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ARMED FORCES MAGAZINE

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ARMY



15

DRAGONS FLYING HIGH

HOME SAVING
SCHEME DETAILS



ALSO INSIDE:

- REME Public Duties
- AMF in Norway
- Farriers competition
- 22 Loc Bty in Armagh



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April 6, 1992
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The Queen Mother meets families of the 1st Battalion, Irish Guards during her St Patrick's Day visit to the Berlin-based battalion to distribute her annual gift of shamrock. Her visit to Wavell Barracks at Spandau was the 27th occasion on which the Queen Mother has presented shamrock in person. The photo-

graph shows the Queen Mother, accompanied by the commanding officer, Lt Col Christopher Langton, talking to Mrs Margaret Thompson, who is married to a lance corporal serving with the 1st Battalion.

● 1 R Irish shamrock parade – Page 9.

QUIDS IN!

Services home savers offered super deal by new MoD scheme

SOLDIERS who take advantage of the new Services Home Saving Scheme announced by the Ministry of Defence stand to make thousands of pounds more than if they invest in the High Street.

Figures released by the MoD (see graphic on Page 14) show that £100 a month saved over ten years in the Services Home Saving Scheme (SHSS) will earn £2,820 more than if the money was placed in a Post Office National Savings Invest-

ment Account, and a whopping £4,952 more than the return on a building society higher interest account.

The new savings scheme is one of a number of measures brought in to ease the pain of Service personnel exposed to

current house prices when they leave the Armed Forces.

Calculations assume an eight per cent rate of interest and are net of tax.

Minimum qualifying period for savers is five years, but even over that period Service savers stand to gain thousands of pounds more than civilian investors shopping for High Street returns on their savings.

The Services Home Savings Scheme enables a Serviceman or woman to save for a house during service and obtain assistance similar to that enjoyed by a civilian qualifying for MIRAS (mortgage interest

FRONT COVER (main picture): Members of the Flying Dragons, the highly successful freefall parachute team of The Queen's Regiment, jump from an aircraft during team training in California. Story and pictures in Page 17. (Picture: Mike Lee)

INSET: LCpl Mark Stevenson plays the Last Post during REME's Public Duties at the Tower of London. Story in Pages 18-19. See also back cover. (Picture: Mike Weston)

● Turn to Page 14

SOLDIER

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Malachy on shamrock parade



Picture: Andrew Burridge

The Duke of Gloucester, accompanied by Lt Col Andrew Tuggey, the commanding officer, inspects the Royal Monmouthshire Royal Engineers (Militia)

Sapper militia on the march

A fair bit of shooting...



OCdt Lisa Nicholson opens the breach of an L118 light gun to eject the first recorded shell fired from the gun by an all female crew. The officer cadets – Rebecca Burton, Emma Johnson, Alison Finch, Jo Blackshaw, Anna Pearce and Lisa Nicholson – from the Royal Artillery Troop of Oxford University OTC fired five rounds at Westdown on Salisbury Plain. The L118 was one of a number loaned by the Territorial Army's 201 Battery RA.

UNITED KINGDOM-based Irish Guardsmen were presented with shamrock by the Grand Duchess of Luxembourg at a St Patrick's Day parade at the Guards Depot, Pirbright. The Grade Duke, Colonel of the regiment, took the salute and the new regimental mascot, Malachy, an Irish wolfhound, made a first appearance on parade.

The shamrock was a gift from the Queen Mother who spent St Patrick's Day with the 1st Battalion, Irish Guards in Berlin. See picture in Page 3.

• • •
The Queen Mother celebrated 50 years as Colonel-in-Chief of the Royal Army Medical Corps with a visit to the Royal Army Medical College at Millbank on February 25.

• • •
Mortar Platoon of the 4th Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets won the Lowenbrau Tough Training Trophy after three days of competition at Otterburn camp.

• • •
The 2nd Infantry Division HQ and Signal Regiment at York was congratulated by Armed Forces Minister Archie Hamilton on having an assured future in Nato's Rapid Reaction Corps (ARRC) when 2 Div disbands at the end of March. Mr Hamilton and Mr Conal Gregory MP visited the regiment at Imphal Barracks.

• • •
Naafi has teamed up with National Breakdown to offer Service personnel a new motor recovery service anywhere in the United Kingdom or on the Continent.

• • •
A practice inspection under the Conventional Forces in Europe (CFE) Treaty was conducted in Eastern and North Eastern Districts by the United Kingdom and Germany at the end of February.

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Governors' memorabilia given to Sandhurst

SWORDS and medals of two former Governors of the Royal Military College have been presented by their descendants to Sandhurst.

The swords are associated with Gen Sir George Scovell

Fusiliers receive Gulf Medals

PRECISELY a year after the Fusiliers Battle Group was drawn up on the line of departure awaiting its orders to attack Iraqi positions, soldiers of the 3rd Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers paraded at Barossa Barracks, Hemer to receive their Gulf Medals.

Commanding officer Lt Col Andrew Larpent praised the Fusiliers for their courage and professionalism during the war and read messages from the regiment's 1st, 2nd, 5th and 6th Battalions, and the 8th Queen's Fusiliers before presenting the medals.

Padre Adrian Pollard conducted a service of remembrance for the ten soldiers of the Battle Group killed in the Gulf and Lt Col Larpent laid a wreath at a memorial in Barossa Barracks.

Lt Col Andrew Larpent, CO 3 RRF, congratulates Cpl David Satchell on the award of his Gulf Medal. David's brother Stephen was killed during the war. Sgt Tony Hay, Platoon Sergeant of Stephen's platoon, is next to him

Minister visits 4/7 DG

THE 4th/7th Royal Dragoon Guards based at Detmold were visited by the Earl of Arran, Under Secretary of State for the Armed Forces. The regiment, descended from Arran's Horse raised in 1685 to fight for James II, is to amalgamate with 5th

(1774-1861), who took part in the Waterloo campaign, and who is buried in the RMAS cemetery.

Sandhurst's recently completed transport lines were named the Scovell Lines to

mark his governorship and his command of the Royal Waggon Train.

The decorations and medals belonged to Lt Gen Sir Harry Jones (1791-1866), who succeeded Gen Scovell in 1856.

His reputation was that of a stern disciplinarian who provoked the student mutiny of 1862. He achieved fuel savings by turning off the College lights at 9pm. He is also buried at Sandhurst.



Maj Gen Tim Toyne Sewell, Commandant RMAS, pictured with Brig (Retd) J B K Greenway (left), a descendant of Lt Gen Sir Harry Jones, and Mr and Mrs M G Scovell, descendants of Gen Sir George Scovell, and the swords and medals they have presented to Sandhurst



Frank's big day

EX-MEDIC Frank Fullbrook from Colchester plans to celebrate his 100th birthday with a visit to 19 Field Ambulance at Goojerat Barracks on April 1.

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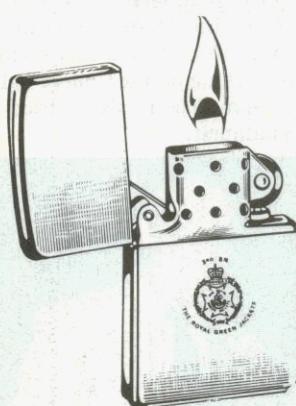
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Lord Arran was accompanied by Brig David Cranston, Commander Detmold Garrison, and Lt Col Charles Thwaites, CO 4/7 DG.

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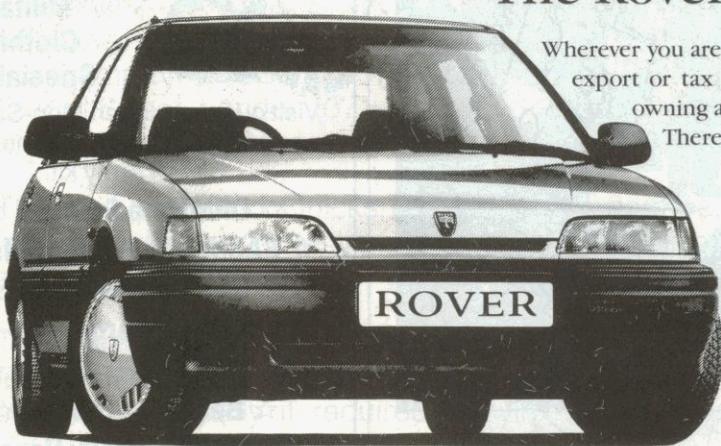
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Namaste! Sgt "Dog" Scott (left) stands by with a tray of shamrock as Mrs Suzie Potter, wife of Lt Col Tony Potter, commanding officer of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Irish Rangers acknowledges the traditional Gurkha greeting before presenting a sprig to Capt Dillikumar Gurung, 7 GR. The St Patrick's Day parade took place at Warminster. On July 1 the Rangers merge with The Ulster Defence Regiment to become The Royal Irish Regiment.



Picture: Mike Perting



Picture: Elaine Rhodes RSA

Above: taking a close look at the new AS 90 self-propelled howitzer during a visit to the Royal School of Artillery at Larkhill is Gen Frederick M Franks Jr, Commanding General US Army Training and Doctrine Command. The gun is on user trials at Larkhill. From left to right are WO1 (MG) Mack McCormack; Brig Giles Arnold, Commandant RSA; Gen Franks; and Lt Gen Sir Garry Johnson, Inspector General Doctrine and Training.

Right: Jake, son of Rats, the terrier who became a mascot for troops in Northern Ireland, met soldiers of The Parachute Regiment at the Imperial War Museum for the launch of an exhibition entitled "Animal Heroes".



Lt Gen Helge Hansen, Inspekteur des Heeres of the German Army, signs the visitors' book on meeting Gen Sir Peter Inge, Chief of the General Staff. Informal discussions between the professional heads of the two armies took place at the Ministry of Defence and were followed by lunch at the German Embassy. Lt Gen Hansen took over his appointment in February, and it was his first call on the new CGS. Their talks included Nato's British-led ACE Rapid Reaction Corps (ARRC), the headquarters of which is planned to open in October.

They've got some bottle...



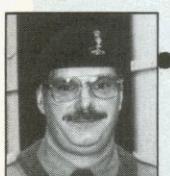
Some things are even bigger than a Para! Members of A Company, 4th Battalion, The Parachute Regiment (V) from Merseyside found a trophy to compensate for the worst of weather while on a weekend exercise.



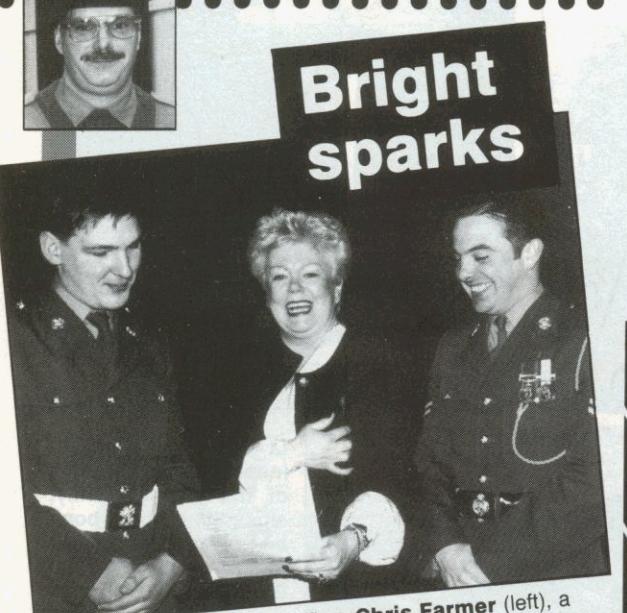
On the Mersey beat



Brig Bill Backhouse (centre), new Garrison Commander for Merseyside and Commander 11 Signal Brigade, is also responsible for Merseyside's 38 Army Cadet Detachments. He is pictured with Col Ted Jones (top), ACD Commandant, and WO1 Chas Dale during a visit to the Toxteth detachment.



Bright sparks



MoD documentation officer Chris Farmer (left), a Territorial Army private serving with 2 Wessex at Reading, is one of the first Servicemen to gain a National Vocational Qualification in business administration.

He and Cpl Simon Brunskill, a Regular serving with the Royal Tank Regiment at Catterick, joined a Wren and a Royal Marine in the Guildhall, London to collect their NVQ certificates.

Chris qualified after 11 months in the TA, gaining his standard Infantry qualification and becoming an All Arms Clerk Class 2.

Pte Farmer and Cpl Brunskill are pictured at the Guildhall reception with consultant Dee St George-Yorke.

See you in Belize...

Liz Dean of the WRVS receives a plaque from Maj Jeremy Russell, OC Junior Soldiers Company, Light Division Depot, on her posting to Belize.

She has looked after nearly 200 lads during the past two years at her club in the Depot, and looks forward to seeing some of her protégés from 1 LI when the battalion deploys to Belize later this year.



There's a strong family loyalty to 285 Movement Control Squadron RCT(V). Our picture shows (from left) Pte Jenny Dixon and her father, Cpl Anthony Dixon, and Sgt Iris Cuthbert and son Cpl Andy McGuire, the newest recruit to the

Keep it in the family

South Cerney. It was Sgt Cuthbert's last weekend exercise in the Territorial Army before she retired after 12 years' service.

Prompt action by Pte Scott Gillies following a serious road traffic accident in Saudi Arabia led to him being awarded a General Officer Commanding 1st Armoured Division Commendation. Just before the ground offensive he found a crashed US Army vehicle and administered first aid to the seriously injured driver until a doctor arrived. Without Scott's intervention, the American soldier would have died.

Picture: Mike Weston



Putting the Rock on the map...

Gibraltar's Land Force Commander, Col Tony Reed Screen, late RE, presents a framed geology map of the Rock to Mr Joshua Gabay, chairman of the Gibraltar Heritage Trust. Another 4,000 copies of the map, researched and produced by London University's Department of Geology, have been donated to the trust.



George is the champ – at last

Chester recruiter SSgt George McIvor (below) bowled his way to become the Army's UKLF ten pin bowling champion in the event staged at Bournemouth. He had been a runner-up in ten previous masters competitions.



Student nurse Helen McArdle from Farnborough wanted dirty dishes to wash – and Sappers Ken Eitchison, Gamel Greenholgh, Brian Swarbrick, Paul Cain and Gerald Green at Gibraltar Barracks in Aldershot were delighted to supply them! Helen completed her marathon mop-up to raise money so that she can take up a berth on the Astrid Trust's 1992 voyage of discovery to the West Indies aboard the square rigger *Astrid*.

