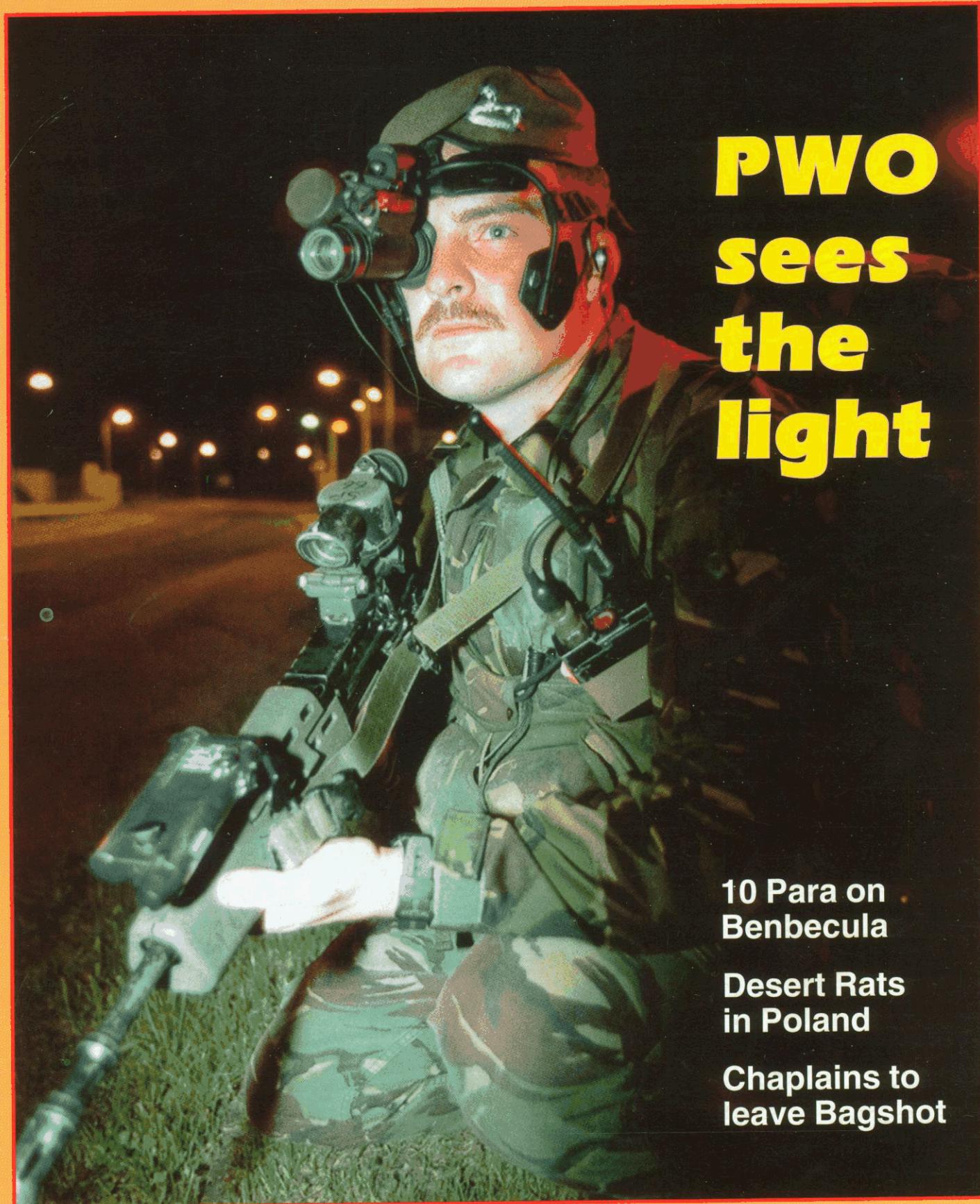


SOLDIER

FORTNIGHTLY MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY

SEPTEMBER 30 1996

60p



10 Para on
Benbecula

Desert Rats
in Poland

Chaplains to
leave Bagshot

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Incorporating the Territorial Army magazine
Sept 30, 1996 Vol 52/20

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Picture: Steve Baillie

Sgt Lee Nockels of the 1st Battalion, The Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire wears a new aid to night vision on patrol in Auchnacloy, Northern Ireland. The device is being trialled by the battalion.

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Picture: Terry Champion

Punkt Czerpania where? LCpl Bertie Auld (CO's driver, 1 RHF) and adjutant Capt Nick Burton swear they know exactly where they are while checking their bearings in a Polish nature park

Poland casts a spell on the Desert Rats



EXCITING new horizons opened up for British soldiers as they took their Challenger tanks and Warrior armoured vehicles into Poland for the Army's first brigade-level field training since the Gulf War.

The Desert Rats of the 7th Armoured Brigade moved by rail and road to the Drawsko-Pomorski training area 80 miles east of Szczecin (Stettin) for two weeks of intensive training on unrivalled facilities, writes Gordon Skilling.

Unpronounceable names with unfamiliar combinations of letters such as "szczwy" are set to become stock-in-trade for military commanders navigating over very different countryside.

Larger than Salisbury Plain and almost double the size of Soltau, the area offers difficult wooded terrain with myriad water obstacles unlike anything available in Canada, Britain or Germany.

Exercise Ulan Eagle revolved around the battle groups of the 2nd Royal Tank Regiment and 1st Battalion, The Royal Highland Fusiliers, with an enemy and administrative support provided largely by the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers.

Also taking part were the Light Dragoons and elements of the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards, with support from 35 Engineer Regiment and 2 Battalion REME.

The sappers particularly enjoyed the challenging terrain, especially as an exercise planned for the Czech Republic last year had to be cancelled because of commitments in Bosnia.

Poznan

In 1994, F Company, 1st Battalion, Scots Guards exercised further south near Poznan while elements of 5 Airborne Brigade trained with the 6th Polish Air Assault Brigade at Krakow.

An exercise in Poland for 22 Field Ambulance had to be cancelled last year but 7 Company, 1st Battalion, Coldstream Guards exercised in Hungary in 1995, as did elements of HQ 42 (North West) Brigade.

Ulan Eagle was closely

watched by the Poles, who provided engineering and logistic support and are keen to join NATO. A Ukrainian delegation led by their Defence Minister proved knowledgeable on British equipment.

While the Desert Rats exercised in Poland, D Company, 1st Battalion, The Royal Welch Fusiliers were in the Ukraine. Most of their training involved range work, but a short exercise was planned with the Ukrainians.

During Ulan Eagle, the three countries announced a tri-partite agreement providing for an exchange of training facilities and expertise.

Only 3,500 of the 6,500 Germany-based Desert Rats deployed to Poland for the exercise, which was designed as a trial. Next year, three battle groups will exercise there for periods of up to three weeks, followed by most of 20 Armoured Brigade.

● Ulan Eagle has landed –
Pages 14-15

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electoral registration officer (the form tells you how). You will then be able to vote at all Parliamentary, European Parliamentary and local government elections.

Wives and husbands of Regular members of HM Forces can also register as service voters or, if they prefer, register each year as civilian voters (so long as they are living in the UK).

Don't Lose Your Right To Vote.

NO VOTE  NO VOICE.

Welsh Cavalry rides to rescue of wrecked school

SOLDIERS from Wales's only cavalry regiment were honoured guests in a Bosnian town after helping to rebuild its school.

Men from the 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards serving with the Peace Implementation Force (IFOR) left their Challenger tanks behind when they were invited to the re-opening of the school in the Muslim town of Kljuc.

Maj Patrick Andrews, 2iC QDG and project manager, said that during the four-year civil war the school had been used by the Serbian army as a barracks.

It was reoccupied by Bosnian Muslims after a series of counter-attacks, by which time the structure had been badly damaged and every bit of equipment and furniture destroyed or

stolen. The British Overseas Development Administration (ODA) offered a grant of £16,000, provided the Queen's Dragoon Guards oversaw the project.

Work was carried out by local craftsman under the supervision of Maj Andrews's team. The soldiers also brought in desks and books, teaching aids and writing materials.

RMP opens fire as mob closes

MILITARY police fired a shot to control angry crowds at Banja Luka in Bosnia.

The incident occurred when a patrol of ten RMPs from Herford-based 3 Regiment RMP was threatened by a hostile mob while trying to confiscate illegal armoured vehicles.

They found four heavily-weaponed vehicles while checking a convoy of authorised Bosnian Serb police vehicles in Banja Luka in the run-up to the elections, and were quickly surrounded and jostled by about 200 people.

When the crowd attempted to overturn a Land Rover containing an RMP and an interpreter, a warning shot was fired in the air by Sgt Colin Hewitt.

The RMPs drove off with the vehicles, but 15 minutes later were boxed in by Bosnian Serb police and a second mob.

A police chief arrived with Lt Col Desmond Bergin, CO 3 Regt, and calmed the situation.

Lt Col Bergin praised his men. "I am delighted with their actions. They were cool, calm and very professional," he said.

The confiscated vehicles were armed with an anti-aircraft gun, a multi-barrelled rocket launcher, and a 12.7mm machine-gun.

They were moved to a secure compound in a Peace Implementation Force (IFOR) base.

Allied Colonel-in-Chief visits 1 PWRR at Canterbury



Picture: Chris Fletcher

Royal photocall: Queen Margrethe II of Denmark enjoys a relaxed moment before the formal photograph taken of her with members of the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess of the 1st Battalion, The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment during her visit to Howe Barracks at Canterbury. The

Queen visited 1 PWRR in her role as Allied Colonel-in-Chief of the regiment.

Seated with Queen Margrethe in the front row (from left to right) are WO1 (RSM) Neil Hone; Lt Col Mark Rayner, commanding officer of the 1st Battalion; and WO2 (RQMS Tech) Jim Gregg.



SOLDIER, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU. Civil tel: 01252 347 plus last three digits of Aldershot Military extension given below

Managing Editor Chris Horrocks 2355 **Editor** John Elliott 2356 **Assistant Editors** Laurie Manton 2362 Gordon Skilling 2360
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Gerard Sutton 2351 **Advertising** 2352 **Accounts / Distribution** Janice Heal 2353 **Fax** 2358 **E-Mail** solmag@mail.army.mod.uk

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Picture: Capt Kevin Harvey

Territorial Army sapper Maj Bill Paynter with the Bailey bridge constructed from redundant stock found by him. Sappers from 3 Armoured Engineer Squadron put up the bridge in time for the Bosnian elections

COMING SOON ...

Lots more laughter on the way

YOUR colourful *Soldier* will soon be even brighter, starting with the October 28 issue.

First instalment of a 13-part collectors' series on the uniforms of the new regiments and corps appears in that edition to mark a greater use of full colour in the magazine.

The postcard series is an absolute must for anyone interested in the uniforms of the British Army.

MORE CARTOONS

That's not all. Two more talented cartoonists will be joining regular contributor Dickie Bird and *Soldier's* own occasional illustrator Les Gwyer.

Look out for a new cartoon strip in the classified pages. *Pomp and Circumstance* is the work of Darren Dodd, a Regular soldier serving with the Royal Military Police in Northern Ireland.

And former Royal Engineer Chip Wood, whose Gulf War sketches won a national award for humour, will also be adding to the magazine's chuckle quotient. An occasional series in which he takes an irreverent view of all things military starts before Christmas.

Dickie, Darren, Chip and Les... you've got to laugh!

Sappers open up bridge to the ballot box

ROYAL Engineers knew the clock was against them when a vital bridge in Bosnia was washed away by a flash flood days before the start of the elections.

But with teamwork and hard graft they rebuilt the entire structure in just five days.

The first elections for nearly a decade took place as British soldiers deployed with the NATO-led, 60,000-strong Peace Implementation Force (IFOR) guarded ballot boxes and ensured local people could vote without intimidation.

What made the feat by sappers from 3 Armoured Engineer Squadron, 22 Engineer Regiment more impressive was the fact that they built the 70ft bridge using spare equipment left over from other projects. They now have a bridge in reserve for future emergencies.

Their involvement began when a bridge leading to Fajtoj, near Sanski Most, collapsed. A temporary structure was erected within hours, but it was not strong enough to take buses vital for getting voters to the ballot boxes.

By the following week the wreckage of the old bridge had been cleared, the site prepared, and 23 Royal Engineers had completed the 35-ton Bailey bridge.

Col Andrew Mantell, Commander RE in the British-led Multi-National Division South West, said the quick work was the result of tremendous team effort.

"If anyone wants to know why we train so hard, this bridge is the answer. A critical route was opened up for the elections. It is a significant contribution to the freedom of movement for the people of Bosnia and IFOR."

More than 200 people were involved in the project, including Territorial Army officer Maj Bill Paynter, a chartered surveyor from Bedfordshire, who tracked down all the redundant sections needed for the bridge.



What the papers have been saying

A consortium that includes the Japanese bank Nomura International has won the contest to buy the MoD housing estate in a privatisation deal worth £1.6 billion. – *Daily Telegraph*

□ Former National Serviceman David Burrell (59), of Aldershot, is attempting to recover up to £80,000 he claims the Government owes him for an injury he suffered as a soldier 40 years ago. – *Aldershot Mail*

□ Libya has given a 79-year-old widow permission to visit her husband's grave in Tobruk. Daisy Norris was granted a visa after years of battling against warnings from the Foreign Office and veterans' associations. – *Times*

□ Ex-soldier George Eustace, 73, of Helston, Cornwall, has just got his Second World War medals – after his original forms were lost. – *Daily Mirror*

□ British troops are expected to stay in Bosnia for at least two more years under plans for a restructured international peace force to prevent the country sliding back to war after its elections. – *Daily Telegraph*

□ An international peace-keeping force should remain in Bosnia until October next year, the German defence minister said as NATO refines its plans for a body to succeed IFOR. – *Independent*

□ Women members of the SAS have been secretly honoured for outstanding bravery in undercover operations. The SAS heroines – there were around six of them – took part in intelligence-gathering missions in Bosnia, Northern Ireland, central America and the Middle East. All are NCOs based at Hereford. – *Daily Mail*

□ Western leaders aim to incorporate Central and East European democracies into NATO in 1999 and the European Union in 2000. Leading contenders are considered to be the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovenia. – *Independent*

□ Checks are to be carried out at every major UK Service base after a year-long study raised concern at pollution from hydrocarbons, asbestos and low-level radiation. – *Sunday Telegraph*

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Return to Rorke's Drift

ALMOST 117 years after their forebears fought a battle synonymous with Victorian heroism, uniformed British soldiers and Zulu tribesmen have together built a community hall for the people of Rorke's Drift.

Thirty-five undergraduates from Southampton University Officers Training Corps and a detachment of Royal Engineers and The Royal Regiment of Wales constructed the steel-framed, brick building during a four-week project supported by the Prince of Wales, President Mandela and the King of the Zulus.

The hall is 200 yards from the site of the Swedish Lutheran mission station where, on January 22, 1879, 153 men of B Company, 24th Regiment, South Wales Borderers, repulsed a 4,000-strong Zulu force intent on invading Natal.

VICTORIA CROSSES

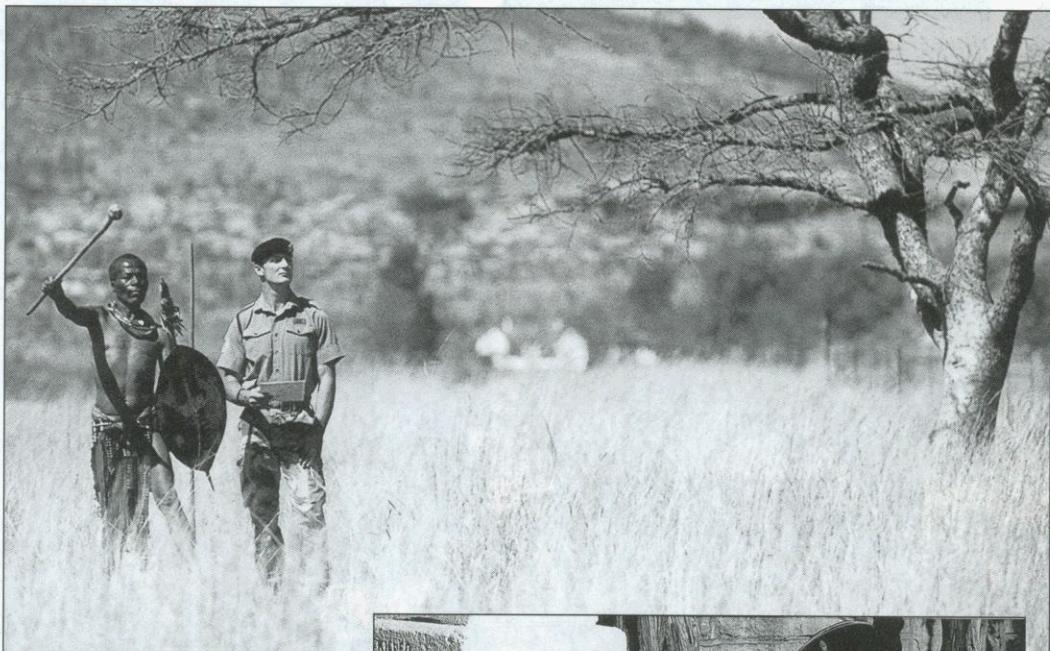
Eleven Victoria Crosses – the most won in a single action – were awarded.

A patron of Exercise Scholastic Acorn was Brig David Bromhead, whose ancestor, Lt Gonville Bromhead, led the South Wales Borderers at Rorke's Drift.

In the spirit of reconciliation which enveloped the building project, Zulus worked shoulder to shoulder with British soldiers.

