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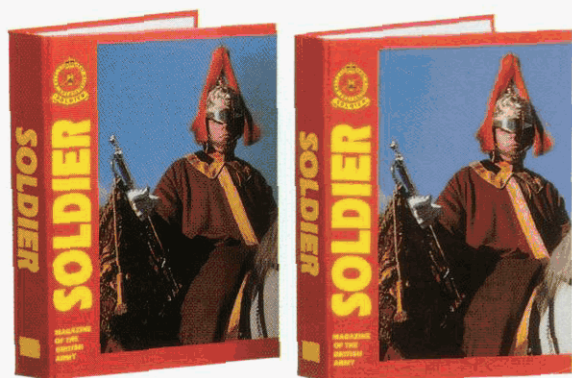
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Incorporating the Territorial Army magazine

February 8, 1993
VOL. 49/3

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SOLDIER is published by the Ministry of Defence and printed in the UK for HMSO. Photoset by RSB Typesetters, Worplesdon, Surrey. Crown Copyright 1993. Views expressed in **SOLDIER** are not necessarily those of the Army or the Ministry of Defence.

UK news trade distribution: SM (Circulation Department), 6 Leigham Court Road, Streatham, London SW16 2PG.
Telephone: 081-677 8111
Fax: 081-769 9529 or 081-677 0136.



Picture: Mike Weston

The flag-draped coffin of LCpl Wayne Edwards is borne by Tidworth-based soldiers of D Company, the 1st Battalion, The Royal Welch Fusiliers on its arrival at RAF Lyneham. The aircraft was met by Armed Forces Minister Archie Hamilton, Field Army Commander Lt Gen Sir Michael Wilkes, Lyneham Station Commander Gp Capt David

Adams, and representatives of the Royal Welch Fusiliers, including the Colonel, Maj Gen Morgan Llewellyn and the commanding officer of 1 RWF, Lt Col Bob Lloyd. LCpl Edwards was accorded a full military funeral at Rhosymedre near Wrexham on January 25. Soldiers of 1 Cheshire from his section at Gornji Vakuf attended.

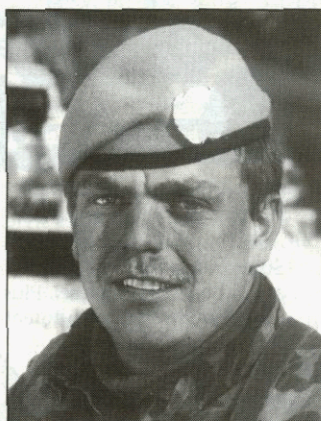
Cheshires mourn comrade-in-arms

From Mervyn Wynne Jones in Vitez

MEN OF THE Cheshire Battalion Group in Bosnia have been mourning the death of LCpl Wayne Edwards at a number of moving ceremonies.

LCpl Edwards, a 26-year-old soldier of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Welch Fusiliers attached to the Cheshires, died after being shot on January 13 while driving a Warrior vehicle through the centre of Gornji Vakuf.

He was in one of two Warriors of 5 Platoon, B Company based at Gornji Vakuf which were escorting a civilian ambulance. The ambulance had requested assistance to ensure safe passage through the town, scene of heavy fighting between Croat and Muslim ethnic factions.



LCpl Wayne Edwards

LCpl Edwards, single, of Wrexham, North Wales, was struck by a bullet from an unknown source and was dead on arrival at the British base in Gornji Vakuf shortly after. He

was attended at the scene by an Army doctor travelling in one of the Warriors.

Speaking on British television that evening, OC B Coy Maj Alistair Rule said: "We are very angry, but there is no indication of which side did it. This was clearly a classic humanitarian mission, and I have ended up with a dead soldier."

Small-arms fire echoing in the town around them, a small group of British soldiers gathered three days later to lay a wreath of red and yellow carnations at the spot where LCpl Edwards died. They were protected by a screen of four Warrior vehicles.

Townpeople watched from a burnt-out restaurant nearby as silence settled across Gornji Vakuf in time for the short ceremony. Cpl Alan Furniss laid a wreath at the roadside watched by Lt Col Bob Stewart, CO; Maj Alan Jones,

FRONT COVER (main picture): LCpl John Allsop of 7 Armd Wksp steam-cleans a Warrior CVA pack in a special bay being trialled during Op Grapple. (Picture: Mike Weston). **Inset:** A TA SAS trooper takes up a tactical position so other members of his patrol can move forward. See pages 18-19. (Picture: Stuart Bingham)

● Turn to Page 5

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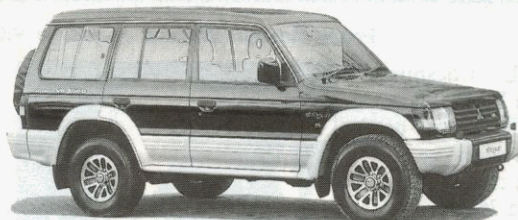


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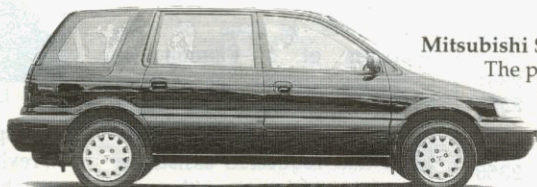
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Warrior driver mourned

● From Page 3

the newly-arrived B Coy OC; Lt Alex Watts, 5 Platoon commander; RSM Charles Stevens; Padre Tyrone Hillary, and the local Croat and Bosnian army commanders.

The latter had agreed to a temporary ceasefire and as a shot rang out nearby during the minute's silence, shouts of "stop shooting" were heard by an interpreter.

Within hours the two sides were again firing at each other, and just days later there were reports of heavy artillery and multiple barrel rocket launchers being used by opposing forces in the Gornji Vakuf area, temporarily cutting one of the UN main supply routes into the heart of Bosnia because of the danger to soft-skinned vehicles.

Lt Watts said: "It hit the platoon badly. We haven't just lost a soldier, we have lost a good friend."

Lt Col Stewart added: "We are devastated by his loss, but we have got to go on and I know that LCpl Edwards would be the first to say this. However, it is important for a soldier to be able to express his grief and that is what we are doing here in Gornji Vakuf. It is also very important for his family at home to know that we have honoured him. We will never forget LCpl Wayne Edwards."

A Bible found among LCpl Edwards's possessions was marked at a passage from the Book of Matthew stating "vengeance is mine sayeth the Lord". Padre Hillary read the passage during two emotional memorial services at Vitez and Gornji Vakuf on Sunday, January 17 at which the Last Post was played.

LCpl Edwards's body was flown back to the UK on January 19 for burial.

He was the first Briton to die in the Balkan conflict.

Prime Minister John Major paid tribute to LCpl Edwards in the House of Commons: "He lost his life in working to save the lives of many others. No one can make a greater sacrifice than that."



Picture: LCpl G. Moreno RAOC

Soldiers of C Troop, 22 (Gibraltar 1779-1783) Locating Battery RA of 94 Regiment at their Larkhill base before departure to join the Op Grapple force

Light guns on their way

SIX ships, led by the aircraft carrier HMS *Ark Royal*, and almost 400 further troops equipped with artillery and locating equipment have been committed to Operation Grapple by the British Government. In addition, other units have been placed on standby for a possible move to the area at short notice.

The carrier air group, with Sea Harriers and Sea King helicopters embarked, will be accompanied by the frigates *Brilliant* and *Coventry* and three support ships.

A number of other units have been deployed on the carrier group which has taken up

station in the Adriatic: a light gun battery, a locating battery and a mortar locating troop, with support.

This additional force will be available to reinforce the British contingent in Bosnia or

● More Op Grapple in Pages 25-29

to cover a withdrawal of British forces if that should become necessary.

Defence Secretary Malcolm Rifkind said the force will be used to increase the protection provided for the Cheshire Battalion Group as it carries out

its humanitarian role.

"We believe that the provision of artillery in particular will enable us to respond to attacks of the kind that we faced in Tomislavgrad.

"We remain committed to sustaining our participation in the United Nations humanitarian effort if at all possible. The forces will not be used to intervene in the fighting between rival factions in the former Yugoslavia," he said.

Eighty-nine additional personnel consisting of liaison officers, logisticians and observation parties have deployed to Bosnia. This reinforcement includes elements of Larkhill-based 94 Locating Regiment RA, an OP party from 29 Commando Regiment RA and support troops, as well as four parties of tactical forward air controllers drawn from the Army's 1st Mechanised Brigade and 3 Commando Brigade.

The remaining 300-plus soldiers will be held afloat, primarily aboard the Royal Fleet Auxiliary ship *Argus*. This includes the bulk of 5

● Turn to Page 11

BRITMEDBATT disbands

COMMAND of the British Medical Battalion (BRITMEDBATT) serving with the United Nations Protection Force in Croatia changed on January 20 when the small Headquarters British Contingent at Zagreb, commanded by Col Mark Cook, was disbanded. Although Operation Hanwood continues to function with 4 Armoured Field Ambulance, having taken over from 24 Airmobile Field Ambulance last December, command of BRITMEDBATT and its supporting elements has passed to Op Grapple.

Commander British Contingent, Brig Andrew Cumming, late 17/21 L, now commands all British troops serving in Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina.

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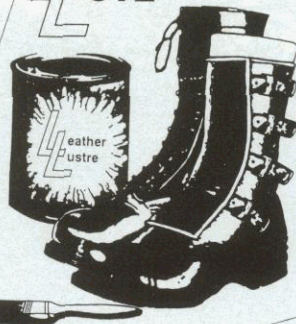
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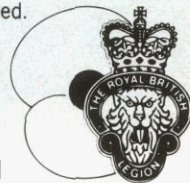
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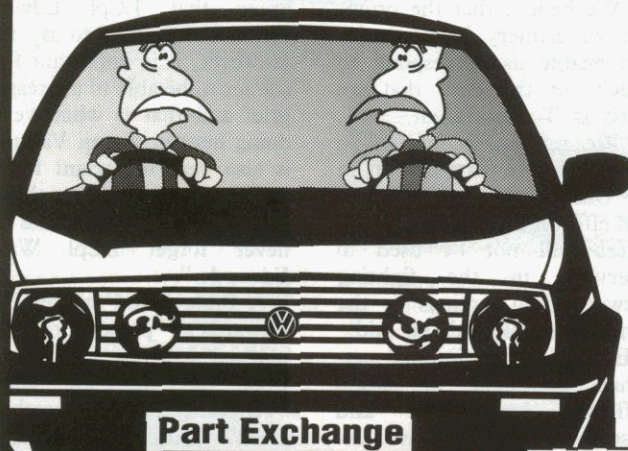


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District replaces Division

A NUMBER of changes are being implemented this year to aid the transition of the British Army of the Rhine, which will become the United Kingdom Support Command (Germany) on April 1, 1994.

The Bielefeld-based 1st (British) Corps formally disbanded on October 1 last year to form the nucleus of Nato's new Rapid Reaction Corps which has established its initial headquarters in Bielefeld.

Alongside the ARRC headquarters, an HQ UK Support Command (Forward) is being formed to replace BAOR, which ceases to exist on March 31, 1994.

In April next year, both the headquarters of the Allied Command Europe Rapid Reaction Corps and the UK Support Command will transfer to Rheindahlen. The support formation will then retitl as HQ UKSC (Germany).

The British 1st Armoured Division ceased to exist at the end of December. Its General Officer Commanding, Maj Gen Iain Mackay-Dick, and his staff now form Headquarters Lower Saxony District at Verden, designed as a stop-gap formation to provide continuity.

This short-lived formation will be wound down and closed by November 1993. The existing 4th Armoured Division will then be retitled as the new 1st (UK) Armoured Division.

Elsewhere in Germany, the 4th Armoured Brigade (Munster) closed on January 15, with Osnabrück-based 12th Armoured Brigade being renamed as 4th Armoured Brigade. In April, the 7th Armoured Brigade (Fallingb. tel) will close, with Hohnsbased 22nd Armoured Brigade being renamed as 7th Armoured Brigade. In the same month, the 3rd (UK) Division at Bulford will be declared operational.

● The flag of 12 Armd Bde was lowered at Osnabrück for the last time by WO1 Bob Smith and laid in perpetuity in St George's and St Luke's Garrison Church, Osnabrück by Brig Tim Granville-Chapman.



Maj Gen Patrick Cordingley, GOC Eastern District, is welcomed to Catterick by Garrison Commander Brig John Almonds (left) and Garrison Sergeant Major WO1 Frank Chambers (centre). Gen Cordingley, who commanded the 7th Armoured Brigade during the Gulf War, assumed command of Eastern District in November



Rgrs Mark McMahon and Bryan McGookin "dig in" to remove oil slick globules from the beach at Akrotiri

Cyprus soldiers muck in

ONE HUNDRED and sixty men from the 1st Battalion, The Royal Irish Regiment, B Squadron, The Queen's Own Hussars and 34 Squadron RAF Regiment based in Cyprus donned rubber gloves to clear up the remnants of a mystery slick of heavy crude oil washed up along the eastern coast of the Akrotiri peninsula.

The soldiers and airmen scavenged along 8km of beach, shovelling lumps of tarry oil into plastic bags. Sappers from 62 (Cyprus) Support Squadron RE collected the contaminated sand and used a grader to clear the worst-affected areas.

The Service response totalled 1,500 man hours and resulted in a near miraculous improvement. Contractors had earlier removed the worst of the pollution.

● 1 R Irish on exercise in Cyprus – see Pages 15-17

Paderborn farewell to Buffalo Brigade

SOLDIERS from the 33rd Armoured Brigade at Paderborn marked the end of an era as their brigade disbanded under Options for Change before being re-formed and retitled as 20th Armoured Brigade.

The occasion was marked in

Barker Barracks by the lowering of the 33rd's famous buffalo flag and a simple parade outside Brigade HQ.

Maj Gen Christopher Wallace, GOC Soest District, reviewed the parade, and Brig Arthur Denaro, Commander 33 Armd Bde, spoke of the

brigade's distinguished history, and expressed his thanks to the people of Paderborn.

Then the famous buffalo insignia of 33 Armd Bde was lowered for the last time and the spotlights shifted to the mailed fist symbol of 20 Armd Bde flying in its place.

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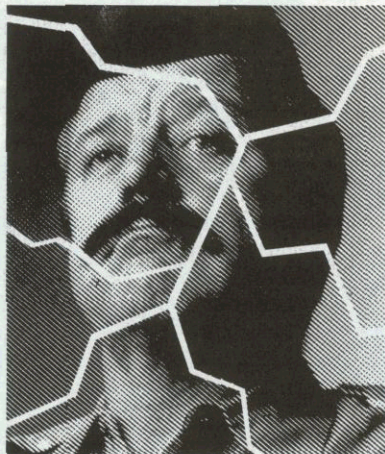
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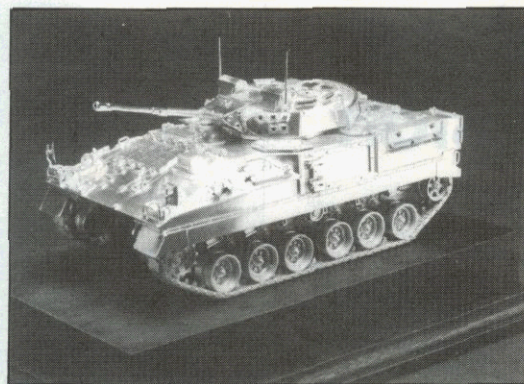
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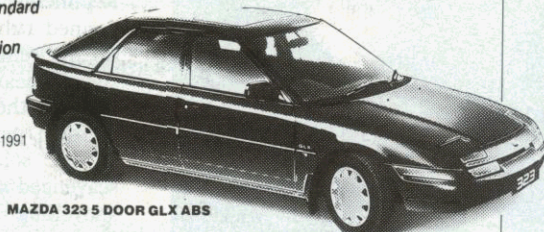
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EOD sappers set to leave Chatham

A ROYAL Engineers regiment with the principal role of clearing battlefields of dangerous munitions will move to Wimbish, near Saffron Walden, this year in place of 16th/5th The Queen's Royal Lancers.

At present 33 Engineer Regiment (EOD) is based at Chatham in Kent. Detach-

ments of sappers from the regiment have been in the Falkland Islands since 1982 dealing with the explosive legacy of the conflict with Argentina. They were also in the Gulf in 1991 undertaking the same sort of mission during the liberation of Kuwait.

At home the regiment has been involved with the disposal

of unearthed bombs and other munitions from the two world wars.

The move to Carver Barracks, Wimbish, is expected to be completed by July. In its new home the regiment will increase in size to a strength of 620.

The arrival of the Royal Engineers will change the

customary use of Carver Barracks. Ever since the 1970s, when the Army took over the base from the RAF, it has been the home of an armoured reconnaissance regiment. The last of these, 16th/5th Lancers, will amalgamate with 17th/21st Lancers in Germany later this year to form The Queen's Royal Lancers.

Black Watch takes over

TWENTY years since their last posting to the Territory, The Black Watch has taken over from the 1st Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Wales in Hong Kong.

At a brief ceremony at Stanley Fort, 1 RRW's commanding officer, Lt Col Peter Davies, formally handed over the Fort to The Black Watch's 2iC, Maj Alasdair Loudon.

Under the watchful eye of Taffy, 1 RRW's Regimental Mascot, Maj Loudon bade farewell to the Welsh and expressed his regiment's delight at having a final opportunity to serve in Hong Kong before the Territory reverts to China in 1997.

The strains of *Men of Harlech* will no longer echo over Hong Kong. For the next two years it will be the skirl of the pipes and *Hielan' Laddie* that will greet the ears at the many ceremonial occasions The Black Watch will perform in Hong Kong.

After its 2½-year tour of



Taffy looks on as Maj Alasdair Loudon bids farewell to Lt Col Peter Davies and the Royal Regiment of Wales

duty in the Territory, 1 RRW has replaced The Black Watch as the resident battalion at Clive Barracks, Tern Hill, Shropshire.

Formed in 1969 by the amalgamation of The South Wales Borderers and The Welch Regiment, 1 RRW went to Hong Kong in August 1990 and during its tour was involved in helping the Royal Hong Kong Police in the control of illegal immigration on the Chinese border, anti-

smuggling operations and providing guards for a Vietnamese refugee camp.