PEOPLE

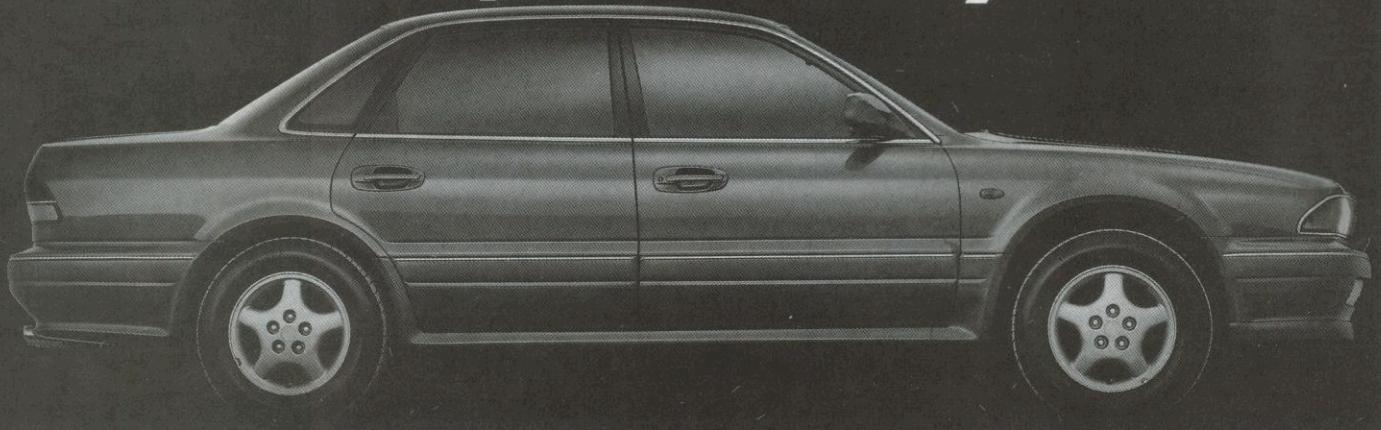
Anglian chefs on the telly



Army Catering Corps chefs attached to the 1st Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment have been appearing on Anglia TV's "Food Guide" programme. Pictured with presenter Patrick Anthony are (from left) Pte Joanne Rimmer, LCpl Darren Gregory, LCpl Craig Ineson, Pte Brian Irving, WO2 (SMM) Keavin Fee, LCpl Andy Jee, LCpl Tim May, Cpl Mai Briggs and Sgt Don Mackillop.

The programme, seen also in the Central and Grampian regions, featured field catering, barrack meals and a formal regimental dinner in the officers' mess.

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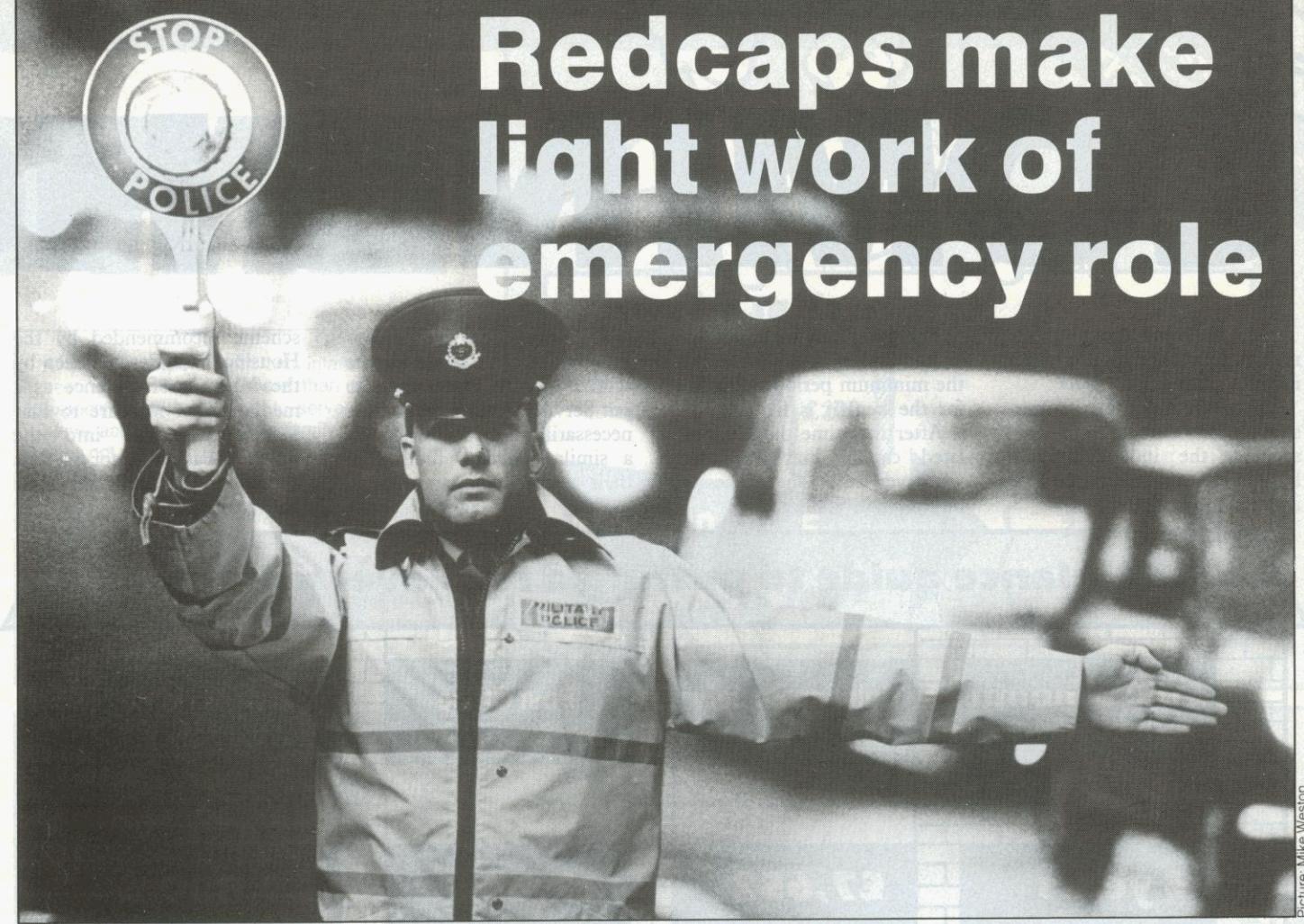
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Human traffic light Cpl Taff Foote, RMP, sets a shining example

ROYAL Military Policemen are standing by to act as human traffic lights in the event of national power failures.

The plan was sanctioned by the Ministry of Defence after it had been left with thousands of German-style traffic wands as a result of the drawdown in BAOR.

Used extensively on the Continent for night traffic and convoy control, the battery-powered neon "lollipop" wands flash red on one side and green

on the other. A committee tasked with recycling surplus equipment proposed that the unwanted traffic aids be kept in an emergency reserve for use during power failures in the United Kingdom.

The Royal Military Police

were consulted as soon as the

idea had been approved by

Government vehicular-flow ex-

perts. After intensive training,

hand-picked military police-
men trialled the concept during
the winter in a number of particularly dark northern towns.

Several motorists said later they had been impressed by the metronomic precision of the Redcaps' baton drill.

The project has now received the official green light, and supplies of traffic wands have

been deployed to strategically-sited RMP units, ready for the go-ahead on April 1.

In the event of power failure, civil authorities will call on the nearest Military Police Light Team to take over at critical junctions during rush hours.

A Ministry of Defence spokesman said: "The British Army has always led the way in national emergencies. We are now looking at ways to extend this scheme to other areas."

One-legged soldier wins gold approval



Pte Jeffrey Scott

PTE Jeffrey Scott, who overcame the handicap of having an artificial leg to fulfil his ambition of becoming a soldier, has received a national newspaper award for outstanding bravery and special achievement.

Pte Scott, whose left leg was amputated when he was ten, passed out from the RAMC Training Centre at Mytchett, Surrey, and is now serving at Queen Elizabeth Military Hospital, Woolwich.

He attended a reception at a London hotel to receive his Daily Star gold award.

No concessions were made to Pte Scott during basic training. He failed his first combat fitness test because his artificial leg was too heavy, but acquired a lighter, American-made model and passed the test.

Although it is not unknown for a soldier to continue serving after losing a limb, it is unusual for someone with this handicap to be accepted for training.

Picture: Mike Weston



COMING HOME

● From Page 3

relief at source) on his mortgage interest payments.

To ensure that only serious savers are attracted to the scheme, the individual will have to contribute between £50 and £200 a month.

The saver can withdraw his or her money at any time but the minimum period to qualify for the benefit is five years.

After that time the accumulated capital may be used whenever he or she wishes to buy a main residence.

All Regular Service personnel over 18 are eligible for the scheme, which is designed to put Service families, with their necessarily mobile lifestyle, on a similar housing footing to their civilian counterparts.

The save-as-you-serve

scheme recommended by the Housing Task Force is seen by the Ministry of Defence as a medium-term measure to ease Service personnel into the private housing sector as they approach the end of their engagements.

At-a-glance guide to putting a roof over your head

£100 a month invested in:	Building Society higher int acc*	Post Office Nat Sav Inv Acc	Services Home Saving Scheme
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* Figures calculated at 8 per cent interest net of tax

Short-term measures announced

SIX short-term measures have also been announced to help those facing the immediate prospect of redundancy.

Allocation Policy: Maximum use of temporarily vacant MoD married quarters will be made to help those in short-term housing difficulty. Single Service housing managers will ensure that as many vacant MQs belonging to one Service as possible are available to personnel from the other two Services.

Priority for MQs will continue to be given to serving personnel.

Continuation of Occupancy: Until now personnel who continued to live in an MQ after quitting the Service were declared irregular occupants and faced eviction. Under new rules, those who have been made redundant or otherwise had their Service curtailed, and who have not found a place to

Under new management?

THE Housing Task Force also considered the future management of the married quarter estate. There are problems in this area and it is acknowledged by the MoD that there is much room for improvement.

A new, non-profit making organisation has been suggested to take over the ownership and management of the MQ estate to ensure that, on a tri-Service basis, the lessons of civilian housing are applied for the benefit of

Servicemen. The recommendation is being given urgent attention. Although it is too early to give details of what the scheme might offer, developments are expected by the end of the year.

Main aims of the new organisation will be to provide a responsive service and a better quality of housing for Service families.

live, will be allowed to stay in the quarter, provided:

- The quarter is not required for MoD purposes;
- The occupant pays a market rent;
- The occupant continues to be a responsible tenant.

Housing Association Rental Nominations: A new initiative should result in 520 housing units, mostly flats, in seven different areas being sold or leased by the MoD to local

authority housing associations in return for rental nominations.

Once the properties are ready for occupation, at least 50 per cent will be specifically reserved for renting by personnel leaving the Services early.

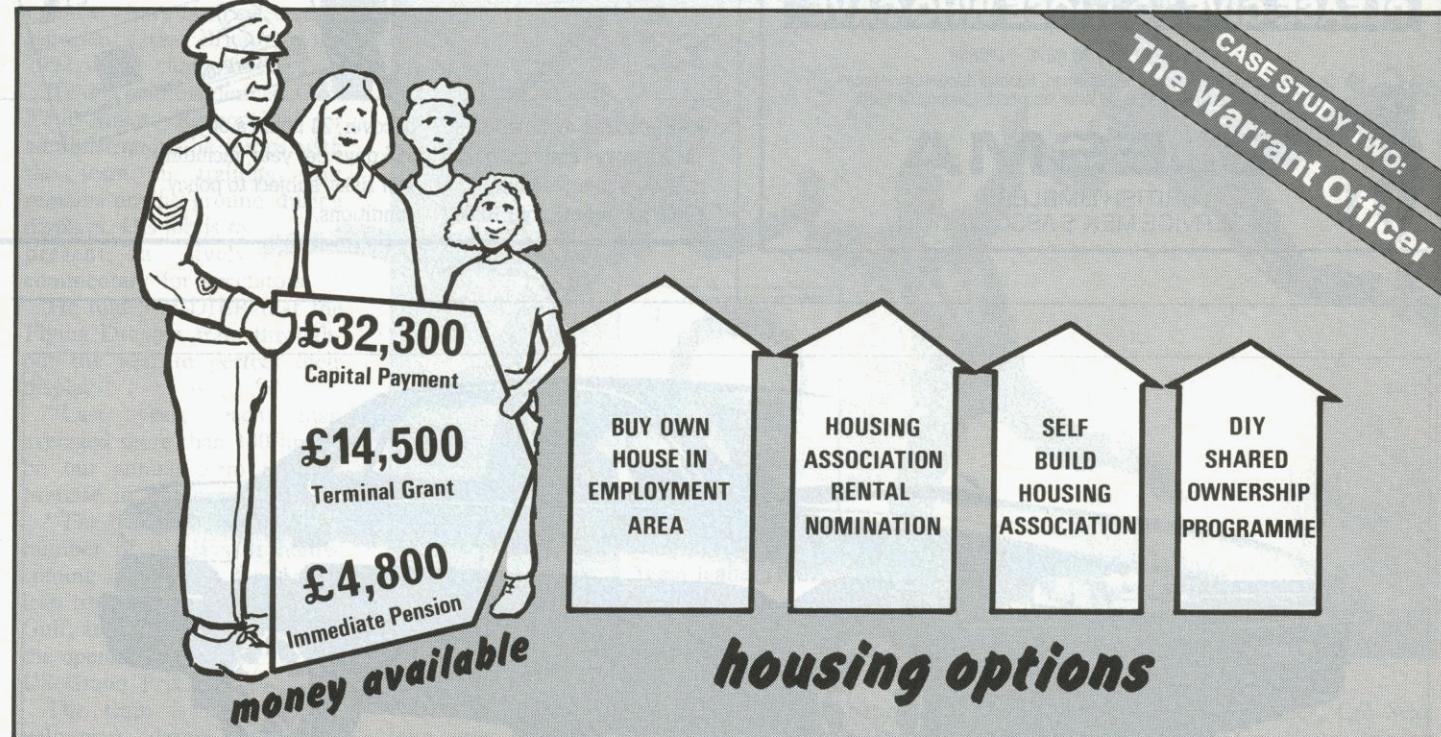
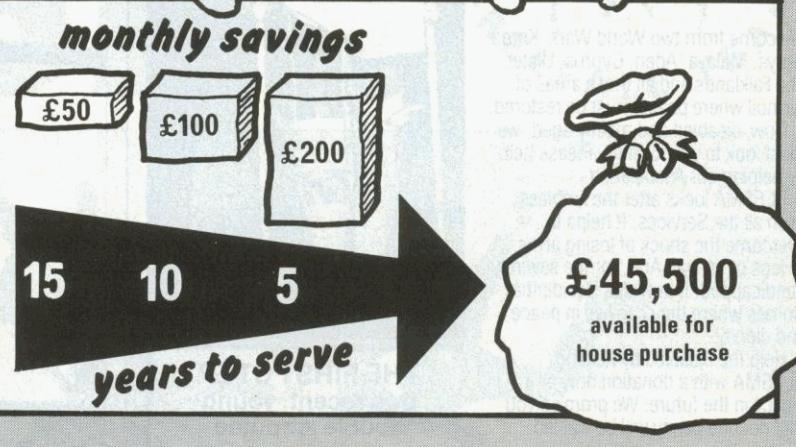
More properties are being identified for similar schemes.

Self-Build Housing Associations: A pilot scheme is planned under which surplus MQs in need of renovation will be sold at a discount to Service personnel. Before the transaction, Service personnel will be advised on how to form self-build housing associations, the members of which will renovate all of the houses within the group.

Housing Focus: A central point of contact is being established at HQ UKLF, Wilton, to which Service personnel can turn for advice on all aspects of housing. This

A married corporal with two infant children has been in the Army for more than six years and expects to have 15 more to serve. He wishes to serve accompanied by his family and, therefore, does not want to buy a house yet. But he does want to save for one for the future.

He can afford to save £50 a month for five years, £100 a month for the following five years and £200 a month for his final five years in the Army. Under the Home Savings Allowance Scheme he will receive £45,500 (at current rates of interest) when he buys his first house just before leaving the Army. As his circumstances change, he can increase his savings in other ways.



will include information on local authority housing and housing association schemes.

Contact numbers will be widely advertised as soon as the unit is up and running.

The DIY Shared Ownership Programme:

The Housing Corporation is operating a Do-It-Yourself shared ownership programme particularly well suited to redundants who are not home owners. They can use their capital sum to buy an equity share in their first home.

During the course of the next financial year, the Housing Corporation will be able to accommodate about 500 applications from Service personnel who want to take part in the scheme.