Each of the officer cadets had made a personal contribution of £1,500 towards the project and were rewarded with overwhelming gratitude and hospitality in the Kwa Zulu Natal community.

The hall was designed by site



Sgt Terry Lee RE and Thembinkosi Zulu worked together on a new community hall close to the Rorke's Drift battlefield in Kwa Zulu Natal

foreman SSgt Chris Jackson RE, who also laid the foundations. Lt Col Andy Harris RE, commanding officer of the Southampton UOTC, handed over the keys at a joyful 5½-hour dedication service.

A small British graveyard close to the battle site is carefully tended by the South African War Graves Commission.

Csgt Mike Norris of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Wales, said after visiting it: "Being a Welshman myself and having been brought up in the traditions of the regiment, I found it humbling to stand before these men. I had a lump



Lt Col Andy Harris RE, commanding officer of the Southampton University Officers Training Corps, lays African flowers at the monument to the men who died at Rorke's Drift in January 1879

in my throat and tears in my eyes when I touched the monument.

"It is a real privilege for me to be here and to feel the pride

that these men gave to Wales."

The project team was the first uniformed detachment of British soldiers to return to the scene of the battle in 117 years.

Army chiefs pay tribute to Wales

WALES'S long and glorious contribution to the British Army was celebrated at Cardiff Castle when Gen Sir Charles Guthrie, Chief of the General Staff, and members of the Army Board met to launch a three-day recruiting display.

Coopers Field, to the rear of the Castle, was the setting for a display of stands, exhibitions

and demonstrations depicting the role and capability of the Army in Wales and career opportunities available.

The event, heralded by a 25-pounder gun salute, was opened by Armed Forces Minister Nicholas Soames. He unveiled the Army's first mobile recruiting office before it began a tour of the Principality.

Go surfing on Internet with Soldier

FOR readers, contributors and advertisers connected to the Internet it is now possible to get in touch with *Soldier* via the magazine's E-mail address.

Letters to the Editor or contacts with the magazine's various departments by this method are welcomed.

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SEME Bordon to be market tested

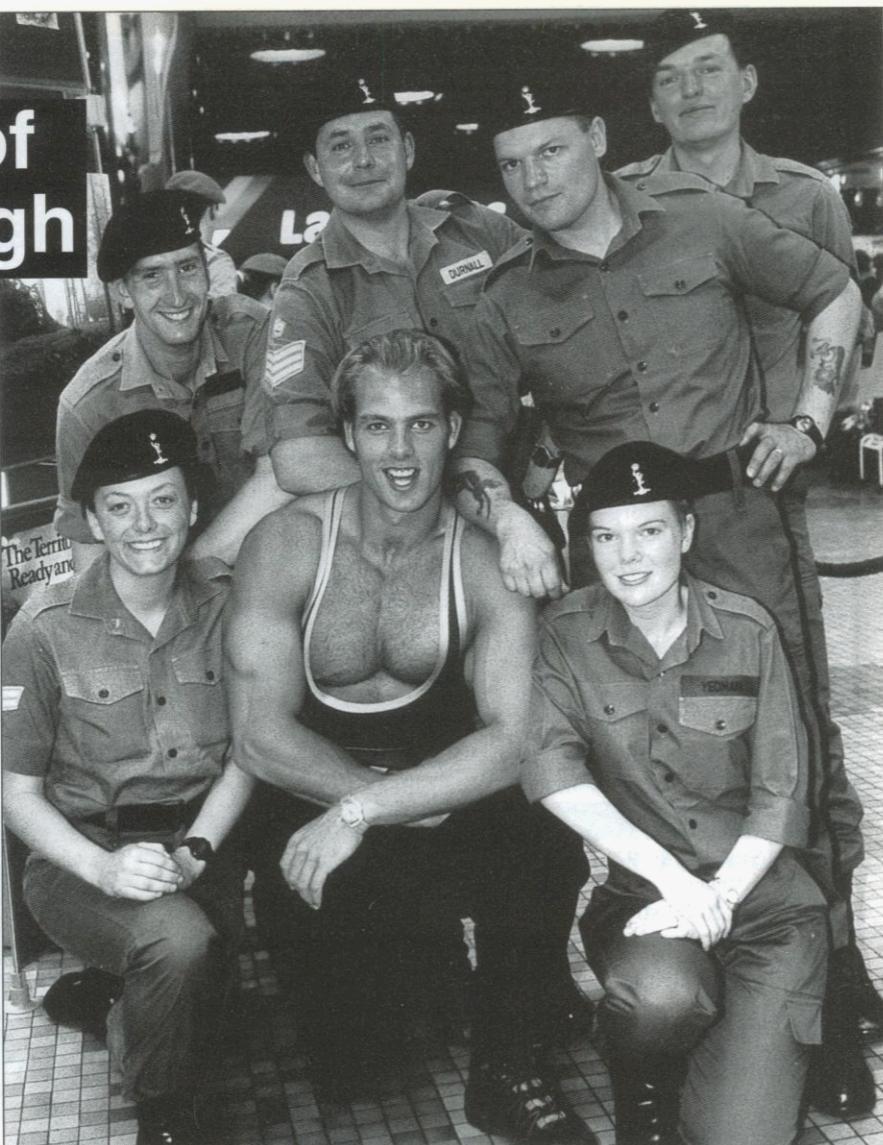
A RANGE of activities at the Army's School of Electrical and Mechanical Engineering (SEME), at Bordon in Hampshire, are to be market tested.

Announcing the decision, the Armed Forces Minister, Nicholas Soames, said activities would be subjected to a competitive market test with the objective of awarding either a Service level agreement to a winning in-house bid, or a contract to a winning private sector bidder, in April 1998.

Muscleman of Middlesbrough

These members of the recruiting team from 34th (Northern) Signal Regiment (V), Middlesbrough, had their very own **Hunter** to seek out potential volunteers for the regiment – in the form of one of the regulars on TV's *Gladiators* programme.

The Terriers (back row, Sig **Mangam**, SSgt **Durnall**, Sig **Thomson** and Sig **Turnbull**, with Cpl **Bavin** and Sig **Yeoman** in front) were among local Territorial Army units helping out with a radio competition on Teesside.



Green goes the Gurkha

As he completed a 30-mile march across Dartmoor at the end of a successful All-Arms Commando Course, Spr **Khadka Bahadur Gurung** became the first Queen's Gurkha Engineer – possibly even the first Gurkha – to be awarded the coveted green commando beret.

Spr Khadka is being presented with a commando dagger by Maj **Alistair Sheppard**, officer commanding 67 Gurkha Independent Field Squadron, QGE, to mark his achievement. Capt **Andy Clee** (centre) also passed the same course.

Colourful Canadian



Worthwhile investment!

Looking delighted with the Investors In People (IIP) award which they received from the Queen's former press secretary, **Michael Shea** (centre), are the members of the Army Presentation Team.

The team (left to right, WO2 **Glen Carter**, Maj **Robert Bruce**, Col

Patrick Davidson-Houston (Commander APT Designate), Col **Rory Clayton** (Commander APT), Capt **Leisa Tucker** and Cpl **Chris Doel**) was described by Surrey Training and Enterprise Council as a "shining example of British enterprise – innovative, dynamic and constantly striving for success".

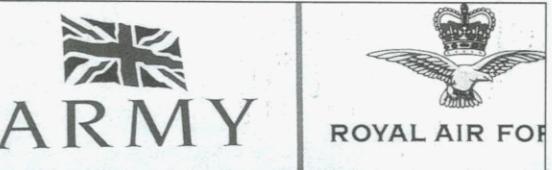


The 1st Battalion, The Royal Irish Regiment has a new set of Colours hanging in its officers' mess in Catterick – but with a difference.

Col **Tom Howland** of 1 R Irish's affiliated regiment, The Princess Louise Fusiliers in Halifax, Nova Scotia, brought these miniature framed Colours from Canada to present after the Duke of York had presented new Colours to the battalion at Alma Barracks. Links between the Princess Louise Fusiliers and the Royal Irish Regiment go back to 1932.



Picture: Cornwall and IOS Press



Rec-Hammond-ation!

An "outstanding achievement" by the Army Careers Office in Redruth, Cornwall, in boosting enlistments during a recruiting drive has been recognised.

Office manager WO2 **Pete Hammond** is pictured receiving a certificate of commendation from Col **Simon Young** of the Directorate of Army Recruiting.

Enlistments by Pete and fellow team members Sgt "Willy" **Williams** LI (left) and Sgt **Steve Agass** RLC (right) increased from 66 to 96 in 1995-96 – a 53 per cent increase on the previous year.

Tinker, tailor, Terrier, sweep

Part-time soldiers from the north west of England display the differences between their civilian and territorial occupations to the 200 directors and company managers who visited the annual **Reserve Forces Day** at Altcar Training Camp near Formby.

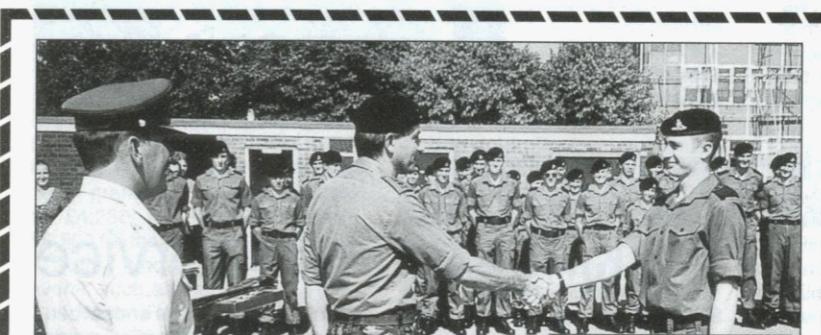
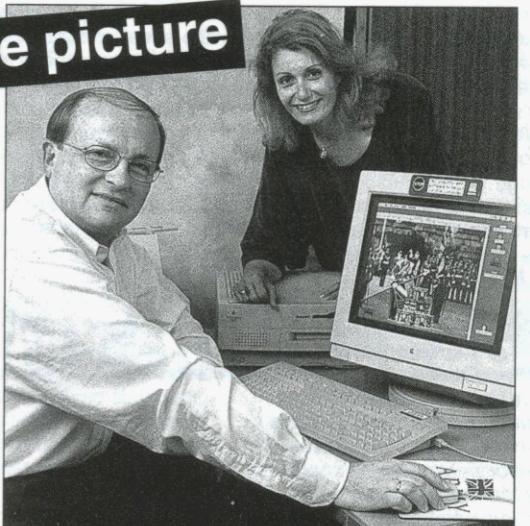
PEOPLE

The name's Bond ...

Although unit press officers usually stay in the background, on this occasion **Soldier** makes an exception. Capt **Alistair Bond** of 208 (Liverpool) Field Hospital (V), an orthopaedic staff nurse for the Royal Liverpool and Broadgreen University Teaching Hospital, is pictured taking a peek at *R&B Review*, the hospital's magazine, whose renamed title earned Alistair a competition award.



Getting the picture



Durable battery

One thousand up, and going as strong as ever is the proud boast of 24 (Irish) Battery, 14th Regiment, Royal Artillery, which, since moving to Larkhill in 1994, has seen more than 1,000 recruits successfully trained in trades varying from basic driver signaller to HVM operators.

The milestone was marked at Stirling Barracks when the 1,000th recruit, Grn **Stephen Barnes**, was presented with a 24 Battery tie and plaque by Lt Col **David Lewthwaite**, CO 14 Regt.

During a courtesy call on the **Soldier** offices in Aldershot while on holiday in England, **Josef Argaman**, managing editor of the Israeli Defense Forces' weekly magazine *Bamahane*, delves into our computerised photo library, watched by his wife, **Natalia**. Josef, who emigrated to Israel from the Soviet Union as a child and served in the élite Golani Brigade as a military correspondent, has written several books about defence issues.

Friendly way to lift morale

NAAFI is reported to be considering proposals to work in partnership with private sector companies in order to return the 75-year-old institution to profitability.

Admirable though this may be in today's world, dominated as it is by the balance sheet, I hope those in charge don't lose sight of the importance of moral support.

I don't believe you can put a price on morale, nor that it can be made to pay. NAAFI tea may have been the butt of many jokes, but for soldiers returning from the battlefields of Europe during the first half of this century it came to represent the comforts of home.

In the modern world of soldiering, many people are involved in the work of "keeping up morale". Take BFBS, for example. One of my colleagues regularly broadcasts to Bosnia, and the letters she gets contain more than bare requests for popular songs.

They are, by turn, touching and sad, happy and heart-rending. One soldier requests a particular record because he wants to say he's sorry for a row he had before he left. Another wants to congratulate his wife on the safe arrival of the baby he has yet to see.

They write to Linda because she's a friend. She has a Service background and they know she knows what it's like. She has come to represent all the friends they've left at home.

While I was broadcasting live the other day, a chap rang through to the studio from overseas. He wanted me to track down some information for his wife. I had never met him, but he had formed an image of me as a friendly neighbour, someone who wouldn't mind helping out.

It's at such moments that I feel I'm doing something useful – that I'm contributing to the work of morale support. That may well sound pretentious or patronising, except that I have experienced support work from the other side.

As an Army wife in Germany I valued the contribution made by people who worked for BFBS, the NAAFI, Service papers and magazines, and the library. I frequently had cause to thank any number of padres and, in particular, the one who carried my washing machine down to the cellar when the removal men left me to my own devices. Morale is notoriously dif-



Cari's column

ficult to pin down, and asking people to quantify it is an impossible task. How would you describe morale in your unit? I suppose it depends on who you ask.

If members of a unit are slouching about with their chins on the ground, it's a safe bet that morale could be said to be low.

But there are other, more subtle, indications, such as breakdowns in efficiency, work taking longer, mistakes creeping in.

Potential problems get overlooked and develop into crises. Rumours proliferate. Factions develop and hold *sotto voce* conversations in the corridors.

There is a feeling that no one in authority understands, that there is no one to turn to for support.

In the military world this is where those in morale support come into their own. Overseas, they will be living and working in the same environment, with the same problems and the same regulations.

This is, in my opinion, the key to successful morale support. Those working within its remit not only must have "been there, done that and got the T-shirt": they must also be supported.

In an outpost in Germany, we had a NAAFI shop. There was also a row of shops at the bottom of the street where food was cheap. I, like many others, nipped into the NAAFI for teabags and pickles and British sausages.

I can't imagine we boosted the profits to any great extent, but we didn't shop there for commercial reasons. The products represented home – and the banter at the till was enough to lift a flagging spirit.

There were German radio stations playing British hit singles with barely a word in between. But they couldn't compete with old friends on BFBS who regaled us with tales of packing boxes and the perils of marching in and out.

While I wish the NAAFI well with their exercise, I do hope they remember that you can't put a price on the value of an old friend.

No one would argue with their aim to run shops which offer "world class value for money" – just so long as less tangible benefits also figure in the calculations.

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

Bedside service

□ FORCES Focus, a radio programme aimed at the Services personnel in the tri-Service Royal Hospital Haslar, is starting a request spot for patients.

Messages, giving name and ward number, should be addressed to Jean Hague, Radio Haslar, Radio House, 5, Admiralty Road, Royal Hospital Haslar, Gosport, Hants PO12 2AA.

Sounds German

□ A new multi-media course for adult beginners learning German has been published this month to accompany a TV and radio series.

Details on BBC *Deutsch Plus*, recorded on location in Germany, from Tony Hammond, BBC Worldwide Languages, Room A2096, Woodlands, 80 Wood Lane, London W12 0TT.

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WO2 Kevin Haresign, of the 1st Battalion, Scots Guards (MPH), helps Rachel Rice as she attempts a command task.

Rachel was one of 200 young people between eight and 18 who had fun at the Balbykinler-based youth camps organised under the guidance of the Northern Ireland Forces Youth Service.

The summer camps, which also include canoeing, body boarding, swimming, rock climbing and hill walking, started in the early 1980s, providing much appre-

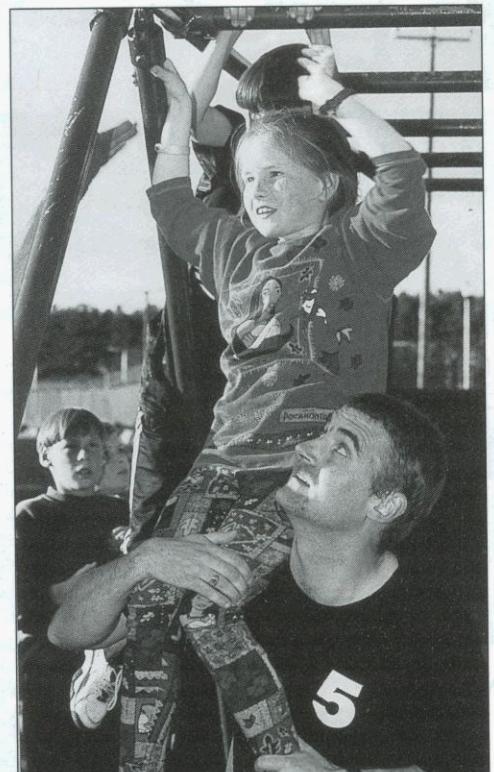
On a pet subject

A READER offers this advice to anyone contemplating putting their dog into quarantine when returning to the United Kingdom.

"Where possible," she states, "get a good person in the UK who understands dogs and cats to check out personally several quarantine kennels for cleanliness, warmth, weather-proof facilities and standard of food."

Chat to the staff and weigh the place up, she adds, since it is you who are paying high fees and should expect decent standards.

