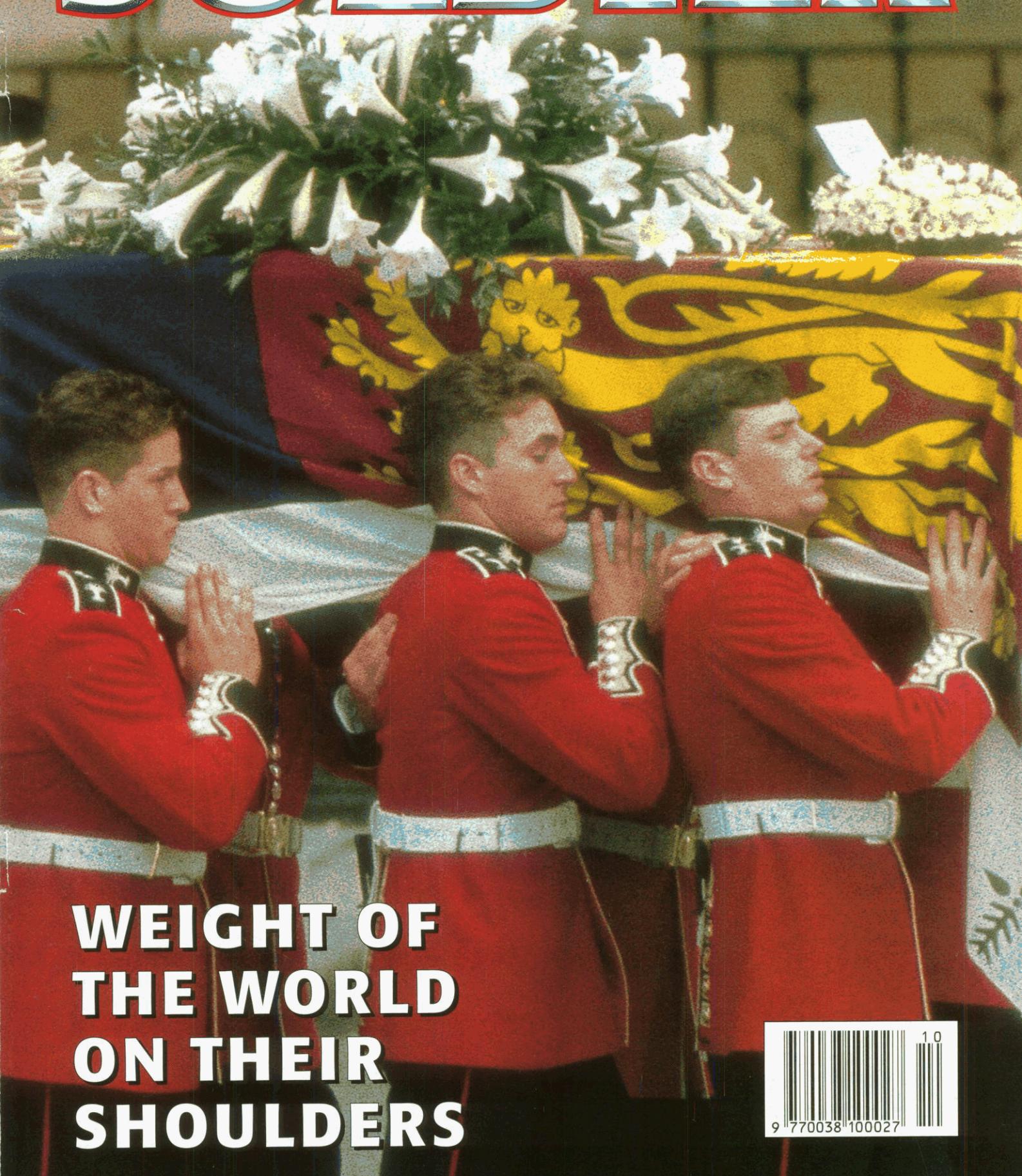


MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY

October 1997 £1.60

# SOLDIER



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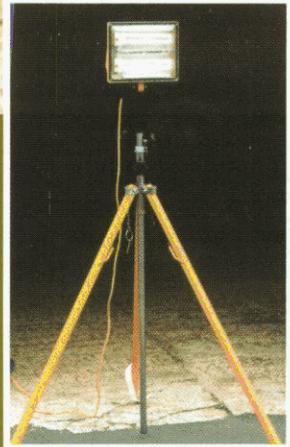
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## SOLDIER

### to soldier

## Farewell to a friend

IT BECAME movingly clear during the national tidal wave of grief following the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, that she had touched all our lives.

Small cameos of her caring nature were evident when in February 1992 the Princess sent her thoughts to the Army in the Gulf through a message published in this magazine, and again with her get-well wishes and flowers to our campaigning columnist Anne Armstrong before Anne's own untimely death in 1993.

The military community has many fond memories of this personable princess and with the world watching the British Army played with brilliance a significant role in the awesome drama of her funeral.

### IN SHOCK

Like many others our chief photographer Terry Champion had camped all night outside Westminster Abbey to record the sad proceedings.

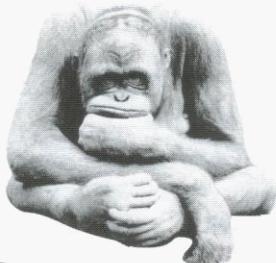
Days earlier, with the world reeling in shock at the news from Paris, we had been able to hold up production of our last fortnightly edition just long enough to include early tributes from her regiments.

Now, although it is not how we would have wished to mark the launch of the new monthly *Soldier*, we are proud to pay tribute more fully in words and pictures.



*Soldier* really does reach the parts that other publications don't. No fewer than 67 former pupils of St George's School, Hong Kong, found themselves swapping stories at the National Army Museum in Chelsea after their reunion notice appeared in this magazine's Searchline column.

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# View from the top

# We have the finest soldiers there are

GEN Sir Roger Wheeler, the Chief of the General Staff, believes that the British Army produces the "finest soldiers there are" and has paid tribute to the compassion of troops serving in Bosnia.

He told *Soldier*: "There is something about the British soldier which causes them to want to help people, which particularly struck the Secretary of State when he was in Bosnia. The level of commitment of young soldiers was something he just hadn't expected to find.

"Whatever the newspapers say about us finding it difficult to recruit numbers of people who are physically and mentally suited to the Army I have no doubt at all that the product of the training system provides us with the finest soldiers there are."

In a wide-ranging interview on issues affecting soldiers and their families, CGS spoke about the prospects of reducing overstretch, the role of women, recruiting, the importance of sport, and the need to retain an element of fun and challenge.

Asked about opening up roles to

## WOMEN'S ROLES

women, Gen Wheeler said: "The vast majority of people in the Army today are not in any way concerned about working with women, be they NCOs, warrant officers or officers. The Army Board is actively looking to broaden the employment of women. I want to want to emphasise my total commitment to equal opportunities. I want the very best people in the right jobs."

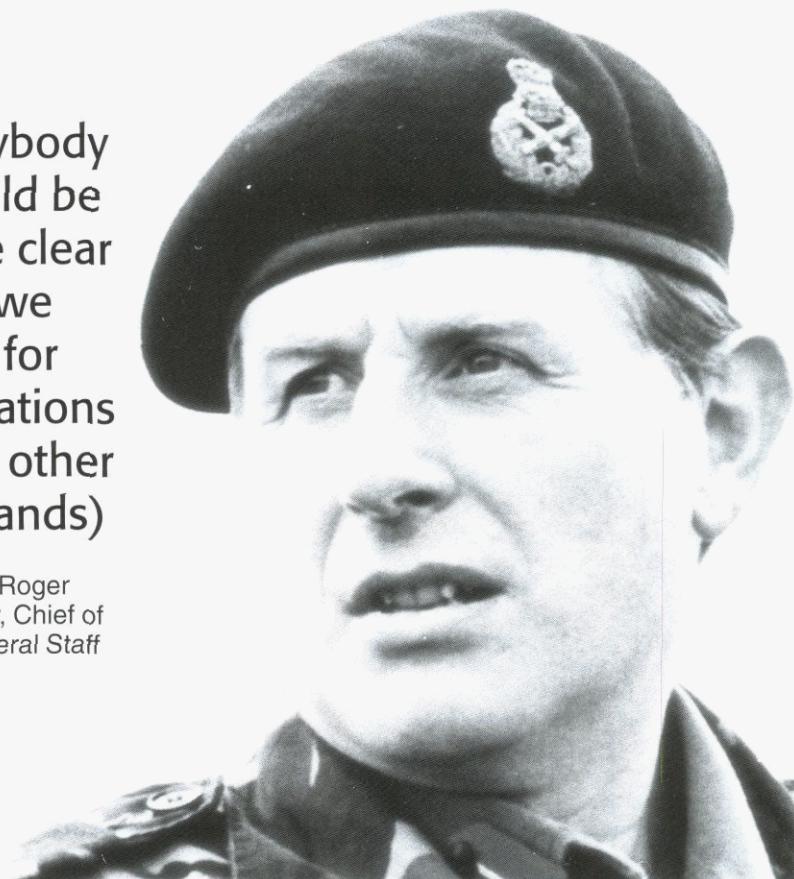
Gen Wheeler believes the current defence review will lead to a better balance between the Army's commitment and its size and capability. But he warned that overstretch would not disappear overnight.

"To some extent overstretch is caused by operational deployments and we don't really have any choice. On the other hand, the review may give us an opportunity to achieve a better balance between operational commitments – and everybody should be quite clear that we exist for operations – and other demands.

"I'm well aware of the fact that not only do we need to train to be competent, but we need to recognise a large proportion of the Army is married. Those soldiers need time with their families, time to attend career courses, and time to have some of

**Everybody should be quite clear that we exist for operations (and other demands)**

Gen Sir Roger Wheeler, Chief of the General Staff



the fun side of the Army, which under the pressure of events I am only too well aware is less than it was."

CGS does not know whether or not the Army's involvement in Bosnia will cease when the Stabilisation Force (SFOR) mandate ends in June. "The British element of SFOR is performing an extremely valuable and timely task in maintaining the peace and I don't think any responsible European nation can just depart and leave them to get on with it.

"While I wouldn't call it long term, I

## SFOR MANDATE

don't think that because the SFOR mandate ends on a particular date we will necessarily leave on that date."

Media commentators frequently describe the Army's post-Cold War role as that of a "world policeman". Gen Wheeler sees it from a different perspective.

"I wouldn't put it that way because I think 'world policeman' implies that it's peace-keeping. I think the one thing that

Bosnia has made everybody realise is that peace-making, as Gen Mike Rose distinguished the two, means that you have got to have sufficient military power to deter warring factions, whoever they are.

"The one reason IFOR was successful was that the forces that went in were clearly capable of overmatching, and therefore deterring, the warring factions from continuing."

On the topic of tour gaps, subject of heated debate for several years, and generally acknowledged to be too short, CGS said: "I can't predict whether the situation is going to get worse or better, because I don't know what's going to happen in the Northern Ireland peace process. What I do know is that during the last cease-fire we were able to drop the force levels gradually by three battalions in the Province, which had the effect of easing the overstretch.

"By and large, young soldiers want to go on operations, and interestingly the

● Turn to Page 11

Royal Highland Fusiliers in West Belfast, Welsh Guards in Armagh

# Tam-o'-shanter signals fresh chance for peace

Report: Graham Bound  
Pictures: Mike Weston

WHEN Fus Aaron Tennant of B Company, the 1st Battalion, The Royal Highland Fusiliers, based at Fort Whiterock in West Belfast, became the first soldier since the IRA cease-fire to step onto the streets of West Belfast wearing not a combat helmet but the tam-o'-shanter of his regiment, a crowd of photographers and cameramen were on hand to record the moment.

That image of the young soldier was carried on television and the front pages of newspapers across Britain, and, briefly at least, Fus Tennant seemed to symbolise the Army's willingness to respond in a positive way to any chance for peace.

So far, the gesture appears to have been justified. Although smaller terrorist organisations, such as the Irish National Liberation Army, the Continuity Army Council and the Loyalist Volunteer Force have refused to declare a cease-fire, there have been relatively few serious incidents.

That is not to say that hostility to the Army and police presence is a thing of the past. In parts of the city that the soldiers describe simply as "hard", patrols still suffer barrages of abuse and stones.

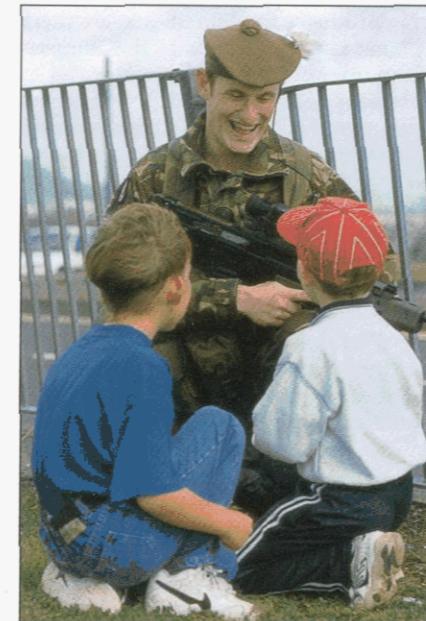
## NON-HOSTILE

But Capt Ed Fenton, who commands B Coy, 1 RHF at Springfield Road RUC Station and regularly leads his men down the famous Falls and Grosvenor Roads, said that such incidents are less frequent now. "We've made a real effort to get on with them, keep smiles on our faces and project ourselves as non-hostile. The attitudes among people on the roads is different."

Capt Taff Lines who, with three NCO medics, runs the Fort Whiterock medical post, said there was plenty of room for improvement. "During most of the tour," said the QARANC nurse, "we have treated a 'bricking' injury every other day."

Bricks and bottles paled into insignificance, though, alongside the aggression that surrounded the pre-cease-fire loyalist marching season. As the crowds became violent, 1 RHF were shoulder-to-shoulder with the RUC as they attempted to bring the riots under control. Baton rounds had to be fired in response to petrol bombs lobbed at soldiers and police.

**In Northern Ireland the IRA cease-fire is on and Army helmets are off. But what else has changed for the men and women who garrison the Province's traditional trouble spots? Soldier visited the roulement battalions in West Belfast and South Armagh to find out**



Time for smiles. LCpl Dean Partulovic makes friends with the locals

Maj Paul Cartwright, who commands A Coy based at Woodburn RUC station, said terrorist suspects had tried to make full use of the rioters. "The crowds would try to draw us into the estates, and then melt away, giving the snipers a clear field of view."

Grenades and "coffee jar" bombs were thrown at patrols on two occasions. Luck and training ensured there were no serious injuries. The memory of one attack even brought a wry smile to the face of Maj Cartwright. The Woodburn company had borrowed a Saxon armoured personnel carrier from another base and, in the disturbance, the vehicle took the full blast of a grenade. "The blokes who lent the Saxon to us weren't too impressed when we returned it to them."

The cease-fire has meant that the RUC can spend less time on anti-terrorism operations, and more on the routine work that is the bread and butter of any police force. Soldiers of 1 RHF continue to patrol with the men and women in green, and, although reduced, the usual ratio of soldiers to RUC officers remains high. Cease-fire or not, no one takes any chances.

Despite almost two months of relative

"IT HAS often been said there are more terrorists here per square yard than anywhere else in the Province. There have been 56 soldiers, including two Welsh Guards, killed here since 1971, mostly by snipers."

The curt briefing from Maj Robert Talbot Rice, the officer commanding Prince of Wales's Company, Welsh Guards in Crossmaglen, leaves one in no doubt that, cease-fire or not, Armagh is still regarded as a hostile area. It is not possible to escape the fact that the terror-

the police let us use their snooker and video rooms and their sauna."

Nevertheless, Northern Ireland's famously beautiful countryside beckons, and it is hoped that fusiliers might get a chance to enjoy walking, canoeing and rock climbing before they return to their base in Germany.

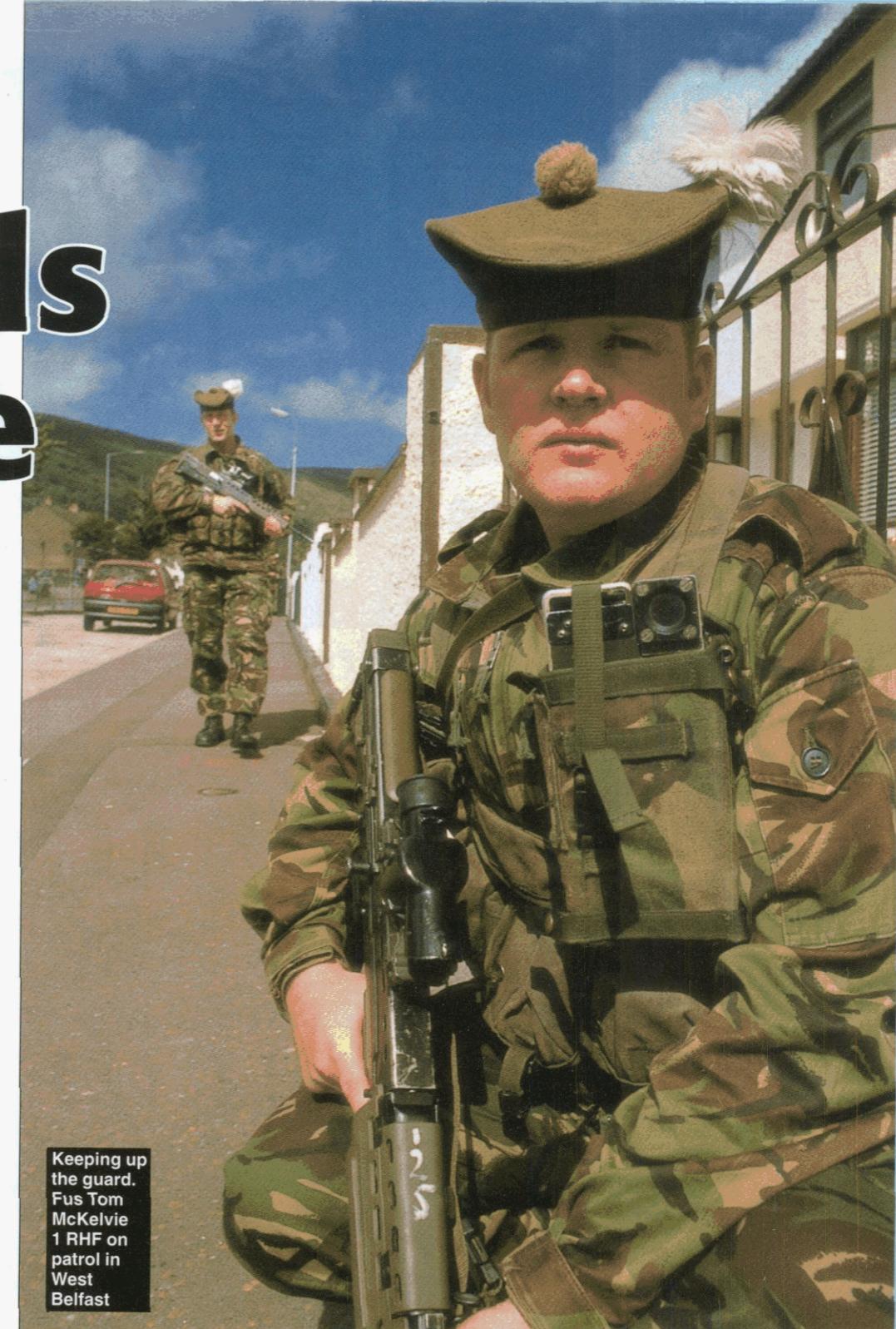
But such pleasures, like so much in Northern Ireland, depends upon peace being consolidated and until it is, the fusiliers keep up their guard and try to make friends.

It can be done, as Fus Joe Walker demonstrated. The young soldier and his patrol were the first to reach the victims of a car crash, and Fus Walker gave first aid to a seriously injured man. "The crash victim had internal injuries, but I was able to stabilise him and keep him conscious until the paramedics arrived," he explained.

The resident of a fiercely republican housing estate was in surgery for four hours, but he survived. A few days later the man's son arrived at the formidable gates of Fort Whiterock with a bottle of whisky and a card.

"It was a strange situation, because I don't think he'd ever spoken to a soldier. But I felt great for him. They are an all-right family."

The fusiliers would like to think that somewhere in West Belfast there is a young civvy prepared to return the compliment.



Keeping up the guard.  
Fus Tom  
McKelvie  
1 RHF on  
patrol in  
West  
Belfast

## ... but there's no let-up in Armagh

ist suspects are still there and claim to have widespread support among the mainly rural community. The Welsh Guards have not dropped their guard.

The battalion arrived in the county six months ago, and immediately deployed from the HQ at Bessbrook Mill near Newry, with its ever-busy helicopter operations centre, to bases at Newtownhamilton, Forkhill and, of course, Crossmaglen. The bases are all adjacent to RUC stations, a link which is vital now that the policy of "police primacy" gives the RUC

the leading role in directing operations. The bases are highly defended patrol centres, but, crucially, they also support the string of permanent observation towers that have become something of a symbol of the Armagh area. From within the lofty OPs, protected by multiple layers of barbed wire and protective cages, the Welsh Guards keep a watch over the winding lanes that criss-cross both sides of the nearby border, and have in the past been the arteries of terrorist activity.

At Crossmaglen camp all personnel arrive or deploy by helicopter; usually fast Lynx aircraft. APCs are the usual transport in Belfast but such vehicles are not routinely used in the open landscape of Armagh. The "Welcome to Crossmaglen" sign that greets personnel stepping on to the helipad is definitely someone's idea of ironic humour.

In spite of this, Crossmaglen is in many ways a normal, small country town. Each week farmers travel to the town's market, driving along the six main roads that con-

● Turn to Page 9

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# Armagh patrol

● From Page 7

verge on the central square. But terrorist suspects have also used the routes, which is where the Army's most heavily defended and prominent OP comes in.

Borucki Sangar's dried paint, scorch marks and chipped concrete are testament to the variety of missiles that have been thrown at the mini-fortress.

The most spectacular attack took place before the Guards' arrival, when a stolen agricultural muck-spreader was filled with diesel and petrol and used as a flame thrower. The sangar was engulfed in flames, but the soldiers inside were unscathed.

Gdsm Carl Harris and Craig Wilson were among the small team who had just emerged from a six-month stint in the cramped "super sangar". They told how they been "bricked" almost every day, and how during the Drumcree riots that marked the loyalist marching season, Borucki was bombarded with petrol bombs (the local youths were not short of ammunition: there was a bottle bank in the town square).

## JUST A NUISANCE

"You're on your own there. That's the worst part," said Gdsm Harris. "It could be worrying during the early days, but by the end of our time there, those sort of things were just a nuisance."

Borucki was not the only installation to be a tempting targets before the cease-fire. At Newtownhamilton the Welsh Guards discovered a primed "Barrack Buster" mortar just before the timed firing mechanism went off. The massive bomb landed metres from the base perimeter, gauging out a crater.

Another incident reminded the Welsh Guards that there was a far more personal threat in the form of snipers. In late March a joint Welsh Guards-RUC patrol was leaving the Forkhill base when it came into the sights of an IRA sniper. Constable Ronnie Galway was hit, but survived thanks to first aid from other patrol members. There was some satisfaction when, just a few weeks later, a suspected sniper was arrested.

The threat of attack has never kept the Welsh Guards off the roads and rural tracks.

"Dicking" – terrorist suspects and sympathisers trying to watch the security



Gdsm Carl Harris (left) and Craig Wilson endured brickings and petrol bombs in Borucki Sangar (seen in the background)

forces and report their movements – was seemingly routine at times and sometimes led to an attempted IRA "shoot". Patrol commander Sgt Mark O'Driscoll remembered the first time he came under direct threat: "People suddenly began acting suspiciously. It seemed likely that a sniper was getting into a firing position and we would be the target.

"We were later extracted by helicopter, but that experience reminded me where we were and what we were doing."

Since the cease-fire, routine patrolling has been scaled down, and the troops have been reminded to remain courteous and fair-minded with local people. There are small but encouraging signs that this

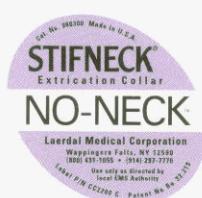
development may be paying off. "Outright hostility is no longer so evident," said Maj Talbot Rice.

But, as Maj Simon Treadgold, OC of 2 Coy at Newtownhamilton explained, no changes were made without careful consideration, and the guard has not been dropped. "It would be a shame but no great strain to return to our previous way of operating."

Few groups of people want to see a lasting peace in Northern Ireland more than the Army. But, as Ireland's great poet W B Yeats wrote, "peace comes dropping slow." Pending its safe arrival, the soldiers on the ground, and their police colleagues, are showing no complacency.

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# People, places, events

## The finest soldiers

● From Page 5

retention rates of two units I've visited in Northern Ireland recently have gone up as a result of their operational tours.

"I'm particularly aware that for the Infantry, the Royal Engineers and certain logistic trades such as petroleum operators and stores controllers, in a situation like Bosnia where there is no infrastructure, this means that individual tours are much more frequent.

"To an extent the TA has helped ease the problem, but we are also looking at an adjustment of the numbers of Regulars we hold with particular skills necessary for what I call expeditionary warfare in countries, such as Bosnia, where the infrastructure has been destroyed."