A 38-year-old WO2 in the Royal Engineers is declared redundant and will leave the Army on September 30. He is serving in Germany and is married with two children, aged 16 and 14, at boarding school in the United Kingdom; both start two-year courses for A Levels and GCSEs respectively in September. He has no house.

He will be posted back to the UK by early June to give him time for the balance of his annual leave, a 28-day resettlement course and 28 days terminal leave. With more than three months to serve, he is eligible for a vacant quarter in the UK.

He will leave the Army with a Special Capital Payment of £32,300, a terminal grant of £14,500 and an immediate pension of £4,800. He may choose to commute part of his pension.

(Since his children start the first academic year of a two-year course leading to a recognised public examination before he leaves the Army, he is eligible for Boarding School Allowance for the next two years. This is worth £1,830 a term for each child.)

While looking for a job, he may only wish to rent a house so that he can buy in the right area for his future employment. If his quarter is not required for Service reasons, he can continue to occupy it until he wishes to leave but paying a commercial rent. Once he has found a job he can:

- Apply for one of the Housing Association Rental Nominations;
- Form a Self-Build Housing Association with other ex-Servicemen;
- Apply for a place on the Housing Association Do-it-Yourself Shared Ownership Programme;
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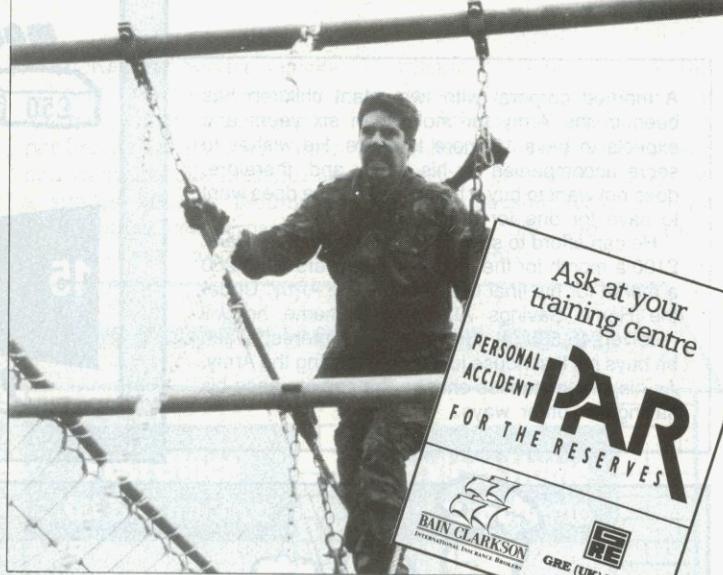
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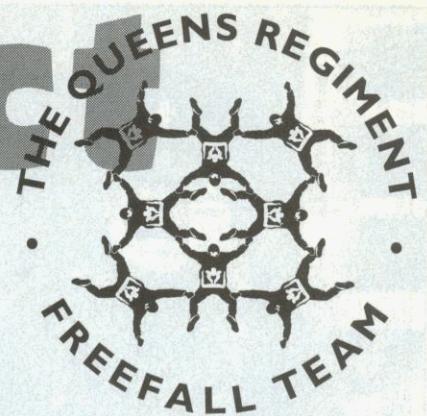
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S3

In perfect unison



WHEN it comes to jumping out of aircraft, The Queen's Regiment does it better than most, writes Laurie Manton.

In the six years since its formation, the regiment's Flying Dragons freefall team has reached the top flight of parachute competition.

Not only are the Flying Dragons the current British national champions in canopy relative work, but three members have been selected to represent Great Britain in the 1992 world championships.

Team commander is Capt Tom Major. Responsible for administration, he jumps with the team in training, but remains on the ground during displays. His job is to present a lively commentary for spectators.

He told SOLDIER that the Flying Dragons train throughout the year to perfect their display.

"Last year, each man averaged more than 100 jumps on our annual team training exercise in California.

"The team also performed a number of displays at homecoming ceremonies for American troops returning from the Gulf, and dropped in as part of the opening spectacular for the US Grand Prix."

The team is made up of volunteers drawn from the three Regular battalions of The Queen's Regiment. Selection takes place at a Joint Services Parachute Centre.



Team Commander, Capt Tom Major: lively commentaries



Getting it together! Queen's Regiment parachutists training in California

The Dragons offer a soldier a tour away from his battalion during which he can take part in a dramatic sport with all the full backing that the team provides.

"There is no doubt that he goes back to his unit a better grade of soldier because the sheer nature of the sport improves his personal qualities," said Capt Major.

"I need switched-on soldiers who can demonstrate their dedication to the team. Being a member of the Flying Dragons is not a 'skive'. Team members must be prepared to give up much of their spare time to the sport. We work harder and longer than troops normally would with their own units."

The team is booked nearly every weekend between Easter

and mid-September.

Individual responsibility is high for each team member. One moment a man might be working as team rigger and the next he could be sent to recce a drop zone for a display. Standards are high because all his work involves keeping the regiment and the British Army in the public eye, and he knows he cannot afford to make mistakes.

The Flying Dragons have been national champions in canopy relative work for the past two years. The discipline involves building a "stack" of eight parachutists. The team also picked up gold and bronze medals in last year's Army championships.

Following a selection session last season, team members

WO2 Brad Reader, Cpl Sean Best and LCpl Vince Brierley were chosen to represent Great Britain in this year's world championships in China.

WO2 Reader is the Flying Dragons' team leader and responsible for all aspects of parachuting, while Cpl Best is one of the best qualified instructors on the British parachuting circuit. He has more than 4,500 jumps to his credit.

The future of the team is assured. It is opening its doors to members of The Royal Hampshire Regiment, with whom the regiment is amalgamating, and will be established as a parachute display team of The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment, as the merged regiment will be known.



Words: Phil Wilcox
Pictures: Mike Weston
and Mike Perring

Palace duty honours REME's anniversary

SOLDIERS from the Corps of Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers found themselves on unfamiliar territory when, as part of REME's 50th anniversary celebrations, representatives of all ranks and trades within the Corps performed public duties at Buckingham Palace, St James's Palace and the Tower of London.

It was the first time this had happened in the capital since REME's formation in October, 1942.

Mounted by volunteers serving in more than 50 units stationed in the United Kingdom and BAOR, the specially-formed 84-strong Queen's Guard Company carried out seven 48-hour guards during February and March.

The company also performed

the traditional nightly Ceremony of the Keys at the Tower.

To avoid unseemly hitches, a great deal of intensive drilling – for officers and other ranks alike – was necessary, as SOLDIER found out at Bordon.

To the strains of the REME band playing, among other tunes, the Corps quick march *Lilliburlero* and *Aupres de Ma Blonde*, the old and new guard marching on to rehearsed parade, useful as perimeter markings representing the forecourts of Buckingham and St James's Palaces, as well as Wellington



Jim McCurrach (second left) and fellow officers, as well as everyone else, had to get used to training again...

Barracks, where the new guard formed up.

Helping instruct the troops as the big occasion approached were a sergeant from the Scots Guards and a sergeant major from the Coldstream Guards.

"We have four drill sergeants and a staff sergeant dealing with the company's general training, but they are not used to the finer points of ceremonial," explained Lt Jim McCurrach.

He has been with the Queen's Guard Company since its formation last November.



Left: Getting in trim for the Royal Palaces: members of the Queen's Guard

Above: Towers of strength: the Warders are ex-WO1s (REME) Mike Bostock (left) and John Sparrow

Right: "Who comes there?" Challenger and challenged at the Tower



– including one for the Ceremony of the Keys, with Cpl Nigel Stanley ably substituting for the Chief Yeoman Warder – Maj Gen Tyler addressed the ranks.

"I was impressed with your steadiness and the angle of your heads," he said.

"I'm sure that at the end of it all you will feel that the duties will be something that you felt privileged to be allowed to do, and proud to have achieved it. It will be something to tell your grandchildren."

Public duties are only part of the REME's anniversary activities.

This, REME says, is merely the start of a series of adventures which will involve 200 soldiers from the Corps in journeys by land, sea and air, covering a distance of more than 16,000 miles.

The yacht, which set off from Marchwood Military Port, was due to sail across the Atlantic via the Azores, Bermuda, West Point and Detroit to Thunder Bay, a town on the north shores of Lake Superior.

From there – to mark both the REME anniversary and the route taken by Sir Alexander Mackenzie, who in 1792 became the first non-native to cross Canada – the gift will be handed over to the Canadian Armed Forces in Borden, Ottawa.

A return gift, to be taken by an equally circuitous route, is due to be delivered to the Director General REME in September by the Corps freefall parachute team.

● Key ceremony at the Tower of London – see back cover



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Soldiers of 22 Locating Battery RA gather for a team picture at Newtownhamilton. Shadow, the battery dog, occupies a place in the front row

Gunners 'located' in south Armagh

FOR THE first time since becoming a company base in 1975, Newtonhamilton has been run by a gunner unit - 22 Locating Battery RA, which formed part of the 3rd Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets' battalion group on tour in south Armagh.

Initially deployed at Bessbrook, the battery eventually moved to Newtonhamilton and settled into a routine of rural patrols.

Working with the Greenjackets proved a bit of a culture shock for the locators of 22 Battery. Normally, their job entails a great deal of technical training aimed at finding enemy artillery for the Army's guns to engage, and the intense infantry training package they underwent to achieve a compatible standard with the infantry companies blew more than a few cobwebs away.

But mutual respect was gained and the gunners integrated smoothly with the Armagh roulement battalion.



Left to right are Gnr Martin Guinan, Gnr Stacey Allsop, Bdr Mark Shephard and Gnr Clive Fitt

Personnel from 22 Locating Battery were also involved in manning a number of border watchtowers, finding these duties a welcome break from an

arduous patrolling schedule.

Equipped and trained by the Greenjackets, the men of 22 Battery are justifiably proud of their achievements in south

Armagh. Both sides hope the solid working relationship built between gunners and Greenjackets will be maintained for years to come.

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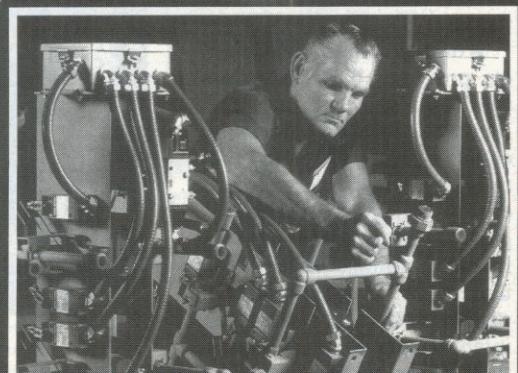
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ACE Force faces loss of 2 Flight Gazelles

PILOTS of 2 Flight, 7 Regiment, Army Air Corps, were aware that they were probably on their last deployment to Norway.

Their flight of six Gazelles, normally based at Netheravon, is due to be withdrawn in June this year and disbanded in July 1993. It will leave a considerable gap in AMF(L)'s battle plan and user units are suddenly realising they may have problems surviving without it.

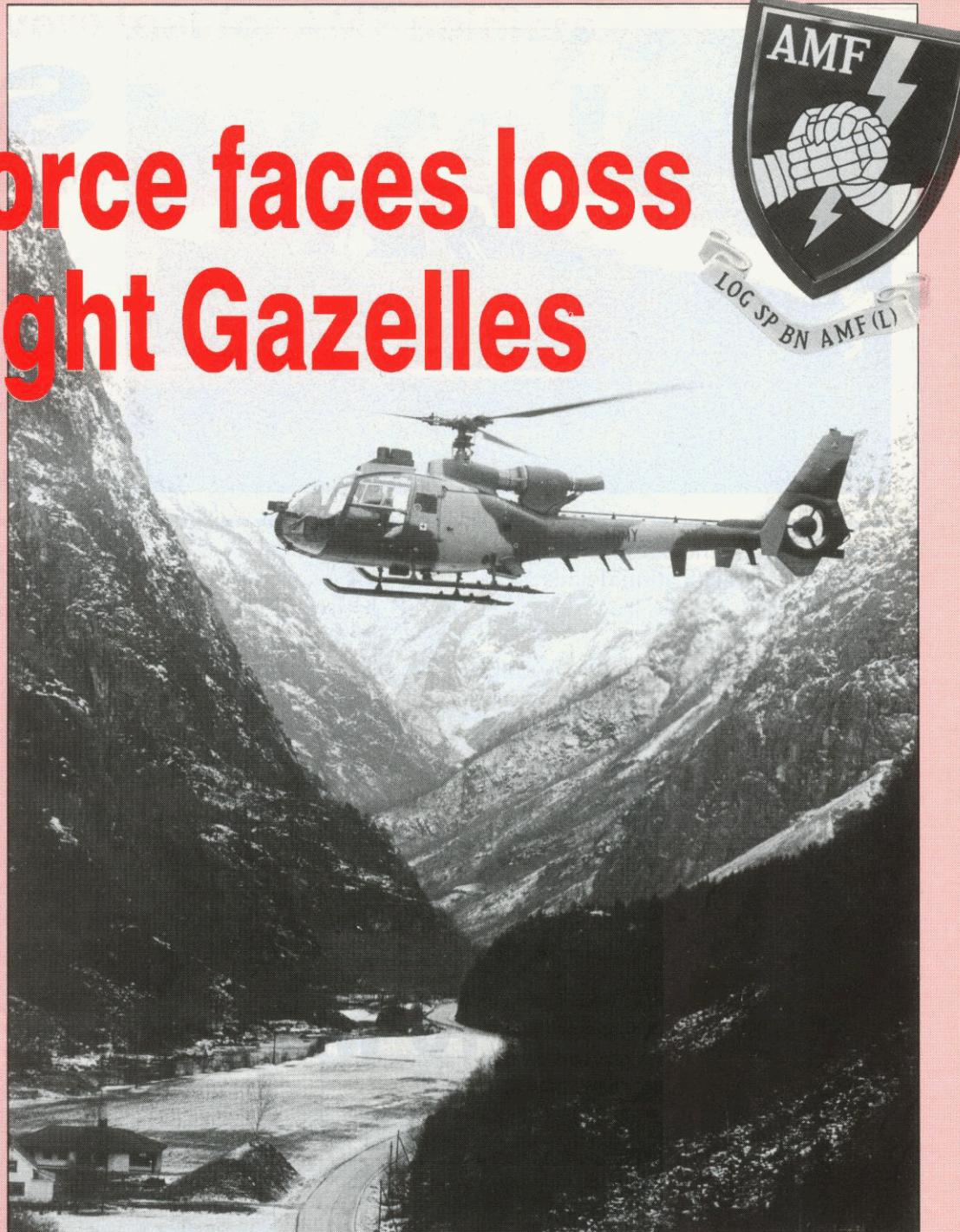
Outside operations, the aircrafts' recce and liaison roles tend to predominate. But they are not simply VIP taxis.

Every year, pilots have to pass a test in spotting for artillery, and the unit has its own allocation of rounds to confirm their skill as air observation posts.

Four of 2 Flight's six aircraft commanders are qualified Forward Air Controllers capable of directing fast jets on to targets.

"There are things happening in Norway which you just wouldn't dream about in the UK or Germany," said the OC, Maj John Davis. "Men and equipment must function down to minus 30C, and operate as a fighting vehicle as part of the battle plan."

He was left out of the orbit in the Gulf because the cavalry Light Aid Detachment with which his son, Chris, served



A Gazelle of 2 Flight in spectacular Norwegian scenery

was unwilling to send son if father went too. As Maj Davis's role was uncertain he stayed behind.

Maj Davis has long exper-

ience of Norway. He claims, as a bombardier with 1 Royal Horse Artillery on the inaugural AMF(L) deployment to northern Norway, to have fired the first shell in Norway since the Second World War.