"After a period, you can move your pet under the MAFF regulations if you are not happy or for whatever reason. Six months is a long time, and standards do vary. Anyone not satisfied with a particular kennel should write to MAFF HQ and their MP."



ciated relief for the parents of Service families based in Northern Ireland.

Erskine's quality service

STAFF at Erskine Hospital for disabled ex-Servicemen and women at Bishopton near Glasgow have been praised in a report by an independent review body.

"In every part of the service we found staff dedicated to the people they serve," says the Scottish Health Advisory Service (SHAS).

The Erskine, says the report, has an "impressive" philosophy that every ex-Serviceman and woman in its care deserves the quality of care, kindness and understanding that are the direct

result of its best team endeavour.

In addition to quality nursing care, the report goes on, Erskine Hospital – opened in 1916 – offers a wide range of medical, therapeutic and recreational facilities.

The SHAS encouraged further use of the respite care which Erskine is able to offer disabled people living at home.

● An independent charity, Erskine Hospital, with £8m annual running costs, relies heavily on the public for its existence. Last year it had an operating deficit of £2.4m.



Picture: Mike Weston

Onward and upward? Single Soldiers' Dependents Fund team members Pat Saunders, Maj (Retd) David Earle and Pat Smith, with Maj Gen (Retd) Mike Swindells, pictured outside Empress State Building, Earls Court

Speedy-paying fund helps at difficult times

IN FEBRUARY 1964, the Army Kinema Corporation (AKC, now SSVC), made a £15,000 donation and created an organisation which, like Topsy, has "grown and grown" into the thriving Soldiers' Widows and Widowers Fund (SWF) of today.

Four years later, the AKC forked out a further £10,000 and a sister organisation, the Single Soldiers' Dependents' Fund (SSDF) burst into what, in the 1990s, is still an extremely active life.

Members subscribe £3 a year and, in the event of their death, their dependants receive an immediate grant to alleviate financial stress.

By the time of the SSDF's conception, with grants of £350, the SWF's grants had risen from £350 to £600. Rising every year since 1980, grants are now a maximum of £4,250 for the former and £6,500 for the latter.

Both funds have survived events such as the Falklands and Gulf Wars, IRA atrocities and the conflict in Bosnia, as well as the day-to-day casualties which sadly are part and parcel of soldiering, says secretary and treasurer Maj (Retd) David Earle, a former member of the Pay Corps who has been in post for the past ten years.

Provisions on homelessness in the 1996 Housing Act revise the present duties which local housing authorities owe to families who are homeless or threatened with homelessness.

Administration of the funds is managed by only two other persons, Pat Smith, a virtual fixture since 1978, and relative newcomer Pat Saunders, three years in post.

The financial operation is under the direction of Maj Gen (Retd)

Mike Swindells, Controller of the Army Benevolent Fund and head of the Funds Executive Committee, which reports to the funds' president, Gen Sir Michael Rose.

"If, sadly, someone dies, we pride ourselves on the quick turnaround of payment, to ease the situation," Maj Gen Swindells said.

November will be a bitter-sweet month, Maj Earle told *Soldier*.

The office (in Empress State Building) is moving to Upavon and he and his team will go their separate ways.

But, he says, a bright light on the horizon is the assurance by the Charity Commissioner that there is a good possibility of one Soldiers' Dependents Fund being formed, to start, it is hoped, in January.

Investors ...

THREE military organisations – the Tri-Service Resettlement Centre, the Army School of Catering and the Royal Naval School of Educational and Training Technology – have been recognised as Investors In People (IIP).

Lt Col David Bowman, commandant of the resettlement centre, said that, despite initial scepticism about the IIP, he and his colleagues had found that the process involved had "considerably improved" good practices already in place.

Col Philippe Rossiter, ASC Commandant, commented: "The IIP has been extremely effective in helping us to focus on our systems and develop them to benefit the whole organisation."

... in People

the Environment. "Priority need", the department points out, means families with children, pregnant women or someone who is "vulnerable".

However, according to a judgement in the House of Lords, the present homelessness legislation was never intended to give local authorities a duty to provide permanent accommodation for households accepted as statutorily homeless.

The duty is to secure suitable accommodation, which could be for as little as 28 days.

"We are quite concerned about this," say the Defence Housing

Executive (DHE). "What it will mean is that, for whatever reason, local authorities will have the option of providing a lesser service: it won't mean that they will have to. It is a small, but a definite, tightening of the screw."

The last thing an Army family trying to get back into civilian life needs is an extra problem, the DHE adds. "We will try to take as active a role on the part of those affected as possible."

Anyone who needs to discuss the potential implications of the measures should contact their local authority or the nearest DHE area office.

Jubilant Julie scores a first

JULIE Kitching, wife of Falling-bostel-based Cpl Mike Kitching, Royal Logistic Corps, has become one of the first to pass a revolutionary information technology (IT) course taught by computer.

Developed for the Computer Skills College in Lancashire, the 20-25 hour course is claimed to be a world first in that the computer acts as lecturer and examiner, ultimately leading to a City and Guilds IT certificate.

PART-TIME

"I already had a lot of work experience involving computers, but no formal qualifications," says Julie, who works as a part-time clerk at the base and has a seven-year-old son.

"Because I could choose when to study, the course blended perfectly with my day job and my responsibilities at home. I'd recommend it to anyone wishing to improve themselves – particularly Service wives like myself who are seeking to increase their job prospects when they return to the UK."

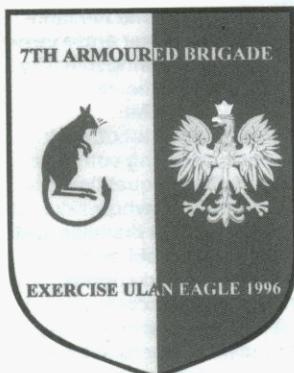
Having earned her first IT qualification, Julie is already enrolled for a business management diploma course.



A 1RHF Warrior speeds across the manoeuvring area



WOI (SMI) Andrew Douglas-Rickett checks one of the exploding trees specially planted at strategic junctions



The Ulan Eagle has landed



Tpr Chris Roberts of 2 RTR exchanges his Challenger's 120mm gun for a 7.62 machine gun as he prepares to fly in a Puma helicopter to rescue a "diplomat"

A NEW dimension was added to training for Royal Engineers taking part in Exercise Ulan Eagle with the 7th Armoured Brigade in Poland.

As well as digging holes and filling them in, the sappers learned a new skill... planting "trees" before blowing them down again.

Sappers of 35 Engineer Regiment Group were delighted at what was described as an "engineer theme park".

The trees were actually large logs dug in at strategic junctions in the woods. When a battle group withdrew in contact, combat engineers could carry out route-denial by blowing down trees to block the tracks.

It was found to be more realistic than festooning trees with white tape.

Exercising in Poland was a very satisfying experience for all the Desert Rats, commanded by Brig David Montgomery.

"It is quite striking to drive a tank down a narrow ride of trees and feel in 'proper country,'" he said.

He explained that his purpose was not to take part in the diplomatic niceties of Partnership for Peace or peacekeeping exercises which might prepare them for a possible tour in Bosnia next year.

"This is the heavy metal end of high-intensity conflict," he said. "It is good, old-fashioned war-fighting, and if we can get that side right, then lower-intensity conflicts are relatively easy to get to grips with."

One of his main objectives was a strategic road and rail move to deploy 3,500 of his 6,500 Germany-based troops into Poland.

The 700km road move was a dramatic success. Everyone arrived in the right place at the right time and with the right equip-

Thackray. The German military police had been a tremendous help on the journey out.

"We moved more than 700 vehicles across 700km during eight days and had only 43 break down. That really is a brilliant statistic."

By the time the last convoy rolled into the exercise area, the entire route was clear.

But the logistic role was not limited to moving the brigade, re-supplying, arming, feeding and operating an underground fuel station with 200,000 litres - enough for 2½ days.

"I also looked after aspects like the scrap metal contract, getting rid of waste oil and disposing of the human ordure produced by 3,500 people during a three-week exercise."

As well as re-supply and maintenance, one of Maj Thackray's priorities was to ensure that if there was a real accident, soldiers would be treated and evacuated as fast as possible.

On the evening after rehearsing their medical evacuation procedures, a soldier exercising "in the middle of nowhere" was thrown from his armoured vehicle.

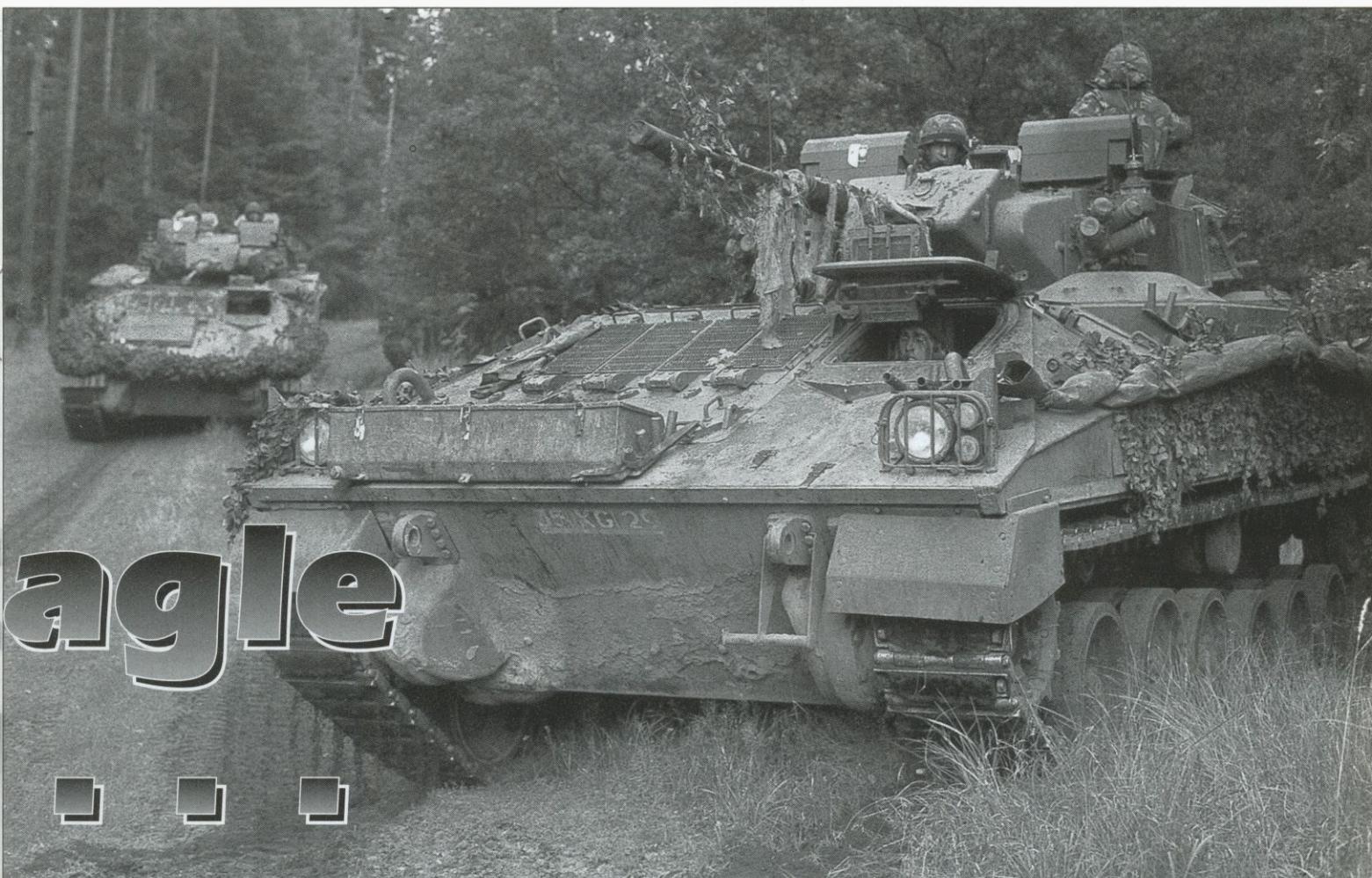
"He had a gash from his thigh to his knee you could have inserted two fists in," said Maj Thackray.

"We had a doctor with him in 20 minutes, stabilised 15 minutes later and ten minutes later was in for surgery."

Training for the teeth arms was as good as for the supporting arms.

"With 13,000 vehicles, including 500 heavy tracked vehicles, it is quite a big train set to play with," said Brig Montgomery.

Biggest advantage of the Polish area was that it was completely unfamiliar to British



Above - Warriors carefully approach one of many water obstacles

Below - Deputy Chief of Staff Maj Jake Thackray enthuses over the move to Poland



A Challenger of 2 RTR noses forward during a test exercise

Report: Gordon Skilling
Pictures: Terry Champion

troops. Soldiers had to go through the proper battle procedure. Other than establishing what could and could not be done, there had been no pre-reconnaissance.

Commanders were given their orders, and the time to do their preparation and checks as they would for real if deploying in an operational theatre.

Ulan Eagle began with nine days of battle group-level training, ending with three days of test exercises. Battle group commanders had the opportunity to carry out their own training before the tests.

This was followed by four days of brigade

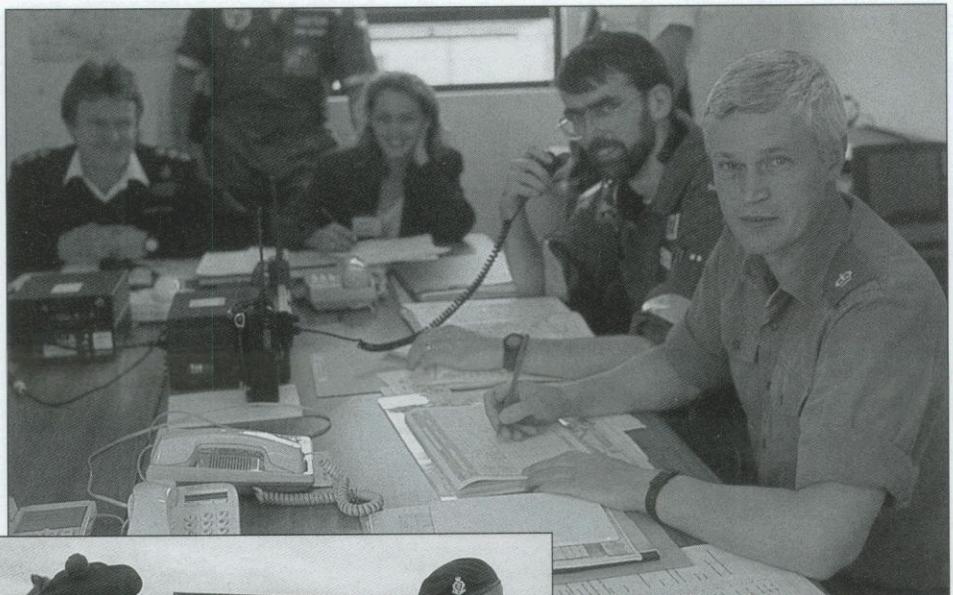
was going.

Controllers such as WO1 (SMI) Andrew Douglas-Rickett were on hand to supervise and regulate the battles, as well as impose safety restrictions when the assault pioneers blew up their "trees".

"It's good training. We don't often get the chance to blow trees because it is a politically sensitive issue," he said.

After a successful and exciting strategic move, soldiers could enjoy realistic route-denial, mobility tasks and counter-mobility obstacles during their tactical moves on the eastern side of the north German-Polish Plain.

● More Ulan Eagle coverage in next issue



Col Mike Smith, CO 205 (Scottish) Field Hospital, receives a report from Cpl Tom Williams



Pictures: Mike Weston

Above - Maj George Andrews of 205 (Scottish) Field Hospital at work in the medical control centre. Behind (right to left) are forward medical incident controller, Dr Matthew Cooke, Kathereen Robinson and staff officer Alan Garaher

Right - The deployment provided 205 medical staff with an opportunity to undergo refresher training. LCpl Brian Spencer, Maj Teresa Bramley, Pte Bill Mulligan and Capt Judith Keighley resuscitate a casualty



Apache makes an appearance at Farnborough

Showtime for Apache

ONE OF the main attractions at Farnborough International Airshow 96 was a stunning display of aerial manoeuvrability by a McDonnell Douglas Apache ground attack helicopter, writes Laurie Manton.

A variant of this aircraft has been selected to replace Lynx and will provide the Army Air Corps with its attack capability well into the next century.

The British Army version will be equipped with the new Longbow radar, which can scan a battlefield and detect up to 256 targets, and armed with Hellfire anti-tank guided missiles, CRV-7 rockets and a 30mm chain gun.

Apache's two-man crew is protected by a boron-carbide armour capable of withstanding 12.7mm armour-piercing rounds. The helicopter is scheduled to enter service in 2000.

An event the size of the Farnborough airshow has to have a medical plan capable of coping with anything from a wasp sting to a full-scale aviation disaster.

Emergency medical, ambulance and first aid arrangements were co-ordinated by the Society of British Aerospace Companies' medical director, Dr Brian Robertson (a Territorial Army colonel in his own right) from a medical control centre established on the site.

It was supported by Army medics and chefs and included a large contingent of TA personnel from 205 (Scottish) Field Hospital (Volunteers) who set up a 100-bed field hospital on the edge of the airfield.

Commanded by Col Mike Smith, the deployment gave the TA medics an opportunity to practise military and medical skills.

At one stage, during a lull in the proceedings, the soldiers donned "noddy suits" to rehearse Nuclear, Biological and Chemical (NBC) warfare drills.

Also supporting the event were chefs and trainees from the Aldershot-based Army School of Catering.

