Estimates, he went on: "I regret that the House has been given misleading information in answers that ministers have given in good faith on the basis of advice."

Closing the debate the following day after the matter had been raised by several speakers, Armed Forces Minister Nicholas Soames said the MoD had commissioned an urgent and detailed investigation into the use of OPs in the Gulf and he would report to the House when it was complete.

Meanwhile, the Medical Research Council would recommend a programme of research into Gulf health issues this month.

"Let me make it clear that the Government is fully and wholly committed, as we must be, to the health of our Servicemen and women... The use of OP pesticides is a new factor and may be a pointer. But I give you my personal assurance, Mr Deputy Speaker, that we shall find out whatever there is to discover."

□ In written answers on October 15, Mr Soames told Mr Llew Smith that records indicated that no British troops served directly with the US Army's 37th Engineer Battalion during Op Granby, nor were any involved with US Army clean-up operations in the An-Nasiriyah area in 1991 after the war.



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# Kelly heads sport initiative

OLYMPIC athlete Sgt Kelly Holmes has taken on a new challenge - using her international experience to spur Army athletics to greater success.

The British 1,500m and 800m record-holder is trying to persuade the Amateur Athletic Association to recognise the Army team so it can enter championships in its own right rather than individually.

Sgt Holmes is seeking support from her own sponsors, Nike, and other companies to

provide the Army with sports-wear, equipment, and warm-weather training facilities.

Meanwhile, Sgt Holmes, whose Olympic hopes were dashed by a stress fracture to the lower left leg, is working hard to rebuild her own fitness. If her training continues to go well, she hopes to race in the Waikiki Road Mile in Honolulu this month.

Speaking about her new role, she said: "Civilian athletics bodies do not recognise the

excellent work being done by the Army to foster athletics in this country. I hope to act as a bridge between the Service and civilian athletics to benefit both groups. The Army has supported me throughout my running career, so I'm trying to return the compliment."

Sgt Holmes is also involved in the Army's nationwide Schools Challenge programme which encourages youngsters to take up the sport.



Sgt Kelly Holmes in action

# Crash victims praise Service airmen

ARMY and Royal Air Force helicopter crews in Northern Ireland have been praised for their quick reaction to a near-fatal accident at Enniskillen, Co Fermanagh.

The pilot of a civil helicopter and two Ulster journalists were among the most seriously injured when the aircraft crash-landed three miles outside the town.

An Army Lynx pilot on a routine sortie 50 miles away picked up the mayday call and radioed for help. An RAF Puma launched from Grosvenor Barracks, Enniskillen, was on the accident scene within minutes, making two trips to ferry five casualties to a local hospital and taking a doctor to the crash site.

A second Puma carrying an eight-man patrol from the 4th Battalion, The Royal Irish Regiment flew to the area to assist the emergency services.



Cpl Julie Oakley and LCpl Sarah Dickin move a casualty to the wards during 212 Field Hospital's Exercise Petit Mash at Saughton Barracks, Chester. Army cadets members provided the war wounded for the exercise

Picture: Huddersfield Examiner

# Irish hotshots on target

A BRITISH Army combat shooting team made up exclusively of members of The Royal Irish Regiment stole the show at an international championships in South Africa.

Of the 30 matches in the week-long competition, the Army marksmen won 26 outright and filled the top three places in the remaining four.

They also provided the top three in the individual championships.

Teams from the USA, Italy, Zimbabwe, Australia, Oman, Canada and Great Britain took part in the event at Bloemfontein. Hot, windy and dusty conditions, rarely encountered at Ballykinler, made the success all the more praiseworthy,

said team captain Maj Jack Tisdall.

Every member of his squad finished in the top 29 in a field of 440, an impressive debut on the British team's debut in the competition.

The Royal Irish Regiment was asked by the Army Rifle Association to make up the team after its superb performance in getting 22 soldiers into the Army 100. The party that went to South Africa was drawn from 3, 4, 7 and 8 R Irish.

# Defence Int training under one roof

A SINGLE, joint Services defence intelligence and security training centre which will eventually produce savings of £5 million a year on current costs was formed at RAF Chicksands on October 1.

When collocation is complete, the Defence Intelligence and Security Centre (DISC), an agency with 500 service and civilian staff, will comprise units formerly based at Ashford and Garats Hay, RAF sta-

tions North Luffenham and Wyton, and HMS Mercury.

The centre will also train other intelligence agencies, Armed Forces Minister Nicholas Soames said in a written reply to the Commons.


## It's a fact

CONSULTANTS, including management advisers, cost the MoD £150.8 million in 1995-96. - Parliamentary reply.



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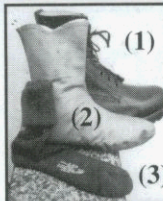
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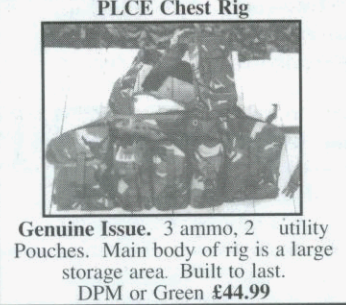
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# Walkers shaken but not stirred

DESPITE an earthquake potent enough to collapse the control tent, a three-man team from HQ 5 Airborne Brigade won the two-day, 78km Cyprus Walkabout in a time of 11hr 3min, six minutes ahead of 7 Parachute RHA.

Fifty teams started the event, which was administered by B Company, 1st Battalion, The Royal Berkshire, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire Regiment.

While competitors and support staff were prepared for blistering heat, no one expect-

ed the earthquake, which registered 6.3 on the Richter Scale, the strongest recorded on Cyprus for many years.

Teams raced 39km from sea level to Troodos Station on the first day, and via Lophou and Pakhna to sea level on day two.

# Chelsea honours London signallers

MORE than 100 members of 31 Signal Regiment (Volunteers) exercised their civic right to march through the streets of Chelsea on October 13.

Men and women from squadrons based in Chelsea, Southfields, Coulsdon and Eastbourne were accompanied by the Inns of Court and City Yeomanry Band of the Royal Yeomanry. Many Chelsea Pensioners were among the spectators who watched the parade from the Royal Hospital along the Embankment to The Duke of York's Barracks.

After inspecting the troops, Councillor John Corbet-Singleton, Honorary Colonel of the regiment and Mayor of the Royal Borough, took the salute. Many former members of the regiment and representatives from the 56 Division Royal Signals Association were present.

Only two other units enjoy Chelsea's civic honour, which ranks alongside the Freedom conferred on distinguished individuals. The 31 Signals' honour dates back to 1959 when it was awarded to the then Army Phantom Signal Regiment (Princess Louise's Kensington Regiment), for more than 100 years of loyal service.

## FINAL ADJUSTMENT



London Garrison Sergeant Major WO1 Perry Mason makes final adjustments as a Guard of Honour from the 1st Battalion, Irish Guards parades before the State Opening of Parliament by the Queen

Picture: Mike Weston

## In brief

MORE than 150 doctors, nurses and paramedics from 203 (Welsh) Field Hospital (Volunteers) based themselves in a Victorian fort for the duration of their two-week annual camp, Exercise Warm Infusion.

From Tregantle in Cornwall, the Welsh Medics took part in a two-day military skills exercise, carried out five days of adventurous train-

ing and completed a battlefield advanced trauma life support course.

● Overall winner of the 101 (London) Engineer Regiment (EOD) RE(V) march and shoot competition was Dartford-based 22 Squadron. Best performance on the assault course was by 221 Sqn (Rochester), while 220 Sqn

(Heston) won the trophy for individual expertise on test stands.

● An Army Careers Office has re-opened in Birkenhead six years after the old one closed. An opening ceremony was attended by Lt Col Bryan Watters, commanding officer of the 1st Battalion, The Cheshire Regiment, which has close recruiting links with the area.



What the papers have been saying

## Company seeks tank lease deal

BRITISH troops could roll into battle in tanks owned by the parent of the Grey Green bus group if talks between Cowie, the Newcastle-based motor group, and the MoD bear fruit. The company is keen to tie up a deal in which it could own Challenger tanks and lease them to the Army. — *Independent*

□ Agriculture Minister Douglas Hogg is proposing a review of Britain's quarantine rules which could lead to the world's toughest rabies controls being scrapped. — *Times*

□ Lawyers co-ordinating compensation claims by 1,000 Gulf War veterans are planning their own medical testing programme. — *Independent*

□ Euro chief Jacques Santer has come under fire over moves to put Brussels in charge of Britain's Armed Forces. — *Sun*

□ Opening of the country's second "boot camp" for young offenders, at the Colchester Military Corrective Training Centre, is being delayed because of fears that it may be illegal for the military to run a prison with civilian inmates. — *Independent*

□ Belgian soldiers will have to pay for their uniforms because of austerity cuts to ensure their country can join the EU single currency. — *Daily Telegraph*

□ NATO countries have instructed their military officials to start work on a possible new peace force for Bosnia to replace the existing mission when its mandate expires on December 20. — *Independent*

□ Two of the largest Gurkha veteran groups have written to the Government asking for a significant increase in pensions. — *Daily Telegraph*

## It's a fact

**TOTAL strength of the Regular Armed Forces by April 1, 1999 is estimated to be 213,500, compared with 302,400 in 1992. — *Parliamentary reply.***



# Pets, postings and passports

MY CAT gets fan mail. I get letters asking for advice and information but my cat gets fan mail. In case you think I'm mad, let me explain.

From time to time I stand in for colleagues on BFBS who broadcast music programmes. It's very light-hearted and, once I began to talk about Doris the cat and her exploits, I started to get letters addressed to her from all over the world. The signatures were feline!

All great fun, but it underlines something important. Cats and dogs are, for most Service families, not fashionable accessories but a source of affection and a symbol of stability. The debate about UK quarantine laws will not have come a moment too soon for all cat and dog owners waiting for a posting home.



Cari's column

Everyone has a drum to bang when discussing quarantine regulations. Owners of kennels and catteries specialising in long-staying clients object to being portrayed as heartless jailers of defenceless creatures.

Many go to great lengths to make pets feel at home.

One cattery I know of gives each animal its own carpeted room with beds and cushions and access to television. It keeps a file on the likes and dislikes of every occupant.

Even so, I cannot bring myself to leave Doris there for six months. Not because the owners aren't kind or caring, but because I have grown very attached to my pet.

Critics will say this is silly sentimentalism and that the possibility of rabies in British wildlife is far too serious to be discussed by such emotive people. Becoming attached to an animal is a sentimental act. To people who have never had a pet it may appear to be an irrational one, but for thousands of Service families the family cat or dog is part of the household.

Not only is the issue clouded by sentiment but political and economic factors come into play. Since few of us have enough technical knowledge to refute or support the arguments of the experts, there is little we can do but trust that they know what they are talking about.

Every faction, both pro- and anti-quarantine, is able to field an expert to prove its point, so who

are we to believe? Personally I would like to believe those who say technology has made it possible to allow the transportation of pets with proper vaccination records and proof of identity. But I am not impartial. I can see how the system could be abused, and I am not sure it would be safe for owners to take their pets on a fortnight's holiday every year under the Passports for Pets scheme. This is an area which can only be addressed by a veterinary expert.

I do believe a special case could be made for Service and diplomatic families. After all, they live in settled communities with access to good veterinary care, under rules which make it easy to keep track of paperwork. They also have to abide by the regulations because the penalties for breaking them are severe.

Given this environment, I believe Service families would be the best group to pilot a scheme to use a passport system for pets. But campaigners wanting to see a change in the law shouldn't underestimate the degree of fear that exists to change. Neither should they be naïve enough to believe the argument is a purely technical one. It is a battle waged by people with vested interests.

Service families with pets have a vested interest in the sense that they have no wish to be parted from their pets, but they have nothing to gain in the political or economic sense.

I believe most would be prepared to take part in a trial that involved, for example, a combination of pet passport and home quarantine. Such a trial could yield vital information about the effectiveness of vaccines while protecting the public.

The Service pet-owning population could be easily monitored, and is, I imagine, large enough to provide a statistically sound sample. It is also made up of responsible people who would be unlikely to break the rules.

Until such a trial takes place, however, I shall content myself with answering my cat's fan mail from feline friends overseas.

● Cari Roberts presents **Counterpoint** on BFBS radio. Write to her at BFBS, BFPO 786; c/o Soldier.



Card carrier: a soldier tries out the new Naafi telephone facility

# Services education looks to the future

ALTHOUGH many Service schools in north-west Europe and further afield have disappeared as a consequence of drawdown, education services to the more isolated Forces communities have become more flexible.