Flying in snow can be tricky, said SSgt Paddy Ansell. He recently turned round a mountain and found himself "suspended" in mid-air - no visible street lights, no ground, no reference points at all. When he switched his landing lights on all he could see was a wall of white. When he

finally managed to retrace his route he was very relieved to land and let his heart stop racing.

One man sorry to see the airmen go will be Gary Thomas, who served in 2 Flight for three years before marrying a Norwegian woman and settling at Voss, near

the Bomoen camp which is the flight's base. For the past five years he has returned each spring to look up old friends, and this year took along a keg of the local home brew to introduce the unit to another aspect of Norwegian life.



Sgt Martin Broomhead and Cpl Roger Woods return from a sortie



Maj John Davis, OC 2 Flight



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SOLDIER/06/04



DISCOVERY

Arctic sets severe test for AMF soldiers

Trial by cold



Sharing a "snow grave" are LCpl Adie Parker, Maj Andy McDonald, Cfn Stu Evans and LCpl Milner

ANYBODY can be a good soldier on the "shop floor" in Bulford, said Capt Steve Smith, one of the Arctic Warfare Instructors for the AMF(L) Logistic Support Battalion's Workshop.

But working in the snows of Norway could be a lot harder than tabbing at Brecon, and it was then that a platoon commander could find out what his men were really like - which soldiers were reliable under pressure when they were tired, wet and miserable.

Capt Smith found Norway a great leveller. Its harsh Arctic climate demanded a high level of self-discipline, personal administration, guts and determination.

In good weather he had to instil an artificial sense of urgency during training. If soldiers took too long to complete tasks in bad weather, they risked freezing.

Deadlines were gradually tightened during the novice course, so that beginners were taking two minutes instead of ten to put their skis on at night.

It came as a shock to the

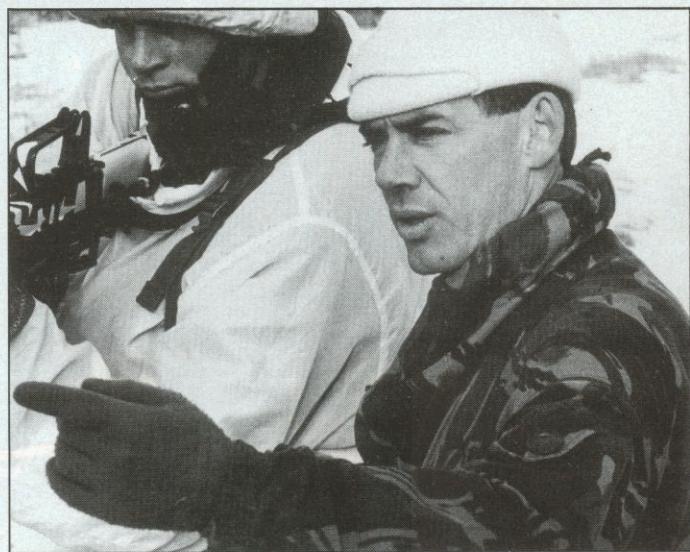
system, particularly for corps soldiers lacking infantry skills, said SSgt Martin Lyons, a Queensman for ten years before changing career.

"Norway is an aggressive country and instructors have to be aggressive in their approach. Some soldiers probably thought we had sprouted horns.

"We still have to be tough in these conditions, even with brainy tradesmen such as REME technicians."

Royal Marines were not impressed by Cpl Glenn Soane's lack of experience when he arrived for his Arctic warfare instructors' course. At 22, he was on his first posting after Apprentices' College as a telecommunications technician with accelerated promotion. On his third winter, he had gone to the trouble of researching the position of the stars for astral navigation, and fully justified his superiors' confidence in him.

Confidence during night skiing can be difficult for novices to gain, particularly when they are standing at the top of a slope and shadows



Arctic warfare instructor SSgt Martin Lyons stresses a point

thrown by the moon deceive the eyes.

"Skiing is like riding a bike," said Cpl Sloane. "Once you've got it sussed, you're on your way."

In their first Arctic year, novices tend to suffer a bit because they haven't learned the tricks of the trade or acquired some of the handy pieces of kit which make life

more comfortable. They soon learn wet shaving is out, particularly in the morning, when tender skin would be exposed to the freezing air. Small electric razors are much preferred.

Assistant adjutant Lt Deborah Green advised the use of women's cleansing tissues and face creams instead of valuable water for washing.

Life's so varied for Hardfall RMP unit

LIVING with a clandestine receiver of illicit goods does not in the least bother the Royal Military Police detachment at Engjaland Farm in Norway.

The middleman who is their host used to collect airdrops for the Norwegian resistance during the Second World War, and still keeps his friendly connection with Britain by moving into his loft and making his house available for 158 Provost Company's detachment of OC, CSM and 17 NCOs during their Exercise Hardfall training.

Sixty-nine-year-old Sigmund Engjaland's English is limited, but the military policemen are used to this with the Belgian Gendarmes, Dutch Marachaussee, Ger-



Sigmund Engjaland shows Sgt Martin Smith and Cpl Phil Floyd of the Royal Military Police where he collected air drops for the Norwegian resistance during the Second World War

man Feldjager, Italian Carabinieri, Turkish Asiz, or Norwegian, Danish and Greek MPs coming under

British operational control, making it a unique Nato police unit.

Flexibility and tact can be

sorely tested when dealing with troops whose military and legal systems are different, but while the British have jurisdiction over them they normally hand soldiers over to the national commander to deal with.

On his fourth winter in Norway, Sgt Martin Smith finds it stimulating. Just five per cent of the RMP get a chance of this posting, the only one within the Corps where there is plenty of skiing available.

Last year he had to be very flexible. On standby at his UK HQ late one Friday night he was told he was off to Norway in 30 minutes.

He stayed for a week and then was told he had three hours to pack to return for the Gulf.

Cold start? Call REME!



Cpl Phil Swan at work on a new Defender Land Rover

BREAKDOWNS cause enough trouble without REME having to go to inaccessible places in deep snow to find them.

The AMF(L) workshop provides second-line repair for the whole force and some first-line facilities for units without that capability. With about 500 vehicles to deal with they have many calls on their time.

Force Maintenance Officer Maj John Taylor may have to rely on other units' assets to solve simultaneous problems, but conditions do not always allow his option of lifting a vehicle by helicopter.

Coping with repairs in Arctic conditions adds dangerous new dimensions to the work and everything takes much longer.

"There is no such thing as a quick job here," he said. "The extended time factor for movement and repair is critical, particularly with the light going quickly in the afternoon."

Surveying a BV which had slewed to a halt just before a sharp slope, recovery mechanic LCpl Graham Kenward sympathised with the driver, ironically from the RMP, who prefer to attend accidents than be involved in them.

Cpl Kenward's problem was securing the vehicle to stop it

Dukes tackle problems of Arctic life

LEARNING curve for The Duke of Wellington's Regiment deployed in Norway with the Allied Command Europe's Mobile Force (Land) was quite steep.

It was the first time the Dukes had operated in Arctic conditions since joining the Force in August and there was a lot to learn.

The job was very different from anything the battalion had done before. Because of the conditions it was also very hard work. Soldiers had to dig tents in before using them, radios would not function

efficiently because the batteries were cold, and the effort made everybody sweat more than normal. That meant the Dukes had to learn to dry off to maintain body heat when they had finished their tasks.

Before going out to fire the battalion's 81mm mortars in Norway for the first time, WO2 Martin Thomson was particularly interested in how things would turn out.

"I've no idea what's going to happen when we fire," he admitted with a grin. "In Britain the mortar is normally bedded down by the first two



WO2 Martin Thomson (front left) and the DWR mortar platoon collect rounds for their first live firing exercise

rounds, but this is the first time we will be firing on permafrost."

A lot of hard digging was involved. Ground snow could be anything from 3ft to 12ft deep before firm ground was reached on which it was safe to set up.

Unlike normal artillery

there is no in-built recoil system, so the mortar base plate is pushed into the ground by more than a ton of pressure.

"If we fired on the snow we would go straight down to the permafrost without any problem at all. It would be quite an impressive piece of bouncdown," he added with a smile.

Like the rest of the Force, the Dukes had to get used to moving in the snow. Some were naturals at skiing, others not. WO2 Thomson came into the latter category. He was very good at falling . . .

An order for 13,000 rounds ensured they would have plenty of opportunity to practise firing in the snow.

The rounds were stored in a labyrinth of caves excavated for the Germans during the Second World War and similar to those the Dukes remembered from their Gibraltar tour in 1984-6.

Sgt Kev Short of the Logistic Support Battalion reported that German stick grenades had been found, and advised against hunting for more. He didn't venture past the lit area in case there were trolls lurking deep in the mountain . . .



Pte Graham Acklam and Cpl Gary Pinder of 1 DWR receive their ammunition allocation from Sgt Kev Short. Thousands of mortar rounds for firing practice in the snow were stored in caves excavated for the Germans during the Second World War

toppling over, then winching it to safety.

Such intensely practical problems bring out the best in the soldiers, says Sgt John Edkins. "This is what it's really about, not windsurfing and skiing. It's a privilege to be here, because you need something more challenging."

The environment certainly provides a challenge. Despite special overalls the REME specialists still have to return to their vehicles for a periodic brew and warm-up. At least

two men go on a job, to watch each other. In very low temperatures it is easy to become absorbed in the task and forget that your toes are slowly freezing. Special contact gloves have to be worn, or skin would stick to spanners.

Heat is essential for repairs to the specialist snow vehicles, the BV 206s. When there is damage to the glass fibre the area has to be thoroughly dried, so an improvised shelter must be available. Heat is then needed to complete the chemical

reaction as resin dries off. If the job was done incorrectly the amphibious BVs would leak.

It was painful dealing with damage to the new Defender Land Rovers. Not many spares were available to them, and with a new major unit in theatre, there were many accidents. Even a Master Driver can go off the road in the treacherous conditions.

"By the end of the deployment, they will look like the old Rovers," commented Sgt Edkins wryly.



Sgt John Edkins



Above: There was plenty of dramatic Norwegian scenery for 2 Flight Gazelle helicopter crews to enjoy during their deployment with AMF

Right: Moon shadows add to the confusion for novice skiers on a night exercise. Guided by the Army's Arctic Warfare Instructors, inexperienced soldiers quickly learn to survive – and fight – in the harsh climate

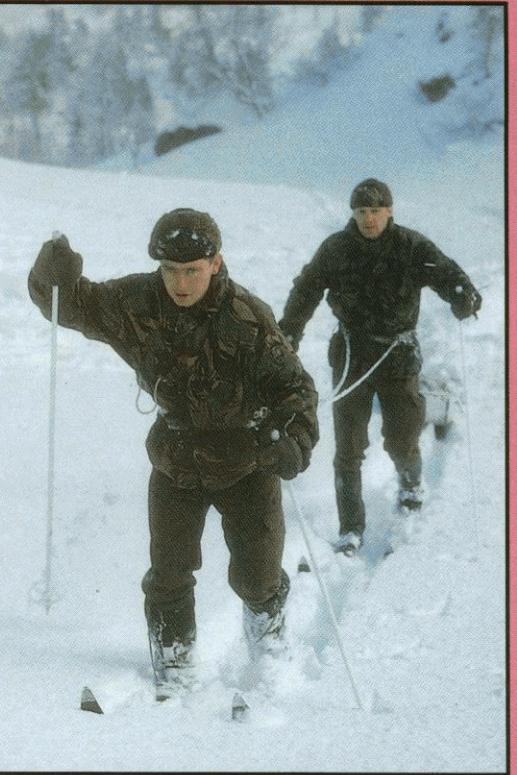


Above: A soldier of 42 Squadron RCT recovers supplies parachuted into the mountains by 47 Air Despatch Squadron RCT from Hercules aircraft operating from RAF Lyneham

Right: Over-snow travel for British troops in Norway is made easier by the tracked BV 206 Hagg-lund



Cold start: A very practical problem for REME personnel to solve



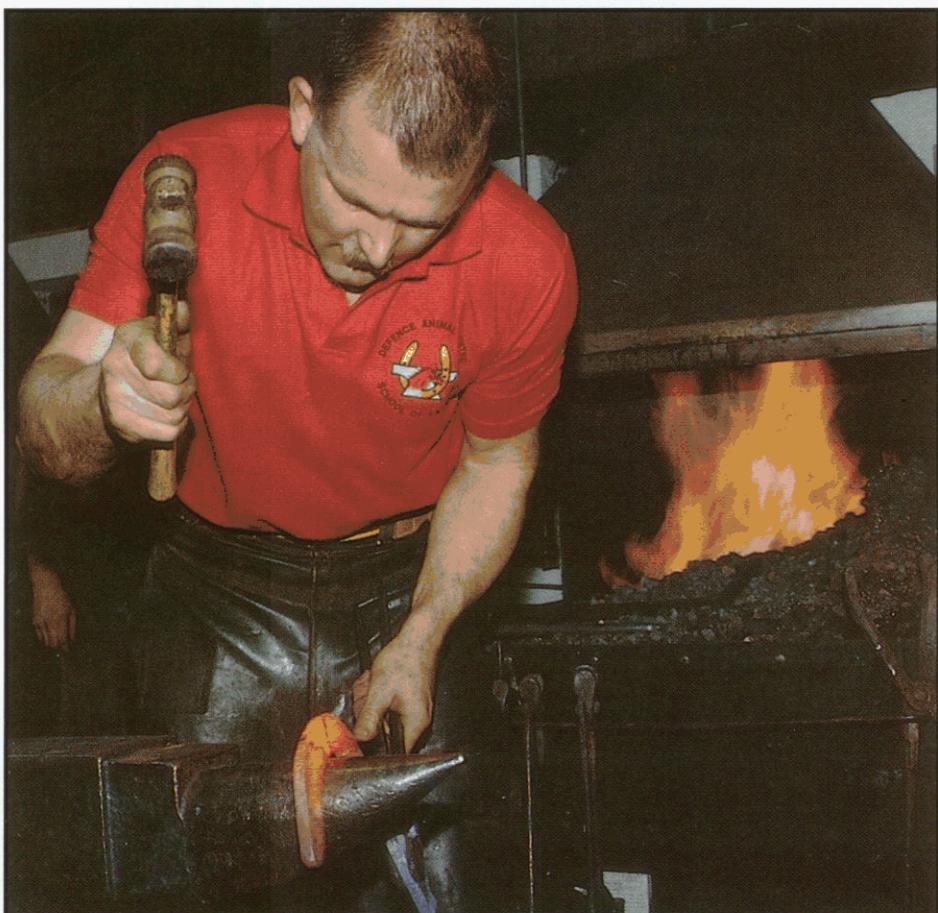
Left: Soldiers ski in tandem to haul supplies across the mountains

Below: REME tradesmen must be able to fight in the Arctic in addition to keeping the Force's vehicles in running order





Heated action as the minutes tick away



Above and right: Sgt Kim Swanwick, a member of the Defence Animal Centre team from Melton Mowbray, knocks a shoe into shape and prepares a hoof to take the shoe. The DAC team shod the most shoes in the competition



Into battle: pictured before the competition started are (front row) runners-up Bdr Chris Kelly; LBdr Rus Pritchard; LBdr Simon Teale; Sgt Brendan Murray (King's Troop). Middle row: eventual winners Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment – Farrier/Lance Corporal of Horse Lloyd Jenkins; F/LCpl Lee Francis; F/LCpl Daniel Smith; F/LCpl Mark Kelsey (RAVC). Back row: Defence Animal Centre's Farrier/Corporal of Horse John Hayes; Sgt Kim Swanwick; Sgt Nicholas Lang; WO1 FSM Carl Jones

Army farriers' competition

FORGING AHEAD

THEY WERE at it hammer and tongs, writes Phil Wilcox.

