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FORTNIGHTLY MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY

AUGUST 5 1996

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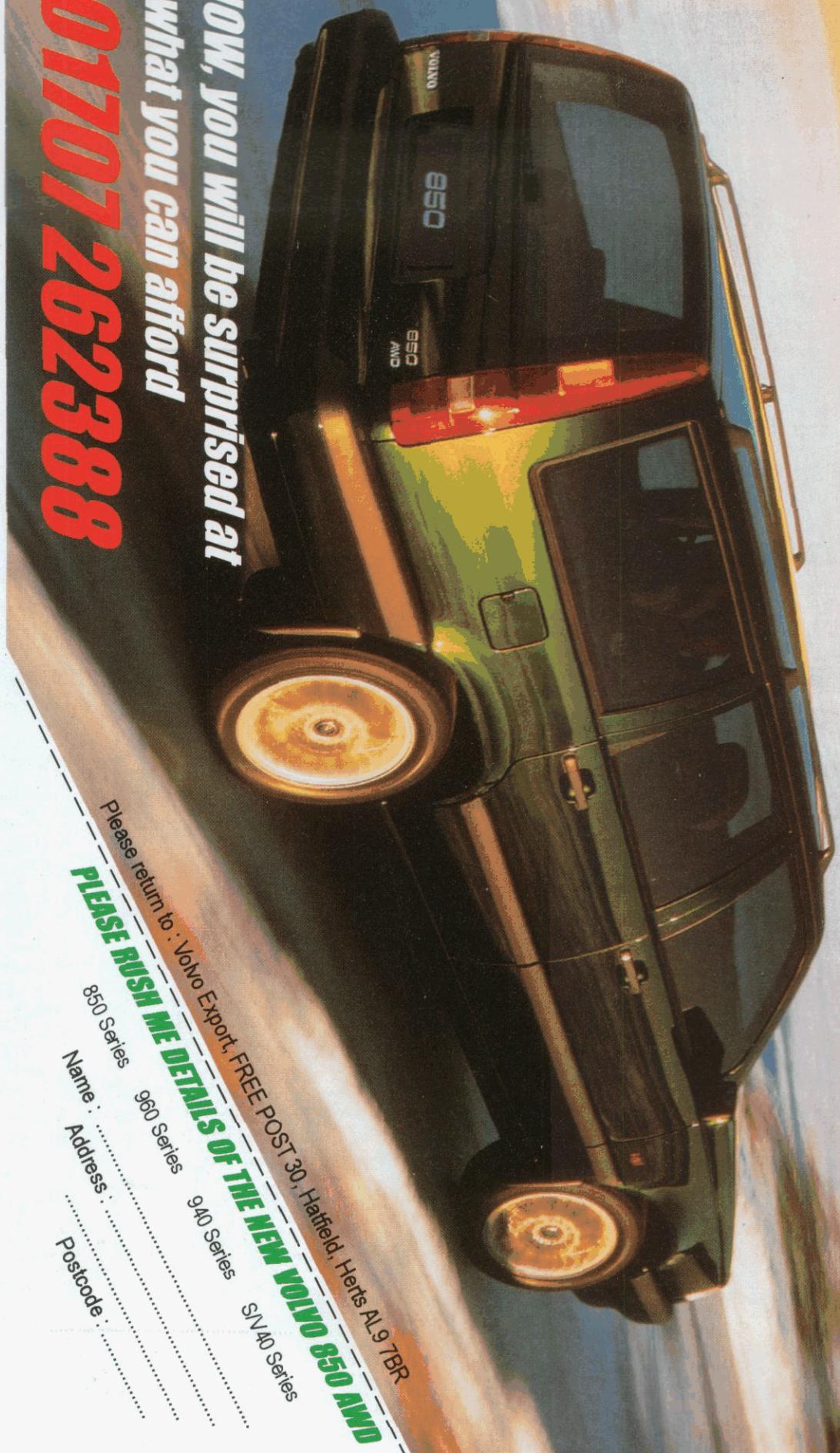
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Incorporating the Territorial Army magazine

August 5, 1996 Vol 52/16

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Picture: Mike Weston

Cover: Children from local schools may not appear to be impressed by Student Bandmaster Jason Griffiths' alpine horn playing, but nearly 2,000 kids did enjoy a concert given by the band at Kneller Hall. The event was organised by the Variety Club of Great Britain in conjunction with the Army Benevolent Fund.

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Gulf illness findings to be published

A REPORT by the MoD's principal consultant on illness among Gulf War veterans is to be published before the end of the year.

Armed Forces Minister Nicholas Soames told the House of Commons on July 17 that 635 individuals have been examined under the medical assessment programme led by Gp Capt Bill Coker.

Responding to a question from Edwina Currie, Mr Soames outlined progress on the research

programme into Gulf health issues announced in January.

He understood that the Medical Research Council, the independent body overseeing the work, had already received 37 outline proposals for research "in a variety of fields".

"Final decisions on the research projects to be funded will be made in November. My department will meet the full costs of those research projects recommended by the MRC as being the most appro-

priate," said Mr Soames. He said no evidence had emerged so far of a unique syndrome or illness associated specifically with Gulf service.

"The Government, nevertheless, retains an open mind. The painstaking, detailed approach I have outlined, which will of necessity take time, is soundly and scientifically based, and illustrates our total commitment to the health of our Service personnel."

● Gulf War studies – Page 7



Sappers unload barbed wire in support of the RUC as Orangemen contest their right to march at Drumcree

Spearhead arrows in

... and out

POLICE and troops in Northern Ireland were confronted by the worst security crisis since the end of the cease-fire following civil disturbances in the wake of the Orange marchers' stand-off at Drumcree, Portadown.

The Spearhead Battalion, currently Aldershot-based 1st Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, flew into the Province at very short notice, to be followed 24 hours later by the 1st Battalion, The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment.

As a degree of normality returned, the paras were released by GOC Northern Ireland, Lt Gen Sir Rupert Smith, and returned to Hamp-

shire after just a week in theatre.

Although a small recce team from 1 Para did go to Drumcree, no sub-units were deployed there. The battalion briefly supported the Royal Ulster Constabulary in Belfast.

Spearhead is on 24-hour standby to deploy anywhere in the world.

The Royal Dragoon Guards, coming to the end of a six-month tour, also deployed sol-

diers in support of the police in north and west Belfast.

No decision had been taken on the return of 1 PWRR, which is assigned to Northern Ireland as a roulement battalion. It was one of three major units withdrawn last year as the RUC found it needed less military support following the IRA cease-fire.

The return to Aldershot of

● Turn to Page 5

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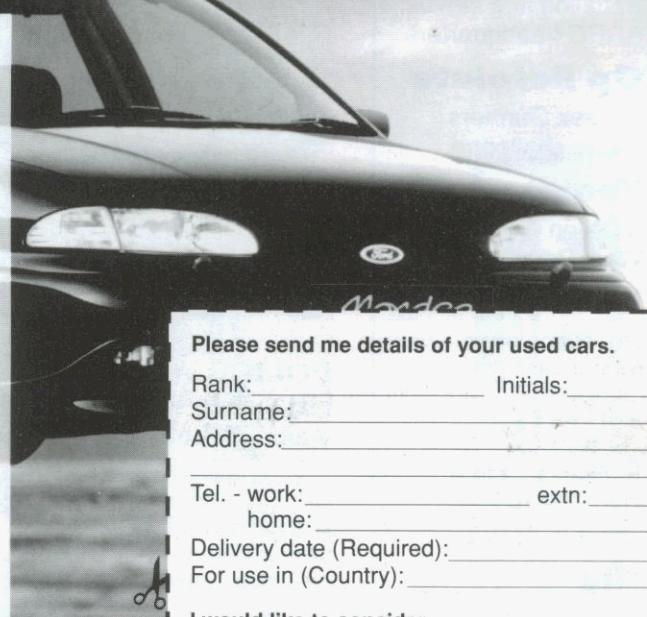
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The Princess of Wales, with Prince Harry, inspects a guard of honour during a visit to The Light Dragoons at Hohne in August 1993, and (above right)



listens to a soldier of The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment during her inspection of the first review day parade at Canterbury in June 1993

Princess bids farewell to arms

TRIBUTE has been paid to the Princess of Wales following the announcement that she was to relinquish Service appointments on her divorce.

The Light Dragoons and The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment, both formed in 1992, had enjoyed close and affectionate ties with the Princess, whose appointment as Colonel-in-Chief of the two new regiments was made by Buckingham Palace at the beginning of that year.

The PWRR has a second Colonel-in-Chief, Queen Marthe II of Denmark.

A formal statement from the Light Dragoons said: "We have been tremendously proud to have the Princess of Wales as our Colonel-in-Chief. Her interest and support in every aspect of regimental life has been a source of inspiration to all ranks and their families.

"Although we are all

extremely sad that she has decided to relinquish the appointment, we entirely understand and accept the reasons for this."

The Light Dragoons, based at Hohne in Germany, have completed several tours of duty in former Yugoslavia.

Appointment of Colonels-in-Chief are made by the Queen in consultation with the Ministry of Defence. The Princess has also relinquished her ties with Royal Navy vessels and a Royal Air Force base, and with regiments and corps in Canada and Australia.



Peace-makers: Defence Secretary Michael Portillo inspects soldiers of 5 Airborne Brigade after presenting the Wilkinson Sword of Peace for the brigade's role in the United Nations mission to Rwanda in 1994. Three elements named in the cita-

tion are 23 Parachute Field Ambulance, 5 Airborne Brigade Logistic Battalion and 9 Parachute Squadron, Royal Engineers. Mr Portillo presented the sword to representatives from the units during the Airborne Forces Day parade in Aldershot.

Spearhead

• From Page 3

Spearhead means there are now 18,000 troops in Northern Ireland, roughly the number before the cease-fire.

In Londonderry, the 1st Battalion, The Highlanders provided round-the-clock support to the RUC as some of the worst troubles for years returned to the city.

Lt Col David Stewart, CO 1 Hldrs, paid tribute to the professionalism of his men.

"The Jocks have done everyone proud the way they have performed over the past few days, especially if you bear in mind that the 15 months of their tour up to now have been relatively peaceful.

"We are only deploying at the specific request of the RUC when they needed our support, and every effort is being made to minimise disruption in the city."

More than 400 soldiers of the 1st Battalion, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment, played a vital role in containing sectarian disturbances in Portadown and Armagh.

The last time the regiment was involved with trouble at Drumcree was when it quelled a riot there in 1835.



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SOLDIER (June 10 issue) included a competition to win tickets for the 1996 Silver Jubilee International Air Tattoo at RAF Fairford.

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Picture: Chris Fleicher

Czech mates: Four Mi-24 helicopters of the Czech Republic's helicopter display team, the Hinds, fly with the Army Air Corps' Blue Eagles in a rare display of formation flying over Stonehenge. The Hinds, named after the NATO codeword for the aircraft they use, were being hosted by the Blue

Eagles for a short programme of airshows and flying demonstrations in the United Kingdom. Maj Jaroslav Spacek, their team manager, said the helicopters used by the AAC display team were far more agile than their bigger and more powerful Czech counterparts.

Schools' quality assurance given on sale of estate

An announcement on the successful bid for the Ministry of Defence married quarters estate is expected in the second half of August – but only if the terms of the sale are met.

Deadline for the process was the last day of July, with an announcement expected up to three weeks later.

Several improvements to the safeguards in the terms were agreed by the House of Commons when the £1.6 billion sale was debated on July 16. MPs decided that should the buyer want to exchange a site,

an eventuality considered highly unlikely by the MoD, there should be a guarantee that Service families would be consulted on their views on the alternative estate.

The new site would have to offer access to schools of at least the same quality as those

servicing the original "patch".

A third safeguard was on the purchaser's option to redevelop a married quarters site after 25 years (the first point in the lease when this is possible). The MoD will insist on four years' notice rather than 21 months.

NEWS IN BRIEF

DEFENCE Procurement Minister James Arbuthnot held his own as a rifleman when he spent a day with the 1st Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets on Dartmoor.

The battalion was conducting a series of live-firing exercises as part of its preparations for deployment from Bulford to Bosnia as part of 1 Mechanised Brigade.

□ Tpr Aled Jones (18) of The Queen's Dragoon Guards has died

of gunshot wounds while serving in Bosnia. Involvement of the former warring factions was ruled out.

□ Soldiers from the 3rd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment based at Dover and the 1st Battalion, The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment at Canterbury helped police search for the weapon used in the murder of Mrs Lin Russell and her six-year-old daughter Megan at Nonington near Dover.

Around the Houses

A summary of Defence topics from Westminster

Gulf War studies to 'dovetail'

BRITISH research into illness experienced by Gulf War veterans will "dovetail" with similar work funded in America, Defence Minister Earl Howe told the Lords on July 10.

Questioned by the Countess of Mar, patron of the Gulf Veterans Association, the minister said the study being undertaken by Dr Simon Wessely at King's College Medical School was being funded by the US Department of Defense.

It was not connected with MoD-financed research due to start after a decision in late October by the Medical Research Council (MRC) on who is to do it. But he believed the two studies would dovetail satisfactorily.

Answering written questions from the Countess on July 5, Earl Howe said records indicated that 480 Gulf veterans had been diagnosed with cancer while still serving. Records for ex-Service veterans and MoD civilian employees were not held centrally. The incidence of the disease would be a matter for MRC research proposals.

The MoD, in conjunction with the Office for National Statistics, is to monitor health records of Gulf veterans for cancer figures.

□ □ □

Fd Marshal Lord Carver, former Chief of the Defence Staff, asked in the Lords on July 9 when the Government would announce its proposals for a "new Armed Forces Pension Scheme".

He was told by Earl Howe that the Bett report on personnel issues, which included recommendations on pensions, were being studied and the Government hoped "to make a further announcement shortly on progress and our proposed way forward".

□ □ □

No decision has been reached on the possible transfer of the Defence Medical College, Millbank, to HMS *Dolphin* at Gosport, Defence Secretary Michael Portillo told MPs on July 9. He hoped to have news later in the year.

□ □ □

Most of Horseshoe Barracks, Shoeburyness, is to go up for disposal, with MoD retaining a small enclave for Defence Evaluation and Research Agency staff at New Ranges.

● **What you think of us:**
See special report on
the *Soldier* reader
survey in next issue

Czechs honour British gunners

SIX British gunners have been honoured by the Czech Republic for service in Bosnia.

The six - five officers and a sergeant of 26 Regiment, Royal Artillery - had been providing artillery support to 6 Mechanised Battalion of the

More recruits signing up

ENLISTMENTS in the Army have increased by 40 per cent during 1996, Armed Forces Minister Nicholas Soames said in a Commons written answer.

The increase is based on June 21 figures, compared with the first quarter of the year.

"This very welcome and encouraging improvement in recruiting is a result of the initiatives taken last year and in particular the increased weight placed on advertising, especially on television," said the minister.

Czech Army. It is the first time the Czech Republic United Nations Medal has been awarded to members of the British Army.

Maj Mike Redmond, battery commander of 17/159 Battery RA, and Capts Simon Wing, Frank Whiting, Richard Brimacombe and Matt White were forward observation officers for the Czech battalion working with 2nd Canadian Multi-National Brigade. Sgt Colin Chester was a command post liaison officer.

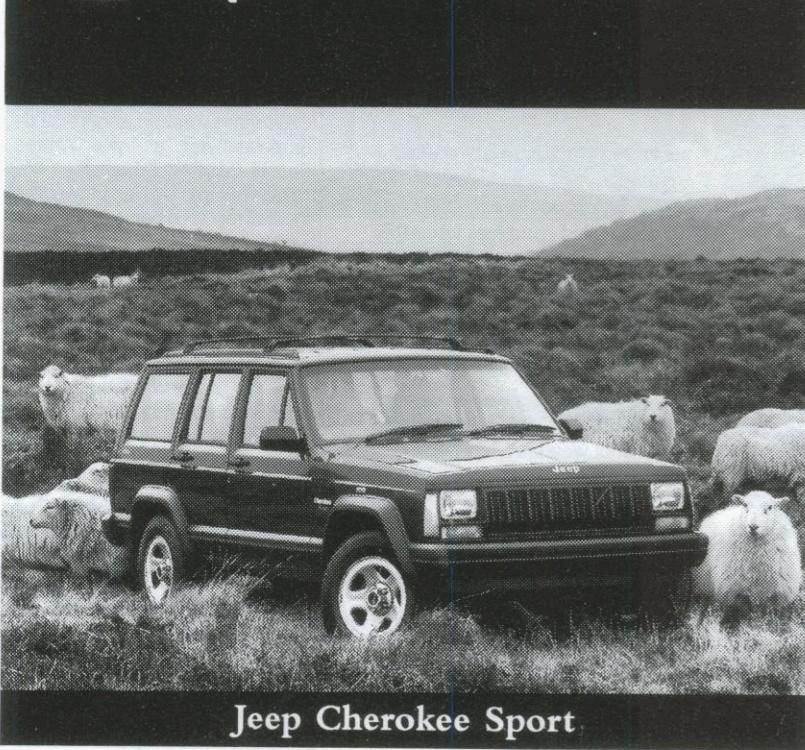
They described the tour as professionally challenging and extremely interesting, albeit with a few language difficulties.

