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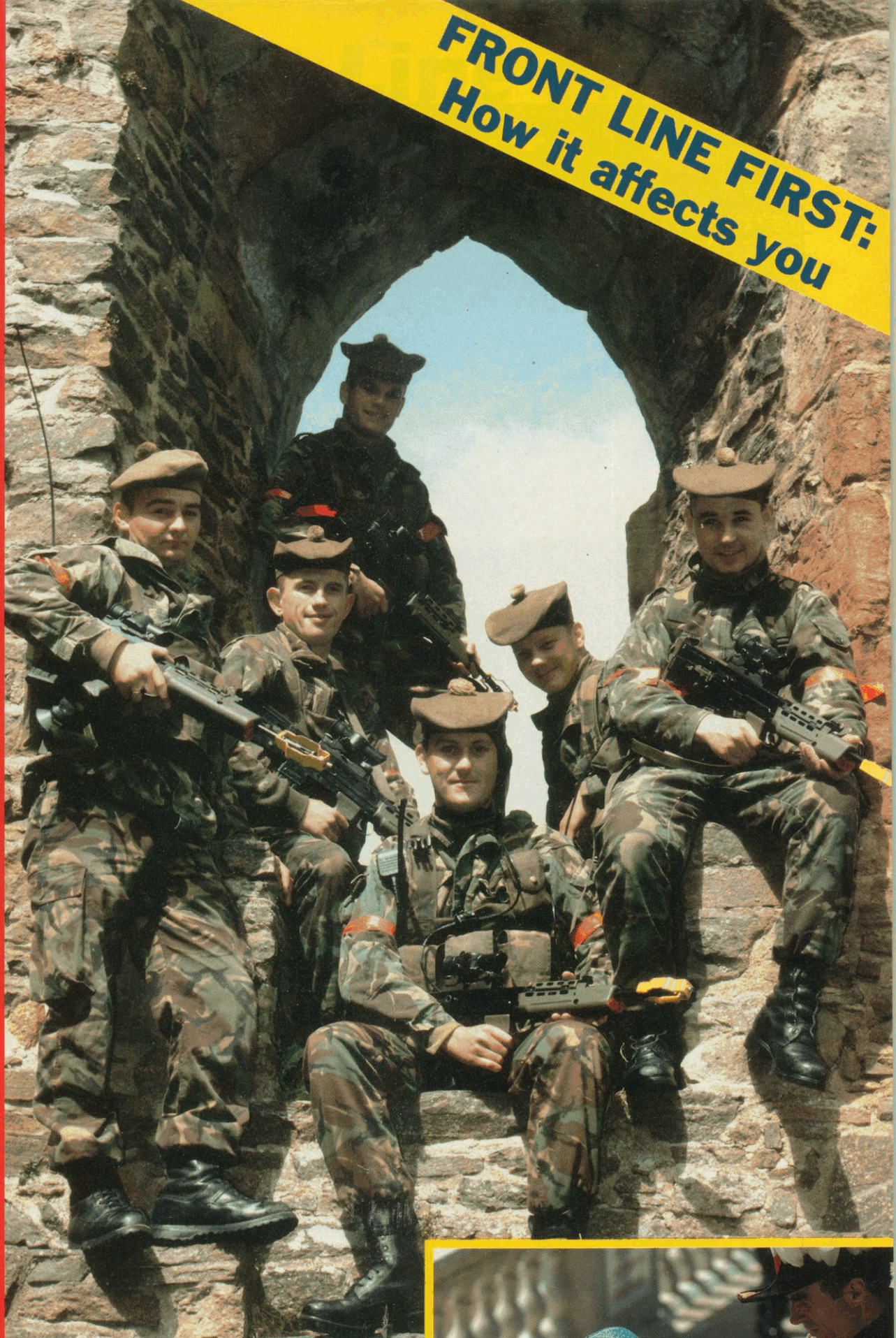
SOLDIER

MAGAZINE
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August 8, 1994
Vol 50/16

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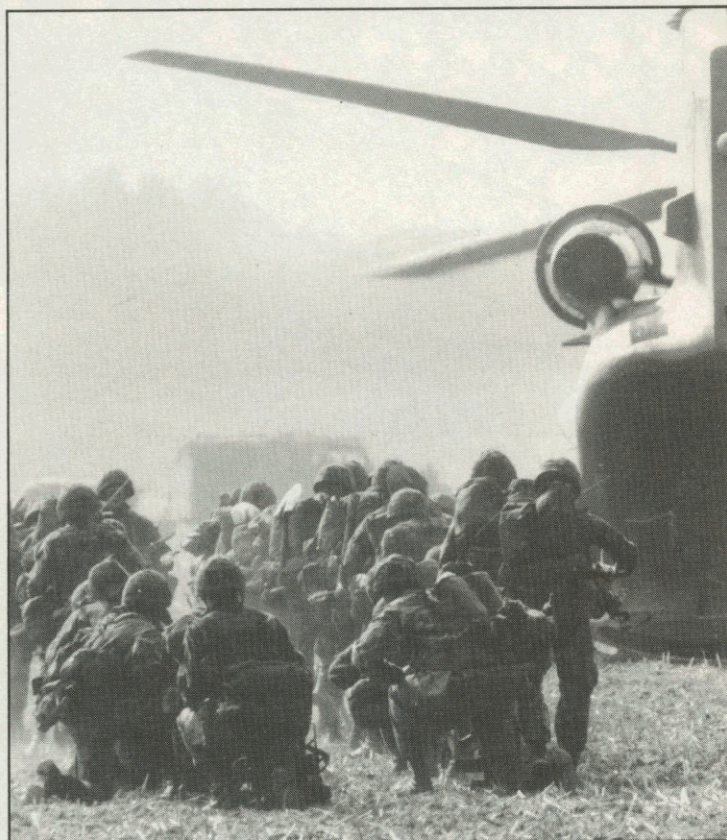
FRONT COVER: (Main picture) Soldiers of The Royal Scots, fresh from a tour in Belize, pictured at Rait Castle, Scotland, while playing the part of the enemy during Exercise Highland Merlin. Clockwise from centre are Cpl Gordon Surgeon, LCpl Mark Edwards and Ptes Gary Davies, Archie Hunter, Scott Madden and Doc Docherty. See Pages 22-23. (Picture: Mike Perring.) (Inset) The Queen Mother attended a unique celebration to mark the 50th birthday of the Army Benevolent Fund. See Pages 25-27. (Picture: Mike Weston.)

Front Line First: How the changes affect you

Savings of £750m in 1996-97 – with more to follow in later years – have been identified under the Ministry of Defence's Front Line First initiative.

Inevitably, given the scale of the proposed cuts in Defence spending, there are winners and losers.

With the Army having already undergone the trauma of Options for Change, the Royal Air Force will bear the brunt of the proposals and measures identified by the Defence Costs Study and announced in Parliament by Defence Secretary Malcolm Rifkind on July 14. But far-reaching changes to command, organisational and support structures will affect all three Services in the next three to five years.



Soldiers of The Parachute Regiment will operate under the same command as Royal Marines in the Joint Rapid Deployment Force

These are the main issues which will affect the British Army:

- 2,200 Army jobs to go, and about 18,000 military and civilian jobs in all
- MoD head office staff in London to be cut to a core of 2,500 to 2,750 posts
- Permanent Joint HQ located at Northwood
- Joint Rapid Deployment Force of 20,000 to combine 5 Airborne Bde, 24 Airmobile Bde and 3 Commando Bde RM
- Same-size Territorial Army to have higher profile
- Cambridge Military Hospital to close as RNH Haslar becomes UK's main tri-Service hospital
- Defence Animal Centre to concentrate on Melton Mowbray
- Better value from vehicle fleet

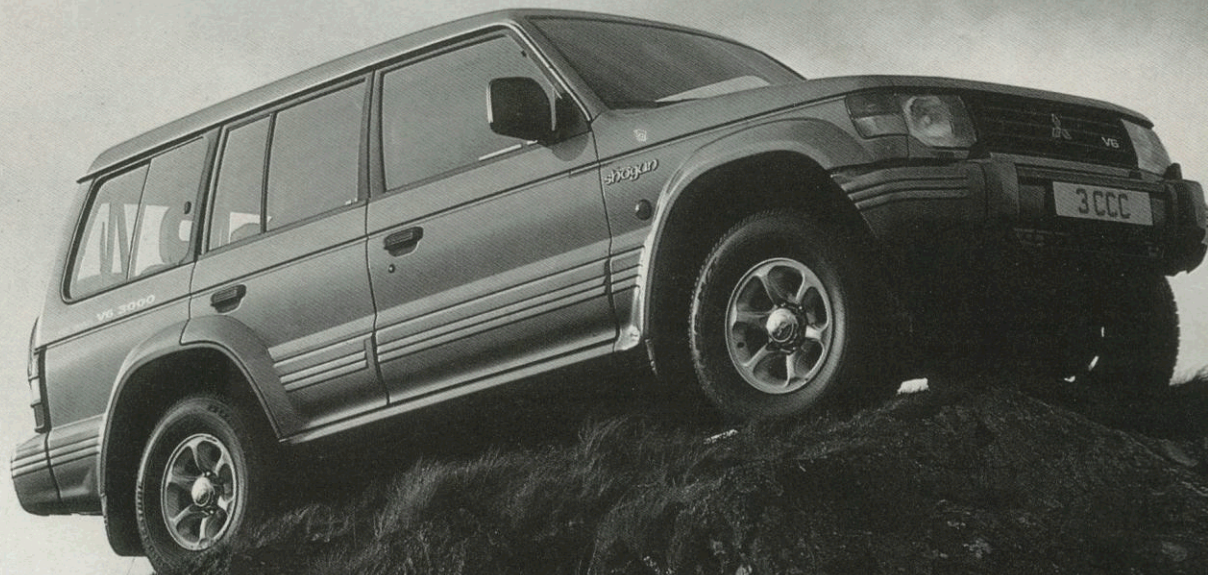
NEW ORDERS

- 259 Challenger 2 MBTs in addition to 127 already on order from Vickers Defence Systems
- 400,000 rounds of 51mm mortar ammunition



FULL DETAILS IN PAGES 10-13

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DESIGNED TO BE DRIVEN

Gulf fever inquiry rejected

AN MP's call for an independent inquiry into "Gulf War Syndrome" was turned down by the Government on July 19.

Mr Ronnie Campbell was told by the then Armed Forces Minister Jeremy Hanley there was no clinical evidence that British Service personnel who served in the Gulf were suffering from unexplained symptoms that would call for such an inquiry.

He said that last year he asked people who believed they were suffering from such a syndrome to come forward. Of the 52 men who did so, 27 had seen their doctors and 17 were found to be suffering from conditions unrelated to Gulf service. Solicitors had put forward the names of 300 others who had not submitted themselves to medical examination.

Pre-medication against gas attacks had been investigated and the Surgeon General had written to the *British Medical Journal* to say that there was no evidence of any cause from that source.

Asked on July 11 about protective pesticide sprays, Mr Hanley replied: "One United Kingdom tented camp in Al Jubayl was sprayed with FICAM, a non-organophosphate residual insecticide.

"During the conflict itself spray cans of a standard Nato issue pyrethroid "knock-down" insecticide were available to UK troops, but were little used because the winter insect population was low.

"No organophosphate insecticide or pesticide sprays were used by British forces."

In answer to a further question, he added: "During Operation Granby some desert issue combat clothing for British forces was impregnated with a commercially available, non-organophosphate insecticide.

"The impregnation, which has Health and Safety Executive approval, was performed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and supervised by Service environmental health staff."

● Around the Houses – Page 7

Royal week in Edinburgh



Soldiers of the Queen's Own Highlanders form the Royal Guard of Honour – with the Household Cavalry in the background – at Holyrood House during the state visit to Scotland of King Harald and Queen Sonja of Norway. With the Queen, the Duke of Edinburgh and Prince Andrew, members of The Gordon Highlanders and The Green Howards (of whom King Harald is Colonel-in-Chief) were present to pay tribute to the Norwegian royals

New trio at MoD

THREE new Defence ministers were appointed as a result of the Prime Minister's Cabinet reshuffle on July 20.

Mr Nicholas Soames takes over from Mr Jeremy Hanley as Armed Forces Minister; Mr Roger Freeman (Defence Procurement) succeeds Mr Jonathan Aitken; and Lord Henley (Parliamentary Under Secretary of State) steps into Viscount Cranborne's shoes.

All three predecessors were promoted – Mr Hanley to Conservative Party Chairman, Mr Aitken to Chief Secretary to the Treasury and Lord Cranborne to the leadership of the House of Lords. Mr Malcolm Rifkind remains as Defence Secretary.

Army doctor's life-saving feat in Bosnia

BRITISH Army medic, Capt Duncan Parkhouse, RAMC, saved the life of an 11-year-old Bosnian boy during a helicopter flight to hospital.

The boy had fallen 30ft down a cliff and, apart from injuries to his chest, neck, arm, leg and head, was having difficulty in breathing.

Capt Parkhouse – currently serving at the British UN base

Gunners bid Germany a fond farewell

THE END of a 30-year association with the town of Münster-Coerde was marked in style by the officers and soldiers of 8 Artillery Support Regiment RLC, who were scheduled to move to Catterick at the end of July.

More than 100 soldiers, 25 vehicles and the bands of the Coldstream Guards, The King's Royal Hussars and the Royal Tank Regiment formed a spectacular march and drive-past through the town.

Bringing up the rear were two vehicles decked out with

the huge logo: "Auf wiedersehen und danke Münster-Coerde", aptly summing up the excellent relations between regiment and residents.

As the parade passed the dais, where Maj Gen Roddy Cordy-Simpson, GOC 1 (UK) Armoured Division, and Münster's Lord Mayor, Dr Joerg Twenhoeven, took the salute, hundreds of gas-filled balloons were released.

The final Anglo-German event in the town was a football match played the same afternoon and won by the regiment.

in Gornji Vakuf – and his assistant Pte Stewart Pinson, "scrambled" their Land Rover ambulance to meet two Saxon armoured vehicles of The Duke of Wellington's Regiment and a civilian car driven by the boy's mother.

Her son was immediately transferred to the ambulance and rushed to Gornji Vakuf for medical evacuation to Zenica

Hospital, 60 miles away. Capt Parkhouse gave mouth-to-mouth resuscitation when the boy stopped breathing.

Since further travel over the mountainous road was out of the question, Brig Andrew Ridgway, Commander British Forces in Bosnia, gave clearance for a Royal Navy helicopter to fly victim and medical team directly to Zenica.

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Gib garrison even slimmer

A SLIMMED down garrison on the Rock, with The Gibraltar Regiment playing a key role, was outlined in a House of Commons written answer.

It had already been planned to reduce the number of uniformed and civilian personnel to 700 and 950 respectively by 1997.

The latest review, resulting from political and strategic changes in Europe, will bring the figures down further – to 500 Service personnel and between 350 and 700 civilians, depending on how many supporting functions are put out to contract.

The Gibraltar Regiment, with elements of the Royal Navy and RAF, will look after the day-to-day administration of all Service personnel.

The garrison will have five core areas of responsibility – the nuclear warship berthing facilities, access to the airfield, the Windmill Hill signal station and the maritime data centre, the Gibraltar Regiment in its present form, and the maintenance of a headquarters with supporting infrastructure for both Nato and

national roles.

It will be necessary to maintain ammunition and fuel facilities and the Gibraltar Squadron would remain in being. All the functions will be supported by a single logistic unit.

An MLRS regiment returning from Germany will be based at Ouston in late 1995 in addition to those already at Catterick and Larkhill.

In answer to written questions from Dr David Clark, the Armed Forces Minister said that as with the AS 90 regiments at Tidworth and Topcliffe, equipment would be collocated with the units.

It was planned that AS 90 and MLRS training would be carried out at Salisbury Plain, Otterburn and Catterick.

He said 1 RHA and 3 RHA currently had 24 AS 90 guns, rising to 32 in 1995. Only 24 guns would be manned for training in peacetime.



A summary of Defence topics from Westminster

Regiments to be equipped with MLRS would be 5 RHA, 32nd RA and 39th RA, each with 18 launchers.

Total number of irregular occupants of Army married quarters in 1993 was 1,811 – the highest for five years.

Irregular occupants are those who continue to live in quarters after their entitlement ends. They are liable to a charge in lieu of rent if they do not vacate a quarter on a given date.

Last year's figure included 630 leaving the Army at the end of their tour of duty. It also took into account redunnees, estranged families or civilians.

Vacant married quarters for all the Services on March 31 this year totalled 8,839, of which 1,196 had been empty for more than a year. In addition, 1,407 vacant MQs were in the process of being sold.

The figures were given in

answer to written questions by Mr David Jamieson.
(Housing Trust – See Page 30)

Events to commemorate the anniversary of the end of the war in Europe – and to celebrate 50 years of peace in Western Europe – will be held over the Bank Holiday weekend, May 6-8, 1995.

They are expected to include a service in St Paul's Cathedral, a luncheon at Buckingham Palace for visiting heads of state and a parade in central London.

The Defence Under-Secretary of State also told the Lords that "we shall be looking to the anniversary of VJ Day to be a great national and Commonwealth event" as a tribute to those who fought in the Far East.

A study by the MoD is considering the feasibility of market-testing the Military Corrective Training Centre at Colchester.

Dragoons play out band era

THE END of an era was marked by 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards – the Welsh Cavalry – when the regiment bade farewell to its band.

An important part of the Sennelager-based regiment for the past 250 years, the band is a casualty of the re-forming of cavalry bands under Options for Change.

Several former commanding officers joined current incumbent, Lt Col Mark Eliot, to watch the band parade along a route lined by the regiment's soldiers.

Waterloo proved a fitting venue for the final performance of the band of the Queen's Dragoon Guards, who played at the traditional dinner of officers and senior ranks.

Members of the regiment returned to Waterloo battlefield to re-enact – as the two messes do every year – the historic meal at which the surviving sergeants invited the officers to horsemeat cooked on French Cuirassier breastplates. Beef Wellington was the main dish on this occasion.



LCpl Steve Slack (left) and Cpl Steve Morrison of REME FRG pull the three-quarter ton Land Rover

Dukes' Bosnian Waterloo

SOLDIERS of the 1st Battalion, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment did not let the fact that they are currently stationed in Bosnia interfere with their annual tradition of celebrating the Battle of Waterloo.

Locals looked on through the barbed wire security fence at the Dukes' base in Bugojno as teams vied with each other in the central event of the commemorations – the "Strong Man of Bosnia" competition.

Hefty soldiers pulled three-quarter ton Land Rovers over a 50m course, lifted ammunition boxes and "rowed" across the vehicle park in gym machines.

The gym tests proved suitably gruelling, with entrants being required to complete as many press-ups, squat thrusts and dips as they were capable of, and the two-mile run and the "shifting and lifting" of 20 ammunition boxes, each weighing 50lb, sorted the sheep from the goats.

Each event was supervised by Sgt Steve Boswell and his gymnasium staff.

Ultimate winners were Cpls Steve Slack and Steve Morrison of REME's Forward Repair Group.

"Our forefathers at Waterloo would have been proud of how our modern soldiers coped with the tests of strength, endurance, cunning and determination," Maj Simon Newton, 2iC 1 DWR, commented.

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RGBW Band and Corps of Drums go back to school

THE REGIMENTAL Band and Corps of Drums of the Army's newest infantry regiment, The Royal Gloucestershire, Berkshire and Wiltshire

Regiment, Beat Retreat at Cheltenham College public school.

With Eton, Cheltenham College is the only public

school to have its own Colours.

Its Combined Cadet Force has a tradition of association with The Gloucestershire Regiment – one of the two which

amalgamated to form the new regiment – for almost 100 years.

The band is scheduled to become part of a larger ensemble.