The venue was Hyde Park Barracks in London, and the event was the Army's annual farriers' competition.

Locked in heated combat were the home team, the Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment, friendly rivals The King's Troop, and the Defence Animal Centre from Melton Mowbray.

After several hours' sweating over fire and anvil, the Mounted Regiment pipped King's Troop by a mere 1.1 points.

DAC, although trailing in

third place by some distance, had the consolation of winning an award for having more shoes shod as a team effort than either of the other two four-man teams.

This year's event was somewhat unusual in that instead of the more traditional heavy Shire horses being used, three drum-horses were the docile recipients of specimen shoes and entries for best-dressed foot.

Teams were allocated a horse by means of a draw, and then had 70 minutes each to shoe one foot.

Farriers alternated between

doing the actual shoeing and firing for their partners.

A three-quarter fullered shoe was favoured by competitors because it is light and has a groove to accommodate the nail-heads.

The Romans were the first to shoe horses, using a "hippo sandal" – a leather binding tied to the animal's foot. So it was appropriate that last year's world championships were held in Italy. The Army team came third, and is getting better and better in international shows. There is now a lot of competition among farriers to represent the Service.

Flying vets go for broke

THEY say it shouldn't happen to a vet. But members of the **RAVC Support Group** at Aldershot made sure it happened to them!

Having made up their minds to raise £1,000 for Guide Dogs for the Blind, they decided to



Col Joe Harkon (right), CO Liverpool University OTC, and officer cadets present a cheque for £1,250 to Mr Bertie Brown of the British Heart Foundation



jump for the money – with the Red Devils.

Lt Lucinda Cane, Cpl Danny Morgan and his wife Nicky, LCpl John Waite and Wpt Paula Millington parachuted more or less successfully to the ground (Danny broke an ankle

on landing), but were extremely successful in their fund-raising.

With support from local units and the Defence Animal Centre at Melton Mowbray, a cheque for £1,142 was soon winging its way to Guide Dogs for the Blind.

★ ★ ★

A car raffle run by the **Guards Depot, Pirbright** raised £910 for a new hospice at nearby Woking. The appeal for the £1.4m hospice at New Beech Croft Hospital has so far brought in £300,000.

★ ★ ★

Liverpool University OTC has presented a cheque for



Lt Col Charles Bremner, WG, Commandant of the Guards Depot, presents a £910 cheque to Cllr Rhod Lefting for a Woking hospice

£1,250 to the British Heart Foundation. Biggest single contribution came from Sgt Fred Sunderland, who raised £125.

Maj Mervyn Thomas's decision to have his moustache removed brought in £100, Lt

Biffa McClurg and 30 students were sponsored for £800 to complete a parachute jump, and Col Joe Harkon and Maj Bob Vale led a team on the Great York Run to raise the balance.

★ ★ ★

Mrs Bobbie Robertson, chairman **SSAFA Western Europe Committee**, has presented a £10,000 cheque to SSAFA chairman Admiral Sir Peter Herbert for the organisation's Homeward Bound project.

The committee also gave £5,000 to the Branch Benevolent Fund to assist casework grants and SSAFA's branches in the United Kingdom.

● SSAFA's volunteer committee at Emblem has disbanded, the first to do so because of Options for Change. Members met for a farewell lunch presided over by chairman Mrs Tessa Mogg.

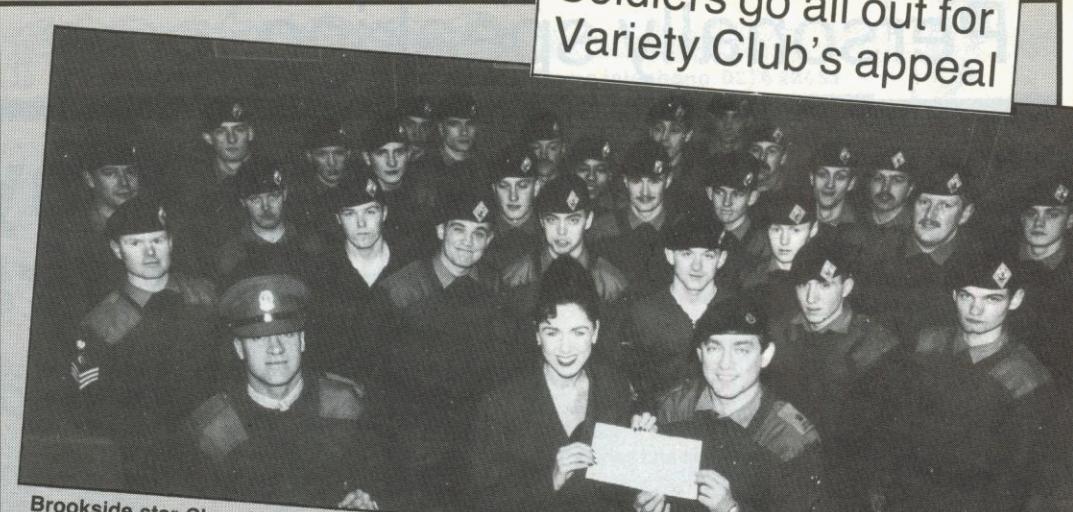
★ ★ ★

A charity parachute jump by 11 staff and family members from **6 Armoured Brigade** based at Soest raised DM1,591 for the Romania Calling appeal.

★ ★ ★

Warrant officers from **Bielefeld** completed a charity Basic Fitness Test run and made DM2,000 for Contact, a support group for the families of children with special needs.

Soldiers go all out for Variety Club's appeal

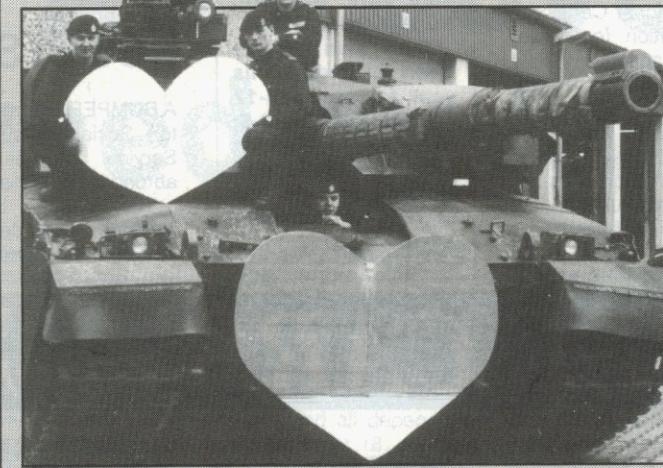


Brookside star Clare Sweeney accepts a cheque for the Variety Club Golden Heart appeal from A

Hearts of gold!



LCpls Simon Jones and Ian Tucket of 3rd Armoured Field Ambulance with comedian Stan Boardman



Challenger tanks of 3 RTR's C Squadron were "dressed" for the Golden Heart appeal



Bielefeld warrant officers on the run with their cheque for Contact

SOLDIERS all over the world have contributed to the Variety Club's Gold Heart appeal. So far, the Armed Forces have ordered more than 200,000 badges.

The 1st Battalion, **The Queen's Lancashire Regiment** raised £400 by forming up in a special heart-shaped parade on St Valentine's Day.

All 200 soldiers of A and HQ Companies wore Gold Heart badges for the parade at Wootton Barracks near Blackpool.

Gold hearts were also in evidence at Hemer where all ranks of the **3rd Royal Tank Regiment** wore them on their sleeves to raise DM700. C Squadron went a stage further and adorned their Challenger tanks with giant hearts.

And LCpls Simon Jones and Ian Tucket of the **3rd Armoured Field Ambulance** at Sennelager travelled to Liverpool to present a Gold Heart cheque to comedian Stan Boardman. The battlefield medics raised the money by selling pony rides and gold hearts and organising raffles.

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Hospital bills that need to be covered

Dear Anne,
"MY MOTHER drew my attention to the Department of Health leaflets T2, for people travelling to Europe, and T3 (Health Advice for Travellers outside the European Community), in both of which it states that the German authorities will not accept form E111 for serving members of the Armed Forces or their dependants stationed in Germany.

Any medical treatment required which cannot be provided by Service facilities will have to be paid for by the individual. Such expenses cannot be refunded.

Does this affect parents travelling to visit relatives stationed in Germany? My parents are coming out to BAOR in the summer.

If they should become ill, will a Service hospital treat them, or will they have to go to a German hospital? If they are admitted to a Service hospital, will they have to pay?

Anne writes: Your mother is correct. But provided you have all your unit details with you, including an out-of-hours telephone number, German hospitals will contact

Bagshot path to wedded bliss

A NUMBER of "Side by Side" marriage courses, designed for newlyweds and those about to tie the knot, have been arranged at Bagshot Park, Surrey.

Courses, which aim to prepare couples for married life in the Army, cover pay matters, sex, housing and welfare. Side by Side is an official Army course and participants must attend as a couple.

Although free to serving personnel, there is a small charge for non-serving wives, husbands and fiancees.

For more information see your Unit Training Officer or your padre, or write to the Warden, RACHD Centre, Bagshot Park, Bagshot, Surrey GU19 5PL.

Courses have been arranged this year for: July 13-17 and November 2-6; in 1993 for March 1-5, May 18-22 and November 1-5; and in 1994 for February 14-18.

your unit and send any bills there.

In any case it is wise to check the procedure with your unit.

All Service personnel and dependants are requested to complete form E111 when posted to BAOR because it covers illness in all other countries in Europe. Service and civilian families are also advised to take out additional medical cover when visiting Europe on holiday.

And you should also be aware that if the parents, relatives or friends of Service personnel are seen by a Service doctor or use a Service hospital a bill will be raised. Sadly, if a relative dies, it is very expensive to return the body to the United Kingdom for burial. Make sure the insurance covers this eventuality.

● Some countries require an International Certificate of Vaccination (or revaccination) against yellow fever and cholera. If you are going abroad get it done well in advance. Remember, a certificate for a first vaccination does not become valid until a few days after you have had it done.

Play group to raise awareness

WE ALL know how important playgrounds and the provision of play facilities are on married quarter estates.

With this in mind, an awareness day at Bagshot Park, Surrey, has been arranged for April 13.

The theme will be "improving play provision through better play value". There is room for just 50 at the seminar, so book early to avoid disappointment.

Among the speakers are Clive Cain, director of the Defence Works Service, and Jean Wenger, technical director of the National Playing Fields Association. Maj Colin Scragg will tell the story of play provision at Lypiatt Families Centre.

Workshops will include a "design a playground" challenge. Other topics will include impact-absorbing surfaces and advice on funding procedures.

You can get booking forms from Jean Wenger at NPFA, 25 Ovington Square, London SW3 1LP, or through me.

Social security abroad

A BUMPER, updated guide to Social Security for Service families going abroad is being distributed.

The 52-page brochure includes expanded "Unemployment Benefit" and "Expecting a Baby" sections and two pages on health care abroad.

It is available from BFPOs, HIVEs and units.

In the event of difficulty, write to me at SOLDIER.

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Toys a-plenty: Young Christopher Lowe's delight is reflected in the faces of parents SSgt Roy and Jackie Lowe, as he enjoys himself at the new playschool at Mount Pleasant in the Falkland Islands. Mrs Lowe was a leading light in the project in which a dilapidated Portakabin was converted with the help of the Royal Engineers. Spr Paul Reid decorated the walls with Disney characters and RAF Brize Norton arranged for toys and other equipment to be flown 8,000 miles from the UK.



Assisted school places on offer

THERE is life after Boarding School Allowance for families about to leave the Services!

It is called the Assisted Places Scheme, and it offers academically able children the chance to transfer to any one of about 3,354 independent schools in England and Wales.

Entry is usually at the age of 11 or 13, and parental contributions to the school fees (which can be between £1,000 and £3,000 a term) are calculated on a sliding scale.

If relevant earnings are less than £8,714, no contribution is required. An income of £9,000 requires a contribution of £39 towards the term fee, and an income of £18,000 means the parents must pay £1,959 for one assisted place holder, and slightly less for each of two or more children in the scheme.

About 30,000 assisted places are available each year, and not all are taken up. Last year 500 remained unfilled.

A number of helpful publications have been published by the Independent Schools Information Service (ISIS). They include *Opportunities for Excellence*, an appraisal of the scheme by John Marks.

Details on the Assisted Places Scheme for schools in England and Wales are available from ISIS, 56 Buckingham Gate, London SW1E 6AG (tel: 071-630 8793/4).

New PAX+ cover endorsed by AG

SOLDIERS should have received their PAX+ documents by now.

The contract is unique in that the original accidental injury insurance, including war risks except between the four major powers, is now accompanied by optional life assurance at very low cost.

PAX+ has been warmly endorsed by the Adjutant General, Gen Sir David Ramsbotham. In commending the scheme, he urged Service personnel not to wait until the last moment before seeking cover.

Unit and regimental administration officers throughout the United Kingdom, Germany, Cyprus and Hong Kong are being briefed by brokers Bain Clarkson.

Pay offices should now be in a position to offer advice to all ranks who are looking

PAX policyholder at the low premium cost of £1 a month for every £10,000 of cover, irrespective of age and smoking habits. An extra 50p a month will extend this cover to include spouse and all dependant children under 18, or 23 if in full-time education.

Although PAX+ ceases when a soldier leaves the Forces, similar cover can be obtained under XPAX, a personal accident and

optional life assurance scheme arranged along the same lines as PAX+.

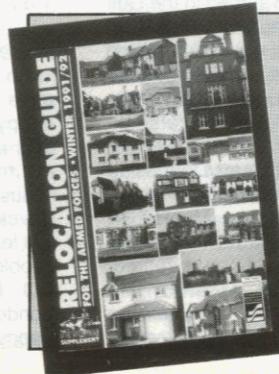
The only prerequisite to joining XPAX is that the applicant must have been in either the PAX or PAX+ schemes for a minimum of six months before leaving the Services.

A telephone helpline is available to deal with queries for those calling from the UK. It is 0800 212480.

Housing guide

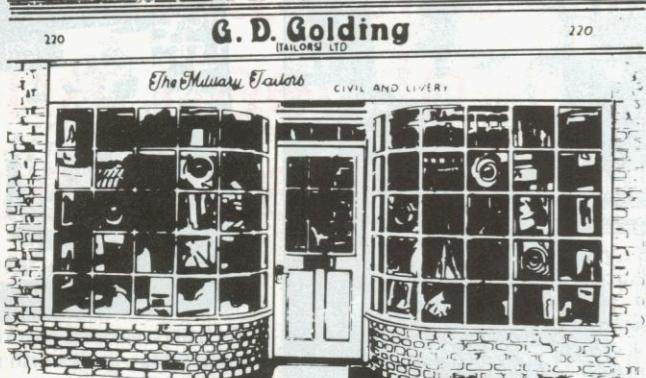
LOOKING for a house or flat? Then make sure you see a copy of the tri-Service Relocation Guide for the Armed Forces, Winter 1991/2 sponsored by Naafi Financial Services.

It is available from units,



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- The Royal Army Educational Corps.
- Royal Army Dental Corps.
- Royal Pioneer Corps.
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SOLDIER to Soldier

Dawn vigil at Kranji

A LARGE group of veterans gathered before dawn on February 19 at Kranji War Cemetery, Singapore on the 50th anniversary of the fall of Singapore.

For the 1,000 British and Australian veterans, and 100-strong Royal British Legion group, the service that followed was intensely moving.

It was dedicated to the memory of comrades who died in South East Asia, 24,000 of whom have no known graves and are commemorated on the marble columns of the Singapore memorial.

