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**FRONT COVER – Main picture: The flags of the Desert Rats are carried proudly by Gulf veterans from 1 Armoured Division in an American forces Gulf parade in Stuttgart, Germany. Several hundred troops marched past US Chief of Staff Gen Colin Powell. The flags included the red jerboa of 7 Armoured Brigade, the blue and white St Andrew's Cross of the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards and the black jerboa of 4 Armoured Brigade. They were in the front rank of the Colour Party for the US 7th Armoured Corps.**

**(Picture: Sgt Andy Mason, P Info 1 Armd Div).**

**Lower picture: A DROPS vehicle is put through its paces at the Leyland-DAF testing centre. A report on it and the Army's new 4-tonne general purpose lorry appears in pages 26-29.**

**(Picture: Terry Champion)**



Aftermath of the explosion near St George's Lines, the British Forces HQ near Kuwait City. This is the devastated US Army vehicle park

# British HQ in Kuwait blasted

From Nick Smith in Al Jubail  
ST GEORGE'S Lines, headquarters to British Forces Kuwait and C Company of the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment – the remaining element of the Kuwait Battlegroup – was wrecked on July 11 by a series of explosions.

Bombed-up ammunition trucks, M1 tanks and M109s of the United States 11th Armoured Cavalry Regiment exploded next to the British HQ at Doha, 12 miles north of Kuwait City.

More than 50 US troops were injured, one seriously. Six British, two from the Royal Anglians, three from the HQ and one from the Army Catering Corps, received superficial injuries.

The cook suffered severe bruising to the ankles. Having leapt a wall to safety, he thought, he was followed

almost immediately by a GI who landed on top of him.

An attempt was made to quell the fire before it spread to the ammunition but it was unsuccessful and the order was given to evacuate. But before it could be executed a chain reaction had begun.

More of the US Forward Ammunition Supply Vehicles exploded and M1 main battle tanks and M109 155mm howitzers blew apart. The explosions continued for six hours.

Debris and munitions, from small arms to tank rounds, were scattered over a wide area in Blackhorse Camp and St George's Lines, seriously damaging the two-storey British HQ building and the storage and accommodation areas.

Men from 21 EOD Sqn RE and RAOC EOD were called immediately to assist a US

EOD team to clear the area and render it safe. Another British casualty was sustained when a soldier from 21 EOD inadvertently triggered a bomblet, suffering injuries to his legs and feet.

It was a rather subdued audience of British troops who sat back that evening to watch the CSE Show. The cast had driven up from Logistic Support Group in Al Jubail, arriving at Doha amid the explosions.

But in true British spirit it was decided the show must go on. Because of the danger of unexploded munitions most of the troops had been relocated in what they were wearing to buildings in Doha Port and to the RFA Sir Galahad.

Up to 50 US Army vehicles were destroyed or damaged in the blast, including several M1 Abrams tanks and M109 self-propelled howitzers.

## SOLDIER

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Eyes on the ball for the players who took part in the Gulf Trust polo day at the Royal County of Berkshire Polo Club. From left to right are Lt Timothy Brown, Scots DG, and Lt Col Arthur Denaro, QRIH, of the 7



Pictures: Terry Champion

Armoured Brigade team, and Lt Andrew Nicholson, 16/5L, wearing 4 Armoured Brigade colours.

Pictured right is the Prince of Wales, who played for 7 Brigade. The occasion, in

aid of the Kuwait and British Women's Support Group, was attended by members of the Royal Family and many of Britain and America's top Gulf commanders. The match was won by 4 Armd Bde.

## British troops pull out of Gulf

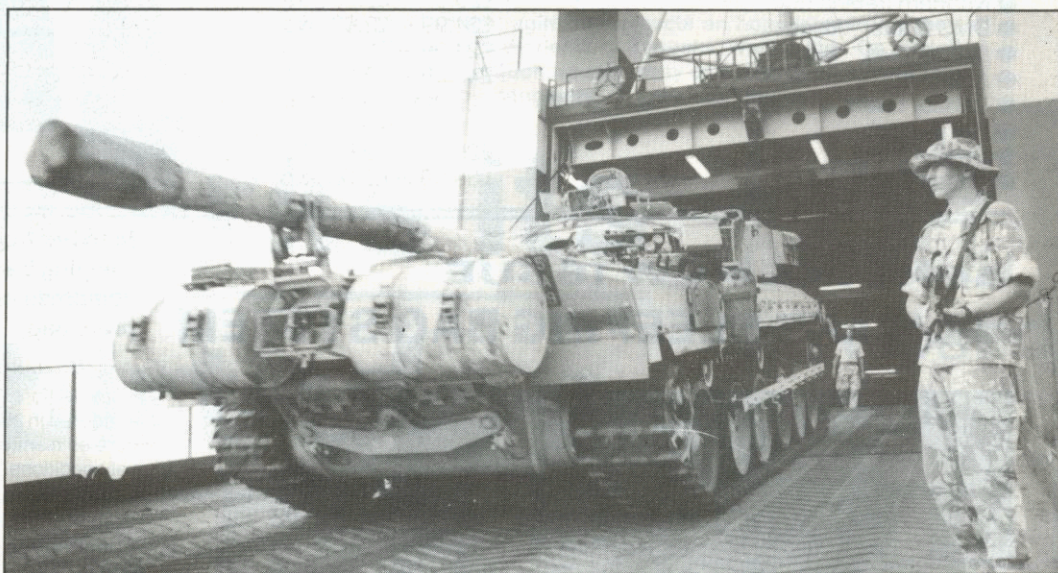
OPERATION Granby commitments to the Gulf region have ended with the withdrawal of British troops from both Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

Final elements of the British battlegroups in Kuwait, including A Company, 2nd Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment, and the Headquarters Logistic Support Group at Al Jubail flew home at the end of July.

The LSG was responsible for the return to Germany and the UK of more than 13,000 British military vehicles and thousands of tons of ammunition and stores.

The vehicle park, which covered five square kilometres, contained the largest concentration of trucks and tanks seen since the Second World War.

A number of British military training advisers will continue to be attached to the Saudi Arabian National Guard.



Spr Tim Earle RE guards the last Challenger tanks used by the Desert Rats as they are loaded at Al Jubail for the journey back to Germany and the UK

## Last tanks leave

THE LAST British Challenger tanks which were involved in the Gulf conflict have left Saudi Arabia. They started their three-week voyage from Al Jubail to Germany and the UK and will be returned to their units.

More than 200 Challengers were used by the Desert Rats during the war. They were manned by The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards (Carabiniers

and Greys) and The Queen's Royal Irish Hussars of 7 Armoured Brigade, and the 14th/20th King's Hussars of 4 Armoured Brigade.

The cessation of hostilities and the decision to maintain a battlegroup in Kuwait offered excellent training opportunities on the Challengers. This included live-firing and was carried out by 5th Inniskilling Dragoon Guards, The King's

Own Scottish Borderers and the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment.

As announced in the House of Commons on June 21 by Alan Clark, Minister for Defence Procurement, the Challenger 1 fleet will now undergo a substantial upgrade. The programme will significantly increase the tank's firepower by the fitting of a new and more powerful gun.



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## Royal Rangers

The Duchess of Gloucester, Colonel-in-Chief of the regiment, inspects an honour guard of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Irish Rangers during her visit to Battlesbury Barracks, Warminster. On the left is the commanding officer, Lt Col Philip Trousdell. The Duchess met many of the battalion's families and watched a display of traditional Irish dancing by daughters of serving Rangers.

Picture: Sgt Dave Miles, RAOC

# SAS marks its 50th birthday

## Logistic bases to be closed

THE Defence White Paper announced the closure of seven British Army logistic bases in Belgium and Germany.

The bases are the Forward Vehicle Depot at Recklinghausen; 232 Mobile Civilian Engineer Group, Krefeld; 37 Rhine Workshops, Monchengladbach; Ordnance Services and associated Supply Depot, Viersen; 40 Army Engineer Support Group, Willich; 64 (RCZ) Workshop, Willich; and the Ordnance Depot and other units at Antwerp station.

All are located in the British Rear Communication Zone.

THE Special Air Service Regiment celebrated its 50th anniversary amid tight security with a reunion and family day tattoo on its Welsh border training area and a thanksgiving service in the cathedral at Hereford – home of 22 SAS.

Hundreds of past members – including some who fought with founder David Stirling in North Africa in the Second World War – travelled far to share a unique weekend of memories. Some came from Australia, New Zealand and Southern Africa.

Among those who enjoyed renewing old friendships was Gen Sir Peter de la Billière, Commander British Forces Middle East in the Gulf War and a former Commanding

Officer of 22 SAS.

The Band of the Scots Guards – Stirling's original regiment – and its 2nd Battalion's Pipes and Drums played at the family day, and the Royal Signals' White Helmets motor cycle team and the AAC Chepstow gymnastic team mounted displays.

A dramatic hostage rescue demonstration was the highlight of the displays put on by 22 SAS.

At the sunset ceremony the salute was taken by Lt Gen Sir Peter Walls, former commander of C Squadron (Rhodesian) SAS and later Chief of Combined Operations.

At the cathedral service, where the lessons were read by a young trooper and the present

CO of 22 SAS, the address was given by the Very Rev Dr J Fraser McCluskey MC, who served as a padre with the regiment in the Second World War.

In its golden jubilee year, no one would have taken greater joy in the regiment's achievements than its creator, Col Sir David Stirling. Sadly, he died in November last year after a long illness.

## REME's boulder approach

WHEN a German farmer struck a problem – a big problem – he called up Hameln-based 28 Amphibious Engineer Regiment Workshop REME. His drainage plans were being thwarted by a massive 20-tonne rock, so he approached the professionals for help. WO2 (AQMS) Colin Gaines and Spr Scott McIntosh made light work of the weighty task with the help of a crane and a 37-tonne tractor and trailer.



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## Two to replace Lynx

PLANS to replace the Army Air Corps' Lynx anti-tank helicopters with two new aircraft have been announced by the Defence Procurement Minister, Alan Clark.

Replying to a Parliamentary Question, he said: "Following our withdrawal from the collaborative A129-LAH studies, we have decided that attack and armed reconnaissance roles would best be met by separate helicopters.

"We plan to replace the Lynx in the anti-tank role by an off-the-shelf purchase towards the end of the decade. To this end, we propose to issue a Request for Proposals against a Cardinal Points Specification in the spring of 1992.

"The requirement for an armed reconnaissance helicopter will be considered separately."



More excitement for the children of 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards when the Colonel-in-Chief, the Queen Mother, visited them. They have recently returned to the United Kingdom from Wolfenbittel. Their fathers were involved in the Gulf conflict and are now based in Assaye Barracks, Tidworth. The Queen Mother toured the barracks, meeting soldiers and their families, and later had tea with the Old Comrades.

## MLRS leads parade

TWELVE Multiple Rocket Systems (MLRS) of 39 Heavy Regiment RA were given a place of honour during a regimental weekend parade in Sennelager.

MLRS was pressed into service six months ahead of schedule to allow the regiment to deploy on Op Granby.

The system was an outstanding success in the Gulf War, earning for 39 Hy Regt the nickname "The Grid Square Removal Service".

Dismounted troops were inspected by Maj Gen Mike Shellard and the parade was watched by military and civic leaders, including the Burgermeister of Paderborn and the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Birmingham.

## CIS open

DEFENCE Secretary Tom King opened the new Army Communications and Information Systems (CIS) Agency building when he visited Blandford Camp in Dorset. He met Royal Signals personnel serving at the School of Signals and with 30 Signal Regiment.



Lt Col Iain Johnstone, commanding officer of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Scots (The Royal Regiment) presents a pipe banner to Burgermeisterin Liesel Bohmer of Werl after his battalion had received the Freedom of the City.

The ceremony also marked the battalion's farewell to Werl before it moves to Inverness this month, a posting delayed

## Werl honours RS

by Op Granby. Citizens of Werl were very supportive of Royal Scots' families while the battalion was deployed in the Gulf. It has been stationed at Albuhera Barracks for six years, during which time 257

children were born to the battalion and 30 soldiers married German girls.

The Royal Scots are being replaced in Werl by the 1st Battalion, The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment.



# It's already earned its stripes.



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# Gurkhas march away from border

TWENTY-FOUR years after first deploying to the Hong Kong border, 6th Queen Elizabeth's Own Gurkha Rifles celebrated the end of their last border tour with a 7km march from Sandy Spur back to their camp at Cassino Lines.

Tenth Gurkha Rifles took over the Sandy Spur and Man Kam To sectors, which will remain under military control until the police take over Man Kam To in September and Sandy Spur the following April.

Sixth Gurkha Rifles first went to the border when riots sparked off by the Cultural Revolution in China were shaking Hong Kong. Since then the emphasis has changed from preparing to meet armed incursion to the arrest of illegal immigrants (IIs).

On their last six-week tour 6 GR caught 414 IIs, a fraction of the numbers netted during the II crisis of ten years ago.

At the end of the march in Cassino Lines two members of the battalion, Cpl Jamansing Thakali and Rfn Tulbahadur Tamang, were presented with commendations from the Commander British Forces Hong Kong for their action earlier this year when, unarmed, they arrested a man with a pistol on the border.

The pistol turned out to be a makeshift affair which failed to go off, although it was loaded.

The citation said they displayed outstanding courage and bravery.



Men of 6 GR march along the border to mark the end of their deployment



GTR squadron commander Maj Mark Underhill (right) and two officers of the squadron – Capt (QGO) Mandahadur Limbu (middle) and Capt Raymond Wu (left) wearing the United Nations' blue beret

# Blue berets for GTR

A COMPOSITE squadron of 130 men of the Gurkha Transport Regiment based at Gun Club Hill Barracks, Kowloon, has been deployed from Hong Kong to Cyprus for a six-month tour with the United Nations Forces.

The squadron, which comprises 82 Gurkhas, 41 Hong Kong Chinese and seven British of different ranks, had earlier been nominated by the Ministry of Defence to take over from 15 Squadron RCT which has returned to its base in Catterick, England.

This is the first time the Gurkha Transport Regiment has served with the United Nations, although the 10th Gurkha Rifles did assist the UN Forces in Cyprus during the 1974 emergency.

The squadron will be based at Headquarters United Nations Forces Cyprus in Nicosia and will provide first-line transport support to HQ UNFICYP. During the tour in Cyprus its members will wear the blue beret of the UN.

# His name's in print

BRITAIN's young printer of the year is LCpl James Renshaw, a trainee in the Lithographic Department of the School of Military Survey, Hermitage, Newbury, who will finish his Survey Print Technician Class 2 Course in September.

This is the first time the school had entered the national

competition, and LCpl Renshaw won his printing "Oscar" for a 12-coloured layered map of Seville.

LCpl Renshaw will return to his unit, 14 Independent Topographical Squadron, RE at Rattingen, Düsseldorf, for two years before possibly returning as a full corporal to do his class 1 course.

# Rheindahlen on the road

MORE than 1,500 people took part in the annual Rheindahlen Allied Marches organised by the HQ and garrison staff. The Pipes and Drums and Band of the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Irish Rangers provided a musical accompaniment.



# Battalions to stay in Berlin until 1994

A BRITISH ARMY presence is to remain in Berlin until at least 1994 when the Soviet withdrawal is expected to be complete.

The White Paper, *Britain's Defence for the 90s*, reveals that part of the existing infantry brigade in Berlin will be retained until the Soviets have pulled out.

Early in 1992 one of the three British infantry battalions based in the city (currently 1 LI, 1 IG and 1RWF, with the Gordons due to replace 1 LI shortly) will be withdrawn, along with the 14th/20th King's Hussars, the brigade's distinctively camouflaged armoured squadron.

The Hussars have 18 Chieftain tanks painted in a unique black and white urban livery.

Following Nato's decision to set up a British-led Rapid Reaction Corps, the strength of the British Army of the Rhine - held at 55,000 for more than 30 years - is to reduce to about 23,000.

While British soldiers will continue to deploy with the ACE (Allied Command Europe) Mobile Force and its successor formation, the

brigade-sized United Kingdom Mobile Force is to be scrapped.

UKMF's role of providing early reinforcement of the Baltic approaches may be taken over by the Rapid Reaction Corps.

The "peace dividend" which is leading to rapid and dramatic troop and weapon reductions in Europe could be paralleled in the South Atlantic.

The White Paper says that welcome progress in confidence-building measures agreed with Argentina could lead to a number of changes. At present the Army maintains a garrison which includes a resident infantry company and Royal Engineers support.

A second infantry battalion joined the garrison in Cyprus earlier this year, replacing troops deployed on temporary postings from Germany. The Army's contribution of 700 soldiers to the United Nations in Cyprus is Britain's largest to UN peacekeeping forces.

The island-based garrison also provides logistic support for local UN forces in addition to those in Lebanon and on the Golan Heights.

