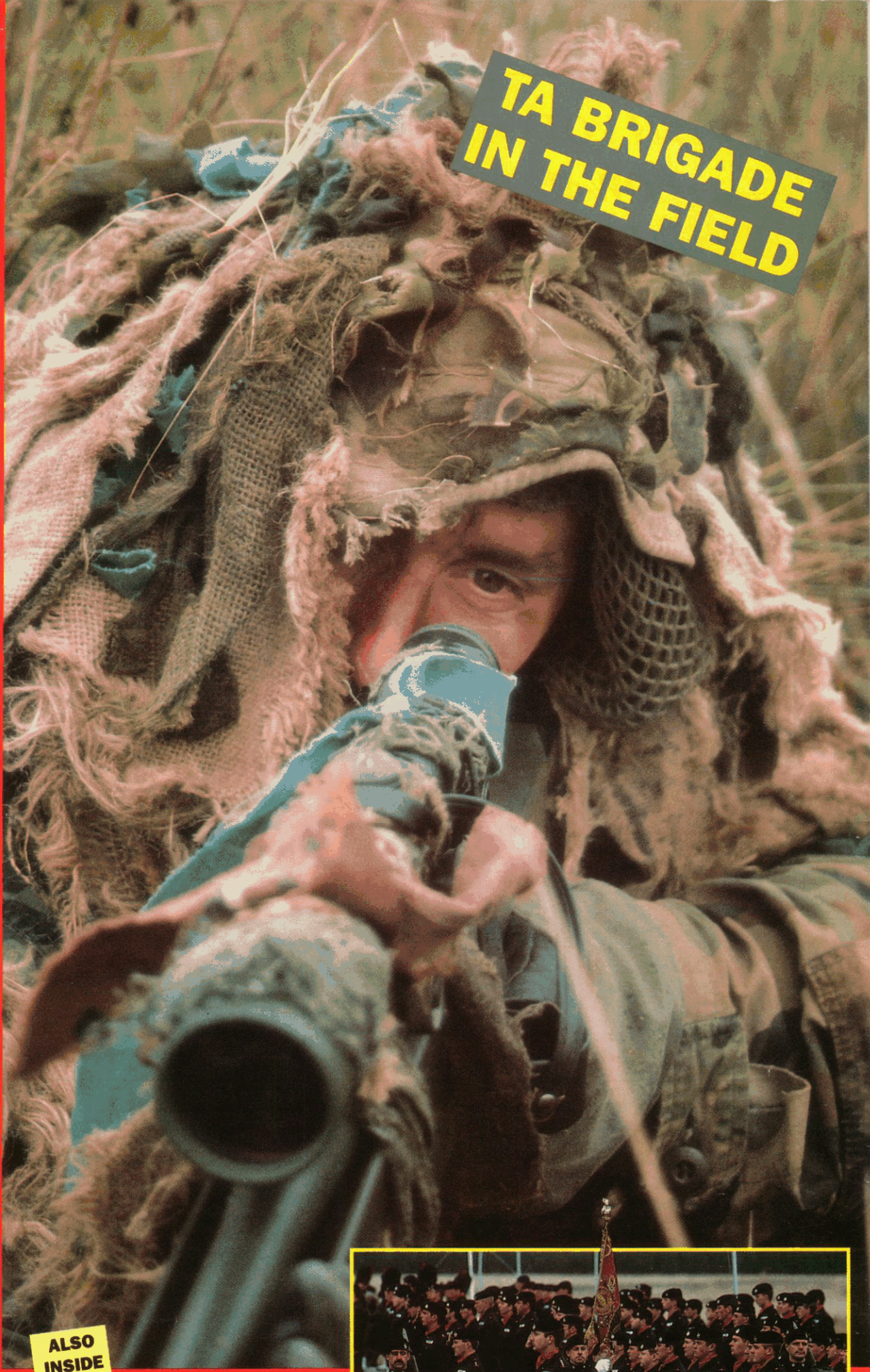


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Monarch visits Green Howards

King Harald V of Norway is briefed by Lt Col Nick Houghton (right), commanding officer of the 1st Battalion, The Green Howards, as A and C Companies attacked B Coy at Copehill Down FIBUA. King Harald, Colonel-in-Chief of the regiment since 1991, was accompanied by Gen Sir Peter Inge (left), Chief of the General

Staff, during his visit to the Green Howards taking part in a 19 Mechanised Brigade exercise on Salisbury Plain.
The regiment's association with the Norwegian royal household dates from 1875 when the Princess of Wales, of Danish Royal blood, was appointed Colonel-in-Chief.
● Exercise – Pages 14-15.

Sappers take on danger bridge

ROYAL Engineers have been given one of the most challenging and potentially dangerous reconstruction assignments in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

They have been tasked to rebuild a five-span bridge over the Bijela river at the point where it joins the fast-flowing Neretva in a steep gorge overlooked by warring Muslim BiH and Bosnian-Croat HVO armies.

So strategically important is the bridge, 15 miles north of Mostar, that neither side has been willing to allow UNPROFOR to recce the site since June. No one knows just how badly the bridge is damaged.

Reconstruction of the bridge is vital to UN efforts to deliver aid in winter.

UNPROFOR commander Gen Briquemont sent the Spanish battalion to open up the way for the British sappers and RE staff cells at COMBRITFOR HQ in Split are planning how to span the 80m gap between the southern bank and the second pier.

Maj Andy Wilson, Gen Briquemont's Royal Engineers adviser, estimates the job will take six weeks under ideal conditions.

Plymouth-based 59 Commando RE will provide specialist divers to inspect damaged piers beneath the water line and clear debris.

Tasked to rebuild the bridge will be the sappers of 7 Field Squadron, 21 Engineer Regiment from Neiburg. In overall command of the site will be Maj Stuart Ruxton, from Hameln-based 522 Specialist Team RE.

● In recent incidents, British troops were shot at and returned fire in Gornji Vakuf and two Warriors were hit by machine-gun fire from a Croatian position. One vehicle was hit repeatedly before returning fire.

On the previous day an anti-tank missile was fired at another British patrol, but missed its target.

British soldiers evacuated 49 patients from Nova Bila hospital in central Bosnia and others are escorting an 80-vehicle convoy which has been dubbed "Convoy of Joy Two".

● Britain's Operation Grapple commitment is to continue for a further six months with the deployment of the 1st Battalion, Coldstream Guards

FRONT COVER: Cpl Paul Hill photographed on a snipers' cadre at Sennybridge during 54 (East Anglia) Brigade's concentration which honed the infantry skills of selected members of 5 and 6 R Anglian to their highest pitch. Story and more pictures in Pages 16-18. (Picture: Mike Perring.) **INSET:** A party from the 1st and 4th Royal Tank Regiments troops the Standard through parading tank crews at Tidworth to mark the amalgamation of the two regiments. See Page 5. (Picture: Mike Weston.)

● Turn to Page 5

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DESIGNED TO BE DRIVEN

Coldstream to take over from Yorkies

● From Page 3

group, Armed Forces Minister Jeremy Hanley has confirmed.

The Coldstream, C Squadron of The Light Dragoons and supporting elements are in the process of relieving the battalion group based on the 1st Battalion, The Princess of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire.

HQ 4 Armoured Brigade,

based at Osnabrück and led by Brig John Reith, will also deploy to take command of British Forces in theatre. Brig Reith will be Senior British Officer in former Yugoslavia.

● Soldiers serving with 28 Engineer Regiment at Hameln are transporting three boats 1,250 miles overland to Ruse on the Danube in Bulgaria to help Bulgarian and Romanian

customs officers enforce sanctions against Serbia.

The 11m-long combat support boats are the British contribution to a Western European Union initiative to help the Danube states combat sanction-busting.

● British troops in Bosnia will celebrate Christmas in style – with lashings of traditional food.

The proposed December 25 menu is: prawn cocktail followed by tomato soup and roast turkey with roast pork, ham, roast and creamed potatoes, glazed baby carrots, Brussels sprouts and gravy.

And for afters there will be Christmas pudding and brandy sauce, mince pies, Christmas cake, fruit and nuts and a yule log.

New deal for Ever Readies?

PLANS to expand the role of Army Reservists to include international peacekeeping and disaster relief operations are among proposals in a consultative document published by the MoD.

The existing liabilities for call-out were devised with mass mobilisation or major war in mind, the document says.

Consequently, they do not suit the current range of potential operations.

The proposals call for the liabilities of all Reserves to be made as similar as possible and for the creation of two new categories: the High Readiness Reserve (HRR) and the Sponsored Reserve.

Both categories are a development of an earlier consultative document, published in March last year.

A review of the operational requirement of the Territorial Army is still under way, and the new proposals are not dependent on any particular size or shape of the force, says the MoD.

● The **HRR** – intended to provide skills in short supply in both the Reserves and Regulars – would draw its members from existing Regular Reserves and Volunteer Reserves.

A current example is the use of public relations officers and linguists on Op Grapple in former Yugoslavia.

The agreement of the "Ever Readies" to be available for call-out would be renewed every year and rewarded with an increased bounty.

The total number required for HRR duty is expected to be

less than 5,000.

● The proposed **Sponsored Reserve** would permit greater use of civilians to replace Regulars in the support area and would formalise the excellent assistance already given by defence contractors in times of crisis or conflict such as the Gulf War.

The MoD would award a contract to a company to provide a service in peace, crisis and war, on the condition that a proportion of the workforce had a Volunteer Reserve liability and could be deployed in uniform to provide the service in an operational environment.

Greater flexibility in the use of Reserves in peacetime operations is behind a proposal to allow them to volunteer for full-time service should the need arise and their personal circumstances permit.

This would be administered through a **Ready Reserve List**, consisting chiefly of Volunteer Reserves. Some Regular Reserves could also be eligible.

Responses to the consultative document are sought by November 23.



Soldiers from the newly-formed 1st Royal Tank Regiment dismount at the double prior to the amalgamation parade at Tidworth

Unit with D-Day link pulls plug

BIELEFELD-based 20 Electronics Workshop REME, which was formed four days before D-Day, has disbanded at Mossbank Barracks.

The unit landed in Normandy on June 16, 1944 as 904 Line of Communication Workshop REME. Its demise marks the closure of the only dedicated second line electronic repair facility in the British Army.

The name will be preserved in 3 Battalion, one of the newly-formed REME maintenance battalions, based at Paderborn. Its close support company will be called 20 Armd Wksp after 20 Electronics Workshop.

Tidworth merger for RTR

A PARADE held at Tidworth formally marked the amalgamation of the 1st and 4th Royal Tank Regiments to form the new 1st Royal Tank Regiment.

The 1st, 4th, 7th and 8th Royal Tank Regiments, however, will still live on in one form, being represented by squadrons of the new regiment.

Also retained for posterity will be the red lanyard of the old 1st and the Chinese eyes of the old 4th, which are painted on all "A" vehicles.

Tobruk will be celebrated by the new regiment as one of its principal battle honours, since all four regiments were heavily involved there during the desert campaign.

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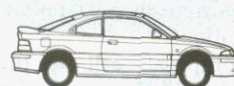
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New hope for Suez veterans

SUEZ Canal veterans are hoping that new evidence may persuade the Ministry of Defence to reopen their case for a campaign medal.

Col (Retd) Pip Newton, whose efforts on behalf of Suez veterans (1951-52) ended in failure last year when the MoD said there were no plans to re-examine the retrospective award of a medal for the Suez Canal campaign, has discovered a signal which he believes strengthens the veterans' case.

It is dated December 20, 1951, and in it the then Chief of the Imperial General Staff, Fd Marshal Sir William Slim, writes of the "dangerous situations which are being caused by the action of terrorists".

The signal, to Gen Sir Brian Roberts, the Commander-in-Chief Middle East Land Forces, followed an incident at Ismalia during which several officers and men were killed.

Col Newton discovered the message while carrying out research in the Imperial War Museum.

He said: "The significance of this is that it implies the troops were involved in an active campaign rather than, as MoD has always suggested, only protecting installations from thieves and robbers."

He has passed the correspondence to the MoD.

● Text of message – Page 32.

R Irish Colour trooped



The newly-merged General Service Battalion of The Royal Irish Regiment trooped the Colours of the 2nd Battalion for the last time at a ceremony in Happy Valley, Episkopi, Cyprus. The 400 on parade then saluted the remaining stand of Colours before marching past in slow and quick time. Inspecting officer Lt Gen Sir Roger Wheeler, deputy colonel of the regiment – seen here talking to LCpl Cecil Lally – expressed his admiration for the positive approach taken by all ranks in the recently amalgamated regiment

Last MSO changes its name

THERE were mixed feelings at Princess Royal Barracks, Gütersloh when the re-formation of 70 Transport Squadron, Royal Logistic Corps was coupled with the demise of 623 MT Unit MSO RLC.

The latter was the last MSO (Mixed Services Organisation) in the British Army.

Originally raised from an order in 1947 to organise some 250,000 displaced people from the Baltic States into civilian mixed labour organisations,

these eastern European units took a great pride in their semi-military status, ability to work hard and maintain loyalty.

Although the name of the unit has changed to 70 Tpt Sqn RLC, its chief superintendent, Latvian Herr "Charlie" Buss, intends to ensure that its 16 different nationalities will continue 90 years of high quality worldwide service.

'Green' Howards in Siberia

PUTTING the "green" into The Green Howards during October were the Catterick-based regiment's Capt Gary Mead and Lt Johnny Aisbitt, who were taking part in a preliminary expedition to Siberia aimed at saving the world's oldest and deepest lake.

Sponsored by King Harald V of Norway, the Green Howards' Colonel-in-Chief, Exercise Green Eye concentrated on Lake Baikal, which is under serious threat from industrial waste and effluent pollution.

Among other projects, the two men were involved in supporting and conducting a range of scientific experiments on pollution identification and control. The main expedition is scheduled for 1996.

Signallers move home

AFTER 33 years stationed at Blandford in Dorset, 30 Signal Regiment has moved to the Midlands.

The regiment, which provides communications for UK forces deployed overseas, raised its flag at Gamecock Barracks, Bramcote, on October 4. The signallers have replaced the Junior Leaders Regiment RA which disbanded earlier this year.

NORTHERN IRELAND GALLANTRY AWARDS

A GEORGE Medal, a Military Medal and three Queen's Gallantry Medals are among the latest gallantry awards made to soldiers serving in Northern Ireland. The full list of awards for gallantry and meritorious service is:

CBE – Brig R M M Low, OBE, late Queens.

OBE – Lt Col (now Col) O T Hall RLC; Lt Col J N R Houghton, Green Howards; Lt Col A J R Jackson, R Irish; Lt Col A W J Kennett, Para; Lt Col (acting Col) R Rook RLC; Lt Col T S Spicer SG; Lt Col D V Walsh, Kings.

MBE – Maj (acting Lt Col) J H Baber AGC (PRO); Capt M J Banwell RE; WO2 D F J Bull BEM, Para (now retired); SSgt E Evans, R Irish; Maj D St J Homer RGJ;

Capt D C Hudson RE; Maj I A Jones RLC; SSgt (now WO2) W H Keer, R Irish; Lt Col H H McNinch REME; Maj P J Mercer WFR; Maj P J Moseley, R Signals; Maj T C O'Brien RRF; Maj S P Smith RLC; Lt (now Capt) R J A Stanford WG; Maj R F Strawbridge, R Signals; WO2 K M Tobin BEM, Int Corps; WO2 W Todd RRF; Maj M N D Turner SG; WO1 P M Williams RLC; Maj A E H Worsley RGJ.

AFC – Capt (acting Maj) D C Senior AAC.

DFM – SSgt T W Sullivan AAC.

MM – LCpl M J Fryer RGJ.

GM – WO1 (now Lt, acting Capt) J R T Balding RLC.

QGM – LCpl (now Cpl) T J Gilfillan, R Irish; LSgt S R Goodman SG; Pte M G Neill, R Irish.

Mentioned in Despatches – WO1 G B Adams, Int Corps; Maj A D H Budd RA; LSgt L Burgess SG;

Cpl K F B Carlin RS; Capt T J Carmichael, R Signals; Lt Col (now Col) N J Cottam OBE, RGJ; LCpl (acting Cpl) S P Crossman RE; LCpl R J Darragh, Royal Irish; Gdsm J C Docherty SG; Fus S A Donath RRF; Lt Col S R Dougan RS; LCpl (acting Cpl) I M Follett, Para; Sgt (acting SSgt) G D Frost RE; LCpl R A Gass, R Irish; Pte D T Gibson, R Irish; LCpl L I Hanna, R Irish; Cpl D A Harris AGC (PRO); Maj A C Jackson KOSB; Air Tpr B J Joyce AAC; Capt R S Lawther, R Irish; LCpl L Levick RE; SSgt I M Loughborough, Int Corps; Lt Col D N MacGregor-Smith, A and SH; Sgt M A Main, R Signals; Capt M J Manning, Coldm Gds; Maj A D Mason, Para; LCpl S G Mathie RS; Capt R L Maybery QGM, RLC; Capt W McCrorie AGC (PRO); Capt (acting Maj) P G Mitchell REME; Maj B Mowll,

Green Howards; LCpl C J Murphy RGJ; LCpl B S Orr, R Irish; Capt (acting Maj) C S T Page SG; Sgt L Phillips RRF; LSgt M J Pollard, Coldm Gds; Maj (acting Lt Col) J Potter MC, R Irish; Capt J C E Price AAC; Maj D R Prowse REME; WO2 S J Ranson WG; Lt A Rawding RRF; Lt Col D J Richards RA; Maj D A H Shaw RA; Bdr P Sherborne RA; Cpl (acting Sgt) S G Simpson RS; Lt (now Capt) P G Smith RLC; Capt W K Smith, R Irish; SSgt N K Solomon RE; WO1 A McB Storie AGC (PRO); LSgt M D Swift IG; Lt Col W P Sylvester RS; Cpl S Tappin RLC; Capt M P M Travers RRF; Maj D D S A Vandeleur, Coldm Gds; Lt R B L Wallace SG; LCpl (acting Cpl) D R W Ware RGJ; Capt G C Waters, Coldm Gds; Lt Col P G Williams MBE, Coldm Gds; Cpl C D Wrath, R Signals.

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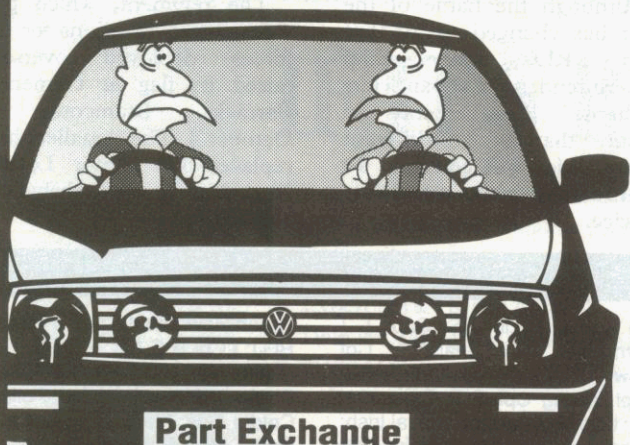
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Scots DG mark Salerno landings

THE Regimental Band and Pipes and Drums of The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards performed, at the invitation of the council of the province of Salerno, Italy, during the 50th anniversary commemoration of Operation Avalanche, the landings which enabled the Allies to gain a foothold for the invasion of Italy.