The RBL pilgrimage did much to heal the agony of uncertainty for many of the war widows, relatives and veterans in the group.

Among the helpers was Col Oliver Lindsay, Commandant of the Cadet Training Centre at Frimley Park, Camberley, who lectured on the war against Japan.

War widows can visit their husbands' graves at public expense under the Government's grant-in-aid scheme. Details are available from the Pilgrimage Department, Royal British Legion Village, Aylesford, Kent ME20 7NX (tel: 0622 716729 or 716182).

Lecture on Gallipoli

FIELD MARSHAL Sir Nigel Bagnall is to give the eighth Gallipoli Memorial Lecture at Holy Trinity Church, Eltham on April 30. Previous lecturers include the Duke of Edinburgh. To reserve a place or receive a copy of the lecture contact Malcolm Fordyce on 081-686 9777 or fax 081-681 0753.

Welcome to Deeside

OFFICERS who served in the Gulf or are on operational tours in Northern Ireland will be interested to learn that they qualify for a 25 per cent discount at Douneside holiday centre for officers on Royal Deeside.

A country house, Douneside was the home of Lady MacRobert. It is now run by the MacRobert Trusts Estate as a holiday centre for officers, serving and retired, and their families.

Elegant and comfortable, the main house has 12 double rooms

and two singles, and six cottages in the grounds are available on a self-catering basis.

There are golf courses nearby, pony trekking from a number of stables including Balmoral, trout and salmon fishing in the neighbourhood, and superb hill and country walks.

Room prices range from £31 to £35 a day for full board, and children aged five to 12 are free. The cottages are priced at £120 and £190 a week.

You can find out more by contacting the Manager, Douneside House, Tarland, Aboyne, Aberdeenshire AB34 4UL (tel: 03398 81230).

Royal years – in colour

A COLOURFUL 220-page record of the Queen's reign is being offered to SOLDIER readers for less than it will cost in the shops.

Proceeds from the sale of *HM Queen Elizabeth II, A Celebration of Forty Years*, edited by Godfrey Talbot, will be donated to the Royal Anniversary Trust, a charitable organisation sponsoring a programme of community projects to express the nation's gratitude for the Queen's work over so many years.

Among the many aspects of the Queen's reign covered in the book is her close link with the Armed Forces.

Semi-hardback copies of the publication are available at £3 each (normal price £3.95) plus postage (UK £1.50, Europe £2.50) from Atalink Ltd, 40 Bowling Green Lane, London EC1R 0NE. Cheques and money orders are payable to Atalink Ltd.

A limited edition of 5,000 in hardback with burgundy leatherette covers is also available at the special price of £16.50 (plus p&p, UK £2.50, Europe £3.50). A brief personalised message or name can be engraved in imitation gold foil on the front cover at no extra cost.

Letters write up to here...

SUN agony aunt Deidre Sanders has a problem of her own ... 1,000 letters from civilian men who want to write to Service-women!

So, girls, if you are looking for a male pen pal, Deidre would be happy to thin out her in-tray. She tells us she has already weeded out the daft ones.

Just send a stamped addressed envelope (marked "Soldier" in the top left corner) to Deidre Sanders, Problem Page Editor, The Sun, PO Box 488, Virginia Street, London E1 9BZ, and she will be happy to forward one to you.

Elegant and comfortable, the main house has 12 double rooms

DIARY

APRIL

April 2-October 18: Special Falklands War exhibition at the National Army Museum, Royal Hospital Road, Chelsea.

26: REME 50th anniversary military band concert, Royal Albert Hall (for ticket availability ring 0734 763272).

MAY

7-8: Helimeet international flying competition and helicopter exhibition, Stockbridge, Hants.

9-10: Middle Wallop International Air Show, Stockbridge, Hants (advance bookings: 0264 384421 or 384461).

16: Military in Miniature show, British Model Soldier Society (Aldershot Branch), Princes Hall, Aldershot.

23-25: Military Vehicle Trust annual international D-Day show, Weston-super-Mare.

29-31: Military Vehicle Trust Overlord 92 rally, Southsea Common, Portsmouth.

JUNE

6: Garrison 92, Warminster summer show including massed bands and displays.

12-14: Rhine Army Show, Bad Lippspringe, near Paderborn.

13: Queen's Birthday Parade. Colour Trooped by 1st Battalion, Grenadier Guards.

27: RAF Halton show, near Wendover, Aylesbury.

JULY

1-6: Armed Forces Week, a Tri-Services event on Plymouth Hoe.

6-12: Public events at Royal Citadel, Plymouth, to mark completion of its renovation and 30th anniversary of Commando Gunners.

8-25: The Royal Tournament, Earls Court (Box Office tel: 071-373 8141).

11-12: Men at Arms display, Military Vehicle Museum, Exhibition Park Pavilion, Newcastle upon Tyne.

17-25: Nijmegen Marches, Holland.

29 and 31: Prince of Wales's Division Massed Bands display, Cardiff Castle.

AUGUST

7-29: Edinburgh Military Tattoo (tickets from hotline tel: 031-225 3661 or Tattoo Office, 22 Market Street, Edinburgh EH1 1QB).

SEPTEMBER

6-13: Farnborough International Air Show.

12-13: Wessex Regimental Tattoo and exhibition, Devizes, Wiltshire.

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

REUNIONS

● 249th (Berks RHA) AA Battery RA:

The 45th reunion will be held at the Ship Hotel, Reading on April 23. Details from Ted Fullbrook, 1 Buxton Avenue, Caversham Heights, Reading RG4 7BT.

● 59 Independent Commando Squadron RE:

To mark the squadron's 21st anniversary, the biannual reunion will be held on May 1-3 at Plymouth, Devon. All ex-members are asked to support the event. Details from Admin Officer, 59 Indep Cdo Sqn RE, Seaton Barracks, Tavistock Road, Plymouth PL6 5DL (tel: 0752 772312 ext: 276).

● The Queen's Own Hussars:

Regimental Association lunch in London on May 3. Details from Regimental Secretary (tel: 0926 492035).

● 2nd Battalion, The Queen's Regiment:

Reunion takes place on May 10 at Howe Barracks, Canterbury. Enquiries to Maj R P Crosbie-Wood on 0227 763434 ext 4288.

● Royal Pioneer Association:

London lunch at the Duke of

York's HQ, Chelsea, on June 6, and annual reunion at Northampton on June 19-21. Details for both events from Geoffrey Crook, 51 St George's Drive, London SW1V 4DE (tel: 071-834 0415).

● **Essex Regiment:** All-ranks reunion at Warley, near Brentwood on July 4 to mark 50th anniversary of the battle of Deir-El-Shein during which the 2nd/5th Battalion, The Essex Regiment fought with particular distinction. Tickets available from Capt Frank Coe, Highfield, Little Cambridge, Duton Hill, Great Dunmow, Essex (tel: 0371 870307).

● **National Ex-Prisoner-of-War Association:** Reunion and annual general meeting at Warners Holiday Village, Hayling Island, Hants, October 23-26. Details from C Jago, 74 Norfolk Road, West Harnham, Salisbury, Wilts SP2 8HG.

● 654 and 659 Squadrons AAC:

A reunion is planned for April 1993 to celebrate 659 Sqn's formation in April 1943 and 654 Sqn's tour of duty 1942-44. Details from Secretary, South Yorkshire Aircraft Museum, 21 Broom Grove, Rotherham S60 2TE (tel: 0709 812168).

DON'T SAY GOODBYE SAY HELLO.

If you're about to leave the Services the prospect of Civvy Street could be as daunting as it is exciting. After all, you've got to resettle, make new friends and generally take on a new life.

Why not say hello to the Royal British Legion. We can be a great help by providing a link with the past and a friendly social environment with sporting and recreational facilities for people with similar backgrounds to your own.

In fact, you don't have to wait until you leave the Forces to join because membership's open to you now. Either way your membership will ensure that we're always there to help ex-servicemen and women in need.

For details of membership or more information about the work of The Royal British Legion please send off the coupon.

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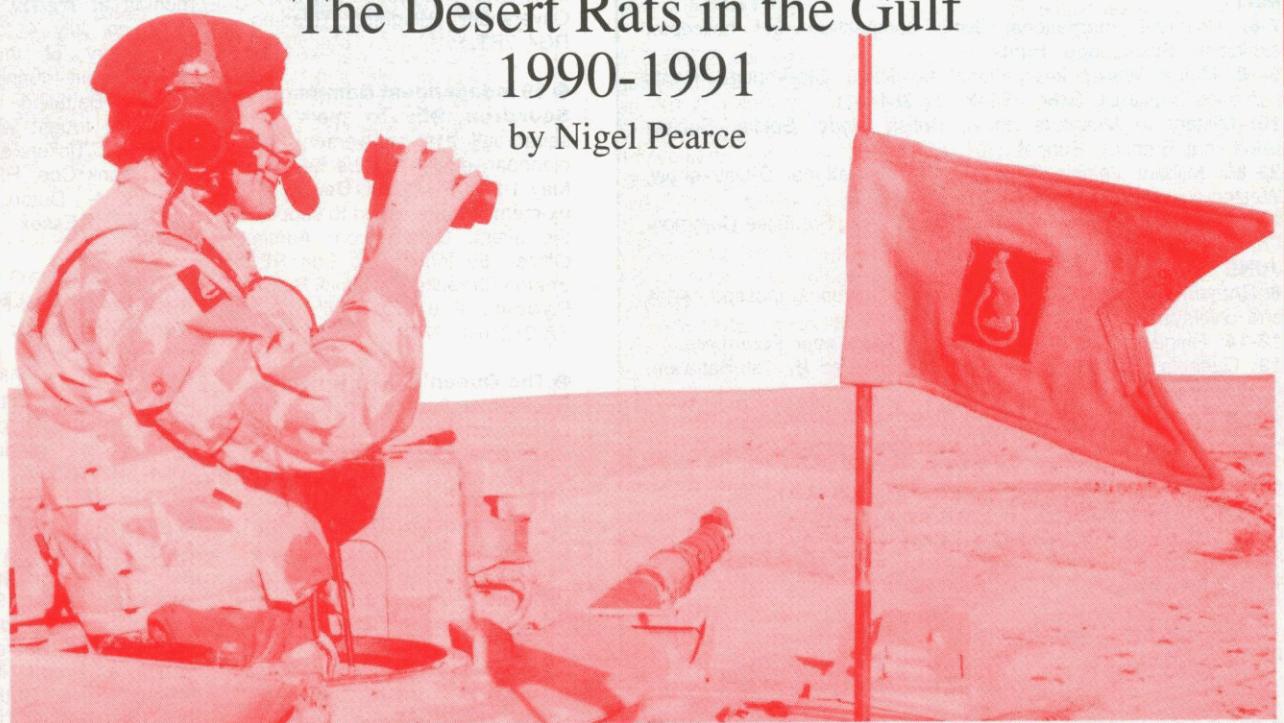


THE SHIELD AND THE SABRE

The Desert Rats in the Gulf

1990-1991

by Nigel Pearce



It was the British Army's largest logistic operation since the Second World War. Between October 1990 and February 1991, 35,000 troops and their equipment were transported from Europe to Saudi Arabia. What followed was an even greater challenge. Drawing on interviews with soldiers of all ranks who went to the Gulf, as well as key decision-makers back home, the author reveals aspects of an army's experiences that do not normally reach the public's attention. His use of anecdotes and quotations, and his privileged access to maps, photographs and documents make this book lively, informative and authoritative.

- Foreword by His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales
- Afterword by John Keegan
- spectacularly illustrated with 200 photographs, maps and technical drawings (most of the photographs are in full colour and have not been published before)

To be published by HMSO for the Central Office of Information in May 1992

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Salerno landings museum planned

ON MARCH 1 I attended, as the representative of the British Army, the opening by the Italian Minister for Urban Affairs of ceremonies to mark the September 1943 Salerno landings.

In attendance were representatives of the British, American, French and German Consulates, the Royal Navy and the Royal Air Force.

Later the Bishop of Salerno led a service of remembrance at the Commonwealth War Cemetery, with an honour guard from the Italian Army.

By starting so early, the organising committee hopes to raise enough interest and money to open a museum dedicated to the landings in time for the 50th anniversary in September 1993.

The University of Salerno, which is heading the committee and which has researched the action extensively, wants to hear from veterans of the landings. It would also be grateful for items for display in the museum.

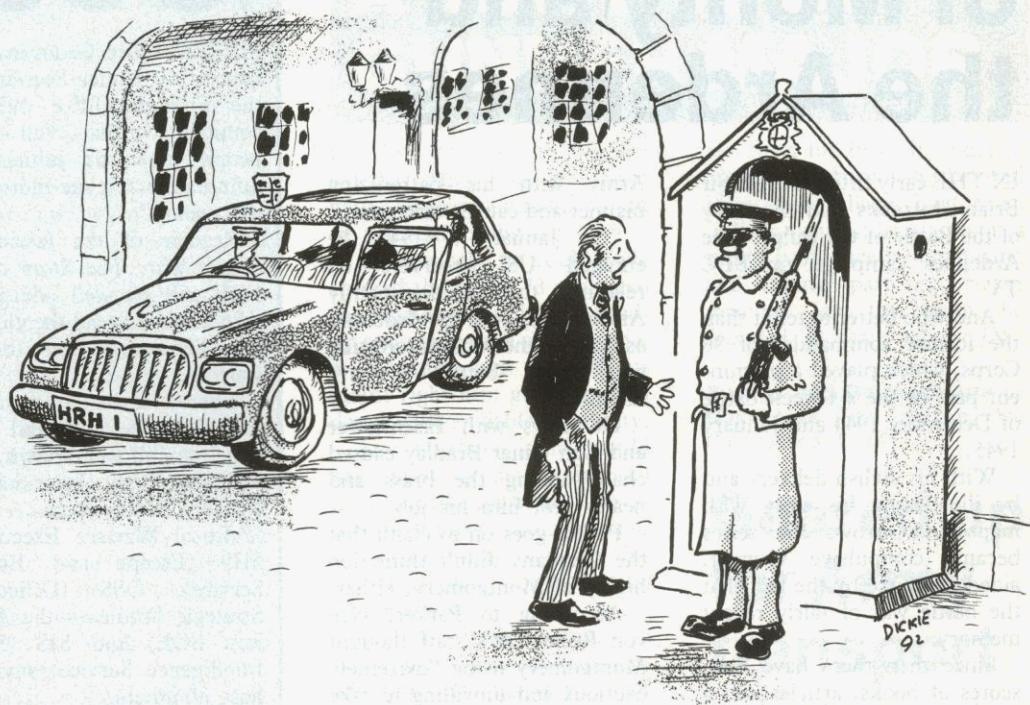
The university also hopes to translate into English three videos on this period in Salerno's history.

If any readers would like to contribute, or to visit Salerno for the celebrations, they should contact me. — WO2 MA Shepherd, RAOC, PANDA Div, HQ AFSOUTH, BFPO 8 (tel: Naples 7212732).

Winged

COL Sean O'Meara (SOLDIER, March 9) appears to be contravening dress regulations in that he is wearing German parachute wings not on his para smock, but in shirtsleeve order. Have the regulations changed? I was refused this privilege in 1962. — A Bell, Poole, Dorset.

BIRD'S EYE-VIEW



"I am commanded to congratulate you on your drill and turnout and to ask how you are on fine-tuning Daimler cars."

• REME on Public Duties. See Pages 18-19

BAA in move for Cenotaph place

SINCE SOLDIER featured the British Army Association (November 11, 1991), the BAA national office has received many letters of support from serving and retired soldiers of all ranks.

All agree that the British Army should be represented as one body at the Cenotaph in London on Remembrance Sunday, in a similar fashion to the Royal Naval Association and Royal Air Forces Association.