Soldiers from the battalion trained in Hawaii, Brunei, Australia, New Zealand and Malaysia, and formed honour guards in Korea.

While based at Tern Hill, the battalion will be sending companies on exercise to Jamaica and Italy. A reinforced company group of 200 is to deploy to the Falkland Islands for an operational tour in July.

Korean guards to end

BRITAIN is withdrawing its contingent of the United Nations honour guard from Korea by next month.

Armed Forces Minister Archie Hamilton told MPs that the platoon of British troops, comprising one officer and 36 men drawn from the Hong Kong garrison, would leave Korea by March 15.

Four British personnel who form part of the Commonwealth liaison mission in Seoul will follow within two months.

Britain will retain its membership of the UN Command and of the Military Armistice Commission in Korea.

Saxon roll

TWO SOLDIERS of the 1st Battalion, The Gloucester Regiment had a lucky escape while carrying out Saxon driver training on Catterick training area. The vehicle hit a tree stump, slewed across a slope and rolled downhill, turning over twice.

Both soldiers, undergoing Saxon training as the Glosters convert from 24 Airmobile Brigade to 19 Mechanised Brigade, were saved from injury by their safety harness.

Glasgow move proposed

PROPOSALS for an integrated Army Personnel Centre in Glasgow, to encompass the staffs of the Adjutant General and the Military Secretary, have been announced by Armed Forces Minister Archie Hamilton.

A study team has recommended that the centre be formed by 1995 in existing commercial office buildings in Glasgow.

The centre would include Manning and Record offices, regimental pay offices and the Army Pay Office (Officers' Accounts). Existing offices at Chester, Exeter, Leicester, York and Ashton-under-Lyne, and relevant MoD offices in London and Stanmore, would close as a result.

RDG visitor

MAJ GEN Anthony Denison-Smith, GOC 4th Armoured Division, visited The Royal Dragoon Guards on January 6 for the first time since the new regiment came under his command in December. He inspected the CO's guard and met two squadrons due to exercise in Canada later this year.

Dive award

A ROYAL Artillery diving expedition has won the 1992 British Sub-Aqua Club Duke of Edinburgh Jubilee Trust Medal. Maj Gerald Moor, who led the expedition to dive on ships at Jutland, received the medal from Prince Philip at Buckingham Palace in front of nine other members of the team.

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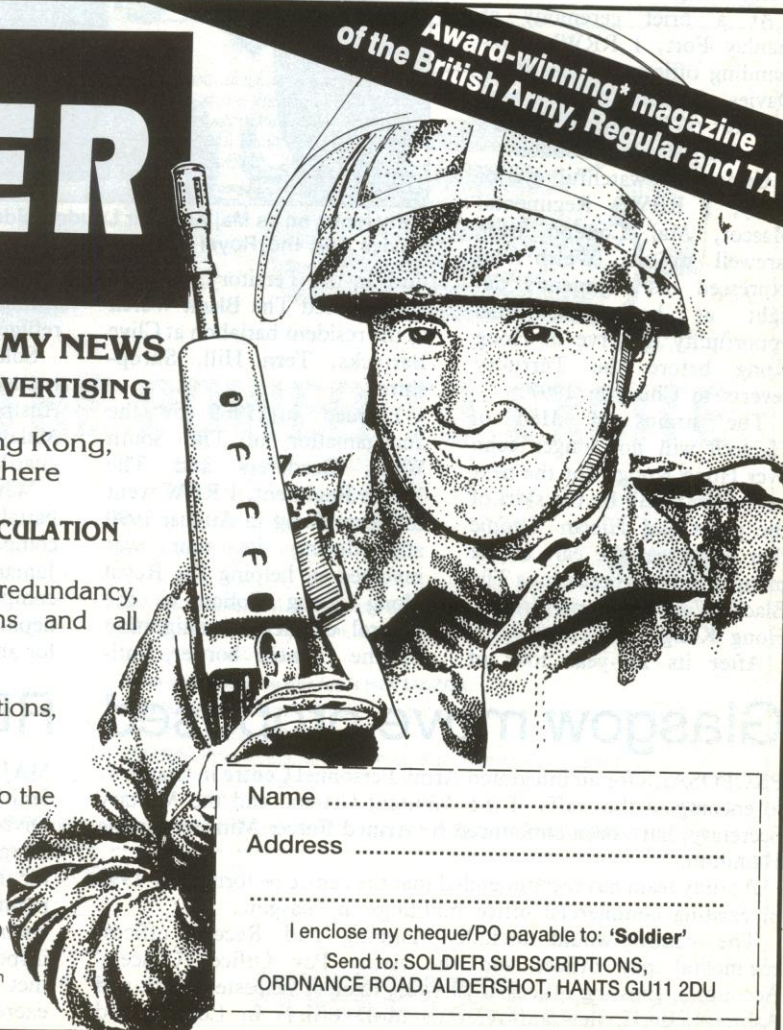
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TA not included in bands' review

DEFENCE Minister Viscount Cranborne has confirmed that the review of Army bands, which is still under way, does not include those of the Territorial Army.

"As far as my department is concerned their status will remain the same for the foreseeable future," he told the House of Lords.

However, when questioned he would not give a similar undertaking on the future of the bands of the Household Cavalry and the Foot Guards, urging members to await the review decisions.

Lord Cranborne revealed that the cost of Army bands for the current year was expected to be about £50 million, which had to be examined in the light of the reduction in overall forces.

"We are well aware of the importance of ensuring that we have adequate numbers of operational soldiers over and above bandmen," he said.

Earlier, the minister acknowledged that the review included the future of the three military band training establishments.

It also took full account of bandmen's additional medical and security tasks, he said, and he pointed out that the medical role was not part of their duty in Northern Ireland.

Troops help as floods hit Perth

A COMPANY of four platoons from the 2nd Battalion, Scots Guards deployed to assist people caught in the serious flooding which affected Perth after days of driving rain and hurricane-force winds had hit Scotland.

Also involved in the mop-up operations were 71 Engr Regt (V) with assault boats, 1/51 H (V), 3/51 H (V), 153 (Highland) Arty Spt Regt (V), and RAF and naval units.

City honours Liverpool medics



Maj Jackie McLoughlan of Liverpool-based 208 (Merseyside) General Hospital RAMC(V) receives her Gulf Medal from the Lord Lieutenant of Merseyside, Mr Henry Cotton. She was one of 12 members of 208 who were attached to a number of medical units in the Gulf during the war. On the right is Capt Val Williams, and behind the Lord Lieutenant is the CO, Col Jim Egan. All 12

medal-winners were on the parade, which was combined with the presentation of a scroll by the Lord Mayor of Liverpool to mark the unit's 25-year link with the city.

In return, 2IC Lt Col Richard Murphy presented the Lord Mayor with a framed set of 25th anniversary medallions, including a commemorative plate.



Gunners of 94 Locating Regiment RA board the RFA Argus as BV206 "over-snow" vehicles are hoisted on board at Marchwood military port on Southampton Water

Gunners

● From Page 5

Gibraltar (1779-1783) Field Battery RA with six 105mm light guns.

Other elements remaining at sea are a locating battery from 94 Regiment which includes meteorological, ranging and surveying experts, a Cymbeline mortar locating troop of 29 Cdo Regiment and medics from 23 Parachute Field Ambulance at Aldershot.

The airportable light gun has a range of more than 17km and can double as a very effective anti-tank weapon.

The Cymbeline mortar locating radar detects the upward trajectory of a mortar bomb, and calculates and displays the point of origin within 12 seconds.

How long the carrier group and extra troops will remain on station in the Adriatic is not known, but 94 Locating Regiment RA was due to disband by September under Options for Change.

It is one of six gunner regiments being placed in suspended animation, all of which could be re-formed if required. The new post-Options order of battle for the Royal Artillery has no dedicated locating units listed.

Picture courtesy of Liverpool Daily Post and Echo



More than 1,000 years' service to the Crown is represented in this picture, taken when 37 Long Service List (LSL) soldiers based in the Rheinland area – plus their Records Officer and (non-LSL) Garrison Sergeant Major – gathered for a dinner. There are currently about 750 LSL soldiers serving in posts in the UK, Germany, Belize, Hong Kong,

Long servers

Cyprus and Canada, says Lt Col **Peter Holmes**, Officer in Charge of the Central Manning Support Office. The office deals with sergeants, staff sergeants, WOs and a handful of corporals who have completed a full 22-year engagement and have been selected to continue to serve in specified employments.

After you, Dad

Carrying on where his father left off is Pte **Stephen Bain** of G Coy, The Gibraltar Regiment. PC Michael Bain (right) was with the regiment for 18 years before joining the Rock's police force after a stint as Governor's driver.

Stephen, whose brother **Kevin** serves with the TA element of the regiment, has some way to go to catch up with Dad: he has been with the company a mere 18 months.

Picture: SAC Jules Hague



Following in her father's footsteps by enlisting into the RAMC is 19-year-old **Adrienne Starling** of Dundee, who will train as an Environmental Health Technician after initial training at the Prince of Wales's Depot Lichfield and the RAMC Training Centre, Ash Vale. Dad, Capt **Peter Starling** (left), is currently training officer with 225 (Highland) Field Ambulance in Dundee. With them is Maj **Frank Smith** (ACIO Dundee).



Reason for the happy smiles on the faces of members of Episkopi's "Lemmings Club" is the magnificent boat behind them. Purchased with club funds and a generous grant from the Nuffield Trust, *Osprey* will enable the Joint Service club to continue with its main aim of encouraging personnel and their dependants, Service and entitled civilians of any rank or grade to make the most of their time in Cyprus by participating in water sports. Pictured (left to right) are Sqn Ldr **Steve Hickey**, FS **Bill Stewart**, Capt **Tanya Collier-Jackson**, Cpl **Andrea Booth**, Sgt **Mal Thomas** and WO1 **Bill Smart**.

Michelle's a hit with the sappers

A 12-hour darts marathon held by the Royal Engineers based in Gibraltar was given a flying start by Miss Gibraltar, **Michelle Torres**, when she threw the opening darts at the sappers' 1772 Club. The annual event, in aid of the BFBS Wireless for the Blind appeal, raised £6,000.



Picture: SAC Richie Reade

Off to Bosnia



Capt **Jo White** was one of four medics who left the relatively warm confines of the Cambridge Military Hospital, Aldershot, for Bosnia on January 1. She and colleagues Lt **Brenda Bowman-King**, Sgt **Mark Russell** and Pte **Lisa Stewart** flew to join the mobile support team in Vitez.

Lyn's surprise



After 20 years' continuous service and 700 recruits, SSgt **Lyn Davies** – claimed to be the longest-serving Army recruiter in the UK – turned the tables on her colleagues when she retired. Based at the Army Recruiting Centre in the Mardol, Shrewsbury, Lyn presented Maj **Roger Taylerson** and his staff with a framed tapestry of the recruiting flag to hang in the office.



Hunt's square meal

No "silly little sausage rolls" for the guests of Brig **Bruce Willing**, Commander 160 (Wales) Brigade, when the Brecon Hunt renewed its links with the Barracks in Brecon after 19 years. The hunt, regular visitors to the Barracks from the 1840s, met on the square of HQ 160 Bde for the customary stirrup cup.

PEOPLE

Audrey's cake is a winner



What do you do when you have just been awarded first prize in the senior class of a Christmas cake decorating competition? Hand the cake over to a worthwhile cause. Pictured doing just that, aided and abetted by adjutant Capt **Seamus Rodgers** RA, is Sgt **Audrey Meredith** of 14 Field Regiment RA at Larkhill. **Nellie Parkinson**, of the Amesbury retirement home, is the recipient. Winners of other cake competitions further afield included LCpl **Gilbert Smith** of the Scorpion Regiment, 8 Regt RCT, Münster and Sgt **Tony Kay** ACC of 28 Engineer Regiment, Hameln.

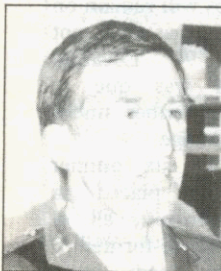


Cheers to Sofia

One of the more unusual events for the three-man Army team in the Defence Attachés' Office at the British Embassy in Sofia, who usually deal with matters such as liaison with the Bulgarian Armed Forces and co-ordination of training courses for Bulgarians in the UK, was the presentation of a Gulf Medal by the ambassador **Richard Thomas** to locally-based British businessman **Martin Riddell**, a member of the TA. Seen toasting Mr Riddell's memorable day are (from left) WO2 **Andy Robinson**, Col **Robert Pearson** and Sgt **Ray Davidson**. Once considered a hostile place, Bulgaria now offers the Defence Attaché and his staff an interesting posting, complete with beautiful countryside, ancient monasteries, excellent skiing and superb wines.

Regular Terrier!

Regular officer Maj **Robert Carter** has achieved the unusual distinction of being awarded the Territorial Decoration. He completed his TA service of 13 years and 315 days between two stints in the Regular Army – first in the Royal Engineers and then in the Royal Signals. Robert, who received his award from GOC Eastern District, Maj Gen **Patrick Cordingley**, currently works as a communications staff officer with 15 (North East) Brigade in York.



'An incredible contribution'

LT GEN Sir John Wilsey, who is leaving the post of General Officer Commanding Northern Ireland for his new job as Commander UK Land Forces, has spoken of his pride at the Army's contribution to peace in the Province.

In a wide-ranging BBC interview – the first given by a serving GOC in more than 20 years – he reflected on his two-and-a-half-year tour and spoke of the Army's role supporting the Royal Ulster Constabulary in defeating terrorism.

"I think we have a good story to tell," he said, "and I am enormously proud of what the Army has contributed since 1969."

The GOC took the opportunity publicly to thank Servicemen and their families in Northern Ireland for their hard work. Asked what he would particularly remember of his tour, he said:

"It is the marvellous contribution, an incredible contribution, made by my soldiers and their families working extraordinarily long hours . . . 16 hours a day, seven days a week . . . people here for six months except for a short break of eight days in the middle. It's truly uplifting to see that kind of dedication."

Speaking about the current security situation in Northern Ireland, Gen Wilsey said terrorists should be worried by the high level of arrests made by the RUC – and the fact that their actions had had no impact on the will of the Army "resolutely and bravely" to go about their business.

It was inconceivable that the Army would "jack it in" or lose the will to go on.

"The key thing is the will, the will to win, the will not to be intimidated. The terrorists from either community are not going to win. We will go on deploying in Northern Ireland in support of the RUC until the penny drops in the terrorists'



Lt Gen Sir John Wilsey meets men under his command in Northern Ireland

minds that they are not going to win."

Terrorist attacks on military positions along the border, aimed at intimidating the Army, had actually achieved nothing, said the GOC. In fact, they had the reverse effect.

The old permanent vehicle checkpoints in border areas had been reinforced and strengthened and made into patrol bases. This had resulted in more soldiers being available for patrols.

In addition, the public was less inconvenienced as new road traffic controls make the flow of traffic easier.

Asked to comment about the force levels in Northern Ireland, the GOC said: "With two additional units I have the resources I need to do the job asked of me by the RUC . . . I do believe I am adequately and properly resourced."

During a recent visit to Northern Ireland, Defence Secretary Malcolm Rifkind had said that the Northern Ireland commitment in support of the RUC was the number one call upon the Army.

Speaking of the formation last July of The Royal Irish Regiment, Gen Wilsey said it had been important for The Ulster Defence Regiment to be brought into the Regular Army; they deserved it as they had done an outstanding job.

The interview also covered soldiers and the law, topical at a time when a number are facing serious charges arising out of incidents in Northern Ireland. The GOC was quite emphatic on this subject: "Soldiers are answerable to the law and every soldier under my command here understands this and accepts the fact."

Questioned closely about alleged Army informer Brian Nelson, currently in prison on five counts of conspiracy to murder, Gen Wilsey said that operations of a covert nature were always difficult and extremely sensitive.

The incident had, however, demonstrated that the relationship between the Army and the RUC, and the other agencies involved, was strong enough to withstand any pressures that came about. It

should also be remembered that the investigation had been called by the Chief Constable and was one in which the Army had co-operated fully.

Relations between the Army and the RUC had produced an extremely happy partnership. One of the good things of his time in Northern Ireland had been the very strong personal relationship formed with the RUC, and with Stormont and other agencies.

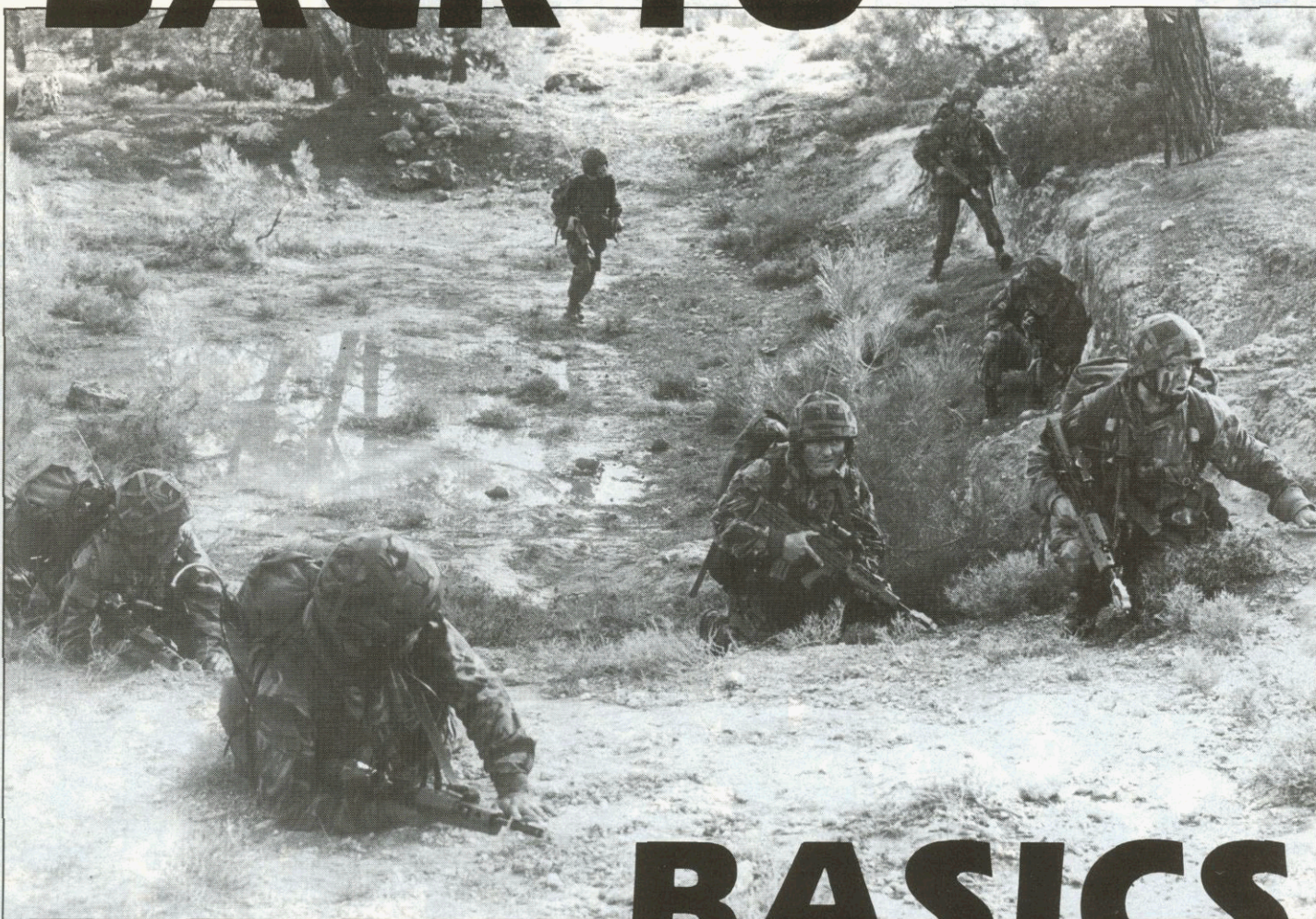
Asked if he believed terrorism could be defeated, Gen Wilsey said: "You have to see this thing as a matter of government resolve and all the agencies of the State – all the sinews of State – bearing down upon terrorism. And there are many aspects to this."