Having provided music for a remembrance service at the Salerno Commonwealth war cemetery and at a ceremony in the city of Salerno, the band and pipes and drums played in the streets over the next four days, and at war memorials in Salerno, Capaccio, Paestum and Cava dei Tirreni.



The Band and Drums of the Devon and Dorsets exercise their rights of Freedom in Blandford Forum



AML RLC team on the march

Members of the AML Support Regiment RLC team look cheerful enough as they take part in the first day of the traditional four-day marches at Nijmegen, Netherlands. Long months of training, with

a minimum of 1,200km of practice, are required for the annual marching event which introduces large numbers of

military personnel to an international sporting event where they can represent their units, Services and country.

D and D exercise Freedoms

THE BAND and drums of The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment made an impressive sight as they marched through Blandford Forum, Dorset, to exercise their Freedom rights.

They had led the regiment itself as, joined by the Band and a Colours troop from the 4th Battalion (1st Rifle Volunteers) and members of the local branches of the regimental association, they marched through the town with bayonets fixed.

In what was a busy month, a detachment from 4 D and D also marched along the seafront at Weymouth as part of their Freedom parade in that town.

The parade was led by its Corps of Drums and the band of the 1st Battalion.

Recce Yeomen

SOLDIERS from the Royal Yeomanry have been training on reconnaissance Land Rovers for the first time this year, having handed back their wheeled Fox armoured cars, to become a National Defence light reconnaissance regiment.

To maintain the regiment's level of recce expertise built up over 25 years' experience of armour, those taking part in the exercise at Otterburn were asked to imagine that their Land Rovers were armoured fighting vehicles.

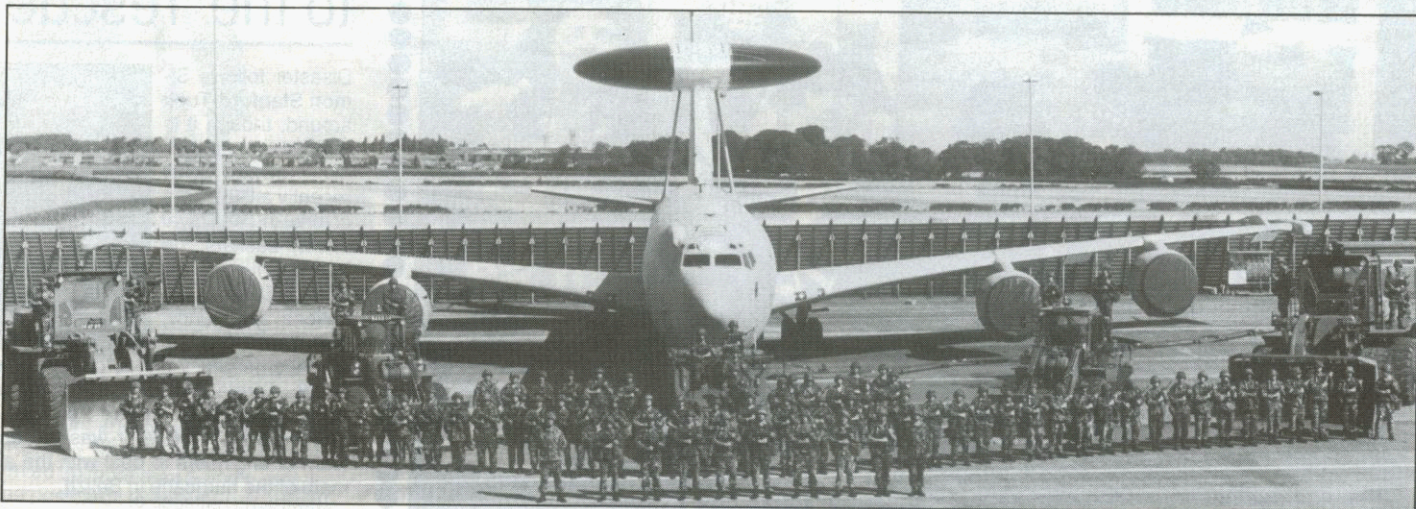


It was a case of "Replace head dress" at a parade held at the Royal Wessex Yeomanry's annual camp in Lincolnshire as its members consigned their traditional blue berets to the quartermaster's store. They are seen changing to the brown beret which they have adopted from Regular cavalry regiment, The King's Royal Hussars, with whom they have had a close affiliation for more than half a century

Picture: Chris Fletcher

Picture: Chris Fletcher

Airfield damage repair volunteers team up



A Royal Air Force AWACS airborne warning aircraft at RAF Waddington, Lincoln provides an impressive backdrop for Territorial and Reserve Forces from Britain and America. Sappers from 267 Field Squadron (Airfield Damage Repair) (Volunteers) and mem-

bers of 134 Civil Engineering Squadron, Tennessee Air National Guard are pictured on the first day of Exercise Joint Effort 2. Lincoln Cathedral, a "marker" for returning bombers during the Second World War, is visible beneath the left edge of the "dome"

ABSD to the rescue

THE ARMY Blood Supply Depot at Aldershot came to the rescue after fire destroyed blood storage facilities at the Trafford General Hospital in Manchester.

The loss meant the hospital could not store blood and had to close its accident and emergency department and postpone surgery and obstetrics.

Suppliers said they could not replace the facility for up to six weeks, so when the head of the Liverpool Blood Transfusion Service rang for assistance, ABSD commanding officer Col Mike Thomas loaned the hospital a blood bank drawn from the depot's war stock.

A truck from 41 Squadron, Royal Logistic Corps rushed the storage system to Manchester and the hospital was operational again within 24 hours of the fire.

Princess meets Woofers at Otterburn



The Princess Royal, Colonel-in-Chief of The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment, meets TA soldiers from Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire during a visit to the 3rd (Volunteer) Battalion, which was engaged in 49 (East Midland) Brigade's exercise Raging Bear at Otterburn

Transporters move to Bielefeld

WHEN 7 Transport Regiment, Royal Logistic Corps – best known on Germany's autobahns for its distinctive Scammell Commander tank transporters – arrived at Catterick Barracks, Bielefeld, it actually increased in size.

Previously, as 7 Tank Transporter Regiment, it had con-

sisted of an RHQ, plus 3 Tank Transporter Squadron in Senelager and Fallingbostal-based 16 Tank Transporter Squadron.

With RHQ 10 Transport Regiment RLC having left Germany to establish a new identity in Colchester, 7 Regiment has taken under com-

mand 9 Tpt Sqn RLC (Fuel Supply and Ambulance Support) and 17 Tpt Sqn RLC (Artillery Supply) as well as Support Sqn (now 617 Sqn RLC). Roled to ARRC, 7 Regt can move 80 tanks, 720,000 litres of fuel and an MLRS regiment's rockets rapidly over long distances.

School move

RELOCATION of the Army School of Recruiting from St George's Barracks, Sutton Coldfield, to Stanley Barracks, Bovington, by the end of March is proposed by the MoD. It says the maintenance of the school as the only major unit in the sizeable St George's Barracks is no longer cost effective.

Recruiters take a bow



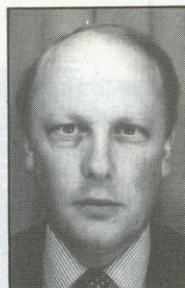
Picture: Edinburgh Evening News

It proved too good an opportunity to miss when retired Maj **Colin Innes**, late The Black Watch, and now at Edinburgh's Army Careers Information Office, found that his equivalents from the 18th century were in the city – albeit of the thespian variety. That was how he, together with WO2 **Gil Cochrane**, Scots

Guards, and Sgt **John Thomson**, The Royal Scots, came to be admiring the Redcoat recruiting uniforms of **Captain Plume**, **Sergeant Kite** and **Captain Brazen**, characters in George Farquhar's comedy from 200 years ago, *The Recruiting Officer*, being staged at an Edinburgh theatre.

CARE-ful chap to the rescue

Disaster follows **Simon Stanford-Tuck** around, though it is through no fault of his own. Until recently a lieutenant colonel in The Royal Green Jackets, he has been recruited to CARE, the international aid agency, where he is to set up a new emergency unit to deal with relief needs. Formerly Controller of the MoD's Army Operations Centre, one of his responsibilities last year was to send a team of engineers to deal with the aftermath of the hurricane in Belize.



Picture: Mike Perring

No sermons, just a little sustenance, for Gdsm **Thomas Miller**, Scots Guards, as he accepts a welcome drink from **Neil** and **Barbara Innes** of the Soldiers' and Airmen's Scripture Readers Association (SASRA) at Redford Barracks, Scotland. For many years, the association has traditionally made the rest-room at the barracks an "extension of their living room" for participants in the Edinburgh Tattoo who are based there. Last year, SASRA – which aims to show in practical terms the essence of the gospel – served up more than 5,000 free cups of tea and coffee, as well as selling stamps and postcards to satisfied customers.

Tea for Tattoo...

Essex Scots?

Ancient animosities became blurred at Sennybridge during 54 Brigade's annual camp (see Pages 16-18) when a former Royal Anglian who joined the Royal Highland Fusiliers – and now sounds just like them – met a former Argyll now with 6 Royal Anglian (V).

While serving with 6 R Anglian, Essex man Pte **Ed Lines** (left) did a six-month attachment to 1 RHF in Belize – and liked the Jocks so much he extended to a year, and finally signed on with them in the Gulf.

Suggesting Ed should wear a Royal Anglian badge under his hackle is former Argyll LCpl **Andy Henderson** who married an Essex girl and joined 6 R Anglian when he left the Regulars. "I'm not letting on to the RHF that I'm an Argyll," he joked during the brigade exercise. "They are providing the enemy..."



Picture: Mike Perring

Ray's 'holy' committed!

Picture: Mike Perring



Coming in on a wing and a prayer next year will be former Parachute Regiment chaplain, the Rev **Ray Bowers** (75). Or should that be two wings and a parachute? Seen in pre-training at Aldershot with Red Devil LCpl **Debbie Ingle**, he will be one of 106 Battle of Arnhem veterans (aged between 70 and 86) who will take part in a unique 50th anniversary mass jump over Arnhem to commemorate Operation Market-Garden.

Winners by a smile

We're simply the best, chorus the members of C Troop, 129 Bty, 40th Regiment, the Lowland Gunners, led by Lt **Mark Dickens** (front row, centre), as they celebrate their best troop award gained during a two-day regimental Army training directive held near Hohn. Events included a 22km march, a gruelling trailer race and a march-and-shoot competition. Best section was 3 Section, 38 Bty, with 49/HQ Bty taking the laurels as best battery.



Ad-mirable achievement



The newly-formed Scottish Yeomanry is already making its mark – and two of its officers, Maj **Chris Harrison**, A Sqn leader (left) and Maj **John Boyes** (TAPIO) are holding the evidence to prove it. The TA regiment is now the proud possessor of the Scotmedia award for "Best Radio advertisement up to 40 seconds" for its recent recruiting campaign.

PEOPLE



Shooting off to Little Rock, Arkansas, were these four members of 3rd (Volunteer) Battalion, The Cheshire Regiment, who earned their trip to the third annual Armed Forces skill at arms meeting following the battalion's outstanding performance at Bisley this year. Representing the TA Rifle Association against competition from Australia, Canada, Oman and the USA were Cpl **Mike Keeling**, A Coy, Stockport (left) and LCpl **Joey Spain**, C Coy, Ellesmere Port (right). WO1 (RSM) **John Tyson**, Bn HQ, Runcorn (second left) and WO2 (GPSI) **Harry Ashley**, A Coy, represented the British Army rifle team.

Clasp No 4 for John

After 36 years in the Territorial Army WO2 **John Walton** (right) has received the very unusual fourth clasp to the TA Efficiency Medal. When he joined a field security section of the Intelligence Corps in 1957 it was a world of ammunition, boots, battle dress and 37 Pattern webbing.



He survived two reorganisations of the TA, latterly transferring to the Geordie Gunners of 101 (Northumbrian) Regiment RA (Volunteers) tracing in reverse the footsteps of his father, who started as a gunner in 1932 then served in the Int Corps for nine years.

While John was WO2 Artillery Intelligence and Troop Sergeant Major of Radar Troop, it won the Artillery Intelligence Competition and Cymberline Cup on numerous occasions. Although now leaving the TA, WO2 Walton remains an honorary member, and has joined the 1st Northumberland Artillery Association.

Hello medal, goodbye mess...

Sign of the times as WO2 (RQMS) **Bernadette (Bernie) Dolan** shows her newly-awarded Long Service and Good Conduct Medal – the last to be presented in the former WRAC WO's

and Sergeants' Mess at the Duchess of Kent Barracks, Aldershot before the building was handed over last month to members of the Cambridge Military Hospital.



Picture: Mike Weston

Concert-ed effort



Members of the staff band of the Royal Logistic Corps caught in mid-performance during their recent successful but demanding tour of BAOR with the Corps of Drums. Led by Director of Music Maj **Ray Maycock**, the band's 25 musicians participated at five mess functions and two well-received Stadt concerts at Harsewinkel and Gütersloh, as well as beating retreat on six occasions.



Overseeing the exercise were 3 (UK) Div's Maj Nick Hopkins AAC; Capt Nick Hammett RS; Capt Kevin Stratford-Wright RE, Maj Johnny Schute RGJ and Brig Mike Raworth, Commander Royal Artillery



A brave face for 1 Glosters' last battalion exercise from the 2iC, Maj Stephen Oxlade



Above - Keeping watch with Javelin are Bdr Paul Davie and, with binoculars, LBdr Wilki Wilkinson of 43 AD Bty, 47 Regt RA. Inset - The new 19 Mechanised Brigade flash



Left - Cpl Mark Brown of 7 Platoon, 1 Green Howards sports the regimental flash on his right shoulder

New mech brigade goes on the prowl

THE BOY was sitting on Devon's Blackpool Sands, contentedly licking his ice cream, when the landing craft arrived.

He watched in amazement as the five craft disgorged 150 men of the 1st Battalion, The Green Howards, who dashed past him.

They were taking part in 19 Mechanised Brigade's Field Training Exercise (FTX) Panther's Prowl, and the beach - private land cleared for military use - was still open to civilians.

It was almost surrealistic and, from a soldier's point of view, completely different from normal exercises, said Maj Phil Lewis, OC Support Company of the 1st Battalion, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment, which was providing the enemy.

"The word must have got around because I think half of Dartmouth turned out to see what was going on," he said.

The battalion, currently stationed in Bulford, had three companies providing opposition to Catterick-based 19 Bde, which was operating with 1 Green Howards, 1st Battalion, The Gloucestershire Regiment and 3rd Royal Horse Artillery.

Along with engineer and other assets the brigade fielded 2,700 soldiers, but the total number for the final exercise on Salisbury Plain was nearer

5,000. HQ 3 (UK) Division provided the superior formation and practised its own operational staff work and procedures in the field with its signal regiment.

The brigade was fortunate in being able to pick up the two-week slot - it was not due to hold an FTX until next year. Primary object of the exercise was to condition troops to be prepared for the unexpected, hence the task for 1 Green Howards to rescue civilians embroiled in conflict between two imaginary countries.

"We are trying to cover a lot

of different aspects," said Capt Simon Nias, a brigade staff officer. "There is a mixed Bosnia-type scenario with ethnic cleansing and factions fighting over disputed territories, which leads to a Service-protected evacuation."

The presence of civilians, even holidaymakers, greatly added to the realism of the FTX.

As well as the intervention operation, conventional offensive operations, including an assault river crossing and Fighting In Built-Up Areas, were practised. Units carried out their own work-up train-

ing, including field firing. An important feature was road movement and convoy procedures at brigade, battle group and company level.

With various phases and types of operation mixed within three different scenarios, Panther's Prowl was a stimulating exercise.

An unusual sight in the English countryside was Saxon vehicles painted white with "UN" emblazoned in black. They are intended to be highly visible, which gave 1 DWR a camouflage problem, said Sgt Eric Innes, who was promoted to platoon sergeant of 2 Pln, Alma Company, during the exercise.

The Saxons have been made ready in case the battalion is required to move quickly to augment British forces in Bosnia.

"The lads have been looking forward to deploying there if we are needed," said Sgt Innes. "It is different in Ireland when you know fire is directed straight at you, but in Bosnia you are as likely to be caught in crossfire."

The Green Howards are also earmarked to augment forces in Bosnia, and part of their exercise included an intensive training package after five weeks at Wainwright in Canada (see Pages 21-23).

"We really enjoyed the battle run," said Sgt Geordie Adam-

son, a mortar section commander. "We put plenty of white 'phos' down and could actually see it exploding."

After the wide open spaces of Wainwright it was back to more constrained exercises, though they joined the mortar platoon of 1 Glosters in a big demonstration shoot.

During the advance to contact 1 DWR, the mortar line was split into two, with three 81mm tubes supporting each forward company.

The Green Howards sported two new shoulder flashes. One was the new triangular brigade flash of a fire-breathing pan-

ther's head on the left shoulder, while on their right shoulder they had a square green flash with a white stripe to distinguish the Regular battalion from the TA, with a red background and white stripe.

After their last hectic few months the Green Howards were looking forward to a weekend off before taking on the Spearhead commitment. An exercise in Oman is also on the horizon.

The brigade will not be complete until October next year, when the 1st Battalion, The King's Own Royal Border Regiment will be equipped with

Warrior. The 1st Battalion, The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards will provide armour.

It was a poignant moment for the Glosters, who were carrying out their last battalion exercise before amalgamation with The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment in April, a month after celebrating their tercentenary and laying up their Colours.

They gave their best to the exercise, doing a wide variety of jobs including the kind of tasks which would have to be done in a United Nations environment.

Switching to a more conven-

tional operation was not really difficult, said Maj Stephen Oxlade, 2iC Glosters.

"This could be any kind of operation in which 3 (UK) Division could be deployed, anywhere in the world," he said. "As far as the soldiers are concerned, the basic skills are still the same. But commanders had to think more laterally and it was far more exciting and great fun."

Although there are company exercises to come, including one in Botswana, the last battalion deployment was a sad occasion for a proud county regiment.

Words:
Gordon Skilling
Pictures:
Mike Weston



Ptes Roy Leviitt, Jason Coulson and Darren Wheeler of 1 DWR's Alma Company, with their UN Saxon

Brigade of Vikings focuses on Pleasure

THE DRAMATIC sight of a crashed and burning Harrier confronted the soldiers of the 5th and 6th Battalions, The Royal Anglian Regiment as dusk merged with leaden rain clouds over the Welsh mountains.

Badly injured people were crying for help, people were arriving to gawp and the Press were demanding to know what had happened – in broad west of Scotland accents.