On recruiting, CGS was confident that the "tremendous effort" being made by the Army would have a positive effect. "One of the causes of our recruiting problem is that we failed to explain when we were undergoing Options for Change that, while we were declaring 'middle management' redundant, we still needed young, fit recruits coming in. We did not get that message across, but I think we are now."

### **SPORT A PRIORITY**

Gen Wheeler gave an assurance that sport and adventurous training would remain a high priority in the Army. "Team sport particularly, and adventurous training, provide the artificial psychological challenge for teamwork, which is what being a soldier on operations is all about.

"Facing unusual, challenging and dangerous situations, within controlled circumstances in the case of adventurous training, prepares people for the mental state they need to be in for operations."

The other aspect of it was, he said, that the Army "needs to be fun".

And of the future: "I have charged the Directorate General of Doctrine with carrying out a general study into the time frame 2015 and beyond to see whether our equipment programme and structures are appropriate. I don't see any revolutionary change in the immediate future, but I can see that in 15 years or so we might have our operational formations in a rather different format.

"It is also worth saying that the roles we find ourselves in at the moment, and are likely to in the next five years, are of the peace-keeping, peace-making sort, which are very demanding on young soldiers in terms of inter-personal skills.

"They are the contact between the people whose peace we are trying to keep, which is why we spend so much time training soldiers before they go on deployments. And they are very good at it."

**CGS was interviewed by John Elliott**



Picture: Mark Owens

The Queen Mother celebrates 60 years as Colonel-in-Chief of The Black Watch with a photograph at the 1st Battalion's base at Fort George, Inverness. On the Queen Mother's right is the commanding officer, Lt Col Alasdair Loudon, and on her left is Brig Gary Barnett, the regimental colonel. She spent more than four hours meeting soldiers and their families

## Army to leave isolated island

AFTER forty years, the Army is to withdraw from one of its most isolated outposts, the tiny island of St Kilda. If everything goes according to plan, the ten men and one woman who operate the radar tracking station on the island will leave on April 1 next year.

But the station, which tracks missiles launched from the nearby Benbecula range, will continue to operate in the care of civilian contractors. Currently 15-strong, their number will be increased to replace the departing soldiers.

The St Kilda radar station is the responsibility of the Royal Artillery, but the Royal Engineers, Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps and the Royal Signals are also represented on the island. Service personnel spend up to six months there, receiving weekly helicopter deliveries of mail and food.

Lt Col Crawford Stoddart, second in command at the Army base on Benbecula, said that St Kilda's radars will continue to be vital for the safe operation of the Benbecula range. He pointed out that the equipment scans sea and sky to ensure the area is free of traffic during

launches. A dedicated tracking radar monitors the missile firings.

Lt Col Stoddart has mixed feelings about the hand-over to civilians. "I will be sad to see the Army leaving after 40 years, but I think that with soldiers currently facing so many short postings and disruptions to their lives, one fewer six-month tour will not be missed."

St Kilda's weather and environment has a hostile reputation. The island has had no permanent civilian population since 1930, when the last members of the declining population, who were finding life increasingly difficult, were evacuated to the mainland.

### **Don't miss Soldier's superb 1998 calendar**

IN ADDITION to their routine duties, photographers from *Soldier* have spent much of the past year recording the ceremonial side of the British Army.

Some of the more striking pictures from the portfolio have been selected for the superb 1998 *Soldier/British Army* calendar, which will be available soon. See the back cover and Page 55 for details.

# People, places, events

## Wives in the firing line

IF I asked you to describe a memsahib I'm fairly confident that you would come up with a faintly ludicrous figure in an suitably heavy dress who spent her days ordering the domestic staff about.

What you would probably not describe is a tough, dedicated woman who faced the prospect of death to follow her soldier husband.

As this year is the 50th anniversary of the independence of India and Pakistan we put the focus in a recent *Counterpoint* programme on the past. Two people who know a great deal about the Army and their womenfolk in India joined us to discuss the life of the soldier and his wife during the Indian Mutiny of 1857.

Julian Humphrys was involved in organising "Soldiers of the Raj", an exhibition at the National Army Museum in Chelsea, and Jane Robinson has written a fascinating book on women of the time.

*Angels of Albion* (published by Penguin in paperback) tells the story of the appalling massacres and sieges in which Army families were involved. The book is full of extracts from letters and diaries written by women who were there. Some survived, many did not.

For modern Army wives it makes riveting reading and puts the tribulations of contemporary camp-following into perspective. Many Army wives, left to fend for themselves, had no idea where their husbands were most of the time. Many died violently and alone just because they were Army wives.

An interesting aspect was the way in which British newspapers treated them. When it suited politicians and editors the wives were portrayed as harpies who distracted the men and caused trouble.

### POLITICAL INCOMPETENCE

At other times they were symbolic of Britain herself . . . the Angels of Albion. Finally they became an inconvenient burden and an embarrassing reminder of political incompetence.

Letters and diaries which form the basis of *Angels of Albion* tell the story through the filter of experience. We hear all the petty rivalries and gossip, we read how Mrs X is a weedy little thing who gets hysterical.

Someone else is a bossy madam who takes over the organising of things unasked. We read of how the rank structure was used when it was needed and discarded when it was not.

I regretted having allowed so little time to discuss the stories. There is much to be learned from this period and both the book and the National Army Museum exhibition offer invaluable views of it.

• Cari Roberts presents *Counterpoint* on BFBS radio. Write to her at BFBS, BFPO 786; or c/o Soldier.



Cari's column



Gurkha soldiers from B Company, 1st Battalion, The Royal Gurkha Rifles weigh out their kit at their Church Crookham base before flying to Bosnia to assist in the supervision of elections. A small group from the 119-strong party was guarding the main British headquarters in Banja Luka while the remainder worked alongside the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers around Dornji Vakuf.

During the six-week deployment, they were responsible for assuring freedom of movement and delivering ballot boxes and papers to towns and villages across the region.

## Gütersloh clerk's poolside rescue

CPL Robert Yerrick, a clerk serving with 2 Close Support Regiment RLC at Gütersloh, Germany, has been thanked by a man whose life he saved.

Cpl Yerrick was on the spot when a German civilian collapsed in Gütersloh's Nord Bath swimming pool. He gave mouth-to-mouth resuscitation and heart massage to keep the man alive until paramedics arrived. They asked him to continue resuscitating the victim until they had set up their equipment.

### IN BRIEF

THE Army has flown an airship in Northern Ireland to evaluate its suitability as an observation and communications platform. Based at Ballykelly, the trials of the Skyship 600B were conducted over North Antrim at heights above 2,000ft. They were the culmination of a series carried out in the UK to evaluate the airship for defence and policing purposes.

• Essential work will start immediately to ensure the Army Foundation College is ready to open at Harrogate in September next year, Armed Forces Minister Dr John

In all, he spent nearly 30 minutes working on the man until the medics were able to take over.

A week later Cpl Yerrick received a call from the man, by now fully recovered.

• Two of 2 CS Regt's squadrons have been renamed to recognise their new roles: 23 Divisional Troops Support Squadron became 23 Brigade Support Squadron, while 45 Brigade Support Squadron was retitled 45 Divisional Troops Support Squadron.

Reid has confirmed.

• New Colours, the first for 25 years, have been received by the 4/5th Battalion, The Royal Irish Rangers. The Portadown-based battalion was presented with the Colours bearing 76 battle honours during a parade at St Patrick's Barracks, Ballymena.

• Four hundred Territorial Army soldiers paraded at Belfast's Royal Ulster Agricultural Society Showgrounds during a review to mark the 50th anniversary of the TA and Volunteer Reserve Forces in Northern Ireland.

## Sappers in low-tech anti-mine kit tests

TERRITORIAL Army sappers from Birmingham-based 225 Field Squadron (Militia) have helped boffins from the University of Warwick test components of de-mining equipment which could save lives and limbs in third world countries.

The engineers were involved in trials on Salisbury Plain of low-tech solutions to the horrendous anti-personnel mine problem which exists in countries such as Angola, Cambodia, Bosnia and Afghanistan.

Several plastic explosive charges were set off by the part-time sappers to simulate anti-personnel mines as scientists trialled wheels and flails on a test frame.

If they prove successful, the components could be built locally. It is intended that cheap two-stroke



Testing: (from left) Spr Andrew Parkin, LCpl Stephen Parkes, LCpl Alex Carter and LCpl Darrell Jones with a de-mining equipment trials rig

engines, available locally, would drive the contraptions over ground suspected of containing mines.

Warwick University's Development Technology Unit has been involved in producing visors and body armour for local production and its next objective is a self-propelled mine-clearance flail.

## Paras in training with the Cossacks

BRITISH troops have exercised for the first time with Ukrainian military units to strengthen links forged during peacekeeping duties in Bosnia.

Soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, supported by Royal Engineers and 23 Parachute Field Ambulance, trained with airborne forces from Ukraine and Poland during Exercise Cossack Steppe.

They were visited on the exercise

area by Defence Secretary George Robertson.

Meanwhile, 300 troops from Colchester-based 24 Airmobile Brigade were among 2,500 from four countries taking part in a large-scale multi-national peacekeeping exercise in Belgium.

Exercise Active Ingredient was one of the most ambitious involving forces from the Multi-National Division Central since its formation in 1994. Units from Belgium, Germany and the Netherlands make up the division.

### Bodyguard is ex-Para

TREVOR Rees-Jones, sole survivor of the crash which killed Diana, Princess of Wales, served with the 1st Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, for five years. He served two tours of Northern Ireland from August 1987 until he left the Army as a lance corporal in 1993.

He started working for the AI Fayed family the following year and was bodyguard to the Princess's friend, Dodi Fayed.

Tribute of a nation - Pages 22-25

## Zimbabwe walkabout

A Northumbrian University OTC member has become the first Briton to finish the Zimbabwe's gruelling Blue Cross march.

Mike Potter, who hopes to go to Sandhurst, walked 310 miles and climbed 23,747 feet in an accumulative time of 90 hours to finish fourth in his category. He raised more than £350 for an animal charity.

The Blue Cross, held for the first time last year, is a supreme test of physical and mental stamina. It runs from Zimbabwe's lowest point at the confluence of the Sabe and Runde rivers in the south-east to the summit of Mount Nyanani (8,500ft) in the Eastern Highlands.



## Full circle for Hon Col



Col Robin Drummond (centre, left) is back where he started after more than 40 years connected with the Army. He has been appointed Honorary Colonel of the 7th Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment, based in Sabroon Barracks, Lincoln, where he enlisted as an 18-year-old with the Royal Lincolnshire Regiment in 1955.

In the years between he commanded 3 R Anglian, watched the collapse of the Iron Curtain as military attaché in Prague and trained head-hunting Iban warriors in Sarawak.

Pictured with him are (top to bottom) Pte Tarquin Powell, Pte Steve Kane and Pte Matthew Laird.

## Mark's gold standing

There were double honours for Pte Mark Burge, Light Infantry, when he completed his 12-week basic training at the Army Training Regiment Winchester.

Not only did he win the award for best all-round recruit, but he was also presented with the Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award at his passing out parade.



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Sol Oct

# People, places, events



WO2 (SSM) Danny Stewart of 59 Movement Control Squadron receives his NATO Medal from the commanding officer of 29 Regiment RLC, Lt Col Tony Sutherland, watched by Maj Nicholas Barsby, OC 59 Sqn at the Duke of Gloucester Barracks, South Cerney following the unit's return from Split. The squadron was responsible for the movement into and out of theatre of Stabilisation Force (SFOR) personnel and equipment by road, rail, air and sea.

## Memorial expert backs sponsorship

VETERANS have reacted strongly to a proposal to give private enterprise the chance to sponsor the upkeep of war memorials.

But an expert from the Imperial War Museum responded that discreet sponsorship may be the only realistic way to ensure decaying memorials are cared for properly.

The sponsorship idea came from Ian Davidson, founder of the Friends of War Memorials, although he did not receive unanimous support in the charity.

He said he envisaged a small, discreet sponsor's plaque alongside a memorial and that the idea was not new – since before the First World War the companies manufacturing memorials had their names on them.

Among objectors was Mr Joseph Kertin, secretary of Birmingham Royal British Legion, who told *The Guardian*: "I hate the thought that there might be some kind of commercial logo on the memorial for my fellow soldiers.

"I never saw tanks rolling through the desert painted with the words 'sponsored by Typhoo Tea'. It is the government's responsibility to pay for the upkeep of war

**DON'T MISS** the November issue of your new *Soldier* magazine.

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- Our intrepid "Who Dares" reporter gets drenched with a soldier set on becoming a champion jet ski racer.

memorials – they shouldn't have to resort to advertising."

However, in a letter to the same newspaper, Nick Hewitt, project co-ordinator of the National Inventory of War Memorials at the Imperial War Museum, said legal responsibility for local memorials could rarely be proved.

Local authorities, while given the power to "maintain, repair and protect" memorials, were not obliged to do so, he said, and central government was not involved at all. So although some memorials needed attention, often no one was legally responsible for providing it.

"Realistically, discreet commercial sponsorship may be the only way in which these memorials can receive the care they sometimes need."



What the papers have been saying

## Karadzic party rescued by SFOR troops

BRITISH troops helped to break a siege of Banja Luka's central Bosna Hotel, escorting to safety politicians, bodyguards and police loyal to Radovan Karadzic, the war crimes suspect. They were taken to safety in the Warrior armoured fighting vehicles of the "occupying" NATO forces which they had been berating. – *Times*

□ Protesters blocked the Farnborough Road while demonstrating outside the Royal Navy and British Army Equipment Exhibition at the Defence Evaluation and Research Agency in Farnborough, Hants. – *Aldershot Mail*

□ The SAS, worried that recent controversies have dented its swashbuckling image, has hired as its public relations supremo Col Bob Stewart, who led the Cheshire Regiment in Bosnia. – *Daily Telegraph*

□ Solicitors acting for 1,300 victims of Gulf War syndrome have negotiated a unique agreement with insurers which will allow veterans to go ahead with plans to sue the MoD. – *Financial Times* •

□ Gulf War veterans have been awarded a £400,000 package by the Legal Aid Board to subject themselves to direct medical testing as it emerged that the Government's own tests for illness are only being carried out on rats and monkeys. – *Independent*

□ In preparation for Poland's entry into NATO in 1999, British Defence Secretary George Robertson offered the Warsaw Government a "shadow general" scheme under which senior British officers would teach their Polish counterparts "everything they need to know about the alliance". – *Times*

□ The German military has created a commando unit to evacuate nationals from foreign danger zones. The Fast Eagle unit will also be part of the NATO rapid reaction force. – *Daily Telegraph*

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# People, places, events

## UOTC to the fore in Estonian raid

A TEAM from Birmingham University Officers' Training Corps finished sixth, one place behind the Danish Long Range Patrol Group, in a tough reconnaissance patrol competition in Estonia.

The BUOTC entry and one from the 3rd Battalion, The Royal Highland Fusiliers, are believed to be the first British teams to take part in the Erna Raid, a recce event which commemorates the actions of wartime resistance groups.

Teams from Sweden, Finland, France, Holland, Slovenia, Latvia and Lithuania took part, and British entries were invited through the Reserve Forces Association. China's People's Liberation Army also sent observers and may enter next year.

Competitors faced three days of gruelling tests, including tactical movement and navigation by day and night, crossing a minefield, live firing and first aid. They also had to evade "enemy" forces.

Six of the four-man teams which started dropped out, but both British teams completed the course.



Captains Martin Bellamy and Mark Mortimer at the oars of *Salamanca* during training

## Atlantic rowers to take Army rations

TWO Light Infantry officers are to attempt to break the transatlantic rowing record on a diet of Army rations.

Captains Martin Bellamy and Mark Mortimer, who aim to cross the ocean in less than 73 days, approached numerous civilian food processing companies but found nothing to touch the Army ration pack in terms of taste, variety and, crucially, calorific value.

Their specially-built boat, the *Salamanca*, has been modified after long periods of training at sea. The seating system was unable to cope and has been replaced by a stronger, more comfortable arrangement, and the rowlocks have been altered to make rowing easier.

As well as working on their fitness in the gym and in the seas off Majorca, where they have been based during the summer, the two officers from 2 LI have learned to use a sextant as a back-up to their satellite navigation system, and to forecast weather.

The race starts from Tenerife on October 12. Bellamy and Mortimer are using their entry to raise funds to buy a £68,000 Atlantic 75 lifeboat.

### SOLDIER COMPETITION

The winner will receive this Sharp VC-MH64HM four-head NICAM stereo VHS video recorder. Its many features include 48 pre-set channels, mid-drive chassis, built-in shuttle control, skip search and DPSS search system, and infra-red remote control.



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In this and next month's issue of the new *Soldier* are the second and final of three questions in our competition to win this superb Sharp NICAM hi-fi stereo video recorder.

You should already have made a note of the answer to the first question, which appeared in our September 15 issue. Repeat the process for the question below.

Do not send in your entry until you receive the November issue, which will also contain a clue to help you form an anagram from the initial letters of the words you have collected.

Correctly rearrange the letters, post the entry form in that issue to us by

the specified time and you're in with a chance of winning this excellent prize.

Sender of the first correct entry drawn after the closing date will be the winner.

An announcement about the result will appear in the January issue of *Soldier*. Please note that no correspondence can be entered into.

#### QUESTION 2

**Who was US President when the Korean War broke out? (First name and surname).**

### Düsseldorf return

SERVICE quarters and supporting infrastructure in Düsseldorf are to be handed back to Federal German authorities over the next four years. British Forces Germany has announced that it will hand over all bar about a dozen of the 357 married quarters by 2001.

Between 1992 and 1995, BF(G) reduced by 32,000 military personnel, with Düsseldorf effectively becoming a dormitory area for units west of the Rhine.

# If music be the food of peace, rock on

MUSIC proved to be a universal language when the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers wanted to build up its relationship with the local communities in Bosnia.

An attraction was needed to pull in the crowds for the regimental open day and Cpl Ken Heaton came up with the perfect solution. He flew back to Celle, Germany, for his sound system, set it up in the back of a 4-tonne truck on a patch of wasteland near Sipovo and turned up the volume for the first-ever Bosnian Regimental Roadshow.

His mobile disco thumping out summer hits bought a carnival atmosphere to the occasion attended by more than 200 local people. Clothes and toys were distributed and both young and old were able to get information about the role the British forces are playing in the SFOR peace-keeping operation.

Cpl Heaton, a part-time disc jockey, kept the party going by selecting records which had universal appeal.

"Many artists are distributed worldwide so I'm playing tracks I think people will recognise," he said. "It's the first time a roadshow has been used in this way in Bosnia. It's put smiles on people's faces whether they are aged four or 84, and everyone



Music man: Cpl Ken Heaton, 2 RRF

smiles in the same language."

Normally the commander of a Warrior armoured fighting vehicle, Cpl Heaton swapped his usual camouflage combats for a sunflower shirt which had certainly not come from official stores.

Maj Martin Travers, who organised Operation Open Fusiliers, hopes to hold more. He said: "The attitudes of the adults are hard to change but it's an ideal opportunity to target the youth and show them the role that SFOR is playing to bring stability to their country. The party atmosphere brings home the benefits of peace and they are only too aware that an event like this just couldn't take place without it," said Maj Travers.

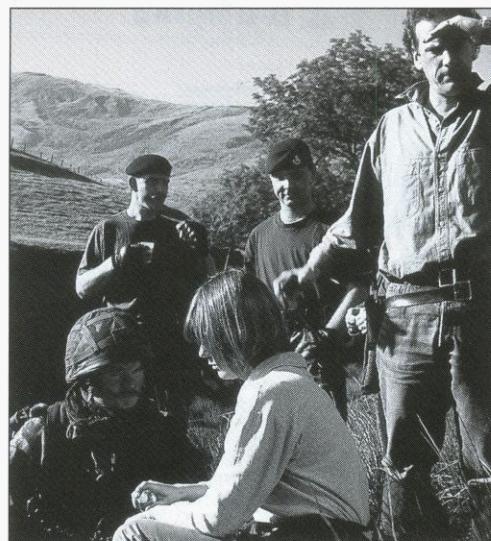


Picture: WO2 Pete Bristo

The Army's new training helicopter, the Squirrel, flies above Stonehenge. It is the first of 12 which will be used by 670 (Operational Training) Squadron, Army Air Corps at the School of Army Aviation at Middle Wallop. The Army's next generation of pilots will train on the civilian-owned Squirrel. It is replac-

ing the familiar Gazelle, which is being phased out as a training aircraft after achieving one million flying hours since its introduction 25 years ago. A commercial contractor will maintain and service the new aircraft, but military flying instructors will remain Army pilots.

## Just the job . . .



Preston Front's Cpl Polson, played by David McCready, receives the attentions of the make-up department while, in the background, Sgt Maj Gregg Pearson (left) and Capt Rob Partridge (middle) look on

## Preston Frontman

AS THE military adviser to the ever-popular Independent Television series *Preston Front*, Territorial Army Capt Robert Partridge was the right man, in the right place, at the right time.

The programme, which has just ended its third series, deals with the lives of a fictitious company of TA Light Infantry soldiers set in the town of Roker Bridge, writes **Chris Kinsville-Heyne**.

Rob was the ideal choice as adviser. His company, Perdix, has provided blank-firing weapons, weapon training and special effects for more than 100 films and television programmes, including *House of Cards* and *Soldier, Soldier*.

"I was with 6 LI, commanding Recce Platoon at the time," said Rob, "when Perdix was asked to provide the weapons and training for the series. It was a perfect combination. Our aim was to get them to look, act and speak like infantry soldiers.

### HAD TO BE RIGHT

"Sgt Maj Gregg Pearson and I teamed up, met the actors and, over a few days in the field, introduced them to life in the TA. We were aware that these actors were going to be appearing on screen wearing our cap-badge, so the training had to be right.

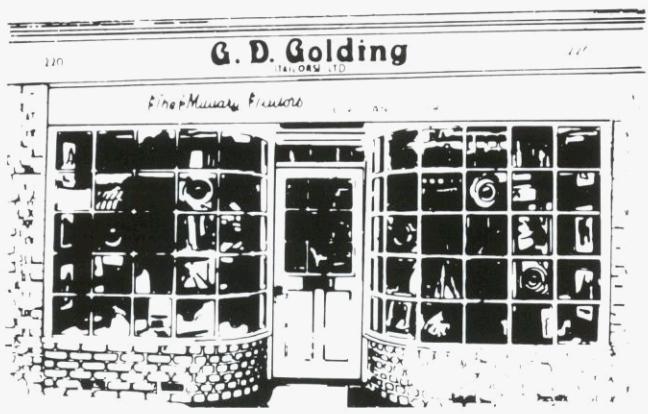
"We taught them the basics and were not surprised to find one or two of them shining. You could tell that life in the field was having an effect on them. Their talk turned from what advert or Shakespearean play they were doing next, to a blow-by-blow account of what compo they had eaten and what their digestive system was trying to do with it.

"By the end of the training they had convinced us that they were going to represent the LI in the best traditions of the Light Infantry. That was good enough for us."

Rob has been in the TA since 1989 and has now taken his skills to the Media Operations Group (Volunteers) based at Land Command in Salisbury.

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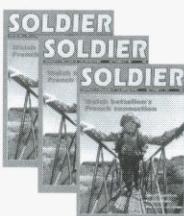
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# Getting our house in order

Report: Chris Kinsville-Heyne

FORMED on April 1, 1995, the Defence Housing Executive formally took over responsibility for defence housing a year later.

It brought together the three single Service housing functions into a single Ministry of Defence management unit with an identifiable budget to make the best of the housing stock and funding.

In 1995 Annington Homes paid the MoD £1.6 billion for its current housing stock in the form of a capital receipt. The MoD gave £100m towards the property maintenance costs from the proceeds of the sale. Service quartering charges are subsequently paid by the families to the MoD who, in turn, pay Annington Homes an annual rental for properties they require.

The DHE manages 65,800 family quarters in England, Wales and Scotland, with 48,887 entitled occupants and 13,152 empty properties as at March 31. The organisation is 1,100-strong and has an overall budget of £347 million for 1997-98, including the Annington rent of some £111 million.

Largest occupier in the United Kingdom is the Army, which has 25,000 quarters. The executive has to provide the Army with family quarters, of a specified standard, where it needs to house people.

The move from single Service management to the DHE, the married quarters estate sale and the charges increase in 1996 has raised the profile of housing and caused some concerns in the Army.

Director of Client Technical Services Peter Preston explained the progress made so far. "Basically, we inherited a can of worms. Previously, housing was attached to the establishment of a unit. The maintenance of houses was in parallel with the base. We have turned this around.



**The Defence Housing Executive, which aims to provide families with the best housing service in the country, has been in existence for almost 18 months. How is it doing so far and are the families happy with the progress?**

"We provide dedicated work and services for housing. That way a commander will never have to decide between, say, repainting the headquarters building and repainting the family quarters."

On taking over in 1995, the DHE found it had also inherited 12 Works Service Managers (WSMs) in one out of 24 separate areas. The introduction of one dedicated WSM has improved communications.

"The WSM will have allocated all contracts between November 1997 and April 1998 for the upgrade programme. This will be in the wake of the full 100 per cent survey."

Consistency in how housing is main-

tained is paramount to the aims of the Technical Services. Local planning arrangements and the need to comply with building regulations play a major part in their day-to-day business.

Local feedback is essential and a network of regional, area and estate offices provides the vital contacts with Service families.