"It requires political progress, it requires a strong economic policy, it requires fair and impartial social progress to be made, it requires within the law a strong security policy . . . provided that we keep our nerve and continue to put pressure upon the terrorist and bear down on all fronts then we will prevail."

BACK TO

Words: Laurie Manton

Pictures: Terry Champion



The Royal Irish use a gully for cover during their advance

BASICS

Young Rangers learn to fight on foot

IT CAME as a surprise to discover that dependence on mechanised fighting vehicles such as Warrior is so great that many younger infantry soldiers have little or no experience of operating in a dismounted role.

In Exercise Rock Rose in Cyprus the 1st Battalion, The Royal Irish Regiment took part in two weeks of field training designed to brush-up skills needed to fight on foot.

Said commanding officer Lt Col Tony Potter: "It is the culmination of our training since we arrived here last July. We were previously the infantry demonstration battalion at the School of Infantry, Warminster, and before that we had been a mechanised infantry battalion in Germany for five years.

"As a result, we have in the battalion a whole generation of soldiers, up to and including corporals, who have no experience of operating dismounted or having to live and fight on foot with what they can



Lt Col Tony Potter, CO 1 Irish

carry. One of the aims of the exercise was to break the mentality that your armoured personnel carrier with its boiling vessel for a brew is parked around the corner."

The three phases of Rock Rose were fought across exacting countryside near Epis-

kopi. Troops had to advance across the grain of the land, an arduous task especially when having to negotiate ravines with 15ft of water at the bottom.

If that was not enough to test the mettle of the soldiers, in one 36-hour period, two-and-a-half times the monthly rainfall fell on the training area.

During the exercise, soldiers practised a variety of tasks including advance-to-contact and minefield breaching. The exercise culminated in the launching of a dismounted battalion attack on the village of Paramali, which was defended by a company of the mythical "Wonderful Freedom Raiders of the Dhekelian Army" provided by B Company, 1st Battalion, The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment.

Role of the regiment in Cyprus is to provide internal security for the Western Sovereign Base Area at Episkopi.

The next few months are set

to be very busy for 1 R Irish. Next month it deploys a reinforced company group to the Falklands for four months, while those soldiers remaining in Cyprus are committed to providing all the guards and duty personnel at the Sovereign Base.

In August, the battalion must be ready to receive the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Irish Regiment, with which it must merge by August 31.

"There are not easy days ahead," said Col Potter.

"It's very easy for us as individuals, and as a battalion, to think that we are the only people in the Infantry who are affected and, of course, that is not the case.

"It just brings home to us how much we have been affected under Options for Change over the past year."

One of the advantages of the new Royal Irish Regiment is that soldiers from Home

● Turn to next page



TA soldiers from 4 and 5 R Irish taking part in Rock Rose were still able to raise a smile at the end of the tough two-week exercise



Rgr Gary McIlwaine of C Coy keeps watch for intruders

Rangers go back to basics

● From Page 15

Service battalions can now serve on attachments overseas with General Service battalions like 1 R Irish.

A number of Home Service soldiers serving on three- to 12-month attachments took part in Rock Rose. One, a former Ulster Defence Regiment private, is on a four-month attachment.

He told SOLDIER he found it very different from internal security operations in Northern Ireland.

"The exercise practised us in conventional warfare techniques. I definitely didn't think I'd find so much rain in Cyprus, but it's been a good exercise. It involved a lot of tabbing across country, but

that's what we get paid for.

"Although part of the battalion's reserve company, we did get a chance to take out a few enemy positions, which certainly got the adrenalin pumping a bit," he said.

Currently, private soldiers in 1 and 2 R Irish are called "rangers", following an agreement made when the merger board sat. It was decided soldiers in the two General Service battalions would be rangers, and the remainder would be called privates.

The colonel of the regiment has now decided that it is wrong to have two different titles and has asked all Home Service, General Service and depot commanding officers for their views.

"There have been a number of suggestions including ranger, private, rifleman and volunteer," said Col Potter.

"As an ex-Royal Irish Ranger, I believe very strongly that our private soldiers should be called rangers. It is a title we want to keep."

Since the amalgamation last summer, the battalion has also had to come to terms with wearing berets while in working dress instead of the distinctive caubeen.

The subject is emotive, but, although Col Potter would be the first to agree the caubeen is impractical for wear in the field under combat conditions, he does believe his soldiers have lost part of their identity without it.



O Group. The commanding officer, Lt Col Tony Potter (right), discusses the battle plans with officers



Above - In dusty conditions, weapons have to be kept scrupulously clean. Lt Charlie Thompson (left) and Cpl Kevin Mann work on their SA 80s

Left - A Royal Irish officer calls for reinforcements



Providing comms and almost hidden under the scrim of his helmet is Rgr Pete Brennan

Territorial Army volunteers with the Special Air Service are drawn from all walks of life. As **Mervyn Wynne Jones** discovered, potential recruits may not be men of steel, but they will require iron determination and a high degree of motivation to get through the selection process. Pictures by **Stuart Bingham**.

SAS TA

Determined to join the best

FLAT ON the ground, bergen digging into his shoulders and face strained with exhaustion, the recruit struggled to lock his arms into a full press-up. Twenty kilometres of some of the most rugged of Welsh terrain behind him, and another ten ahead, he was learning an elementary lesson about covert patrolling and ambush avoidance.

"What won't you do again?" asked the rendezvous point controller. "I'll keep off roads and tracks," came the reply. Given another grid reference, he was sent on his way. Lessons are hard learnt on the demanding and exhausting path to becoming a Territorial Army volunteer with the Special Air Service.

By any standard of military training – especially for the part-time soldier – it is tough. Most will fall by the wayside before donning the coveted sand-coloured beret with its winged-dagger badge. Already, by the fourth training weekend

of the six-month-long selection process, 40 of the original 70 recruits had dropped out either by Voluntary Withdrawal "VW" – or because of injury. The worst was yet to come.

Bergens would get heavier, distances longer and the race against the clock ever more exacting in a series of tests designed to stretch a man to the limits in the search for aptitude, attitude and commitment. Two or three would make it through.

"We will not drop our standards," said Dave, a construction company executive by day and veteran of 18 years' service with 23 SAS (V).

"We cannot afford to, both from their point of view and



weight – the latest batch of hopefuls were dispatched into the gloom with the promise from their staff sergeant that "behind all this mist, I assure you, there are a lot of very steep hills".

Among them, as in each of the twice-yearly selection courses, was a broad representation of professions and backgrounds. 23 SAS (V) and

from that of the colleagues they would later be working with – every man must have absolute faith in those around him."

Torrential rain had greeted the recruits as they arrived at the remote mountain start point during the night, persisting until dawn when – their bergens checked for

21 SAS (V) attract a wide variety of recruits, ranging from doctors and barristers to bricklayers, scrap metal merchants, physical training instructors and former regular soldiers.

Recruits will be considered between the ages of 20 and 33, though this can extend to 35 with previous military experience – a little more if a man can offer a specialist skill or knowledge.

Having a military background is clearly an advantage, and a substantial proportion of recruits approach the Territorial SAS either as ex-Regular Army soldiers or on transfer from another unit within the TA.

They and their Regular Army staff and instructors are vital to both Terrier SAS regiments, bring with them new ideas and experience.

Nevertheless, many able troopers are drawn straight from civilian life, the traits essential to the SAS of self-awareness, self-reliance and self-confidence common to each. "Ask anyone why he's doing it," said Nick, a steelworker, "and you will get a different answer every time. I think we have all got our own reasons, but above all it has to be the challenge."

Tackling the selection course while holding down a full-time job demands total commitment. Anything less increases the prospect of failure during the six-month selection process.

Nine alternative training weekends, concentrated on endurance and navigation skills, culminate in "long drag" when, competing against the clock, recruits must force-march and run 50 kilometres carrying a heavy bergen and



Above – The regiment prepares at the RAF base for a fixed-wing parachute jump



Left – A member of a TA SAS forest patrol pauses to ensure the way ahead is clear

hard week at work. "You go on more and more courses and try to keep on top of the high standards required. Every man must become a first-class signaller – signals is our life blood – and parachute and medical training are also mandatory," said Dave.

The SAS trooper will pick up a wide variety of skills, from combat survival, forward air control and foreign equipment recognition to demolitions and vehicle mechanics.

Working closely with the Royal Navy and the Royal Air Force, he will learn how to operate in a variety of hostile environments. The longer he serves, the more useful he becomes.

Fitness is a matter of individual pride and all SAS Territorials are keen sportsmen, often specialising in climbing, orienteering, mountain walking or fell running.

Adventurous training, combined often with foreign travel, is a key feature of each squadron calendar, including canoeing, climbing, abseiling, top-roping, sub-aqua, ski-ing and sailing.

Exercises, often abroad, are held at patrol, squadron or

regimental level, frequently after a silent insertion such as a parachute drop into hostile countryside in extreme climatic conditions.

Chelsea-based 21 SAS (V) has squadrons at Dulwich, Hitchin, Bramley and Newport, and 23 SAS (V) is based in Birmingham with squadrons at Manchester, Leeds, Newcastle, Dundee and Glasgow. Most squadrons train every weekend, and in an average year exercises are staged in Norway, Germany, the United States and other Nato countries.

Peter, a toolmaker who has been in 23 SAS (V) for nine years, said: "When I heard at that very first briefing that eight would pass out of 200, I knew that I would be one of them. It was something I wanted, and it was a marvellous feeling of achievement at the end."

"None of us is Superman – you just need sheer determination."

"It is simply the best regiment in the world," he added, "with a better quality of soldiering both in terms of experience and variety. Everything you do in this unit is done professionally."

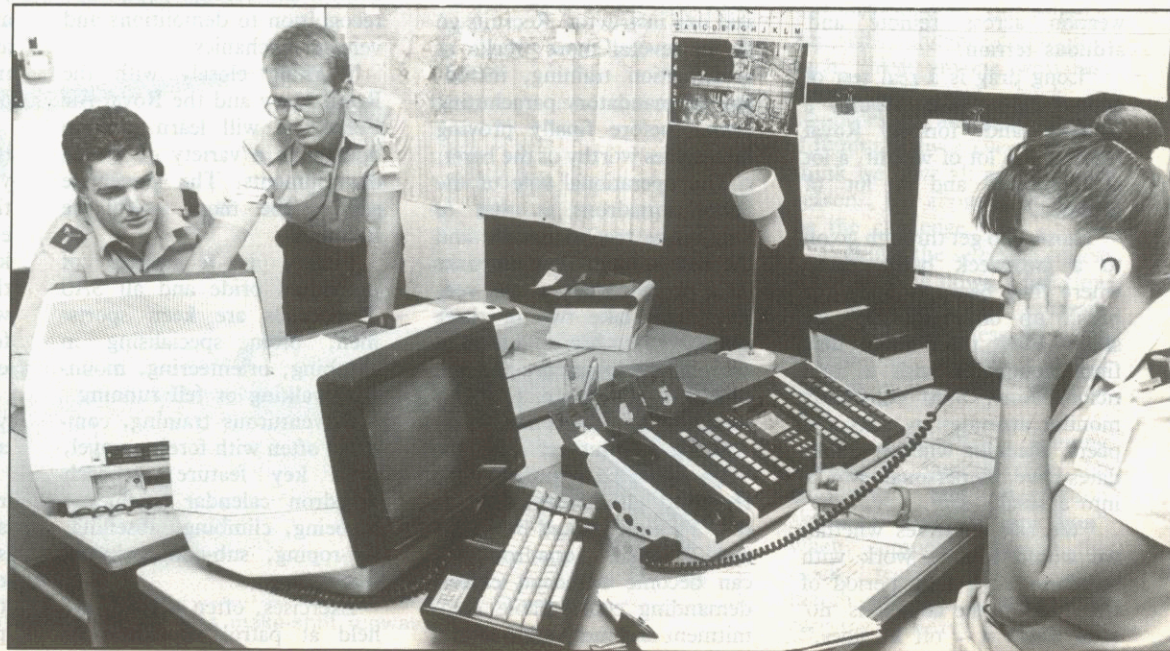


Troopers guide a Hercules transport plane on to a make-shift runway



Above – Cpls John Murray and Steve Ferguson, members of the small Fortress Special Task Royal Engineers' presence on the Rock, doing their bit for ornithological interests as they prepare a fresh-water pool, partially funded by MoD, for the use of birds en route from Africa

Right – In the Rock's telephone exchange, situated off a long, land-level tunnel originally built for Gen Eisenhower during the Second World War, Sgt Malcolm McCallum (R Signals) gives a few pointers on the computer system to SAC Steve March (RAF), whose colleague SACW Jan Wright is handling one of the innumerable enquiries – military and civilian – which crop up on a typical shift



Right – Safe and sound: a happy LCpl Paul Ellis (FSTRE) surrounded by children and mothers at the Rock's "stay and play" centre, which is situated in a busy traffic area. Thanks to his building efforts, the children are now fenced in and can play in safety

Below – Col Tony Reed Screen, Land Forces Commander



Soldier heads plans for . . .

DRAWDOWN ON THE ROCK

ONCE THE final member of the 3rd Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets had climbed the steps to the 'plane and metaphorically closed the door to Gibraltar behind him in 1991, it marked the end of the long-held presence of a British Army resident battalion on the Rock.

However, as Col Tony Reed Screen points out, brown uniforms – whether Regular or Territorial – are still very much in evidence there, alongside the dark blue and light blue . . .

Indeed, part of his task as Land Forces Commander or, to give him his more strictly correct title, Chief Staff Officer Projects and Plans, is to oversee the streamlining of Gibraltar Command HQ into one logistic base for the Army as well as the other two Services.

Fresh from commanding 1st Armoured Division's Royal Engineers, in the Gulf War, he took over the Gibraltar post from Brig David Lewis in September 1991.

"My main concern on behalf of the Combined British Force is not only how to spend our pennies but how we are going to chart our way forward over the next ten years," Col Reed Screen said.

The immediate aim – the "five year plan" – is to reduce the amount of land owned by the MoD in Gibraltar (currently more than 30 per cent) by half, cut down expenditure by 30 per cent and, in a move which the colonel realises will not make him the most popular of men, decrease Services manpower by the same amount.

"Basically, we have here an estate which is pretty old and expensive to maintain, hot in summer and rainy in winter," explained Col Reed Screen.

He added: "We are working on the best way to rationalise

that estate for the future."

The majority of Service reductions will be from the Royal Air Force, with its complement being reduced from 350 to approximately 100 and airfield functions being contracted out.

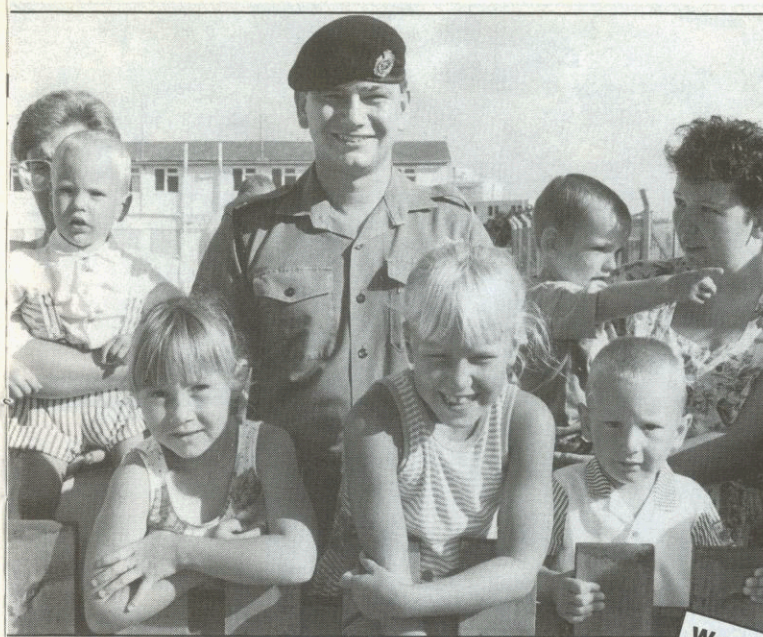
"Our aspirations as three separate Services are quite different, and trying to bring us all together is a fascinating challenge," he said.

"We certainly have not got there yet, and it will be some time before one could say, for example, that the Navy will look after the administration of the soldiers. It is at that level where difficulties are going to arise."

Col Reed Screen ruefully admits that the pace of the programme will be much slower than anything in the Gulf.

If a mistake was made in the Gibraltar strategy, the effects would be felt two years later whereas in the desert it would be more like two days.