Annual camp was providing some interesting challenges for 54 (East Anglia) Brigade, and revealing that a National

Words: Gordon Skilling
Pictures: Mike Perring

Defence role can be stimulating.

The brigade's Regulars, the 1st Battalion, The Royal Highland Fusiliers, ran ranges, courses and enemy activity for the volunteers, who also had to contend with 1 RHF's rent-a-crowd at the crash scene as part of a large scenario which included local emergency services and an RAF investigation team.

To derive maximum benefit

from the "accident", it was repeated so that both battalions got a fair crack of the whip.

Vikings' Pleasure was 54 Bde's inaugural exercise after forming in Colchester following the District restructuring in April last year. Such a concentration would normally only take place every three years, but Brig Tony Calder wanted to see his soldiers in action, set standards and get the ball rolling.

His major units are 1 RHF, based at Oakington and busily mechanising before changing with the 1st Battalion, The Cheshire Regiment at Falling-bostel; 5 R Anglian based at Peterborough with companies at Bedford, Hertford and Cambridge; and 6 R Anglian based at Bury St Edmunds with companies at Norwich, Ipswich and Chelmsford.

Also located at Cambridge is 254 Field Ambulance RAMC (V), with 70 (EY) Signal Squadron at Chelmsford and Harlow, and 152 Provost Company RMP at Chichester.

Courses were organised by the Brigade Specialist Training Team and cadres were run for potential Territorial Army officers from throughout UKLF, and for potential JNCOs and snipers of the brigade's infantry units.

"This is not just the old Home Defence kind of exercise," said the Deputy Commander, Col Nick Kelsey, a former CO of 5 R Anglian.

"We have to look at the possibility of supporting the Army in out-of-area operations as well as helping the civil powers. Everything is built into a scenario of Bosnia gone wrong, with the brigade being mobilised, having to train, then look after an area in which subversives do not want smart munitions to be deployed."

He hesitated to use the term "dry" training for Sennybridge in October!

A priority during the two weeks was to introduce soldiers to other arms and agencies.



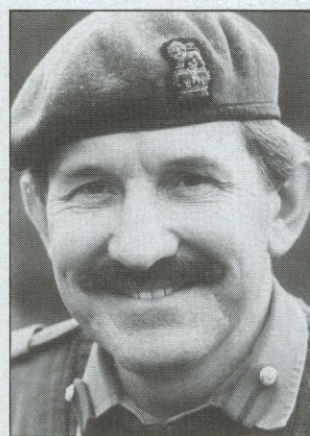
LCpl Jo Davison RAMC treats Pte Jason Brown in the 6 R Anglian Regimental Aid Post

With the exception of armour, most were available, including 19 Field Regiment RA, light battlefield helicopters and Chinook.

"Most of the senior ranks can find their way round Brecon without a map," said 2nd Lt Godfrey Shaw of 5 R Anglian, "but for the rifleman who doesn't know where targets are going to pop up, it is very exciting."

When 2nd Lt Shaw injured his ankle, he found the Jocks of 1 RHF unexpectedly sympathetic to his plight.

"Despite their reputation as roughie-toughie Scots, they are really genuine guys who took a



Deputy Brigade Commander Col Nick Kelsey



Lt Karen Rogers, Signals Officer of 6 R Anglian

very keen interest in the TA and what drives us," he said.

As CO 6 R Anglian (and next brigade deputy commander), Lt Col Alain Chissel felt redundant during the first week. This was the opportunity for company commanders to carry out their own training, and he left them to get on with it. The brigade commander could test the command



Ptes Iain Johnstone and Shane Jackson of 5 R Anglian's mortar platoon can knock ten seconds off the standard time laid down for getting their weapon into action

structure of the battalions during the second week.

Training had to be looked at carefully, said Lt Col Chissel. He was proud never to have had his volunteers dig holes in the ground during his 2½ years in command. He felt

that standard advance-to-contact tactics could be a waste of time for his battalion.

"The TA has to be realistic about its capability and an advance-to-contact is not the perceived role for us in the future. It is different for Regulars in Northern Ireland, but we do not need this for peace-time guarding in Cyprus or other possible TA roles. Our

training has to have interest, ingenuity and flair."

With a reorganisation of the TA about to be announced, many were unsure of the future.

Above all, the TA wanted a worthwhile role.

Lt Col Chissel's cry of "use us or you lose us" was echoed by Lt Col Martin Simmonds, CO of 254 Field Ambulance (V).

His unit deployed two medical sections and a small dressing station and exercised the new concept of a forward surgical team.

During his time in command, 254's role had reduced from more than 200 supporting 4 Armoured Division in Germany, to 126 in 54 Bde

and National Defence, and was now anxiously waiting to hear if it would remain independent or be amalgamated with a field hospital under the out-of-area role which had been mooted.

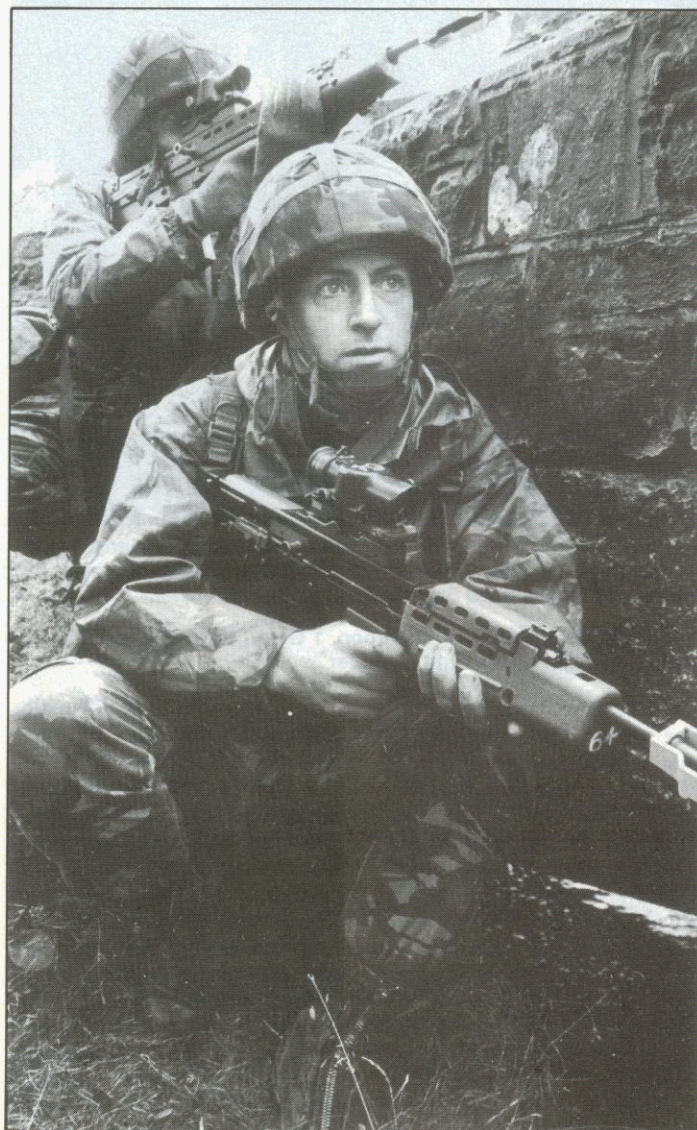
He felt a rear role would not be popular.

"When TA soldiers give their time they want to have a clear task and know it is for a reason," he said.

SSgt Nick Tyrrell was happy in his role. As an RAMC permanent staff instructor he found working with the TA "superb" because of its professionalism and commitment. "I wouldn't change it," he said. "They practise until they can do it blindfolded, and when there is an incident, they go into overdrive."

Maj Diane Halstead, a civilian GP like most of 254 Fd Amb's officers, found the exercise fun. She said many people

● Turn to next page



Pte Colin Groves takes aim behind Pte Peter Cullen of 6 R Anglian Assault Pioneer Platoon

Anglians exercise in Brecon

● From Page 17

froze when they saw a real leg wound with real blood.

"It takes a special sort of person to be strong, ignore the screams, get in there and deal with it," she said.

Since joining a year ago Pte Maria Wills has used her skills in a real accident, helping a couple in an overturned car until the ambulance arrived. "It is not easy doing the physically hard work of the Regulars' basic training, and the intense combat medical training, but it is worth it."

Neither was Vikings' Pleasure a busman's holiday for the policemen in a new TA specialist RMP unit, 152 Provost Company RMP (V). In addition to its National Defence role, it can be deployed in support of the Allied Command Europe Rapid Reaction Corps (ARRC) or in out-of-area operations.

One of the few units still to use the 9mm sub machine-gun, it is split in three to cover the whole of Eastern District from the Scottish border to the Thames.

In times of emergency it would support local police by setting up a system of traffic posts and a control network to ensure military convoys got through, and deal with convoy break-downs and serious incidents where the civilian police were stretched.

As they move away from tactical support into higher profile policing and route traffic control work on main roads, the military policemen and women are slowly ditching their Land Rovers in favour of minibuses,



and exchanging military radios for sets compatible with the emergency services.

After 14 years and 76 days as a Regular RMP, Sgt Michael Piotrowski now finds cama-

raderie on duty in the Greater Manchester Police Force.

"The social side dies when the shift finishes, unlike in the Army where everybody lived in the same area and went to the same mess," he said.

While Regular and TA blended well in 54 Bde, Col Kesley was concerned at the possibility of two tiers emerging from ARRC and National Defence battalions, as had happened with units in the old Nato and Home Defence roles.

"There was a great disparity in equipment and supporting weapons, with the old Home Defence battalions, not having four-wheel drive vehicles, the new helmet and so on. Nato battalions

Wet work for the Pioneers. LCpl Duncan Lemay passes a "Hayrick" charge to Cpl Mark Street and LCpl Trevor Preston of 6 R Anglian's Assault Pioneer Platoon

acquired everything ahead of them. If we are not all resourced in the same way, it could be divisive," he said.

With big changes afoot in the pending restructuring of the Territorial Army, much depended on the task it was given and what capability was needed.

"We must be positive, but the uncertainty is having an effect, particularly among middle ranks who have been 30-odd years in the Nato role and can't see a clear future.

"It comes down to their perception of their own worth and how they are considered by the Regular Army."



LCpl Susan Connelly and 152 Provost Company still use the SMG

ANNEKA'S ARMY

FIFTY volunteers from the **British Medical Battalion** in former Yugoslavia took a temporary break from their usual duties to help with an equally philanthropic cause.

Following a metaphorical gauntlet thrown down by the British Red Cross as part of television's "Challenge Anneka" programme, they were tasked with helping to rebuild a badly damaged school in Pakrac in time for the autumn term four days later.

Pakrac is less than half a kilometre from the ceasefire line, on the Croatian side in the UN protected area of Sector West.

Many of the buildings in the town, including the school, suffered badly during fierce fighting, and are still unsafe.

A convoy of trucks arrived from the UK containing all the equipment necessary to rebuild the school and, organised by RSM Paddy O'Leary, the medics helped with the unloading of timber, cement, linoleum, radiators, roofing materials, paint and school books.

Another team busied themselves tearing down the



Anneka and her BRITMEDBATT team outside the school at Pakrac, Croatia

remains of the roof which had been destroyed by mortars.

A London-based construction company, using local builders, took on the job of reconstruction, while the soldiers set to on clearing, cleaning and painting.

Four days and nights of hard graft later – and five hours before the "Challenge" deadline – the transformed building was ready for the return of its somewhat incredulous pupils.

Over the past two years, their education had been conducted using a part-time shift system at the school in a neighbouring village.

Now, thanks in no small way to the BRITMEDBATT soldiers of **5 Field Ambulance**, they will be able to find a little more stability.

• • •

A team of 14 TA soldiers from **X Company, 6th (Northumberland) Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers** collected more than £4,000 for a worthwhile cause. The Newcastle-based team pushed ex-Fusilier Brian Hershman, paralysed in a car accident in Northern Ireland, in his wheelchair the 180 miles from Stranraer to Morpeth over a period of seven days.

A total of £4,400 raised during the "push" was divided equally between Hexham General Hospital and the RVI Belfast, both of which treated Brian after his accident.

• • •

Energetic swimmers from **68 Squadron, Royal Logistic Corps**, based in Germany,



SSgt Bob Collister of London District Provost Company decided that the **Ex-Services Mental Welfare Society** would benefit from his efforts when he competed in the **London Marathon** for the first time earlier this year. A sponsorship drive throughout all RMP units resulted in a total of more than £1,000 being handed over to the society

raised £2,500 for the NSPCC by completing a 24-hour swim. The 12-strong team managed to get through eight half-hour sessions each, raising money by means of sponsorship and raffling prizes donated to the squadron.



FAW at Great Ormond Street. From left to right are Sherie Williams-Ellen, Roz Potts, Sheena Thompson and Polly Christopherson

Good FAW us!

MEMBERS of the **Federation of Army Wives (FAW)**, including secretary Roz Potts, had the satisfaction of seeing the concrete results of two years of fund-raising.

They visited the new clinical building – due to be opened in February – at London's Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital.

The parents' waiting area in the hospital's No 2 intensive therapy unit in the building has been named in recognition

of FAW's outstanding fund-raising efforts.

Between 1987 and 1989, £26,000 was collected for Great Ormond Street's Wishing Well appeal from units all over the world.

Roz said: "Members of the Federation can feel justly proud that their tremendous fund-raising efforts have helped the hospital acquire and maintain the finest facilities in the world to treat sick children."

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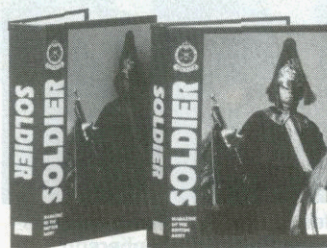
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Words:
Peter Griffiths
Pictures:
Cpl Paul Brownbridge

Middlesbrough soldiers from the Green Howards in Canada with the pilot of the Gazelle helicopter used to move them around the Wainwright training area. They are (front, left to right) Pte Steve Gregory, Cpl Jimmy Willis, Sgt Keith Davies (AAC), Pte Jason Scott, Pte Gary Appleby and Pte Simon Jeeves; (back) Pte Francis Kenyon, Pte Peter Strike, Cpl Craig Campbell, Pte Martin Hudson, LCpl Phil Webster, Pte Carl McLaughlin and Pte Darren Shaw

Green Howards jump at Wainwright invitation

THE POSSIBILITY of a tour of duty with the United Nations in Bosnia loomed large in the minds of soldiers from the 1st Battalion, The Green Howards while they were training in Canada during September.

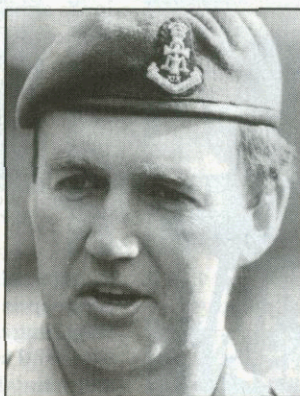
They were taken off Op Grapple standby to make the long journey to Canada for Exercise Pond Jump West.

Based at the Canadian forces' Wainwright Camp about 200km east of Edmonton in Alberta, the 700-strong Green Howards battle group, led by commanding officer, Lt Col Nick Houghton, exploited to the full the unique facilities on offer.

Wainwright Camp covers 570 sq km and boasts 22

weapons ranges and a wide mix of landscape features ranging from vast, wide open spaces to rolling hillsides and dense forestry; all of which gave the Green Howards a freedom and diversity not available on any training area in the United Kingdom.

Lt Col Houghton said: "The real advantage of a training area of this size is that there are no restrictions. It gives us almost unlimited tactical manoeuv-



Col Nick Houghton, CO 1 Green Howards

erability which makes the battle group's training that much more realistic."

To make the training more authentic the Green Howards were supported by an artillery battery - F (Sphinx) Parachute Battery, Royal Horse Artillery - who fired live

shells from their 105mm Light Guns.

Royal Engineers of 59 Commando Squadron from Plymouth were also on hand to

add to the realism in laying mine fields, building bridges and then blowing them up again, and providing other engineer support including bomb disposal and watership skills.

Not all five weeks that the Green Howards were in Canada were spent on infantry training at Wainwright. About 90 soldiers at a time moved to Jasper National Park in the heart of the Canadian Rocky Mountains for a week of some of the best adventurous training available anywhere in the world.

A climb up the Athabasca glacier was one of the highlights for the Catterick-based soldiers. Shoes fitted with

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The men who keep the British Army Training Support Unit Wainwright running smoothly. Left to right are Cpl Mick Swatton, RLC; LCpl Bruce Murray, RA; SSgt Des McDevoy, AGC; Sgt 'Slim' Appleyard, LI; Cpl Graeme Morrison, REME; and Sgt Nick Sparrow, RLC

SHACKLES OFF WHERE BUFFALO ONCE ROAMED

BATSUW – its full title is British Army Training Support Unit Wainwright – was established as a permanent unit in 1981 and supports five major overseas training exercises every year.

Three of these are the Pond Jump West series and the remainder the Trumpet Dance series when the whole unit – lock, stock and vehicles – moves to Fort Lewis, Washington State in the north west of the USA.

Commanded by Lt Col Mike Haynes, BATSUW looks after 3,500 troops every year, providing UK-based battalions with administration, technical, supply and repair support for the major battle group exercises held there.

Why have troops to travel 6,500km to train? Col Haynes has the answer. "Wainwright has the freedom to manoeuvre," he said. "It is the only area in the world I know where you are encouraged to cut down trees... the Canadians call the Aspen willows that grow freely here '20-year weeds'."

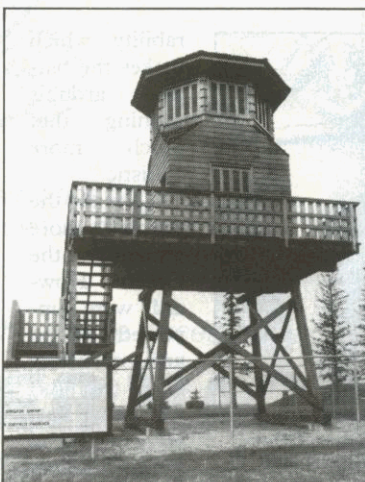
"You can dig. There are water obstacles and a wide variety of terrain, from densely wooded areas where navigation and control skills are really tested to wide open spaces and rolling hillsides."

The Wainwright training area is vast – 570 sq km –

and was first established in 1908 as a buffalo reserve. But by the late 1930s the buffalo were dying of disease and it was decided to turn the area over to military training.

Formed during the Second World War to train troops for the Eastern and European theatres – Canadian, British and American troops all used it – the area was subsequently transformed into a prisoner-of-war camp for German officers.

Although Wainwright has 22 weapons ranges, its main advantage as a dismounted infantry training base is its sheer size, which allows a degree of freedom in



This watch tower on the edge of the Wainwright training centre has been preserved since the 1940s when it was last used in earnest to keep a watch on German officers held as prisoners of war

live-firing exercises not available in the UK.

The staff at BATSUW numbers just 28 and only six of them are permanent. The remainder join for six-month attachments. Their range of skills is varied to cope with the requirements of visiting battle groups.