After a six-month posting to Bosnia they have returned to the regiment's base in Germany with their NATO medals, which were presented by the British commander, Maj Gen John Kiszley, at Donja Ljubija.



Guarded by men of the Queen's Gurkha Signals, Sig Shaun Mitchell, the youngest soldier on parade, carries the Freedom Casket of the Royal Corps of Signals through Blandford's streets

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Signals of Freedom

RESIDENTS of Blandford turned out in their hundreds to cheer as men and women of the Royal Corps of Signals exercised their Freedom privileges.

Led by Lt Col Lynn Relph, commanding officer of 11 Signal Regiment, the troops marched through the Dorset town with bayonets fixed, drums beating and colours flying. Warm applause and cheers marked their progress through streets lined with well-wishers.

At the heart of the parade was the corps' cherished Freedom Casket, guarded by soldiers of the Queen's Gurkha Signals.

The Band of the Royal Corps of Signals, the Pipes and Drums of 32 (Scottish) Signal Regiment (Volunteers) and the corps' White Helmets motor-cycle display team ensured it was a colourful, musical and spectacular event.



The White Helmets display team makes its presence heard in Blandford

Councillor Cyril Hill, Mayor of Blandford Forum, and Maj Gen Archie Birtwistle, the Master of Signals, inspected the troops. To mark the occasion the mayor was presented with a new link

for his chain of office. Blandford granted its Freedom to the Royal Signals in 1972. The Royal School of Signals is based at Blandford Camp which, following Options for Change and the end of train-

ing at Catterick and Harrogate, has effectively become the home of the Royal Signals.

An extensive rebuilding programme is going on to accommodate extra personnel. When the project is complete the camp will be home to a population of about 4,500 permanent staff, trainees, associated agencies and families.

Blandford has had an Armed Forces presence since the beginning of the First World War, housing at different times units of the Royal Navy, the Royal Air Force, the Royal Engineers, the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, and the Royal Corps of Transport. There was a US Forces hospital at Blandford during the Second World War.

Scottish medics go south

THE AULD Alliance between Scotland and France was kept alive when Territorial Army medics from 205 (Scottish) Field Hospital (Volunteers) attended their annual camp in the heart of France.

A French Army base on the edge of the Massif Central was the focus for honing survival and military skills as well as the challenges which a field hospital could face in future operations and humanitarian relief, said commanding officer Col Mike Smith, a consultant urologist at Stirling Royal Infirmary.

No strangers to operations, most members of the unit served in the Gulf when mobilised to treat casualties.

Several casualty evacuation exercises organised by 205's training major, Maj Paul Aston, ensured that the medics had a chance to integrate their war role with some new and exciting training.



Three of the 108 soldiers from 7th (Durham) Light Infantry (Volunteers) who took part in an exchange camp at Camp Ripley, Minnesota. A similar number from the Iowa National Guard headed for Sennybridge to join the rest of 7 LI on its annual camp training



What the papers have been saying

Women are to fight on the front line for the first time in the British Army's 350-year history. If ministers approve the Army Board decision, women will enter front-line combat roles in the Royal Artillery and Royal Engineers. — Sunday Telegraph

□ Three paratroopers hurt when jumping during high winds on a training exercise in Sardinia in 1994 are claiming compensation. They claim the jump, in which 76 men were injured, should have been cancelled. — Daily Telegraph

□ German soldiers are unhappy about their underwear. Men serving in the Bundeswehr complain theirs is in NATO green whereas women receive a £200 allowance every three years for white underwear. — Daily Telegraph

□ Thirty-two regiments are to be axed by 1999 as part of the defence cuts being made by France. — Independent

JULIE'S JOLLY BUDE SHOW

Proud father Platoon Commander 2nd Lt **Nick Crocker** looks on as his daughter Pte **Julie Crocker** meets her new boss, the Adjutant General, Gen **Sir Michael Rose**.

Leaving Dad behind in Cornwall, Julie moves on to the Regular army, the first of the Bude cadet force to do so, enlisting in the Adjutant General's Corps. Nick re-introduced the cadet force into Bude after an absence of eight years.

Picture: Mike Weston



Picture: Mike Miller

Farewell flight

Lt Col **Stephen Kirkham RRF**, Commander of Old College, RMAS prepares to be flown out on leaving the Army after 25 years. Doing the honours was Capt **James Illingworth**, his one-time adjutant at the college, now Ops Officer, 3 Regt AAC.

Stretched to the limits?

Two participants in Exercise Executive Stretch, **Craig Hill** and **Fiona Martin**, take a breather with LCpl **Peter Shaw** during two days of gruelling manoeuvres at Swynnerton Training Camp, Staffordshire.

"The quickfire marksmanship test was great fun, but the serious stuff began with a 150ft abseil over a cliff. It was an incredible weekend," said Fiona.



Household name



Keith Vale, a lance corporal with Chester-based C Squadron, The Queen's Own Yeomanry, can now say he has done what few Territorial Army soldiers have ever done. He has qualified for mounted ceremonial duties in the Blues and Royals. Attached on an S Type engagement with the Regular Army since January, Keith, at only 5ft 4in, has won the highest respect of his tutor.



Lt Gen Sir **Richard Swinburn** (right) receives the medals of Lt Col **Harold Boyd-Rochfort DSO MBE MC** on behalf of The Queen's Royal Lancers at Belvoir from Maj (Retd) **Angus McCall**, a relative of the colonel. Lt Col Boyd-Rochfort joined the Lancers at the age of 16 in 1898, serving in the South African and First World Wars and being mentioned in dispatches three times.

Medal men

'O-PEN' INVITATION

Writing a mountain of invitations to potential recruits to 106 Field Squadron RE, Sheffield, was Spr **Vickie Thornhill**. More than 5,000 flyers were put through people's doors to tempt them along to an open night for the squadron, which is part of 73 Engineer Regiment, tasked with the job of building landing sites for the RAF's front-line Harrier squadrons overseas.



PEOPLE



All s(mile)s

He may not have won the charity half marathon held by members of the Coldstream Guards at their Bessbrook Mill base in Northern Ireland, but no one could deny that Padre **Stephen Whiting**, RACD, kept his smile up all the way around the course ...



Royal hello



Princess **Alexandra** receives a bouquet from LCpl **Maxine Ramsay** QARANC at the start of her visit to the Duke of Connaught Unit at Musgrave Park Military Wing, Belfast.

Let's make sure our human patches stick together

ON AN evening train from London I fell into conversation with a couple I had seen on the morning journey in. There was something familiar about them, but I couldn't quite put my finger on it.

As soon as the gentleman said he had served in the Army but had now retired I realised why I thought I recognised them.

I had not met them before, but I had seen in them that mark of service invisible to the civilian. It's an intangible thing: not so much to do with natural courtesy or smartness of dress – although they are contributory factors – more to do with a natural curiosity, an openness and generosity of spirit.

The man's wife was gentle and relaxed and well-used to putting strangers at their ease. On that train, rattling through the fenland, we created a temporary oasis of civility.

We were doing what Service

people have always done. Thrown together by circumstance for a brief time, we wasted none of it in making the best of it.

One of the silliest arguments to be used by those against the sale of the married quarters estate, in my opinion, has to be that it would undermine the ethos of patch life.

In 13 years in Germany I lived in a succession of hired and leased flats and houses. Everywhere we were surrounded by German families. In some cases the British quarters formed a very small enclave in a very large estate. Elsewhere in the world the same situation existed... and still does.

It didn't prevent a highly successful "patch" life developing. In one location, a remote outpost near what was then the border, I watched one regiment leave and another arrive.

I was teaching at the time and, as the handover took place in three phases, we had to prepare some children for leaving while welcoming incoming children at the same time. It could have been a nightmare but, because of the special nature of Service family life, it was mostly an enjoyable process.

Because of the transient way of life, most Service people become adept at knowing each other quickly. The wives (and now husbands, of course) become very efficient organisers.

Within a week most will know

where the shops are, where the bank is, how the public transport works – or doesn't! – and how to get the car serviced. For my part I became quite skilled at simple plumbing.

On the regimental handover, all those years ago, it wasn't long before there were combined welcoming and farewell parties on the various patches. It wasn't all sweetness and light, though, and there were small conflicts and rivalries, but that's part of family life.

The fact that the actual fabric of the quarters was owned by a landlord didn't matter. It didn't prevent Army families from looking after each other and making enduring friendships.

I would argue that the ethos of patch life isn't in danger. Patch life springs from patch mentality and can't be compromised by a business deal.

In Gibraltar, Service people and friends got together recently to put on a glorious bit of Gilbert and Sullivan in the open air. In Northern Ireland the wives have been getting together for some serious fund-raising. All over the world, Service people are living a communal life which relies on generosity of spirit.

It isn't the bricks and mortar of their homes which keeps them together.

One of the more irritating aspects of the press coverage of the sale has been the way in which people who know little or nothing about Service life have latched on to it for their own purposes.

There has been a disturbing lack of research on the part of some reporters with no experience of Service stories. I won't bore you here with some of the more popular misconceptions but

it's clear that many have just re-worked someone else's mistakes to meet a deadline.

The most depressing trend has been for journalists to trot out the now very tired line about the sale being the "last straw" for Service people cast into gloom by waves of reviews and reform crashing against their stronghold.

Setting aside the whole business of the sale, this attitude is a dangerous one. It must be tempting for people to use it as a stick with which to beat those who want to change, but to over-use it will lead to the Army community being seen as a collection of mean-spirited whingers.

Not only is that not helpful but it is demonstrably not true.

● **Cari Roberts presents Counterpoint on BFBS radio. Write to her at BFBS, BFPO 786; or clo Soldier.**

Service children: where you stand on protection

GUIDELINES and procedures to be followed under new Service laws on protection of children within the Service community overseas have been issued by the Ministry of Defence.

ate, the MoD stresses, if people who suspect, or have actual knowledge, that a child (defined for the purposes of a CAO or EPO as a person under the age of 18) is suffering or likely to suffer significant harm, tell the relevant authorities.

Commands must ensure that the procedures for reporting possible cases of harm to a child are clearly laid down and are given repeated publicity.

The MoD instruction describing the framework for child protection and the roles of the authorities and agencies normally involved is not designed to be totally comprehensive.

Co-ordinating branch for all matters connected with the protection of children in the Service community is DPS (A).

Full details in DCI JS 22/96 dated July 5.

It doesn't bear thinking about . . .

AFTER a distinguished Army career during which he saw duty in France, Denmark, Sweden, Romania and Bulgaria, met all the Chiefs of staff of the NATO nations and accompanied the Prince of Wales and CGS to Egypt, a rather special officer has bowed out.

The officer concerned is Lt Thomas SSAFA Ted, Welsh Guards, officially described as "a limited edition, one of one". A teddy bear, in fact.

Even after leaving active service, Lt Tommy Ted continued to enjoy the limelight, delighting his fans with appearances at events such as the Sunderland Air Show and participating in the great north run with boxer Frank Bruno.

Now, however, our little ursine friend – who was taken to see the Royal Tournament as a treat before he left the Army – is off to pastures new.

He was sold to an anonymous buyer at Christies and will now embark on fresh adventures somewhere in Northern Ireland.

They're getting interactive at Rheindahlen HQ

COMPUTER courses at a newly-opened Interactive Learning Facility (ILF) at JHQ Rheindahlen will cover skills ranging from staff management to quality control.

Facilities at the Rheindahlen Education Centre are available to both soldiers and civilians during normal office hours.

Individuals book a place with a telephone call or visit to the centre and can then proceed, on a terminal dedicated to them, at their own speed and when they are able to fit in the time.

The ILF concept developed after the introduction of the Whitehall Interactive Learning Facility (WILF) at MoD Main Building some years ago.

Current plans are to install facilities at 15 locations in the UK and abroad: nine sites are presently in operation, with the rest scheduled for completion in the financial year 1996/97.

Consideration is being given to the provision of a second ILF in Germany, or to the introduction of a mobile facility which can take the training to staff where they work.

Like the similar facilities elsewhere, the ILF at Rheindahlen uses three forms of multimedia technology – computer-based training, CD-ROM disc and interactive video instruction.

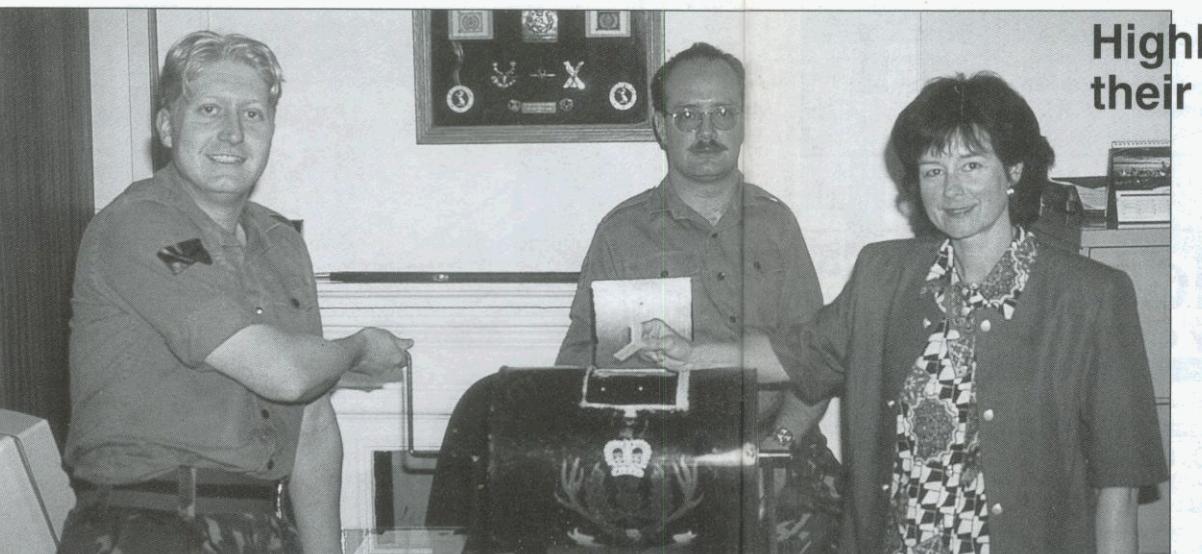
Maj Gen Christopher Drewry, GOC UKSC (G), said that the ILF –

which had been in operation for two months before its official opening – would help to implement training initiatives and add to an already advanced role for the Rheindahlen Education Centre.

"I am confident that this facility will be well used and that people will recognise the excellent opportunity that we now have," he added.



Children of Hastebeck and Hameln schools take part in the town's annual re-creation of the Pied Piper legend. Local people act out the story every summer weekend, with one set aside for a British version by officers, soldiers and families based in Hameln.



Highlanders put their hearts into it

Lindsay Stewart, wife of Lt Col David Stewart, CO 1 Highlanders, draws the winning ticket in a draw organised by Sgt Steve Lugg (left) and LCpl Mick Hughes, both AGC (SPS), to raise funds for the British Heart Foundation and Hesley Foundation under the auspices of the Three Mountains Challenge. Prizes were donated by, among others, Soldier. The Highlanders, based in Londonderry, raised £1,250 for the two charities.

Services' schools in Germany: the pluses and the minuses

RAISING the standards achieved in music, urgent provision of speech therapy for pupils with special educational needs and ensuring that lessons taught fully match longer-term curriculum intentions are among key issues for action for Service children's education in Germany.