In the meantime, he is confident of the future of the integrated dockside HQ and, as a sapper through and through, admits to a great sense of pride at being able to see the tangible evidence of his forebears' skills – still intact after two centuries – whenever he glances up at the rock's fortifications.



Words: Phil Wilcox
Pictures: Mike Perring



Hot work for Spr Mark Shanks (foreground) and Cpl Tom McGlade (STRE) as they construct a gas bottle storage area as part of improvements for the Gibraltar Naval Diving School. "We can tackle anything that we are asked to do," said Cpl McGlade, "from this to removing a dirty great palm tree which had fallen down in the town"

Smiling staff at The Convent, Governor of Gibraltar Admiral Sir Derek Reffell's residence in the town centre. "Now that the Governor has handed over most of the military side to the Commander Land Forces, it is more of a Foreign Office-type job here these days," said SSgt Beverly Fulford (centre). She is pictured with colleagues Sgt Laura Pinchbeck (left) and Cpl Jill Tuson. Back row: Lt Col Patrick Compton, Lt Ian Cole (RN) and Wing Cdr Thomson





The magnificent 412ft suspension bridge at Roaring Creek, Belize, a permanent reminder of men of 3 Tp, 9 Para Sqn, RE, who constructed it during their six-month roulement tour last year. It is not uncommon for members of 36 Engineer Regiment to be abroad for nine months in any year

Life's a whirl for Maidstone sappers

HECTIC IS probably too inadequate a word to describe the daily lives of members of 36 Engineer Regiment in Maidstone recently.

Not only have many of them been involved in activities covering a fair proportion of the world but, on the domestic front, radical changes are taking place on their doorstep.

Add to that a new role, coupled with more overseas trips in the offing, and it is easy

to understand why there was an almost tangible mixture of satisfaction and anticipation in the air when SOLDIER visited the sappers' Invicta Park Barracks.

"We were until recently with 5 Airborne Division, but we are now the general support engineering regiment for 3 (UK) Division," explained commanding officer Lt Col Chris Guthkelch.

"There is a hell of a lot going on. Under Options, 51 Field Squadron are due to join us from Ripon, increasing the number of men by over 100 to almost 950. Our vehicle tally will be doubled – to 320.

"Apart from that, we are in the midst of a major rebuild here."

The multi-million pound project, sponsored by Kent County Council, involves re-aligning the barracks' perimeter to make way for a new dual carriageway under construction.

"A substantial number of regimental facilities are earmarked for demolition after being re-provisioned in other parts of the estate," said quartermaster Maj Ray Edwards.

One casualty will be the now little-used 150-year-old former barracks a mile or so down the road from Invicta, whose square currently houses some of the regiment's heavy equipment.

Scheduled for completion in April is a vast, impressive, technical working area, consisting of production workshops, stores and loading ramps – built on the site of the park's old quarry and some council allotments.

"A great deal of forethought and planning has gone into the design of all new buildings," said Maj Edwards.

This is borne out by a glance at the first to be completed – three ultra modern accommodation blocks used by junior ranks since last July.

Named Kirby, Ross and Sleavon after Royal Engineers' VCs, the blocks incorporate hotel-standard six-man flatlets with integral ablution and utility facilities.

As one corporal put it: "This must be one of the only



Two members of the REME workshops at 36 Engineers' old barracks in Maidstone, LCpl Andy Dunsdon and Cfn Eric Lowden, who are teaching the regiment about the intricacies of the newly-acquired Drops vehicle

barracks where we have our own car park, not to mention garages."

Coming under 36 Engineers' "umbrella" are 20 and 50 Field Squadrons, 61 Field Support Squadron and a sub-unit, 9 Parachute Squadron RE, based

70 miles away at Aldershot. And 50 Fd Sqn (Const) is due to re-role imminently to become HQ Squadron for the regiment.

The two field squadrons have between them done their bit to enable the regiment to practise



Centre – Lt Col Chris Guthkelch, CO 36 Engr Regt

Left – Spr Paul Smith gets a helping hand with his kit from 9 Para's "Fitzie". Now back in the swing of airborne operations after a packed year on the international scene – mainly in Belize – each troop in the squadron is due to tackle a six-week exercise in 1993 in either Canada or Kenya

Left – Trio from 50 Fd Sqn with an unusual souvenir. SSgt Glen Smith, Cpl Chris Downes and Spr Del Lownie lean on a pedestal incorporating part of a Phantom FGR2 fighter.

During the squadron's tour of the Falklands last year, Spr Downie was one of a team called upon to consign four of the islands' five Phantoms to the historical (unmarked) waste-tip near Mount Pleasant Airfield.

The Phantoms, having done sterling service for the previous ten years, made way for Tornados F3s. One was salvaged, and – with much manoeuvring by willing sappers – now stands proudly as the RAF Mount Pleasant "gate guardian".

its wide range of combat skills without venturing outside the confines of Invicta Park, before testing them in a tactical environment.

Initially tasked with design improvements to the then derelict in-barracks training

area (IBTA) was 50 Fd Sqn (Const). The project was continued by members of 20 Fd Sqn as part of their training for the first overseas trip of the New Year: a three-month construction exercise in the Aberdare National Park in

Kenya. The IBTA facility now includes a bridging gap, booby trap house and mine-breaching confidence area.

The lads of 61 Field Support Squadron – about to re-role to become the divisional support squadron – have not been idle

either. Over the past few months, members of the squadron have participated in adventure training exercises in Jersey and Scotland and completed a community task at Leybourne Grange, where plant operators carried out demolition work on stables.

Charity tasks have included the construction of a play area and summer house by the squadron's resources troop for a local school for children with learning difficulties.

The regiment also has a standing commitment for a 13-man detachment to provide engineer support on Cyprus – the British UNFICYP requirement.

For the past 12 months that role has been carried out by a detachment from 20 Fd, comprising an officer, an NCO and 11 tradesmen.

Throw in, among others, a tour by 50 Fd as Falkland Islands Field Squadron and a busy year for the sappers of 9 Para Sqn – whose members were deployed to places as far apart as Botswana and Mexico – and it is easy to understand why it is not uncommon for members of 36 Engineer to be abroad for nine months in any year.

"We pride ourselves on our versatility and deployability, and have a reputation of being one of the most-travelled of regiments," said Lt Col

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Spr Mark Watson carefully experiments in the mine-breaching section of the in-barracks training area

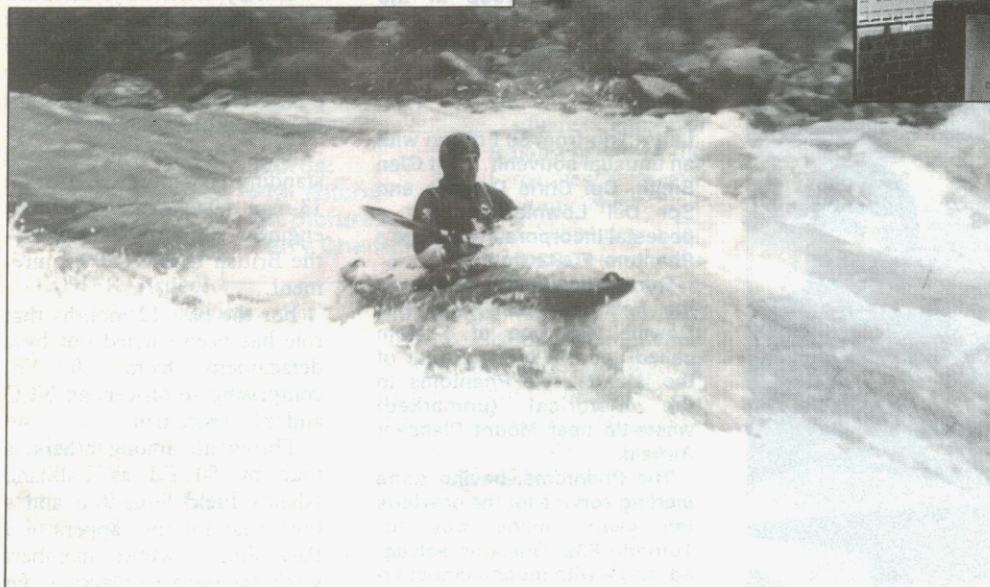


Above – Quartermaster Maj Ray Edwards and accommodation NCO Cpl Steve Cooney check progress at Invicta's new technical area

Left – Sumner house? Sprs "Taff" Howells (left) and "Slim" Sumner, with Terry Griffiths and Amanda Pearce of Maidstone's Kingswood School, try out the summer house which, with help from colleagues in 61 Fd Sqn's resources and plant troops, they built for the school, together with a play area



Above – Poignant memorial at Invicta Park to a previous 36 Engineer campaign



Spr "Dutch" Holland negotiates the Colorado River through the Grand Canyon the hard way – by kayak. He was one of five members of 36 Engineer, led by Sgt (SI) Steve Walton, who participated in Exercise Raging Water. They claim to be the first military unit to attempt and complete the challenge.

Other adventurous training highlights in the regiment recently have covered trekking in Nepal and climbing in the Austrian Alps and Chamonix. Two eight-man teams struck gold and silver in the 1992 Cambrian Patrol, which took in everything from basic skills to field firing.

Sappers

● From Page 23

Guthkelch. "Our personnel, either as individuals or members of sub-units, have visited 23 countries in the past 12 months."

Whether building bridges, opening routes, clearing or

laying minefields, improving port facilities or constructing airfields, within Nato or otherwise, the sappers were there.

After 40 years in Maidstone, the regiment is well-integrated with the local community. About 60 per cent of the Army wives work locally.

Fund-raising for a variety of

good causes in the Maidstone area by members of the regiment amounted to well over £5,000 during the past year.

Once the gates of the old barracks have closed and the keys handed over to Kent County Council in the spring, 36 Engineer's next problem will be to provide extra accommodation for the "migrants"

from Yorkshire – 51 Field Squadron.

When the village of contractors' caravans – almost a permanent fixture at Invicta – moves on, should any help be needed when the time comes for additional construction work, there will be no shortage of fully-trained sappers on the spot...

Writer **Gordon Skilling** and photographer **Mike Weston** visited Gornji Vakuf before Christmas to record the work of the units based in the town. Other Operation Grapple reports in Pages 26-29

SANDWICHED between the National Support Element at Tomislavgrad and the Cheshire Battalion Group at Vitez lies a joint operations and logistic base at Gornji Vakuf.

A factory on the northern edge of the town houses B Company, 1 Cheshire, responsible for guarding the "back door" to Split and also escorting aid convoys, and 7 Armoured Workshop REME, the main second line engineering support for the British force over the 300km route from Split to Vitez.

While the base was being established its 390 personnel slept on mats cramped together. Now nearly half are accommodated in ISO containers.

Soldiers in transit between Vitez and the coast added to the "population", electricity was intermittent, hot water in short supply and a work area was used for recreation and sleeping.

B Company's main role is to patrol the route from Gornji Vakuf to Vitez, but it also escorts convoys 10km north to Bugojno, and regularly liaises with the Spanish at Jablanica.

The company operates without one of its platoons, which is based at Vitez as force reserve and rotates every few weeks. But it is reinforced by the battalion's own reconnaissance platoon which operates eight Scimitars. The base also has eight Milan posts and several mortar barrels.

Ops Officer Capt Robaird Boyd, Operations Officer from 2 R Irish, said: "Every military man has to consider the worst case, but we are not here to defend Gornji Vakuf from the Bosnian Serb army."

The six officers and 134 other ranks of 7 Armd Wksp and 361 Stores Section provide all the telecommunication and control equipment technicians, armourers and gunsmiths for the whole force. A Forward Repair and Recovery Group has six vehicles and is also responsible for a stretch of road from Jablanica to Mostar in the Spanish sector.



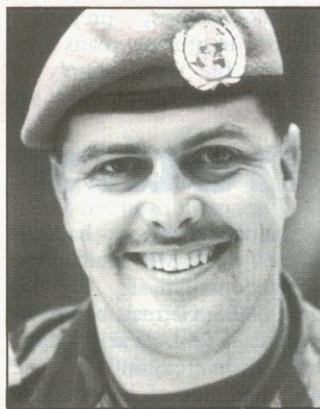
Specialist Teams Royal Engineers planned two camps in Vitez and one at Gornji Vakuf. SSgt Carl Nelson, SSgt Lennie Denlock and WO2 George Millard at Vitez are three of 16 specialists in theatre

Factory that's open all hours



Capt Robaird Boyd 2 R Irish

The Vehicle Power Pack and Repair Platoon is commanded by a TA officer, Capt Paul Fletcher. Originally from 35 Signal Regiment in Sutton Coldfield, where he was OC



Capt Paul Fletcher TA

Light Aid Detachment, his two-year Short Service Voluntary commission with 7 Armd Wksp has been extended so that he can continue in theatre. He was enthusiastic about

seven containerised power pack repair bays currently under trial by the Army. The facility comprises wash down and logistics bays at Gornji Vakuf, and three repair bays, a run-up bay and a lubrication bay at Split.

It had been with 6 Armoured Workshop in Germany before moving to 7 Armd Wksp in September for Operation Grapple.

Restrictions on space meant that all seven elements were not located together, said Capt Fletcher.

"We are very happy with it because it can be used in any environment. It is particularly useful in the field in winter because it lets us work in a

● Turn to next page



Operations Room staff at 42 Fd Sqn in Vitez are SSgt Bob Hill, LCpl Andrew Gumbrecht, Cpl Dixie Dixon and WO2 Tom Henderson

Sapper skills much in demand

MORALE and job satisfaction among sappers in Bosnia is high. Scattered to the four winds and with little regimental cohesion, even those isolated in the open mountains know their contribution is vital.

With the exception of 29 Field Squadron in Northern Ireland, the whole of 35 Engineer Regiment is deployed in Bosnia. At Vitez, 42 Field Squadron is closely linked to the Cheshire Battalion Group, while 37 Fd Sqn and 44 Fd Spt Sqn are based at Tomislavgrad though their work takes them further afield.

Regimental headquarters is normally at Split where the Specialist Team of Royal Engineers, the Explosive Ordnance Detachment and the Resources cell are also located.

Plant operators have been given scope not available in Germany. They have permission to open small "borrow" pits to extract stone instead of paying for rock from commercial quarries.

Work has included constructing camps, preparing culverts, improving roads and ensuring the water supply is safe, but strengthening bridges

is a sore point among local military.

Bosnian Croats and Muslims do not always want bridges capable of carrying tanks. They transfer aid in four-ton trucks and blow up bigger bridges to impede Bosnian Serb armoured vehicles.

Even engineers working on bridges on the Main Supply Route can come under fire, and soldiers feel there is a greater chance of casualties than in the Gulf.

"In the Gulf we had a definite enemy and were psychologically ready, but in Bosnia we can get shelled at any time and we don't know where the next problem will spring up," said SSgt Ned Kelly of 5 Tp, 37 Fd Sqn.

"It was all combat engineering work in the Gulf but in Bosnia we can use our artisan skills."

"It has been an uphill struggle with 600 men and very little real estate of our own," said RSM WO1 Graeme Ferguson.

"Sappers have been in demand for a number of tasks other than keeping routes open and there is enough here to keep us all busy for two years."

the initial stages we had no failures when we could have expected two."

Six 500kg German bombs of Second World War vintage were discovered on the base and lifted out of harm's way under guidance from the Royal Engineers' EOD section by 7 Armd Wksp's Coles crane.

The skills of 7 Troop, 42 Field Squadron were put to use during the removal – but fortunately not those of the RAMC collection station.



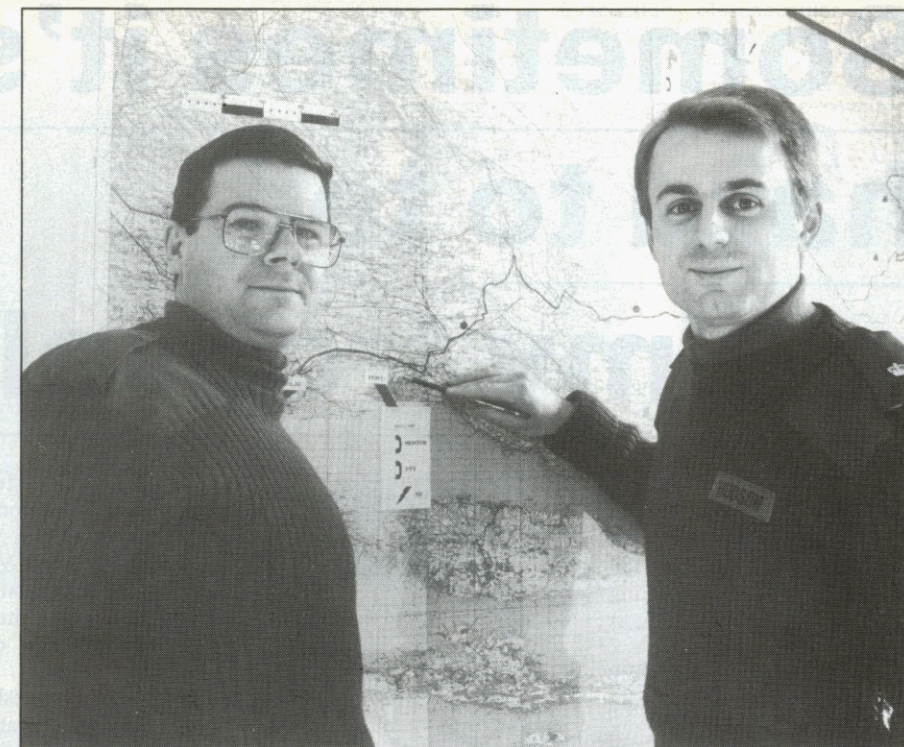
Above – RSM Graeme Ferguson of 35 Engineer Regiment – a former Olympics skier at Sarajevo

Right – Cpl Alex Coker welds steel racking at the metal smith's shop at 7 Armd Wksp

RSM Ferguson is a former international biathlon skier and for the first time in 20 years he is not taking part in the Army championships. He remembers with affection his third Winter Olympics, at Sarajevo in 1984,



when he came 29th. "It was beautiful then," he said. "It is sad to see any country tearing itself apart, but it is beyond belief for anybody who saw the town before and sees the pictures of it now."