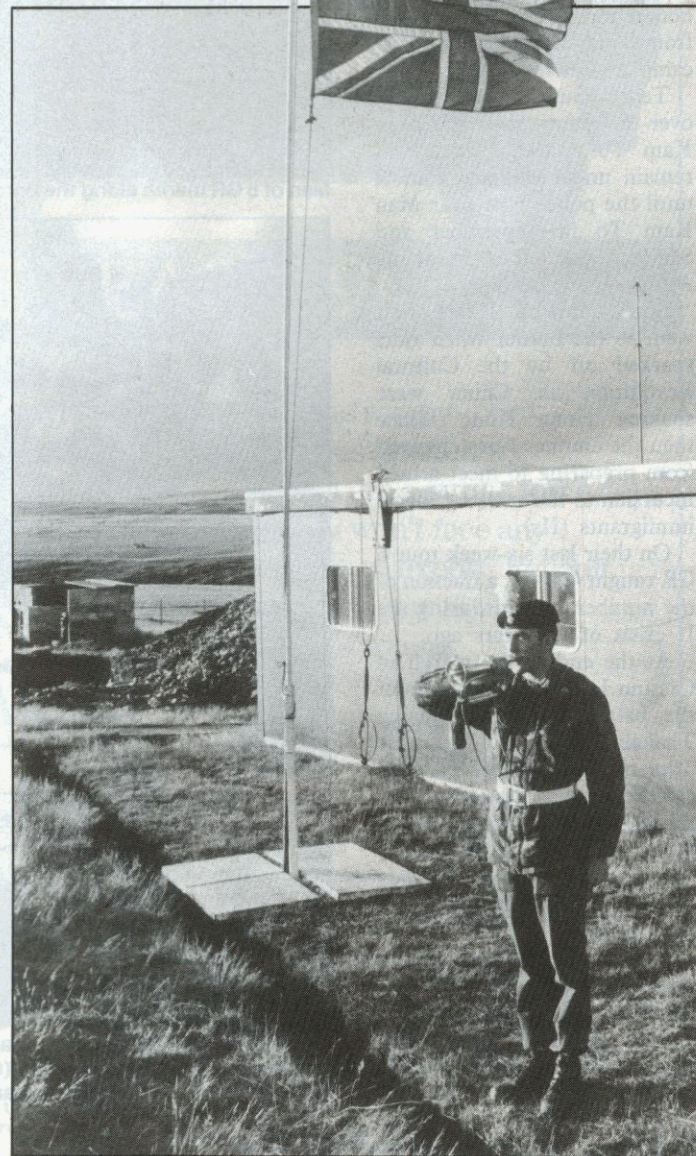
## NUMBERS

The White Paper confirms that Army numbers will reduce from 156,000 to 116,000 by the mid-1990s. Total trained strength will fall from 144,000 to 104,000.

Reductions will be achieved through natural wastage and a phased redundancy programme spread over several years.

## NORTHERN IRELAND

Last year members of the Armed Forces serving in Northern Ireland received 241 awards for gallantry and meri-



Bugle call at a Falkland islands outpost. The White Paper says confidence-building moves could lead to changes in the region

tious service, including the first George Cross in 11 years.

Bomb disposal teams neutralised nine tonnes of explosives and 120 bombs, and in the whole of the United Kingdom answered 5,141 calls for help, most of them to defuse Second World War ordnance.

Force levels in the Province returned late last year to six battalions on long tours and four on short tours of up to six months. They support 3,000 Regulars and the same number of part-time soldiers in the nine battalions of The Ulster Defence Regiment.

Eleven soldiers were mur-



A Chieftain in urban camouflage pictured in the Berlin "fighting city"

## HQs in UK to be cut

RADICAL changes will introduce substantial savings in the support areas of the British Army within the UK, says the White Paper.

Facilities at Colerne, Shorncliffe, Dover and Scarborough are to close and the volume of training at Bovington, Arborfield and Aldershot is to be reduced.

A number of logistic establishments on the Continent are to be closed, and the Army's command structure in the UK is to be reorganised with fewer district headquarters.

dered in Northern Ireland during 1990 and 213 injured.

## EQUIPMENT

Delivery of the Army's 179 new 155mm self-propelled howitzers, the AS 90, is expected early in 1992, while the new 4-tonne truck and Demountable Rack Off-load-

ing and Pick-up System (DROPS) are entering service.

Orders for the Challenger 2 main battle tank to replace the Royal Armoured Corps' remaining Chieftains have been placed, and the Infantry's Warrior fighting vehicle has been delivered to a fifth battalion. Of the initial order of 1,048 Warriors, nearly half are now in service.

The Multiple-Launch Rocket System (MLRS) - described in the White Paper as a "battle-winner" - was delivered in time to be fired during the Gulf War. The Army now has 26 launchers, with 37 to come.

The White Paper says that work on the next generation of Rapier is progressing well, as is development of Starstreak, the low-level air defence system.

## ETHNIC ORIGINS

Provisional figures for the ethnic origins of applicants to join the Army in 1989-90 show that 96.5 per cent (38,722) were white, 1.1 per cent (443) were black, and 0.4 per cent (163) were Asian.

Of those, 43 per cent of the white applicants actually enlisted, as did 32.3 per cent of the black applicants and 34.4 of the Asians.

## Why Nato needs to be alert

THE West is confident that, following CFE (the Conventional Forces in Europe agreement) and the dismantling of the Warsaw Pact, the Soviet Union no longer has the ability to mount a full-scale strategic offensive against Nato, and would need some years to recover that capability.

But, warns the White Paper, The Soviet Union still retains substantial and sophisticated military capabilities that could pose a formidable challenge against more limited objectives at short notice.

Recent events in the Soviet republics, Romania, Albania and, more recently, Yugoslavia, have emphasised that while the European security situation is being transformed, other dangers persist.

In formulating Options for Change, says the Paper, the Government had regard to the United Kingdom's position as a leading European member of the North Atlantic Alliance.

## Granby story - by numbers

A MASS of statistics on the Gulf War are contained in the White Paper, which details the course of Operations Granby and Desert Storm.

So much depended on the quality of logistic support, and it was not found wanting.

● An estimated 400,000 tonnes of freight were transported to the Gulf from the UK and Europe, including 15,000 vehicles and 80,000 tonnes of ammunition.

● At no stage during the land campaign were fewer than 95 per cent of the 1st (British) Armoured Division's main fighting vehicles serviceable.

● Each day in the desert 1 Armoured Division required 500,000 litres of fuel, 50 tonnes of rations and 400,000 litres of water.

● To supply troops in the forward areas, vehicles equivalent to a convoy 68km long travelled every day from Al Jubail to the front.

● At the suspension of fighting, 1 Armoured Division was at the end of a logistic chain stretching more than 300km across the desert. The chain remained intact and fully effective.

● Before hostilities began, 1,688 personnel were admitted to field hospitals in the Gulf, and 682 were evacuated to the UK. During the fighting, the Medical Services treated most of the 43 British wounded in action as well as 69 Iraqi prisoners of war.

● At the end of the ground war, 1 Armoured Division (consisting of 180 Challengers, 260 Warriors, 90 artillery pieces and 18 Lynx anti-tank helicopters) had advanced 290km and captured or destroyed 200 tanks, 100 APCs and 100 artillery pieces, and taken 7,000 prisoners.

● Total estimate for the additional defence costs of Op Granby is about £2,500m. About £2,028m of this is expected to be recovered in contributions from other countries.

## Civilian savings

MINISTRY of Defence civilian posts at home and abroad are to fall by about 20 per cent, according to the White Paper. About 20,000 posts will be cut in the United Kingdom and 15,000 abroad. The 14,500 London HQ staff are expected to be reduced by about 7,000, a substantial proportion of whom will be re-located.



# They can have their cake . . . but not eat it

This superb cake, made by (left to right) SSgt Gary Young, Mr Brian Payne and Mr Peter Dau of the Army School of Catering at Aldershot to celebrate the Army Catering Corps' golden jubilee, is for display purposes only. Hopefully it will still be around when the ACC celebrates its 100th anniversary.

Enough of the 480lb of cake mix, much of it donated by Silver Spoon, was left over to make 3,500 individual portions which will be sold to the public, the proceeds going to the ACC Benevolent Fund.

Panels on the side of the cake depict the doors of the old ACC school, the modern tower block and soldiers cooking in the field.



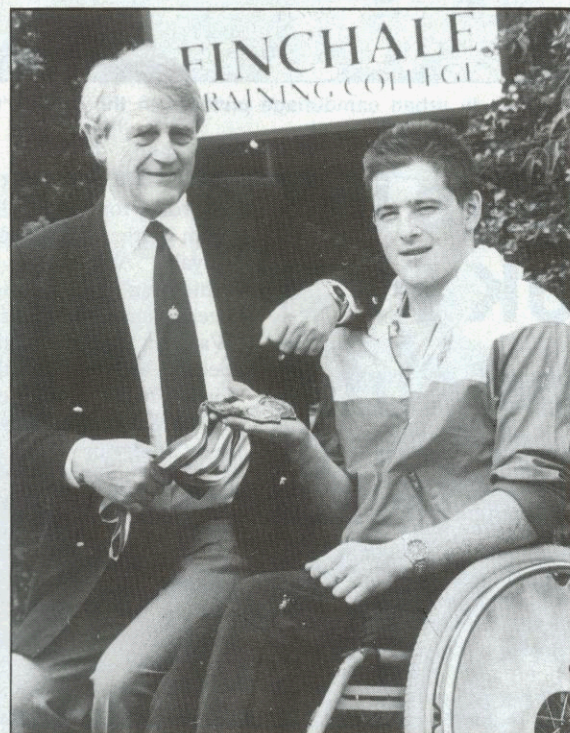
Cpl Paul Courtenay (right) has achieved something most of the rest of the world failed to do – beat Sebastian Coe on a running track.

Paul, serving with the Glosters Youth Team in Gloucester, challenged Seb's time of 1min 6.43sec after the former Olympic

champion and world record-holder had opened a twisty 400m woodland running track at a city hotel and country club.

Paul, who has represented the Infantry at squash and his battalion at athletics, cross country and skiing, zipped round the new track in 1min 5.46sec.

# David's in the medals



Former Light Infantryman David Heatherington shows the gold and silver medals he won at the 11th National Veterans Games in Miami to Mr Geoff Goodman, principal of Finchale Training College near Durham, where David is taking a course in domestic service engineering.

David was in training at the Light Infantry Depot, Winchester before joining 2 LI when he sustained a serious knee injury in a car accident in 1989.

In Miami he won the swimming 100m freestyle and slalom – in both events beating the world records he set last year – and was second in the 100m track event.

He was competing in America as a member of the British Ex-Servicemen's Wheelchair Sports Association team. He is also in contention to represent Britain in the Disabled Olympics in Barcelona next year.

# Doug sets a high standard



RIGHT DRILL: WO2 Denis Watson and Mr Doug Alder

Second World War Royal Signals parachutist Doug Alder has been brushing up his drill with the help of WO2 Denis Watson, Senior Permanent Staff Instructor with No 2 Company, 5th (Volunteer) Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment in Wellingborough.

Doug was preparing to take part in a Standard Bearer competition for the Hertford Parachute Regiment Association, of which he is vice-chairman.

Having joined the 70th Middlesex Regiment in 1941, Doug transferred to the Royal Signals and then volunteered for Airborne Forces. He saw action in North Africa, Italy, Denmark, Holland, Palestine, India, Singapore, Malaya and Java, and took part in Operation Market-Garden in 1944.



Didn't we do well?  
Celebrating the end of a rugged 24-hour exercise are some of the 38 wives of the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Irish Rangers based at Lemgo, Germany who took part. They completed a number of command tasks.

# PEOPLE

## There's no stopping Stephen!

An Iraqi anti-personnel mine exploded just a few feet away from 19-year-old Gnr Stephen Austin soon after the ground war began in the Gulf. Stephen, who was serving with Hohne-based 40 Field Regiment RA, was badly injured in the face, chest and legs.

Treated first in a field hospital, he was later flown back to Queen Elizabeth Military Hospital, Woolwich for special care.

Although his vision is still blurred and his face bears the scars of war, Stephen made such a good recovery that he was allowed to take part in the City of London "welcome home" parade in June. Now he is back at work, in the tank park at Hohne.



## We will meet again

Last time CSgt Ali Bem (right) bumped into SSgt Lewis St Clair, US Army, was 27 years ago in their home town of Diego Martin in Trinidad.

Quarter of a century later they met again in Kuwait, where Ali was serving with HQ Company of

the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment.

To their great surprise they discovered that both are usually based in Germany, Ali at Celle, Lewis at Friedburg – five miles from each other! Now they intend to keep in touch.



Zoe Redding (18) from Lee-on-Solent, the first woman to be offered a vacancy as an aircraft technician with the REME, tries on a Corps cap – with a little help from Portsmouth Army Careers Information Office manager WO2 Rod Young (centre) and Sgt

Gail Russell. On the left is Area personnel selection officer Capt Harry Robertson. Zoe joined the WRAC Centre at Guildford last month for basic training before going on to the Army Air Corps at Middle Wallop to learn her trade.





Army archers at St Dunstan's. From left are: Maj Mike Fisher, coach Ted Bradford, Capt Chris Robinson, Sig Leon Masterman, Pte Vicky Haley, Maj Chris Vitale, Lt Rob Patterson, JPtes Mark Cassidy, Tyrone May and Chris Butler, and JDvr Danny Locking

# A shot in the dark

## St Dunstan archers on target against the Army

HOW does a blind person shoot a bow and arrow? That was the first question which ran through their minds when the South West District members of the Army Archery Association were challenged to a tournament by the blind archers of St Dunstan's Centre at Ovingdean, near Brighton, writes Capt Chris Robinson.

That question, and some other strange notions about St Dunstan's, were about to be answered as a dozen Army archers – including four Junior Leaders from Colerne – met in Brighton on a wet and windy morning to compete in the annual championships held at this unique centre for war blinded ex-Servicemen and women.

Archery in the Army is a fast growing sport – especially among juniors. Harrogate, Bovington and Colerne are among other training units which encourage archery as a sport/hobby. Under the guidance and organisation of Maj Mike Fisher, the secretary of the Association, it promises to grow in popularity as these juniors spread out to their regiments and corps.

There are currently about 80 Army archers registered in the UK, and a similar number in BAOR – either serving or



Above: Jerry Lynch, an old Cameronian, demonstrates his skill

Left: Former gunner Norman Perry is now totally blind

Below: Pte Vicky Haley, the Army's only woman archer



Pictures: WO2 Arthur Thomson



retired – with more novices, and some experienced archers joining the ranks regularly.

Blind archery is not new. St Dunstan's Archers have been formed about 16 years and held their first annual championship in 1977.

The idea was first thought of 50 years ago by Mr Alf Webb, a keen archer before he was blinded in the Second World War, and has been developed and perfected by the present chief coach at St Dunstan's, Mr Ted Bradford.

Ted, an international coach, is also the Army coach.

The method used by blind archers involves the use of a "tactile" sight, or pointer

which is mounted on an anchored tripod and positioned to touch the back of the archer's bow hand at full draw.

A helper – called a "sighter" – adjusts the sight tripod until the stance and aiming line is established.

On the shooting line in Brighton were a number of ex-Servicemen. Norman Perry, chairman of the home team, is an ex-gunner of 60 Field Regiment. He was wounded on active service in the Middle East.

Norman, now totally blind, showed excellent form in the windy conditions.

Other members of St

Dunstan's included Jerry Lynch, an ex-9th Cameronian; and Eric Bradshaw and Tom Hart, both of the King's Royal Rifle Corps.

"It's good for our boys to see what patience and experience can achieve," said Lt Rob Patterson, Colerne's archery officer. "Their blindness just doesn't seem to alter their attitude – they're so calm and steady about it all."

In the Army team was Pte Vicky Haley (19), an ACC chef from the Harrogate Apprentice College. Not only is she one of the youngest active Army archers but is also the only serving woman in the association.



## President honours Sir Peter

Just a few weeks after the Queen bestowed an honorary knighthood on Gen Norman Schwarzkopf, the United States has conferred one of its highest honours on Britain's commander in the Gulf War.

Gen Sir Peter de la Billière has received the Legion of Merit from President George Bush.

A citation said the honour was for "exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding service".

Gen de la Billière was presented with the Legion of Merit at a ceremony in 10 Downing Street before the G7 industrial nations' conference in London.

The honour is the highest the president may award to a soldier who is not a US Serviceman.

## Gulf War poetry aids Trust

One remarkable by-product of the Gulf War was the abundance of poetry written about it, by young and old, uniformed and civilian, and much of which found its way into the SOLDIER mailbag.

Perhaps the most publicised of the Gulf poets is the London-based Tamar Segal, who has now produced a 27-poem "diary" of the war, written as the events unfolded.

*The War in the Gulf: A Diary in Poetry* is the author's personal message to the world of the need to fight tyranny and

## Chance of a lifetime

Music in the USA, Marine and Coastal Conservation, Sport in Schools, Canoeing and the History of Aviation are some of the categories in next year's Churchill Traveling Fellowships scheme.

Applicants propose a study project related to their trade, profession or interests and if successful will receive a grant which usually covers an

Gen Sir Peter de la Billière receives his Legion of Merit from President Bush at a ceremony in 10 Downing Street

aggression and to foster racial and religious harmony and reconciliation.

She has also produced it as a fund-raiser - all her royalties will go to the Gulf Trust.

It is published under the Woodfield imprint, price £3.50.

## Somme cover

A commemorative cover is being produced to raise funds to restore and conserve the Colours of the four battalions of the Liverpool Pals.

The Pals were raised in the city by Lord Derby and wore his crest as their cap badge. Their actions in capturing German trenches and strongholds south of Montauban on

overseas stay of about eight weeks. It includes air fares, living expenses and essential equipment.

Application forms, which must be submitted by October 28, can be obtained by sending a large self-addressed, stamped envelope to the Winston Churchill Memorial Trust, 15 Queen's Gate Terrace, London SW7 5PR.