This year for the first time a Service teacher from Cyprus was seconded to British Army Training Unit Suffield (BATUS) in Alberta to serve in the Canadian primary school which British children attend, Ian Mitchelson, Chief Executive of Service Children's Education, told a London gathering.

"As romantic names such as Sek Kong fall from our vocabulary with the closure of schools, at the same time new names – Heidelberg and Prairie Rose – become familiar terms," he told 400 former teachers and education personnel from around the world attending a 50th anniversary celebration for the British Forces Education Service and Service Children's Education Authority.

There was no doubt that recent years had been ones of upheaval and turmoil, inevitably associated in many people's eyes with the post-Options for Change drawdown, Mr Mitchelson said.

"Certainly there have been years when we sadly had to close many schools: in north-west Europe no fewer than 35; in Hong Kong the whole of Service chil-



Ian Mitchelson, Chief Executive of Service Children's Education

dren's education has come to an end, while even in the relative calm of Cyprus there has been one school closure and another is in prospect."

However, he added, they would also be remembered as years of great innovation and development.

During that time, the Service schools had not only remained in "remarkably good heart" but had seen improvement in both examination results and national curriculum tests which left them consistently ahead of schools in the United Kingdom.

"At the secondary level, we can boast to be among the top ten of local examination authorities with

# Calling home – thanks to Naafi

SOLDIERS round the world will be able to keep in touch with their families, using their Naafi budget or charge card.

With the Calling Card service, Naafi customers can charge the cost of telephone calls, made to and from more than 45 countries worldwide – including the United Kingdom – direct to their Naafi account.

By dialling a Freephone access (for which there will be a charge in some areas) and keying in their Naafi account number and PIN (personal identification number), customers can make calls – automatically connected to network operator Energis – from most pay phones, hotel phones and mobiles. Direct-dial facilities are available from key Army locations – Cyprus, Germany and other west European countries, Hong Kong, Sardinia and the UK – with an English-speaking Energis operator on hand 24 hours a day.

"Most people have suffered the frustrations of wanting to make an important phone call, only to find they have no foreign change or their phone card has run out," said John Loaring, Naafi's financial services director.

"Naafi recognises that, more than most civilians, soldiers travelling throughout the world need to stay in touch with their loved ones, but often find themselves in less than ideal circumstances – just docked at a foreign port, on exercise in Germany, or without the foreign currency in Bosnia."

The facility also provides a messaging service for unanswered or engaged calls. Details are available from Sarah Wintle on 01734 795754.

● Naafi account holders signing up to the Calling Card facility before November 30 will receive £5 worth of free calls, from anywhere in the world.



Learners' line-up: Volunteers who attended the SSAFA information course at Rheindahlen

our public examination results, while with the national curriculum tests in each subject and at each level we are consistently ahead of UK average figures," said Mr Mitchelson.

"We have seen the introduction of teacher appraisal and, despite the fact that we are no longer known as the British Families Education Service, we have arrangements now under which adults can join our secondary examination classes."

## POSTGRADUATES

At the same time, he pointed out, Service schools co-operate with the Open University to provide teaching practice facilities for those dependants who are undertaking a distant learning postgraduate certificate of education.

"Although there are no longer schools at Iserlohn, Hemer, Werl and Soest, nor in Dortmund Nienburg or many other places," said Mr Mitchelson, "I think I can assure you that the spirit of Service children's education – by whatever name it has been known in the past, or will be known in the future – continues in the very best tradition."

EVERY garrison in BFG contains a HIVE (Help Information Voluntary Exchange).

But, as Fiona Cook of BFG's Community Activities Support Team (CAST) at JHQ Rheindahlen is anxious to point out, the HIVEs are for *everyone* – not just a place for wives to drink coffee.

Open to single soldiers, civilians, dependants, families and anyone connected with a garrison, they do not consider rank as a priority, she says.

"Each HIVE is run by a co-ordinator, carefully selected not only for her administrative skills, but her personality. Your question will always be dealt with efficiently and, if you have a problem, within the guidelines of confidentiality," Fiona Cook points out.

The co-ordinator is obliged to attend two training courses run by CAST – the HIVEs' headquarters – on which she is expected to absorb a considerable amount of information. Her ability to deal with welfare prob-

# HIVEs are not just for wives

lems will be tested. "When you meet her, she is adequately prepared to help you with whatever you throw at her," says Fiona.

HIVEs hold a vast amount of information ranging from benefits and allowances to local activities. If someone has a query which the co-ordinator cannot deal with, she will refer the person concerned to a relevant agency, or contact CAST (HQ) Information Centre.

As Fiona puts it: "Do pay a visit to your HIVE. You'll be amazed what they have to offer – and we guarantee you will be satisfied with your answer."

# SSAFA course opens a few eyes

CONFIDENCE-building and basic listening and responding skills were among subjects tackled by a record number of 28 volunteers at the latest SSAFA information and resource awareness course.

Held at Salmond House in Rheindahlen, the three-and-a-half day course is designed essentially for Servicemen and women and their dependants interested in welfare work, and who may want to become community volunteers in the future.

Among the representatives present was Cherry Milne, chairman of the Army Families Federation, who dropped in on the course during a one-day visit to Rheindahlen.

Cathy Dobson, senior SSAFA social worker from JHQ, spoke about the social work service and Gill Whitlock, health analyst from the Health Commission, answered questions about the new structure of primary and secondary health care in BFG.

Speakers from CAST, HIVE, Homestart, Relate, the WRVS and representatives from the Army and RAF welfare departments explained their differing

roles within BFG's welfare structure. SSAFA Training Officer Marjorie Whitehead examined the important issue of confidentiality and there was a session on bereavement and loss.

Some volunteers said they had been unaware SSAFA was able to offer such a wide range of support.

● Applicants for the next SSAFA information course for volunteers (at Rheindahlen, March 4-7) should write or telephone for details and an application form to SSAFA Information Office, HQ SSAFA WE, BFPO 140, tel JHQ Mil 2272 or civil 02161 472272.

## Calling patriotic poets

ANCHOR Books is asking retired and serving soldiers to submit a poem about their patriotic experiences for possible inclusion in an anthology.

Royalties from published work – which can cover anything from "a meaningful memory to a comical calamity or a moment which made you proud in your platoon" – will be donated to a charity which receives the most nominations from contributors. Details from Lucy Jeacock, 01733 230759, fax 230751.



## Better late...

Nearly 60 years after they were commissioned, 96-year-old **Graham Martin-Turner** (front left) and **Herbert Fitzroy Robinson**, 82, (front right) were among recipients of Commissioning Parchments (Royal Warrants), signed by King George VI, which had only recently been delivered to the Sussex Yeomanry.

The parchments – normally posted to individuals – were presented on this occasion by the Master Gunner, Gen Sir **Martin Farndale** (front centre).

Also receiving belated warrants in the Sussex Yeomanry's Officers' Mess were relatives of other officers who had been commissioned into six Sussex artillery regiments between January 1938 and April 1939.

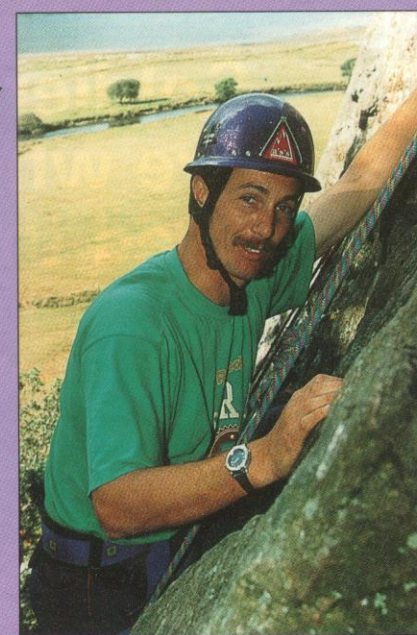
The search continues for another 33 recipients or their relatives.



## ROCK STEADY

Taking everything in his stride on the rock face was Capt **Roger Lewis** RE, SO3 G3 (Ops) at HQ 5 Division, who was experiencing the "delights" of adventure training during Exercise Western Crusader, a week-long Headquarters annual camp in the Lake District.

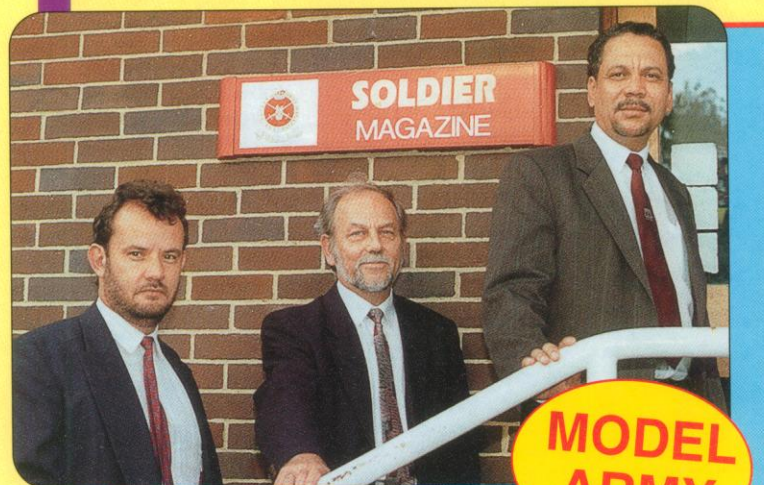
The exercise, held at times in driving rain, tested the HQ's military knowledge, prowess with pistol and grenade, and ravine-crossing and hill-walking skills.



## (Black) Watch this space

Hoping to make his mark is Lt Col **Roddy Riddell** (right), new commanding officer of Perth-based 3rd Battalion, The Black Watch. Handing over to him is outgoing CO Lt Col **James Murray**, under whose command the battalion has served in Bosnia, Belize and the Falkland Islands. Lt Col Riddell served under him as training major last year.

# PEOPLE



## MODEL ARMY

Two senior staff members from the office of the Prime Minister of Namibia called on the *Soldier* headquarters in Aldershot during a tour of Army units in Southern England.

**Etienne Maritz** (left), Deputy Director Consultancy Services, and **Frikkie Mouton** (right), Deputy Director Resource Management, were accompanied by **Terry Matthews** (centre), senior consultant from the Guildford-based Army Management Services, which hosted the visitors from Africa for a fortnight.

Namibia, with its relatively new Government machine, is taking a close look at how Great Britain is managing change in its own public service. "You are successful in the UK," said Etienne. "We are using you as a model."

## PUPIL POWER

Paintballing, racing across an assault course and dangling from an aerial ropeway were among the challenges facing 200 children who took part in the annual Army schools competition for the North East.

Among the 24 teams participating in the event – organised by the King's Division at Queen Elizabeth Barracks, York – were (left to right) **Ben Myatt**, **Robert Ellis** and **Gary Robson**, seen exploring a Warrior fighting vehicle with Pte **Mark Granger**, Green Howards.



Picture: Chris Barker

## First Look at this!



Pointing out a feature to Sgt **Jimmie Wedlock** on the Fulbeck Training Area, Lincolnshire, is SSgt **Ted Woods**. Both from 262 Squadron RLC, they were taking part in Exercise First Look, which aimed at theoretically siting more than 80 bulk fuel 4 and 8-tonne vehicles and 230 war-established volunteers to test junior NCOs at warrant officer to major level.

## TAFF'S "Q" FOR SUCCESS

With his squadron deploying on an operational tour to Bosnia, complete with 65 vehicles and millions of pounds of communications equipment, SSgt (SQMS) **Taff Alden**, 1 (UK) ADSR, was an extremely busy man.

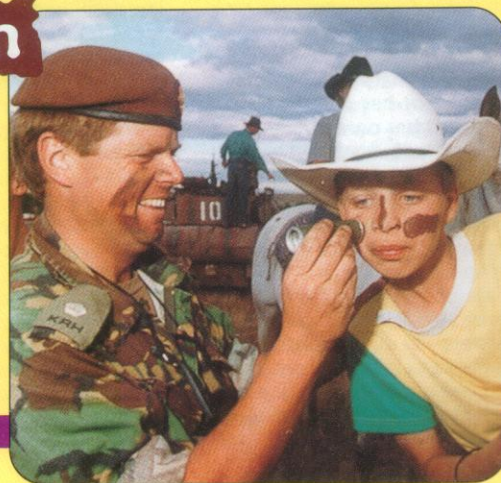
Too busy, in fact, to train for the Army shoot at Bisley. But "Q" Alden, pictured at the Bosnian Serb Vrbanja range near Banja Luka, arrived at Bisley, grabbed a rifle, had 15 minutes to zero and then took the competition shoot...