The latest findings come from the Office for Standards in Education (Ofsted), the government department responsible for inspecting schools in England, whose role extends to the Service Children's Education (SCE) agency.

Purpose of the inspections, carried out by HM Inspectors of Schools, was to report on the educational standards achieved in the schools concerned, quality of education provided, whether financial resources available are managed efficiently and the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils at the schools.

Strengths among the latest schools inspected include good relationships between the children and between children and adults, positive attitudes by pupils towards learning and value for money.

The findings of the inspections will contribute to HM Chief Inspector of Schools' annual report to the Secretary of State for Education.

● Copies of Ofsted inspection reports are available, free, from Ofsted Publications Centre, PO Box 6927, London E3 3NZ, tel 0171-510 0180.

More details available on tel 01980 620575; fax 01980 6231090; e-mail np57@diaipipex.com.

This year it was the turn of 28 Engineer Regiment to perform. Station Commander Lt Col Mungo Melvin narrated for an audience which included Garrison Commander Brig John Keeling and 120 wives and families from 1 (UK) ADSR, Herford.

Wattisham trio cycle to Dunblane

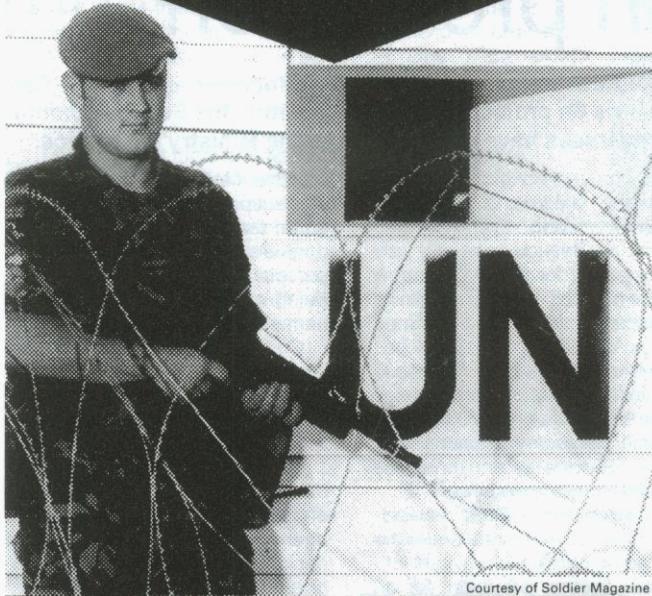
THREE soldiers from 7 Battalion REME based at Wattisham Airfield near Ipswich in Suffolk are planning to cycle north... all the way to Scotland.

Their 445-mile journey is in aid of the victims of the Dunblane massacre.

The sponsored ride to raise cash for the Dunblane Primary School Fund is the idea of Ssgt Paul Colquhoun, a former pupil of the school and whose family still live in the town.

With the help of a small back-up team they expect to complete the ride in three days.

Soldiers are there when you need them...



Courtesy of Soldier Magazine

...please be there when
they need you

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

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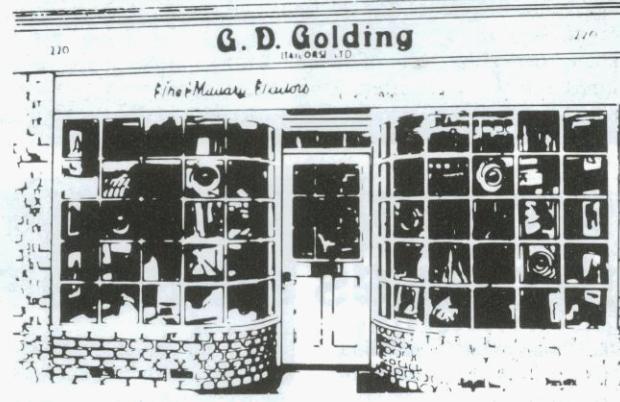
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Fighting for the landscape

Pictures: Chris Barker

Fusilier and Challenger in battle at Imber village

THE Army goes a long way to care for its training grounds.

This year Catterick-based 19 Mechanised Brigade took 2,000 soldiers and hundreds of vehicles from North Yorkshire all the way to Salisbury Plain.

"If we did this sort of thing with armoured vehicles on Catterick or Otterburn training areas we would soon turn them into deserts," said Maj Mark Vincent, of 3rd Regiment, Royal Horse Artillery, the exercise controller's chief-of-staff.

"We can exercise on Salisbury Plain without causing damage because of the chalk soil," he explained.

The main players involved were the 1st Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, whose men recently returned from Bosnia; the 1st Battalion, The King's Own Royal Border Regiment; and the 3rd Regiment, Royal Horse Artillery.

The Fusiliers are a Saxon battalion; the Kings Own Border use Warriors and 3



Maj David Paterson on the radio, accompanied by LCpl Matthew Lambeth

RHA is equipped with AS90 guns. Exercise Panther's Punch was run by Brig Alastair Duncan, commander of 19 Mechanised Brigade, and the chief controller was Col Neil Donaldson, the brigade's deputy commander. The 19 Brigade soldiers prac-

tised all types of operations of war – including an attack by troops and Challenger tanks on Imber fighting village – in a scenario which had them lining up as part of a division supporting Britain's allies.

The exercise tested elements of high intensity operations just as if the brigade had been called on to a war footing.

"It is the first time they have been able to work together at this level, as a field formation of about 2,000 soldiers, for three years," said Col Donaldson.

The enemy was provided by members of the Royal Tank Regiment from Tidworth. Soldiers from 5 Airborne Brigade based at Aldershot acted as the umpires.



Right: The AS90s of 3 RHA pose a deadly threat to enemy concentrations

The Somme's cherished fallen

WHEN Sgt Thomas Gorman of the Territorial Army's 254 Provost Company RMP (Volunteers) attended a service to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the Battle of the Somme, he was thinking of his father, John, who went over the top on the first day of the battle.

"I was so proud," he said afterwards. "It isn't everyone who can say that their father fought in the battle. When I stood on the old front line and imagined what it must have been like for him and his fellow soldiers, I got very emotional."

The sheer scale of the suffering beggars belief. More than 58,000 British soldiers were killed or wounded during the first day alone on July 1, 1916. Neither side escaped the continuing casualties and by the end of the four-and-a-half months of fighting some 1.2 million troops had become casualties.

Written in 1915, Rupert Brooke's touching First World War poem, *The Soldier*, refers to a soldier's grave as "some corner of a foreign field that is for ever England".

Across the battlefields of the Somme in France, there are literally hundreds of corners of foreign fields that are forever England. Some 165 war cemeteries have been constructed and 74 memorials erected on the 1916 battlefield and its rear areas.

In the days preceding the commemorative events, dozens of groups and organisa-

tions toured the former front line areas, visiting cemeteries and battle sites.

Forty members of the Territorial Army's 107 (Ulster) Brigade, accompanied by their commander, Brig John Smales, took part in a battlefield tour centred on an area where their predecessors fought.

At the time of the battle, 107 was the senior brigade of the 36th (Ulster) Division which suffered horrendous casualties. Four soldiers of the division earned the Victoria Cross on the first day of the Somme.

Cpl Charlie Clarke of the 7th Battalion, The Royal Irish Regiment, whose grandfather Wesley (now 100 years old) fought at the Somme with the Royal Irish Fusiliers, played his bugle during ceremonies at the Thiepval Memorial to the missing and the Ulster Tower.

The latter is a replica of Helen's Tower on the estate of the Marquis of Dufferin and Ava at Clandeboye near Belfast where the 36th (Ulster) Division trained before deploying to France.

Constructed in 1921, the Ulster Tower stands on the old German front line and was rededicated by Princess Alice in 1991.

Two years ago, the Somme Association, based in Belfast, was established under Royal Patronage, and undertook to "co-ordinate research into Ireland's part in the First World War and provide a basis for the two traditions in Northern Ireland to come together and learn of their common heritage." It took over responsibility for the tower and declared it to be Northern Ireland's National War Memorial.

There are still very many visible signs of the battle.

Every spring, hundreds of unexploded shells and hand grenades are uncovered by farmers ploughing their fields and left at the roadside for collection by disposal teams. Locals call it the "iron harvest."

Under no circumstances should these be touched as they can detonate with fatal consequences. Most years, a number of unlucky farmers or souvenir hunters are killed or maimed by exploding munitions.

Occasionally, the remains of British and Commonwealth soldiers are found.

Last October, a farmer uncovered the remains of a First World War soldier. Badges and an ID tag identified him as Sgt "Jack" Irish played the bugle at the memorial



The Legion's Head of International Affairs, Col David Travers, lays a poppy spray on behalf of a relative unable to travel with the pilgrimage

White of the 22nd Battalion, Australian Imperial Force. He was reinterred in a war cemetery.

In some places, part of the old British and German trenches remain. This is particularly so at Beaumont Hamel, where the 84-acre Newfoundland Memorial Park contains some well-preserved trenches which have been maintained in their original shape.

From here, the 1st Battalion, The Royal Newfoundland Regiment launched its attack against the German trenches opposite.

It lasted less than 30 minutes. Only 68 of the 800 soldiers who went forward were not killed or wounded. The divisional commander wrote afterwards that "the Newfoundlanders had done all they could, because dead men can advance no further."

To stand in the same trenches and look over the top towards the German positions

really brings home just how close the opposing trenches were to each other.

When the 51st Highland Division finally captured the area in November 1915, its surviving soldiers were detailed to clear the battlefield. Skeletons, picked clean by rats which swarmed over the area, lay scattered all over no-man's-land. It proved an unnerving experience.

After the war, the parts of the Somme most frequently and bitterly fought over were officially designated as uninhabitable and uncultivable for evermore. Villages completely disappeared in the fighting.

One correspondent described the area as a "desert incapable of producing the things necessary to life." Such was the devastation that the upper covering of fertile soil, from which the agricultural economy drew its living, had completely disappeared.

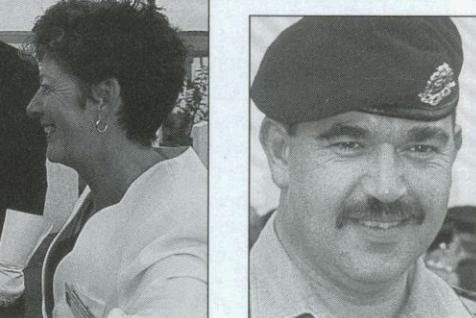
Maj Cass Cassidy told *Soldier* he was stricken with emotion when he visited the grave of his brother for the first time. "I just couldn't speak," he said.

John Masefield said it was "as though the place had been smitten by the plague."

Right - Making friends: Elsie Wheeler (83) lost her father in the Battle of the Somme while ex-sapper Arthur Halestrap (98) survived the experience

Below - In a Somme cemetery, Mrs Pauline Scammell (left) discusses the day's itinerary with Ann Hubble. Legion standard bearer Peter Grimes looks on

Below right - TA Sgt Thomas Gorman whose father went over the top on the first day of the Somme and survived



ther's grave in company with his father Dennis.

Another first-time pilgrim found the name of a relative wrongly spelt on one of the towering name panels on the Thiepval Memorial. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission will correct the error.

Seventeen separate personal visits to war cemeteries and memorials within the pilgrimage were expertly co-ordinated by Ann Hubble. She is part of a team, based at the Royal British Legion Village in Kent, which organises visits to war graves world-wide.

Headed by Piers Storie-Pugh, theirs is an exacting task, organising flights, transport and accommodation, and cutting through the red tape that seems to surround any overseas visit to remote war cemetery sites.

"It is impossible not to be moved by the sight of the cemeteries," said Ann. "I tend not to read the inscriptions on the headstones. It is too upsetting."

There can hardly have been a town in Britain that was not affected by the Battle of the Somme, especially those who raised the Pals Battalions in the Midlands, West and North.

Those first-day casualties of more than 58,000 would stretch 30 miles if formed up in a single column, an arm's length apart. It has been estimated that it would take a fortnight to read out the nominal roll of casualties.

The recent commemorations may be the last occasion that First World War veterans attend in person, but the effects of the battle will continue to be remembered for many years to come.



The fund-raisers of the Association for Military Remembrance. Behind is the Thiepval Memorial to the Missing. It records the names of 72,085 soldiers who died on the Somme and who have no known grave. Inset - Cpl Charlie Clarke, 7 R Irish played the bugle at the memorial

ARRC angels

UNLIKE other British troops serving in the Balkans who are replaced after six months in theatre, Support Battalion, HQ Allied Command Europe Rapid Reaction Corps (ARRC) is only half-way through its expected tour.

The Support Battalion, commanded by Lt Col Craig Cocker, R Anglian, has already completed six months in former Yugoslavia. As part of 1 Signal Brigade, it will sustain HQ ARRC for the duration of its mission with NATO's Peace Implementation Force (IFOR).

Unique both in role and composition, the battalion was formed in October 1992 as a 438-strong unit to support the Supreme Allied Commander Europe's multi-national rapid reaction corps HQ, and it has trained with HQ ARRC for a variety of roles from high-intensity conflict to peace support operations.

Comprising 14 Transport Squadron RLC, 170 Pioneer Squadron RLC and HQ Squadron, the battalion regrouped into composite HQ support squadrons for its first operational deployment as part of the IFOR ground forces in former Yugoslavia.

Leading elements flew into theatre last December, followed by a sea move of its 230 vehicles and 40 containers of equipment. With 95 Territorial Army and Reserve reinforcements on its strength, the battalion was complete and on the ground by January 1.

Uncomfortable

The establishment of HQ ARRC's main and rear command posts was a hectic, uncomfortable and risky business. Logistic support was dogged by difficulties, not least by the absence of a firm base from which to operate – and near miracles were performed to keep staff, soldiers and vehicles supplied and maintained.

Hotel Dalmacija in Kiseljak, home to HQ ARRC Forward, more than doubled its intended occupancy for months.

Zetra Stadium in Sarajevo, venue for the 1984 Winter Olympics ice skating competition, provided a dank, freezing, shell-scarred hell hole in which soldiers lived and worked for much of the bitter winter.

The risks involved in the work were all too evident when two Support Battalion soldiers were wounded by an anti-personnel mine explosion, and three more by gunfire while driving through Ilidza.

The work required to prepare sites for the staff was daunting, and time was short. The battalion, with help from 7 and 16 Signal Regiments and a rotation of multi-national engineer units, cleared and cleaned the buildings, laid hardcore and perimeter wire, constructed and plumbed-in the power and communications systems for the HQ.

Support Battalion's squadrons defend,

Squadron, The Light Dragoons were marking boundary lines in the separation zone when the lead vehicle, Call Sign 20, hit an unmarked Soviet TMRP-6 anti-tank mine. The explosion flipped the lightly armoured Spartan on to its side, rupturing the fuel tank and setting the vehicle on fire.

An investigation concluded that the three-man crew had been killed instantly by the massive explosion.

Crew members of Call Sign 23 tried to extinguish the blaze with their vehicle fire-fighting equipment but were beaten back by the ferocity of the flames and exploding ammunition.

A team of Royal Engineers from 49 Field Squadron (EOD) reached the site near Mrkonjic-Grad but found it too dangerous to approach in the failing light.

The bodies of Lt Richard Madden, Tpr Andrew Ovington and Tpr John Kelly were recovered the following morning and flown home.

Money for the memorial stone, bought in nearby Livno, was raised during a sponsored run from Glamoc to Split by representatives of units serving with the Peace Implementation Force.

The Light Dragoons, based at Hohne in Germany, have completed eight tours in theatre since 1994.



Light Dragoons remember their fallen comrades

Comrades of the three members of The Light Dragoons killed in a mine explosion in central Bosnia pause at the site of the tragedy before leaving the theatre at the end of their six-month tour.

At the end of January, 2nd Troop, C

Woofers' appeal on home front

SOLDIERS of the 1st Battalion, The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment currently serving in Bosnia have appealed to people in their "home" counties for funds and materials to get the war-torn country back on its feet.

School and medical equipment, clothing and machinery for small industrial businesses are being sought from the counties of Worcestershire, Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire, with which the Woofers have strong links.

Points of contact are (in Bosnia) Maj Mark Pugh-Cook, 1 WFR, Operation Resolute, BFPO 538; (UK) Peter Hogben, 8 Ely Close, Habberley Estate, Kidderminster, Worcestershire DY11 6EJ (01562 862757).