SSgt Andrew Winder commanded the detachment which provided meals to St John Ambulance Brigade volunteers.

Production NCOs on a management course supervised trainee chefs who were learning how to cook under field condi-

tions. Two field kitchens, each with a four-strong staff, catered for 140 medical personnel at each of the three daily meals. A St John spokesman described the catering arrangement as "an outstanding success".

As the airshow got underway, the Defence Evaluation and Research

Agency (DERA) was preparing for the official opening of its new £100 million research complex on the north-west corner of Farnborough airfield.

Employing some 12,000 staff, more than half of whom are highly-trained scientists and engineers, DERA is the largest organisation of its kind in Europe. It has an annual turnover of around £1 billion.

"The new site will be the full single headquarters for Ministry of Defence science and technology research," said company secretary Liz Pearce.

State-of-the-art facilities include a Mission Simulation Environments department

which uses Hovers, a sophisticated battlefield helicopter simulation facility.

Another DERA department, the Centre for Human Sciences, was formed by combining experts from the Army Personnel Research Establishment, the Institute for Aviation Medicine and other areas.

It can advise the MoD on subjects including crash protection and emergency escape; personnel selection and physical performance; and human-system interface development.

DERA's Protection and Life Sciences Division (PLSD) includes responsibility for the Chemical and Biological Defence Establishment at Porton Down.

Chemical and biological agent detectors, individual protective equipment (IPE), the Colpro collective protection, and medical counter-measures deployed by UK forces during the Gulf War were developed from research completed at Porton Down.

Agreement has been reached in principle for the next Royal Navy-British Army Equipment Exhibition (RNBAEE) to be staged on the Farnborough site.

The event, scheduled for September next year, has for many years been held on the Pegasus Village exhibition site near Rushmoor Arena at Aldershot.



Above - 205 medics practise NBC drills on the edge of the runway; NBC instructor SSgt William Leech (inset) supervises

Below - Dishing up a meal to St John Ambulance Brigade and British Red Cross volunteers is Cpl Colin Huerton



Hampshire British Red Cross and Dorset St John Ambulance Brigade volunteers receive VIP treatment from Army chefs. Cpl "John-boy" Walton chalks up the menu, while Pte Gareth Beckett serves a meal

What a Wiay to go . . .

A GAP in the Rapier firing programme at the Royal Artillery Range on Benbecula was snapped up by London's part-time paras for an exercise with a difference.

Most members of the 10th (Volunteer) Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, whose headquarters are in Chelsea's Kings Road, had not heard of Benbecula let alone knew of its remote location in Scotland's Outer Hebrides . . . but that is where they ended up on their two-week summer camp.

Rugged conditions combined with first-class administrative and training facilities contributed to the success of Exercise Celtic Fling, which tested the soldiers' military and adventurous training skills. Facilities at the range complex are under-used and have tremendous potential for training.

The three-phase programme began with a high-tempo conventional military exercise, mounted from RAF Lyneham, and culminating in a landing on Benbecula after a parachute insertion had been aborted because of high winds.

Sub-units deployed on offensive company group tasks as the Territorial Army soldiers made full use of the dramatic Hecla Mountain range on South Uist and the coastal plains to the west and north, including the rugged island of Wiay.

Wiay was the location for a simulated helicopter crash and survival exercise during which the Paras practised recent survival training in a demanding situation which allowed no scope for short cuts. Aggressive patrolling, including the conduct of observation posts and ambushes, confirmed



Going down: CSgt Tim Fleming (above), a member of the 10 Para abseiling team



Ambush: 2nd Lt Geoff Hargreaves (left) enjoys a familiar pastime



Wheel find the high road: CSgt Kes Newcombe and the mountain bikers

second phase of Celtic Fling, making use of excellent locations and natural challenges on Benbecula itself, North and South Uist, and the surrounding waterways.

Hill walkers, climbers and abseilers found demanding conditions on Hecla Range, and mountain and road biking, and horse riding were popular. The soldiers also had a chance to try fly fishing, dinghy sailing, canoeing, windsurfing and sub-aqua diving.

Ironman competition

Military and adventurous training skills were combined in the battalion Ironman competition which brought the annual camp to a gruelling conclusion. The task involved soldiers covering 120km from the southern to the northern extremities of the Uist group of islands. Section-strength teams completed 23 stands on the way.

After 36 hours of hard work, 4 Company triumphed to win the 10 Para Ironman trophy.

Remote St Kilda, 46km west of the Outer Hebrides, provided a stunning day out for 40 members of the battalion. The tiny island, now home to a small detachment of soldiers from the Benbecula ranges, once supported a population of 200 who lived mainly on a diet of sea birds collected from the 300m cliffs.

The population was evacuated in 1930 after a particularly severe winter, and the London-based Paras viewed their visit as a rare and unforgettable opportunity. They



Above: Tough company – the 4 Coy team which won the Ironman competition

Right: Enjoying a hill with a view on the Isle of Skye are 10 Para walkers

Below: St Kilda's high street

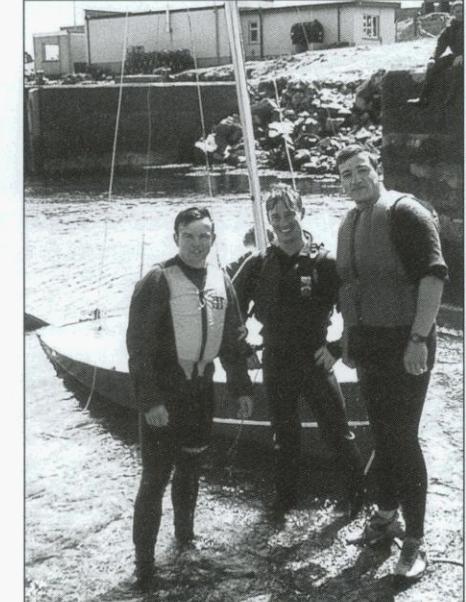
Below right: Dripping dry are Capt Graham Livingston, the adjutant, platoon commander Lt Brian Witty and Maj Ian Channon, OC Support Group, after cap-size drills



were able to repay the hospitality of Benbecula and Uist by gutting and renovating a remote climbers' bothie, long since discarded and used as a rubbish tip.

An open evening was held for the islands' Army Cadet Force, which was shown the equipment and training methods of a parachute battalion.

Celtic Fling ended with a flight south, culminating in the battalion parachuting onto Salisbury Plain.



Why the Yorkies no longer take a dim view of patrols

SOLDIERS serving with the 1st Battalion, The Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire in Northern Ireland are at the cutting edge of military technology – not for the first time.

They are helping with trials for a new laser-aided rifle sighting system which brings hi-tech views from a rifle-mounted box of wizardry to the soldier through a sci-fi goggle strapped over one eye.

Three years ago, 1 PWO returned from Bosnia to assist in trials of the now widely used laser simulation equipment which allows more realistic battlefield training.

And the 1st Battalion is unique in its current tour in that the Yorkshire soldiers are the only ones still patrolling in Northern Ireland in berets.

BERETS ABANDONED

At the end of the IRA cease-fire in February troops across the Province were ordered to abandon their berets and return to protected headgear as a security measure. Lt Col Charles Le Brun, CO 1 PWO, explained that when his soldiers arrived in Tyrone during June they asked for permission to wear their berets on patrol.

It was hoped that this would soften the aggressive image of troops on the streets of Dungannon and Cookstown.

"It took a bit of pressure, but we were allowed to patrol in berets," said Lt Col Le Brun. "I think it has helped to make members of the public more aware of who we are, and not alarm them to the same extent."

Their current tour means that soldiers of The Prince of Wales's Own have served a total of nearly six years in the Province during the past 25 years. The battalion was the first to be deployed to Londonderry in 1969 when the Royal Ulster Constabulary asked for military support.



Beret patrol: Pte Darren Smith, 1 PWO

Soldiers in the name of God

MEMBERS of the Royal Army Chaplains' Department have served God and their soldiers through war and peace for 200 years. In these pages Gordon Skilling looks at the work of today's padres and finds that little has changed.

THERE are few heathens on the battlefield. At times of extreme stress special men wearing dog collars and small crosses in their lapels are welcome as they move among soldiers, offering support and helping to ease the last moments of life.

The chaplain will bury those who die in battle, whether in victory or defeat. Even if he could escape capture, it is his duty to stay with those taken prisoner. Many have died with the soldiers in their care.

During the First World War, 172 Army chaplains gave their lives, and the department became "royal" in 1919 when King George V recognised the valour and devotion to duty of its members.

Religion can be a difficult subject for soldiers. The sixth commandment says they shall not kill, yet they are asked to fight wars which have religious roots. They operate amid worldwide religious hatred.

But on the eve of battle, or facing the unknown in a prisoner-of-war camp, the most hardened warrior may regain a faith previously ignored in the barrack block.

Killing presents a dilemma for the

Army's men of God, but the use of force and the taking of life is justified in certain circumstances to counter terrorism or aggression. The profession of arms is noble and while war is unacceptable in itself, it may be the only solution in an evil world.

A padre's effect on morale can be incalculable. While held as a PoW in Korea, the Glosters' Sam Davies was seen by the Chinese as a political commissar. The more he was persecuted the more the determination of the Glosters stiffened.

Even in captivity, soldiers managed to produce hymn books, chalice and candlesticks for secret baptisms, and the cross carved with two nails by Lt Col Fred Carne VC is now one of the glories of Gloucester Cathedral.

Three roles

In addition to its historic presence in conflict, the Royal Army Chaplains' Department (RACD) exists to serve soldiers and their families in peace.

Three roles dominate the chaplain's work – minister, teacher, carer. He is primarily a minister of whichever branch of the Christian church licenses him and sends him to the Army.

He remains within the jurisdiction of that church but also comes under either the Chaplain General or Principal Roman Catholic Chaplain.

In the role of teacher, he leads the character-training programmes laid down by the department.

This year the theme is coping with disaster. Within weeks of completing his training a young soldier could find himself witness to devastation and carnage in Bosnia or Rwanda... situations which make a phenomenal demand on the Serviceman's personality and moral resources, and on the chaplains who help him cope.

Soak up fears

Chaplains soak up the fears, anger, stress and turmoil they encounter, often without realising it. It is important that this is managed properly and dealt with professionally.

The third role of the chaplain is as a carer, a pastoral dimension unlimited by office hours; it is often undertaken quietly in the wee small hours during exercises or operations.

Being with soldiers at such times, building trust and respect, sharing their conditions, helps chaplains meet their needs.

The ministry of a chaplain is unique in its breadth and variety. But it can often be very lonely and his own



Battlefield ministry: soldiers receive communion in the Western Desert during the Second World War

spiritual life has to be strong. While supporting soldiers in difficult situations, these trying circumstances eat into the chaplain's own resources. As soldiers of The Royal Highland Fusiliers helped deal with the aircraft tragedy at Lockerbie, the chaplain was as much involved as the young fusiliers.

The RACD is unusual among military units in that it is fully up to its establishment of 147 chaplains. It dates back to September 1796 when a department was formed after the previous system of regimental chaplains had disintegrated.

At first only Church of England chaplains were authorised, but within 40 years Presbyterians, then Roman Catholics, were accepted, the latter independently administered. "Other Protestants" were soon included, and in 1892 the first officiating rabbi was appointed. The rabbi serves the Jewish communities of all three Services. Gurkhas have their own religious leaders, as did Sikhs when they provided formed units to the British Army. Today, if individ-

ual Sikhs, Muslims or members of other religions require support, they may turn to a Christian chaplain to find the name and address of the nearest contact.

The first non-Church of England Chaplain General was appointed in 1987 and was succeeded last year by the present incumbent, the Rev Dr Victor Dobbin, first member of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland to hold the post.

The chaplaincy itself shines as a beacon of ecumenism in a religious world riven by historical differences.

Dr Dobbin accepts that church leaders have to be cautious when dealing with doctrinal matters, although this does not affect the day-to-day work of chaplains.

Working together

"At the grass-roots levels of chaplaincy there are few major conflicts which would cause us concern. The denominations work exceptionally well together and ecumenical activities within the Army are very positive, with priests of all denominations sharing services and padres' hours."

Dr Dobbin is convinced it is at this level that ecumenism progresses.

In Bosnia, where three Roman Catholics and 13 other chaplains minister to 10,000 British troops, denominations do not matter. This is the view of Philip Majcher, senior chaplain of 1 Mechanised Brigade, who ministered to the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards during the Gulf War.

He found the link with other dimensions and churches enjoyable – even standing at a Greek Orthodox service in Bosnia which lasted nearly three hours.

Soldiers were by and large religious but careless of faith until they were confronted by it, he said. On operations there was always a dread that something would happen and chaplains could gauge the level of pressure by church attendance.

In his first tour in Bosnia, at the start of Grapple 1 in 1992, Padre Charlie McCartney took part in a service which would have been unthinkable for many in his homeland of Ireland. Although



The Rev Charlie McCartney, who has served in Bosnia with the Royal Engineers, irreverently points out that chaplains are unarmed: a robust sense of humour helps ministers relate to soldiers

from a strong Irish Protestant tradition, he accompanied some of his Roman Catholic flock to a Christmas mass in Tomislavgrad.

Chaplain then to 35 Engineer Regiment and the RLC National Support Element, he is now based with the 1st Battalion, The Queen's Lancashire Regiment. He still shudders as he passes a junction in Gornji Vakuf where he was pinned down by cross-fire during a Croat-Muslim battle.

No bullets

His driver at the time had no rounds with which to defend the unarmed padre; he was considered a suicide threat so had not been issued bullets.

Padre McCartney insists that if people remained true to the Christian rules of love and kindness, nobody would pose a threat. "It is not the religious movement that causes the problem, it is the people who interpret the rules to suit themselves," he said.

Bosnia presented particular problems for Roman Catholics. Father Tony Barry covers the whole brigade and clocks up huge mileages travelling over an area covered by four non-conformist chaplains from Gornji Vakuf to Sanski Most.

Having joined the Army last October, he



The Chaplain General, the Rev Dr Victor Dobbin

feels almost like an itinerant missionary and found it all a tremendous challenge.

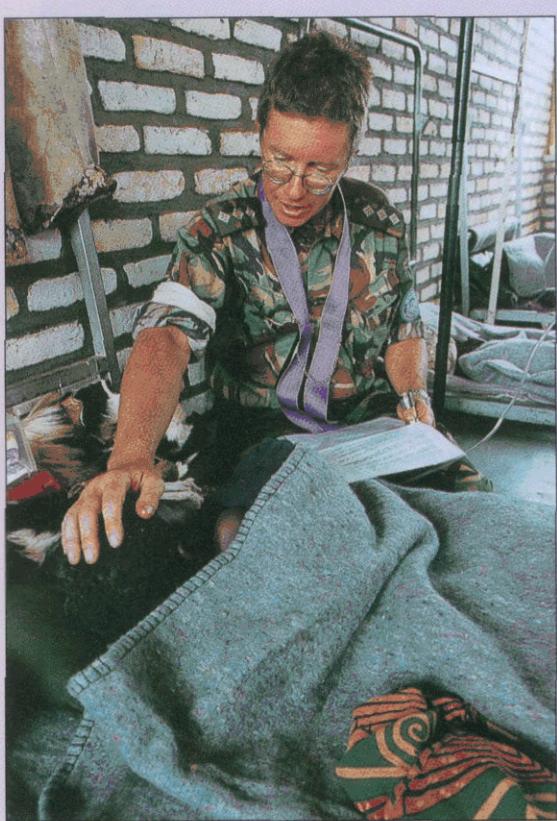
Becoming part of the Army itself was often a severe culture shock to a new padre, said Bob Locke, who accompanied the 2nd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment in Belfast. After deputising for Army chaplains in Colchester while they were on operational tours, he took a short service commission.

He had been saddened to encounter the polarised and politicised outlook in the Province. "Northern Ireland is not a particularly good advert for the church in general and I don't see an easy answer," he said.

A former Chaplain General, the Very Rev Jim Harkness, said: "You do learn that perhaps some of the assumptions and perceptions you had when you came in are not quite as accurate as you once thought they were," said.

"Fundamental ecclesiastical matters remain, but some things which were terribly important really become less important when you find yourself in a situation where you are trying to offer your ministry to people. Invariably, the soldier says 'yes'."

● Bagshot Park move, Pages 22-23
● Peace be with you – Reviews, Pages 30-31



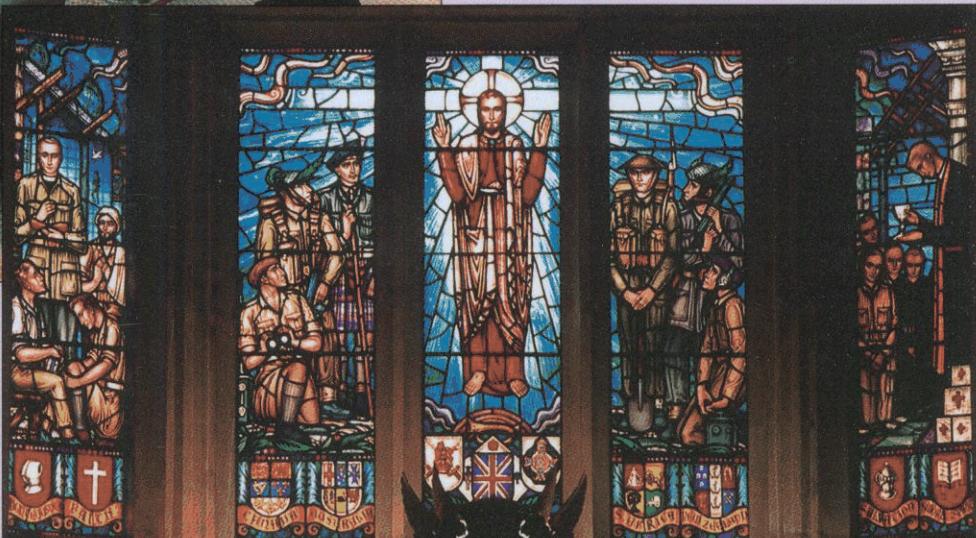
Padre Andrew Phillips administers the last rites to a child in Rwanda during a UN mission in 1994

Chaplains at crossroads

Army's padres in move to tri-Service HQ after half a century at 'royal' home



Above: RSM Allan Trench and Sgt Bernie Wells in the main entrance hall, with Deputy Warden John Whitton and Warden David Tickner on the balcony



Right: The stained-glass window in the chapel illustrates the department's work in all theatres of the Second World War, including the PoW camps

AFTER nearly 50 years the Royal Army Chaplains' Department has left its temporal home at Bagshot Park, Surrey, for a temporary stay at Netheravon House in Wiltshire.