## Canadian cam

Maj **Jonty Palmer**, of The King's Royal Hussars, applies a touch of camouflage to a youthful cowboy during an exercise on the Canadian prairie. Tank Company 1 of the KRH happened to come across a huge centennial cattle drive, celebrating Canadian settlers' history, during its current stint as the opposition force at British Army Training Unit Suffield (BATUS).

Mutual fascination was shown in horses, cattle, chuck wagons – and tanks.



## Career men

Pens poised as they prepare to sign a Memorandum of Understanding between the MoD, the Industry and Training Department Welsh Office and the Careers Service Wales Association (CSWA) on tri-service recruitment responsibilities are (left to right) Air Commodore **Mike Butler**, Director of Recruiting and Selection (RAF); Dr **John Llewellyn** (CSWA); Brig **Simon Hill** RM, Director of Naval Recruiting; Dr **Tony Peters** (Welsh Office) and Brig **John Milne**, Director of Army Recruiting.





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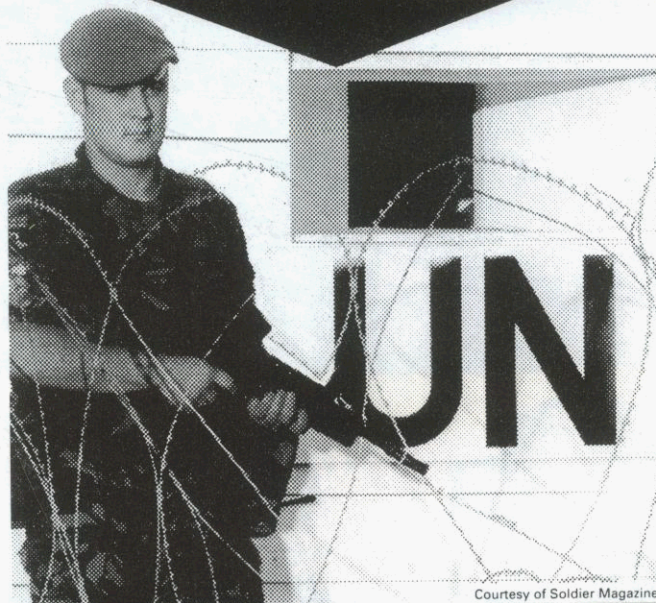
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D9

# Soldiers are there when you need them...



Courtesy of Soldier Magazine

## ...please be there when they need you

The Army Benevolent Fund provides help to any man or woman and their families if they are serving or have served in the British Army and are in real need. This help is given in two ways: through grants to supplement Corps or Regimental aid and by financial support to over 70 national charities providing for the special needs of those in distress.

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☐ Please send me details on making a legacy or how I could donate through Payroll Giving.

☐ Please send me \_\_\_\_\_ A2 colour posters showing cap badges of Today's Army. I enclose £ \_\_\_\_\_ (£2 per copy inc. p&p).

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_

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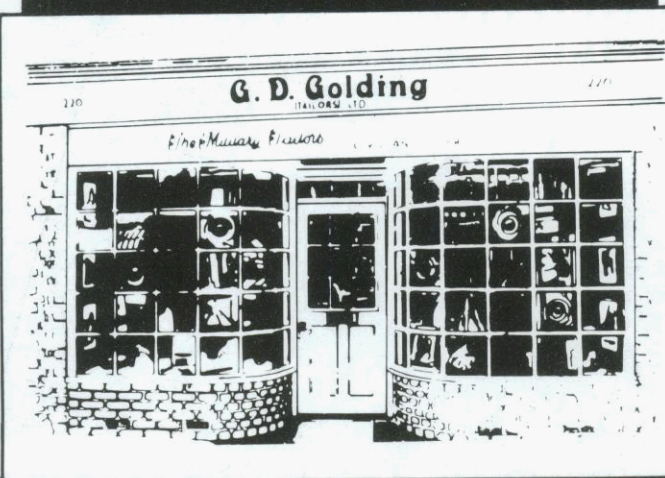
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## Bugle call of (the wrong) note

AS the Second World War Bugle Major to the 1st Buckinghamshire Battalion of the Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry, my memory was refreshed by the late John Brereton's excellent article about trumpets and bugles (Oct 14).

Before D-Day (June 6, 1944), in a sealed camp, the whole of No 6 Beach group, some 3,000 men, were called to attention by a single note on a silver bugle when King George VI inspected them before they embarked.

Only the bugler and I know that this nervous chap pitched the wrong note.

No military event can surpass Beating Retreat performed at the fast pace of a Light Infantry band with buglers.

This much-requested ceremony must have earned thousands for weapons appeals in the war.

For my sins, I landed in Normandy on D-Day in charge of my buglers, now anti-tank gunners, only to find on the breakthrough at Caen that we were being drafted into the Highland Division with their pipe bands.

I don't think the bugle would be compatible with the swirl of the kilt. — **Jack Cheshire, Aylsebury, Bucks.**

## BIRD'S EYE-VIEW



"And now, Colonel, something truly Welsh to remember us by ..."

German Panzers quit Castlemartin — Pages 16-17

## Banish this 'drab' old khaki image

YOUR ARTICLE headed "London Pride" (Oct 14) put me in mind of Bill Smart's plea on behalf of the Army's ceremonial uniforms (Sept 30).

No 1 Dress should be officially reinstated into the Army, but not as "Dress Blues".

The photographs in "London Pride" of guardsmen and The Royal Regiment of Wales make one think how much smarter *line* infantry regiments would look with just one adjustment to their ceremonial uniform — the scarlet tunic, which was once the order of the day anyway.

"Dress Blues" could be

worn by the cavalry and those units not formed before the Army went khaki — The Parachute Regiment and most of the corps.

The sad, boring No 2 could be adjusted Army-wide to model those of the Scottish infantry regiments, who wear kilts and trews with the No 2 jacket.

Khaki trousers should be dispensed with and blue trousers worn with the No 2

jacket. Then the drab image of an entirely khaki-clad soldier would, thankfully, disappear and the Army would be both modernised and look smarter. — **R J Brennan, Cheltenham, Glos.**

## Sell us your cap badges!

AS a long-time collector of military badges it is very frustrating to find that Army recruiting units who are attending local fetes and other events do not have cap badges on sale.

This also applies to many military museums I have visited and I feel that this is not only a disappointment to collectors but a loss of revenue for the unit or establishment concerned.

Perhaps concerned parties could make these badges available. — **C W Phelps, Hoddesdon, Herts.**

● For the record . . . and Points in Question in Page 32

## Why no medal for wounds?

WHY is there no British medal granted for wounds sustained in combat or active service?

Many who wear rows of medals served in bases miles behind the lines while we who did the fighting got relatively few.

Surely a wound medal could have been struck. Failing that, we should be allowed to wear on our uniforms our discharge button, mounted on a distinguishing ribbon along with our campaign ribbons and medals,

to denote disability from wounds.

During the Second World War we had wound bars on our lower left arm, but they later went out of use.

It seems Britain is the only country that does not honour its wounded Servicemen.

The USA gives the Purple Heart. France awards the Medal of Mercy. Russia and

Germany, I believe, have or had a Wounded in Combat medal (Germany in three grades). So why not the British?

This subject is a sore point among many Pensioners, both within the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, and outside. — **W Hibbert (Cpl), Ward 14, Berth 16, The Royal Hospital, Chelsea.**

*Soldier* welcomes letters for publication from all readers, whatever their status. Letters must be brief, typed or written clearly and include the correspondent's name and address in block capitals, not necessarily for publication. Anonymous letters will not be considered. Acceptance or rejection of letters is the decision of the Editor, who reserves the right to edit for length, clarity or style.



# Auf Wiedersehen to Pembroke Panzers

THE GERMAN Army has said *Auf Wiedersehen* to Castlemartin range in Dyfed where its Panzers have trained for 35 years, writes Robin Lewitt.

After nine Leopard 2 tanks had put in a last attack down the range on October 15 an earlier version, a Leopard 1 called Leo, was unveiled to stand as a permanent reminder beside a Churchill tank named Winston.

A thousand guests attended the last of the famous *Oktobefest* beer festivals in Pembroke Castle, where a German military band joined the band of the Welsh Guards in a joint charity concert in aid of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution.

There were mixed emotions as the last of 84,000 German tank troops from 336 battalions to have served in Wales marched through the streets of Pembroke to a final church service.

Some older residents felt uneasy at seeing German soldiers march past a memorial to Britons who died in two world wars.

When the first batch arrived at Castlemartin in 1961 they were met by angry protesters from outside the area, although the troops were heartened when the people of Pembroke pelted the demonstrators with rotten eggs and tomatoes, stopping most of them from reaching the camp.

Stephen Jenkins, a member of the local branch of the Royal British Legion, said the Germans would be sadly missed; others felt that a lot of water had passed under the bridge since 1945.

So have a lot of tank rounds: in fact, some 270,000 have been blasted up the Royal Armoured Corps range since German tankies began training there.

Relations with the community have become close thanks to a conscious effort by the visitors, and this was formally recognised in 1977 when Pembroke twinned with the German town of Bergen-Hohne, home to generations of troops serving with the British Army of the Rhine.

Both civilian and military personnel were heavily involved in restoring St Mary's Church in Warren on the range boundary.

Brainchild of the British and German commandants, the Warren Church Charitable Trust was founded in 1986. As well as being restored as a place of worship, the formerly derelict building is now an international centre for con-

certs, exhibitions and conferences. When the roof blew off during the 1990 hurricane, Leopard tank covers were rushed to the church to protect the altar and organ.

As a parting gift to the trust, former range commandant Col Herman Roessler, now commandant at Bergen-Hohne, presented £2,000 raised locally, while contributions from the Lutheran and Roman Catholic churches took donations from Germany past the £4,000 mark.

For many years the German Army has been one of the main contributors to Pembroke's Anchorage Day Centre for the handicapped, while German players have been a mainstay of the Pembroke Football Club.

When the Federal German Army began training at Castlemartin it was equipped with American M47 and M48 tanks. These were replaced in 1968 by the Leopard 1, and in 1986 by the Leopard 2, one of the world's most potent main battle tanks.

Initially, eight battalions trained at Castlemartin each year for two or three weeks. By 1990, 18 battalions annually used the facilities, which had a permanent German staff varying from 40 in winter to 170 at the peak of the firing season.

There were several advantages for the Germans conducting their training in Wales. It gave their troops an opportunity to work overseas in an environment similar to the middle European countryside they were training to defend.

Few ranges in Germany were large enough to allow tanks to fire at targets further than 3km.

Following the reunification of Germany there was a reduction of 50 per cent in the size of the German armed forces, and new training areas became available in eastern Germany.

The Panzers will be missed in Pembroke... not least by the parents and families of 140 girls who have married German soldiers.

For them, it is not "good-bye", just "Auf Wiedersehen, Pets!"