Above – This is the plan: 2nd Lt Steve Falinsky (right), 6 (Pioneer) Troop commander, briefs (from left) Cpl Bill Montgomery, Pte Andy Hamill, LCpl Davey Smillie of Support Battalion, watched by Portuguese Airborne troops

Above right – Good reception: Capt Becky Terry (left) and LCpl Amanda May at Hotel Terme in the Ilidza complex

Right – On the wire: LCpl John Lamb and Pte Peter Hartley of C (Transport) Troop patrol Zetra Stadium perimeter. Behind them is the 1984 Winter Olympic village

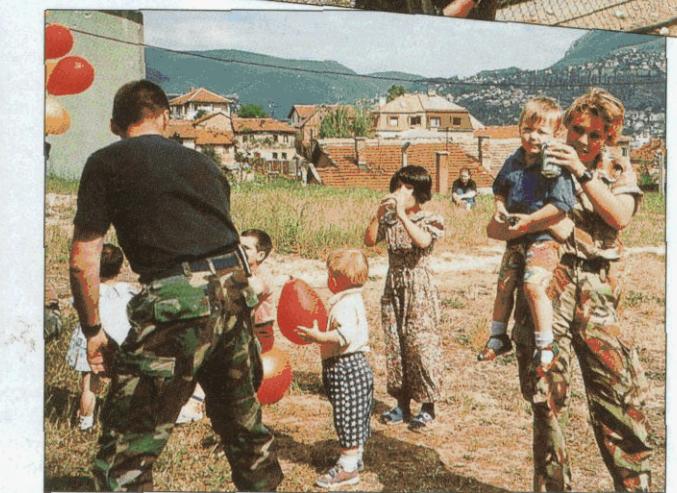
Below – Watching brief: Pte Carl Burnham (Support Battalion) and Sgt John Gardner (US Army) guard the entrance to "Ice Station Zetra"

Below right – Caring army: B (Transport) Troop barbecue for children from Bjelave orphanage



feed and administer the staff in HQ ARRC Main in Ilidza, Sarajevo, HQ ARRC Rear in Kiseljak, and the 1 Signal Brigade Support Group in Zetra Stadium – Ice Station Zetra – as well as providing transport, medical and repair services.

Each squadron, reinforced by defence troops from the multi-national divisions, is tasked to organise transport, pioneer, catering, power, REME, Royal Signals and RAMC troops to meet the requirements of



each site. So far American, Egyptian, French, French Foreign Legion, Italian, Malaysian, Moroccan, Portuguese, Spanish, Turkish and Ukrainian platoons have helped to secure the headquarters locations.

thoughts are turning to the job of getting HQ ARRC Group out of Bosnia and Croatia. There is a long way to go and Support Battalion's soldiers have no illusions about the complexity of the task, nor about the time it may take to execute.

But they will tackle it with the same determination that has characterised their support to HQ ARRC.



Troops gear up for Balkan elections

THE TASK for the military in former Yugoslavia is by no means over and the worst is yet to come, in the opinion of Brig Brian Plummer, commander of 1 (UK) Mechanised Brigade.

"We now have a situation where our soldiering has to be slightly more sophisticated than it was in the past because the task is not quite so straightforward," he told *Soldier*.

The Peace Implementation Force's mission had broadened to concentrate more on developing relations with people and working on their hearts and minds rather than on dominating ground, he said.

Soldiers had to bring other skills into gear, such as getting on with people, gathering intelligence, and helping in G5 community activities while preparing for the elections in September. Troops had to be flexible and imaginative.

The military mission was still to provide a security framework within which the civil aspects of the Dayton Agreement could be carried out, said Brig Plummer.

The military part had been relatively straightforward and simple, and it continues.

"We are no longer ushering the warring factions into cantonment sites, but we are still monitoring and making sure the level of compliance is high, and that they are not breaching the Peace Agreement by taking out vehicles or flying helicopters when they should not be flying."

IFOR personnel had to be quite clear on where and how they should become involved in the elections.

Impartiality

"We are unlikely to get involved in guarding stations and protecting candidates or protecting voters. This would undermine our very important principle of impartiality towards the factions and their politics, but we may be involved in some logistic support while continuing to provide the general security framework and communications," said Brig Plummer.

Brig Plummer revelled in the opportunity to have his brigade deployed operationally. Most of the previous brigade had been a hotch-potch of units pulled together for the operation, but with the arrival of 22 Engr Regt and 1 RHA in July, and 1 RGJ due in August, most of the brigade was in theatre.

All plans, policies and missions were dependent on the hard work of young private soldiers and junior NCOs, men and women, TA and Regular.

"They carry out their tasks with an enormous dollop of common sense, and where there might not be specific guidance in any particular area, they apply their common sense very successfully indeed."

"It is the young soldiers and JNCOs who make the whole thing work," said the brigadier.



Brig Plummer

Sussex Gunners rise to the challenge

WHEN Serbs in the Anvil heard the dull boom of big guns firing they thought the Balkan war had started again.

Although mountains separated them from the Croats, they could hear guns firing 50km away and were ready to pack their few bags again.

They need not have worried. The AS90s of 26 Regiment, Royal Artillery were demonstrating their lethal power to local dignitaries and the war-lords who had torn Yugoslavia apart during four years of fighting.

The weapons of these armies are now silent, stored in barracks unless given specific authority to move for training purposes; the guns and soldiers of the Peace

Implementation Force (IFOR) are the insurance which stops fighting and gives peace a chance.

The big guns of the Sussex Gunners were split between Croat Glamoc in Hercegovina, Sanski Most in the Muslim north of the fragile federation, and the "Slaughterhouse" at Podbrdo near Mrkonjic Grad, in the Serb Anvil.

The ideal deployment was three batteries of six AS90s in each of the factions' territory. Batteries which deployed were 17 (Corunna) linked with 159 (Colenso); 127 (Dragon) combined with 16 (Sandham's Company); and 52 (Niagara) joined from 4 Regiment in Osnabrück. HQ Battery was 55 (The Residency).

At Glamoc, 52 Bty gave sterling support to the range staff and provided support for the British brigade along with 127/16 Bty at Podbrdo, while 17/159 Bty supported the Canadian brigade in the Multi-National Division South West.

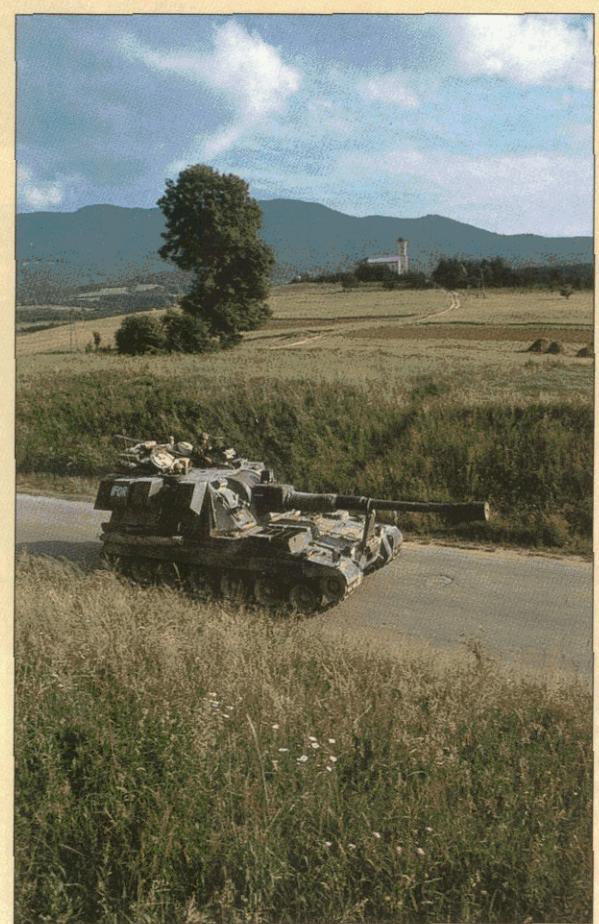
The regiment is commanded by Lt Col Chris Nicholls, whose headquarters of 55 Bty and his echelon were based at Jajce, the former Ottoman capital where the late Sir Fitzroy Maclean had his first meeting with Tito's partisans in the Second World War.

Also under command were 105mm Light Guns of 19/5 (Gibraltar 1779-83) Battery of Larkhill's AMF(L) Artillery, based at Jezero with a Dutch battle group.

"Since deploying in mid-January the boys have deployed at troop or battery level more than 300 times," said Lt Col Nicholls. "The guns have performed remarkably well and the gunners, to a man and woman, have risen magnificently to the tremendous challenges. I am very proud."

When they set out, the regiment anticipated occupying positions in the open countryside and living out of packs.

Reports:
Gordon Skilling
Pictures:
Terry Champion



An AS90 of 127/16 Bty moves past Podbrdo church



Above - Inside an AS90: Gnr Glyn Williams under instruction from Sgt Robert Bage on the advanced guns course



Left - Sussex Gunners pose for a team photograph on an AS90

half their barrels north and half south.

As training officer with 127/16 Bty, Lt Carter was delighted with the tour.

"The boys have learned an absolute load about the AS90 and what it can do but also the bigger picture about whom they are working with," he said.

"Some, not six months out of their mother's kitchen, have been living in temperatures down to minus 20C, putting up with the cold, wet and long hours necessary to get our camp sorted out, while presenting what we came out for: a strong presence on the ground to deter the warring factions."

Some were not even basic gunners when they arrived, but continual training on the job resulted in eight completing the advanced level.

To move from basic to advanced guns normally takes a four-week course in barracks on top of 18 months' basic soldiering. The battery also managed to carry out 90 per cent of its annual training directives during the six-month deployment.

The guns themselves benefited, their engines becoming more reliable with constant use.

Adept as ever at making the best of things, BSM WO2 Mick Tobin set up a golf driving range in a warehouse. By charging for a bucket of balls he raised more than

● Turn to next page

IFOR

IFOR

Sweet charity begins at Wakefield

Mr SWEET MAN stood waiting in the sun as the Sanski Most orphans walked towards him past the massive AS90 guns.

Best behaviour, faces scrubbed, party dresses, brightest gear, teachers fussing around them like mother hens...

In they trooped, the youngest holding hands in twos and the teenage girls brazenly eyeing up the handsome young gunners of 26 Regiment, Royal Artillery who had invited them along to Sunday afternoon tea.

China tea and cucumber sandwiches were not on offer – more a whopping great barbecue, lots of games, clambering over guns, rides in vehicles and leaving with armfuls of goodies from Mr Sweet Man, alias LBdr Andy Fenton.

He was anxious. His boxes of sweets were slowly cooking out of sight in a tent but Battery Sergeant Major Taff Evans was not let-

Sussex Gunners

From Page 21

£200 for an appeal for Stephanie Lush, the baby whose legs were amputated.

Charity events staged by the regiment included an epic run organised by Cpl Dobbie Merry of the Workshop. With members of 55 Bty and 16 Field Ambulance, pairs of runners ran 211km from the Adriatic coast over three mountain ranges in an average temperature of 30C in less than 24 hours, raising more than £1,300.

Lt Carter commented that welfare support had been brilliant. His men had not expected half the videos, TV satellite dishes or gym equipment which had arrived.

At Sanski Most, Battery Captain Gerry Porter could not praise the postal and courier service highly enough. After



Bdr Bob Burns in the mess

initial problems had been resolved letters from UK and Germany were arriving in two days.

Telephones had also been a problem and it had been three-and-a-half months before acceptable phone lines were installed.

Donation of Sky TV cards had made a huge difference.

Based in a wood factory at Sanski Most, the gunners had a unique opportunity to practise

carpentry skills. Many a tent was furnished with shelves, racks and cupboards.

The junior NCOs excelled themselves in the mess they created, Bdr Andy Ogle working particularly hard. Wood paneling gave an authentic rustic atmosphere.

"We watched the European Cup football here with the SNCos and gunners, whom we invited back for a games night," said Bdr Bob Burns. As well as a race track constructed by Bdrs Dave Sumner and Paul



ting anybody near them until after their barbecue.

LBdr Fenton had written to his old school asking if pupils wanted to do a project on Bosnia, suggesting they each chip in £1 of sweets.

Back in Wakefield every school was roped in, as was the college, and collecting boxes appeared in pub bars. *The Wakefield Express* ran his story on the front page, and more than £2,000 worth of goodies were dispatched to the front.

"When we first arrived there were hundreds of kids asking for 'bon bons' every time we deployed," said LBdr Fenton.

"I've always wanted to do more than keep the peace so I wrote home to interest people in making the orphans' lives a little better."

While handing out sweets in the schools he realised the children's education was suf-

fering badly. They did not have any paper or pens.

During a break at Gütersloh he arranged sponsorship for a marathon run round the

Bright, the mess boasted a pond which the bombardiers stocked with frogs and fish caught locally.

The local economy was boosted by injections of valuable Deutschmarks. On the frequent deployments, fresh eggs were welcome, and Sgt Ryan Dean bought a warm pair of woolly socks from one old woman who had her own cottage sock industry.

After four weeks' leave the

regiment will change its sights to Canada and Poland, where they look forward to further challenges, while 1 Royal Horse Artillery, Tidworth and Aldershot's F Battery, 7 (Para) RHA carry on the good work.

"The Balkans have been very volatile through history," said Lt Col Nicholls, "but from expecting to live in gun pits at the start of the deployment, we have ended up running open days for children and inviting local authorities along. There has been a fundamental change for the good."

camp, raising more than £4,000. Gütersloh schools also chipped in and Naafi donated £1,000 worth of stationery and pens. He said: "I think that we were all shocked by the state of the kids."

It was hardest for the older soldiers with children of their own, said WO2 Evans. Nearly all the children were orphans cared for either by friends and relations, the school or the local council.

WO2 Evans was tasked with running parties for children aged four to 16. At the last before the unit returned to Germany there were 220 children, but it was the first that stuck in the mind of SSgt Jimmy McGuire.

"We saw the expressions on the kiddies' faces after four years of war," he said. "The little ones had probably never been to a party and never socialised. It took us a long time to break down the barriers."

"I don't know what was going through their little minds when they left and they got their prezzy, toys and sweets, but by the second party they knew what to expect and it was a joy to see their happy faces," he said.

The best boy and girl in a disco dancing competition left with a personal stereo each.

SSgt McGuire was keen that a video should be taken of the parties so that regimental wives could see the children enjoying themselves.

"They worked hard raising money to



Above – Capt Gerry Porter (centre) and young friends

Left – Bdr Andy Fenton shares with Hermin, Mersiha and Mirnesa

repair the main sports hall floor.

More and more requests came in. During the winter 700 tons of wood were delivered by the regiment to schools, hospitals and villages.

Royal Engineers moved 120,000 tons of rubbish from the streets. Capt Porter reckons they moved 1,300 derelict cars.

The biggest and most important job was "operation pork scratching". The Serbs had left behind thousands of dead pigs and the Muslim soldiers ran out of fuel and enthusiasm for disposing of the carcasses.

"We got rid of quite a few round the factory but when we looked further afield we found everywhere full of rotten pigs, horses, cows, sheep and dogs," said Capt Porter.

Donning their nuclear, chemical and biological protection kits the gunners loaded the putrefying beasts onto four vast funeral pyres.

Before they returned to Germany, they had the satisfaction of watching 800 children return to the Hasan Kikic school, which had been completely renovated.

The children had good reason to thank the Sussex Gunners and their Mr Sweet Man.



Above - Sabre CVR(T) guards crossroad

Right - York Support Troop: Tpr Barry Wilkinson, Tpr Andrew Baxter, Cpl Michael Kelly, Cpl Buck Rodgers, LCI Neil Robinson, LCpl Bruce Barns, Cpl Graeme Robinson, Tpr Gary Lynch, Tpr Robert Morris, Cpl Stuart Harber, Tpr Andrew Cawkwell, Sgt Reg Yates, Tpr Paul Pashley



QOY heads west for fun and war

ANNUAL camp is an important time of year for every Territorial Army unit, but even more so when if the regiment has its squadrons scattered through five counties.

The Queen's Own Yeomanry continues to thrive despite the geographical challenge of having its Headquarters Squadron based in Newcastle, Y (Yorkshire) Squadron in York, B (Sherwood Rangers Yeomanry) Squadron in Nottingham, C (Cheshire) Squadron in Chester and D (Northumberland Hussars) Squadron in Cramlington.