"On a day-to-day basis, issues and problems should be taken up with the appropriate DHE officials," said chief executive Colin James. "In general, occupants should contact their estate management officer about any matter concerning repairs and maintenance, housing allocations and accommodation entitlements."

"But many people are still under a misconception about exactly where DHE fits into the system. It is not a private sector body. It is part of the MoD. It allocates families' quarters according to entitlement but does not set the entitlements."

"Tri-Service housing ensures we operate within their regulations."

"We professionally manage the Service families' quarters estate but we do not collect rents. Those charges are deducted from pay after rent is set by the Armed Forces Pay Review Body. In addition, DHE maintains and repairs all families' quarters and undertakes new building and modernisation work but is not responsible for the welfare of the occupants. That remains with the chain of command."

Cherry Milne, chairman of the Army

● Turn to next page

# In order

● From Page 19

Families Federation, devotes a major part of her week to this highly emotive issue.

"Basically, the DHE is not fully understood," she said. "A lot of issues got confused early on and information was not clarified. Subsequently, it ended up getting the blame for many things that simply were not its problem."

"The quality of accommodation is always going to be an issue, plus the well-known fact that you never take over a quarter as clean as the one you've just left."

A number of younger wives have provided feedback which has shown a trend in the way the Army is perceived.

"Younger people have far higher expectations and many don't see the Army as a family for life," she said. "Society has become very inward-looking and less community-minded. But a nation's army has always been a reflection of its society, so we really shouldn't be surprised."

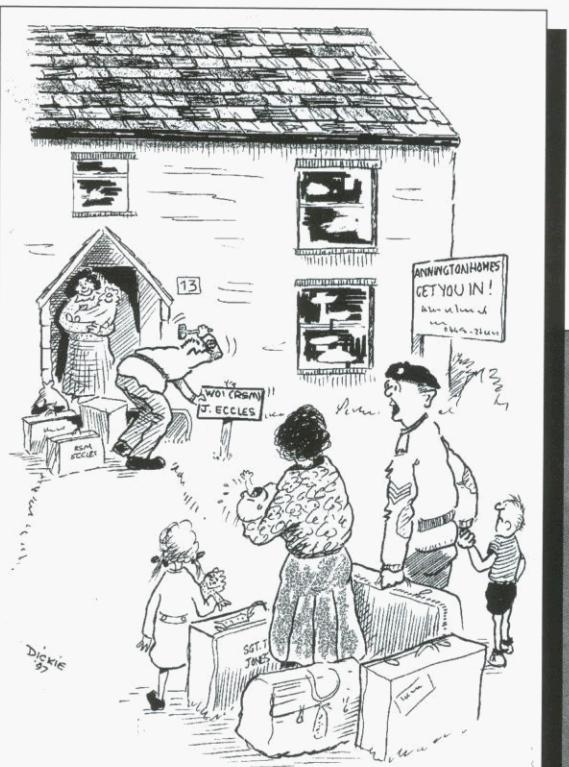
Many wives felt it was bad enough having to move house without the embarrassment of the "march-out".

"I am a great supporter of Colin James. He wants to explain to people what the DHE is all about. I would like to see more wives as estate management officers as they have the experience and, in a number of cases, more common sense."

The feeling is that in the long run it will be the staff on the ground that will make or break the reputation of the DHE. The opinion that commonsense housekeeping will keep complaints against the DHE, from Service families who are more aware of their rights, to a minimum.



The DHE team at Wimberley Way, Inverness: WO2 Jock Kelso, David Taylor, Ann Abell, Graham Cameron and Noel Ferguson



It has not all been plain sailing at the DHE. The National Audit Office published a report which said the married quarters estate (MQE) was sold for between £77 million and £139 million less than it was worth.

The report said that the

## Watchdog body criticises sale

then government believed the sale to be in the public interest on the grounds that the MoD should not be exposed to risks associ-

ed with property ownership.

It also said the sale itself was well managed and brought in more money

than the MoD's advisers had expected.

In addition, the sale succeeded in transferring four-fifths of the MQE to the private sector and provided funds of £100 million to upgrade sub-standard quarters over the next five to seven years.



SURREY-born Kelly Anton arrived in Inverness in January 1997. The 20-year-old wife of Pte Lee Anton confesses that she is new to the Army but is more than aware of what the DHE is doing on the Wimberley Way estate.

"I'm on the wives' committee. I'd really like a lot more of the younger wives to get involved," she said. "But I find quite a few wives are simply not interested. They say; 'My husband is in the Army, I'm not'. But if you're not involved you never know what is going on."

"Most of my friends are under 25 and it just seems that the Army doesn't cater for them. It's more geared to the older wives but I think the question of housing affects everyone."

# Kelly's advice: 'Get involved'

Kelly's three-year-old daughter, Paige, was playing outside with other children in a plastic swimming-pool.

"We move into a Grade 1 refurbished property, hopefully at the end of this year, maybe the beginning of January.

"It will be a shame to move out. We've just had a new kitchen put in at this prop-

erty. Our friends are here. We wanted to move back when they had finished bringing our place up to Grade 1 but I've been told why that's not possible."

She summed up the efforts of the Defence Housing Executive.

"They have a long way to go, but so far so good."

# Aiming for top grade

ALL FAMILIES quarters managed by the Defence Housing Executive are to be brought up to good condition over the next six years under a programme entitled Grade One for Condition.

Definitions of Grade One housing provided by DHE are:

**1. Safety and security:** smoke detectors fitted, external front doors fitted with door chains, bolts, spyholes and dead latches. Rear doors with mortice latches. Light over front door and patio doors to be made secure.

**2. Heating and insulation:** All dwellings to be free from dampness caused by defects in structure or ventilation. Energy efficient heating systems and controls. Thermostatic valves on radiators. Rooms without windows fitted with electric fans. Bathroom radiators connected to hot water heating to provide heat for towels. Loft, tank or pipe insulation. Increase standards of energy efficiency.

**3. Kitchens:** Modern fitted units arranged to provide a satisfactory working sequence for the user. Cooker with separate grill. Space for refrigerator and washing machine. Electrical connections above work tops. Fluorescent tube lighting. Floor to be good quality lino, PVC sheet, tiles, or quarry tiles as appropriate.

**4. Power points and wiring:** If necessary, family quarters should be brought up to modern wiring standards and brought up to scale regarding electric power points, TV points, and front door electric bell.

**5. Bathrooms:** Hygienic sanitary fittings including internal WC with close coupled suite, washbasin with splashback, mirror and shelf and razorpoint, full sized bath with full height tiling to adjacent walls, lockable medicine cabinet, separate shower cubicle or shower over bath, towel rail over radiator, toilet roll holder and coat hook. Locks to all bathrooms and WCs are to be openable from the outside in case of emergency. Airing cupboards with slatted shelving are to be provided.

**6. Carpets, floor coverings and curtains:** Good quality fitted carpets to all rooms except bathrooms, kitchens and utility rooms. All windows properly and attractively curtained.

**7. Windows and external doors:** Double glazing provided with secondary glazing in noisy areas.

**8. Wardrobes:** Double wardrobes in bedrooms 1 and 2 if space permits. Single fitted wardrobes in other bedrooms.

**9. Internal and external decorations:** To be of a good standard, with no heavy marks, scratches or stains.

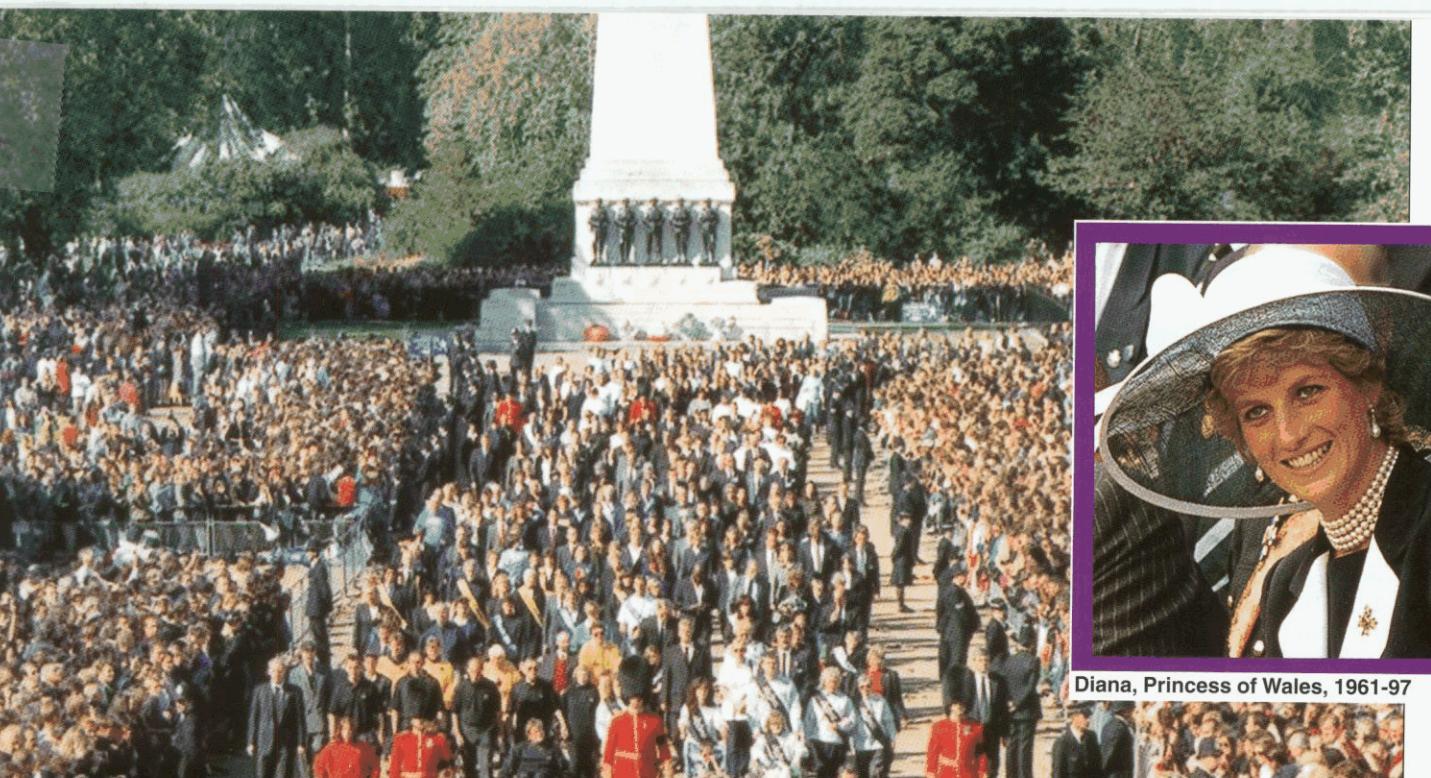
# Tribute of a nation



Pallbearers from the Welsh Guards carry the coffin into the Abbey



Gen Sir Charles Guthrie arrives at the Abbey



Diana, Princess of Wales, 1961-97

# Weight of the world on their shoulders

Report: Karen Moseley  
Pictures: Terry Champion

IT WAS a unique and intensely moving tribute to the People's Princess. And although it had been made clear there would be no full military funeral, the British Army played a key role in the nation's farewell to Diana, Princess of Wales.

Soldiers from the Prince of Wales's Company, 1st Battalion, Welsh Guards and The King's Troop, Royal Horse Artillery, accompanied the cortège during its three-and-a-half mile journey from Kensington Palace to Westminster Abbey. The 2nd Battalion, The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment provided a bearer party at Althorp and military personnel worked behind the scenes to make sure the procession went smoothly.

Watched by two billion people on television, commentators around the world talked of the immaculate precision and dignity of the eight young Welsh Guardsmen who formed the pallbearer party which escorted the coffin, borne on a gun carriage, through the streets of London.

"Nothing can prepare you for that sort of emotion," Gdsm Chris Trehearne, from Llanelli, said of the crowds surrounding them. "The reaction from the people was overwhelming. I have done the State

Opening of Parliament, the Guard of Honour and Trooping the Colour, but they were nothing like this; there were people everywhere, not a gap to be seen."

The other guardsmen, chosen for their fitness and heights of over 6ft, were: John Jones, from Caerphilly, Gareth Thomas, from Bridgend, Philip Bartlett, from Brecon, Patrick Dewaine, from Haverfordwest, Llyr Owen, from Talyssarn, Ken Sweetman, from Rhyl, and Carl John, from Cardiff, the youngest at 20.

They marched for one hour 47 minutes alongside the gun carriage before removing their bearskins, lifting the 40-stone lead-lined coffin on to their shoulders and carrying it into the Abbey. At the end of the service they carried the body of the Princess to the door of the Abbey where they paused for the minute of silence before moving to the waiting hearse.

"It was heavy, heavier than any of us had imagined," Gdsm Trehearne said. "But we knew it was important we did not let anyone down. It was hard work but it was special and we knew there would never be anything like it again."

"The adrenalin kept me going and I knew all the cameras were on us – I didn't really notice the weight. The worst thing was the slippery floor of the Abbey. It was an amazing experience and I was so proud to be a part of it; it was the saddest

and the proudest day of my life." The soldiers had travelled from Crossmaglen, South Armagh, where the battalion is on a six-month tour. The two days before the funeral were spent at Wellington Barracks, London, rehearsing the techniques and drills with a coffin of the same size and weight.

On the morning of the funeral they all carried out gentle physical training to loosen their limbs and ate good breakfasts. These are standing orders for the Brigade of Guards before ceremonial duties going back nearly 150 years.

In command of the pallbearers was Capt Richard Williams, adjutant of the battalion. "There were two instances which really struck me," he said afterwards.

"The first was coming out of Kensington Palace – there was an incredible silence but so many people. You could hear sobbing and then a person would cry out. That was the most touching time.

"The other was going into the Abbey for the first time. That was awe-inspiring.

"The significance did not really strike us until we sat down and watched it later on television. I was immensely proud of how it had gone, particularly of the soldiers,

● Turn to Page 24

Right – the cortège passes through Horse Guards



Picture: CS Media Photography

# On their shoulders

● From Page 22

who had done the hard work. The military tradition of having private soldiers carrying the coffin is absolutely right.

"For me it was a great reflection of the military's ability to do this sort of thing with great dignity and style. There was not one of us who did not have a lump in our throat at one time or other, but the Army equips you for this."

Capt Williams received the Military Cross from the Prince of Wales in 1994 for protecting civilians from Khmer Rouge guerrillas in Cambodia, where he was serving as a United Nations observer in 1992-1993.

Traditionally a 13-pounder gun carriage is used to carry the coffins of royalty. The six coal-black horses drawing it were paced so that the cortège would arrive at the Abbey at precisely 1100 hours.

Soldiers from F Sub-section, The King's Troop, commanded by Capt Grant Chanter, were responsible for the steady progression to the Abbey. Sgt Damian Gascoigne, commander of the gun detachment, led the cortège on his horse, officially called 39 Henchman. Next to him was the lead driver, LBdr Graham Innes; the centre driver was Gnr Barry Logan and the wheel driver at the back was LBdr Damon Humphries.

## MASTER SADDLER

Four trace bearers walked at the sides. Their task was to watch the movement of the leather-coated steel wires that connect the horses to the gun carriage ensuring they did not snag. Men with special trade skills were chosen including a master saddler and master farrier.

Taking up the rear, also on foot, was the "brakeman" responsible for controlling the manual brake if needed.

Capt Chanter would normally have been at the front of the carriage on his horse, but this was felt to be too formal and so he walked behind the coffin on the right-hand side.

"It was draining, both physically and mentally," he recalled. "The crowd was very emotional, in some cases quite hysterical, and at times very close to us on both sides of the road."

"The bell striking every minute, and getting louder as we approached the Abbey, was quite chilling. The horses were brilliant, we couldn't have asked more of them. They have to do a variety of jobs such as pulling the gun at full speed at the Royal Tournament, and their duties in Hyde Park. During the funeral they had to walk at times even more slowly than their usual walking pace."

The coffin rested on an oak board placed a few inches above the gun barrel. The horses pulled a total weight of about two tonnes.

"I think we did our job as well as could

have been expected," said Capt Chanter. "But there was no elation at the end because of why we were there."

Maj Keith Brooks, commanding The King's Troop, said: "We had a week of intense hard work, not just for the sub-section who were in the parade, but for the whole troop. I am very proud of them."

Earl Spencer, the Princess's brother, specifically requested that The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment, of which the Princess was Colonel-in-Chief from 1992 to 1996, should provide a bearer party at Althorp for the private burial ceremony.

The bearer party was provided by 2 PWR from Tidworth, comprising one officer, one SNCO and eight other ranks drawn from across the battalion.

"This was a very great honour for the regiment," said regimental secretary Col Paddy Panton, "albeit a sad task that we undertook with humility and pride. It afforded us a last chance to pay our final respects to our erstwhile Colonel-in-Chief who was held in very great esteem and affection by all ranks."

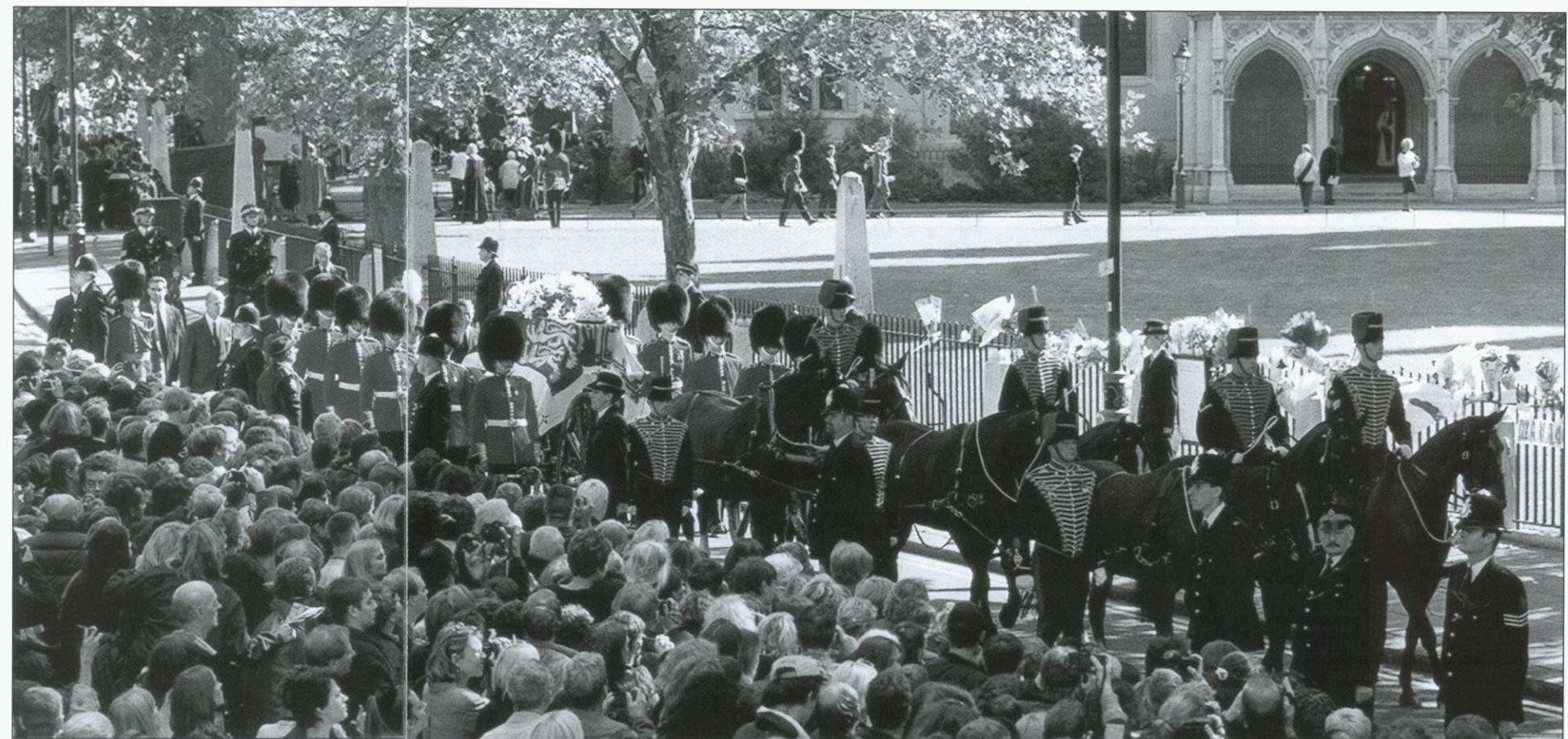
Eight Royal Military Policemen and women, under the command of WO1 (RSM) Joe Greenan, were at the Abbey to open and close doors for VIPs. Twelve more were situated at Wellington Barracks to marshal the 500 charity workers before they joined the procession.

Lt Col Malcolm Ross, a retired Scots Guards officer, was the man behind the scenes who masterminded the funeral. He retired from the Army in 1987 and has been the comptroller of the Lord Chamberlain's office since 1991.

The Chief Marshal was Lt Col Alexander Matheson, Coldrm Gds, Brigade Major of the Household Division. He walked to the side of the chief mourners as they followed the coffin to the Abbey. Six other marshals from 1st Battalion, Scots Guards, accompanied the two groups of charity walkers.



Royal Military Police at the Abbey as the Queen, Queen Mother and Prince Edward arrive



The funeral cortège formed by The King's Troop RHA and men of the Welsh Guards arrives at Westminster Abbey

# Army's worldwide homage

GENERAL Sir Charles Guthrie, Chief of the Defence Staff, represented the British Armed Forces in Westminster Abbey at the funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales.

Throughout the Army, during the day of the funeral, commanders were asked to review the level of military activity, making sure there was no live-firing and use of blanks, pyrotechnics or noisy activity before 1500 hours. Essential training and other non-public military activities continued, but commanders

were asked to use their discretion as to the level and types of activity conducted.

An open day at Wattisham Airfield, due to be held on the day of the funeral, was cancelled.

Flags were flown at half-mast in garrisons around the world and where possible all ranks observed a one-minute silence.

In Germany BFBS relayed the service and most British families stayed in their homes to follow the ceremony on television. Condolence books were opened at all garrison churches and as a mark of respect most shops and businesses on British military premises remained closed until after the funeral. Many sporting and social events, including the Osnabrück open day, were cancelled or rescheduled.

## SERVICE IN SPLIT

Books of condolence were distributed to each British camp in Bosnia for troops serving with the NATO Stabilisation Force to sign. More than 200 soldiers and officers attended a special service held in the waterside chapel at Split. Padre Jerry Sutton conducted the service, which included the singing of Diana's favourite hymn *I Vow to Thee My Country* and was followed by one minute's silence.

The Princess visited Bosnia by private invitation on August 8 to promote her campaign against anti-personnel mines.

## Crèche wives' saddest day

TWO soldiers' wives attended the funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales to represent one of the few charities with which she had continued to be involved.

Mrs Kim King and Mrs Barbara Patrick, whose husbands serve with the 1st Battalion, The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment based in Canterbury, met the Princess twice when she was Colonel-in-Chief. They both work in the regimental crèche and were invited to represent the Pre-Learning School Alliance of which the Princess was patron.

"When we were first asked we did not realise what a huge event it would be," said

Mrs King. "I have never been so upset in my whole life, but we were so privileged and so honoured to be taking part."

"I have never seen anything like it before, and I don't think I will again. I was numb. I have never seen so many people. It was incredible, there were grown men absolutely breaking their hearts. It was dreadful to see the sad faces of the Princes."

The two women were flown to London the day before the funeral and stayed overnight in Kensington.

The following morning they joined the other representatives of charities at Buckingham Palace and followed the cortège on the mile-long walk

to Westminster Abbey. They watched the funeral on a large screen in St Margaret's Church to the side of the Abbey and were given copies of the order of service.

Mrs King met the Princess in 1993 in Canterbury and again the following year in Omagh, Northern Ireland.

"She was lovely, very relaxed, so nice, just such a lovely woman," she remembered. "She would always make a beeline for the children, get down on to their level and then let them climb over her."

"I can't get over the fact that she's died. It's a numb feeling, like losing someone from your own family."

She was briefed by members of 21 Engineer Regiment who were said to be "terribly shocked" at the news of her death.

Throughout the week British soldiers were able to follow news coverage of the events in the UK on satellite TV and via rebroadcast radio news coverage.

In Cyprus a Service of Thanksgiving

was held at the King Richard School Pitch, Dhekelia and the Station Sports Stadium, RAF Akrotiri.

In Gibraltar the Garrison observed two minutes' silence with the rest of the country, and sent representatives to the two special services held at the Anglican and Catholic churches.

# Target London!

**Hitler's huge underground rocket base in northern France has been opened to the public**

LA COUPOLE today is definitely not what Adolf Hitler had in mind in 1943 when he ordered his engineers and SS slave-drivers to tunnel beneath the chalky earth of the Pas-de-Calais, writes Graham Bound.