Pictures: Stuart Bingham and PZ News



Above - November 1961: Germans fire the first rounds from their M48s at the Castlemartin range

Left - German soldiers march through the streets of Pembroke as they make their final farewells to the town. Inset left - Lt Gen Helmut Willman (left) and Maj Gen Robin Searby in front of Leo, the Leopard 1 left behind by the German Army to mark its 35 years at Castlemartin

Below - German doctor Karen Müller, who has worked for the past two years at Castlemartin, pictured with Welsh Guards who took part in the farewell ceremony

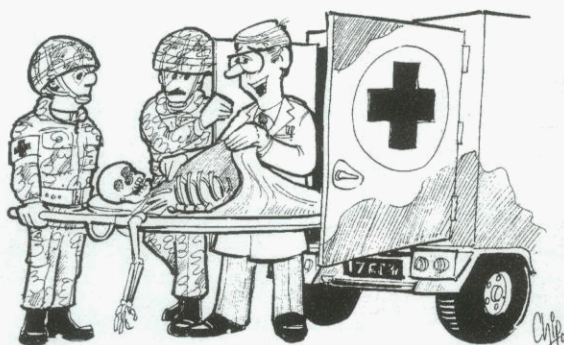




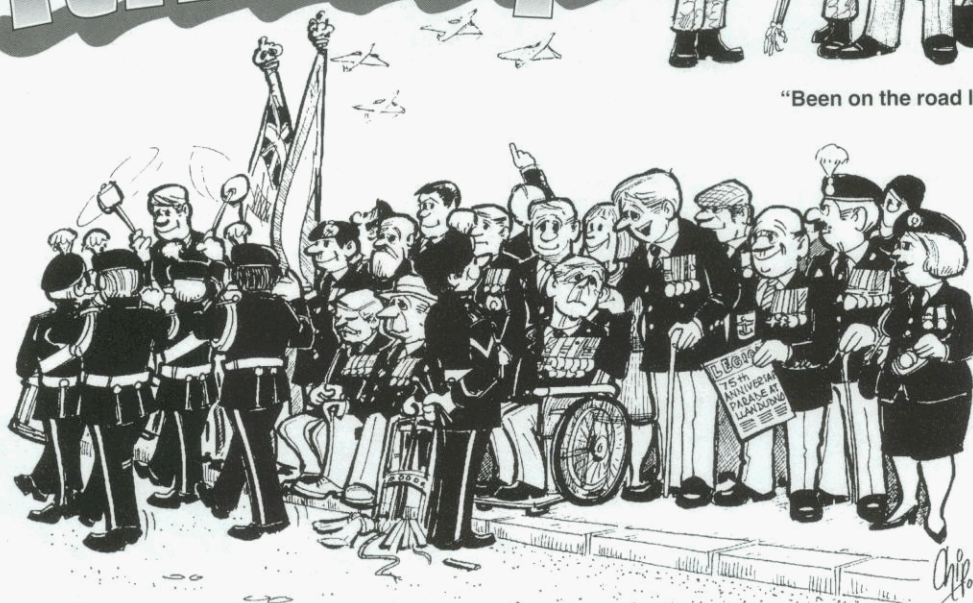


"100% for the demolition lads . . . it's a pity you've got the wrong bridge!"

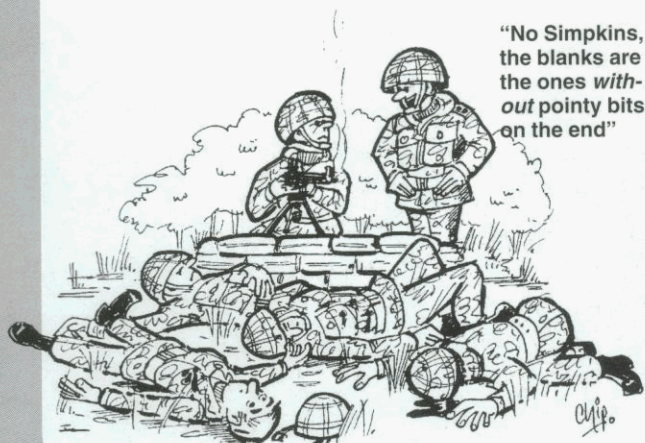
# Chuckle with Chip



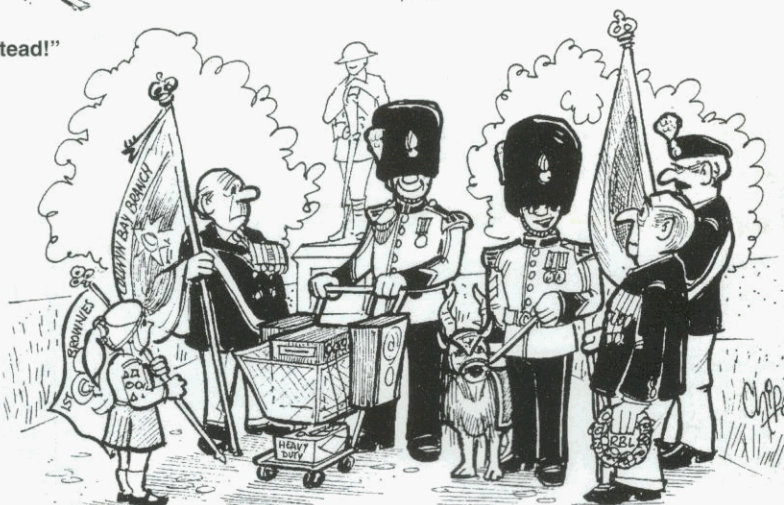
"Been on the road long?"



"The lad's busted his glockenspiel . . . he wants to borrow your medals to use instead!"



"No Simpkins, the blanks are the ones *with-out* pointy bits on the end"



"Since the Defence cuts, Jones 91 and his mobile CD player are the Regimental Band!"



# Close call for 'rebro' signallers

ROYAL Signallers on the highest manned peak in Bosnia narrowly escaped severe injury on the night of September 28-29 when the top floor of the house they were sharing with Bosnian police caught fire.

Just before midnight Cpl Carl Crofts, LCpl Dale King and Sig Kevin McLean were wakened by the police, and while LCpl King tackled the fire in the top floor, the others evacuated the three ground-floor rooms they occupied.

Water from the signallers' fire extinguishers evaporated on hitting the intense heat, and they had to abandon the doomed house.

The soldiers, from 1 Armoured Division Headquarters and Signal Regiment, providing communications for the Multi-National Division South West, managed to save their personal kit; their signals equipment was far enough away to be out of danger.

Situated 6,500 ft up the Paljenik feature north of Travnik, the detachment was rushed emergency support by their troop staff sergeant and recce sergeant. Tentage had to be erected when the police refused to let the signallers share a second, undamaged house.

"We've got on very well, until now," said Cpl Crofts wryly. "The police gave us food and we let them watch our welfare television."

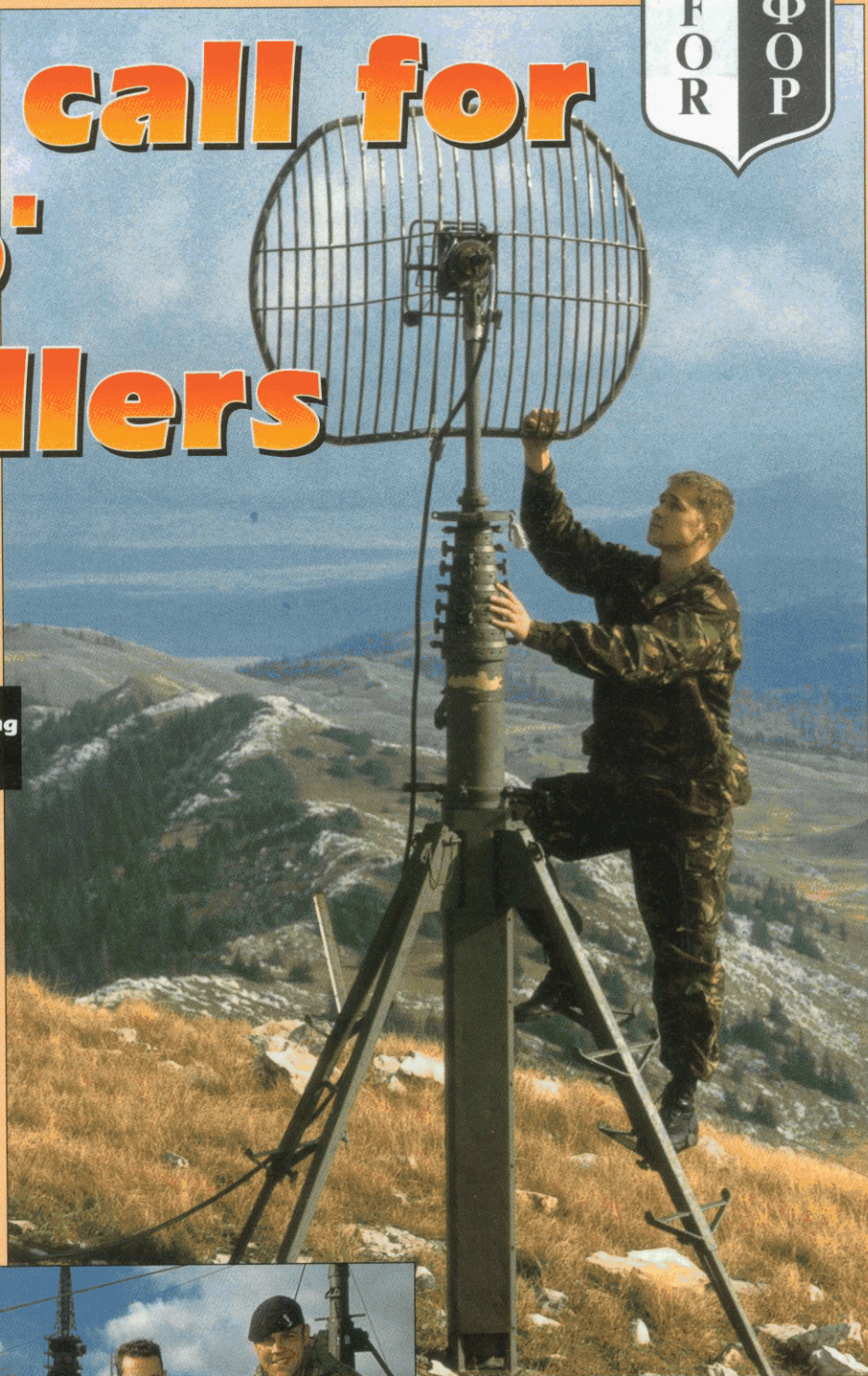
On the second highest occupied hill, Sgt Simon Schofield and his detachment had no burning issues, but the weather presented a major problem, with their location almost continually shrouded in cloud. It always seemed to be raining or snowing.

"We had 4ft of snow in September and with winds of 100mph outside the door you couldn't stand," he said.

"Every three hours the masts would be caked in thick ice which we had to knock off."

With 12 soldiers from the Multi-National Division HQ and Signal Regiment, the Royal Horse Artillery and a medic from 16 Field Ambulance on the Vitorog re-broad-

**Report:**  
**Gordon Skilling**  
**Pictures:**  
**Mike Weston**



Above – Sig Mark Sutton does some fine tuning on the Vitorog feature



Left – Cpl Carl Crofts, Sig Kevin McLean and LCpl Dale King of 201 Signal Squadron had to look for a new home after being burned out on the Paljenik height

when the Croats ignored the minefields and made a surprise attack.

The British signallers and gunners can see several mines scattered outside the wire which surrounds them. They can also see the trenches which were the front line for several years.

Sgt Schofield, the Royal Signals rear link sergeant attached to the RHA for two years, said: "It is one of the best sites there is. We have most of the amenities, such as a satellite TV and our own telephone, and we have a shower made from a bucket with water from the cooker."

cast station between Glamoc and Sipovo, the lads were not complaining.

They were left to get on with their job of re-broadcasting for the command net throughout Bosnia and looking after the radio relay for Ptarmigan and the gunners' net.

Their mountain, held by the Serbs for most of the war, was captured last year





# All for one . . . and one for all

A GOOD, old-fashioned lump of wood came to the rescue of American mechanics in Glamoc, Bosnia, when 14 recovery vehicles from 13 IFOR nations gathered to establish how many logistic vehicles their crews could rescue.

Despite his sophisticated Oshkosh vehicle, Sgt Travis Parker of the US Army's 123rd Maintenance Support Battalion called on a British team from 15 Field Workshop to borrow a log.

Cpls Stuart Hamilton and Mick Allan were delighted to oblige. They had their eyes on a retrieval bracket used by the Americans which would help them avoid damaging the transmission of vehicles under which they had passed cables and chains.

**Report:**  
Gordon Skilling  
**Pictures:**  
Mike Weston

The Americans, too, wanted to be 100 per cent sure that they would not damage vehicles with lightly-built bodywork, and the wood provided the ideal solution because it spread the pressure of their cables.

Both the American bracket and the British wood – a long plank, a short plank and a short log – have NATO part numbers and can be easily obtained.

This co-operation was typical of the unique Exercise Able Engineer, which brought immediate benefit to units operating in former Yugoslavia.

The recovery vehicles had to demonstrate whether they could perform various types of recovery, and their crews were asked what preparations were necessary before towing, and whether their air lines and electrical systems were compatible with those of the vehicles they were rescuing.

They were invited to suggest simple modifications or additions to their equipment which would enable them to carry out the recovery task.

Sponsored by the Allied Command

Europe Rapid Reaction Corps (ARRC) headquarters and organised by 6 Battalion, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, the exercise immediately showed crews which of 26 logistic vehicles they could safely tow.

And it also allowed Maj Kevin Young, maintenance staff officer at the rear headquarters of ARRC at Kiseljak, to produce a matrix which will ensure a more efficient recovery service.

"We were never absolutely certain what recovery could happen correctly," he said.