Mr Roger Gale, MP for Thanet North, took up the BAA request by writing to the Home Secretary, Mr Kenneth Baker. The Home Office is now reconsidering the matter.

The article also helped to increase membership and further BAA branches have been formed.

Since Options for Change the association has opened the way for Army personnel to keep in touch.

The Tunbridge Wells branch is offering the soon-to-be-disbanded Home Service Force a monthly meeting place by joining the branch.

The BAA League, a support wing of the association, can offer Army families the same comradeship and a chance to enjoy the social activities organised around the country.

We are very aware of the tremendous honour laying the wreath would bring. In the words of one letter writer it would mean "Her Majesty's Army would have its long-overdue place at the Cenotaph".

Further information on the British Army Association can be obtained by contacting the National Secretary, HQ British Army Association, c/o Royal British Legion, 14 Cliff Street, Ramsgate, Kent CT11 9HS. — George Maison, National Chairman, BAA, Westgate on Sea, Kent.

Memories of RWF at Tidworth

I WAS interested to read (SOLDIER, February 10) that The Royal Welch Fusiliers are being posted to Tidworth this year.

It is now half a century since the 1st Battalion, which I joined in August 1933, was stationed at Tidworth. During that time I was appointed organist at the Garrison Church and so escaped the shining-up for the weekly church parade.

Such memories — those marvellous tattoos in that wonderful setting — and the bitter cold winds of winter around Clarendon Hill. — Maj (Retd) Jack Nicolle, RAOC.

Corgi badge?

WITH the formation of the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment, should we expect it to be referred to as "Di's Own Guys" and are we likely for obvious reasons to see a corgi in the new cap badge? — Capt Peter D Williams, RCT(V), HQ AFCENT, BFPO 28.

American view of Monty and the Ardennes

IN THE early fifties Lt Gen Sir Brian Horrocks told the story of the Battle of the Bulge – the Ardennes campaign on BBC TV.

And who better to tell it than the former commander of 30 Corps, which played a prominent part in the six-week battle of December 1944 and January 1945.

With his stylish delivery and by illustrating his story with maps and arrows the series became compulsive viewing, aided of course by the fact that the battle was of fairly recent memory.

Since then there have been scores of books, articles and a number of films, most of which took a hammering from the critics, not to mention harsh words from those who played major parts in Hitler's final fling to win the war.

Now comes yet another mega-book on the Ardennes. This is by American writer Danny S Parker, who has produced an easy-to-read account of the battle.

Inevitably it has the same title as most of the other books and films – *The Battle of the Bulge* – and presumably because he is an American he tells the story from the US and German sides, with little mention of the role played by the British.

He does list the British order of battle in the campaign and the units which took part, but little else.

In a chapter called Men at the Top he refers to Fd Marshal Montgomery as "one of the most controversial figures in the Ardennes campaign".

Parker says Montgomery "offended many in the US

Army with his patronizing manner and caustic statements.

"On January 7 (1945) he enraged US observers by relating the predominantly American fight in the Ardennes as 'one of the most interesting and tricky battles I have handled'."

His rows with Eisenhower and Gen Omar Bradley caused chaos among the brass and nearly cost him his job.

Parker goes on to claim that the Germans didn't think too highly of Montgomery, either.

According to Parker, Gen von Rundstedt's staff thought Montgomery to be "extremely cautious and unwilling to take risks ... very systematic, which is all right if you have sufficient resources and time."

In an earlier reference to Montgomery, Parker refers to the Arnhem "disaster".

But perhaps because it was such a disaster Montgomery learned a lesson there about taking risks which he never forgot. Be assured – the survivors of that epic but ill-fated battle plan never have.

– JM

Battle of the Bulge. Hitler's Ardennes Offensive 1941-1945 by Danny S Parker. Greenhill Books, £19.50.

BOOKS IN BRIEF

Dan, Dan, the "I" Tank Man by R W S (Butch) Williams. Well-written personal account of a 7 RTR tank driver's experiences prior to, and beyond, Tobruk. Stockwell, Ilfracombe, softback, £4.35.

Understanding War: History and Theory of Combat by T N Dupuy. Scholarly thesis on the science of war by the retired US colonel, author of *Encyclopedia of*

Secrets of the Racket

SIR Alexander Cadogan, Parliamentary Under Secretary at the Foreign Office 1938-46, commented that "all these people with odd initials and numbers puzzle me more than the enemy."

Readers of the fascinating *Secret War. The Story of the SOE* will be well advised to take heed and read the glossary of abbreviations before starting.

There, apart from SOE, GCHQ, MI5, MI6 and SAS, which are all well-known, they will find ISLD (Inter-Services Liaison Department), PWE (Political Warfare Executive), MI9 (Escape and Evasion Service), OSS (Office of Strategic Studies – the American SOE) and SIS (Secret Intelligence Service) among a host of others.

All were intent on gathering intelligence or subverting the enemy, often getting in each other's way or failing to keep each other informed, sometimes with disastrous results for operators in the field.

Author Nigel West considers SIS were the worst offenders in particular over the most valuable of all intelligence sources, ULTRA, codename for the information gleaned from the German ENIGMA code machine with its many keys, most of which were ultimately broken by the

amazing work done at Bletchley Park.

It was only by chance when an officer, Brig Keeble, who was on the ULTRA distribution list, happened to assume a senior appointment in Force 133 in Cairo, that SOE first knew of ULTRA.

The conflict between these two organisations is described throughout this book and is reflected in this comment by an OSS officer: "This British intelligence service (SIS) holds itself as aloof from the SOE as from us, and it is a question whether the worst enemy of the SOE is the Germans or the SIS."

The decision to create a new organisation (SOE) "to co-ordinate, inspire, control and assist the nationals of the oppressed countries, who must be direct participants" was taken on July 1, 1940 just as the Germans had occupied the Channel Islands.

A new organisation in time of war is bound to be staffed by amateurs and since they were specifically debarred from getting involved in politics there were inevitably mistakes in backing Communist resistance groups whose main aim was to take over after the Axis powers had departed and to inflict the minimum damage on them while they were there, so as not to antagonise the local

population on whom the Axis exacted appalling reprisals.

One of the worst such reprisals was at the village of Oradour-sur-Glane, where 500 women and children were burned to death in the church and 120 men killed in barns, the village being razed in June 1940, shortly after D-Day. Strangely, this is not mentioned by West.

As SOE operated worldwide its influence on the postwar political scene was considerable and West claims that "a small covert sabotage service, financed from the British Government's secret vote and a mining magnate's private fortune, was transformed into a global organisation that actively assisted despotic tyrannies to seize power in much of Eastern Europe."

SOE was, of course, not the sole cause of this state of affairs. As Churchill put it after the Yalta Conference: "The outcome of all this is that the Barbarians will be in the heart of Europe."

Your reviewer was recruited into SOE to operate in Greece but his and other missions were cancelled in December 1943 due to the outbreak of civil war between the royalist (EDES) and the Communist (ELAS) partisans during which a New Zealand liaison officer was killed by ELAS – with a

Secret War. The Story of SOE by Nigel West. Hodder and Stoughton, £20.

weapon provided by SOE!

Readers of Le Carré and Forsyth will get enormous pleasure from this book, so details of operations have been omitted from this review, but tribute must be paid to the very brave Maj Hugh Seagrim, who was beheaded after surrendering to the Japanese in Burma in March 1944 to prevent further reprisals on the Karen villagers.

Mention should also be made of those operators in France after the Normandy invasion who made a significant contribution to the operations' success and to the *coup de main* party in Norway which deprived the Germans of making an atomic bomb.

This was SOE's chief success, although West does not say so.

This is undoubtedly the most readable history of SOE yet to be published, although the official historian Professor M R D Foot may not agree.

If and when access is permitted to the documentation which survived the shredding when "the racket" (familiar name for SOE) was closed with such inordinate haste in 1946, some other author may have a field day in writing a definitive history. – PSN

One of a Round Dozen by W W (Bill) Johnson. Down-to-earth memoirs of a former Dorsetshire Regiment soldier who will be known to many who served post-Second World War in Cyprus, where he settled as a civil engineer. Regency Press, London, hardback, £7.95.

Tank Tracks to Rangoon by Bryan Perrett. When this story of British armour in Burma was first published 14 years ago, the SOLDIER reviewer wrote: "There are many dramatic accounts of actions and much personal on-the-spot narrative that makes this story of the tankmen of Fourteenth Army a volume to be treasured." Robert Hale, paperback, £7.95.

The March on London by Charles Whiting. Intriguing true story of a mass escape planned by prisoners-of-war in Britain to aid Hitler's last offensive on the Allies. Leo Cooper Pen and Sword Books, hardback, £16.95.

The Sterling Years by James Edmiston. The successes and challenges of marketing and selling the Mk 4 sub-machine gun, "probably the world's most reliable weapon of all time", by the man who ran the Sterling Armament Company for 12 years. Leo Cooper Pen and Sword Books, hardback, £16.95.

Cyril Wild: The Tall Man Who Never Slept by James Bradley. Tribute to the extraordinary Japanese-speaking Maj Wild, who was taken prisoner at the fall of Singapore and worked selflessly and tirelessly on behalf of other prisoners including the author, whose life he saved and who is now one of only two survivors of

RACY TALES OF A 'HAVE-A-GO' GUNNER MAJOR

IT IS difficult to decide whether Mike Tice was born with a silver spoon in his mouth or a model racing car.

Alternatively he could have entered the world 73 years ago carrying a cricket bat, paddled up and ready for a swipe at life, or carrying a pint pot with his infant right arm going up and down with enviable regularity.

Any of these items would have been acceptable since all have played significant roles in the life of this ex-Gunner major who tells a racy tale in his autobiography, *Swings and Roundabouts*.

If Tice hasn't already a family motto he might consider adopting: "It's taking part that counts."

For this one-time Indian Army officer, ex-regimental boxer, racing driver, garage owner, all-round athlete, cricket club founder (and still playing), partygoer and lover of village life, has catalogued all these activities and many more in the story of his exciting life and times.

It's the sort of life that some people dream about, lived in a fairly fast lane cushioned by home comforts, an adoring family and a wide circle of friends.

Tice tells the tale of his full

life from his birth in India to the present day and his beloved Hampshire village. Even now, in his seventies, he maintains a pretty good pace by organising and taking part in cricket matches for the team he founded 20 years ago. – JM

Swings and Roundabouts by Major Mike Tice. Square One Publications, £12.95.

Geared up for Army transport

MILITARY jargon and abbreviations are not exactly the biggest turn-on for the average reader (see also main review).

It can be baffling, not to say trying, to have to refer constantly to a list to find out what they all mean.

Take *British Army Transport and Logistics*, for example, which lists more than 130 at the start for the sake of brevity later.

Some are in everyday use and will cause no pain. Others, like FUPBG (Follow Up Parachute Battalion), BATUS (British Army Training Unit Suffield) will create problems for some readers.

They would be well advised to rev up with a full study of the list before getting into gear and steering a path through this well-produced book about the Army's transport.

While the quality of the book is high and the pictures sharply reproduced, many of them are inevitably static – the back ends and interiors of buses and other military vehicles are scattered around its 128 pages.

But the authors have researched their subject extremely well and have produced a first-class reference book which many ex-RASC and current RCT people will find informative and interesting. – JM

British Army Transport and Logistics, by Robert Swan and Geoff Fletcher. Ian Allan Publishing, £16.95.

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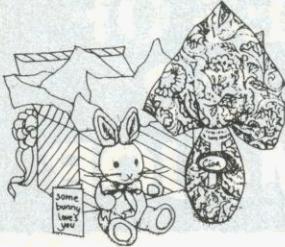
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TC

Have you got a story to tell? I need to get in contact with servicemen past and present who have been involved in recent conflicts for a radio programme. Please contact Elliot Cook, Flat 6, 3 Milton Road, Bournemouth BH8 8LW. Tel: 0202 558976.

13/92

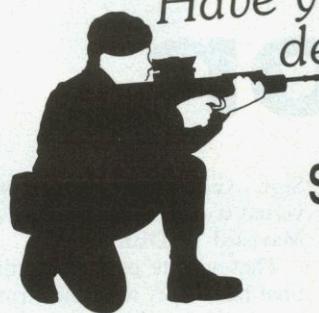
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PEN PALS

Well Built Liverpool Secretary

5' 2" tall, long blonde hair and blue eyes. Wishes to correspond with a lonely Soldier. I enjoy music, languages, travel and watching football. Be that Special Someone. Write soon.

Box P80

13-92

1115

Wanted Male Pen Pal

20-40 years. I am modern, young, 35 years. Divorced, two children, non-smoker. Enjoy socialising, dancing, cinema. I am 5ft, 7 1/2", short blonde hair, green eyes. Attractive, friendly, sincere, nice. Will reply to all letters.

Box P74

13-92

1114

I am Amanda

looking for a male soldier 21+. Single and wanting to have a friendship/relationship. I have hobbies and enjoy meeting other people. Please write and a photo would be appreciated.

Box P78

13-92

Sharon, 22 years old

Single parent, 5' 8", blonde haired, blue eyed Lancashire lass. Enjoys aerobics, ten pin bowling, discos and pubs. Would love to hear from Soldiers 21+. Friendship/Relationship. Photo appreciated.

Box P81

13-92

Tracey, 21-years-old

Would like to correspond with soldier 21+. Honest, genuine with sense of humour. Photo if possible and details of interests and hobbies you have. I live in Plymouth.

Box P75

13-92

Single female 26 years

Brown hair, green eyes, 5'5" medium build. Interested in discos, eating out, pubs, music and keep fit. Would like to correspond with single male with same interests.

Box P79

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PEN PAL REPLIES

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Slim Divorced Lady (39)

Good sense of humour. Would like to write to unattached male Pen Pal.

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PEN PAL REQUESTS

To advertise in the Pen Pal section send a cheque/postal order for £11.75 (payable to Soldier) and a maximum of 35 words about yourself to the address opposite.

Write Pen Pals in the top left corner of the envelope.

I'm 26-year-old Jackie.

5'4", blondish bobbed hair and a sense of humour. I'd like to hear from anyone 25+ who'd like to write to a daft, cat loving, nurse.

Box P73

13-92

Louisa 30,

fair hair, blue eyes, 5'4". Slim, attractive, quiet, works as a secretary. I would like a soldier 29-35 years, to write to. I'm looking for someone tall and sincere.

Box P77

13-92

51

Order of Wooden Spoon

**Army 0,
Royal Navy 2**

THE ARMY's season came to a premature end when they were beaten 2-0 by the Royal Navy at the Military Stadium, Aldershot, and so take the wooden spoon in this year's Inter-Service football championships, writes Pat Massey.

It was no less than they deserved, because the visitors were quicker and more resolute from the start and hustled and harried throughout the game.

It might have been different if Cpl Sean Gilman's early headed goal had been allowed to stand. From the touchline there did not appear to be much wrong with it even though Gilman, the 'keeper, and a defender ended up in a tangled heap.

The Navy took the lead when Haig knocked in a ball that SSgt (SSI) Nigel Wiscombe appeared to have covered, and a second-half own-goal completed the soldiers' woe.

**RAF 2,
Army 1**

An early goal by the Royal Air Force put them in the driving seat against the Army in their Inter-Service championship clash at RAF Cosford.

An uncharacteristically unsteady Army defence was thoroughly tested by the height and strength of Sgt Leonce leading the RAF attack, and only good goalkeeping by SSgt Nigel Wiscombe (APTC) prevented a second before the interval.

The Army were rocked back on their heels in the first attack after the break when referee Wood spotted a defender handling and Browes hammered home the penalty.