Signals' Dutch leave

MERCURY Barracks, Birgel, was the centre of a draw-down celebration weekend by 13th Signal Regiment (Radio) in the Dutch border town where they have been based for the past 40 years.

The regiment is due to cease operations in Birgel at the end of this year.

A well-received open-air concert by the band of the Royal Corps of Signals in the local town of Wassenberg got things off to a flying start.

The following day, officers and soldiers from the regiment, led by commanding officer Lt Col Philip Rouse, paraded through Wassenberg with bayonets fixed and swords drawn.

In the afternoon, 700 people were treated to, among other events, displays by the Bugles Platoon of the 2nd Battalion, The Light Infantry, the Royal Corps of Signals' White Helmets motor cycle demonstration team and the Blue Helmets free-fall parachute display team.

Seven former commanding officers and three previous RSMs from the unit were among the hundreds of guests attending the celebrations.

Buckingham Palace is first call for new Grenadiers' company

NIJMEGEN Company, a new formation of Grenadier Guards, was due to come into being officially on August 3 with an inspection by the Colonel of the Regiment, the Duke of Edinburgh, at Wellington Barracks, London.

Named after one of the Grenadiers' principal battle honours of the Second World War, the new company – which

will be entrusted with the Colours and traditions of the 2nd Battalion – has been formed from that battalion's Number Two company, which is due to be placed in suspended animation later this year.

Nijmegen Coy will join No 7 Company, Coldstream Guards, and F Company, Scots Guards, the independent companies of the other Foot

Guards regiments to have lost their second battalions under Options for Change, on public duties in London.

After the Duke's inspection, Nijmegen Company was marching past to the forecourt of Buckingham Palace to mount Queen's Guard for the first time, taking over from fellow Grenadier Guardsmen of Inkerman Company.



Picture: Terry Champion

LCpls Dean King and Gaz Lewis prepare to hand back a MAN recovery vehicle to the city of Berlin.

"It is one of two held by 14 Berlin Field Workshop REME. They are unique in service with the British Army, having been paid for by the Berlin Budget. We will be handing them back to the city council who will probably sell them to the German Army," said Sgt Sam Cook.

As a result of the Army's impending withdrawal from Berlin, the unit has been kept busy preparing for disbandment in September.

One of the final tasks given to civilian staff at Workshop 3 was the restoration of two vehicles

Goodbye MAN

to be given to the German Historical Museum. An FV432 armoured personnel carrier and a Ferret scout car were stripped down and cleaned, then reassembled and painted ready for the presentation.

Unit photographer Mr Willie Durie produced a fascinating pictorial record of the civilians at work, reflecting the cosmopolitan feel of the workshop which employs 12 nationalities. The photographs were on display at Spandau this month.

The workshop, commanded by Maj John Power REME, originally formed in Scotland in 1943 as No 2 General Troops Workshop and arrived in Berlin as 8 Line of Communications Troops Workshop in July 1945. It was eventually moved to its current base on the site of a former armaments depot where the German Army's Spandau heavy machine-gun was produced.

IN BRIEF

CHIEF of Defence Procurement Dr Malcolm McIntosh laid the foundation stone for the new building of the Defence Helicopter Support agency at Gazelle House, Yeovil. The building – to house the tri-Services MoD department which started business in April – is due to open later this year.

The Army Personnel Centre will be established in Glasgow in 1996, although fewer staff than originally envisaged will be required.

WHY THE CUTS HAD TO BE MADE

WHY WAS the Defence Costs Study necessary? In a nutshell, to save £750m in 1996/7 and more thereafter without reducing the fighting capacity of Britain's Armed Forces.

The bulk of the changes are expected to be in place within two years.

Hardest hit of the three Ser-

vices is the Royal Air Force, which will lose 7,500 personnel, and bases at Laarbruch in Germany and at Scampton and Finningley in the UK. The Army will lose 2,200 jobs and the Royal Navy 1,900. Overall, about 18,700 military and civilian posts will be axed.

The Front Line First project

excluded any proposals that would have led to a reduction in the fighting capacity of the Armed Forces and there were no proposals to reduce the number of warships, regiments or battalions, or combat aircraft.

More than 3,000 proposals for savings were received by the DCS team and many were

endorsed by the study groups.

In his introduction to the DCS document, Defence Secretary Malcolm Rifkind says: "... the bottom line of Front Line First is that it has not only preserved the front line but allowed us to make significant improvements in capability, within a reduced budget. It has

confirmed that we can afford our future investment plans and allowed us to redirect some spending to reinforce key areas.

"This is a tremendous achievement and I pay tribute to all those, military and civilian, who have made it possible."

Challenger 2 force boosted

A £1.1 BILLION order for a further 259 Challenger 2 main battle tanks, presaged in last November's post-budget statement, has been placed by the Ministry of Defence.

Added to the 127 already ordered in 1991, this means each of the British Army's eight front-line tank regiments will be equipped with the new MBT.

First of the new tanks will be fielded in 1997 and the last by

the year 2000. Each regiment will receive 38.

According to the MoD, the new tank is a first-class combination of fightability, firepower and protection, and will remain a vital element of the Army's anti-armour forces for the foreseeable future. Its importance was demonstrated in the Gulf War.

Shortcomings of Challenger 1 which became apparent in the Gulf have been tackled in

designing the new model. The Army's tank force is, according to the Defence Costs Study, sufficient to enable the UK to retain its capability for high-intensity conflict and to fulfil Britain's commitment to the ACE Rapid Reaction Corps.

In addition, Royal Ordnance received a £50 million order for 400,000 rounds of 51mm mortar ammunition to top-up operational stocks and provide up to four years of training.

The mortar, which came into service in the 1980s and is expected to remain operational until at least 2030, is versatile, small and light. It gives an infantry platoon the capability of bringing down high-explosive fire, smoke or illumination quickly and accurately.

With the return of mechanised units from Germany, the MoD is embarking on a programme of improving Army training areas in the UK to allow greater use by units. Areas concerned are Salisbury Plain, Sennybridge, Warcop, Otterburn, Catterick and Castlemartin.

The improvements, which will take account of environmental considerations, include

new firing ranges and enhancements to access from public roads.

It is also intended to increase by 50 per cent the use of existing training facilities in Germany by units based there. In particular, collective battle group level training will be stepped up.

An increase in simulation facilities is planned, with the purchase of a fifth set of the Direct Fire Weapons Effect Simulator (DFWES), enabling concurrent battlegroup training in the UK and Canada.

A range of improvements will also be introduced to the FIBUA "fighting village" at Copehill Down on Salisbury Plain.

Driving a hard bargain

BRITAIN's front-line forces must have the right equipment and weapons and be trained to use them. To achieve this within reasonable budget, the Defence Costs Study has identified a number of supporting areas where spending can be reduced without damaging operational effectiveness.

The MoD spends more than £5 billion on new equipment every year. As a result of various initiatives over the past ten years on contracting, competition, reliability and maintenance, it is saving about £1 billion a year. Now the study has come up with further suggestions for cutting costs.

Significant savings have been identified in the procurement of B and C type military vehicles. The B fleet comprises 28,500 administrative vehicles such as cars



Fuchs NBC detection vehicles were loaned to the British force serving in the Gulf. Now the armoured vehicle is to form the backbone of the Territorial Army's new NBC defence regiment. See Page 13 for summary of TA's higher profile

and minibuses, which are basically civilian models, and 66,500 operational vehicles - for example, trucks, off-road vehicles and trailers.

The Armed Forces also have about 3,000 C vehicles for earthmoving, construction and lifting tasks.

As most operational vehicles have a lower mileage than private sector fleets, the MoD plans to extend their in-service life. In addition, a reduction in purchasing administrative vehicles could be achieved by the introduction of leasing, contract hire

and maintenance, and vehicle pooling. Estimated savings add up to nearly £220 million over the next ten years.

The report concluded that each Service should retain an in-house capability for repair and overhaul, but each facility should be considered on its merits.

The Army's programme of market testing Base and District Workshops will continue, but with more scope for rationalising and reducing facilities and encouraging innovative bids from the private sector.

Op HQ will move to Northwood

RADICAL changes are to be made to headquarters and command structures with the formation of a permanent joint headquarters at Northwood and a reshuffle of the Army's United Kingdom districts.

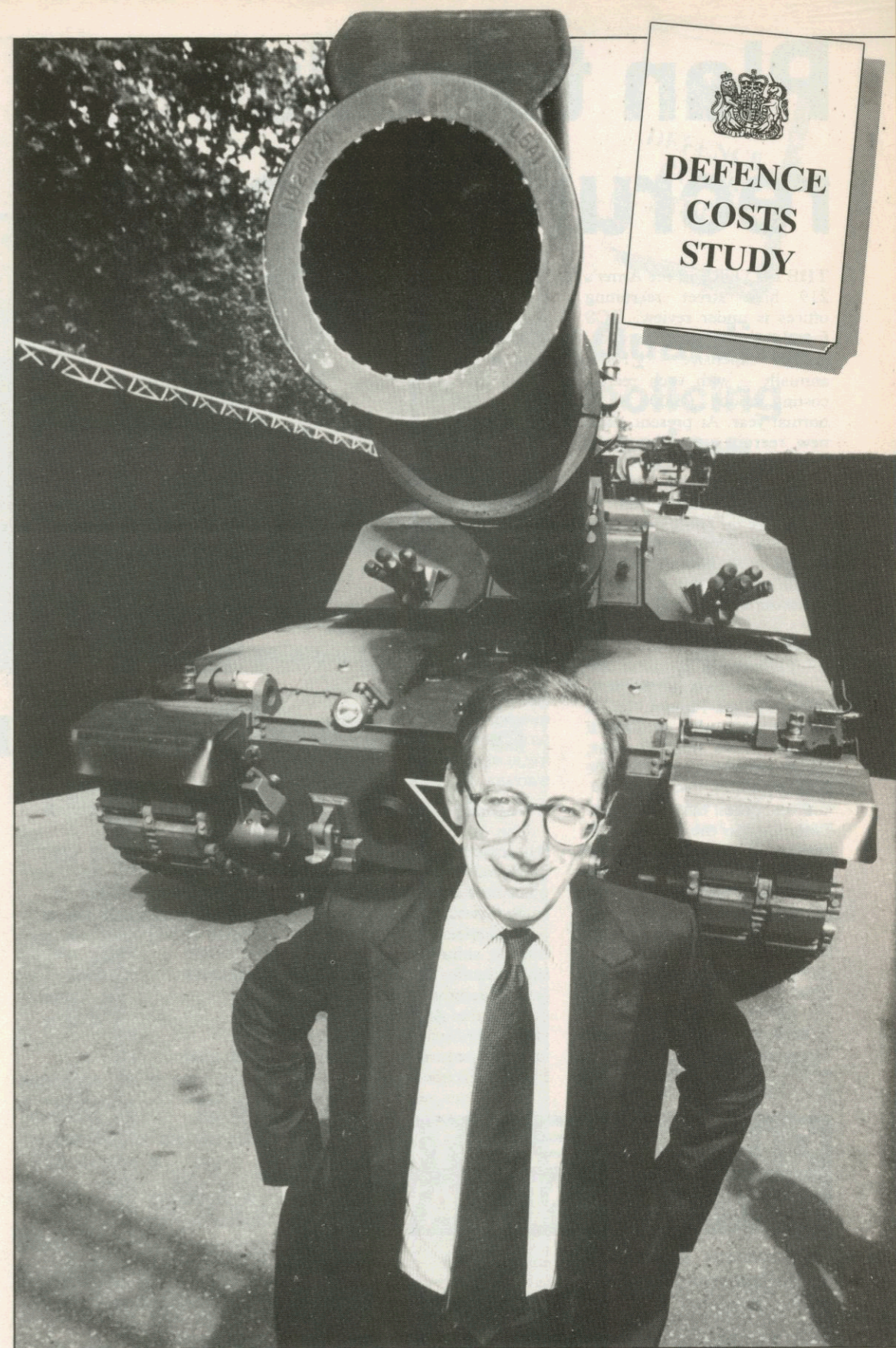
The move to Northwood, where extensive facilities already exist, will not prejudice or reduce the existing responsibilities of the operational commanders-in-chief. "Indeed," says the report, "it will enable them to concentrate better on their core business, particularly commanding single Service operations, generating forces

and directing their training."

Following the creation of United Kingdom Land Command on April 1, 1995 some changes will be made to the UK command structure to align command and budgetary responsibility.

● Bulford-based 3 (UK) Division will exercise command and budgetary responsibility for all its operational formations and units, and administrative and budgetary responsibility for all Army units in the South West.

● Southern District will effectively be split, with the



Defence Secretary Malcolm Rifkind is overshadowed by the barrel of Challenger 2. A further 259 tanks have been ordered in addition to the 127 already on order, first of which was handed over on July 25

existing headquarters in Aldershot commanding only units based in the South East (other than those in 3 Div), including, additionally, Colchester Garrison.

● Adjustments will be made to the boundaries of Western and Eastern Districts, whose headquarters will remain at Shrewsbury and York respectively.

● HQs at Aldershot,

Shrewsbury and York will be retitled Divisional rather than District to reflect the fact that administrative responsibility for units in the UK will no longer be purely geographical, and to emphasise the operational aspects of the HQs' roles.

● There will also be changes to the subordinate brigade headquarters structure, with the disbandment of 30 and 12

Engineer Brigade HQs, and the merger of 49 and 54 Brigades.

● The Quartermaster General's headquarters at Andover will be developed fully on a single site.

● It is planned that the Army's top level budget holders will be C-in-C Land Command, the Quartermaster General, the Adjutant General and GOC Northern Ireland.

Plan to reduce recruit spending

THE FUTURE of the Army's 219 high street recruiting offices is under review. DCS found recruiting to be enormously expensive - £100m annually - with each recruit costing about £3,000 in a normal year. At present, each new recruit costs the Army between £5,000 and £15,000.

The information offices, which are run by a staff of 1,400, are the most costly element of the process. Recruiting is also done through schools liaison officers and a range of other activities including displays, advertising and regimental recruiting teams.

DCS established that closer co-operation with the Employment Services Agency, which offers a nationwide network of nearly 1,300 Job Centres, could provide considerable benefits.

It proposes the Agency be nominated as the first point of contact for potential recruits who would then be sent to regional defence careers information offices, probably sited within existing defence establishments.

A pilot scheme is to be given a trial.

The report confirms the role of schools liaison officers, and involvement by the Services with the University Officers

Training Corps. The MoD will continue to provide funds for the Cadet Forces which it sees as fulfilling a valued role in the community, as well as being a source of potential recruits.

Also recognised is the importance of major events such as the Royal Tournament, but the provision of display teams from unit establishments rather than teams maintained specifically for display purposes is under scrutiny.

Manning

The MoD is considering greater use of Local Service Engagements, which would allow individuals to fill certain posts at a lower level of commitment with commensurate terms of service. It is also looking at using retired officers and warrant officers more widely.

Training

The Defence Costs Study recognised the Armed Forces' wish to train their officer and other rank recruits at separate, single-Service establishments.

It accepted that junior level training should continue on a single-Service basis, but recommended that command and staff courses should be tri-Service, reinforcing the joint approach to tactical and operational levels of conflict.

It is intended to establish a Joint Services Command and Staff College in 1997 at either Camberley or Greenwich.

So successful is the Royal Military College of Science at Shrivenham that it is proposed RMCS should be developed as the defence centre for science and technology.

Specialist training activities - including driver, language, explosive ordnance disposal, parachuting, adventurous and security training - were looked at. With the exception of EOD training, all were identified as suitable for rationalisation, market testing or internal charging.

Cambridge to close

TWO Service hospitals - at Aldershot and Wroughton - are to close and more than 1,000 posts will go as a result of a fundamental review of Defence Medical Services.

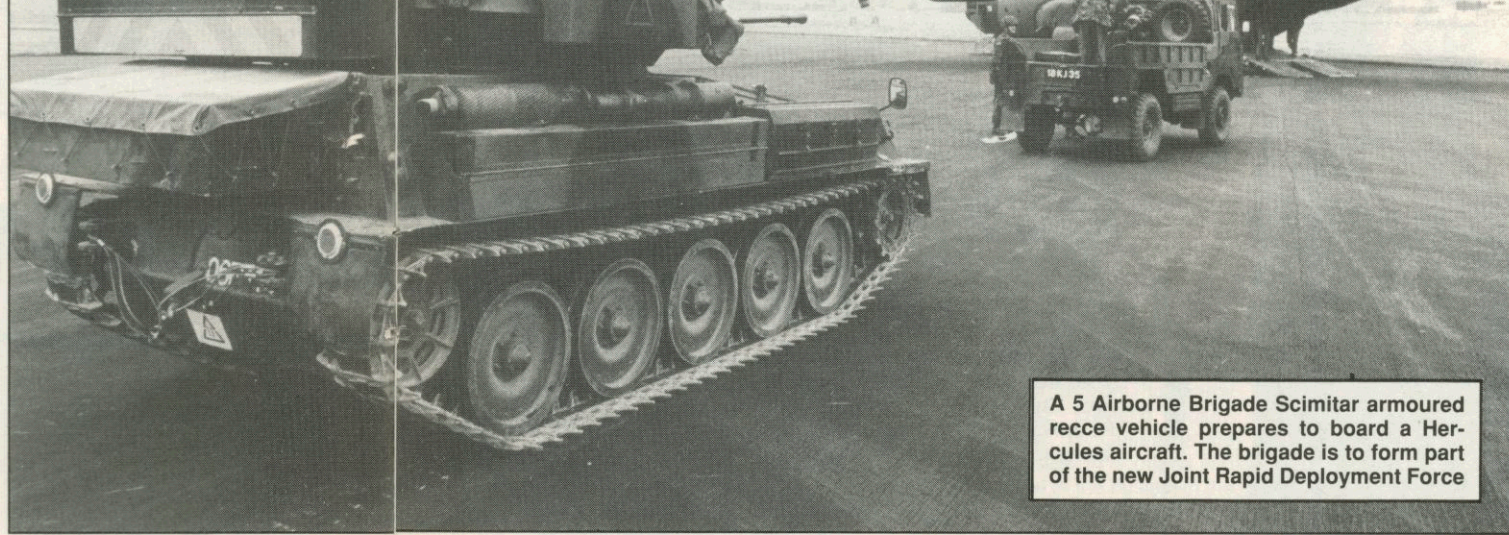
But the Armed Forces will retain individual medical services, with a common training organisation being set up. The changes will also lead to greater integration between the Armed Forces and the National Health Service.

The most significant changes involve secondary care arrangements for which the three existing Service hospitals have more beds than required.

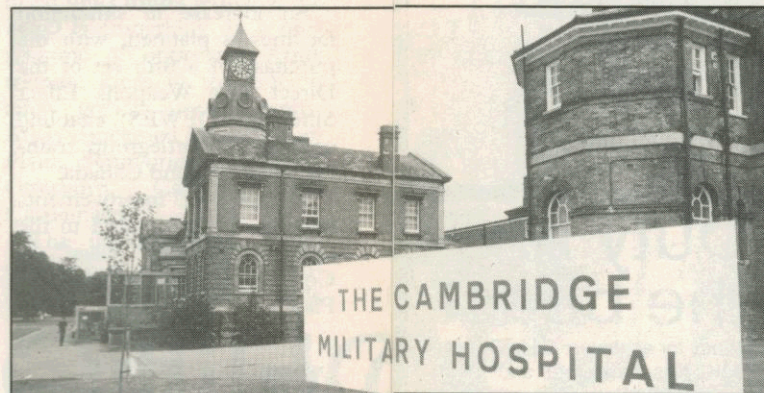
A single, tri-Service main hospital will be based on the Royal Naval Hospital Haslar at Gosport. The Army's Cambridge Military Hospital at Aldershot and the RAF's Princess Alexandra Hospital, Wroughton, will close. Of 1,000 staff posts to be lost, 75 per cent will be military.