Cpl Mick Swatton RLC is a supply specialist who looks after the unit repair scales and processes more than 2,000 demands a year.

Six 105mm Light Guns are held at Wainwright and used to give artillery support to the battle groups. Between them they fire about 2,500 rounds a season, and LCpl Bruce Murray RA is the man who looks after them.

Most of the 95 vehicles kept at Wainwright are British. They are administered by Sgt Nick Sparrow RLC and repaired by Cpl Graeme Morrison REME.

The working year at BATSUW is split into two distinct halves. When the intense cold of winter starts to creep in the whole unit – including all the vehicles, guns and stores – moves by rail to Fort Lewis in Washington State.

Once the Trumpet Dance series of exercises is over the whole moving operation is reversed and it is back to Wainwright in the spring to prepare for the first of the Pond Jump West units.



Into the attack! The Green Howards used the wide open spaces of the Wainwright ranges to carry out extensive live-firing exercises



Five soldiers from A Company pose with their weapons. From left to right are Ptes William Hallett, Matthew Parker, Marc Kolmes, LCpl Andrew Barnes and Pte Anthony Sayer

Wainwright

● From Page 21

crampons, hands gripping ice axes and eyes shielded against the vicious glare of sun reflecting off ancient ice, the Green Howards team moved slowly over the crevasse-peppered glacier.

With cracks dropping deep towards the centre of the glacier, care was needed. Chief

instructor Colour Sergeant Roger Smith from Cleveland explained: "It's unlike any glacier that you get in Europe; it is more like a lunar landscape."

Later in the week came a 10km canoe trip down the fast-flowing Maligne river. Stretches of foaming white water did their utmost to make the Green Howards swim the rest of the way.

There was also unforgettable

white water rafting through the freezing rapids of the Fraser river. More excitement was available in the form of mountain biking over a tough 40km cross country course and climbing sheer cliff faces.

The soldiers' final look at the Rockies was taken in a more leisurely fashion when they mounted horses for a trek through the forests around Jasper.

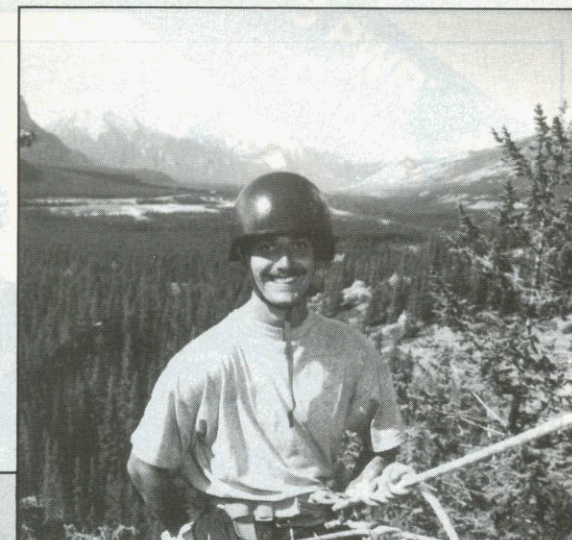
Towards the end of their



Claire Bamber is an Air Trooper serving with 9 Regiment AAC and was the only Regular Army female soldier on Exercise Pond Jump West 2



Money, money, money! Cpl Stuart Judson has plenty of it. He needed it to pay soldiers of the Green Howards on exercise at Wainwright



Above – A spectacular background of the Canadian Rockies lies behind LCpl Mark Brown, as he prepares to abseil down a 30m cliff face during adventure training

Below – The Green Howards were supported by F (Sphinx) Parachute Battery, Royal Horse Artillery, who fired live shells from their 105mm Light Guns



stay in Canada the Green Howards returned to Wainwright for the culmination of their training – the battle group exercise. All elements of the group spent five days on intensive manoeuvres, putting into effect their training.

The possibility of impending duty with the United Nations in Bosnia added piquancy to this final exercise.

If the Green Howards do deploy to the Balkans, their

Canadian training will have helped prepare them for the peacekeeping role.

Their commanding officer, now back at Catterick with his battalion, has no doubts about this. "I think this exercise has got us as ready as possible. There is always the actual knowledge of deployment which produces the last few per cent of honing, but I am confident that the boys are ready," he said.

5 PWRR lashed by
Catterick gales

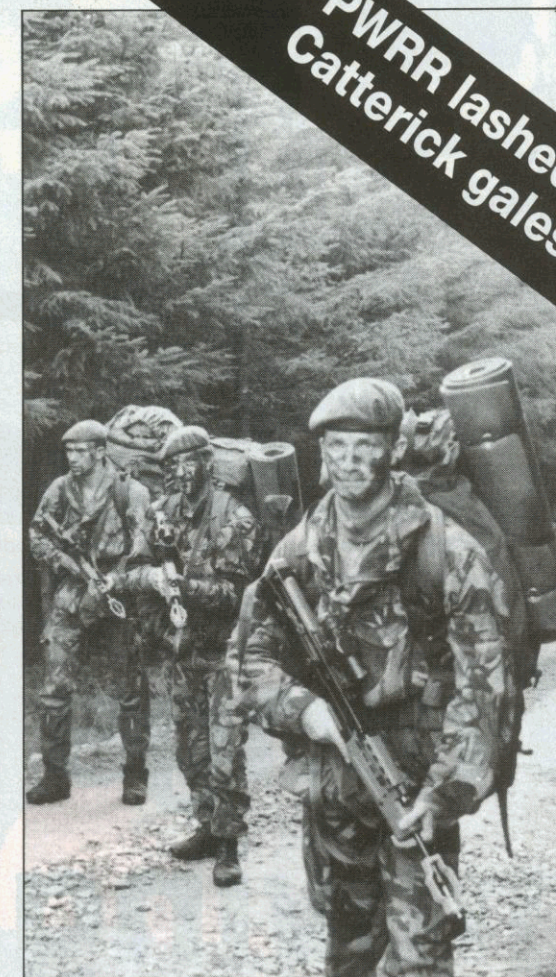


Above – WO2 Paul Boddy, CSM C Coy, and the 5 PWRR Cambrian Patrol team made their final preparations

Below – Cpl Neil Scobie and Pte Neil Evans on a recce cadre exercise. Enthusiasm was essential



Capt Nigel Paling, officer commanding Recce Platoon



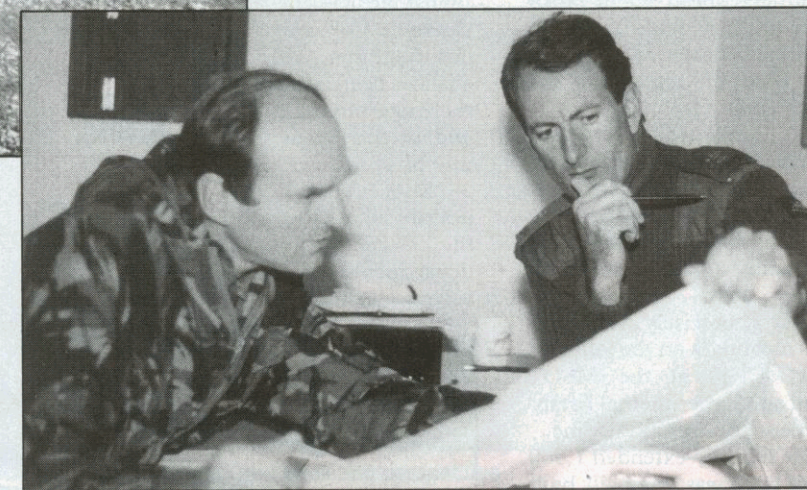
Lts Richard Fowler, Ian Smith and David Webber on patrol during the leadership cadre



Above – LCpl Philip Finch of the Recce Platoon

Left – Fit to fight: The Recce Platoon cadre at the end of the 14-day camp at Catterick

Right – Commanding officer Lt Col Bob Russell (right) with training major Maj John Harris



Undaunted, that's our storm troops!

CATTERICK Training Centre is one of the most beautiful and yet bleakest training areas in Britain. The Territorial Army volunteers of the 5th Battalion, The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment saw both extremes during their two weeks in North Yorkshire.

With 12 years of Nato-rolled soldiering behind them, 5 PWRR arrived at Catterick for its first training as a National

Defence battalion of 2 Infantry Brigade. The priority was to work at improving specialist skills. Catterick provided the ideal facilities for eight cadres, which ranged from honing the skills of a Cambrian Patrol team to upgrading signallers and qualifying drivers.

To launch the camp the new CO, Lt Col Bob Russell, deployed his battalion as dawn broke on a 13-mile battle

march; his first real opportunity to test the mettle of those under his command. As the CO said: "We must constantly remind ourselves that as infantry we do most of our business on our feet and carry most of our equipment on our backs."

Apart from one or two blisters the battalion completed the battle march unscathed and in glorious sunshine. That

afternoon the combat skills, leadership, Cambrian Patrol, assault pioneer and recce platoon cadres deployed as the weather changed into some of the foulest seen in the area for many years.

Officers and soldiers alike were given a stark reminder of how to survive in the field as storm-force winds and torrential rain lashed the Yorkshire moors for 72 hours.

"It was apparent that in spite of the appalling weather conditions, the true determination and enthusiasm of the TA soldier could not be beaten," said Maj John Redfern, OC of the combat skills cadre.

At one stage local flooding made saloon car movement impossible and the battalion rescued several local people stranded on the moors. "It was all part of our day's work out

on the road," said CSgt Peter Bartlett, a driving instructor.

The battalion's Cambrian Patrol team executed an arduous series of 48-hour exercises and realistic live-firing sessions in final preparation for the 1993 competition. "If anybody wants to know what they are really made of, then this will show them," said Pte Stephen Locke.

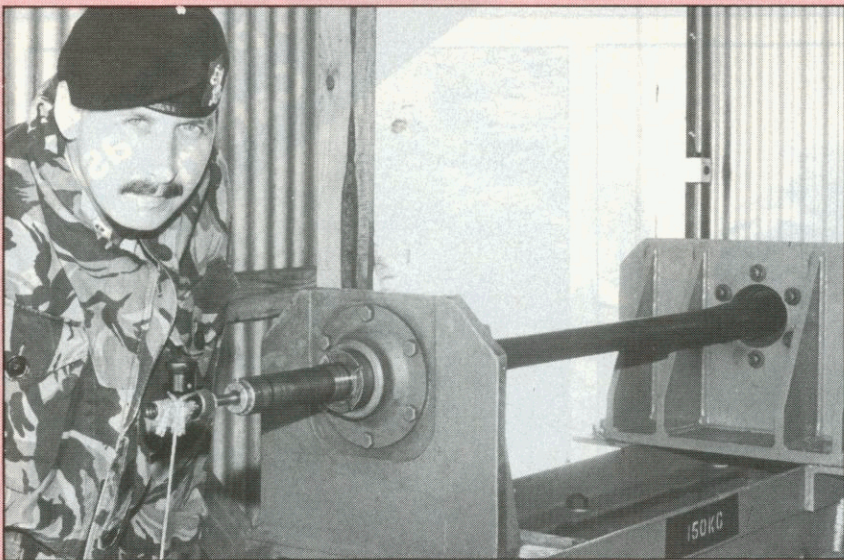
WO2 Paul Boddy, the team

leader, described it as "the hardest and most realistic training I have completed in ten years in the TA".

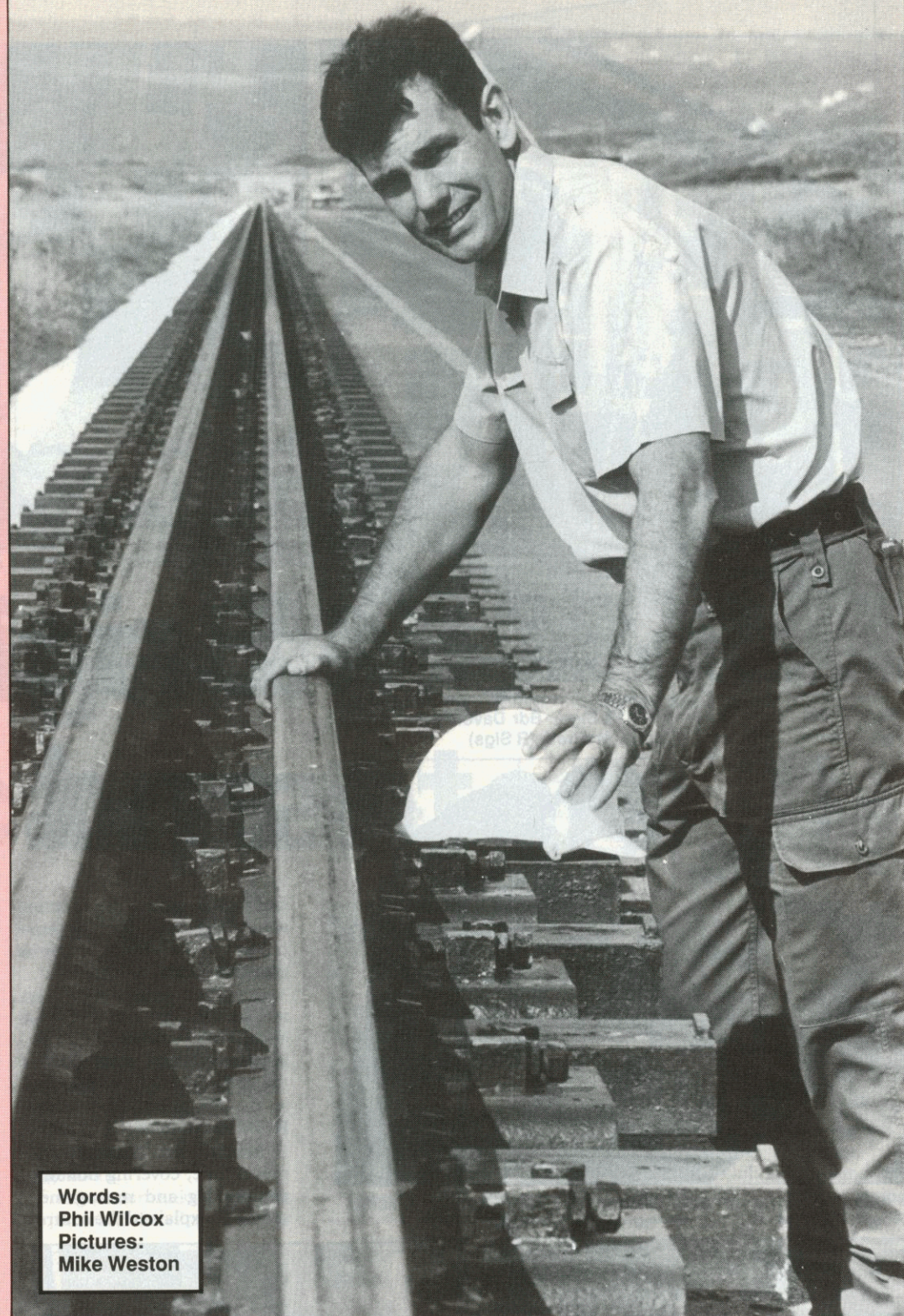
In contrast, Maj Richard Cserjen put 18 raw recruits through a nine-day basic training cadre. According to Pte Neal Richards, a chef in civilian life, it was "a hard but enjoyable week that taught me new skills as an alternative to catering".

Pte Richards subsequently decided to join 5 PWRR's catering platoon.

Among several visitors was the battalion's Honorary Colonel, Viscount De L'Isle, who told Lt Col Russell: "The battalion is to be congratulated for the cheerful determination they have displayed while completing a demanding training programme in very adverse weather conditions."



Above – Sgt Maj Tony Kane all set for some projectile proofing at the encased range
Right – Loading up at Pendine's C10 range: WO2 (QMS) Graham Busby RLC and WO1 (MG) Alan Goldsworthy prepare to fire a live chaff rocket as part of periodic proofing trials for the Royal Navy. A team of civilians works alongside them



Words: **Phil Wilcox**
Pictures: **Mike Weston**

WO2 James Johnston RA puts Pendine's long test track into perspective

Things are moving fast at Pendine

SIR MALCOLM Campbell, world land speed ace of 1920s fame, used to build up a fair rate of knots as he roared along the Pendine sands on the Welsh coast.

But surely in his wildest dreams he could never have conceived the sight of an object hurtling down a rail – just the other side of the sand dunes – at a velocity of 2,200 miles an hour.

That is precisely what happens most days on the long test track (LTT) at the MoD's Proof and Experimental Establishment (P&EE) at Pendine.

The recently-extended 1,500 metre track was originally built 30 years ago to test rocket motors and missile warheads.

These days, many of the trials involve controlled "in-flight" testing of experimental equipment.

Activities over recent years, carried out on behalf of all three Services and a growing number of commercial companies, have included trials to examine the effects of warheads against a range of targets and the behaviour of ejection seats.

Discarded items of hardware from Buccaneers, Lightnings, Phantoms, Hawks and Wessex helicopters, not to mention the odd Churchill tank, bear silent testimony to the range's past.

Gun captain WO2 James Johnstone has the not inconsiderable responsibility of ensuring that, after a trial has been accepted, the huge target at the end of the rail is put into place.

"Also, it's important that all the different departments involved, construc-

tion, instrumentation and so on, are ready at the correct time to co-ordinate on a firing and that the target is built up exactly as the range engineer requires it."

After each firing, WO2 Johnstone, having ensured that everything has functioned, prepares the

track for the next firing.

"The variety of targets is unbelievable," he said.

And the all-important rail itself?

"It's a normal British Rail line," he explained, "though of course, of necessity, it is dead level. Since we are talking about measurements and angles which have to be accurate to a millimetre, the track is aligned by lasers."

During the Gulf War, the LTT was in use from dawn until dusk, when upgrades to existing systems were carried out.

The track is the only one in the UK though it has equivalents in France and America.

"It is one of our national assets," said WO2 Johnstone, "and we are proud of it. And British defence companies seem to agree."

There is also a shorter, 180-metre test track at Pendine which carries smaller payloads.

Other facilities at the establishment – which is run by the Directorate of Test and Examination (Land) – include fuel tank trials, impact testing, air-field damage, environmental testing, a drop tower for explosives, and sea trials.

Additionally, since January, in a wooden encased range made from timbers transported from his now closed base at



Arsenal fan? European Regional Test Centre's Maj Roger Williams with (from front) British, French, American, Belgian, Spanish and Italian weapons

P&EE Cold Meece, Staffordshire, Sgt Maj Tony Kane RRW has been testing small arms and Mauser guns to be used in Tornado aircraft.

He and his mainly civilian team check, among other things, range velocities, action times and chamber pressure as part of in-Service proofing of ammunition.

In another part of the Pendine complex, under the watchful eye of Nato proof officer Maj Roger Williams SASC, more testing – this time of an international nature – is continually taking place.

At the European Regional Test Centre, he and his colleagues carry out a huge range of proofing tests on behalf of Nato to ensure that all the member nations' weapons are compatible and interchangeable.

"Ammunition is sent here and, if it passes all our tests, it gets the Nato seal of approval," said Maj Williams.