Its record for soldiers attending drill nights and training is consistently one of the best in the TA and was confirmed recently by the numbers who managed to balance their full-time jobs and family commitments to turn out on Exercise Tamar Fox, the QOY's annual camp.

The five squadrons with their 112 Sabre, Sultan and Samaritan tracked vehicles converged on Cornwall by low loader before travelling east in a screen from north to south carrying out their medium recon-



York Squadron adjutant Capt Robert Whitson

naissance role against an enemy, which was played by the North Irish Horse, an independent yeomanry squadron from Belfast.

The QOY is roled to the Allied Command Europe Rapid Reaction Corps (ARRC) and its job in time of war is to push into enemy territory, gather information and pass it back to the divisional ARRC headquarters, if necessary staying behind enemy lines.

On Tamar Fox the troops braved fluctuating weather conditions, continuing their road move in small packets across Cornwall and Devon until they reached Taunton. On the first phase soldiers were tested on military skills including map-reading, signals, withdrawals in and out of contact, advance-to-contact, observation post screens, vehicle maintenance and route marking.

Capt Robert Whitson, York Squadron adjutant said: "We have one regimental exercise a year and it is the only time we will be together to train, so we take the opportunity to pile the pressure on both physically and mentally.

"But the lads really enjoy it. They get the

chance to put all their knowledge and skills into practice, there's great spirit in the squadrons and they have a lot of fun. We always have a very good attendance on exercises.

"I don't think you can run a successful exercise unless the soldiers do enjoy it."

Each squadron has a support troop of about 30 soldiers whose role is to engage the enemy at close quarters or with their Milan anti-tank weapons. They played a full part in the first phase of the exercise.

Support Troop followed its own programme of activities in the second week while the main body of the regiment was transported to Castlemartin by low loader to practise Sabre gunnery skills on the ranges.

Sabre live-firing does not directly involve Support Troop, which instead took part in a programme including Operations in Built-Up Areas, training with the



Lt Col John Nickell-Lean, CO QOY



west for fun and war

Special Branch in Cornwall in hostage rescue techniques, and a Nuclear Biological and Chemical battle run in Porton Down. This involved the soldiers being in their vehicles in an NBC environment for 36 hours.

The troop also spent time at HMS *Havoc*, a mock ship hull in which the soldiers were put through a simulated accident at sea. They also spent two days at Tregantle Fort on close-quarter battle training in underground tunnels and endurance training over Pen Y Fan in Wales, known as "The Fan Dance", on the same run used by Special Forces.

For the main body the second phase was a real test of the Sabres, instrument technicians and gunners. Because the QOY had scheduled their live-firing phase after the long haul from its bases in the north there was a potential risk of linkages between guns and sights, and gun elevation and traverse gear boxes, being shaken so severely that they would have to be completely overhauled and realigned at Castlemartin. However the decision paid off, and only minor adjustments were needed.



C Squadron on Tamar Fox with Sabre tracked vehicles formed up and ready to move

Capt Whitson added: "All sorts of things could have gone wrong. It was ambitious, and even most Regular regiments wouldn't do it this way, but it worked."

"We had a great week at Castlemartin and my squadron won the gunnery competition."

It was the first time that the Queen's Own Yeomanry had fired Sabre's main armament, a 30mm Rarden cannon and



Above - Singing in the rain (left to right) SSgt Alan Slater, Tpr Martin Allcock and LCpl Paul Smalley mark the route in their Sabre CVR(T)

Left - From left to right: Tpr Mark Beveridge, Capt Josh Risso-Gill and Tpr Donald Earl set up a perimeter defence around the QOY's exercise headquarters

7.62mm chain gun, at regimental level.

This culminated in Exercise Oscar during which troops were set battle runs to destroy mock vehicle targets with limited ammunition in a restricted time. Each Sabre commander either passes or fails.

Commanding officer Lt Col John Nickell-Lean, a TA officer, balances running his own management company in Leeds with the demands of leading a regiment.

He said: "Tamar Fox has been a great success. The idea was to give the regiment a chance to work together in as realistic a war scenario as possible with physical and mental pressures over a period of time.

"From personal experience I can say that there are distinct benefits as an employer to having people who work for you with TA experience. The demands made on soldiers are varied, challenging and often tough and the qualities that these demands inspire can only be to an employer's advantage."

The Queen's Own Yeomanry has already written the recce plan for next year's camp and in the meantime continues the usual regimental activity of drill nights, weekend training and recruit selection courses.



Lt Col Andrew Graham, commanding officer, escorts the Queen during her inspection of 1 A and SH at Redford Barracks, Edinburgh

A 21-gun salute fired from the battlements of Edinburgh Castle welcomed the Queen to Scotland as she travelled to Redford Barracks to present new Colours to the 1st Battalion, The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders.

Heavy rain as the Queen arrived was not allowed to spoil the occasion – it takes more than a downpour to bother the 300 men on parade... or the Queen.

It is ten years since the 1st Battalion last served in Scotland.

Fortunately, the rain stopped after the Colours had been consecrated by the Chaplain General, the Rev Dr Victor Dobbin; the Rt Rev Monsignor Stephen Louden, Principal Roman Catholic Chaplain; Rev John Shields, Assistant Chaplain General Scotland; and the Regimental Chaplain, Rev David Kingston.

Memories of those who had lost their lives on the Somme were not far away as the parade took place on July 1, the 80th anniversary of the horrendous first day of that battle.

The Queen paid tribute to the battalion's tour of duty in Northern Ireland, and the work done by members in Bosnia as part of the United Nations Protection Force.

A platoon served in Bosnia with The Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire and many individuals continue to serve, some recently receiving gallantry awards.

As the regiment's Colonel-in-Chief, the Queen has twice presented new Colours to its first battalion, in 1973 and in the year of her accession to the throne, in 1953.

She has also seen the battalion threatened with extinction, and an unprecedented campaign to save it in 1971.

Leading the parade was the commanding officer, Lt Col Andrew Graham, and the Queen was accompanied by the Colonel of the Regiment, Maj Gen David Thomson.

Among those present were the GOC Scotland, Maj Gen Jonnie Hall, and the honorary colonels of two affiliated regi-



Maj Gen Thomson, regimental Colonel, presents the old Colours of the 1st Battalion to the regimental museum at Stirling Castle

Argylls' Colourful Occasion

ments: The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders of Canada, and the Royal New South Wales Regiment.

The presence of the captain of the nuclear submarine HMS *Repulse* recalled the dark days during the Second World War when Royal Marines joined 2 A and SH in Singapore after the *Repulse* and the *Prince of Wales* had been sunk off Malaya. The Argylls hope that the ship's bell will be housed in their museum when the submarine is decommissioned.

Also on parade was the new regimental mascot, the Shetland pony Cruachan the Third, who was appearing before the Queen for the first time.

After meeting members of the regimental association, the Queen received a posy

from Emma Ballantine, daughter of the Regimental Sergeant Major.

The following day another ceremony was held, at Stirling Castle, home of the regimental museum, when Maj Gen Thomson handed over the old Colours for safe-keeping.

Life immediately carried on for the battalion. The Argylls returned to barracks to the pipe tune "The Black Bear", traditionally played at the end of work. But 20 soldiers had no time to relax, hurriedly changing into civvies to fly to the Falklands.

Within an hour of the Queen's departure, they were on their way as the advance party of the reinforced company which has now taken over in the South Atlantic.

The Argylls were the last full battalion to serve in the Falklands, and ten years later have returned.

Triple Canada link for 2 LI

I WAS interested to discover in *Soldier* (June 10) that for the third time, two of my former regiments in different armies have been "brigaded".

The King's Shropshire Light Infantry and Royal Canadian Regiment served together in the 19th Infantry Brigade in the South African War.

In 1952, B Coy of 1 KSLI joined B Coy of 1 RCR to form "Peterforce" – the Commonwealth component in the restoration of order on Kojedo during the Korean War.

Now I see that our successor (B Coy, 2nd Battalion, The Light Infantry) was again part of a battle group with the RCR in Bosnia.

Incidentally, both the KSLI and RCR commemorate Paardeburg Day but I was unsuccessful in my attempt to get a double free beer ration from the RCR on the basis of being a former "proud Salopian". – **Les Peate, (Executive Secretary, Korea Veterans Association of Canada), Ottawa.**

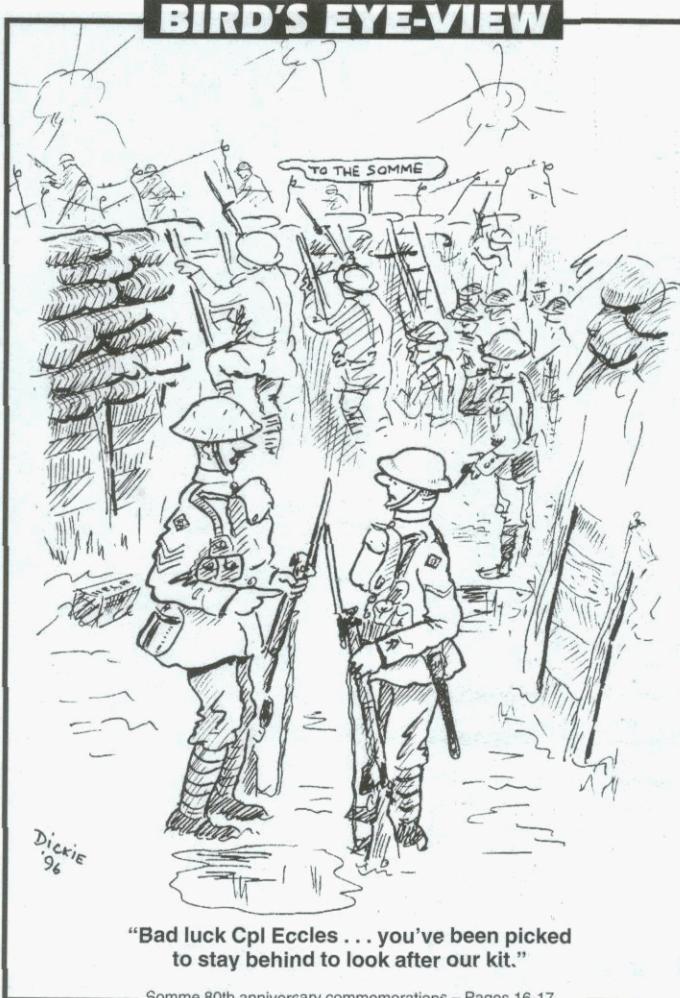
For the record...

Victoria Cross

IN MY LETTER concerning the first VC of the First World War (May 13) I regret I forgot to mention that Lt Dease shared this honour with Pte Godley. Both won the medal in the same action of the 4th Battalion, The Royal Fusiliers, on August 23, 1914.

Pte Godley, the first "other ranks" to be awarded the VC in that war (gazetted on November 25, 1914, later than Lt Dease and Capt Grenfell, 9th Lancers) is thought to be the original of Bruce Bairnsfather's character "Old Bill".

All information is taken from *The Register of the Victoria*



Somme 80th anniversary commemorations – Pages 16-17

Turks' praise for British soldiers

Cross, This England, 1988. – Thierry Laroche, Neufchateau, Belgium.

YOU mention (June 24) that a barracks in Liverpool is named after Capt Noel Chavasse VC.

Capt Chavasse was in fact a VC and bar. He and Arthur Martin-Leake are the only two British Servicemen to have been awarded the Victoria Cross on two occasions. It is also significant that they were both members of the RAMC, the corps whose members have won more VCs than any other cap badge in the Army. – **Maj (QM) R R McFaulds, 2 Armd Field Ambulance, RAMC, BFPO 36.**

YOUR headline "Post-Turkish delight" (July 8) reminded me of a trip I made to Turkey in the early 1970s to research the Crimean War. On the flight I met an elderly lady travelling to Gallipoli to visit for the first time the grave of her husband, killed in May 1915. It had taken her 55 years to save enough for her personal pilgrimage.

I volunteered to accompany her and will not go through the details of the emotion of the occasion, for both of us.

But I will always remember the people in the local villages feting her, once they had become aware of what she was doing and the literally hundreds of times we were both told about "British Tommy – best-ever fighting man".

The Turks in the area were genuine and as one in their praise and I know it made the trip extra special for her. Turkish Delight, indeed! – **D C Harvey, Walton-on-Thames, Surrey.**

Suez medal fight goes on

I WOULD like to assure the veterans of the Suez Canal Zone Emergency 1951-54 that I am still fighting their corner for the award of a medal.

I do not want to disclose the actions I have taken as I do not want to prejudice these initiatives but in due course I will let you have the full story. Meanwhile the battle to rectify this injustice continues. – **Col P S Newton, Winchester, Hants.**

Dukies well looked after

FROM your review of the book *The Soldier Boy*, by Bob Freeman, the Duke of York's School at Saunton seems to have been a terrible place, but I cannot recall it as such.

Due to wartime conditions it was no picnic, but I can remember much that was pleasant and we were generally well looked after.

Bullying there was no worse than at other boarding schools. The use of the word "birching" is rather misleading as a cane was used for punishment.

All the best to Mr Freeman and all other Dukies, wherever they may be. – **C Pepper, Rickmansworth, Herts.**



Q: NAIVE recruits were often dispatched to look for a "sky-hook" or ask for a "long stand". Has any reader suffered similar humiliation?

WHEN I was serving with 32 Armd Engr Regt in Munsterlager in the early 1980s one of the more popular japes was to send a "new boy" from the tank park to the guardroom (a distance of half a mile) for the "main engine cranking spanner" for a Centurion AVRE.

The hapless sapper on reaching the guardroom would be given a huge lump of useless metal 3ft long and would be seen struggling up the main road thinking he was on an important mission. The penny dropped only when, on reaching the tank park, he was met by both squadrons in full.

However, the tables were turned on one occasion when the crew commander of one sapper concerned was made to lug it all the way back by the RSM. – **Norman Crosbie (Cpl retd), Dumfries.**

Q: Why do Royal Marines bandsmen wear white pith helmets? – J C McCarthy, Liverpool L26.



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Pictures: Terry Champion

Above - Army teams await the call forward on Century Range

Left - Capt Ian Thompson, QRL shows off his medal after achieving an Army 100 place in the competition, watched by Lt Richard Worsley LD

Royal Irish on target

MAJ Alwyn McLean is the latest in a long line of soldiers to win the Queen's Medal at Bisley, writes Laurie Manton.

In one of the closest finishes for years the Royal Irish Regiment officer, serving with Headquarters Northern Ireland, beat off a strong challenge from WO1 (RSM) Ian Gwynne of 1st Battalion, Scots Guards and past Queen's Medal winner, Maj Angus McLeod, Royal Scots. Only nine points separated the top nine.

Maj McLean has long been a member of the Army shooting team but he has never before won the prestigious Queen's Medal competition.

After the annual Regular Army Skill-at-Arms (RASAAM) meeting was axed in 1994 a new competition was introduced.

The Army's best shots, drawn from division and command skill-at-arms meetings, compete in a one-day competition at Bisley to decide the Queen's Medal winner.

This year, 125 firers took part with the top one hundred qualifying for the Army 100 badge. Two thirds of the entrants were first-time competitors at Bisley.

The cutbacks of the past few years are said to be behind the virtual eclipse of Gurkha riflemen who used to win many of the top awards at Bisley.

Their best entry, LCpl Beindrakumar Magar of the 2nd Battalion, The Royal

Gurkha Rifles, finished ninth and there were only five other Gurkhas among the top 40 shots.

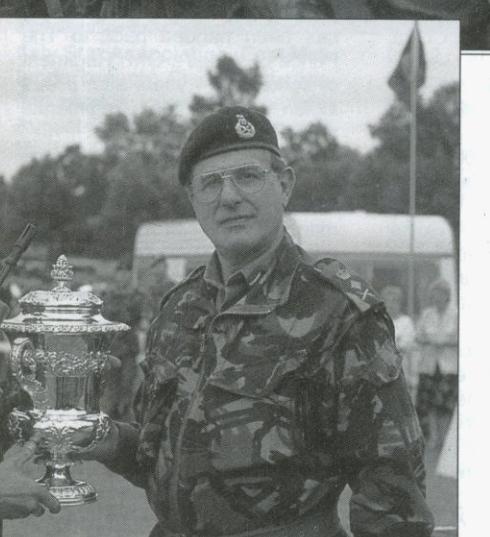
In comparison, The Royal Irish Regiment had a field day. Besides its Queen's Medal winner, the regiment had 12 soldiers in the first 25.