Three regional military district hospital units will be established in NHS hospitals in areas having a significant numbers of troops. A medical presence will be retained at Catterick. All secondary care will be managed within a single tri-Service Defence Agency.

A primary care clinic for London-based personnel could be established at Millbank. Future changes to primary care could result in further job losses.



A 5 Airborne Brigade Scimitar armoured reconnaissance vehicle prepares to board a Hercules aircraft. The brigade is to form part of the new Joint Rapid Deployment Force



The Cambridge Military Hospital at Aldershot is to close on the recommendation of the Defence Costs Study

will be centralised at Melton Mowbray in Leicestershire and other facilities will be closed.

● **TRAVEL AND SUBSISTENCE.** Overall cost of business travel and associated subsistence in 1992/93 was £180m. DCS says savings could be made by inviting commercial travel agents to manage MoD's travel-related business.

● **CHAPLAINS.** The role of chaplains in the Armed Forces will survive, but their ranks may be thinned. Existing chaplaincy schools could be merged at Amport House or Eltham Palace in south London.

● **MUSICIANS.** Following the recent reorganisation and reduction in Army bands, no further cuts are planned, but examination of the operational role of Territorial Army bandsmen could see the numbers of part-time musicians reduced.

● **VETERINARY.** The role of animals such as horses in ceremonial events and the use of dogs in operational and security duties is assured, but elements of care could be switched to the private sector. The Defence Animal Centre

TA to take on a higher profile

THE TERRITORIAL Army has escaped cutback and is set to take on a new and more prominent role in war and peace. It will remain an integral component of Britain's defence forces on mobilisation, but greater use is to be made of volunteers in peacetime.

An existing TA unit will re-role next year as the Army's nuclear, biological and chemical warfare defence regiment. It will be equipped with Fuchs armoured reconnaissance vehicles fitted with integrated biological detection systems and decontamination equipment.

The 500-strong regiment will be purely defensive. It will increase the Army's ability

to survive and fight in an NBC environment, by aiding the process of early detection.

An armoured delivery regiment will also be formed to replace losses in battle.

In peacetime, the TA could provide opposition forces against Regular troops during exercises and provide soldiers for public duties.

A specific new role is the transfer of flying support to the Field Army from 658 Squadron Army Air Corps to the Territorial Army's 666 Squadron (Volunteer) at Netheravon.

The national defence element of the TA is to be held at 59,000, but the 4,500-strong training pool of recruits is to be abolished.

LONDON POSTS SLASHED

LONDON-based staff working in the Ministry of Defence's head office will be dramatically reduced under the Defence Costs Study programme.

When the reorganisation is complete only 2,500 to 2,750 posts will remain, a huge reduction from the 12,700 serving in London headquarters in 1990. Before DCS, plans were already in hand to reduce

that figure to about 5,200.

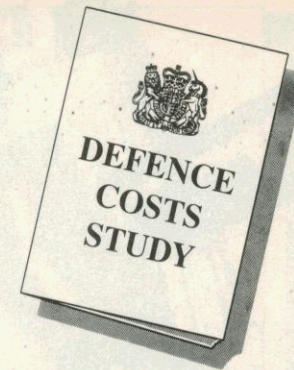
Up to 1,000 posts may be added in central London when a decision is made on other collocated corporate services, principally the Defence Intelligence Staff.

It is anticipated that the entire head office and its support services will be accommodated in the modernised Main Building and the Old War Office, allowing for the dispos-

al of Northumberland House and Metropole Building.

The DCS report records the need for more than organisational change. "It was clear from the study that our way of working... is still felt to be bureaucratic, paper dominated, hierarchical..."

"The size of private offices and the existence of a 'briefing culture' are widely cited as contributing to the problem.



Guarding, policing review

WHILE the threat from terrorism remains high, the Ministry of Defence's overriding concern is to ensure the safety of its personnel and provide effective protection for all defence establishments.

Effective guarding and policing are central to successful counter-terrorist security. People and property are best protected by ensuring that each location has the most appropriate mix of armed and unarmed guards; that there is an MoD Police presence where it is needed; and that the right use is made of other security measures such as fencing, lighting, intruder detection, closed circuit television and guard dogs.

To establish whether current arrangements are cost-effective, the MoD is embarking on a wide-ranging review of guarding and policing requirements. With hundreds of sites to consider, this major undertaking will take several months to complete.

In parallel with this, the MoD is looking at a suggestion which emerged during the study which could potentially reduce the costs of guarding. The Ministry of Defence Police is still needed, but there is evidence that personnel are employed at some sites where armed guards are needed, but where constabulary powers are not strictly necessary.

A potentially cheaper alternative might lie in recruiting Service personnel on limited-liability engagements whose chief function would be guarding, but who could in theory perform other non-constabulary tasks.

The Army is exploring the idea of a wholly new type of engagement known as Military Home Service. If the idea is adopted, MHS engagements could be implemented over a number of years.

QUICK-REACTION FORCE ON WAY

CHANGES to the Regular Army's order of battle have been announced.

In a new 20,000-man Joint Rapid Deployment Force, the Army's 5 Airborne Brigade and 24 Airmobile Brigade will join forces with 3 Commando Brigade to provide a quick-response formation. Paras and Royal Marines will operate under the same command, and be supported by 5,000 logistics troops.

Following the decision last December to make available an additional 3,000 personnel to increase the size of selected Field Army units, it was announced that about one third of this addition would

enhance the peacetime of combat support units.

● **Planned** cadreisation levels in the Royal Artillery and Royal Engineers will be reduced.

● **An additional battery** for the 24 Airmobile Brigade artillery regiment will be created.

● **The Army Air Corps** in Northern Ireland will receive additional manpower.

● **The Royal Armoured Corps** training regiment will be roled as a third armoured reconnaissance regiment, equipped with Scimitar light armoured vehicles and assigned to HQ Allied Command Europe Rapid Reaction Corps.



Pooling their talent

Olympic swimmer **Sarah Hardcastle** (pictured at the poolside at the modern pentathlon training centre, Arborfield) has been getting lots of help from the Army as she prepares for this month's Commonwealth Games in Canada and other imminent international events. SSgt **Bernie Moss** APTI (left) has been improving Sarah's dry-training skills, weights and general fitness, and pool supervisor **Rosa Gallop** (centre) has been helping her in the pool.

Picture: Mike Perring



Putting a philosophical face on things were (left to right) Cpls **Graham Hynds** and **Malcolm McGillivray** and Tprs **Chris Hunter** and **Gary Innes** of 1 RTR, Tidworth.

The tankies were manning an armoured static display, including Scorpions and Chieftains, at the Beating Retreat ceremony at Whale Island, Portsmouth as part of the D-Day commemorations, but, with torrential rain falling, the event was a virtual washout.

Tank-less task...

PEOPLE PEOPLE PEOPLE



Accolade for Alf

Former commando **Alf Pimblett** has an unusual claim to fame: he is the only ex-Serviceman entitled to wear medals from both the Second World War and the Falklands campaign. During a ten-day battle behind the Japanese lines as part of 3 Commando Brigade, he won the Military Medal for rescuing his commanding officer who was isolated with wounds in both legs.

Almost 40 years later, having joined the Merchant Navy, Alf sailed in the RFA *Bayleaf* to participate in the Falklands conflict, spending his 61st birthday there.

"There was no comparison between the two events," he says. "So many of my mates were left behind in Burma. I was one of the lucky ones, and I've come to terms with it."

Picture: Terry Champion

Duty and the beast

Ready for action are BSM **Dougie McKay** (second left) and members of 4/73 Battery, locating battery of 5 Regiment, Royal Artillery, with "the dog" - a much-prized trophy (with a chequered history) which they inherited. Based at Marne Barracks - until last month RAF Catterick - the specially selected men in the small battery, according to Dougie, are "well-motivated, well-disciplined and want to be here".

Picture: Mike Weston

Highly deligh-TED!



Looking pleased as Punch is Sgt **Ted Slack**, AGC (SPS), who had just been presented with a Lord Lieutenant's certificate in recognition of 27 years' "loyal dedication to service of the Crown". Also recognised in the presentations by the **Earl of Erroll**, Honorary Colonel of the Royal Military Police, at the West Bromwich headquarters of the RMP (V) was WO1 (RSM) **Peter Berry**, who received a farewell citation.

Picture: Mike Perring

Back in business

The smiles say it all as (left to right) Lt Col **Donald Ross** (Career Recruiting and Liaison Service, Scotland), Director of Army Recruiting Brig **Christopher Elliott**, WO2 **Rab Connell**, Sgt **Ewen McAulay** and CSgt **Sammy Campbell** pose outside the refurbished Army Careers Information Office in Hamilton, Lanarkshire. Re-opened by Brig Elliott, the office, whose recruiters had been operating for three months from the nearby 1/52 Lowland Volunteer, TA Centre, is the busiest in Scotland and one of the busiest in the UK.



Picture: Mike Perring



The former Blue Bell pub in Cardiff High Street now has a new title to go along with its recent military-style facelift. There to give the Goat Major - re-named as a tribute to The Royal Regiment of Wales - a send-off at its official opening were goat major Cpl **David Joseph**, 2nd Battalion (left), with mascot goat **Shenkin** and goat major Pte **Gavin Woodroffe**, 1st Battalion, with goat **Gwilym Jenkins**. With them are landlords **Gill** and **Alex Anderson**.

Horning inn?

Hong Kong hot shot

Cpl **Chan Chi Wai** walked off with the best individual shot title at the Royal Logistic Corps' skill-at-arms meeting in the UK, as well as a number of other individual awards. His colleagues in the Hong Kong Military Service Corps gave him a warm welcome when he showed off the trophies on his return.



Experts in their field

Giving a demonstration of their skills at Abingdon to members of the Institute of Logistics Southern Region were RLC members Cpl **Geoff Hayward** (supply controller), pastry chef Pte **Leor Sullivan** and radio operator Pte **Andy Livermore**. The trio were manning an ammo control point.



Athlete Martin's "Split" days

Chemical laboratory assistant Cpl **Martin Kilbey**, currently on a six-month tour with UN in Croatia, is kept busy every day of the week at his base in Split from 0700 until early evening. But the former British Army junior 800m champion and regular member of the Army's cross-country team still finds time to train on the all-weather track near the stadium used for the 1990 European track and field cup meet, and runs at least 45 miles a week. While in Split, he hopes to form a British Army running team to compete against local clubs.



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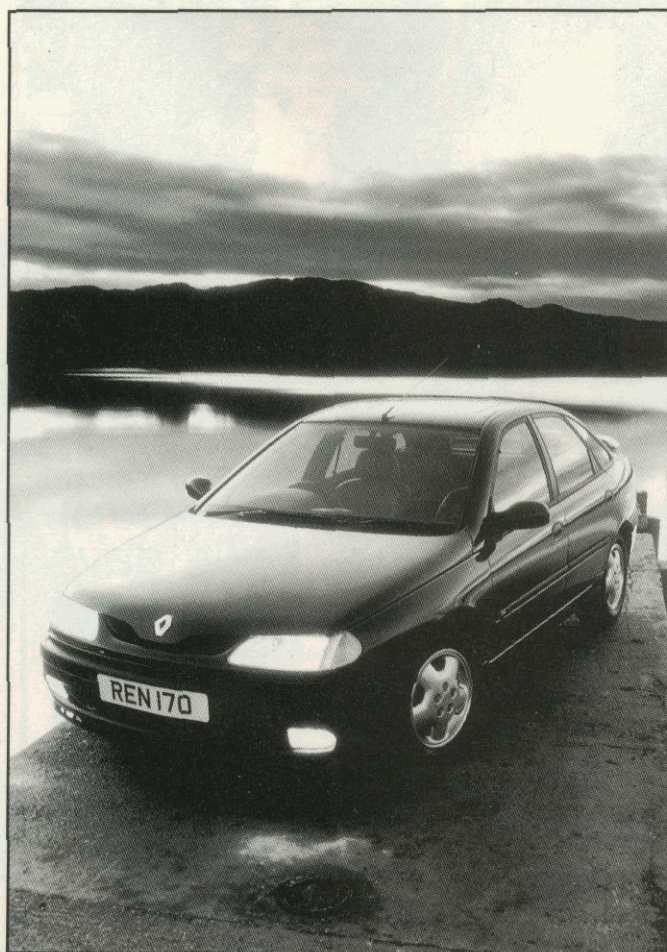
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HEADQUARTERS 20 ARMoured BRIGADE AND PADERBORN GARRISON



Brig Andrew Pringle, Commander, 20 Armd Bde

Ready to go

— but there's no let-up on training

PADERBORN-based 20 Armoured Brigade has been concentrating on six months of serious training in its traditional high-intensity conflict role after a disparate year with most of its major units deployed.

The brigade's major units are The Queen's Dragoon Guards, The Royal Dragoon Guards, the 1st Battalion, The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment, and the 2nd Battalion, The Light Infantry, with 26 Regiment, Royal Artillery based in Gütersloh providing close support.

Also stationed in Paderborn Garrison is 39 Regiment, Royal Artillery, providing theatre-depth fire with its Multi-Launch Rocket System (MLRS).

Last year QDG, 1 D and D, 2 LI and 26 Regt completed tours of Northern Ireland, while 39 Regt took on a United Nations duty in Cyprus.

The 1 D and D and 2 LI battle groups will each take two squadrons of QDG to the British Army Training Unit, Suffield (BATUS) in Canada this year, while brigade HQ has been well exercised in Senlager's Brigade Battle Group

Trainer (BBGT) and various command post exercises.

The concept is for 20 Brigade to form the 1st (UK) Armoured Division's training brigade, with priority for all training resources. Its four battle groups are all scheduled to go to BATUS next year.

The all-arms battle is very difficult to master and needs a lot of practice, said the brigade commander, Brig Andrew Pringle, late Royal Green Jackets.

He was confident that his battle groups could train effectively but was concerned that

with Soltau closing down, expertise at formation level was being lost because brigades were not easily able to exercise within an armoured division.

"You need a hands-on feel for how long things take, how difficult they are, how easy it is for plans to go wrong, what happens when they do go wrong and never go right," he said.

"Simulation will never be able to replicate

the experience of everything going wrong, causing the whole plan to be done another way."

In the final part of our look at the major elements of the reorganised 1st (United Kingdom) Armoured Division — now Britain's most potent military formation — writer **Gordon Skilling** and photographer **Mike Weston** report on the assets of 20 Armoured Brigade.

BATUS training was critical, he said, and the possibility of two-sided exercises held out the prospect of introducing a brigade headquarters.

"But we stand on shifting sands," said Brig Pringle. "The prospects of the Army deploying are very much more real now than in the days of the Cold War stand-off."

"Umpteen conflicts are going on with more waiting to happen."

The readiness tenet underlines everything 20 Brigade does. It is held at readiness state three and could be tasked to deploy on operations in ten days. Both infantry battalions and brigade HQ are earmarked for Bosnia.

The armoured regiments tasted the Balkans flavour in a study and exercise session organised by Chief of Staff Maj Davey Kirk.

The Northern Ireland experience of junior commanders under tremendous pressure easily translated to peace-support operations, he said. Soldiers became used to weighing up the rules of engagement without a senior officer immediate

● Turn to Page 18

RDG hot-shots pitch in . . .

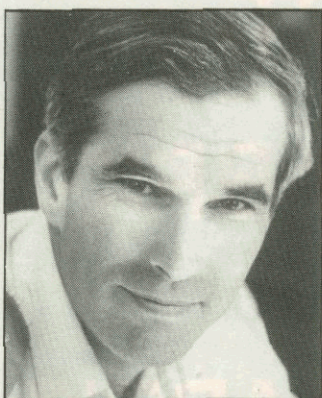
BAOR's inter-unit cricket champions found a new use for their hallowed pitch in Paderborn. They converted it into a miniature tank range complete with pop-up targets and remote-controlled tank.

The Royal Dragoon Guards made quite a concession when SSgt Robin McAllister was let loose to construct the mini-range, but the regiment can now claim to be the best British tank shots in Germany.

During annual gunnery camp at Hohn, the RDG was the first in three years to complete the standard training exercise and continue to the troop fire control tactical exercise.

Only a limited amount of ammunition is available and is usually expended in attaining the basic standard. But the RDG sailed through, even with a relatively inexperienced recce troop.

Troop commanders had an advantage thanks to Staff McAllister's range. As well as pop-up targets he had stripped down a remote-controlled car and rebuilt it as a moving target so that young officers could practise allocating targets to their sergeants and corporals.



Lt Col Johnny Torrens-Spence, commanding officer Royal Dragoon Guards

Directing staff could watch progress by using a live-firing monitoring system which the regiment is testing. A trailer behind each tank is connected to a TV monitor giving a picture of what the gunner can see and indicated whether he has laid his aiming mark on the target correctly. When the gun fires, another camera focuses on the target and any mistake can be spotted.

The RDG is pleased with the results from the first squadron trial, which will be extended to the whole regiment in autumn.

"Young gunners used to be blamed for missing the target,

but this helps exonerate them," said the regiment's gunnery officer, Capt Roland Dangerfield.

"With the live-firing monitoring equipment we can tell if the tank is shooting straight."

Best of the best was 3 Troop of D Squadron, which won the Ansell Trophy under Sgt Steve Bralee. He commanded during the tactics phase when the troop commander, 2nd Lt Jason Etherington, departed after the gunnery phase to support the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment, in Bosnia.

A new zeroing system similar to that of small arms was also tried out. Instead of firing three rounds at a circle and accepting two hits, eight rounds were fired at a large screen. The gun was then adjusted to its mean point of impact.

The commanding officer, Lt Col Johnny Torrens-Spence, took pride in how the regiment continued its tradition of innovation.

The RDG became the first Royal Armoured Corps regiment to man Warrior at Batus in Canada last year when 30 of his men supported the 1st Battalion, The Gloucestershire



Cpl Norman Fowler, with LCpl George Porter, Tpr Keith Ankers and Terry Waites plus Tpr Cod Goddard in the Challenger turret

Regiment. He was planning a major exercise in October which would combine live firing and dry training, the first time this has been attempted.

The CO had made a conscious effort to instil an adventurous spirit in his men. One method was by giving his single soldiers an attractive option: stay in barracks and work, or dream up an excursion away from Paderborn and get three long weekends a year, such as five soldiers who motor-biked to the French Riviera.

Everyone was required for another adventure—a demanding escape-and-evasion exercise planned in great secrecy for July, and five subalterns were off on attachments in Bosnia, Croatia, Canada, Northern Ireland and New Zealand.

Formed on August 1, 1992 from the 4th/7th Royal Dragoon Guards and 5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards, the Royal Dragoon Guards was the first of the Royal Armoured Corps amalgamations follow-

Brig Pringle is able to focus more exclusively on training and related matters such as operational concepts.

"We have to be able to unlock ourselves from the garrison if the brigade is deployed, but all the functions still have to be run for the Paderborn community," he said.

He welcomed the appointment of a budget manager and the freedom to juggle money and resources.

"We have always had a very 'can do' approach to life. Give us a problem and we will work ourselves to death to solve it. But a feeling is beginning to grow that there is an ever-increasing number of tasks and an ever-decreasing number of soldiers to do them," he said

Ready to go

• From Page 17

diately available and there were similar constraints in Bosnia.

Training emphasised reacting to the unexpected. Commanders had to apply their minds quickly under pressure and devise a solution without time to refine their plans, said Maj Kirk.

With a new team in key appointments, brigade headquarters plunged in at the deep end during one of the toughest battle group training scenarios at Sennelager. It secured an extra slot, picked up on mistakes and tightened procedures.

Another exercise involving

40 members of the brigade and some divisional staff took place in Canada where they worked alongside American, Australian and Canadian mechanised brigades.