"Heavy armoured vehicles stay in their own sectors in the bosom of their own recovery assets, but logistic convoys and liaison vehicles are all over the place, often in small numbers and often hundreds of miles from their national support.

"We weren't certain if a Greek Steyer 680 five-ton truck, which delivers British post to the ARRC area, could be recovered by a British Foden. Now we know what is possible."

As different vehicles arrived at the Glamoc airfield the tradesmen watching were visibly excited, despite the dismal weather.

They had never had an opportunity to work with vehicles from such countries as the Ukraine, Greece, Malaysia and Austria, and many had never encountered the sophisticated equipment used by the British, Americans, French and Dutch.

The professional attitude and experi-



Cpl Nick Allan and LCpl Jambludin Man of the Royal Malaysian Army prepare to belly-lift a Malaysian Condor



A British Foden recovers a Malaysian Condor

ence of the full-time and fully-trained British recovery mechanics shone through. Quick to assess a task and quick to crack on with it, they demonstrated a sound basic understanding lacking in some countries with only part-time mechanics relying on officers for guidance.

Some nations did not check where they put their cables and chains, causing further damage to the vehicles they were attempting to rescue.

This was particularly evident in the case of the Malaysian Condor armoured personnel carrier, which has a door in the



Cpl "H" Hamilton and Cpl Nick Allan, recovery mechanics with 15 Fd Wksp, with log E3/3950.99.461.5222, a valuable and attractive item for the Americans

middle of each side. The Malaysians feared the Condor would bend if it was picked up at either end without proper support.

Equipment such as the Ukrainian Ural, which dates from the early 70s, was a revelation for the mechanics. Some modern vehicles have plastic at the front, but the Ural is built like a brick outhouse, with big bumpers which are part of the chassis, said the British mechanics. A fork-lift can be pushed underneath it without causing damage.

"We have been watching techniques we flung out with the Leyland and AEC in the

early 80s," said Sgt Lew Wright, who, with Capt Rob Butler, organised the week-long exercise.

"Some use chains to pick up and tow, others use forks and some use shackles. We have all three, plus the experience, and have proved we can do just about anything without causing further damage."

The British Foden was the only vehicle capable of lifting the 12 tons on the axle of the 36-ton fully-laden German Iveco fuel tanker.

A Malaysian Volvo FL10 proved something of a dark horse and impressed

observers as an adaptable and capable vehicle, similar to one once used by the British in Berlin.

Establishing which vehicles were compatible was quickly done. The Greeks now know that their shackles are either too big or too small for certain jobs.

They could have carried out their tasks if they had borrowed from the Spanish, who had a box full of shackles of all shapes and sizes, said the adjutant, Capt James McCurrach.

The exercise was to demonstrate that much standardisation can be done at the basic recovery level, even if detailed repairs are not possible, said Lt Col Ian Dale, CO of 6 Bn REME and a former staff officer at the ARRC.

"I am convinced there is a great deal we can do to help each other in the divisional rear.

"NATO has done much good work in the past 18 months to record the various systems, but there was no small book to tell you which nation's recovery vehicles could recover another nation's."

Each nation working at the "front line" had its own logistic tail stretching for perhaps 300km, and there was considerable duplication of effort.

"We have shown that where two nations have something in common, they can work together and reduce the number of people they have to put into theatre."

Col Bert Hupse, Dutch chief maintenance officer at ARRC, was very proud of how the mechanics had worked together, despite the language barrier, to produce practical results on the ground.

"It is now possible to look for help in other areas from other units if vehicles cannot cross the mountains because snow or floods have blocked the roads. Drivers can phone the number on the back of their route maps, and our new matrix will tell staff officers in other multi-national divisions which nations are nearby and can help," he said.



# And the band played on



First and last: 67 Squadron's first OC, Maj Geoffrey Bennett (left) and the last, Maj Alistair Sheppard (right), with former Cpl Dave Mayhew (71)

## Party spirit marks end of road for engineers

MORE than 30 years of service in Hong Kong came to an end when 67 Gurkha Independent Field Squadron, Queen's Gurkha Engineers, disbanded at Borneo Lines, Sek Kong, writes Lt Pete Smyth.

Under OC Maj Alistair Sheppard, 120 Gurkha and British soldiers were present when Commander British Forces, Maj Gen Bryan Dutton, took the salute at their disbandment parade. Also present was the QGE Colonel, Maj Gen Tony Pigott.

Many former Gurkha engineer officers from Malaysia, Singapore and New Zealand returned for the occasion.

Special guests of honour included 71-year-old former NCO Dave Mayhew, who flew from his home in Ashford, Kent; Lt (QGO) Ranbahadur Gurung, who, aged 17, was among the first batch of Gurkha engineers recruited in 1961; and Maj Geoffrey Bennett, the first OC.

After a display by the visiting Royal Engineers' Band the squadron marched on to the parade ground led by the Pipes and Drums of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Gurkha Rifles.

Following Maj Gen Dutton's inspection, a lone piper played as the squadron flag was lowered and presented to Maj Gen Pigott. Then, to *Auld Lang Syne* and the enthusiastic applause of family and friends, the squadron marched off for the last time.

Maj Gen Dutton said it had been an exceptional squadron, setting the highest standards as Gurkha soldiers and as engi-

DESPITE the heat and humidity of a hot and steamy Hong Kong, the Band of the Corps of Royal Engineers remained on song and in tune during their hectic tour of the Territory.

With three major performances at the farewell and disbandment parades of 50 Hong Kong Workshop REME, 67 Gurkha Independent

Field Squadron, Queen's Gurkha Engineers, and RAF Sek Kong, and an itinerary which covered everything from mess functions, school performances and a big band thrash at the Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank, the musicians were hard-pressed to find a moment to themselves.

However, they were able to mix business with pleasure during their performance at Sha Tin racecourse when they entertained punters who flocked to the course for the Colony's biggest day of the racing season. Between performances the soldiers were able to have a flutter although Director of Music, Capt Andrew Chatburn, was relieved to see no one lost his shirt.

The RE Band, one of the premier staff bands in the British Army, is permanently stationed in Chatham, headquarters of the Royal School of Military Engineering.

As well as providing music for every possible occasion within the corps and visiting RE units both at home and abroad, the band performs at many national and international events. It travels extensively and has played in the Falkland Islands and Australia and, nearer to home, in Gibraltar, Cyprus, Italy, Holland, Germany, France and Belgium.

It has been the senior staff band at four Edinburgh tattoos, two Royal Tournaments, and numerous Buckingham Palace garden parties as well as playing at Wembley, Twickenham and Wimbledon.



RE interlude: Musicians keep the punters happy between races at Sha Tin racecourse

neers. "We can, and should, remember with justifiable pride the achievements and spirit of 67 Gurkha Independent Field Squadron, but should not look back with regret."

"As soldiers we are ultimately servants of our nations and it is our ethos that we look ahead to our next challenge rather than waste energy and emotion on looking back at what might have been."

Of those on parade almost half will remain in the Army and are set to return to the UK to join 69 Gurkha Field Squadron, 36 Engineer Regiment in Mainstone. Of the remainder, three will transfer to the Royal Gurkha Rifles while 62 will leave the squadron.

Some have applied to join the Gurkha Reserve Unit in Brunei; some will take up jobs in Hong Kong and the rest will return to Nepal to set up their own businesses.

After the parade the squadron threw a huge party in the vehicle sheds. Every soldier received an engraved tankard and the party went on well into the night... a fitting end to a day which represented the end of an era for Gurkha engineers in Hong Kong.

The squadron first served in Hong Kong between 1962-66, returning from Malaysia in 1970. As the only remaining engineering unit in Hong Kong, it provided support, from its base in Malaya Lines, for the Garrison on the disbandment of the Queen's Gurkha Engineer Regiment in 1994.

It assisted with many community projects, the most recent being the construction of accommodation for a drug rehabilitation centre. The Gurkhas twice returned to Nepal (in 1994 and earlier this year) to help with a road project in the Everest region.



Maj Gen Bryan Dutton lays a wreath at the Cenotaph during the Liberation Parade

## Veterans return for one last Liberation Parade

FOR the last time before their departure from the Territory next year, British Forces commemorated one of the most significant events in Hong Kong's history, the liberation from Japanese Forces at the end of the Second World War.

Men from the Royal Navy, the Army and the Royal Air Force formed up at the Cenotaph, in Central, alongside Hong Kong's veterans during this year's Liberation Parade.

A detachment of 53 men from the 1st Battalion, The Royal Gurkha Rifles were on parade under the command of OC HQ Coy, Maj Udaibahadur Gurung, along with four Cenotaph sentries from HMS Tamar and a four-man firing party from RAF Sek Kong.

Music was provided by the Pipes and Drums of 1 RGR and by the visiting Band of the Corps of Royal Engineers.

Commander British Forces, Maj Gen Bryan Dutton, and Inspector Hong Kong Military Service Corps, Lt Col Nick Southward, were among those who laid wreaths during the parade.



Grandstand view: Capt Chatburn conducts



In tribute to the liberators: 1 RGR's detachment on Hong Kong's Liberation Parade under the command of Maj Udaibahadur Gurung



# Para raiders drop in on Swiss

PARAS from London, Aldershot and Glasgow created a bit of European history when they became the first British troops to parachute into Switzerland.

Drawn mainly from reservists supporting Aldershot-based 5 Airborne Brigade, they dropped at Yverdon, north east of Geneva, following an invitation from the Swiss to make the historic jump.

Their spectacular arrival heralded the start of an annual international military skills competition called Swiss Raid Commando, which attracts teams from all over Europe.

Led by Lt Col Eric Kohn, the British included the reservists' staff officers pool serving with 5 Airborne Brigade, soldiers from London and Aldershot-based 10th Battalion, The Parachute Regiment (V) and men from the regiment's Glasgow-based 4th Battalion.

Lt Col Kohn, a merchant banker in civvy street, had spent weeks organising the British aspect of the competition. He said: "This is the first time British paratroopers have jumped into Switzerland and those of us taking part are very proud to be making history."

They were joined by soldiers from 148 Forward Observation Battery RA, who work in support of 3 Commando Brigade, who in turn work alongside 5 Airborne Brigade in the recently-formed Joint Rapid



The first British paratroopers to make a mass jump into Switzerland land at Yverdon, marking the beginning of the competition. Thirty-eight British teams competed against Dutch, French, German, Danish and Swiss entries

**Report: Media Ops Group (V)**  
**Pictures: Chris Fletcher**

Deployment Force. First man to float down on to Swiss soil was Capt Anthony Lighten, a TA doctor with 5 Brigade.

Having completed the jump the British airborne troops met up at Colombier Castle with other UK-based units which

had made their way there by more conventional means.

The 38 British Army teams had just two hours to prepare themselves before setting off in barges across Neuchatal Lake to begin the competition in complete darkness.

In less than 20 hours each of the four-man teams had to cover 50 miles across

rugged terrain, abseil from a 250ft viaduct, and pass shooting, navigation and first aid tests.

A total of 138 teams from Italy, Holland, Denmark, France, Germany, Switzerland and the UK took part in the commando raid, which has been staged every year since 1981.

British representation included teams from the Gibraltar Regiment, several from units based in Germany and many TA and Regular teams.

Capt David Reynolds said: "Within the first 12 hours of the competition the British teams had raced ahead. For the first time one of our units came in first to win the foreign team category."

He was referring to the Black Watch team, led by Capt James Houghton, the highest-placed foreign entry. In fact, the Black Watch soldiers finished at least an

hour ahead of any other team and were a little surprised to find themselves placed sixth overall.

Guest of honour at the awards ceremony and parade was Brig Graeme Lamb, Commander of 5 Airborne Brigade, who made a point of telling the British teams that their performances had been outstanding.

Capt Reynolds added: "The British teams, particularly the Black Watch, set the pace from the minute the competition started."

The British Army intends to invite the Swiss to enter next year's gruelling Cambrian Patrol, a similar sort of competition set in Wales.



Competitors launch themselves off the fearsome 250ft railway viaduct. The extended abseil was one of many tasks facing competitors at check points. Each had to be accomplished before the team could continue to the next leg



Above - Brig Graeme Lamb, Commander of 5 Airborne Brigade, congratulates Black Watch team leader Capt James Houghton. Despite finishing first an hour ahead of the rest of the field, the Black Watch were placed sixth in the final table of results. They did, however, win the prize for the highest-placed foreign entry

Right - Brig Graeme Lamb (in kilt) takes the salute during the final parade and march past to mark the close of the competition at a Swiss Army barracks





# Constable Inge given keys to the Tower



Picture: Sgt Ian Lipiot

## Jordan veterans plan to issue own medal

A GROUP of former soldiers who believe they got a raw deal over medals have decided to issue their own.

