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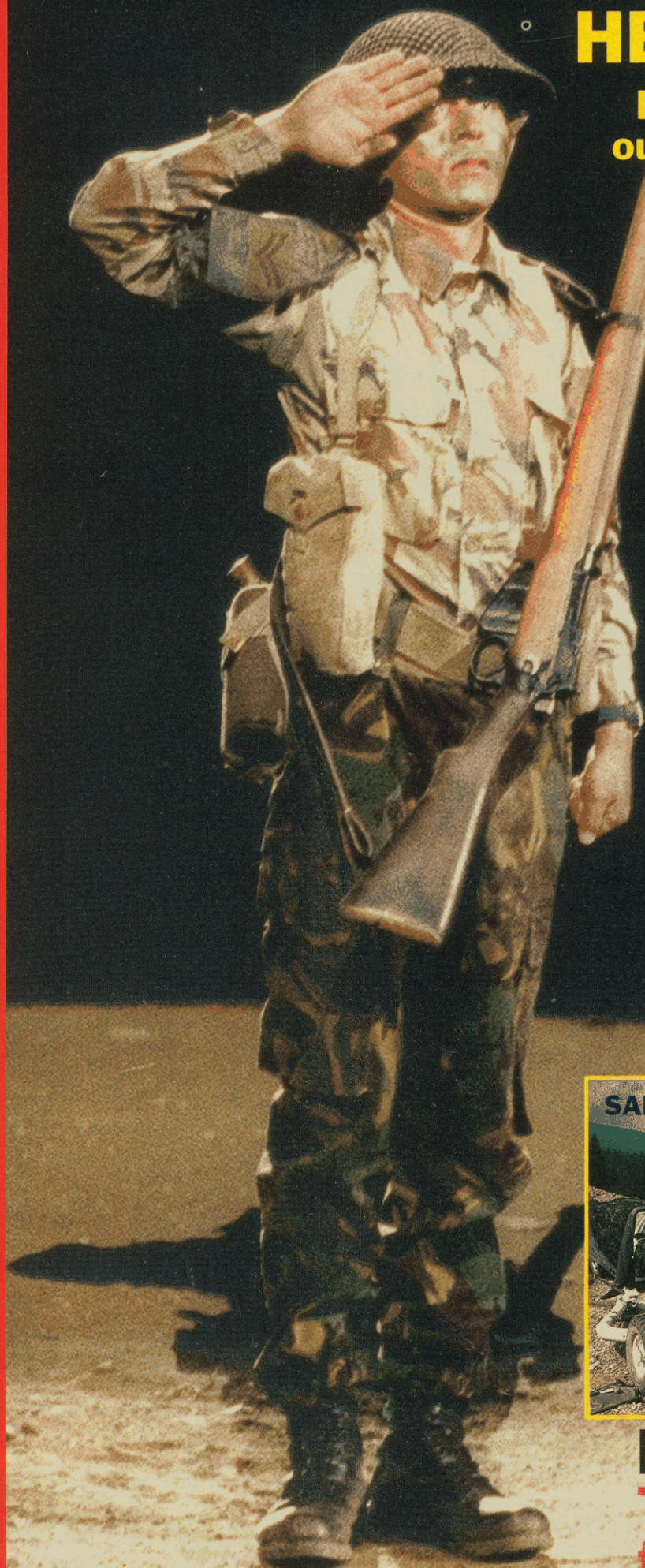
# SOLDIER

MAGAZINE  
OF THE  
BRITISH  
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## SALUTE TO HEROISM

Part two of  
our VJ tribute



SARAJEVO SENTINEL

ALSO INSIDE

**Tanks for  
the memory**

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Incorporating the Territorial Army magazine

**AUGUST 21, 1995**

**Vol 51/17**

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**COVER:** Cpl Tak Bahadur Gurung salutes the Royal Tournament audience after Gurkhas re-enacted the incident in which Rfn Ganju Lama won the VC in Burma in 1944 by knocking out three Japanese tanks. (Picture: Mike Weston). **Tournament feature** Pages 14-15; **VJ section** Pages 21-32. **Inset:** A 105mm light gun of 28/143 (Tombs Troop), 19 Regt RA, dug in on Mt Igman overlooking Sarajevo. (Picture: Chris Fletcher)

● **TANKS FOR THE MEMORY:** BVD Ludgershall's major role in helping to dispose of peace dividend hardware. *Pages 12-13.*

● **MASTER SHOWMAN:** Focus on the "grandfather" of the Royal Tournament. *Pages 14-15.*

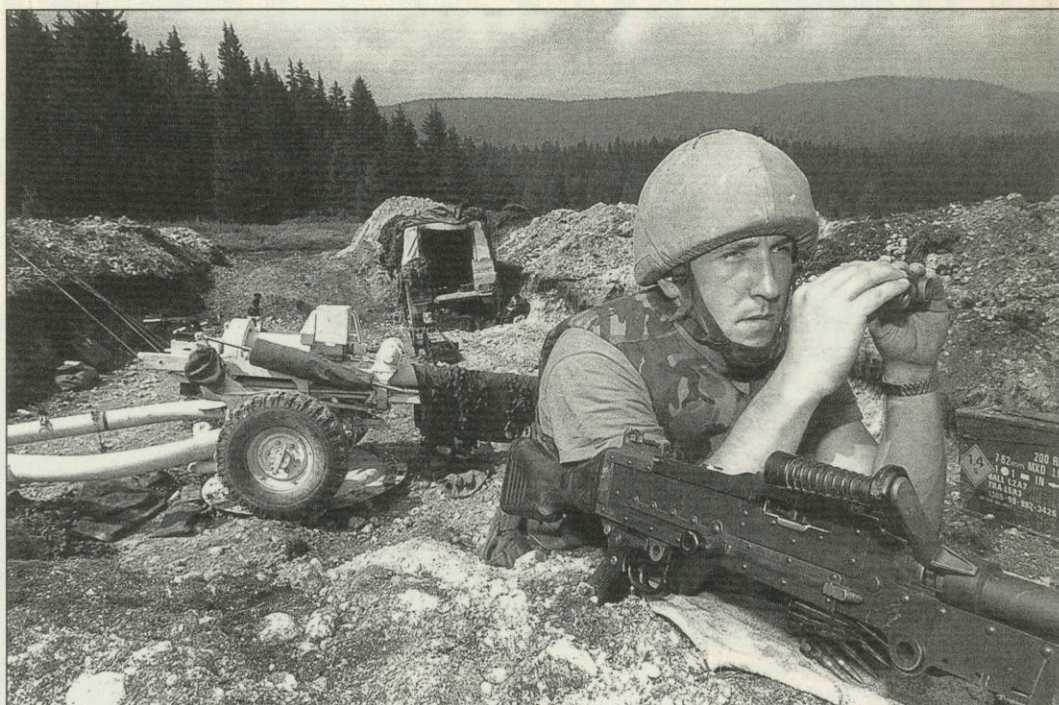
● **LIFESTYLE:** Why we must listen to the VJ veterans. *Pages 18-19.*

● **FAR EAST WAR:** Part two of our VJ commemoration. *Pages 21-32.*

● **READ ALL ABOUT IT:** Far East War books reviewed. *Pages 38-41.*

● **GOLDEN GIRL KELLY:** Sport, *Page 50.*

● **BACK PAGE:** New capbadges – latest in the series



Picture: Chris Fletcher

Before the blue helmets reverted to tactical camouflage, LBdr Jim Ross of 19 Regiment Royal Artillery keeps watch on Mount Igman, overlooking Sarajevo, during the early stages of Task Force Alpha's deployment. Behind, a 105mm light gun is ready to be sited

# Task Force goes green

AS the Croatian Army went on the offensive against Krajinian Serbs occupying former Croatian territory, British troops serving with the UN Rapid Reaction Force threw off their "blue beret" status and moved to a "conventional war" footing, **writes Laurie Manton.**

Troops from the 1st Battalion, The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment battle group that forms the bulk of Task Force Alpha were painting over the white UN camouflage scheme of their heavily armed Warrior infantry fighting vehicles, as command transferred to the UN Multi-National Brigade.

All the battle group's armour, trucks and light vehicles were adopting the green and black temperate region camouflage to make them less of a target. Troops serving with the task force have also swapped their blue helmet and flak jacket covers for disruptive pattern material (DPM) versions.

A spokesman said the battle group could be used to force through convoys of humanitarian

aid under difficult circumstances. "They may have to get stuck in and it makes sense to adopt tactical camouflage," he said.

Earlier, two batteries of 105mm light guns from 19 Regiment Royal Artillery were cleared for action when Bosnian Serb troops and armoured vehicles surrounded a UN observation post near

Mount Igman. As the British gunners, from 25/170 (Imjin) Battery and 28/143 Battery (Tombs Troop) stood by their guns, ready to give supporting fire, a small force of French Foreign Legion troops armed

with Milan anti-tank missiles and AMX10 light tanks was sent to investigate.

In the event, the Serbs withdrew and the gunner commanding officer, Lt Col Dick Applegate, was able to stand down his men.

The gunners are part of Task Force Alpha, an element of the United Nations Rapid Reaction Force which has been sent to the area to deter Bosnian Serb attacks on UN troop positions in Sarajevo and UN aid convoys negotiating the tor-

● **Operation Quick Lift**  
● **Loggies aid refugees**  
– **Pages 4 and 5**

● **Turn to Page 5**



# Operation Quick Lift lives up to its name

THERE cannot be many British units who have deployed on operations by Tube – in fact Colchester-based 24 Airmobile Brigade is probably the first, writes Laurie Manton.

The Tube in question is the C-141B Starlifter aircraft, a small fleet of which from the US Air Force's Air Mobility Command was used to transport Dutch and British personnel and equipment to join the United Nations Reaction Force.

The aircraft's nickname comes from the long tubular fuselage, which can carry 200 troops, 155 paratroopers, or 68,725 lb of cargo.

Operation Quick Lift had three phases – the movement of support equipment and vehicles, the transport of about 2,000 advance troops, and the deployment of 2,800 soldiers from 24 Brigade.

A team from *Soldier* joined one of the flights, which was carrying a large detachment of soldiers from the York-based 2 Signal Regiment, commanded by Lt Col Jo Fletcher, from RAF Brize Norton to the Croatian port of Split.

One of the regiment's squadrons is deploying to the Falkland Islands this month. Most of the remaining signallers have been tasked to Operation Grapple in the former Yugoslavia. All were proudly wearing the Crossed Keys insignia of the famous 2nd Division of which they are part.

Officer in charge of the party, the regimental admin officer, Capt Jim Oliver, AGC (SPS), said this was the second major journey in a week for his soldiers.

"We drove our vehicles and equipment down to the Marchwood military port, where they were loaded on to a ship bound for the Adriatic port of Ploce.

"Afterwards we returned to our base at Imphal Barracks



British signallers from York climb aboard the "Tube" at RAF Brize Norton

Picture: Mike Weston

and awaited a call forward to the airhead.

"When the call came, we were coached overnight from York to an air mounting centre at South Cerney, where the Army's movers from 29 Regiment RLC prepared troops and their baggage for the deployment."

US airmen from the 621st Tanker Airlift Control Element were waiting on the ground at Split to coordinate the disembarkation of passengers.

"Split is a small but incredibly busy civil airport and incoming military flights have to be balanced with the flow of civilian traffic," said Lt Col Robert Norman, USAF. "As our aircraft take up a large proportion of the available ramp space, it is incredibly important that we turn aircraft round as quickly as possible."

As the Starlifter rolled to a stop on the pan its huge rear doors were opened. Three heavy pallets of bergens and webbing were pushed onto a waiting truck and the British troops were hastened to leave.

"Go, Go, Go!," shouted the

American loadmaster with a wave of his arms, and more than a hundred signallers trotted out of the aircraft in a few seconds.

So fast was the turn-round that the aircraft took off only a dozen minutes after the wheels of its undercarriage had first touched down on Croatian soil. The two-and-a-half hour return journey was under way.

At the time of *Soldier's* visit on August 2, aircraft from Air Mobility Command had completed almost 110 missions in support of Operation Quick Lift, transporting in excess of 2,000 passengers and more than 1,700 tons of cargo.

The air move of 24 Brigade personnel was completed on Aug 6. Operation Quick Lift was declared a complete success.



A Warrior infantry fighting vehicle negotiates its way through typical Bosnian mountain terrain. Vehicles like this have now been re-painted in temperate region camouflage

## Task Force goes green

● From Page 3

tuous supply route across Mount Igman.

Two companies of 1 D and D, two gunner batteries, combat engineers, A Squadron Household Cavalry Regiment, and 500 French Foreign Legionnaires led the first deployment.

When UNPROFOR ordered the reinforcement of Sarajevo on July 23, the battle group took up positions on Mount Igman so it could respond to attacks on the besieged city and protect aid convoys trying to reach Sarajevo.

The route from Vitez through Kiseljak, Tarcin, Pazaric and up to the mountain top was picketed by A Sqn HCR. A Company 1 D and D followed closely with elements of TAC HQ, including the battle group's commander, Lt Col Jeff Cook

B Company moved in close support of the guns until they reached Mount Igman, where the already established A Company took over local protection. C Company remained in reserve at Kiseljak.

At the time of writing just the two Royal Artillery batteries, supported by A Coy, 1 D and D, and some other small supporting units remained on the mountain.

In a separate incident, the Royal Logistic Corps formed one of the first UNHCR food convoys to arrive in Tuzla carrying aid for refugees who had fled from the former UN safe haven of Srebrenica.

A helicopter he was travelling in was brought down by gunfire near Sarajevo after bullets hit the fuel tank. No one was injured and the general, who was on his way to a meeting with the Bosnian Serb military commander, Gen Ratko Mladic, continued his journey in another helicopter.

The commander of Britain's 24 Airmobile Brigade, Brig Robin Brims, flew to Croatia with members of his headquarters staff to link up with an advance party preparing the brigade's main administrative base at Ploce.

Units of the Brigade now deployed include 1st Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment and 3 Regiment Army Air Corps, supported by engineer, signals, medical and logistic units.



Picture: Chris Fletcher

A soldier of 27 Transport Regiment RLC distributes food to refugees sheltering at the former Tuzla airbase. The loggies had an arduous 48-hour drive before they reached the families

# British truckies in Tuzla aid convoys

TRUCKS from 27 Regiment Royal Logistic Corps formed one of the first UNHCR food convoys to arrive in Tuzla carrying aid for refugees who had fled from the former UN safe haven of Srebrenica.

The commander of the regiment's 8 Squadron, Maj Phil Bates, went on ahead to assess the needs of the refugee camp, where more than 7,000 men, women and children were reported to be camped out on a former airbase at Tuzla.

In conjunction with UNHCR and the Royal Engineers, Maj Bates had to organise the available warehouse and, if possible, improve upon it. In one instance, this meant actually getting a roof on a building. In general everything had to be made ready if the need arose to accept extra numbers of people and the stores which were to follow.

"One of the main engi-

neering tasks was to make the place hygienic," he said. "Ablution and washing facilities were erected and a drainage and disposal system was established."

Meanwhile, the convoy of 29 vehicles and 55 personnel was on its way from Split to Tuzla. The stores it carried were mainly bedding and food supplies. Also being carried was an earth digger, in case the practical aspects of construction and ground clearance became a necessity.

There were delays along the route – one at Gornji Vakuf and a tedious 17-hour wait at Vitez before approval was given and a Bosnian Government military police escort took the convoy through the next stretch.

Ten hours later the trucks arrived in Tuzla, much to the relief of the convoy's commander, Capt Colin Francis of the Queen's Own Gurkha Transport Regiment.

"The basic camp was erected in four days," Maj Bates said.

"The equipment came from the small stock of stores which were held by UNHCR. The rest was either flown in or brought up by road convoy.

"There are more than 1,000 tents, 40 water distribution points, five medical stations and three large shelters. Armoured personnel carriers were used as food distribution points with soldiers acting as security."

The initial scenes of chaos, fear and panic among the refugees as they searched tearfully for relatives or studied casualty lists for the names of family members have ended.

Maj Bates said: "It has quietened down a lot. The children are the most resilient. They are amazing. They are able to smile, wave and play football, if they can find one."

● The Army Postal and Courier service has announced a BFPO number for 24 Airmobile Brigade and other British Forces stationed at Ploce in Croatia. It is BFPO 540.





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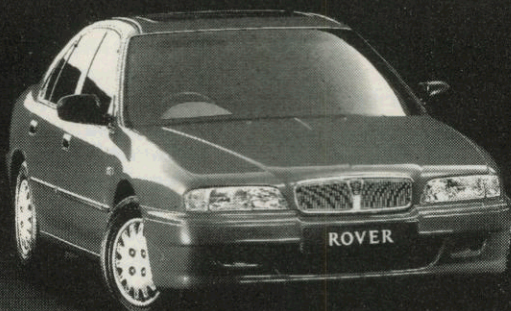
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## Heroine Vera serenades the heroes

With a song in her heart, wartime Forces favourite Dame Vera Lynn pays tribute to 21 surviving Victoria Cross holders who gathered in London last month.

All won their VCs in the Second World War. They paraded before the Queen during this year's Royal Tournament, which had the theme of Victory.

Nearly a quarter of a million people visited the tournament, which raises funds for Service charities – the best overall attendance for four years. The 1996 Royal Tournament will be held at Earls Court from July 9 to 20.

● Tournament feature – Pages 14-15



## Gulf War "illness" inquiry goes on

INVESTIGATIONS into the so-called Gulf War Syndrome are to continue, following an audit by the Royal College of Physicians of the MoD's medical assessment programme.

Earlier this year, the Royal College was asked by the Surgeon General, Vice-Admiral Tony Revell, to perform an independent clinical audit of the programme being carried out by Wg Cdr Bill Coker at the Princess Alexandra RAF Hospital, Wroughton. Some

300 men and women who served in the Gulf have been seen.

The report said the programme had been "addressing appropriately the medical needs of those veterans reporting illness and attending the clinic at Wroughton".

It also made specific constructive comments on how the programme could be improved and put forward recommendations about the future direction of investiga-

tion into the alleged syndrome. Almost all have been accepted by the Ministry of Defence.

Armed Forces Minister Nicholas Soames said that although investigations in the United States and in Britain had not established any evidence of a syndrome or new medical conditions peculiar to Gulf War service, the MoD remained open-minded.

"We will continue and develop our programme of research, and have opened a new 24-hour MoD telephone helpline which will provide information on our medical assessment programme," he said.

The MoD has been investigating the alleged syndrome since July 1993. In the USA, reports by the US Department of Defense Science Board Task Force and the US National Institute of Health concluded that there was no convincing evidence of any new medical condition connected to service in the Gulf War.

The new MoD Helpline number is 0171-305-5087

● France has confirmed that there have been no reported cases of unexplained illness such as the alleged Gulf War Syndrome among French Servicemen who served in the Gulf.

### IN BRIEF

#### York marks Kohima date

Veterans from all over Britain travelled to York to commemorate the 51st anniversary of the Battle of Kohima. A service in York Minster on July 30 was followed by a march past at which the salute was taken by GOC 2 Div, Maj Gen Patrick Cordingley.

● ● ●  
As Colonel-in-Chief of the Royal Logistic Corps, the Princess Royal visited the Base Ammunition Depot Kineton. She saw displays mounted by the depot, 11 EOD Regiment RLC and the Army School of Ammunition.

● ● ●  
A declaration of intent between the MoD and the Countryside Council for Wales was signed by Defence Under Secretary Earl Howe at Castlemartin Ranges, Pembrokeshire, on August 1. While military use has priority on Defence land, the MoD undertakes to protect and, where possible, enhance its conservation and recreation value.

● ● ●  
Keynsham-based 219 (Wessex) Field Hospital RAMC (V) is the first TA medical unit to run a Pre-Hospital Emergency Care course. Twenty-five doctors and nurses took part.

● ● ●  
NORWEST Holst Construction has completed a MoD contract to construct facilities for 24 Air-mobile Brigade at Colchester. Work included two vehicle workshop buildings for first and second line repair, a battalion headquarters building and a small arms test range.

### Muttley gets used to the quiet life

IT'S a dog's life romping on the beach, but for mongrel Muttley – sparring here with Sgt Alan Forsythe, 1BW – it's a world away from the years he spent on daily patrols with his adopted Army friends on the streets of Belfast. Muttley was one of the best known dogs in Northern Ireland after befriending soldiers stationed at Girdwood Barracks seven years ago. Celebrity status brought its own dangers: two years ago, he was attacked by a gang of hooligans. Now he has a new home and is developing a real relish for normal soldiering – especially when it means training with his new friends in the 1st Battalion, The Black Watch on the ranges at Ballykinler, Co Down.





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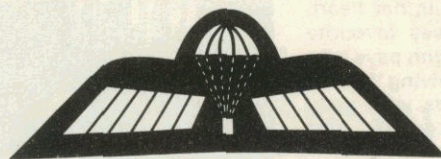
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## British achievements in Bosnia praised

DURING a Commons debate on Bosnia, Defence Secretary Michael Portillo expressed pride at the achievements of British Servicemen and women in the former Yugoslavia.

After Mr John Townend commented that "It is surely not in our interests to have our troops there", Mr Portillo said: "UN forces in Bosnia are not a combatant force. We obviously cannot stop all the horrors, but that does not mean that we can do nothing. Indeed, we have achieved a great deal."

Later, while telling of the successes of UN policy, he said: "British Royal Engineers have built 42 km of road, and they keep open nearly 1,000 km of supply routes."

"British troops have rebuilt

kindergartens, restored essential services, and taught children how to look out for mines that, for years to come, may threaten to blow them to pieces."

He added: "I flatly contradict those who claim that there is humiliation in what the British forces are doing. The saving of human life is noble and dignified, and I feel extraordinarily proud of the British men and women who have achieved so much."

Referring to the 200 men of the Royal Welch Fusiliers in the safe haven of Gorazde, he said: "The safety and dignity of those men is



**A round-up of pre-recess items from Westminster. Sittings resume in October**

of paramount importance to this country. I want to make it absolutely clear to the House that anyone who harms them will be held personally responsible by the Government of the United Kingdom."

Units providing training and advice on Armed Forces intelligence and security disciplines and policy are to be rationalised, said Armed Forces Minister Nicholas Soames.

The tri-service work is now carried out by 650 military and civilian personnel at Ashford, Garats Hay, RAF stations North Luffen-

ham and Wyton, and HMS Mercury.

A new defence intelligence and security centre is to be formed and considered as a candidate for agency status with a target start date of October 1, 1996.

It was also announced that personnel security vetting in the MoD is to be considered for agency status.

First of the Army's new Apache helicopters is expected to enter service by the end of the decade, said Defence Procurement Minister James Arbuthnot. Test flying should begin at the end of 1997.