A formative influence on the opinions and moral standards of padres and soldiers from private to field marshal, the centre near Camberley is estimated by Warden David Tickner to have seen 440,000 visitors pass through since the first chaplains arrived there in 1947, writes Gordon Skilling.

Due to move on September 30, the RACChD Training Centre is now part of the tri-Service Armed Forces Chaplaincy Centre (AFCC). It will continue to provide three basic courses at Netheravon, where it will be partly based before moving to Ampo House near Andover.

Ampo House, a Grade 2 listed building, was until March 29 the home of the Royal Air Force Chaplains' School. Royal Navy chaplains have trained there since 1962. It is now being extended to accommodate the Army.

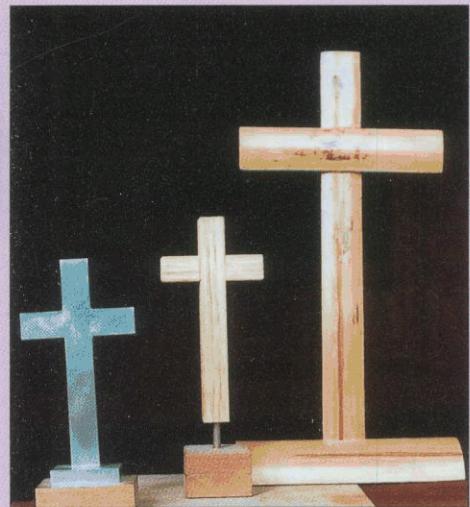
Military training

Primary function of the training is to prepare chaplains for their ministry to soldiers serving from Bosnia to Northern Ireland. After more detailed military training at Sandhurst, further instruction throughout their careers prepares them for the level of ability they are expected to carry.

A second aim is to sponsor what is termed "the moral and ethical debate". It is not a "bible-bashing" session.

Soldiers of all persuasions – or none – discuss matters of deep importance in an atmosphere of complete confidentiality which allow more mature opinions on current problems.

Pastoral courses fulfil the third function. These revolve around welfare, and can help women, such as new commanding officers'



The sign of the cross. In the Bagshot Park museum the cross used in 33 Field Hospital during the Gulf War is flanked by a light-weight altar cross supplied by air for use in the jungles of Burma (left) and a memorial cross to the fallen of the 2nd Infantry Division at Kohima in 1944

wives, who have suddenly to assume a welfare role to which they are not accustomed.

The sumptuously-appointed building was the home of the Duke of Connaught, Queen Victoria's third son, and is owned by the Crown Estate.

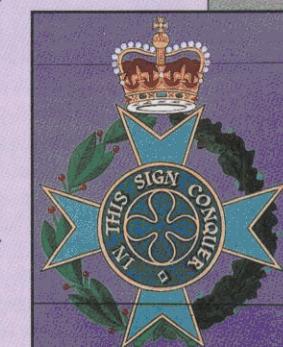
Bagshot Park was requisitioned during the Second World War for use by the Auxiliary Territorial Service, later to become the Women's Royal Army Corps, as its staff college.

The Queen did her ATS training there and her father, King George VI, offered the house to the Chaplain General in 1946.

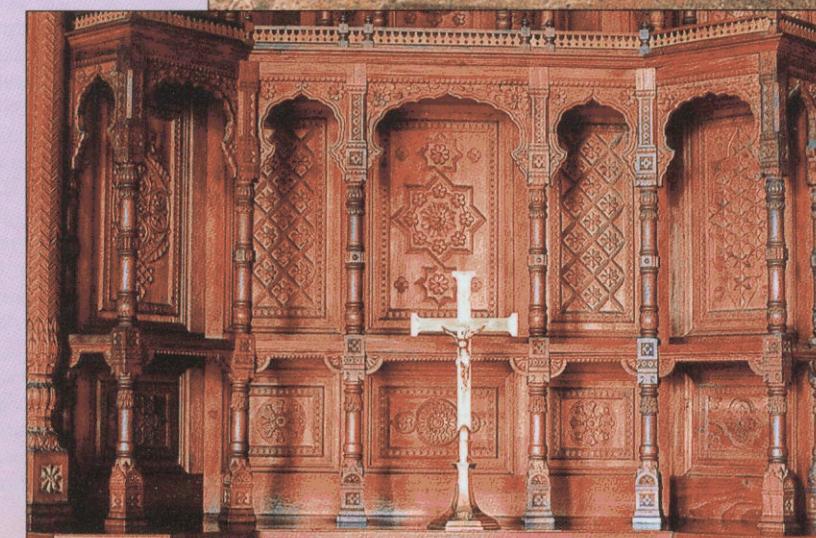
Bagshot Park's chapel was built in the 1950s in memory of the 134 British and Commonwealth chaplains who died during the Second World War.

Its museum is probably unique in the military environment for having no weapons or captured enemy equipment on display; instead, simple crosses and rough artefacts made by prisoners of war speak eloquently of soldiers' faith under great stress.

Everything will be taken to the new tri-Service chaplains' centre at Netheravon; even the famous Bagshot pool sign, which warned padres not to walk on the water, will be reincarnated at the gate to the River Avon.

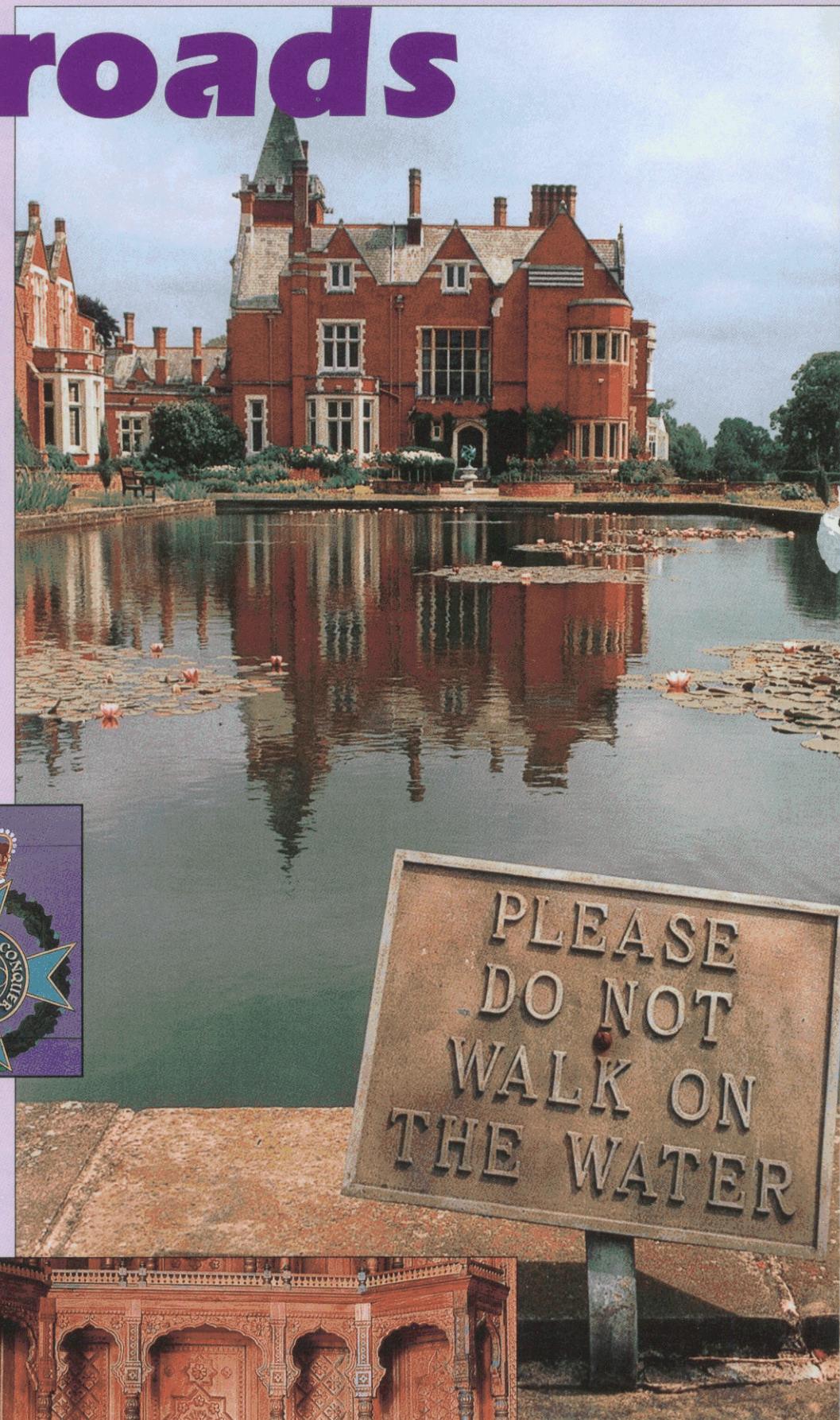


The RACChD capbadge. For Jewish chaplains there is a version featuring the Star of David



Above: Bagshot Park... and its famous sign. It will be taken to the RACChD's new home at Netheravon House in Wiltshire

Left: Exotic Indian carvings adorn a lecture room in Bagshot Park



Pictures: Mike Weston

There cannot be many journalists who are able to spend their semi-retirement living comfortably in their own castle, but then Warwick Charlton is no ordinary journalist. In an

eventful life he has worked on several national newspapers, written a book on Stephen Ward and the Profumo affair and sailed in a replica of the *Mayflower* to America.

During the Second World War his publications kept troops of the Eighth Army informed as they fought in the Western Desert, Sicily and Italy. Charlton has a special

place in the history of *Soldier*. Although never actually on the staff he tells here of his role in the birth of the magazine more than half a century ago.

'We couldn't think of another name so we called it *Soldier*'

WHEN Capt Warwick Charlton strode down the corridor of Montgomery's headquarters in France with the germ of an idea for an Army newspaper he was confident his idea would find favour with the British commander.

After all, Charlton, now 78, was known as the "father of desert newspapers", having founded *Crusader* – the *Eighth Army Weekly*, as well as the *Tripoli Times* and *Eighth Army News*, and was well-known to Monty who had led the desert army.

Under his arm, Charlton carried a dummy issue which he had put together using scissors and paste, and a few back numbers of *Yank!*, the illustrated US service magazine. Monty took one look and instantly approved it. Its cover was emblazoned with the masthead, **SOLDIER**.

"I called it *Soldier* because of *Yank!*. I couldn't call it 'British' or 'English', and I couldn't think of another name," said Charlton. "After all, I visualised my reader not as a general, captain or corporal, but as a soldier."

"When I saw Monty, I did not want to present him with a technical publication, more a picture paper in the same vein as *Yank!*. The whole emphasis of the magazine was that soldiers should regard it as their paper," he explained.

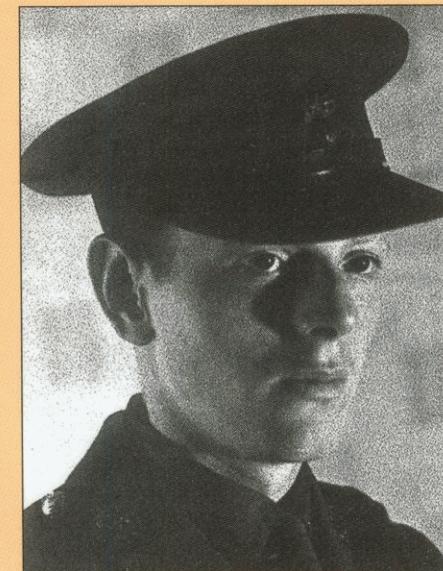
Monty wanted Charlton to edit the new publication and sent him back with the 21st Army Group's chief welfare officer, Col Medlicott, to seek War Office approval for the venture.

Unfortunately for Charlton, a newspaper article about Montgomery's sponsorship of him for the editorship incurred the wrath of the Secretary of State for War, Sir James Grigg, who vetoed Charlton's appointment.

Grigg had taken a dislike to the journalists who had written the piece and said that if he was to judge Charlton by his friends he would be quite right to stop him having anything to do with a newspaper . . .

Monty backed down and Charlton was posted to Mountbatten's South East Asia Command (SEAC) headquarters. Responsibility for *Soldier* passed to others and the magazine was launched in March 1945.

Warwick Charlton talks to Laurie Manton



Newly-commissioned Warwick Charlton

dive-bombed as we neared the port. I asked him what I should tell the men.

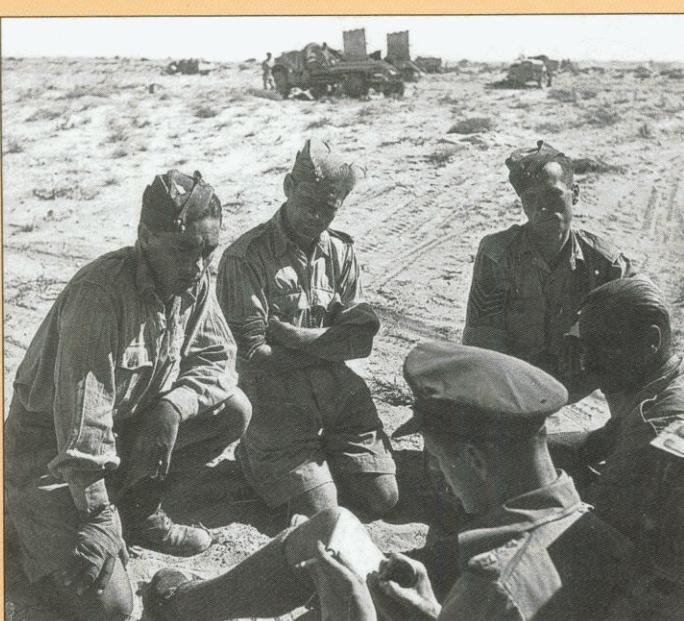
"Sikorski said we were to lie on our backs on deck and fire back with our rifles. 'Would that do any good?', I asked. He said no, but the troops wouldn't know that."

When Charlton got back from Tobruk, Gen Neil Ritchie had taken command of the Eighth Army, and the young officer-journalist was tasked to write a story telling soldiers about their new chief.

Ever the opportunist, he told Ritchie that the previous commander had considered establishing a newspaper for troops in the desert. It could be printed on captured mobile presses and he, Charlton, needed only the general's authority to produce a dummy issue. This was given and Charlton persuaded the editor of *Parade* in Cairo to print several thousand copies of *Crusader* for distribution throughout the Eighth Army.

The new weekly publication, supported with pictures and copy from the Army Film and Photographic Unit, was a great success.

Intelligence officers gave Charlton captured German diaries and he wrote a regular column, *Through Enemy Eyes*,



NCOs of a rifle regiment's anti-tank company are interviewed by the editor of *Crusader* after the action

in which he described life and war in the desert from a German point of view.

Once, he put a German prisoner in British uniform and kept him for nearly three weeks. The prisoner wrote accounts of where the British were going wrong with their battle techniques.

A daily, *Eighth Army News*, was added to the stable and printed on any available paper, including the backs of captured Italian maps. It carried news from home, regular updates on the battle, pin-ups, views of home, and a page of letters.

Eighth Army News campaigned strongly against the introduction of cheap "V" cigarettes from India which were provided to troops. "Someone must have been making millions of pounds from the deal. They were terrible," Charlton remembered.

"I asked my letters editor, Haig Gudienian (later on the staff of *Soldier*) to smoke them regularly and undergo a daily medical. The paper carried reports on the damage being done to Haig's health. Eventually the cigarette ration was stopped and we had to campaign for its reinstatement."

Charismatic Monty

Events in the North Africa moved fast. "Ritchie was fired and Auchinleck took over for a time before being replaced by Montgomery. I will never forget when he arrived. He was charismatic and brought us all together. He didn't have a wide vocabulary, but he used it well."

"He told his troops that there was no such thing as not being in battle, whether they were headquarters staff, front-line soldiers or cooks."

Charlton and Montgomery's public relations officer, Maj Geoffrey Keating, were involved in discussions to change the general's choice of headgear from the standard cap with its distinctive red band.

Monty tried an Australian digger hat with badges of units attached to the upturned brim, but it did not suit his rather foxy face. Eventually, he settled on a black beret with two badges and was taken into the desert to be photographed in the turret of a tank.

"We had not been there long when German 88mm fire started. They sounded like underground trains as they came over and were very intimidating."

"Monty's staff started worrying about him posing for photographs under fire, but Geoffrey Keating suggested that the general should stay in the turret until a shell exploded in the background as it would look better."

Picture: Mike Weston

Warwick Charlton today outside his Hampshire castle with Ollie

It did, and when Keating's film was developed, an explosion could plainly be seen."