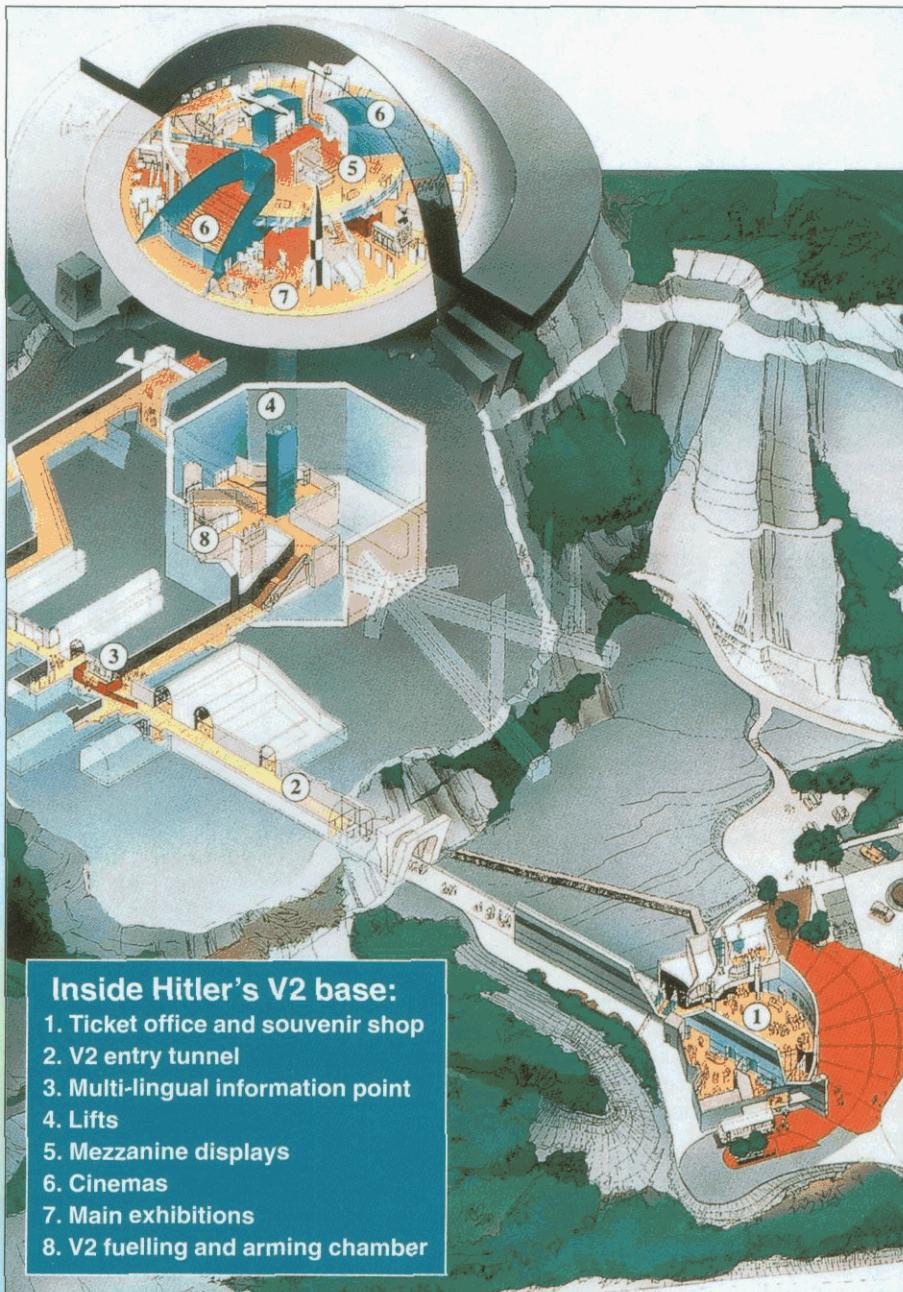
The maze of passages and cathedral-sized galleries was designed to be the assembly plant and launching pad for a stream of V2 ballistic missiles that would rain down on Britain at the rate of one every half hour, and have Churchill suing for peace within weeks.

Fortunately for the free world, this jewel in the German Army's crown, less than 30 miles from the Kent coast, was not completed before the Allied advance from the Normandy beachheads forced Hitler to abandon it. It was a close run thing: within four months the conveyor belt of death and destruction would have been rolling.

#### RE-DEVELOPMENT

As it was, around 3,000 V2s, launched by mobile units further from the front, fell on London, Paris and Antwerp. But there was nothing like the devastation and death that the missiles would have caused had La Coupole had been put into use.

Now the local authorities, aided by the European Union and French businesses, have re-developed the old site as an impressive memorial to life under the Nazi jackboot and as a museum of rocketry. The Pas-de-Calais council, which owns the site, says that it wants to use La Coupole to show younger generations of



Europeans what can happen if peace is not cherished.

Approaching La Coupole through the lush green farm land, a huge concrete dome (the cupola that gives the place its name) is the only indication that something remarkable might lie beneath the ground.

Back in 1943, this five-metre thick,

55,000 ton, protective umbrella had also given the game away to the Resistance. They tipped off the Royal Air Force, but the 3,000 tonnes of high explosive that the bombers dropped on the site were harmlessly deflected by the dome. Even the huge "Tall Boy" bombs glanced off it.

Consequently, when you enter this subterranean world, things are very much

as they were in 1944; in places, chillingly so. We entered the hillside through a wide tunnel entrance that was designed to receive missile components and tanks of liquid oxygen and alcohol fuel. On either side dimly-lit chambers, and subsidiary tunnels, house the rusting hardware of generators, workshops and dormitories.

A right turn, and the tunnel entrance was gone from sight. We were in the Firing Preparation Chamber, the very heart of the planned V2 factory. Concrete walls dripped with water, and in spite of the summer warmth on the surface, the atmosphere was cold.

#### SLAVES

More chilling was the fact, frequently mentioned by La Coupole's youthful guides, that this stunning engineering feat was achieved in less than a year by thousands of slave labourers. Most were Poles and Russians captured on the eastern front, but some were locals from the Pas-de-Calais area, a zone in which German rule was particularly harsh.

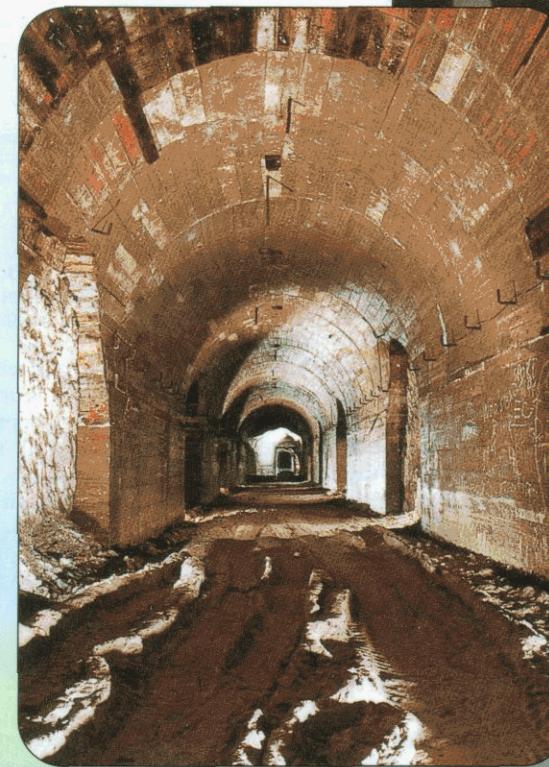
That this place, which is destined to become a major tourist attraction, was built on the backs of slaves is disturbing. But there is a little (very little) comfort to be found in the guide book. According to the writer, such was the importance of the project that the prisoners received just enough food and rest to ensure that they could continue to work.

Conditions were much worse at the Dora camp, La Coupole's sister establishment in Germany, where the component parts of the V2s were manufactured in another underground complex. Four prisoners died there for every missile built. Dora inmates suspected of sabotaging the rockets were hanged in the tunnels. One of the few survivors told how two rows of SS guarded the entrance to the tunnels, "shrieking so loudly and lashing out with such ferocity that they were like demons".

La Coupole was by no means free of brutality. The guide book records sadly that, when work on the project abruptly ceased, 500 Russians were loaded into railway cattle wagons and taken to the

Right - From the V2 to the moon landing. German rocket scientists led the space race  
Picture: Terry Champion

Below - Seven kilometres of tunnels are carved into the chalk



**La Coupole is open every day of the year. It is located five kilometres from St Omer and about 30 minutes drive from the Calais Eurostar station. More information is available on telephone 00 33321930707.**

the V2. Indeed Hitler's principal rocket designer, Werner Von Braun, escaped to the United States at the end of the war and went on to design the giant Saturn V rocket that took men to the moon.

Our party was pleased to return to the sunlight and warmth of the real world, but the visit had been inspiring. On balance, La Coupole had told an optimistic story. No missile had, after all, been fired from there, and today we are making good use of technology that began with the V2.

Despite their apparent omnipotence, the Nazis had been beaten, and, here in the Pas-de-Calais, their engineering legacy is being used to tell young Europeans about the dark past of their continent. It is a delicious irony and a Gallic two-fingers to the memory of Hitler.

But thoughts returned repeatedly to the prisoners who had built this remarkable complex; about whose fate we still know nothing. One tragically absurd fact, related by a guide while we were in the tunnels, stuck in the mind. "The V2 rocket," she said, "was a weapon unique in history, in that its manufacture caused more deaths than its deployment."

# Confessions of a war zone thug

Interview: Chris Kinsville-Heyne

HIS OFFICE window, close to the Houses of Parliament, overlooked a grass square. Martin Bell, MP for Tatton, rose to greet us and, with a voice made familiar by countless BBC reports, asked us to make ourselves comfortable.

His grey hair was unintentionally fashionable and his regimental tie contrasted with his familiar off-white attire, lending a faintly tropical feeling to the crowded room.

The man whose blue flak jacket and white suit had made him an instantly recognisable figure with the British Army in Bosnia – and the television-watching British public back home – had a military career of his own which he described as “short and inglorious”.

“National Service taught me a lot about getting on with my fellow human beings. The Army did me an enormous favour by teaching me to get by with little or no privileges. I was with the Suffolk Regiment between June 1957 and June 1959. We were in Cyprus and, at the time, I really thought it was a waste of time,” he said.

“Actually, the first shot I ever heard fired in anger was in Nicosia, in June '58. The experience taught me things that I would need later on in life, but obviously I didn't realise it at the time.”

## INFANTRY SKILLS

While reporting on 11 wars around the world there was plenty of opportunity for former Acting Sgt Bell to recall some basic, and valuable, infantry skills.

“I had to understand about fields of fire, dead ground, and the kind of obstacle that will and will not stop a sniper's bullet. It's not much use crouching behind a hedge . . .”

“First aid, which was topped up when I went to war, was very useful. Actually, I'm probably the only MP at Westminster trained in battlefield first aid,” he said.

Danger waits in all walks of life but being a “war zone thug”, as he has been described (he used the phrase as a subtitle to his 1995 autobiography *In Harm's Way*), had more than its fair share. Coming under fire was part of the job. Eventually, being at the receiving end of a number of pieces of shrapnel meant that

Veteran war correspondent and novice MP Martin Bell failed the Regular Commission Board. He talked to *Soldier* about his relationship with the British Army



August 1992: Newsreel footage of the moment Martin Bell was hit by shrapnel in Sarajevo

he lost two things; his ability to stand upright and his reputation for being invulnerable.

“Yes, I was described as a ‘war zone thug’ once, and I was quite pleased with that, but really I'm just a chap who has been around war zones rather a lot. I had a certain curiosity about what it would be like to be wounded, having been in the midst of death and destruction for all those years.

“That curiosity has been satisfied, for life.”

It happened in Sarajevo in August 1992 . . . and the cameras were there to record it.

“The first mortar round landed 50 yards away. The second one got me. In that split second I knew I had been hit. I was knocked to the ground by the impact. My helmet, which I hardly ever wore, was unfastened, so it fell off.

“The shrapnel was, luckily, at the end of its trajectory and hit me just below where my flak jacket ended. I was rushed to the UN hospital in the basement of the telephone exchange in Sarajevo and given the best possible care.

“The doctors removed the larger pieces of shrapnel. Within an hour I was airlifted

## Golan regret

“All journalists have a big miss. They may not want to tell you about it but I'm the bloke who on the third day of the Six-Day War was standing on the Golan Heights. There was a lot of shell-fire going on and I thought ‘I must do something’. So I went down to where the action was. While I was down there the Israelis stormed up the Golan Heights and I missed it. That's my big miss.”

but a 0.1 for effectiveness. They would have rows of diggers, and we knew they had rows of diggers, but they would watch us suffer and take pictures of us, especially those they regarded as television celebrities.

“With 7th Armoured in the Gulf, Phil

‘The Defence Secretary has said his door is always open to me and one of these days I'm going to go barging through it.’

Jacobson from *The Times* and I were the oldest people on the field of battle by about seven years.”

[In fact, *Soldier* writer Bill Moore, who reported extensively from the Gulf and died soon after the war, was 60, some years older than both Bell and Jacobson.]

In Bosnia, Bell's concern was that the BBC and the other media had the advantage of continuity. The Army did not.

“We were sharing their dangers and knew things they did not know simply because we were there before them. We shared information, but I always felt that when a new unit came in the warlords would try it on. They had to get to know these people all over and after six months they would be gone. The warlords knew this perfectly well and took advantage of it.

“We had a very close relationship with the Army in Bosnia. I was not one of those who believed in the adversarial relationships between the press and the Army. In peace-keeping I believe we have the same objectives and in war-fighting too. I have big arguments with my colleagues about this. I'm close to soldiers and I like them.

## BEST LITTLE ARMY

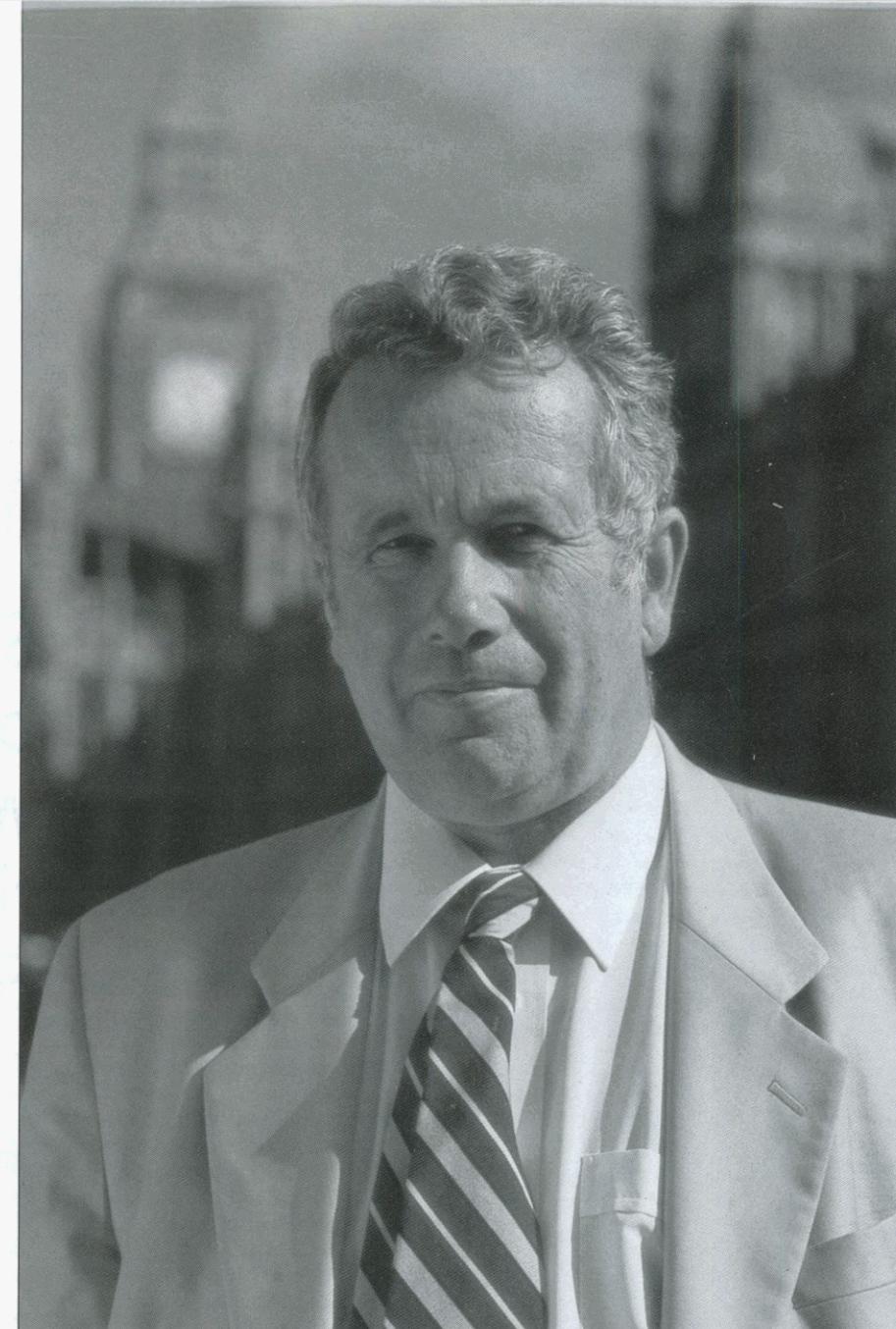
“We have the best little Army in the world. It's the best because it's a regular volunteer army and it doesn't have malingerers like me in it. It has been cut to the bone and the muscle and I can't see what is left to cut. The Defence Secretary has said his door is always open to me and one of these days I'm going to go barging through it.”

What about a new career after politics? A commission in the British Army perhaps?

“I failed the Regular Commissioning Board back in 1957. If I failed the RCB then I will fail it now. Do you know, Michael Aspel also failed. He was King's Royal Rifle Corps. He was Rifleman Aspel. He and I failed. There must be something about a career in television and failing the RCB.”

Martin Bell OBE put on his cream jacket and the image was complete. The slight limp to the confident walk singled the man out from the crowd. The trenches of the world's trouble spots may have lost a seasoned veteran but the new boy in Westminster is busy digging himself in.

And he knows how.



Picture: Terry Champion



Bosnia 1992: Meeting British troops serving with UNPROFOR

# Who dares . . .

# ... If you want to finish first, first you have to finish

## Taking that right-hander

"The key to any racing is the speed between the corners. You need to be short on brake and long on accelerator."

"But if you are doing each corner at 3mph, you will lose."

His hands held an imaginary steering wheel and took us through a right-hander.

"If you are standing on the brake halfway around a corner, you've done something very wrong."

"Use the throttle to steer the car, flick the back out, then power on. If the corner is tighter than you thought, use more power and change down the gears, they will act as a brake."

"Touch your left foot on the brake if you really have to. Then once you are out of the corner, spin the wheel and power on." He grinned.

I asked "Adj" if this sort of driving made him a liability on the roads. He looked surprised.

"No way. BAMA taught me not to take chances on civilian roads."

"Look, when you're kitted out, flame retarding suit, helmet, fire extinguisher – the odds are in your favour."

"That's not the case on a civilian road. You drive sensibly."



Driven crazy: Chris K-H

THE DUST was in my eyes, my nose, my mouth, everywhere. I had left my side-window slightly open and our short wheel-base, left-hand drive Land Rover C90 was rapidly filling up with a fine beige cloud. Travelling flat out across the dirt-tracks of Salisbury Plain it took a supreme effort to slam it shut.

The temperature outside was in the high 80s, just a few degrees cooler than inside my double-layered, Nomex fire-resistant racing suit. The dark blue material was stained darker with the added sweat.

My electric-blue racing harness pinned me into the high-back, padded Cobra seat. Breathing, which would have been difficult enough in these typical summer conditions, took on a new, eager dimension.

A huge rut suddenly appeared on the track in front of us, no time to shout a warning, WHAM . . . the vehicle was airborne. The floored accelerator made the engine scream as the wheels desperately searched for a grip on the dusty track beneath us.

The bone-jarring return to earth had just registered on the painful scale when

35-year-old REME Telecommunications Technician Sgt Adam "Adj" Davies slammed the gear-stick forward. I had lost count of how many times the five-strap harness had saved me from impersonating a rag-doll. The front of the vehicle dipped, almost welcoming the impossibly sharp right-hand corner tearing towards us. His left foot was doing a parallel dance between the clutch and brake while his right was pushing the accelerator somewhere between flat-out and airborne.

I had just enough time for one thought. I had spotted the matt black roll-bars inside the cab, so it wasn't a pleasant one. I gritted my teeth and, through half-closed eyes, waited for the inevitable. Adj, the assistant manager of the Army rally team, flicked the steering wheel one way, then the other and floored the accelerator again. I could feel the Land Rover slide beneath us, snaking across the chalky track.

With a roar of engine and a spray of gravel, we were through. Adj turned to me quickly and glared. He had to shout above the noise of the overworked Land Rover for me to hear him. "As the co-driver, the 'nav', you are another set of

eyes for the driver, spotting holes and giving warnings." His own eyes snapped back to the road, sizing up the conditions in a single glance.

Our world was rocked by another rut. We both cursed. The maps in my gloved hands felt heavy.

He grinned. "I saw both of those way back." We slid into the next corner to the accompaniment of his laughter. The ever-sturdy harness stopped me from reaching out and throttling him.

Our Land Rover pulled into the grassy service area and the collective grins on the faces of the Army team told me that this may have happened to other novices once or twice before. I eased my still shaking body out of the standard Land Rover and was greeted

by the smiling face of RAC Rally veteran and Army team event manager, Sgt Mark "Jake" Thake RAMC. I was quickly ushered into the back of the management vehicle, a Vauxhall Monterey, owned by civilian rally driver and keen army rally supporter, Danny Spencer.

Once again, we set off across the Plain, albeit at a slightly more sedate pace, en route to one of the mid-stage service areas. Jake explained about army rallying and his part in the team.

As the practice manager of the Medical Centre at 17 Port and Maritime Regiment RLC, Marchwood, Jake is a seasoned organiser. He began rallying more than a decade ago

through the normal route for Service men and women, the British Army Motoring Association (BAMA).

"Everyone else does a 'pace note' rally. That's where you read hieroglyphics off a sheet detailing the course route. We concentrate on reading straight off the map. It is incredibly difficult but it's one of the reasons why British co-drivers are the best in the world."

"I started rallying air portable Land Rovers in Germany. Those were straight off the tank park and I suppose I've just progressed through the sport," he added.

"I used to live down the road from Adj in

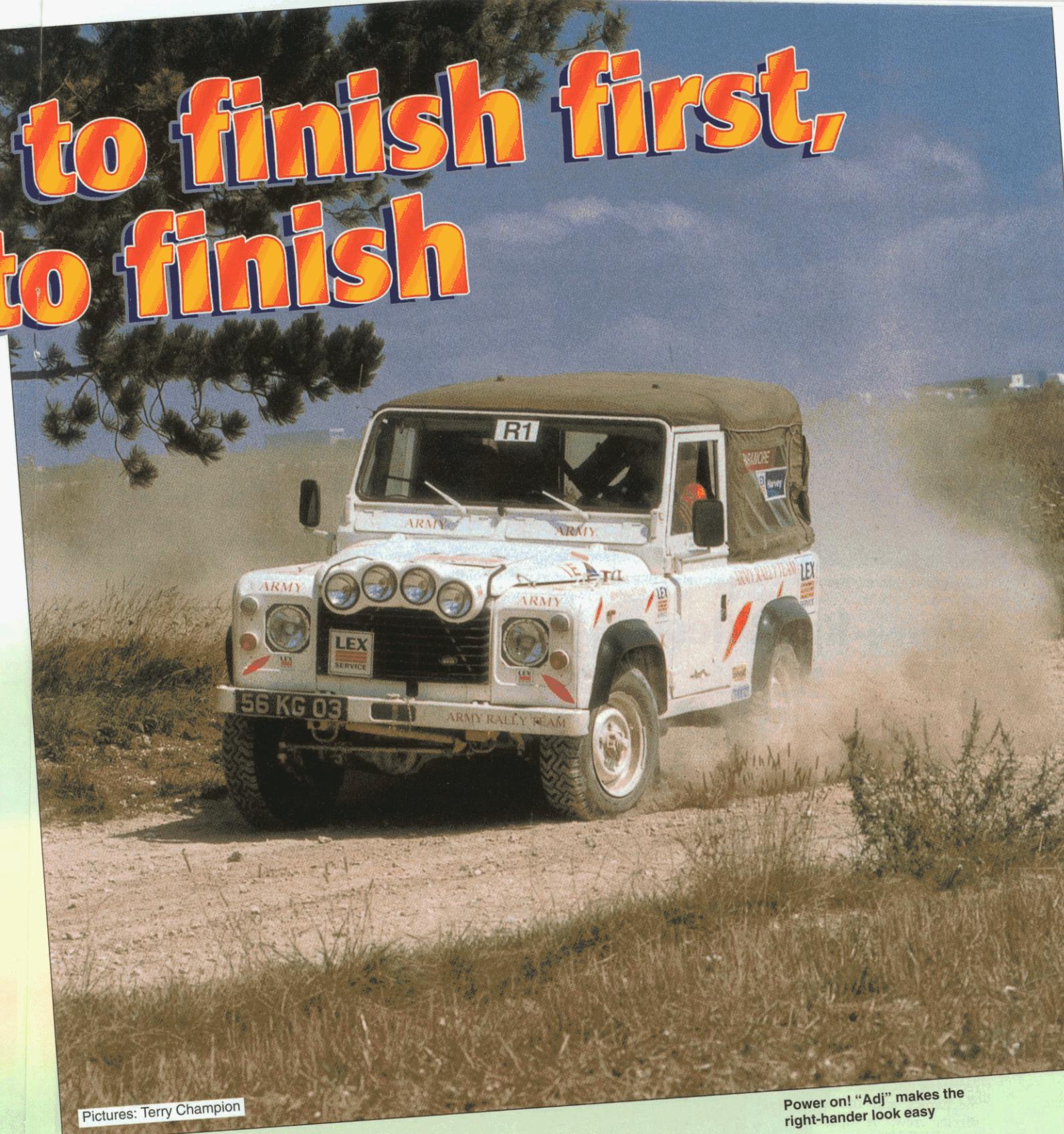
Cyprus," he explained. "I saw his rally car sitting in his driveway one day and, basically, we've been mates ever since. Lt Col Carl Hewitt is the overall team manager but when the event starts I take over. We've just had £15,000 in sponsorship from Lex which we've spent on getting the cars ready to compete in international events."