The veterans, who in 1958 flew at short notice to Jordan in support of King Hussein, have had no response to their requests for a medal to mark what they consider was a major operational success.

They need to find a minimum of 500 – the smallest quantity considered by manufacturers they have approached – willing to pay for a privately-struck medal.

Taff Harris, who served with 1 Troop, 23 Field Squadron RE, wants to hear from anyone interested in "going it alone". He can be contacted on 01437 768668 and says there will be no obligation.

In the summer of '58, more than 2,000 men of the 16th Independent Parachute Brigade (minus 1 Para which remained in Cyprus) and attached units flew to Amman as tension flared in the desert kingdom. The Paras were joined later by The Cameronians from East Africa, a squadron of RAF Hawker Hunters, and a small Royal Navy presence at Akaba.

"When the flap died down," says Taff, "King Hussein offered to

In a ceremony dating back to the reign of William the Conqueror, Fd Marshal Sir Peter Inge is appointed Constable of the Tower of London. Predecessors include Thomas à Becket and the Duke of Wellington.

There was a full military escort on Tower Green for the pageant, during which the Lord Chamberlain, representing the Queen, handed over the keys of the Tower to the new Constable. Sir Peter, the

157th holder of the title, succeeded Fd Marshal Sir John Stanier.

In days of yore Constables boasted many lucrative privileges. They claimed any horse, ox, pig, sheep or cattle that fell off London Bridge, all the herbage that grew on Tower Hill, a fee from prisoners in the Tower (known as "the suite of the Constable's irons"), and a cask of wine from every warship which visited the Pool of London.



Crisis over: Men of 16 Independent Parachute Brigade toast a Jordanian soldier – soft drinks – at Amman airport in 1958

issue all the British Servicemen involved with a medal. His offer was turned down by our top brass, who weren't slow to accept gold watches for themselves from the king... something which greatly angered us at the time."

Mr Harris said many of those with whom he remains in contact

are still bitter that they received no recognition. To compound the situation, he says, when they eventually returned to Cyprus many discovered that, because of their time in Jordan, they had failed to qualify for the Cyprus General Service Medal. "We've been denied two medals, not just one."

## 50 YEARS AGO

From *Soldier*, November 1946

### CHANGING MERCURY

The Royal Corps of Signals badge is to be changed. The oval band which surrounds Mercury is to disappear and Mercury will have a scroll bearing the corps motto at his feet. The Imperial Crown will be separate and held in place by a back plate.

## 25 YEARS AGO

From *Soldier*, November 1971

### INTUITION

Troop commander 2nd Lt Geoffrey Pitts decided a side road merited investigation while leading a 17th/21st Lancers patrol by Ferret and Land Rover in Omagh, Co Tyrone – and probably saved the lives of his men and the loss of vehicles. As he sent a foot patrol to investigate, an explosion tore a huge hole, 18ft wide and 12ft deep, in the road. The only casualty was a Ferret windscreen.

## 'Church' in the woods recalls Greek sacrifice

AN unusual ceremony took place during the annual reunion of the Brotherhood of Veterans of the Greek Campaign 1940-41.

Highlight was a ceremony on a plot secured by the Brotherhood in the National Memorial Arboretum at Croxall, eight miles from Lichfield.

Trees and shrubs indigenous to the eastern Mediterranean are to be planted there in the outline of a Greek Orthodox Church.

Among the veterans, who were joined by representatives from the Australian and New Zealand armies, were Arthur Dale and Ken Millington. They last saw each other on a beach in Greece in 1941 when both were with 292 Field Company RE.

Veterans of the Greek campaign are due to make a pilgrimage in May to their memorial at Kalamata. A banquet hosted by the mayor promises to be a memorable event. Details from Edwin Horlington, 163 Walton Road, Walton-on-Naze, Essex CO14 8NE (tel 01255 677178).

## WO1 JIM BRADWELL

● Tributes to WO1 (ASM) Jim Bradwell REME poured in during the week following his death from injuries sustained in the Thiepval Barracks, Lisburn, bombing on October 7. "He was a great corps man," said one. His wife, Pam, has asked that donations in his memory should be made to the REME Benevolent Fund.

## Mack's still a mystery

MACK the Mystery Medic is proving elusive, despite the efforts of *Soldier* and BFBS Cyprus.

Four months ago we asked readers to help us find the "British UN paramedic" who in 1989 saved a holidaymaker in Cyprus.

Glen Wawman broke his neck in an apartment block swimming pool during a wedding reception.

"Mack" used his hands to brace Glen's neck during a two-hour drive to Nicosia, almost certainly saving his life. Now the 999 – Life-savers programme want to contact Mack... if they can find him.

Hopes were raised when a caller told us Mack was a Para – but despite attempts to track him down through the regiment the trail went cold. Alan Jennings used the story on BFBS, but also drew a blank.

Was the mystery medic a Para? If you can help, contact the Editor. Mack's permission will be sought before any details are passed on.

## Where is it?

If any reader recognises the memorial tablet illustrated

here, Charles Grierson would be pleased to hear from you. He is trying to find the location of the tablet, which honours Surgeon General Oliver Barnett (1830-85), who served with the 6th Dragoons, 12th Lancers and 11th Hussars.

Barnett was seconded to Government House, Calcutta, where he was surgeon to three Viceroys, the Lords Mayo, Northbrook and Lytton. If you can shed any light, contact Charles Grierson at 6 Frensham Walk, Farnham Common, Bucks SL2 3QF.

## REUNIONS

**Royal Regiment of Artillery Association (Exeter):** Annual dinner-dance, RBL Club, Little Castle Street, Exeter, on November 15. Details from L J Seather-ton on 01392 874072.

1997

**Prince Rupert School, Wilhelmshaven (1947-72):** Major 50th anniversary reunion planned for August in Wilhelmshaven, North Germany, with at least 1,000 people expected plus civic participation. Details from Liz Bird on tel/fax 01703 252925, or apply in

writing to 54 Shaftesbury Avenue, Chandlers Ford, Hants SO53 3BP.

**16 Signal Regiment:** Anyone who served with 16 Sig Regt at Bradbury Barracks, BOAR, in the 1960s is invited to the first reunion now being planned. For details send SAE to Chris Bartlett, 45 Whitehouse Road, Leigh on Sea, Essex SS9 5SR (tel 01702 524620).

**Coldstream Guards:** 4 Company, 3rd Battalion (1950-55) is to hold

● Armed Forces Minister Nicholas Soames spent an evening with the Queen's Guard as the guest of Nijmegen Company, Grenadier Guards at St James's Palace Guardroom. He had dinner with the company, which is commanded by Maj Tim Jalland.

its fifth reunion dinner in Birmingham on April 19. Details from Harry Westgarth, 49 Rokeby Park, Hull HU4 7QE (tel 01482 503649).

**RHA Association (Trowbridge branch):** 50th branch reunion dinner takes place at the Civic Hall, Trowbridge, on March 22. Open to members and any gunner who has served, or is serving, with an RHA unit. Details from Dinner Secretary, 44 King Street, Melksham, Wilts SN12 6HF (01225 708223).

## DATES

### November

3: Royal British Legion (York Branch) Festival of Remembrance, Barbican Centre, York. Tickets on 01904 656688.

9: Festival of Remembrance, Royal Albert Hall.

10: Remembrance Sunday service and parade, Cenotaph.

16: Classic military band concert in aid of SSAFA by Band of RAF College Cranwell at Cranwell (01406 425550).

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

## Sound of silence is music to Legion

THIS year's Poppy Appeal, launched on October 28, is special. It marks the 75th anniversary of the founding of the Royal British Legion by a group of young soldiers returned from the slaughter on the Somme.

One powerful message created to emphasise the relevance of the appeal in 1996 depicts a grenade with the words: "When it exploded in Bosnia, it destroyed a family in Nottingham".

More than 16 million serving and ex-Service personnel, and their families and dependants, are entitled to call on the RBL's welfare services. Last year more than 200,000 did so.

The Legion's head of fund-raising, Michael Vernon-Powell, says: "There has been only one year since the end of the Second World War when a British man or woman serving in the Armed Forces has not been killed in action."

Following widespread approval of its 1995 campaign to reinstate the Two-Minute Silence to its traditional time, the Legion hopes that when the nation pauses at 11am on November 11 to remember the fallen, every man, woman and child will be wearing a poppy.

● A postal cover to mark the 80th anniversary of the award of the first of Capt N G Chavasse's two Victoria Crosses is available (price £8.50, including p and p) in a limited edition of 250. All proceeds will go to the Liverpool Scottish Museum Trust, to which cheques are payable. Orders and enquiries to D W Sheard, 47 Venables Drive, Bebington, Wirral L63 9LY (tel 0151 334-9374).

## Collecting friends...

READERS of these pages will be familiar with the military music legacy of the late Jerome Gatehouse of Newport.

His widow, Anne, has set up a Friends of the Jerome Gatehouse Collection to help preserve the massive military bands' archive of information, photographs, programmes and recordings, and to further the work he began.

Joining fee is £10 a year for individuals, £25 for bands or organisations willing to support the venture. Write to Mrs Anne Gatehouse, 67 Hoskins Street, Newport, South Wales NP9 5LA for a membership form.









# Royal Anglians beat off the bad guys

"WE DIDN'T do nuttin'", replied the gang member in New York when Crocodile Dundee asked: "What did you do last night?"

If they had been in the recruits' cadre of the 6th Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment, whose headquarters are in Bury St Edmunds, they might have said: "We went for a hair-raising ride in a helicopter and attacked an armoured vehicle with missiles."

Unusually, the recruit cadre of the Royal Anglians took place in Belgium while the battalion was in Arlon, on the Belgium-Luxembourg border, for its annual camp. Recruits learned the basics of life in an infantry battalion; shooting, fieldcraft, tactics and fitness.

Meanwhile, the rest of the battalion was getting on with training for the final phase of Exercise Orient Express.

The scenario was that a British Army unit was training in the independent state of Arlonia which had discovered huge oil reserves.

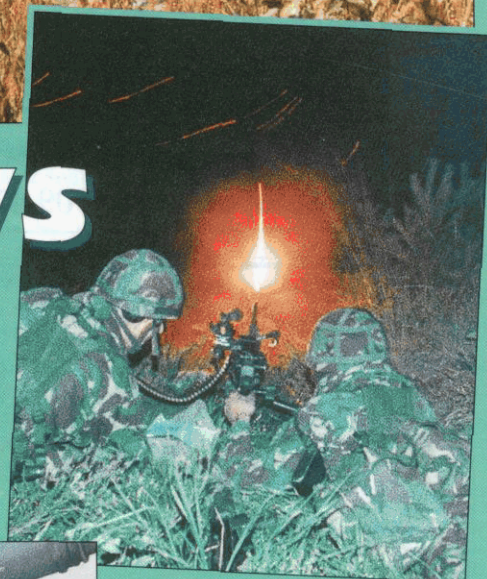
Neighbouring Bastonia claimed sovereignty over Arlonia, things turned nasty . . . and enter the Royal Anglians. Just an everyday story of oil barons and the UN. Troops were kept informed of the situation by an imaginative newsletter.

Training continued with recruits be-

Top picture - A section attack goes in on the Arlon range

Right - Tracer lights up the sky as a general purpose machine-gun opens up in sustained fire role during night exercises

Below - Trial of strength: A soldier ducks out of harm's way as a Belgian tank rolls into a fighting village



They were shown how to approach a helicopter and taught safety drills before being taken for a ride in an Army Air Corps Gazelle.

The pilot flew the helicopter tactically for about 15 minutes. Flying nap-of-the-land, the passengers underwent sensations not out of place on some of the more adventurous white-knuckle rides.

Fire support teams made a spectacular night attack on the range with live rounds on advancing enemy tanks and infantry (using electronically-activated targets).

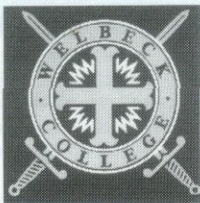
The sky was lit up with tracer and parachute flares, and the stillness of the night shattered by battle simulation charges exploded as the firefight built to a thunderous climax.

A better answer for Crocodile Dundee might have been: "We helped some dude defend his country."

coming familiar with the SA80 individual weapon, light support weapon, and general purpose machine-gun. They also practised section and company attacks.

As a bit of light relief, recruits were also familiarised with helicopter operations.