Annual cost of maintaining a private in the Army, excluding wages and wages on-costs, is £14,019.

### IN THE PRESS

200,000 flee as floods threaten Dutch dykes

Trains crash as slip blocks line

BT chief envies junior doctor's 'relaxing' job

What the papers have been saying

THE Deputy Commander-in-Chief, HQ Land Command, might be interested to know that his name acquired a distinctly African flavour when it appeared in an Angolan local newspaper. It came out as Major General Dsombe. We would write it Major General Hew Pike DSO MBE. — *Daily Express*

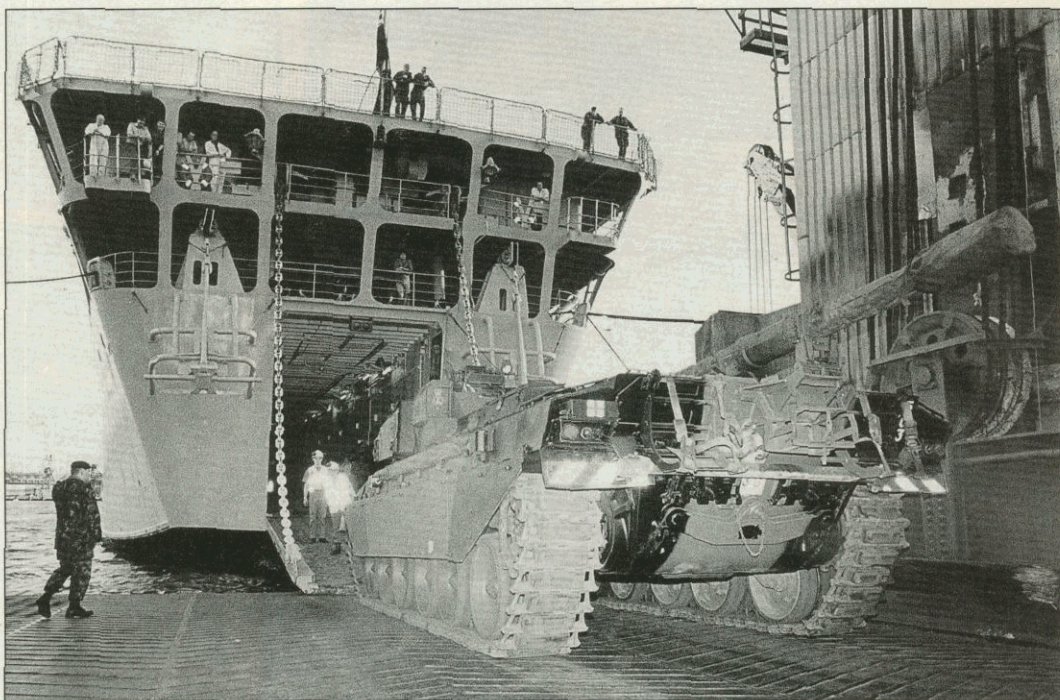
At the end of a 15-week sponsored diet challenge, Armed Forces Minister Nicholas Soames weighed-in at 16st 3lb — a reduction of more than 23lb. His loss will mean a gain of £5,000 in pledges for the Star and Garter Home for ex-Servicemen and women in Richmond, Surrey. — *Daily Telegraph*

Bone marrow transplant boy Rhys Daniels visited the Royal Tournament at Earls Court — and signed up with the Welsh Guards. He said: "I want to be a soldier when I grow up." — *Daily Express*

Defence chiefs have pledged to fight any Government moves to lift the ban on gay Servicemen and women. — *Daily Mail*

Argentina and the UK are making discreet attempts to strengthen military ties which were severed as a result of the Falklands war in 1982. — *Financial Times*

## Challenger 'first' as QRH return



TEN Challenger 1 main battle tanks rumbling ashore from the RFA *Sir Percivale* at North Shields Docks heralded the return of the Queen's Royal Hussars (The Queen's Own and Royal Irish) from Germany.

The 69-tonne tanks, which saw action in the Gulf, are the first of their type to be deployed in Britain. They were the first of 50 on their way to Megiddo Lines, a recently

opened state-of-the-art tank park at Catterick Garrison. The Hussars will be based at the adjacent Cambrai Barracks.

The regiment is doing a straight swap with the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards, who are in the process of moving from Catterick to Fallingbowl. Once there, the Scots DG will be equipped with the new Challenger 2 tanks.

The QRH tanks travelled

across the North Sea from Emden and were then transported by low-loaders to Catterick overnight. The only other Challenger 1 tanks in Britain are used for training in the south of England.

Also on board the *Sir Percivale* were trucks bound for Albermarle Barracks, Harlow Hill, Northumberland, soon to be home to 39 Regiment Royal Artillery, returning from Sen-lager.



# Keeping their cool

Six pairs of aching feet get some welcome relief in the Firth of Clyde as their respective owners recover from marching round the Isle of Arran. All members of 3rd (Volunteer) Battalion, The Royal Highland Fusiliers, the soldiers, (left to right) LCpl John McNamara, 2nd Lt Paul Joyce, Sgt David McFarlane, CSgt Andy Blair, Fus James Hagan and Capt Bill Austin, were putting the finishing touches to months of preparation for the annual Nijmegen marches.



Picture: Mike Weston



## Minister's morsels

Armed Forces Minister **Nicholas Soames** samples the delights dished up by LCpl **Pete Stocks** and Pte **Matt Foyster** during a visit to the Army School of Catering at Aldershot. Looking on approvingly is the school's commandant, Col **Philippe Rossiter**.

## Best man for the job . . .

Gnr **Chris Hunter** is a one-man success story of which staff at the Army Careers Information Office, Cambridge, are very proud.

Since enlisting last September as a potential gunner commando in the Royal Artillery at the upper age limit of 24, he has won a series of accolades.

He was judged best recruit and won the best at PT trophy at the end of basic recruit training, and went on to the best student award after completing phase two training. Chris later culled another best student award on his all-Arms commando course with his unit (29 Commando) at Lympstone.



To cap it all, he is seen receiving the Commando Medal – awarded to recruits who show, among other attributes, courage and determination and high professional standards during training – from Brig **Roger Dillon** (right), Commandant of the Commando Training Centre Royal Marines.

## Degree of success



After eight years of study with the Open University, WO1 (RSM) **Peter Gibson**, Royal Engineers, is the proud possessor of a degree in psychology. Peter is currently RSM of the City of Edinburgh University Officers' Training Corps.



## Shooting back to the Curragh

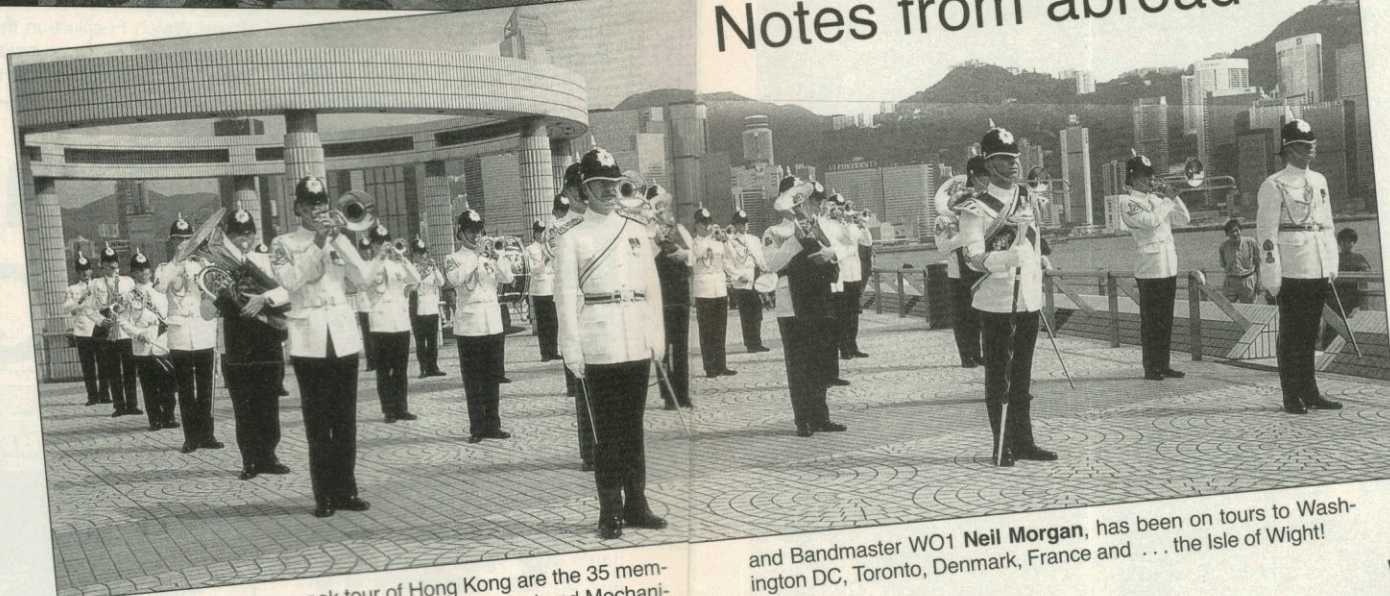
Accompanying members of the British team in an international falling plates competition organised by the Irish Defence Forces to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the UN, was LCpl **Yam Rai** (centre), a piper with the 3rd Battalion, The Royal Gurkha Rifles.

Led by Maj **Simon Archer**, 3 RGR, the team – first British troops to return to the Republic of Ireland on official duty in almost 60 years – included nine members of the battalion's shooting team and a cook.

Teams from the US and Finland, as well as the republic, were based at the Curragh, Co Kildare, formerly a British Army camp.

With LCpl Yam Rai – whose team was defeated in the semi-final – are Pte **Brian McCarty**, 4th Infantry Battalion, Cork, and Pte **Paul Fitzgerald**, 12th Infantry Battalion, Limerick, whose team went on to win the plate.

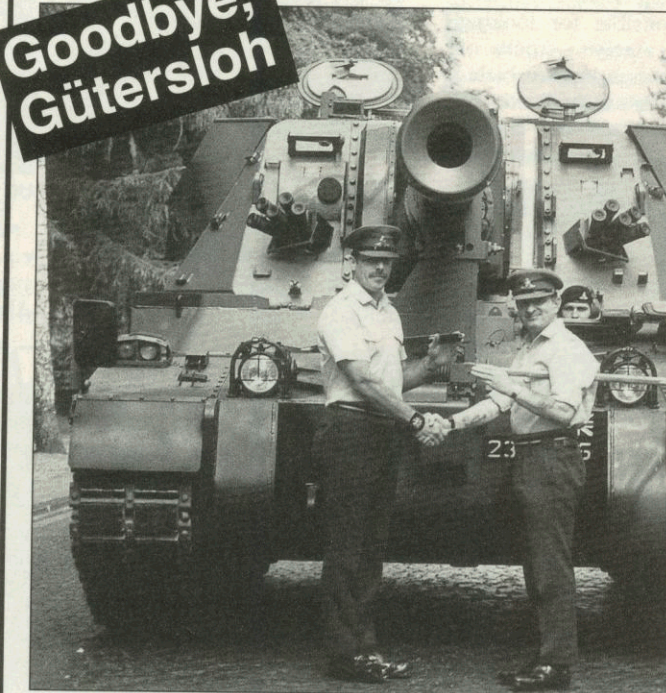
## Notes from abroad



Pictured during their five-week tour of Hong Kong are the 35 members of the Band of the Corps of the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers. Over the past year, the band, under (front, left to right) Director of Music Capt **Kevin Lamb**, Band SM WO2 **Chris Gillat**

and Bandmaster WO1 **Neil Morgan**, has been on tours to Washington DC, Toronto, Denmark, France and . . . the Isle of Wight!

## Goodbye, Gütersloh



Tall as he is, WO1 **Paul Greene** (left) is dwarfed by one of his regiment's AS90 guns as he is welcomed as RSM of Gütersloh-based 26 Regiment, Royal Artillery by outgoing RSM WO1 **Mick Wilce**. Mick, who was bidding farewell to Germany after two years with the regiment, has been posted to the holding strength of 19 Regiment RA at Colchester prior to his retirement in December.

## Collin's come-back



Not only did **Collin Snee** serve for 24 years with The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment, but his son, currently with the 1st Battalion, The Royal Gloucestershire, Berkshire and Wiltshire Regiment in Cyprus, has followed in his Army footsteps.

Now the former sergeant major, pictured with Territorial Army soldiers from A Company, 1st Battalion, The Wessex Regiment, whom he transported from Gloucester and Cheltenham for a parade at HQ Land Command, is crossing his fingers that he will be accepted to join the Regulars again to undertake an S-type (TA-enlisted) year-long engagement – preferably in Bosnia, he says.

Picture: Hull Daily Mail



## Medics to the rescue

Showing speed and alertness when a motor cyclist was seriously injured in an accident on the A1 were (from left) Ptes **Nicky Chapman**, **Jason Kitchen** and **Anne Suttill** of Hull-based 250 Field Ambulance, RAMC (Volunteers). Their on-the-spot treatment and reassurance to the casualty before and after the emergency services arrived earned praise from Brig **Austin Thorp**, Commander 15 (NE) Brigade, the largest TA brigade in the country.



# Going, going . . . nearly gone

## Ludgershall runs down for closure in 1997

DRIVERS using the A342 between Tidworth and Andover cannot help but notice the hundreds of tanks, scout cars and armoured personnel carriers lined up in rows in a hollow to the south of the road near Ludgershall.

What might not be readily apparent is the fact that the number of vehicles there awaiting disposal is getting smaller. The giant parking lot will be empty by early 1997.

Base Vehicle Depot Ludgershall, which is to close in 18 months, is one of three independent units which form part of the vehicles and fuels division of the Army Base Storage Distribution Agency (ABSDA).

The other two are a B vehicle storage depot at Ashchurch and a petroleum depot at Westmoors in Dorset.

The Ludgershall depot has been responsible for looking after the Army's stock of armoured fighting vehicles since 1947. It is tasked with the receipt, maintenance, storage and issue of the whole range of AFVs, and of a limited number of BV206 soft-skinned over-snow vehicles.

The work force, predominantly civilian, includes more than 65 soldiers. Some serve



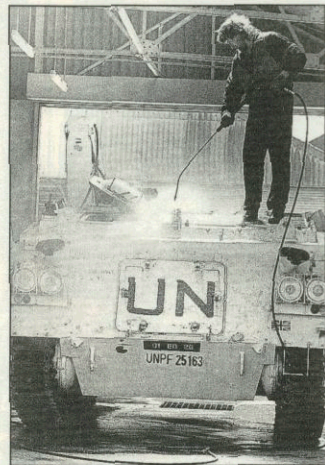
Maj Steve Jenkins, the OC, pictured in front of rows of Fox light reconnaissance vehicles awaiting disposal

with BVD Ludgershall's 1423 Vehicle Troop, others form part of the staff of 96 Vehicle Depot Workshop REME.

"We have a 1.2km test track and a fighting vehicle gun control equipment testing facility at Ludgershall", said the officer commanding, Maj Steve Jenkins RLC.

"The depot is served by rail. A division railhead lies just outside the camp perimeter with a spur running into the depot. We also have a wading tank to test the BV206 over-snow vehicles."

At the height of the Army's drawdown, the depot had an annual throughput of 6,000 tanks and armoured personnel carriers awaiting redistribution or disposal. This has reduced to a more normal average of 3,500 to 4,000 vehicles a year.



Civilian Dave Tranham washes down a FV434 APC painted in UN livery before respraying

Current stock value of equipment held at the 55-acre site is more than £550 million. About 40,000 square metres of

covered storage area is available to house stocks of Challenger main battle tanks, AS90 self-propelled guns and Warrior infantry fighting vehicles.

A stroll through the massive storage sheds is a military vehicle enthusiast's dream. Inside are the "new" Sabre CVR(T)s (Fox armoured car turret on a Scorpion chassis) and a venerable Beach Armoured Recovery Vehicle (BARV), built in 1947 and able to operate in water to a depth of 9ft 6in.

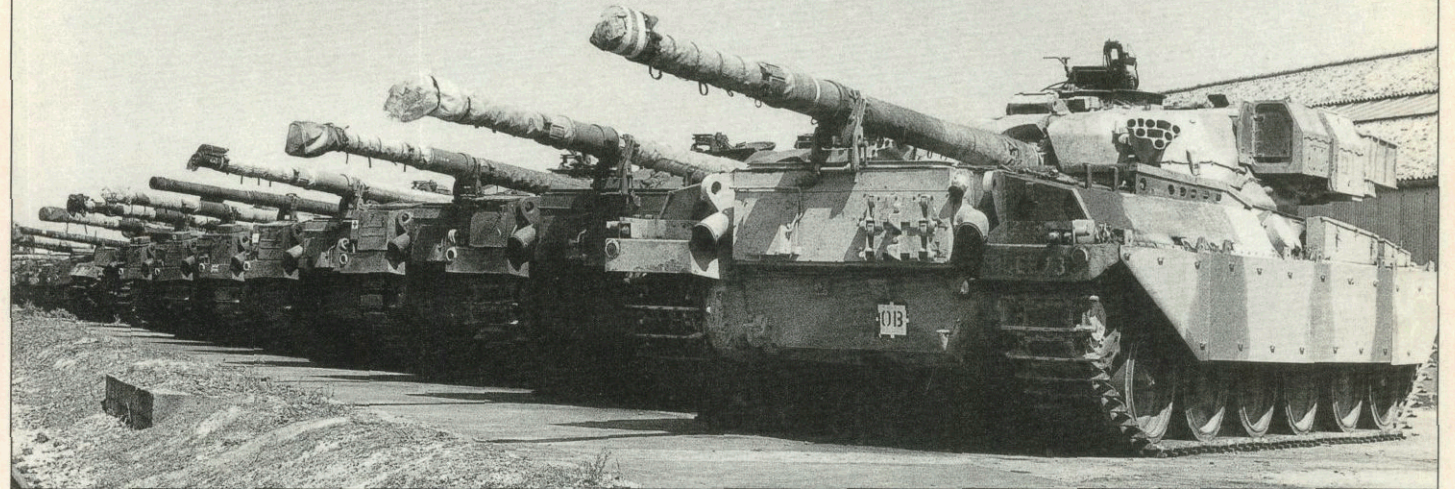
A fleet of Fuchs NBC reconnaissance vehicles awaits issue to the Territorial Army's new nuclear, biological and chemical warfare defence regiment.

Another shed holds strangely-camouflaged Spartan and FV432 APCs which have found a new lease of life since being declared surplus to requirements. A yellow star on the turret and flank of each vehicle gives a hint to their eventual destination.

Following changes to their profiles, such as add-on multi-barrelled machine-guns and turrets to make them appear more like enemy vehicles, they will be sent to join the Army's opposing force (OPFOR) at Warminster.

Perhaps the saddest sight is on wasteland adjacent to the main storage area. Here, on the site of the former Busigny Barracks, vehicles awaiting disposal are stored in rows according to type.

BVD Ludgershall will close on March 31, 1997, a victim of the Army's drive for economies. A single site, BVD Ashchurch, has been chosen to



A line of Chieftain main battle tanks surplus to Army requirements. The camouflage indicates they were once in service with BATUS in Canada



Members of 1423 Troop and civilian staff with vehicles in service. From left are Challenger armoured recovery vehicle, Combat Engineer Tractor, Saxon, Challenger 1, Fuchs, Warrior, Chieftain armoured recovery vehicle and a BV206

store A and B vehicles for the Army.

Maj Jenkins said: "Over the next 18 months we have to move our stock of vehicles to Ashchurch and ensure that everything marked for disposal goes out through the front gates before closure."

It is a considerable task. Tracked Rapier, armoured Pigs which once did sterling service in Northern Ireland, and Saladin armoured cars from Cyprus stand side by side awaiting their fate.

Some have been there for a considerable time. The summer crop of wild bramble has entwined its way through the tracks and roadwheels of some vehicles, and scaled the armour-plated hulls of others.

Peeling desert camouflage paint scheme and black

Allied identification chevrons indicate that a group of M548 load carriers last saw service in the Gulf War.

Elsewhere in the depot, parked both sides of a railway track that cuts through the depot, are long lines of Chieftain main battle tanks and a handful of Centurion AVREs. Not so many years ago they would have been manoeuvring across the West German countryside during the British Army of the Rhine's annual autumn exercises.

Now they are surplus to requirements.

Many of the vehicles at Ludgershall will be sold by tender, a few hundred at a time. Others will be recycled. On most days one or two tanks or APCs are taken away on civilian transporters to be

● Built in 1939 as a lock-up mobilisation store, the then Hedge End Ordnance Depot received its first armoured vehicles – Conqueror tanks – soon afterwards.

● From 1941 to 1947, it had a variety of roles including the provision of workshop facilities to the Royal Australian Army Ordnance Corps and the United States Navy and Army.

● After D-Day, the western end of the depot was used as a prisoner of war camp. Later, homeless ex-Servicemen and their families "squatted" in the empty military accommodation.

● Since 1947, Ludgershall has, under a variety of titles, been a store for AFVs and certain B vehicles.



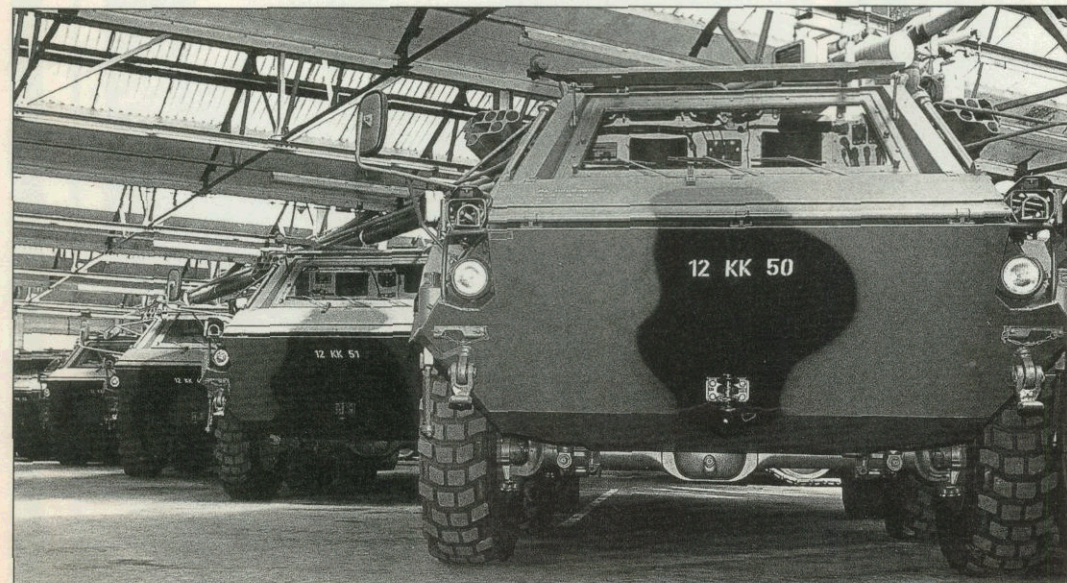
There is little the civilian vehicles mechanics cannot achieve at 96 Vehicle Depot REME Workshops. Cyril Scanbridge makes adjustments to a vehicle power pack while Sgt Doug Andrews looks on

smelted down for their aluminium content.