# SOLDIER to Soldier



signed by the Lieutenant Governor of the Isle of Man.

Cheques should be made out to 440 Squadron CDC A/C and send to D Land, Treasurer, 440 Squadron, 107 Wybourn View, Onchan, Isle of Man.

## Legion marks 70 years

A service of thanksgiving has been held in Westminster Abbey to mark the 70th anniversary of the Royal British Legion.

Formed in May 1921 from four ex-Service charities, it sought to change the way Britain remembered and cared for those who had suffered in war.

As well as trying to raise funds for needy ex-Service personnel, the Legion's first president, Fd Marshal Earl Haig, was keen to use it to provide employment.

Today the Legion and its associated companies is a source of jobs for 1,720 mainly ex-Service people, a third of whom are registered disabled.

Broughton House, the home for ex-Servicemen at Salford, is even older. This year it celebrates its 75th anniversary.

To mark the occasion 200 signed, unframed prints of Christopher Beard's oil painting of the home are available at £15 each. The Broughton House Appeals Office, Park Lane, Kersal, Salford M7 0JD (061-740 2737) can give more details.



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Escorted by Col Ian Clarke, the Queen inspects soldiers from the battalions of The Ulster Defence Regiment

# Monarch salutes courage of UDR

THE COURAGE of The Ulster Defence Regiment was saluted by the Queen when she presented Colours to four of the regiment's nine battalions at Army Headquarters, Lisburn.

She also paid tribute to the families of the soldiers.

It was her first visit to Northern Ireland since 1977 when, as part of her Silver Jubilee celebrations, UDR soldiers formed a guard of honour at an investiture at Hillsborough Castle.

During the Colours ceremony the Queen told the men on parade: "I salute your courage, your sense of duty and your resolve. And I would like to say that I know how much you rely on the devoted loyalty of your wives, husbands and families in helping you in this task.

"Without them, you would find the challenge you face that much harder; with them you can meet it with confidence.

"They are right to be proud of you."

On parade at Lisburn's Thiepval Barracks were 322 officers, soldiers and Greenfinches from the four battalions to be honoured - The 1st/9th (County Antrim), 3rd (County Down), 4th (County Fermanagh) and 5th (County Londonderry).

The Queen arrived by helicopter and was greeted by the GOC, Lt Gen Sir John Wilsey, and the Lord Lieutenant of Antrim, Sir Richard Dobbs.

At the parade ground, where a guard from each of the Colours battalions and a composite guard of Greenfinches had already assembled, watched by 1,500 guests, the Queen was met by the Colonels Commandant of the regiment, Lt Gen Sir David Young and Col Sir Dennis Faulkner, and Commander UDR, Brig Angus Ramsay.



A Colour is presented by the Queen at Thiepval Barracks, Lisburn

She walked down a path flanked by standard-bearers from the Regimental Association to a dais while the Band of the 1st Battalion, The King's Regiment played the Royal

Salute. The Pipes and Drums of The Ulster Defence Regiment were also on parade.

Parade Commander Col Ian Clarke accompanied the Queen when she inspected all ranks



The Rev James Harkness, Chaplain General to the Forces, dedicates the Colours



Spectators get a good view of their monarch as she walks past, accompanied by (from left) Colonels Commandant Col Sir Dennis Faulkner and Lt Gen Sir David Young and the Lord Lieutenant of County Antrim, Sir Richard Dobbs, and (rear) Commander UDR, Brig Angus Ramsay



The Queen inspects a composite guard of Greenfinches from the four UDR battalions on parade at Thiepval Barracks

while the bands played such traditional airs as *The Green Glens of Antrim*, *Rathlin Island*, *The Spinning Wheel* and *The Saffron Kilt*.

As this was happening, two officers and two NCOs from each of the four battalions marched on to the square with Colours cased. The Colours were uncased and placed on four piles of drums in front of the five Guards.

Then the Queen took up a position in front of the drums and the Rev James Harkness, Chaplain General to the Forces, blessed and dedicated the Colours. The Chaplain General was attended by the Rt Rev Michael Crosbie, a senior

Roman Catholic Chaplain (Army), and other clergy.

Eight ensigns, each of them a lieutenant in his battalion, marched forward and knelt as a senior and junior major took the Colours from the drums and placed them into the belts. The Queen moved along the line, laid a hand on each Colour and bowed her head in salute.

The Colours were received into their guards, and the parade marched past and off, Colours flying, as the Pipes and Drums and Band played the regimental marches *Sprig of Shillelagh*, *Garryowen* and *The Kingsman*.

After the parade the Queen met principal clergy and guests

before being presented with a bouquet by a Greenfinch.

Later 64 serving and former members of the regiment, some of whom had been wounded by terrorist action, and their families, were presented to the Queen who was given luncheon before flying to her next engagement.

After the ceremony Brig Ramsay said: "It is a wonderful accolade which clearly recognises 21 years of hard work, and much sacrifice, in the service of peace in Northern Ireland.

"I think that this is the first occasion in recent years that Colours have been awarded to a regiment in Northern Ireland

and it is most unusual for four stands of Colours to be presented on the same day.

"It has been a splendid occasion not just for the four battalions on parade, but for the entire regiment."

Gen Young described it as an historic day for the UDR. The Queen had bestowed a signal honour on the regiment, one in which it took immense pride.

"The regiment has every reason to be proud of its achievements in the face of constant danger and in spite of tragic losses. I have complete confidence that the regiment will remain always worthy of the great honour which has been bestowed today."



RRW discovers that it's hot and thirsty for the . . .

# Jungle foot-sloggers



Above: Wet work in the jungle. Soldiers cross a river with a raft made from bergens lashed together  
Right: LCpl Wilson can relax on an improvised stretcher as Pte Jason Rowlands (front) and Pte Robert Poole do all the hard work during a casevac exercise



NO BEER, no women, just lots and lots of trees. That was Brunei for men of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Wales (24th/41st Foot) who visited the Sultanate for a first taste of jungle training, writes **Bob Higson**.

Islamic Brunei's stern views on drinking and the consorting of non-Moslems with Moslem women may not have been everyone's idea of a good time, but they helped concentrate minds on what was, for most, a new and demanding experience.

Only a year ago, before posting to Hong Kong, the battalion was demonstrating the arts of mechanised warfare at the School of Infantry in Warminster.

This summer 145 men, mainly from A Company, have been learning more about the basic business of foot-slogging soldiering in the jungles of Borneo.

Dense forests cover all but a fraction of Brunei. This hot,

stifling environment demands slow and painful movement by foot and a degree of self-sufficiency that is unusual anywhere these days.

Coping with intense heat and thirst and problems of orientation in areas where the wood cannot be seen, quite literally, for the trees, were new challenges for most of A Company. Only a handful, including the OC, Maj Patrick Norrington-Davies, and the CSM, WO2 David Sibbons, had been with the battalion for its last encounter with the jungle - in Belize in the late 1970s.

A generation or two ago, Welsh soldiers were among those who had to learn about jungle warfare the hard way, in action against the Japanese. A specially formed battalion of the South Wales Borderers (24th Foot), the 6th, and the 2nd of the Welch Regiment (41st Foot) took part in the Burmese campaign of 1944-45. After the war the Borderers'

1st Battalion fought in Malaya, and later elements of the same unit were involved in Borneo during the Indonesian threat to Sarawak, Sabah and Brunei in the 1960s.

The lessons, painfully learnt from these campaigns and refined over the years, reached the present generation of soldiers from South Wales when Exercise Hutan Labi got under way in Brunei.

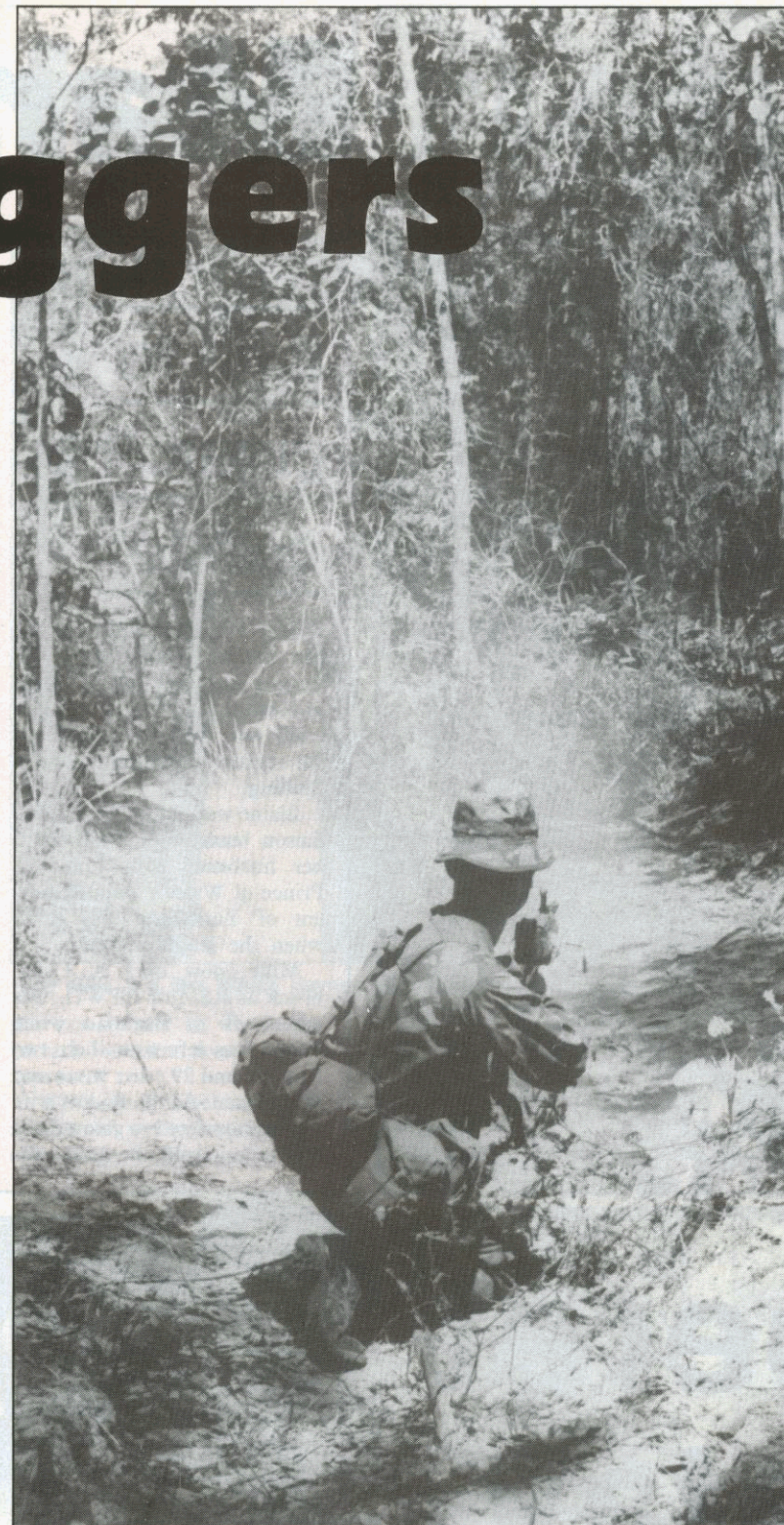
Hutan Labi is a large tract of featureless forest where the final phase of the exercise, involving an extended company trek through the jungle on compass bearings, was due to take place.

Before that, individual pla-

toons got down to basic education in jungle survival in training areas nearer the coast where their base, Sittang Camp, was situated. The programme included such military skills as preparing ambushes and live firing at targets which popped up among the trees.

They practised the all-important art of navigation by dead reckoning through the claustrophobic environment of dense forest, where progress is considered good if you can make 500 metres an hour.

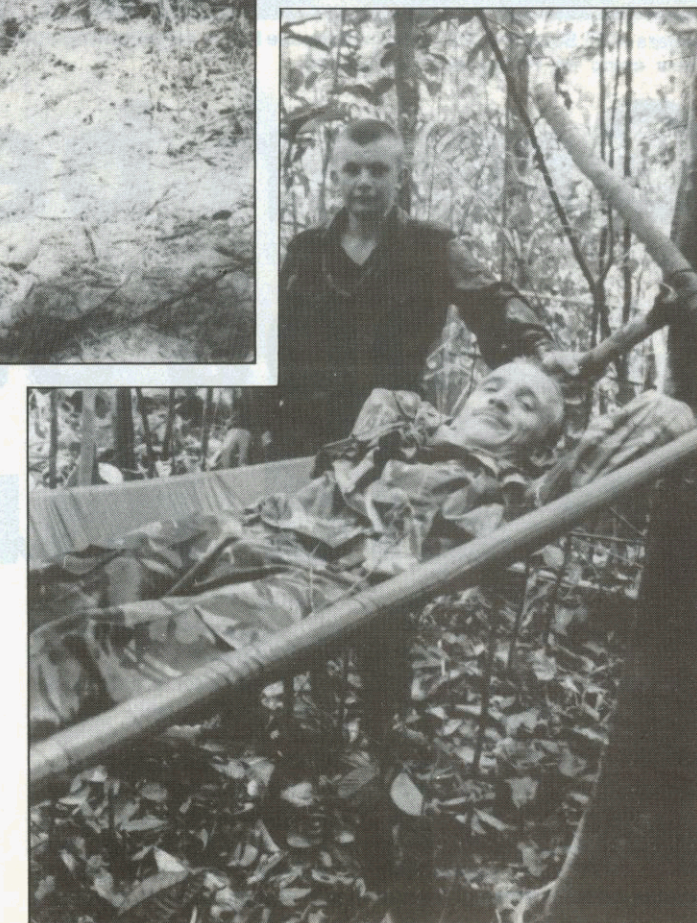
They rehearsed procedures for crossing rivers (with a careful lookout for crocodiles) and for building jungle shelters



Above: Who has been sleeping in my bed? Driver Pte Robert Bailey skewers a scorpion that wanted to share his quarters at Sittang Camp

Left: In action on a close quarter battle range in the forest

Below: Sgt Charles Lawrence surveys his jungle domain from the relative luxury of his A frame bed



- improvised stretchers for a more comfortable night, and a bed on the forest floor with adjacent shallow trench for protection when things got more warlike.

They also learnt to live with the local wildlife - ants, leeches, scorpions and the inevitable mosquitoes.

One man awoke at night to find a column of soldier ants either using him as a by-pass or investigating him as a food source; another in the midst of a nocturnal brew-up was assaulted by a large forest rodent.

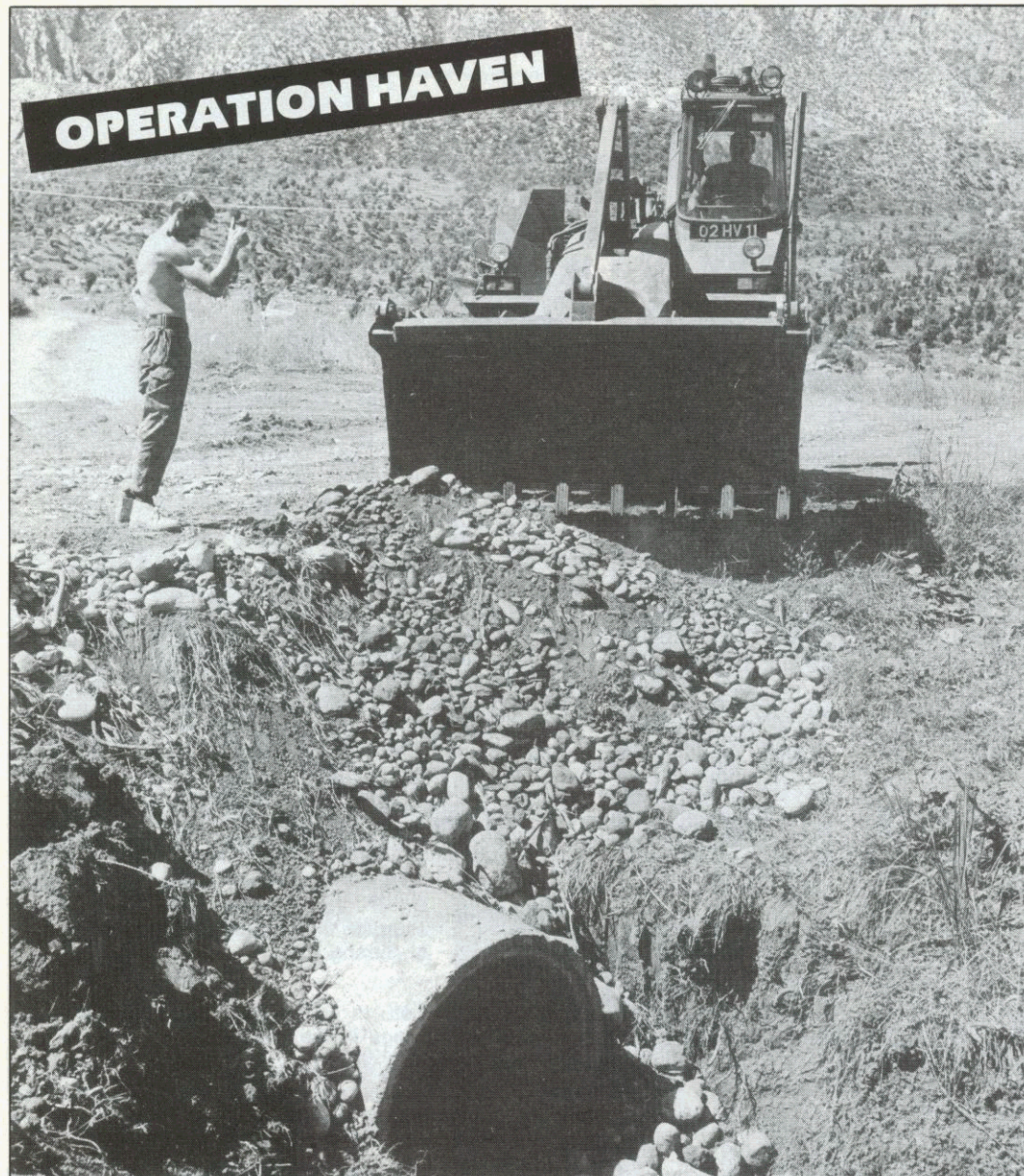
The build-up was towards a move across miles of dense forest by the whole company

under tactical conditions. They would be taking two mortars with them, adding a couple of shells to every man's already considerable load of personal weapon, ammunition, rations and the rest.