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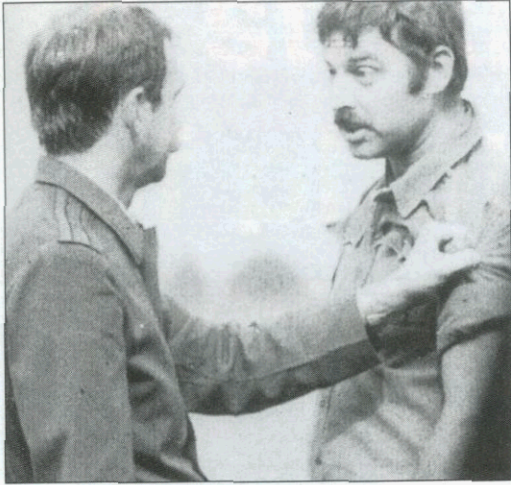


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Close encounter: A sense of humour served SSgt Graham Geary RE (right) well during two Brixmis tours. He is pictured being arrested, again, by the Russians



Close call: This ramming in 1982 might have been fatal for the driver but was not. Lucky survivor was the British Chief of Mission, Brig (later Gen Sir) John Learmont; the attacker, an East German Army Tatra-148 truck. Sir John retired in 1994 as Quartermaster General

# The spies who went out in the Cold

DEIGHTON, Le Carré, Forsyth & Co, eat your hearts out. There's nothing like a true spy story to knock the fiction off the bookshelf, and former Para Tony Geraghty has delivered the killer punch.

The author of the SAS history *Who Dares Wins* has now told the story of the British Military Exchange Mission, which gathered intelligence behind the Iron Curtain between the end of the Second World War and the fall of the Berlin Wall.

Brixmis, as the mission was known, comprised fluent linguists from the Armed Services and the Foreign Office. Their lonely work on diplomatic "tours" of the German Democratic Republic was conducted not with cloaks and daggers but in uniform and unarmed (except for a camera), often in an environment of undisguised hostility.

There is no doubt that this organisation, which collected vital evidence of the communist bloc's plans to invade western Europe, helped the West win the Cold War. And it *was* cold out there.

A list of its intelligence "scoops" takes up ten pages of *Beyond the Front Line*. They include the theft in 1987 of a section of reactive armour from a T-80 tank, parked in an East German railway siding... a priceless trophy.

Geraghty's "privileged access to official files" has resulted in a jaw-dropping, eyebrow-raising encounter with real-life courage, psychological warfare and unsubtle violence that

would make Deighton's less-than-heroic fictional character Bernard Samson reach for the nearest bucket.

Incidents reminiscent of Capone-era gangsterism often involved shootings and vehicle rammings. In one of a series of episodes in 1976 a car being used by Maj Simon Gordon-Duff and Sgt (later Capt) Bob Thomas was forced off the road by two motor cycles and rammed by an East German nine-ton truck.

Sgt Thomas, his right leg broken in four places, was trapped semi-conscious in the wreck for an hour. East German soldiers were ordered not to help him. After an excruciatingly painful trip in an ambulance down a bumpy road he awoke (truth mirroring

fiction, or vice-versa) lying on a concrete floor with water soaking through his shirt.

"The room was lit by an unshaded bulb and I could hear someone talking about me in German," Thomas is quoted as saying. The East

Germans botched the pinning of his fractures: in England a few weeks later his leg buckled under him and British surgeons found that the pin in his leg had rusted through.

Many characters in Geraghty's colourful drama will be known to readers, among them perhaps a "charismatic pirate" named Brig Denys Wynn-Pope, who as Chief of Mission in the late 1950s had a cavalryman's approach to life in the field, his ration box including caviar, vodka, smoked salmon

**Beyond the Front Line** by Tony Geraghty. Harper-Collins, hardback, £20.



It was not all hostility: Brig (now Maj Gen) Ian Freer, Chief of Mission 1989-90, entertains Soviet guests. Everyone relaxed when the Russians loosened their jackets and ties. Pictures by courtesy of Brixmis

and Scotch as bait for reluctant Russians. He also ensured that the international precursor of road rage was not one-sided.

"Wynn-Pope did not so much drive his tours across communist Germany as charge. His instruction to colleagues was: 'You just glide them to leg, my dear fellow; glide them to leg.' This was his way of describing his technique of deliberately driving perilously close to anyone who, in his view, was improperly obstructing him. The targets included narks [Stasi], Vopo [East German police] and Soviet Army traffic regulators..."

We learn from Geraghty that Wynn-Pope's Brixmis, and Army, career was cut short (a Stasi "scalp") and that the safe pair of hands called in from the Grenadier Guards to replace him belonged to none other than the Hon Miles Fitzalan-Howard MC, now Maj Gen the Duke of Norfolk.

In his foreword, the Duke, who was arrested ten times by "the opposition" during his command of the Mission and is now President of the Brixmis Association, welcomes this book as helping to correct the false impression of some spy revelations that the Soviet devil had all the best tunes.

Spy fiction fans who think they know the whole Cold War story should prepare to be amazed. — CH



A 13-part postcard series on the new regiments and corps of the British Army of the 1990s

## THE ROYAL DRAGOON GUARDS

FORMED on August 1, 1992, The Royal Dragoon Guards was created as a result of the amalgamation of the 4th/7th Royal Dragoon Guards and the 5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards.

Both these regiments were in turn the results of earlier amalgamations in the 1920s of four old British cavalry regiments: The 4th Royal Irish Dragoon Guards with the 7th (Princess Royal's) Dragoon Guards and the 5th (Princess Charlotte of Wales's) Dragoon Guards with the 6th Inniskilling Dragoons.

The Albert helmet of the dress marker was introduced into service in about 1847. It was originally gilt or brass for Dragoon Guards while that for Dragoons was silver or white metal.

Pictured are two distinctive features of the regiment's dress which have been inherited from its parent regiments. The overalls worn by the dress marker and the adjutant are green, a tradition derived from the Skins (5 Innis DG). The adjutant's



cross belt is an item of dress handed down from the 4th/7th.

Now equipped with Challenger, The Royal Dragoon Guards (RDG) are stationed at Tidworth as part of the 1st

Mechanised Brigade, continuing a tradition of service that now runs over 300 years.

The postcard illustrated was reproduced from a watercolour painting by Christopher A Collins. It shows:

- Dress marker: Ceremonial dress.
- Adjutant: No 1 dress (Blues)
- Sergeant: Tank commander
- Challenger main battle tank
- Background: Stonehenge.

For details of this and other postcards depicting regiments and corps of the British Army, send SAE to: Geoff White Ltd., 19, Rushmoor Lane, Backwell, Bristol, BS19 3JA.

## POINTS IN QUESTION

### 'Mad Jack'

**Q:** Was the kilted Lt Col Jack Churchill, of the Army Outward Bound School, Morfa, the "Mad Jack" Churchill of Second World War fame? (Howard Johnson, Sept 30).

**A:** Yes. I was the Royal Engineer Clerk of Works in charge of Morfa Camp and Tonfanau Camp in the 1950s when Lt Col "Mad Jack" Churchill was the CO.

He was quite a character and as well as permanently wearing a kilt, wore shirt-sleeve order throughout the winter.

As the camp was at Towyn, North Wales, right on the edge of Cardigan Bay, it could be extremely cold. The trainees were sent for a swim at the crack of dawn, in the sea, all year round.

I believe he got his nickname in the brief campaign in Norway in 1940 when he went out hunting Jerry – with a longbow. – **R D Chambers (ex-SSgt RE), Colchester, Essex.**

## For the record . . .

### Saxon fatalities

MAY I correct a misleading statement you reported in your parliamentary column "Around the Houses" (May 27) concerning missing papers relevant to the deaths of four 1 RGBW soldiers in Gorazde, Bosnia, in September, 1994?

They died when their Saxon APCs left the very narrow mountain tracks along which they were being slowly driven.

Most of the missing papers were the service histories of the two Saxon APCs involved. At the inquest on June 24, 1996 into the death of my son, Pte Phillip Armstrong, 1 RGBW, the MoD produced only part of the service history of the Saxon he was travelling in when he was killed.

Other documents also did not turn up at the inquest, including training records. It is hoped that the rest of the documents will be found before a second inquest into my son's death, which I am now pressing for.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the soldiers I met in Bosnia for the help and advice they gave me in April this year when I visited the site of my son's death in Gorazde. – **G Armstrong, Bristol.**

### 19 Fd Regt RA in Korea

ACCORDING to Jim Jacobs (Letters, Sept 30), "19th Field Regiment **did not** serve in Korea". For the record, 19 Fd Regt RA **did** serve in Korea, from December 7, 1954 to November 19, 1955. – **John G Iles, Tavistock, Devon.**

● Mr Iles enclosed a cutting from *Gunner* magazine of May 1995 showing 67 Bty Advance Party of 19 Fd Regt before its move from Korea to Hong Kong in Dec 1954. R Duck (ex-Bdr, 19 Fd Regt), of Harley Street, London, W1, writes to say that 25 Bty, 28 Bty and 67 Bty were on active service and suffered casualties – **Editor.**

### Rorke's Drift

TO CORRECT a much-repeated error, the British unit at Rorke's Drift in the Zulu War of 1879 was B Coy, 2/24 Warwickshire Regt, not the South Wales Borderers, which was not formed until 1884.

Of the 11 VCs awarded at Rorke's Drift only two went to Welshmen. The officer in command that day was Lt John Chard RE who won the VC. The men at Rorke's Drift consisted of B Coy, 24th Foot and some strays including men of the Buffs and

Light Infantry. Eight officers and 131 men, including 35 who were hospitalised, held off a force of 3,000 to 4,000 Zulus. – **Edward Kelly, ex-RE, Dover, Kent.**

### Danish VCs

IN HIS letter headed "Great Danes" (Oct 14) David L Taylor states that two Danes were the only non-British subjects to win the VC. According to the Register of the Victoria Cross there are 14 non-British VCs – five Americans, one Belgian, two Germans, one Swiss, one Swede, three Danes and one Russian.

The American Unknown Warrior buried at Arlington National Cemetery was presented with one on Nov 11, 1921.

The award to Capt Hansen is not included in the list of non-British VCs. Five civilians have also won the VC – four in the Indian Mutiny of 1857 and the fifth in Afghanistan in 1879. – **George R Goodwin, Northampton.**

● Thanks go to N Anthony, of Ammanford, Dyfed, Frank Meredith, of Burnley, D F Tillyer, of Maidstone, Kent, and Michael B Potter, of Bedford, who have written on the same subject. – **Editor.**



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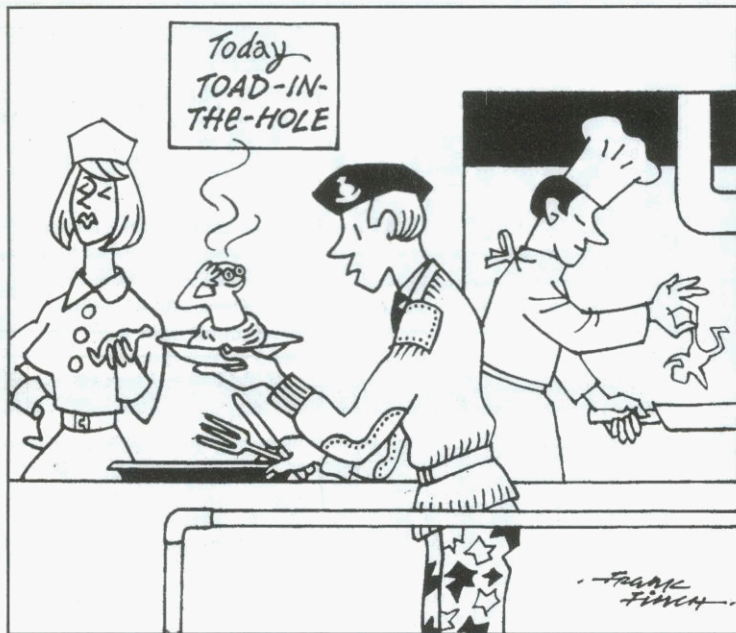
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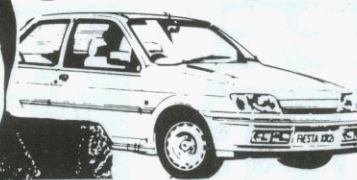
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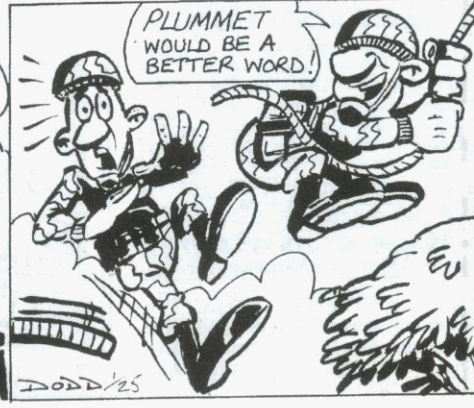
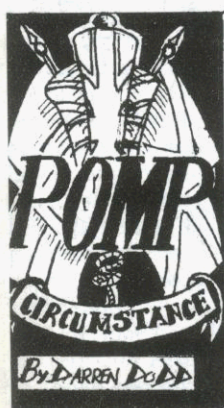
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**NINE-way tie for first prize (16 goals, £666.67 each):** Cpl NA Butler, 2 RTR, BFPO 38; Capt RA Coveney, 220 Fd Sqn (EOD) RE(V), Heston; Cpl JA Grouse, 17 Port and Maritime Regt RLC, Marchwood; Pte CMH Hackford, 1 LI, Colchester; WO1 B Leslie, 16 Signal Regt, BFPO 40; WO2 PJ Lineham, HQ 1 (UK) Armoured Division, BFPO 15; WO2 GD Sampson, ATR Pirbright; WO2 CW Stemp, 2 LI, BFPO 22; Lt Col R Thornton, 16 Armd Fd Amb, Tidworth.