The introduction in April of the New Management Strategy brought additional pressures for Brig Pringle, who is now responsible for a budget of £31m plus £68m in manpower costs.

As both brigade and garrison commander, he and his Deputy Chief of Staff are heavily involved in administration. Some of this burden will be eased when a garrison colonel and adjutant are appointed in October, and



Preparing the funnel room at the Brigade Battle Group Trainer are Sig Dav Dowson, LCpl Bob Cunningham and Cpl Tom Rothera

AN EXPANDED role and major reorganisation has given 200 (20 Armoured Brigade) Signal Squadron a challenge since it evolved in February 1993 from 33 Armoured Brigade's 202 Signal Squadron.

The squadron provides the brigade commander with a survivable field headquarters and effective communications to his brigade.

But the old concept of defending a limited slice of Germany has evolved to one of being ready to go anywhere and undertake any task from high-intensity conflict such as the Gulf War to low-intensity peace support operations in Bosnia.

A duplicate brigade headquarters was deployed in the Gulf and the concept is now required of 200 Sig Sqn.

"It gives the ability to form two or three small ad hoc units," said Maj Paul Eaton, OC.

"You can control a brigade move with one HQ, plan a future operation with another and be pre-positioning your complete main HQ somewhere else. It gives flexibility and an opportunity for deception."

An alternative HQ required a significant increase in manpower and equipment. Since Options, the squadron's manpower and equipment has increased

Three for the price of one

by a third, and vehicles by half. In peace the establishment is now 130, although in war it would expand to about 180.

Despite the drawdown, getting equipment had been an uphill struggle, said Foreman of Signals SSgt Paul Redmond. A lot of in-house shuffling had been necessary to set up the main and alternative HQ.

During one command post



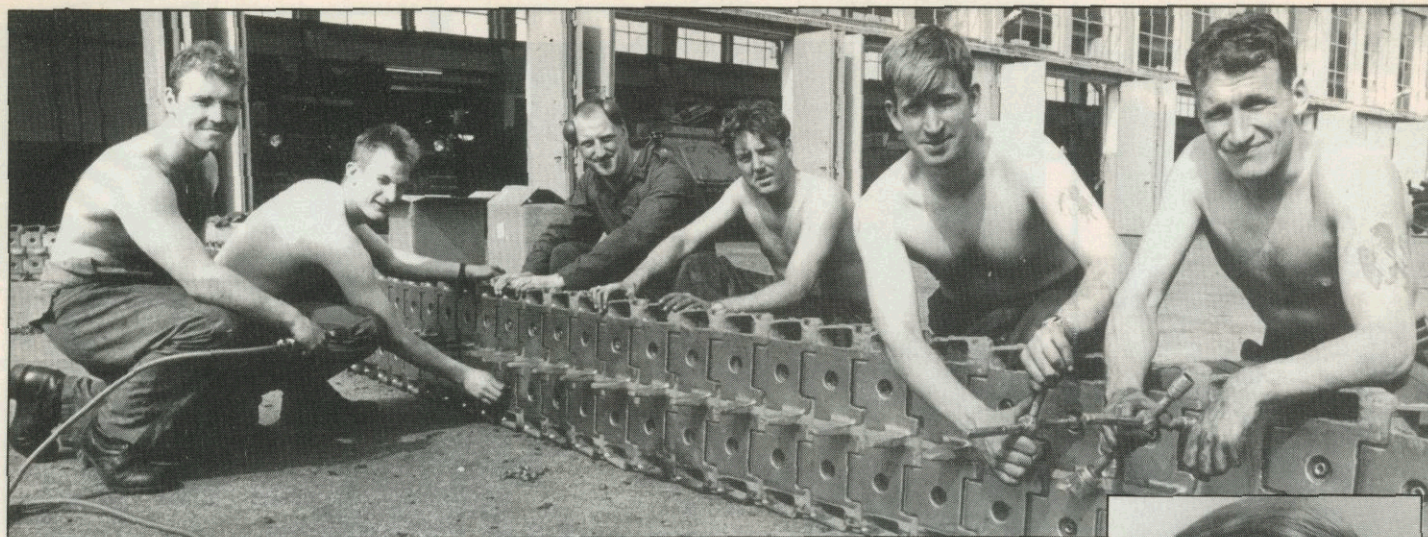
Maj Paul Eaton, OC 200 (20 Armoured Brigade) Signal Squadron

exercise at Sennelager's Brigade Battle Group Trainer, the squadron had to provide communications for 4 and 7 Armoured Brigades, with links to Division and Corps level.

The squadron relishes its independent role, and feels it is more at the sharp end than a divisional HQ, which moves in slower time. Being near the front, brigade signallers have to be that bit more tactical, move faster, set up and establish communications more quickly. They must also be able to conceal and defend themselves.

A new challenge looms in November 1995, when the squadron is earmarked for Bosnia.

"We were designed to operate over relatively short ranges at high quality, but this is not possible in Bosnia so we are back to poorer quality high frequency radio work, which requires a lot of expertise and practice," said Maj Eaton.



Keeping track of operations are a D and D Light Aid Detachment, Cfn Si Booth, Cfn Simon Jones, Sgt Chris Wilkinson, Cfn Dean Henson, Cfn Phil Hamelton-Wilks and Cfn Andrew Gibson

D and D on the move

FOLLOWING intensive refresher training after returning from Northern Ireland, the 1st Battalion, The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment felt ready to go anywhere. It went to Paderborn, then Poland.

Although earmarked for Bosnia, the priority was moving from Werl to Paderborn's Barker Barracks which was a tight squeeze for 1 D and D moving into accommodation vacated by 45 Field Regiment, Royal Artillery, half its size. Brigade headquarters is in the same barracks.

The move was not allowed to interfere with training and four main body moves were due to be completed by the end of

July. B Company was first in, allowing it to settle down before deploying to Canada in July with the Queen's Royal Hussars Battle Group.

A Company was involved in organising the Staff College Demonstration at Sennelager before travelling to Poland for the first exercise with Polish armed forces since the raising of the Iron Curtain, and C Company represented the battalion during celebrations to open the new regimental museum in Dorchester and exercise the Freedom of Sherborne.

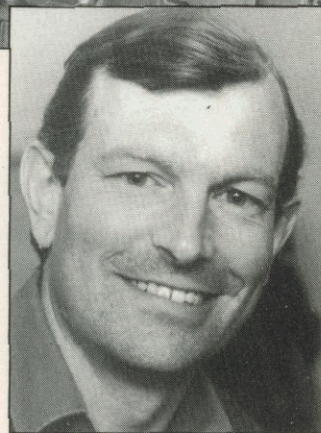
For all the disruption to his battalion, commanding officer Lt Col Simon Young was glad

he was in the Field Army and sympathised with staff officers implementing defence cuts.

Despite severe limitations in training possibilities he felt fortunate to have a structured programme.

"An infantry soldier is a versatile animal with a very interesting way of life," he said. "We are driving and firing Warrior, deploying tactically, cementing operational relations with the Royal Ulster Constabulary and are set for Bosnia.

"We rely on our feet, have to be ultra fit, shoot weapons and handle ourselves properly when on operations away from our vehicle," said Col Young.



Lt Col Simon Young

WELCOME BACK TO THE 39TH!

WHEN 39 Regiment Royal Artillery from Paderborn was exercising near Wolfenbuttel in May, German civilians excitedly asked if the British were returning.

The gunners were only on the first of a two-week exercise which culminated in live-firing at Hohne, but quickly reinforced traditionally good relationships.

They stayed at the old cavalry barracks used by many British units until the inner German border was abolished

and their reassuring presence was no longer necessary.

The Germans were particularly glad to see the familiar uniforms. It appeared their town was having more rain that week than in the previous 30 years put together, and when the river burst its banks the gunners worked through the night to fill sandbags and stem the flooding.

German has changed and it is now much harder to arrange meaningful exercises, but Lt Col Richard Smith, commanding officer, said ways had to be found around the problem.

He was looking to increase training opportunities at regimental level by forming links with US, French and German MLRS battalions.

"Nobody is an expert, so it is good to have low-level discussions and operations with other countries," he said.

The 1st (UK) Armoured Division has a potent deep support fire asset in 39 Regt, which is administered by 20 Armoured Brigade at Paderborn.

Just one MLRS has the firepower of one regiment of the 110s with which it was previously equipped as 39 Heavy Regiment. One launcher with



Sgt Steve Farley and Bdr Taff Thomas clean MLRS

12 rockets can fire 7,500 bomblets into a half-kilometre square.

The regiment was equipped with MLRS just before the Gulf War and had three months to train before being put to devastating effect.

The launchers needed a lot of maintenance, said Bdr Aaron Thomas. With only three men in the crew, it took a lot of washing and scrubbing to clear the efflux and other deposits from the launcher after firing.

There are two launcher batteries, 132 (Bengal Rocket

Troop) and 176 (Abu Klea) Batteries, with nine launchers each and 15 Drops vehicles.

First to be equipped with Phoenix will be 57 (Bhurtpore) Locating Battery with a flying video camera able to send back pictures from up to 90km away.

The regiment will have more live-firing in October and may then start looking to a possible tour in Northern Ireland before returning to Britain later in the year or early in 1996.

Memories were still fresh of an excellent tour on United

Nations duties in Nicosia, Cyprus from June to December. The regiment was thinly stretched over 100km which had previously been manned by the British, Canadians and Danes. The gunners had been in the spotlight when the Queen, Prince Philip, the Prime Minister and the Foreign Secretary had visited in the space of one week.

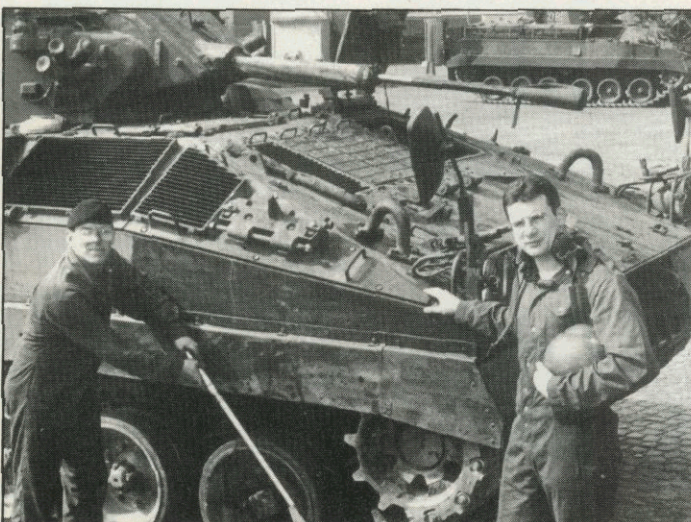
A certain amount of aggravation between Greeks and Turks flared during a demonstration but Lt Paul Jones did not feel that this was directed at the British.

"We had to step in but did so as United Nations soldiers and I did not feel any animosity towards us," he said.

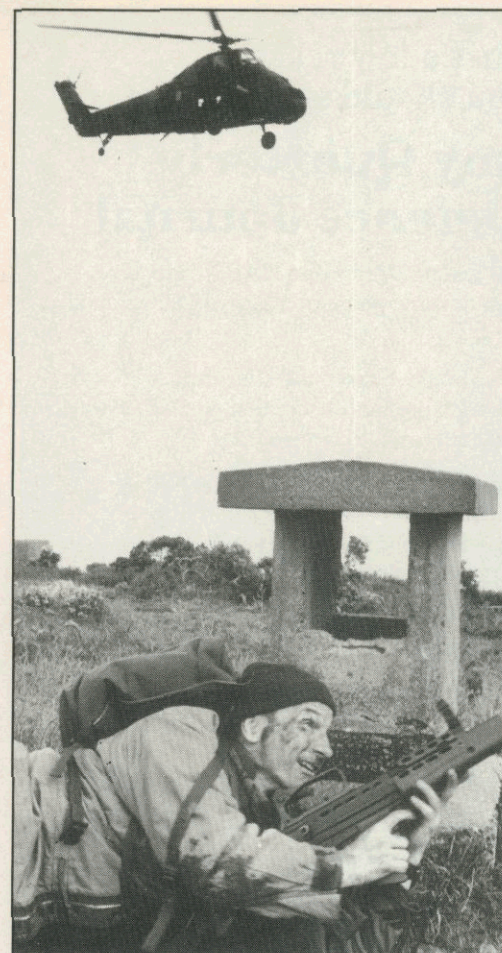
National enmity became a particularly piquant concept when an Argentine battalion arrived to take over part of the sector held by Maj Gareth Pugh, who was seriously injured in the Falklands conflict.

But the contingents got on famously, holding several joint functions.

The gunners of 39 Regt RA have shown they can as easily make friends with former enemies, local civilians or Nato allies, as destroy an adversary.



Early arrivals at Paderborn were B Company's Ptes Gary Parker and Jason Poole



Above – “Enemy” Sgt Pete Beadle (Royal Signals) finds himself under helicopter assault at Cromarty Point

Left – Shades of 1944 as troops run on to the beach down the ramp: the light is deceptive, since it is actually 2200 hours . . .



Above – Members of C Company, 7 LI, make full use of the seven-module bridge over a “deep river and gorge” set up for them in half an hour by 7 Pioneer Assault Platoon



Left – Realism as the assault on Cromarty gains momentum

Below – Beachmaster Lt Richard Charnock signals to incoming landing craft



The (Second) Longest Day

OUTLINED against a clear sky, the soldiers jumped into the water from the dark shape of the landing craft and, weapons at the ready, ran on to the beach.

It could have been Normandy, 1944 – and indeed, the chances were that the grandfathers, fathers or uncles of the Territorial battalion members clambering over the pebble-covered sand had been there for real on D-Day itself.

However this was not dawn in France, but 2200 hours on a June night near Inverness in Scotland, where total darkness is brief around the time of the longest day of the year.

Members of 7th (Durham) Light Infantry and 4/5 Green Howards – both of whose regiments had been involved in the D-Day landings, with the Green Howards winning the only Victoria Cross to be awarded on June 6 itself – were taking part in the annual

brigade Exercise Highland Merlin.

The 600 members of the two battalions – part of 15 (North East) Brigade – had been given the task of invading an enemy-held beach and moving quickly inland to destroy an objective, before withdrawing by sea once again.

Pressed into action were two RCL vessels and a much smaller LVCP, plus a trawler which had been commandeered to help with an earlier covert insertion of a recce platoon on the beach-head, and two Wessex helicopters.

For the purposes of the exercise scenario, Fort George (the historic military stronghold near Inverness currently occupied by The Royal Scots) is a sovereign base area, explained Maj Hugo Fletcher, the brigade’s Chief of Staff, who masterminded the exercise.

Because there was a neutral country situated next to

the hostile former colony of “Moravia”, the British troops

could not go through it to attack, but had to go by sea.

“Hence the landing craft,” said a Green Howards captain. “It’s the first time they have been used in one of our exercise scenarios in the 12 years I have been with the brigade, so it is quite a novelty.”

Fort George found itself the focus of frantic goings-on as the two larger craft with their smaller sister made repeated forays to its shore, loading soldiers as tightly as peace-time regulations will allow (50 to the RCLs, 30 in the belly of the LVCP).

“Any more takers for trips around the bay?” one comedian called out, as the ramps went up even as the men on board were being briefed on what lay ahead and the vessels did a swift turn out of

Words: Phil Wilcox
Pictures: Mike Perring

sight round the nearby headland. An hour later, and still in virtual daylight at 2200 hours, the first of the larger craft hove into view off the shore and, signalled in by beachmaster Lt Richard Charnock (61 Port Squadron) was soon disgorging its occupants to hold the beach.

The second and third waves followed in quick succession, leaving the three vessels to continue their ferrying tasks.

In the rush of adrenalin, the colonel who had been playing the role of an expatriate scheduled to be rescued from his “holiday home” near the beach was briefly overlooked . . .

The following day was no less action-filled, as various elements of both battalions, having filtered inland, were involved in river crossings, an attack on Rait Castle – a medieval ruin on the Cawdor

estate masquerading on this occasion as an anti-aircraft emplacement – and an exhilarating helicopter and land-borne attack on a battery at the former prisoner-of-war camp on Cromarty Point.

More than one spectacular “death” took place and prisoner taken, to say nothing of at least one genuine case of hypothermia, in the next few hours, as the Royal Scots at Rait and Pioneers and Signallers at Cromarty threw themselves enthusiastically into their roles as the enemy.

As the action hotted up all over Moravia, casualties and refugees were taken out by helicopter.

“It’s a shame we are not here for any longer, it was just getting exciting,” said one enthusiastic enemy signaller.

“The circling helicopters with machine guns took us totally by surprise: we didn’t know which way to shoot,” he

added, as thunder-flashes exploded and a plume of smoke rose above the yellow, red and white oil-rig maintenance platforms in the Moray Firth, temporarily startling the basking seals and dolphins for which it is a second home.

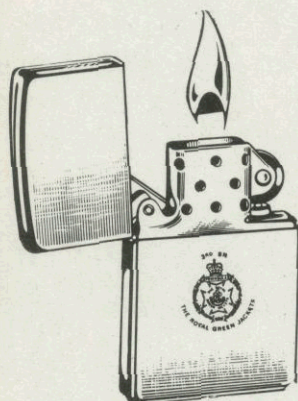
After a successful withdrawal – again by sea – Maj Fletcher said that, considering that neither of the battalions involved had had any experience of sea landings, all the aims of the exercise had been achieved, and many lessons learned.

Not least of these, he pointed out, was the full use of inter-Services resources and helicopter flying hours.

He was unable to say what he is planning for next year’s exercise, but it is reasonable to speculate that, in complete contrast, it will be held somewhere where, on the longest day, the sun actually goes down and the enemy hides in the darkness.

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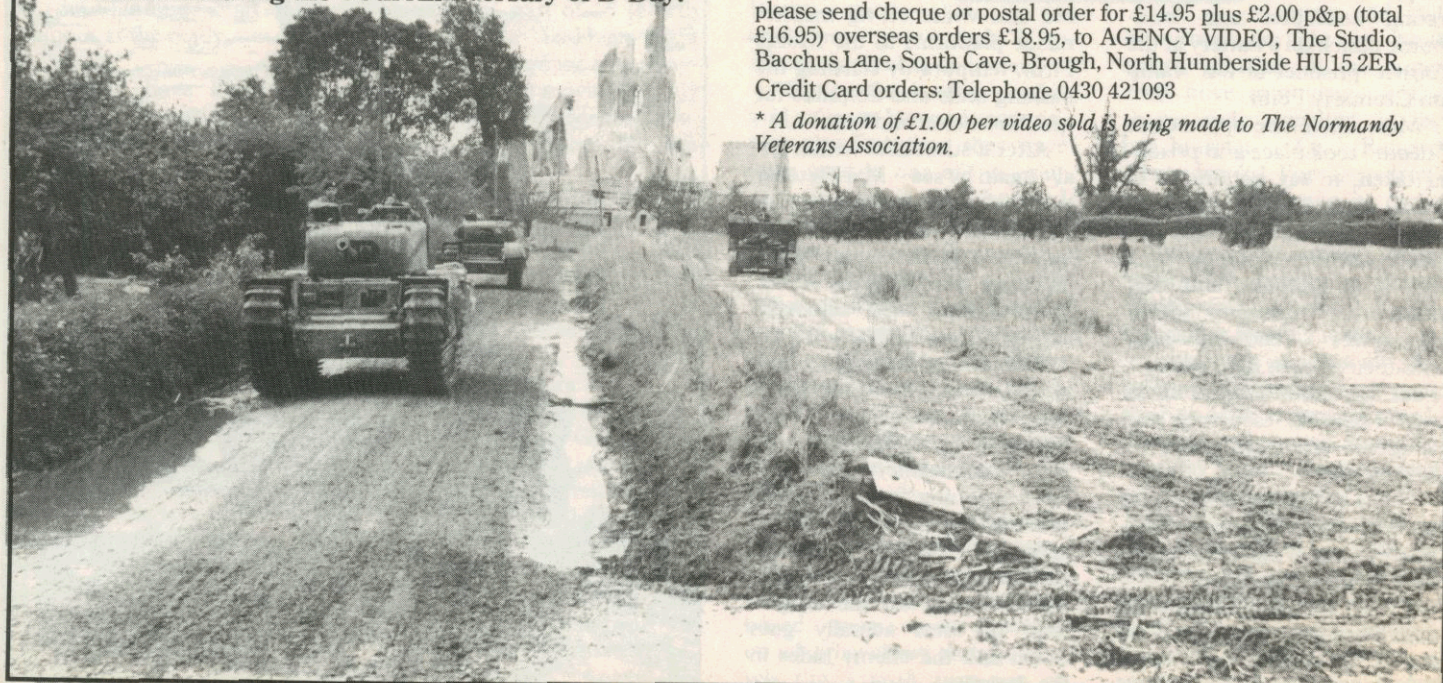
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D6

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Veterans Association.