And they would have to rely on natural sources, plus their own purifying tablets, for the most precious commodity in the heat of the jungle - water. A pint an hour is a basic requirement in these conditions.

Despite the undoubted demands of such an exercise, most of A Company seemed to be relishing the experience. As one of them put it: "This is real soldiering for a change."





Sappers of 51 Squadron Royal Engineers use heavy earth-moving equipment in the construction of a new camp for refugees at Shiladeeza

# Green beret troops stay to aid Kurds

BRITISH Forces deployed on Operation Haven have withdrawn from northern Iraq following the conclusion of the international mission to save the Kurds, but a small number of troops are attached to a new rapid reaction force to be based in southern Turkey, writes Laurie Manton.

RCT and RAOC personnel serving with the transport and ordnance squadrons of the

Commando Logistic Regiment will support a company of Royal Marines. The force is intended to act as a deterrent against Iraqi attacks on the Kurds.

Other soldiers will be serving in the headquarters to be based in open countryside near Silopi, close to the border with northern Iraq. The force is expected to remain in theatre for some months.

Transport squadron drivers took their trucks up dangerous tracks high into the mountains to ferry Kurdish refugees down to the waiting camps.

Sappers of 59 (Independent) Commando Squadron RE from 3 Commando Brigade were sent to the area to provide sanitation and ablution facilities at the Base Maintenance Area in Silopi, Turkey, and when the brigade pushed into Iraq to

establish havens for the Kurds, the squadron provided recce teams for the companies as they moved forward.

One was detailed to look for water while another solved route maintenance problems along MSR Warrior – the main route from Zakho to Al Amadiya.

With attached personnel from 49 EOD Squadron RE, another team dealt with



Maj Nick Bodian was attached to the Chinook helicopter detachment at Diyarbakir as liaison officer and co-ordinated some of the movements of international relief organisations



Lt Lisa Thomlinson, 29 Commando Regiment RA, applies a plaster to the arm of a Kurdish child at Mangesh, northern Iraq

unexploded ordnance at Sarsenk airfield, used as a dumping ground for Allied aircraft returning to their bases in Turkey during the Gulf War.

REME personnel were attached to 3 Commando Brigade air squadron.

Other Army units involved in the operation included 29 Commando Regiment RA, 47 Air Despatch Regiment RCT, 70 (Aircraft) Workshop

REME, 51 Field Squadron RE, 38 Engineer Regiment, 30 Signal Regiment and 244 (Air Support) Signal Squadron.

Troops from South Cerney-based units – 2 Postal and Courier Regiment RE and 29 Transport and Movement Regiment RCT – provided postal and movement transport support. A composite RAMC field hygiene team organised camp sanitation and water supplies.



Not the nicest of jobs, but it has to be done. Men of 59 (Independent) Commando Squadron RE construct deep latrine ditches in Iraq

# Marched right out!

... and no time to clean the cooker

THE ONE satisfying thing for Mrs Elaine Haynes, one of the unsung heroines held hostage in Kuwait City during the Gulf crisis, was the march-out from her quarter, writes Gordon Skilling.

Elaine was part of the British liaison team to Kuwait where her husband, Mike, of The Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire, was RSM when the Iraqis invaded.

Mike, now back at Osnabrück as RSM of 1 PWO, was taken off to Baghdad while Elaine was left with their two children and 29 other wives and 47 children. As the RSM's wife she was expected to give a lead.

The example she gave was



RSM Mike and Mrs Elaine Haynes, safely back in Osnabrück

not exactly one of which the barrack warden would have approved.

"To keep in touch with our neighbours we broke down the connecting walls so that we

wouldn't have to go outside," she explained, "and to make more room we flung out the beds and just kept the mattresses.

"We also thought it would be

safer to get rid of the alcohol in the houses, because it would be better to be faced by sober Iraqis rather than drunk soldiers, so gallons of drink went down the drain. The

cockroaches must have been drunk on it for a month."

One of the strongest feelings was being held at knife-point by a soldier, then seeing a toddler wave "bye bye" to him when he left.

When the families were finally moved, they were given half an hour to get ready and everything had to be left as it was, with only room for a change of clothes and a few treasures.

Everything else was lost, though Elaine likes to think that the looted television set shown in pictures of the convoy destroyed on the Basra Road was, in fact, her television.

For once she "marched out" without doing any cleaning up and hadn't had to spend hours scouring the oven!

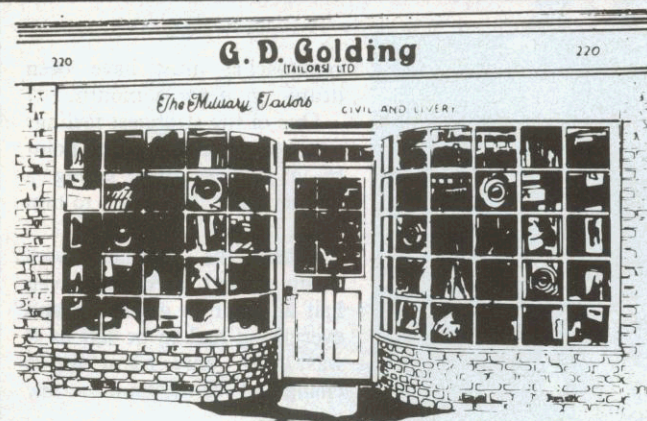
Although scathing about how the families were treated during the crisis, she nevertheless kept her sense of humour.

Which is just as well, because the system finally caught up with her when she got back to the United Kingdom, having lost almost everything.

She was presented with her disturbance allowance.



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Nearly there. Paras have the energy to smile at the end of the speedmarch

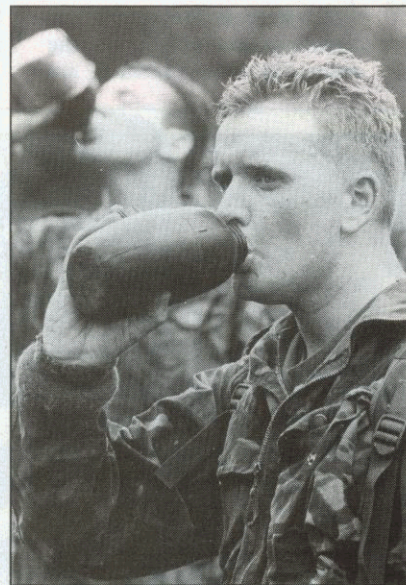
Pictures: Mike Perring



Right: Rope trick on the obstacle course for Sgt Clive Muspratt of Support Coy  
Below: Maj Gen John Frost with members of 10 Platoon after presenting the huge trophy to Lt Andy Wright

# The Bruneval Spirit

## D Coy wins 2 Para test



Thirsty work for Pte Steve Bell of HQ Coy

A DARING Second World War airborne raid into occupied France was commemorated during a three-day platoon competition staged by the Aldershot-based 2nd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment.

The man who presented the prizes at the end of it was the officer who led C Company of 2 Para to capture vital secrets at a German radar station near the village of Bruneval on February 27, 1942.

Bruneval became the first of ten battle honours for The Parachute Regiment and Maj Gen John Frost (he was a major in 1942) was at Pirbright to hand over the 2 Para Bruneval

Cup to Lt Andy Wright, commander of the winning 10 Platoon of D Company.

D Company did rather well. Its 12 Platoon, commanded by Lt Rob Barker, was second.

The competition included shooting, military skill tests and a night shoot, a 17-mile march and river crossing on the second day, and ended with a speed march, assault course and more shooting.





As the British Army's new 4-tonne general purpose truck enters service, **Laurie Manton** has visited Leyland to watch them coming off the assembly line. Photographs by **Terry Champion**.

# Army's new truck is Jack of all trades

LEYLAND DAF's new 4-tonne truck has now entered service with the British Army. The £155m contract was awarded by the Ministry of Defence as part of its vehicle replacement programme and more than 5,000 have been ordered.

This specially-designed vehicle forms the backbone of military support operations, whether carrying personnel, equipment, stores or weaponry. It sets new standards of versatility in the worst conditions, and is fully air portable.

The cab has exceptional internal stowage space, with highly adaptable seating positions – it can accommodate seating for three plus standard kit, or a driver and four other personnel.

The vehicle's permanently engaged four-wheel drive, with inter-axle differential, allows transition from highway to off-road operations without the need to stop and engage 4WD or differential lock.

The makers of the British Army's new 4-tonne truck have a long history as military vehicle manufacturers.

During the First World War, Leyland's Lancashire factory produced the famous RAF-type lorry in great numbers as well as a fleet of special heavy armoured cars fitted with quick-firing guns and searchlights.

In the Second World War, the company produced cruiser and infantry tanks. Later in the war, it made heavy cruiser tanks such as the Centaur, Cromwell and the Comet.

Between 1953 and 1956, hundreds of Centurion tanks rolled off the production line at the Spurrier Works before the expanding bus and truck market took over much of the factory's capacity.

By the late 1960s, British Leyland, as it was now known,



With DROPS, unloading ammunition is an easy operation

## DROPS proved in war

ONE OF the success stories of the Gulf War was that of the Army's new DROPS vehicle. The versatility of DROPS – Demountable Rack Off-Loading and Pick-Up System – was of paramount importance to the logistic operation.

One unit – 12 Squadron RCT – had 60 Leyland DAF vehicles tasked to move ammunition, fuel and water.

The in-service date of the trucks was advanced when the Gulf crisis blew up, and the squadron had not only to adapt to desert conditions, but also trial and develop a

new concept of logistic operations.

In one month, the squadron moved two million litres of water, 100 ISO containers and more than 7,000 tons of ammunition.

The beauty of DROPS is that the whole load-bed or flat-rack can be placed on the ground and left there by a hydraulic system which is an integral part of the vehicle.

Ground loading is much faster and the detachable flat-rack means the vehicle does not have to stand idle for hours while it is loaded. The truck then hauls its own load

aboard and can leave it at its destination without waiting for it to be extracted manually or by fork-lift.

DROPS was originally intended to move artillery shells from third-line units to corps and divisional areas, and on to the gunners, cutting out the time consuming and labour-intensive fork-lift operation.

Experience has shown that DROPS can be adapted for a variety of tasks. Flat-racks were fitted out as tyre-changing units in the Gulf, complete with generators and compressors.

had acquired several other companies including Scammell, Land Rover and Alvis.

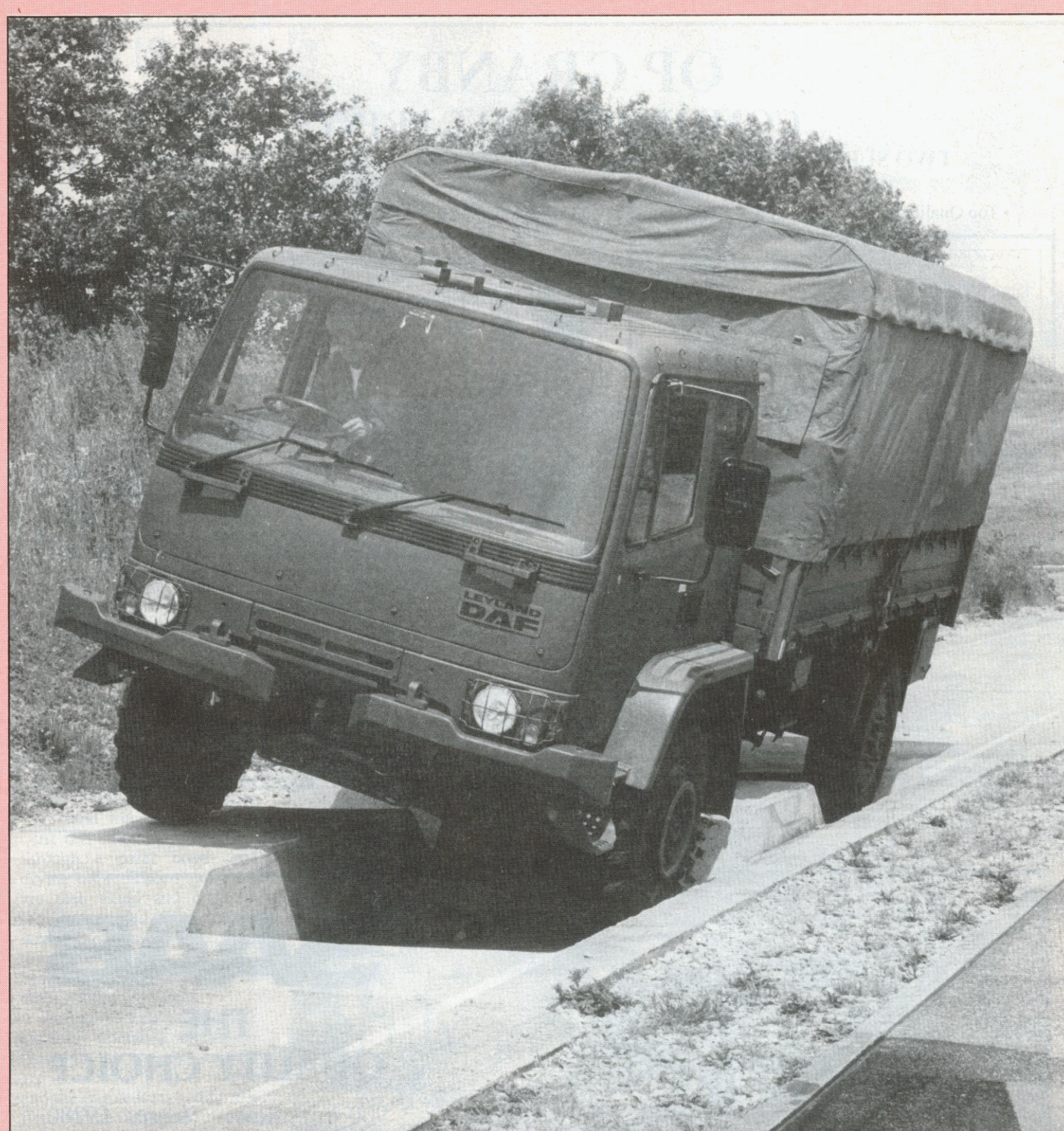
The importance of military business to all the divisions was highlighted early in 1978, with orders for British Forces including Scammell recovery

vehicles, aircraft refuellers and coach chassis. Later that year, the Scammell Commander tank transporter arrived on the scene.

This huge vehicle was capable of carrying 65-ton tanks and had a Rolls Royce

CV12 engine of 625 horsepower. In 1987 Leyland Trucks and Freight Rover merged with the Dutch firm DAF trucks to form DAF BV.

Leyland DAF Ltd based at Leyland, Lancashire emerged as the UK operating company.



Test driver Nick Fazackerley takes the new 4 tonne over one of the difficult obstacles at the demanding test track

# Vehicle conceived in a world of computers

AT LEYLAND's technical centre, a team of engineers are involved in all aspects of truck development and testing. They use the very latest Computer Assisted Design (CAD) equipment.

At the heart of the operation is a test building housing a variety of rigs used for research

into vehicle cooling, braking, noise, component durability and ride simulation. These enable individual components to be proved before being brought together in a prototype vehicle. With CAD speeding up the design stages, this testing ground dramatically cuts the time taken to develop

new products. Computers enable the engineers to reproduce any road surface under laboratory conditions.

There is also a multi-million pound test track. It is actually a carefully designed measuring instrument that comprises three road circuits, a braking straight, steering pad and test

hills. Adjacent is an off-road circuit for military and special vehicles.