"Otherwise, if a country fails the test, it has the facility taken away."

Certainly, no Nato member can claim that at Pendine the tests are not thorough.

"Apart from clinical tests in the laboratory, we carry out a lot of firing tests," Maj Williams pointed out.

"We check on the velocity

and accuracy of the rounds, barrel erosion and so on."

And, just to keep the centre on its toes, "every year we test ourselves for standardisation on a particular calibre of ammunition and swap notes with the North American Testing Centre – our equivalent in the United States," said Maj Williams.

Although the Nato work consists of stock tests, where procedures are laid down to the letter as to exactly what must be done, and in what conditions, the centre also deals with trials on other weapons, using different parameters.

"For instance, if a soldier finds a fault in his rifle, it is ulti-

mately passed on here and, after an inspection, it is either condemned or we trial it to see what is causing the problem," said Maj Williams.

Work carried out at the centre is inspected by the National Measurement Accreditation Services, so, as he stressed, at Pendine, "not only must it happen, it must be seen to happen".

Like another Welsh-based open space with strong military connections – the Royal Armoured Corps range at Castlemartin – Pendine takes a positive approach to environmental issues and considers the preservation of plants and wildlife to be "of the utmost

importance". Being securely controlled and managed, its range area provides a safe home for a wide variety of flora and fauna.

Building of the new facility transferred earlier this year from Cold Meece, for example, was held up for a fortnight until a nest of barn owls had flown.

With so much going on, it is clear that staff at the establishment can never be accused of doing the "reverse" of a certain fictitious village.

Immortalised by Dylan Thomas, an erstwhile resident of Laugharne – just up the road from Pendine – its name is . . . Llareggub.



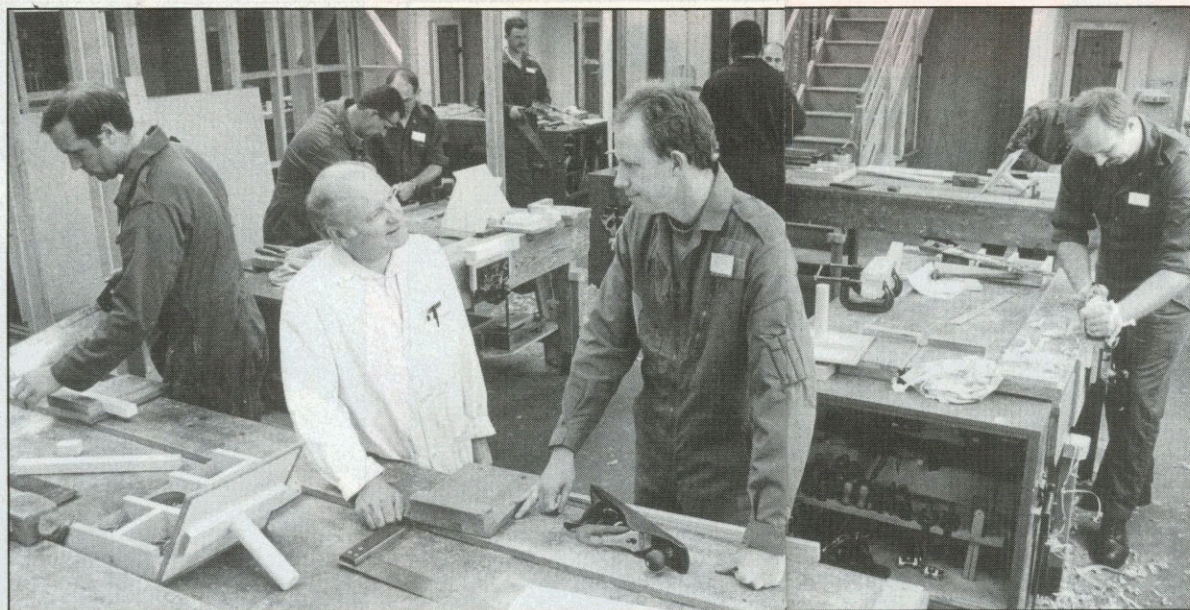
Civilian instructor Bob Calaz (right) with would-be satellite experts (left to right) LCpl Pete Bromiley (R Sigs); Bdr Dave Heaton (RA); Cpl Chris Boyd (RE) and Cpl Dusty McGrath (R Sigs)



A crash course in domestic electrics for CPO MEA Terry Martin (Royal Navy) and Sgt "Hutch" Hutchinson (R Sigs)

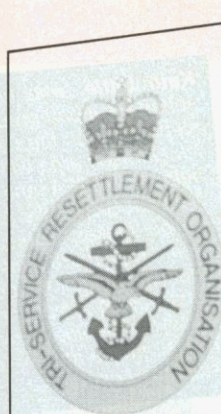


A senior, tri-Service, group pays close attention to instructor Bill Dunsmore as the principles of plastering are unfolded. Badges of rank are worn as an informality, says Lt Col Burton: there is no saluting



Carpentry and joinery? No problem, as Sgt Mick Potterton from Nato's HQ AFIORTH talks to instructor Eddie Jupp

Bricklaying brigadiers and corporal carpenters



RESETTLEMENT CENTRE

Aldershot



Lt Col Martin Burton, Commandant Aldershot Resettlement Centre

Words:
Phil Wilcox
Pictures:
Mike Perring

ENGLISH cross bonds are not something brigadiers or corporals are likely to encounter in their day-to-day careers.

But when redundancy rears its head, the intricacies of these and other brickwork techniques are just a small part of the courses offered to all ranks at the (tri-Service) Aldershot Resettlement Centre.

"There are three departments here, covering building, engineering and management studies," explained the centre's

commandant, Lt Col Martin Burton.

"We run something like 25 different sorts of course, from a week long, to a fortnight's management course for potential bursars and facility managers, to the full four-week entitlement for people leaving the Service."

Housed in a series of converted buildings near the Cambridge Military Hospital, the centre is currently a cauldron of activity.

Budding plasterers and bricklayers, young and old, gunner and air commodore alike, are being shown the basics, together with would-be joiners and welders, satellite dish erectors and computer trainees.

At the end of many of the courses, certificates recognisable to employers are issued.

"The various trade federations and industrial bodies regard what we are doing pretty highly," said Lt Col Burton.

"We have a proportion of full-time staff, and that, of course, is important, but in order to 'keep our feet in the water' as far as industry is concerned, we bring in outsiders to augment the lectures and provide additional credibility."

One area where an outside contractor has been brought in, and, being in the trade, has

proved important in keeping abreast with developments, is on the computer studies course "Understanding and upgrading your computer".

Those who attend not only learn to build a micro; they can buy it at the end of the course, merely for the cost of the components . . .

The centre's well-developed links with the various industries include "marketing days", where representatives are invited to see resettlement training in action, and at the same time Lt Col Burton and his colleagues try to identify niches in the market.

"We have to change, change, change all the time," the commandant said.

In the past year, he pointed out, the centre had probably changed more courses than in the previous 30.

Participants on the whole seem satisfied with their tuition.

One corporal, finishing his career after 22 years, told SOLDIER: "The different skills I am learning, like bricklaying, foundation building and plastering will be very useful to me when I get a job outside - not to mention once I buy my own house."

A bombardier, brushing up on the expertise he had gained on a course last year - at the end of which he became a

member of the trade's professional body - was working on a satellite receiver.

"Three guys on the last satellite course got a job before they had left the Army," he said.

"The courses here are great for building confidence: I'm now well on my way to going into the business."

Lt Col Burton and his team are amenable to constructive suggestions.

Some junior ranks attending the job search briefing sessions,

for example, had said that two-and-a-half days was not enough time in which to find out about job interview and CV writing techniques.

The course has since been lengthened to five days.

"We have a very positive attitude here," said the colonel.

"Things we get wrong we try to put right. After all, finding a totally new career is a hell of an upheaval for anyone."

Resettlement, he emphasised, was always unglamorous.

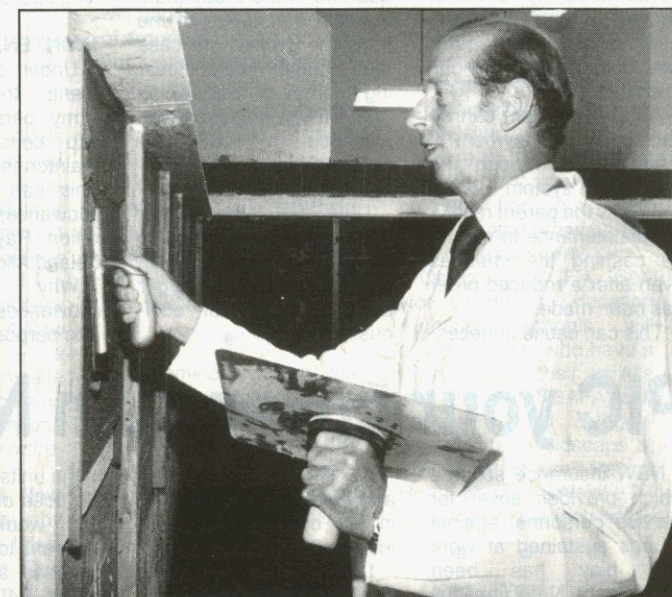
But "a good resettlement service shows you are a good employer".

Next year, the centre is bringing in an additional trade-related course entitled "How to set up your own business".

With their former REME workshops and other buildings full to bursting for the immediate future with anything from electricians to plumbers, perhaps Lt Col Burton and his staff should consider starting an employment agency . . .



Kathy Reeves, who works in the centre's offices, demonstrates the skills she learned on the computer-building course



Royal visitor the Duke of Kent tries his hand at a touch of wall plastering during a tour of the centre's workshops in September. The Duke has supported the resettlement scheme from its earliest days, and has closely monitored its progress

Picture: Terry Champion

FOR FAMILIES

Let's take it one step at a time . . .

LIVING in a stepfamily can make heavy demands on the individual members of the family. Bringing together two families can be very challenging, especially if parents and children in the new family arrangement find it difficult to accept each other.

There are often problems concerning loyalties to non-custodial parents, and children trying to reunite their biological parents and forming new relationships within the new family.

There are also many practical problems not encountered in "nuclear" families, such as maintenance payments, suitable accommodation to allow access visits or sudden increases in the size of the family, privacy, sharing time between all family members, access arrangements, agreement on standards and family customs, discipline of stepchildren and so on.

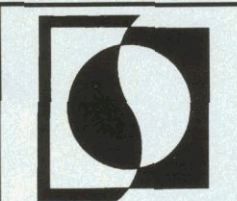
Many stepfamilies have to work much harder the second time around to achieve a stable and happy environment.

There is a lot of pressure to make this second chance work and it takes a considerable amount of emotional energy.

In the Forces, stepfamilies face problems not encountered by civilians, adding to the pressure. Separation through overseas postings is an obvious example.

Another problem can be caused by the payment of maintenance through the pay book system, which can allow the parent receiving maintenance to continue cashing the cheques even after a reduced order has been made.

This can cause unneces-



The National Stepfamily Association and SSAFA are collaborating on a joint newsletter for the Services and would welcome any contributions.

NSA contact numbers are:
Office: 071-372 0844
Counselling: 071-372 0846

sary financial hardship on the family of the parent paying maintenance. In my experience it can prove very difficult to recover this over-payment.

I would like to highlight some of the practical problems that can arise which may affect stepfamilies in the Forces community.

QUARTERS

While in the main the Army does try to provide quarters that are adequate to meet the needs of the family, it is often the case that a father/mother seeking custody of his/her children must be able to provide evidence in court that accommodation arrangements are satisfactory.

Until the father/mother has obtained custody of the children, the Army is reluctant to provide larger accommodation for obvious reasons.

One possible solution to this Catch 22 situation could be that the Army agrees to provide a letter which guarantees their willingness to provide adequate accommodation to meet any changes to the family arrangements.

ACCESS ARRANGEMENTS

Clearly the very nature of the role of members of the Forces can make it difficult to maintain rigid access arrangements.

At worst, a posting abroad can make such arrangements impossible.

The loss of contact time can be distressing for children and parents. Is it possible that a more flexible arrangement which guaranteed a minimum number of contact days each year could be considered?

This would require the support and understanding of the Army as there could be logistical and practical problems involved.

The practical needs of the children would also have to be considered as it might not be in their best interests to be away from their own environment for long spells.

MAINTENANCE

Under current arrangements, the total pay of Army personnel is taken into consideration when maintenance is calculated. This can include special allowances such as Separation Pay and Northern Ireland Allowance.

Why should these allowances, given for specific purposes, be included,

Kath Little, who helped set up a support group for stepfamilies in the Catterick Garrison area with the help of SSAFA and the National Stepfamily Association, makes a personal plea for more official understanding of the problems facing stepfamilies within the Service community. Kath is a mother and stepmother herself.

especially as they are usually short term?

Could the Army put forward a case, on behalf of such parents, that such allowances should not be included?

At some point all maintenance payments will come under the jurisdiction of the Child Support Agency. Parents will be allowed to have their maintenance reassessed for an annual fee of £44. As the pay of Army personnel may fluctuate from year to year depending on the allowances received, parents paying maintenance may need to have payments reassessed on a regular basis.

Under the present system where maintenance payments are deducted at source, any changes to the amount paid can, in my experience, take a considerable time to be implemented by the Army. Can the Army speed up the process to avoid unnecessary overpayment and possible financial hardship?

Stepfamilies are not a new phenomenon but it is often not recognised that they face problems not encountered in other types of families.

The number of stepfamilies is growing, and as an employer it would be hoped that the Army, as a matter of course, will make a point of understanding the issues and problems that can arise and consider sympathetically how its decisions will affect not only personnel within their authority, but also other members of the family who do not live with the family on a day-to-day basis.

I recognise that the Army and SSAFA have been very helpful and sympathetic towards stepfamilies but it does appear to me that in any large organisation red tape can result in changes being introduced very slowly. Some of the problems experienced by stepfamilies could be alleviated by speeding up the administrative processes involved in making changes.

of the units held. For example, loss of hearing in one ear would entitle the claimant to 25 per cent of his units, so if he had four (worth £40,000), the PIC payout would be £10,000.

Payments are doubled if an accident results in complete disability.

Caring Esme's public tribute

BUSY housewife Esme Butler overcame shyness and ill health to make an outstanding contribution to the welfare of 1 (UK) Armoured Division HQ and Signal Regiment families.

Now her kindness and concern for others at Herford has been publicly recognised. At the fifth annual conference of the Federation of Army Wives (Germany) at Bielefeld she became the first person to receive the new Anne Armstrong Award.

Fittingly, the late Anne's husband, Col John Mayo, was there to present the handsome rose bowl to Esme, whose husband is a sergeant serving with 1 ADJR.

Anne, who died suddenly in May, had sponsored the idea of an annual award for the person or group making a significant contribution to garrison or station life in Germany.

Anne particularly wanted the Federation to be involved with the



Esme Butler receives the Anne Armstrong Award from Col John Mayo during the FAW (Germany) conference

award, and nominations were received from all over Germany.

Mrs Butler has been a shining example within the regiment, ignoring shyness and long-standing health problems to organise a constant stream of social activities.

In a general climate of declining support for Wives' Clubs she had succeeded to the point where all club activities within 1

ADSR were thriving.

She was a welcoming face for new families and frequently made follow-up visits.

At Christmas, New Year and Easter her house was usually full, often with lonely young soldiers and their wives seeking the companionship of a family. The couple have three daughters.

The annual award is a fitting tribute to Anne Armstrong who devoted herself tire-

lessly to the welfare of Service families. John Mayo received a standing ovation after telling delegates about Anne's life and work.

"Anne believed that a happy family life was essential for a married Serviceman if he was to acquit himself in a truly competent and professional manner," said Col Mayo.

Esme Butler, in her way, is helping to achieve that ideal.

FAW pulls together

LORD Cranborne, Under Secretary of State for Defence, told delegates to the 5th Annual conference of the Federation of Army Wives (Germany) in Ripon Hall, Bielefeld, of his determination to see the MoD estate run by an independent housing trust.

Gen James Johnston, chairman designate, outlined how the trust would work and spoke of its advantages over the present system of quartering.

Guest speakers included Gen Sir Charles Guthrie, C-in-C HQ BAOR; Gen Sir Michael Wilkes, Adjutant General; Brig Christopher Callow, Commander Medical, HQ BAOR; Kate Borrett, assistant controller, SSAFA Western Europe;

consultant researcher Judith Dugdale, whose speech was reported in the October 18 issue of SOLDIER; and Brig Rodney Walker, ACOS G1 HQ BAOR.

Kate Borrett told of the work that SSAFA community health, social work and volunteer service entailed, and revealed that SSAFA was also being affected by the Drawdown.

Brig Walker mentioned FAW's trips to Bosnia to help the needy, the Federation's word processing courses (which by Christmas will have trained almost 4,000 people), the workshops, SSAFA's successful Homeward Bound scheme and an improvement in schools.

Drawdown and redundancies were bound to cause problems, turbulence and inconvenience, but the message from the conference was that the Federation would pull together to help those affected by deployments to Bosnia, Northern Ireland and Belize.

Although no final decision has been made to sell the married quarters estate to a housing trust, the MoD has advertised for a chief executive to run the organisation.

The salary is about £100,000 a year, said to be in line with comparable private and public sector appointments.

Career guide

ANY BOOK which deals with the challenges of making a new start in life after the age of 40 will be of more than passing interest to vast numbers of soldiers and their families.

Though not specifically aimed at the Forces, *A New Career After Forty* - "a practical guide to mid-life opportunities" - contains welcome advice for anyone facing redundancy or retirement from service.

Priced at £9.99, *A New Career After Forty*, by John C Bird, is the latest title in the "Starting Out" series from Northcote Publishing Ltd, Plymbridge House, Estover Road, Plymouth PL6 7PZ (tel: 0752 705255).

Cari Roberts

→ COUNTERPOINT



Homes that YOU build

HOUSING is at the top of the agenda at the moment wherever Service welfare matters are discussed and one of the options is building your own house. If you decide you want to look into it there are several organisations to help you.

One of these is the Community Self-Build Agency, a non-profit making body operating on a national basis. It provides impartial advice and can help individuals to join schemes or form their own self-build groups.

A minimum of seven people are needed to form a Self-Build Housing Association but it's more usual for about 15 so that costs and skills can be shared more effectively.

Self-build can also involve the refurbishment of houses in need of major repairs. Some ex-RAF quarters have been the subject of a successful scheme.

Building your own home demands commitment and hard work. Projects usually last between ten and 15 months.

The only initial financial contribution usually expected from the self-builders is the cost of registering the housing association, which can be as little as £30 each, depending on the number involved. The cost of materials and professional fees may then be borrowed by the association from a building society or bank.

Building your own home will usually mean a saving of around 15 to 20 per cent, but it needn't be just about home ownership - there are legal precedents for those interested in self-build for rent.

You can write to the Community Self-Build Agency at Unit 26, Finsbury Business Centre, 40 Bowling Green Lane, London EC1R 0NE.