At this event, the Southern Hillrally, they were competing for the Land Rover Challenge within the Land Rover Championships.

"This is not a closed shop. Anyone can do it. But to drive or co-drive you have to work up through BAMA."

Two mechanics were waiting for the first Land Rover to race into view when we arrived.

● Turn to next page



Pictures: Terry Champion

Power on! "Adj" makes the right-hander look easy

The Army Rally Team were competing in Class D. Permitted modifications included: additional gauges, front seats, springs and shock absorbers (except their standard location must be retained), air filter elements, brake friction materials, wheels, tyres, additional spare wheel, auxiliary lights, and underbody protection. Apart from that, it's just another Rover.



Numbers 10 and 11. Two Class K 5-litre monsters line up at the start of the Southern Hillrally

## White-knuckles

• From Page 31

Their talk was of "transfer boxes", "low-ratios", "CJ's", and "rolling off". Mechanics' language. The heat was still oppressive, the dust still invading every orifice. The uncovered ones, at least.

The Land Rover rocked to a halt. The driver, Sgt "JJ" Walker, from the Joint Air Transport Establishment, stepped out of the mud-caked vehicle. His rainbow-coloured sunglasses were covered in dust. He twisted up the microphone attached to his white, open-faced helmet and pulled down the black and brown shemagh that covered his mouth and nose. Sweat had discoloured his flame-retarding suit and his voice showed the effort the race had taken out of him.

"Four things that have to be spot on: map reading, driving skills, organisation, and crisis management. So, all this," he pointed to his Land Rover receiving attention from the mechanics and the support service crew, "is superb military training."

Soon "JJ" was off to the refuelling point with his nav, LBdr Bryan Dymond from 32 Regt RA. Adj caught up with us and discussed the set-up of the vehicles. "When you consider that the stages are over 57 square miles, so we will be driving about 200 miles, the set-up of the vehicle is all important. The brakes, suspension, tyres, everything, needs to be right."

Jake's voice split the air. "Adj, Tam's dropped a piston and Tim's lost his steering wheel." There was no panic, just a statement of facts. I had problems visualising either.

The voice of LBdr "Tam" Burns cut across the radio, his every word clear over the loudspeaker. "We're going nowhere. Black smoke,

white smoke – you name it. The engine's blown."

Tam had been leading the class. The feeling of disappointment was tangible. Jake responded immediately. "Okay, Tam, here's what we do..."

While one chase car sped off to see Tam we rushed back to main servicing and were met by Dave Easby, a MoD employee and former REME sergeant.

"Basically, Tim had the bolts on his steering wheel sheer off halfway through the last stage." Tim walked up. A huge grin cut across his face.

"I dunno. I just heard the bolts hit the floor, I tried to turn the wheel and, well, nothing happened. I had to hold the wheel on with one hand, steer with the other, and change gear with the other." The service crews and his nav, Cpl Mark Burton from 3 REME, exploded in laughter.

Prize-giving at the end of the three-day rally was a loud, hot, affair but the Army rally team did well, with Tim and Mark winning first and JJ and Bryan coming second in the diesel class.

Adj had the last word before the team departed. "I'm Jake's right hand man for this year, watching what he does and how he does it. Last year at the Scottish he pulled the team together as it never had before. Iceland in a few weeks will be my first one as event manager. The only way to move Army rallying on is to promote it, get soldiers involved in BAMA, then on to us. Teamwork, skill, excitement, and a lot of fun. Army rally has all that – and more." The team had reached the beer tent and called Adj in to celebrate. "See you in Iceland?" he asked before disappearing into the throng.

Well, if I can convince the Editor that I'm an expert windscreens cleaner, ace headlight polisher, hot-shot water mug filler-upper he might, just might, let me clean his car.

**I want to start rallying! What should I do next?**

Right. Your first stop should be the British Army Motoring Association (BAMA) who run 12 night and day navigation courses a year. All drivers and co-drivers in the British Army have to start through this route irrespective of whether you consider yourself an expert, a novice, or an absolute beginner.

You are in luck! Exercise Roadmaster, the Army Driving Championship for 1997, is to be sponsored by the Defence School of Transport between October 30 and November 2, 1997 on Salisbury Plain.

It is a three-phase competition; two night navigation phases and one day navigation, which is open to all ranks of the Army and Royal Marines, both Regular and TA.

Standard Land Rovers are the vehicles to use and BAMA are looking for 120 crews, with ten reserves.

Entries can be individual, two persons; not necessarily of the same unit or establishment, or team; three individual crews, either from the same unit or a combined team.

Entry fee is £25 per crew and a nominal fee of £7.50 per crew is also charged, but you had better be quick. Entries close at midday on October 24.

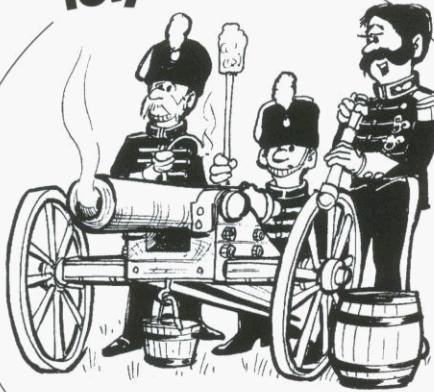
Contact: Lt Col (Retd) Bob Birrell, the British Army Motoring Association (BAMA), DST, Normandy Barracks, Leconfield, East Yorkshire, HU17 7LX (ATN Leconfield 5243).



JJ Walker under wraps

# Chuckle with Chip

1817



"Up a notch and a hair's breadth to the right."

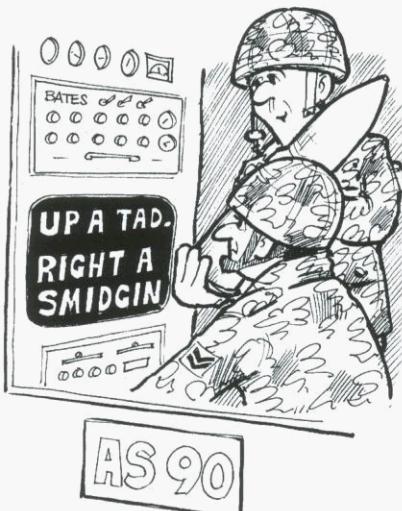
1917



"Up a bit and a nudge to the right."

## GUNNERSPEAK

1997



1957



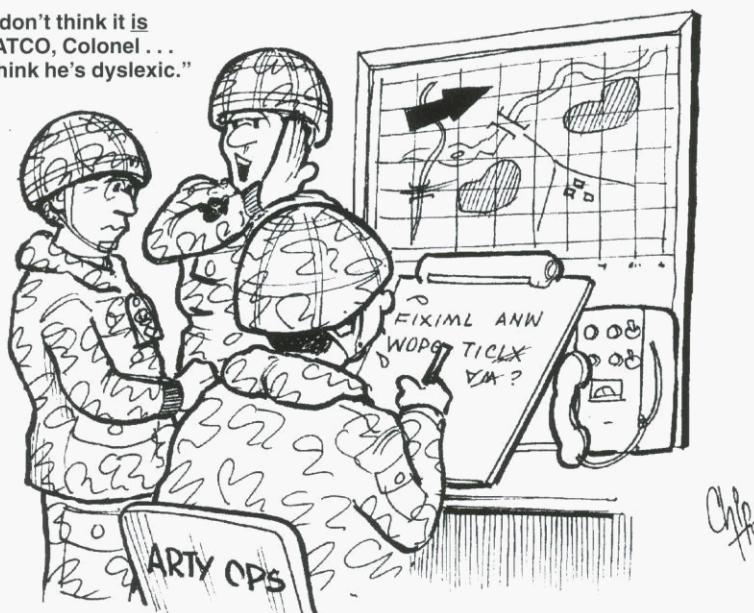
"Up a turn and a touch to the right."

The evolution of high tech artillery communications

"I don't think it is BATCO, Colonel . . . I think he's dyslexic."



"I take it, Bombardier, that you've not attended any public relations training courses lately."



Modern Aldershot retains architectural links with its barrack-room past

# Victorian legacy

THE MESSAGE is clear on the road signs on the outskirts of the Hampshire town. "Welcome to Aldershot - Home of the British Army".

There has been a military community at Aldershot since 1854 when the authorities established a hatted camp for 20,000 troops on 25,000 acres of common and heathland.

In 1881, work began to replace the huts with permanent brick-built barracks, a process completed by the middle of the next decade.

## COLOUR ON THE STREETS

In the years before the First World War, off-duty troops walking out in full dress lent vivid flashes of colour to Aldershot's streets. A local historian, the late Howard Cole, recorded in his book, *The Story of Aldershot*, that Sunday was the great day of the week, when troops marched to the three main garrison churches - the "Red Church" at the top of Wellington Avenue, St George's Church in Queen's Avenue, and the Garrison Church in Marlborough Lines.

"Units paraded in full dress - Hussars in their braided jackets and busbies, Lancers in the coloured plastron tunics and plumed caps, Dragoons with scarlet tunics and shining helmets, Guardsmen in the tall bearskins, bonneted and kilted Highlanders, Riflemen in their distinctive dark green uniform, and the universal scarlet tunics and spiked helmets of the Infantry of the Line."

## BARRACKS REPLACED

More than 50 years later, the town's Victorian barracks were demolished in a rebuild of military accommodation. More than 20 barracks housing cavalry, RASC, artillery, sapper and infantry units were flattened.

Fortunately, many examples of Aldershot's Victorian and Edwardian past survived the bulldozers, thanks mainly to a historical trust responsible for the formation of a museum which tells the story of the Army's connection with Aldershot.

Aldershot Military Museum (01252 314598) is housed in the last pair of bungalow-type Victorian barrack buildings of a type which once covered the whole of North Camp.

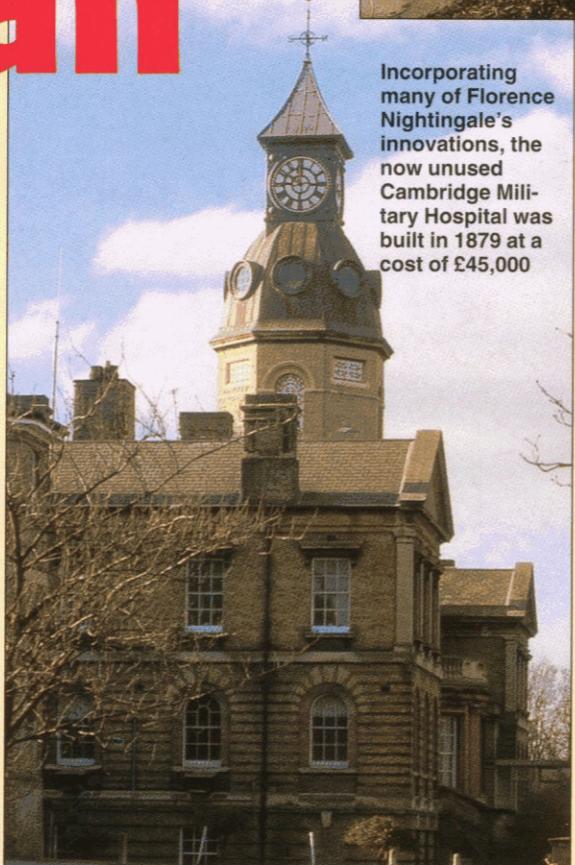
## Willems Barracks

Pedestrians are dwarfed by this entrance gate which marks the south-west corner of the current military town. It was the entrance to Willems Barracks, one of three cavalry barracks constructed between 1856 and 1859

Pictures: Mike Weston



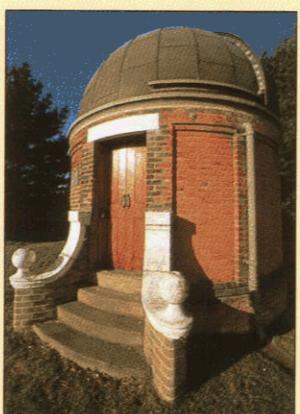
Horse and rider at the Army riding school. Originally part of Beaumont Barracks, it was one of three constructed for the cavalry at Aldershot. The young Winston Churchill trained as a recruit officer in Aldershot. He learned to mount and dismount from a bare-backed horse and jump without stirrups or saddle



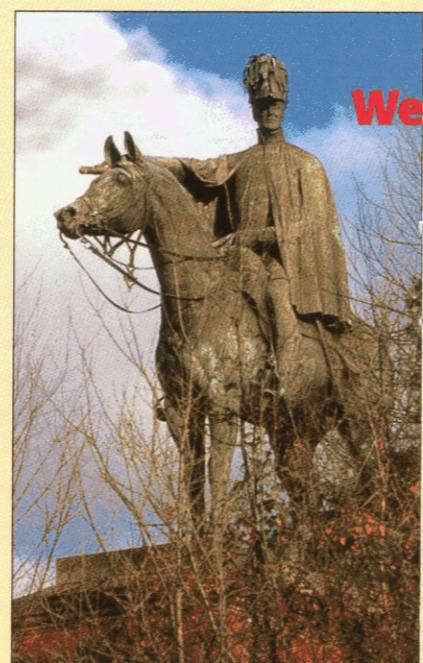
Incorporating many of Florence Nightingale's innovations, the now unused Cambridge Military Hospital was built in 1879 at a cost of £45,000



Entering the main reading room of the Prince Consort's Library is like stepping back in time. Built in 1859, as a gift of Albert, Prince Consort, it was designed by Capt Francis Fowkes RE, who was also responsible for the Royal Albert Hall and the Dublin National Gallery



The military observatory opposite Headquarters 4 Division was built in 1906 to house a telescope donated by the aeronautical expert, Patrick Young Alexander. A key allowed the user to switch off nearby street lights while observation was in progress



## Wellington statue

Aldershot's most famous landmark, the imposing equestrian statue of the Duke of Wellington was originally erected on top of the Triumphal Arch at Hyde Park Corner in 1846. It moved to Aldershot, at the suggestion of the Prince of Wales, in 1885



Known as the "Red Church" because of its red-brick exterior, the Royal Garrison Church of All Saints is rich in military history. Colours of regiments which fought in the Indian Mutiny and the Crimean War hang in the chancel. The walls are covered with memorial tablets, including one of seven erected by the 10th Hussars to soldiers who died in Afghanistan in 1879

## The Red Church





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**THE ARMY BENEVOLENT FUND**



# Combat 95 better than ever, but introduction still delayed

Reports: Graham Bound

SEVERAL new developments in Combat 95, the Army's range of clothing designed around Gore-Tex and other modern materials, were on display at the Royal Navy and British Army Equipment Exhibition at Farnborough in September.

But officials from the Defence Clothing and Textiles Agency, which is responsible for design and manufacture, admitted that, while the new developments mean that the 11-item range is greatly improved, its introduction has not gone as originally planned.

Several years on, and with thought already being given to the range of clothing that will replace it in the year 2005, many Army units are still waiting to receive the full range of Combat 95.

Budget restrictions, quality control problems and unexpected deployments such as Bosnia and Angola were largely to



The reinforced Combat 95 leather glove

blame for disrupting the planned introduction of the kit. The deployments meant not only that the priority for kit issue had to be given to operational troops, but that war-zone wear and tear demanded a constant flow of replacement equipment.

Supply and distribution targets for the kit, which is based on the "onion skin" theory of layered warmth and versatility,

have not yet been achieved, but, according to the DCTA, distribution is improving as the unexpected problems are resolved.

Design and manufacturing improvements to Combat 95 have convinced the DCTA that the system has evolved into a world-beater. Among the latest refinements to the kit:

- The "fleece" jacket has now finished in olive drab. Efforts to give the warm jacket a DPM camouflage finish were found to damage the thermal qualities of the material.
- Green leather gloves have been reinforced. Their use, particularly in Arctic conditions, had revealed weaknesses.
- Early plans to use the "stashaway" waterproof under the combat jacket have been shelved. The garment is now manufactured in larger sizes for use as the outer layer of clothing.

# Could this be the APC for new millennium?

A CONSORTIUM of British, French and German companies has unveiled a wheeled armoured personnel carrier that it believes will be a versatile battlefield transporter in the next century.

The companies, which include Vickers, Alvis and Panhard, collectively known as Team International, produced a mock-up of the futuristic MRAV (Multi-Role Armoured Vehicle) for display at the Royal Navy and British Army Equipment Exhibition. The British Army is expected to need up to 1,000 new battlefield vehicles early in the next century, and invited companies to bid for their design and manufacture.

French and German Armies are expected to need similar vehicles.

MRAV is said by the designers to meet all three countries' technical and opera-



MRAV, which, if chosen, could be in service early in the next century

tional requirements, while allowing for considerable versatility. In its normal personnel-carrying role, the spacious body will carry up to 11 fully-equipped troops. MRAV will also be suited for ambulance work, mobile command, mortar launching, and armoured recovery.

Technical developments will, say the makers, give the new vehicle enhanced

protection against mines as well as protection from thermal and radar detection.

The MRAV may also be armed. The version being offered to the Ministry of Defence will be equipped with a manned 7.62mm machine-gun turret, while others will have a 25mm cannon controlled remotely from the command cabin.

Deliveries of the MRAV could begin by 2005.

In the meantime, Team International will be working hard to convince the MoD that its combat vehicle can be an economic replacement for such stalwarts as Samson, Spartan, Sultan and Samarian. There will be stiff competition from a second consortium of five German manufacturers and the British company GKN Defence.

# Kit yourself out for civvy street

FOR SOME, the transition from Army life to civvy street is an easy one, but for others resettlement can be traumatic.

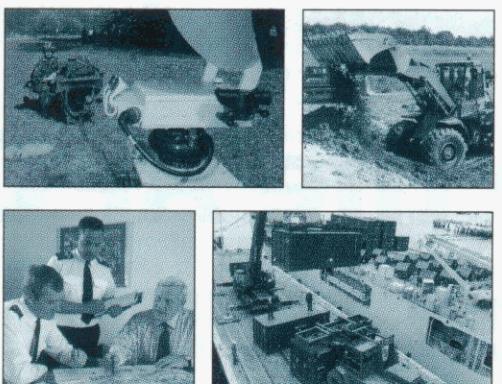
There is so much to think about and often in a very short period of time.

Where am I going to get a

job? Where are we going to live? What will it be like to work in a civilian company? How will I fit in after so many years in uniform?

And so on... a never-ending stream of questions, each bringing its own anxieties.

## CREATING A LEVEL PLAYING FIELD



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Soldiers would never consider entering a battle zone unprepared and badly-equipped. Neither should they contemplate life after the Army without the essential "kit" - advice, information and qualifications.

All three are readily and professionally available to the serving soldier, more so now than at any time in the past.

They can be obtained both from the Army itself through its network of Resettlement Centres and its positive and healthy encouragement to train for National Vocational Qualifications (NVQs); and from the many colleges and universities who offer comprehensive and invaluable distance-learning courses in a variety of subjects.

Where demands of duties, irregular hours and inconvenient locations may be perceived as obstacles to seeking further education, they are also three good reasons for seriously considering a correspondence course as a means of obtaining qualifications.

### SECURE EMPLOYMENT

And if information technology (IT) is the chosen field then Servicemen and women can take heart from the fact that such a career offers one of the most secure employment paths available today. Some telephone numbers are on these pages and elsewhere in the magazine.

The prospective employer

may well recognise in the serving soldier skills and talents which may need to be honed and tailored specifically to the demands of the business.

It has been shown that many Servicemen and women resettle in the area in which they last served, which is where Training and Enterprise Councils (TECs) can be of value.

TECs are companies responsible for training and business enterprise in their designated areas; they receive Government funding, part of which many of them have allocated specifically for the Armed Forces.

They use training providers who train to the standard demanded by their local industry. Many employers use the train-

ing companies themselves as sources of skilled labour.

TECs can also help with the acquisition and accreditation of NVQs, competence-based qualifications which are valuable when job-hunting.

Telephone numbers for TECs in England and Wales and LECs (Local Enterprise Councils) in Scotland can be found in Yellow Pages.

An enormous and diverse choice of careers awaits those in the Armed Forces facing resettlement.

Armed with clear advice and knowledge, the prospect of new job, new employer may well prove to be the best challenge yet.

● **More on Page 40**

# JOB STABILITY

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# Military heritage

# The Rifle Brigade

THE Rifle Brigade was formed in 1800 as the Experimental Corps of Riflemen, designed to exploit new ideas in weapons and tactics in the war against the French.

From the outset its dress was distinctive, as all members of the regiment were clad in dark green rather than red coats. Officers wore uniforms based on that of the light cavalry of the day, but in dark green.

Special tactics were devised to encourage marksmanship and skirmishing, including a series of shooting positions (such as the kneeling and sitting positions) most of which are still taught today.

Equipment was also developed towards this end, with the issue of the Baker rifle, designed by Ezekiel Baker, a London gunsmith. The bayonet associated with this rifle had a sword-like hilt and the custom of referring to the bayonet as a "sword" persisted long after this pattern of bayonet fell into disuse.

By then known as the 95th or Rifle Regiment, the unit served with distinction throughout the Peninsular campaign and fought at Waterloo, where its soldiers supplied skirmish lines positioned in advance of the main body of the British infantry.

Throughout the 19th century, the regiment's distinctive dress was maintained. As light cavalry regiments became hussars, the officers' uniforms continued to follow the style of dress worn – including the pelisse (a short fur-trimmed jacket usually worn slung from the left shoulder) and, as hussar dress changed, a tunic with frogging across the breast.

The dark green colour, known as "rifle green" and cause of a great number of headaches for dyers and tailors, continued to be used. On many occasions, particu-



The regimental badge introduced in 1956 bears many of the Battle Honours conferred upon the regiment over its years of service. The naval crown at the base marks its presence at the Battle of Copenhagen in 1801

er) made of lambskin for officers and seal-skin for the men. They lost the busby in 1878 when, along with the rest of the infantry, their head-dress became the home service helmet (the "policeman" shaped helmet, still worn by many regimental bands and corps of drums in full

## British Army's 19th century special weapons and tactics team

larly for undress uniforms, the suppliers gave up and issued black clothing on the grounds that rifle green was so dark a shade nobody would notice the difference.

Surprisingly, of the regiments involved in the Indian Mutiny, the Rifle Brigade (which acquired this title in 1816) continued to wear dark green while most others adopted various shades of what was to become khaki. It did not make the change until March 1858, and even then reverted to its normal green by December of that year.

Although retaining the dark green, the Rifle Brigade's uniforms changed – particularly for the rank and file – in step with regular infantry dress. Officers continued to follow hussar patterns of dress.

When the pattern of shako changed, as it did several times during the 19th century, the Rifle Brigade conformed – although dark green shakos were worn rather than dark blues ones. In 1872 a special busby was adopted (shaped somewhat like a shako, howev-

er) made of lambskin for officers and seal-skin for the men. They lost the busby in 1878 when, along with the rest of the infantry, their head-dress became the home service helmet (the "policeman" shaped helmet, still worn by many regimental bands and corps of drums in full

dress today). To retain some differences, their helmets were dark green rather than blue, and had bronze fittings and chin chains rather than brass.

In 1890, the busby was restored but in a different shape, and continued to be worn as the full dress head-dress through the 20th century. Other distinctions served to enliven 20th century uniforms – black buttons were worn wherever practical and badges of rank worn on khaki service dress, and later battle dress, were made in dark green on a black backing.

In 1958, the Rifle Brigade, which had borne the title of "Prince Consort's Own" for nearly a century, was renamed as the 3rd Green Jackets (The Rifle Brigade).

This move presaged the eventual amalgamation with the 1st and 2nd Green Jackets (more commonly known as the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry and the King's Royal Rifle Corps respectively) to form The Royal Green Jackets.

This regiment to this day continues many Rifles traditions in its dress, including black buttons, a busby on the rare occasions the full dress is seen, and dark (or rifle) green forage caps and No.1 Dress uniforms. – Megan C Robertson

## Sergeant, 1809 – painted by Charles Stadden

THE uniform shows signs of the hard conditions endured in the Peninsula by members of the regiment. One man present, a Lt Simmons, wrote: "My jacket is brown instead of green. Never was seen such a motley group of fellows . . . I am a perfect guerrilla."