A striking feature of the complex is the number of gradients used to test the truck's capacity for hill starts. Alongside is a steering pad which can be wetted and used

● Turn to Page 29

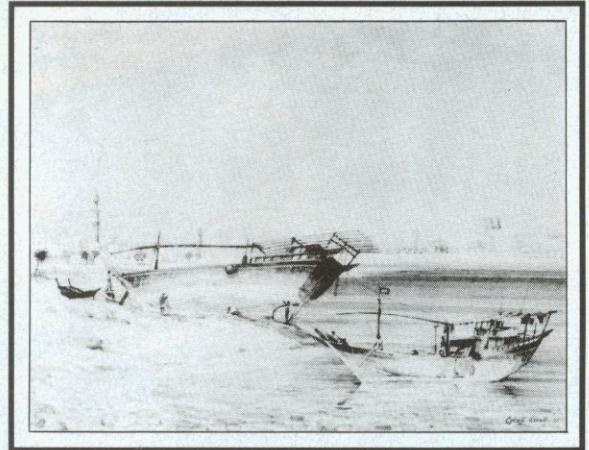
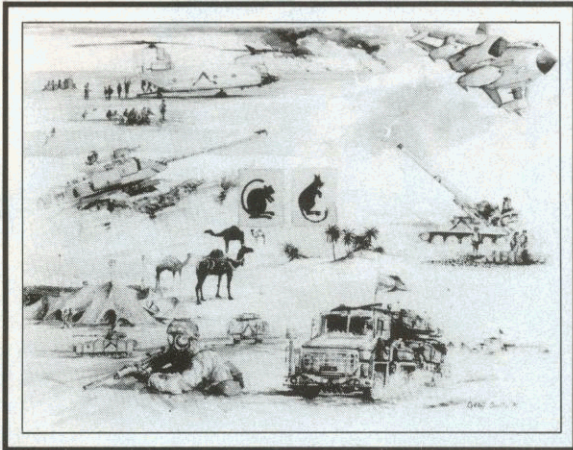


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# This is how they build it

BOTH DROPS and the new 4-tonne are produced in Leyland, Lancashire at Europe's most modern truck assembly plant. Highly automated, it can produce 18,000 trucks a year.

At the start of the assembly line a pile of ladder frames are bolted together to form the backbone of the truck. It is assembled upside down to make it easier to add heavy items such as springs and axles.

The completed ladder frame is turned right way up and transferred to an overhead conveyor from which it is suspended during the remainder of construction.

Steering gear and brake pipes are added, and engine, clutch and gearbox are installed as a single unit. When the wiring harnesses, radiators and fuel tanks have been fitted, the eventual shape of the truck can be discerned.

All that is missing is the cab, which is waiting in the buffer store, and wheels.

At this stage the line passes through a paint booth and drying oven. Wheels and tyres are then fitted and oils and lubricants added. The chassis, now on its own wheels, is disconnected from the overhead conveyor and placed on the finishing conveyor.

During the final stages of the assembly operation the cab is fitted to the chassis, controls are connected, fuel is added and the engine is started for the first time. Completed trucks are then driven away to undergo a simulated road test on one of three rolling roads.

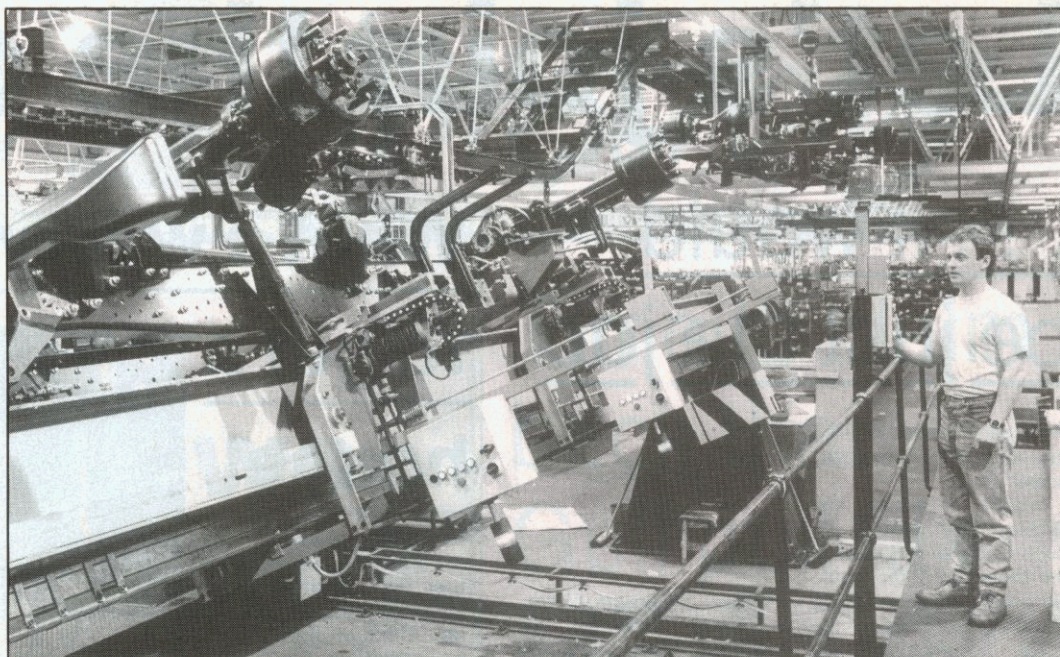
Every day one of the trucks is randomly selected for a spot check. Many hundreds of items are checked for faults during the 6½-hour examination.

## Computers

● From Page 27

for assessing turning circles and vehicles-handling characteristics. A third track of cobbled and corrugated sections is used for accelerated endurance testing.

The entire complex is monitored through closed circuit television and vehicle movements are controlled by radio.



A 4 tonne chassis is turned upright during the assembly process



Another DROPS vehicle comes off the assembly line



Fitting Army registration plates is one of the last tasks to be carried out before the newly-built truck is taken on strength. The numbers are taken at random from a huge store of plates at the assembly plant



# Let's join the club

... it would be just the job

WHY can't Service families tap into the "job clubs" system?

When I asked the Employment Service if such clubs, which exist in the United Kingdom, could be set up in Germany to prepare the Forces for the great homecoming, the answer was that these organisations were essentially "local" schemes enabling members to make the best use of neighbourhood labour market information.

Therefore a "self-service" facility of this kind, sited in Germany, could not offer adequate data about job opportunities in the UK.

However, arrangements can be made for ex-Service people to attend a job club immediately they return home. The six-months residence rule would be waived, I was told.

All ex-Service personnel seeking help through the Employment Service are guaranteed an interview with a "new client adviser" who can provide specialist

**AFTER years of injustice over the residence rule for Severe Disablement Allowance our case has been won.**

**The rule allowing Service dependants to claim SDA immediately, without having to complete the ten-years-out-of-20 residency rule, is to become effective on October 14.**

**I have been campaigning for ten years to get the rule changed.**

advice on employment, training, and, where appropriate, benefits entitlement.

Job centre staff sit on final resettlement boards in the UK and abroad to inform everyone what is available through the UK Employment Service.

Since the advent of Options for Change and the prospect of an exodus, SOLDIER has been approached by a number of private companies, some run by ex-Service people who have themselves been



through a baptism of fire.

Robert Newman, for example, spoke of the four phases of redundancy encountered in 1974.

"My friends and colleagues were, in the main, extremely worried and uncertain of their future.

"In 1979 I left and over the next few years gained a knowledge of the pitfalls.

"All this prompted me to set up my own company, but only after acquiring a variety of management skills in training, communications, motivation and team building, coaching people who will require a sound briefing on the realities of civilian life."

I am sure those outside the Services have something to offer to improve the present resettlement system.

One ex-sergeant, like many, tried to set up his own business and failed - because, he said, "I had no idea about the civilian work place. I did not cut my teeth in someone else's employment first to learn the way business works. And I could not finance both house and business with my small gratuity."

The ex-sergeant, now back in the Army as a corporal, added: "Next time I will prepare far more. I realise that it's cold and hard out there."

Job centres at Bielefeld and Rheindahlen, with electronic links to gather data from the UK and the rest of Europe (free movement of workers throughout Europe will happen in 1992) would do so much to help.

If a job club can be set up in Pentonville Prison to help inmates find work on their release, why on earth can't Servicemen in Germany have a similar scheme?

I will urge the Department of Employment to have a change of heart.

## What a worrying way

### to get a house!

Mrs Sue Barker, her ex-soldier husband and their two daughters consider themselves fortunate. Although they are to be rehoused by Rushmoor Borough Council their experience illustrates the trauma faced by homeless Service families going into civvy street.

The Barkers were living as irregular occupants in a married quarter in Aldershot Garrison. They applied to Rushmoor for a house, only to discover that they had to be evicted to become eligible.

The borough council's waiting list rules state that any civilian aged 16 or over and resident in the borough is eligible to go on the list.

But applications from Service families will only be accepted if either partner was living in the borough on the date of



Mrs Sue Barker

their enlistment or marriage. The Barkers could satisfy neither of these conditions although Mr Barker has a full-time job in the area.

But the rules also state that Service personnel will be considered for housing if their right to occupy their current accommodation is ended by a Court Order for Possession.

In order to qualify on that score, the Barkers, one of whose teenage daughters has special needs, became irregular occupants of their quarter, setting in motion a chain of events that ended in court.

It was a time of great stress heaped on top of the already anxious process of readapting to civilian life.

## DEAR ANNE

Can you help us? We are in BAOR where my husband has just eight months to do, and we have nowhere to go at the end of his 15 years in the Army. We have three children.

A local authority we approached said they would only help if we are homeless.

We have been offered a surplus married quarter, but it is nowhere near the area in which we wish to settle.

A friend of mine comes from the same area and married into the same regiment at the same time I did. But she is now estranged from her husband and has not been offered a surplus quarter because, she has been told, priority is given to united families.

**Anne writes:** The June 1991 Army Families Advice

sheet 11/16 gives up-to-date information on surplus MQs for united and estranged families.

Please tell your friend not to return to the UK until she has sought advice and help from the station staff officer, unit families' officer, SSAFA, Relate, HIVE or Army Families' Advice Bureau.

Arriving back in the UK unannounced and homeless only makes matters worse, especially as there are procedures to be gone through to prove homelessness.

My daughter has been trying as a single parent to apply for Child Benefit for her son, but has been turned down by the DSS.

**Anne writes:** A few years ago I overcame such a problem by arranging for

the grandfather, a Serviceman, to apply for Child Benefit on behalf of the grandchild. The DSS agreed to the application.

\* \* \*

What options do I and my family have now that I have received notice from our local authority stating my gratuity of £5,076 has precluded me from their housing list? I have just six months to do.

**Anne writes:** Ask the local authority for a list of housing association schemes in the area, and write to them asking for application forms for shared ownership and rented housing.

Ask if you qualify for cash incentive schemes or any other options outside the local authority's responsibility and consider taking a mobile home.

# Anne



# Armstrong

Home telephone: Camberley (0276) 29653

## THE HOUSING CHALLENGE

# Where do we go from here?

"TOP of my list of priorities this year is housing."

If I had a brick for every time I've heard that statement I could build houses for every soldier facing a homeless future in civvy street.

The military has been trying to find a solution to the problem for decades.

It has spawned a plethora of studies, briefs, meetings and reports - but little else, I'm afraid.

Nearly 20 years ago at an Adjutant General's Conference, the then Director of Personal Services spoke on housing.

Recalling his announcement two years earlier that an assisted house purchase scheme was on the stocks, he said:

"... we thought that as good employers we ought to do something in the way of an interest-free loan to help long-serving officers and NCOs to put a down-payment on a house in the latter stages of their careers."

The feasibility of setting up an investment trust had been considered, and the Army Agents had proposed a scheme giving Service subscribers a better rate of interest, coupled with life insurance, preferential treatment by building societies and easy access to bridging loans.

A meeting with the Civil Service Department had been valuable, if unsatisfactory. The Department had stated it did not agree in principle that the Services deserved special treatment, but it would look with more favour if the scheme was restricted to officers and soldiers on long engagements and was related to a compulsory savings scheme.

In 1989 a paper was prepared on housing asso-

ciations. Six months later it ran into difficulties, delay followed delay and the whole thing was shelved early last year.

Here's a list of other pilot projects that have gone the same way:

- Surplus quarters at Woolwich and Aldershot. Chatham, three years on, is still not up and running;
- Self-build refurbishments for MQs at Dover and in London;
- Purchase of land at Woking and Aldershot as the sites had to be sold to the highest bidder to realise maximum profits;
- The Tidworth project of 56 flats to be modernised by a housing association and offered to Service families fell through and has now gone to tender.

- The Joint Service Discounted Scheme had its problems but managed to sell 4,000 out of 9,000 houses to Service people. Homelessness cuts across all ranks. Today up to 1,700 Service families, including estranged wives, are searching for accommodation - before any cuts made as a result of Options for Change.

The draft of the new DOE Code of Guidance on housing appears to be of little help to the Service community. In fact, it seems to offer more loopholes which local authorities can use to escape housing Service families.

It doesn't help that homeless Service families living in MQs as irregular occupants who are not accepted by local authorities do not appear on official homeless statistics. My recent petitions to the

Powers That Be have made no new progress, so in frustration I spoke to the now retired Maj Gen Peter Martin, whose words to the 1974 AG's Conference I quoted earlier.

He told me: "I am both saddened and angry that Service personnel, who have in the past 18 years fought two wars, seen active service in Northern Ireland, been firemen, dustmen and ambulance-men, still find at the end of their service that no one wants to know or help."

Gen Martin recalled the halcyon days of 1971-72 when he accompanied Lord Balniel to see the Lord Privy Seal. In seven minutes he achieved seven major improvements for soldiers serving in Northern Ireland, having got nowhere through the "proper channels" for the previous seven months.

"If senior officers," said Gen Martin, "could now meet the Lord Privy Seal, perhaps they could achieve in 18 minutes what has not been achieved through normal channels in the past 18 years."

## Self-build show tickets offer

HALF-PRICE tickets for the Self-Build Homes Show at Alexandra Palace from September 19 to 22 are on offer to SOLDIER readers.

The show will cover all aspects of self-build, from finding a plot of land to choosing a set of plans. Group and individual schemes will also be explained.

For a free fact sheet and half-price tickets (£2.50 adults, £1.25 children) ring 0839 001199. Calls at the cheap rate cost 34p a minute, 45p at other times.

And remember, if you want a free copy of Murray Armor's *Building Your Own Home*, just send me a self-addressed label plus £1.83 in stamps.

My recent petitions to the

# Time to claim back that Gulf poll tax

NOW that local authorities are not, as had been hoped, waiving the community charge for the period of Gulf service, it is time to start putting in compensation claims.

The Forces compensation scheme is retrospective to August 8, 1990, covering the day following departure to the day before return, but is only a temporary measure reflecting the exceptional circumstances.

It also covers those injured, who can claim to the date of discharge from hospital or convalescent home.

Op Granby personnel serving in other areas such as Cyprus and Germany, or deployed to other parts of the UK, are not included and it is not planned to extend the scheme to other operations.

Reservists and TA personnel will be notified of a separate scheme.

Service personnel can make their claims now, but they will be held until September 1, when the computer programme is expected to be ready.

If anyone is having difficulty paying the com-

munity charge demand to the local authority, unit administrative offices have been given the go-ahead to pay an equivalent amount to tide them over until the compensation is paid.

• Changes have been made to help Service personnel receiving lodging allowance who pay the standard community charge at their lodgings as well as the personal poll tax at their sole or main residence elsewhere.

Compensation claims can be submitted now, and in arrears, but again, payment may be delayed while the computer is programmed.

The compensation is taxable but will be grossed up by the computer before payment.

• Is your community charge for the 1991-92 financial year more than £269? If so, you can claim back the difference.

The Service average has been set at £217, plus £52. Check with your unit pay office for the claim procedure.

Spouses are included if living, for example, in married quarters.

## Playground bonanza

IS there a Service playground which might qualify for a £5,000 bonanza as Britain's Playground of the Year?

The National Playing Fields Association is running the competition and will give £5,000 worth of NPFA-approved playground equipment to the winner.

Entries, which should be attached to a colour photograph of the site, should be submitted before September 1 to NPFA, 25 Ovington Square, London SW3 1LQ.



## Infantry school photograph is 100 years old

An old photograph which may be of interest to someone has come into my possession.

It was taken at the School of Auxiliary Infantry in Aldershot, is dated August 1891, and

shows 15 men of the following units: 2nd Bn, A and SH; 1st VBW Riding Regt; 3rd Gloucestershire Regt; 5th and 7th Rifle Brigades; 3rd W Riding Regt; 1st and 3rd

Somerset LI; 1st VB Hampshire Regt; and 5th Inniskellen Fus.

The commandant is a Maj E Galloway of the 1st Somerset LI. If any unit would like the

photograph, please get in touch with me on Tidworth Military ext 3564. - SSgt J P Hogan, RE, Tg Wing, 22 Engr Regt, Swinton Barracks, Perham Down, Andover SP11 9LS.

# An old scoop turns up

## TAPIOs on the Continent

CONGRATULATIONS on an excellent article on the Continental TA (June 10). However, there are four members of the TA who, although technically under the auspices of UKLF, are serving on the Continent.

Forgotten we may be, as we are small in number, but nonetheless serve Queen and Country in Berlin, Bielefeld, Rheindahlen and Belgium.

I refer to the Continental members of the TA Pool of Public Information Officers. We are badged RWF, Queens, Int Corps and RCT without a "home" unit. Indeed, three of the four officers spent three months on Op Granby in their P Info role on SSVC's service at considerable personal cost financially. - Capt R J Hudson, Queens (V), BFBS Network Centre, Herford, BFPO 15.

I recently "inherited" a broadsheet newspaper entitled the *Abbassia Argus* and dated February 15, 1938. It was among documents in my grandfather's possession.

The paper was pretty obviously a spoof, but was it a one-off, a piece of anti-Italian propaganda, a joke newspaper produced for Egypt, or supporting "documentation" for an exercise?

The main headline states boldly **WAR HAS BEEN DECLARED**, with sub-headings which say "Landing near Mersa Matruh of a

Titanian Force" and "Cavalry Brigade to Move".

Stories datelined "London" claim that the War Minister had agreed to provide free beer for Tommy Atkins, and that every soldier was to be promoted to sergeant major - with a corresponding rise in pay!