RAF defender Hadcraft, cautioned earlier for a robust tackle, was sent off after exchanging words with the referee, and minutes later Cpl

Sean Gilman (RAOC) converted a cross from Cpl Dave Maynard (1 DERR).

That set the pattern for the final half hour, with the Army pouring forward in search of an equaliser. But the RAF, defending stoutly, held on to their lead.

**Depot and Trg Regt RCT 4,
Scottish Div Depot 0**

The Battle of the Depots for the Leyland DAF Army (UK) Minor Units Cup at Aldershot did not stick to the script.

Scottish Division Depot, winners for the past three years and finalists for the past five, travelled south with great expectations, but were well beaten by a sparkling Depot and Training Regt RCT team.

Yet, despite Depot RCT taking the lead with virtually the first serious kick of the match, it was only in the final 20 minutes that the game was put beyond the reach of the Scots.

The first-minute opener was scored by Cpl Steve Wraithmell after a high ball into the teeth of a cross wind had eluded Lt James Gray-Cheape (QO Hldrs), the Glencourse goalkeeper. Minutes later the Jocks should have equalised when RCT goalkeeper WO1 (RSM) Roger Cass upended Cpl Andy Lundie (A and SH) in the box. But Cass, at full stretch, turned the resulting penalty by Cpl David Hughes (BW) around the post.

LCpl Les Quick put the RCT further ahead, but both sides missed further chances before the interval.

Dvr Darren Glenister settled the issue with a rocket-like header from a 69th minute corner, and Sgt Dave Walker added a fourth before the end.

The RCT victory earned them a place in the Challenge Cup final at Rheindahlen on April 25.



WO1 (RSM) Roger Cass makes a crucial penalty save from Cpl David Hughes in the Army (UK) Minor Units final at Aldershot



Cpl Jimmy Lind, the 28 Regiment captain, raises the Challenge Cup (BAOR) in triumph

Triple crown for 28 Amph

**28 Amph Engr Regt 6,
QOH 0**

Defending Army Challenge Cup champions 28 Amphibious Engineer Regiment remain on course after hitting The Queen's Own Hussars for six at Hobart Barracks, Detmold, to win the BAOR cup final.

The Hameln-based sappers now meet United Kingdom champions 1 Infantry Division HQ and Signal Regiment at the Military Stadium, Aldershot, on April 8.

An opening goal by Spr Eugene Shannon gave 28 Regiment a half-time lead, but

Triumph for youth

**Royal Navy 1,
Army 4**

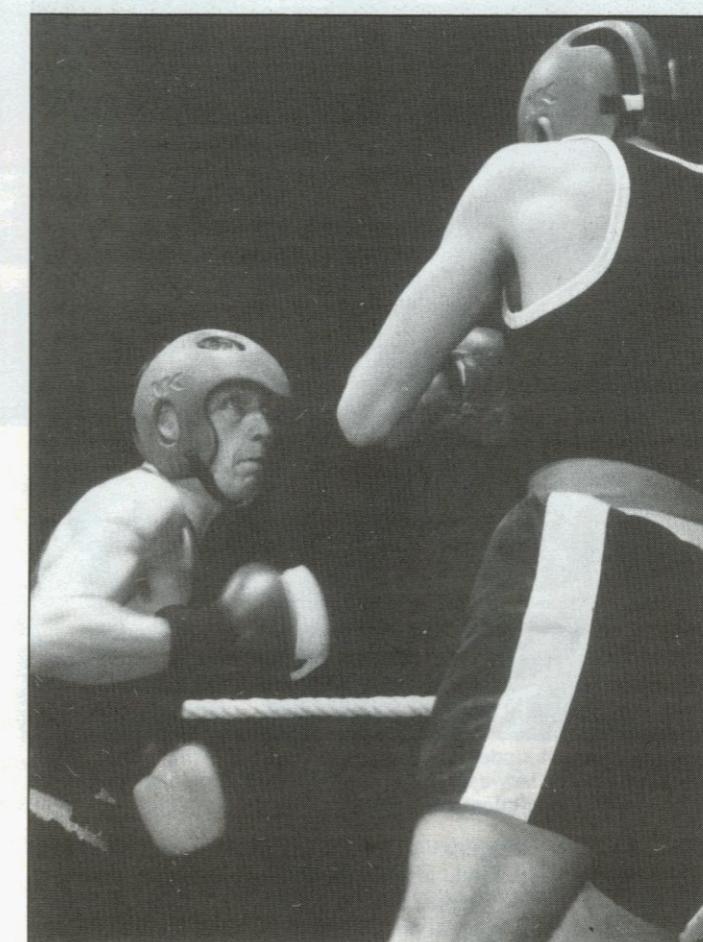
THE ARMY regained the Inter-Service Youth football trophy with a resounding 4-1 win over the Royal Navy, champions since 1987, writes Pat Massey.

Winning at Portsmouth is never easy, and the young soldiers had to cope with periods of intense pressure at the beginning of each half before gaining the upper hand.

ASgt Tommo Thompson (AAC Harrogate) opened the scoring in the 26th minute, LCpl Taff Jones (JIB Shorncliffe) added two more, and Gnr Clarke (47 Regt RA) put the issue beyond doubt with a fierce drive late in the game.



Lt Simon Hazlitt (Light Div Depot) on the ball during the Army's 2-0 win over the Royal Navy at Reading. Maj Ian Jolly scored both goals



LCpl Mick Brown (left) of 216 Para Signal Sqn on his way to a two-round victory over Spr Andy Crumplin (59 Ind Cdo Sqn RE) at Aldershot in the UKLF Minor Units novice Grade 3 team championships.

it took a brilliant solo effort by Cpl Tony Brown to inspire the sappers. Four more goals – two from Cpl Bobby Lockwood, another from Shannon and the last from Cpl Bomber Brown – finished off QOH and gave the engineers their third successive BAOR football title.

● Celle-based 2 R Anglian

Battle of the Commandos

play host to 1 Green Howards in the final of the Major Units novice Grade 3 team boxing championships on April 3.

In the UKLF final at Catterick, the Green Howards beat 1 Staffords by five bouts to four.

STOP PRESS

RUGBY: Contrary to national media reports, the Army's defence of the Inter-Services rugby championship began with a 16-9 victory over the Royal Navy at Twickenham.

HOCKEY: The Army retained the Inter-Services hockey title by defeating the Royal Navy 2-1 and the Royal Air Force 3-1.

BOXING: Dvr Chris Bessey (27 Regt RCT) reached the All-England semi-finals of the ABA championship by winning his bout on the Combined Services-Western Counties quarter-final bill at RAF Halton.

● Reports in next issue.

Services second

COMBINED Services finished second to the English Cross Country Union at RAF Halton in the annual match involving teams from the Civil Service, BUSF, BCSA, BPSA, WCC and RRA.

Best placed Army finisher was Cpl Peter Cawse (Depot Para) in 14th, a place ahead of Maj Glen Grant (HQ UKLF) and two ahead of Sgt Rod Finch (RAPC/3 Para). SSgt Mark Atwell (PCD RE) was 23rd and Sgt Bill Bailey (1 ADSR) 25th.

Lancers win on Cresta

THE 17/21st Lancers won the Inter-Regimental Cresta title for the fourth year running, but the Army Air Corps, against all odds, were surprise runners-up in their first team entry in the Army championships.

Since its inception in 1885 the Cresta has been and remains the most thrilling ice-run in the world. A mere $\frac{3}{4}$ -mile of ice and ten testing curves, but an early drop of 1 in 2.8 ensures speeds approaching 80mph, which concentrates the mind when one's nose is just

four inches from the ice.

Forty intrepid sportsmen representing 14 regiments met at San Moritz on February 3 to compete in the Army championships.

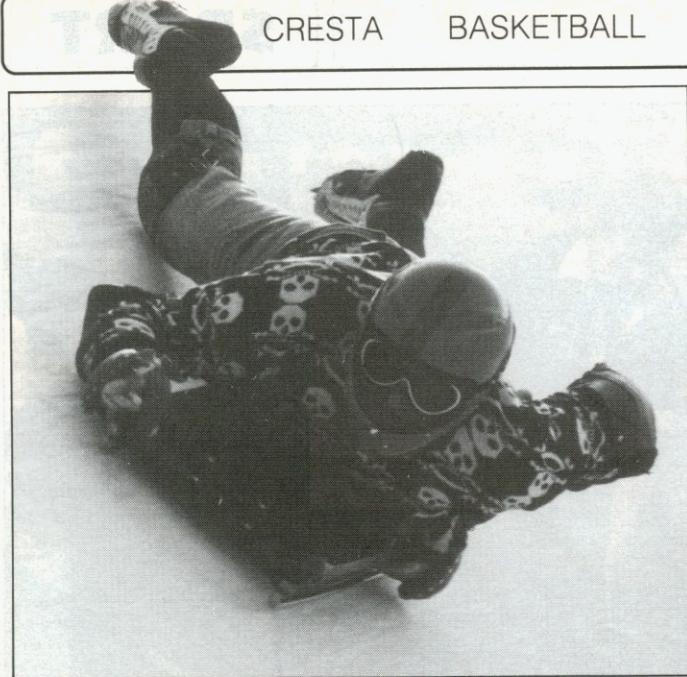
They ranged from seasoned performers to some who were experiencing the Cresta for the very first time. Among the novices were a team from 7 Flt AAC led by Maj Chris Hogan and featuring Sgt Chris Lea and Air Trooper Joseph Driver.

Another notable AAC member, Capt Wilf Hyde-Smith, a TA officer, last raced in 1967 and reckoned that with age he wouldn't bounce so easily over Shuttlecock Corner.

The 17th/21st Lancers team, with Capt Freddy Elwes and Maj Rupert Wieloch in superb form, not unexpectedly won the Scots Guards Cup and with it the Army Cresta title. The Army Air Corps celebrated their first team entry in this competition by coming second.

Elwes is the individual Army champion for 1992 and Lt Rupert Villiers-Smith (Gren Gds), with two runs from Junction under 48 seconds, deservedly won the novice prize.

Lt Edward Gimlette (14/20 H) won his Army colours after an excellent run from Top.



Capt Grant Barker (17/21 L) hangs on at Shuttlecock Corner during the Army Cresta championships at St Moritz

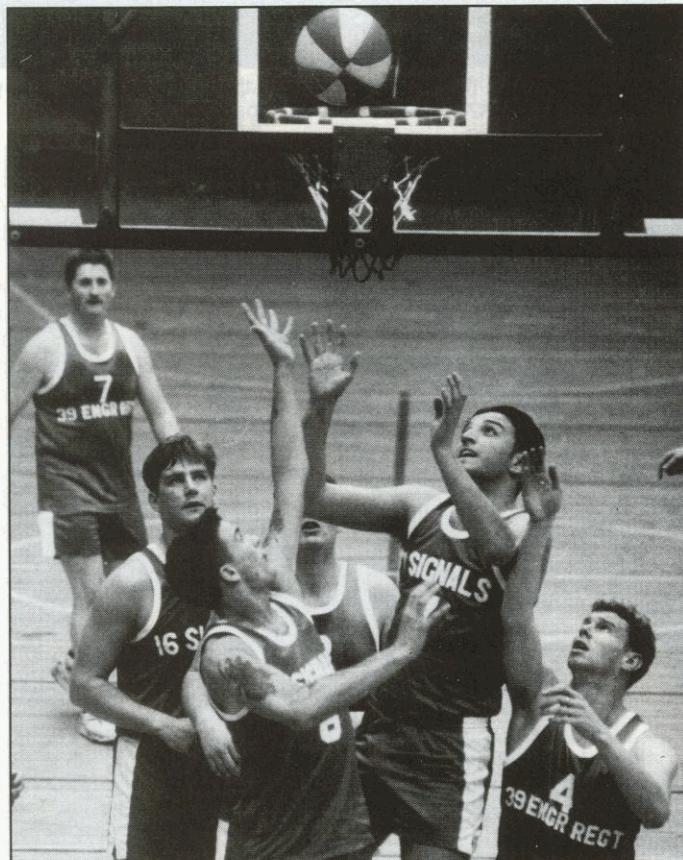
Minors final so well policed

A NEW force emerged at Fox Gym, Army School of Physical Training, traditional home of Army basketball, when 114 Provost Company RMP travelled from BAOR to challenge UKLF champions Comms and Sy Gp (UK) for the Army Minor Units title, writes John Nicholas.

After the first few minutes it was obvious the Recaps had put together a strong, fit squad of players who on average had the added advantage of height over their opponents. Half-time saw the RMPs leading by 53-25 points with Sgt Adam and Cpls Baxter and Ross dominating in both defence and offence.

The second half continued in the same vein, but the character of the Comms and Sy Gp (UK) squad was to be admired in their determination to go down fighting. Ably led by WO1 Smith, with SSgt Andrews and Sig Berry leading their scoring, the predominantly R Signals squad refused to lose heart.

Final score was a convincing 105-54 points to the military



Picture: Mike Perrin

A tense moment under the basket during the Army Major Units basketball finals between UKLF champions 39 Engineer Regiment and 16 Signal Regiment, the BAOR champions

policemen from Germany.

The Major Units final, also sponsored by Naafi, promised to be an excellent match on paper, between two established forces in Army basketball circles, 16 Signal Regt from BAOR against 39 Engr Regt from Cambridge. However, injuries to key players both before and during the game proved too disruptive for either team to live up to their pre-final form.

The low half-time score of

32-28 points in the signallers' favour was proof of defensive play and too many offensive errors.

Neither team was able to raise the quality of play during the second half. The final whistle saw the double figure scores of WO2 Tedby, LCpl Whip and Sig Jones sufficient for 16 Signal Regt to retain their Army title by 60-54 points while Cpls Homer and Richardson and LCpl Magill were most effective for the sappers.

First lady of golf starts with a win

ENGLAND under 22 international golfer Lt Sarah Lowe became the first woman to play for the Army when she turned out in the annual match against Oxford University at High Post, Salisbury.

Lt Lowe, who is assistant adjutant of 47 Field Regiment RA based at Thorney Island, won her singles on the final green as the Army triumphed 10-5.

Lt Col Richard Drake, captain of Army golf, said after the game: "After nearly 30 years of Army golf, that was definitely the first time I have kissed my partner."

The Champ is back.



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In the '70s they won so many rallies and races they became a legend in their own laptime.

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It has a new 2-litre DOHC 16-valve 150 PS engine, accommodated by twin bonnet power bulges and cooled via a front spoiler air intake.

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Autocar & Motor were so impressed they said "the RS2000 feels taut and consistent, and grips extremely well..."

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The result is a slicker, smoother gearchange.

Inside, the new RS2000 boasts equipment levels to match its performance.

ABS, power-steering, electric front windows, a Quickclear heated windscreen, a slide/tilt sunroof and central locking are all standard.

You'll also find a variable reach sports steering wheel and Recaro seats, with the driver's side adjustable for height and tilt.

To conclude, Autocar & Motor said of the RS2000 "as for the competition, they should be worried."

If you'd like to hear more about Ford's new champion, contact your local Ford UK dealer, Naafi car showrooms, Germany, Naafi of Nottingham, Natocars, Bridgwater, Somerset; or call the Ford Tax Free Sales office on 251429 (code from Germany: 00 44 277, from Netherlands: 09 44 277, from UK: 0277).



Everything we do is driven by you.

With Tower Bridge providing a spectacularly floodlit backdrop, the ancient Ceremony of the Keys is played out by members of a much younger organisation. The Corps of Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers is a mere 50 years old. To mark the anniversary, it has been carrying out Public Duties. See Pages 18 and 19.

Picture: Mike Weston



SOLDIER