After the great advance from El Alamein, the general gave Charlton authority to take over any printing presses he might find in Tripoli.

"We got there, smartly, in time to prevent them being smashed and looted," recalled Charlton. "Within 24 hours we had published the first issue of *The Tripoli Times*.

"The paper had a real coup. It was a newspaper man's dream. We followed Prime Minister Winston Churchill as he toured British units and were able to present him with a full report of his visit – pictures and all – before he departed."

A member of the Ministry of Information who accompanied Churchill noted that the Army's only newspaper was published by the Eighth Army. As a result, the *Union Jack* newspaper was created and another Army officer, Hugh Cudlipp (now Lord Cudlipp), was appointed to edit it.

Charlton and Keating subsequently took

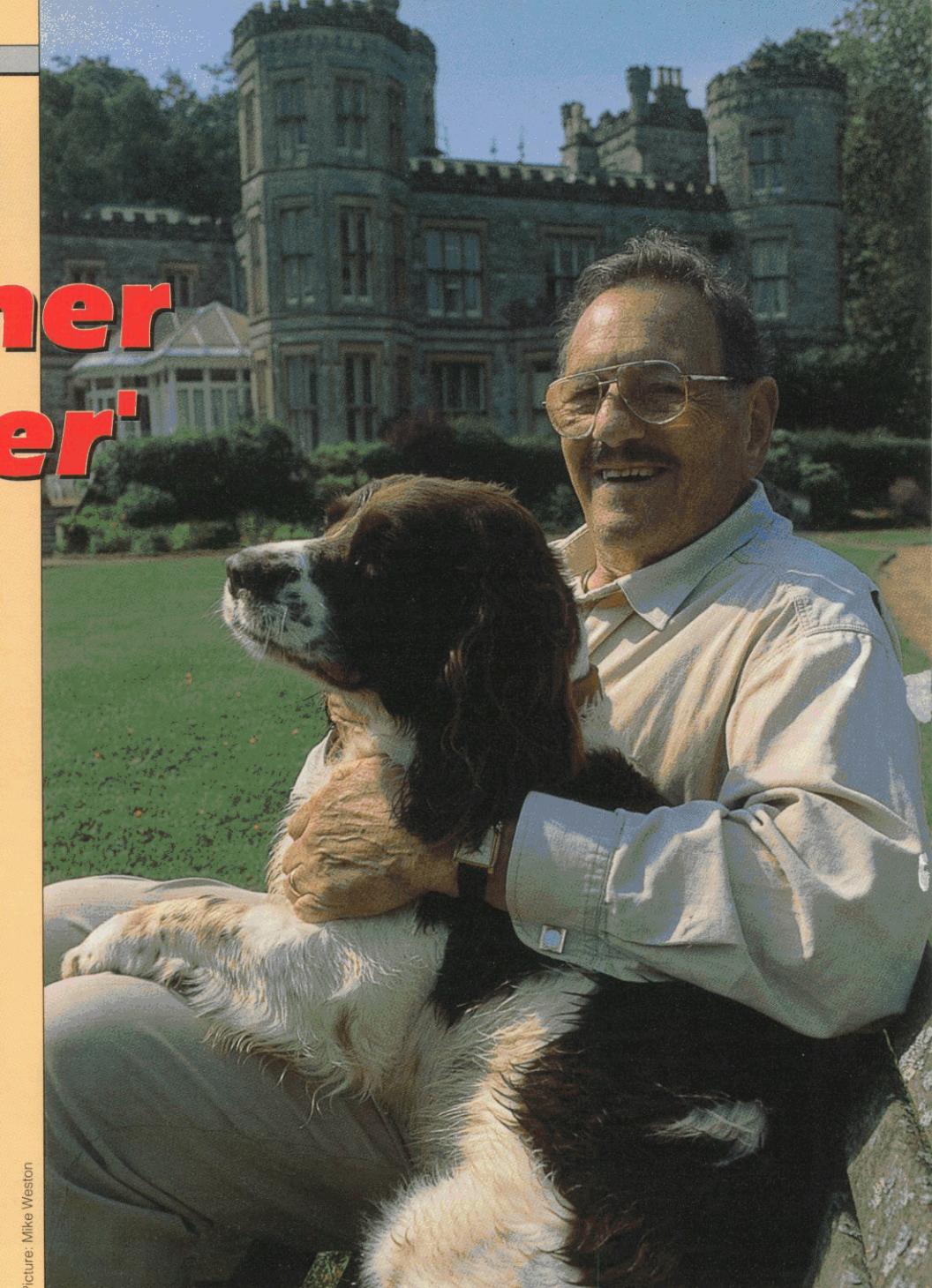
part in the invasion of Sicily. He was tasked to start an Italian paper to keep the civilian population informed. Black marketeering was rife and he published a list of official prices for goods. When these were largely ignored, he donned a red armband and pretended to arrest shopkeepers for overcharging.

Moving to Bari, on the Italian mainland, Charlton realised that people in Britain were supporting Gen Michailovitch in Yugoslavia who had backed the Germans.

"I sent one of my journalists to interview a partisan leader called Josip Broz . . . better known as Tito."

"He sent back a series of articles and, as a result of our coverage, Parliament changed its mind and switched its support from Michailovitch to Tito."

When Warwick Charlton was demobilised, he took a job with the *Daily Express* and then joined the BBC. But he never forgot the magazine he created but never edited – *Soldier*, the British Army magazine.





Above – Spick and span: Rfn Jagat Rai adjusts his uniform



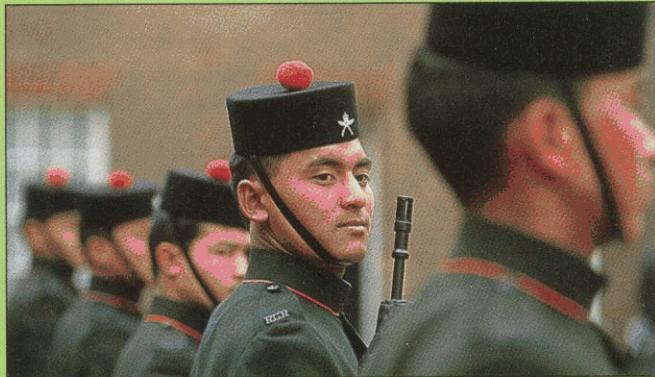
Picture: Mike Weston

Below – WO2 Basantkumar Gurung (right) discusses the guard mounting with the Brigade Major, Lt Col Alexander Matheson, Coldm Gds, and Maj Gerard Hughes



Above – The Queen's Guard provided by 3 RGR dismounts as 1st Battalion, Irish Guards takes over

Below – Rfn Bhim Thapa ensures his dressing is correct



Gurkha battalion signs off with royal flourish



Handy work: Rfn Anod Thapa gives the bass drum a final shine

SOLDIERS from the 3rd Battalion, The Royal Gurkha Rifles have made their final appearance on Public Duties in London before the battalion is disbanded in November.

More than 100 Gurkhas carried out a series of 48-hour guards at Buckingham Palace, St James's Palace and the Tower of London.

The Public Duties Company was based on B Company, 3 RGR and was commanded on separate parades by Maj Neil Stevens and Maj James Robinson. Final guard mounting was commanded by the battalion's 2iC, Maj Gerard Hughes.

Created under the final part of the Options for Change restructuring, 3 RGR is probably the shortest-lived battalion to

have done Public Duties as the Queen's Guard.

It was created on July 1, 1994 when the 10th Princess Mary's Own Gurkha Rifles was retitled as 3 RGR on the formation of The Royal Gurkha Rifles.

In November, its soldiers will be made redundant, transferred to the 1st or 2nd Battalions of The Royal Gurkha Rifles, or sent to the Gurkha Reinforcement Companies being attached to the 2nd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, the Royal Scots and The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment.

At the same time, 1 RGR is being transferred from Hong Kong to Church Crookham to take over 3 RGR's role with 5 Airborne Brigade.

Suez battle cry on approach to anniversary

IT IS a pity that Mr Gavin did not check his facts before he suggested (Letters, Sept 16) that I was "flogging a dead horse" over our quest for a medal for the Suez Canal Zone Emergency, 1951-54.

King George VI did declare there would be no further consideration of awards for the 1939-45 war, hence the rejection of Mr Gavin's request for recognition of Kohima.

The Suez Canal Zone case has not been rejected on statutory grounds, in fact the Army Board in its 1991-92 review stated: "Although now some time ago, it is not debarred by any statute or limitations."

So as I said in the August 5 issue, the battle is still on and I suggest veterans recognize the 45th anniversary on October 16 of the attack by terrorists on the Naafi in Ismailia after the Egyptian Government abrogated the Suez Canal Zone treaty of 1936, by writing to their MPs reminding them that the GOC MELF, Gen Sir Brian Robertson, asked the War Office for a medal for his troops in their fight against Egyptian terrorists and this was rejected on diplomatic grounds which ceased to be a valid excuse with the invasion of Suez in November 1956.

Veterans battle on. — **Col P S Newton, Winchester, Hants.**



'Mad Jack'

Q: Your reference to the naming of the Churchill Club at the Joint Services Mountain Training Centre at Camp Morfa, Gwynedd (Diary, Sept 2) reminded me that as a boy soldier in 1956-57 I attended a course at the Army Outward Bound School there, where I was lectured to by Lt Col Jack Churchill, who always seemed to wear a kilt.

Was he the same "Mad Jack" Churchill of Army Commando fame during the Second World War who I read about in the *Hotspur Wizard* as a schoolboy? — **Howard Johnson, Cardiff.**

Thanks from Lee

AFTER you published my letter (July 22) appealing for readers to send my son, Lee, spare cap badges, flashes and so on, items were sent to him which will go well with the rest of his collection.

Lee would like to thank everyone who helped, particularly S W H Baker, who sent some old badges but did not give his address. — **Mr J Grieves, 25 Manor Place, Upperby, Carlisle, Cumbria, CA2 4LP.**

Gunner regiment was not in Korea

IN response to J B Evans (Letters, Sept 2), I can say: "No mate, your memory is not playing tricks, 19 Field Regiment, Royal Artillery did not serve in Korea."

But 170 Independent Mortar Battery, fully independent in Korea, was regimented with 45 Field Regiment, replacing 116 Battery in 1954, having been awarded the honour title "Imjin".

On April 7, 1993, at Paderborn in Germany, 45 Field Regiment was placed in suspended animation due to the reduction in our Armed Forces.

However, 170 Battery lives on, having been amalgamated with 25 Battery of 19 Regiment RA. The current title of my old Korea battery is 25/170 (Imjin) Battery RA. — **Jim Jacobs, Fareham, Hants.**

For the record...

Goose Green

In the letter from Michael Meadmore headed "Falklands film was 'unfair' to Col H, VC" (Sept 2) the title of the film should have read *The Battle of Goose Green*, not *Falklands Battlefield Tour*. An error of transcription resulted in Cpl Abols being quoted as saying "He [Col H] went round the the right . . ." instead of "We went round the right". This unfortunate change of meaning is regretted.

Pace of change

WHAT a pity the cameraman was allowed to take a posed picture of Guards NCOs using the pace stick (Newsline, Aug 19). It might satisfy the readers of a national daily, but your readership deserves better when expertise is being demonstrated. To mention just one item, the pace sticks appear to be overtaking the users.

Incidentally, has the pace stick been metricated? — **J Lennox (ex-WO), Canterbury, Kent.**

● *The photograph was taken during the actual competition; it was not posed. Metrication has not been introduced, despite the best efforts of a Soldier April Fool's gag a couple of years ago. — Editor*



Army chaplains' centre moves to Netheravon — Pages 22-23

Let's go back to Number Ones

LOOKING at the tremendous sight of the pictures of the Sovereign's Parade and of 29 Commando Regiment, Royal Artillery (Soldier, Sept 2), is it not time officially to reinstate No 1 Dress to the British Army?

Indeed, since it was 1960 when the formal attire of our soldiers was last updated, is it

not time to review No 2 Dress?

Our soldiers are the most important asset our Army possesses. Tremendous developments have taken place in the combat uniform and equipment, but the formal side seems to have been left behind.

What do other readers think? — **Bill Smart, Royal Leamington Spa, Warks.**

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

Have you got the best boss?

ORGANISERS of a national competition to identify Britain's best boss reckon the military is missing out. So far they have received no nominations from the Army – and they are hoping that will be quickly rectified.

So if you think your boss is an enthusiastic professional, a motivator with compassion, and a leader and communicator, send a 250-word submission (picture optional) to DHL Boss of the Year, Executive PA Magazine, Weir Bank, Bray-on-Thames, Berks SL6 2ED by September 23.

RGBW is bus-ting out all over



Recruiting drive: Army careers staff at Salisbury line up in front of their latest creation... one of two buses designed to heighten local awareness of The Royal Gloucestershire, Berkshire and Wiltshire Regiment.

"Image-wrapped" vehicles are said to be an effective form of advertising, and the recruiters are

Adopt a Gurkha veteran appeal

AN APPEAL has been made for individuals and units to "adopt" thousands of elderly and destitute Gurkhas who fought for Britain in the Second World War, Malaya, Borneo and later conflicts.

Most are too old to provide for themselves and their families.

They depend on a monthly welfare pension of £10 provided by the Gurkha Welfare Trust, a charitable organisation which supports 10,000 former Gurkhas and their widows living in Nepal.

The trust scheme caters mainly

A SOUTH Yorkshire town is appealing for funds to help with the re-siting of a plaque dedicated to the memory of Spr William Hackett VC.

A son of Mexborough, Hackett was serving with 254 Tunnelling Company at Givenchy in France in June 1916 when the Germans counter-mined the shaft he and four other men were working in below their trenches.

Three of the miners escaped but Hackett chose to stay with a badly wounded colleague and was crushed by a second fall of clay. His sacrifice was recognised by the award of a posthumous Victoria Cross.

William Hackett's bravery was

Legion seeks to restore dignity of miner VC

recorded on a plaque attached to the outside wall of Mexborough's covered market. With the passing of the years the market building became a bingo hall, at which

point the local Royal British Legion branch campaigned to have the plaque moved to a new library in the centre of the town.

Despite objections all round, their lobbying looks to have paid off and the council has promised to re-site the plaque at the war memorial in Mexborough. A fund to help pay for the removal received little local support, so RBL branch chairman George W Cowles is asking for donations from the wider community of Royal Engineers.

They should be sent to the William Hackett VC Memorial Fund, via him at 79 Garden Street, Mexborough, S Yorkshire S64 9AX.

Signpost to Hell found in cupboard

AN original "Hellfire Corner" signpost from Ypres has been donated to the National Army Museum in Chelsea by a relative of the man who took it home at the end of the First World War.

Having rescued the battered signpost from its position on the notorious Menin Road, Lt William Storie displayed it in a shop window in Princes Street, Edinburgh, where he lived.

It eventually disappeared into the back of a cupboard at the family home and was recovered only last year, still in the original canvas cover in which it had been transported from France.

Thousands of troops marched past the board on their way to the trenches as it marked a busy junction on the road from Ypres to the Front.

Many thought they would never return.

"Hellfire Corner" itself was a particularly dangerous place throughout the war. Within easy range of German positions, it had enemy guns trained on it constantly and earned its nickname because it was heavily and frequently shelled.

Although large poles with hessian were put up to obscure the German gunners' view of troop movements, they were almost always sure of hitting something on the road.

In the spring offensive of 1918 the Germans, set on capturing Ypres, got as far as Hellfire Corner before being repulsed.

Crusade for Children: NSPCC organisers have arranged a five-day historical cycle ride through Israel to raise funds for the national children's charity.

■ Scheduled for March 1-9, the trip, in the form of a five-day treasure hunt, will take in 250 miles of spectacular countryside culminating in a gentle ride into Jerusalem Old Town for a gala dinner.

■ NSPCC's Ian Crowther says British soldiers have always been tremendously helpful in supporting their fund-raising and childcare projects, and he is asking for units to take part.

■ "It'll be lots of fun... and a more interesting holiday than most," he promises.

■ Details and application forms from Vanessa Barham on 01234 824765.

National Army Museum



Mr and Mrs Rod MacArthur present the Hellfire Corner signpost to Michael Baldwin, Head of the Department of Weapons, Equipment and Vehicles at the National Army Museum

Invasion of Garats Hay

AN army of old soldiers invaded the Communications and Security Group, from 1951 to 1990. About 70 of the signallers, including a driver by the name of Gordon Banks, married German women. Gordon went on to football fame as England's goalkeeper in their 1966 World Cup triumph.

Branch secretary Frank Mitchell is planning a trip to the camp site in Germany next year. Details from him at 6 Derwent House, Timber Street, Elland, Halifax HX5 0DH (01422 376915).

SEARCHLINE

Arnhem veteran W Rose, whose sister, LCpl Marie Rose, was killed with 20 other women when a train hit their truck while she was serving with 483/139 (M) HAA Regt RA at Heersemolen, near Veltham in Belgium at the end of the Second World War, wishes to contact surviving members of the company and the driver of the truck. Replies to him at 16 Grosvenor Road, Paignton, Devon TQ4 5AY (01803 556836).

Korean War pilgrimages: The British Korean Veterans Association is organising two-week pilgrimages to Korea next year for veterans and their families and relatives of those who died. Details from Korea Specialist Travel (BKVA Section), Rayner House, 23 Higher Hillgate, Stockport, Cheshire SK1 3ER (please enclose sae) or tel 0161 477 4521.

October

6: Aldershot militaria exhibition and fair, The Maltings, Farnham, Surrey.