I have no idea whether the date is significant, nor do I know why my grandfather kept it. He was a sergeant in the Royal Signals at the time. - A J Kirkup, 33 Ayreshire Close, Fugglestone Road, Salisbury, Wilts SP2 9PF.

## Russian cavalry hurt by Highlanders' fire

I MUST take issue with you over your account in The Heavy Brigade at Balaclava (July 8 issue), of the effect of the 93rd Highlanders' fire on the Russian cavalry. The three volleys fired by the Highland-

ers with their Minie rifles, far from being ineffective, were described thus by a cavalry officer on the receiving end:

"You started from the ground and fired a volley at us. In the next place, we were unable to rein up, or slacken speed, or swerve to our left before we received your second volley, by which almost every man and horse in our ranks was wounded. Again, when we were inclining to our left to wheel, as we thought, a wing of your regiment changed front, and fired a volley into our flank, which also took effect amongst us, one of your bullets breaking my thigh and making me the cripple that you see. But you know, of course, that a mounted man, though severely, or even mortally wounded, can retain his seat in the saddle long enough to ride out of danger."

That the lesson of these three volleys, which signalled the end of the parade ground cavalry charge with lance, was ineffective, is however, not in doubt. - Maj (Retd) J R Oldfield, Weapons Museum, School of Infantry, Warminster, Wilts.

## King's corporal was no myth

I MUST apologise for raising again the hoary old argument about the existence of King's (Queen's) Corporals, particularly as I was firmly convinced that the whole subject was a barrack-room myth.

Recently, however, I was thumbing through a 1929 edition of *One and All*, the journal of the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry (DCLI), when I came across a short article on a "regimental character", 1053 Sjt A A Edwards, of 140 Queen's Road, Watford.

Edwards enlisted in the 32nd (Cornwall) Light Infantry in 1878 and fought in the Egyptian War.

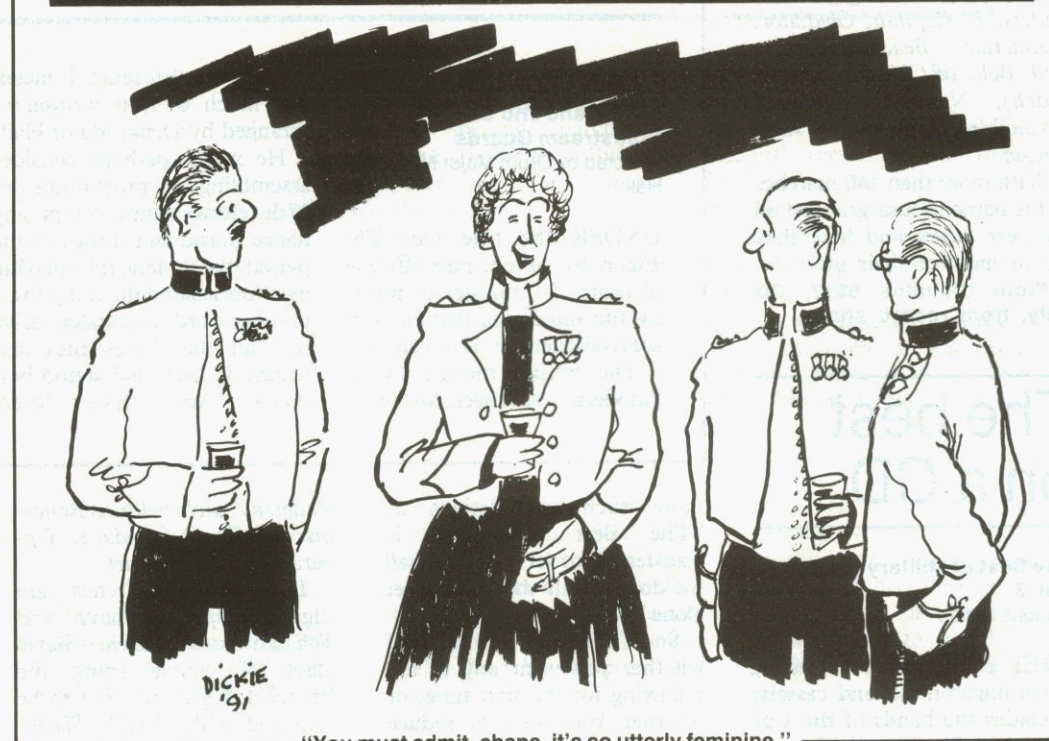
After completing his term of six years with the Colours he was discharged, but in 1885 re-enlisted with the Rifle Brigade, who employed him as a lance-corporal to look after the garrison boat at Harwich.

To quote the article, "He was promoted Queen's Corporal by the late Lord Wolseley, who had witnessed Mr Edward's gallantry in weathering a severe storm."

This bold statement appears without any explanation and one can only assume that the term "Queen's Corporal" was familiar to the readers of a regimental journal in 1929.

Incidentally, Edwards transferred back to the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry in 1889, finally serving in France from 1915 to 1918 as a foreman of works. Forty years - not bad by any standard! - Maj W H White, Curator, DCLI Museum, The Keep, Bodmin, Cornwall.

## BIRD'S EYE-VIEW



"You must admit, chaps, it's so utterly feminine."

# Taste of Granby

I AM researching the catering for, and feeding of, the British Army during Operation Granby and Desert Storm for a paper which I am preparing for the Symposium on Food to be held at Oxford in September.

I am particularly interested in obtaining personal reminiscences of soldiers of all ranks about the food and particularly of any methods of cooking. I know that great ingenuity went into the devising of recipes; some of the resulting meals must have had a memorable taste.

Memories of these and of regimental dinners would be very welcome, as also would comments on compo rations

and encounters with American rations, especially MREs and MOREs.

I am especially concerned to have an account of the meal which King Fahd gave for the troops in his tent in the desert in February and of dishes which were given to the troops.

All information will be fully acknowledged if it is used in the paper.

I shall be most grateful for any help given to me so that a record may be made of one aspect of a most interesting campaign. - Dr J P Alcock, Principal Lecturer, South Bank Polytechnic, 103 Borough Road, London SE1 0AA.

## Supple Magpies

MAY I comment on Graham Royle's letter (June 10) on the 9th/12th Royal Lancers (Prince of Wales's) and their nickname, the Supple Lancers.

I think this came about during the Peninsular War when the 12th Light Dragoons, as they were then, distinguished themselves by their alacrity and suppleness during

their famous charge against Foy's Division at Salamanca, and indeed their eager readiness during the whole campaign. The 9th had another nickname besides the Delhi Spearman. They were also called the Magpies because of their black-and-white helmet plumes. - WO2 R Todd, 11 UDR, BFPO 809.

## QUICK MARCH?

UNTIL November 1989 I was the Bandmaster of the 9th/12th Royal Lancers, and it seems that rumours of me being involved in a fatal car accident are being spread around my old regimental circles (the Lancers and The Parachute Regiment) and Kneller Hall.

I would like to point out that I am still alive and well, and living in Guernsey, where I am musical director of the Guernsey Symphony Orchestra and the Guernsey Glee Singers.

Recently I completed a commission to arrange a special version of the Guernsey national anthem for a world inter-island version of the Olympic Games. So please let me, through the pages of your magazine, point out to my Army acquaintances that I am still alive and kicking and enjoying my music-making more than ever. - Simon J Applegate, Anacapri, St Peter Port, Guernsey.

## REUNIONS

● **Airborne Engineers Association**, Aldershot Branch, meets every second Friday of the month at 1930 in the Corporals' Bar, 9 Para Sqn RE, Rhine Barracks, Aldershot. Cooks, medics etc who have served with airborne sapper unit welcome. Details from branch secretary Peter Ives on 0252 519646 after 1900.

● **Bovington Secondary Modern School** (1953-1974) reunion takes place at the Middle School on October 26. Tickets (£4.50 each) from Di Taylor, 32 Knowle Hill, Wool, Wareham, Dorset BH20 6DG (enclose sae).

## SEARCHLINE

● **M62 coach bombing**: Richard Taylor of BBC North (Room 34, BBC Centre, Woodhouse Lane, Leeds LS2 9PX) is researching the M62 coach bombing on February 4, 1974 in which 12 Servicemen and members of their families died. He wishes to hear from anyone who was on the coach or has memories of the incident.

● **Irene Bates**: Mrs Pat Howell (nee Crossley), 35 Studdon Walk, Kenton Bar Estate, Newcastle Upon Tyne NE3 3YQ, is trying to trace old school friend Irene Bates who she believes married a soldier.

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Paul Murrell is the skilled soloist in Artie Shaw's *Concerto for Clarinet*, a jazzy one of course, which was featured in the musical *Second Chorus*.

Two pieces originally written for wind band are the *Serenade* by Derek Bourgeois, a lovely melody which can't make up its mind what pulse it is in, and the *Burlesk* by Robert Washburn, the American composer of much band music.

There is also the famous *Nocturne* by John Field, a march called *Rapier* which should probably have been included with gunner music, the old bassoon variations on *Lucy Long*, the exciting *Russian Sailor's Dance*, and a selection from the musical *Barnum*.

Two marches are *Blaze Away* and one of the greatest of all, which gets too few performances, *Le Père la Victoire* by Louis Ganne, who many years ago conducted the Monte Carlo Casino orchestra, and also composed the *Marche Lorraine*.

● **From Bandleader and dealers, price £10.50 CD, £5.60 cassette.**

march *Eagle and Star*, an arrangement of three tunes under the title *Triplet*, and a nice little version of *The Girl I Left Behind Me*. A few more marches and some regimental music make up a very welcome addition to a sparse repertory of fife and drum.

● **From Bandleader, 7 Garrick St, London WC2E 9AR and dealers, price £10.50 CD, £5.60 cassette inc.**

Queen's Guard on departure from Buckingham Palace, and is the opening march by ex-Drum Major Tom Birkett, composer of the famous *Hazelmere March*.

Other well-known marches are *Belphegor*, *Le Tambour Major*, *Prussian Glory*, *La Reve Passe*, and *The Adjutant*, the latter also by Tom Birkett.

Drum Major Hall provides a medley of Retreat marches, a

three-quarter time marches.

However, what is done here is done very well, if a little too well for my taste!

Still, for repeated listening you can't have my aural vision of a corps of drums playing with shrill and musically naive gusto as in olden times. The Coldstream fifers are much too disciplined for that.

*Out The Escort* is an order given by the Captain of the

# Well done, the Coldstream Fifes and Drums!

**Combined Corps of Drums of the 1st and 2nd Bns Coldstream Guards**  
Directed by Drum Major Michael Hall

UNDER the title *Out The Escort* we have a rare offering of nearly 50 minutes of music for fife and drum, that glorious survival from the 17th century.

The music, though, is all "modern", and even Mozart is

modern in the sense I mean, and much of it is written or arranged by Drum Major Hall.

He might perhaps consider assembling a programme of 17th century tunes, comprising dance music and ditties of the period, with a lone fifer playing wistfully around the camp fire—in other words a nostalgic delve into all the things fifes and drums do best, and sound best doing. And those lovely

more such compilations as "The Best of . . ." is transferred to CD. What shall we do with all those LPs, let alone 78s?

So it's merely a matter of whether you want any of the following for the first time, or whether you wish to reduce your record racks.

The marches are *Old Comrades*, *Sounding Brass*, *Normandy Veterans*, *Navy Day*, *Boots and Saddles*,

*Radetzky*, *Fehrbelliner Reitermarsch*, *Royal Standard*, *Tipperary* and *Lionheart*.

Two grand marches are Elgar's *Imperial March* and Tchaikovsky's *Marche Slave*, Slave of course being the French for Slavonic, not to be confused with Verdi's *Slaves' Chorus*, as has happened. Or as a bandboy once said: "Them Russian slaves don't arf get a rough time".

And to break up the march

rhythms we have the *Post Horn Gallop*, *Amazing Grace*, and Copland's *Fanfare for the Common Man*, plus a medley of *Soldiers on Parade*.

● **From Music Masters, The End House, Gurnells Rd, Seer Green, Bucks HP9 2KJ or dealers £10.50 CD.**

The *Belgian National Anthem* and the *Post Horn Gallop* have special associations, and news to me is that the Monckton military family included the composer, Lionel of the ilk, who composed the most famous of all British musical comedies, *The Arcadians*.

The overture to *The Arcadians* is a fine compilation of those lovely old tunes by Arthur Wood, though I can't forgive the latter for having written *The Archers'* signature tune.

A programme well worth having, for all sorts of reasons.  
● **From Music Masters and dealers, price £5.50 inc.**

## Lancer's last call?

**The Spirit of the Regiment**  
Band and Trumpeters of the 9th/12th Royal Lancers  
Conductor: Bandmaster G J Bright

NOT an old regiment the 9th/12th – and one wonders at the time of writing how much older it will get.

This may be your last chance of a recording by the band before it becomes part of the Band of the Royal Lancers.

Perhaps with foresight the bandmaster includes a good deal of the regimental music, including the quickstep *Soldiers' Chorus* from Faust, the slow marches *Coburg* and *Norma*, the officers' dinner calls, regimental calls, Reveille, Stables, the *9th Lancers' Quadrilles*, *12th Lancers' Gallop*, and several tunes associated with both old regiments.

These include a very pretty march called *St Cecilia* (music's patron saint) by Celian Kottaun, once used as the regimental march, the famous French tune *Quand Madelon* played at Reveille on May Day – as was a delightful old piece, *Puppchen*, which I haven't heard for over 50 years – and a mysterious tune called *Low Backed Car* used by the 12th.

## Gunners' compilation

**Call for the Guns**  
The Royal Artillery Band  
The Royal Artillery Mounted Band  
Conductor: Lt Col F Renton

THIS is a compilation of recordings made originally in 1983 and 1985, and a very pleasant compilation it is. No fewer than three overtures, a concerto, and some interesting original band music.

First, let me deal with the gunners' music. It starts with Stan Patch's arrangement of *The British Grenadiers* with Alford's *Voice of the Guns* interwoven, then the *RA Slow March*, the title march, *Call for the Guns* by Cy Payne, which includes snatches of *Screw Guns*, the *Regimental Trots and Canters*, and finally *The Gunners*, a march by David Thorne.

Frank Renton's own arrange-

## The glory of Sousa

**The Invincible Eagle**  
Famous Sousa Marches  
Band of the Blues and Royals  
Conductor: Maj E W Jeanes

THOSE who know their conductors will realize this one goes back a bit, to 1971 in fact, for Maj Ted Jeanes has long been a dweller in the land of Oz, and a keen imbibber of that well known liquid known as XXXX.

For the justification of yet another Sousa album I can only remind you that the Royal Albert Hall is filled every Sunday night for a performance of the 1812 Overture; there are always people who have never heard it before, or wish to hear it again.

With one addition, these are the same 12 marches I and many others have recorded at various times over the past 30-odd years, and all sell well, especially to the "new" record-buying publics of Japan,

Korea, Thailand and the South American countries.

The 13 are: *Washington Post*, *Hands Across the Sea*, *The Thunderer*, *High School Cadets*, *El Capitan*, *Gladiator*, *Manhattan Beach*, *Liberty Bell*, *Belle of Chicago*, *Semper Fidelis*, *National Fencibles*, *Invincible Eagle*, and *King Cotton*.

With more than 160 marches to his name, Sousa grabbed all the best tunes, and here they are in most of their glory.

● **From Chandos 6517, CD only, from record shops.**

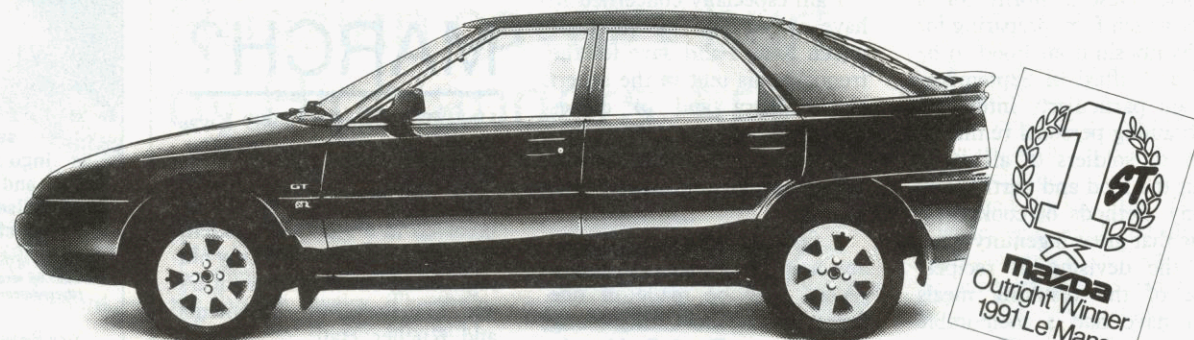
## The best on a CD

**The Best of Military Music Vol. 3**  
Various bands

THIS compilation of existing recordings on LP and cassette includes the bands of the Life Guards, Blues and Royals, Coldstream Guards, QDG, RE, R Irish, DWR, R Anglian and Royal Marines.

No doubt there will be plenty

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**The Framework of Operational Warfare** by Clayton R Newell. With the five-paragraph US Army field order format as his base, the author, a serving officer, sets out a method for studying war. Routledge, £25.

**Achtung! Minen!** by Ian C Hammerton. One man's vivid story of how he led a troop of flail tanks from the Normandy beaches, across Europe and into the heart of Germany. Foreword by actor Ian Carmichael, who served in the same regiment, the 22nd Dragoons. The Book Guild, £12.95.