OCTOBER 19, 1996

**First prize (18 goals, £2,500):** Bdr PM Bass, 14 Regt RA, Larkhill

**TEN-way tie for second prize (17 goals, £350 each):** Maj SI Becker, HQ QMG, Andover; LCpl MA Lindsay, 62 Cyprus Sp Sqn RE, BFPO 58; Cpl LS Middleton, 25 Engr Regt, BFPO 31; Sgt JT Nicholl, RAC Gunnery School, Lulworth; Maj D Parsonage, ATR Glencorse; Maj TM Sayer, HQ QMG, Andover; LCpl I Taylor, 11 Sig Regt, Blandford; Cpl ASG White, 2 RGJ, BFPO 806; Lt Col ME Wilcox, MOD; SSgt HN Wright, Belfast SIB RMP, BFPO 801.

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# Stadium rebuild on road to excellence

WORK on the British Army's new Centre for Sporting Excellence has begun and the first "casualty" to be treated is one of Aldershot's sporting landmarks – the Military Stadium grandstand, writes **Laurie Manton**.

The ageing structure in Queen's Avenue has been gutted and will be rebuilt to provide seating for 1,000 spectators. Incorporated in the refurbished grandstand will be new changing rooms, showers and toilets.

It is part of an action plan put together by HQ Land and HQ Physical Training Corps designed to ensure all Army sports facilities will be upgraded and properly maintained.

The plan will create four levels of facilities:

- Top-grade stadiums, pitches, courts and track for Army-level competition will mostly be concentrated on Aldershot.

- Divisional and garrison-level facilities will be based on future areas of troop concentrations. At the hub of each will be a Garrison Physical Training and Recreation Centre which will offer a choice of facilities including multi-purpose gymnasiums, swimming pools and squash courts.

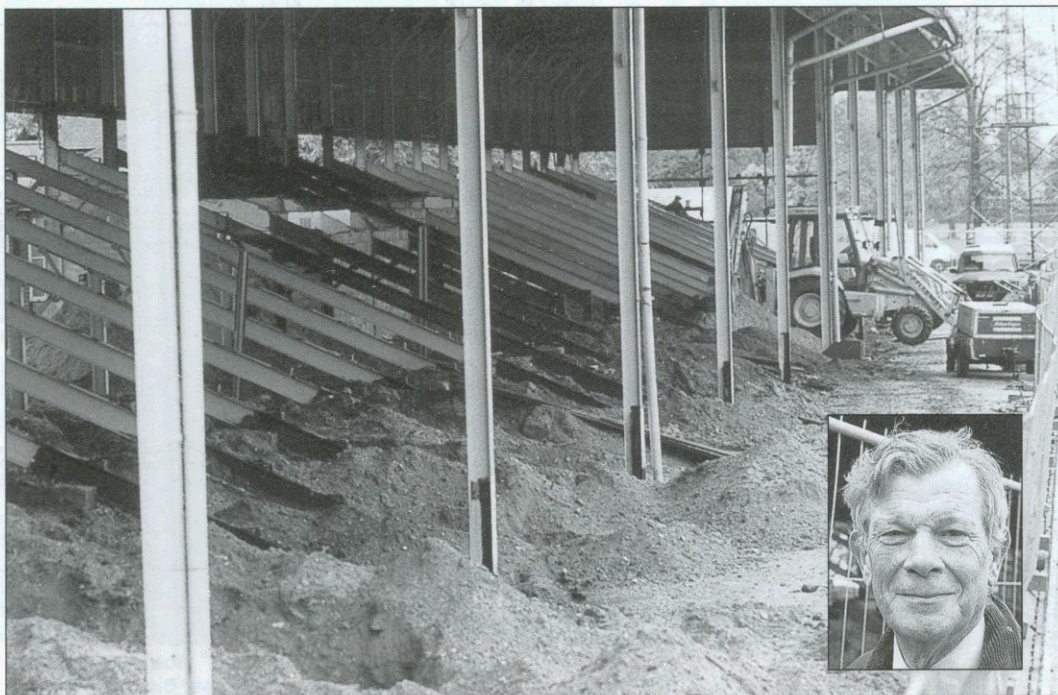
- At unit level, facilities will be created at units located miles away from garrison centres.

- Although Aldershot will be the centre for the majority of Army sports, there will be exceptions. Sailing, pentathlon and parachuting centres will remain at Gosport, Arborfield and Netheravon respectively.

According to the Director of the Army Sport Control Board, Maj Gen Simon Lytle, the improvements at Aldershot will take priority because "the need there is the greatest".

He said: "For the most part, our Army-level facilities are in a poor state and require immediate attention.

"Aldershot has always been the centre of Army sport. Our Victorian and Edwardian forefathers built an excellent centre



**Just an empty shell.** The Military Stadium's old wooden seating system has been stripped out and burned. Inset – Maj Gen Simon Lytle, Director Army Sport Control Board, who is overseeing the operation to update the Army's sports facilities at Aldershot

for Army sport based on comprehensive and, in their time, first-class facilities.

"The swimming pool [closed in 1984] at the Army School of PT and that monument to 'wiggly tin' architecture, the Aldershot Military Stadium, bear this out, and the Fox, Maida and Mons gymnasiums were way ahead of their time in size and scope.

"Our problem is that for far too long we lived off that invest-

ment without replacing or updating it. We are now doing so and, by the Millennium, Aldershot will have a Centre of Excellence for Army Sport that is second to none."

Maida gymnasium was refurbished early this year.

It houses the Army Boxing Centre and has seating for 800 but it also provides a home for badminton, basketball, volleyball and netball.

During the rebuild of the

Military Stadium the running track will be relaid to modern standards and extended to eight lanes. A new public address system and a state-of-the-art electronic scoreboard designed to cater for several sports will be installed.

A floodlit astro-turf hockey pitch already exists nearby. Another is to be constructed to establish the Army Hockey Centre as a championship venue.

An Army indoor tennis centre was built last year. This winter, up to 12 new all-weather courts will be constructed on an adjacent plot of land.

Rugby is moving to a new home next door to the Military Stadium. By 1998, the site will be properly drained, floodlit and have a small grandstand. The rugby training ground was floodlit earlier this year.

In company with other major UK garrisons, Aldershot will have its own physical training and recreation centre. Work on the facility, which will include a swimming pool, will commence in 1998. It will be erected on the site of the old Mons Lines parade ground.



**Spr Dave Gaskell** takes a tumble during the inaugural Army water skiing championships at Nottingham. Full report in the next issue



# Database to put Army sport in the spotlight

ARE YOU a top class sportsman or woman, or do you know of one serving in your unit? If so, then Capt Lizzie James Park would like to hear from you.

She is compiling an Army sports database for public relations purposes on behalf of the Director of Public Relations (Army), Brig Philip Trousdell, who is seeking to promote Army sport.

She needs details of every serving competitor who has performed at each level from an Army team up to taking part in international competitions.

Database entries for Army sports personalities will be categorised. Category A is for anyone who has competed at national or international level; B for those competing at Combined Service Level or above, and who have had a national trial; and Category C for Army or Combined Service competi-

tors who have not had a national trial.

Brig Trousdell has also introduced a year-long pilot scheme to increase the profile of eight Army sports – football, athletics, cricket, hockey, lawn tennis, netball, rugby union and squash.

The Army Sport Control Board currently recognises 28 sports ranging from hang gliding and judo to table tennis and martial arts. Others such as powerlifting and water-skiing are being considered for formal approval.



Even the new Eurofighter aircraft came to Farnborough to see Cpl "Robbo" Robinson and his amazing super-bike. The Great Britain duathlete is one of a selection of top Army sports men and women whose successes are being recorded on the Army's sports database

For further details and a proforma contact Capt James Park c/o DPR (A), Ministry of Defence, Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2 HB, or on Main Building 81508.

## Met meet their match

Met Police 0, Army 2

THE ARMY retained the Grenadier Guards Challenge Cup at Imber Court, East Molesey, the home of the Metropolitan Police football team, with a goal in each half from yet another new-look Army team, writes Derrick Bly.

Conditions were superb and these two teams always produce a good tie, the last three matches having gone to penalty shoot-outs.

Army Coach QMSI Duncan Russell, deputising for his name-sake QMSI Pat Russell, welcomed back LSgt Paul Fagin, Bdr Gary Tootill, Cpl Wayne McHugh and Cpl Alan. In the absence of LCpl Bob Hope and LBdr Lee Bluck, he gave the striking roles to Cpl Lee Innes and LCpl Darren Glenister.

WO2 Kevin Parkins and Sig Joe Collins worked hard to contain the home strikers.

Cpl Alfie Alford, who received a square ball from SSgt Alan Higgins, made ground before unleashing an unstoppable right foot shot from 25 yards. Met keeper Land stood and watched. The Police substitute, Coding, brought a superb one-handed save low to his right from Cpl Ian Elliott.

The second half was only 15 minutes old when Innes capitalised on a Met Police defensive error, but his effort was half-saved and Glenister tapped the loose ball home.

McHugh and Tootill, who quickly displayed his close-ball skills, replaced Alford and Zoldan and the Army had the better of the second period.

A loose ball from Parkins saw Elliott again come to the rescue but the Army recovered and continued to attack the Met with both Innes and Glenister going close to increasing the lead.

## Goliath misreads script

Richmond Developing XV 104, Army U21 0

ONCE in a while sporting fixtures turn into a travesty. This fixture was precisely that, writes Tom Wye.

The alarm bells started ringing when the full back of the Combined Services senior team was seen warming up to take the field against a single Service Under 21 team.

Concern proved justified as the red-shirted youngsters were routed by an older, larger, more skilful and, probably, semi-professional Richmond team.

The one-way traffic was as boring and routine as the jumbo jets passing overhead and nobody could have got any satisfaction from such a mismatch. This was a real David

and Goliath event, which, unfortunately did not have the same Biblical ending.

By half-time the home team had run in eight tries and converted six for an interval lead of 52 points. The second half was an exact repeat and the final whistle blew with the scoreboard recording a 104 points to nil "victory" for Richmond.

To the credit of the Army boys they did pin the home team behind their own 22 metre line for ten minutes in the last quarter but their brave endeavours were not rewarded.

Spr Ben Hughes RE finished the game bloodied but unbowed, and new boys Pte Mac McGuire RLC and Pte Ambrose, also RLC, acquitted themselves well.

The one-sided scores cur-

rently being registered in the professional game are a direct result of "cheque-book" rugby.

This game was an indirect result of that in as much as Richmond had "purchased" a new team during the close season which had the knock-on effect of many former first team players being relegated to the support teams.

Such one-sided games can be expected until leagues, teams and fixture lists sort themselves out. It will be a good day for rugby when there is a distinct divide between the amateur and professional game.

Until then point margins of three figures will continue. The only positive thing to come out of this game was that none of the Army players suffered any permanent injuries.





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Pride of Leopards: German troops patrol the tank park at Castlemartin before the ceremonies which marked their departure after 35 years in Dyfed, Wales. Full story in Pages 16-17

Picture: Stuart Bingham



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