It came as a surprise to discover that, as the result of the so-called peace dividend fol-

lowing the end of the Cold War, British tanks are now being turned into saucepans.

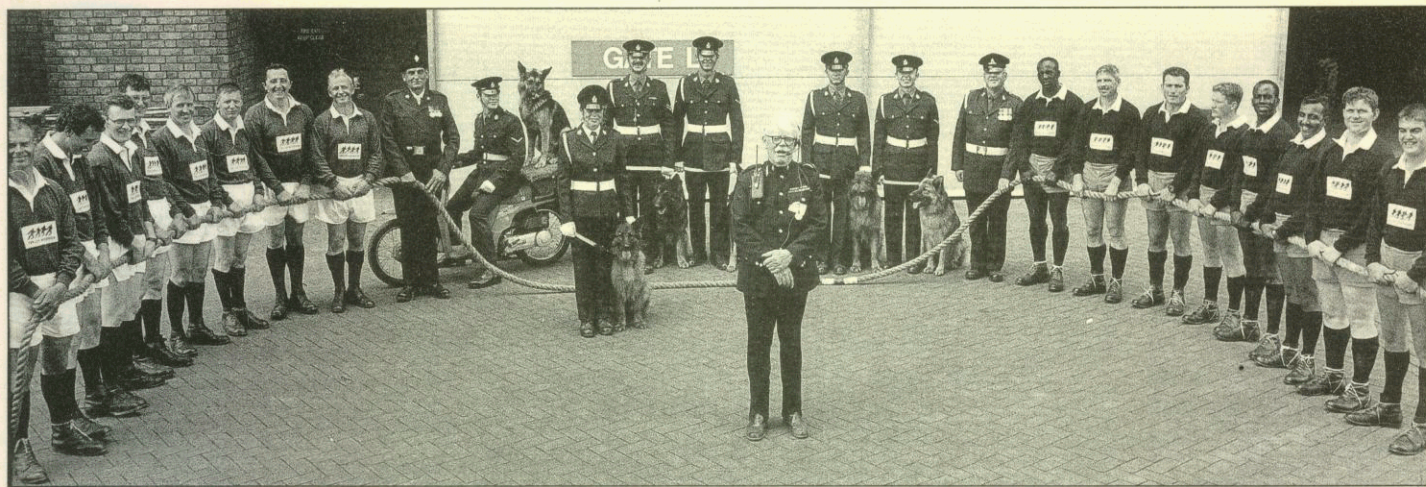
History has a way of going round in circles . . .



Fuchs vehicles which will be issued by BVD Ludgershall to the Territorial Army's new NBC defence regiment

Report: Laurie Manton  
Pictures: Mike Weston





Arena Master and participants: George, with the Army tug-of-war teams and the Army element of the Defence Animal Centre display team

# By George! \* What a spectacle!

SECONDS BEFORE the massed bands step off, with clockwork precision, from Wellington Barracks in the direction of Buckingham Palace as part of the VJ Day commemorations in London on August 20, an immaculately-uniformed figure with spectacles and white moustache will consult his watch.

"Stand by, Drum Major. . . go!", he will say.

Similar cues to the foot guards and an RAF contingent will follow.

George Douglas, 70-year-old retired major and right-hand man to Maj Michael Parker, doyen of the military spectacle, will be in his element.

"I have been working flat out in one way and another since October of last year," said this remarkable man, who last month completed his 15th consecutive year as Arena Master of the Royal Tournament.

A surgeon father whose patients included theatrical luminaries such as Fay Compton, and a six-month stint as a scene-shifter and props man at London's Windmill Theatre in the early 1950s, had whetted George's appetite for what he endearingly describes as his "hobby" of military show business.

George had enlisted in the Grenadier Guards in 1943, serving as an officer with the

3rd Battalion in Italy and leaving the regiment in 1950. Rejoining the army in 1952, he was recommissioned into the Royal Army Ordnance Corps and saw service in Japan and the Canal Zone, returning to the UK in 1954.

It was while George was serving as adjutant to a TA headquarters in Colchester in 1961 that the organisers of the tattoo held there discovered they lacked a producer. He

found himself "detailed" for the task.

Other shows – in the shape of Tidworth (1966 and 67) and the 1969 Hong Kong Tattoo – followed. But it was

not until 1971 that he found his true niche – Arena Master at the Wembley Musical Pageant, a show combining 2,000 Army musicians, including massed mounted bands and the King's Troop, Royal Horse Artillery.

Report: Phil Wilcox  
Pictures: Mike Perring



George with Capt Fergus Williams, 3 Coy, 1 Battalion The Welsh Guards, officer in charge of the arena party from the battalion, some of whom are seen behind them

George continued in his appointment in the biennial event – missing only 1975, when he was serving in Northern Ireland – and, in 1981, he worked for the first time alongside Michael Parker, who was producing the show.

That same year, the Arena Master of the Royal Tournament fell ill and George, who by chance was working as a retired officer in HQ London District, was approached to fill in as a one-off engagement.

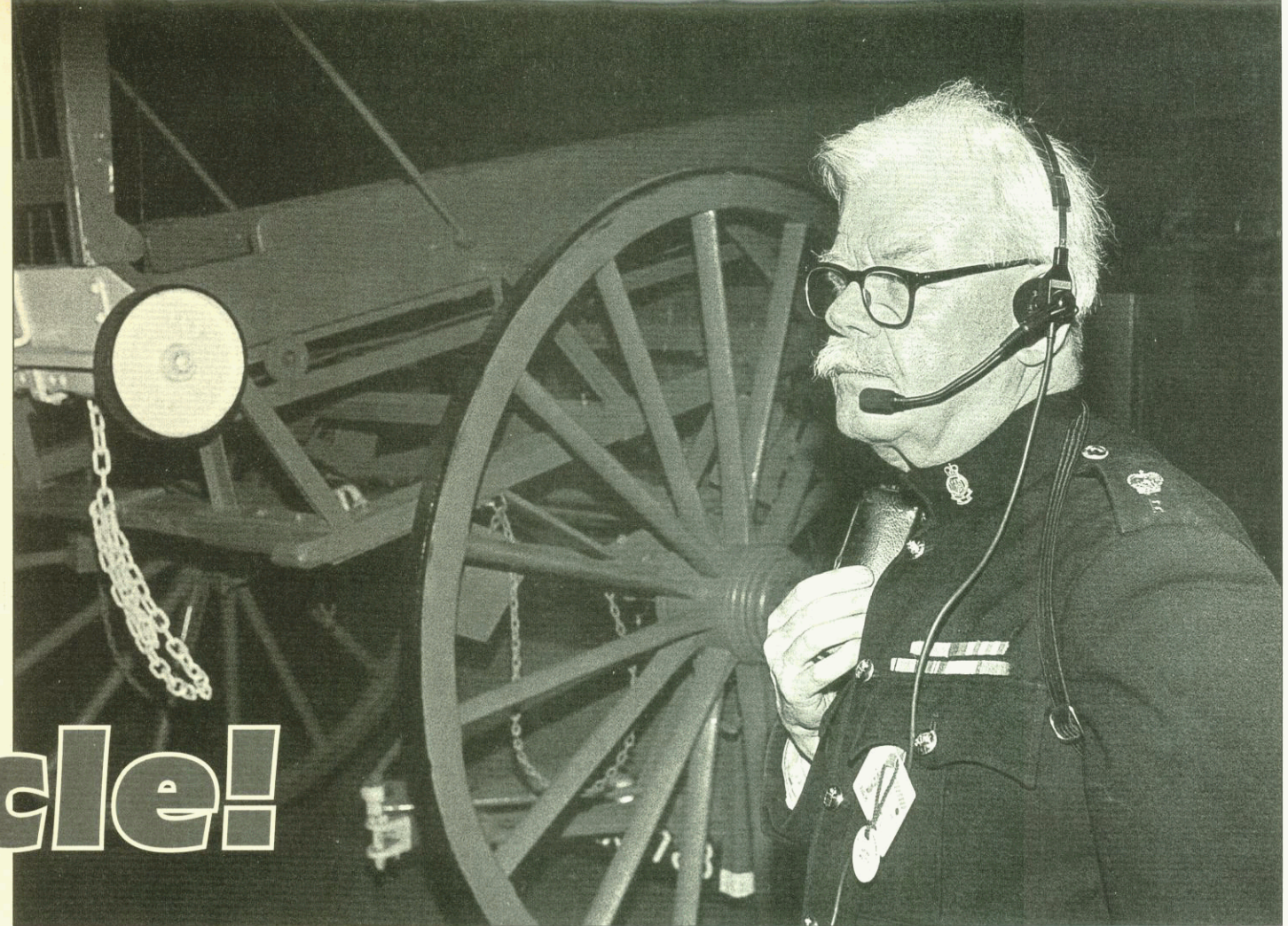
He is still doing the job!

Producer of the show was – and still is – Michael Parker. Since then, both men have worked together on many of the latter's imaginative spectacles, including the Queen Mother's 90th birthday celebration, the 40th anniversary of the Queen's accession and, last year, the memorable 50th anniversary drumhead service at the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, for the Army Benevolent Fund.

At the VE Day event in Hyde Park in May, George found himself looking after massed bands of various nationalities as well as, among others, the Red Devils freefall parachute team.

"I am much happier working backstage," he said. "I don't want to write the shows – I just want to make them happen".

Whether a military event is in Memphis, Jordan or Oman – where a huge equestrian show was staged – George, who



All fired up for action: George Douglas waits to give a cue in the wings

proudly sports his OBE among the many medals on his chest, always comes back to thinking of the Royal Tournament.

The month of July to George these days is like coming home, he says, because he is constantly meeting people – from drum majors to lance corporals to the man who sweeps up – who know him as an old friend.

Each day of the tournament, he gets up at four in the morning and walks the short distance to Earls Court 1. The perennial naval field gun competition teams start rehearsing at 5 a.m.

George briefs the all-important arena party (manned chiefly this year by members of The Welsh Guards) long before the show opens.

"Gentlemen," he tells them, "you may wonder what you are doing working for your grandfather."

"I know a lot more about the Royal Tournament than you do – but in two days' time, you will know a great deal more, and you are the people who are going to make it work."

As George says, a show like the tournament is only as good as its arena party.

The tournament's Arena Master is a mixture of stage manager and policeman, he explained, as, complete with headphones and microphone,



Tournament trio: Majors Douglas and Parker with Col Iain Ferguson (right), Royal Tournament Director

he smoothly handled the potentially nightmarish logistics of ensuring that 15 lovingly-retained historic fire engines were lined up in their correct order, together with a mixture of Second World War vehicles, for the opening blitz sequence.

Simultaneously, he had to take a quick look at the formation of the bands which were to follow them into the arena once the mechanised parade roared back through the huge doors – manned by a team from the RAF – and, in a well-rehearsed manoeuvre, peeled off to either side of the band, which by this time had gathered in one phalanx.

A little later, hundreds of

tons of horseflesh and precious gun carriages had been drawn forward from the waiting area at adjacent Earls Court 2, as the King's Troop, Royal Horse Artillery, awaited their cue to go charging through the doors.

The vital realm of arena maintenance is also George's concern: he is responsible for ensuring that contractors spread 900 tons of soil to a depth of eight inches on the surface of the arena.

"It must be acceptable to all participants," says George. "Not too hard for the horses and not too soft for the bands."

Safety is the absolute essence, he stressed. The surface must be as flat as a billiard

table: there must be no ruts for the King's Troop to hit as they thunder around, or there could be calamitous consequences. And the ramps used for the field gun crews must obviously not be wobbly.

George told *Soldier* with a laugh that he has two main claims to fame.

Around the time of the Gulf War, he had the unenviable task of uttering these words to Gen "Stormin' Norman" Schwarzkopf, who was a guest at the tournament: "Excuse me, General, you can't move yet, the Minister of State is not in position". It was taken in good grace.

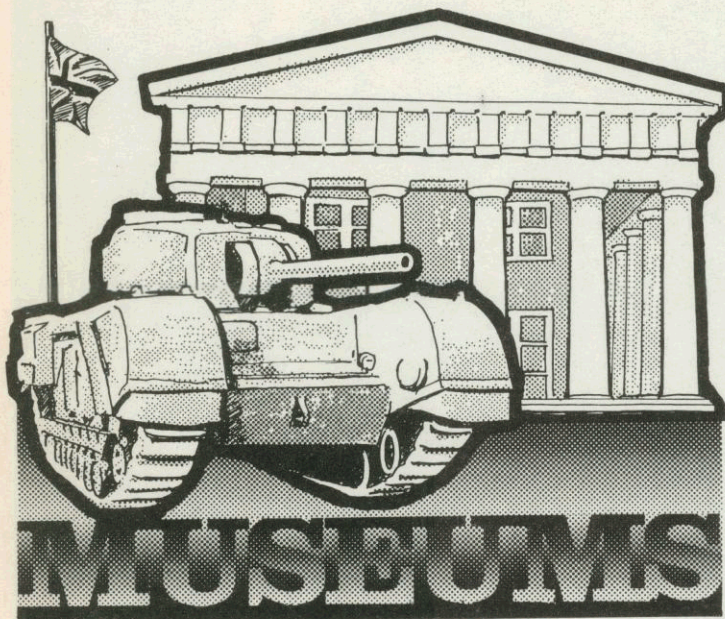
And, thanks to last year's 50th anniversary event at Chelsea, he can now say that he is always likely to be the only retired major who has given this order to no fewer than seven very senior Army officers: "Field marshals, by the front, quick march!"

When George finds time to relax from the world of "showbiz", he withdraws into the peace of the Sussex countryside for a spot of birdwatching. But backstage at Earls Court, you don't need binoculars to spot him.

He's the one in the RAOC uniform with the red stripes on the trousers – and a thick layer of dust on his boots. . .

**\*Not forgetting Michael**





## HAMPSHIRE

### MUSEUM OF THE ROYAL HAMPSHIRE REGIMENT

Serle's House, Southgate Street, Winchester. Open: Weekdays 1000-1230hrs and 1400-1600hrs. Weekends and Bank Holidays, April to October 1200-1600hrs. Newly refurbished.

### AIRBORNE FORCES MUSEUM

The history of Airborne Forces and their campaigns from 1940 to the present day. Weapons, equipment, uniforms, dioramas and original briefing models. Open 7 days a week 10.00 to 16.30pm. Facilities for the disabled. Free car parking. Admission £2 adults, £1 children and OAPs. Browning Barracks, Aldershot, Hants. Tel: 01252 349619

### ROYAL MARINES MUSEUM

Southsea, Hants PO4 9PX. Tel: 01705 819385. Discover over 300 years of action packed adventure. See how Royal Marines lived, fought and worked from 1664 to the present day. Walk through displays, film shows, special effects, talking heads and thousands of unusual artefacts.

### RAMC HISTORICAL MUSEUM

Keogh Barracks, Ash Vale, Nr Aldershot, Hants GU12 5RQ. Telephone 01252 340212. The progression of medical treatment from 1660 to the present day. Includes Corps Memorial Chapel. Open Mon to Fri 08.30-16.00. Bank Holidays and weekends by appointment. Admission free. Facilities for the disabled.

### LIGHT INFANTRY MUSEUM

Peninsula Barracks, Romsey Road, Winchester, Hants SO23 8TS. Tel: 01962 828530. This Museum shows glimpses of the distant past, but concentrates on a modern Regiment and more recent events around the world - Berlin Wall, Gulf War and Bosnia. ADMISSION FREE

### ALDERSHOT MILITARY MUSEUM

Evelyn Woods Road, Queens Avenue, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2LG. Tel: 01252 314598. Aldershot Museum takes a behind the scenes look at daily life over the past 140 years in the Home of the British Army. Photographs, models and displays - including a recreated 1900 barrack room - tell the story. A second gallery tells of the Canadian Army's contribution to the two World Wars from their base in Aldershot. Guns and armoured vehicles are displayed outside. Open daily: March-October 10.00-17.00hrs. November-February 10.00-16.30hrs (closed for two weeks at Christmas). Adults £1.50, OAPs £1, Children 50p

### THE ROYAL GREEN JACKETS

Peninsula Barracks, Romsey Road, Winchester, Hants SO23 8TS. Tel: 01962 863846. This informative regimental museum tells its history from 1741 in an imaginative, eye-catching manner. Amongst the outstanding artefacts are 34 Victoria Crosses and a diorama of the Battle of Waterloo.

### THE GURKHA MUSEUM

Peninsula Barracks, Romsey Road, Winchester, Hants SO23 8TS. Tableaux, Dioramas, shop and mail order. Open Bank Holiday Mons, Tues to Sat 10.00-17.00 hrs. FREE PARKING. Admission: Adults £1.50; children/senior citizens 75p

## BERKSHIRE

### REME MUSEUM

Arborfield Garrison, just off the A327

Open: Mon-Fri 09.00-12.30 and 14.00-16.30 (Fri - 16.00)

For information: REME Museum, Isaac Newton Road, Arborfield, Reading RG2 9LN

Tel: 01734 763567  
Fax: 01734 763255

## CORNWALL

### DUKE OF CORNWALL'S LIGHT INFANTRY MUSEUM

The Keep, Bodmin, Cornwall PL31 1EG. Open Mon-Fri 08.00-17.00, Closed Bank Holidays. 257 years of a proud County Regiment's history. Includes an outstanding military reference library. Tel & Fax: 01208 72810.

## DORSET

### ROYAL SIGNALS MUSEUM

Blandford Camp, Dorset DT11 8RH. Tel: 01258 482248

Open: 10.00-17.00 Monday to Friday all year, also 10.00-16.00 weekends June to September.

### THE KEEP MILITARY MUSEUM

The Keep, Bridport Road, Dorchester, Dorset DT1 1RN. Tel: 01305 264066. Displays newly renovated, and augmented with interactive consoles for greater information. A profusion of exhibits recreate the different world in which soldiers lived. Dorchester's most spectacular views from the battlements.

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## KENT

### INTELLIGENCE CORPS MUSEUM

Templar Barracks, Ashford, Kent TN23 8HH. Tel: 01233 657208

History of British Military Intelligence from Queen Elizabeth I to the present day. Open Tuesdays and Thursdays, 09.30-12.30 and 14.00-16.30, but prior telephone call is advisable.

### ROYAL ENGINEERS MUSEUM

Brompton Barracks, Chatham, Kent ME4 4UG

Tel: 01634 406397. Saturday 22 July to Sunday 29 October - special VJ Day exhibition. The forgotten army and the Royal Engineers in the war against Japan.

### THE BUFFS MUSEUM (ROYAL EAST KENT REGIMENT) CANTERBURY

Housed in the High Street Royal Museum and Art Gallery, Canterbury, Kent CT1 2JE. Telephone 01227 452747. The story of one of England's oldest infantry regiments. Includes extensive medal collection; drums; silver; uniforms; weapons, some sporting and leisure pursuits. Open Monday to Saturday 10.00-17.00. Admission free.

### THE PRINCESS OF WALES'S ROYAL REGIMENT AND QUEEN'S MUSEUM

Open all year 1000 - 1600 winter, 1000 - 1800 summer. Over four centuries of living history, over 200,000 visitors last year. Exhibition includes: World War One trench experience; Interactive videos of World War II; Medal display and the story of the Victoria Cross (56 awarded); one of the largest portable Drum displays in the army; the story of the 12 forebear regiments of the PWRR. Entrance fee as per Dover Castle. Entrance to museum free.

If you require further information on any of the museums in this guide, please contact them direct on the telephone number in their advertisement.

## LANCASHIRE



### THE LANCASHIRE FUSILIERS Regimental Museum

Discover the history of this famous British Regiment from its foundation in 1688, and its connection with Wolfe, Wellington and Napoleon.

Open: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday 9.30am to 4.30pm. Admission: Adults 50p, OAP & children 25p. Wellington Barracks, Bolton Road, Bury BL8 2PL. Telephone: 0161-764 2208

## LONDON

### MUSEUM OF THE ORDER OF ST JOHN

St John's Ambulance in World War II Exhibition and book.

Museum of the Order of St John, St John's Gate, Clerkenwell, London EC2M 4DA. Tel: 0171-253 6644. Open: 10 May - 9 September Monday-Friday 10.00 to 17.00 Sat 10.00 to 16.00

### THE NATIONAL ARMY MUSEUM

Royal Hospital Road, Chelsea, London SW3 4HT. Tel: 0171-730 0717

Open daily 1000 to 1730hrs. Closed Jan 1, Dec 24, 25, Good Friday and early May Bank Holiday. Admission free.

### SOLDIER MAGAZINE - 50 YEARS ON Ends mid-September

Visit the National Army Museum, Royal Hospital Road, Chelsea, London SW3 4HT and see an exhibition in celebration of the 50th anniversary of Soldier, the British Army Magazine. See National Army Museum advert for opening times.

## SURREY

### MUSEUM OF THE ROYAL ARMY CHAPLAIN'S DEPARTMENT

Bagshot Park, Bagshot, Surrey.

Hours (by appointment): Mon-Fri 1000-1200hrs and 1400-1600hrs. Admission free. Housed in the former residence of the Duke of Connaught

## TYNE & WEAR

### 'A SOLDIER'S LIFE' AT NEWCASTLE DISCOVERY

Based on the 15th/19th The King's Royal Hussars (now The Light Dragoons) and The Northumberland Hussars (now part of the Queen's Own Yeomanry). Officially opened by HRH The Duke of Gloucester on 18 May 1995, the exhibition takes a totally different approach to military history encompassing the social history of Army life during war and peace time as well as the more conventional battles, weapons and medals.

Tyne & Wear Museums, Newcastle Discovery, Blandford Square, Newcastle-Upon-Tyne NE1 4JA. Tel 0191-232-6789

## YORKSHIRE

### THE GREEN HOWARDS MUSEUM

Trinity Church Square, Richmond, North Yorkshire DL10 4QN. Tel: 01748 822133

This famous North Yorkshire Regiment was founded in 1688 and its campaigns from 1690 onwards are illustrated with original uniforms, gallantry award medals, regimental silver and many other interesting displays.