The Military Knights of Windsor – a charity which pre-dates the Army Benevolent Fund by 600 years – make a striking entrance

The Army's family pays tribute to its fund

FROM THE moment the scarlet-clad bands marched on from opposite sides under the colonnades and converged at the central columns it was apparent that the occasion was going to be something special.

Follow that with a goodly proportion of Royals, no fewer than eight field marshals AND a parade of the Standards, Colours, Guidons and other representations of every corps and regiment in the modern British Army and one has the makings of a unique event.

And that, indeed, is what the Army Benevolent Fund (ABF) had set out to achieve as it celebrated its half century of existence with a drumhead service in Founder's Court at the Royal Hospital, Chelsea.

It was in August 1944, as the Allied armies broke out of the Normandy bridgehead and carried on towards the Rhine, that it was recognised that some form of additional resources to the regimental benevolent funds would be needed when the four-and-a-half million men and women then in Army uniform returned to civilian life.

Since those early days, the ABF has continued its aim of providing help by various means to serving and ex-soldiers and their families when they are in real need,

working both in conjunction with, and on behalf of, individual's corps or regimental association.

The fund's first patron was King George VI, which gave the Chelsea thanksgiving service an added poignancy when, dressed in a light floral outfit befitting the extremely hot day, and leaning on a stick,

his widow, the Queen Mother, took place of honour in the canopied Royal Box.

After the bands of the Coldstream and Scots Guards and the pipes and drums of 1st Battalion, Royal Scots had marched on to the immaculately-maintained courtyard, 30 in-pensioners from the hospital stepped out smartly from the right, in stately fashion, to the tune they must have heard hundreds of times before: *The Boys*

of the Old Brigade. They took their seats adjacent to one of the 13-pounders – which serve as the Royal Artillery's Colours – manned by soldiers from the Royal Horse Artillery.

Then, in a remarkable acknowledgement of thanks to the fund, 45 Colour parties – ranging from regiments raised in the 17th century to the Army Air Corps, which received its Guidon recently – marched on to the grass.

Those without Colours, Standards or Guidons, represented by drums or marching groups, followed on, until the area around the statue of the hospital's founder, King Charles II, was a mass of bright colours.

The drums for the service were marched on from either side and arranged

Words:
Phil Wilcox
Pictures:
Mike Weston

● Turn to Page 29



Above: In a tradition originating on the battlefield, the altar at the service was made up of drum formations. The Royal Engineers, Royal Corps of Signals, Royal Logistic Corps, REME and Adjutant General's Corps – none of which have Colours or Standards – were all represented by piled drums. Left: Scotland, England, Northern Ireland and Wales were proudly represented on the day. Below: Members of the Royal Horse Artillery lead the way as they march in to Founders Court



Main picture: The ABF put on a display unlikely to be repeated for some time: the Standards, Colours, Guidons and other representations of every single corps and regiment in the Army on show. (Above) In-pensioners from the Royal Hospital witness Michael Parker's impressive spectacle held in their grounds. (Right) Pipers from the 1st Battalion, Royal Scots who provided some of the music from an unusual vantage point



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THE ARMY BENEVOLENT FUND

Remembering & Supporting the Brave



Loggies show off their wares at Deepcut

THE ROYAL Logistic Corps opened its doors last month for its annual open day. Display teams from all around the country travelled to Deepcut to demonstrate what their unit's role is in the vital task of sustaining the Army in peace and war.

Tanks and armoured vehicles were provided from the stocks of Base Vehicle Depot, Ludgershall; a field bakery used for baking bread for troops deployed in out of area operations kept everyone in fresh bread; and a snow hole was built in the middle of the Surrey summer heat by 42 Logistic Support Squadron RLC (recently returned from two months' arctic warfare training in Norway).

Many units brought along the Gulf War workhorse, DROPS, a truck capable of



Picture: Mike Weston

A Chieftain main battle tank drives up the ramp to demonstrate the vehicle lift capability of 19 Tank Transporter Squadron RLC during a demonstration of British Army field logistics at Abingdon. The event was mounted by the Royal Logistic Corps' 3 Close Support Regiment, 4 General Support Regiment, 11 EOD Regiment and the AMF(L) Logistic Support Battalion. Techniques demonstrated included explosive ordnance disposal, bulk fuel issue and the provision of combat supplies and material

loading a rack of eight pallets in two minutes. The event was part of the corps weekend held at the RLC Training Depot in Deepcut, home of the Royal Logistic Corps.

The main arena events got under way when the Silver Stars Parachute Display dropped in with pin-point accuracy. Then the massed bands of the RLC played throughout the afternoon

while the rest of the displays showed off their hardware and duties at the many static stands.

Other arena events to attract the crowd's attention were the tug of war competition and the corps coaches. Four teams entered the tug of war, victory going to the Training Centre team.

The coach on display was donated by officers of the

Army Service Corps and built around 1885 by Holland and Holland of London.

It is now owned by the RLC Coach club and is regularly used by all ranks for outings with style.

One piece of equipment on display was a Falklands war veteran Mexeflote, a large floating platform used to ferry supplies and vehicles ashore.

ABF celebrates 50 years

● From Page 25

The drums for the service were marched on from either side and arranged in five formations. A fanfare was sounded by trumpeters from Kneller Hall, perched atop the colonnade. Then, with great dignity, 12 members of the Military Knights of Windsor, a distinguished group of retired Army officers, resplendent in plumed cocked hats, marched on.

Their presence was particularly appropriate, since, having originally been founded in 1348, they could truly call themselves the successors of the first-ever military pensioners.

The members of the royal party, who included the Duke of Kent, were followed to their seats by seven of his fellow field marshals, resplendent in gold braid and sashes.

Dwarfed by parade commander Lt Col Giles Crisp, Coldm Gds, the tiny figures of choirboys and girls from the Royal Caledonian Schools and the Royal School Hampstead took their places near the

podium where The Rt Rev Michael Mann stood ready to take the service.

The Lesson, from 1 Corinthians read by Second World War hero Lt Tasker Watkins VC, Welch Regiment, was – appositely for a fund which last year distributed more than £3½m – on the theme of charity.

Later, in a characteristic touch of showmanship by the event's seasoned organiser, Maj Michael Parker, four buglers from the Royal Green Jackets materialised at strategic points high above the courtyard on the very roof of the hospital itself.

One by one, they joined in playing the Infantry Last Post and, after a short silence, Cavalry Reveille.

And, as part of the finale to the "short and dignified ceremony" which the fund had arranged for the members of its large family, 18 pipers and drummers from 1st Battalion, The Royal Scots assembled on top of the colonnade in front of the hospital's chapel windows.

The drums were recovered, the music

died away, and the in-pensioners, pondering on an Army turnout the likes of which Chelsea is never likely to see again, marched off.

Thanking the hundreds of specially-invited supporters and beneficiaries attending this pivotal occasion of the fund's appeal year, ABF president Gen Sir Robert Ford said: "We are resolved to continue our work as long as the need exists."

Behind Founder's Court, beyond the two Howitzers and two guns captured at Waterloo and the hospital's lawn sweeping down to the embankment, the cavernous upturned billiard table which is the currently disused Battersea Power Station could be seen across the river

The glint in Michael Parker's eye as he noticed it suggested that he might already be thinking of an appropriate indoor arena large enough to celebrate the fund's centenary . . .

● The Army Benevolent Fund is on 071-584 5232.

Housing trust's vision of care

THE CUSTOMER will always be right, Mr Michael Robinson, chief executive designate of the Crown Housing Trust, told the Adjutant General's conference in London on July 12.

Delegates, who included representatives from the Federation of Army Wives, heard Mr Robinson's vision of locally managed communities in which a caring attitude and rapid response to problems was the hallmark of the Housing Trust.

He also gave an assurance that the expertise of current housing staff would be required by the new organisation.

Agreement on the detail of the trust, which will administer an estate of 69,000 properties, was in prospect. Much work needed to be done to satisfy the diverse interests of financial institutions, the Services and the Treasury, but the project was on schedule for the Heads of Terms document to be signed by September, setting out the principles of the transaction on which the business plan would be based.

Speaking about the challenge which faced the trust, Mr Robinson said: "In my view there is nothing more depressing than walking into a poorly maintained house with a poor kitchen and old carpets, knowing that it's not your own house and knowing you might be there for 18 months."

"However, having seen some of the accommodation so far, it varies from the luxurious to the appalling. That is a situation which in my view is untenable and must be changed."

He anticipated the scale of expenditure required on MoD's housing stock would be an estimated £4.7 billion to be spent over a 30-year period.

Disposals and short-term letting would be needed to redress the current situation in which 14 per cent of quarters were vacant, an impossible position for the trust.

Allocations would be a sensitive balance between letting to civilians and the

future needs of the Services.

"What is this trust going to be?" said Mr Robinson. "At the moment we are planning it to be a non-profit distributing company, established under a royal charter, which means the surpluses would be ploughed back into the business."

"That's an important issue. It means where profits and surpluses are made by the trust they can be used to raise standards."

The trust's board would be drawn from a range of interests, including banks and representatives of Service wives, and would be socially responsible.

It would not be possible to run an estate of 69,000

properties on anything other than a local basis, said Mr Robinson. The focus would be on local management areas, between 24 and 26, subject to consultation with the Services.

"You will have local managers dealing with between 2,000 and 4,000 properties."

"In order to run it efficiently, it is essential that those managers have the tools to do the job, and that means they must have local budgets, they must have control over allocations and control over all their activities."

"We must have local management with local control working with the families."

"Management is not just the management of bricks

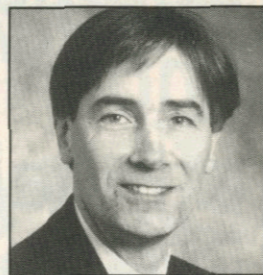
and mortar. We must develop a caring concern for residents. It is a cliché to say the customer is always right, but we've got to develop an ethos within the staff to ensure that that happens."

The encouragement of residents' and tenants' associations and the work of the Army Wives group was essential.

In those circumstances he anticipated steadfast support for HIVEs and other community facilities.

He said a major criticism of Service accommodation revealed by surveys was of the environment. Bare, uninviting areas and absence of trees around married quarters needed to be addressed.

Mr Robinson said the trust



Michael Robinson

must make use of the skills of existing housing staff. It was pragmatic and morally correct that their services should be retained.

He anticipated that staff would be committed to working closely with welfare and other services and spoke of a management philosophy of "we're here to help, to bend the rules, to do whatever is necessary to provide support".

One delegate was reassured that the Armed Forces Pay Review Body would continue to provide a check on the level of rents. Mr Robinson said the scale of the trust should make it possible to continue allowing organisations such as playgroups to use empty properties at no cost.

Cari Roberts

→ COUNTERPOINT ←

ONE of the difficulties experienced by redundees is tied up with mortgages. Some people have found that they can't raise a mortgage until they've found another job in civilian life.

Several building societies have introduced schemes to cover the gap and these are known as "non status" mortgages.

The Army Families Advice Bureau has a very comprehensive factsheet which gives details of the companies concerned and the schemes they offer.

What you should bear in mind, if you're thinking of taking up any of these offers, is that MoD accepts no liability for the accuracy of the information, nor does it actually endorse any particular offer.

Any arrangement you make will be a private contract and MoD accepts no liability in respect of any such contract.

What this means, in lay terms, is that you should be very careful about taking out any financial agreement. Money is one of the main areas where Service and ex-Service people are likely to have difficulties. It's

MORTGAGES: BEWARE GLIB SALES TALK

also where a lot of sales people are waiting to take advantage of you.

The advice from all the experts is that you should take a lot of advice and compare the fine print. What seems like a wonderful offer sometimes turns out to be hedged about with exclusion clauses and hidden obligations.

If you find a good offer check it out very carefully and think ahead to what your financial commitments are likely to be in a few years' time.

Work out what you can afford if your plans don't work and you have to draw the purse strings a little tighter than you'd bargained for.

Last time I mentioned the question of British citizenship I got many more letters

than I'd expected. The Home Office has produced a comprehensive leaflet on British citizenship covering children born outside the UK to parents in Crown Service, in designated service, or in service under a European Community Institution.

It's leaflet BN6 and you get it from the Home Office, Nationality Division, 3rd Floor, India Buildings, Water Street, Liverpool L2 0QN.

Finally, I received a letter recently from the distressed parents of a Serviceman whose wife had returned home to Germany on separation from their son.

She took the young children with her and the couple are worried about them all. Where could they

go to seek help, they ask.

To them, and to other people in the same position, I would urge you to try SSAFA. The organisation has a lifelong commitment to the families of Service and ex-Service people.

It also operates an extensive network and, to steal a phrase from the advertising world, if they don't know the answer, they know a person who does.

You can contact Cari at BFBS, BFPO 786 or c/o Soldier.

SECOND FAMILIES WARRANT RETHINK

STEPFAMILIES support group organiser Kath Little has appealed for more travel warrants to be made available to "second" families.

A divorced Service person is entitled to six such warrants, an entitlement which ceases on remarriage.

Mrs Little, herself a Service mother and stepmother, believes the need is greater, not smaller, after a second marriage.

For a start, the costs of



Pictures: Terry Champion

Deep waters: view of the lake to the south side of Camp Farm Park Estate before safety measures were introduced. Inset: The sign says it all

Deep trouble avoided down on the Farm

Introduction to freefall

THE Northern Ireland Services Freefall Club is looking for new members. To encourage soldiers and their families, the club is offering introductory courses including a first jump for only £60. For details, contact Chief Instructor Sgt Skippy Morris c/o The Northern Ireland Services Freefall Club, Shackleton Barracks, BFPO 802.

ATTRACTIVE, idyllic, picturesque – but, most importantly, safe...

The lake to the south side of Aldershot's Camp Farm Park Estate will be able to boast that vital attribute by the time the final work is completed, according to housing commandant Maj John Harborn.

From its shore, he explained, the lake is deceptively shallow, but it shelves into very deep water after a few feet,

making it a potential danger to children.

"We have approached the contractors to provide a stout hedge, a self-closing gate and new warning signs and life-saving equipment," Maj Harborn said.

Each house has a secure garden at the back where toddlers can be kept in, and warning letters have been issued to every householder. Warnings have also been published in garrison daily orders.

"It was suggested that

we put a fence in similar to barracks, but no matter how big a fence one puts up, older children will get over it," he said.

The estate, which at present is virtually traffic-free, was designed and built in open-plan fashion.

"I have not had any complaints," the commandant said. "When offered Camp Farm, nobody has turned it down."

One wife, newly returned from Germany, told *Soldier*: "I love it here, and though I wouldn't let my teenage daughter swim in the lake I feel it would be a great pity if the estate were fenced in."

As Maj Harborn said: "If anyone has any strong feelings, they can come to me if necessary for an exchange quarter."

Ultimately, he pointed out, despite any amount of preventive measures, it will be a question of parents using their common sense and keeping a watchful eye on their children.

● The unprotected rainwater culvert near the lake was being fenced in as *Soldier* spoke to Maj Harborn.

Best job prospects for years

MANPOWER UK, one of the biggest recruitment organisations, has reported the best job prospects for four years with more than a quarter of employers forecasting job increases. Manufacturing is the most optimistic sector, with construction close behind.

Nearly 80 per cent of those leaving the Armed Forces find work within three months of departing. One of those is Pete Pollit, now head mechanic for a Granada Entertainments bowling alley complex. He was a REME lance corporal.

He puts his success down to the fact that the Army taught him his trade and his skills. "I did a ten-month course at the School of Electrical and Mechanical Engineers. What I learnt there I use today."

Thousands of other Service leavers have found jobs, including Derek Witchell, age 41, a former staff sergeant in the Royal Signals and now warehouse manager and BS5750 site co-ordinator for Nipa Laboratories. He says: "Many of the skills I developed in the Army I use in my job today – leadership, negotiation skills, the ability to work in a team and, above all, a willingness and confidence to accept responsibility and be decisive."

Those leaving in the coming months have many reasons to be optimistic. There is a growing awareness among a wide range of businesses about what Service leavers can contribute to business as a whole and much of this has been achieved through the efforts of single Service presentation teams and the Army's Action and Support Teams.

The TSRO offers many courses and training to give Service leavers the best chance of finding work.

It is also widely believed that differences between military and commercial environments are cultural rather than practical. Those looking for new careers must learn how to sell themselves and make the effort to be more business-like when compiling CVs.

SOLDIER to Soldier

Falklands medals for RE Museum

A UNIQUE gallantry award won by a sapper during the Falklands War has been presented to the Royal Engineers Museum at Chatham.

WO John Phillips was serving with 49 EOD Squadron RE at Chattenden when he was deployed to the South Atlantic in 1982. On May 22 he and SSgt James Prescott defused a bomb in the boiler of HMS *Argonaut*.

Next day they were called to deal with two bombs on HMS *Antelope*. The first exploded as they attempted for the fourth time to withdraw the fuse, killing SSgt Prescott and seriously injuring WO2 Phillips.

John Phillips received the DSC for his heroism, SSgt Prescott the CGM posthumously.

Both are naval awards: Phillips's is believed to be the first ever to a sapper, Prescott's the first to a non-RN person and the first in the reign of the Queen (only 245 CGMs have been awarded since its inception in 1845).

John Phillips, who retired from the Army as a captain, presented his medals to the museum on July 1. They will join those of James Prescott which have been on display for several years.

BFBS Belize plans reunion

BFBS WANTS to hear from the 600 or so volunteers who have worked on its service in Belize during the past ten years.

To mark the current Belize drawdown, Steve Pleasants is planning a reunion in London early next year. All ex-presenters are welcome.

You can contact Steve c/o BFBS Belize Reunion, BFBS London, PO Box 1234, London W2 1LA (tel: 081-661 7162).

Search for Berkshire Colours

WHERE are the Royal Berkshire Regiment's missing Colours?

A research group delving into the First World War records of the 5th, 6th and 8th Battalions has uncovered evidence that they were laid up in churches in Read-



Pte May's group of medals

VC returns to Cameronians

A VICTORIA Cross won by Pte Henry May of the 1st Battalion, The Cameronians (Scottish Rifles) at La Boutillerie, France, on May 22, 1914 has been returned to his regiment.

The medal realised £18,250 at Wallis and Wallis's coin and medal auction in June and was bought by the Ogilby Trust on behalf of the regimental museum at Hamilton, Strathclyde.

Pte May rescued a soldier under heavy fire and later the same day carried Lt D A H Graham (subsequently Maj Gen Graham CB, CBE, DSO, MC),

his platoon commander, to safety.

May's VC was in a group of five which included the Mons Star trio and the George VI Coronation Medal of 1937.