The Methuen Cup Service rifle match is one of the most prestigious international, inter-Service and inter-regiment and corps competitions in the combat shooting world.

Winners were the Royal Irish Regiment, although a guest team from the Sultan of Oman's Armed Forces achieved a higher score, and another from Canada shot the third highest.

Next best Army team was the Scottish Division in fourth place, with the Brigade of Gurkhas two points adrift.

The old Western Command Cup competition was revived this year as an Inter-



Above - Maj Alwyn McLean is chaired by his fellow competitors at Bisley after winning the Queen's Medal

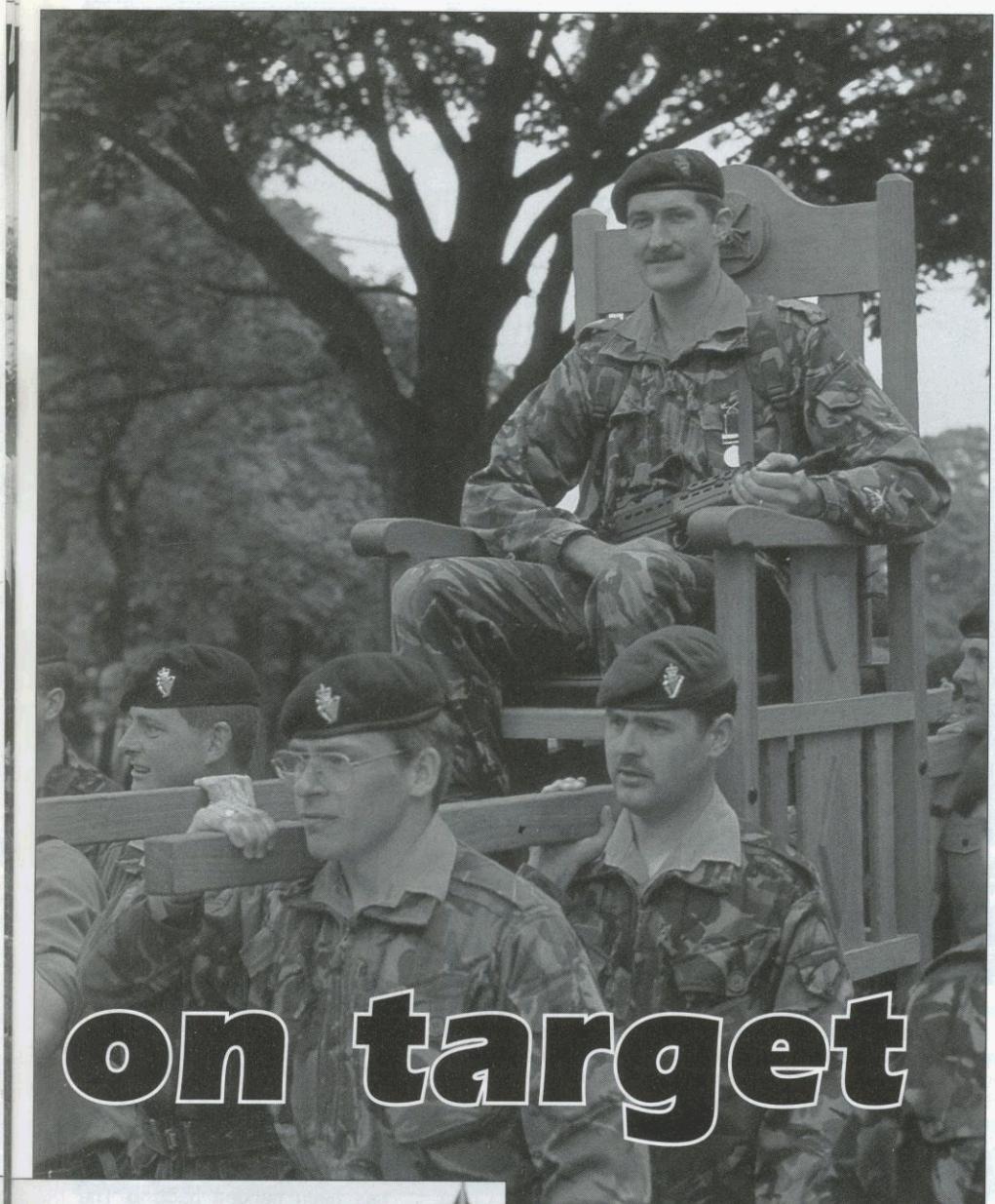
Left - Maj McLean receives the Watkin Cup from the President of the Army Rifle Association, Lt Gen Sir Roger Wheeler

REME's Cpl George Joy, serving with The Queen's Royal Hussars, improved on last year's seventh place by winning the Army's Service pistol championship. He beat four-times winner CSgt Dave Camp, of 1 Para, by a single point.

Two Royal Irish pistol teams were pipped to the winning post by the B team of the Hong Kong Military Service Corps. It was a farewell performance by the Colony team before disbandment in December.

For the first time in many years, a member of the Royal Armoured Corps, Capt Ian Thompson of the Osnabrück-based Queen's Royal Lancers, featured in the Army 100.

Another RAC officer, 2nd Lt Richard Worsley of The Light Dragoons from Hohne gained a wild card entry to the contest after winning the young officers Tickle competition on his annual personal weapon test. He just failed to gain a coveted Army 100, finishing in 103rd place.



REGULAR ARMY RESULTS

Queen's Medal: 1, Maj A G McLean, R Irish; 2, WO1 (RSM) I Gwynne SG; 3, Maj A McLeod RS; 4, CSgt J Slater SG; 5, WO2 D Delany RE; 6, LCpl C McKee, 3 R Irish.

Watkin Cup: Maj A G McLean, R Irish. 6 GR Trophy: Cpl M S Cook RS. Roupell Cup: 1, Capt J Anderson SASC; 2, WO2 D Delany RE; 3, Sig Dhirbahadur Pun, 30 Sig Regt; 4, WO1 (RSM) I Gwynne SG; 5, LCpl Beindrakumar Magar, 2 RGR; 6, Cpl R Doak, 3 R Irish.

Henry Whitehead Cup: 1, CSgt J Slater NITW; 2, Cpl J Burney, 3 R Irish and WO2 P F Quilliam, 3 RSME Regt; 4, Sgt B M Heslop, 1 Cheshire, LCpl P R Browne, 4 R Irish and LSgt W Russell SG. Association Match: 1, Sgt R T Gourley, 8 R Irish; 2, LCpl C T McKee, 3 R Irish; 3, Cpl R Doak, 3 R Irish; 4, Maj A G McLean HQNI; 5, Maj A R McLeod RS; 6, Capt Navindra Bikram Gurung, QG Sigs.

Graham Trophy (FIBUA): 1, Maj A G McLean RS; 2, WO1 (RSM) I Gwynne SG; 3, Maj A G McLean HQNI; 4, LCpl C T McKee, 3 R Irish; 5, Cpl P J Cullen, 3 R Irish; 6, LCpl Beindrakumar Magar, 2 RGR. Western Command Cup: 1, Northern Ireland; 2, 4 Div; 3, Rest of the World; 4, London District; 5, 3 UK Div; 6, 5 Div; 7, 2 Div; 8, 1 Armd Div, 9, Scotland.

Centenary (Fattorini) Bowl: 1, WO1 (RSM) I Gwynne SG; 2, WO2 D Delany and WO2 Musabah, Sultan of Oman's Armed Forces (Oman); 4, CSgt J Slater NITW; 5, Maj A G McLean HQNI; 6, Cpl P J Cullen, 3 R Irish.

Methuen Cup: Royal Irish Regiment. Challenge Cup: Royal Irish Regiment. Overseas Team Challenge Trophy: Sultan of Oman's Armed Forces. Prince of Wales Cup: Royal Irish Regiment. Woolwich Trophy: Royal Corps of Signals.

Bullock Trophy: 1, WO1 (RSM) I Gwynne 1 SG; 2, LCpl Beindrakumar Magar, 2 RGR; 3, Maj A G McLean HQNI; 4, WO2 D Delany RE; 5, Capt J Anderson, AFV Gunnery School; 6, Maj A R McLeod RS. Presentation Kukri: Cpl M S Cook RS.

Service Pistol Championships: 1, Cpl G E Joy REME; 2, CSgt D A Camp, 1 Para; 3, Sgt N G Hodgson QLR; 4, Cpl R Doak, 3 R Irish; 5, Maj A G McLean, R Irish; 6, WO2 M S Gough, 4 R Irish. Team: 1, HKMSC B; 2, 4 R Irish A; 3, 3 R Irish A; 4, MCTC A; 5, HQNI A; 6, AGC Worthy Down A.

TASAAM RESULTS

Queen's Medal: 1, Capt J Tyson 3 Cheshire; 2, Cpl M Keeling, 3 Cheshire; 3, Capt J Alexander, 4/5 Green Howards. Hamilton Leigh Cup: 7/8 A and SH. Garrard Trophy: Capt J Tyson 3 Cheshire.

Mullens Trophy: 3 PWO. Mayor of Westminster: Capt J Tyson 3 Cheshire. Yorkshire Volunteers Cup: 3 Cheshire. City of Westminster: Capt J Tyson, 3 Cheshire. 51 Highland Vols Quaich: 3 Cheshire.

TARA Trophy: Capt J Tyson, 3 Cheshire. Team, 151 Regt RLC. Imperial Tobacco Trophy: Pte G Rutter, 4/5 Green Howards.

Daily Telegraph Cup: 3 Cheshire. Quartet Cup: 3 Cheshire.

Pistol Match: 1, LCpl W Wilcox, 3 Cheshire; 2, WO2 R O'Neill, 15 (NE) BSTT; 3, Capt J Alexander, 4/5 Green Howards. Team: 1, 3 Cheshire; 2, CVHQ RE; 3, 4/5 Green Howards.

South Wales Trophy: LCpl W Wilcox, 3 Cheshire. Pistol Tankard: 3 Cheshire. AG Wise: LCpl P Williams 4 RGJ. Noble Trophy: Capt J Tyson, 3 Cheshire. Wessex Regt Cup: 6/7 PWRR. Volongdis Challenge Trophy: Hldr T Webster 3 HLDRS.

Simpson Challenge Cup: 3 Cheshire. China Cup: 3 Cheshire. Cheshire Rifle Association Cup: 151 Regt RLC. Queens UOTC Trophy: Capt J Tyson, 3 Cheshire.

Tyler Trophy: Capt J Tyson 3 Cheshire. ARA Cup: 3 Highlanders.

Rapids Aggregate Trophy: LCpl Thompson 3 PWO.

Earl of Scarborough Trophy: Capt J Tyson, 3 Cheshire. Officers' Challenge Cup: Capt J Tyson, 3 Cheshire. Leeds Rifle Trophy: Sgt D Ross, 3 Hldrs. Civil Service Cup: Cpl M Keeling, 3 Cheshire. Airey Cup: Pte G Edwards 7 LI. Welsh Dragon Cup: OCdt A Ward CUOTC.

Queens Westminster Challenge Cup: Cfn S Donnelly 5 RGJ. Hong Kong Silver Dragon: 3 Hldrs. N Irish Militia Trophy: 151 Regt RLC. Lord Lieutenants Trophy: Tayforth UOTC. Fortuna Trophy: TA.



Maj Gen Michael Scott, the Military Secretary, and his wife Veronica retrace the steps he took in 1982 as commanding officer of the 2nd Battalion, Scots Guards, during the assault on Mount Tumbledown, East Falkland.

Gen Scott, who attended the Liberation Day

Return to Tumbledown

were regimental pride, morale, comfort... and the fact that anyone seen in silhouette in the night with a steel helmet was certain to be the enemy.

More than a match for Rorke's Drifters

NEWS has reached us of a unique cricket match between the Rorke's Drift CC and a South Wales Borderers Select team.

The Rorke's Drifters are a collection of Foreign and Commonwealth Office players who formed their club in 1986 having been inspired by the film *Zulu*. All the players in the Select XI had a direct link through past or current service at the barracks, Brecon, former Depot of the 24th Regiment which won seven of the 11 VCs awarded for the heroic stand against the Zulus in January 1879.

The match was played at the Army ground in Brecon, quite probably used by soldiers of the 24th before they departed for South Africa and immortality.

And the result?

That, too, followed historical precedent, with the South Wales Borderers winning all the medals by scoring 197-7 before dismissing the opposition for 33.

Lim Joo Joon might not be familiar to all British soldiers who have served in Brunei, but over the past 33 years many of them will have tucked into meals prepared by him.

Now head cook of Training Team Brunei at Medicina Lines, Seria, Mr Lim has received a C-in-C's Commendation for meritorious service to the Army. It was presented to him by the Vice Chief of the Defence Staff, Air Chief Marshal Sir John Willis.

RBL plans pilgrimage to Aden

THE Royal British Legion is planning its first pilgrimage to war graves at Maala, Aden, and Little Aden (Silent Valley).

For those who served there, the November trip will take in places of interest such as the Crater, Lahej, Steamer Point, Tarshyne, Tawela Tanks and Sheik Othman.

Other RBL pilgrimages scheduled this year include Israel, Burma and Hong Kong, the latter marking not only the anniversary

of the fall of the British Colony in December 1941, but also the last Hong Kong Christmas before the Colony is handed over to China next summer.

An autumn trip to Burma and Thailand will include a visit to the River Kwai bridge on the Burma-Siam railway. Up to 110,000 PoWs and slave labourers died constructing the line.

Earlier this year, the Royal British Legion cut through 50 years of red tape and security concerns to arrange the first official pilgrimage to Burma.

It culminated in a service at the Thanbyuzayat War Cemetery in southern Burma, where more than 3,000 Servicemen are buried.

Details of forthcoming pilgrimages can be obtained from the Pilgrimage Department, Royal British Legion Village, Aylesford, Kent ME20 7NX (tel: 01622-716729; fax: 01622-715768).

Who defends the realm? On November 2 the Open Museum at the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, presents a one-day course examining triumphs and tragedies of combined operations in the 20th century. Lecturers include Maj Gen Julian Thompson. Details: Penny Downey on 0181 312-6747. Course fees are £25 (concessions £20).

50 YEARS AGO

From *Soldier*, August 1946

HOME FROM HOME
... OR WAS IT?

IN VIEW of the housing shortage at home, many families may have difficulty in retaining possession of their houses when they come to live in Germany. In certain cases local authorities are empowered to requisition vacant, unfurnished houses, and families should seek professional advice before joining their husbands in BAOR.

25 YEARS AGO

From *Soldier*, August 1971

TROUBLESHOOTERS
IN Londonderry, 5 Light Regiment RA has done two tours. Last year its gunners were peacekeepers during the riots following the arrest of Miss Bernadette Devlin. This year they made four arrests during the Easter parade and have been responsible for guarding the strategic Craigavon Bridge, the city's sole access across the River Foyle.

Tidy end to cruel PWO medal theft

ONE of its most cherished medals has been handed back to The Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire 14 years after it was stolen from the regimental museum in York.

It was of particular significance to the PWO because it had been awarded to Lt Col F S Tidy, commanding officer of the regiment's only ancestral unit to have fought at Waterloo in 1815.

Tidy led the 3rd Battalion, 14th Regiment of Foot (later part of the West Yorkshire Regiment which was amalgamated into the PWO in 1958).

The medal, along with 100 others, was stolen when the museum was housed in Imphal Barracks in Fulford Road. Ten years later it surfaced at a market in Sydney, Australia, and was bought by Mike Downey, a keen military historian who subsequently recognised the name of Lt Col Tidy on a list of stolen medals.

He generously agreed to donate it back to the regiment and was the guest of honour at a ceremony held in the Duke of Wellington's old office at Horse Guards in Whitehall. Mr Downey handed the Tidy medal to a grateful Maj Gen Edwin Beckett, Regimental Colonel of the PWO.



MSMs

The Medal for Meritorious Service has been awarded to:

RA: WO2 P C Maher, SSgt J M Hempshall, SSgt F Salt BEM.