### REGIMENTAL MUSEUM OF 13th/18th ROYAL HUSSARS (QMO)

Tel: 01226 790270

Set within the beautiful country park, Cannon Hall, Cawthorne, Nr Barnsley. Shop, tea room etc. Open Tue-Sun inclusive, closed Monday (except Bank Holidays).

## SCOTLAND

### THE ARGYLL & SUTHERLAND HIGHLANDERS

The Castle, Stirling FK8 1EH. Tel: 01786 475165.

The museum contains fine displays of Silver, Colours, Uniforms, Medals, Weapons and artefacts. There is a World War I theme and dioramas with commentaries. Entry is free, but donations are welcome.

### THE BLACK WATCH MUSEUM

Balhouse Castle, Perth. Two and a half Centuries of Treasures of The 42nd/73rd Highland Regiments. May to September, Monday-Saturday (including public holidays) 10.00-16.30 (except the last Saturday of June); October to April, Monday-Friday 10.00-15.30. Admission free. Donations to Museum Fund.

## WALES

### THE ROYAL WELCH FUSILIERS

The Castle, Caernarvon, Gwynedd LL55 2AY.

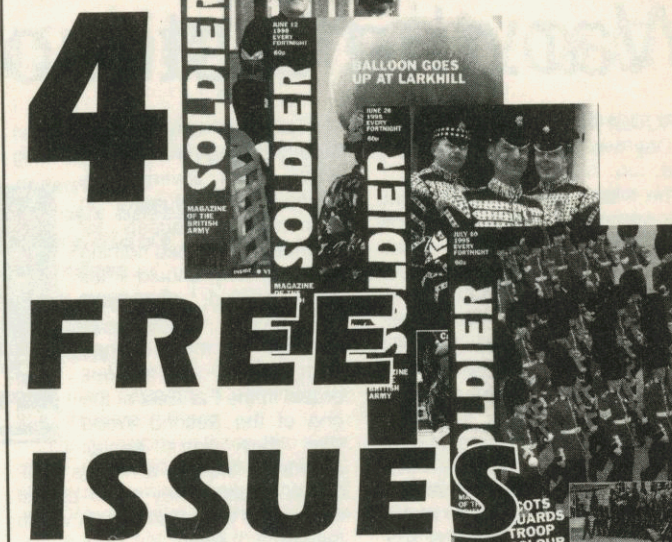
Tel: 01286 673362. Open Summer 09.30-18.30. Winter (end Oct to end March) 09.30-16.00. Winter Sundays 11.00-16.00.

## FRANCE

### Café Gondrée, Pegasus Bridge

Close to Pegasus Bridge, this café was the first building to be liberated by 6th Airborne Division. Today it remains unchanged and is a living memento of the invasion. The café is owned by Arlette Gondrée - daughter of the original owner - who is always delighted to tell the history of her special home which she regards as a shrine to all the veterans.

Café Gondrée, Pegasus Bridge, Benouville 14970. Tel: (0033) 31.44.62.25



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# War: the testimony of those who were there is precious beyond words

THROUGHOUT all the coverage of VJ Day two images persist in my mind.

The first is one of sitting at my desk taking a call from a soldier in Bosnia. It was at the time of the South African elections and our conversation was punctuated with sounds of firing in the background.

I asked my caller what was going on. "They're firing," he said flatly. I must have said something thoughtless about not seeing it on the news. "You wouldn't," said the caller from Bosnia with some bitterness. The film crews had all decamped to South Africa where there were likely to be better pictures. It was more newsworthy.

The other image is that of an elderly Bosnian woman confronting news crews covering the plight of the refugees. In response to requests for information she had nothing to say. "Why should I tell you," she said, "you weren't there."

When the men returned from their horrendous ordeal in the Far East at the end of the Second World War, they didn't, by all accounts, expect a hero's welcome. Equally, they didn't expect the kind of indifference with which they were greeted.

In the intervening years their

nightmares have, by and large, been swept out of sight. They are inconvenient. They don't fit the kind of sentimentality that afflicts all of us who weren't there.

Only now, when there is an anniversary on which journalists can pin their stories, are they being heard. Even now there is talk of forgiveness and reconciliation.

Personally, I think it ill behoves those of us who weren't there to suggest ways in which veterans of any war should deal with their memories.

It is the height of conceit to suggest to an old man who relives his

nightmares each time he recounts them that he forgives his tormentors. Whether he does or not is none of our business.

The business of the next generation is to listen with the profoundest respect to the experiences of those who were sent into battle and imprisonment.

Having listened, we must decide for ourselves how best to construct a future in which the nations can live without descending into inhumanity.

Since the first VJ Day, idealists have done their best. We all hoped that the United Nations would somehow help us to resolve conflicts, but recent events have

merely highlighted the complexity of international relationships and the eternal inhumanity of man.

Recently, a distinguished journalist on a national newspaper told me of the chaos surrounding the coverage of events in Bosnia. All sorts of small problems hindered the media and made it impossible to get the full story.

Another journalist, recently back from the area, was bitter. "You couldn't begin to understand the situation," he said, "unless you'd been there."

In the commemoration of VJ Day, being there is what really counts. The survivors came back to Britain like inconvenient visitors

who arrive after a particularly good party. Their anguish was deemed to be in appropriate and, probably, embarrassing.

They weren't accorded the respect due to them, nor were they given time and encouragement to talk.

It wasn't fashionable then. Even now the testimony of young ex-Servicemen is treated like a commodity. If it fits the running order and the theme for the day, they're welcome. If not, they're ignored.

Young men, damaged by their experiences in Northern Ireland, in the Falk-

lands, the Gulf and Bosnia, are inconvenient. The pain they suffer on our behalf is upsetting because it reminds us that we weren't there.

The testimony of those who were there is precious beyond words. We must hear it. Equally, it must be told. When victims of the atrocities in the Far East do tell their stories, their eyes fill with tears. Talking

about it sends them straight back, through the years, to the fear.

It seems cruel to put them through the ordeal again. Those who have done so in newspaper accounts and TV programmes should be honoured. So, too, should those who finally tell their family and friends. One reporter, talking to a veteran, was taken into another room, out of earshot of his wife. He didn't want her to hear his evidence.

But we must hear, all of us, the stories of those who have borne the suffering of war at first hand. And those who were there must carry on telling us their stories, whether we seem to want to hear them or not.

## Seeking pensions help? Ask the Legion

NATIONAL events such as the VE and VJ commemorations, coupled with media coverage of Bosnia, have once again turned the spotlight on the Service fraternity and the special debt owed to those who serve the Crown.

Next year, the Royal British Legion celebrates 75 years as the major ex-Services charity. It has looked after the interests of those who have served and continue to serve from Gallipoli to the Gulf and beyond.

The Legion's many departments look after 18 million serving and ex-Servicemen and women and their dependants, who count on the organisation's expertise in welfare, pen-

sions, employment and training. The Pensions Department, for example, handles more than 50,000 new and current cases each year on behalf of members of the ex-Services community seeking war and war widows' pensions. It arranges representation free of charge for up to 4,000 cases annually at war pensions appeal tribunals.

It also receives thousands of general enquiries from other organisations and individuals on subjects ranging from mobility to Social Security associated

allowances and compensation claims.

In the Legion's Service Guide, the Pensions Department produces a Claims and Appeals Guide as well as a Guide to Claims for Compensation from the Ministry of Defence.

Close contact is maintained with the World Veterans Federation, the British Commonwealth ex-Services League, the Officers' Association, the Royal British Legion Scotland and the Officers Pension Society. All are members, with the

Legion, of the Council of British Service and Ex-Servicemen Organisations.

One of the major tasks of the Legion is to identify those who are entitled to claim a war pension for a condition which they associate with their service in the Forces, or in the case of a Serviceman's widow, a condition which may have resulted in or substantially hastened her late husband's death, irrespective of whether he was in receipt of a war pension.

The Pensions Department tries to ensure that

war pensioners and war widows also receive all allowances to which they may be entitled and to receive visits and help from the War Pensioners' Welfare Service.

Gulf War veterans, in particular, have now realised the Legion can and does support their interests in the war pensions or compensation fields.

The Royal British Legion's expertise in dealing with war pensions and compensation claims is considered second to none.

Further details from the Pensions Department, The Royal British Legion, 48 Pall Mall, London SW1Y 5JY. Telephone: 0171-973-0633.

## Olympia show to help parents

HERE'S a diary date for all parents turning their attention to independent schools for their children.

The National ISIS Exhibition - Independent Education '95 - will take place at Olympia 2, London from October 13 to 15.

According to the organisers, this free event will be the most comprehensive and informative showcase for the independent education sector.

It will give parents an opportunity to talk face-to-face with heads and teachers from all over the country. More than 250 independent schools will be brought together under one roof, greatly reducing the vital preparatory work needed before selection.

Daily seminars will cover such diverse issues as choosing a London day or nursery school, assisted places, financing of school fees and special needs.

Representatives from ISIS (the Independent Schools Advisory Service) will be on hand to answer queries and offer unrivalled expertise in the field of independent education in an effort to help parents make an informed decision.

Further information from Vivienne Herke at National Events, Europe House, East Smithfield, London E1 9AA. Telephone: 0171-571-6603.



Three black pups bring smiles to the faces of Pte Adam Proud and kennel assistant Joanne Stewart, at an animal shelter in County Down. Pte Proud was introduced to the canine newcomers when he and his colleagues from D Company, 2 Para, helped renovate the Whitespots USPCA centre at Conlig. The Paras moved in to shift sand, gravel and concrete blocks as part of a voluntary re-build programme. Said fundraiser Michele Dunn: "What we thought would take days took the Paras a few hours."

## A feast of franchising

ONE TASTY tip for those looking for a new life outside the Army is the increase in franchising in the food and drink industry.

More than ten per cent of the 130-plus companies appearing at the Autumn National Franchise Exhibition at the NEC, Birmingham, in October are from the food, drink or restaurant sector.

The new exhibitors at the event reflect the increase. Joining established names such as Wimpy and McDonalds are newcomers Blimpie (an American sandwich restaurant chain), Cafe Sol, Delice de France (bistros), and Australia's

Country Fried Chicken and Donut Magic.

The exhibition, from October 6 to 8, claims to be the place to find out all there is to know about franchising, and offers a wealth of information and impartial advice to prospective franchisees.

For anyone who wants to be their own boss, but does not want to be entirely alone, franchising is said to be the way to independence and a profitable business, with the security, specialist training, knowledge and support of experienced people who have already made a success in business.

Sponsored by the British Franchise Association,

the exhibition sets exemplary standards since all participants are subjected to strict and objective scrutiny by the association before they are allowed to exhibit, thus ensuring visitors meet only with reputable companies with a proven track record.

The exhibition is open from 10 to 5 on October 6 and 7, and from 10 to 4 on Oct 8. Admission is £10 on the door and includes a free video about franchising. A free visitors' information pack and discounted tickets at £8 each or £14 for two are available in advance by ringing the Franchise Hotline on 01992-522638.

## Quarantine laws to be put to test

A NEW group has been formed to press for the present quarantine laws to be scrapped and substituted for a more up-to-date method of rabies prevention.

The Quarantine Abolition Fighting Fund (QUAFF) is working closely with several organisations and individuals in Europe who are adversely affected by the British rabies laws.

A test case is planned in the European Court to see if Servicemen and women posted abroad can obtain reimbursement of their family's quarantine expenses on returning to Britain.

More information from QUAFF, PO Box 151, Chichester, West Sussex PO20 0TS.

## Get that job in good time

Some countries require an International Certificate of Vaccination or Revaccination against yellow fever and cholera. If you are going abroad, get your "jab" well in advance.

Remember that a certificate for a first vaccination doesn't become valid until ten days afterwards.

A leaflet, *Health Advice for Travellers*, gives vital information for people preparing for overseas travel.

Ask for a copy at your travel agent, post office or doctor's surgery, or, in the UK, ring free of charge on 0800-555-777.

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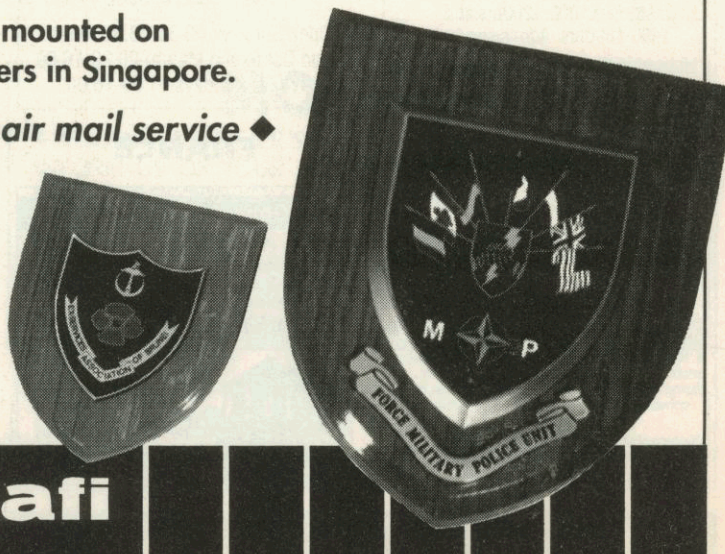
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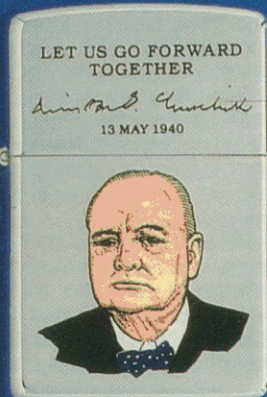


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## World War II Commemorative Lighters



Winston Churchill  
1940 250 WC



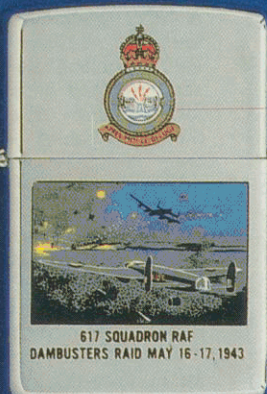
Battle of Britain  
1940 250 BB



Bomber Command  
1941 250 BC



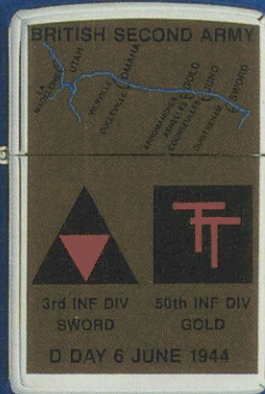
Montgomery & El Alamein  
1942 250 MO



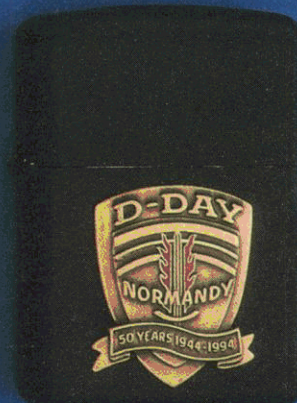
Dambusters & 617 Sqn  
1943 250 DB



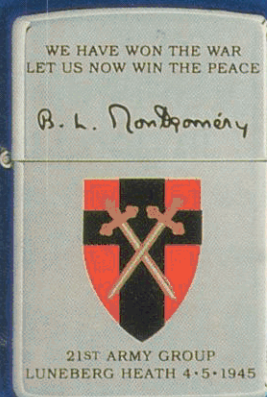
6th Airborne D-Day  
250 AP (front)



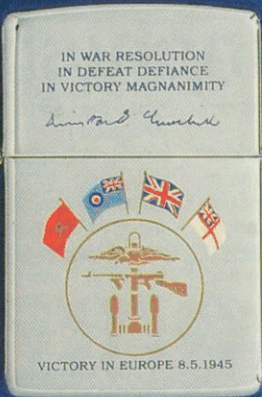
British 2nd Army  
D-Day 250 B2



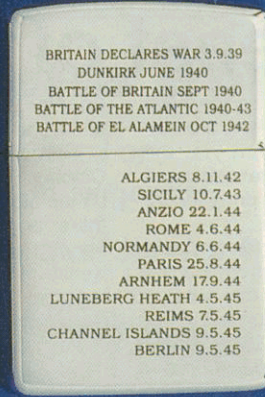
Allied Forces  
D-Day 236 DD



21st Army Group  
4.5.45 250VE21



Combined Operations  
250VECO (front)



Combined Operations  
250VECO (reverse)



50th Anniversary  
VE Day 250VEWC

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**Part 2**





# PAIN AND PRIDE ON THE ROAD TO MANDALAY

Mandalay – the very word is redolent of the East.

Powerful images of the "Road to Mandalay" are conjured up by Kipling's famous poem, regularly sung by the veterans of the Burma Star Association who fought there.

In March 1945 Maj JOHN HILL, now a retired colonel, commanded B Company of the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Berkshire Regiment, which was instrumental in capturing the ancient Burmese capital and massive fortress of Fort Dufferin, a relic of Britain's annexation of Burma in 1885. This is his story.

IT WAS an infantryman's war, but those who served in infantry units would be the first to acknowledge that nothing could have been achieved without the support of all the other arms and services.

The famous Arakan pagoda stood on its 700ft high hill, with 200 smaller pagodas glinting in the sun for half a mile along its precipitous ridge and down its sides.

The country swarmed with Japanese soldiers and though they had been severely defeated at Kohima, they were a determined enemy.

They had been harried for some 300 miles from the north-east border of India, east of Imphal. The Royal Berkshires, mostly wartime conscripts and emergency commissioned officers with an average age of perhaps 23, were battle-scarred and weary but eager to press on.

Actions and skirmishes with the enemy had been relentless and frequent, often in ruthless close-quarter fighting. In all this time, only two wounded Japanese had been taken prisoner. In the true Samurai tradition, every soldier was ready and willing to die for his Emperor.

The 16 mile-approach to Mandalay took more than six hours of solid marching, brushing aside minor but no less determined opposition.

The battle for Mandalay was just another phase in the long months of action against formidable and fanatical opponents. The battalion was tasked with clear-



B Coy 2nd Bn Royal Berkshire Regiment before crossing the Chindwin river in December 1944

ing the Mandalay Hills as part of 19 Indian Division's 98 Bde after a foothold had been established by 4/4 Gurkha Rifles, commanded by Lt Col Hamish McKay.

B Company had to make a quick counter-attack on a Japanese thrust against the Divisional HQ, before Lt Col Harold Finch took the battalion into action.

Japanese losses were disastrous. While searching enemy packs for documents Capt Chris Simmons and his men would often come on the gruesome remains of a severed hand, or finger wrapped in cloth.

This comradesly but barbaric custom was prevalent throughout the Japanese Army: as bodies could not be taken home for burial in Japan, limbs would have to do.

On the ridge, with frequent niches among the pagodas, the enemy could bring fire to bear on every movement.

Often there was space for only one section at a time to be deployed. When the enemy's communications tunnel was being stoutly defended, cans of petrol were brought up and ignited by phosphorous grenades and signal pistols.

Tactical close fire support proved vital to success as D Company entered the final pagoda with bayonet, grenade and small-arms fire.

The best analogy of the enemy was of an ant hill furious at being disturbed and reacting with all the venom and malice at its occupants' command.

Advance was slow, costly in lives and required painstaking skill by attackers unable to call on heavy fire support.

It was house-to-house, ditch-to-ditch, tree-to-tree, avoiding open ground and relying on individual fire and movement; with maximum use of rifle, sub-machine gun, grenades and smoke to eliminate each enemy position.

The sequence repeated itself: fire - advance - surround - kill - then on and on again.

Steely nerves were needed at night when the enemy attempted to rush the attackers, but their customary screams and shouts as they charged succeeded only in giving away their positions.



Above – Mandalay: Troops of 15 Punjab Regiment move into position at Fort Dufferin

Left – A 5.5mm gun pounds the walls of Fort Dufferin during the capture of Mandalay



## Black Tarantulas were 'forgotten', too

A FORGOTTEN force with the Forgotten Army was the lot of the Royal West African Frontier Force, says A. Sheldon of Nottingham.

The two divisions of troops from Nigeria, Sierra Leone, the Gambia and the Gold Coast in what was British West Africa were led by a comparatively small number of British helped by a few Rhodesians and Poles.

The 81st West African Division in which he served was later joined by the 82nd WA who arrived for the final campaign and push down to Rangoon.

"The Burma war was fought against a sadistic, cruel enemy whose credo was that a soldier's highest honour was to die in battle," he said.

They expected their opponents to be the same and in some cases the British and Africans did begin to emulate their methods.

"This helped us to beat them, because at the



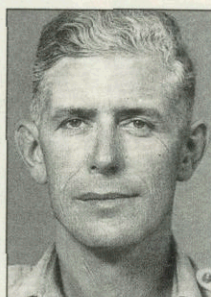
Soldiers from Sierra Leone proudly display the spoils of a raid on the Japanese. See Commonwealth story, Page 24

outset of the final campaign our CO told us that if we were going to die in battle, 'then take one or more of them with you'.

The divisions acquitted themselves well in battle and many Japanese expressed their fear and respect for the Black Tarantulas – so named after the divisional sign of

a black tarantula on a yellow background.

The 82nd Div sign depicted crossed spears on a carrier's head pad – symbolising how much of the equipment was head-loaded through the terrible terrain of the Arakan. Supplies were dropped by Dakotas because roads were almost non-existent.



Maj John Hill





# COMMONWEALTH SOLDIERS PAID A HIGH PRICE

SOLDIERS of the Commonwealth and others played a full part in defeating the Japanese in the Far East.

The Indian Army, for example, contained not a single conscript – every soldier was a volunteer – and the country's wartime army was the largest volunteer force ever assembled.

It expanded from 150,000 in 1939 to 1.8 million in 1945. At the beginning of the war, fewer than 1,000 Indian soldiers held a commission. By 1945, that number had grown to 15,740.

Indian troops served in almost every theatre of the war including Africa, Italy, the Middle East, South East Asia and Greece. At the end of the war, India had 2.5 million people in the armed services, eight million in auxiliary army jobs and five million working in munitions factories.

More than 24,300 Indian troops were killed in action and 64,000 wounded. Almost 79,000 became prisoners of war.

Nearly a million Indians – mainly civilians – fled from Burma during the Japanese invasion. Ninety per cent died making their way back to India, many from exhaustion, starvation and disease.

Thirty-one Victoria Crosses and 4,800 other gallantry awards were made to men of the Indian Army.

For many Indian troops the war did not end on VJ Day. The 49th Indian Brigade and later the 5th Indian Division went on to keep the peace in Sourabaya, Indonesia, where Japanese guns had fallen into the hands of Indonesian nationalists.

Many Indian, British and Dutch people

died in the fighting there. The 5th Indian Division remained on a war footing in Indonesia until relieved by Dutch Marines in 1946.