A reminder about the rules surrounding Boarding School Allowance (BSA).

There have been a few cases recently where schools have discounted fees or made refunds after the start of the term.

All BSA claimants are reminded that the regulations require BSA claims to be based on the actual sums paid to the school.

Any refund, discount or

reduction, grant or scholarship must be reported to the appropriate pay authority at the time of the claim or subsequently if this isn't possible.

Any BSA claimant who has received a discount and not reported it should do so without delay. If you don't and you are judged to have broken the rules you may lose the right to BSA. And there may even be disciplinary action.

The question of bullying in schools is a sensitive one.

Do you interfere, tell the children to sort it out among themselves, do nothing and hope for the best? An excellent factsheet has been produced by the children's charity Kidscape.

It seems the best thing to do is to talk to your child's teacher first, making a note of who you spoke to, when and what points you covered. If you don't feel the problem has been resolved you can then approach the headmaster.

Kidscape advise parents to be assertive... but not aggressive.

There is also advice on what to do if you feel the problem has not been resolved, and a few helpful telephone numbers.

Obviously, SCEA (Service Children's Education Authority) schools will advise parents who have a worry about their child's welfare, and SSAFA can provide helpful suggestions. Write to Kidscape at 152 Buckingham Palace Road, London SW1W 9TR for a copy of the factsheet.

Don't forget, you can drop me a line on these or any subjects at BFBS, BFPO 786 or, if you're in the UK, c/o SOLDIER.

PIC your cover with Naafi

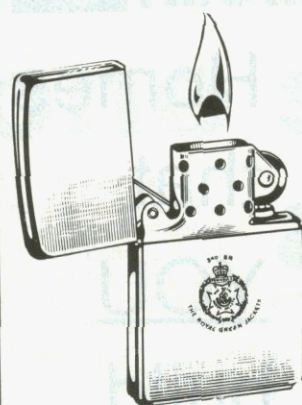
A NEW insurance scheme which provides cover for Service personnel against injuries sustained at work and play has been launched by Naafi financial services. The Personal Injury Cover (PIC) scheme is open to all members of the Armed Forces.

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Fresh cause for Suez medal award

DURING my research at the Imperial War Museum I found a copy of a message from HQ Brit Tps in Egypt regarding a signal from CIGS after the riots in Ismalia during which several officers and men were killed. The signal (reproduced below) is dated December 20, 1951.

The interesting point is that at last we have evidence that the CIGS considered we were being attacked by terrorists, which is what they were. Cause enough for awarding a medal. – Col (Retd) P S Newton, Winchester.

of the Imperial General Staff about the disturbances at ISMALIA on 17/18 November, in which he refers to the part played by all who were concerned in these disturbances in the following terms:

"I wish to congratulate Lieutenant-General Sir George ERSKINE, and the officers and men under his command, on the resolution and restraint which they showed in dealing with these disturbances and which they continue to show in the dangerous situations which are being caused by the action of the terrorists."

2. The GOC wishes this message to be communicated to all the troops concerned in the disturbances of 17/18 November.

Subject: **Message from the Chief of the Imperial General Staff**

1. The Commander-in-Chief has received a message from the Chief

Japanese sword incident

DURING the Second World War I served with a Royal Artillery field regiment in the jungle in India and Burma.

In the closing stages of hostilities I was with an observation post party, accompanied by a detachment of the Frontier Force Rifles (FFR).

One night we were awakened by small arms fire, and the following morning learned that a Japanese soldier had been discovered laying small anti-personnel "bombs" at the side of the track leading to our position.

He had been discovered, fired upon and subsequently killed, most likely by a wound from his own sword which had been wrested from him by a young soldier of the FFR.

I found the cap belonging to the Japanese, and the soldier had the sword.

I would like to know what regimental records say about this incident, and what happened afterwards. Was the young soldier commended, decorated or promoted? And what happened to the sword? – W H Bridge, Southport, Merseyside.

Setting Italy record straight

JOHN Clarke's letter (September 20), interested me because I too fought in Italy, and, as a private soldier, in the Queen's Brigade of 56th (London) Division.

My interest is military history and Mr Clarke's letter contains what I feel are historical inaccuracies.

There were never two Divisions of SS fighting against the Allies in Italy. The Leibstan-

darte SS (1st SS Panzer Division) entered northern Italy in August 1943 and returned to the Eastern Front, via France, a few months later. The 16th "Reichsfuehrer SS" Division served on 5th Army's side of the Italian peninsula, initially in regimental strength around Anzio and later as a full division near Leghorn.

Neither were there two corps of German paratroops in Italy

– but one, 1 Corps, which had formerly been 11th. The Panzergraders, against whom I fought on the way up to the Volturno and later during the Gothic Line offensive, were not in my opinion as skilled or as resolute as were, for example, the 100th Gebirgsjaeger Regiment on Monte Gemmano in the autumn of 1944, or the Turocman Division which we met in the December of that year.

Was it the 100th Regiment which Mr Clarke describes as Bavarian mountain troops and what was the Alpine Division of which he makes mention?

The 5th Gebirgs Division fought in north-western Italy on the Franco-Italian border and not against Anglo-

American forces. The "Hermann Goering" was in divisional strength, not regimental, at least in the first months of the campaign and the "Hoch und Deutschmeister", although a famous formation, was not as good as the original 44th Division which perished in Stalingrad.

So far as I am concerned the German formations against which 56th Division fought – and we served with 5th US Army from Salerno to Anzio and with British 8th Army from the Gothic Line to Trieste – were all first-class soldiers, the equals of any others who served on the Eastern Front or in North West Europe. – James Lucas, Bromley, Kent.

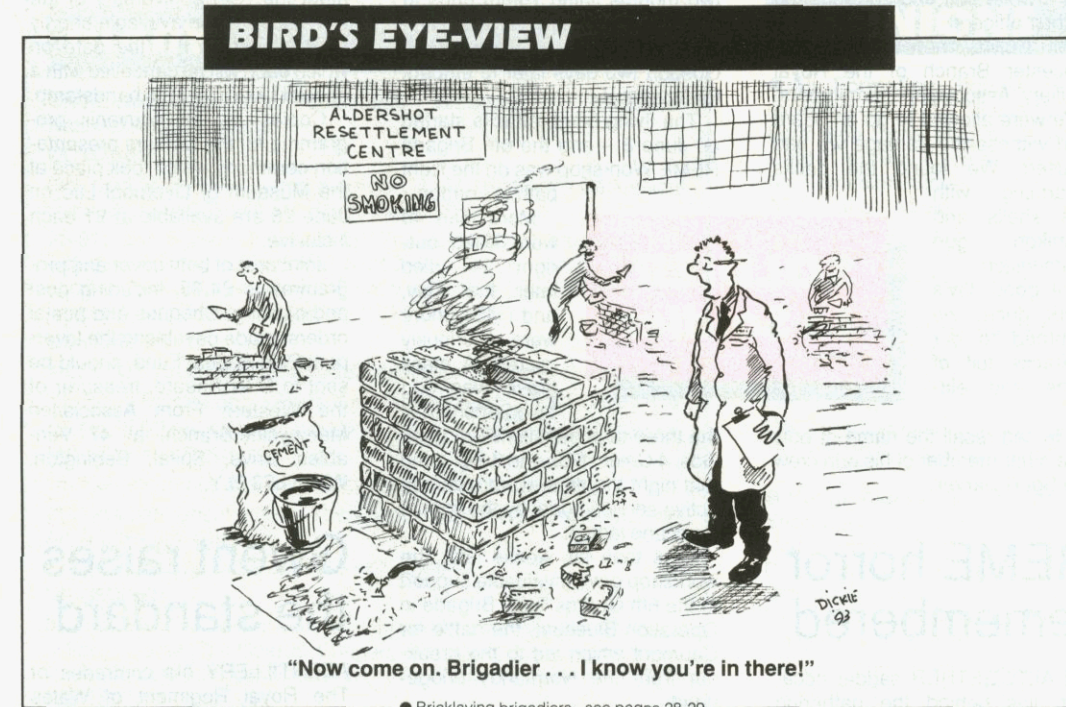
Medal for the men

CAPT Richard Steward (October 4) misses a couple of essential points in his assumption that officers will be entitled to the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal.

First, when the Services examined the idea of an officers' Service medal, similar to the Canadian Forces Decoration about ten years ago, the plan foundered because the eligibility criteria could not be agreed and the problem of how the troops would perceive officers whose conduct was not

satisfactory proved too difficult to resolve. Secondly, there is no political will to make officers equal to their men; only the other way round.

A committee has been set up to look at amalgamating gallantry awards but it will take many months to report its findings. Incidentally, most NCOs I know are immensely proud of the exclusivity of their awards and don't actually want to be lumped in with the officers. – Colin Cummings, Yelvertoft, Northants.



Bricklaying brigadiers - see pages 28-29

A uniform discourtesy

I WOULD like to bring a point to your attention which has bothered me for a long time and I would be interested to hear how other members or parents of members of the Armed Forces feel about it.

Why are civilians permitted to walk around in items of Armed Forces uniform, for example camouflage jackets and trousers?

Our young men go through rigorous training and discipline to earn the right to wear their uniform and yet people who have never even seen the inside of a barracks wear these garments as a scruffy fashion trend.

Why can't the Ministry of Defence ban this practice? I am sure the police would do something about it if civilians went around dressed as policemen or women. – Mrs P J Barlow, Quedgeley, Glos.

● It is an offence to impersonate a police officer, but camouflage clothing is widely available in sporting and Army surplus outlets. Do other readers feel this is a discourtesy to the Services? – Editor

GIRLS SET FOR YORK'S

THANK you very much indeed for writing and publishing the article on the Duke of York's School in your edition of October 4. As an information article I believe that it will be very helpful indeed for your many readers.

I hope you will forgive me pointing out one error which is significant for us. Towards the end of the article you state that we will be starting with Lower Sixth girls only in September 1994. In actual fact we have well over 60 girls registered for all year groups except Upper Sixth and Year 11 (second GCSE year). Girls will be absorbed into the school fully. – Col Gordon Wilson, headmaster, Duke of York's Royal Military School, Dover.

● The school's original location was on the site of HQ The Duke of York's in Chelsea, not Chelsea Barracks as stated in the article. – Editor

Excitement in Karachi

ASHLEY Collins will be hoping for a good response to one particular appeal in the Searchline column on this page. And therein lies a tale of how a troop of gunners "captured" a warship.

C Troop, 554 Battery, 159 Para Light Regiment RA was called to action stations in February 1946 when Royal Indian Navy ratings mutinied in Karachi harbour and took over HMIS *Hindustan*.

When they got to the docks, the gunners discovered the warship was moored at the end of a long shed, so they prepared a position at the other end and waited.

Day and night-long negotiations failed to secure the surrender of the mutineers. Suddenly next morning the ship's guns were manned and traversed towards C Troop's position.

Fortunately for the watching gunners, the sailors had no idea of elevation so when they opened fire their shells landed in Karachi itself.

C Troop promptly returned fire over open sights, scoring direct hits on the bridge and starting a number of blazes.

The response was immediate, the mutinous ratings rapidly hoist-

ing a white flag and surrendering to their officers.

Mr Collins, now secretary of Leicester Branch of the Royal Artillery Association, remembers: "We were allowed to go on board and witness the damage we had caused. We found the decks swarming with live shells and Oerlikon gun ammunition.

"A good day's work done, we returned to our barracks full of pride and elation."

He can recall the name of only one other member of his gun crew - a Sgt R Darvell.

REME horror remembered

AN ALTOGETHER sadder occasion lies behind the gathering planned at Lenham, near Maidstone on June 25-26 next year (see Reunions).

Early in the morning of June 24, 1944, 52 REME soldiers died when a flying bomb fell on their Nissen hut at Newlands Stud Farm on Charing Heath, Kent.

They had spent the previous

two months fitting 75mm guns to the tanks of the 6th Guards Tank Brigade and were due to move to Gosport two days later to embark for Normandy.

The flying bomb attacks started on June 8 - and the 6th Brigade REME Workshop was on the flight path to London.

More than 40 were killed outright, six died later that day, and 40 more were seriously injured. A mass grave was dug by guardsmen of

the three tank battalions - 4 Gren Gds, 4 Coldm Gds and 3 SG - and that night the dead were given an active service burial by the light of hurricane lamps.

Less than six weeks later the workshop gave invaluable support to the 6th Guards Tank Brigade in Operation Bluecoat, the battle for Caumont which led to the breakthrough from the Normandy bridgehead.

Pals need your help

WITH THE first two objectives of the Liverpool Pals Appeal Fund achieved, all efforts are now being concentrated on the remaining project.

The Colours of the Pals battalions have been restored and a plaque has been placed in St George's Memorial Church in Ypres, Belgium.

Third and final objective is to raise a monument to the Liverpool and Manchester Pals at Montauban-de-Picardie on the Somme.

With this in mind, a limited edition of 500 commemorative postal covers at £4 each inclusive, to

mark the 75th anniversary of the Armistice, will be available shortly after November 11, the date on which each will be cancelled with a special Liverpool Pals handstamp.

Copies of the souvenir programme for the Colours presentation ceremony which took place at the Museum of Liverpool Life on June 28 are available at £1 each inclusive.

Joint cost of both cover and programme is £4.75, including post and packing. Cheques and postal orders, made payable to the Liverpool Pals Appeal Fund, should be sent to D W Sheard, treasurer of the Western Front Association Merseyside Branch, at 47 Venables Drive, Spital, Bebington, Wirral L63 9LY.

Gwent raises the standard

ABERTILLERY old comrades of The Royal Regiment of Wales have their own standard after a nine-month fund-raising campaign.

They were joined by nearly 30 ex-soldiers from RRW and Royal British Legion branches throughout South Wales for a parade through the town after the standard had been dedicated at St Michael's Church.

Armed Forces art on show

WILL THE suffering of Bosnia be reflected in the 1993 London exhibition of the Armed Forces Art Society?

Probably, because the work of the Serviceman-artist inevitably reflects campaigns in which he

DIARY

UNTIL November 23: "Battledress Broadcasters" exhibition, National Army Museum.

OCTOBER

24: Band of the Irish Guards in concert in aid of the Army Benevolent Fund, Southport Theatre, 7.30pm. Tickets £5.

30-31: Birmingham International Tattoo, National Indoor Arena, including infantry competition, RAVC dog display, massed chorus and bands of RM, Red Army, US Army and Royal Swedish Navy, and parade of standards (box office tel: 021-200 2222).

NOVEMBER

4-6: BAOR Arts and Crafts Society exhibition, Ripon Hall, Bielefeld.

13: Royal British Legion Festival of Remembrance, Royal Albert Hall.

13-14: Salisbury Military Society annual exhibition, Red Lion Hotel, Milford Street, Salisbury.

14: Remembrance Day service and parade at the Cenotaph.

26: New permanent gallery, The Victorian Soldier, opens at National Army Museum, Chelsea.

27: TA open day, Duke of York's HQ, Chelsea.

DECEMBER

8: First SSAFA Central London Christmas carol concert at Royal Military Chapel (The Guards' Chapel), Wellington Barracks, Birdcage Walk, London, 7.30pm. Tickets: 081-673 7280, 081-539 4114 or 071-735 1597.

10-16: Annual London exhibition of the Armed Forces Art Society, Lady Butler Galleries, National Army Museum, Chelsea.

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

has been involved. The 1991 hanging featured a number of entries from soldiers involved in the Gulf War.

The society's 61st exhibition will be open to the public in the National Army Museum from December 10-16. Handing-in day is Friday, December 3.

Artists (in any medium) who would like to submit work for selection can obtain general instructions from AFAS secretary Lt Col C D A Blessington at The Oast House, Peelings Manor, Hankham, near Pevensey, East Sussex BN24 5AP (tel/fax: 0323 461730).

welcome to past and present members, and past and present civilian employees of the corps. Details from Doug Bell, 108 Villa Road, Stanway, Colchester, Essex CO2 5RN (tel: 0206 540930).

• **West Cappel, May 29, 1940:** Members of No 2 Coy, 1 WG who took part in this action are asked to contact R E Lewis, Gen Sec, Welsh Guards Association, Maindy Barracks, Whitchurch Road, Cardiff CF4 3YE. Also ex-WG not already members.

• **Boorseem aan de Maas 1944-45:** Mr Armand Ramaekers, of Sneppenlaan 22, 3630 Maasmechelen, Belgium, wishes to contact Wally (surname not known), an MP in a tank division who stayed with others at Boorem aan de Maas at this time before leaving for Arnhem in March 1945.

APPOINTMENTS

Colonels - V Batchelor - To be Oic MRO Chester, Sept 27; A J Dobson - To be DA/MA Panama City, Sept 27; R K Fawcus - To HQ UKLF, Sept 27; R C Deakon - To RAMC Coll, Sept 28; T D Mason - To DMA(S) (Army), Oct 4; C McA Pyman - To be Comd Gunnery Sch RAC Cen, Oct 4; D R Jeffrey - To MoD, Oct 4.

Lt Cols - I T Murtagh, ARRC RGN QARANC - To BMH Rinteln, Sept 13; R M Crosskey RE - To Army Air Appts (Strike Comd), Sept 27; G C Kershaw RE - To HQ RSME, Sept 27; T Maley AGC(ETS) - To MoD, Sept 27; J P Moreland, R Signals - To BLO Post USA, Oct 1; J W G Rogers RE - To HQ RSME, Sept 27; K M Ryan, R Anglian - To be CO Sp Unit HQ Sch of Inf, Sept 27; P R Sharpe REME - To be CO 1 Bn REME, Sept 27; R C A Thwaites, R Signals - To MoD, Sept 27; R K Morrison AGC(ETS) - To be CO AGC Depot and HQ Winchester Gar, Sept 27; I D Crate RAMC - To RAM Coll, Oct 1; M H Diggins RADC - To 3 Dent Gp, Oct 4; C E Lowes QARANC - To QARANC Trg Cent, Oct 4; R J McCormick RADC - To RAM Coll, Oct 4; A F I Shepherd RAMC - To DKMH Catterick, Oct 11; S G Mellor RAMC - To BMH Hong Kong, Oct 23.

N A Collett, 6 GR - To HQ UKLF, Oct 4; M D Cooper RE - To MoD, Oct 4; H N Fairman KRH - To MoD, Oct 4; D B Jones, R Signals - To MoD, Oct 4; T R Hamilton-Baillie RGJ - To MoD, Oct 4.

RETIREMENTS

Major General - I P Crawford, late RAMC, Oct 10.

REUNIONS

• **Air Formation Signals:** Past members of 2, 4, 15, 18 and 19 Air Formation Signal Regiments now meet in reunion. If you served with Air Formation Signals (or Indian AFS) and would like further details, contact Lt Col P F Soward, Royal School of Signals, Blandford Camp, Dorset DT11 8RH.

• **3 Bn Coldstream Guards No 4 Company (1950-55):** Second annual reunion dinner in Birmingham, October 23. Details from Harry Westgarth, 49 Rokeby Park, Hull HU4 7QE (tel: 0482 503649).