**The Commandos 1940-1946** by Charles Messenger. Authoritative history of the men who wore the Green Beret in the Second World War, reissued in paperback. Grafton, £6.99.

**Tales of the Gurkhas** by Harold James. Stories of a fictitious regiment in which some of the episodes that created the Gurkha legend are featured. The Book Guild, £10.50.

**The Waters of Oblivion** by Ian Fletcher. Story of the ignominious British defeat in trying to capture the Spanish colony of the Rio de la Plata in South America in 1806-7. Spellmount Ltd, Tunbridge Wells, £15.95.

Two titles from **Land Warfare**: Brassey's New Battlefield Weapons Systems and Technology series - Volume 4, **Ammunition for the Land Battle**, by Lt Col P R Courtney-Green, and Volume 9, **Radar**, by P S Hall, T K Garland-Collins, R S Picton and R G Lee. Brassey's, softback, £10.95 each.

**The Wearing o' the Khaki** by Pat Williams Burr. Warm, humorous and philosophical account of

the author's adventures in the ATS in the Second World War. Excalibur Press, London, £4.95.

**Number, Rank and Name** by Bill Jardine. Anyone who has served will identify with the glimpses of life in uniform provided by this collection of anecdotes about everyday happenings with Second World War supply and transport troops, written by a former sapper. Proceeds have been pledged to the RBL Poppy Appeal. Fine Publishing, Priory Lane, Toft Monks, Beccles, Suffolk NR34 0EZ, £9.95.

**The Russo-German War 1941-45** by Albert Seaton. New 628-page edition of Col Seaton's 1971 work. Presidio, distributed in Great Britain by Greenhill Books, £25.

**Flags of the Napoleonic Wars** by Terence Wise with colour plates by Guido Rosignoli. Published in three 40-page softback volumes in the Men-At-Arms series. Osprey, £5.99 each.

**The Yeomanry Cavalry of Norfolk** by R J Smith and R G Harris. Twelfth in the softback series Uniforms of the British Yeomanry Force 1794-1914, with illustrations by R J Marrion. Picton Publishing, £4.95.

**US Army Vehicles of World War Two** by Jean-Michel Boniface and Jean-Gabriel Jeudy. A fascinating landscape-format book including technical tables, QM data and more than 500 photographs. G T Foulis and Co, £29.99.

**The Tiger Tanks** by Peter Gudgin. Authoritative history of the legendary German heavy tank by the former commander of a Churchill tank knocked out by a Tiger in North Africa in 1943. Arms and Armour, £17.95.

# Korea: Britain's role in a distant conflict

IT IS perhaps predictable that General Sir Anthony Farrar-Hockley should be chosen to compile the first of two volumes of Korean War Official History.

This respected commander and historian served as adjutant of the 1st Battalion, The Gloucestershire Regiment in Korea until he was captured by the Chinese in 1951, an experience graphically described in one of his earlier books, *The Edge of the Sword*.

He is in the special position of being more aware than many combatant officers of the strategic situation at the time, whereas an author holding more senior rank in that war - had one been available after 40 years - might have found it difficult to be impartial.

Korea was, in 1950, a far-away place and civilians at home, still tired and not a little jaded following the European conflict, could hardly be expected to drum up much

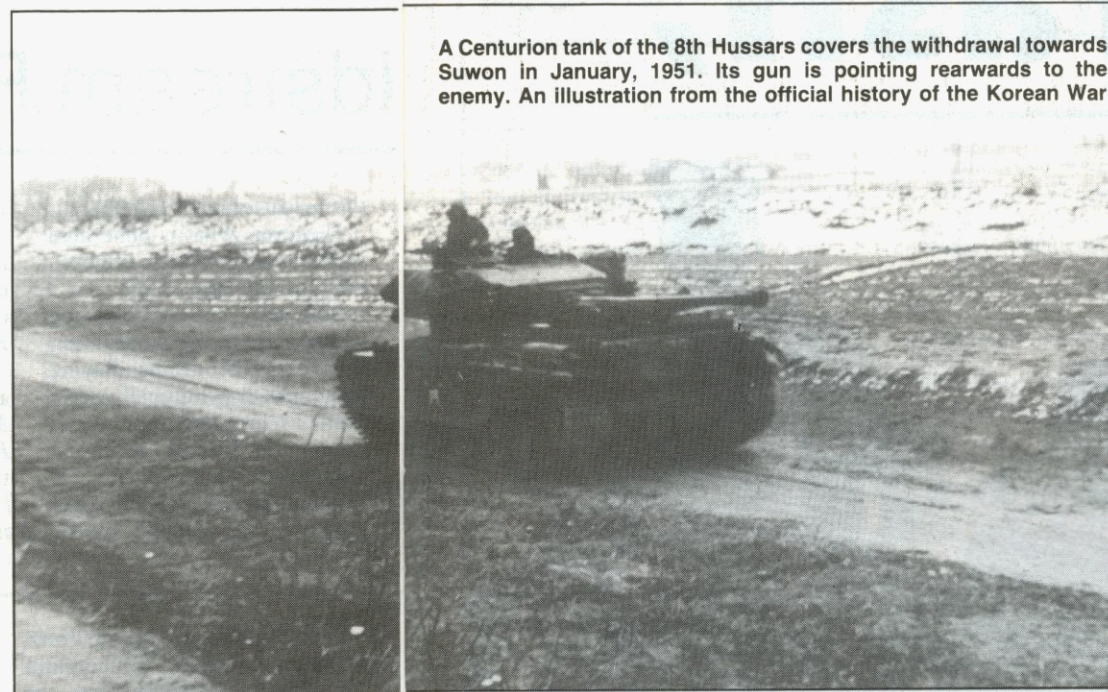
enthusiasm for a war in an obscure Eastern country.

As the author affirms, "Not all Ministers discussing this item in the Cabinet Room of 10 Downing Street... were exactly sure where Korea lay in the Far East". There have been few wars about which there was and still is so much public ignorance.

The Korean War was to continue until 1953, the last two years in a stagnation that resembled the trench warfare of 1914-18. Some 60,000 British troops were involved in a demanding and expensive role for a nation struggling to rebuild her economy, and committed to contributing substantial military forces to Nato.

But *The British Part in the Korean War* is concerned only

A Centurion tank of the 8th Hussars covers the withdrawal towards Suwon in January, 1951. Its gun is pointing rearwards to the enemy. An illustration from the official history of the Korean War



with the events that preceded the war and the first six months of the conflict when a more mobile form of warfare prevailed.

Britain had been a reluctant partner with the USA in attempts to find a settlement of Korean disputes between 1945 and 1948, and Sir Anthony lays the foundations for the account of the war itself by explaining what prompted Prime Minister Clement Attlee and Foreign Secretary Ernest Bevin to support the United Nations' eventual intervention - led by the USA - when Communist North Korea attacked the South in June 1950.

The book cannot therefore be purely a military history, and has to cover political events in numerous parts of the world as well as in the General Assembly of the United Nations. It could not have been an easy task to clarify the background, taking into consideration the complexities of Soviet expansionism and the consequences affecting Nato policy.

However, this is first and foremost a military history and, of course, the war is given the most comprehensive coverage, particularly from the arrival of British forces in the theatre, with campaign maps that always distinguish an official history; battles with names that will be all too familiar to those who took part.

Inch'on, Kimpo Airfield, the taking of Seoul by the North Koreans, its temporary liberation and the subsequent retaking after the Chinese People's Volunteer Army entered the war, the breakout



The author, photographed when he was adjutant of the 1st Battalion, The Gloucestershire Regiment, with whom he fought and was captured on the Imjin

through the Pusan perimeter, Naktong River, and the advance on Wansun are all set out here.

The author sums up the UN Command's "bitter struggles and vain hopes of six months" with an exchange between Rear-Admiral William Andrewes and a member of his staff:

"Why, we are back to square one."

"Oh, it's not as bad as that, sir."

"Well, call it square one and a half."

So what did the Korean War achieve?

Assessments of the effectiveness of limiting Communist ambitions vary and we will have to wait for the publication of Part 2 of the Official History to read the British viewpoint reflected in records and other documents. - BJ

**The British Part in the Korean War: Part 1 - A Distant Obligation** by Anthony Farrar-Hockley. Published by HMSO, hardback £35.00.

# BOOK REVIEWS

## Tidying the war history of the SAS

"LOOKING back, it seems incredible that five desert-stained jeeps laden down with kit and crewed by ruffianly looking characters sporting beards, could get away with driving among enemy vehicles in broad daylight. But that was what the SAS was all about."

So writes Anthony Kemp in *The SAS at War 1941-1945*, appropriately published to coincide with the 50th anniversary of the raising of this small but legendary fighting unit by the man the Germans called "The Phantom Major" - David Stirling.

When war was declared Stirling was wandering in the Rocky Mountains in preparation for an attempt on Everest - but he was destined to end his part in the conflict as a PoW in Colditz fortress.

This is by no means the first book about the exploits of the Special Air Service, but Anthony Kemp has been able to do more than re-hash the stories, most true and some exaggerated, that surround the wartime SAS, SRS (Special Raiding Squadron) and SBS (Special Boat Section).

As he says, "A myth has grown up that the wartime SAS never bothered with paperwork and that there was no documentation available to provide the basis for a more thorough study."

"As can be seen from the notes on sources at the end of the book, it has been possible to trace a large quantity of documents."

Kemp began his research while working on a television documentary which was enthusiastically supported by the late David Stirling and other senior members of the regiment. The TV project was abandoned but Kemp received encouragement to continue his research.

He investigates for the first time several important aspects of the regiment's untidy wartime history - how upper echelon planning staff failed to

realise the capabilities of the SAS, leaving the regiment underused or sent on unsuitable and costly missions; how the SAS was virtually unemployed from October 1944 to April 1945; how Prime Minister Churchill asked Stirling for his views on the future of the SAS; and how the raid on Benghazi was leaked with disastrous consequences.

Stirling was an imaginative and very brave leader but, like all individualists he had some dangerous faults: "... most of his grand designs were carried around in his head. Nobody, literally nobody, had much of an idea as to what was happening. Stirling had failed to ensure continuity of the SAS in the event of his capture or death..."

When he was taken prisoner in the desert the result was consternation and chaos.

Stirling's initial and, it must be said, unsuccessful raids on enemy airfields involved small parties being parachuted near their targets and, with missions completed, being picked up by the trucks of the Long Range Desert Group.

What will surprise some readers is how it took some time for Stirling to realise the LRDG could deliver as well as pick-up the SAS parties.

The book is a tribute to the courage and determination of a comparatively small group of men who repeatedly carried out an untried form of warfare in hostile territory.

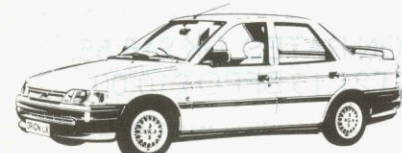
Today's SAS may be more professional and structured on sounder bases, but the spirit of the men at the sharp end is the same.

In the author's words: "What all the survivors have in common is an immense zest for life, an enduring capacity for strong drink and a dislike for those who 'whinge'." - BJ

**The SAS at War 1941-1945** by Anthony Kemp. Published by John Murray, hardback £18.95.

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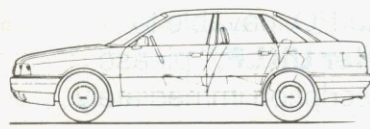
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# Bang, crash, wallop!

## Queen's Division gives the children a show to remember

IF THERE is one man who knows what his public wants it is Lt Col Geoffrey Mason – mastermind behind the Army Exhibition for Schools at the Depot, The Queen's Division, Basingbourn Barracks, Herts, writes Gordon Skilling.

Give the children bands, bangs and a tank to clamber over, he declares.

This year marked the 20th anniversary of the exhibition, which always culminates in a battle scene, something of which the colonel has personal experience: he performed the first in 1971 when he was commanding the representative company of The Queen's Regiment.

In the old days 18,000 children attended over the three days, but it now peaks at about 6,000 plus 500 teachers.

"You have got to have hands-on stands at which the child can actually do something," said Col Mason. "Nowadays, technology can provide flashing lights and press-button things which were difficult to do before."

Children can enjoy the thrill of flying a helicopter or driving a tank – in a simulator – but they have probably done this before at funfairs and their expectations have changed.

"Regimental bands used to have a terrific attraction for children, who would run miles to see them," said Col Mason, "but we have halved this because we sensed that after about ten minutes the children were bored stiff. They had switched off, because bands don't have the draw that they



Sgt Jimmy Hogan of the mortar platoon shows which bit goes bang



Bags of dash and lots of bangs are required from soldiers like LCpl Mark Brownlie (RHF) in the battle scene. Afterwards he can show Saxon and the GPMG to Adam Rudge and Allistair Wright



Above: Keeping a benign watch on everything is Lt Col Geoffrey Mason who celebrated his 65th birthday during the display but is staying on to provide continuity for nine months during the Options for Change developments



Left: Complexions of peaches and cream don't last long when Sgt Chris O'Grady (RRF) applies the make-up to a young visitor

had for earlier generations."

The band is, however, still an essential ingredient of the military show. Many children are musically inclined and a feature of the exhibition is to invite individuals or even whole school bands to perform with the Junior School of Music or the regimental military bands.

Ingredients such as speed, dash and noise are present in a motor cycle display, which is bound to interest youngsters, and the very advanced technical equipment of the Royal Signals and Royal Engineers also appeals strongly.

The first display of The Royal Army Veterinary Corps at Basingbourn reflected the love of animals, and as children relate well to younger people, all the junior units were represented, many of them being farmed out to mobile display units.

A popular activity was competitive sport under the eyes of eight Army Physical Training Corps instructors.

The battle scene was staged this year by the 1st Battalion, The Royal Highland Fusiliers.

As the aim of the display is to recruit the young visitors, they

are invited to join the Queen's Division for an hour. After a medical they get overalls from a quartermaster, then do drill, an assault course, drive vehicles and handle weapons, and can even fire a sand-filled mortar bomb.

While the children are enjoying themselves, there are "teach-ins" for the teachers, who are enticed in by a cup of coffee and the prospect of escaping their charges.

If the Basingbourn schools exhibition can send both pupils and teachers away happy, then it must be getting it right.



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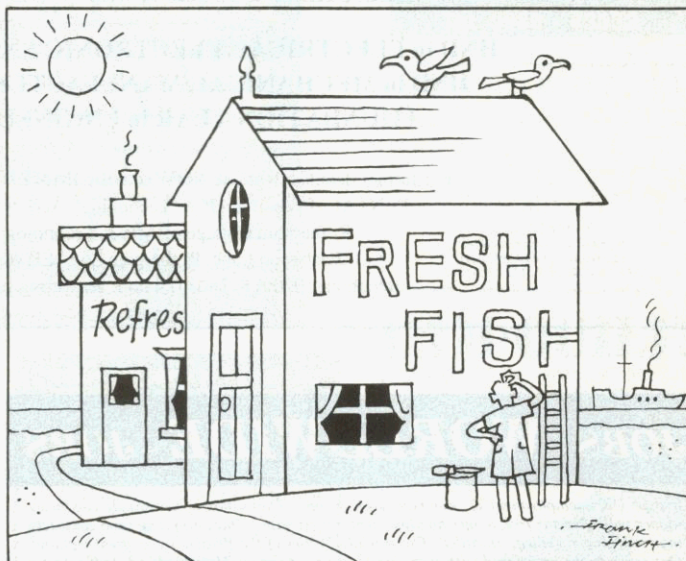
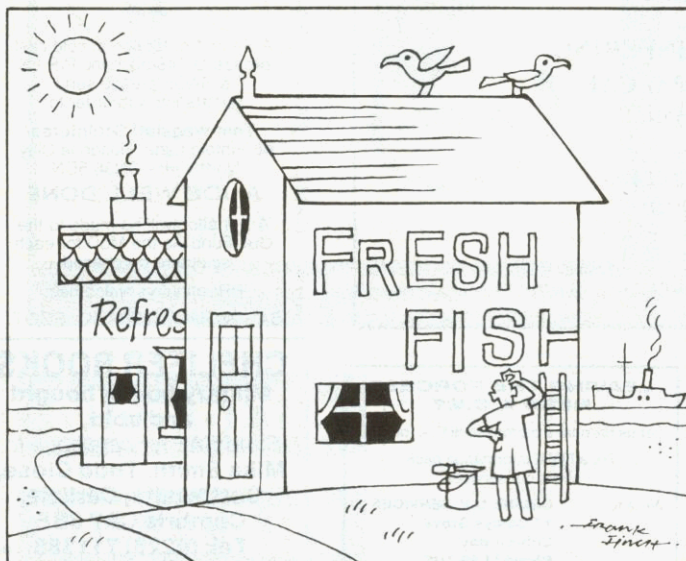
The names of the winner of the £50 first prize and two runners-up will be announced in the September 16 issue.