Nepal, not a member of the Commonwealth, provided the men for 40 Gurkha battalions which fought as part of the Indian Army. Another eight regiments of the Nepalese Army served the Allied cause – up to 250,000 men in all.

Some 35,000 Gurkhas served in the Far East with Slim's 14th Army, suffering more than 23,000 casualties, including 7,544 deaths. Seven Gurkhas received the Victoria Cross during the Burma campaign.

Australian troops served with distinction in the Far East. They fought famously in Malaya, New Guinea and Madagascar. In Borneo, their tenacity as jungle fighters forced the Japanese south during the 1942 offensive by Gen Douglas MacArthur.

Australia's proximity to Japanese-held Indonesia forced those who remained at home to take an active role in defending Australia's shores from the invasion which never came.

New Zealand was the first Commonwealth dominion to declare war on Germany. From September 1939 to August 1943, the nation contributed a higher proportion of its manpower than any other Commonwealth country. Its casualty rate reflected this massive effort. In the Pacific, the 2nd New Zealand Division fought the Japanese in the Solomon Islands.

The total number of African service personnel under arms in 1945 was 372,000, of

which 227,000 came from East Africa and 73,000 from West Africa. Three full divisions, the 81st and 82nd West African and 11th East African Division saw action in Burma.

Nyasaland (now Malawi) sent many troops to fight with the King's African Rifles, active during the Arakan offensive. Troops from Sierra Leone also served in that campaign with the West African Frontier Force.

Many Ghanaians fought in Burma. A Kenyan brigade fought there, too, gaining a reputation for bravery in jungle warfare.

Thousands of troops from British Somaliland rallied to the Allied cause. The Somaliland Camel Corps was one of the country's most famous units and Somalis provided two battalions for the King's African Rifles. The 71st (1st Somali) Battalion of the KAR fought in Burma.



British, West African, and Gurkha troops – the backbone of the Chindits – await transport to the "Broadway" stronghold

## Life and death under the sword

TEMPERATURE 102. Splitting head. My pals' two blankets over my own were useless to curb the rigor of shivering that shook my body and even rattled the bamboo slats on which I lay. I reckoned this was the tenth bout of malaria that had smitten me since the Japs had set us PoWs slaving on the railway through the Thailand jungle.

It was July 1945, the railway had been

completed over a year ago and we British, Australian and Dutch officers, plus a handful of Americans, were herded together in Kanchanaburi Camp (Kanburi to us inmates) some 40 miles up the jungle trail from the railway base at Bam-pong.

In May of that year, the BBC Far East Service in New Delhi had broadcast the stunning news that Germany had surrendered and the war in Europe was over. Thanks to our secret "canaries" (improvised wireless sets) we began to chew over what this could mean for us. Peace in Europe maybe, but there was no sign that the Japs intended to emulate their quondam allies.

Beatings and *Kurrah Bug-gairos* went on as before, as did the periodic *Tenko* parades to check all present and to carry out searches for forbidden "comforts" in our huts. Were we forgotten? Not quite. Morale was boosted by huge four-engined allied bombers droning over to attack the railway bridges and marshalling yards built by us PoWs.

They also released less lethal loads – showers of leaflets with printed messages, one of which I still remember: "Cheer up lads," it said, "Uncle Bill Slim will be with you soon." Fine, but who was Uncle Bill Slim? We rejoiced at the distant (and not-

Military author Maj JOHN BRERETON, who has based this special article for *Soldier* on his grim recollections at the end of three-and-a-half years working on the infamous Railway of Death in Thailand, joined the Royal Horse Artillery as a boy trumpeter in 1932, serving in India.

He left the Regular Army in 1938 to join the Shropshire Yeomanry, a horsed cavalry unit, and on mobilisation was selected as officer cadet at Weedon cavalry OCTU.

Commissioned in 1940, he

was posted to the Indian 3rd Cavalry, which was being mechanised with light tanks and armoured cars. In 1941 he led his squadron in the Malayan Campaign until becoming a prisoner of war of the Japanese.

On release from the Army as medically unfit in 1947 he became a technical editor, retiring in 1971. His books include five regimental histories and for the past few years he has reviewed other authors' work on the cavalry, yeomanry and Indian Army for this magazine.

Our Japanese camp commandant was a bespectacled lieutenant named Noguchi. Though I confess that 50 years have obliterated the name of our British commandant, I am never likely to forget Noguchi. A young Indian Army captain was caught trying to escape one night and Noguchi made an example of him, *pour encourager les autres*. Just after dawn we were paraded to witness his fate. Hands bound behind him, the victim knelt before Noguchi, head bowed. When I saw Noguchi's Samurai sword raised I shut my eyes.

On opening them, I beheld the prostrate body, head neatly severed and swarms of flies feasting on the pool of blood. None of us could face our breakfast of boiled rice that morning.

A playful ploy of Noguchi's was to send the guards rampaging through our huts in the small hours shouting "*Tenko! Tenko! Aru men out speedo!*" We were then left standing in attention on the parade ground for a couple of hours. Even those too ill to

● Turn to next page

### THE BEARS

Children and adults will be thrilled to receive one of these cuddly bears especially if you choose the one according to your branch of service or you can opt for the Victory Bear. These cute fellows size 25cm (10ins) are produced exclusively for the Imperial War Museum. (Cost £10 + £1.95 p&p)



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# Tanks that saved Allies' rout

THE ARRIVAL of British tanks in Burma in late February 1942 saved the Allied retreat from the Sittang to India from turning into a disastrous rout.

Units of arguably the most experienced and battle-hardened formation in the British Army arrived at the end of February – the original Desert Rats of the 7th Armoured Brigade which had fought Rommel's Afrika Korps to a standstill at Sidi Rezegh.

The 7th Queen's Own Hussars and 2nd Royal Tank Regiment provided a covering screen but were continually outflanked by Japanese infiltrating and trying to encircle them.

As often as not they found road blocks which could not have been forced but for the Stuart "Honey" tanks, light as they were.

When the tanks reached the Chindwin, they could not be ferried across and had to be blown up. It was a painful sight for their loyal crews, and they were a forlorn landmark when British forces again passed them on their return to Burma.

Only one Honey managed to cross far upstream. Daubed the "Curse of Scotland" it was salvaged by the Indians and driven into Rangoon two years later.

The Japanese use of bicycles was more marked than their use of tanks, which were thankfully no match for either the Honeys, Lee Grants or Shermans which were later instrumental in blasting a way back into Burma.



Nothing is dry during the monsoon period and this Sherman tank fell foul of slippery conditions on the Mawchi "road" during mopping up operations

It was far from ideal tank country. The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards still remember how B Squadron, 3rd Carabiniers took the strategic hill of Nunshigum during fighting near Imphal. The incline was so steep that the drivers could not see the ground ahead.

Inching forward at one mile per hour, the tank commanders had to expose their heads and shoulders above their turrets to direct the drivers and fire their revolvers at the attacking Japanese.

One by one they died, until only Squadron Sergeant Major Craddock was



Shermans advance down the road past Mandalay to consolidate on the airfield at Meiktila after a lightning thrust across the Irrawaddy

left to press forward the attack and force the Japanese to withdraw.

The squadron remembers this heroic action each year when it parades without officers and under command of the SSM.



Cavalrymen of the 25th Dragoons take a break beside their Lee Grant medium tank after the Battle of the Ngakyedauk Pass during fighting on the Arakan front. Their support of 2 West Yorks in the Admin Box was crucial

## Life and death under the sword

● From Page 25

walk had to be manhandled out with the rest.

By early August my daily doses of vile quinine powder had temporarily banished the malaria attacks, so that I was able to share in the incredible rumours buzzing throughout the camp. First, Noguchi had mysteriously disappeared, replaced by an elderly captain who looked like a gentle schoolmaster and spoke perfect English. Then on August 6 our "canary" reported the devastation of the Japanese city of Hiroshima by something called an atom bomb, followed three days later by the similar destruction of Nagasaki.

How much did our captors know of the way the war was going? Whether or not they were aware of their ultimate fate, their attitude underwent a remarkable transformation.

One morning I was accosted by the particularly vicious Korean private known as "Smiler" from the permanent scowl that

creased his ugly visage. Instead of the usual shout of *Kurrah Buggairo* and prod of rifle butt, there was an incredible overture of friendliness. "Ha, you Engrish offshah kana? Good, ver' good. You Engrish sojer. Me Nippon sojer, We two sojer, okay?" Then he pulled out a pack of Camel cigarettes and thrust it at me. "Presento from Nippon sojer."

Its source was quickly revealed when a consignment of American Red Cross parcels was distributed among us – the first we had seen for more than a year. There were not only such goodies as cigarettes, bars of chocolate and cans of Coke, but stocks of US Army khaki drill shirts and slacks and plimsol footwear. There were not enough to go round, but I was lucky enough to acquire a complete outfit which enabled me to discard the indecent "Jap happy" loin cloth that had been my sole article of attire for nearly three years.

Came the night of August 14, and the

news we had all been agog for. Summoned to the parade ground, we could scarcely believe the announcement from our British Camp Commandant. The Japanese High Command had surrendered and our three-and-a-half years of captivity were over. At first, pandemonium broke out – cheers, yells, banging of mess tins and anything else that could add to the din. When the uproar died down we all roared out *God Save the King*, which was followed by *Waltzing Matilda* from the vociferous Australian contingent. Then we broke into *Land of Hope and Glory*.

I am often asked, "Didn't you take it out of those Jap bastards now you had the upper hand?" But no. My over-riding thoughts were for home and freedom, not retaliation.

In any case, the Japs were still armed, and we were not. Our first contact with the world outside came with the arrival by parachute of a commando captain from Rangoon, who addressed us all on the parade ground. Incredibly clean and fresh-faced, in

unfamiliar jungle green, he seemed like a being from outer space.

After putting us in the picture and assuring us that the Japs were to be disarmed prior to our evacuation to Bangkok, we were able to chat with him. What did he think of us? "You smell" was the reply.

A week later I was among the first batch of ex-prisoners to be ferried down the railway to Bangkok airfield where a flight of Dakotas awaited us, guarded by squads of grinning Gurkha soldiers. Our Canadian pilot flew us low over those jungle camps, and as I looked down on them my thoughts were for those thousands of fellow-sufferers lying in their mass graves (13,000 as it turned out, plus 70,000 co-opted Asian labourers).

Fifty years have passed. Perhaps the present generation of Japanese citizens should not be held responsible for the atrocities committed by their predecessors, but I still find it difficult to forgive.

Forget I cannot.



Indian Armoured Corps soldiers inspect a Japanese type 97 tank which they have knocked out





AS a journalist JACK SKILLING was a useful asset for the security branch of the Intelligence Corps.

He covered many court cases for the *Glasgow Evening Times*, and was well used to interviewing people and sizing them up.

So instead of being posted when he volunteered at the beginning of the war, he

stayed at home and kept an eye out for spies arriving at the Glasgow docks.

Working in plain clothes, he had a good war for the early part, staying at home in Glasgow. It tickled him, as a lance-corporal, to pass the Glasgow divisional headquarters and not have to salute the many officers in the area.

Shortly after D-Day he was finally posted - as a sergeant, and to India - but again his journalistic skills were held at a premium and he was promoted captain and attached to Fd Marshal Sir Claude Auchinleck as a public relations officer when he went to Burma.

When the Auk returned, Capt Skilling remained in

Burma for the climax of the long and bitter campaign to wrest victory from the inglorious defeat of two years previously.

He found himself reporting the final events at the River Sittang, some 70 miles from the Burmese capital at Rangoon.

It was where the now victorious 17 Indian Division had

lost two brigades and its artillery when the bridge at Mokpalin was blown in 1942.

It was also where thousands of Japanese were slaughtered as they tried to break out across the river - their plans had been captured and the Allies were waiting for them.

The following was part of the report he filed.

# First surrender

A PATROL of eight Japanese emerging from the jungle and meeting a patrol of the 6/15th Punjabs began the end of the war in Burma.

The Japanese told the Punjabis they wanted to surrender - death rather than surrender was the normal Japanese option - and they were immediately taken to the headquarters in Abya of the 1/10 Gurkha Rifles.

Two days later Maj Wako Lisanori of the Japanese 28th Army surrendered his sword to Lt Col O S Smyth, commanding officer of 1/10 Gurkhas, and his 2iC, Maj J S Mair.

It was the first formal surrender of Japan-

ese forces in Burma. The wheel of fortune had turned for 1/10 Gurkhas and the 17th Indian Division. Three years before the division suffered a military disaster at the Sittang Bend near Abya.

The victorious Japanese had penetrated the outer defences of the bridge and, through a misunderstanding, the order was given to blow up the bridge. When this was done two thirds of 17 Div were left on the far side of the Sittang.

The fate of Burma was sealed. Rangoon could not now be held and the 14th Army



Jack Skilling

had no option but to retreat. Lower Burma was lost.

But the fortunes of war changed. After Imphal, Kohima, Meiktila, the Arakan and many other battles, the Japanese had to retreat. The 28th Army retraced the route it had used three years earlier - and found 17 Div waiting for them at the Sittang Bend.

It was on August 15 that the Japanese Emperor, aware of the slaughter of his troops at the Sittang and other battles, took the decision to surrender.

The next development was on August 26, again at HQ 1/10 Gurkhas.

Brig Miles Smeeton of IV Corps presided and the senior Japanese officer was a lieutenant colonel representing the commander of Japanese forces in Burma.

He was accompanied by three other officers and two orderlies, one carrying a white flag, the other the Japanese emblem.

A cease-fire had been ordered by Gen Stopford, and in the discussion it was agreed the Japanese would withdraw from their forward position, there would be a cessation of patrols, and no firing on British troops.

In the weeks that followed there were many local surrenders and gradually the Japanese retreated more and more.

Eventually there was a large-scale surrender of the Japanese force at Paung on October 29 and Brig Smeeton presided over the ceremony when the officer of the 28th Army's 54th and 55th Divisions surrendered their swords.

The 1/10 Gurkhas were on parade. The difficulties of life in the field did not prevent officers and men appearing with parade-ground smartness.

The Gurkha hats had been fiercely ironed to shape, and tilted to the correct angle, the green uniforms had been pressed and lanyards, pistol holsters and belts were spotlessly white.

A gilded pagoda, damaged by shell fire, overlooked the two camps, one of the Gurkha battalion, the other of thousands of Japanese. Occasionally a breeze caused a tinkle of silver-toned bells. The jungle deadened sound and the swift-flowing Sittang moved quietly on.

The boards of the bridge were loose. As the Japanese crossed into captivity, laden, unsteady of foot and bewildered, they presented a strange sight. Their discipline was good and they had made an effort to smarten themselves up, but they were obviously thoroughly beaten men.

The final surrender of all Japanese troops in Burma was completed by November 6 - but for 1/10 Gurkhas the ceremony at Paung was their day of triumph.



Japanese facing the "Black Cat" Division Gurkhas did not know the Emperor had surrendered until leaflets were pushed across the Sittang to them in railway wagons. Not long afterwards, they dejectedly trooped along the line into captivity

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First surrender of the Japanese in the field: Maj Wako Lisanori contacts 1/10 Gurkhas to be told the fate of the 28th Army

## THE BOMB THAT SAVED LIVES

ATTEMPTS by churches and official bodies to commemorate the horror of the first atomic bombs angered prisoners of war who believe that the devastation wrought on Japan saved their lives.

The effect was so catastrophic that the Japanese emperor asserted himself and ordered the surrender - over the heads of his military, who had plans to execute all prisoners when Japan was invaded.

"There is a lot of nonsense talked about this," said Tom McGowan, a survivor of the infamous Death Railway and Changi prison.

His local council recently voted money to allow CND to float paper boats with candles to mark the occasion of the first bombs.

"They have more money than sense," said Tom. "An American strategic meeting expected us to suffer a million casualties in the first month if we had to invade Japan. The Japanese would not have sur-

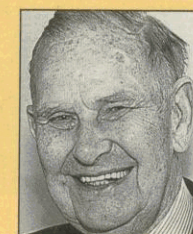
rendered and would have suffered three million dead, so the bombs saved their lives as well as ours."

Prayers in the special open air service in front of Buckingham Palace will include thanks for the reconciliation which has already been established between many nations who opposed each other in war, and the hope that remaining divisions may eventually be healed.

Burma Star Association Chairman Air Vice Marshal Sir Bernard Chacksfield commented that the reconciliation is general, and not specific to the Far East. "I can understand the feelings of ex-prisoners of war who received such horrific treatment at the hands of the Japanese and who find it impossible to consider reconciliation with those who have never apologised for that barbarity."

The feelings of Far East veterans had been considered in preparing the com-

● Turn to next page



Air Vice Marshal Sir Bernard Chacksfield





# LIBERATION

THE FIRST supplies parachuted to the starving prisoners of war in Singapore's Changi gaol were 20,000 contraceptives!

Charles Peall of the Royal Army Service Corps, who eagerly drove a truck to get the first, massive, container parachuted to them by the RAF, could hardly believe his eyes, though he now appreciates why they were sent.

The women were riddled with venereal diseases after several years of Japanese occupation but sex was the last thing on his mind.

"We hadn't an ounce of energy and the thought of loving-making of any description was beyond belief," he said.

Disaster dogged his footsteps shortly after he joined up in September 1939. He just managed to escape from the débâcle in Norway, blocking the German advance with eight depth-charges he had driven up a precipitous road.

On the way to the Middle East he spent Christmas 1941 in Durban, unaware that Hong Kong was surrendering.

He was diverted to Singapore - though all the trucks carried on to the Middle East. As he arrived in a thunderstorm, Singapore had just been bombed and he could see the

Japanese planes flying off.

HM ships *Prince of Wales* and *Repulse* had been sunk - a shocking blow to morale.

His job in Malaya was to feed the guns with ammo, which was difficult when there were no village names and he was only given a map reference.

On several occasions he would arrive and could see where the guns had been, but with no longer a soul in sight.

"I was left with four trucks of ammo with the Japs behind and in front," he said.

One of the greatest shocks on being captured was the change from European food. For the next three-and-a-half years he had to eat little but rice.

Crushed rice would make porridge in the morning. Lunch was one cup of rice and in the evening there was one-and-a-half cups of rice and some onion water, except on the odd occasion when there were dehydrated vegetables.

"We were expected to do hard, manual work on the Burma-Siam railway for 12 to 18 hours a day on this diet," he said.

Egg and bacon was what the POWs craved when they were released, but this was wisely refused as their stomachs had shrunk to virtually nothing.

It was not until they arrived in Suez a month later that they were allowed to start eating heartily.

Charles remembers liberation as if it was yesterday. The work parties had gone out at first light, as usual, but started returning at 1130 hours, whistling or singing the bawdy version of *Colonel Bogey*, the tradition when camp came in sight.

A *Tenko* (roll call) was carried out and a box brought out for the commandant to deliver six words that are burned on his memory: "War is over. You go home."

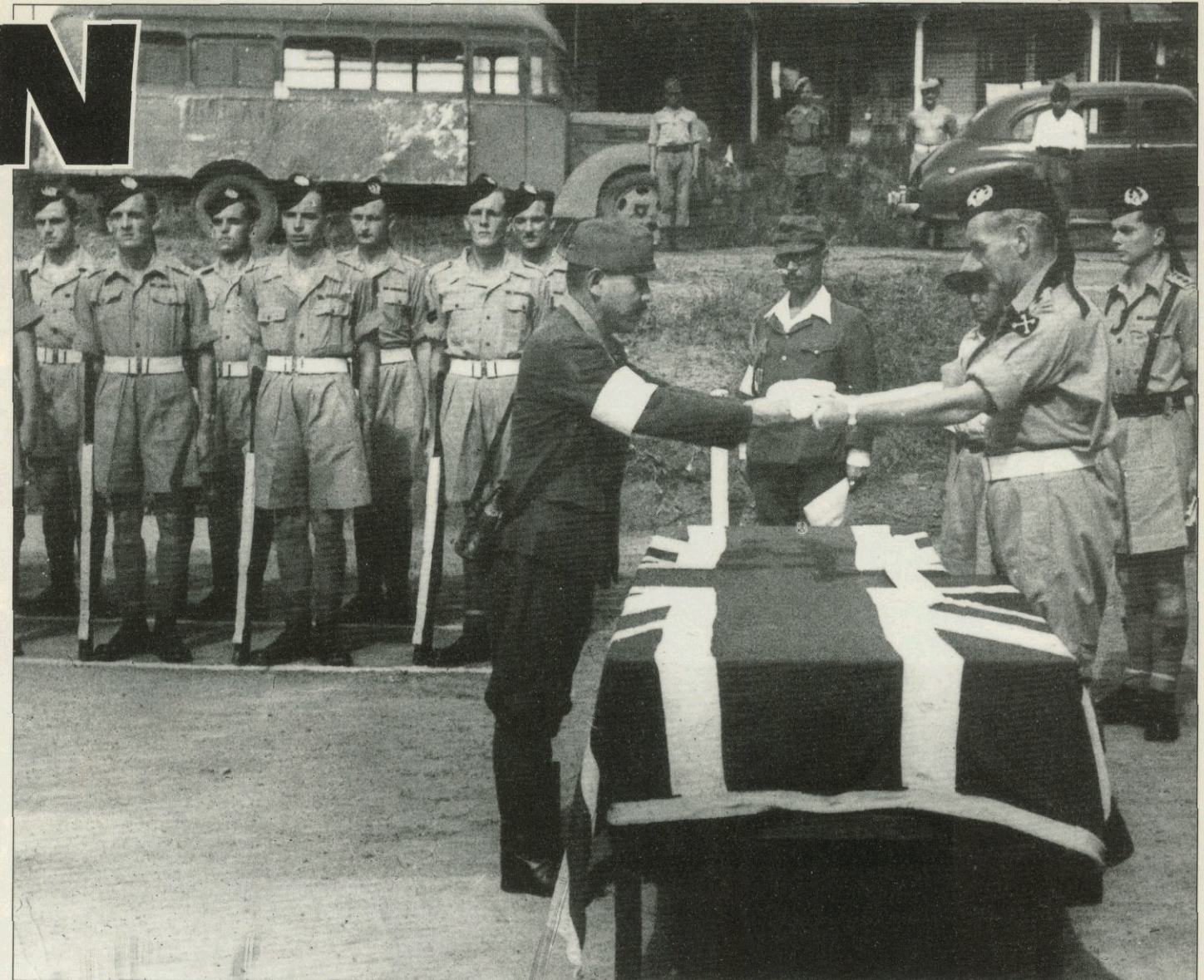
After the tears and backslapping the Australians - always a bolshie lot, says Charles affectionately - started a conga, dancing through all the huts, picking up anything that could make a noise. Thousands of prisoners smashed the gates down and danced through the Japanese quarters, where the terrified guards tried to hide in the rafters.