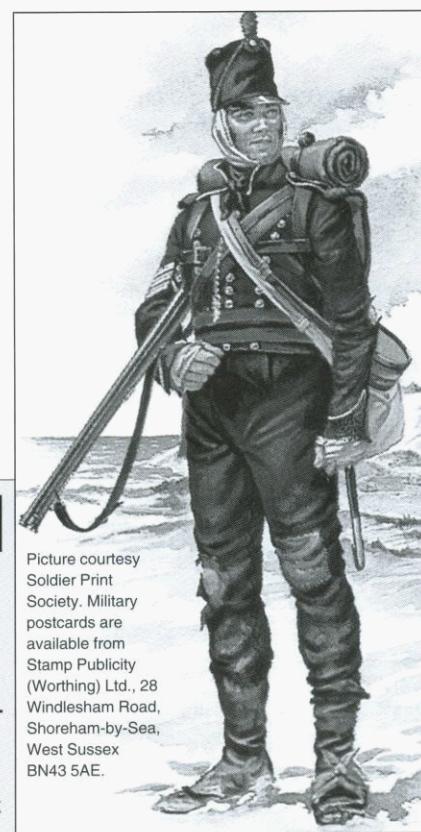
The sergeant's sash is

interesting: unlike most regiments of this period, who gave their sergeants crimson worsted waist sashes with a central stripe in the regimental facing colour, the regiment's sergeants wore stiff scarlet sashes with a black central line.

The rosette on the shako indicates the individual's

prowess at marksmanship; those capable of hitting four out of six targets wore green rather than black.

Unlike most soldiers of the day, who were required to wear stiff and uncomfortable leather stocks around their necks, Riflemen wore softer cloth stocks . . . which enabled them to look around more comfortably!



Picture courtesy Soldier Print Society. Military postcards are available from Stamp Publicity (Worthing) Ltd., 28 Windlesham Road, Shoreham-by-Sea, West Sussex BN43 5AE.

# Dream voyage of Discovery

DEMAND for four-wheel drive vehicles of all shapes and sizes seems to know no limits and as more and more people turn to this type of transport, Land Rover continue to take the major share of the market, **writes Syd Taylor**.

When it comes to combining rugged off-road capability with image and comfort, few can approach the overall appeal of the Discovery. The prestigious stature gives it a presence all of its own – a certain imposing majesty which other off-roaders don't have.

Standing high above lesser traffic it reflects the heritage that makes it one of the world's great vehicles, offering an individual look to create a feeling of assured authority.

There's an intangible sense of confidence wherever you go and everywhere the Discovery receives the kind of attention reserved for very few vehicles – it's easy to see why it has such a strong following.

Meticulous attention to detail has gone into the construction of the Discovery and the panel fit and finish is exceptional for this class of car. Excellent build quality of the aluminium and steel body reflects its stature, creating a powerful presence and giving tremendous strength and resilience too.

## GOOD LOOKER

Distinctive and different, the Discovery 300 TDi ES tested – which costs £30,230 on-the-road – looks good from any angle, making it the paradox of the off-roader's traditional utilitarian image: the Discovery simply shouts quality.

As everyone knows, off-roading is not the main concern to the majority of buyers, yet Land Rover have kept the Discovery's off-road abilities at the forefront in developing the latest models.

However, in deference to those who are more concerned with the interior than the vehicle's ability to take them where others

## High-command vehicle simply shouts quality

fear to tread, Land Rover's latest is comprehensively equipped and elevates its image in the market place.

Access to the big cabin is easy via large wide-opening doors and once inside you enjoy real luxury in this ruggedly handsome vehicle which offers style and comfort for every activity – there's the same sort of finish which you find in a luxury saloon.

You get space and accommodation in abundance and there's ample legroom for front and rear passengers with room for up to seven people when using the two fold-down seats in the rear load area. A great deal of intelligent thought has gone into the Discovery's design and there's more than enough stowage space for small items and all the trappings of family travel.

A luxurious interior and an impressive standard equipment specification on the top-of-the-range 5 Door ES model tested, makes this version of the Discov-

er



All-round visibility – and a commanding view of the road



Land Rover Discovery 300 TDi ES 5-door

ery a particularly attractive proposition.

You get driver and passenger airbags, leather facings for seats which support in all the right places, electrically-operated and heated front seats, electric windows, headlamp power wash, electrically adjustable and heated door mirrors, electric twin glass sunroofs for fresh air fiends, heated front screen, air conditioning, remote central locking and, of course, a top line stereo. Externally the ES sports stylish duo-tone alloy wheels and roof rails as standard.

## JUST RIGHT

For the driver, everything is just right. You enjoy a commanding view of the road and all-round visibility is excellent, with the rear door mounted spare wheel being quite unobtrusive. Instruments and controls are in just the right position and switches operated with a positive and well-damped action. The electric window switches are well placed on the centre console, the steering column angle is adjustable and the column mounted stalks control indicators, variable intermittent wipers and lights. Everything is well laid out.

Power comes from an eager and refined 2.5 litre turbocharged direct injection diesel engine which develops over 111 bhp and 195 lb/ft of torque from as low as 1800 rpm. This gives the Discovery a top speed of over 90 mph, yet at the same time fuel consumption is very

confidence. On motorways there's no need to adjust the radio volume when cruising at the legal limit and for such a large vehicle, wind and mechanical noise is remarkably subdued.

As well as excellent on-road manners, the Discovery has devastating off-road ability. Whether you're negotiating a rocky track or ploughing through a muddy field towing a horse-box, the Discovery's permanent four-wheel drive, with centre differential lock and high and low ratio gears, gives exceptional traction whatever the conditions.



**Meet Syd Taylor, who will be road-testing a wide range of vehicles for Soldier as well as reporting other items of interest from the world of wheels.**

**Although he has driven "every car under the sun" his interests are not restricted to four-wheeled transport – he regularly pens pieces on motorcycling, aviation and sailing. When prised away from his desk he relishes country pursuits.**

**Syd sparks this major new Soldier feature off to a turbo-charged start with the latest version of one of motoring's modern icons – the Land Rover Discovery 300 TDi ES 5 Door.**

reasonable and throughout the test an average of over 30 mpg was achieved. It's an engine which demonstrates a surprising degree of flexibility in the higher gears and it is a pleasure to drive on both cross-country and motorway journeys. An instant starter and now much quieter and smoother than before, it doesn't set any records on performance, but to be fair, change down and you can overtake with

## BEST IN ITS CLASS

During this test there was no off-road use, but previous experience elsewhere confirms the Discovery's outstanding ability. ABS is standard on this model and disc brakes are fitted all-round to provide excellent stopping power, suitably proportional to foot pressure.

In general driving terms the Discovery is very user-friendly and although big and bulky at a glance, it is quite effortless to handle.

Land Rover's Discovery is an ultra-competent, highly-practical vehicle, delivering not only lots of power, but a high degree of refinement and eye-catching image too. It is possibly the best vehicle in its class and it's no wonder that it represents the aspirational dream of four-wheel-drive enthusiasts everywhere. © Syd Taylor



# Second Fusiliers crush Bosnian resistance

A TOUR of duty in Bosnia proved no disadvantage to the rugby-mad 2nd Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers.

Based at Gornji Vakuf, the fusiliers took on top pre-war club Zenica in front of an appreciative crowd of 150. The local team exerted intense pressure from the start and scored an early try which was converted.

The scratch 2 RRF XV picked up the pace and Fus Phil Marsh, a member of the Infantry Rugby League side, crossed for a try. They scored again before the interval when LCpl Pete Clarke made a blistering break from inside his own half and touched down between the posts. Capt Charlie Thompson converted.

A short-lived Zenica flurry at the start of the second half died away in the face of pressure from the fitter soldiers, and Marsh scored again, Thompson again adding the conversion.

The game became a ragged series of rucks and mauls, with Zenica scoring against the play for a final score of 19-12 to 2 RRF.

Lt Col Gary Cass, CO of 1 RRF, was delighted with the result. "Sport in Bosnia is very popular and events such as this do much to develop the will of the people for peace and also to encourage support for pro-SFOR opinion," he said.



No push-over. A scratch Fusiliers side (right) packs down against Zenica of Bosnia

● The 2nd Battalion also won the British Forces Germany Rover Rugby

Shield when they beat Headquarters ARRC Support Battalion 23-9.

# Welsh and Zulus in rematch

WHILE some might doubt the wisdom of trying to develop a game in a country that proudly claims to be the world champions, that is exactly what the rugby team of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Wales attempted to do.

A century after the heroic involvement of the regiment's forefathers at Rorke's Drift and Isandlwana, a rugby squad from 1 RRW visited South Africa to strengthen ties with its new allied unit, 121 Infantry Battalion of the SA Defence Force through sport and community development projects.

While rugby flourishes throughout the Republic in urban areas, it has remained underdeveloped and underfunded in rural townships.

The Welshmen took part in a series of coaching clinics in KwaZulu Natal organised by Natal Rugby Union Development

and left behind them balls, tackle bags, post shields, contact pads and cones donated by Rhino Sports Equipment.

Clinics were an outstanding success and the tourists were amazed at how quickly children developed levels of skill that usually take years to emerge. The commitment of many of the youngsters, even while playing in bare feet on rock-hard ground, had some of the coaching staff wincing.

The battalion's rugby also benefited from the hard and quick game played by strong opposition. A relatively young and inexperienced squad matured beyond recognition during the five games on the tour, losing three and winning two.

There were defeats by Westfield Old Boys in Durban (27-10), Richard's Bay (27-10) and a Pietermaritzburg Development XV (36-15) containing several

Natal Under-21 players, and wins against Hluhluwe (22-5) and Mtubatuba (49-5). In most games the tourists gave away as much as two stone a man up front, but were never outplayed at any stage of the tour.

No trip to South Africa by members of 24th/41st Foot would be complete without a tour of Rorke's Drift. This was possibly the largest party of serving Welsh soldiers to visit the battlefield since the conflict. The young rugby players left the area intensely proud of their heritage.

The level of hospitality shown by 121 Infantry Battalion was outstanding and the tour attracted huge press and television coverage within South Africa and was featured on sports channels in the United Kingdom.

Man behind the tour was Capt Chris Chudleigh, 1 RRW's 1st XV captain.

# The Sniper



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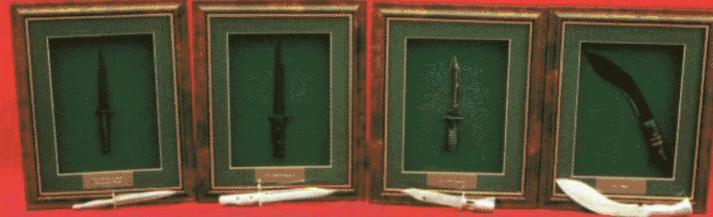
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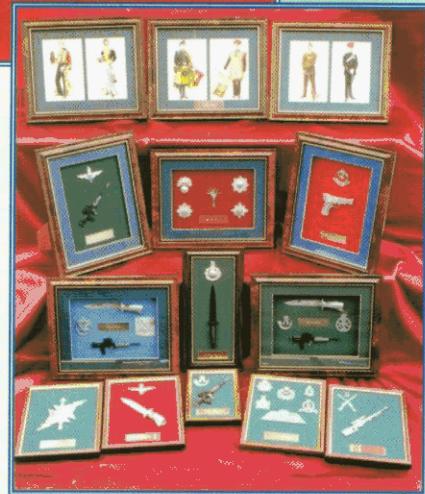
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# PWRR power home at the double

CRICKETERS of the Canterbury-based 1st Battalion, The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment will look back fondly on 24 hours in September when they won two important trophies on consecutive days, writes **Rupert Ross-Hurst**.

They have been threatening to win the Army Cup for some time and their moment came in the Major Units final against 33 Engineer Regiment (EOD).

The sappers, last year's losing finalists, ended up on the wrong side of a heavy defeat but put up a good fight in the field, bowling and fielding exceptionally well.

Put in to bat at Aldershot, 1 PWRR got off to a solid start with a 49-run partnership between SSgt "AJ" Cliffe (33) and Cpl Steve Cornhill, the Army and Combined Services fast bowler and a useful bat at this level.

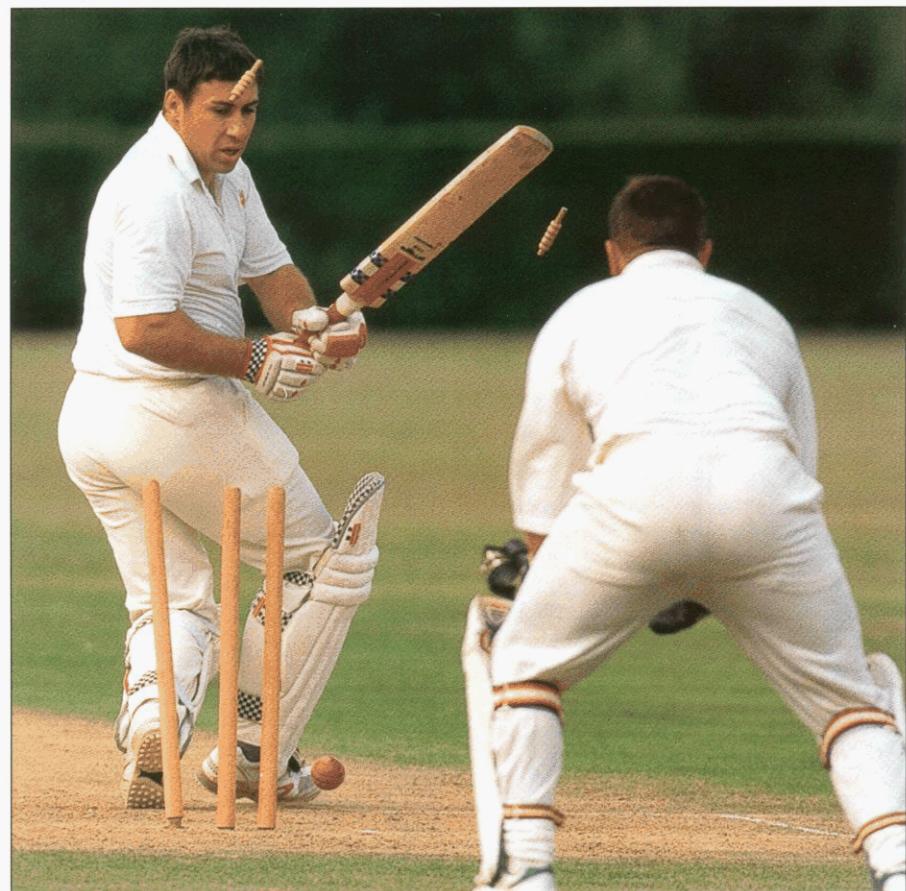
## BROTHERS

With all three Cornhill brothers involved, the family was certain to have an influence on the outcome.

Alongside Steve were brothers Sgt Darran Cornhill, the Combined Services medium pacer who was also a key member of this year's Inter-Services' winning Army side, and LCpl Richard Cornhill, a useful all-rounder who was selected for the Army's farewell tour to Hong Kong last October.

With the Royal Engineers giving little away, the PWRR were never able to get on top of the bowling and did well to reach a total of 213-8 off their 40 overs. Lt Mike Hall was the top scorer with an undefeated 40.

In reply, the 33 Engr Regt batsmen found the Cornhill trio almost impossible to get away and, with Cpl Adam Dodman cleaning up the tail, were always behind the run rate. A good innings by Shaw



Picture: Terry Champion

**Sgt Darran Cornhill** loses his wicket in the Army Cup final against 33 Engineer Regiment (EOD). He was one of three brothers in the 1 PWRR team which won the trophy by 83 runs

(56), who had both kept wicket and bowled well, was not enough to keep them in contention.

Once Sgt Bunn, LCpl Knowles-Pfeiffer and Spr Needham had departed, tight and accurate bowling took 1 PWRR to an 83-run win.

And the team's winning streak did not end there. The following day AJ Cliffe scored 101 as they beat the 1st Battalion, The Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire in the final of the Infantry Cup at Tidworth. It was the regiment's fifth consecutive Infantry Cup championship.

After scoring 200 in their 50 overs, 1 PWRR's bowlers shared the wickets as 1 PWO were dismissed for 87.

**Army Cup:** 1 PWRR 213-8 (40 overs) (Lt Hall 40 not, SSgt Cliffe 33). **33 Engr Regt (EOD)** 130 (34 overs) (Spr Shaw 56; Cpl Dodman 3-38, Cpl S Cornhill 2-12). **1 PWRR** won by 83 runs.

**Infantry Cup:** 1 PWRR 200 (SSgt AJ Cliffe 101), **1 PWO** 87. **1 PWRR** won by 113 runs.

The Minor Units match was a repeat of the 1996 final, but for a reversal of the result, with 29 Regiment RLC overturning 42 Survey Engineer Group, winners of their meeting a year ago.

Maj John Stamp, whose half-century in the 1996 final went a long way towards winning a close game for the Hermitage-based map-makers, again batted well. Just as he looked set to go on to another big score he ran himself out for 43, exposing a tail that was knocked over cheaply.

Asked to make just 124 to win, 29 Regt were always in control. Capt Richards, LCpl Johnstone, Pte Jones and LCpl Roberts saw them home to with four wickets and nearly ten overs to spare.

A credit to the units involved in both Major and Minor finals was the spirit in which they were contested.

**42 Svy Engr Gp** 123 (34 overs) (Maj Stamp 43; LCpl Roberts 3-25). **29 Regt RLC** 124-6 (30.4 overs) (Spr Fife 3-21). **29 Regt RLC** won by 4 wickets.

## Loggies merit their unbeaten Grouse record

WINNERS of the Grouse inter-corps cricket merit table were the Royal Logistic Corps. The loggies won all four of the games they actually played, were awarded two walkovers (against the Royal Artillery and the medics) and had their

games against the Royal Armoured Corps and the Royal Signals abandoned.

The signallers, also undefeated, were second after dropping points in a draw against the RAC, who finished third in the merit table.

# Sport

## FOOTBALL

# Smashing time for Army strikers

EIGHT goals in two games signalled a cracking start to the Army's representative season as their football programme kicked off with trials matches against Uxbridge and Bicester Town on consecutive days.

There were a lot of new faces in the squad which assembled at Uxbridge, **writes Derrick Bly**.

And against a team made up mostly of reserve players the Army were allowed to play some superb football in a 3-1 win in which newcomer Pte Steve Carter (RLC) scored two goals on his debut and Sig John Galliford (3 (UK) Div HQ and Sigs), a former Army Youth team player, also got himself on the scoresheet.

Coach QMSI Duncan Russell was delighted with the football played in a very encouraging opening performance.

And there was more for him to applaud the following day when the

Army trailed 2-1 to Hellenic League Bicester Town before blasting back with a four-goal blitz in the second half.

New faces Pte Lee Whittle (15 Regt RLC) and Sig Chris Watts (27 Tpt Regt RLC) were glad of the experience of WO2 Kevin Parkin (Sch of Sigs) in defence against two sharp Bicester frontmen, but the home side still managed to go two up before Galliford pulled one back just before the break.

Coach Russell introduced Pte Steve Bird (1 Cheshire) and LCpl John Wills (1 Staffords) in the second half and the onslaught began.

Two goals from the dangerous Pte David Cameron (A and SH) and one each from Sgt Paul Murgatroyd (9 Sp Regt RLC) and late substitute LCpl Dave Hope (39 Regt RA) completed a comprehensive second-half demolition of the home defences.

## DIVING

# Greenfield wins medals in Prague

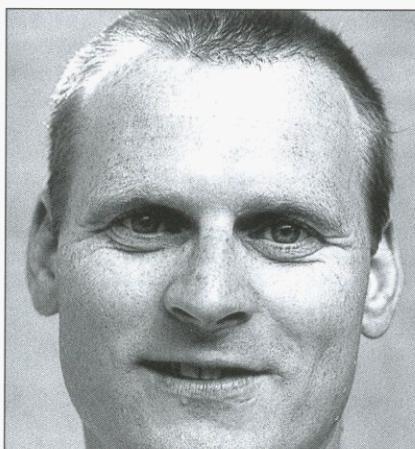
TWO Army divers represented Great Britain at the European Masters championships in Prague and returned home with two medals.

SSgt Amos Greenfield (APTC), attached to Bielefeld-based MTW(G), won silver and bronze medals in the 3m and 1m events, while Cpl Paula Rowan (ATR Pirbright) finished seventh off the 1m board, fifth at 3m and sixth in the highboard event. She was competing for GB for the first time.

Competitors from 15 nations took part with a choice of three disciplines: 1m and 3m springboard and platform off 5m, 7.5m and 10m.

Army divers have swept the board at Service level this summer, taking first and second places in both male and female 3m springboard and highboard events.

For Greenfield, the Army diving coach, the Prague championships were an opportunity to regain his title in the platform and improve on his placings in the springboard events. He last represented



Second in Prague: SSgt Amos Greenfield

GB in 1995 in Italy, gaining a gold medal in the platform and placing fourth and fifth in the 1m and 3m springboard.

Anyone interested in diving or taking part in future competitions can contact Greenfield on Bielefeld Mil 3254.

## NETBALL

# Wanted: a lot more players

WHAT has happened to the Army's netball players? The once-thriving Army Netball Association was disappointed when only ten players turned up for its first "workshop" of the 1997-98 season at Aldershot.

Now officials are anxious to publicise the next workshop at Maida Gymnasium on October 11-12, when a mixture of coaching skills and games against local civilian teams has been arranged.

Netball is widely played at unit and corps level, and the highlights of the season include the finals of the inter-unit knockout competition on November 22, the inter-corps' on January 24, both at Maida Gym, and the inter-Service tournament on March 9-10 at RAF West Drayton.

An added incentive for the Army's top players is a proposed tour to Canada next summer.

Despite a relative lack of players to select from, the Army last year came close to ending the RAF's ten-year domination of the sport. Several members of that squad went on to win Combined Services honours.

Players of any standard are asked to contact Capt Jenny King on 01780 782182.

## ICE SPORTS

# High-speed offer

FANCY your chances at bobsleigh, luge or skeleton racing. Week-long courses in all three high-speed ice sports are available to Regular and Territorial Army personnel in Lillehammer, Norway between October 19 and November 1.

Cost to individuals is £250. Choice of two training weeks: Oct 19-26 or Oct 26-Nov 1. Fax details by Oct 7 to Capt P A McClellan RE on 01622 767333 or Mil (766) 3333.

## TRIATHLON

# London reckoning

ARMY triathletes were holding their annual championships in conjunction with the London triathlon, the biggest in Europe. More than 3,500 athletes were expected to take part in the event, which involved a 1,500m swim in West India Dock, a 40km cycle ride towards the city airport and a 10km run back into Canary Wharf. One of the major sponsors of the event was SSAFA Forces Help.

## SPORTING PROFILE



Picture: Terry Champion

Joe Roach, the Army's Director of Football, with the sponsored car he has been given

# Roach the coach spreads the word

"I REALLY want people to be aware of what coaching is available through the Army Football Association," says Joe Roach, the Army Football Association's newly-appointed Director of Coaching.

"We coach at all levels; from preliminary to FA advanced coaching licence," he added. "But the regimental level is always the grass-roots of the sport."

He should know. The ex-Army Physical Training Corps QMSI, who hung up his uniform in May after 22 years, played for the Army just a year after joining up in 1975. He went on to win most honours in the game, captained his service on many occasions, represented Combined Services and was named Army Player of the Year in 1985.

The 41-year-old former Vickers shipyard worker admitted that the sport had suffered its problems in the past but it was moving on to better things.

"I want to see a sufficient number of qualified coaches to provide regiments

and corps with quality coaching. There are medical courses, women's football, coaching seminars and FA awards . . . something for everyone. And we're keen to offer mini-soccer for the children."

A recent FA Coca-Cola fun week in Aldershot attracted more than 170 children between the ages of six and 14 and Joe sees this being extended country-wide through the Army.

"This is a terrific way for the local community and the Army to come together and help each other," he said. "Local schools and clubs can benefit from Army coaching as well as the unit involved."

Sponsorship, which is a way of life in professional football, is alive and well in the Army too. Bukta sponsor the coaching courses and Peugeot Exports have just provided Joe with

much-needed transport.

Any unit looking to take advantage of Joe's experience should contact him on Aldershot Military (722) 2962. —CK-H.

**'This is a terrific way for the local community and the Army to come together and help each other'**

## IN BRIEF

### Hockey trophy AWOL

HAS anyone seen a spare hockey trophy? Like the old World Cup, it's gone missing. The cup is inscribed "South East District Six-a-Side Hockey Plate Winners" and the plinth carries the revised title: "4th Division". If you know where it is, contact WO2 Hunter on Worthy Down (727) 2699.

### Eventing

CAPT Grant Chanter, who commanded the King's Troop, Royal Horse Artillery gun carriage section for the funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales, was selected for the Combined Services team two days after the funeral, to compete in a one-day international military equestrian event in Stockholm later that week.

### Cross country

MORE than 60 established and potential Army cross country runners are gathering in Aldershot for a training programme over the weekend October 25-26. Any athlete who would like to attend but who has not yet received an invitation is asked to contact Capt Steve Lonnell RLC on Kineton Military (724) 3554 as soon as possible.

### Tennis

AFTER a break of ten years, the Royal Armoured Corps regiments put together a team to play in the inter-corps tennis tournament . . . and won. They succeeded in nine of their ten matches to take the Turpin Cup. Members of the squad included Majs Mark Cann (QRL), Robin Matthews (LD), Edward Frost (LD) and Tony Hood (RDG) and Capts Jonathan Dart (QRL) and Dickie Determeyer (LD).