Above – Yeoman of Signals Stephen Whytock and Maj Paul Hudson, Force Signals officer, at the headquarters in Split

Right – Listening out on the main HF station is LCpl Tony Cornwell of 211 Signal Squadron



Left – Rough terrain causes much minor damage to vehicles: Sgt Phil Pearson of 12 Armd Wksp and Cfn Guy Engelmann of 7 Armd Wksp inspect damage to an all-wheel tanker

Kept in touch – by satellite

TELEPHONE calls between some sub-units in Bosnia have to be bounced off the stratosphere to a tactical ground terminal at RAF Oakhanger, then bounced back to Bosnia.

Secure speech facilities are essential between Split, Tomislavgrad, Gornji Vakuf, Vitez and the UN HQ at Kiseljak and one third of the Force's 120 Royal Signals personnel are strategic communications specialists from 30 Signal Regiment at Blandford. The remainder come from 211 (11

Armoured Brigade) Signal Squadron at Minden.

It is not possible to use VHF because of the nature of the deployment and the distances involved. Placing re-broadcast stations in the Dinaric Alps was not a viable option, said Force Signal Officer, Maj Paul Hudson.

"The mountainous conditions preclude 'rebro' stations because of the terrain and also because of the security problem for isolated detachments. We are therefore using our full satellite capability," he said.

Communications have improved since the early days of the operation. Highly mobile liaison officers continue to use the expensive international maritime satellites but landlines have now been established to many locations.

The VSC 501 satellite ground stations, which carry both speech and data traffic, are set up between the three main headquarters, and when a fourth is deployed to a tactical headquarters, the Force will have half the Army's VSC 501 assets in theatre.

Sometimes it's hard to tell enemy from ally

THE FIGHTING in Bosnia is unlike anything most British soldiers have had to deal with before. They stand on the sidelines, periodically coming under fire, but unable to fight back.

Their blue helmets and white vehicles offer no immunity from attack; shrapnel is not selective.

This is someone else's civil war. The rounds which threaten British lives are fired by Serbs, Croats and Muslims who used to live in peace in Bosnia. Now seven factions are fighting in the Cheshire Battalion Group's area. Allies one day can be enemies the next.

Gornji Vakuf was shelled regularly on market day – once for 18 hours – until 1 Cheshire and 7 Armoured Workshop REME moved into their base nearby.

British squaddies were soon arranging football matches with local sides and hoped they were having a pacifying influence, until the town's Croats and Muslims fell out. A British soldier was killed trying to help by taking injured civilians to hospital.



Force Chief of Staff Maj Richard Barrons RA

It is a conflict utterly unlike the scenario for which British soldiers train in northern Germany. The use of artillery was still fundamental to the battle, but it was used irregularly to terrorise civilians, said Maj Richard Barrons RA, Chief of Staff at Force HQ in Split.

Bosnian Serbs have a wide range of artillery which they position on mountain tops to encircle towns before bombarding them. Bosnian Croats and

Muslims have few weapons capable of responding. Travnik, a town not far from the Cheshire base at Vitez, has two 203mm guns supporting its defence. On the infrequent occasions when one, dubbed Norah, fires, the school housing 1 Cheshire shakes. Little else is heard.

"The Bosnian Serbs are very careful to protect their guns on the heights," said Maj Barrons. "I am sure there is a lot of fighting in the mountains which we do not see. I have the greatest respect for the enormous conviction and courage of soldiers on both sides."

The strategy of the Bosnian Serbs is terror on a massive scale. A few tanks may push forward to increase pressure, but rarely remain. The Serbs prefer to frighten away inhabitants and defenders by sporadic artillery fire rather than commit meagre infantry resources to clearing towns.

This indiscriminate shelling has not impressed British soldiers. Sgt Andy Williams, a mortar fire controller at Gornji Vakuf, said: "They just pound away at random and a lot of it is ineffective."

Control of indirect fire is an exact science to the Support Company experts at Gornji Vakuf, who aim for pin-point accuracy. Capt Robaird Boyd, mortar officer of 2 R Irish and ops officer at the base, said the Serbs' indiscriminate shelling of towns had greatly worsened the plight of civilians.

Although Gornji Vakuf was not far from Bugojno, focus of a Bosnian Serb thrust, it had not been overrun by refugees, he said. The refugee problem had been particularly disturbing in the neighbouring Spanish sector, where he had witnessed many distressing scenes.

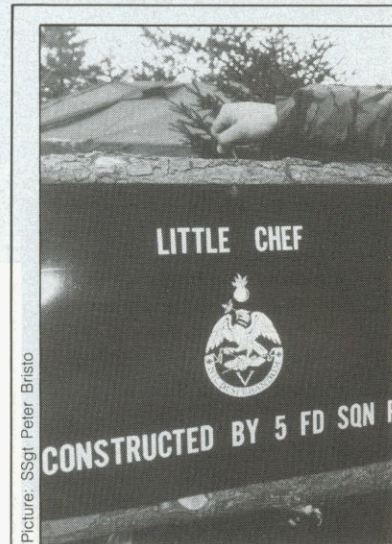
"It gets to you at times but it is nice to know you are actually doing something positive to help. We do stay neutral, but it doesn't stop the soldiers giving out their chocolate to children," he said.



Left – Evacuation of casualties over mountain tracks will be improved by the arrival of Sea King helicopters



Medical Support Troop Bravo's Field Surgical Team comprises (standing) Lt Col George Attard, BMH Rinteln, surgeon; Cpl Mark Rees, Queen Elizabeth Military Hospital Woolwich, theatre technician; Maj George Oommen, QEMH, anaesthetist; front Cpl Steve Astles, Duchess of Kent's Military Hospital, Catterick, theatre technician; and Capt Carol Young, theatre sister, QEMH



Pte David Emery ACC is doing his cooking in an aptly named location, the Little Chef mountain camp! David is used to the snow and sub-zero temperatures – he comes from a Highland village near Inverness, usually one of the first place to be "snowed in" during the British winter



Pte David Emery ACC is doing his cooking in an aptly named location, the Little Chef mountain camp! David is used to the snow and sub-zero temperatures – he comes from a Highland village near Inverness, usually one of the first place to be "snowed in" during the British winter



Ready for anything is Medical Support Team Bravo: SSgt Andy Morewood, Pte Arif Heath, LCpl Dick Field, LCpl John Hamilton, LCpl Steve Shirley, Cpl Dave Hutton and SSgt Alistair Mitchelhill



Spr Nick Wells, a Royal Engineer based at Tomislavgrad sent a Christmas card to the stars of Coronation Street – and received in return a signed picture of the whole cast.

Nick, normally based with 35 Engineer Regiment's 77 Armd Engr Sqn at Hameln, said: "It was a marvellous surprise to hear from them. I often watch the programme when I am at home wrote to the stars on the spur of the moment."

MEDICS ADVISE ON REFUGEE CAMPS

THE REASSURING presence of the Royal Army Medical Corps is a potent factor in the high morale of British Forces in Bosnia and Hercegovina.

The main medical support is concentrated with the 1 Cheshire Battalion Group at Vitez, where a hospital complex has been set up at the side of

the school housing the headquarters.

A medical support team from 22 Field Hospital based at Aldershot comprises 24 doctors and staff, and an armoured medical section of 1 Armoured Field Ambulance from Hohne equipped with ambulance variants of the FV432

armoured personnel carrier has detachments in Tomislavgrad and Gornji Vakuf.

The Cheshire battle group also has its own regimental aid post, and bandmen carry out their military roles in accompanying patrols.

With thankfully little business other than minor ailments

and accidents, British medics have been asked by the UN for advice to help alleviate suffering in refugee camps.

As well as a small RAF section to deal with casualty evacuation, Yeovilton-based 845 Naval Air Squadron, Royal Navy, deployed four Sea King helicopters with a primary role

of casualty evacuation. Initially on the helicopter support ship RFA Argus moored off Split, they are now based ashore in the Divulje heliport area, which also houses the Force HQ.

In Croatia, the British Medical Battalion has 150 medics from 4 Armoured Field Ambulance based at Minden.

Easing the way to redundancy

LATER this month thousands of personnel will learn that they are involved in the second phase of the Options for Change redundancies.

Since the first phase got under way, the Ministry of Defence has achieved significant improvements to help ease the way for redundees.

Here is an update:

House purchase: As a result of a recent decision, eligible redundees can now claim £8,500 from AHP instead of £5,000. The Treasury has agreed to approve cases on an ad hoc basis until March 1998 but interest must have been expressed before September 1992.

Disembarkation leave: Maximum of two weeks' leave on return to the UK.

BSA: Boarding School Allowance for redundees with children who have started a two-year examination course (GCSE or GCE A Level or equivalent) until completion of the course.

Removals: On return to the UK under the Furniture Removal Trail (NW Europe), baggage may be stored for up to three months after discharge within the overall limit of five months' storage.

Travel: One return flight to the UK or the cost of travel by car and ferry from NW Europe up to the cost of the troop flight for soldier and spouse who are unable to spend their last six months in the UK job, house and school hunting.

One return flight, plus terminal travel, for those unable to spend their last six months attending a resettlement course.

SCP: Refund of special capital repayments restricted to a maximum of two-thirds annual civilian salary if taking employment restricted to Service personnel.

Support teams: Addi-

tional manpower agreed for headquarters and for the establishment of district action and support teams.

Roadshows: Personal Services advisory roadshows for all three redundancy phases.

Other facilities: The setting-up of a BAOR Job Centre and the Joint Service Housing Association (JSHA).

● A number of initiatives are in the offing, including:

Teletext: Special service to be extended to Gibraltar and Cyprus.

Video: A new SSVV video is being considered for Phase 3.

Housing: The unused 500 units in the Do-It-Yourself Shared Ownership (DIYSO) scheme can be carried forward to the 1993-94 financial year. An updated housing information pack will be ready soon.

Resettlement: New emphasis being placed on learning the German language. An extra £408,000 funding for the Tri-Service Resettlement Organisation for 1993-94.

Job Centre: Herford Job Centre will continue for Phases 2 and 3 but Employment Dept staffing will be subject to review.

● Not all cases were won by the MoD. The following were not achieved:

Advance of 28 days' pay within six months of run-out date.

Removal at public expense and disturbance allowance for everyone for final moves.

Provision for four resettlement flights for redundees.

Refund of house sale legal fees if a redundee cannot meet the 12 months rule when overseas.

**Conditions:
Advances
made on
a number
of fronts**

GENERAL improvements in conditions of service were achieved by MoD in 1992 in the following areas:

Housing: A number of schemes to help with future housing needs included an extension to AHP rules to cover shared ownership; the new Services Home Savings Scheme; DIY Shared Ownership and rental nominations of ex-Service personnel.

Insurance: Introduction of PAX Plus personal accident scheme and Forces Safeguard life insurance scheme.

Allowances: Disturbance and removals allowance for personnel who, for Service reasons, return to the UK with less than three months to serve (this applies to those returning from Northern Ireland).

Subsistence allowance increased from three to 14 days for personnel returning to the UK where accommodation is not available at the duty station.

Final tour of duty provision: The eligibility criteria have been expanded to include those living in private accommodation at their final duty station, storing during final removal and the introduction of the six-month rule and appropriate certificate.

Help for leavers: A number of advances, including:

● Four new publications – *Bridging the Gap* and *Stepping Out* for officers and soldiers respectively; a Housing Information Pack; PS Brochure (*Options for You*); and Second Career Flowchart and Action Plan.

● Introduction of 28 days' resettlement time to job and house-hunt as an option instead of a resettlement course.

● Creation of the Services Employment Network (SEN) to provide a national



FOCUS OF ATTENTION: The Adjutant General addresses the conference of the Federation of Army Wives

focus for job offers for ex-Service personnel. Eligible personnel may now be registered from six months before discharge to 12 months after.

● A corporate marketing programme, "Access to Excellence", actively promoting the value of all Service leavers to prospective civilian employers.

● Leave warrants can be used for resettlement to help attendance at job interviews.

● A Distance Learning Scheme to assist resettlement is now available through the Forces correspondence scheme at a cost of £85. Individuals should apply through their local Army Education Centre. The Individual Refund Scheme reduces the cost to £17. Dependents will be able to apply, although they will not be eligible for a refund.

● Clarification that personnel may accept employment during terminal leave subject to certain conditions.

● Security clearance for job interviews in Northern Ireland has been speeded up.

See your admin unit for a full list of these measures.

FAW set for next decade

THE Federation of Army Wives begins its 11th year in the sure knowledge that the first ten were extremely successful.

To celebrate its tenth anniversary, the annual meeting and conference was honoured by royal patronage in the form of the Duchess of Gloucester, who spoke on the importance of Service life and the involvement of wives.

The Duchess was joined on the platform by the Under Secretary of State for the Armed Forces, Viscount Cranborne, the Adjutant General, Gen Sir David Ramsbotham, and C in C UKLF, Gen Sir John Waters.

The Federation was born out of UKLF wives' seminars held at Bagshot Park in 1981 and 1982. Established as the Federation of

Army Wives' Clubs, it later abbreviated the title.

In June 1983 it published the first edition of *Neighbours*, a magazine which ran for eight years before making way for today's *Army Wives' Journal*.

With each passing year the Federation has grown in confidence and stature, and it is now acknowledged to be a highly professional organisation with dedicated and committed members.

Working out of offices in UKLF at Old Sarum, Salisbury, the Federation has affiliated branches in BAOR and Northern Ireland, co-ordinators in every Army District and representatives covering housing, quartering, liaison with civilian organisations, the Naafi, education, pre-school playgroups and many other areas of

interest. It has spawned a number of bodies – such as FRED (Federation Register of Employment Database), FOCUS (Federation Office Computer Up-Dating Skills), and CAST (Community Activities Support Team) – from which Army wives benefit daily.

Recognition of the Federation was confirmed when representatives were asked to speak at the annual Adjutant General's conference.

The conference ended with a stimulating and informative address by Maj Gen Mike Jackson, Director General of Personal Services.

Gabrielle Tait hands over the chairmanship of the Federation to Mrs Jill Bullock at the end of February on her return from Germany.

Directors to help in jobs search

THE Institute of Directors has introduced a formula to allow members of the Armed Forces who are leaving the Services to join as associate members and use the IoD's outplacement programme.

Although it has only just been introduced, a brigadier, a colonel and a lieutenant colonel have already found satisfactory new employment through the scheme.

Details of associate membership are available from Robin Ludlow, Institute of Directors, 116 Pall Mall, London SW1Y 5ED (tel: 071-839 1233).

Family Credit

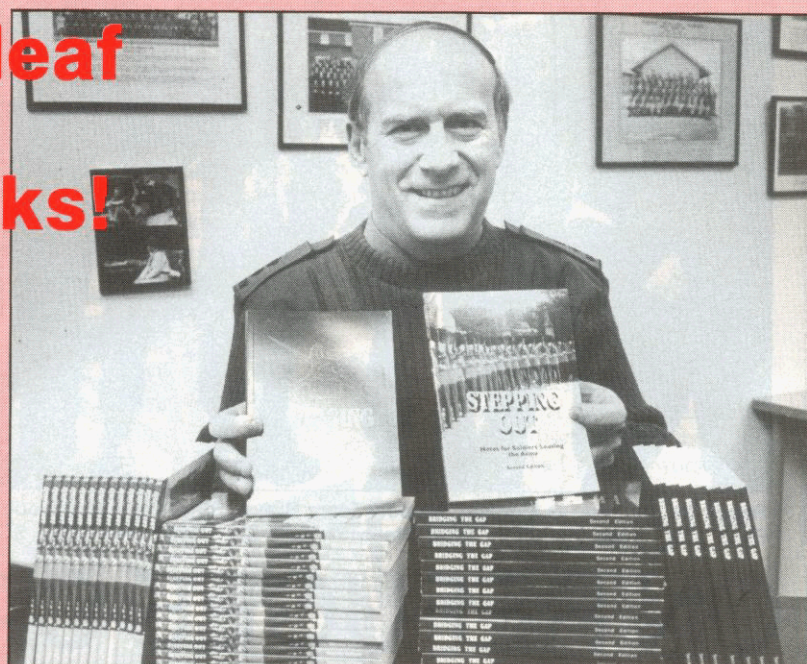
PROBLEMS relating to the payment of Family Credit to eligible Service families when the husband is abroad have been resolved. The MoD will pay the benefit.

Take a leaf out of his books!

SECOND editions of the excellent *Stepping Out* and *Bridging the Gap* publications for soldiers and officers leaving the Army are now available.

Driving force behind the production of the booklets is Lt Col Rodney Ashwood (pictured). A staff officer in MoD PS4(A) dealing with welfare and conditions of service, he has, for the past 18 months, had the additional responsibility of editing and compiling the publications.

He described it as a most worthwhile and satisfying task and paid tribute to the contributions of Mike Gresham, Paul Craven and Joe Hoyle in the Graphics Studio, Army School of Training Support, Beaconsfield.



With a foreword by the Adjutant General, Gen Sir David Ramsbotham, the booklets are designed to help anyone leaving the Services. They include a chapter on coping with redundancy and are a valuable part of the overall resettlement

assistance package.

Many helpful comments made on the first editions have been incorporated in the revised texts, with chapters covering subjects such as resettlement, finance, housing, education, death in retirement, a

second-career flow chart and action plan, and many useful contacts and addresses.

Each individual will receive a copy on leaving the Army, and additional copies will be distributed through the chain of command.

Ross gets his Somme decorations

SOMME soldier Ross Morris (104) has received a set of replacement medals, thanks to SSAFA's Tanky Turner.

Ex-Sgt Morris was one of 12 men out of a company of 100 of the 6th Battalion, The Northamptonshire Regiment to survive the Battle of Trones Wood. He was wounded twice and later taken prisoner.

Sickened by the horrors of trench warfare and the death of so many friends, he threw his medals away after the war.

Seventy-two years later he asked for a replacement set and was turned down. But, with the support of local MP Roger Freeman, Gen Sir John Akehurst, Gen Sir Peter Inge and Viscount Cranborne, Northamptonshire SSAFA publicity officer Tanky Turner obtained a new set of medals which have now been presented to Ross by the Lord Lieutenant of the county, Col John Lowther.

SOLDIER to Soldier

Russell. According to the regiment's archivist, Maj Peter Lewis, archivist, Maj Peter Lewis, Anthony Palmer had been convicted of desertion or going absent without leave ten times, reduced from corporal three times and even been accused of stealing the regimental silver!