• **Rough Riders, City of London Yeomanry:** Annual memorial service, October 31, 11am, at St Bartholomew The Great, West Smithfield, London EC1, followed by reception at Stone Buildings, Lincoln's Inn. Details from Tom Taylor, Pine View, Haslemere Road, Witley, Surrey GU8 5QA (tel: 0428 683757).

• **Royal Pioneer Corps Association:** Officers' dinner, Bicester, November 8; Field of Remem-

brance, Westminster Abbey, 1100 hours November 11; Cenotaph parade and service, Whitehall, 1000 November 14. Details from RPC Association secretary, 51 St George's Drive, London SW1V 4DE (tel: 071-834 0415).

• **Inns of Court and City Yeomanry Association:** Annual reunion and dinner (preceded by AGM) will be held at 6.30pm on November 13 at 10 Stone Buildings, Lincoln's Inn, London EC1. Association will parade for Remembrance Service in Lincoln's Inn at 10.45am on November 14. Details from Tom Taylor, Pine View, Haslemere Road, Witley, Surrey GU8 5QA (tel: 0428 683757).

• **Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, West of Scotland Assoc:** Balaklava dinner-dance at Normandy Hotel, Renfrew, November 19. Tickets and details from George Gaughan on 041-889 9102 or Lt Col (Retd) J M Lauder on 041-224 5900.

• **RA Association Exeter Branch:** Annual dinner dance and reunion takes place on November 20 at the Countess Wear Lodge Hotel, Exeter. Details from Don Goodheart, 20a Burnthouse Lane, Exeter EX2 6BH (tel: 0392 73862).

1994

• **54 Engr Spt and Amb Sqn RCT:** A reunion in the Aldershot area is planned next year for anyone who served in the unit at Lubbecke, Germany (BFPO 22). Details from Clive and Jane Larcombe, 24 Scarborough Way, Windsor Meadows, Slough, Berks SL1 9JY (tel: 0753 821120).

• **Friends of El Adem Radio Service (TEARS):** Second annual reunion at Stakis Country Court Hotel, Northampton, May 21. Details from John Moir (tel: 0705 595489, evenings).

• **The Gordon Highlanders:** Bicentenary to be celebrated in Aberdeen on June 25. All ex-members encouraged to attend. Details from Regimental Headquarters, Viewfield Road, Aberdeen AB1 7XH (tel: 0224 318174).

• **6th Guards Tank Brigade Workshop REME:** A reunion and memorial service will be held at Lenham, near Maidstone, Kent on June 25-26 for ex-members and relatives to mark the flying bomb disaster at Charing Heath, Kent on June 24, 1944 in which 52 REME soldiers were killed. Details from Norman Rutt, 1 Headington Road, Earsfield, London SW18 3PR (tel: 081-946 0064).

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Overlord: The bigger picture

WITH THE 50th anniversary only months away it is to be expected that we will shortly be inundated with books and other commemoratives inspired by D-Day, the Allied invasion of Normandy on June 6, 1944.

Even so, it is surprising to find one arriving on the review desk quite so early. However, its large coffee-table format makes it clear that the publishers are aiming at the Christmas gift market.

"Coffee-table" in this case is by no means a derogatory description, for *D-Day: Operation Overlord - From its planning to the Liberation of Paris* is a very good and informative book, with considerable detail that will be fresh even to those who took part in what was the greatest amphibious military operation of all time.

What Salamander Books, the publishers, have done is to commission nine specialist writers - three British, five American and one German - to contribute chapters in which their expert knowledge can be demonstrated to the full. The result is a book with more detailed information than could be expected from a work by a single author or in an official history.

A feature is the book's range of illustrations which can only be described as extraordinary: more than 120 specially commissioned full-colour photographs, more than 200 contemporary colour and black and white photographs, and nearly 40 newly-researched and commissioned artworks and maps. All this must have caused quite a few production headaches, not to mention

considerable expenditure.

There are colour page-spreads of uniforms, equipment and weapons used by the forces engaged in Overlord, both Allied and German, but perhaps the most interesting illustrations are the unexpected, such as the photograph of the Gestetner duplicator used to reproduce Eisenhower's message issued to all invasion participants.

There is a picture of Brig Lord Lovat, who led his 1st Special Service Brigade on the eastern flank of the Sword Beach landings, accompanied by his personal piper Bill Millin. In the photograph the brigadier appears very unlike the portrayal of him by Richard Burton in the film *The Longest Day* - much more tired and battle worn.

Another photograph shows the oft-mentioned, but not illustrated, *Daily Telegraph* crossword puzzles which accidentally revealed key code-names used in the operation.

But the most poignant reminder of how badly things could have turned out is in a facsimile of Gen Eisenhower's draft of the "in case of failure" message prepared for an announcement that would have been made had the invasion gone wrong.

"Our landings in the Cherbourg-Le Havre area have failed to gain a satisfactory foothold and I have withdrawn the troops. My decision to attack at this time and place was based upon the best information available.

"The troops, the air and the Navy did all that bravery and devotion could do. If any blame or fault attaches to the attempt it is mine alone."

It is claimed by the publishers that reproduction of this message is unique.

The book is an excellent start to the flush of commemorative publications that will undoubtedly appear before June next year. - BJ

D-Day: Operation Overlord - From its planning to the Liberation of Paris edited by Tony Hall. Salamander Books, hardback, £24.99.

One for the bookshelf

LT GEN Sir Richard Swinburn, GOC Southern District, standing in the newly-restored grounds of the Prince Consort's Library, Aldershot, takes a look at a new publication, sponsored by Hampshire County Museums Services and written by the library's systems librarian, Paul Vickers (right).

A Gift So Graciously Bestowed: the History of the Prince Consort's Library tells of its growth from early days as a library of 2,000 volumes for Army officers in the "camp at Aldershot" to the current 60,000-volume establishment whose world-wide service to the forces deals with more than



50,000 requests every year.

Its first librarian (one of only 13 in its 130-year history), was a Royal Engineers corporal who was arrested as a deserter, the book says.

Also taking an interest in the publication was Cllr Mike

Hancock (left), leader of Hampshire County Council.

A Gift So Graciously Bestowed: the History of the Prince Consort's Library by Paul H. Vickers. Hampshire County Council Museums Service, hardback, £12.

LORD BOBS' VIEW OF THE RAJ - AT A PRICE

ANYONE familiar with Lord Roberts's *My Forty-one Years in India* will naturally be attracted by the title *Roberts in India: The Military Papers of Field Marshal Lord Roberts 1876-1893*, just issued as the ninth volume from the Army Records Society.

The editor, Prof Brian Robson, must surely be in the debt of military historians, for this is a treasury of hitherto unpublished material, revealed by 273 letters, telegrams and other papers, arranged chronologically and covering the period that saw "Bobs" emerge as the hero of the Second Afghan War (and after).

The Viceroy, Lord Lytton, figures largely, as do the diehard old Duke of Cambridge, C-in-C, and numerous others of the military and political hierarchy of the day.

Fresh light is thrown on controversial matters. Was Roberts guilty of excesses when he entered Kabul to avenge the massacre of the British envoy and his staff? Or was he only carrying out the dictates of the Viceroy?

"... Remember that it is not justice in the ordinary sense, but retribution you are to administer ... your object

should be to strike terror and to strike it swiftly and deeply ... " Hence, 97 summary executions.

There are outspoken (confidential) comments on regiments. The 72nd Highlanders were "all I could wish", but the 8th Foot "is now in bad order, has no interior economy ... "

Like Wellington, "Bobs" was critical of his British cavalry in Afghanistan, displaying impetuous dash but with little idea of their tasks as recon troops: "Scouting is not their strong point", he complains of the 9th Lancers.

With the Russian occupation of the Central Asian khanates, the "Great Game" was reaching a climax. A hawk in advocating the "Forward Policy" for the defence of India, he urged the Viceroy that "the only course to pursue" was the establishment of an advanced defensive line between Kandahar and Kabul.

In his Memorandum of April 17, 1882, we are brought up sharp by his comments on a project debated in the House - a *Channel Tunnel*! "... We are better without it ... a tunnel would be a source of great danger to England."

With Prof Robson's copious

explanatory notes and biographical details, this volume should be compulsory reading for students of the late Victorian military scene - if they can afford the somewhat steep price. - JMB

Roberts in India: The Military Papers of Field Marshal Lord Roberts 1876-1893 edited by Brian Robson. Army Records Society/Alan Sutton, hardback, £40.

QUIZZICALLY ENTERTAINING

QUESTION ONE: Which British Army unit takes precedence over all others on parade?

Question Two: Which British infantry division of the Second World War had the apparently incongruous title 'Mountain' as part of its arm-badger?

Question Three: What was "the Red and Green Life Machine"?

Just three of the 1,750 teasers to be found in *The Military Quiz Book*, claimed as the first of its kind and timed nicely to hit the Christmas market.

Dr John Pimlott, deputy head of the Department of War

IN BRIEF

With Popski's Private Army by Ben Owen. Autobiographical account, by a senior member, of the exploits of the Second World War special force which raided behind enemy lines in North Africa, Italy and Austria. Janus, hardback, £15.95.

2297: A PoW's Story by John Lawrence. Captured near Dunkirk in May 1940 while serving with the Royal Sussex Regiment, the author spent the rest of the war doing forced labour in eastern Europe. Woodfield, softback, £5.95.

Dieppe Through the Lens by Hugh G Henry Jr. German cameraman's view of the battle, plus mini-album in which the reader can mount modern photographs for a "then-and-now" effect. After the Battle, hardback, £12.95.

The Patton Mind by Roger H Nye. Sub-titled "The Professional Development of an Extraordinary Leader". Avery (distributed by Spa Books Ltd), softback, £12.95.

War in the Balkans 1991-93 by Eric Micheletti and Yves Debay. Top-quality reproduction of more than 100 full-colour photographs and maps in this many-sided look at the current conflict. Histoire and Collections, hardback, £14.95.

After Antwerp: The Long Haul to Victory narrated by Maj Ned Thornburn from original eye-witness accounts. This softback, final volume of a trilogy, describes the part played by the 4th Bn King's Shropshire Light Infantry in the overthrow of the Third Reich from September 1944 to May 1945. Volume 2 is sold out, but this and Volume 1 are available at £8 each from The Shropshire Regimental Museum, Copthorne Barracks, Shrewsbury SY3 8LZ (tel: 0743 262402). Cheques payable to The

Shropshire Regimental Museum Trust.

Staffordshire Yeomanry by R J Smith and C R Coogan. No 15 in the series entitled *The Uniforms of the British Yeomanry Force 1794-1914*, with illustrations by R J Marrian. Published by The Ogilby Trusts and distributed by Picton Publishing (Chippenham) Ltd.

D-Day to Berlin by Terence Wise. Large-format paperback reissue of the well-illustrated 1979 guide to the armour camouflage and markings of the US, British and German armies from June 1944 to May 1945. Arms and Armour, £8.99.

Sayonara, Mine Enemy by Thomas G Wardrope. Moving diary of an Argyll and Sutherland Highlander telling of Second World War captivity by the Japanese. Excalibur Press of London, paperback, £4.95.

West Belfast May-November 1992. Story in photographs of a six-month tour in Northern Ireland by the 1st Battalion, Scots Guards. Owl Press, PO Box 315, Downton, Salisbury, Wilts SP5 3YE, paperback, £11.99.

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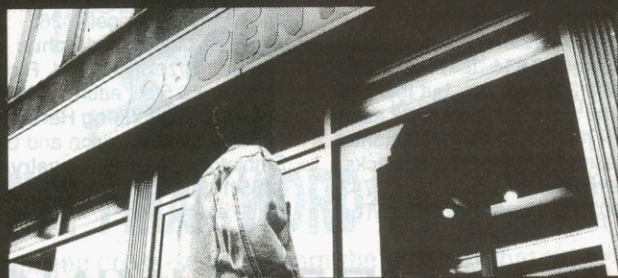
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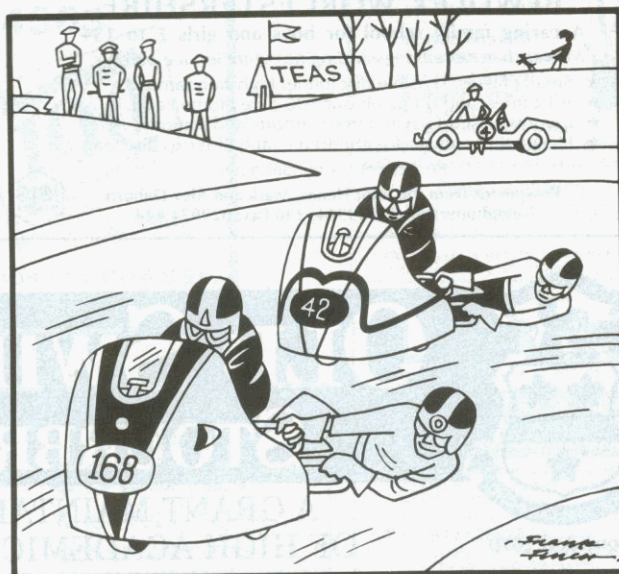
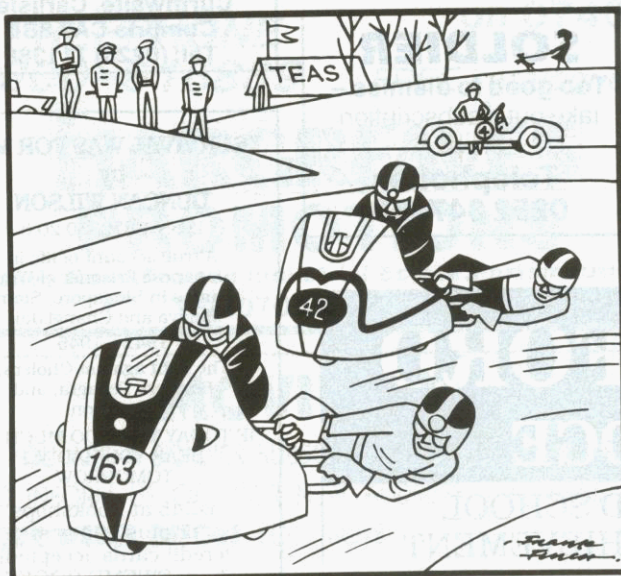
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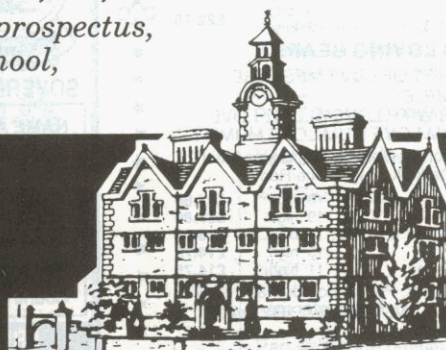
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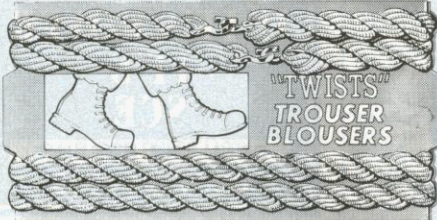
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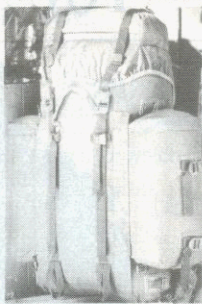
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CAPACITY: 125 litres
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COLOUR: Green or DPM
FEATURES: Side pouches + Yoke
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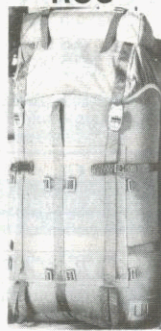
BERGHAUS CRUSADER

NATO ref 84-65-99-775-3039/40



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FRAME: Internal
WATERPROOF: Yes
COLOUR: Green
FEATURES: Side pouches make day
pack (straps incl.)
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CAPACITY: 70 litres
FRAME: Internal
WATERPROOF: Yes
COLOUR: Green
EXTRAS: Side pouches £24.99 pr
PRICE: Phone

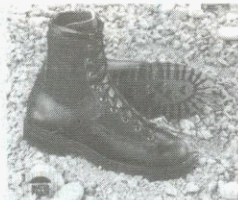
BERGHAUS TROJAN



CAPACITY: 45 litres
FRAME: Internal
WATERPROOF: Yes
COLOUR: Green
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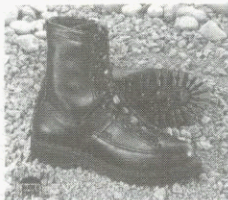
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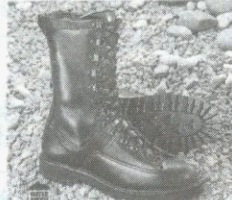
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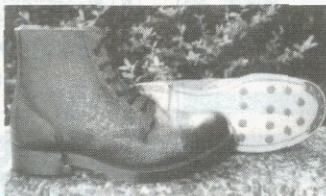
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All correspondence to: Pen Pals, Soldier Magazine, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU.

A pen pal advertisement, costs £11.75. Send your details (maximum 30 words) and a cheque or postal order for £11.75, payable to "Soldier", to the address below. The advertisement will appear in the first available issue and all replies will be forwarded.