### Boxing

THE Army boxing centre at Aldershot was used by former world boxing champion Barry McGuigan for a series of experiments designed to make the sport safer. McGuigan, now president of the Professional Boxers' Association, was working with Dr Sandra Bell, a physicist at the Defence Evaluation Research Agency, on the effects on the brain of certain kinds of impact.

### Rugby League

SEME Bordon and 1 RSME Regiment from Chatham reached the final of the 1997 Yeoman Cup Rugby League competition. With the Military Stadium at Aldershot ruled out as a venue because of construction work, the match was to be played at RAF Uxbridge.

# Sport

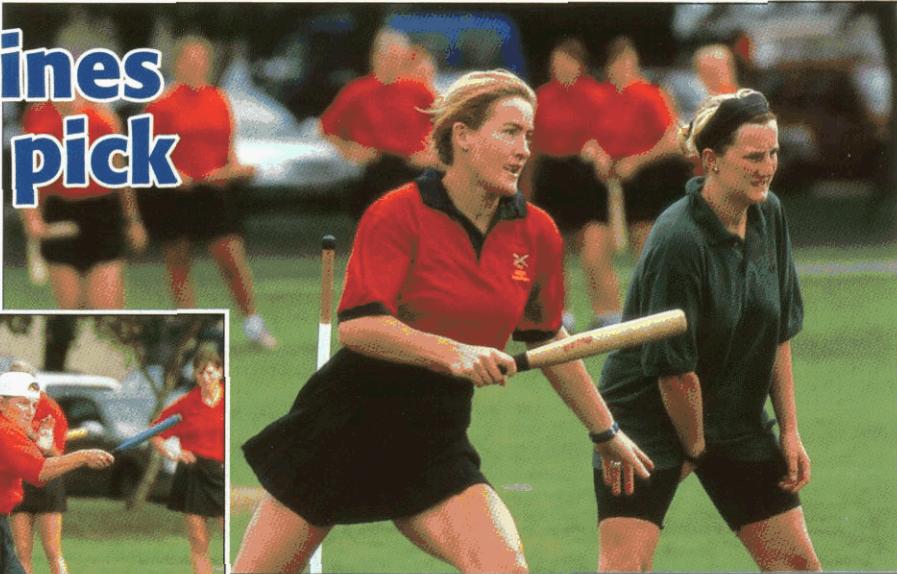
## Kelly's heroines take on the pick of England

THE PAVILION at Worthy Down was besieged by more than 100 players gathered to do battle in the Army inter-unit and inter-corps rounders competitions.

Teams from 14 Sig Regt, 21 Log Sp Regt, HQ Lisburn, Bulford Garrison, Blackdown and Arborfield fought for a place in the unit final, in which Bulford beat HQ Lisburn convincingly 8-1/2.

A good-natured "grudge match" between the AGC and APTC decided the corps final, AGC narrowly winning by 2 rounders to 1/2 to take the title. The three-day festival culminated in an exhibition match in which an Army side, selected from the best players representing their units and corps, took on England.

Maj Louise Callow, secretary of Army women's rounders, was watching from



The cut and thrust of women's rounders. Inset: Former England player Pte Kelly Morphet swings for the Army

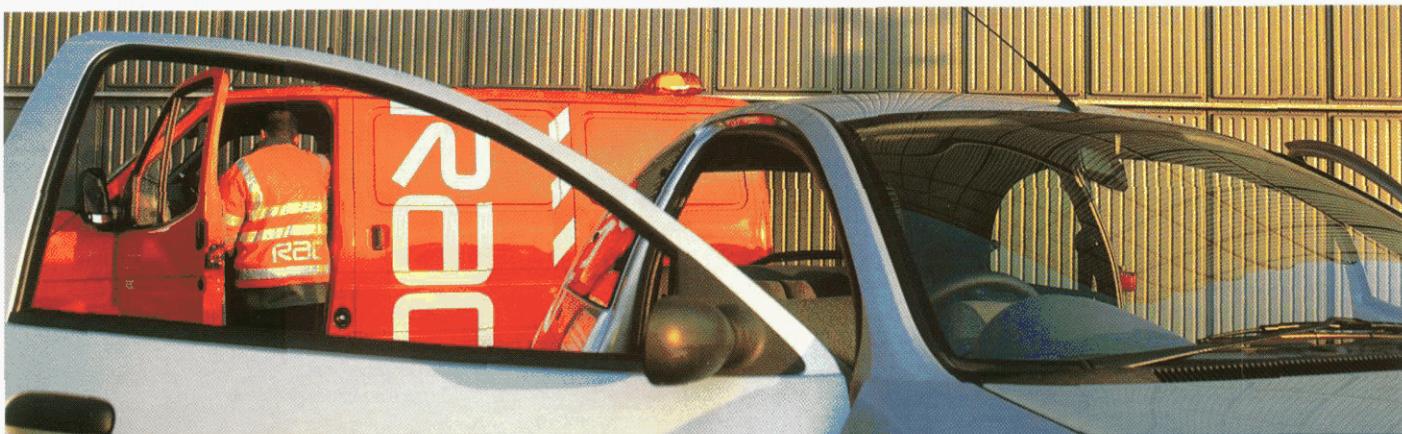
### ROUNDERS

the crowded benches: "The match against England is always a hard-fought battle," she said. "We must have impressed them last year as one of their players joined the Army shortly after the match and now plays for us."

With her baseball-hat worn fashionably

back-to-front, 18-year-old Pte Kelly Morphet, former England player and now RLC drummer, crashed the ball deep into the outfield. But not even Kelly's skill could help the Army beat England. The home team lost by 15 rounders to 1/2.

Now that women's rounders has the recognition of the Sports Council there is a move to establish a national league.



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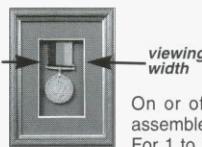
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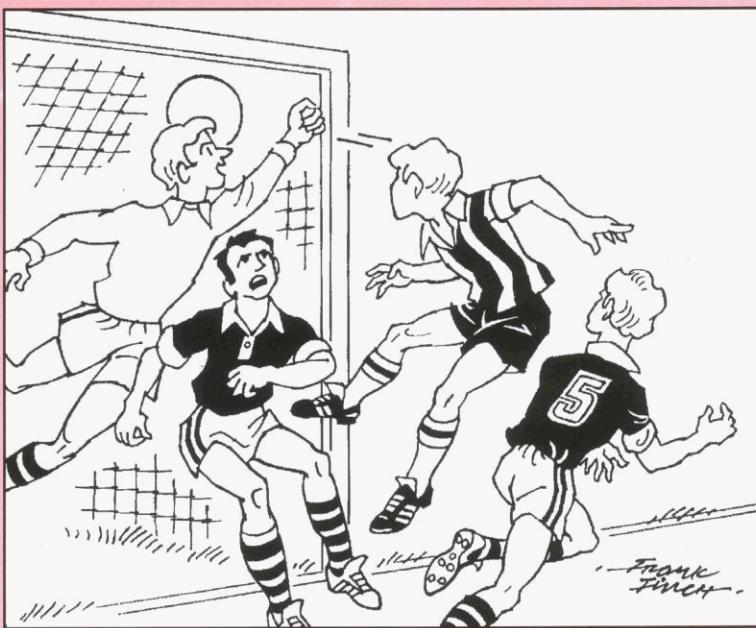
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D13

# How observant are you?

## Win £100!



To mark the new monthly *Soldier* we are doubling the first prize in this popular competition to £100. Two runners-up will each receive a £10 gift voucher.

Frank Finch has made ten changes in detail to one of his drawings. Circle the ten differences in the lower image, cut out the whole panel, add your name and address and send to HOAY 671, *Soldier*, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, GU11 2DU by November 7.

For those who do not wish to cut their magazine, a photocopy is now acceptable, but only one entry per person may be submitted.

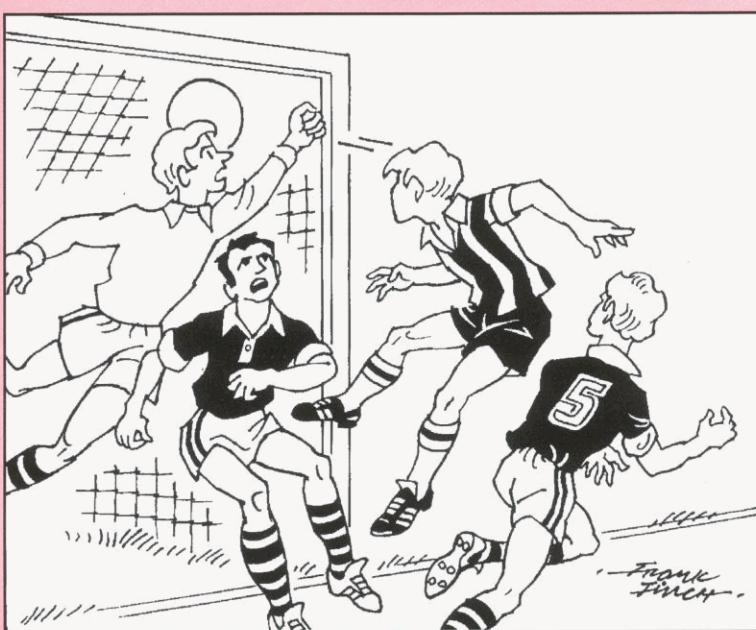
Do not include anything else in your envelope. First correct entry drawn after the closing date will win £100; the second and third will receive £10 gift vouchers. No correspondence of any kind can be entered into.

The names of the winner and runners-up will be announced in the December issue.

Name : (Give initials and rank or title)

Address :

Competition No 668 (Aug 18 issue): First correct entry drawn was from Cpl C D Gill, Recovery Section, GS Company, 2 Bn REME, Op Lodestar, BFPO 544, who wins £50. Book prizes go to runners-up Mr R R Dawson, of Bristol, and Mrs G Reid, of Leven, Fife. The ten differences were: line below walking stick; crook of walking stick; cow's hoof; ears of cow, second right; second piece of debris falling from lorry; wing mirror; driver's pocket; passenger's collar; sidelight; dustcloud under petrol tank.



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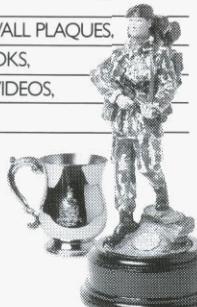
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Ref: RM/71790/SC

The Commissioners propose to make a Scheme for these charities. A copy of the draft Scheme can be seen at Building 43, Trenchard Lines, Upavon, Wilts SN9 6BE, or can be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to The Charity Commission, Woodfield House, Tangier, Taunton, Somerset TA1 4BL quoting the above reference. Comments or representations can be made within one month from today.

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**TO ADVERTISE FOR A PEN PAL.** Please send for details enclosing a stamped, self-addressed envelope to: *Soldier Magazine, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU*

**Sarah, 26, 6",** with blue eyes, red hair and GSOH. Enjoys pubs, clubs, various types of music and sport. Seeking male pen pals aged 26+. **P069**

20/97

**Sue, 42,** rotund, affable, tolerant, with an ability to generate laughter. Not unattractive. Enjoys writing, visual arts, laughing, cooking, reading, music and swimming. Seeks genuine, entertaining, pen pals aged 30+. **P070**

20/97

**Sharon, 41, 5'7",** with a medium build. Enjoys cinema, reading, videos, eating out, DIY, animals and children. Seeking genuine male pen pals. **P071**

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**Lesley, 38,** single, big brown eyes, short brown hair. Bubbly personality with VGSOH. Romantic, caring and sincere. Enjoys pubbing, clubbing, eating out, entertaining and cooking. Seeking male pen pals aged 35+. **P072**

20/97

**Lynn, 29, 5'11",** a student with brown hair and eyes. Enjoys football, pubs, clubs, cinema, swimming and aerobics. Seeking male pen pals aged 25 plus. **P073**

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**Sarah, 30, 5'4",** a brunette with green eyes and GSOH. Enjoys the cinema, pubs, music, reading and foreign travel. Seeking intelligent, fun and interesting male pen pals aged 28+. **P074**

20/97

**Diane, 32, 5'8",** with hazel eyes and brown hair. Enjoys music, swimming, aerobics, reading, writing, travel, cinema and the theatre. Seeking male pen pals aged 21+. **P075**

20/97

**Hi, my name is Elspeth,** I am 48 and come from Edinburgh, but now live in London. I am 5'10" and have dark brown hair and I am looking for genuine friendship. **P076**

20/97

**Lisa, 41, 5'4",** with brown hair. Enjoys music, videos, cooking, reading and creative writing. Seeking pen pals of any age. **P077**

20/97

**Dena, 30,** attractive, slim, petite, blue eyed blonde. Enjoys sport, travelling, music, cooking and antiques. Seeking male pen pals late 20s early 30s. ALA, photo appreciated. **P078**

20/97

**Dee,** slim, smart, lively blonde. Friendly and interesting professional carer from the home counties. Seeking genuine male pen pals in their 40s/50s, possibly PSI/NRPS etc. **P079**

20/97

**Sharon, 31, 5'1",** brown hair and blue eyes. Enjoys horse riding, travelling, writing, military bands, chart and 60's music and socialising. Seeking pen pals aged 28-35. **P080**

20/97

**Suzanne, 35, 5",** slim blue eyed blond. Enjoys all sports (especially football), cinema, theatre, travel, music, reading, writing letters and astrology. Seeking caring like-minded penpals aged 30-40 with GSOH. **P081**

**Gabrielle, 25, 5'6",** I am attractive with dark brown hair and blue eyes. I enjoy pubbing, clubbing and music. Seeking sincere pen pals with GSOH aged 20-32. **P082**

20/97

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EOI

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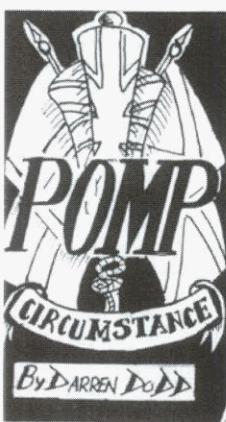
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SEPTEMBER 13, 1997

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**September 06, 1997**

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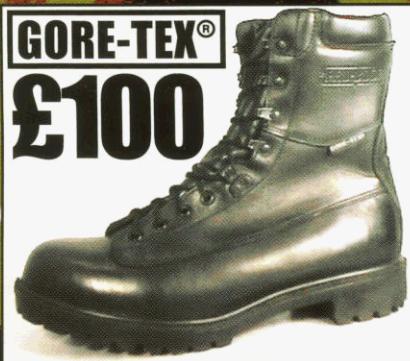
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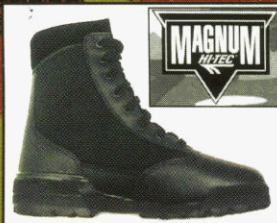
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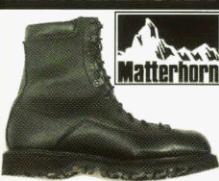
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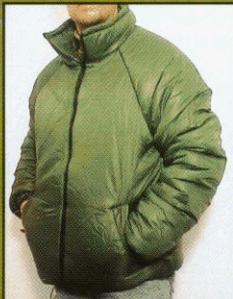
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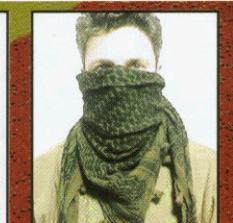
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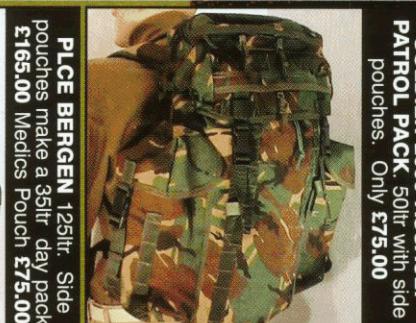


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## Is this a noisy case of history repeating itself?

I WAS taken aback when I read in the *Sunday Telegraph* (Aug 31) that Territorial Army soldiers were having to shout "bang" on exercises to simulate rifle shots, owing to lack of ammo.

It reminded me of my Home Guard days when we used to do a lot of pretending as the Regular Army had collared most of the real killing hardware.

This led to a bit of anger and confusion. One Sunday morning our platoon was "attacking" the Stapleford lot on

### Prize letter

Stoney Clouds, a local beauty spot. An irate defender shouted to the umpire: "Tell this bloke he's dead as I have screamed at him 'Swish' (bayonet thrust) twice and 'Ratatat' (machine-gun fire) and he still keeps coming on!"

"I'm not dead," yelled back my mate, pretending to stick his head out of an opening. "Chug, chug – I'm a tank." – **C L Golder, Bolton, Lancs; ex-private, Home Guard, 9 Derbyshire (Ilkeston) Bn.**

## How Cherrypickers got their nickname

YOUR review of *The Cherrypickers* (Sept 1) asked how the nickname derived.

It was in fact given in a caption and "is believed to derive from an incident in the Peninsular War in Spain when Captain Binney's troop were surprised by the French in a cherry orchard".

I omitted from the book an explanation of the origins of our unusual beret. At the time of mechanisation in 1928 the cavalry still wore service dress with badges and peaked hats, and these were retained for normal parades and service in barracks.

When the armoured cars were issued the regiment requested a crimson beret similar to the current pattern for use in the garages and in the field.

This was rejected by the War Office because the beret then was a privilege awarded to the Royal Tank Corps for its work in the Great War, and it was considered that a hat of similar style was unacceptable.

The regiment then submitted an alternative of a brown beret with a crimson band of a different style. The brown was suggested by my mother – my father was quartermaster at the time – because she thought that it was a suitable colour that would not show grease marks.

The crimson band was the regimental

distinction. No badge was worn in the beret.

I have failed to trace Pte Jarvis, shown astride his horse in one picture, after 1905. He did not go to war in 1914 so I assume his service ended before. – **Lt Col Peter Upton, Editor *The Cherrypickers*, Winchester, Hants.**

● *Similar points about the head-dress and lack of badge were made in a letter from Thomas H Truswell, of South Hetton, Durham, who served with the regiment from 1948-52.*

### Maces

**Q:** WATCHING a video of the Massed Bands of the Light Division I noticed there seem to be three ways drum majors, bugle majors or whatever carry their maces.

Some use them like a walking stick; others keep them close to their right side; the rest move the mace up and down in



front of their bodies. Can anyone explain? – **E Evans, Basingstoke, Hants.**

### Scottish Army

**Q:** I HEARD it stated on the radio that one third of the British Army is composed of Scots. Are there statistics to bear this out? – **Geoffrey Hill, Huddersfield.**

## Write us a prize letter

HOT under the collar? Want to take issue on a serious topic? Need to settle a difference of opinion on a burning question? Or do you just want to share a good story with thousands of other readers around the world?

As ever, *Soldier* welcomes your letters, whether you are an officer or other rank; serving or civvy; nine, 19 or 90. All we ask is that you keep them brief and to the point. We'd prefer them to be typed but if they are handwritten, please put names, addresses and in block capitals (not necessarily for publication).

A prize will be awarded each month if we judge that a letter, serious or humorous, merits it. So get writing!

● Acceptance or rejection of letters is the decision of the Editor, who reserves the right to amend for length, clarity or style. Anonymous letters will not be considered.

## 'Shambles'

COMMENTS in a book review about the low state of Army morale after Dunkirk were disputed by Maj (Retd) H E R Martin RA (Sept 15) but I agree with your reviewer JM's interpretation.

My late father, who went to France in the BEF in 1939 with an RE unit and spent winter and spring building tank traps and concrete pill boxes, described it as a waste of time because Hitler came through them "like a dose of Epsom Salts".

He said it was a "bloody shambles" because the right hand didn't know what the left was doing. He got to St Nazaire and boarded a ship berthed next to the *Lancastria*, which was sunk with the loss of more than 3,000 soldiers and RAF personnel. I don't expect many survivors were keen to have another go at the Germans. – **Edward Kelly, Dover, Kent.**

## I shook bully by the hand

BILL Fleckney's letter "I would like to buy my bullies a pint" (Sept 1) caught my eye. I am sure all of us who have had to endure the taunts of drill sergeants and corporals while undergoing basic training would willingly have "hung" for some of them but never had a legitimate reason for doing so. I did, but read on.

My National Service drill sergeant in the Depot of the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers in Omagh, Co Tyrone in 1954 was a right horror, addressing recruits as "g— sh—s" and me as a "Scotch g— sh—". He was a competent instructor

and treated us all the same, but I hated him. After my demob, having joined the Police, I was on point duty when a car I had stopped to allow people to cross the road sounded its horn behind me. I noticed it was registered in Northern Ireland.

I approached the driver, thinking that if he hadn't a good excuse for sounding the horn he was in for the high-jump. He wound down his window and told me he hoped I would make a better policeman than I was a soldier. It was my old drill sergeant.

At this point I could either charge the driver with sounding a warning instrument while stationary and without good cause or give him a good tongue-lashing.

I did neither. I shook him by the hand, realising he had a job in the Army which was unpopular but necessary, as I was to find out in the Police.

So Tommy, if you are reading this and recall that incident in 1956, good luck to you. – **David Magill, Greenock, Renfrewshire.**

## BIRD'S EYE-VIEW



"OK... two blow-outs, forgot the sandwiches, this 'cunning little short cut via the ford'... and now you've lost the map... what next, Hunnicut?"

Who Dares? See Pages 30-32

## Harp may soothe musical discord

IN RESPONSE to letters about drum majors, may I first point out that the King's Division, the Queen's Division and the Prince of Wales's Division no longer have regimental bands, only two staff bands per division. Secondly the Army no longer employs bandsmen, but musicians.

The main argument, though, is over the drum major's four chevrons and drum badge. This is not a badge of rank but of a ceremonial appointment, being open to a minimum rank of substantive corporal up to WO1.

The only qualification required for the ceremonial duties of a drum major is first to attend and pass the All Arms Drum Majors' Course, the emphasis being placed on the first two words. This suggests that it is not the sole property of the infantry. In addition, the person must be selected for the appointment of drum major.

**Soldiers air their views in Vox Pop – Page 66**

I sympathise with drum majors who have gone through the corps of drums with all their many duties, exercises, operational tours as well as Junior and Senior Brecon or the SF Comd Course, but that is for the other aspects of their job. I can appreciate that they have to be proficient at both fife and drum for instructional purposes, but the main course they have to do for the appointment is the All Arms Drum Majors'. But it is still a ceremonial appointment, not restricted to the infantry but open to All Arms, and the badge of appointment is the four chevrons and drum.

We musicians in this appointment would gladly wear the musicians' harp as well as the drum, as some already do. Maybe this could be seen as an acceptable solution. – CSgt (DMaj) N A Williams, The Lucknow Band, The Prince of Wales's Division, Jellalabad Barracks, Tidworth, Hants.

CAN ANYONE recall the fate of the original military thinker known as the "Heidi Hi" Colonel, who left his mark on the Army in, I think, 1941-42?

This character, who commanded a training depot, considered that saluting was outmoded. He decided that a subordinate should call out to him "Heide Hi", which would bring the response, "Heide Ho".

This generated immense hilarity and controversy on all sides and of course did not

## 'Heidi Hi' Colonel

find much favour with the military upper crust such as Monty, who stamped on it a bit sharpish.

Who was the "Heide Hi" Colonel and what happened to him? Was he sacked? He certainly wasn't promoted, unless it was – as the Salvation Army would say – "to glory". – R J C Holmes, Newcastle Upon Tyne.

● This sounds remarkably like holiday camp humour to us, but we await readers' reactions.

PS...

## Mad Jack was no Gordon . . .

ALTHOUGH I would, as a late Gordon Highlander, eagerly claim an officer of Jack Churchill's reputation as our own, we have no record of his having belonged to the regiment (Diary, Sept 15).

He was as you rightly say a Manchester and Highland Light Infantryman as well as a commando and parachutist, but his determination to join a Scottish regiment led him to the Seaforth Highlanders for two years after the war. – Lt Col (Retd) Alastair Cumming, Regimental Secretary, The Highlanders (Seaforth, Gordons and Camerons), Inverness.

### Peak-a-boo

AS AN old sweat, ex-RA 1940-46 and *Soldier* reader I often wonder why peaks of Service caps are altered to the ridiculous "Mickey Mouse" style as worn by some elements of our present Army. – W Purcell, Mitcham, Surrey.

### Plenty of bottle

I REFER to your inset picture (Sept 1) of Sgt Chris Oakes (right). His "drunken man" routine at Fox Gymnasium, Aldershot, is probably the best I've seen of anyone who can lay claim to having drunk so much he's "legless". – Lt Col (Retd) B S Dyson, ACC Controller, The Army Catering Corps Association, Deepcut, Surrey.



### Good luck, Zoners

GOOD luck to all Canal Zoners and to your petition to obtain our missing medal. In his book, *A Fighting Retreat: The British Empire 1947-1997*, Robin Neillands makes the point that we should have got a medal for our efforts.

Every man and his dog is receiving backdated medals (or should I say donkey – the Australian Government is awarding a medal to Simpson's donkey from the Gallipoli campaign). – Duncan Price (ex-39 HQ Sig Regt, MELF 17, 1953-55), Newcastle, NSW.

● See "Donkey man of Anzac Cove", *Reviews*, Page 64.

### Convenient amnesia?

STALWARTS still battling for their Suez and other medals may derive a little comfort from the fact that no medals were minted for those ill-equipped and badly-prepared troops who fought in Norway.

Indeed, such controversial and often tragic expeditions deemed unsuitable for historic recognition are traditionally deleted from official memory. – Robert Mills, Cologne, Germany.