WOI McTavish, an Argylls RSM, took charge and the next day a Thai offered to show them silent Monty Banks films.

He arrived with his orchestra - an 8ft drum and a clarinet - and wailed and banged through two-and-a-half hours of hilarity which was a tremendous morale booster for everyone.

Arriving back in Liverpool in November, 1945, Charles could not believe how cold it was. He was used to walking about with only a "Jap happy" loin cloth.

His arrival was ironic - the dockers were on strike and the PoWs had to help unload the ship. Charles Peall was back in Britain.



Lt Col Senechi Tazaka, Japanese Commander of the Singapore Defences, surrenders his sword to Lt Col Thomas of 1 Cameronians at Kluang. The Cameronians were among the troops swept back by the Japanese from the Sittang to India



Londoners just released from Changi in Singapore have plenty of fags to go round now

## From Page 29

memorations, and though there is wide representation, no Japanese are to be involved. The concept of 'reconciliation' covered several nations and occupied a minimal place in the service, he said.

"But in celebrating 50 years of peace, we must pray for it to continue. We cannot expect a future world of peace if we do not look forward to peace among all nations, when we 'old hands' who suffered pass on and the young people of all nations in the future accept full responsibility for work-

ing together in harmony."

Speaking in the House of Lords, Lord Mellish told how he was afloat bound for the invasion of Port Swettenham when he heard that the war was over.

"I have never prayed so hard nor been so grateful for anything as I was for that atom bomb," he said.

"When we reached Port Swettenham, the ramifications would have been unbelievable, thousands of lives would have been lost and, at the time, I thanked God for the atom bomb."

## Forced to dig their own graves

DIGGING his own grave was not the most pleasant of experiences for Sgt Tom McGowran, taken prisoner by the Japanese when Singapore fell.

He spent more than three years as a prisoner, 18 months of which were on the River Kwai stretch of the "Death Railway" from Siam to Burma.

"We were told to dig deep trenches, 10ft by 12ft, round all our camps, and at corners of trenches were placed machine-guns" he said.

"We then had several drills where we had to enter these trenches with machine-guns trained on us."

Captured documents and publications have provided the grim evidence. When Siam and the Malay peninsula were attacked, the prisoners would be a nuisance behind the front line.

"They wouldn't have the time or manpower to look after us so they would quickly dispose of us as they did the Americans in the Philippines. The plan was to march

us into the graves we dug and machine-gun us."

Tom was with the 14th Section RAOC in Malaya and was one of 15,000 prisoners herded into Changi gaol. The following years would be characterised by chronic food shortage, illness and many deaths.

The degradation inflicted on the prisoners was too much for many young British soldiers. The whole 18th Division arrived just as Singapore was about to fall, and many 18 and 19-year-olds were pitched in. "Captivity was too much for them and they just died - it was the easy way out."

Herded into cattle trucks, they were moved north to work on the railway. It was a four-day journey, packed 30 to each truck, with no facilities. Many had dysentery and beri beri.

Some thought that great efforts would be made to rescue them.

Tom felt it could take a couple of years, and admits to a certain despair after three years when nothing had happened.

As the end approached, prisoners could keep up with progress via a secret radio. Tom knew the writing was on the wall while he was at camp on the railway and heard a train unloading.

Next morning, it was his turn to make the rice porridge and as he sat poking the bamboo fire a young woman - completely naked - appeared out of the mist.

She was one of the Korean "comfort" girls provided for the Japanese guards who were being withdrawn.

The girl asked for a light for a cigarette (Tom still remembers her exact words) and then walked off into the morning mists,

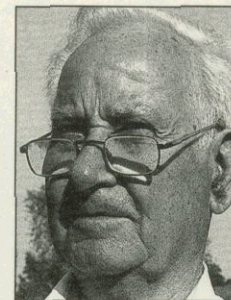
leaving a bemused Tom to carry on making the fire.

They learned of the surrender after work parties were brought back early. The Japanese commander said that out of the kindness of his heart he was going to make them free men, and asked for three cheers for the Imperial Japanese Army.

"We couldn't sleep and sat about chatting, falling asleep where we sat," said Tom. "The next morning we were invited into the nearest Thai village and we got plastered."

Soon afterwards Lady Mountbatten dropped in on the prisoners. Tom vividly remembers her visit - she was in shorts.

Tom returned to Britain to continue his career in journalism, becoming managing editor then director of the *Falkirk Herald*. He has no qualms about returning to the scene of his degradation, and is going back in September under his own resources to lay a wreath as secretary of the Scottish Prisoners of War Association.



Tom McGowran





Above: Lord Louis Mounbatten draws up terms of surrender for the Japanese flanked by Gens Sir William "Uncle Bill" Slim and Raymond Wheeler (left) and Admiral Sir A J Power, Air Marshal Sir Keith Park and Lt Gen Frederick "Boy" Browning

Below: Taken back to dear old Blighty and now arriving at Manchester's Victoria Station after their last trip in an Army truck are the first "old sweats" to return from the Far East. Some veterans had 30 years' service but the demob civvy suit stayed in the case: they wanted their families to see them for the last time in uniform





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#### CONDITIONS OF SERVICE

"Servicemen," says Bett, "will increasingly expect a reasonable amount of free time for themselves and their families. They will also expect to work at a pace which is challenging, but not be so pressed that they do not have time to enjoy their work or do it with satisfaction."

"We have been told in recent years manpower cuts without comparable reductions in commitments have resulted in over-heated unit programmes and too little free time for individuals."

"This has been exacerbated by increased civilisation of support posts, putting more strain on those Servicemen who remain and removing traditional opportunities for people to enjoy a more normal pace of life between more hectic deployments . . ." Is this a fair observa-

**SPEAK NOW...**



tion? More **stability**, more **mobility** could undermine the Army's ethos, affect the **regimental system** and make us more like a civilian organisation. What's YOUR opinion?

As a way of lessening family turbulence, would the removal or reduction of the **Arms Plot** have a detrimental effect on operational capability, recruiting and retention?

Should Servicemen be permitted to serve unaccompanied or accompanied in posts where the latter is an option – without adverse affect on their careers? Would YOU be happy to forgo **family stability** to increase your **promotion chances**?

If family stability is unobtainable, what would YOU consider to be fair **compensation** for its

loss? Boarding School Allowance, legal fees for house purchase, disturbance allowance, re-training for spouse . . .

How long should **tours** last and would YOUR views on stability be the same if most accompanying tours were within the UK?

Bett says both married and single Service personnel should be encouraged to live in private accommodation where appropriate, with the funds so saved used to upgrade the quality of MQs and quarters.

Are improvements to current **welfare support arrangements** necessary?

Is a suggestion that the MoD draws up formal definitions for **entitled partners** – so recognising changing attitudes in society – appropriate to the Armed Forces, or is it merely opening a Pandora's box of problems? Should **leave** rules be tightened so no one loses out on their entitlement?

The Parliamentary **Ombudsman**, as a last resort, should be permitted to deal with complaints by Servicemen about admin matters. Will this undermine the **chain of command**?

## Don't forget QVS Dunblane

I WAS surprised to read that OCdt Hay did not know that Queen Victoria School at Dunblane also has Colours, particularly as the schools have close links. I would even argue that QVS is the senior and has held its Colours longer! – WO1 (SSM) JM Mackie, HQ BRITFOR, Split.

# Colourful history

MY FELLOW ex-Dukie, OCdt Michael Hay (Letters, July 24) suggests that three, rather than two, schools have their own Colours – Cheltenham College, Eton, and the Duke of York's Royal Military School.

I attended the Duke of York's Royal Military 1930-34 and always understood that it was an integral unit of the British Army.

This, of course, places the school in a different category from Cheltenham and Eton, which are "civilian" schools.

The original Colours were presented to the school when it resided at the Duke of York's at Chelsea and was then known as the Royal Military Asylum.

The presentation was performed by King George IV. The Colours were escorted by Colour Corporals who wore a crown above their two stripes to denote their rank.

In my day – and I believe today – the school was dressed,

fed and paid by the then War Office. I received my first official army pay in 1931 when I was granted my first Good Conduct stripe for one year's service – one (old) penny per month.

In my final year my pay jumped to fourpence per week (corporal's pay) plus three-pence per month for my three GC stripes.

I wish Michael Hay a happy and prosperous Army career and hope his pay prospects will have vastly improved! J V Lewis, ex-RQMS RE, Longfield, Kent.

● Girls march for the first time on the Duke of York's Grand Day parade – Briefings, Page 36.

## RANKS IN THE INDIAN ARMY

ON THE subject of Indian Army ranks, as Umrao Singh (correct spelling) was a havildar at the time of his award of the Victoria Cross it might have been easier to have reported him as such, giving his equivalent rank as serjeant, which would have been accurate.

However, despite the efforts of your correspondents, there is no British Army equivalent of the Viceroy's Commissioned Officer and my book *Sons of John Company* (Spellmount 1992) attempts to resolve the mystery.

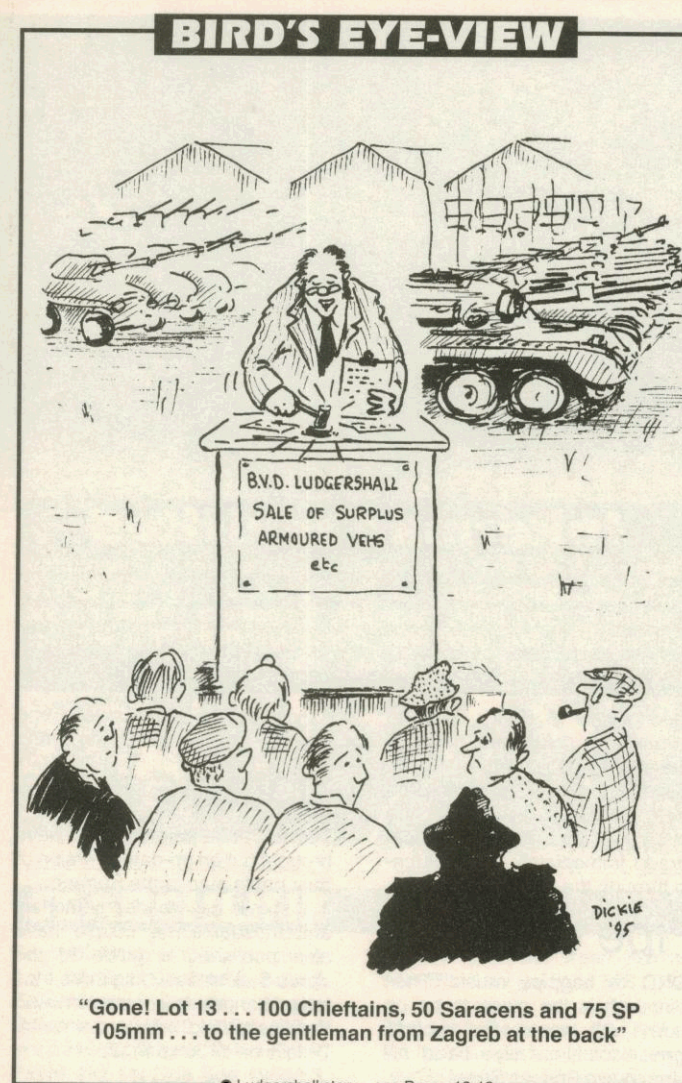
VCOs were senior Non-Commissioned Officers, long

in service and experience, who, since they usually did not speak English, would not be suitable for the grant of the King's Commission.

They frequently served as a cushion between the Indian soldier and his young British officers.

An Indian battalion between the wars would have held some 20-25 VCOs, the senior of whom was the subedar-major, and although he ranked junior to the youngest British officer, it would be a rash young subaltern who challenged the SM's decisions.

British wartime plans for the postwar Indian Army envis-



## BROKE – IN MORE WAYS THAN ONE

THE following tale may sound comical to the present-day soldier but to me at the time it was quite serious.

When I was chosen for a night recce patrol on Wadi Akarit in the Western Desert on April 1, 1943 we were stripped of anything that might make a sound – and our pay books.

After several hair-raising incidents the patrol came under a German grenade attack which resulted in much bloodshed. My right arm and both my legs were broken.

Helped to safety by a patrol of Seaforth Highlanders in the vicinity, I underwent surgery in Tripoli Hospital (I still carry some shrapnel to this day), was

taken by ship to Egypt and ended up in Tel El Kebir Hospital in some state.

It was there that I was asked by an RAMC sergeant if I wanted pay. When I said yes, he asked to see my pay book which, I explained, had been taken from me when I left for the patrol.

His response: "No pay book, no pay." I can't recall precisely what I said to him, but he threatened to charge me.

I'd like to have seen him try. – William McMillan (ex-1st Bn The Black Watch (RHR)), The Princess Louise Scottish Hospital, Erskine Hospital, Bishop-ton, Renfrewshire.

## Norway story told in book

ANTONY SHAW reminded us (Letters, June 26) that this year is the 55th anniversary of the Norway Campaign which left 1,869 dead, wounded or missing.

There must be many veterans like myself who did not realise British forces were in Norway on May 11, 1940.

May I recommend the book *Lest We Forget* by Kenneth Rankin, in which a chapter dealing with Norway includes the recollections of Victor Riches and Eric Spikesman, who served there with 151/51 HAA Regiment Royal Artillery. – J W Hodgson, Wolverhampton.

# Memorials 'well cared for'

WITH reference to Mr Ian Davidson's letter (July 10) on the subject of the alleged lack of maintenance on military

memorials in Great Britain, where, in the UK, can one see a poorly cared for war memorial?

Mr Davidson may be well intentioned but his proposal for the formation of an association together with a fund-raising section to finance the maintenance of these monuments is quite unnecessary.

Do we really need an "Association of Associations" for this purpose, when the designated bodies perform their duties so well?

From my 29 years' experience as a police officer in London, I can assure *Soldier* readers that these authorities take their duty in this regard very seriously and will respond immediately to any report of work required.

They would most certainly act promptly in the event of graffiti being reported on war memorials and military statues. All local authorities in

Britain have a statutory obligation to care for these structures.

The War Memorials (Local Authorities' Powers) Act 1923 makes it the clear responsibility of local authorities to maintain, repair and alter war memorials within their boundaries.

The Act goes on to include the engraving of additional names previously omitted as well as the re-engraving of names which have become illegible.

Before any monument is erected in London, approval must be sought from the Secretary of State for National Heritage and among the criteria is the assurance that there is a body prepared to accept responsibility for its maintenance. Other authorities have similar regulations.

The photograph accompanying the letter shows the Graspan Memorial, the only Royal Marines monument in

London, responsibility for which is in the hands of the Royal Parks Agency. This agency has always ensured that it is cared for, particularly at the time of the annual Graspan Parade, which is attended by about 600 former and serving Royal Marines.

It seems to us that a little extra attention is given to the area for the Royal Marines but I am equally sure that the same detailed attention is paid to every other regimental structure.

Many of those holding office in the local authority departments responsible for this duty have served in the Forces. They fully appreciate how much a monument means to a regiment.

They do a splendid job. Credit where it's due, gentlemen. – James G Ellard, Chairman, City of London Branch, Royal Marines Association.

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## Shedding light on dark secret

EX-TANKIE Fred Newsom recalls the spectacular appearance of the then top-secret Canal Defence Light (CDL) to floodlight Lowther Castle, Penrith, on VJ night 50 years ago.

A CDL school was set up at Lowther Castle at the beginning of the Second World War and Fred remembers how British and American soldiers were trained in its use on specially-adapted Matilda and Grant tanks.

Fred, who now lives near Aldershot, was posted to Lowther Park while serving with the Royal Tank Regiment. He says the night-fighting light, mounted in the tank turrets, was used at the Rhine and Elbe crossings.

With the help of David Fletcher at the Tank Museum in Bovington, he learned that the CDL put out 13 million candlepower, making it six times stronger than conventional searchlights. A special flickering shutter was designed to dazzle anyone caught in the beam.

Further than a mile it created the effect of strong moonlight.

Its name was kept deliberately vague to hide its true purpose, and the existence of the device was not generally known outside units involved in its development or use.

During the Rhine operation, Grant CDLs of B Squadron, 49 APC Regiment were used to illuminate and shoot up the waterfront of Rees, distracting the enemy from the actual crossing points. Light to assist British and American movement during the crossings also helped the Allies to spot floating mines and debris threatening their rafts and bridges.

Enemy sabotage swimmers and midget submarines were picked out in the light from the CDL Grants tanks which attracted considerable enemy fire. Only two of the so-called "Funnies" were put out of action.

## Ilkeston honours Pte Brian Allen

A CAMPAIGN to have the name of a British soldier murdered by the IRA 20 years ago added to the cenotaph in his home town has ended in success.

Erewash Borough Council in Derbyshire has agreed that the name of Pte Brian Allen, killed at Crossmaglen in 1974 while serving with 1 DERR, may join those lost in two world wars and com-

memorated on the memorial in Market Place, Ilkeston.

Local MPs, the Royal British Legion, friends and family fought a long battle to have Brian's name recorded. A spin-off of the publicity was that a second name will be added to the Ilkeston cenotaph. It is that of Pte Joseph Minchin, who,

aged 17, was murdered in Tipperary by Sinn Fein activists in 1920 while serving with The Lincolnshire Regiment.

Help with the cost of the inscription

— the campaign's share is nearly £700 — would be gladly received by the appeal treasurer, former 1 DERR company clerk Mick Smith, at 7 Elmlton Close, Clowne, Chesterfield, Derbyshire S43 4DR (tel 01246 570855).

## Duke of York's girls on parade

WITH equal opportunities so high on the agenda of the modern

British Army, it was entirely fitting that girls should take part for the first time in the Duke of York's Royal Military School Grand Day Trooping the Colour ceremony. And very well they did, too, despite having to catch up on years of drill.

The Dover school has enjoyed the privilege of carrying Colours for nearly 175 years, but this summer's trooping, on July 6, was the first time girls have appeared on the parade. Next year the school is to increase the ratio of girls to boys.

## RA's welcome

THE return to the United Kingdom by 16 Regiment RA after many years based in Dortmund, Germany will be celebrated when the gunners exercise their Freedom of Woolwich on September 28 on behalf of the Royal Regiment. The occasion is a double celebration,

## 50th ANNIVERSARY EVENTS

### Imperial War Museum

London at War exhibition; Home Front Memorial Gallery roll of honour; special film season.

Channel Islands occupation and liberation exhibition.

**From August:** Victory in the Far East display.

**Until August 31:** D-Day to Victory exhibition.

### VJ Day — AUGUST

**12-19:** VJ week in Pwelli, Wales (tel 01758 614066).

**19:** Open-air service in central



Pictures: Jeremy Whitaker

## Inkerman revisited

Capturing a moment in their glorious past, men of Inkerman Company, 1st Battalion, Grenadier Guards recreate "The Roll Call", a painting by Lady Butler made after the battle of Inkerman in the Crimean War; and (right) relax afterwards with the "Russian" foe. The episode was re-enacted at ATR Pirbright last month

marking also 16 Regt's move to barracks in Woolwich, historic "home" of the Royal Artillery.

Spectators will be welcome when 16 Regt parades for the Master Gunner on the Front Parade immediately after marching through the town.

## Pipe dream

FOND of bagpipe music? Then Edinburgh is the place to be on August 20 when the world's biggest combined pipe band will march down Princes Street.

Several thousand pipers and drummers from more than 100 bands will take part to raise funds for Marie Curie Cancer Care.

It will be a colourful weekend for the city, which commemorates the 50th anniversary of VJ Day at the same time.

The previous day 370 veterans, pipers and drummers, under the auspices of the Royal British Legion (Scotland), are to be flown in the "Tartan Jumbo" to take part in the open air service and parade at Buckingham Palace before returning to Edinburgh in the evening for a Sunset ceremony on the Castle Esplanade on Sunday.

Most of the veterans are members of the Scottish Far East PoW Association and the Burma Star

Association. British Airways and the MoD are sponsoring the event.

## Somme tours

TONIE and Valmai Holt have brought out an up-dated version of their battle map of the Somme.

It shows new roads, memorials and museums. The couple have also published a guide to the Ypres Salient, including three trips to be planned in conjunction with their battlefield map of the area. Details on 01304 614123.

## Like father . . .

A FATHER and son team worked together to produce stories for *Soldier's* tribute to the Forgotten Army in Burma. Jack Skilling was a press officer in Burma in 1945 while his son, Gordon, is an assistant editor with the magazine.

Press officers do not always see the fruits of their labour in print: Jack's original story on a surrender of Japanese in Burma was credited only to a faceless "Indian Army Observer" or "our special correspondent" and he never knew if it had been used.

While doing research for this magazine 50 years later he recognised some of his phrases in an article copied in a reference book.

Hong Kong.

**29:** Battlefield tour, Hong Kong.

**30:** Beating Retreat, Stonecutter's Island, Hong Kong.

### VJ Day

#### SEPTEMBER

**2:** Royal Hong Kong Regiment (V) disbandment parade.

**2-3:** Berwick on Tweed floodlit military tattoo.

● *Entry to Government-sponsored events free to veterans*

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



## SEARCHLINE

Ray Attfield wants to contact members of **Sgt Bedford's squad, Coldstream Guards, Depot, Caterham 1948-49; 3 Bn, Windsor 1949-50; Tripoli, Tel-el-Kebir, Fayid, HQ 1st Gds Bde 1950-53.** Replies to 32 Chetwode Place, Aldershot, Hants GU12 4BS.

Derek C Scholfield, Secretary, **RA Association (Exeter)**, wishes to hear from anyone who recorded (video or sound) Massed Bands Beating Retreat on Horse Guards in June in the presence of Prince Michael of Kent. Replies to 5 Madison Avenue, Heavitree, Exeter, Devon EX1 3AH (tel 01392 58267).

Anyone who served with **5 Kings/2 T Force** in N-W Europe 1944-48 is asked to contact K V G Moore, The Granary, Church Road, Bacton NR12 0JP (tel 01692 651086).

Carole Foley (née Hazelgrove) wishes to contact "survivors" of **No 2 Platoon, No 1 Trg Coy, WRAC Training Centre, Guildford, April-May 1980** and members of **8 Squad, Trg Bn and Depot ACC, St Omer Barracks, May-October 1980.** Replies to 10 Bankside, Chatham, Kent ME5 0BY.

**Royal Military Police Association (Birmingham Central):** Branch reunions held on first Saturday of the month at Birmingham United Servicemen's Club, Cough Street, Birmingham. Details from branch secretary Mrs Irene Oliver, 46 St Mary's Road, Harborne, Birmingham B17 0HA (tel 0121 427 8008) or new members/PR secretary D J Holdsworth, 103

Eddish Road, Kitts Green, Birmingham B33 9RN (tel 0121 628 5388).