22: Royal Marines in concert tribute to composer Sir Vivian Dunn, including Beating Retreat, at the Guildhall, London, 7pm, in aid of RM Museum and St John Ambulance. For tickets (£20 including buffet and wine) call 01715 819385.

November

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

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

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

Fast food at Sennelager

THOUSANDS of soldiers will remember the inadequate and dingy "Cheshire" kitchen they encountered at Sennelager.

The good news is that it has been completely rebuilt at a cost of £2.3 million and is now reckoned to be the most modern kitchen in the British Army. Work was finished a month ahead of schedule thanks to some excellent co-operation by local contractors.

Of the overall cost, £1.3 million went on technical and cooking equipment, and the facility is now capable of producing 2,000 meals, or feeding between 500 and 800 hungry soldiers in the space of just 90 minutes.

The Mayor of Paderborn, Herr Wilhem Lüke, and the Commander Training Support Command (Germany), Brig Tresham Gregg, formally opened the kitchen and sampled the first meal.

Herr Lüke said it was so good he now understood why the morale of British troops was always so high.

Mrs Babs Desmond seeks news of 23996325 Pte Brian Desmond who served in the Royal Pioneer Corps in the 1960s-early 1970s. Contact her on 0181-297 1389.

CLOSURES

Glen Parva Sergeants' Mess, Wigston, Leicestershire will close on March 31 next year. Donors of presentations to the mess are asked to state their wishes for return or disposal. Items unclaimed by December 31 will be disposed of appropriately. Contact WO1 (SSM) R Mousley, RPO Leicester, 51 Saffron Road, South Wigston, Leicester (Chilwell Mill 3610; civ 0116 2759610).

In brief

Collecting Metal Shoulder Titles by Ray Westlake. The collector's bible, updated 16 years after it was first published. All you ever wanted to know about metal titles worn by units of the Regular Army, Militia, Yeomanry, Volunteers, Territorials and Cadets, with almost 2,000 photographs, packed into 200 pages. Pen & Sword, hardback, £19.95.

The Scottish Regiments by Diana M Henderson. Territorial Army officer's colourful and informative survey, described by the Duke of Edinburgh in his foreword as a "lively and interesting history", has been revised and updated and fully reflects the amalgamations and other changes of the early 1990s. HarperCollins, paperback, £9.99.

The Independent Highland Companies 1603-1760 by Peter Simpson. This former officer of the Black Watch has applied thorough research methods to produce a detailed account of a crucial period in Scottish military history. John Donald Publishers Ltd, Edinburgh; paperback, £15.

Gunfire Target: Six Years with the Royal Artillery by Edward A Oates. Second World War gunner's personal tribute to the infantrymen of the 4th Indian Division who fought alongside the Royal Artillery. The Book Guild Ltd, hardback, £15.95.

A Sapper's War by Leonard Watkins. Straight-from-the-hip stuff telling the brutal truth about life as "one of the ranks" during the Second World War. Full marks for courage and honesty. Minerva Press, paperback, £8.99.

Arrogance on the Battlefield: A Primary Cause of Defeat by J Lee Ready. Case studies from 1755 (Braddock in America) to the Gulf War show how over-confidence in human resources or equipment can lead to failure. Arms & Armour, hardback, £25.

V for Schweik: Ten Stories of World War II by Eric Davidson. Brief, moving and humorous tales evoking the spirit of the ordinary soldier. Little, Brown, paperback, £6.99.

SAS Gulf Warriors by Steve Crawford. Claims to paint a "remarkably vivid picture" of "what SAS operations were really like behind Iraqi lines". Simon & Schuster, large-format paperback, £12.99.

The Brylcreem Boy by Bob Freeman. For those who enjoyed Bob's autobiographical *The Soldier Boy* (reviewed in our June 24 issue) this sequel tells in similar ebullient vein of his days as an RAF erk. George Mann Books of Maidstone, paperback, £6.95 (UK only).

Like Bond, this is absolutely fabulous

DID Martin Bormann, Hitler's private secretary, die in Berlin in 1945 – or had he by then been spirited away to England, with a new identity?

What strikes the reviewer first about *Op JB: The Last Great Secret of the Second World War*, which argues the latter case apparently from a position of authority, is that the author, publisher and even the PR people seem to go out of their way to sow seeds of doubt about its credibility.

It is worth bearing in mind that *Op JB* is an abbreviation for "Operation James Bond". Indeed, 007's creator, Ian Fleming, who took the Bond name from an ornithologist, plays a leading role in this "fabulous" tale of cloak-and-dagger derring-do. To Fleming is accredited the code-name Pooh; Churchill was Tigger and Hitler, Rabbit.

Bormann, allegedly wanted alive because he alone had access to the Nazi loot stashed away in numbered Swiss bank accounts, was Piglet.

The author, Christopher Creighton (code-name Christopher Robin, real name John Christopher Ainsworth-Davis, actor, writer, director, musician, Second World War secret intelligence officer), starts his preface: "I am well aware that many readers will find this story incredible.

"All I can say is that I have done my best to write the truth about an operation which took place more than 50 years ago and of which – by its very nature – few records survive."

Creighton, who says



Martin Bormann

Churchill, Mountbatten and Fleming urged him to write the story at an appropriate time, ends the preface: "I repeat: this is my personal story; it is not a history, and I claim nothing."

In a press release accompanying the book, the PR people say: "If it is true and Martin Bormann really was brought out of Germany in a top secret

Op JB: The Last Great Secret of the Second World War by Christopher Creighton, Simon & Schuster, hardback, £14.99.

The Hunt for Martin Bormann: The Truth by Charles Whiting. Leo Cooper Pen & Sword Paperback, £9.95.

commando raid . . . then this is the most important untold story of the Second World War.

"Equally, if it is a mere fabrication . . . this fantastic story can be read as a masterly piece of fiction.

"Bormann was allegedly secreted down the waterways of northern Germany in a raid

approved by Churchill, King George VI and President Roosevelt.

"Sadly, it seems doubtful whether we will ever know the truth of this bizarre story. It certainly beggars belief that Bormann ended up living just a couple of hours' drive from Churchill's own home at Chartwell, yet war does so often throw up the strange and unbelievable."

In a separate preface the publisher, Simon and Schuster, says it has not been able to verify the author's account by independent research.

"In the end, readers will have to make their own judgements about what they believe. What is not in doubt is that this book is a thrilling story from a remarkable man."

It is no coincidence that Charles Whiting's story of Bormann, first published in America in 1973, has been brought out in a revised paperback edition by Leo Cooper.

The publicity for *The Hunt for Martin Bormann: The Truth* refers to *Op JB* and asks: "Is this yet another in a long line of 'so-called sightings'?"

Whiting, who has researched the Bormann story and interviewed the leading participants in all the hunts since 1945, has no doubt about what happened and makes no bones about it.

No bones, that is, apart from recording that a skeleton found in Berlin in 1972 was identified as that of Bormann. There was evidence that cyanide had been taken. – CH

Somme guide passes test

TONIE and Valmai Holt are convincing guides to the major battlefields of the First World War.

Their latest book, *Major & Mrs Holt's Battlefield Guide to the Somme* by Tonie and Valmai Holt. Leo Cooper, paperback, £12.95.

artists of the war, have put together four interesting itineraries for the battlefield traveller.

Illustrated in colour, the guide contains a wealth of

detail on the war cemeteries, memorials and preserved trenches of the Somme.

Stories of heroism and tragedy are interwoven with information to help the visitor.

This reviewer used the guide during a recent pilgrimage. It was a useful research aid and reference source. And its accuracy was never in doubt. – LJM

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Even if you feel a gun in your back . . .



At the front: Father Martin Caddell, a Roman Catholic priest, worships with British troops serving in Bosnia

the sound of his AK-47 . . . we drove away and then he 'opened-up' over the roof of the Land Rover".

Military clerics have rarely

been very far away from gun-

fire or, before that, the clash of

swords on armour and the

sound of arrows flying through

the air. As the Rt Rev Francis Walmsley, Bishop-in-Ordinary to HM Forces, points out in his

foreword, priests

accompanied the Crusades and chaplains were

present at Crecy and Agincourt.

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Chaplains' Department itself

and including the Gulf.

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feat of dedication and research

which succeeds admirably as a

chronicle and tribute in this

bicentennial year. – CH

The Cross on the Sword: Catholic Chaplains in the Forces by Tom Johnstone and James Hagerty. Published by Geoffrey Chapman, hardback £40, paperback £19.99.

from his description of events leading up to, during and beyond the longest siege in British military history that he had been burning to write his assessment ever since.

The author says he has written the book because the role

Tobruk – The Great Siege Reassessed by Frank Harrison. Arms & Armour, hardback, £25.

of the British 70th Division in defending the Tobruk corridor has never been fully recognized for its heroism.

He asks: "Why is it one division [the Australian 9th] was lauded, and the other ignored?"

His answer is another question: "Could it be because the first belonged to the Australian Imperial Army, whose nation recognises its heroes, while the second was composed of British county and regional regiments which have always been taken for granted by its nation?"

A strong claim, but he sets out to boost 70 Div's place in history with his account and "to redress the balance; to place the British 70th Division where it belongs – on the plinth alongside the Australian 9th Division, as joint heroes of the siege and break-out at Tobruk". – JM

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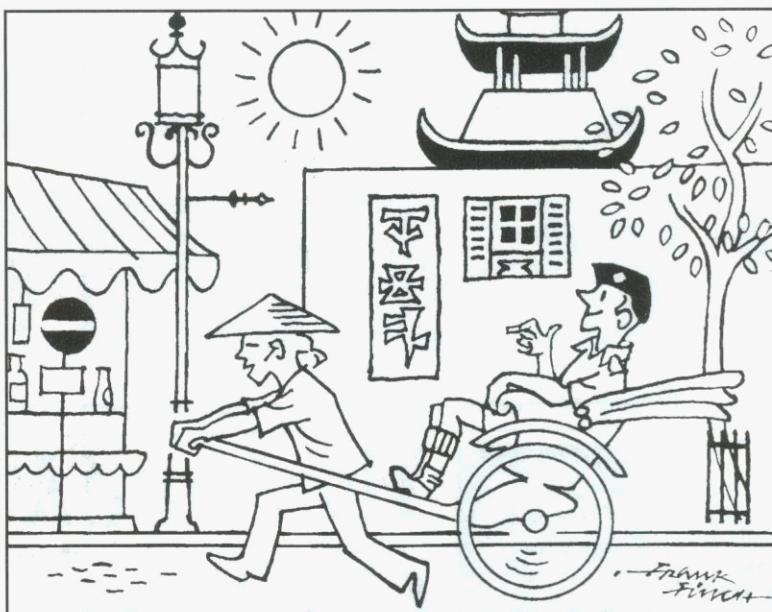
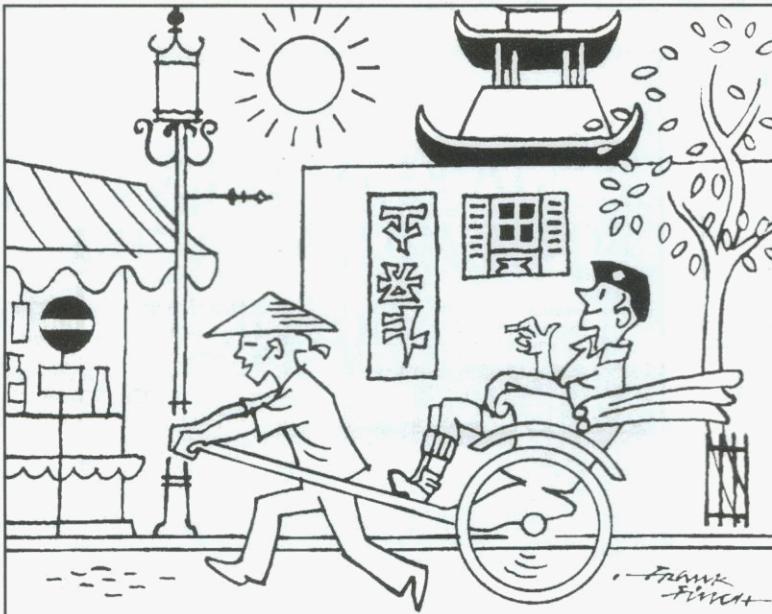
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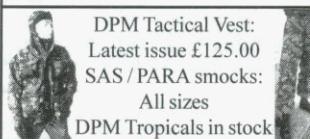
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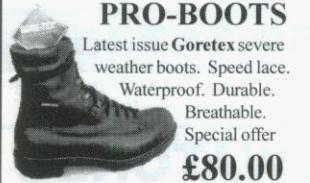


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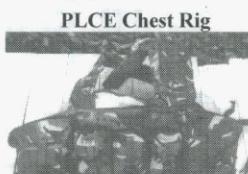
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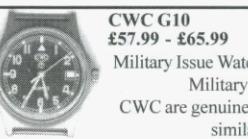
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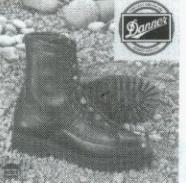
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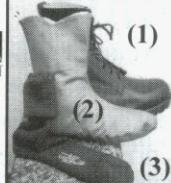
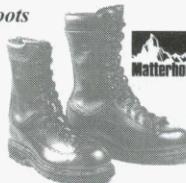
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TO ADVERTISE FOR A PEN PAL. Please send for details enclosing a stamped self-addressed envelope to: Soldier Magazine, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU.

Mary, 35, 5'4", blue eyes and black hair. Enjoys clubbing/pubbing, swimming, music. This single mum would like male pen pals aged 23-29. **P824**

June, 42, 5'1", slim built brunette with GSOH. Divorced with no children. Enjoys aromatherapy, music, football, travel and dining out. Seeks friendly male pen pals aged 38-45. **P825**

Maggie, 27, 5'6", brown/red hair. Enjoys socialising and science fiction. She is also studying accounts. Seeking male pen pals aged 25-40. **P826**

Carole, 25, 5'2", green eyes and brown hair. An infant teacher who enjoys socialising, swimming, water aerobics, aromatherapy and music. Seeking fun loving male pen pals aged 25-30. **P827**

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Gentleman, 47, in need of TLC! Slimmish with fair hair and a good sense of humour, he enjoys walking, cinema, horse riding and most sports. Seeking female pen pals aged 40-50. **P829**

Tracey, 22, 5'2", brown eyes and hair. Enjoys Keep Fit, pubs/clubs, cinema, walking and the countryside. Seeking like minded male pen pals aged 24-35 for steady correspondence. **P830**

Susan, 38, 5'4", dark blonde hair, green eyes and a GSOH! Enjoys music, reading and travelling. Seeking male pen pals of any age. **P831**

Lynn, blonde, blue eyes, keen sports woman who enjoys travelling, cars (especially vintage cars), animals and walking. An avid correspondent who would like male pen pals in their late 20's. **P832**

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ARMY SPORTS LOTTERY RESULTS

AUGUST 31, 1996

First (392 runs, £2,500): SSgt M R Bahado, 7 Signal Regt, BFPO 35.

Second (381 runs, £1,250): WO2 M Sennett, APDO Edinburgh.

Third (369 runs, £750): Sgt P A Bayliss, Army School of Catering, Aldershot.

Fourth (368 runs, £500): SSgt A T Rogers, 75 Eng Regt (V), Manchester.

Fifth (356 runs, £400): Sgt C G Rigg, 259 Signal Sqn, BFPO 53.

Sixth (351 runs, £300): Sgt J M Speed, SEAE Arborfield.

Seventh (340 runs, £200): LCpl D A Beattie, 1 GS Regt RLC, BFPO 47.

Eighth (336 runs, £100): CSgt T Hawthorne, 3 R Irish, BFPO 805.

NB Results from 7 Sep onwards will be based on football results.

SEPTEMBER 7, 1996

2-way tie for first prize (21 goals, £1,875 each): LCpl A J Clarkson, RDG, Tidworth; SSgt D R Waite, HQ Brunei Garrison, BFPO 11.

6-way tie for third prize (20 goals, £375 each): Sgt A K Bates, 2 Bn REME, BFPO 38; CSgt T B Dollimore, 1 RGBW, BFPO 53; Capt G A Evans, ITC Warminster; Maj M W Hiskett, 1 RRF, Catterick; LBdr D J Quinn, 40 Regt RA, BFPO 30; WO1 M W Wojtkiw, HQ 15 (NE) Bde, York.

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D5



MARILYN Avery is an unsung heroine.

In mid-September, as head groundsman at Aldershot's Army cricket ground, she saw the last of many wickets she has painstakingly prepared this season put to use.

"It has been nerve-wracking, but on the whole there have not been too many complaints, and people have been very supportive," said Marilyn, a staff member for six years but in her first season in the post.

"The main problem has been the weather, with the heavy rain affecting some of the wickets. It is very hard work, it can be demanding and stressful, but there is an awful lot of job satisfaction."

Being a groundsman is not just a question of mowing a strip of grass, she pointed out. There is also scarification – soil loosening – rolling and cutting.

But her best memories of the season have been the occasions when players

ting, to take some examples.

"It takes me ten days of daily work to prepare a wicket before a game, and of course one is governed by the weather," said Marilyn, who worked at Aldershot Military Stadium 15 years ago before starting a family.

Following on the heels of former head groundsman

SPORTING PROFILE

Frank Vincent – a fixture with the MoD for more than 40 years – people were initially "a bit surprised" at the idea of a female in the post, she told *Soldier*, but she feels she is now becoming more and more accepted.

Marilyn's recurring nightmare is of wickets starting to break up in the middle, or being marked up wrongly.