The previous lot (the auction was based on the collection of the late Mrs E J Macdonald) of a DCM, MM, Mons trio and LS and GCM awarded to Pte W Cairns of the 2nd Scottish Rifles, included the first DCM to be awarded to a Cameronian during the Second World War. It was bought for £390, also for the regimental museum.

ing, but has so far located only the Colours of the 5th Battalion.

(They are, incidentally, in good order.)

Enquiries to the church and regimental museums drew a blank but unearthed the fact that the locations of several other Colours are unknown — namely the 1/4th, 2/4th, 7th, 10th, 11th, 12th and 13th Battalions.

All are said to have been laid up in churches in the Reading area.

Martin McIntyre of 7 Marsh Lane, Hungerford, Berks RG17 0QN, is hot on the trail of the lost Colours. The DERR Museum is equally keen that he should succeed.

All being well, the group hopes to publish a book on the story of the 5th, 6th and 8th "Kitchener Battalions".

Swanage rail's first decade

ROYAL Signallers joined members of Swanage Railway on June 4 to celebrate the tenth anniversary of a unique partnership.

Ten years ago 15 men of 30 Signal Regiment, then stationed at Blandford (now at Bramcote), installed telecoms over the first mile of the railway, and since then signallers have been back on many occasions to wire in exchanges and miles of cable.

They even have their own supporters' club — the Mercury Group — and the corps has accepted corporate membership of the Southern Steam Trust.

REUNIONS

● **1 Tp, 3 Fd Sqn RE (1989-93):** Anyone who served with 1 Tp between 1989 and 1993, especially in the Gulf War and Bosnia, is asked to contact Sgt Jason Till for details of a proposed reunion. ACIO Cambridge (tel: Camb Mil 765 5030 or 0223 301673).

● **56 Signal Sqn (V), Eastbourne:** All ranks past and present reunion dinner, October 7. Details from PSAO, 56 Sig Sqn (V), TA Centre, Seaside, Eastbourne, E Sussex BN22 7NL.

● **East Midland Universities OTC Association:** First reunion takes place on October 7 at the Tower of London. Former members of EMU and Nottingham University OTCs are asked to contact the Secretary, TA Centre, Broadgate Beeston, Notts NG9 2HF (tel: 0602 255932).

● **5 Kings/2 T Force Unit OCA:** Annual meeting takes place at Stoke on Trent on October 25. Details from Hon Secretary, 15 Wedgewood Road, Barlaston, Stoke on Trent ST12 9BB.

● **Small Arms School Corps** and ex-permanent staff, Small Arms Wing, Hythe, grand reunion, Hythe, November 11-13. Details from Fred Gray, Blaenblodau, Dryslwyn, Carmarthen, Dyfed SA32 8RN (tel: 0558 668719).

● **South Notts Hussars Association:** Reunion dinner, Nottingham, November 12. Details from Col A J Haines, 54 Rivergreen Crescent, Bramcote, Notts NG9 3ET (tel: 0602 285371).

● **43rd Recce Regt RAC (The Gloucestershire Regiment):** *Derrygunihy* survivors and others are invited to attend a Service of Remembrance on November 13 at the Merchant Navy War Memorial, Tower Hill, London EC3. Wreaths will be laid for crewmen and members of the regiment lost on June 24, 1944. Details from M McEwen Charlsh, 132 Park Lane, Carshalton, Surrey SM5 3DT (tel: 081-647 4270).

● **71 Signal Regt LAD REME:** 25th anniversary reunion, TA Centre, Bexleyheath, December 10. Details from SSgt Pallett, LAD REME 71 (Yeomanry) Sig Regt, Phoenix House, Watling Street, Bexleyheath, Kent DA6 7QQ (tel: 0322 529225).

● **RMP Association (Birmingham Central Branch):** This new West Midlands Branch meets every month at the United Servicemen's Club, Gough Street, Birmingham. Details from Hon Secretary John Oliver, 46 St Mary's Road, Harbourne, Birmingham B17 0HA (tel: 021-427 8008).

OP HAMDEN COMMENDATIONS

THE Joint Commander Operation Hamden has commended the following for service on, or support to, operations in the former Republic of Yugoslavia from May 11, 1993 to November 17, 1993.

Maj L A Bower RLC; Maj S Gray RLC; Maj C H Maginniss RLC; A/Maj N A Page RE; Maj R D Stapley RLC; Maj T C Tomlinson Int Corps; Maj R J Watson PWO. Capt C E T Burnell AGC(PS); Capt B Cawkwell PWO; Capt P

Foley RLC; Capt P D P Hankinson QRL; Capt G L Hegarty, R Signals; Capt R W Lacy, Para; Rev J B Massey RACHD; Capt J Rimmer RLC; Lt J A J Calder, Gordons.

WO2 S H J Ash RAMC; WO2 S W Emerson PWO; WO2 P D Taylor RE; SSgt S B Bailey, Int Corps; A/SSgt S J Bolton, R Signals; SSgt A F Soward, R Signals.

Sgt S J Cole RLC; Sgt S J Eley REME; Sgt M Gavican LD; Sgt C R Smith RLC; Sgt N B White

PWO; Cpl J B Dennison PWO; Cpl G R Donaldson RLC; Cpl J G Haley Int Corps; A/Cpl R Holtom, Gordons; Cpl G L Hickson LD; Cpl M A Partridge RLC.

LCpl S P Bingley PWO; LCpl R E Dixon PWO; LCpl J J R Gardner Int Corps; LCpl A Grant PWO; LCpl G P Healy RAMC; LCpl P A Urey QLR; LCpl P A Wallbridge RLC; Pte M B Barnett PWO; Pte D Bolton RAMC; Tpr A Hardy LD; Pte J T Shannon QLR.

APPOINTMENTS

Brigadier — M G Taylor — To HQ UKSC (G), July 4.

Colonels — C S Faith — To be Comd CMTT Ghana, July 4; J S W Powell — To UNFICYP, July 4; R A Hyde-Bales — To HQ RSME (Minley), July 4; R Leighton — To be Comd SPS HQ Edist, July 4; K A C Watt — To 3 Dent Gp, July 4; R M H Phillip — To CMH, July 25.

Lt Cols — J W Church RRF — To SHAPE Staff (BAE), July 8; M J W Grubb LI — To RMAS, July 4; N St J Hall DWR — To Staff Coll (DS), July 4; J N R Houghton, Green

Howards — To MS, July 4; D W M Magee AGC (ETS) — To RAS, July 4; P G Major REME — To Sch of Eqpt Sp (A), July 4; C A Mildinhall RE — To Engr Resources, July 5; G J Parker AGC (ETS) — To be Comd Ed HQ Londist, July 8; R J Slater REME — To MoD, July 4; W P Sylvester RS — To MoD, July 4; I F G Whittington RE (Svy) — To HQ AF Northwest, July 4; C J Ross WG — To HQ A Mus, July 4; D W Smith RAMC — To MRS Hohne, July 4; P E O'R-B Davidson-Houston RGBW — To be CO 1 RGBW,

April 27 (Belated Entry).

G A Douglas, A and SH — To Exchange Appts Canada, July 16; A I Finlayson QRL — To be CO QRL, July 12; N P Gaskell LI — To JSDC, July 11; H M Hoey RE — To HQ AFNORTHWEST, July 16; D J Kerr RLC — To BMATT Zimbabwe, July 14.

RETIREMENTS

Colonels — B F Ross, late REME, July 8; E L Yorke, late 13/18 H, July 9.

DIARY

JULY

Until 30: Royal Tournament, Earls Court (tickets available from box office on 071-373 8141).

AUGUST

14-15: Army Careers/ESCA U-15 county cricket finals, Aldershot.

SEPTEMBER

5-11: Farnborough International Airshow.

NOVEMBER

17-19: Army Arts Society Festival, Rheindahlen (entry forms from HIVEs).

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

● Anyone who remembers **Pte Arthur (Dusty) Miller**, 2nd Royal Warwickshire Regt, killed in Normandy and buried at Ranville, is asked to contact his daughter, Mrs K Clarke, 37 Stradbroke Avenue, St George, Bristol BS5 8PJ (tel: 0272 478616).

● R Williams wishes to hear from **David William Graham Gilmour** who served at Munster, Germany (1970-71) and Tidworth (July-August 1972). Replies to P O Box 218, Crewe, Cheshire CW1 3FE.

● **Italy Star Association:** Newly-formed Leicester branch welcomes new members. Contact Hon Sec Frank Kerr, 131 Hungarten Boulevard, Netherhall Estate, Leics LE5 1DF (tel: 0533 742459) or Chairman S Newham, 44 Vernon Road, Aylestone Park, Leics LE2 8GA (tel: 0533 837579).

● **71st HAA Regt RA (1949-54)** has just held its first reunion after 40 years and plans another in June 1995. Contact Nobby Clarkson, 10 Heights Way, Leeds LS12 3SN for details of OCA.

● Anyone who remembers the late Gunner **Bert Davies MM**, who enlisted in 1942 at Anglesey, trained at Auchteradar, Scotland, and served as a signaller with 359 Bty, 128 Fd Regt RA in North Africa, Sicily and Italy, is asked to contact his son, Mr H Davies, 5 Bodnant Crescent, Llandudno, Gwynedd LL30 1LL.

● Mrs Jane Clarke wishes to contact her father, **Terence Alfred Ashton** (known as Tom or Alf), who served in India and whose last-known location was Newhaven-Seaforth, E Sussex, where he was a member of the Crawley and Newhaven branch of the Royal British Legion. Replies c/o 24750851 LCpl M J D Clarke RLC, 3 Armd Fd Amb RAMC, MT Sqn, Talbot Bks, BFPO 16 (tel: 010 49 5254 64360).

● Ex **RCT/RASC musicians** formed their own old comrades' association in June and so far have 120 names. Contact is S T Wright, 13 Benett Gardens, Norbury, London SW16 4QE.

● Mlle Jennifer Clark (Impasse Des Roseaux, 30200 Venejan, France) seeks news of her grandfather, **Thomas Joseph Clark**, born February 18, 1923 in Glasgow, who was a captain in the RASC (graves) in 1947.

● I M Steigman wishes to hear from anyone who knew his father, **14362267 Pte Myer Steigman RAMC**, enlisted December 1942 and possibly attached to Long Range Desert Group, North Africa, May-June 1944. Replies to 68a Stanley Road, Lower Edmon-ton, London N9 9AB.

● Rose Conway (previously Havlin) wishes to re-establish contact with Mrs **Serena Johnson**, wife of Royal Signals officer Peter, last heard from at Blandford. Replies to 18 Princess Close, West End, Southampton SO30 3JU (tel: 0703 470033).

● **Sgt John Stone:** Old comrade seeks information on Sgt John Rodney Stone, who enlisted in the Royal Artillery at Houndstone Barracks, Yeovil, on March 15, 1940. Contact Mr S H Lane, 3 Birch Side, Edgumbe Park, Crowthorne, Berks RG11 6HP (tel: 0344 774437).

CLOSURES

● **The British Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess, Gun Club Hill Barracks, Kowloon** will close on October 31. Anyone who has presented property to the mess is asked to contact WO1 (SSM) K G M Adderley c/o APDO, Gun Club Hill Barracks, Kowloon, BFPO 1 (tel: Hong Kong 7322200).

● **British Forces Belize** are drawing down by September. Units or individuals who made presentations to any mess and who require their return are asked to contact units concerned. Packaging and postage to be paid for by unit/individual. Items not claimed by July 31 will be transferred to British Army Training Support Unit, Belize, which is setting up.

PILGRIMAGES

● A memorial to **RASC Air Despatchers** who lost their lives while attempting to re-supply Airborne Forces at Arnhem in September 1944 will be unveiled and dedicated by Gen Sir John Hackett on Sunday, September 18 (not November 18 as previously stated). Location of the memorial is 200m from the entrance to Oosterbeek Cemetery. Details from Maj W M Carlisle RLC on RAF Lyneham 6515 or 0249 890381 ext 6515.

● **Japanese Labour Camp Survivors' Association of Great Britain** is arranging three two-week pilgrimages to Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia and Burma to mark the 50th anniversary of the end of the Second World War. Onward travel also possible. Pilgrimages not restricted to JLCSA members. Enquiries to Three Pagodas VJ50, Rayner House, 23 Higher Hillgate, Stockport, Cheshire SK1 3ER.

MILITARIA

● **3rd British Division (1944-45)** veterans are asked to contact Patrick Delaforce, 2 Hamilton Road, Brighton BN1 5DL (tel: 0273 564372), author of *Black Bull, Churchill's Desert Rats* and *Fighting Wessex Wyverns* (Sept 1994), now writing a new history of the famous 3rd British (Iron) Division in NW Europe.

● Any reader living in the Stirling area in the 1960s who recalls seeing an unusual motor car, the Humber Cross Country Saloon, is asked to contact Brian Jewell, The War Room, 30 Park Parade, Harrogate HG1 5AG. Only two or three prototypes were built by the Rootes Group and based on the Humber military FWD 4 x 4 Heavy Utility (widely known as the Batleaxe).

In defence of the RGBW badge

I READ with some concern the letter from Hugh L King (July 11) headed "Going from badge to worse".

I have 40 years experience in the military badge field on both sides of the fence, from my military service with the Royal Army Ordnance Corps in the War Office Pattern Room, followed by years as a director of J R Gaunt, then managing director and now chairman of the London Badge and Button Company.

The implication by Mr King that the head-dress badges of The Royal Gloucestershire, Berkshire and Wiltshire Regiment are "badly produced" is ill considered and without foundation.

As contractors to the Ministry of Defence we are required to follow the specifications laid down in the contract and this we have done to the letter.

We are obliged to conform to stringent quality assurance checks which, on this occasion being a "new badge", required approval by the Research and Development branch of the MoD, senior officers of the amalgamating regiments and the Quality Assurance Directorate.

QA inspectors from the MoD monitor bulk production in accordance with standards

and we with British Standards.

As manufacturer of the RGBW badges we have had nothing but praise from the regiment and the ministry and are assured that the badges are "well produced". - **K C Riddle, Chairman, The London Badge and Button Company Ltd, Birmingham.**

How we designed prototypes

HAVING purchased Hugh King's two fine books I regard him as one of the leading authorities on head-dress badges of the British Army.

However, as one of the two creators of the new RGBW badge, I felt I had to write in its defence, although I cannot shed any light on who authorised the final prototype.

SSgt Don Reid and I were both armourers attached to 1 DERR when, a year before the



Praised: The new badge

amalgamation, we were asked by the then 2iC, Maj P Davidson-Houston (now Lt Col, CO 1 RGBW) to design and make four prototypes of a new badge in various sizes. We simply amalgamated the two cap badges, taking the cross patée of 1 DERR and the Sphinx of the Gloucesters.

The four prototypes were all along the same lines; the first a one-inch square cross patée in polished aluminium, with the Sphinx sprayed gold and mounted in the centre.

The second and third were both one-and-a-quarter inches square, one having a brass cross patée and a silver Sphinx, the other a silver cross patée and a gold sphinx.

The fourth prototype was exactly the same as the first, except that it was enlarged to one-and-a-half inches square.

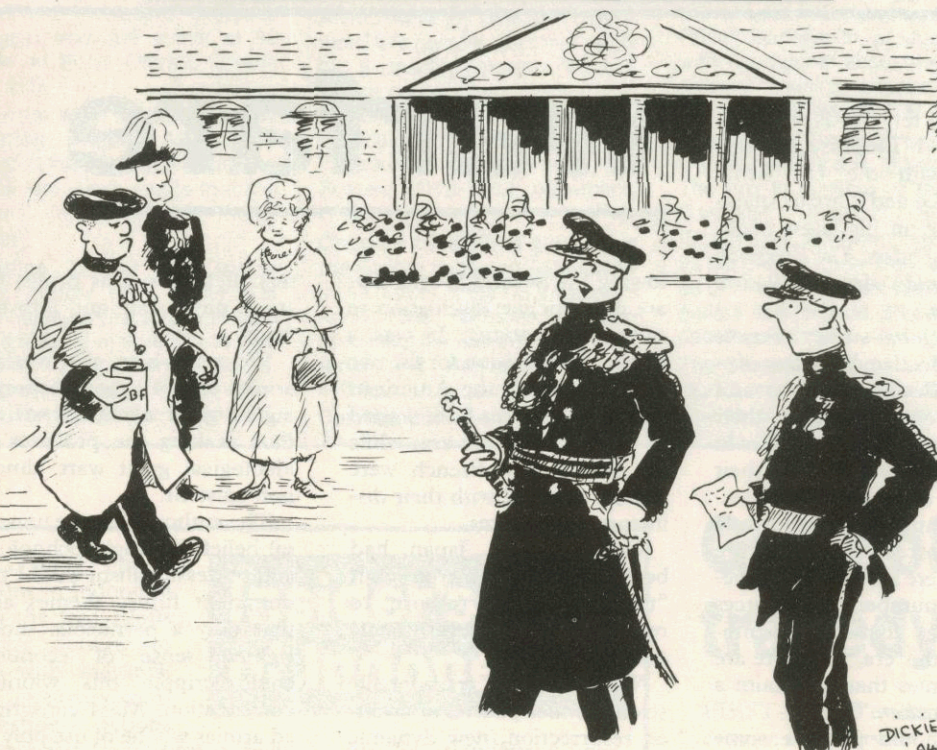
I was told at the time that these badges would eventually be put on display in the regimental museum at The Close in Salisbury.

In his letter Mr King says the design has "some small merit". The badge retains the two most important features of the previous regimental badges, added to which are the Brandywine patch and the Gloucesters' backbadge. Together, they serve as a link with the past and the history of both regiments.

I feel proud to have had a hand in such an historic occasion, albeit a small, somewhat forgotten, part.

Unfortunately I was posted before the amalgamation and do not have a copy of the badge. If anyone from the regiment can spare one, I would be grateful. - **Cfn R Crofton, HQ Coy REME LAD, 1st Bn Royal Scots, Fort George, Ardersier, Inverness IV1 2TD.**

BIRD'S EYE-VIEW



"Dammit, Dave, ambushed again! . . . Quick, some small change"

● Army Benevolent Fund celebrates - Pages 25-27

Hampshire four, Liverpool five

IN REPLY to Mr Shears's letter (June 27), the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry was not the only pre-war regiment to have two cap badges.

The Hampshire Regiment had at least four, while the 6th, 7th and 8th Bns TA all wore different badges from the Regular battalions, where in addition the officers wore a different badge from other ranks.

Among other regiments were 8th (Irish) Bn, The King's Regt; 7th and 8th (Leeds Rifles) Bns, The West Yorks; 7th (Robin Hood) Bn, The Sherwood Foresters; 9th

(Glasgow Highlanders) Bn, The Highland LI; and 5th (Cinque Ports) Bn, The Sussex Regt.

Incidentally, while watching the D-Day anniversary events on TV, I noticed the Band of the Army Air Corps wearing white cavalry sword belts, overalls and spurs when they led the veterans over Pegasus Bridge.

As the AAC was presented with a Guidon (*Soldier*, June 27) it can be assumed that it is considered to be a mounted corps. I wonder why.

Also, why was the Guidon being carried by a commissioned officer and not by a war-

rant officer, as is the custom in the cavalry, and why was the RSM, who is shown marching in rear, not wearing spurs? - **A J Donald, Horndean, Hants.**

THE King's Regiment (Liverpool) had five cap badges. They were: 1st and 2nd Battalions - The White Horse of Hanover; 5th (Rifle) Bn - The White Horse in black metal; 6th (Rifle) Bn - a Light Infantry Bugle suspended from the Rose of Lancaster in black metal; 8th (Liverpool Irish) Bn - Harp and Crown in white metal; 10th (Scottish) Bn - The White Horse superimposed upon a Cross Saltire and Wreath of Thistles.

The latter badge is now worn by The Liverpool Scottish Company of 5th/8th Volunteer Battalion.

Finally, the 1914-19 Pals Battalions of The King's wore the crest of the Earl of Derby as a cap badge. - **A J Moore, Liverpool L23.**

Reaching parts others don't?