**71st HAA Regiment RA:** Following their successful second dinner reunion at Woolwich in June, 71st HAA Regt RA OCA is planning its next dinner in June 1996. Details from Eric Dunkley, Popinjays, Little Norton, Norton Sub Hamdon, Somerset TA 14 6TE or Jack Clarkson, 10 Heights Way, Armley, Leeds, W Yorks LS12 3SN.

**Cornwall School, Dortmund** expupils and teachers sought for reunion in July 1996. Contact Sharon Selman (née Stephenson) on 01622 743100 (home) or 01622 773265 (work).

## APPOINTMENTS

### Senior appointments

**Major Generals:** Maj Gen K J Drewienkiewicz to be Director Support LANDCENT from July 28 in succession to Maj Gen M S White.

Maj Gen M S White to be Director General Logistic Support (A) from July 28 in succession to Maj Gen D L Burden.

**Brigadier:** G G Messervy-Whitling — To WEU, July 20.

**Colonels:** T N Tyler — To MoD, July 17; T R Dumas — To be

## HALF-YEARLY PROMOTIONS

The following majors to substantive lieutenant colonels from June 30:

**RA:** M J D Forster.

**RE:** N J Painter, R N Rigby, S W Sykes.

## REUNIONS

**Birmingham Association of Far East Prisoners of War Association:** VJ Day service of remembrance, St Martin-in-the-Bull Ring, Birmingham, August 20 at 1830 hours.

**Crewe VE and VJ drum head services and reunion:** Including Burma Star service, August 20. All Colours, Standards and members welcome.

**Royal Army Veterinary Corps Association:** Annual reunion at Defence Animal Centre on September 3. Details from RHQ RAVC, DAC, Melton Mowbray LE13 0SL (tel 01664 411811).

**Air Despatch:** 11th annual Air Despatch reunion takes place at AMC, 29 Regiment RLC, Duke of Gloucester Barracks, South Cerney, Cirencester, on September 30. Ticket only. Details from the Secretary, Air Despatch Association, 23 Calne Road, Lyneham, Chippenham, Wilts (tel 01249 890412).

**Association of Artificers RA:** 49th post-war reunion will be held at the Royal School of Artillery, Larkhill, on October 21. Details

DA/MA/NA Amman, July 22; R J S Smith — To MoD, July 18.

**Lt Cols:** R D Boden AGC(ETS) — To HQ ETS(UK), July 17; M F Bowman REME — To be CO SE and AE, July 21; W P Crowley, R Signals — To be CO 34(N) Sig Regt, July 17; M B Morwood, R Irish — To HQ RAO, July 17; W J Tustin AGC(ETS) — To HQ BFHK, July 19; B E Weaving AGC(ETS) — To MoD, July 17.

### Retirements

**Colonel:** O M Roberts, late RRW, July 18.

**RLC:** C J Hemingway, N O'Connor.

**AGC(ETS):** C J Kitchener, N Dransfield.

**AGC(ETS):** A A C Munro.

## Back to Bracht

THREE former commandants, two ex-RSMs and the Director General Logistic Support, Maj Gen David Burden, were among guests who returned to Wortham Barracks, BAD Bracht in Germany for a reunion to mark the depot's closure next year.

A cricket match, fête and ball were among the highlights of the weekend. At a church service on the Sunday, the Rev Neil Cameron spoke movingly of the role Bracht had played in maintaining the stability of western Europe, and the sense of loss felt by the local community on the announcement of the depot's closure.

from W E G Woods, 49 Marlborough View Cove, Farnborough, Hants GU14 9YA (tel 01252 512065).

**5 Kings/2 T Force OCA:** Annual meeting October 23-26. Details from secretary R Walker, 15 Wedgwood Road, Barlaston Park, Stoke on Trent ST12 9BB.

### 1996

**Coldstream Guards No 4 Company:** Fourth annual reunion dinner takes place in Birmingham on April 13, 1996. Anyone who served in the 3rd Battalion between 1950-55 is welcome. Details from Harry Westgarth, 49 Rokeby Park, Hull HU4 7QE (tel 01482 503649).

## DIARY

Until the autumn: *Soldier* 50th anniversary exhibition, National Army Museum, Royal Hospital Road, Chelsea. Admission free.

### AUGUST

**26-27:** Open air military music concert and fireworks display featuring Band of Grenadier Guards, organised by 27 Regiment RLC at Ash Range Complex near Aldershot in aid of local and Service charities. Entrance £10, families £25, OAPs £7. Tickets on 01252 348861.

### SEPTEMBER

**2-3:** Berwick Military Tattoo in aid of SSAFA.

**4:** Royal Signals 75th anniversary fair, Bergen-Höhne, Germany.

**7-10:** Disabled Ex-Services Invitation World Games, Gateshead Stadium.

**17:** Winchester and District Militaria Society fair and exhibition, Winchester Guildhall, 1000-1500 hours.

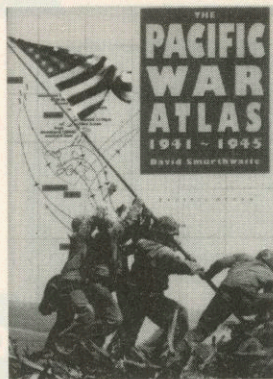
● *To include public events in this diary, contact the Editor.*

● **DUXFORD Airfield, part of the Imperial War Museum, is to get £6.5m from the National Lottery towards the cost of a new £11m building to house its collection of wartime USAF aircraft.**



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## History of Devons is worth the long wait

IT HAS taken 13 years to produce *The Bloody Eleventh*, the official history of The Devonshire Regiment, in three volumes – and the time has undoubtedly been well spent.

Roger Robinson's first volume, published in 1988, covered the period from the formation of the 11th Foot in 1685 to the end of the Napoleonic War in 1815.

Now two more volumes, written by retired headmaster Bill Aggett, and taking the story up to amalgamation with the Dorsets in 1958 and beyond, have completed this limited edition project.

These stunningly-researched works of high quality have been well worth the wait. The readable and richly-detailed narrative, drawing on eye-witness accounts, letters and diaries, is complemented by more than 80 maps and 145 illustrations, some, from 20th century battles, never before published.

Appendices, chronological tables, and so on, give even more "nitty-gritty" for the dedicated student.

The books' generic title is the nickname the 11th earned, with a battle honour, for its gallantry at Salamanca in 1812.

In Volume II the author, who served with the Devons (which evolved from the 11th), takes the reader through the 19th century, with a particularly fine account of the 1st and 2nd Battalions in the Boer War and Siege of Ladysmith, and on to start of the First World War.

The Devons fielded 25 battalions in the Great War and Volume III describes fighting and sacrifice in Flanders, Salonika, Mesopotamia and Palestine. The Second World War brought service in Malta, Burma, D-Day and the in the Allied armies advancing from Normandy to the Baltic.

After the war there were "arduous and dangerous" tasks to perform in Malaya and

Kenya and difficult changes to be endured, too – the amalgamation in 1958 and the disbandment of The Devonshire Regiment TA.

Those fortunate enough to own this reasonably-priced and unique regimental history will do so with pride. – CH

**The Bloody Eleventh: History of the Devonshire Regiment Vols I and II, 1815-1969** by W J P Aggett. Available from RHQ, the Devonshire and Dorset Regiment, Wyvern Barracks, Exeter EX2 6AE at the combined price of £45 plus £4.50 p and p (cheques payable to CBA RHQ D and D).

## British PoWs torpedoed on the way to Japan

ANYONE who may be in doubt about the need to end the horrific war against Japan should read Maj Paul Robinson's foreword to *First In Last Out*, and then read on to get a fuller picture of the privations of Allied soldiers at the hands of their barbaric captors.

This book, sub-titled *The History of the 1/5th Bn The Sherwood Foresters 1939-45*, is a remarkable private publication by a former member of the regiment, Cliff Housley, who served in the 1st Battalion from 1956 to 1968.

Renowned for the maroon and green blood in his veins (the regimental colours), the author has clearly identified a book that needed writing and has done it not a moment too soon.

The privations mentioned in the opening paragraph are part of the wider record of the events affecting the 1/5th Battalion as a whole during the war years.

The reader will learn of the battalion's early days in France, evacuation to England, training and reinforcement, travels to Nova Scotia, Trinidad, Cape Town, India,



BURMA PATROL: The wartime censor revealed only that this photograph was of a company of "a famous British regiment" on patrol in Burma, and that they had had several encounters with the Japanese

and on to Singapore just in time to take part in the final two weeks of fighting on the island.

Captivity in Singapore is covered and the book follows the battalion as it is split into groups and men are sent to Formosa, Japan and to Thailand for work on the infamous Railway of Death.

There are many stories of the building of this railway but the subsequent shipping of many men to work in Japan is less well known. Perhaps the greatest number of casualties were from these parties when their unmarked Japanese cargo vessels were torpedoed by American submarines.

When VJ Day arrived the battalion survivors were spread far and wide around the Far East and many men completed a circumnavigation of the globe by returning home via the Pacific and the USA.

The battalion never formed again as a unit but it must have been a great day when as many as could be found marched

past the gallant Col Lilley in Derby in 1946.

The battalion re-formed with the rest of the Territorial Army in 1947 and remained in being until amalgamation with the 8th Battalion from Nottinghamshire in 1961. After further reorganisations it now provides a company for the 3rd Battalion the Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment.

One cannot review this book without mentioning the incredible record of service of a large majority of those who served in the battalion in the Second World War (1,056 listed).

The 176-page book contains many drawings and photographs. – CEW

**First In Last Out** by Cliff Housley. Available at £9.50 (inc p and p) by sending cheque payable to WFR Welfare Fund to Regimental Headquarters, Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment, Foresters House, Chetwynd Barracks, Chilwell, Nottingham NG9 5HA.

### In brief

**A Dorset Rifleman.** Authentic recollections of Benjamin Harris, committed to paper in 1835, of his life in Wellington's army 1803-14. Edited by Eileen Hathaway, responsible for the successful *A Dorset Soldier* in 1993. Foreword by Bernard Cornwell. Shinglepicker Publications, Swanage, hardback, £15.95.

**Blood on the Painted Mountain** by Ron Lock. Subtitled Zulu Victory and Defeat, Hlobane and Kambula, 1879. By former RMP who is now a battlefield guide with the South African Tourist Board. Greenhill Books, hardback, £18.50.

**The Missing of the Somme** by Geoff Dyer. As the First World War recedes into history, the shadow it casts lengthens and deepens. The author, in his thirties, seeks to understand this phenomenon through a contemplation of cemeteries, battlefields, memorials, poetry, memoirs, photographs and documentaries. Penguin, paperback, £6.99.

**The Evolution of Victory** by Andy Simpson. How the war on the Western Front was won "by the superior generalship, technology and tactics of the British Army". Tom Donovan Publishing, Brighton, hardback, £17.95.

**Victory Must Be Ours: Germany in the Great War 1914-18** by Lau-

## REVIEWS

### Burma and Barnsley don't mix

THE combination of a fictional murder tale about a serial killer in Barnsley and a factual account – taken from diaries – of a tank battle in Burma could well leave readers bewildered despite the plaudits of Brig J R Fishbourne in his foreword to Arthur Freer's *Nunshigum – On the Road to Mandalay*.

Freer, a wartime tankie with the 3rd Carabiniers, starts his story with the official record of the battle of Nunshigum and how the regiment's tanks of B Squadron played a major role in the capture and recapture of the 4,000ft hill vital to Slim's 14th Army, scattered around Imphal.

The input of a story about a Robin Hood-style murderer is, in this reviewer's opinion, superfluous to the historical drama of brave men up against a fanatical enemy. – JM

**Nunshigum – On the Road to Mandalay** by Arthur Freer. Pentland Press, £15.95.

rence V Moyer. Written from the viewpoint of soldiers and civilians. Leo Cooper, hardback, £18.95.

**Bare Feet and Bandoliers** by David Shirreff. The liberation of Ethiopia in 1941 and the parts played by Wingate and Sandford. The author served with distinction with the King's African Rifles.

**The Forgotten Battle: Overloon and the Maas Salient 1944-45** by A Korthals Altes and N K C A In't Veld. Story of 150 days of bloody struggle between the advancing Allies and the stubborn Germans, and of the courage and fortitude of the Dutch civilians. Spellmount, hardback, £18.95.

**Hitler Warned Us** by John Laffin. With a degree of hindsight the distinguished military writer argues that the liberal West should not have been surprised by anything the dictator did. Includes many previously unpublished photographs. Brassey's (UK), flexi-cover, £14.95.

**Heroines of World War II** by Eric Taylor. Joanna Stavridi, the "Night-ingle of Crete", Claire Phillips, the "American Mata Hari of the South Pacific", and nursing sister Margot Turner, who survived a Japanese PoW camp, are among heroines celebrated in this paperback edition of the book first published in 1991. Robert Hale, £8.99.



# Magical mystical tour into a horrific past

LIKE SO many of the postwar generation, Australian journalist Micool Brooke became dramatically aware of the story of the Death Railway when as a seven-year-old in Sydney he saw the film *The Bridge on the River Kwai*.

When his dream to visit the bridge came true in 1987 he was captivated by the beautiful province of Kanchanaburi. His passion turned into a mission – to convey the tragic experiences and conflicting emotions of an earlier generation to others like himself.

Hence the title of his book, *Captive of the River Kwae* (correct local spelling), which can best be described as documentary and travelogue written in a series of journalistic essays. It has to be said that, to this reviewer, the illustrations, contrasting the human sufferings of half a century ago with the glossy, picture-postcard beauty of the area today, sit uneasily side by side.

The book, which helps to correct some of the misconceptions arising from the Oscar-winning film, is dedicated to the many war veterans from Japan, Australia, Britain, the Netherlands and America whom he met or who wrote to him with “new facts and secrets to research”.

It is also dedicated to today's youth, “who might be puzzled by the animosity that still surrounds those distant events”.



ROAD TO VICTORY: Men of the Border Regiment mop up on the outskirts of Pegu, a road and rail junction 50 miles north of Rangoon, after Gurkhas of the 14th Army had taken the town from the Japanese

The reader gets a hint of the spiritual nature of Brooke's experience when he says that his travels and researches “opened a Pandora's box of facts, myths and legends that took me with a magical, almost mystical lure into the jungle to discover some of the hardships for myself”.

He goes on to describe how he became “a recorder of fading memories of a dying

generation of Japanese and Allied former Servicemen who helped build or destroy the Burma-Siam railway”.

He found that some of the Allied veterans he met were willing to forgive. For others, notably author and historian Arthur Lane, who was brutally beaten by his captors, the hatred burns as fiercely as ever.

Brooke records a dramatic confrontation between former British Army corporal Trevor Dakin, who also suffered in captivity, and Nagase Takashi, who had been an interpreter in the Japanese “Gestapo”.

The pair came face to face when, by an odd twist of fate, Japanese, American and British war veterans arranged separate visits to Kanchanaburi War cemetery on the same day in February 1994.

Dakin confidently strode up to his one-time enemy and introduced himself as a former Death Railway prisoner.

Nagase said emotionally: “I'm sorry for the suffering and pain you endured during the

war. I also apologise for my country's war of aggression. Please accept my apology. To be pardoned would give me great joy.”

There was a handshake and Dakin told Brooke that although he was still (like others) waiting for a formal apology and a new compensation package from the Japanese government, he was unable to turn away a sincere individual who wanted to atone for past wrongdoings.

From cover notes it seems that this work of undoubted merit is viewed as “the final chapter” in the story of the Death Railway.

This seems more than a little presumptuous, for there are many who are not yet prepared, if ever, to close the book on this horrific episode of still recent history. – CH

**Captive of the River Kwae** by Micool Brooke. Merman Publishing, Bangkok, softback. Available at £12 inc surface shipping to UK from Jerboa-Redcap Books, PO Box 1058, Hightstown, NJ 08520,

## Was this man a mass murderer?

AT THE end of the Second World War Jochen Peiper, the brilliant leader of Hitler's bodyguard regiment, was a marked man.

His name was linked with the massacre in December 1944 of more than 70 unarmed American prisoners during the Battle of the Bulge, and with the murder of Belgian and Italian civilians.

Not only that – he was one-time adjutant to the hated Heinrich Himmler.

At Dachau in 1946 Peiper was tried for his alleged role in the “Malmedy Massacre” but his death sentence was commuted to life imprisonment. This was further reduced

and he was released in 1956.

On Bastille Day, 1976, he was murdered in a fire-bomb attack on his French retirement home.

Maj Gen Mike Reynolds, the British former commander of NATO's International Mobile Force, has made a professional and, in retirement, personal 25-year study of the Ardennes offensive – and of Peiper in particular.

As one would expect, the resulting book, *The Devil's Adjutant*, has been painstakingly and exhaustively researched. Driven by a quest for the truth, the author has interviewed and befriended

participants on both sides.

Above all, he has set out to be objective, “to juxtapose the various versions of what each side say happened...” He adds: “I believe my account to be the most accurate yet written”.

This is the perfect book for the reader whose enthusiasm may be equally divided between works of erudite military history and whodunnits.

And as with all good whodunnits, this reviewer would not dream of giving away the ending. – CH

**The Devil's Adjutant: Jochen Peiper, Panzer Leader** by Michael Reynolds. Spellmount, hardback, £20.



Panzer leader Jochen Peiper pictured in July 1943  
Picture from author's collection

## Mounted in Mesopotamia – another canter through cavalry history

A few months ago we reviewed the fifth volume of the Marquess of Anglesey's formidable *History of the British Cavalry*.

Now hard on its heels comes Volume 6, like all its predecessors a *tour de force* of research and readable presentation.

This one covers the well-nigh forgotten campaign in what was then Mesopotamia, the Iraq of today. If the sideshow in “Mesopotamia” figures in military history it is chiefly for the humiliating loss of Kut and its dire consequences.

Hitherto all historians except the authors of the Official History have largely ignored the

subsequent struggle which saw the defeat of the Turks, and the significant part played by the mounted troops who faced not only staunch enemy resistance but the indigenous hazards of the terrain – shrivelling heat (often 120°F), sandstorms, lack of water and forage, and the ever-present swarms of ferocious flies attacking man and beast.

Lord Anglesey redresses the balance with a clean-cut account of the cavalry operations.

Moreover, he includes copious extracts from personal letters and diaries, the narrative is brought vividly to life and

makes absorbing reading. As so often, regiments ignored the maxim that gallant charges without fire support against unbroken infantry could only result in excessive casualties.

Thus when the 13th Hussars galloped a Turkish entrenchment at Lajj, their losses were heavier than those they had suffered with the Light Brigade at Balaclava.

But the lesson was learned. The three-day actions at Sharqat in October 1918 were models of inter-arm co-operation – “they provide as fine an example of the co-ordination of

cavalry, artillery and armoured cars as is to be found in the whole war”, avers the Marquess.

Throughout the campaign the British Regular cavalry was represented by only three regiments – 7th, 13th and 14th Hussars – whereas the Indian cavalry fielded 18.

And as a bonus for the uneducated, every time an Indian regiment is first mentioned the indefatigable author adds a footnote outlining its services (and changes of title) from formation in the 19th century down to the reorganisation of the Indian cavalry in 1922. Only Lord Anglesey could give us such detail in a campaign history.

This eminently readable volume takes its place with the rest as the definitive story of our mounted arm. – JMB

**A History of the British Cavalry. Volume 6, Mesopotamia** by the Marquess of Anglesey. Leo Cooper, hardback, £35.

### “THE CAMBRIDGE”



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## WHY, WHEN AND WHERE OF WAR

**AACHEN** is the first entry in the *Dictionary of Wars*, by George Bruce, and Zuyder Zee the last.

In between are facts and figures about every major conflict from Admagetobriga, a

Galic tribal war fought in 61 BC, to the Russian invasion of Chechnya in “December 1995” as the author says in his introduction. This error is put right in the text.

The study of wars

and battles is a job for historians and military experts and this book will prove of value to them, for it lists in some detail possibly a couple of thousand conflicts and will save them, as Fd Marshal

Lord Carver says in his foreword, “long hours of tedious search for the source of authority”. – JM

**Dictionary of Wars** by George Bruce. Collins, hardback, £14.99.



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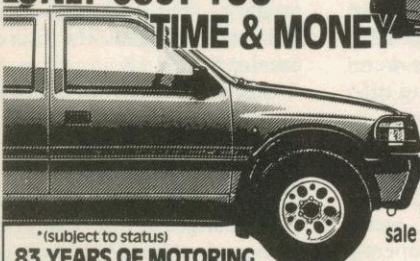
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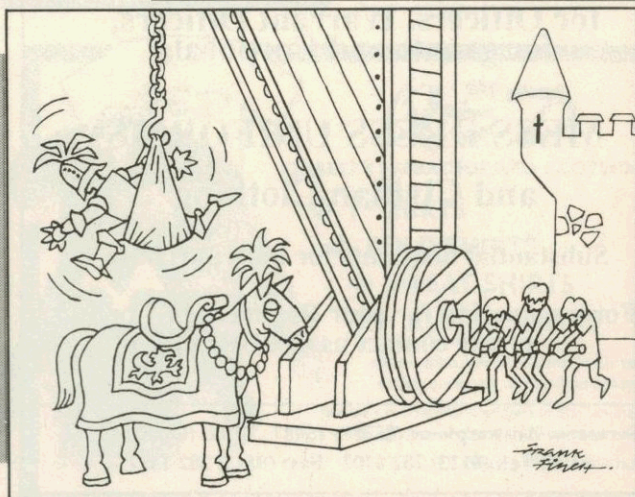
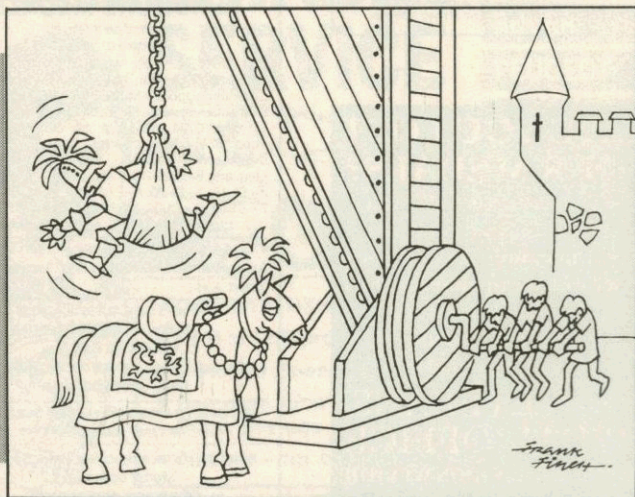
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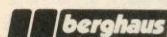
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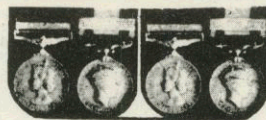
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### JULY 22, 1995

**First** (413 runs, £2,500) Capt L R Dickson, 24  
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**Second** (408 runs, £1,250) WO2 M P Daddow,  
HQ 1 (UK) Armd Div, BFPO 15.