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**Competition No 515:**  
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14128

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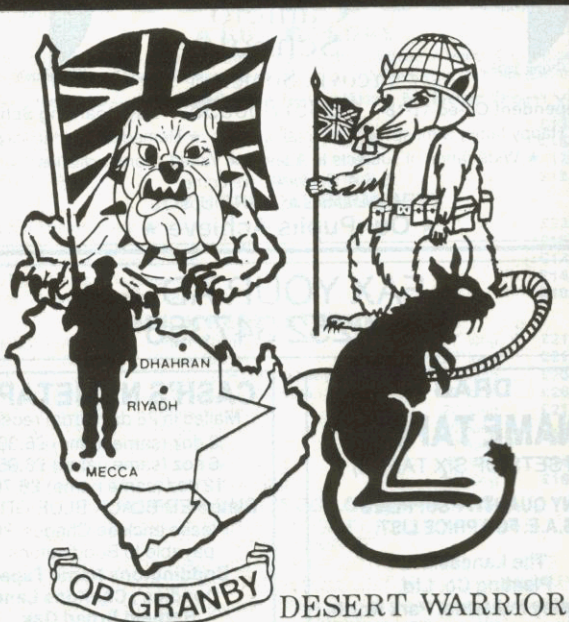
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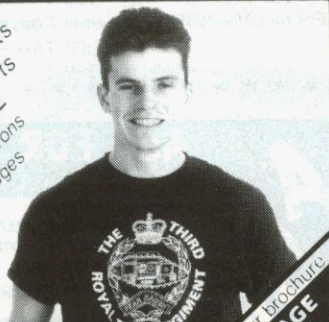
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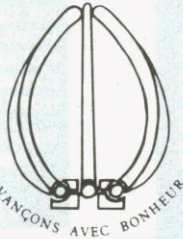
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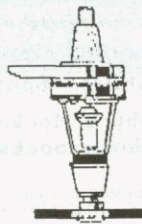
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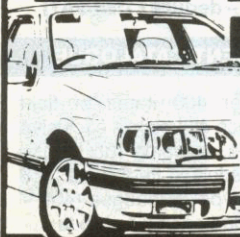
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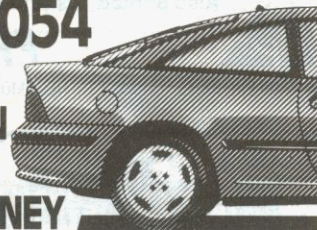
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**Pen-Pals**

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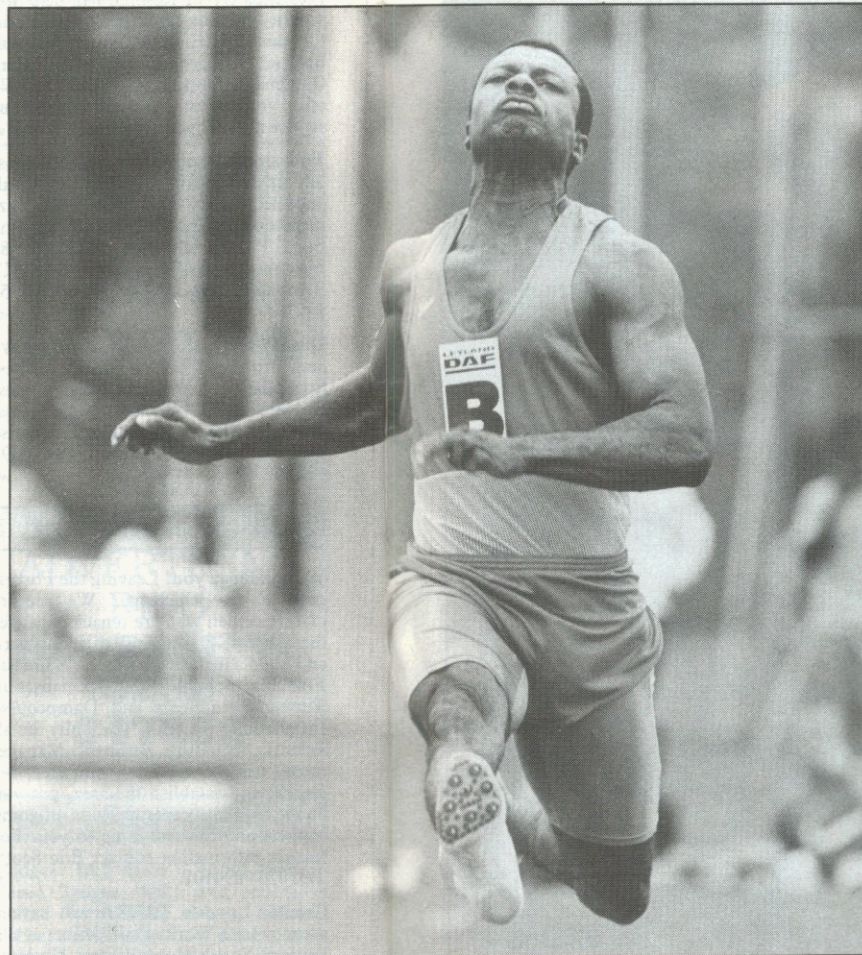
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Cpl Trevor McSween of 21 Signals in action in the 110m hurdles



LBdr Gary Smith of 94 Loc Regt in the Major Units long jump



Soft landing for Cpl Stu Pearson of 21 Signals in the long jump

# Signal success

## Trophy triple for Wildenrath aces

DEFENDING champions 21 Signal Regiment from Wildenrath retained the Major Units trophy at the Army inter-unit athletics championships staged at Aldershot.

In doing so the BAOR-based signallers made a clean sweep of the awards, winning also the track and field event cups.

Despite the injury-enforced loss of SSgt Neil Killen, 21 Signals were in control throughout the day. They finished on 231 points, well clear of second-placed 1 PWO from Osnabrück (198 points).

The motivating force behind 21 Signals' athletics is middle distance runner Capt Les Wood, ironically injured at the moment. Every member contributed to the cause, with Cpl Carl Richardson producing personal bests in both 400m and 400m hurdles and LCpl Jonah Jones showing well in his first season in the hammer.

Others who did well included

Cpl Trevor McSween, Sig John Smith in the 800m and 1,500m, SSgt Steve Lyons and steeplechaser Sig Brassy Braysford. BAOR teams filled all the major places, with Menden-based 50 Msl Regt third on 170 points.

Best United Kingdom team was 2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt from Catterick in fourth place on 135 points. Fifth was 94 Loc Regt RA from Larkhill (124 points), with SEME Bordon (113) sixth and 2 Gren Gds (90) seventh.

Depot Queen's Division carried off the Minor Units trophy after being in front for much of the day. It was a fitting reward for the Depot's athletes,

who have been runners up in the previous two years.

Much of the credit for their improvement is down to the enthusiasm of coaches QMSI Ray Butters, now SMI at HQ South East District, and QMSI Ian Johnson.

The Depot team was led by Army athletes Cpl Darryl Maynard, the 400m and 800m specialist, and long and triple jumper Cpl Hoppy Hopkinson.

Depot Prince of Wales's Division from Lichfield should have finished second, but were disqualified in the 4x400m relay and ended on 65 points, three behind FOD Dulmen.

Last year's champion minor unit, 9 Ord Bn, finished

fourth, also on 65 points, and the next three positions were filled by 2 Armd Fd Amb from Germany (49 points), Senne-lager-based 202 Signal Sqn (39) and 23 Para Fd Amb from Aldershot (28).

The final relay was also crucial in the women's competition, allowing WRAC Centre Guildford to retain the title at the expense of Women's Services Northern Ireland.

Northern Ireland led for much of the day and were three points ahead going into the final event.

But they could manage only third place behind the WRAC Centre and 8 Signal Regt from Catterick, so dropped to second overall.

Final positions: 1, WRAC Centre (71); 2, Women's Services Northern Ireland (70); 3, 8 Signal Regt (62); 4, 12 MOD Platoon (54); 5, 10 Coy WRAC (50); 6, B Coy WRAC (46); 7, 15 Bn RAOC (34).



WO2 Lynn Higgs of Women's Services Northern Ireland leads the way in the 1,500m

## Airmen win U-25 festival

RAIN intervened in the Army's crucial game against the Royal Air Force in the Under-25 cricket festival at Portsmouth, but not early enough to curb the rampant RAF batting.

They hammered a huge total of 282 for four in 55 overs against the Army, although the intervention of the weather and the loss of eight overs reduced the Army's target to 241.

They failed by 33 to reach it, being all out for 208 in 45 overs.

With the Army having defeated the Royal Navy by three wickets on the first day of the 55-over Inter-Services festival, the RAF went on to claim the crown by overwhelming their hosts by ten wickets on the final day.

RN 222-4. Army 225-7 (Cpl N Palmer 44, Capt P Istead 77, 2nd Lt I Wood 32). Army won by 3 wickets. RAF 282-6 (Fus J Jeremias 2-29). Army

208 (2nd Lt I Wood 66, 2nd Lt W Pym 48). RAF won by 33 runs (rain-reduced total). RN 132. RAF 133-0. RAF won by 10 wickets.

The Army Under-25 team beat Wiltshire U-25s at Tidworth by seven wickets and lost to Buckinghamshire U-25s at Aldershot by five wickets. Their game against the National Fire Service was a victim of the weather.

Cpl N Palmer (AAC) scored an undefeated 107 for Combined Services in their drawn one-day game against ESCA at Beckenham. Capt I P Istead (Green Howards) scored 21.

Replying to Services' 23 for eight declared, ESCA were 207 for three at the close.

At senior level, Combined Services beat Crusaders by four runs in a thrilling finish at Burnaby Road, Portsmouth.

Crusaders just failed to reach Services' 50-over total of 253 for six.





Above: JLRRA on the way to the first of their six national youth tug of war titles at Bramcote. From left are JGnrs Gascoigne, Ray, Downing, Sass, Adcock and Crane in the 420kg event. Right: Lt Col Geoffrey Mansell-Ward, commanding officer of the ACC Apprentices' College, presents a medal to 40 Fd Regt coach SSgt Gary Gillespie

# Gunners' delight

A RECORD entry and perfect weather set the seal on a tremendous Army tug of war championships at Aldershot.

Hosted by the Apprentices' College ACC and sponsored by Armed Forces Financial Advisory Services, the championships were notable for producing the first Gurkha victory – for 1/2 GR in the 600kg event.

They were also notable for 2 Fd Regt RA's superb double in the 640kg and 680kg competitions, and 4 UDR's surprising absence from the gold medal roll call.

The gunners of 2 Fd Regt proved just how capable they are in defeating defending

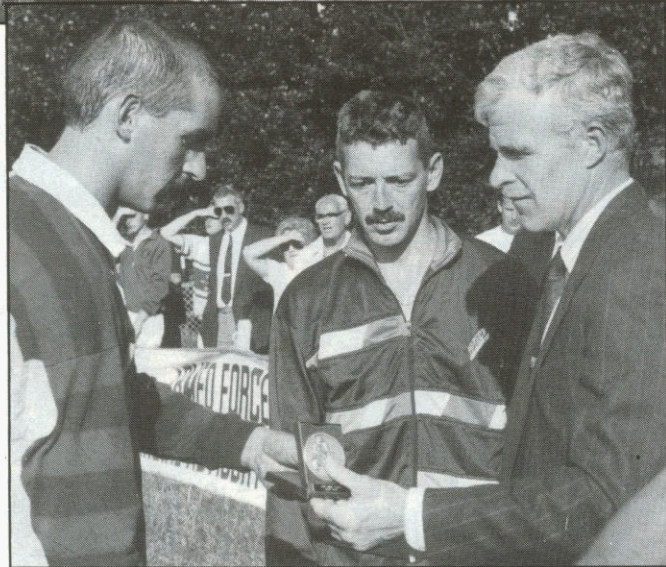
champions 26 Fd Regt RA in the blue riband 640kg competition semi-final.

In the final they overcame five-times winners 4 UDR (who beat 1/2 GR in their semi-final), and went on to win the 680kg honours as well, relegating 40 Fd Regt RA to second and 4 UDR to third place.

The 560kg was won by 94 Loc Regt RA, who beat 32 Hy Regt RA in the final. Losing semi-finalists in that competition were 1/2 GR and 3 UDR.

In bidding for their slice of tug of war history, the Gurkhas overcame 19 Fd Regt RA in the 600kg final.

Winners of the plate competitions for teams failing to



reach the Army finals were 49 Fd Regt RA (560kg), 7 Signal Regt (600kg), 40 Fd Regt RA (640kg) and 26 Fd Regt RA (680kg).

While the senior gunners were dominating the Army event, their youngsters were sweeping the board at the Army junior and national youth championships at Bramcote.

Junior Leaders' Regiment RA from Nuneaton won all four categories at the Army meeting, beating Princess Marina College Arborfield in the 420kg under 18, 560kg under 18, 640kg under 19 and

560kg under 19 weights.

JLRRA then went on to dominate the national youth event, winning six out of seven titles and taking the runners-up spot in the other.

PMC Arborfield were runners up to the young gunners in the 420kg and 560kg under-18 competitions.

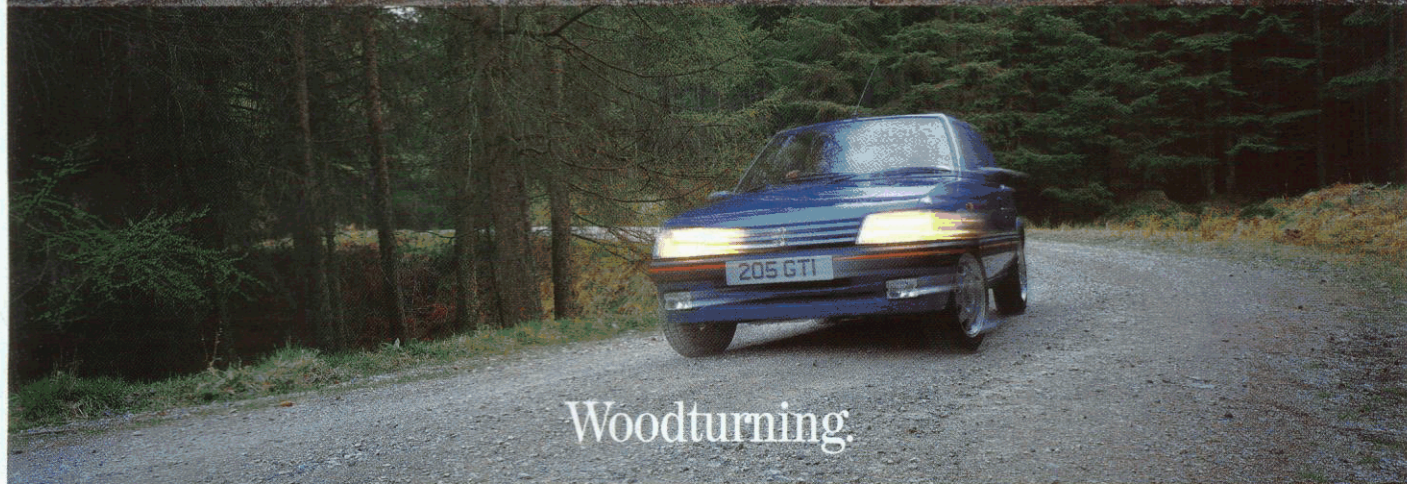
The 520kg under-19 competition was an international qualifier, so JLRRA's reward for winning it was selection to represent England at the European championships at Stans in Switzerland in September.



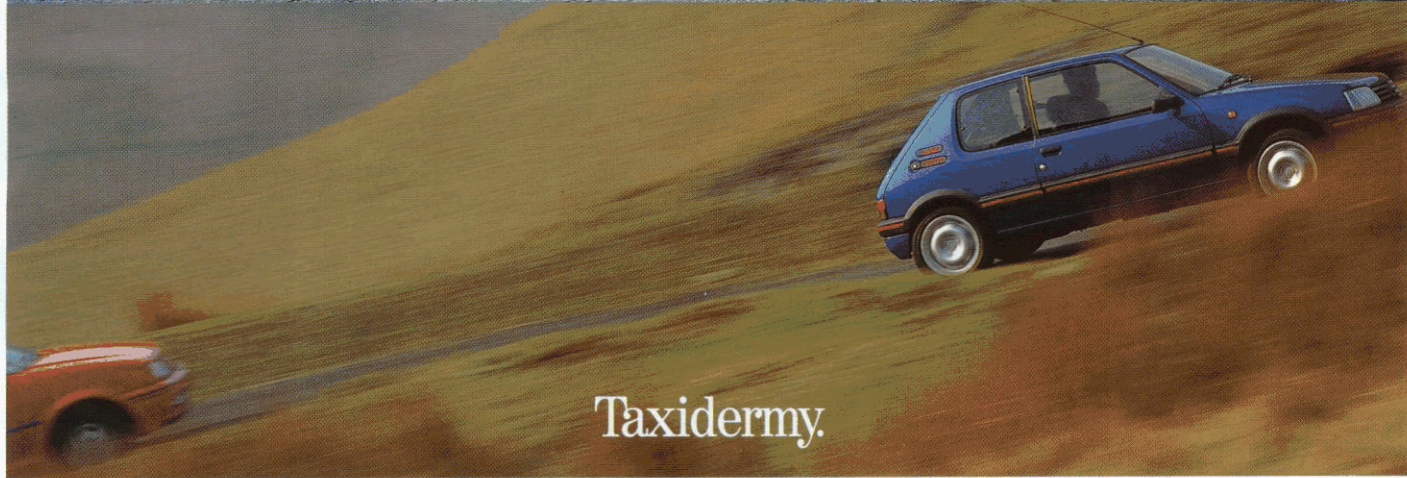
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# SOLDIER



The Queen presents Colours to four battalions of The Ulster Defence Regiment at Thiepval Barracks, Lisburn during her visit to Northern Ireland. Story and more pictures in Pages 18-19.