RE: WO1 A G Liddicoat.

R Signals: WO2 D P B McLean BEM.

SG: SSgt A F Kinnear.

RHF: WO1 J B Tyre.

RRW: WO2 M J Cope.

RGJ: SSgt A Harrington.

RAMC: WO1 G F Russell.

REME: WO2 G N Ballard.

AGC(SPS): WO2 J J McGowan, SSgt J M Lawton.

Provost Branch: WO2 D Bancroft.

We'll drink to that: Longest pub name in Britain is... deep breath... The Old Thirteenth Cheshire Astley Volunteer Rifleman Corps' Inn in Astley Street, Stalybridge.

Opened in 1857 as the New Inn, the pub was given its current name in 1881 to mark one of the

periodic evolutions of the Astley Rifle Corps (first mustered 1860) into The Cheshire Regiment. Veterans still meet there once a month and others would be welcome. The *Guinness Book of Records* has confirmed the title as the longest and awarded the pub a plaque to say so.

■ BATTLES and events of the First World War, and the aeroplanes which fought in them, are depicted in a series of commemorative covers produced by Gp Capt Bill Randle with the Joint Services Philatelic Charity Consortium. Proceeds will go to modernising Eagle Lodge, the RAF Association nursing home. Details of the series are available from Mark Jennings, Benham, Benham House, Folkestone CD20 1SD (01303 850041).

REUNIONS

Italy Star Association, East Midlands branch: Standard dedication service followed by parade, August 25, at St Luke's Church, Halifax. Enquiries: 0116 2353317.

Army Sub Aqua Diving Association: 25th anniversary reunion weekend, September 19-22 in the Weymouth area, including boat handling and dive-marshalling courses and dives and an evening social function (Sept 21). Details and booking forms from Capt P Weston, RAO, 1 R Anglian, Oakington Barracks, Longstanton, Cambridge CB4 5EJ.

Korean War PoWs: A reunion of Korean War (1950-53) prisoners of war is to be held at the United Services Club, Gough Street, Birmingham, on September 28. The reunion is sponsored by Samsung Europe. Applications to take part should be sent to Dave Tomlinson, 20 Baston Road, Hayes, Kent BR2 7BE.

APPOINTMENTS

Major Generals: M A Willcocks - To be ACDS, June 28; T J Granville-Chapman - To be Comdt JSCSC, June 28; R A Oliver - To be COS AG Dept, July 12.

Brigadier: S M A Lee - To be Comd 2 Sig Bde, June 29; D J Richards - To be Comd 4 Armd Bde, July 9.

Colonels: W M Davidson - To E-in-C(A), July 8; R D Kinsella-Bevan - To Royal Army of Oman, July 11.

Retirements
Colonels: N T Fickling, late RE, June 29; G J Haig, late RCT, June 30; O T Hall, late RLC, June 30; S A S Hill, late Para, July 14; R D Richards, late RE, July 14.

Greek Campaign 1940-41: The Brotherhood of Veterans of the Greek Campaign 1940-41 has a reunion at Leamington, October 4-6, and will be taking coaches to view the "Greek Grove" taking shape within the National Memorial Arboretum at Lichfield. The Brotherhood is also organising a reunion to Greece in May 1997. Details: Frank Gill 0151 9242712.

SEARCHLINE

The Mosquito Association seeks British Army personnel who occupied the rear cockpit of 6147th Tactical Control Group USAF Texan (aka Harvards) aircraft during the Korean War, controlling fighter-bomber strikes in front of UN lines. Replies to Lt Col (Retd) D G MacLeod, Box 2, Welcome Beach RR1, Halfmoon Bay, BC V0N 1Y0, Canada ((604) 885 7800).

Pucara aircraft: The Norfolk and Suffolk Aviation Museum is restoring an FMA Pucara A-528, captured at Stanley during the Falklands War and now on loan from the Army Air Corps Museum. Several panels and internal fit-

DATES

August

14-26: Gurkhas at Gallipoli, 80th anniversary exhibition, Gurkha Museum, Winchester (01962 842832).

September

7-8: Farnborough International 96 airshow.
7-8: Berwick Military Tattoo. Proceeds to SSAFA.
8: Winchester militaria fair and exhibition, Winchester Guildhall.

15: RBL 75th anniversary grand tattoo and reunion, West India Docks Quay, Isle of Dogs, London. Details: 0171 735-4091.
October

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

November

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

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

Auk appeal to aid Indian veterans

TWO and a half million men and women from India, Pakistan and Bangladesh joined the old Indian Army to fight alongside the Allies during the Second World War.

Half saw active service and they won 31 VCs, more than any other army. Fifty years later thousands of these veterans are living on the Indian sub-continent without support, pensions or welfare.

To redress the balance, the Indian Army Association in Britain has started an appeal in the name of Fd Marshal Sir Claude Auchinleck, last C-in-C in India.

It was launched by Lord Weatherill, the former Speaker of the House of Commons who served in the Indian Army. Donations should be sent to Lord Weatherill, AUK Memorial Appeal, PO Box 7, London W5 2GQ (credit card donations by phone to 0181 840-8404).

tings are sought. Contact Ian Hancock on 01376 345310.

Angelika Lange seeks news of Bill and Shelagh Clarke and daughters Sara and Samantha who were based in Hanover, Germany in 1976-79, lived at Lüchow Str 13 and were friendly with her parents Horst and Ilse Lange. Replies to Angelika Lange, Alte Rathausstr 15, D-30880 Laatzen, Germany (tel 0511 871820).

M E E van Zyl, Box 90298, Garsfontein, 00422 South Africa, wishes to correspond with anyone interested in collecting militaria, military history, or classic and veteran motor cycles.

Hereford link with the Light Infantry

LIKE many other old county regiments, the Herefordshire Regiment no longer exists. After playing its part in both world wars it was a victim of reorganisation.

Now Lt Col Tom Hill, who was commanding officer of the 1st Battalion, The Herefordshire Light Infantry from 1960-63, has helped ensure that the regiment will not be forgotten with his history, *Manu Forti*.

Manu Forti by Lt Col T J B Hill. Alan Sutton Publishing, hardback, £16.99.

While the regiment can trace its origins back to 1782, the author starts his story from 1860, when its county identity was established on its switch from a Regular unit to a volunteer force.

Despite many changes it still has those characteristics

today, being part of the 5th Battalion, The Light Infantry (Volunteers) and comprising a rifle company and support elements based in the county of Hereford.

The book, whose title is the motto adorning the current cap badge, is the result of much research by the author, now honorary curator of the Herefordshire Regimental Museum at the Territorial Army Centre in Hereford.

A fact-filled narrative is interspersed with more than 50 illustrations, and there are detailed appendices covering the regiment's dress and insignia, rolls of honour, honorary colonels and former commanding officers.

Manu Forti will appeal to all who have served in the unit, those with an historical interest, and those who merely enjoy dipping into a fine reference book. – JM

Fresh light on guerrillas who helped win the war

THE sub-title of this book is slightly ambiguous as it implies that the stories about Special Operations Executive (SOE) are solely from its files.

However, although Ian Dear has researched those files which have been released to the Public Records Office since 1993 from the Foreign Office – which relate to the Far East, Africa and Middle East, and Scandinavia – those covering France were not available and in any case only a small percentage of SOE files survived.

In the case of the American Office of Strategic Service (OSS) nearly all the records in the National Archives have been available to the public for some years.

Dear has therefore also made extensive use of official

Sabotage and Subversion: Stories from the files of the SOE and OSS by Ian Dear. Arms and Armour, hardback, £19.99.

narratives with eye-witness reports, published books, manuscripts from the Imperial War Museum, personal interviews with surviving participants in telling the stirring tales of the band of amateur saboteurs who played such a valuable part in the Allied victory in the Second World War.

For example, Charles Cruickshank, the official historian of SOE in the Far East, wrote: "But for the contribution of the guerrillas a considerable part of the Japanese forces would have confronted the advance guard of the 14th Army and possibly held it up

long enough to put at risk the whole operation to recover Rangoon."

On the subject of Burma we are indebted to the author in identifying Maj (later Lt Col) Edgar Peacock, a Burma game warden and member of the Burma Forest Service who was recruited into Force 136 operating in the Karen Hills.

Described as a "solid chunk of a man in his fifties", who "when speaking was indistinguishable from a native", he became one of the war's outstanding guerrilla leaders.

He followed in the footsteps of the courageous Maj Hugh Seagrave, who in March 1944, because of the severe reprisals the Japanese took against the Karen, and to prevent further suffering, gave himself up and was executed. No mention of either of these brave men is made in M R D Foot's official history of SOE.

The extent to which SOE operators were able to encourage partisans to take action was very much conditioned by two factors: the latter's political ambitions on assuming power when the war was over and enemy reprisals against innocent civilians.

Although Dear makes some mention of reprisals he does not include the slaughter at Oradour-sur-Glane, when the village was razed and 500 women and children were machine-gunned and burnt in the church and 150 men and

boys shot in a barn. This was in retaliation for the 13-day delay, caused by partisans, of 2nd SS Panzer Division en route from Toulouse to Normandy – a fair price?

Dear also covers Greece, in particular the destruction of the Gorgopotamus Bridge in 1943 and OSS operations elsewhere (including a claim to 179 enemy killed).

But he makes no mention of the German reprisals in the Katalyra area, where 24 villages were burnt, three monasteries destroyed and 696 Greeks executed. Moreover, he fails to mention that SOE in Greece was known as Force 133.

IMPRESSIVE

Overall the record of SOE/OSS is an impressive one and your reviewer will not spoil the anticipation of readers by recounting details of their actions, successful and unsuccessful.

However, Dear has used his extensive knowledge and new documentation that has become available in recent years in highlighting a few of the more outstanding sabotage and subversive operations in such areas as France, Norway (Op Gunnerside), Greece, Burma, Singapore (Op Jaywick) and Sweden, but he emphasises that this is not a history of SOE and OSS.

It is certainly a thoroughly researched book and is highly recommended. – PSN

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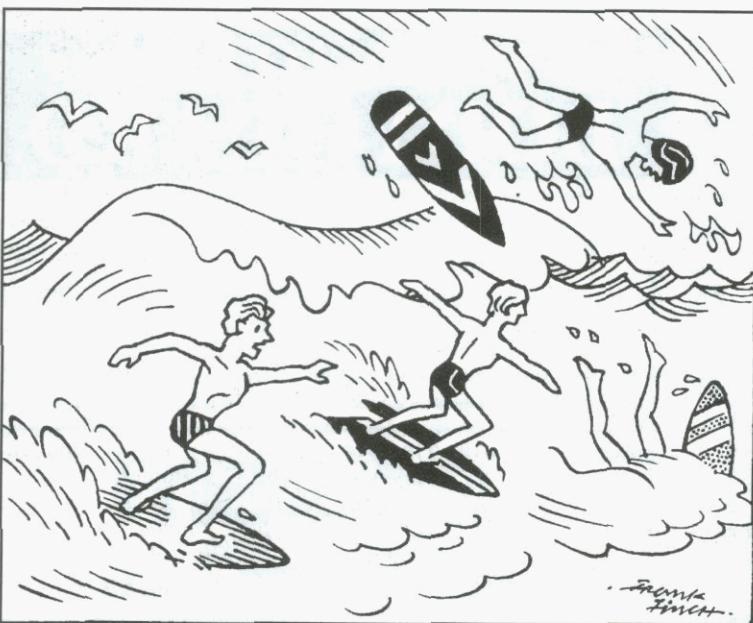
else in your envelope. More than one entry can be submitted but photocopies cannot be accepted. The first correct entries drawn will be the winners. No correspondence of any kind can be entered into.

The names of the winner of the £50 first prize and two runners-up (awarded book prizes) will be announced in the September 16 issue.

Name : (Give rank or title)

Address :

Competition No 639 (June 24): Congratulations to LCpl Pagan, 26 Regt RA, Mansergh Barracks, BFPO 113, who wins £50. Book prizes go to runners-up Mr D M Hankins, of Yeovil, and LCpl Jud White, M Sect, 5 Fd Amb, Tomislavgrad, BFPO 541.



The Battles of the Somme by Martin Marix Evans. First-hand accounts, contemporary and modern photographs, and maps tell the tragic story 80 years on. Weidenfeld & Nicolson, large-format hardback, £14.99.

Legacy of the Somme 1916 by Gerald Gliddon. Bibliographical and media guide to the battles, listing sources of written, filmed or sound-recorded work in the English language up to 1995. Sutton Publishing, hardback, £19.99.

Vimy Ridge, Arras by Nigel Cave. Latest in the *Battleground Europe* series outlines the battles in the Arras region before detailing individuals and unit actions. Leo Cooper, paperback, £8.95.

SAS and Other Special Forces. Pocket-sized, 255-page guide to the world's elite military units, with more than 200 colour photos. Collins Gem, paperback, £3.99.

Tickled to Death to Go edited by Richard van Emden. Memoirs, based on taped interviews, of Tpr

BOOKS IN BRIEF

Ben Clouting, who was just 16 when he went to France with the 4th Dragoon Guards in 1914 and served in every major engagement on the Western Front except Loos. He died in 1990. Spellmount, hardback, £18.95.

Secret Soldier by Col Muki Betser with Robert Rosenberg. Unusually revealing autobiographical inside story of Israel Defence Force operations by the leader of the Entebbe raid 20 years ago. Pacy, narrative style. Simon & Schuster, hardback, £16.99.

Fighting Mad: One man's guerrilla war by Mike Calvert. New edition of the action-packed autobiographical story of Orde Wingate's right-hand man, first published in 1964. Airlife, hardback, £18.95.

Guns of the Elite by George Markham. New large-format

paperback edition of the much reprinted and revised illustrated guide to special forces firearms from 1940 to the present. Arms and Armour, £14.99.

The SAS Personal Trainer by John "Lofty" Wiseman. Strength and Endurance, Nutrition, and Mental Agility are the three section headings in this easy-to-follow and well-illustrated softback, in essence a commonsense guide for the average reader. It even includes a recipe for SAS curry. Headline Books, £12.99.

The Night Blitz, 1940-1941 by John Ray. Admirably researched chronological account of the war on the Home Front waged by Hitler's bombers. Cassell, hardback, £19.99.

The Railway Man by Eric Lomax. Paperback edition of the award-winning autobiographical best-seller by the Royal Signals PoW

tortured on the Railway of Death who is reconciled with his Japanese interrogator 50 years later. Vintage, £6.99.

Jane's Recognition Guides: Aircraft, Tanks and Warships. These three new concise versions of Jane's military reference books (which cost about £185) are much more affordable at £14.99 each. The tank guide, by Christopher F Foss, has more than 1,000 illustrations. Published by HarperCollins.

Close Air Support: Armed Helicopters and Ground Attack Aircraft by Michael Taylor, illustrated by Ray Hutchins. From tank-busters to stealth fighters, with line profiles, photographs, full specifications and operational data. Greenhill Military Manuals, hardback, £12.99.

Commando Subaltern at War by W G Jenkins. Royal Marine operations in Yugoslavia and Italy, 1944-45 by the commando who went on to lecture at RMA Sandhurst.

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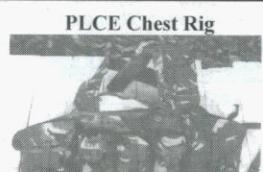
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Stragglers tied down

THE FIRST match of the Army U-25 cricket festival was against the Stragglers of Asia, a new fixture. The Army won the toss and batted, scoring steadily with a fine 79 by Heardman and 49 by Mooney. Final score was 243-8 in the allotted 55 overs.

The Stragglers replied strongly and the U-25s had to contain some good batsmen, including the ex-England player Roy Sweetman.

The bowlers stuck to their task and in a very exciting finish, the visitors required five runs off the last over to win. They failed through a run out on the last ball when requiring one run to win.

With the scores tied, the Army won because they had lost fewer wickets.

Army U25 XI 243-8 (Heardman 79, Mooney 49, Pick 28). **Stragglers of Asia** 243-9 (Heardman 47-3).

HEREFORD

The Army XI travelled to Hereford the following day to play the county U-25 XI, who won the toss and asked the Army to bat. After an early loss, Asquith and Munro put on 104 runs before the latter was run out on 49, but LCpl Steve Hole (REME) battled well and eventually the Army reached a total of 237-6 in their 55 overs. The minor county captain, Skyrme, took 4-21 after coming on as fifth change.