His medal was subsequently stolen during a public house brawl and Queen Victoria allowed a replica to be struck. Both original and replica are in the Grenadier Guards Museum at Wellington Barracks, London.

Palmer's grave (he died aged 73 in a Manchester hospital in 1892) was found by a Lancashire Fusilier, Mr William Livesey. It has

now been restored by the local branch of the Grenadier Guards Association and a plaque giving details of his heroism has been unveiled in the cemetery chapel by the regimental adjutant, Lt Col James Tedder.

RHA first day covers

A FIRST day cover to mark the 200th anniversary of the Royal Horse Artillery will be available from RHQ RA on February 1. The covers are £1.50 each and cheques should be made out to RA Consolidated Fund and sent to RHA First Day Covers, RHQ RA, Government House, New Road, Woolwich, London SE18 6XR.

Commando Guardsman honoured

A DOZEN Coldstream Guardsmen attended a memorial parade at Southport's Lord Street Cenotaph to honour the memory of CSM Miller Smith, a commando murdered 50 years ago by the SS.

CSM Smith, a Southport man and a Coldstream Guardsman, was captured with 11 other commandos after a successful sabotage raid on a hydro-electric power station in Norway. Imprisoned briefly in Colditz, the commandos were subsequently murdered while being taken to Berlin for interrogation.

Wheelchair challenge

NEARLY 400 ex-Service personnel from 37 countries have already confirmed that they will be taking part in Challenge 93, the first international wheelchair



Ex-Sgt Ross Morris (left) shakes hands with Tanky Turner. On the right is Col John Lowther, Lord Lieutenant of Northamptonshire

games specially for former soldiers, sailors and airmen.

The week-long games will be staged at Stoke Mandeville Sports Centre from July 10, and many top international athletes have already confirmed their entries.

The Royal British Legion and the International Stoke Mandeville Wheelchair Sports Federation, which are jointly organising Challenge 93, hope that many world records will be broken.

Former British heavyweight boxer Henry Cooper and Barcelona Paralympics gold medal-winner Terry Hopkins, ex-Army Air Corps, were due to launch the event in London with the presentation of a golden sporting wheelchair which will be given to the athlete who most represents the spirit of Challenge 93 – a demonstration of skill, courage and the determination to overcome disability.

Armistice Day service

FIRST World War veterans or their widows are being invited by the Royal British Legion to attend a special service at Westminster Abbey on November 11 to mark the 75th anniversary of Armistice Day 1918.

To reserve a place in the Abbey, veterans or widows should write to the Secretary, 75th Anniversary Service, The Royal British Legion, 48 Pall Mall, London SW1Y 5JY.

MILITARIA

● **Ex-Movements Control Officer** Chris Elliott, 47 Rue Denfert Rochereau 34120, Pézenas, France, is researching a book on Medloc, the Movement Control operation to get soldiers home from Europe, North Africa and the Middle East immediately after the Second World War. He is anxious to contact anyone with knowledge of Medloc military trains, or who might have been in transit camps at Milan, Villach in Southern Austria, Toulon, Dieppe and Calais.

APPOINTMENTS

Brigadiers – M H Daly – To DKMH Catterick and 34 Evac Hosp, Jan 16; S M A Lee – To HQ Bde of Gurkhas, Jan 18; P A Little – To HQ BAOR, Jan 22; M G Taylor – To MoD, Jan 18.

Colonels – G B Bateman – To MoD, Jan 11; M K Goldschmidt – To HQ UKLF, Jan 15; J A Hodges – To HQ Northag(SP)(BAE), Jan 13; M R Newby – To SEME, Jan 11; C J Pickup – To MoD, Jan 11; A T Brett – To be Comd 11 Eng Gp, Jan 11; D R Wilson – To MoD, Jan 11; P C Pearson – To HQ UKLF, Jan 20; M G Le G Bridges – To MoD, Jan 18; C P Newlyn – To be Dental Offr DKMH Catterick and 34 Evac Hosp, Dec 31; J Egan – To be Comd RAMC Trg Gp and RHQ RAMC, Jan 4; D S Jolliffe – To be CO Cambridge Mil Hosp, Jan 4; J C Richardson – To

DIARY

FEBRUARY

12: Forces Sweethearts Exhibition opens at Imperial War Museum, running until October 15.

17-19: Mountbatten Festival of Music, Royal Albert Hall, featuring Massed Bands of the Royal Marines. Proceeds to Malcolm Sargent Cancer Fund for Children and selected Service charities. Ticket applications (enclose SAE) for balcony area £8 and £3 (restricted view) from RM Concert Office, Room 112, Archway Block South, Old Admiralty Building, Spring Gardens, London SW1A 2BE.

MAY

29-31: Military Vehicle Trust "Overlord 93" rally, Portsmouth.

JULY

20-31: 103rd Royal Tournament, Earls Court, hosted by the Royal Navy. Tickets available from box office on 071-373 0100.

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

REUNIONS

● **656 Air Op Sqn RAF/AAC:** Golden Jubilee reunion celebration planned for March 26-27 at Netheravon. For details contact H C (Nobby) Clark, 1 Marlborough Buildings, Bow Street, Langport, Somerset TA10 9PR (tel: 0458 250009).

● **Christmas Island:** The annual Christmas Island reunion lunch for officers of all three Services who served on Christmas Island with Task Force Grapple will be held at the RAF Club, Piccadilly, on March 27. Details from Mr Brockett, Hon Secretary, Phyllis Court Club, Marlow Road, Henley-on-Thames RG9 2HT.

● **PMT Military Ball:** Including parade of ex-Service Association banners, Crewe, April 3. Proceeds to RBL Welfare and SSAFA. Details from J G Davies, 6 Mayor Court, Flag Lane, Crewe, Cheshire CW1 3BL (tel: 0270 257092).

● **RAOC/REME Middle Easters Association:** Reunion luncheon at The Oval Banquet-

ing Suite, Kennington to include ex-COPO(ME) members. Tickets (£13) and details from Charles Baxter, 129 Benhill Road, Camberwell, London SE5 7LZ (tel: 071-703 5365). Please send sae.

● **138th (City of London) Field Regiment RA Association:** Reunion on April 26 at Victory Services Club, London. Details from Frank Flack, 22 Camborne Way, Hounslow TW5 0PW (tel: 081-750 5267). News from ex-members welcomed.

● **5 Kings/No 2 T Force Unit:** The Association is organising a reunion trip to Germany, May 3-10, to visit old locations.

SEARCHLINE

● **Animal mascots:** Cpl D Blackburn RAMC, researching for an article on mascots, from regimental variety to unusual examples adopted on operations abroad, seeks information and photographs. Please contact him at Block 5, Oliver Barracks, Dalkeith Road, Dundee DD4 7OL.

● **Sir Anthony Hopkins:** Author Michael Feeney Callan is trying to trace anyone who remembers Gnr Hopkins 23449720 (Bdr Hopkins by the time of his demob around 1960). In February 1958 Gnr Hopkins was based at Oswestry under Sgt Maj Hackett, in April he was posted to the Clerks' School at Woolwich, and in May to Bulford Camp with Gnr Ken Simmonds and two others. Gnr Hopkins went to 16 Light Regt under Col Willoughby Cubbitt, and occasionally acted as a babysitter for Sgt Ernie Little and his wife Cynthia. Please contact researcher Karen Cook, 22 Kylepark Crescent, Glasgow G71 7DQ (tel: 0698 818711; fax: 0698 817494) as soon as possible.

● **LCT Ardennes, 1960:** Anyone who sailed to Singapore with 76 Water Transport Squadron RASC, January-April 1960, is asked to contact Gordon Northcott, 8 Minden Crescent, Helensvale, Queensland 4210, Australia.

● **Lt W T Lang:** Mr E L Vine, of 7 Horsham Road, Bedford, Middlesex TW14 8LN, has a wooden carving by a Second World War

Details from K V G Moore, Chairman, No 2 T Force Unit Association, Quedlingburger Weg 8d, 3000 Hannover 21, Germany.

● **50th Missile Club RA:** Fifth annual reunion planned for May 22 in Southport, Lancs. Details from Mr A J Todd, 9 The Grove, Heathhall, Dumfries DG1 1TN (tel: 0387 62378 evenings only).

● **Regimental Band, 17/21 L:** The Regimental Band of the 17th/21st Lancers is planning a reunion in June. For details contact Band Sergeant Major, 17/21 L, Aliwal Barracks, Tidworth, Hants SP9 7AS (tel: 0980 841659).

British prisoner-of-war in North Africa which he wishes to hand over to surviving relatives. It bears the engraving "Lt L W Lang, Camp 4 Egypt 1941".

● **Maritime Royal Artillery:** Regular branch meetings held in London area, Bournemouth, Stockton-on-Tees, Washington and Swansea. Details from the president, Morrison L James, Summerhill Cottage, Drabbles Lane, Sandown, Isle of Wight PO36 9ER (tel: 0983 405474).

● **Oxford University OTC:** Past members sought to join the newly formed old members' association. Details from the Secretary, The Blue Contemptibles, Oxford University OTC, Yeomanry House, Manor Road, Oxford OX1 3UQ.

● **164 Railway Operating Coy RE (1939-45):** Ex-MT Driver L R Swindale (6 Yew Tree Crescent, Stapenhill, Burton-on-Trent DE15 9QL) wishes to hear from former MT personnel who served with him, including Sgt Shaw, Capt Tyrell, Cpl Furmer, Frank Sheppard, Jock Lythgoe and Frank Jennings.

● **Kenneth Henry Winn,** brother of Leonard Charles Winn and who served with 2 Gren Gds in Hong Kong in 1978, is sought by his natural sister Evelyn, who was adopted in infancy. Please contact Mrs E Woodward, 103 Olive Avenue, Leigh-on-Sea, Essex SS9 3PX.

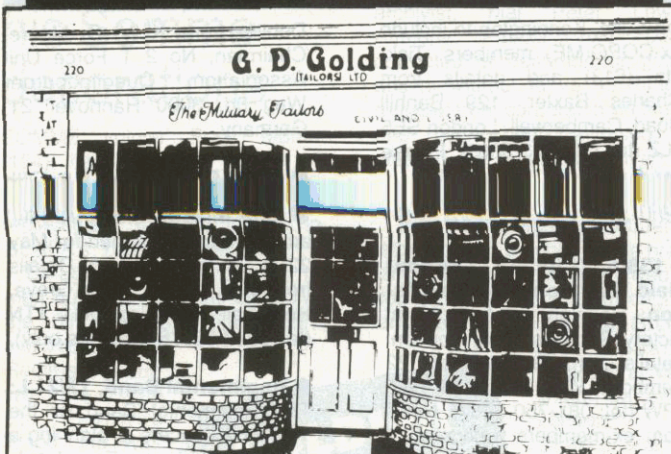
MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDALS

RAC – SSgt M J Maughan BEM, QOH; SSgt H Brindley BEM, RTR. **RA** – WO2 N Dey; WO2 J Partridge; WO2 D M Wood; SSgt J Denton; SSgt B Mullen; Sgt D Harrison BEM. **R Signals** – WO1 R J Underhill; SSgt T D Walker BEM; Sgt R T Archer; Sgt D L Chalmers.

Infantry – WO2 R W Maxlow, Queens; Sgt R C McAndrews, Queens. **SAS** – Sgt J F Jenkins BEM. **AAC** – WO1 M A Peaple MBE. **RAOC** – WO1 C E Potts; WO2 B Shakeshaft. **REME** – WO2 J R Burnett. **AG Corps** – WO2 B J Guy; WO2 H Toney. **ACC** – WO1 I A Beatty.

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Royal Irish Rangers.
The Queen's Lancashire Regiment.
The Duke of Wellington's Regiment.
The Royal Regiment of Wales.
The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters.
The Royal Hampshire Regiment.
The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment.
The Light Infantry.
7th Duke of Edinburgh's Own Gurkha Rifles.
The Army Air Corps.
The Royal Army Chaplain's Department.
Royal Corps of Transport.
Royal Army Medical Corps.
Royal Army Ordnance Corps.
Corps of Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers.
Corps of Royal Military Police.
Royal Army Pay Corps.
Royal Army Veterinary Corps.
Small Arms School Corps.
The Royal Army Educational Corps.
Royal Army Dental Corps.
Royal Pioneer Corps.
Intelligence Corps.
Army Physical Training Corps.
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LETTERS

Write to:
SOLDIER,
Ordnance Road,
Aldershot,
Hants GU11 2DU.

EOD battle award criteria 'changed after the Gulf War'

I FEEL I must qualify my letter (November 30) regarding campaign awards.

The question about a set of governing criteria for their issue was asked as a serious enquiry. I used EOD clearance as an example as I have personal experience in the UK and Hong Kong as well as the Falklands.

After the Second World War there were two issues of clasps to the GSM for bomb and mine clearance, in the late Forties and Fifties.

From then on, battle area clearance has continued as a "routine peacetime commitment" with no awards - until after the Gulf War, when it appears to have changed.

Therefore the relevant question is not why there was no award for the Falklands but

why there was an award for the Gulf.

Many thanks to Suezvet of Bolton (January 11) for his formula theory but it cannot work for EOD clear-ups as we have to wait until everyone else has finished chucking bombs and shells about before we can begin in earnest.

So there are no hostile forces, hopefully no casualties, very little public awareness but bags of VIPs, although they are not likely to visit your site as it is normally inaccessible and very muddy. - Recently-retired Corporal RE, Crawley, W Sussex.

Canada's finest...

IN THE article about the British Army Training Unit Suffield (December 11) you referred to a Canadian infantry battalion as the 28e Regiment.

The distinguished regiment concerned was in fact Canada's best-known, the Royal 22e Régiment, the "Van Doos". - Capt (Retd) William Czuboka, Nepean, Ontario.

● We are grateful to Capt Czuboka for sending us an official history of the Royal 22e Régiment, which will make a valuable addition to our library. - Editor

Kings of TV

CONGRATULATIONS to CSM Steve Hudson and squaddies from 1 Kings for their splendid performance on the ITV "Barrymore" show on December 25 when they performed *Will You Still Love Me Tomorrow*?

Three cheers for the Kingsmen. - Jason Monteith, Co Londonderry.

IN 1975, as a result of having read so many letters in SOLDIER from Servicemen who believed they should have been awarded a medal for service in the Suez Canal Emergency (1951-56), and having served there 1951-53, I took it upon myself to raise the matter formally with the Ministry of Defence.

I was greatly aided, particularly during the first ten years, by Sir Geoffrey Johnson Smith MP, who fought long and hard with ministers over this injustice, raising the matter also in the House of Commons as both written and oral questions.

The answer given was always that the Army Council had examined it in 1952 but rejected it and that although the matter had been re-examined over the years there was no additional information which warranted a change in the original decision, or words to that effect.

As a result of my letters to SOLDIER, *The Times*, *Daily Telegraph* and *Pennant*, I had

BIRD'S EYE-VIEW



Join the TA SAS - Pages 18-19

Suez medal campaign: final appeal founders

received letters from ex-Servicemen who agreed with me and I encouraged these correspondents to write to their own MPs.

The MoD eventually began to take notice of the flood and formally admitted that no trace could be found of the alleged Army Council decision in 1952.

The Adjutant-General kindly gave me a 45-minute interview a year ago and agreed to write to the Cabinet Secretary, Sir Robin Butler, who is also the Secretary of the Honours, Awards and Medals Committee, asking whether he would consider a review of the claim.

He replied to the effect that the award had not been

examined in 1952 but it had been in December 1956, at the same time as the case of the 1956 Suez Operation, but it had been rejected. He could not find the reason for the rejection but suspected it was due to the lapse of time (the main period of the emergency being October 16, 1951 to March 3, 1952, during which 54 Servicemen were killed and 69 wounded).

Fd Marshal Lord Bramall, who had served in the Canal Zone during this period, agreed to make a final appeal to the Army Board last December, especially on the grounds of precedents for post-awards such as MGSM 1848 (after 47 years) and the Canadian GSM

(after 33 years), but to no avail. His intercession was greatly appreciated.

I must report to you, therefore, that having explored every possible avenue of approach and been assisted by so many allies in the process, I must reluctantly accept the Army Board's decision.

Fd Marshal Lord Bramall wrote: "The verdict is that the Government will not attempt to revisit an earlier decision so long after the event, especially when the original political rationale for not awarding a medal is no longer known."

"I think we really must accept this as the definitive answer, hard as it will seem to those who were there. I only wish the outcome could have been more satisfactory." - Col (Retd) P S Newton, Winchester, Hants.

● Col Newton was too modest to mention that Fd Marshal Bramall also said in his letter: "All those involved should be extremely grateful to you for the way you have fought long and hard for them." - Editor

Cherry Pickers' title

AS A FORMER Cherry Picker (1948-53) may I point out on reading your "New Hussars" article (January 11) that the correct title was 11th Hussars (Prince Albert's Own).

The error could have been

caused when the 11th Hussars (PAO) and the 10th Royal Hussars (Prince of Wales's Own) amalgamated in 1969 to form the Royal Hussars (PWO). - Thomas H Truswell, Durham.

Veterans' gongs not

official

THE REASON why the National Service Commemorative Medal cannot be worn alongside officially-issued medals is simple: it is not official issue.

Over the years there has been much correspondence and discussion in the Dunkirk Veterans Association regarding the wearing of commemorative medals, with the result that members may wear the Dunkirk Medal and one other below their campaign medals.

The Dunkirk Medal is issued only to qualified persons by the Dunkirk town authorities and not by a souvenir manufacturing company.

The good thing about the National Service Medal is that it may raise a lot of cash for two worthwhile charities.

For information there are about ten commemorative medals available for purchase, none of which are recognised or approved by the authorities. These medals are very nice, but remember, they have no official standing. - Leslie T Maw (ex-R Signals BEF), Hartlepool.

All for one

IN REPLY to Jim Jacobs (Letters, January 11), the National Service Medal is for anyone serving between 1939-62, whether called up or not.

I enlisted in May 1944, was demobbed after the war, re-enlisted in 1952, and I have the medal.

We were all on National Service, were we not? - D Wilson, Leeds.

MPs' decision

THE DECISION to introduce National Service was made not by "a civil servant in Whitehall" (Letters, January 11) but by our elected representatives in Parliament.