Demure lady, 32. Small, slender, fair, 5'4", blue eyes, pretty. Interests: arts, countryside, the kitchen. I'm sincere and genuinely lonely. I'm seeking singular, handsome guy 30+. N/S. Please write. **P712** 22/93

Jane's the name, fun's the game, I'm not a bore, or one to ignore, if you are a laugh, don't be a giraffe (Well, it rhymes!). Put pen to paper, it's safer. **P721** 22/93

My name is Michelle. I'm 30, 5'7", black hair, green eyes. I'm looking for pen pals interested in sport, horseriding and outdoor life. Gsoh essential. **P722** 22/93

My need is simple. If you are 25+, get the aches for a beer, and could be a smashing mate, write and you got me - well almost! **P723** 22/93

Hi, I'm Teresa. I'm 21, 5'2", long brown hair and brown eyes. Seeking caring male in Armed Forces as pen pal. Home or abroad. Please write soon. **P724** 22/93

Funloving, qualified nurse, Julie. Aged 29, chestnut hair, 5'8", no ties, would love Army pen pal home or abroad. View to meeting. If you're bored or lonely, drop me a line. **P726** 22/93

My name is Carole, I'm 44, divorced, gsoh, two adult sons, live in Sussex. Varied interests including conversation, reading, gardening, cinema etc, mostly the lazy pursuits in life! **P727** 22/93

I am 25 and a Physiotherapist in Birmingham. I enjoy going to the pictures, pubs, the gym etc. I'd like a penfriend to write to on my occasional evening in! **P728** 22/93

I'm Pauline, 44, separated with 3 adult children and a large dog. I've got a vgsoh and enjoy people, cooking, reading, travel and music. I live on the Surrey/Kent/Sussex border. **P729** 22/93

A fun 27-year-old female of slim build and brown shoulder length hair. I'm feeling lonely and wish for a nice warm-hearted, good lookin', fella to write to. **P730** 22/93

I'm a lonely single female from the Midlands aged 24. I love letter writing and can't wait to hear from you. So, put pen to paper 'write' away! **P731** 22/93

Hi, I'm Stuart. I'm single and serving overseas. My interests are all sports, pubs, clubs, socialising etc. I'm well built, good looking and very lonely. So please write soon. **P732** 22/93

Attractive single mum, 23, 5'4", long blonde curly hair, blue eyes, gsoh, I'm in the TA. Seeking soldier 23+ home or abroad, for friendship/romance, photo appreciated. **P733** 22/93

Louise, 26, tall, slim, brunette, blue eyes, long legs. Enjoys eating out, pubs and clubs. Wants soldier 25-35, single and caring, in need of tlc. All letters answered. **P734** 22/93

Hello, I'm Kate. A 21-year-old, good natured and happy go lucky student nurse living in Hampshire. I enjoy socialising, sports and writing letters. Drop me a line. **P735** 22/93

Hi, I'm Justine, 23, single, dark hair, blue eyes, medium build and 5'3½" tall. I love writing and would love to hear from any of you lonely soldiers. **P736** 22/93

Single female, 29. Attractive, very tall (6'), living in Kent. Working as a teacher. Enjoys theatre/cinema, eating out, fashion, travelling. Wants to correspond with good looking soldier for friendship/romance. **P737** 22/93

Sue, single, 26 years old. I am about 5'4" tall, with dark hair and brown eyes. I work as a nurse at a local hospital. **P738** 22/93

Keep a post-person in work by writing to someone who has single-handedly perfected the art of waffle, and now needs a pen pal to maintain this astonishing feat. **P739** 22/93

Desperately seeking Squaddie! Nikki, 20, single and bored. I enjoy modelling, having fun, and cosy nights in. So any hunky soldiers get writing. Photo appreciated. **P740** 22/93

Attractive widow with chestnut hair, in early forties. Professional hairdresser looking for attractive soldier who likes the countryside. **P741** 22/93

Lynn, 29 years old and single. I live in Dorset, and like sports, reading and writing. All letters received will be answered. **P742** 22/93

Hi, I'm Julie, 35, attractive with a nice personality. I enjoy music, films, sports, animals, travel and languages. I'd love to hear from anyone of similar age. Photo appreciated. **P743** 22/93

Hi, does anyone fancy writing to a 5'1", slim, blonde, Scorpio, single mum, young 37 - nowhere near sell by date. Gsoh, enjoys pubs, clubs, romantic evenings, most sports and music. **P744** 22/93

Single, mature lady (44), dark hair, brown eyes, olive complexion, 5'2", who enjoys swimming, badminton, music, theatre, socialising. Would like unattached male pen friend with similar interests or willingness to learn. **P745** 22/93

More Pen Pals in next issue

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Commemorative Desert Storm Blazer Badge depicting three Services on Union Jack background. High quality threaded three-colour patch. Send £2.50+50p post and packing to: Battle Orders Ltd, 71 Eastbourne Road, Lower Willington, Eastbourne, East Sussex BN20 9NR. Tel: 0323 485182. 22-02

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D4

ARMY SPORTS LOTTERY RESULTS

OCTOBER 2, 1993

2-way tie for first prize (20 goals, £1,516.67 each): SSgt J L Green, 28 Engr Regt, BFPO 31; Capt K J Clarke, RAC Training Regt, Catterick.

4-way tie for third prize (19 goals, £366.67 each): Pte C J Oakley, 8 Royal Irish, BFPO 803; WO2 M G Paul, 28 Engr Regt, BFPO 31; Capt L A McAteer, ASMT, Leconfield; Lt Col W P Crowley, 11 Sig Regt, Blandford.

Only 6 prizes this week. Rule 9 applies.

OCTOBER 9, 1993

4-way tie for first prize (22 goals, £975 each): WO1 B B J McMahon, MoD, Empress State Bldg, London; LCpl S R Chilton, ITB, Catterick; Pte P A Gowdy, 9 Royal Irish Regt, BFPO 808; Pte D J McCormick, 9 Royal Irish Regt, BFPO 808.

6-way tie for fifth prize (21 goals, £100 each): WO2 P P Lewis, HCR, Windsor; Capt R N Wilson, BMH Iserlohn, BFPO 24; Sgt A D Marsden, MoD Whitehall, London; WO2 T A Simpson, REME Wing, Royal Sch Artillery, Larkhill; Maj I S Ormerod, 29 Regt RLC, Cirencester; Pte T H Rayner, 8 Arty Sp Regt RLC, BFPO 17.

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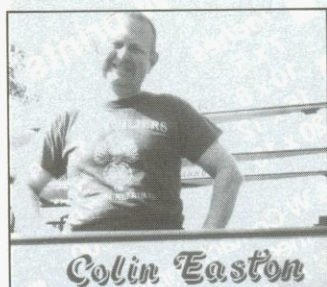
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Colin Easton
Oarsman WO2 Colin Easton

Colin takes a bow

WO2 COLIN Easton has two very good reasons to celebrate. He was selected to take part in the world veteran rowing championships and he has had a racing boat named in his honour.

Easton, a member of the permanent staff of the 6th (Northumberland) Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers based at Alnwick, was a member of the Army rowing squad which contested eight finals in the world championships in Vienna.

And in recognition of his services to Infantry and Army rowing, the Infantry Rowing Club's new coxed racing four has been named the "Colin Easton". He took the stroke seat in the boat on its maiden outing on the River Danube.

"It was a great honour to be selected as the Vienna squad's coxswain, but to have my name on the bow of the new boat leaves me speechless," he said.

A role in Braemar's sporting splendour

Maj (Retd) John Grimes RA looks at the participation of the three Services in the unique Braemar Gathering

IN A VILLAGE in the centre of the Scottish Highlands there is a beautiful park which, since the beginning of this century, has been the permanent home of the world-famous Braemar Gathering.

Sitting at an altitude of 1,100 feet, this impressive meeting place attracts on an autumn day each year thousands of people from all over the world to witness a unique event.

A bronze plaque incorporating an ancient coat of arms on a granite pillar at the entrance to the park identifies it as The Princess Royal and Duke of Fife Memorial Park. On the first Saturday in September, hundreds of athletes from the three Armed Services, the Brigade of Gurkhas, the Canadian Army and the United States Navy stationed in Scotland pass this plaque to join by invitation the Gathering of the Braemar Royal Highland Society.

Of all the top sporting venues in the world, it is doubtful if any compare with the open splendour of Braemar, dominated to the west by the Cairngorm Massif of Toul, and to the south-east by the famous peak of Lochnager.

This remarkable village, set in a remote spot in the valley of the Upper Dee, has staged every year for the past 40 years, the Inter-Services Unit tug of war and medley relay championships.

The story that unites the village and the Gathering is a long one, for it goes back nearly 1,000 years. The Services events, although acknowledged as one of the highlights of the Gathering, are compara-

tively new to the modern games.

But the Services are proud to stake a claim to a special place in the Gathering's military history - for was it not King Malcolm Canmore who called the clans to the Braes of Mar to select by keen and fair competition his hardest soldiers and his fleetest messengers?

In no branch of military sport have determination and team spirit led to such exceptional improvement as in the sport of tug of war.

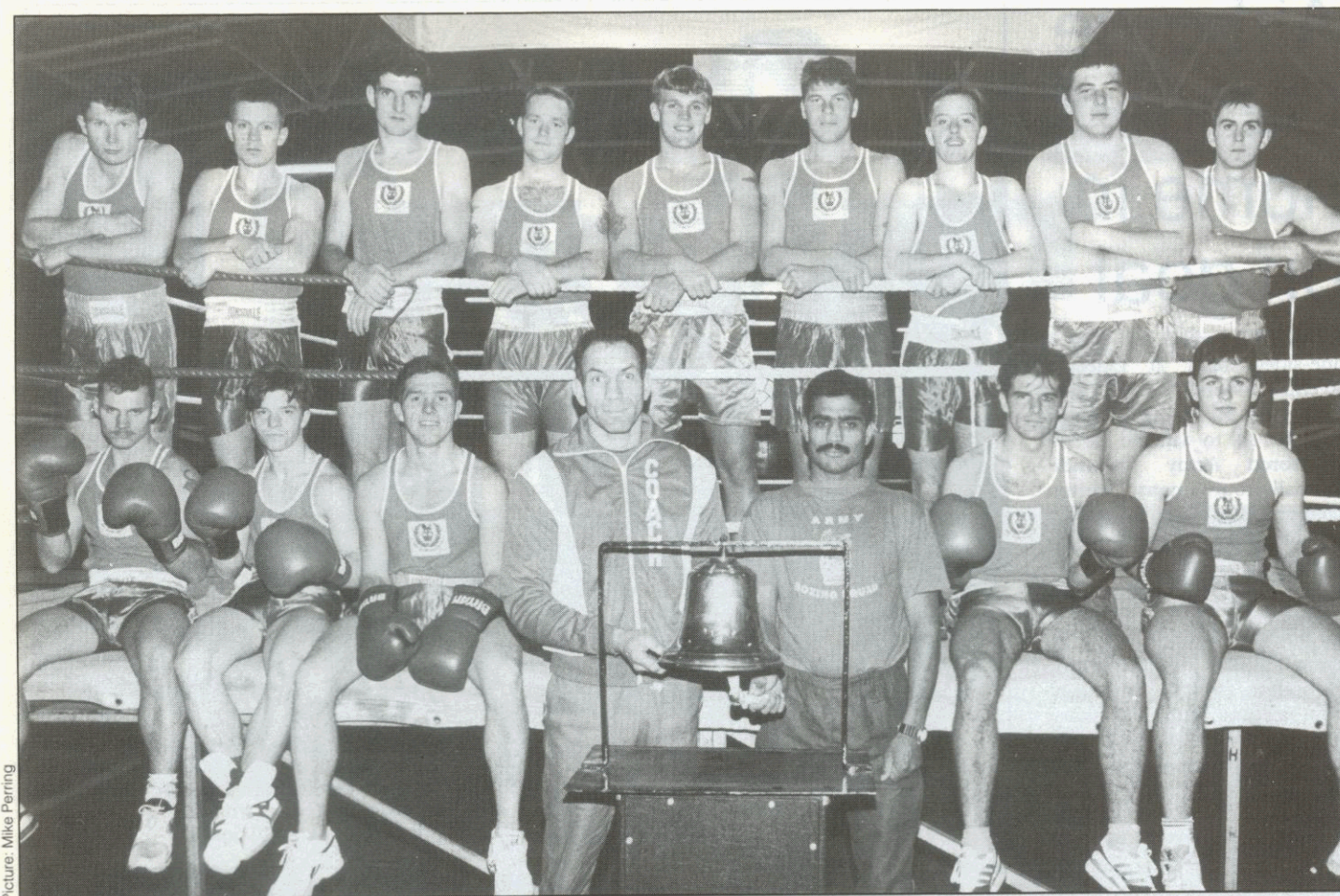
The improvement is perhaps more marked at Inter-Services level at Braemar, where this popular competition is seen at its very best.

This year 2 Signal Regiment won the relay and RAF Cottesmore the tug of war. Cottesmore beat 94 Regt RA in the final to record the first RAF victory since 1875.

In all, the Army has won the tug of war shield on 24 occasions to the RAF's 16. The Royal Navy has never won the shield. The RAF leads the relay list by 15 wins to the Navy's 14 and the Army's ten.



14 Regt RA take the strain



In training: Top row (from left) Pte Paul Treslove (1 Para), Cpl George Best (9/12 L), LCpl Liam Harkin (RLC), Pte Mark Ashforth (RLC), Pte Jason Mills (3 Para), team captain LCpl Chris Bessey (27 Regt RLC), Pte Dale Duncan (RRF), Pte Billy Bessey (27 Regt RLC) and Spr Kevin Sharp (RE); front, LCpl Phil Helliher (1 LI), Fus Danny Greenslade (1 RWF), LCpl Chris Whittaker (38 Eng Regt), Army coach Sgt Norman Phillips (2 PWRR), assistant coach Cpl Joe Rajcoomar (1 DERR), Gdsm Kevin Short (1 WG) and LBdr Vinny Jones (32 Regt RA). Missing from the line-up are Ptes Sven Hamer and Darren Dugan, both of 2 PWRR

THE HIT SQUAD

FORMER Army light middleweight Sgt Norman Phillips (2 PWRR) has a hard act to follow. As the Army's new boxing coach, he has inherited the hotseat vacated by Mick Gannon after ten years of unbroken success at Inter-Service level, writes John Elliott.

But he has two advantages going for him as he puts together a team for the winter campaign: a promising squad and a wealth of coaching experience gained with The Queen's Regiment.

"We have a talented set of boxers reporting for training, and they are a pleasure to work with," he said.

Working with Phillips as his assistant coach is Cpl Joe Rajcoomar (1 DERR), whose non-stop work rate and aggression won him a string of Army vests after he signed on when his native Mauritius pulled out of the 1986 Edinburgh Com-

monwealth Games.

Leading the team for a second year is reigning ABA welterweight champion LCpl Chris Bessey. Bessey and ABA heavyweight finalist LCpl Steve Burford (REME) have both been called up for early-season England duty; Burford against Ireland in Dublin on October 28, Bessey against Norway in December.

Lightweight LCpl Vinny Powell (59 Ind Cdo Sqn RE), who lost in the ABA finals at Birmingham in May, is currently on a course but will be available after Christmas, as will LCpl Chris Whittaker (38 Engr Regt) from last year's squad.

Last season's "light brigade", Fus Dale Duncan (1 RRF) and Fus Danny Greenslade (1 RWF), are back in training, as are 1990 NABC bantamweight finalist Pte Darren Dugan (2 PWRR) and LBdr Vinny Jones

(32 Regt RA) who gallantly filled in at heavyweight but will revert to light-heavy.

Due to report back soon after three months leave in Nepal is hard-hitting Spr "Jap" Jhapat Singh Bhujel (QGE), the first Gurkha to box for the Army in the Inter-Services team championship.

Missing are the now retired Cpl Lee Innes, Pte Bob Basford (1 Staffords), and the durable LCpl Jeff Ollerhead (1 Kings) who is on a course.

Newcomers include light-middleweight LCpl Liam Harkin (RLC), welterweight Gdsm Kevin Short (WG) and light-flyweight LBdr Roy Bate (RA). Pte Sven Hamer (2 PWRR) will be hoping to fill the light-middleweight vacancy left by Innes.

The Royal Navy is negotiating a match between the Combined Services and the Russian Army, possibly to take place in

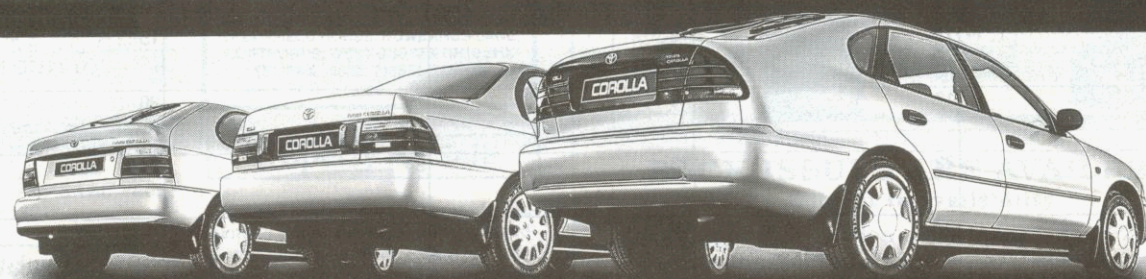
Portsmouth in mid-December.

Pre-Christmas opposition for the Army includes the British Police on October 25, London ABA on November 26 and the Western Counties on December 6.

The Army-Royal Navy clash is at Aldershot on January 20 and the RAF-Army match at Cosford on February 17. The RN and RAF meet in Portsmouth on February 3.

Aldershot is the venue for both the CSBA individual championships (March 2-3) and the CSBA v Western Counties eliminator a fortnight later. The latter is an England semi-final in the 1993-94 ABA championships.

BOD Donnington Support Unit and 59 Ind Cdo Sqn RE are already through to the final of the UKLF Minor Units Novice Grade 3 championships. They were the only teams to enter.



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Airborne Gunners home in on goal

IN WHAT turned out to be a one-sided final at Queen's Avenue, Aldershot on October 6, 7 Para RHA hit 33 Engr Regt for six to win the Isotar-sponsored Army six-a-side football tournament, **writes Derrick Bly.**

The Horse Gunners also won the Thorpe Trophy for scoring the most goals – 29 – in their group. And to complete a spectacular day for the Lille Barracks side, Gnr Mark Mahoney got former Army Football Association secretary Maj (Retd) Alan Dobson's vote as man of the match in the final.

Bookies' favourites 2 Sig Regt were runners up on goal difference to 33 Engr Regt in Group B, then went down 5-0 to 7 Para RHA in the semi-finals. The sappers, led by Podge Lehaney, accounted for 4 Sqn RLC, a minor unit, by 3-1 in the other semi-final.

A total of 240 goals were scored in 56 games.

Windsor and Eton 4, Army XI 2

After a goalless – but by no means chanceless first half – against Windsor and Eton, the Army went two up through SSgt Kevin Parkins and Cpl Dave Maynard.

But instead of charting a comfortable victory for the Servicemen, the script went



Man of the match Gnr Mark Mahoney of 7 Para RHA receives the Isotar Trophy from sponsor's representative Mr Harry Stead. Below: No way through in front of the RHA (dark strip) goal

uncomfortably awry in the last 20 minutes. Windsor quickly pulled level, then, with the Army rearguard in total disarray, tortured substitute goal-keeper Cfn Mickey Taylor with two more well-taken goals in the final minutes.

Hellenic League 2, Army XI 1

The Army completed their programme of trial games with another indifferent performance, this time against the Hellenic League at Cirencester. Always second best in the first half, they were lucky to turn round only a single goal down.

But tactical and positional



changes in the second half made a difference, and they could have got a draw or better out of the game.

The Army dominated much of the second period after Pte Pete Batey and Sgt Tony Wright switched to centre back to allow Sgt Alan Higgins to move into midfield, and Pte Bradbury replaced Cpl Kev Stevens in attack.

Cpl John Scott released Bradbury who hammered home the equaliser.

Against the run of play, and from a position which appeared to be yards offside, the Hellenic League scored a second goal to record a rare victory over the Army.

HOME START

THE ARMY begin their defence of the Inter-Services football championship against the Royal Navy at Aldershot on March 8.

The Navy host the Royal Air Force at Portsmouth on March 16, and the airmen are at home to the Army in the final match on the 23rd.

Aldershot's Military Stadium will be the venue for the Army Challenge Cup final on April 13, and for the Minor Units final a week later.

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Farewell to Arms as the 1st Battalion, The Gloucestershire Regiment carries out its last full battalion exercise before amalgamating next year. The Glorious Glosters were participating in 19 Mechanised Brigade's Field Training Exercise on Salisbury Plain, equipped with Saxon Armoured Personnel Carriers. See Pages 14-15.

Picture: Mike Weston