Hereford's reply was a strong attack by the openers and the first wicket fell at 95, but they then fell regularly thanks to some fine bowling from Lt Ben Langman (RDG), Asquith and Knowles-Pfeifer. Unfortunately, the county reached their required target in the penultimate over for the loss of eight wickets.

Army U25 XI 237-6 (Asquith 88, Munro 49, Hole 31). **Hereford U25 XI** 240-8 (Langman 45-3, Asquith 52-3, Knowles-Pfeifer 31-2). Hereford won by 2 wickets.

Army U-25 festival

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Again it rained and the match was washed out when the

RN were in a strong position.

The final day saw a tense match between the Army and the RAF. Winning the toss was all important on a wet but firm pitch. The Army lost and were put in to bat.

They worked hard and lost their first wicket at 56, and while all players contributed, the score of 198-7 was not really enough in the 51 overs allotted after a late start.

This meant a toss of a coin to decide the playing order for the next two days. The RAF won and therefore the Army played the Navy first.

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Will it or won't it? Capt Adrian Grinonneau hopes for another boundary against Middlesex

County contained

THE FICKLE summer weather played havoc with the Army's match against the Middlesex 2nd XI at the Aldershot cricket ground.

Middlesex, put in to bat after the Army won the toss, were restricted to a very beatable total, thanks to some fine bowling by Capt James Carr-Smith (2 R Anglian) and Lt

Ben Langman (ATR Winchester).

Unfortunately the weather deteriorated throughout the afternoon. Batting second, the conditions made life much more difficult for the Army batsmen, although LCpl Steve Hole battled extremely confidently and was unbeaten at the close when the match was

abandoned because of rain.

Middlesex 2nd XI 221-7 (Shah 105), Army 98-5 (Capt Adrian Grinonneau (2 R Anglian) 27).

RAF rain supreme

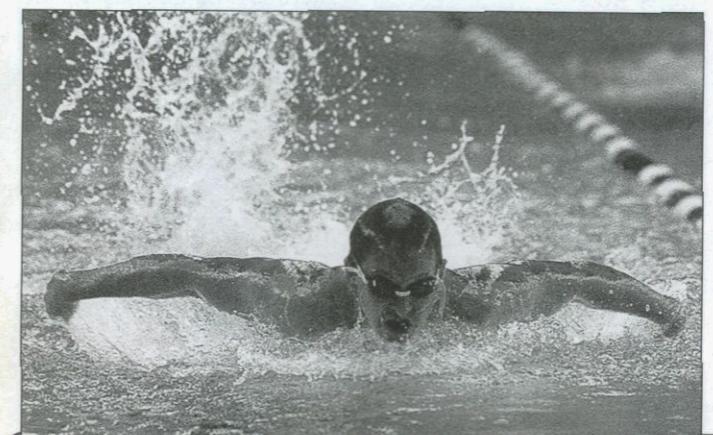
117 over a period of 32 overs, after which wickets started to fall to Knowles-Pfeifer (RE) and Hole.

While the Army contained the RAF up until the last over, a six on to the sightscreen sealed their fate.

Sadly, the Army bowled seven no balls and gave away ten wides which would have made a victory within their grasp.

The game was the only full game of the Festival and was played in good spirit and turned out a "nail biter" to the end.

Army U25 XI 198-7 (Asquith 47, Hole 45, Pick 37). **RAF** 199-7 (Knowles-Pfeifer 45-3, Hole 31-3).



WO2 Rob Coulthard powers home in the butterfly during the Army swimming championships at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst. His team, 35 Engineer Regiment, failed to capitalise on their success in winning the British Army (Germany) Major Units championship and finished third. The sappers redeemed themselves in the single-event team relay championships, winning four of the six events



The Major Units' winning team captain, WO2 Rob Coulthard of 35 Engineer Regiment (left) receives the trophy from Army Sport Board (Germany) secretary Col Ian Jones

Sappers in the swim

DELAYS in repairing the Hohne Garrison pools led to a last-minute switch of venue for the British Army (Germany) Inter-Unit swimming and water polo championships to the Blue Pool, Rheindahlen.

The championships were poorly supported, especially the individual events, but operational commitments in Bosnia were cited by several units.

In the Major Units competition, two sapper units battled to gain supremacy. After win-

ning the tenth and final race, 35 Engineer Regiment beat off a strong challenge by 21 Engineer Regiment, with 40 Regiment Royal Artillery third.

Teams from 7 Signal Regiment (Rear) and 2 CS Regiment RLC won the minor units and women's championships respectively.

As expected, the water polo contest provided some excellent and exciting entertainment for spectators. Top honours went to 7 Signal Regiment.

Major Units: 1, 35 Engr Regt; 2, 21 Engr Regt; 3, 40 Regt RA; 4, 3 Bn REME; 5, 2 CS Regt RLC; 6, 28 Engr Regt.

Minor Units: 1, 7 Sig Regt (R); 2, 16 Sig Regt (R); 3, 200 Sig Sqn; 4, 6 Sup Regt RLC; 5, 3 Armd Fd Amb RAMC; 6, 1 Armd Fd Amb RAMC.

Women's Teams: 1, 2 CS Regt RLC; 2, 1 Armd Fd Amb RAMC; 3, 3 Armd Fd Amb RAMC; 4, BMH Rinteln.

Water Polo: 1, 7 Sig Regt; 2, 28 Engr Regt; 3, 40 Regt RA; 4, 21 Engr Regt.

AGC CLINCH HOCKEY TITLE

ENTRIES for the British Army (Germany) Inter-Corps hockey festival were significantly down on previous years because of operational commitments in Bosnia and elsewhere.

The festival organiser, Maj Norman Larke, had hoped to have at least eight teams taking part, but two teams pulled out at the last minute and two others failed to appear on the day, including last year's champions, the Royal Corps of Signals. The Infantry and Royal Armoured Corps were too heavily committed to tasks in Canada and Bosnia to be able to take part.

Teams from the Royal Artillery, Royal Logistic Corps, Adjutant General's Corps and the Royal Air Force took part. An Army Medical Services team replaced the gunners on the second day.

The Royal Artillery and Royal Logistic Corps, in particular, were lacking most of their best players who had deployed on operations.

After winning four of their five matches and drawing the other, the Adjutant General's Corps were judged winners overall, ahead of a very competitive RAF team. The AGC captain, WO2 Graham Cottrell, scored a total of eight goals during the festival.

The trophy and medals were presented by the chairman of the British Army (Germany) Hockey Association, Lt Col Neil Hatton RLC, who had played a big part in the festival. He umpired throughout both days of the competition.

2 Lt Addinell, 1 KOSB; 200m freestyle, Cpl Hutton; 200m breaststroke, Spr Dart, 21 Engr Regt; 4 x 66 ind medley, Sgt Sell, HCR; 2 lgths sprint, OCdt Allan.

Women: 100m freestyle, OCdt Hairsine, RMAS; 100m breaststroke, LCpl Lee, 225 Sig Sqn; 100m backstroke, LCpl Mason, 251 Sig Sqn; 100m butterfly, Pte Walke, 19 AM Fd Amb; 200m freestyle, Pte Walke; 200m breaststroke, OCdt Louth, RMAS; 1 lgth sprint, OCdt Hairsine.

Water Polo: 1, 3 RSME Regt; 2, 39 Engr Regt; 3, 7 Sig Regt; 4, 28 Engr Regt.

ARMY SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Inter Unit Team

Major Units: 1, RMAS; 2, 5 Regt RA; 3, 35 Engr Regt; 4, 21 Engr Regt; 5, 1 Staffords.

Minor Units: 1, ASPT; 2, ATR Glencorse; 3, 7 Sig Regt (Rear); 4, 16 Sig Regt (R); 5, 39 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn; 6, ATR Pirbright.

Women: 1, RMAS; 2, 32 Regt RA; 3, 16 Regt RLC; 4, Lisburn Sqn; 5, HQ York Garr; 6, 2 CS Regt RLC.

Inter Unit Single Event Team Relay

Men: 4 x 100m freestyle, 35 Engr Regt; 4 x 66 breaststroke, 35 Engr

Regt; 4 x 33 butterfly, Staff College; 4 x 66 backstroke, 35 Engr Regt; 6 x 33 freestyle, 35 Engr Regt; 4 x 66 medley, 21 Engr Regt.

Women: 4 x 33 freestyle, 32 Regt RA; 4 x 33 medley, 32 Regt RA; 4 x 33 breaststroke, 32 Regt RA.

Individual Championship

Men: 800m freestyle, Cpl Hutton, REATW; 400m freestyle, Cpl Hutton; 100m freestyle, OCdt Allan, RMAS; 100m backstroke, OCdt MacDonald, RMAS; 100m breaststroke, OCdt Hastings, RMAS; 100m butterfly, Pte Walke.

Water Polo: 1, 3 RSME Regt; 2, 39 Engr Regt; 3, 7 Sig Regt; 4, 28 Engr Regt.

Martial arts experts pool their talents

MEMBERS of the newly-formed Army Martial Arts Association (AMAA) held their first-ever training weekend since the sport was recognised by the Army Sport Control Board, and are looking for fresh talent.

Twenty-three soldiers, including a number from Germany and Northern Ireland, attended the event which was held at the School of Physical and Recreational Training, Bulford.

The martial arts enthusiasts were given the opportunity to study karate, tae kwon do, jujitsu, judo, or aikido. The latter is a purely defensive art based on locks, holds and throws.

AMAA secretary, Maj Rob Howells AGC (ETS) told *Soldier* that martial arts provided soldiers with an opportunity for demanding physical exercise.

"It also increases self-discipline and engenders a respect for others," he said.

Next event on the martial arts calendar is the Army championships at Bulford on October 19-20. The competition will be open to registered members of the Army Martial Arts Association.

Interested in learning more about martial arts? Then contact Maj Rob Howells, Secretary AMAA, ETS Branch, HQ AGC, Bray House, Worthy Down, Winchester SO21 2RG.



Sgt Michelle Potter races to third place in the 400m hurdles

Hop, skip and... a record

ONE of the longest-standing Army records was finally beaten during the Inter-Services athletic championship at Portsmouth, when Sgt Alvin Walker raised the triple jump record to 15.45 metres.

The record had stood since 1984 and was the second to be broken at the meeting. Walker also won the long jump title.

Sgt Kelly Holmes improved her own Army 400m record of 54.51sec, by winning in 53.8, and LCpl David Nolan (1 RRF) doubled up to win both the 200m and 400m. A picture of LCpl Nolan winning the Army 400m title (July 8 issue) was incorrectly captioned as Cpl Dave Maynard.

Making it seem easy: Sgt Alvin Walker broke the 12-year-old Army triple jump record



Holmes also won the 200m and 1,500m events.

Overall, the men's team, once again captained by Sgt Walker (9 Regt AAC), won comfortably by 15 points.

The Army women's team, captained by Kelly Holmes, lost by 7.5 points to the Royal Air Force. With just the two relays left to run, the Army needed to win both to take the title. Unfortunately, they were beaten in the 4 x 100m.

Army winners

Men

Hammer, Cpl Jones, 2 Sig Regt, 51.1m; **Javelin**, SSgt Mullen, 58.7; **Long Jump**, Sgt Walker, 9 Regt AAC, 7.08m; **400m**, LCpl Nolan, 1 RRF, 200m, LCpl Nolan; **3,000m steeplechase**, Cpl Palmer, HQ CRE; **Triple Jump**, Sgt Walker; **Discus**, LCpl Wiseman; **4 x 100m relay**, Army; **4 x 400m relay**, Army.

Women

High Jump, SSgt Paul, HQ AMUS, 100m, Sig Michalska, 2 Sig Regt; **200m**, Sgt Holmes; **400m**, Sgt Holmes; **Discus**, Cpl Terry, 16 Sig Regt; **1,500m**, Sgt Holmes; **4 x 400m relay**, Army.

New boy Steve wins three British titles

ARMY powerlifter Sgt (SI) Steve Grey has done it again. The 27-year-old physical training instructor made the news when he broke three British records during his first attempt at the sport, and was invited to take part in the national power-lifting championships.

Now he is celebrating breaking three more records and becoming a triple British champion in the process.

Understandably nervous as the only Services representative taking part in the national contest, he failed his opening squat of 100kg (15.7 stone). Ignoring the advice of his

coach, he raised the weight to 120kg (18.8st) and lifted it to set a new British record.

An attempt to raise the record even higher to 125kg (19.6st) failed.

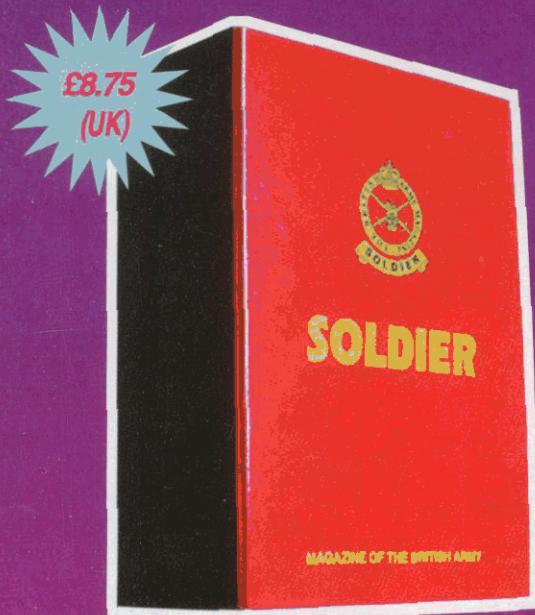
Undaunted, Grey went on to smash the records in two other power-lifting disciplines. He achieved 80kg in the bench

press and 150kg in the deadlift.

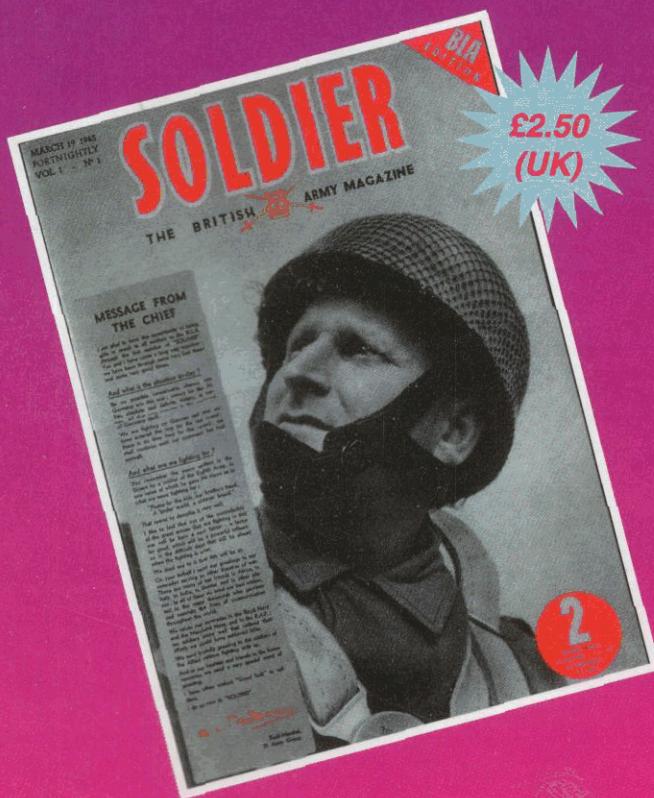
As a result, he has now been selected to represent Great Britain in the World Championships in Durban, South Africa, in November.

Sgt Grey is a member of the Army Physical Training Corps attached to 14 Regiment, Royal Artillery at Larkhill.

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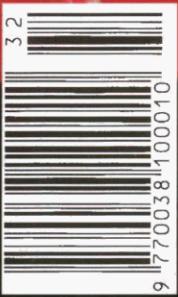
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State occasion: President Nelson Mandela of South Africa inspects a guard of honour from the 1st Battalion, Irish Guards, following his formal welcome by the Queen on Horse Guards Parade, Whitehall. On the left is the Captain of the Guard, Maj James Stopford IG, and behind President Mandela is the Duke of Edinburgh. Huge crowds gathered for London's historic State welcome, which involved more than 1,000 men and women from all three Services

Picture: Sgt Ian Liptrot, PInfo HQ London District

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