A further thought occurs on the subject of the National Service Medal - are the Bevin Boys eligible? If not, why not? - Fred Kibble (Regular 1947-71), Walsall.

Coffee table book for SAS fan club

THERE has been a flood of books recently about the SAS and *Inside the SAS* does not add much, although it does speculate about their training methods and tactics and gives a great deal of space to weapons.

Its claim to be the most comprehensive examination of the SAS ever published is questionable, especially as the history of the 1941-45 period, although reasonably correct, has been considerably curtailed.

For example, Maj Roy Farran DSO, MC and Bar gets only a few lines and the account does not include all his exploits.

It is also inaccurate in places, as for example with the claim that Maj J Phipps (Page 61) commanded an SAS squadron.

The publishers also claim that the book contains 140 photographs of the "SAS in action or training", but at best only 50 per cent of these show the SAS, the remainder being RM, Para and posed pictures representing the SAS - there are five of the raid on the Iranian Embassy in 1980.

There are also many maps and illustrations but your reviewer, who wore the khaki beret in 2 SAS in 1944, never saw anyone wearing a maroon beret as shown on Page 11.

The book is written by co-authors, which also tends to

cause some repetition unless there is rigorous editorship. In this case the "Killing House" training area at Hereford is covered twice in great detail and is mentioned several times elsewhere.

Although the book reads well it is very superficial in trying to deal with the story of a

regiment which is cloaked in such secrecy that no one will be able to write a comprehensive examination at present.

This is a coffee table book for the "SAS fan club". - PSN

Inside the SAS by Craig Philip and Alex Taylor. Bloomsbury, hardback, £25.

THE LEGEND OF SLIM'S ARMY

WHAT WILL happen when the surviving veterans of the Burma Campaign are gone? Will Slim's Fourteenth Army be forgotten as they allegedly were in the Second World War?

Not if Col Michael Hickey has anything to do with it. His book, *The Unforgettable Army*, has been written to ensure that the legend of the multi-racial army of Lt Gen (later Fd Marshal) Bill Slim will live on.

Hickey's story is nothing if not iconoclastic. In his own words: "Some icons will be chipped."

Many are not so much chipped as hammered by the author. Reputations such as those of Mountbatten who,

seemingly, was renowned more for his PR skills than his military decisions, even though he was C-in-C South East Asia. US Gen "Vinegar" Joe Stilwell and Maj Gen Orde Wingate are among other senior commanders who come in for searching analysis.

Hickey's chapter on the "sacking of Slim" gives the impression that the top brass of the day were playing some kind of musical chairs with each other's careers, with Slim the initial loser and Mountbatten collaring the last chair. It pulls no punches - JM

The Unforgettable Army by Col Michael Hickey. Spellmount Ltd, £25.

THE GLOSTERS: INTIMATE PORTRAIT OF A REGIMENT

IN ABOUT a year's time The Gloucestershire Regiment - the "Glorious Glosters" - will disappear.

It will amalgamate with The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment to create The Royal Gloucestershire, Berkshire and Wiltshire Regiment.

This will mark the end of 299 years of historic service by the only regiment in the British Army permitted to wear two cap badges, earned in 1801 at the battle of Alexandria when its soldiers fought back-to-back against Napoleon's invading army.

But while the regiment will fade away its history will remain, thanks to Col Christopher Newbould, chairman of the Regiments of Gloucestershire Museum, and Christine Beresford, curator.

Between them they have produced *The Glosters*, an illustrated history of the regiment from the earliest days in 1694, when they were known as Gibson's Volunteers - taking their name from the man who first raised them - up to what is probably the most famous action - the regiment's part in the Korean war on Hill 235, Gloster Hill, after which they became universally known as the "Glorious Glosters".

The book has numerous



The Gloucestershire Regiment depicted in action at the Battle of Waterloo

photographs of regimental life before the turn of the century, through both world wars and the intervening years. There is a chapter on families and a quotation from an obviously disenchanted modern-day padre, circa 1980, who said: "Soldiers' wives are a special breed. They have to be - to put up with soldiers."

But life for soldiers and their kinfolk is and always has been tough - especially in the so-called "good old days" when pay was two shillings (10p) a day, food was basic, uniforms were rough serge and discipline harsh. Yet loyalty to the regimental "family" was paramount.

Like every British regiment,

the Glosters know they are better than any other. This is an "elite and exclusive club, the membership of which must be earned", says this book on Page 1. How could it be otherwise? - JM

The Glosters by Christopher Newbould and Christine Beresford. Alan Sutton, £12.99.

GULF JOINS THE GUINNESS LIST

WHY DID Gen Norman Schwarzkopf and the Coalition forces not continue through to Baghdad and wipe out Saddam Hussein for good?

One answer to this oft-repeated question is to be found in *The Guinness Book of Decisive Battles* and is attributed to an Omani minister who alleged that 'Stormin' Norman and Co "got cold feet"'. Believe that and you'll believe anything, as there must be at least as many valid reasons for the Allies' reluctance to pursue Saddam as there are battles listed in this book. And

they are 50. They range from confrontations between Ancient Greeks and Persians to the 1991 Gulf War itself and they rate on average five pages per battle.

The battles of Britain, the Marne, El Alamein and others are discussed by author Geoffrey Regan in the context of their effect on history.

He is at pains to point out that his 50 are not necessarily "the most decisive battles". - JM

The Guinness Book of Decisive Battles by Geoffrey Regan. Guinness Publishing, £17.95.

To hell with Tommy cookers

AT FIRST glance there is a certain ambiguity about the title of Ken Tout's third tank book, but the exclamation mark tells all.

Called *To Hell With Tanks!* it is a question of paying your money - in this case £13.95 - and taking your choice.

For it could be construed to mean a journey to the hot place and back for him and his fellow survivors of the 1st Northamptonshire Yeomanry, who fought in the battle to liberate Holland in 1944-45. And according to Tout it really was a journey to Hell and back.

But what the title really

means is, as one of his fellow tankies exclaimed in a moment of despair: "To hell with tanks!" He was referring to the Shermans which turned into fiery coffins for so many of their regimental pals.

The Germans called 1 NY's Shermans "Tommy cookers", as a hit with an 88mm shell meant almost certain incineration, or at best dreadful burns and wounds.

In his first two tank books Tout recounted his personal experiences. In this he tells the story of his friends who survived and of those who died.

Since the action took place

nearly 50 years ago and much of the narrative is in direct quotes, the book reads like a fast-moving novel, but verisimilitude shines through.

As Tout points out, "the heroes of this drama" could not recall the precise words they used at the time but allowed him to write a "reasonably accurate" script of the events he describes.

This is a story, told at a fast and furious pace, of life and death in a steel box in extreme conditions. - JM

To Hell With Tanks! by Ken Tout. Robert Hale Ltd, £13.95.

Fighting memories of Ulster's folk

THERE was a time when lurid advertising posters urged cine-magoers: "You've read the book, now see the film." Conversely publishers would proclaim: "Now you've seen the film, read the book."

But not many can claim: "You heard the series on the radio, now read the book."

Broadcaster and author Richard Doherty can, for he has produced *The Sons of Ulster* - Ulstermen at war from the Somme to Korea, based on his radio series broadcast on Radio Ulster.

As in the radio series, the book is a collection of memories

of Ulstermen and women who took part in three wars, linked by Doherty's well-written and easy-to-read narrative.

Most of the book covers actions by those in famous Irish regiments, but there are also accounts of those who served in the Royal Navy or the RAF.

Many who took part in the broadcasts are now dead, but as they author rightly claims, their contributions to this book add greatly to historical records. - JM

The Sons of Ulster by Richard Doherty. Appletree Press Ltd, £7.99.

Let this be your guide . . .

THE STRONG regimental traditions which are a hallmark of the British Army have resulted in a large number of museums housing the relics and memorabilia of many units.

Terry Wise has detailed them in an up-to-date list in the seventh edition of his *Guide to Military Museums*.

As well as regimental and corps museums, he includes major national institutions such as the National Army and Imperial War Museums, and equipment collections such as the Tank Museum and Rotunda.

Other collections with significant amounts of arms and armour, and fortifications and battle sites from earliest times are described as well.

Layout is by town in alphabetical order, while contents are listed by unit and name.

A welcome idea is the repetition of the entry where more than one name could be used, while specialist collections have their own listing.

Some 290 well-annotated entries covering a wide variety of interests make this invaluable for the holidaymaker and serious researcher alike.

Current reorganisations will mean that the next edition will be quite different, but until then take this as your guide and companion, and spare a thought for all the work the compiler has done on your behalf every time you make use of this book. - PB

A Guide to Military Museums by Terence Wise. Published by and available from the author at Pantiles, Garth Lane, Knighton, Powys LD7 1HH, £3.25 inc UK postage, overseas postage extra.

IN BRIEF

O'Kane's Korea by Henry O'Kane. A soldier's tale of three years of combat and captivity in Korea, 1950-53. The first limited edition raised more than £700 for the Korean Veterans Association welfare fund. Available direct from Mogan Publishing, South Lodge, Honiley, Kenilworth CV8 1NP, price £5.95 plus £1 p and p.

Before . . .



Showers at Hamleu orphanage, Romania (above) when the sappers arrived and (right) when they left



. . . and after

SAPPERS' MERCY MISSION TO ROMANIAN ORPHANS

MEMBERS of 12 (Nova Scotia) Field Squadron RE showed the human face of the Army when they undertook a gruelling two-week, 3,000 mile excursion from 28 Engineer Regiment's Barracks in Hameln to refurbish two orphanages in Transylvania, Romania.

The expedition – culmination of three months' planning and fund-raising under the enthusiastic guidance of officer commanding Maj Paul Lodge, and led by Lt Phil Waghorn –

consisted of a convoy of three Land Rovers and four Bedford's, with a 41-strong team of soldiers.

Work at the first orphanage in Ardud, home to 250 children aged between three and 17, included the complete refurbishment of the dining room, major re-wiring and the introduction of hot water and showers.

At Hamleu orphanage, which houses 150 children on the Romanian-Ukraine border, work concentrated on total

refurbishment of the shower block and the construction of a children's playground.

Thanks to careful management by site commanders Sgt Sandy Young (Ardud) and Cpl Dave Coxhead (Hamleu), and the hard work of the team, who put in long hours, all the jobs planned were completed within the two weeks.

With a lot of luck and a bit of goodwill from border guards, the return journey was much faster than it had been on the way in, and the squadron was

back home in 30 hours.

The project proved to be a huge success, providing excellent experience for those involved and a chance to do something worthwhile. All the soldiers said they would return if given the chance, and the squadron is now keen to make this a permanent fixture in its training.

● A bike ride from Hameln to Chatham by ten members of 12 Field (Nova Scotia) Squadron RE raised DM3,000 towards the return trip to the Romanian orphanage. Funds were helped by a donation of free ferry tickets by P&O European Ferries.

The lighter side of tough soldiers was displayed by The Royal Dragoon Guards in Paderborn, who hosted a tea party for refugee children from Lebanon, Syria and the former Yugoslavia.

After being taken to Barker Barracks in the regimental bus, the children were entertained by a puppet show and the regimental band. Each was given a present donated by the officers, warrant officers and sergeants, and the successful afternoon – arranged by the Deutschen Red Cross and Coca Cola – ended with a disco.

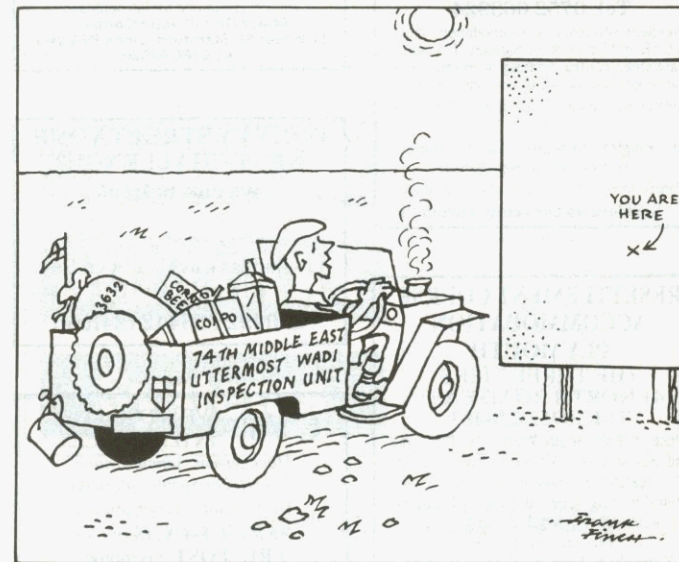
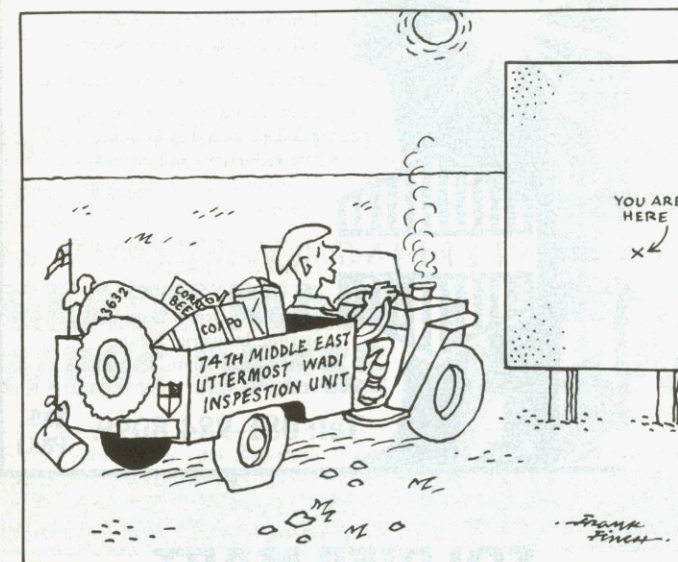
Two intrepid soldiers took the plunge in Winchester – all

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Competition No 552: Congratulations to Mrs D Mason, of York, who wins £50. Book prizes go to runners-up Miss R E Crouch, of Olney, Bucks, and Mr David Coe, of St Austell, Cornwall.

REME gift to lepers

REME tradesmen from Det 62 RCZ Workshop, Ayrshire Barracks, Münchengladbach used their military and technical skills in their free time to refurbish this tractor and generator to be sent to a leper colony in the foothills of Mount Kilimanjaro, northern Tanzania. The equipment was purchased at a MoD surplus sale by Josef Hayes (on tractor), Deputy Bürgermeister of Willich. The bikes? They were also rescued from the scrap pile by the tradesmen – and are now on the way to the colony



Leckford divers Sgt Mick Redknapp RE and (in well) Capt Neil Russell AGC (SPS), with safety checks in the trustworthy hands of gunner Sgt Jock Thompson (right)

in the name of charity. Capt Neil Russell and Sgt Mick Redknapp of the Worthy Down Sub Aqua Club dived into the well at the Leckford Hutt pub to recover artefacts for an auction at a later date in aid of the BBC Children in Need Appeal.

The divers were sponsored for every foot they descended in Exercise Leckford Plunge: no mean feat in a well which is one of the deepest in Hampshire.

Also helping the cause were the Worthy Down Hash Harriers, who took part in a



Northern Ireland Minister Michael Mates, flanked by Pte Carol Brown, SACW Sue Walford and Writer Emma Robinson RN, delighted Cpl Simon Harding, based at 154 Forward Ammunition Depot, Wulfen, by picking out his ticket at SSAFA's annual three-car draw in London. Simon is now the proud owner of a new Volkswagen Polo Fox. A record sum of £84,508 was raised through ticket sales in the world-wide charity draw sponsored by Natocars of Bridgwater.

sponsored hash. More than £1,500 was raised by the evening's events.

Don't forget Red Nose Day 4, the Comic Relief charity

event, which is due to take place on March 12. For a fund-raising pack, send a large envelope with 54p stamp to Hilary Price, Comic Relief '93, c/o BBC, Room AG17, 252 Western Avenue, London W3 6XJ.

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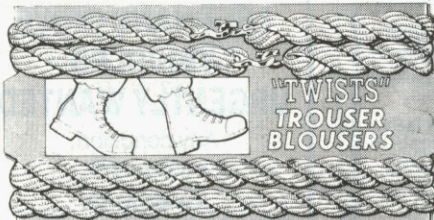
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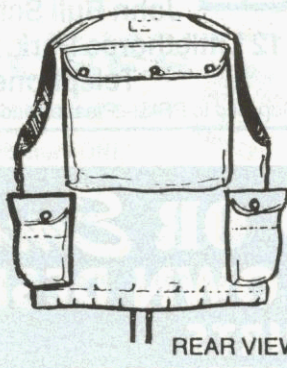
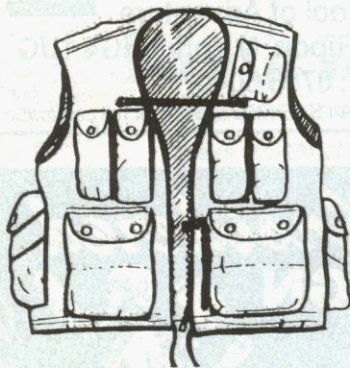
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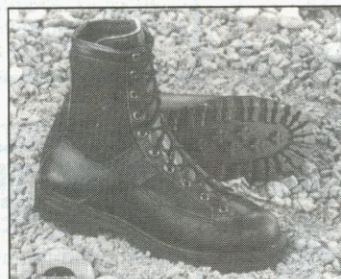
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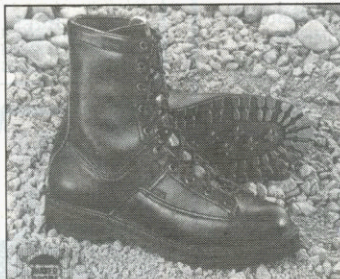
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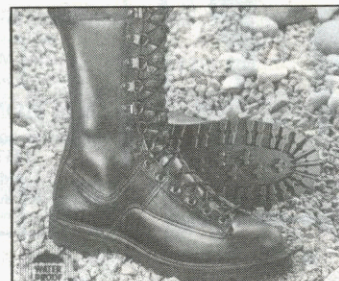
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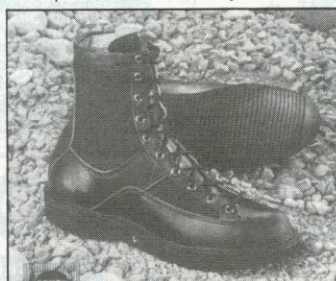
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A pen pal advertisement costs **£11.75**. Send your details (maximum 30 words) and a cheque or postal order for £11.75, payable to "Soldier", to the address below. The advertisement will appear in the first available issue and all replies will be forwarded.