CONGRATULATIONS! Your publication of the details of the proposed reunion of the Small Arms School Corps in April and May editions of *Soldier* was a great success.

It has put us in touch with many with whom we had lost touch - as well as a number it was thought had gone forever.

The variety of locations from which replies were received is testimony to your wide circulation and appeal to ex-serving members.

Because of the response, it is now confirmed that the proposed reunion is now a full-scale event (see *Reunions*, Page 33).

The *Soldier* staff and contributors produce a first-rate magazine - particularly the D-Day edition - reasonably priced, which is awaited with keen anticipation every fortnight. - **Frederick L Gray, Carmarthen, Dyfed.**

Mixing it with the Scots . . .

IT IS with some dismay that I have to write to you. The July 11 Reviews section includes the book *Fields of Fire - Battlefields of the Peninsular War*.

Your reviewer mentions that Wellington "fought the French with a mix of English and Portuguese soldiers".

No Scots? No Irish? No Welsh?

Surely Wellington's Army had rather more than English soldiers in its ranks. As a Scot I take exception to Britain repeatedly being reduced to one member country especially in matters military as the fighting reputation of the Scottish soldier is second to none.

I would simply draw your attention to the same issue, same section and the review of *The Piper in Peace and War*, where Wellington himself is credited with knowing he had Scots fighting with him!

Please try not to label "Britain" as "England". - **W W Mullen, West Malling, Kent.**

THE TAX-FREE CARS IN FRONT.

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THE CAR IN FRONT IS A TOYOTA

MOST DECORATED NCO

AS A faithful *Soldier* reader for 11 years your Letters pages are always of great interest and I note that you invariably obtain answers to your readers' questions.

My query is this: who is the most decorated JNCO or SNCO presently serving? - **LPI S E Hesketh RLS (101 Bn REME(V) Bn HQ) Wigan, Lancs.**

Changing world of warfare

TIME WAS when soldiers of different armies could be readily distinguished by their attire. The French wore blue, the Germans field grey, the Swiss multi-coloured dress – and still do when they mount guard in the Vatican – and the Greeks had what looked remarkably like frilly white skirts.

Nowadays all fighting men have everyday to dress of varying shades of khaki or camouflaged combat suits and, of course, the almost ubiquitous beret, in colours that could bewilder even the Benetton people.

Armies may look alike and are often equipped with similar weapons but each has different characteristics and histories, particularly since the end of the Second World War when “rarely have armies grown, flourished and sometimes wilted with such profusion and vigour”.

The last few words are those of Peter G Tsouras, a senior analyst with the US Army Intelligence and Threat Analysis Center, in his latest book, *Changing Orders: The Evolution of the World's Armies, 1945 to the Present*.

It is a global survey of most of the effective land forces – their development and progress over 50 years, their objectives and performances in various conflicts, and their strategies and politics.

The emphasis is exclusively on land forces because, we are told, “There are only a relatively small number of air forces and navies that have significance in this era, but there are many armies that can claim a place in history.”

This should provoke some interesting comments from those in high and not-so-high places!

The years immediately fol-

lowing the Second World War

are of particular fascination to military historians. It was a period of indecision for the two “great victors”; the American and Soviet armies both waited to enter the atomic era, while the British and French were heavily engaged with their disintegrating empires.

Germany and Japan had been totally destroyed, but “they would be re-born to reflect their new governments and societies”.

While the traditionally strong armies paused or awaited resurrection, new dynamic forces in the Middle East and Eastern Asia came into being, “sucked on wars from birth”, notably the Israeli Defence Force and the People's Armies of China and Vietnam.

The author organises the study into five chapters, each covering about a decade, and examines armies country by country and conflict by conflict. Although each chapter has its share of wars, it was the third decade, between 1965 and 1975, that saw most major conflicts break out.

By 1985 the NATO-Warsaw Pact razor-edge had been blunted. In the four years leading to the end of the Cold War, no new conflicts erupted among the major armies.

In the book's final two chap-

ters, Peter Tsouras brings his study up to date and into the future.

We read how the world's armies are no longer responding to great alliance systems, thus making the prospect of ideological great wars almost non-existent.

The author backs the universal belief that high technology and professionalism will be the dominant future themes and that only a pernicious short-sighted sense of economy could cripple this winning combination. Mass conscripted armies will be of use only to developing nations.

However, he makes some concession to the size of armed forces.

“While high-quality armies do not have to rely on numbers alone, there is a floor of quantity beneath which even they cannot fall without becoming hollow shells,” he says.

The book is an interesting and thought-provoking analysis of the second half of the 20th century. It is not light reading but is a valuable, if not indispensable addition to a military historian's library. – BJ

Changing Orders: The Evolution of the World's Armies, 1945 to the Present by Peter G Tsouras. Published by Arms and Armour Press, hardback, £20.

REPORTERS IN THE FRONT LINE

ED MURROW, Robert Capa and Ernest Hemingway are synonymous with fine war journalism.

In *Reporting the War – The Journalistic Coverage of World War II*, Frederick S Voss recalls these three late, great Americans, among many others, and tells how they carried out their news assignments.

It is more than likely that younger readers will know of Hemingway through his books, but they are less likely to know about Ed Murrow's wartime broadcasts throughout the

London blitz, and probably still less about his recordings and reports on his 20 or so bombing missions over Europe.

His bosses at CBS agreed to his going on a couple of trips with the USAF to enhance his stories and then ordered him to stop. But he ignored them and carried on getting the news for his US radio audiences at first hand. He died in 1965, aged 57.

Another rebel who did things his way was *Life* photographer Robert Capa. Unlike

Valour on Juno Beach by T Robert Fowler. Canadian gallantry citations for D-Day, presented in historical context. Published by GSPH and available at 20 Canadian dollars (including overseas postage) from the author at 92 Starwood Road, Ottawa, Ontario K2G 1Z5.

Clear the Way! A History of the 38 (Irish) Brigade, 1941-47 by Richard Doherty. Paperback reissue of last year's tribute to these fighters. Irish Academic Press, £12.99.

Frontline Dorset by George Forty. Former RTR officer and Tank Museum director's well-illustrated résumé of a county at war, 1939-45. From Dorset Books, Halsgrove House, Lower Moor Way, Tiverton, Devon EX16 6SS, £16.99.

BOOKS IN BRIEF

hardback, £17.95.

Arrive Alive by Graham Yuill. A motorist's guide to personal safety by a military expert. Includes advice on escaping attacks, theft prevention and car bombs. Otter Publications, 5 Mosse Gardens, Fishbourne, Chichester, W Sussex PO19 3PQ, paperback, £4.95.

Okinawa 1945: Final Assault on the Empire by Simon Foster. Narrative history of the US invasion in April 1945 includes detailed account of the British involvement. Arms and Armour, hardback, £16.99.

Commando: Survival of the

Fittest by Robin Eggarr. The author spent 15 months with the Royal Marines to produce this witty eye-opener about the young officers' training course. John Murray, hardback, £17.99.

The Suicide Battalion by James L McWilliams and R James Steel. The unit in question is the 46th Canadian Infantry Battalion (South Saskatchewan), more than 91 per cent of whom were wounded or killed in the First World War. Airline Publishing Ltd, Shrewsbury, paperback, £11.95.

The Somme, Volume 1. First of four £5 reprints of popular Michelin Guides to the First World War,

used for battlefield tours in the 1920s. G H Smith and Son, Market Place, Easingwold, York YO6 3AB (tel: 0347 821329).

Odd Man Out by Peter Elphick and Michael Smith. Extraordinary story of the British spy whose treachery hastened the fall of Singapore in 1942. Hodder and Stoughton, paperback, £5.99.

A Soldier's Song by Ken Lukowiak. Para-turned-writer fires from the hip as he tells it like it is – life, the Falklands, the Army. Mandarin, paperback, £4.99.

Reflected Glory by Carney Lake. Originally published privately in 1990, a vivid, “fictional” account of life in a Royal Marines Commando unit in the 70s. Leo Cooper, hardback, £15.95.

CLARET operations in Indonesia in the mid-1960s were nothing to do with vineyards.

Insider's tale of Indonesia

They were clandestine actions launched from Borneo deep into neighbouring territory which helped Britain resolve the “confrontation”.

Capt Christopher Bullock won the Military Cross during those operations as a 24-year-old company commander with the 2nd (KEO) Gurkha Rifles (The Sirmoor Rifles).



The author as OC Support Company, 2 GR, 1965

Just as clandestine, perhaps, were the diaries he kept which have resulted in the very readable *Journeys Hazardous*, giving a strong flavour of life at the sharp end.

Bullock went on to command 6 GR and end his military career as Brigadier Brigade of Gurkhas. He is currently secretary of the Army Rifle Association.

His old regiment, 2 GR, recently “marched into history”. A vital moment in that history is recorded here. – CH

Journeys Hazardous by Christopher Bullock. Square One, Saga House, Sansome Place, Worcester WR1 1UA, hardback, £12.95 (£15 with postage).

Gallipoli: 'Bloodiest tragedy in the world'

FIRST-HAND evidence is the essence of history.

In *Defeat at Gallipoli*, Nigel Steel and Peter Hart, who work in the Imperial War Museum, have made valuable use of that institution's unpublished recorded interviews and manuscripts.

They include extracts from the evidence of 154 survivors, which must be something of a record.

The extracts have been cleverly interwoven with an excellent narrative by the authors to give a dramatic chronological account of the operation, which they describe as “a compromise between doing nothing and a wholehearted commitment and represented an ill-considered snatch at a cheap option”.

Clearly had the extra four divisions requested by Gen Sir Ian Hamilton, the C-in-C, been made available at the beginning and not arrived piecemeal, merely replacing the horrific casualties, or had Hamilton not been in such awe of Lord Kitchener to press his requests, or had he recognised the likely tenacity of the Turkish defence, or had he had the resolve to dismiss his inefficient commanders more quickly, then the outcome might have been different.

Higher command was generally abysmal and is reflected in a commanding officer who told his troops before landing: “There won't be many of you

alive by this time tomorrow night.” It is not surprising that morale was low. The whole operation seemed doomed from the start.

The landing, although generally only lightly opposed, had insufficient supporting fire and casualties were high. Those which were successful were not exploited.

Stalemate ensued and the troops were living in appalling conditions until after nine dreadful months of futile attacks, a scorching summer and a fearful winter in which men drowned in their trenches and sentries froze stiff, the order to withdraw was given.

When Hamilton was first asked about the possibility of withdrawal, he said: “If they do this they make the Dardanelles into the bloodiest tragedy of the world,” estimating that half the force would be lost.

In the event the withdrawal was the one success of the operation, with the Turks unaware until the last moment so there were only a handful of casualties.

Hamilton was correct in one sense. The Dardanelles (Gallipoli) was “the bloodiest tragedy in the world” and the authors have done a great service in bringing so many human stories for the first time into the light of day. – PSN

Defeat at Gallipoli by Nigel Steel and Peter Hart. Macmillan, London, hardback, £17.99.

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Opening gambit

The Queen shows a keen interest in information technology as she talks to one of the course participants at the Royal British Legion's new training college at Tidworth, Wiltshire, which she had just opened.

Completed in record time, the college has been designed to meet the demand for development and resettlement training for men and women leaving the Forces.

It also provides education and re-training for their families and dependants as well as ex-Service personnel and their families.

The project has been recognised as a pilot scheme for the drawdown of forces in the rest of Europe.

● The late Anne Armstrong, of *Soldier*, was instrumental in obtaining a £1.1m EC grant towards the building of the college.



Picture: John R. Rifkin

John's a shooting star . . .

Setting a record which will be hard to beat was Territorial Army officer Capt John Alexander, who last month won the Queen's Medal at the TA skill-at-arms meeting at Bisley for an unprecedented fourth time.

John, who serves with 4/5 Green Howards in Harrogate, first set his sights on a Queen's Medal in 1985, when he won it for the first time.

Since then, he has added three more bars – in 1987, 1990 and his latest triumph. No other soldier has ever won four although a Lancashire man did win three King's Medals and a Queen's Medal.



Picture: Mike Weston

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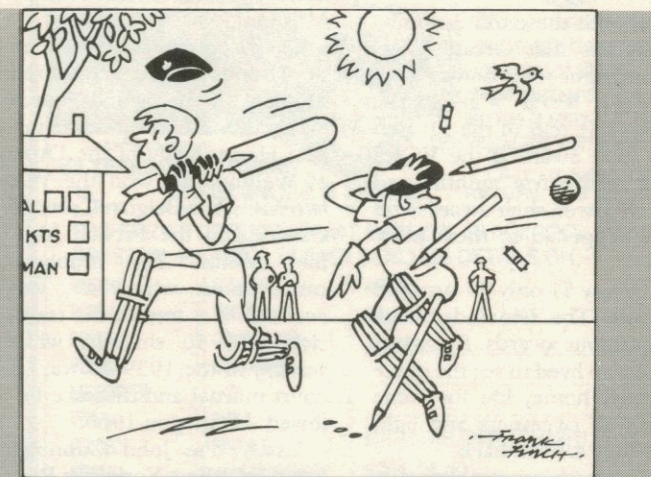
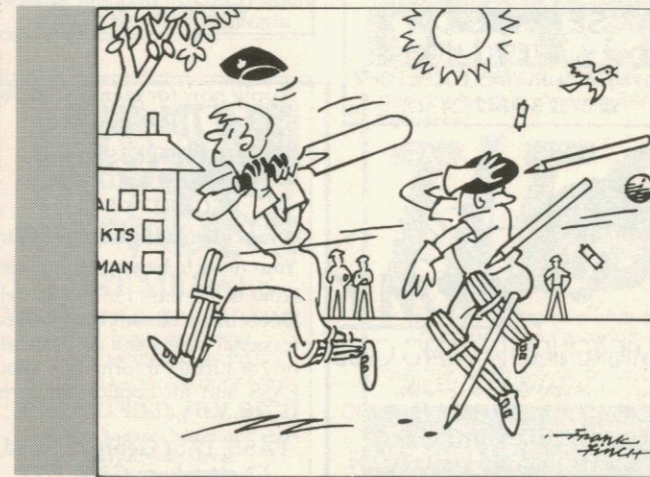
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The pictures here are from our Frank Finch cartoon archives. Find ten differences in detail and you could be £50 richer or win a new book. Just circle the differences in the right-hand picture, cut out the whole panel, add your name and address and send to HOAY 592, *Soldier*, Ordnance Road, Aldershot GU11 2DU by August 26. Do not include anything

else in your envelope. More than one entry can be submitted but photocopies cannot be accepted. The first correct entries drawn will be the winners. No correspondence of any kind can be entered into.

The names of the winner of the £50 first prize and two runners-up will be announced in the September 19 issue.



Competition No 589: Congratulations to Mr W H Hunniford, of Stockport, Cheshire, who wins £50. Book prizes go to runners-up Miss B Smith, of Beckenham, Kent, and Miss J Willson-Lloyd, of Ravenshead, Nottingham.

Sporting chance at Bulford



Picture: Mike Perring

A multi-purpose indoor sports hall, largely funded by the Nuffield Trust, has been opened at Bulford Camp, Salisbury. Pictured with Nuffield trustee Sir Robert Booth on opening day for the project – to which the trust contributed more than £266,000 – are Brig Iain McNeill, commander of Bulford and Tidworth Garrison and PTI QMSI Ian Young

Franchising is fun

Cpl Alf McKenzie, 22 Engineer Regiment, with head office trainee Craig Tatham of Instant Image at the first tri-Service Franchise Fair – aimed at Service personnel about to leave the Services – held in Aldershot

REVIEWS

Tragic glory of the Somme VCs

MORE than 57,000 men were killed or wounded on the first day of the Battle of the Somme on July 1, 1916. A little over four months later that figure had increased to nearly a million.

It is with these mind-numbing figures that Gerald Gliddon introduces his book *VCs of the First World War - The Somme*. He tells of the 51 men who were awarded the VC in those hellish few months and how they won their awards and what happened to them post-war.

Of those 51 only 33 survived the war. The remainder were posthumous awards. But while those who lived to see the peace returned home, life for some wasn't all sweetness and light once they arrived back.

It is worth remembering in this First World War 80th anniversary year that while some coped extremely well, others suffered badly.

The pressures on some were enormous and too much to bear; Australian soldier Pte Martin O'Meara died after 17 years in a Perth mental hospital.

Capt William Allen RAMC,

died 15 years later, wracked with pain from his wounds. Pte Thomas Hughes of the Connaught Rangers, unable to work because of his wounds, died in 1942 aged 56. His VC is now in the National Army Museum.

Deep depression brought on by wounds led to LSgt Fred McNess of the Scots Guards taking his life 40 years later. Maj Henry Kelly of the Duke of Wellington's won the VC, two MCs, the Belgian Croix de Guerre and the French Military Medal. His problems came later when he was accused of a fraudulent travel claim for 50 shillings while serving in the 1939-45 war. A court martial and disgrace followed. He died in 1960.

Lastly, Pte John Cunningham of the East Yorkshire Regiment has the unenviable distinction of being the first of the Somme VCs to go to prison - for domestic misdemeanours. He died in 1941.

A story in which glory is mixed with tragedy. - JM

VCs of the First World War - The Somme by Gerald Gliddon. Alan Sutton Publishing, £16.99.

BOOKS IN BRIEF

Sniper: One-on-One by Adrian Gilbert. Historian's study of the subject from the 18th century to the present, taking in two world wars, the Falklands and the Gulf. Sidgwick & Jackson, hardback, £17.99.

Sniping in France by Maj H Hesketh-Prichard. The author, whose picture plus an almost superfluous glossary are added to this new edition, was a big-game hunter who was put in charge of Britain's successful sniping operation in the First World War. Leo Cooper, hardback, £14.95.

Special Men and Special Missions by Joel Nadel with J R Wright. Survey of American Special Operations Forces from 1945 to today includes acknowledgement of the influence of the British SAS. Greenhill Books, hardback, £17.95.

Battle Tanks and Support Vehicles by Alan K Russell and **Small Arms Pistols and Rifles** by Ian V Hogg. Two hardback volumes in the **Greenhill Military Manuals** series, both illustrated by Ray

Hutchins. Greenhill Books, £12.95 each.

Allied Soldiers of World War Two and 6 June 1944: Soldiers in Normandy, both edited by Philippe Charbonnier. Lavishly illustrated, large-format guides to personal kit and insignia which will especially interest historians and collectors. Histoire and Collections, PO Box 327, Poole, Dorset BH15 2RG, hardback, £14.95 each.

Old Soldiers Never Die by Frank Richards. One of the better memoirs of the First World War, by a member of the Royal Welch Fusiliers. Re-issued after being out of print for years. Available in hardback from Phillip Austen Publishing, 23 Westgate, Sleaford, Lincs NG34 7PN, £14.95 (including postage).

War Report from D-Day to VE-Day compiled and edited by Desmond Hawkins. BBC war correspondents' despatches from the front, originally published in book form in 1946. BBC Books, paperback, £6.99.

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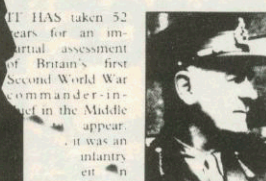
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Room for
a few more
in Normandy

SO MANY veterans are planning to return to Normandy for D-Day celebrations next year. Most local hoteliers have filled their books for the week of June 6.

From Rouen to Bayeux, the message is the same: the accommodation left for groups. But according to Andrea Daly, who owns a Bayeux, there are still glites and mobile homes for smaller parties.

They are offering a donation-finding service. D-Day Logement, charges £5 a person, and can be contacted at The Black Swan Mill, B 14401 Bayeux CEDEX, France (tel: (010 33)

in 1940-41, a resounding success. It seems disputable that the seeds of the Archibald Percival Wavell's "fall from grace" as the British Commander in the Middle East was sown in 1941.