**Third** (399 runs, £750) WO2 S D Windus, 14  
Signal Regt (EW), BFPO 36.

**Fourth** (393 runs, £500) Sgt K Rees, 4 D and D  
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**Fifth** (385 runs, £400) LCpl P S Brown, 172  
Pro Coy RMP, BFPO 803.

**Sixth** (383 runs, £300) Sgt A Williams, ACIO  
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**Seventh** (378 runs, £200) Gen Sir Michael  
Wilkes, HQ AG, Upavon.

**Eighth** (376 runs, £100) LCpl K I Jarvis, HQ  
TSU (G), BFPO 16.

### JULY 29, 1995

**First** (469 runs, £2,500) SSgt R N Brown, 1  
Para, Aldershot.

**Second** (467 runs, £1,250) Cfn S M Sixsmith,  
4 GS Regt RLC, Abingdon.

**Third** (451 runs, £750) Lt Col T C S Bonas, 3  
DWR (V), Sheffield.

**Fourth** (428 runs, £500) SSgt K R Pettitt, The  
Light Dragoons, BFPO 30.

**Fifth** (425 runs, £400) Maj P D Evans, 101  
Regt RA (V), Gosforth.

**Sixth** (421 runs, £300) Maj E Woods, RHQ  
Scots Guards, London.

**Seventh** (414 runs, £200) Sgt D E Lee, 24  
Airmob Bde CSS Bn, Colchester.

**Eighth** (410 runs, £100) Lt Col M P Rayner, HQ  
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# Counties hold off Army's challenge

ESSEX 2nd XI beat the Army by four wickets in a close contest at Aldershot.

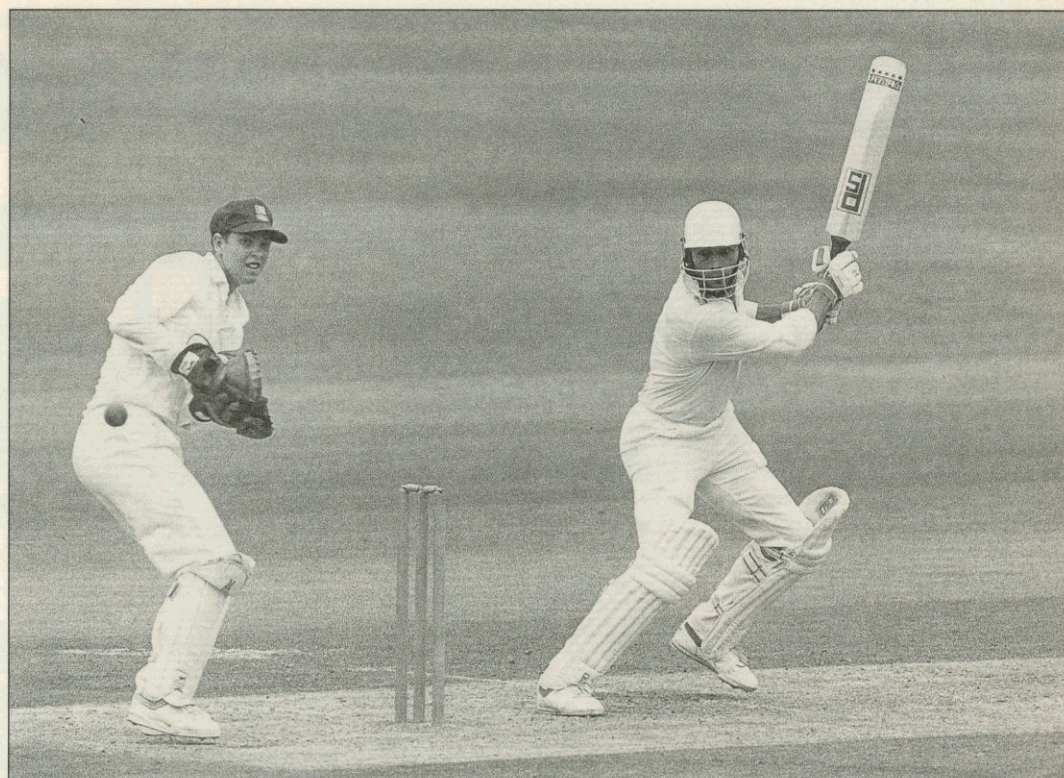
The Army's score of 217-7 on a wet, slow outfield was worth many more runs and owed much to Sgt Nick Palmer (2 Trg) Regt AAC) and Lt Chris St George (Coldm Gds) who put on 124 for the fourth wicket.

Palmer scored 83 in 128 balls and St George, who hit two hundreds in the Inter-Services Under-25 tournament, added a good 54.

Essex won the match with an over to spare.

Capt Richard Greatorex (27 Regt RLC) hit a half century against Sussex 2nds, also at Aldershot, as the Army failed by 56 runs to overhaul the county after bowling them out for 218 in 50 overs.

Greatorex held the innings together without much support from the top order. When he was dismissed for 54 the Army were on the rails at 97-6.



Picture: Mike Perring

Sgt Nick Palmer on the attack against Essex 2nd XI at Aldershot. Barry Hyam is the wicketkeeper

## RECORD BREAKER

SIG Andy Carnegie of 7 Signal Regiment broke the Army 66yd butterfly record while helping his team to the Major Units title at the Army inter-unit swimming championships at RMA Sandhurst.

Carnegie shaved nearly half a second off the old mark in recording a new best of 34.93sec.

Hosts Sandhurst finished second in the Major Units competition ahead of third-placed 7 Para RHA and 32 Engr Regt in fourth.

The Academy women turned the tables on 7 Sigs in their competition, with HQ Northern Ireland third and 3 CS Regt RLC fourth.

Minor Units champions are ATR Winchester, who finished ahead of 22 Fd Hosp RAMC and 39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig

Regt. BAD Kineton were fourth.

A comfortable 23-5 victory over 39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn in the final gave 36 Engr Regt the water polo title, with 7 Sig Regt beating 32 Engr Regt 21-6 in the play-off for third place.

The final was a repeat of the UK decider staged at Gibraltar Barracks, Minley, where 36 Engr overcame 39 by a 22-11 scoreline.

### Men

#### Individual winners

**Freestyle, 800** - LCpl West (32 Engr Regt), 10min 14.61sec; **400** - Sig Barr (7 Sig Regt), 4:46.84; **100** - OCdt Levers (RMAS), 48.85sec (new record); **200** - Sgt Tebay (BAD Kineton), 2:35.48.

**Backstroke, 100** - Pte Beighton (29 Cdo Regt), 1:02.23.

**Butterfly, 100** - Sig Carnegie (7 Sig Regt), 57.77.

**Breaststroke, 100** - Capt Holden (5 Regt RA), 1:11.14; **200m** - AT Hollifield (REATW), 2:46.51.

**4 x 66 ind medley** - Sig Barr (7 Sig Regt), 3:19.24.

**2 lengths short sprint** - OCdt Levers (RMAS), 30.84 (new record).

### Single event team relays

**100m freestyle** - 1, 7 Sig Regt, 3:50.58; 2, 5 Regt RA; 3, 3 RHA. **66 breaststroke** - 1, RMAS, 3:07.38; 2, 7 Sig Regt; 3, SEAE. **33 butterfly** - 1, RMAS, 1:06.13 (new record); 2, SEAE; 3, 3 RHA. **66 backstroke** - 1, 7 Sig Regt, 3:05.59; 2, SEAE. **6 x 33 freestyle** - 1, RMAS, 1:32.11 (new record). **66 medley** - 1, RMAS, 2:35.30 (new record); 2, 7 Sig Regt; 3, 3 RHA.

### Women

**Freestyle, 100** - Pte Cleghorn (2 Sig Regt), 1:01.63; **200** - Pte Cleghorn (2 Sig Regt), 2:15.83 (new record).

**Breaststroke** - OCdt Bassing-ham (RMAS), 1:16.96;

**Backstroke, 100** - Sig Mason (251 Sig Sqn), 1:08.15.

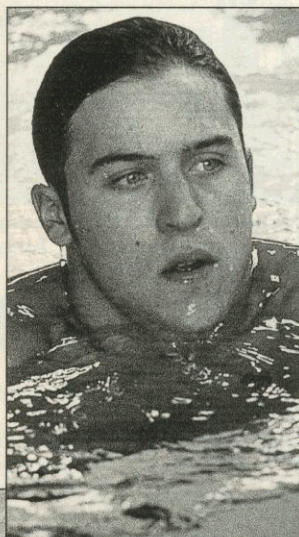
**Butterfly, 100** - Lt Scothorne (HQNI), 1:08.81).

**4 x 33 ind medley** - LCpl Mason (251 Sig Sqn), 1:41.00.

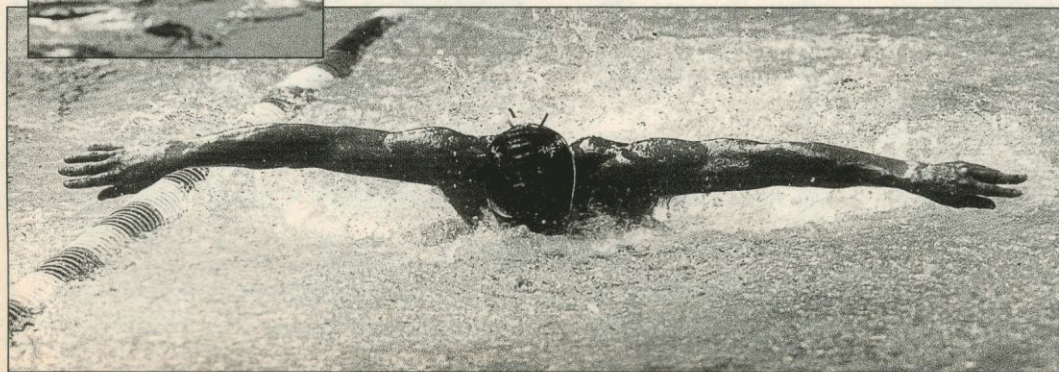
**1 length short sprint** - LCpl Baker (2 CS Regt), 17.64 (new record).

### Single event team relays

**33 freestyle** - 1, RMAS, 1:15.31 (new record). **33 medley** - 1, RMAS, 1:25.06 (new record). **33 breaststroke** - 1, RMAS, 1:38.54 (new record); 2, 2 Sig Regt; 3, 251 Sig Sqn.



Picture: Mike Weston



Sig Andy Carnegie (above and inset) on course to breaking the Army butterfly record



# Worthy runners-up — with a boost from Kelly

THANKS mainly to a characteristic performance from Sgt Kelly Holmes, Britain's premier middle-distance runner, the Adjutant General's Corps' women's team ended joint winners on points at the Army Inter-Unit athletics team championships in Aldershot.

The Worthy Down organisation also made its mark on the event by providing an innovative computer system to record the results.

Narrowly beating the Adjutant General's team for the women's championship title were Women's Services Northern Ireland, who had a better record of wins and second places on count-back.

Kelly, who used the day as invaluable speed training, took part in two of the more unusual events for her.

Having won the 200m in an Army record time, she went on to break the Army 400m record, which had stood since 1986.

Up to the time of the Aldershot event, Kelly had this year set new Army records in the 400, 800 (1min 57.56, bettering her own record) and 3,000m and, according to Army Athletics Association secretary Maj Peter Lyons, will no doubt beat the 1,500m Army record (currently standing at 4min 1.41) into the bargain.

Army records can be broken

at any Army event: Inter-Service records only on the day.

In the Inter-Services, she took 50 seconds off the 3,000m record – 9 min 08.7. At the Inter-Units, she finished on 54.51 in the 400m event.

It really looked as if she was strolling as she beat the old record by nearly two seconds.

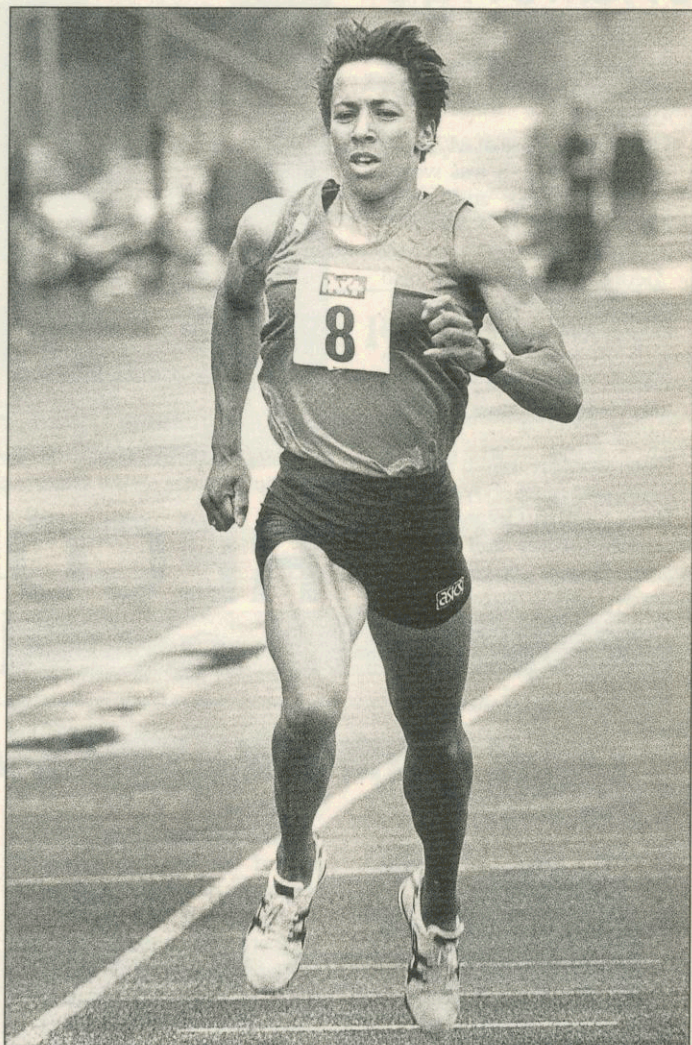
Torrential rain and lightning early in the proceedings had brought the pole vault and hammer events to a temporary halt, but conditions cleared without causing any delay to the track events.

The Major Units title was up for grabs this year, with 2 Royal Signals, who usually dominate the event, absent in Bosnia.

There was a thrilling tussle between 7 RHA (Aldershot) and 1 (UK) ADSR from Germany. In the best competition for some years, the outcome ultimately depended on the last relay. Despite being disqualified in the 4 x 100m relay, RHA took the title.

BAD Kineton bagged the Minor Units title quite easily by a margin of 25 points.

● As *Soldier* went to press, Holmes was in with a chance of becoming the first British woman to win a world middle distance title for 31 years. She was competing in the 1500m and 800m at the world championships in Gothenburg, Sweden.



Holmes and dry: On her way to winning the 200m event at the Army Inter-Unit team athletic championships at Aldershot in an Army record time is AGC Worthy Down's Sgt Kelly Holmes

Picture: Mike Weston

## RESULTS

### Men, Major Units

**100m (A)** Lt Alderson (7 Para RHA). **(B)** Pte de Silva (3 Para Regt). **200m (A)** LCpl Francis (1 (UK) ADSR). **(B)** LCpl Wood (7 Sig Regt). **400m (A)** Lt Alderson (7 Para RHA). **(B)** Gnr Thompson (5 Regt RA). **800m (A)** Sgt Finch (3 Para Regt). **(B)** LCpl Matheson (1 (UK) ADSR). **1,500m (A)** Sgt Finch (3 Para Regt). **(B)** Pte Canning (3 Para Regt). **5,000m (A)** Cpl Goldsmith (7 Sig Regt). **(B)** Pte Aspell (3 Para Regt). **110m H (A)** SSgt Killen (2 Sig Regt). **(B)** Sgt Brownridge (7 Para RHA). **400m H (A)** LBdr Lemboye (7 Para RHA). **(B)**

LBdr Oakes (7 Para RHA). **3,000m SC (A)** Sgt Routledge (7 Para RHA). **(B)** Pte Taylor (1 Cheshire Regt).

**High/long/triple jumps** Pte de Silva (3 Para Regt); Gnr Pearn (5 Regt RA); LBdr Oakes (7 Para RHA). **Pole vault** SSgt Killen (2 Sig Regt). **Discus** SSgt Killen (2 Sig Regt).

**Hammer** Cpl George (1 (UK) ADSR). **Javelin** SSgt Mullen (5 Regt RA). **Shot** Cpl Oliver (1 (UK) ADSR).

**4 x 100m relay** 1, 1 (UK) ADSR, 45.24 secs; 2, 5 Regt RA, 45.28; 3, 1 Cheshire, 45.47; 4, 3 Para Regt, 46.22; 5, 7 Sig Regt, 46.27. **4 x 400m relay** 1, 7 Para RHA; 2, 5 Regt RA;

3, 3 Para Regt; 4, 1 Cheshire Regt; 5, 1 (UK) ADSR.

**Teams** – 1, 7 Para RHA, 186 points; 2, 1 (UK) ADSR, 179.5; 3, 1 Cheshire Regiment, 172; 4, 3 Para Regt, 156; 5, 5 Regt RA, 144; 6, 7 Sig Regt, 128.5; 7, 2 Sig Regt, 76.

### Men, Minor Units

**100m/200m** Cpl Newell (3 Bn REME). **400m** Capt Turner (HQ Lond Dist). **800m/1,500m** Cpl Butler (BAD Kineton). **400m H** Cpl Rutterford (BAD Kineton). **3,000m SC** WO2 Keily (280 Sig Sqn).

**High/triple jumps** LCpl

Pearce (BAD Kineton). **Long jump** Cpl Skelton (3 Bn REME). **Hammer** LCpl Skipper (BAD Kineton). **Shot** Pte Welch (BAD Kineton).

**4 x 400m relay** 1, BAD Kineton; 2, ASPT; 3, 3 Bn REME.

**Teams** – 1, BAD Kineton, 97; 2, ATR Basingbourn, 72; 3, 3 Bn REME, 68; 4, ASPT, 67; 5, 280 Sig Sqn, 58; 6, HQ Lond Dist, 47; 7, 3 BAD, 38

### Women

**100m** Cpl Jackson (WS NI). **200m/400m** Sgt Holmes (Worthy Down). **800m** LCpl Sutton (27 Regt RLC). **1,500m** Sgt Duffield (Worthy Down).

**3,000m** Lt Rayner (1 (UK) ADSR).

**100m H** LCpl Hunton (WS NI).

**High jump** LCpl Hunton (WS NI). **Long jump** Capt Mendonca (Worthy Down). **Discus** Cpl Burton (ATR Pirbright). **Javelin** Pte Turner (2 (CS) Regt RLC). **Shot** Pte Bailey (ATR Pirbright).

**4 x 100m relay** 1, WS (NI); 2, Worthy Down; 3, 27 Regt RLC; 4, 1 (UK) ADSR; 5, ATR Pirbright.

**Teams** – 1, WS NI, 67; 2, Worthy Down, 67; 3, 1 (UK) ADSR, 64; 4, 27 Regt RLC, 50.5; 5, 2 (CS) Regt RLC, 49.5; 6, ATR Pirbright, 47.



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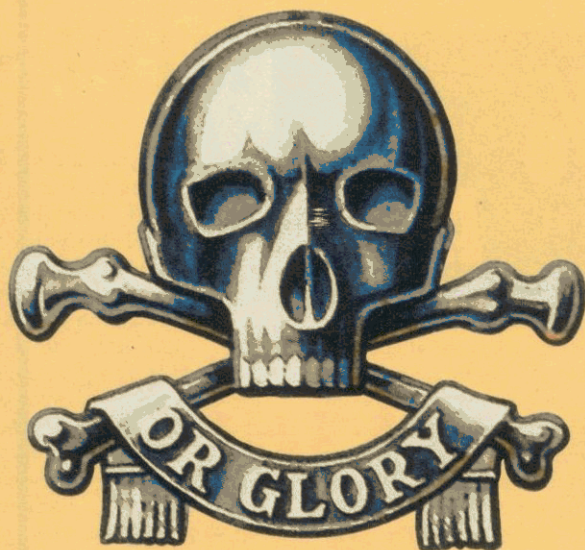
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The Queen's Royal Lancers formed on June 25, 1993 on the amalgamation of the 17th/21st Lancers and 16th/5th The Queen's Royal Lancers. Members of the new regiment wear the collar badges of the 16th/5th and the buttons of the 17th/21st on their uniform.

The capbadge (known in the regiment as the motto) is the famous Death's Head or Glory. It was instituted in 1759 by Col John Hale in memory of his friend, Gen Wolfe, who died at Quebec. The regimental quick march is "Stable Jacket".

The 16th/5th The Queen's Royal Lancers originally formed in April 1922 on the amalgamation of the 5th Royal Irish Lancers with 16th The Queen's Lancers, which earned its most famous battle honour at Aliwal in 1846 when it rode through and destroyed an infantry square, a feat then unparalleled in cavalry history.

The 17th/21st Lancers formed in April 1922 from the 17th Lancers (Duke of Cambridge's Own), who led the charge of the Light Brigade, and the 21st Lancers (Empress of India's) who led the British cavalry charge at Omdurman in 1898. Shared battle honours include St Quentin, Cambrai 1917 and Italy.



16th/5th The Queen's Royal Lancers



17th/21st Lancers

# Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment

## Queen's and Royal Hampshires

The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment (Queen's and Royal Hampshires) was formed by the amalgamation of The Queen's Regiment and The Royal Hampshire Regiment on September 9, 1992. Khaki berets replaced the navy blue infantry version worn previously, and bronze buttons and badges have been adopted for wear with No 2 Dress. All ranks wear a Royal Tiger badge on their left sleeve.

The capbadge of England's senior Infantry Regiment of the Line comprises a Tudor dragon upon a mount with a Hampshire rose below surrounded by the Garter. The Plume of the Prince of Wales is superimposed above the dragon. The regimental quick march is "The Farmer's Boy", leading into "The Soldiers of The Queen."

The Queen's Regiment was formed in 1966 from amalgamations which had their origins in: The Queen's Royal Regiment (West Surrey), The Buffs, The East Surrey Regiment, The Royal Sussex Regiment, The Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment and The Middlesex Regiment. The Royal Hampshire Regiment was the only unamalgamated royal county regiment until its amalgamation. Shared battle honours include Blenheim, the retreat from Mons, and Salerno.



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The Queen's Regiment



The Royal Hampshire Regiment