But her best memories of the season have been the occasions when players

have come up to her after a game to say: "That was a good wicket, thanks very much."

She sometimes watches Test matches on television, but admits she is usually more interested in looking at the state of the pitch – especially when Geoff Boycott carries out his preliminary examinations.

With one season under her belt, she said, she is growing in confidence.

Shortly, she and her newly-appointed teenaged male assistant will put the cricket tables to bed and start preparing the hockey, football and rugby pitches for the winter season.

Army cricket secretary Maj Rupert Ross-Hurst paid tribute to Marilyn's efforts. "In a difficult season the wickets at Aldershot have been first-rate. Visiting players have commented on how good they have been," he said.

Picture: Mike Weston

'Stoke step into the breach

Army 4, Basingstoke Town 0

BASINGSTOKE Town sent a strong reserve side to the Military Stadium for the Army's opening football fixture, following a late withdrawal by Uxbridge due to injury problems, writes **Derrick Bly**.

From the kick-off, a defensive mistake let in LBdr Lee Bluck who slammed the ball past 'keeper Drake to give the Army the lead inside a minute.

At the other end, a rare mistake by SSgt Alan Higgin was rescued by a timely tackle from LSgt Pat Fagin. Then Sig Joe Collins hammered a right-foot shot from 25 yards that was palmed onto the crossbar and away to safety. Army goalkeeper Cfn Ian Elliott had to make two good saves as the game developed.

Collins and Bluck broke down the right and the latter's pinpoint cross was met by skipper WO2 Kevin Parkins who was thwarted by a bad bounce.

It was McHugh who put the game beyond doubt when he controlled a through-ball and hit an unstoppable shot.

This was a good opening performance by a new-look Army side and coach Russell can be pleased with a squad featuring seven new faces.

On the half-time whistle, the

Army scored a second when Town were caught square and Collins converted the chance.

LCpl Bob Hope replaced Shannon for the second half and put in a superb cross which was headed over by Bluck, but in the 63rd minute the Army increased their lead when Bluck scored a superb individual goal after picking up the ball near the halfway line.

From the kick-off, their team-work, speed and commitment bore the hall-mark of a side which has made a successful start to the new season.

Sig Joe Collins had an eventful evening, being drafted into the central defence to replace LSgt Pat Fagin and the injured Sgt Tony Wright. He picked up a yellow card in six minutes for a hand-ball offence and, with 15 minutes to go, was carried off with a foot injury after a strong challenge.

The Army team showed seven changes from the team that started against Basingstoke the previous night, with new boys LCpl Paul Sibbring and Paul Swain's brother Lee joining him in the full back

Army 0, Camberley Town 1

Camberley Town from the ICIS League provided lively opposition for the Army squad's second match in 24-hours.

From the kick-off, their team-work, speed and commitment bore the hall-mark of a side which has made a successful start to the new season.

Sig Joe Collins had an eventful evening, being drafted into the central defence to replace LSgt Pat Fagin and the injured Sgt Tony Wright. He picked up a yellow card in six minutes for a hand-ball offence and, with 15 minutes to go, was carried off with a foot injury after a strong challenge.

The Army team showed seven changes from the team that started against Basingstoke the previous night, with new boys LCpl Paul Sibbring and Paul Swain's brother Lee joining him in the full back

slots, the first time brothers had played for the Army for many years.

The first half was end-to-end, with WO2 Kevin Parkins providing a half-chance for LCpl Glenister and Cpl Wayne McHugh having his effort saved.

Camberley brought good saves for goalkeeper Pte Kevin Murray.

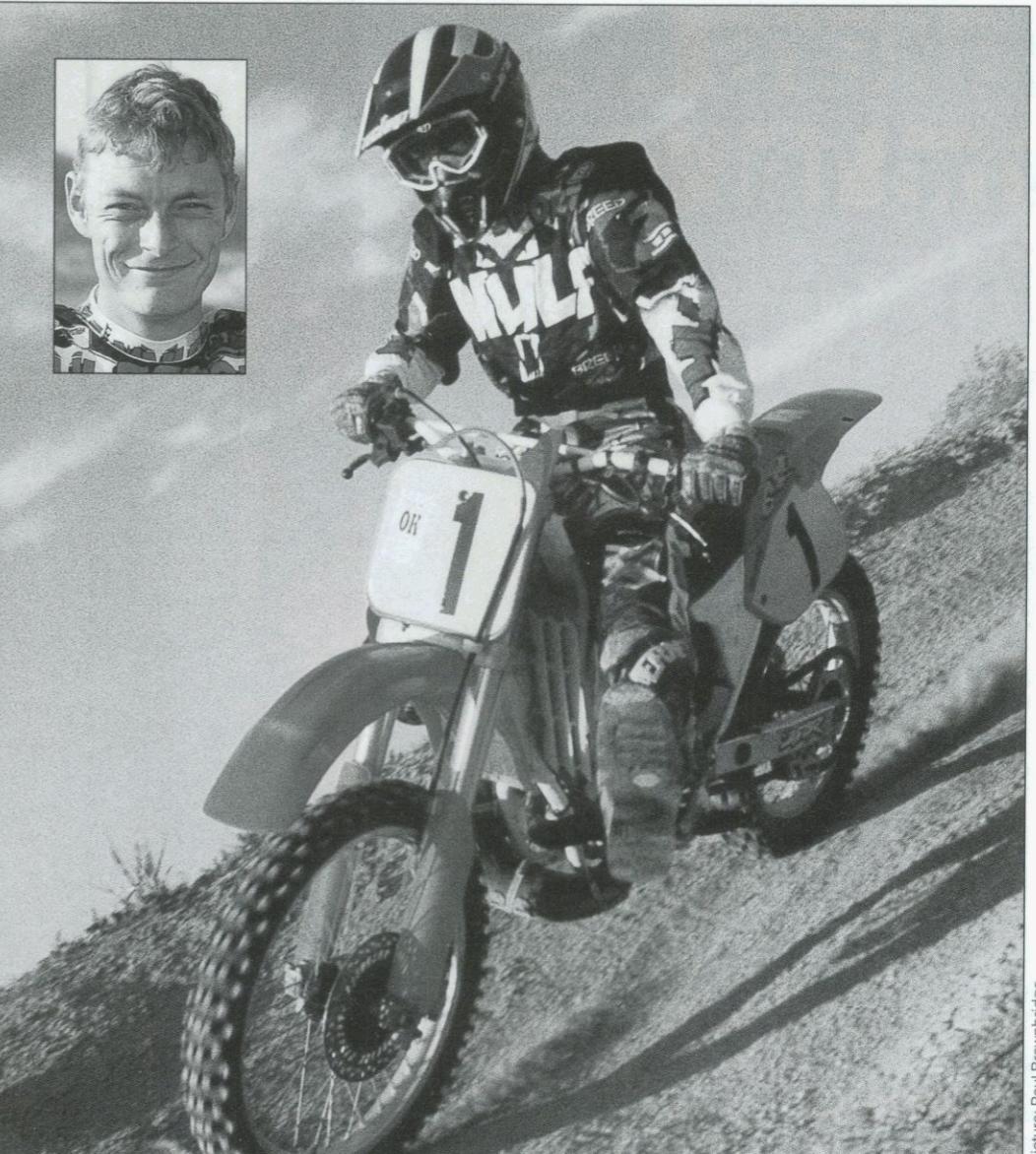
After the break, Cpl Alfie Alford, Pte Maskell and Cpl Zoldan replaced McHugh, Johnstone and Lee Swain.

Camberley also made changes, but the Army had the edge in the early stages and Camberley keeper Gray was forced to save efforts from Maskell and Glenister.

In injury time, the visitors broke away, caught the Army defence out of position and scored the only goal of the game.

Surf canoeists in world rankings

ARMY surf-canoeists Cpl Rob Stevenson, WFR (183 AYT), and LCpl Pete O'Kane, RE (5 Fd Sqn), were part of the Great Britain team that finished



Cyprus-based Cpl Paul Spencer demonstrates his motocross skills on his Honda CR 250 motor cycle. Last year the 16 Flight, Army Air Corps soldier was ranked in the top 15 after taking part in the Cyprus national motocross championships. This year he hopes to do even better.

Picture: Paul Brownbridge

Lottery speeds US hockey tour

LATEST round of Army Sports Lottery grants includes

£3,600 towards the cost of the Army Women's Hockey Association tour of America.

There is also £1,500 towards the irrigation of the Royal Military College of Science golf course and £200 for an anemometer for the Dhekeilia Sailing Club in Cyprus.

The list of successful applicants was shorter than

normal because the volume of bids has been lower.

Rules for the awarding of grants have been updated, and can be found in DCI (Army) 45/96.

Individual applicants are expected to subscribe to the lottery.

Latest edition of the league table of punters reveals that although 1st (UK) Armoured Division Signal Regiment has more personnel signed up than any other unit, 112, its figure includes all units in Herford.

As a result, 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards is judged the top individual unit. It has 86 soldiers registered with the scheme.



Quids in at Otterburn

Otterburn Training Area Commandant Lt Col Mike Bradley (right) hands over a cheque for £5,000 to Maj Gen Simon Lytle, Director Army Sport Control Board, at Aldershot. The second such donation this year, the money was raised from profits made by the training area's PRI funds. A similar amount has been donated to the Army Benevolent Fund.

In the novice class, two AAC pilots, WO2 Kev Kinton and Sgt Steven Swain, were placed first and second and will compete in the intermediate class in the 1997 event.

● The Joint Services Hang Gliding and Paragliding Centre runs 12-day JSAT sponsored courses throughout the year at a cost of £50. See JSP 419 for details.

REME hang on in there

FOR the first time for several years, the weather during the annual Inter-Service hang gliding championships – held this year at Crickhowell, south Wales – was so poor that flying was only possible on three days, and the competition had to be extended.

The results for the Army team were a mixed bag, operations and other commitments meaning that the open and intermediate classes were poorly attended, but two surprise entries and some good flying in the novice class promised a return to glory for the team in future years.

In the open class, some steady flying in each task made WO2 Phil Freeman from 72 Ac Wksp REME the Army champion. Due to work commitments, Sgt Mark Lewis of SEAE Arborfield and Capt James McMenemy (ATSA Blandford) could only fly on two days, and finished way behind. All three are in the same corps, so not surprisingly REME won the inter-Corps Trophy.

Disappointment in the open class was more than compensated for by Maj George Shapland of RSA Larkhill storming from behind to win two tasks in the intermediate category.

He was placed third and awarded the Jim Taggart Trophy for the most improved pilot, with LCpl Shane Probert RE, LCpl Mark Brennen, 3 Regt AAC and Sgt Steve Brown AAC backing him up in fourth, fifth and sixth places. WO1 Martin Colclough APTC was placed tenth. Most of them are expected to be in the open class next year.

In the novice class, two AAC pilots, WO2 Kev Kinton and Sgt Steven Swain, were placed first and second and will compete in the intermediate class in the 1997 event.

Map-makers get home in tight finish

AN exciting finish to the Army Minor Units cricket cup final at Aldershot ended with 29 Regiment RLC failing by just four runs to overtake 42 Survey Engineer Group RE's score.

Put in to bat, the Hermitage-based map-makers scored 164, with fine batting by Stamp and Parnell well supported by the rest of the top order.

But their final score was less than it might have been when the last six batsmen failed to reach double figures in the face of some terrific bowling and fielding by the loggies. Burcham and Roberts took seven of the ten wickets between them.

The 29 Regiment batting was held together by Pte Roberts, whose innings of 65 nearly won the match for them.

When he was out with 20 left to win, the loggies were in con-

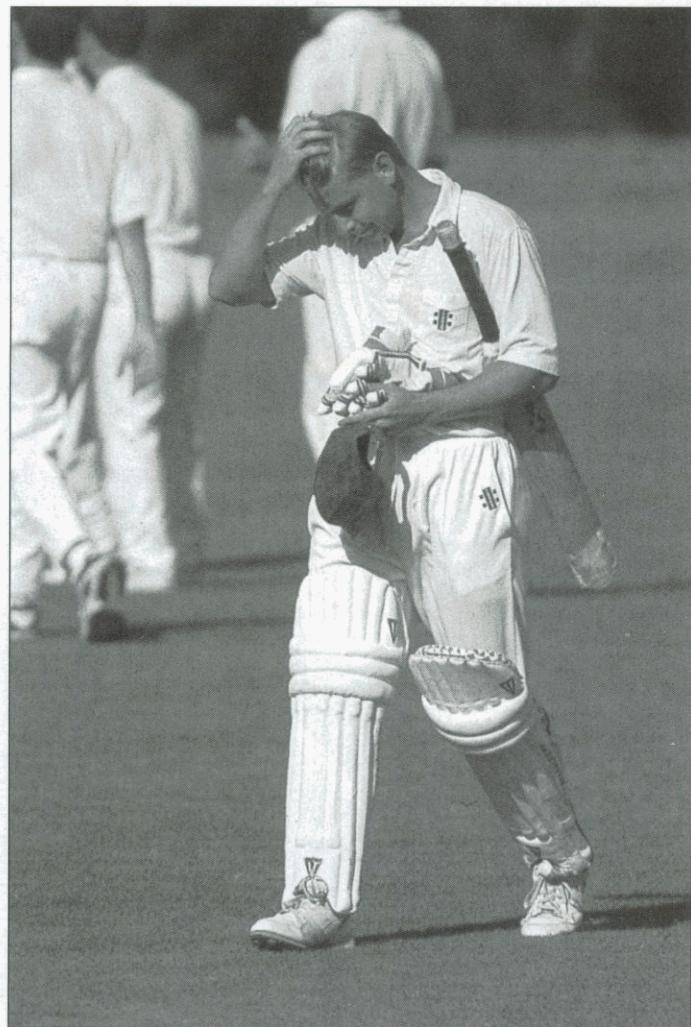
trol, but a wonderful catch by Parker virtually sealed the match.

This well-supported and sporting match was a fine advertisement for Army cricket at unit level.

42 Svy Engr Gp 164 (Maj Stamp 54, Cpl Parnell 39, Cpl Walker 4-35, Pte Burcham 3-7). **29 Regt 160** (Pte Roberts 65, Cpl Walker 20). **42 Svy Gp** won by four runs.

Welsh awards

Territorial Army soldier Pte Peter Brown (4 Kings Own Border) is making his mark in the tough world of Enduro motor-cycle racing. He won the best Services and best Army rider awards at the Welsh Two-Day Enduro event at Llanidrod Wells and is in the top ten of his class in the British championships.



Capt Andy Moffat (29 Regt) shows his frustration at being caught during the Army Minor Units Cup final at Aldershot

Picture: Mike Weston

Army divers sweep the board

ARMY divers have had an outstanding season, highlighted by good wins in the Inter-Services and Combined Services events.

The season began with the Army diving championships at Ponds Forge Pool in Sheffield, where a poor turnout did not reflect on the performance of the competitors.

In the men's senior springboard, the three stalwarts battled it out for the top slot, with LCpl Neil Wilson (4 AAC) proving he was on top form.

He established a lead over Lt Christiaan Munro (2 RTR) and SSgt (SSI) Amos Greenfield (MTW(G)) who finished second and third respectively.

The top places in the men's senior highboard involved the same three divers, but with Munro pulling through in the last two rounds to win from Wilson and Greenfield.

In a repeat of last year's championship, Sgt Amanda Davies (MCTC) won off both boards, scoring 164.85 in the



On top of the world: the victorious diving team shows off its trophies

springboard and 139.25 in the highboard. Cpl Paula Rowan (ATR Pirbright) finished close behind.

In the men's intermediate

Cox dominated the event, leaving Minns and Rider trailing behind.

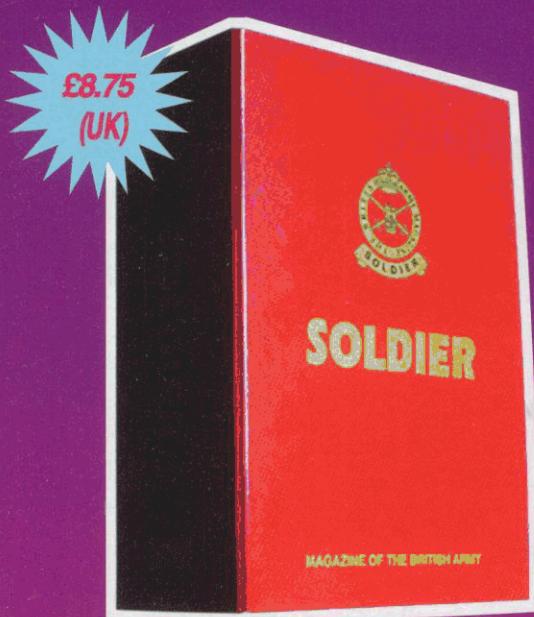
Cpl Nicola Brown learned five new dives in two days for the women's intermediate event. She used three of them for the first time in the competition and scored a respectable 83.85 points.

Following the championships, the squad spent two weeks training under Olympic coach Mike Edge, perfecting familiar dives and learning new ones in preparation for the Inter-Services at Portsmouth.

A confident Army team duly swept the board. Wilson and Greenfield took first and second places in both the men's highboard and springboard, while Davies and Rowan finished first and third in both of the women's events.

All four were selected for the Combined Services team which went on to beat the Civil Service and Police in the annual triangular match.

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SUBSCRIPTION DETAILS APPEAR ON PAGE 33

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High profile:
A Buckingham
Palace guard of
soldiers from 3
RGR dismounts
for the last time
before the
battalion
disbands in
November. They
were relieved by
the 1st Battalion,
Irish Guards.
Story in Page 26.

Picture: Mike Weston