CENOTAPH CEREMONY

DETACHMENTS of the Household Cavalry, Royal Artillery, Foot Guards, women's services and the Territorial Force formed the east side of a square round the Cenotaph for the Remembrance service attended by November 1st with side wings bands.



Cpl Sparks Ctn B

Wavell in the Middle East 1939-1941: A Study in Generalship by Harold E. Raugh Jr. published by Brassey's hardback, £32.50.

The man lost six fingers but survived to assault charged with murder.

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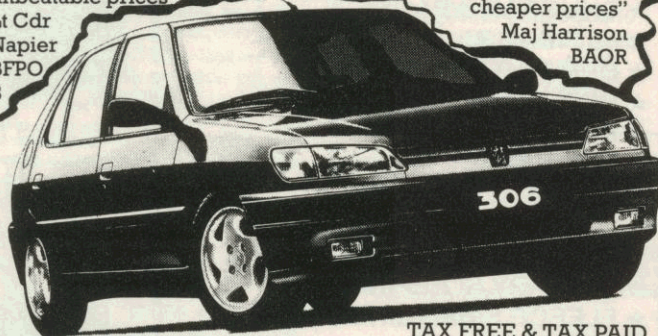
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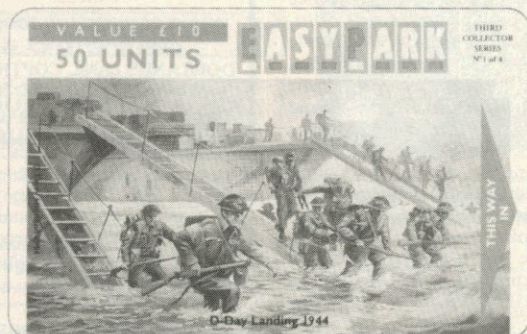


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06

REPLIES. To reply to a pen pal, write a letter and send it to Soldier Magazine at the address below. The Box number must be **CLEARLY** written in the **TOP LEFT CORNER** of the envelope. Your envelope must be no larger than 8"x4" and should only contain a letter, and photograph if requested. Replies received more than three months after the cover date and large, heavy, or poorly addressed envelopes will not be forwarded.

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Lesley, 36, 5'1", blue eyes, blonde hair, vgsoh, divorced with two boys. My interests include: cooking, keep-fit, walking, music and country pubs. Please send photo if possible. **P985** 16/94

Karen, 28, 5'3", slim, long dark hair, green eyes and gsoh. I'm an ex-model and like keep-fit, nights out and having a good time. I'd like a pen pal aged 27-37. **P986** 16/94

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Alexa, 33, single, attractive. Seeks soldier/officer, 28+, as pen pal. Interests include: travel, sports and alternative therapy. I look forward to hearing from you. **P988** 16/94

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Lindsey, 25, 5'6", blonde hair and blue eyes. Likes sports including scuba diving, aerobics, fencing, travelling, cinema and music. I'd like pen pals aged 20-34. **P991** 16/94

Lisa, 20, 5'9", slim with long dark hair and blue eyes. Interests include: Formula 1, horses, writing letters and socialising. I'm looking for a pen pal 20+ with similar interests. **P992** 16/94

Prince Charming, 31, Sgt, non-smoker, attractive, fit and athletic. Lovely castle, own coach, pumpkin sadly deflated. Seeks attractive Cinderella to fill glass slipper abandoned at the ball. Photo and long letter please. **P993** 16/94

Jayne, 33, 5'10", light brown hair and hazel eyes, divorced with two children. Interests: reading, cycling, swimming, writing and receiving letters. I would like pen pals 30+. **P994** 16/94

Male soldier, 34, 6'1", medium build and average/good looks. I like to keep myself fit and have many interests and gsoh. I'd like to hear from any attractive ladies, photo appreciated, **ALA. P995** 16/94

My name is Janet and I'm looking for a pen pal. I'm single and enjoy watching all sports and I coach athletics. Please write to **P996** 16/94

Lonely letterbox with lady owner (undergraduate teacher, 27) seeks lettergrams from likely lads in the armed forces, aged 25-35. **P997** 16/94

Louise, 27, 5'2". I'm attractive, genuine and caring, interests include swimming, running and horse riding. I'd like pen pals aged 25-35. Photo please. **P998** 16/94

Annette, 30, 5'3", fair hair and grey eyes. I like meeting people, travelling, rugby, music, films, tv, reading and dancing. I'd like pen pals aged 25-35. **P999** 16/94

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Double delight

FINAL outcome of the Inter-Services athletic championships at Aldershot rested, as it so often does, on the last events, the one-lap relays.

After some tremendous Army performances on track and field, the home teams were not to be denied and the two 400m quartets scored fine victories to set up the first Army double – men and women – since 1989 writes Peter Marsh.

With many personal bests set during the day it was a memorable occasion for Army athletics.

A return to competition following a second absence saw SSgt Rob Mullen set a new Inter-Services record in the javelin with a throw of 63.78m.

Other crucial wins for the men were gained by Cpl Martin Blade (ATR Winchester) in the 200m, Fus David Nolan (1 RRF), who set a personal best of 47.6sec in the 400m, and LCpl Ian Robinson

(13 Sig Regt), who led from gun to tape in the 800m after running as first string following the late withdrawal through injury of pre-race favourite SSgt Rod Finch.

Robinson ran a superb race to clock a season's best 1min 52sec.

Cpl Paddy Cairns (ATR Basingstoke) smashed his personal best by an astonishing 15 seconds on the way to a thrilling victory in the 3,000m steeplechase. His time was 9min 10sec, a great achievement in what is his first season on the track.

To complete a fine series of track victories, WO2 Geoff Wade (3 RHA) outsprinted a class field in the 5,000m to win his first Inter-Services title at the ripe age of 35!

In the field events, Cpl Shaun Jones retained his title in a very close hammer competition.

For the Army women's team, Cpl Sue McCall (15 Sig Regt) looked impressive in winning the 800m in what is her first season in competition.

There were also wins for Capt Lisa Derban in the 1,500m, while Sgt Steph Paul and Cpl Terry retained their 1993 titles in the high jump and discus.

Just how close the competition was is reflected in the final

scores. The Army men beat the RAF by 166 points to 159 (with the Royal Navy on 56), while the Army women scored 133 to the RAF's 123 and the Navy's 45.

Men (Army positions only)

100m – 2, Sgt Callender, 11sec; 3, Cpl Newell, 11sec. **200m** – 1, Cpl Blade, 22.5sec; 2, Cpl Vincent, 22.9sec. **400m** – 1, Fus Nolan, 47.6sec; 2, OCdt Alderson, 48.3sec. **800m** – 1, LCpl Robinson, 1min 52.5sec; 3, LCpl Smith, 1:56.3. **1,500m** – 3, Sgt Graham, 3:59.2; 5, Cpl Boston, 4:02.9.

5,000m – 1, SSgt Wade, 15:45.0; 3, Cpl Palmer, 15:46.9. **10m hurdles** – 2, LCpl Tomkinson, 15sec; 3, Cpl Richardson, 15.2sec. **400m hurdles** – 3, Cpl Richardson, 54.6sec; 4, LCpl Rutterford, 56.2sec. **3,000m steeplechase** – 1, Cpl Cairns, 9:10.2; 4, LCpl Thomas, 9:28.8.

High jump – 2, Cpl McSweeney, 1.95m; 3, LCpl Pearce, 1.85m. **Long jump** – 1, Cpl Walker, 7.36m; 3, Pte Buchanan, 6.92m. **Triple jump** – 2, Cpl Walker, 14.75m; 4, Pte Mawby, 13.07m. **Pole vault** – 3, Capt Gyroff, 3.90m. **Discus** – 2, LCpl Wiseman, 40.98m; 5, SSgt Killen, 38.68m. **Hammer** – 1, LCpl Jones, 51.02m; 5, Cpl George, 40.30m. **Javelin** – SSgt Mullen, 63.78m (I-S record); 4, Pte Welsh, 53.16m. **Shot** – 2, LCpl Wiseman, 14.66m; 3, SSgt Killen, 13.03m.

4x100m relay – 1, Army, 41.4sec. **4x400m** – 1, Army, 3:17.6.

Women

100m – 4, LCpl Jackson, 13.6sec; 6, Sgt Preece, 13.9sec. **200m** – 1, Cpl Holmes, 35.8sec; 5, Pte Glover, 29sec. **400m** – 1, Cpl Holmes, 55.6sec; 2, Lt Giles, 59.7sec. **800m** – 1, Cpl McCall, 2:17.4; 3, Cfn Hawkins, 2:23.2. **1,500m** – 1, Capt Derban, 4:49.6; 2, Sig Morris, 4:57.0.



Simply the best: Army athletes celebrate their double success at the Inter-Services championships in the Military Stadium, Aldershot

3,000m – 2, Sig Elder, 10:35.1; 3, SSgt Gash, 10:40.5. **100m hurdles** – 2, Cpl Churchley, 16.5sec; 4, Sgt Paul, 16.8sec. **400m hurdles** – 3, Capt McKinney-Bennett, 69.9sec; 4, Lt Swain, 73.7sec.

High jump – Sgt Paul, 1.60m; 2, Lt Carpenter, 1.55m. **Long jump** – 2, Cpl Churchley, 5.45m; 3, Sgt Paul, 5.25m. **Discus** – 1, Cpl Terry, 36.62m; 3, OCdt Spikes, 31.68m. **Javelin** – LCpl Hunt, 37.08m; 4, Cpl Lofthouse, 33.52m. **Shot** – 3, OCdt Moore, 9.74m; 4, Cpl Lofthouse, 9.59m.

4x100m – 1, Army, 51.3sec. **4x400** – 1, Army, 3:58.1.



National athletics event coach Wilf Paish runs an experienced eye over the throwing technique of Pte Mark Welsh (RLC) during a week-long coaching course for Army athletes at the Military Stadium, Aldershot.

Paish spent two days at the stadium, concentrating on the throwers – javelin, discus and hammer – while other leading athletes gave advice on other events.

WILF'S WONDERS

Former Royal Anglian, international athlete and Olympic bobsleigher Lenny Paul assisted the sprinters, while Lt Col Glen Grant, a Welsh international, helped the middle distance runners. Sgt Jackie Gilchrist (APTC), who is currently serving at SHAPE,

coached the high jumpers and former international Maj Peter Lyons, secretary of Army athletics, advised the pole vaulters.

Their combined expertise paid immediate dividends when the Army men's and women's teams won the Inter-Services.

Corporate success for Army triathletes

TWO four-man Army triathlon teams representing sponsors GKN Defence swept the board at the multi-sport Corporate Games at Milton Keynes.

Race distances for the triathlon were a 750m open water swim, 22km cycle and 5km run.

WO1 Duncan Vavangas, Sgts Stu Dinwoodie and Gary Smith, and LCpl Dave Larcombe made up the winning team, with Larcombe (28 Engr Regt), Cpl Andy Herd (9 Sig Regt) and Lt Jim Clare (RMAS) finishing first, second and third in the men's 20-29 age group individual placings.

Dinwoodie (47 AD Sqn) and CSgt Jim Cousen (2 RRF) were first and second respectively in the 30-39 category.

Sappers' peak of success

FOR THE second year running Capt Mark Johnson-Ferguson (25 Engr Regt) has skippered a team of Royal Engineers to a successful completion of the annual Gelert Three Peaks yacht race.

The race, from Barmouth on the mid-Wales coast to Fort William in Scotland, combines 390 miles of difficult and potentially dangerous coastal sailing with three tough mountain ascents.

With stops at Caernarfon and Ravenglass on the way north, two runners from each boat must run up Snowdon, Scafell Pike and finally Ben Nevis, the three highest peaks

in Wales, England and Scotland.

Combined distance for the runners is 73 miles with an overall climb of more than 11,000ft.

Johnson-Ferguson, a member of the Royal Engineers Yacht Club, was defending the Tilman Trophy for best all-round team which his crew won last year. In this category, four of the crew must run up the mountains. Most crews use two specialist athletes for these gruelling stages.

Sailing in *Mr Shifter*, a 26ft Beneteau, Johnson-Ferguson, Dave Allen, Lawrence Williams (ASE Beacons-

field), Bill Scullion (135 Topo Sqn (V)) and Steve Gregory (25 Engr Regt) finished third in the monohull race in two hours over four days, narrowly losing the Tilman Trophy to the first monohull.

The sappers lost time when, in misty conditions, they climbed Scafell rather than Scafell Pike and had to retrace their steps. But they did record the quickest time for the 17-mile leg up and back from Ben Nevis.

All three mountain tops were manned by Royal Signals personnel who gave the race organisers valuable support.

Picture: Mike Perring

IN BRIEF

Cricket

SET a modest target of 208 to chase by British Police at Aldershot, the Army's senior batsmen failed to impress and were bowled out for a disappointing 128 in the 44th over. Top scores came from Capt Richard Groatorex (27) and Capt Peter Germain (18).

The Police had scored heavy wins over both the Royal Navy and Royal Air Force the previous week.

Water polo

KENT-based 36 Engineer Regiment won the UKLF water polo championships staged at Gibraltar Barracks, Minley, Surrey. The Maidstone sappers met 22 Engineer Regiment from Perham Down, Andover, in the final.

Archery

ST Dunstan's, the home for blind ex-Servicemen near Brighton, beat the Army in the annual archery tournament, held at Templer Barracks, Ashford. St Dunstan's scored 5,877 points to the Army's 5,770. Highest scorers were the Army's John Grout (536) and Karl Brown (514).

Batsmen lose their way against Sussex

A PROMISING lunchtime score of 140-2 failed to develop into the 270-plus total required when the Army took on Sussex 2nd XI at Priory Park, Chichester on July 15.

After Capt Richard Greatorex (47) and Gdsm Ian Redfern (60) had given them a century opening partnership, the middle order lost their way

in pursuit of quick runs and the innings closed on 208.

A young and talented Sussex team batted very well to win in only 46 overs.

Against Free Foresters at Aldershot two days later Greatorex (78 not out) and Sgt Nick Palmer (81) set up an Army declaration of 251-4.

But the Foresters, with

Army players Capt James Illingworth and Capt Nigel Laughton in the side and Lt Simon Mason guesting, were never up with the run-rate and the match ended in a tame draw. Mason scored 30 in the Foresters' 198-6.

Army Under 25 skipper Chris St George scored 66 not out in Combined Services'

drawn game against the National Cricket Association Young Cricketers at Lords on July 14.

Put in to bat, the NCAYC scored 263-2 in 65 overs, 16 more than were available to the Servicemen. Greatorex scored 16, Capt Jim Cotterill 17, Capt Peter Germain 7 and Sgt Nick Palmer 12.

St George leads by example

FINE WEATHER and exciting cricket produced a memorable Army Under 25 cricket festival at Aldershot in the first week of July.

And the young Servicemen made the best possible start with a narrow win over Combined Public Schools of Western Australia who were making their biannual tour to the UK. Asked to bat, the Army started steadily with Lt Simon Mason (RGJ) and Lt John Bartholomew (Scots DG) batting well against a useful if erratic Australian attack.

Bartholomew (38) was the first of four run outs, bringing skipper Lt Chris St George (Coldm Gds) to the wicket. He played superbly and was last out for 68 as the Army struggled to 171.

LCpl Martin Hutton (RDG) and Gdsm Ian Redfern (Coldm Gds) bowled with real pace to make life difficult for the Aussies, and, supported by good fielding, the Army won by nine runs.

Despite a magnificent 108 by St George on the small Eastnor Castle ground, Herefordshire, the Army U25s lost in the last over against the county's 2nd XI. The soldiers scored 218 in 53.4 overs, with only Irish Guardsman 2nd Lt Dan Wilkinson (52) supporting his captain.

Hutton again bowled very quickly to set the county on their heels, but the Hereford batsmen consolidated and went on to win by four wickets in the final over of the day.

Buckinghamshire U25s put the Servicemen to the sword at Beaconsfield, scoring 286-5 in 55 overs after an opening partnership of 183.

The Army lost three quick wickets before Wilkinson (34), Redfern (37) and St George

(70) restored the position.

Although Bartholomew, Hutton and Lt Adrian Grinnoneau (R Anglian) struck the ball cleanly, the Army ran out of time and wickets and were bowled out for 230.

St George was again in the runs against the National Fire Service, scoring 61 to lead the Army U25s to a rare victory in this fixture. Tight bowling and fielding restricted the firemen to nine runs off their first seven overs on a greenish pitch at Aldershot, Lt Gareth Williams (REME) finishing with 4-35 as the Fire Service totalled 174-9 in 50 overs.

St George's innings eased the Army to a three-wicket win in the final over.

The festival culminated in the Inter-Services tournament hosted by the Royal Navy at Portsmouth. The Navy comprehensively defeated the Royal Air Force on the first day, but the Army's defence of their title looked shaky on the second when the airmen were inserted and rattled up 252-5 in 55 overs.

Hutton, Williams and Pte David Matthews (RLC) bowled steadily, but the support was ineffective. In reply, Mason grafted for his 44, St George was dismissed for 25, Hutton hit three sixes in an over in his 29 and LCpl Tony Pick (RE) made 48, but the Army ended 13 runs short.

Despite losing the toss on a blisteringly hot final day the Army successfully chased a Navy total of 235 to win by four wickets. St George bowled his gentle swing and seam effectively into the breeze while

Redfern took 4-57 and the economical Matthews gave away only 22 runs from his 11 overs.

Wilkinson (29) and Grinnoneau (54) got the Army's innings off to a flying start and Bartholomew (30), Pick (48) and Hutton (32 not out) saw them home to a fine victory.

With all three teams winning a game, the Army retained the trophy as they had been champions in 1992 and 1993.

● St George also led Combined Services U25s by example, scoring 78 in their total of 272-7 in the annual fixture against the English Schools Cricket Association at Aldershot on July 11.

The ESCA batting collapsed from 79-3 to 80-8 in 14 dramatic minutes and the tail lasted only another 20 minutes, the schools' side being all out for 99.

Other Army players in the Services' XI were Grinnoneau, Pick and Matthews and Redfern was 12th man.

Army's power pullers prosper

THE ARMY kept a very firm grip on the overall Inter-Services tug-of-war trophy at Aldershot last month.

The 640kg competition was won by 4 R Irish, the 680kg by 19 Regiment RA, and the 600kg by BOD Donnington.

At the Army championships, Donnington and 40 Regt RA squeezed out hot favourites Force Artillery AMF(L) in the 600kg event, although this unexpected setback spurred them on to a hard-won victory over the spirited 23 PFA RAMC team in the 560kg competition. The AMF(L) gunners won by two pulls to one.

The 680kg division was also fiercely contested, with 1 RHA eventually beating 19 Regt RA in the final.

A grand finale was provided by the 640kg event, in which 40 Regt RA defeated 4 R Irish in a tremendous competition.



The Army takes the strain during the Inter-Services tug-of-war competition at Aldershot. Above, 40 Regiment RA pull against the RAF, while (below) coach WO2 Victor Beatty and his 4 R Irish team prepare to take up the rope against the airmen.

Pictures: Mike Weston



Dressed for the occasion

Dressed for her naming ceremony is Seahorse IV, REME's new Halberg Rassey 34ft, six-berth offshore sailboat. It was blessed by Padre Keith Atherton and named by Mrs Rebecca Matthews, wife of Lt Col Steven Matthews, chairman REME (BAOR) sailing. Overall winners of the REME sail training week based at Kiel Yacht Club were 7 Bn REME, fractionally ahead of ES Dte





A flourish of field marshals leads the Royal Party as they enter Founders Court at the Royal Hospital Chelsea, where a drumhead service to mark the Army Benevolent Fund's 50th anniversary was held (see Pages 26-27).

Picture: Mike Weston