**All correspondence to: Pen Pals,
Soldier Magazine, Ordnance Road,
Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU.**

I am a single female who likes to have fun. I enjoy sport and often run. Write to me and you will find a nice reply because I'm caring and fun. **P409**

My name is Catherine and I'm a 19-year-old student. I like most types of music and enjoy clubbing. I'd love to hear from anyone under 24 who wants a pen pal. **P410**

Young 16-year-old female doing A levels, looking for pen pals for friendship. Any age. I've dark brown shoulder length hair, brown eyes and I'm considered cuddly. All genuine replies answered. **P411**

Attractive, caring 21-year-old female seeks warm-hearted soldier aged 22-28 to restore faith in male race! Enjoys night life and quiet life. Many interests including motor sports and travel. **P412**

Single lady aged 33 seeks correspondence from army personnel. Works full-time as a nurse, own car, fun loving and very bubbly. Enjoys dancing, theatre. All replies welcome. **P414**

Dear lonely lads near and far, if you have got any spare time and you're sincere then get writing. I'm Cassie, 21 years old, 5'2", green eyes and brown hair. **P415**

Cosy, fireside rug, made in England 1960. Would love to toast together with pair of gentleman's slippers going spare. **P416**

Caring female, 18 years old, brown hair and eyes. Would like to write to a soldier between 18 and 23. All letters answered. **P417**

If you would like a pen pal I would love to hear from you. Male or female accepted. I will reply to all letters received. **P418**

Mandy, 32, extrovert legal cashier from Lincolnshire. 5'2" tall, bluey grey eyes, short light brown hair, curvy figure. Good sense of humour, likes eating, drinking wine and having fun. **P419**

My name is Karen, I'm 26 and a single working mum. I enjoy pubs, reading, walking and eating out. I would like to hear from any honest, tall, lonely man. **P420**

Is there a fella on his own, to write to a lady, 35. In return I will answer all your letters. I think you all do a great service for mankind everywhere. **P421**

Female, young 36, caring and bubbly. Would like to correspond with serviceman. All letters answered. **P422**

Hello, I'm an attractive 28-year-old career woman looking for pen pals. If you have a sense of humour and are aged 28-38 years please write. **P423**

Kim, 22 years old, single mum, blonde hair, blue eyes, slim figure and excellent personality. Likes music, cinema and ciggies. Seeks soldier for pen pal with view to lasting relationship. **P424**

Hi guys, 23-year-old brunette, brown eyes, sylphlike physique. Seeks fellas in 24-35 age range. Interests include writing letters, reading and table tennis. Will answer all letters. Include piccy if possible. **P425**

My name's Hazel. I'm a mature 24-year-old. I have long brown hair, blue eyes, medium build, 5'6" tall, good sense of humour. I enjoy swimming, socialising, travelling and letter writing. **P426**

My name is Jeanette. I'm 53 and would love to meet someone who has a good sense of humour and is thoughtful. I like wining and dining, dancing, driving, travelling and most music. **P427**

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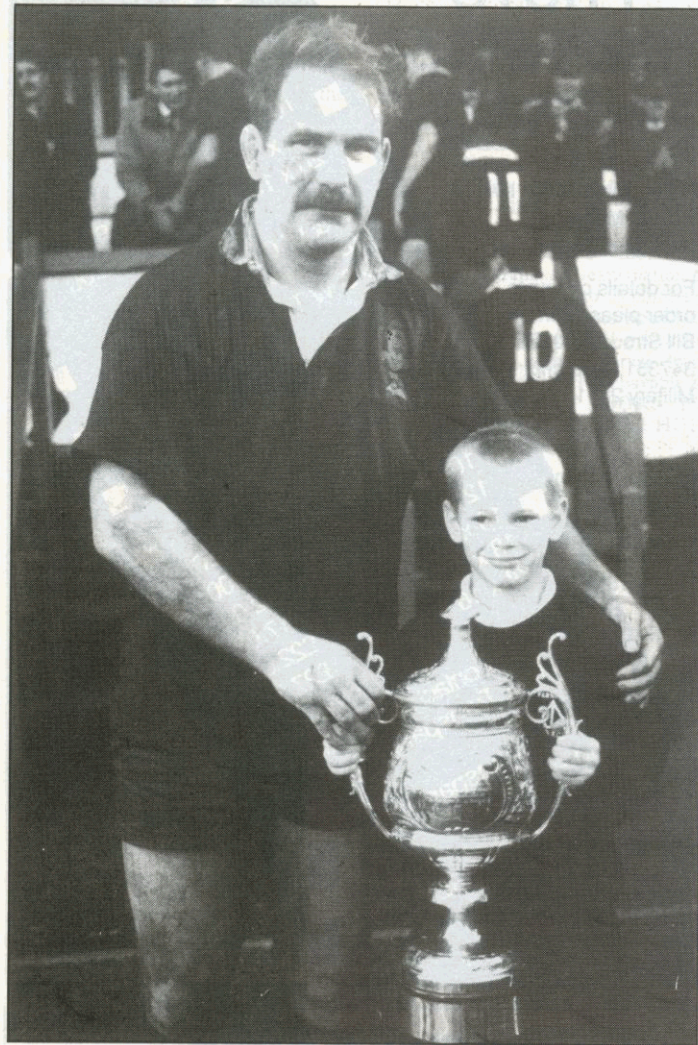
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Aldershot to host bigger tournament

AN ENLARGED Inter-Services hockey tournament is to be hosted for the first time by the Army on the artificial surface at Aldershot on March 10-12, writes Alan Healey.

A new element has been added to the occasion by the inclusion of the women's tournament. With men's teams competing at junior, senior and veteran levels, a major Services hockey occasion is guaranteed.

In their second representative match of the season, the Army lost by the odd goal in five to Oxfordshire at Aldershot.

Although weakened by the absence of the injured Capt Simon Hazlitt (2 LI) and fellow-international Capt Peter Boxall on duty, the team competed well, with Spr Ericson doing particularly well from the

Under-21s drafted into the side.

There were good performances by Capt Brian Hemmings (RE), who skippered the side for the first time, and 2nd Lt Richard Head (LI), who scored the Army's first goal.

The Army Under-21s lost 1-6 to Oxfordshire at Aldershot on January 17 and were due to play Sandhurst as SOLDIER went to press. The senior side was preparing for a tough test against the excellent Travellers touring side at Paddington Recreation Ground on January 26.

At domestic level, the quarter-finals of the Hockey Cup competitions, both Major and Minor Units, have to be completed by February 15. In the senior competition the draw has matched 14 Regt RA



Above - Sgt Mal Owen (centre), supported by 1 RWF teammate Sgt Charlie Fenton, gets the ball away to scrumhalf Fus Viv Pryce (No 9) despite the attentions of 7 (Para) RHA's Bdr Jim Fowers. Behind them (from left) are Capt Andy Southby, Capt Hugh James (headband), Fus Simon Manwaring, Sgt Rupert Symes and Bdr John Denwood. Fus Will Williams closes in on the front right

Left - WO2 Martin Lewis, captain of the victorious 7 (Para) RHA side, shares the spotlight with son Ryan

Above right - Action from the Minor Units rugby final as Cfn David Armstrong (3 Fd Wksp) attracts the attentions of LCpl Steve Thomas (left) and Spr Mick Brian of 24 Fd Sqn RE. Capt Hamish Robson (back left) closes in



Lt Col (Retd) Tug Lawson (right) receives the Army indoor 560kg tug of war cup on behalf of the Junior Leaders Regiment Royal Artillery from Maj Gen Chris Ticehurst, Commander Medical UKLF.

The championships were Col Lawson's last after 40 years of service to the sport. He personally trained and encouraged hundreds of young soldiers in tug of war, taking gunner teams to Army indoor and outdoor titles. As coach of JLR RA, he produced teams to win national youth titles and to represent England.

against QEMH or MoD(A), 1 R Anglian against 42 Svy Regt RE, 22 Regt RA against Royal School of Signals, and HQNI against 12 RSME.

The last eight in the Minor competition were: Veh and

Weapons Branch Chertsey v AAColl Chepstow or Depot R Irish; 7 Regt AAC v ATR Basingbourn; 24 Airmobile Brigade v 9 Ord Bn or 27 Regt RCT; Scottish Div Depot v 238 Sig Sqn.



Airborne Gunners triumph

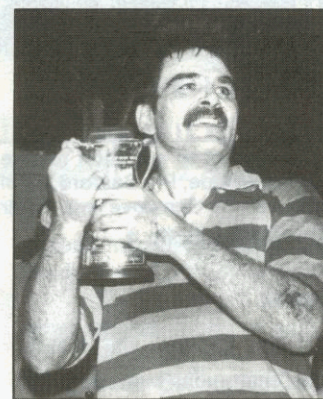
WINNERS of the Army Major and Minor Units (UK) rugby championships played at Aldershot were the 7th Parachute Regiment Royal Horse Artillery and 3 Field Workshops REME.

The Airborne Gunners, who beat the 1st Battalion, The Royal Welch Fusiliers by 11 points to three in the senior final, have now won the UK title four times in a row and eight times in nine years.

Their latest success, achieved in near-hurricane winds and heavy rain at the Military Stadium, was achieved by way of two Howard Graham first-half penalties and a second-half try by skipper WO2 Martin Lewis.

Gareth Thomas kicked a penalty goal for Tidworth-based 1 RWF.

In contrast, conditions the following day were considerably better for the Minor Units final in which 3 Fd Wksp REME defeated 24 Field Squadron RE by six points to



Sgt Guy Mountjoy, the 3 Fd Wksp REME skipper, with the Minor Units trophy

five. The sappers took the lead when centre Thorpe crossed the line, and Dalton replied with a penalty goal just before the interval.

A second Dalton penalty late in the second half rewarded much REME pressure, and 3 Fd held on to their one-point advantage despite a series of handling moves in the closing encounters.

Sappers' world record

A NEW world record for the medium girder bridge competition was set by 21 Engineer Regiment at the 1992 Sapper Games hosted by 28 Engineer Regiment at Hameln.

Nienburg-based 21 Regt also won the badminton, basketball, rugby and tug of war events, but the most successful team overall were the hosts, who triumphed in six events - cross country, football, hockey, orienteering, shooting and volleyball.

Skiers sponsored

ON BEHALF of the Army Winter Sports Association, Maj Gen Graham Hollands, chairman of BAOR Ski Association, has received a sponsorship cheque for £18,100 from Clerical Medical Investment Group.

And the Royal Armoured Corps Nordic ski championships, held at Les Saisies in France, have been sponsored

Athletes to go indoors at Cosford

THE INDOOR Inter-Services athletics competition at RAF Cosford on March 3 will include a full programme of track and field events. Entries should be received by the secretary of the Army Athletic Association at Aldershot by February 15.

The second Inter-Corps cross country championships at the Training Battalion and Depot RAOC at Blackdown on March 10 will be run over a six-mile course. The women's race will be run over four miles.

Entries for the Fleet half marathon on March 21 close on February 28. The Army Inter-Unit and individual half marathon championships are being held within the event.

for the first time by Naafi financial services. Lt Col Mark Goodson, chairman of RAC Nordic skiing, received a cheque for £3,000 from Naafi's John Loaring.

The money will be used to subsidise RAC skiers at their annual training camp and to send a team to the Canadian Army championships in Quebec.

Tenth team title on the cards

ANY DOUBTS about the Army's ability to sustain a stranglehold on Services team boxing for a tenth consecutive year were dispelled at Aldershot on January 21, writes John Elliott.

The Royal Air Force posed a genuine threat after their dramatic return to Inter-Services competition last winter, but they were simply swept aside by an Army squad rich in technique, talent, enthusiasm and power.

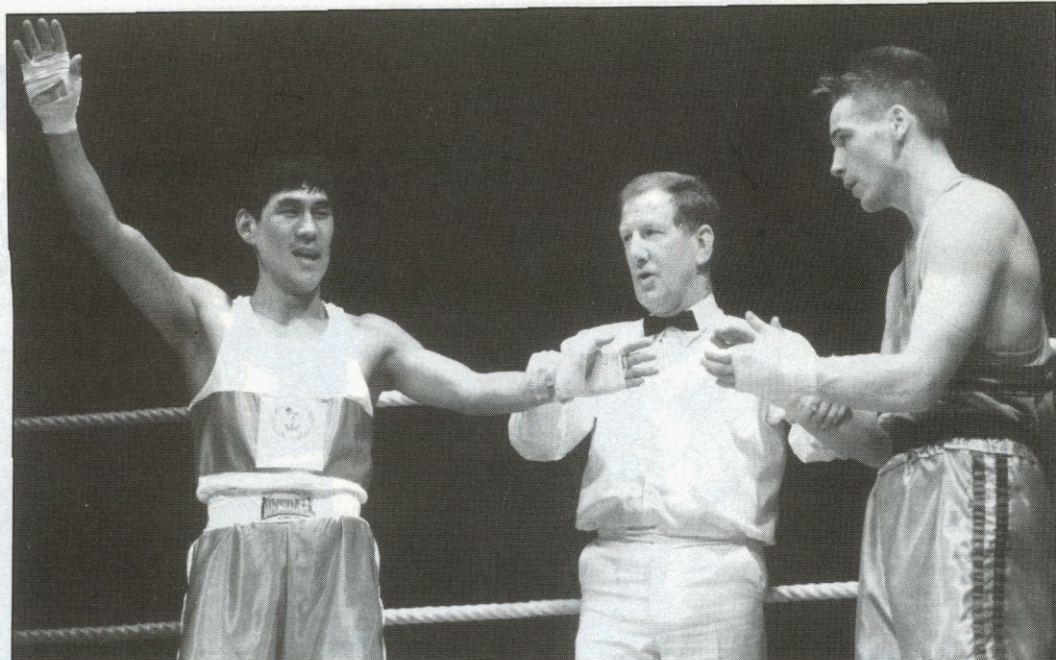
The 8-2 winning margin accurately reflected the Army's superiority, and will drum out ominous signals to the Royal Navy, who host the soldiers at Portsmouth on February 18.

Of several literally stunning performances, none were more loudly acclaimed than those of light-welterweight Spr Jhapat Singh Bhujel (QGE), the first Gurkha to box in Army colours, and heavyweight LBdr Vinny Jones (32 Hy Regt RA).

"Jap" Bhujel lived up to coach WO2 Mick Gannon's pre-season expectations with an awesome first round defeat of Combined Services champion Jnr Tech Darren Rudd. The referee twice intervened to give Rudd standing counts, then wisely ushered the overwhelmed airman to his corner to save him further punishment.

Jones's victory over the much bigger SAC Paul Fiske was a triumph of courage and spirit. Although out-reached and out-gunned, Jones's non-stop, close-quarter aggression eventually reduced Fiske to shambling impotence.

Pte Bob Basford (1 Staffords) produced an impressive, mature performance against SAC Tom Bath, discouraging the potentially dangerous airman



Jnr Tech Darren Rudd (right) sportingly adds his congratulations to the applause for Spr "Jap" Bhujel as referee Lt Cdr Neil Bennett RN raises the Gurkha's arm



Calm before the storm: The Army team stands to attention for the National Anthem. From left are coach WO2 Gannon, Fus Duncan, Fus Greenslade, Pte Basford, LCpl Powell, Spr Bhujel, team captain LCpl Bessey, LCpl Innes, LCpl Ollerhead, Pte Treslove and LBdr Jones

with hard, accurate combinations, while LCpl Vinny Powell (59 Ind Cdo Sqn RE) started cautiously against Cpl Tony Reynolds, shook him with a right at the end of the first, then knocked him out early in the second.

When LCpl Lee Innes (3 Trg Regt RE) stepped up a gear midway through a one-sided light-middleweight contest, international referee Cdr Rod Robertson of the Royal Navy sensibly sent Cpl Sean Pepperal back to his corner.

LCpl Jeff Ollerhead (1 Kings), who turned last year's Army-RAF contest by getting off the canvas to stop Pepperal, stepped up to middleweight and earned a unanimous verdict

over SAC Jerry Brown after an uncompromising, gutsy three-rounder.

The two RAF successes were delivered by Combined Services champions bantamweight SAC Owen Spensley, and light-heavy SAC John Gosling. Royal Welch Fusilier Danny Greenslade's determination was not enough to prevent Spensley picking him off, while the exciting Gosling produced the punch of the evening, a short left hook which stopped Pte Paul Treslove (1 Para) in his tracks a minute and 22 seconds into their second round.

Flyweight Fus Dale Duncan (1 RRF) and LCpl Chris Bessey (27 Regt RCT at welterweight were given walk-overs.

The evening, sponsored by PLC Services Ltd, with additional support from Naafi and Lonsdale, started with two non-championship contests.

Welterweight Fus Tony Marsden (2 RRF) forced Cpl Leroy Francis to retire in the second round, and Pte Jason Mills (3 Para) was given a split decision over light-middleweight Cpl Jeff Robinson.

Flyweight - Fus D Duncan, walkover; **bantam** - Fus D Greenslade lost to SAC O Spensley, pts u; **feather** - Pte R Basford beat SAC T Bath, pts u; **light** - LCpl V Powell beat Cpl A Reynolds, ftc 2; **light-welter** - Spr J Bhujel beat Jnr Tech D Rudd, rsc 1; **welter** - LCpl C Bessey, walkover; **light-middle** - LCpl L Innes beat Cpl S Pepperal, rsc 2; **middle** - LCpl J Ollerhead beat SAC J Brown, pts u; **light-heavy** - Pte P Treslove lost to SAC J Gosling, ftc 2; **heavy** - LBdr V Jones beat SAC P Fiske, pts u.

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Sappers such as these from 42 Field Squadron RE have raised the standard of living at Vitez by good planning before installing accommodation units at 1 Cheshire battalion group's main base in Bosnia. More Op Grapple reports and pictures inside.

Picture: Mike Weston



Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Irish Regiment are pictured moments before they launched the final attack during Exercise Rock Rose in Cyprus. The battalion will merge with the regiment's 2nd Battalion in August. Report and more pictures inside.

Picture: Terry Champion