## SEARCHLINE

First meeting of the new **REME Association, Birmingham branch**, takes place on Oct 25. Details from Jack Benzie on 0121 427 5221.

Former mortarmen, TARAs, signallers and others who served with **120 Light Battery RA** in Korea are invited to contact Jim Jacobs, 15 Angus Close, Fareham, Hants PO15 6BA with a view to a reunion.

The **Far East Veterans Association**, founded in July, seeks to foster comradeship, provide support, promote remembrance and strengthen ties with the Far East. It has no connection with any other associations. Service personnel from the Second World War to the present day are eligible. Details from J R Bavister, Membership Secretary, 93 Westmorland Avenue, Luton, Bedfordshire (tel 01582 651770).

Whereabouts sought of **Peter McManus**, from Sheffield, who served as a lieutenant in **No 19 Air Formation Signals Regiment** in Singapore and Borneo (1955-56). Last heard of working in Borneo early 1960s. Replies to Peter Priest, 10 Warren Court, St Ives, Huntingdon, Cambs PE17 4WE (tel 01480 492687).

Author researching history of Australian Army's first post-Second World War **air dispatch unit** (no longer on the Orbat), **39 Air Supply Section** (later 40 Air Supply Platoon) **RAASC**, which served in Malaya, Singapore, Papua New Guinea and South Vietnam. Stories sought of Australian air dispatchers at work and play while serving in Malaya and Singapore with the British Army's **55 Company, RASC** (1957-63). Contact Graham Hay, Lot 80, Lakeside Grove, Bindoon 6502, Western Australia.

**King Richard School, Dhekelia, Cyprus** reunion for those who sat O, A and CSE exams in June 1984 proposed. Contact Kerry Bush (née Fowler), 179 Newcastle Road, Stone, Staffs SM5 8LF.

**El Alamein Cemetery**: Anyone making a pilgrimage this year to the El Alamein Cemetery is asked to contact Derek C Scholfield, (Secretary, Exeter Branch, Royal Regiment of Artillery Association) at 5 Madison Avenue, Heavitree, Exeter, Devon EX1 3AH (tel 01392 258267).

## REUNIONS

**Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regimental Association** annual meeting on Oct 4 is to be held at a new venue, Forester House, Chilwell, Nottingham. Contact 01115 9465415.

**7th and 3rd (V) Battalions, the 22nd (Cheshire) Regiment (TA)**: annual reunion at The Armoury, Stockport on Oct 25. Past and present members of 3rd, 4th or 7th Bns and A Coy, The Mercian Volunteers welcome. Tickets from the Secretary, 95 Hazelwood Road, Hazel Grove, Stockport SK7 4BN.

**Suez Veterans Association**: second reunion visit to Egypt planned for February 1998. Cost approx £500 for return flight and ten-day stay at Hotel Mercure, Ismailia. For details send s.a.e marked "Egypt 1998" to Frank Evans, 6 Butler Road, Crowthorne, Berks RG45 6QY.

# Diary

## DATES

### OCTOBER

7-8: Cyprus Walkabout.  
12: Military Historical Society annual exhibition, National Army Museum.  
24: Isle of Thanet Festival of Remembrance. Tickets: 01843 292882.

### NOVEMBER

16: Wargames, re-enactment groups, military books, Gala Leisure Centre, Edward Street, West Bromwich.

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

## All change at ABF

MAJ Gen Mike Regan has been appointed Controller of the Army Benevolent Fund in succession to Maj Gen Mike Swindells, who has retired after ten years in the post.

Under Gen Swindells's guidance the profile of the ABF has never been higher and he worked hard to foster the close rapport with regimental and corps secretaries upon whom the fund is so dependent.

Gen Regan's last military appointment was Chief of Staff to the Adjutant General and Director Adjutant General's Corps.

Gen Sir Robert Ford, the President, handed over to Fd Marshal Lord Inge, recently retired as Chief of the Defence Staff after 16 years in the post.

## Useful numbers

**Army Benevolent Fund** 0171 581 8684

**Army Families Federation** 01980 615525

**Samaritans** 0345 90 90 90

**SSAFA Forces Help** 0171 403 8783

**WRVS** 01235 442954

If you think your organisation should be included in this column, please contact the Editor.

## Kingsman Bob is presented with his MM after 50 years

WHEN Wigan soldier Sgt Bob White, of the 5th Kings, first received his Military Medal it was by courtesy of the Royal Mail in 1945. A letter from King George VI accompanying the award regretted that the Monarch was unable to make the presentation personally.

More than 50 years later his son, Bob White Jnr, felt that his father should have received his medal in the same way as other medal winners, from a member of the Royal Family. He wrote to the Queen Mother, Colonel-in-Chief of the 5th Kings, asking for her help and, to his delight, a ceremony was arranged at Clarence House in London.

Bob senior, now aged 78, was with the



Bob White

5th Kings at the D-Day landings and was responsible for carrying anti-tank ammunition forward to the guns. As citations for the MM are rarely gazetted, Bob's actions on that day remain a very personal affair.

The chairman of Bob's Old Comrades' Association, Ken Moore, was there to see the medal ceremony and said: "It's no surprise that Her Majesty offered to do this for Bob. She is a remarkable lady. We are indeed most favoured to have such a wonderful Colonel-in-Chief."

The Military Medal is one of the country's highest military awards and bears the words "For bravery in the field" on the reverse.

## APPOINTMENTS

**Brigadier**: J C L King – To Commander HQ 143 (WM) Bde/9 Regt AFHQ, Aug 4.

**Colonel**: D S MacFarlane – To DA Jakarta, Aug 12; R P Bateman – To Dep Comd HQ 145 (HC) Bde, Sept 1.

**Lieutenant Colonel**: K D Abraham RA – To JSCSC, Aug 26; D C B Adams RA – To HQ AFCENT, Sept 22; P J Allison RTR – To HQ SFOR, Sept 22; R W Barnes, D and D – To APC, Oct 20; D G Benest, Para – To CATC, Sept 1; T C S Bonas WG – To SHAPE, Oct 1; P G M Callan RLC – To FMOD Bonn, Jan 19; S K E Clarke RE – To RMCS, Sept 29; J A S Downes RLC – To PJ (HQ) UK, Oct 20; D J Eadie QRL – To MoD, Sept 1; J M Edwards REME – To APC, Aug 25; J L Fletcher, R Signals – To Sangcom, Oct 15; J G Greenhaigh AAC – To BAS(W), Oct 3; P D Greeves, Para – To JSCSC, Aug 26; S C Hall RLC – To Australian Staff College, Jan 12; N F W Hile RA – To DGWES, Oct 27; S Jackson QRH – To ATDU, Sept 8; I S James RE – To MoD, Sept 1; R P Lungmuss RA – To KPO, Nov 10.

D N MacGregor-Smith, A and SH – To APC, Oct 6; S J Marriner AGC – To HQ ARRC, Oct 13; P C Marriott QRL – To SHAPE, Sept 22; R J D Metcalfe QRH – To DGCIS(A), Aug 12; N C T Millen RDG – To HQ TSC(G), Dec 1; A M W Mortimer LI – To Australian JSSC, Jan 19; M B Morwood, R Irish – To HQ 4 Div, Sept 26; G M Moynan KOSB – To Sri Lanka ASC, Sept 1; P V Noakes REME – To DGES(A), Sept 1; A M P Nowak REME – To DGES(A), Sept 15; A Phipps REME – To ATSA, Aug 4; M Ransom REME – To DGES(A), July 31; M L Riddell-Webster BW – To MoD, Dec 15; M A Rough, R Signals – To APC, Aug 1; B J Scott-Morton, R Signals – To BMM Kuwait, April 15; A R D Sharpe, Cheshire – To SHAPE, Sept 22; N A Smellie RLC – To DG Log SP(A), Sept 1; S W G Suchanek KRH – To SHAPE, Sept 15; A W Sutherland RLC – To RCB, Oct 13.

### Retirements

**Colonel**: G J Barrett, late R Signals, July 29; S F E Evans, late RAPC, Aug 1.

# Flash of recognition

A gold centaur on a blue background is the new brigade flash for soldiers from 103 The (Lancashire Artillery Volunteers) Regiment from St Helens.

The distinctive badge (below) represents membership of 7th Air Defence Brigade, recently reformed 20 years after its disbandment. The brigade is made up of two Regular Rapier-equipped and four TA Javelin-equipped regiments recruited from across the United Kingdom.

Displaying the newly-sewn on badges with pride are: centre, Bdr Sharon Burke; back, from left, Gnr Gareth Olley, Bdr Jim Talbot, Gnr Alex Liptrot, Gnr Jamie Booth and Gnr George Olley, all from HQ Battery.



## 50 YEARS AGO

From *Soldier*, October 1947

### TOWN THAT FELL FOR FUSILIERS

There are two places at least, outside Northumberland, where a member of the Royal Northumberland Fusiliers can expect to be welcomed with open arms.

One is in Australia, where memories of the regiment's machine-gunners who backed up the Australian Infantry in the siege of Tobruk are still vivid. The other is the little South Coast town of Lympstone, Hampshire, where the wartime stay of 2 RNF has left something more solid than memories. More than 100 members of the 2nd Battalion married local girls and the town now has a substantial colony of Geordies who have settled there.

## 25 YEARS AGO

From *Soldier*, October 1972

### STAYING MONTHLY

*Soldier* is to remain a monthly magazine. This major decision on its future was taken following the publication of a questionnaire in the March issue. The price of the magazine will go up from 7½p to ten pence with the January 1973 issue. The questionnaire indicated that the majority of *Soldier* readers were willing to pay ten pence for a copy.

## Veteran ski racer

BRITAIN'S most experienced ski racer, 81-year-old Jim Woolgar, has been presented with DM500 (£180) collected in a jar at the UKSC(G) District adventurous training lodge in Wertach, Allgau. Still racing, old soldier Jim will put the money towards competing in the international masters ski championships.

He was the world champion in 1994 and was runner-up last year.

Jim joined the Royal Sussex Regiment in 1935, transferred to the Royal Signals in 1941 and served with Monty as an escort. He won the Military Cross during the D-Day landings in Normandy and retired from the Army in 1968 after 33 years of distinguished service.



Jim Woolgar

## Book a place in history

THE short story competition sponsored by Royal Armouries for the Ex-Services Mental Welfare Society has attracted so many well-written entries that the charity is proposing to publish a book of the best. The deadline for entries is November 28.

Open to everyone, the competition calls for 1,000-word works of fiction or fact on the subjects of military life, wartime or peace. Entries should be accompanied by a cheque for £5 (of which £4 is a donation to the charity) and sent to Competition Secretary, Ex-Services Mental Welfare Society, Broadway House, The Broadway, Wimbledon, London SW19 1RL.

# Questions of rank

First part of a fascinating new series

## Sorry, sarge

WHY is a lieutenant general senior to a major general and why are there no sergeants in the Household Cavalry?

These are just two intriguing questions about ranks in the British Army.

The first answer is simple. Major general used to be sergeant-major general, but the "sergeant" was dropped.

The New Model Army, raised in 1645, was commanded by Captain General Sir Thomas Fairfax, with the cavalry under Lieutenant General Oliver Cromwell and infantry under Sergeant-Major General Sir Philip Skippon.

Since the cavalry was senior to the infantry it was commanded by a higher-ranking officer.



The Life Guards



The Blues and Royals

The second answer is more complicated. It goes back to the Restoration of Charles II after Cromwell's martial law. The King's Troop (predecessor of The Life Guards) was then formed, largely from Charles II's original bodyguard.

The ranks were filled with "private gentlemen", who provided their own horses and fodder and paid 100 guineas each for the privilege of enlisting.

NCOs were not appointed until nearly 100 years later in 1756. The rank of sergeant (from the Latin *servire* – to serve) was rejected, because it implied subservience and the status of a servant.

All of the original corporals had been colonels in other regiments and a major general was content with a lieutenant's commission, which cost him £5,500 in 1766.

The Household Cavalry, which comprises The Life Guards and its brother regiment, The Blues and Royals (Royal Horse Guards and 1st Dragoons), still today has corporal-of-the-horse as equivalent to sergeant with more senior ranks of staff corporal, corporal major and regimental corporal major.

– Hugh Howton

# Reviews

## Amazing adventures of the great escapee

LEN ARLINGTON, a private in the Middlesex Regiment, was captured by the Germans near Dunkirk in 1940 but escaped.



**THE MAN THE NAZIS COULDN'T CATCH**

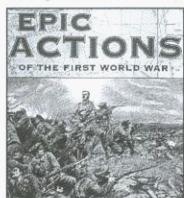
JOHN LAFFIN

Although hunted relentlessly, he survived the war with the Resistance. As an escapee this chirpy

Cockney was at liberty longer than any other British soldier and even "inspected" German infantry parading on a road. The whole amazing story is superbly told by John Laffin in *The Man the Nazis Couldn't Catch*, reissued in paperback by Sutton Publishing Limited at £9.99.

## Donkey man of Anzac Cove

FIREMAN, miner and swagman Jack Simpson, born in South Shields, joined the Australian Army Medical Corps, went



ashore on the first day of the Gallipoli landings, found a donkey he called Murphy and under shell

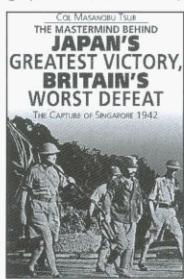
and sniper fire ferried 200 men to safety in Anzac Cove.

Less than a month later both were killed by shrapnel. A VC was turned down but Simpson and the donkey are commemorated in two statues in Australia. The inspiring story is one of 28 told by R W Gould in *Epic Actions of the First World War*, published in hardback by Tom Donovan at £25.

## Japanese infantry got on their bikes

FIFTY-FIVE years on, many will still have to steel themselves even to read about the capture of Singapore from the Japanese viewpoint,

written by the man who masterminded it. However, Col Masanobu Tsuji's *Japan's Greatest Victory, Britain's Worst Defeat*



**Worst Defeat** (Spellmount, £18.95) first published in 1952, is a masterly account of the campaign.

It was Tsuji who sent infantry into Malaya on bicycles and who said that Churchill was unaware Singapore had no rear defences.



A regular feature of a Pioneer's life was road clearing. In the absence of scoops, brooms and squeegees were used to clear liquid mud from a plank road near Ypres in January 1918

# AT LAST The story of 1914-18 Pioneers

FIRST World War Pioneer battalions of the Coldstream Guards and more than three dozen county regiments were created through a need to assist the Royal Engineers by providing skilled tradesmen.

This relieved the fighting infantry battalions from non-combatant duties including trench-digging and maintenance, road-building and repair, and the operation of light and standard-gauge railways.

The work of the Pioneer battalions had been largely overlooked in literature concerning the First World War before publication of this book.

Author K W Mitchinson is critical of regimental and divisional histories which ignore or skate over the role of these units, whose name should not be confused with the Pioneer Corps of the Second World War, although there is a direct historical link between them.

By 1918 every British division serving on the Western, Southern and Balkan Fronts had its own pioneer battalion.

The 5th Division, for example, was serviced by the 6th Battalion, The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, while the 4th Battalion, Coldstream Guards not unnaturally pro-

vided "organised and intelligent labour" for the Guards Division.

With Canadian, Australian and New Zealand equivalents, nearly 80,000 men, approximating to five divisions, were serving as pioneers in the British and Commonwealth forces.

They were, in the main, drawn from those who had been skilled tradesmen in civilian life: miners, bricklayers and carpenters. Unskilled

**Pioneer Battalions in the Great War: Organised and Intelligent Labour** by K W Mitchinson. Pen & Sword Books, hardback, £21.

labour was, from early 1917, provided by the now almost forgotten Labour Corps.

Not all the fit young men posted to pioneer battalions were overjoyed. They had volunteered to fight and were trained as infantry, "imagining glorious charges across the green sward of no man's land and advancing remorselessly upon the seat of the evil Kaiser".

Now it seemed they were destined to follow in the wake of their former comrades, carrying and erecting barbed wire, and digging trenches and

strongpoints. We are, however, given many examples of bravery among these battalions.

It was generally believed among the infantry's fighting battalions that their Pioneer comrades enjoyed more comfort in their billets and camps. They had the advantage of building tradesmen among their number but on many occasions were forced to live in shell holes, ruined trenches and bivvies.

There were more agreeable duties when better accommodation could be enjoyed, for instance when at work on canals and rivers which traversed the rear areas. There were also unusual tasks, such as chasing escaped German PoWs, ploughing and planting vegetables for French civilians and what the author thinks is perhaps the most bizarre, the digging of artificial shell holes in a battle practice ground.

The author presents us with a highly readable account. In so doing he does not neglect the frustrations that plagued those at the sharp end, such as the concern of a young officer on the possible effects of two broken hammer handles.

An incredible worry amid a war of indescribable waste. – BJ

# AT LAST The story of 656 Squadron

OF ALL the eye-in-the-sky sorties flown by Ted Maslen-Jones in Austers with 656 Air Observation Post Squadron, perhaps the most bizarre was his final assignment when, in 1945, he flew a Japanese general over an island to show him where he and his troops were to be prisoners-of-war.

With his fellow pilots in this small, courageous RAF/RA unit, Maslen-Jones for two years had been overflying the Burmese jungle and the Japanese lines, directing the gunfire of the 14th Army.

He describes in *Fire by Order* the challenges of operating in such conditions, paying tribute to the ground crews who kept their flimsy canvas-covered aircraft in the air.

Now, in November 1945, the war over and the enemy surrendering in their thousands, he was ordered to fly Gen Seishiro Itagaki, commander of the 7th Area Army, for an aerial survey of Singapore island of Rempang, where he

**Fire by Order** by E W Maslen-Jones. Leo Cooper Pen & Sword Books, hardback, £19.95.

and thousands of his troops were to become PoWs.

Maslen-Jones, who won the MC and DFC in the war, took



A fuzzy picture of Gen Itagaki beside Maslen-Jones's aircraft before the flight over Rempang

no chances and had a pistol tucked into his belt. But the flight was free of incident and on returning to the Malayan

peninsula, the Japanese left for their vehicles after much formal standing to attention and bowing.

Then the Japanese interpreter returned with a message. "The general wants to say one thing," he said. "The war is not over.

"It will go on for a hundred years."

So far as Itagaki was concerned 100 days would have been nearer the mark, for he was tried and convicted for war crimes and subsequently executed.

After more than 50 years, Maslen-Jones's story about this little-known wartime outfit in the thick of the action needed to be told and told well, as it is here.

Gen Sir Martin Farndale writes in his foreword: "Their flying hours broke all records, their feats of endurance and airmanship in appalling weather conditions set standards seldom equalled and they never once failed to answer a call for help from their comrades on the ground." — JM

**Hell on Earth: The Battle for Battaglia and other wartime experiences** by Cecil Brown. Life with the Grenadier Guards in Italy, North Africa, Austria and Palestine, 1943-46. Available from the author, Dairy Farm, Pytchley, Northants, NN14 1EJ, price £5 plus 65 p&p.

**Exiles of Empire.** Family letters from India and Australia by Fanny and Annie Pratt (1843-1863) give a deep insight into their life and times. Transcribed and edited by Mona Macmillan and Catriona Miller. Pentland Press, hardback, £24.50.

**This Foul Thing Called War** by Basil Kentish. Biography of the author's uncle, Brigadier Gen R J Kentish CMG DSO (1876-1956), who served in the Royal Irish Fusiliers in the Boer War

and commanded an infantry division on the Somme. He also fought for the underprivileged. The Book Guild, hardback, £12.95.

## In brief

**The Ethics of War** by A J Coates. The justification of Allied bombing of Germany in the Second World War or of Iraq in the Gulf War are among the questions discussed. Manchester University Press, paperback, £14.99.

**Guderian: Panzer General** by Kenneth Macksey. Tank man's 1975 biography of the father of modern tank warfare. Greenhill Military Paperback, £12.50.

**SAS: With the Maquis** by Ian Wellsted. The author, alias "Gremlin", recalls his time in action with the French Resistance between June and September, 1944. First published in 1994. Greenhill Military paperback, £10.99.

**VCs of the First World War: The Somme** by Gerald Gliddon. Profiles arranged chronologically, with more than 250 photographs and maps. First published 1991. Sutton Publishing Limited, paperback, £12.99.

**The Memoirs of Field-Marshall Kesselring.** The German strategist's acclaimed autobiography, written during his post-war imprisonment, with a new introduction by Kenneth Macksey. Greenhill Military Paperback, £14.99.

## Queen Victoria's glittering jubilee

CONTEMPORARY photographs of Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee procession in 1897 and of some of its participants are a

source of great fascination in **A Celebration of Empire**, published by Spellmount in large-format paperback at £9.95 in association with the Victorian Military Society.

In this centenary souvenir Col Peter Walton's vivid scene-setting text is complemented also by engravings, a contemporary account of the event, and five appendices detailing the procession and various military contingents.

## Man who betrayed 1st Airborne Div

MORE men died in the battle for Arnhem than in the whole of the D-Day landings – and the man whose treachery possibly led to

the death of the 1st British Airborne Division died two days before his trial was due to start. This is the contention of Allan A Samm.

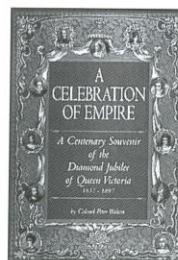
Samm, who decided to write what he calls the first true story of one of the war's great atrocities. **Traitor of Arnhem** (Minerva paperback, £7.99), the first-hand account of this former King's Royal Rifle Corps soldier, is well worth reading.

## Son's tribute to Sgt George Eardley VC

FOUR months after Sgt George Eardley of the King's Shropshire Light Infantry won the Military Medal in Normandy in July 1944,

he was silencing three enemy machine-gun posts in the Dutch village of Overloon. This further act of courage resulted in the award of

the Victoria Cross and now his proud son, Roy, celebrates his late father's life in the lavishly-produced £18 hardback **Eardley VC MM**, (Rothley Publishing, 24 Walfield Avenue, Congleton, Cheshire CW12 2HP).



# Vox Pop

Welcome to a new regular feature. In *Vox Pop*, we ask a random selection of serving soldiers for their opinions on a subject which is relevant to today's Army.



This month the big question is: "Do you think basic training should be easier on recruits?"

#### LCpl Harry Worth, QRL

"I think it's chilled out enough as it is. When I did it back in '91, I thought it was hard, but when my brother did it a few years later, they were allowed to wear civvies every night."



It was too easy really. They need to maintain discipline, because you see the new guys coming to the regiment, and they have no respect for rank or authority. If it gets any softer there'll be no discipline whatsoever."

#### Fus James Fraser, 1 RHF

 "Softer training would create problems when the recruit gets to the battalion, because when the heat comes on, these people are not going to be tough enough to cope with it."

**Cpl Andrew Carter, REME**  
"The Army is a lot smaller now, and we need guys who are better. We are getting guys who are not as strong as those who joined up 12 years ago. I think people joining up need to

realise that it is not easy, and we want people to be attracted by the harder side of life. If we make training too easy, we are going to attract too many soft people, and

that is not what the Army is all about."

#### Pte Lorraine McLeod, RLC

 "I just came out of training a year and a half ago, and I don't think they should make it any easier. Training needs to be quite tough to keep the people that we don't want out. It is tough now, but I don't think it's as tough as it was a couple of years ago."

**Cpl John Train, 1 RHF**  
"The world is changing, so I suppose we've got to change with it. If society says that we should make training softer, well fine."

#### LCpl Gale Smith, A and SH

 "I've been through training twice, because I left and then joined up again. I didn't have any problem, and the second time around, I had two children. It's demanding, but it should be. I think kids these days have had it so soft that some can't cope with a regime where they just have to do things without answering back."

**Capt James Griffiths, 1 RHF**  
"I don't think that standards ever were that hard. They are challenging, and the emphasis

should be on getting people through the challenges rather than reducing the challenges. A lot of people might even be

put off if they think it is not going to be an opportunity to stretch themselves."

#### LCpl Anita Wood, 1 RHF

 "I don't think it should be any easier. If they do make it easier, the recruits are going to find it really difficult when they come to a unit and get shouted at. The tough training just helps you to realise that there is a lot of discipline in the Army."

#### Pte John Walker, 1 PWO

"I passed out of training a year ago, and if it gets any easier than it was when I was there, it'll be like a holiday camp. I found it quite easy. But

because of the way children are being brought up these days – it's all computer games and no playing outside – it may be hard for some. Nevertheless, it shouldn't be made any easier."

#### Capt Arwyn Lewis, REME

"The job that we require soldiers to do is still the same, so I feel that we are obliged to train a recruit so that he can come into the Army and do that job. If we reduce our training standards and a recruit is

eventually expected to perform a task that he is not physically or mentally able to do, then we will be in trouble."

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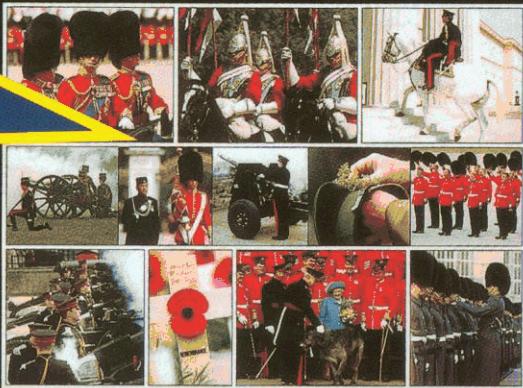
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